



# felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

"Keep The Cat Free"

Issue 1,463

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28.05.10

## Hall rents rising again, Hall Senior subsidies abolished, and Wardens face the chop



### BUT WHAT'S BEST FOR THE STUDENTS?

See pages 4 & 5

### This week...

Imperial rank 3rd, UCL fall to 9th in University tables



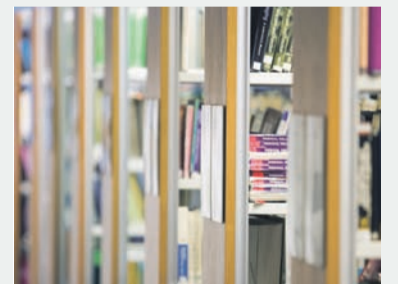
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Landmark artificial life? Maybe...



Science, Page 10 & 11 

A hidden library: Culture amidst Revision City



Arts, Page 20 

The secret success: Open source software



Tech, Page 24 



## The sun's out, the casts are off.



The summer officially arrived in London this week. Despite being exam season, plenty of students found time to soak up the sun on Queen's Lawn. Long may it continue as College have confirmed that there will be no erection of marquees on Queen's Lawn this summer, although a never-seen-before stage will be constructed in time for the Summer Ball.

*felix* found this student during a sunny lunchtime. He'd taken the rare chance to remove his ankle-cast and give his ailing leg some fresh air and a nice tan. Get well soon, mate.

## Imperial still 'best of the rest'



The University of Oxford tops the list of highly-achieving universities in the UK

### Matt Colvin

Imperial College London has managed to hold on to its prestigious national standing this week according to a newly published university league table. The Complete University Guide 2011 published in the THE Independent ranks the University 3rd nationally behind usual one-two duo Oxford and Cambridge respectively.

The highest placed London-based university behind Imperial is the London School of Economics in 5th place. University College London, previously placed 4th in the world according to the Times Higher Education-QS World University Rankings 2009 (ahead of Imperial in 5th), is now ranked 9th nationally.

Alongside an overall ranking of Universities, the Complete University Guide also provides subject specific rankings, throughout which Imperial also placed strongly. The University scored highly across the sciences, placing 1st nationally for

Civil Engineering and 2nd for Materials, Mechanical Engineering and Chemical Engineering.

The student satisfaction ratings listed by the Guide also exhibit some surprising developments. Imperial's student satisfaction, notorious in the past for being comparatively low amongst the top Universities of the country and especially in London, is, according to the Guide, higher than that of LSE and not far behind UCL and King's College London.

This University league table will, if anything, be likely to bolster Imperial's already well regarded position amongst both the public and potential employers. While the University league table will give those hiring graduates an overview of Imperial's credibility, the specific subject tables are likely to be even more influential for future employers in specialist fields such as engineering.

However, some continue to criticise the use of league tables, citing bias towards better funded and older

institutions as a significant flaw in the system. Indeed, in Imperial's case, science and engineering degrees require greater research income and ultimately provide more employable graduates than a University running both science and arts courses.

The Russell Group, of which Imperial is a member, receives two thirds of research grant and contract funding in the UK, thereby elevating the twenty Universities who are part of the group above the others with its greater wealth.

On the other hand, this latest survey appears to suggest that this bias is being overturned, with newer institutions such as the University of Hertfordshire (rising four places this year to 41st) fighting back against older and more traditional counterparts. In addition to the rise in student satisfaction, this goes some way towards justifying Imperial's continued steady and impressive position across the league tables year after year.

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## The Complete University Guide 2010

2011	2010	Institution
1	(1)	University of Oxford
2	(2)	University of Cambridge
3	(3)	Imperial College London
4	(5)	University of Durham
5	(4)	London School of Economics
6	(7)	University of St. Andrews
7	(6)	University of Warwick
8	(12)	University of Lancaster
9	(8)	University College London
10	(10)	University of York

The COMPLETE  
UNIVERSITY  
Guide

THE  
INDEPENDENT

# Planned number of Uni places halved

Alex Karapetian reports on how the new coalition Government will shelve increased University student plans

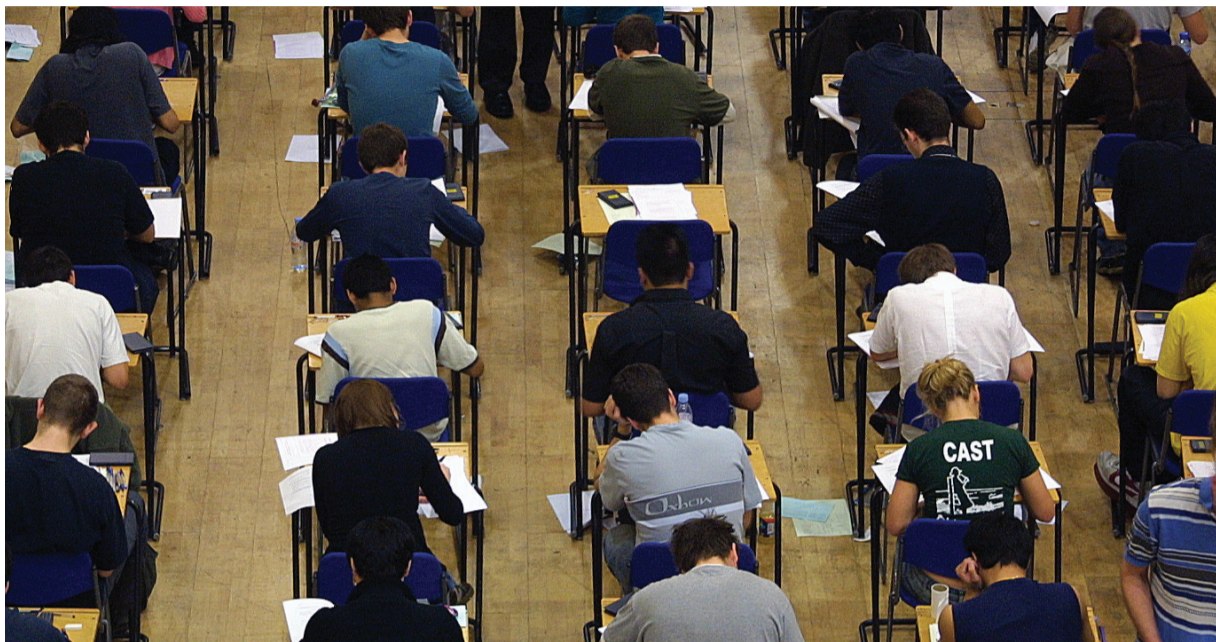
Labour's promised increase in University places to 20,000 has been halved by the new coalition government in a bid to cut back on spending. Although record numbers of students are applying, there will be 10,000 fewer places this Autumn than promised by the previous government.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, responsible for Universities, said the cut in numbers will save £118 million. The cut, however, will mainly affect Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects, due to the previous government's planned increase focusing in this area.

The promise of increased students in the Sciences was popular with business leaders who frequented the idea that more science graduates would help the British industry compete internationally.

The government has said that spending on research, innovation, business and enterprise will be protected. The total budget for Higher Education stands at £7.3 billion.

This move to reduce the Labour fund to provide extra places by £118 million has been slammed by the Lecturers' Union, who said ministers had "dashed the hopes of thousands of people". Sally Hunt, general secretary of the University and College Union, commented on how "our competitor countries are increasing the number of graduates



Imperial College say that the number of students offered places for 2010 entry is similar to previous years

to compete in a high-skill knowledge economy" yet "we are denying thousands a place at university and increasing the burden on our benefits system."

By reducing the increase in STEM places, students who fail to meet their conditional offers from Universities in their A level results will have fewer options when entering the Clearing system. Students who meet their offers are not affected.

Imperial College has commented on this and said that "the number of new Imperial undergraduate students starting in 2010 is expected to be much the same as in 2009" and that there is likely to be no increase. They say "it's worth bearing in mind that HEFCE has announced the overall budget for the sector but individual universities won't know what their own allocation will be until March."

Former Higher Education Minister, David Lammy said that the fears were "scaremongering", but Steve Smith, president of Universities UK, said the cuts would impact on the quality of teaching and competition for University places would be increased. He continued to explain that "last year about 160,000 students who applied didn't end up going to University. This year, we already know that there are about

another 75,000 applying. This means that more than 200,000 could miss out." The funding arrangements mentioned here, however, only relate to England, while Universities UK represents Higher Education bodies across the UK.

"What is critical is the need for funding per student to be maintained. That is the only way we can hope to maintain the world-leading position of the UK's higher education system", Smith added. £150 million saved from government wide spending cuts will be used to fund 50,000 new apprenticeship places, however. The move was praised by Lee Hopley, chief economist at the EEF Engineering Employers' group, who said "shifting skills funding in favour of apprenticeships, which provide higher level qualifications, could provide a big boost to companies already seeing skills shortages as orders pick up", but he added that, "the loss of University spots in STEM subjects may be the sting in the tail."

The Russell Group warned that "a succession of cuts could lead to universities and courses closing and much higher student ratios, damaging top universities beyond repair." Overall spending on Higher Education will, however, increase compared to last year, but further savings of £600 million across Higher Education, Science and Research budgets are required over 2011-2013.

Approximately £60 million of the cuts to be made are still yet to be identified.

## The world beyond College walls



Iran



Iran faced the threat of new U.N. economic sanctions this week. The U.S. announced that it had received the commitments of each veto holder on the U.N. Security Council for a draft resolution that would impose economic sanctions on Iran due to its nuclear programme. Iran early this month proposed to trade 1,200kg of its low-enriched uranium for nuclear fuel, a deal which mirrored a proposal by the U.S. last year. This proposal did not manage to dissuade the Security Council from agreeing to sanctions. Russia's commitment to the principle of sanctions took Iran off guard; it was commonly believed that Russia would delay judgement on the proposal. Russia's decision to support the draft was surprising due to the extensive diplomatic and economic ties between the two countries. Iran's president said that Russia would be a "historic enemy" of Iran if it followed out this decision.



Jamaica



Fourty-four people were killed in Jamaica in the hunt for a drug kingpin. Street battles have occurred for over three days in West Kingston as police sought to arrest Christopher 'Dudus' Coke, a member of America's "Most Wanted" list. Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding has been under increasing pressure from the Obama administration after it promised to crack down on the drug trade. As the firefight raged on in Tivoli Gardens, a section of Kingston, Coke was rumoured to have escaped the security forces. Local residents complained of grenades being thrown errantly as well as the burning of bodies in the streets. Coke is reported to be highly revered by residents in West Kingston for the services his empire provides them; he is known locally as the "president".



Australia



In the first bout of good news in this column for a long time, an Australian baby survived a near-fatal encounter. A distracted grandmother in Melbourne was awaiting the arrival of a train in Melbourne this week. As her distraction ensued, the pram in which his grandmother was tending to rolled towards the tracks. The Victorian train company admitted that its older platforms slope towards the tracks. As is shown on CCTV footage, the grandmother strove to save the pram from falling onto the tracks, but failed. The pram rolled onto the tracks and underneath the body of an oncoming train. Luckily, the child escaped with minor bruises and scratches. This is the second such incident to happen in Melbourne in the past year.

By Tom Greany

# WARDENS: A HELPING OR HINDERING HAND?

Wardens in halls look to be cut, Hall Senior subsidies are no more, and rent figures rise yet again. All would suggest doom and gloom for those living in College accommodation. Is it barbaric cash-making, necessary savings, or in the best interests of students? Which ever way, it's all a bit complicated. **Dan Wan** tries to explain...

**T**he vast majority of students at Imperial have had an experience involving a hall warden. Even the most evasive of freshers would have at least been greeted by one as they moved into their halls of residences on their first day.

College are due to comprehensively review the wardening systems in halls, which is likely to result in a downsizing of the pastoral care teams within first year accommodation.

A small real-term decrease has been made on College's Welfare Budget for next year, and hall seniors have suffered the immediate brunt of the cuts. From as early as next October, the traditional 10% subsidy on rent that they are provided with in return for their help to the wardening team during the year has been abolished.

Professor Denis Wright, the new Dean of Students, was appointed at the beginning of this academic year. He faces his first major decision as he looks to rebalance College's budget for welfare services with slightly less money.

Talking to *felix*, Prof. Wright said that they needed to be "more careful about using money in the future" on the services which include the College Tutor system, disability advisory service and College counsellors, in addition to the cost of hall wardens.

However, some claim it is not the lack of money that has initiated this review. College are wary the cost of wardening teams is disproportionate to number of students it reaches. Wardens are only immediately available to the around 2,000 first year students that choose to live in College-organised accommodation, but takes up 50% of the total welfare budget. Arguments have been put forward that more money should be invested in disability advisors and full-time counselling services as they are accessible to every student at Imperial, and not just freshers.

However, wardens themselves have voiced their opposition to any impending cuts to their teams. Dan Read, Warden of Falmouth and Keogh Halls, said any cuts made to the 86-strong wardening roster would be "a shame".

"It is interesting that the College is conducting a review so soon after the external review of Residences in 2005 which recognised the invaluable role of

the wardening system in fostering an environment that enables students to adjust to academic and social pressures of moving to Imperial. It would be a shame if College were to retract its commitment to Halls welfare, which is consistently rated highly in student satisfaction surveys," he said to *felix*.

The Wardening System Review is in its preliminary stages. The level of wardening for postgraduate students in College accommodation is to remain the same at around 65 students to every warden. This will be factored into the construction of new postgraduate accommodation at Clapham Junction and on the newly acquired Wood Lane site. A meeting next Tuesday will determine the wardening ratio for undergraduates. This currently varies widely, from 21 students per warden in Parsons House to 39 in Beit Hall.

Five working groups have been established to fully assess how the wardening system at Imperial can be changed for the better. One of the working groups focuses on pastoral care, in which student's representative John James is part of. As Deputy President (Welfare) of the Union, he is all but resigned to cuts made to the wardening roster in halls.

"The current recommendation [from the Union] is that an Imperial hall of residence must not rise above more than 30 students per warden," he stated. Currently, eight of sixteen Imperial halls have a ratio lower than 30 students to one warden, including Selkirk, Tizard, and Gabor; three halls in the lucrative, near-campus Prince's Gardens location.

James describes his role on the Review panel as minimising any slashes to wardens made by College.

"It doesn't help to fight any cut," he stated. James personally testified that Imperial had the "best wardening system in the UK if you consider the support first year students actually get."

Despite his proclamations of the wardening system, he suggested that the cuts being made were a typical example of any organisation under financial pressure.

"When cuts have to be made, it is natural to trim the services that are doing well. I disagree with the idea that these cuts mean what the wardens provide to students are not valued at their current cost," he said.

On the contrary however, Paddy Jackman, Head

## Are wardens valued?

**F**elix surveyed students living in a variety of halls, and asked them what they reckoned the role of their wardening team was. Most were inclined to use their wardens for advice on problems they've never experienced at university before. The second most common answer showed that students mainly saw the wardens as the face of hall-organised events. People were generally quite vague when actually questioned about their wardens and few cited personal examples of what wardens were there to do.

62% of students revealed they rarely ever spoke to their wardens, and 68% said they would feel comfortable with in halls without wardens and subwardens.

Take what you wish from these statistics. They reportedly oppose overwhelmingly positive feedback from previous student-led surveys regarding first year pastoral care.

Is it a case of unappreciative students not realising the wardens' work behind the scenes of their hall, or are live-in wardens a dated and underused pastoral care system?

**DIOGO**  
SUBWARDEN G/86

**68%**

of students claim that they would be comfortable in halls without subwardens, and just enhanced security

of Commercial Services at Imperial stated that this review was “not cuts-led”. Commercial Services are a branch of College’s business that are ultimately responsible for building and running of student halls. They share the cost of the wardens with College’s welfare services, but do not have any say in how many wardens the College decides freshers need.

Jackman insisted that although it was too late for the Review’s results to have effect on wardens in the next academic year, no cuts would necessarily be made.

“The point of this Review is to accurately ascertain the value of the wardening system,” he said. Both Wright and Jackman were open to the idea that if wardens were found to justify their current costs, no cuts would be made. Despite this, there was obvious inclination towards cutting rather than unlikely further investment.

With the student Union seemingly accepting

## College are wary the cost of wardening teams is disproportionate to number of students it reaches.

College’s cuts to wardening, the onus of justification rests on the wardens themselves. Dr. Read has been a warden for three years, and although he understands the importance the College needs to put on disability and counselling services, he also reckons that the early role wardens play is an essential part of an Imperial student’s experience at university.

“Central counselling and disability services are an essential part of the College’s welfare system, and the wardening system provides complementary front-line welfare and pastoral care to first year students who are particularly vulnerable to the stresses of a new life away from home and in a challenging academic and social environment.” He continues, “The experience of first year students has a significant impact on the ethos of the College and their enjoyment of life throughout their time as students at Imperial.”

Next year’s Deputy President (Welfare), Vicki Masding, has also had plenty of first-hand experience with wardens at different levels of authority. After being a fresher in Beit Hall two years ago, she is currently a hall senior this year. Although she is not directly involved in the review process, she has stated her opposition to any warden down-sizing.

Her opposition puts her in a head-on collision with incumbent Deputy President (Welfare) James. She stated her appreciation of the vital role wardens play for the majority of students at Imperial.

“They take down barriers between the College and the students. This is especially important in your first year. We’ve got to appreciate that a number of students rely on the cushion and support the wardens give, even if they do not actively use them,” she argued. “Socially, they become your friends around the clock. Counsellors are only available on appointment and within office hours. Unlike a professional College counsellor, you never feel like a warden is helping you as part of a job. It’s advice you’d take from an older sibling or an Uncle who’s already experienced everything you’re going through.”

Selkirk subwarden, Marcus Shephard, also pointed out that wardens are greatly advantageous for first years going through a crucial transition between dependent and independent living.

“Wardens are qualified for their positions by virtue of temperament and experience. The majority of issues we face are ones that all students face over their time at university and the added value comes from our first-hand experiences of how to resolve these situations,” he said. “By living within the hall and by being integrated into the freshmen community we are able to actively observe and catch welfare issues while in their infancy.”

A subwarden for three years, he warned that wardening duties inevitably impede on his academic work, and that with a larger workload in a smaller team would be severely detrimental.

“Being a subwarden does involve a degree of sacrifice. You will never improve your PhD by being a subwarden. The time commitment is already at the limit of what is reasonable in a team with four wardens. In particular around the end of September and the start of October we lose a huge amount of time ensuring that people integrate smoothly and happily into university life,” he admitted.

Prof. Wright also suggested that he was happy to see larger modifications to the wardening system in his new role as Dean of Students. Currently, wardens receive free accommodation in return for their pastoral duties. This is considered the cost of the wardens to College, and Prof. Wright loosely mentioned other forms of payment possible, such as warden stipends or honorariums.

*felix* has received mixed messages regarding the imminent Wardening System Review. Whilst some are adamant that this Review is not cuts-led but for the benefit of pastoral services, others, most worryingly including current Union representatives, have shown clear inclination and resignation to what they believe will be cuts to the wardening system. One feels there should be more pressure on College to carefully consider all factors and angle of the down-sizing of wardening teams.

## Welfare’s more than just wardening



If the Wardening System Review is not cuts-led, the other argument for it is to fairly provide other branches of the College welfare system with deserved resources that wardening may be taking up.

It is an issue that the Union have pressured College into doing something about it.

Despite hailing the job the current staff in these welfare services do as “incredible”, he admitted Imperial is falling short on a national scale.

“Whilst the counsellors are doing excellent work, assessments show they weren’t at the level other universities are currently providing to their students,” he said. “The recommended level of counselling provision is at least one full-time professional to every 3,000 students. We’re not quite there yet.”

There are currently five part-time and one full-time counsellors on campus for the 13,400 students at Imperial and Prof. Wright suggested some “modest increases” could be made for “further admin support”. He also noted that the number of students attending professional help sessions had steadily increased over the last few years. Where previously a student would be guaranteed an appointment with a counsellor within the week of request, this is no longer the case.

Prof. Wright also noted that investment was also needed in the disability advisory service. 6% of the student population are now claiming disability help on campus, compared to 3% two years ago. An increased awareness of services available to students with physical and learn-

ing disabilities has been so successful that the limited structure of service currently in place is beginning to feel the strains.

Where the money for these “modest increases” in investment comes from is the issue at hand. The question is whether there should be less for wardening and more for counselling.

### Where previously a student would be guaranteed an appointment with a counsellor within the week of request, this is no longer the case.



Dean of Students Professor Denis Wright emphasised the need to put more investment in the counselling and disability advisory services. He says that Imperial’s welfare provisions in these areas are currently lower than most other universities

## Pastoral care at other unis

Oxford and Cambridge have a very different model of pastoral care provided to their students. They have a developed College Tutor system, as well as Head of House and Porter-style security. They have the fourth and fifth lowest first year drop-out rates respectively in the UK.

LSE have a similar structure to that at Imperial’s halls. Both have hall-assigned teams of academic wardens. However, LSE’s student : warden ratio is around 75 : 1, whilst Imperial’s is around 30 : 1.

Despite the shortfall in wardens, LSE have the 24th lowest first year drop-out rates in the UK, whilst Imperial only has the 27th. This could suggest LSE have more effective professional or tutoring welfare support. - *Victoria Brzezinski*

## Hall Senior discounts abolished from next year as rent prices rise once again

Wardens have highlighted that the Wardening System Review comes on the heels of what they describe as “hasty proposals” to make cuts to the hall senior system.

An initial plan was made to downsize hall senior teams, but after some fierce rejection from warden representatives, Dan Read said that College compromised by abolishing the subsidy hall seniors get on rental fees in return for their work during the year.

“The College back-tracked on this proposal and instead cut the Hall Senior subsidy, resulting in an extra cost to Hall Seniors of about £40k,” he said.

Despite advertising hall senior roles for next year for the first time in years without the discount, usually around 10%, College have insisted that they have still recruited a full complement of older undergraduates to fulfil the roles.

This is especially surprising especially as Head of Commercial Services, Paddy Jackman, confirmed that rent prices will go up once again for Imperial’s halls of residences.

“The 2.86% increase on rent for halls is lowest in the sector,” he said. In comparison, some of UCL’s rent prices is set to increase by up to 9% next year. A ensuite standard single room in Southwell Hall will cost around £158, and the most expensive room in the new Eastside Halls will cost around £234 for the year 2010-11.

This follows a 3.9% average increase on hall rent from last year. Rent has steadily been increasing over recent years, with Southside single ensuite rooms costing £155 in its first year of opening.

“We realise we’re at the top end of rent but the College is committed to making it affordable for students.” With impending increases in tuition fees, this may not be the case very soon.

Of course, the wardens and amenity budgets are factored into the cost of renting a room. Jackman noted that pastoral and community care in student accommodation at Imperial is largely unrivalled. The amenity budget for halls comes out of students’ rent, and allows for social events to be put on to create a sense of belonging.





# Phil Sandwell has a new way to assess knowledge



"I didn't come to university to just know things, I want to understand them..."



The third term is synonymous with examination. Recently I decided to put a little thought into the exams; not just in the usual brain-aching way, but about how I would improve them.

Firstly, I decided that their timing is all wrong. It has been impossible to escape the mini-heat wave that has recently graced the country with its rare presence. Even the students who have become permanent fixtures in the Library have been seen gazing lustfully at the Queen's Lawn, yearning for an opportunity to enjoy the fickle British weather while it lasts. So why, I ask, are exams held in the summer? Far better, say, to hold the exams in November or December, when students will be far more motivated to revise and enticed into College by the warm

bosom of free central heating. All that would be required would be a small rescheduling of the term timetable, moving lectures into August and putting the summer holiday in January. On second thoughts, the prospect of a three-month vacation spent at home, in the West Country, in winter is a very unappealing one, as anyone who has ever seen Swindon in the rain can attest. A deserved break when the sun still shines is retrospectively far more attractive.

The point of exams is to assess and apply the knowledge we have supposedly gained in the previous year. Unfortunately, the traditional way to do this is to sit everyone down and make them take a test. Under what scenario outside of an exam room will you ever be required to solve problems under a time limit, and without the use of

Wikipedia? I didn't come to university to just know things, I want to understand them, and so I think a better test of understanding is required. Someone wise once said that if you can't explain something to an intelligent ten-year-old then you don't truly understand it yourself: perhaps College should therefore enlist an army of primary school children to judge the intellectual capabilities of students. This might collapse, however, when you have to spend several hours explaining to your examiner-child what differentiation is, let alone what use it is to you. Explaining your understanding to someone more qualified than you would save a lot of time, but the prospect of standing before one of my lecturers and displaying precisely how much I didn't learn from him is one I would rather not face. Perhaps

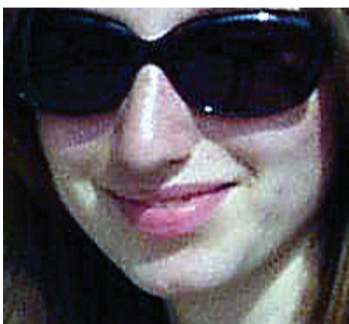
three hours in the Great Hall isn't so bad in comparison to a personal academic firing squad.

Worst of all, though, is that exams can be really boring. While gawping at one piece of paper in order to organise your thoughts onto a different one may be the best method examination, I would like to see tests be modified into a more accurate reflection of student life. The assessment would begin with a communal nap in the lecture theatre, followed by a buzzer sounding the start of the race to the Union. After a pint has been consumed you can leave for the Library, where you will then have to forcibly remove a World of Warcraft enthusiast from his (or her... his) terminal in order to post an inane Face-status. You can leave to start your exam once someone has liked it. While I think this is

fair test of how good a student you are, degrees are apparently awarded for academic ability; this makes napping, drinking and Facebook entirely extra-curricular, regardless of how much time I've spent revising them. If we wanted degrees in pissing around we would all be studying English; it looks like the dullness is here to stay, and rightly so.

Like death and the taxman, exams are a necessary evil. Despite their shortcomings, several hours of procrastination have not yet led me to a way in which they could be noticeable improved, and nor will several inevitable hours more. I think exams are a lot like injections: unpleasant, sadistic and terrifying, but they're over quickly probably good for me in the long term. And hopefully I'll only have to have each one once.

# Bloody Mary is all handbags and gladrags



"[high-heels]... unless you walk properly, you look like a confused slapper"



I'd like to draw your attention to a piece of news which hasn't received nearly as much coverage as it deserves; the new Louis Vuitton store opening in Bond Street (chill, I won't start talking about shoes). It was probably dwarfed by iPad news. For the life of me I can't understand why so many people want such a gadget. It's the sheer scale of interest that surprises me most! I do understand why certain individuals need to get gadgeted-up but these kind of sales are comparable to a gadget that's actually useful.

Anyway, let's not digress, next thing you know we're talking about manbags.

Did I say I wasn't going to start talking about shoes? I lied. I'll get straight to the good stuff. High heels. Of course, they are a solution for the vertically challenged female

but I propose that they are more than that. Yes, they make legs look good but cheerleaders' legs look good and they wear trainers. And yes, heels look elegant (unless they're wedges). But their excellence is derived from the acoustics. That's right, the clip-clop noise when walking.

Now, even if you're a man and you probably are (a man so bored he fancied reading about shoes), you will know about the noise of footsteps. For example, rubber soles tend to be near silent (I like to sport these around college to keep a low-profile). With high heels however you get two sounds per footfall (when I walk I put heel down followed by toe). However I do not claim that this is the correct way to walk in heels as my mother never taught me how. I presume that's what mothers are for? But all credit to her she did say I looked like a camel, and as a

result I try to be as uncamel-like as possible and I've had no complaints thus far.

So why do I like the sound of high heels? It is the sound of class, nothing more, nothing less. Though unfortunately, heels are not necessarily the vision of class; unless you walk properly you look like a confused slapper. What's sad is that I'm stuck in a vicious cycle. I don't walk well in heels. I don't wear heels. I don't get better at walking in heels. I don't walk well in heels. It's a tough life, I can tell you.

To clarify, I don't really care about Louis Vuitton as such, he's merely French designer. If I'm going to publicise a shoe designer it's going to be a female and a Brit, say L.K. Bennett. I adore L.K. Bennett. There's a branch in King's Road where I try on the shoes and come up with increasingly elaborate reasons for the

assistants as to why I am unable to complete the purchase. I may have to start using other branches.

I couldn't talk about shoes without mentioning FMBs. For the ignorant this is a most appropriate time to educate you. I only recently discovered this acronym and I am feeling it through and through, having seen a good friend of mine purchase some boots which truly matched the FM sentiment. Fun for all the family.

Finally I'll touch upon bags. Bags are always a very controversial topic so I'll try not to arouse too much animosity.

I'm not kidding here, bags are no joke when you have a lot of thingie-me-bobs and nowhere to put them. Men's clothes are pockets galore and unlike women's clothing there are few fake pockets or pockets that are too small or tight so that if you squish your phone in, you look de-

cidely asymmetrical. Let's be practical. Absolute essentials for a girl include purse (usually drastically out of proportion to contents which puzzles me), phone (preferably in a pink case but don't get me wrong, any colour glitter is also permissible), tissues (apparently it's not so uncommon for men to be with tissue these days, they say hayfever, I say no need to make excuses I can't stand seeing men cry), a book (if you're trying to impress someone, be sure it falls to the floor at some point), and college ID card (unless you want to be chatted up whilst attempting to tailgate). This has happened to me both whilst opening the door and whilst having the door opened for me. Just so you know, it didn't turn out to be a story for the kids. Point is, check out LK Bennett, where both bags and shoes are sold. Also dresses. But dresses are another story entirely...

# Rhys Davies contemplates the horror of revision



“our only means of escape is through a potentially weeks-long tunnel of mental diarrhoea”



There is a certain aspect of University life that is universally reviled by all. For most, it lasts for a few unpleasant weeks, after which it can, with great relief, be pushed from one's mind. For some, it uncomfortably squeezed, as if by some metaphysical crowbar, into a week, or less, of excruciating torment. For a certain few with dangerously masochistic inclinations, it occupies them for months at a time, consuming them completely and depositing their broken husks on the steps of the Union. I speak, of course, of revision.

Even from the other side of this letter, I can feel your collective shudder. It is a cruel trick that no matter how much one revises, there always appears to be infinitely more to do. Unwise comparisons with one's peers only reinforce the vast gulf of ignorance that must be crossed to achieve that degree. Imagining one's colleagues on the far side

of this chasm, regardless of their own true position, drives a wedge in even the deepest of comradeships.

In efforts to bridge the unfathomable gap in personal knowledge during this grossly unpleasant period, students descend ever deeper into unhealthy neuroticism. Beverages shift from bottled water to re-caffeinated coke, coke turns to double espresso, coffee turns to snorting ProPlus off a librarian's back. Taking the stairs instead of the lift constitutes the whole of a week's exercise. Eating moves from half-healthy meals at semi-regular times to mysterious quests in the twilight of 4am to find a shop still open, regardless of whether or not their stock is edible or not.

And the only way out of this most uncomfortable of periods is by examination, a horror in itself. As if the time spent falsely imprisoned by ignorance wasn't bad enough, our only means of escape is through a potentially weeks-

long tunnel of mental diarrhoea. We don't even have the benefit of Morgan Freeman narrating our ordeal. (The Shawshank Redemption – great film, great metaphor). I'll refrain from talking about the exams any further as that's another tin of worms ready and waiting to shank me that I'd rather not open.

But revision, for most of us, does end eventually. It is simply a matter of finding a way to make it, certainly not easy or interesting, but bearable. I don't know how you seek to accomplish this but I have stumbled over a rather novel solution.

As we all know, revision is knowledge and knowledge is power. And if we don't try to restrain that power we tend to lose our eyebrows and other body parts. A decaying radioactive isotope, an un-grounded electrical circuit, a Bunsen burner with a mischievous streak; all sources of power that will do us a serious injury if we

don't take action to contain them. Knowledge is no different – it must be contained.

Secondly, why is it that, no matter how much revision we do, there always seems to be more to do? Obviously, unbeknownst to the lecturers that set the exam questions, knowledge undergoes an exponential expansion. Or, to put that in more axiomatic terms, knowledge begets knowledge. Like rabbits on a council estate. Due to the openness inherent in my revision notes (in a vain attempt to learn by sheer diffusion), the knowledge is free to wander the page and bed down with whatever it likes. I have woken on some mornings to find embryogenesis shackled up with opioid pharmacology (Oh yeah, like you wouldn't!). Since my notes are the fruit of a greater proportion of my life than I'm comfortable, hosing them with cold water would probably give me a stroke. Therefore, the next best

thing is that all knowledge needs to be enclosed separately.

This is why, from now on, all my revision notes are meticulously penned in by biro delineations. This is the only way I've found that can safely contain the knowledge. It allows me to step back from the page and breathe a sigh of relief. No matter how bad it all looks, or how little (I fear) I know, I can rest assured that I'm safe because all the knowledge, in all its abstract infinities, is bounded by the concrete confines of red and blue ink.

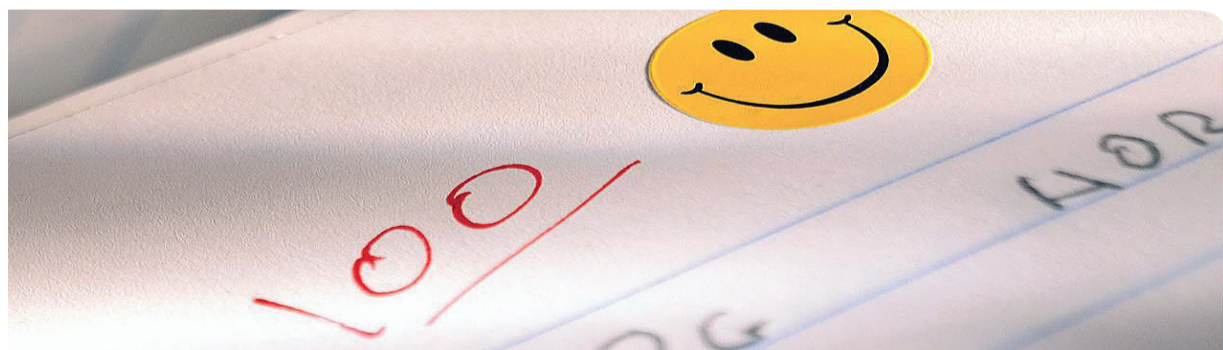
This way, the revision doesn't get to me. I can then slip my arms back inside my straightjacket as the nurses tighten the straps for the night and rest my head against a padded wall and sleep peacefully.

P.S. I do hope this works and doesn't turn out like the raptor paddock in Jurassic Park. I have been sleeping less than a metre away from notes on cancer and malignancy. Hm, clever girl...

## Alex Kendall and Nicolas Massie question: Is the marking system at Imperial fair enough?



“...anonymous marking will lead to students having greater faith in the system.”



Fairness; a word used frequently during the general election; so much so that most people will end up wondering if they are being dealt with fairly, by the government, their employer or indeed, their university. There are many times during our degrees when we think we are being dealt with unfairly by our departments or Imperial as a whole. There are also plenty of examples of inter-university differences which can be seen as unfair; the argument that a 2.2 from Imperial is as good as a 2.1 from most other Universities is an example.

One of the greatest issues of fairness is the way our work is marked. There are not only differences in marking between Universities and depart-

ments, but also between individuals. Exams are marked anonymously, the marker not knowing the name of the student. This is an attempt to exclude bias or prejudice by the examiner, whilst ensuring that the quality of the work rather than the student is assessed. If we accept this principle to be valid, and something to be upheld, why then do we not use it for all assessed coursework? I believe this question must be answered. Blind marking across Imperial for all pieces of coursework and all exams should be our goal, a justified burden on resources, if it even is one.

The implementation of blind marking would contribute to several worthwhile university goals: standardised assessed work across College,

improved trust of students in a system which evaluates them for three or four years, and a removal of any conscious expectation or subconscious bias or prejudice by markers. It would still allow students to receive personal feedback on work as once the mark has been given, the CID number can be converted back into a name and the work made available.

There does not need to be any evidence of foul play by markers to ask for such a system. I do not believe that there is a lot of conscious bias and I prefer to trust our lecturers. But there is always the threat of unconscious bias leading to similar marks for all pieces of a student's coursework regardless of the quality, simply because they have been labelled out of

expectation as of a particular grade. Or, worse, they could be directly discriminated against. A system of blind marking would cancel out both the bias and the impression that there could be bias.

Leeds and Swansea Universities apply this principle, and mark blind for all assessed work which counts towards the final grade. There are exceptions made, as there would have to be in our case, for presentations and vivas.

It is not a new idea; University standards is a national issue and anonymous marking used to be an NUS campaign, so I hope lecturers and other markers will not take offence. The whole point of an external examiner, after all, is to make sure our

marking system is sound. If external examiners are accepted as necessary for exams and major pieces of coursework to ensure fair marking, then surely the logical next step is for another check on all pieces of assessed work, the blind system. In fact, since all assessed work should probably be marked by two people, the double-blind system.

As long as there is the proviso that feedback will not be compromised, anonymous marking will lead to students having greater faith in the system. With the expectation of changes in student fees arrangements to come with the Browne review, we have to demand more transparency and better value for money. This is one way. It's only fair.



# **PROPOSE DRAMSOC'S NEXT PLAY AND YOU COULD DIRECT IT TOO**

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## **THE PLAY PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE**

**Tuesday 1st June at 6:15pm  
In the DramSoc Storeroom**

**For directions to the store room, please visit  
[www.dramsoc.org/storeroom](http://www.dramsoc.org/storeroom)**

**If you're interested and would like to propose a play, we'd appreciate it if you emailed [acting@dramsoc.org](mailto:acting@dramsoc.org) for more info.**

## **PLEASE**

**If you have any other ideas, get in touch and show us what you're interested in doing!**





# Some Brits really do want electoral reform

Following 'Do Brits really want electoral reform?' in last week's *felix*, a polling polemic in favour of change

Jakov Marelic

I was shocked after reading the incredibly one-sided article "Do Brits really want electoral reform?" and some of the points have to be met head on.

This government is arguably the first to have legitimate authority in over seven decades. Yes you did read that right; no party in the last 70 years has had more than 50% of the popular vote. Most people voted against Labour's famous 1997 'landslide'. In light of this it's very interesting how the writer accuses this coalition of having no right to push for electoral reform especially when the Liberal Democrats have had that issue in their manifesto for over 20

**"One of the most beautiful features of STV is that candidates from the same party have to compete with each other."**

years. To anyone accusing the Con-Lib coalition of lacking a mandate, I say right back at you. Any voting system would be put to a referendum anyway.

Numerous polls have found that if people thought the Liberal Democrats could win in their area, their share of the popular vote would rise dramatically. Because of things like this it's very difficult and misleading to translate results from this system into another one. Voting systems affect how people vote.

There is this extremely damaging suggestion that we should castrate our elec-



German governments have often been successful coalitions in recent decades.

toral system to keep undesirable parties out. "PR will give power to the BNP" cry the critics. If you took this idea to its logical conclusion, you might as well not have voting at all. Have the government be decided by a meritocracy who know better than the common people. Under Single Transferable Vote (STV), the system that Liberal Democrats proposed, a candidate still needs 25% of the vote in their constituency. Nobody is arguing for Israel-style PR where only 0.5% around the country is enough to get a seat. Critics should stop using this strawman.

The childish accusation of "You only favour PR because you're a small party" is easily turned around. You only favour FPTP because you're a large party.

The writer brings up the example of

Italy having 60 governments in 60 years, but forgets to mention that Germany, for instance, has had mostly coalition governments for decades and its economy is stronger and larger than say, the United Kingdom. Analysis has shown that out of the 16 countries enjoying a triple-A credit rating, 10 currently have coalition governments and 12 use some form of proportional representation. Far from producing weak governments, PR produces ones with a clear mandate because the majority of people have voted for them and fewer votes are wasted.

First Past The Post has created a class of MPs who totally ignore their electorate. Yorkshire will always vote Labour, South Kensington will always vote Conservative and MPs have ex-

## Anachronism and the state of democracy

Politics Editor James Lees



It is no small wonder that electoral reform sparks such heated debates. Living in what we are always told is a democracy and then watching as a party with considerably less than half the vote gaining a near majority doesn't seem fair. With the most recent election it would seem the entire country managed to get screwed- nobody voted for an amalgam of Tory and liberal policies but that is what we are now 'represented' by.

However, if I had been offered the chance to vote for the new coalition I would have done. I think their plans are better than either party's manifestoes were on most issues.

The people who really lost this election were dyed in the wool liberals who spent the election campaign turning the Conservatives into some kind of boogie

man. Of course on a large number of issues the Conservatives and Liberals policies overlapped making the coalition an easy option to take. A fact that many liberal supporters would have noticed had they spent some time reading the manifestoes rather than insulting 'Tory toffs' and learning the word 'anachronistic' to describe first past the post.

That truly was one of the more bizarre things about the election for me. Seemingly at any given opportunity, televised Liberal supporters would describe FPTP as anachronistic- I guess it was in the Guardian.

In the end whether the electoral system changes really will be up to us all when the issue hopefully makes it to a referendum. I hope the articles in *felix* will have made you think about which way you will vote.

exploited their unaccountability to the hilt, as we've seen with the expenses scandal. One of the most beautiful features of STV is that candidates from the same party have to compete with each other. If your MP doesn't reply to your letters, you can throw them out at the next election without ditching his or her party. FPTP forces voters to choose a candidate at the same time as they choose a party; it gives power to politicians instead of people. If the Conservatives really believed in free market forces like they claim, they should jump at the chance of introducing STV.

I predict that if STV is achieved, we will end up with much more choice as new parties are created and older parties split. The Liberal Democrats are

likely to divide into Social Democrats and Liberals again. The Conservatives could end up splitting into the more left Camerons and the right old Tories.

Many little parties are likely to solve the Kingmaker problem where small parties have a disproportionate amount of power in coalitions. The small parties would be forced to compete to take on the kingmaker role and before you know it their power would be significantly reduced.

Voter turnout has been steadily dropping. From the 84% high in 1950 to the most recent 64.6%, the electorate is realising their votes are wasted; they don't have the power or the choice. And you know what? They're absolutely right.

## This week

### First ever Con-Lib Queens Speech

This week saw the official opening of the new Parliament with the Queens Speech. The new coalition government's plans were set out in full with the 22 bills that Cameron and Clegg hope to pass in the next year. Several bills focusing on small government or big society have been proposed as the Conservative-Liberal alliance seeks to reverse the centralisation of power and removal of civil liberties brought in under Labour. Fixed term parliaments have been pledged along with a bill which should bring about the change to the alternative vote system. No mention of fox hunting.



### Race for the Labour leadership

Following Gordon Brown's resignation, the competition for a new leader of the Labour party has begun. Any candidate wishing to run has to be nominated by 33 Labour MPs. At the time of writing Ed Miliband, the former energy secretary, was leading with 41 nominations, and David Milliband, the former foreign secretary in second with 37. Other candidates include Ed Balls, the former education secretary and Andy Burnham a backbencher. Who the winner is will determine the direction the Labour party takes into the next general election which will be in May 2015.



### Backbenchers still have power

Conservative backbenchers known as the 1922 Committee have beaten back Cameron's attempt to allow ministers to vote in their meetings as ministers will not be voting at the election for the chair of the committee. The 1922 committee serves as a place for Conservative backbenchers to express views not handed down from the Party leadership. This allows them to serve as a vital check to the increasingly presidential power of the Prime Ministers position. It was responsible for the vote of no confidence which removed Iain Duncan-Smith from the Conservative leadership in 2003.





# 'Artificial cell' arrives

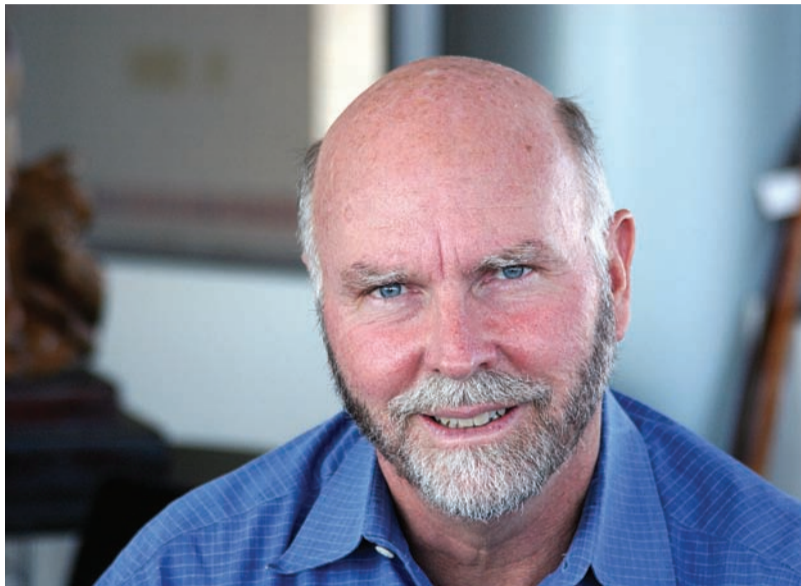
Carla Mulas critically analyses the landmark research that has polarised opinion between academics and ruffled the media

**T**he headline "Craig Venter creates artificial life" could be seen in virtually every newspaper and magazine, from the tabloid rag of *The Sun* through to the esteemed *Science*. Well, you have to give it to them; the title is catchy and certainly opens the doors to much media-loved bickering between discerning parties. But what is this buzz all about?

To explain: Cells are the basic units of life and DNA is essentially their software. This fairly simple molecule contains a code in the form of four chemical bases that the cell decodes to synthesise proteins and enzymes, which in turn regulate cell behaviour. Easy.

What Venter's team did was to take small fragments of this DNA, identical to 'natural' DNA but synthesised by a machine, and paste them in increasingly big fragments. The final product was a slightly modified copy of the genome of a bacterium (the donor), which they inserted into a close relative bacterium (the host). The modified host showed the same characteristics as the donor, showing that DNA really controls cell identity (... surprise?).

While some claim that Venter is playing God, it seems to me that he is a mere counterfeiter, simply trying to photocopy an incredible painting. The true achievement of this work is in the practical realisation of the task, which



Dr Craig Venter, leader of the team to create the 'artificial cell'

expected. We now have a slightly different picture of how life at its basics works. It is not a simple chain that links DNA to protein, and consequently protein to function, but rather, it is a very complex network with many branching points, loops and interconnections.

This is a problem at two levels. First of all, we have not yet mastered the art of creating new proteins because we are missing some of the information

around a bit.

This highly laborious technique, whilst providing an alternative to traditional methods in which we simply deleted or added genes, has the potential to become a valuable tool for things such as the production of medicines and the treatment of pollutants, and it has helped develop the field of 'Synthetic Biology'. At present however, we seem to be incredibly far from being able to "design" a cell from scratch. This poses the question; why not use the well-designed and nature-tested models that we presently have as a scaffold? "It will eventually come in useful" appears to be the only possible answer at present, even though it is hard to imagine the supporters of the \$40m funding being happy enough with that...

Whilst some people are concerned with the risk of this method being used to manufacture new biochemical weapons, in light of what has been described above, it does not appear as though we are in more danger than we ever were before. After all, who would choose a new, more expensive, more complicated and troublesome technique when current techniques are more than sufficient?

Craig Venter's work is revolutionary in the sense that now we can play with even bigger DNA fragments, and that the synthesised DNA appears to be as good as the 'natural' DNA. The creation of new methods is always a prerequisite for their optimisation and further developments, thus leading to lower costs, and so making them more widely available.

However, in this case it looks like the progress of the "artificial cell" will not be limited by the improvement of techniques, but rather by the increased understanding in the field of biology and biochemistry which requires much more effort.

Without an understanding of the network DNA-protein-function, we are simply going to keep photocopying paintings.



Scanning electron micrograph of *M. mycoides* JCVI-syn1

probably took the word "troubleshooting" to a whole new level. This project, started more than 10 years ago with a reported cost of \$40m, has been termed by some as a "scientific landmark". But is it really? At first sight, there are already quite a few problems; to understand why, we need to go back a few years.

When the race for the Genome Sequences started, we had the hope that, upon its completion, we would literally unlock the secret to life. While it became an incredibly useful tool, the results were not as self-explanatory as

on how the sequence of a protein leads to a particular function (i.e. from the sequence of the protein alone we can deduce very little and we are missing the sequence-function relationship). Secondly, we can only try to understand the end product, i.e. a living cell, by examining the network or the interactions at the protein level, something which takes time, and which we are still working towards.

This means that at present we cannot "write" a new code that will create a new cell but we can simply play with what Nature has given us, tweaking



## What's all this about then?

Nathan Ley Science Editor

**E**very now and again there's a piece of news that just leaves you stood wondering in amazement. Something that within one fell swoop can lift you to another realm of consciousness and totally transform your viewpoint in a positive manner. Dr Venter would like his creation of the 'artificial cell' to be one of these moments in time. However, it quite simply is not. Just forget it.

The research published in *Science* last week titled "Creation of a Bacterial Cell Controlled by a Chemically Synthesised Genome" is a fine piece of work. As Carla explains, it is a feat of technical brilliance to be able to implant chemically synthesised DNA into an existing 'shell' of a cell (i.e. all the components of the cell including the organelles and enzymes) that has had its DNA removed and to then 're-boot' the system using this implanted DNA. It is a technical breakthrough, but then so too is a lot of the research coming out of research institutions every week.

Creating life can surely only be a claim made legitimately once the entire cell and its components are synthesised from scratch using a man-made DNA construct? Rather than having a load of the hard work already done for you? This idea is a remote possibility and is something a million miles away

scaremongering, hyperbolic article alongside an interview with our very own Lord Robert Winston, who very gently and calmly put us all back in our place.

So, in simple terms, the research itself is nothing to worry about, and neither are the possibilities and likely applications that eventually come out of it. What is more disturbing is something else slightly more hidden.

This week Prof John Sulston (a Nobel Prize winner for his work mapping the human genome, so you might expect him to know what he's talking about) gave a slightly more cynical view on the issue, claiming that Craig Venter was seeking to create a monopoly with genetic engineering techniques. He made his claims on BBC Radio 4 whilst dismissing the research as nothing more than a "pretty little experiment" stating that "they are using this experiment to claim an enormous range of possibilities which really would give them control of all bioengineering in the future". He continued: "it seems to me that this is exactly the sort of thing that we don't want the patent system to do".

These are worries shared amongst the wider scientific community, but it is both easy and difficult to be too skeptic. On the one hand, we have a chauvanistic individual who clearly knows how to play the media, and who may partake in slightly dubious collaborations with cloudy motives (a \$600M deal with ExxonMobil having recently been announced). But on the other hand, this is the same individual who brought us shotgun sequencing and the completion of the human genome project.

The motivations of his research notably include the possibilities that work could be put towards advanced biofuels, new vaccines and medicines. These are wholesome and worthy aims to have, and so on the surface given his achievements to date thus far along with the power at his command, Craig Venter is clearly an important individual.

As humans we are, generally speaking, all for innovation and creativity, especially in the name of discovery. But so too should we be for regulation and control over the bodies and individuals that oversee the important work on some of the most pressing issues society faces today.

**"These are worries shared amongst the scientific community, but it is both easy and difficult to be too skeptic"**

from the stage we are currently at, and consequently unthinkable at this moment in time.

The standard mainstream reaction towards this research has been driven by the apparent fear that soon, this line of enquiry and technical expertise will make it possible for scientists to create fully fledged organismal life and commit acts tantamount to the 'work of God'.

Now, I've already aired my irritation about the usage of the phrase 'act of God' relating to insurance claims, and it should come as no surprise that all this discussion of 'playing God' is equally as unappealing to me. Will we ever reach a point in time where tabloids and news outlets can report on stories without resorting to such tasteless tactics? Nevermind that the concept of a 'God' is very much open for debate. Credit where credit is due though, *The Sun* ran their standard

# \$600M

The value of the collaboration between ExxonMobil and Synthetic Genomics, the company founded by Craig Venter

# Geomorphometric techniques take us back in time

**Shupaula Dass** reveals a new technique has been developed to allow identification of the remains of children

**S**he sits alone. Much like Hamlet, Dr Williams beholds a skull - poring over every detail. Yet this skull does not belong to the fictional jester. It is the face of a young child. Her time with the specimen is not a fleeting lament but a laborious and emotionally taxing study. But unlike the tragedy's protagonist, Dr Williams is not left with sadness but with hope.

Previously forensic scientists have encountered difficulty in identifying the remains of children. It has been thought that distinct features do not manifest themselves in the bone until adulthood. But Dr Williams of the University of Florida believed otherwise. "The skull, is endlessly fascinating, as so many features which define the way in which we are perceived in the world are etched into its surface. For instance, clues to a person's sex, and ancestry are imprinted on bone itself. With minimal equipment, keen eyesight, training, and perseverance many of these secrets can be uncovered".

And they were. Using 'geometric morphometric' (GM) techniques, Dr Williams studied the skulls of 50 children and adults. It involved 'collecting data by applying a probe attached



to the mechanical arm of a piece of equipment called a digitizer to various points on the skull. Single 3D points were then mapped and compared across different age groups. The findings were exciting, as Dr Williams recalls. "Our results found no significant differences in between the teens and

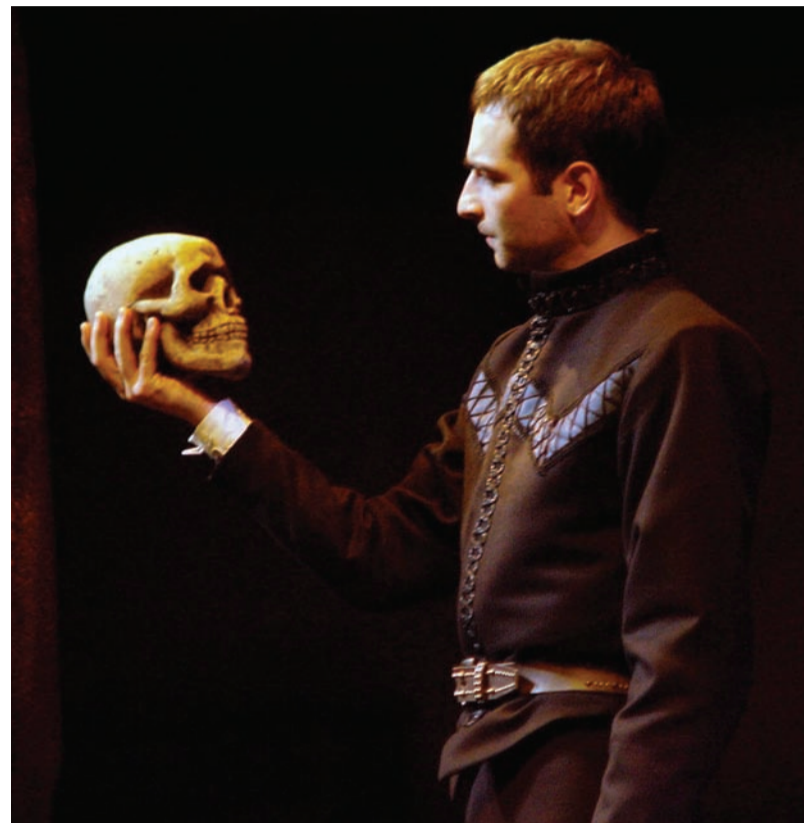
young adults, indicating adulthood is reached earlier in the skull than commonly thought."

For forensic scientists this means one thing - techniques used to identify adult skulls can also be applied to older children.

The hope extends further. Children of the past and of past civilisations can now be analysed whereas before, their ancestry and sex were not attempted to be determined. The study's results were later applied to a 10 year old boy who was found to be of Mesoamerican origin. Ancestral identifications could help investigators with facial reconstructions. Perhaps even one day GM could help bring closure to the families of missing children.

Dr Williams does not doubt the power of GM. "I am confident GM will become more commonplace in forensic analyses. There is no doubt that the process can be tedious, but the final outcome makes it well worth it."

So while Hamlet will forever ponder the great questions of life and death, Dr Williams is providing answers and a glimmer of hope for what are essentially stories of tragedy. And after closure, I hope that for these children and their families the rest is silence.



Is this the dagger I see before me ... oh wait, wrong one

## Subwarden Vacancy At Tizard Hall (Southside)



One of the three 'Southside' halls of residence housing around 120 undergraduate students over 7 floors. The Wardening Team facilitates a lively social programme and provides pastoral care to the students.

There is now an opportunity to join this dedicated group of highly motivated staff in September. Applications are welcome from all members of college, although the position is particularly suited to **postgraduate students**.

Applicants should be:

- Friendly
- Resourceful
- Energetic
- Responsible

To fulfil your duties, you are required to live in hall in rent-free accommodation

Application forms can be found at <https://halls.imperial.ac.uk/vacancies/>

For more information please contact Dr Dominik Weiss: [d.weiss@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:d.weiss@imperial.ac.uk)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
Friday 18th June 2010**

New issue  
out now





# Summer.Ball

## 2010 SATURDAY.19.JUNE

# Deadline for Dinner Tickets

**Your last chance to buy your dinner tickets is next Friday 4 June, at midnight. Don't miss out on an unforgettable evening!**

For more information and to buy tickets: [imperialcollegeunion.org/ball](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/ball)



unionpage

imperial college union

## Your chance to name your new bar! (Again)

When we last asked for you to give us your ideas on a new name for da Vinci's the voting results were too close to show a clear favourite, therefore we have decided to ask you for your ideas once again.

We already have a name for the new nightclub, Metric, which has proved popular with everyone. We will be introducing the new logo for Metric in the next fortnight, but in the meantime the new bar is our focus. This time we would like to hear what you think your new bar should be called and why you think your suggestions are the best.

You can submit your ideas from today. You will be able to submit ideas for the next two weeks, until Friday 11 June. During this time we would like to hear ideas for names that you feel would work well with your new bar, we would also like to hear in a sentence or two why you feel your name would suit your new bar – try and convince us and your fellow students!

You can submit your ideas by tweeting with the tag #phase3 as well as by commenting on the post on our blog, [imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3). We will then look at all your ideas after the closing date.

The new bar will have a clean, bright and fresh feel. It will be the place for you to get a drink, meal or watch sports on the overhead projectors in a nice relaxed, spacious atmosphere. To help you visualise your new bar the latest pictures of our Phase 3 development are on the blog. These include pictures of your new bar, and will hopefully inspire you when thinking of suitable names.

The Phase 3 blog is also the place to keep up-to-date with all the latest news on our new nightclub and bar.

Deadline for your ideas is Friday 11 June.

Submit yours now!



The Bar/Cafe

We need your ideas. Head to the Phase 3 blog: [imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3) and submit your name for the new bar by commenting on the blog post.

## Tickets selling fast for the Summer Ball 2010

The Summer Ball 2010 is fast-approaching! The ball is the largest social event at Imperial each year and is an unmissable night for both final-year and returning students. This year we have a massive outdoor stage with some of the best live music around. The Noisettes, Tinie Tempah and Plan B are all performing on our Metric stage; it's just like a festival stage, on the Queen's Lawn. Plus we have great dance music in the Great Hall and our indie disco in the Quad.

If you want to attend the dinner you will need to buy your tickets quickly! There are a

only a limited number left and your deadline for purchasing one is next **Friday 4 June** at midnight. Entertainments tickets are also selling well. For only £45 you get access to all this great live music.

For more information and to buy tickets, go online to [imperialcollegeunion.org/ball](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/ball). And don't forget to round up your friends so that you can all get a table together for the dinner. Make sure you do this before next Friday! Still not convinced? Have a chat to some people who went last year or the year before; they will convince you!



[imperialcollegeunion.org](http://imperialcollegeunion.org)

## MUSIC

Music Editors: Alexandra Ashford, Kadhim Shubber & Luke Turner  
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 music.felix@gmail.com www.felixmusic.tk



## Robin Andrews finds the jewel in his crown at the Bloomsbury Ballroom

Oh, mad, kooky Marina. Undoubtedly, the emotions generated within my eccentric mind whilst listening to her music are a paradoxical blur of childhood, macaroni-glitter-and-glue joy and grown-up, sneaky-cigarettes-on-the-side delectation.

Performing in the Bloomsbury Ballroom, the ridiculously posh-sounding venue in central London, Marina And The Diamonds – her “diamonds” being her fans, according to the lady herself – blasted out the majority of her album and a few covers. I can report, with an ir-repressible grin, that it was both a visual and sonic treat for the senses: the musical equivalent of tiramisu, surely the ultimate in desserts.

‘I probably have a bit of a different sound because I don’t really know what I’m doing,’ she once said. Well, who does? The best things in life often emerge from those who are just winging it. The difference between her and most indie-pop-new-wave-upside-down-topsy-turvey acts out there these days is that she is both confident and impatient, both powerful-yet-rare virtues in the hedonistic 21st Century.

Case in point: the first album, for many bands, has a few songs on it that are specifically designed to launch themselves into the public consciousness, whether through accessible, catchy lyrics, or something that is so infuriatingly annoying, intellectually insulting, yet impossibly persistent. Marina’s debut album contains lyrics involving metaphorical vomiting, musings over toothpaste, and lots of monkey noises. Oh, and at one point, she is, we assume, pursued by come rather naughty cutlery. You must be both impatient and confident to fire yourself into the public soundscape with material like that; better yet, you must be incredibly talented to make it sound so utterly brilliant.

Lyrical, she weaves contemporary poetry, pointing out those who disappoint and those who could be so much more: “You’ve been hanging with the unloved kids/who you never really liked and you never trusted/ but you are so magnetic/you pick up all the pins.” Her songs are colourful, mystical, and pleasingly ironic takes on people and their highlights, misgivings, and misjudgements, including her own; she picks apart mentalities and infuses them with her own individualistic flair. Each track performed not only has its own personality, but its own unique vocal identity. The rapid pitch-changes on “Hollywood”; the ethereal highs of “I Am Not A Robot”; the melancholy “Obsessions”; the near-insane Jungle Book-infused “Mowgli’s Road”: all



Photo by Robin Andrews

# Marina is forever!

completely different, and all a wonder to listen to.

Live, she is as kooky as she appears in her music videos. Leaping and pouncing may be a high-enough level of eccentricity for most bands, but that is merely a base-line for this one. How about arms and legs made of folded paper flinging in all directions in a very eerie yet gorgeously-choreographed dance number? Pineapple sunglasses, photoluminescent lipstick, and a piano-driven cover of 3OH!3’s incomprehensibly-misogynistic “Starkstruck” - flipping it on its head - are some of the things Marina brings to the chaotic table.

If you can find another new, bright spark in the British music industry with this much creativity, I will personally eat one of my many trilby hats. She has a gorgeous voice, one that sparkles like, well, a thousand diamonds, and the lyrical ingenuity to match. You can sense that she is still very much getting to grips with the entire rollercoaster ride that inevitably comes with venturing into the music industry – she is constantly smiling in that ever-so-slightly-cheeky way, poking fun at herself, and the rather uniquely-static businessman

leaning against the wall of the venue right at the back. She knows she has taken quite a giant leap forwards with songs that, on paper, really ought to appeal to just the more quirky members of the population. I guess there are a few more mad-hatters out there than we all initially thought: this, of course, is music to my ears.

Of course, her music may not appeal to all. I am not professing to be outrageously cool and unorthodox for adoring a relatively-unknown artist, nor will I suddenly start to dislike her music when her popularity inexorably crashes through the proverbial roof.

What I am saying is that this rising star is outrageously cool and fantastically, wonderfully unorthodox. Not all who wander are lost; however, those who do get lost along the way tend to find the most exciting things to show to the folks back home.

Marina & The Diamonds  
 Bloomsbury Ballroom  
 21st/22nd May  
 ★★★★★

## 25

The age of the beloved ‘Marina’ from Marina and the Diamonds.

## 2

Position of Marina and the Diamonds, in the BBC’s prestigious Sound of 2010 prediction polls

## 679

679 Recordings, is the record label that Marina is currently signed to and releasing her material on.

## 2007

The year Marina’s first material was released, called ‘Mermaid Vs. Sailor EP’. An estimated 70 copies sold over Myspace.

## Most listened to this week by Felix Music members on last.fm

1. The xx
2. LCD Soundsystem
3. Florence + The Machine
4. Caribou
5. The Killers
6. Radiohead
7. Four Tet
8. The National
9. Bloc Party
10. Coldplay



Wow! An eclectic mix of Coldplay, The Killers and Radiohead, I have news for you people... They all sound the same. I have better bands to talk about, Pino Paladino, Steve Jordan and John Mayer here I come. - Luke

# Imperial College Christian Union Presents

# IS BELIEF IN GOD REASONABLE?

## A DEBATE

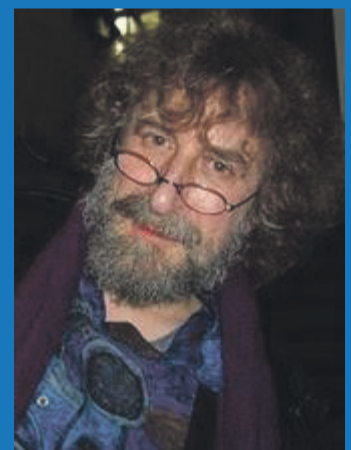
Join us in  
**The Clore Lecture Theatre**  
**Huxley Building**  
on  
**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June**  
at  
**6.30pm**

Drinks and Refreshments  
Provided

**Chaired by Dan Wan**  
**(felix editor)**

**Dr Peter Cave**

Chair of the  
Philosophers of  
the British  
Humanist  
Association



**Peter Williams**

Author of "A  
Sceptic's Guide  
To Atheism: God  
is not Dead"



## Photograph of the Week

**'Isola d'Elba'** by Robin Andrews, 4th Year Geology

Standing on a section through an ancient frozen magma chamber, conveniently located on the northern coast of the beautiful Isola d'Elba; [taken May 2010.]

Think you've got something better? [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)





# CAT-NIP

Text in to 07832670472  
 Email in at [catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk)  
 Tweet @felixcatnip



## CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE? SOCKS AND SANDALS:

## AVANT-GARDE GARB OR FOOTWEAR FAIL? JOKES, LETTERS, OPINIONS – WE WANT THEM ALL!

Email: [catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk)  
 Facebook: Felix Fan Page

Text: 07832670472  
 Twitter: @felixcatnip

## Best Place for a Picnic?

Queen's Lawn, defo. And don't worry if we scorch the grass. They'll just turf it again anyway.

Second Year Physician

Prince's Gardens. It's like Hyde Park except smaller. And without the geese.

First Year Medic

The Library. It's not like it can get any hotter in there.

First Year Biologist

## Gossip Boyo on Smoking and Silence

Imperial College is supposed to be full of hand-picked, creme-de-la-creme, intellectual future Nobel Prize winners. A few things have led me to question this:

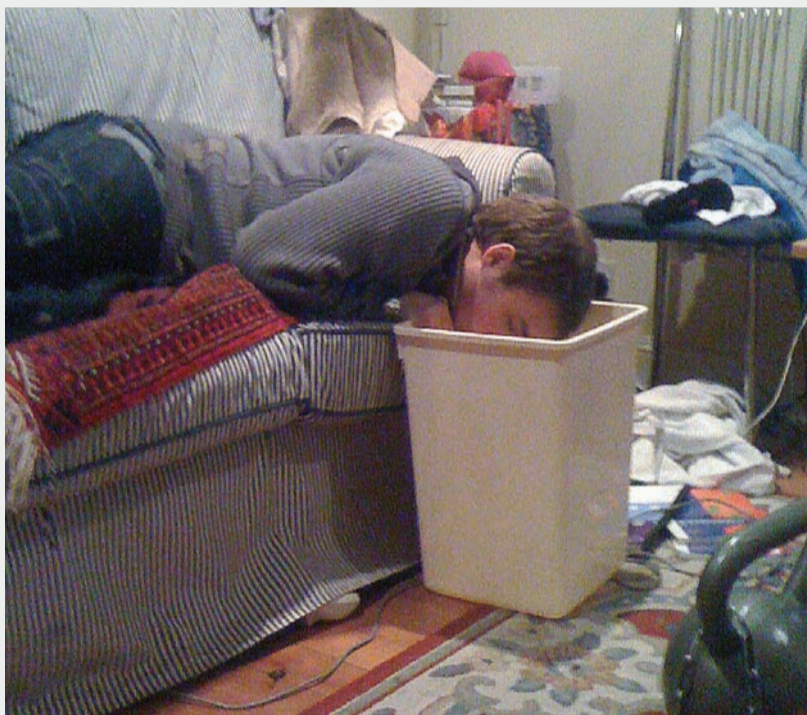
1. Forgive me if I'm mistaken but I am pretty sure that the sign outside the library reads "No smoking". Now I would think that this would be a rather simple undertaking. Indeed is it the first or the second word that is the stumper? Maybe it is the collective synergy of the two words that really throw the spanner into the works? Or maybe there are just a group of collective ignorami assholes who choose to flaunt this rather simple instruction. I would rather spend my precious minutes out of the confines of the library in the pocket of peace that is the Queen's Lawn without passively inhaling your fungating fumes. I urge you to take action - be it mild (give the offender the evil eye), moderate (point the offender towards the sign), or severe (scream in incandescent rage at their sheer stupidity, ignorance and selfishness).

2. The silent study area. Ah, bane of my life, home away from home. I would have thought that this was a classic case of Ronseal does what it says on the tin. So why then is it that people think that it's a good idea to flagrantly flaunt the rules. Assholes? My personal favourite is when people choose to whisper thinking that I will not hear them because they are sat across from me and that the laws of physics dictate that sound does not carry that far. Seriously what makes it all the more fun is when this conversation is carried out in a dialect that is innately guttural and with a bit of luck I can have flecks of their spit gracing the pages that I am trying to study from. How kind of them. I recommend that we adopt a similar approach to the smokers and give these people a right royal telling off. That should learn them, num sayin'?

I love Imperial!

Gossip Boyo

## Drunken-Mate Photo Of The Week



Got a picture of your mate being an absolute waste of oxygen? Well, get your camera out and email your drunken mates to [catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

Arguably the worst part of a night on the lash is coming home and taking it out on your flat. Thankfully, a bin was provided to spare that...beautiful rug.

Senders must have permission to use submitted photos and accept full responsibility for them

## Overheard At Imperial...

A: Come drinking or we'll kill you.

B: But then I won't be able to sit my exam. – A crisis of priorities.

When I was seven, I made a database of my teddies. – Imperial gets 'em young.

The skin is the largest organ, even though some boys in the room may beg to differ with that statement. – Dermatologists tell it straight.

Don't you hate when your curly arrows end up straight? – Not just arrows.

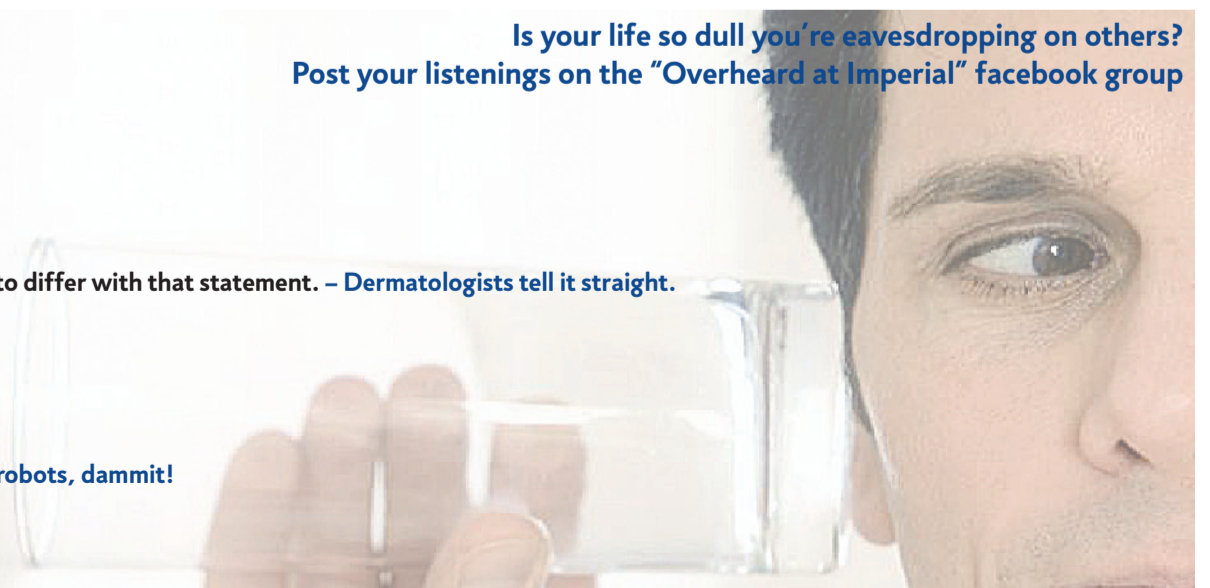
A: Are you going to 'robots' (Cognitive Robotics)?

B: It's not 'robots'.

A: It better fucking well be! It's got robots in the name! – The man wants robots, dammit!

What's a medic? – Overheard in the SAF foyer.

Is your life so dull you're eavesdropping on others?  
 Post your listenings on the "Overheard at Imperial" facebook group





## Too Darn Hot...

Lucy Harrold Arts Editor

**H**ooray! I never have to take an exam ever again. Unfortunately I do have to complete a dissertation, an oral exam (no jokes please), poster and a presentation so I don't get much time for art or culture.

So I haven't edited *felix* since before Easter and we've suddenly gone from freezing cold (you may remember most of my columns grumbling about the freezing conditions) to being 30 degrees. Luckily the *felix* office is down in the depths of the Union building so it's escaped the worst of the heat. If you like your weather on the warm side then now is a great time to get out and see some culture! Soon the Regent's Park open air will be opening up to perform Stephen Sondheim's *Into The Woods*. If musicals aren't your thing, take a wander round Hyde Park and drop into the Serpentine Gallery. They are currently showing the work of Nairy Baghramian and Phyllida Barlow. They specialise in striking 3D forms.

What I like best is to sit in the park with friends giving a brilliant excuse for some arty excursions. There is nothing better than a good old sing-song of dodgy nineties Britpop (or in my case a fuckload of theatre songs). Or get some cheap watercolour paints

and have a painting contest in the park. Best picture wins beer.

I suffer from nasty bouts of hayfever and hate hot weather so I'll be taking my culture indoors thank you very much. For me this means singing incredibly loudly whilst writing my dissertation (apologies to my flatmates!) and doodling a costume design or two. Although I'll never say no to a good old trip to the theatre. We in the *felix* Arts office have been raving about Hair. Caz saw the press night and I went on opening night. It was absolutely phenomenal from the show itself to racing around the entire theatre to get the opportunity to dance onstage to refusing to get off said stage. My friend and I met everyone from James Rado, writer of Hair (he was pretty stoned and attempted to pat me on the head) to Jodie Prenger, soon to be starring as the Lady of the Lake in *Spamalot* on tour.

For those of you still suffering with examavitis, never fear! I've found you some culture without even leaving the library. Don't be scared of the Haldane Collection it really does hold some treasures. Rox Middleton hasn't gone much further, taking in a new exhibition at the V&A. Rosie Milton reports back from the Tate Modern and, in a triumphant return, Why I Like is back with a look at Judy Garland.

# Ten Years of Tate, yay!

Rosie Milton looks at the Tate Modern's 'Festival of Independents'



10 years of the Tate Modern was celebrated by the 'Festival of Independents'



**I** know, I'm supposed to keep an open mind when it comes to contemporary art, or 'happenings' (whatever the on-trend term may be nowadays). However, although the plethora of activity on view at the Tate this weekend was supposed to instil a sense of excitement about current art production, it really didn't. My peers' view of Tate is normally withering and anti-establishment. I think they mostly disagree with the curatorial processes in terms of the displays of the modern art and the message of the big shows. For example, criticism of how the Rothko's are hung has often come up in class. I would be lying if I said I agreed; I actually like the soft, muted greys of the Rothko room (when occupied by said works) and have no idea of their original placement in the Seagram building to compare with.

I approached the mini-festival, 'No Soul For Sale - A Festival of Independents', with an open mind. As I have just alluded to, I subscribe to Tate's method of putting on events and 'blockbuster shows' and was intrigued by this particular event. Unfortunately this festival - apparently representative of the 10 years that Tate Modern has existed - did not, I feel, do justice to that which it was celebrating.

The back of the main turbine hall

was the site for the festival; areas had been partitioned off and labelled, by way of taped margins on the floor. Coloured bits of paper, random objects and stalls of various kinds, not to mention crowds of people milling around aimlessly, had swallowed up every square inch. At first we attempted to investigate every partition, working in an anti-clockwise movement. Nothing seemed to be clear - there was the usual unexplained conceptual display: a seated girl holding the carcass of a blue chicken, television screens on the floor playing film, paper everywhere with nondescript text and an abundance of other bits and pieces. Strangely enough this festival calls to mind another event that spans only a couple of days and needs to be as absent as it is present in only matter of hours: that of the Chelsea Flower Show. Knowing active participants of the competition aspect, I understand that you are given a small concrete space and have to recreate a 'moment' almost, of a garden that should look as if it has always been there, then dismantle it at the end of the show. This of course raises the very issue that I have with the 'Festival of Independents': there is the obvious facet of financial backing. I appreciate the fact that this event was free for all and sundry, but that very fact became painfully obvious by its general de-

meanour and 'hippyishness'. The small exhibits were tired and sad; like a really bad jumble sale. A car-boot-type trestle table was set up in one area with ready-made knick-knacks that had all been modified in some debilitating way, making them even more undesirable than they would have been before. Other irksome spectacles: a photocopier churning out pages and pages of the same bland script on A3 (what is the point?), a faux shaman playing music through house plants (yes, even I didn't 'get it') and very expensive boring art books everywhere (no surprise there).

I enjoyed the energy of the event, but I have to put my hands up and say that when it comes down to it, I prefer a little bit more the gloss of the establishment. Tate were clearly just trying to show that they were 'down with the kids'. After 10 years of displaying a collection which is equal to such a huge amount of expenditure (not to mention what we have spent on tickets of the big shows) it was frankly insulting to see this rickety fair as the epitome of this last decade. Send the kids back to the East End and let's hope Tate pulls its socks up.

**Above: The floorplan from Festival of Independents.**

**Left: Art and music combine as these plants play dinky little tunes.**

# Why I Like... Judy Garland

Rosannah Elsbury tells us about the studios' darling, her short-lived career and dark personal life

On the tenth of June 1922 in the little town of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, a baby girl named Francis Ethel Gumm popped out of a very disgruntled Mrs Ethel Gumm.

As has been recorded countless times throughout the late 20th century, this little girl grew up to be none other than Judy Garland.

Little Francis was the youngest of three girls, thanks to their mother's ceaseless pushing and vicarious living they became known in the vaudeville world, imaginatively enough, as "The Gumm Sisters"

Mary Jane "Suzy" Gumm and Dorothy Virginia "Jimmie" Gumm made the larger part of the trio and it soon became apparent that, whilst the two older sisters could sing and dance as well as anybody else, they were no match for the bizzare gimmick of a very little girl belting out a song like a seasoned alto with a megaphone.

At some point it dawned on the Gumm sisters that their name provoked a certain amount of hilarity in the audience and so after due consideration they changed the name from

"Gumm" to "Garland" Francis then changed her name to Judy after a popular Hoagy Carmichael song.

Judy shot to fame as Dorothy Gale in "The Wizard of Oz", she later went on to star in many popular musicals such as "Meet Me in St Louis", where she met her future husband and father of her first child, Vincent Minelli.

Despite adoring Judy and fathering future musical star Liza Minelli, Vincent was a renowned homosexual, a trend that was to continue in many of Garland's marriages.

After her success in "Meet Me in St Louis", Judy's life started to go downhill. After filming the box office flop "The Pirate", Ms Garland suffered a nervous breakdown and was promptly escorted to a private mental institution.

After a few weeks she was released and went back to her hectic film schedule. Unfortunately Judy was still very unwell and was unable to complete the filming of "The Berkelys of Broadway" and was replaced by Ginger Rogers.

Judy suffered with these bouts of depression and nervous anxiety throughout her life, she was famously troubled, rarely sober, pumped full of speed to make her more productive and skinny

and bullied to within and inch of her life by the studio chiefs, Judy, unsurprisingly became a very insecure and irrational person.

Can you imagine what it would have been like to work with her? Granted she was reportedly a true luvvy to her co-stars, but she was very unpredictable and suffered with her nerves. They never knew if she would fly off the handle, lose consciousness or even just not come out of her dressing room.

Undoubtedly this lady is a legend of both stage and screen, a dazzling siren with the face of an innocent little girl and a leather-tough, husky and emotive voice, but an insecure, unpredictable mess off camera or stage.

The astonishing thing is that, despite this, everyone she ever worked with has always said what a wonderful person she was. There is rarely a bad word spoken about her in interviews, perhaps she couldn't help it and maybe her good points outshone her bad ones so much that the bad was forgotten, but next time you hear her praises being sung, spare a thought for all those who had to support her through the tough times, and watch her soak up the praise in the good times.



I love *The Wizard of Oz*, here is Judy in her most famous role as Dorothy Gale

## Modern Masters- Dali, Picasso, Warhol and Matisse

Roxanne Middleton nips down the road to the V&A to lift the lid on some misunderstood modern classics

As a roving arts correspondent, I took it upon myself this week to make the intrepid expedition all the way to the V&A. Yes, I realise I'm not going to win any points for originality, and this is not the cutting edge of contemporary alternative culture, but it's very much easier to do very little work on getting in the good stuff.

Anyway, this is a proper reason to go to the V&A, since we're so generally oblivious to the everyday breathtaking glory of its permanent exhibits; there's an exhibition (opened 1 May) 'til 23 June of prints by Dali, Picasso, Matisse and Warhol. How's that for an eye-ful? Yes, seventy-five years covering the self proclaimed "birth of the modern age" in one easy exhibition. Not only that, but this exhibition is just two rooms! For efficiency, it doesn't get much better than this.

The two rooms are each divided into two sections, half for each artist, and a good range of prints to display a range of their respective styles and variation. These are not the paintings but prints, which doesn't really sound so impressive, until you realise the huge importance of lithography in the oeuvres of all four great artists.

Lithography is merely a type of printing but specifically one in which a smooth stone or metal plate is used to create the print, rather than wood block, intaglio or letterpress printing

which is 'potato-print' style.

The image is made by drawing the desired picture onto the plate with a hydrophobic, oily medium (think wax crayons). Then hydrophilic gum Arabic in water is poured over so that it surrounds the picture, forming the relief, turpentine is used to strip off the excess oiliness from the original picture and the (oil-based) ink is poured over the top. Obviously, it sticks only to the original design and not the rest of the plate where the hydrophilic gum is. So then the inked-up plate can be used to produce multiple copies or experimentation. I wish I'd known this about lithography as I was wandering about, mystified as to how exactly these pictures had come to be, and why it mattered.

The pictures themselves are certainly varied, there's no chance of getting bored of the same style. Dali's start off with a series of seriously cool posters he made to advertise train destinations in France.

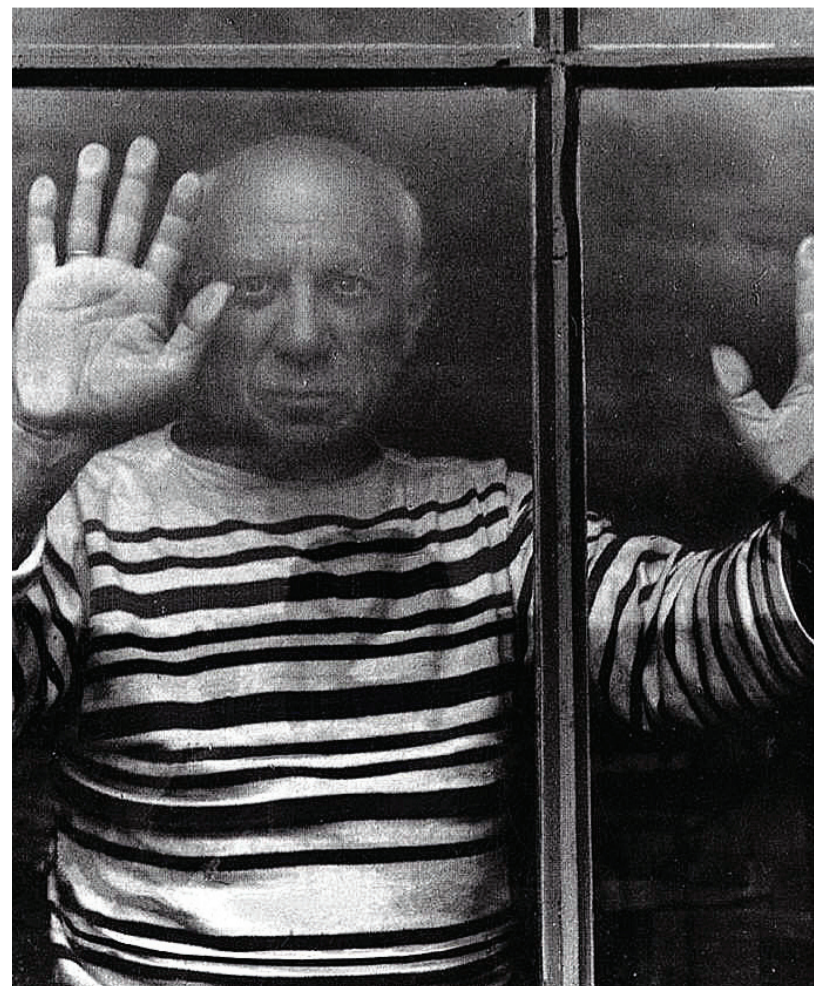
These large and gaudy pictures contrast with the next ones in the Dali section which are some surreal fine line drawings of a tree-body cutting off its own leg and stuff like that. I can't decide whether that sort of creepiness is really my type of thing but it's quite nice to see. There are also some totally different sketchy scribbly pieces by Dali, like the owl which looks like a massive biro doodle, and there's a little piece of card which boasts that Dali

once made a lithograph using snails dipped in oily stuff. This, disappointingly, is not shown. And that's it! Move swiftly on to Warhol.

Warhol really was a printmaker, and while Dali may be more well known for his paintings, the Warhol wall is reassuringly lurid. There are some Marilyn Monroes and some pictures of him amongst a couple of others. You'll have seen them before, but it's interesting to see the full size faces layers of built-up design.

After the first room, I preferred the second more. There's a gamut of Matisse's nudes, from the iconic minimal line drawings which are fantastically evocative, for all their simplicity, to plainly drawn studies, and a photo of Matisse drawing a nude model which I particularly liked. There are even funny, curvy women called "Monumental odalisques" on the little bit of card, although I didn't find that description terribly enlightening. It turns out an odalisque is a particularly Matisse thing and means an Ottoman slave woman (part of the Imperial Harem, haha).

Picasso's section has a naked woman picking a flea off her bum ("amusing yet sensual?") and some really lovely ink-flooded portraits which I thought was printmaking at its finest; black and white and simply beautiful. Not being a buff of any of the four great artists, I really enjoyed it, a nice espresso cup of great art.



Picasso always regretted installing a window where his door was

# If you go down to the library today...

This week I haven't been anywhere fancy schmancy. Instead I've been stuck in the dungeon of a computer room writing my dissertation. 'How are you writing this article?' I hear you ask. Well dear reader, let me introduce you to the wonder that is the Haldane Collection. The Haldane used to be awesome, situated in what is now the Level 1 Computer Room in the library. I'd spend most lunchtimes sat on the comfy chairs reading a newspaper or perusing the DVD collection for something to watch that night. The Haldane Collection has now moved (minus the comfy chairs and newspapers) to the stifling heat of Level 5. Culture, amongst our very own.

## DVDs

If you're into opera, you'll love the library's DVD collection- it's Verdi and Puccini heaven. If you don't like your singing quite so..erm... loud then it's a bit less fun.

### Rocky Horror Picture Show

Maybe one for after exams but it is a must see for anyone who's ever seen a guy wandering down the street in fishnets and suspenders and thought WTF? Richard O'Brien's seminal cross dressing cult flick sees Brad and Janet (Barry Bostwick and Susan Sarandon) enter into the strange world of Frank N Furter (Tim Curry) and friends. The songs are catchy, the story is absolutely ridiculous. You may find yourself developing affections for men in suspenders...



### MacBeth

This production starring theatre legends Ian McKellen and Judi Dench is the definitive version of 'The Scottish Play'. Performed without costumes or complex sets the text is the star of the show, really getting back to the purpose of Shakespeare as an art form, not a tool to bore schoolchildren.



## CDs

The library has the strangest collection of CDs, I've even spotted Louise Redknapp's only solo offering. But we're going to narrow the search to theatre generally because a) That's my favourite subject and b) I think I must have taken out most of the CDs in the eclectic collection.

### Cabaret

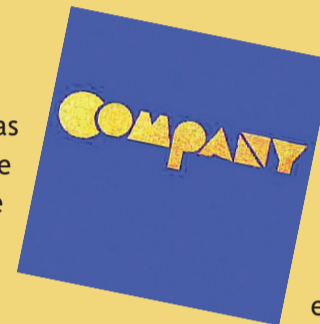
The classic Kander and Ebb Nazi musical. Based on Charles Isherwood's memoirs of the 1930s in Berlin, Cabaret is a tale of drugs, bisexuality and debauchery. This is the definitive recording featuring every song ever used in any production of the show. The awesome Jonathan Pryce (Keira Knightley's dad in Pirates of the Carribean) plays the fucking mental Emcee with Maria Freedman as Sally. Song highlights include Willkommen; it's just a brilliant way to open a show. Let's turn the entire exposition into a splendid number that sets the scene perfectly.

Cabaret- A bittersweet ending. Sally has lost everything - her man, her livelihood, her baby and possibly her life. When done properly, it's heartbreaking.

### Company

Amazingly, the library has a rare rendering of the 1995 Donmar Warehouse production of Company starring Hustle's Adrian Lester. Company centres around Bobby on his 35th birthday as his friends around him grow up and get married, Bobby is left cynical and yearning for a relationship of his own. A curious version of the show featuring a predominantly black cast and imagining Bobby as a cocaine addict.

Song highlights include Ladies Who Lunch: Witty mentions of Mahler, hats and all those girls we love to hate; and Being Alive which is the ultimate male ballad (well maybe except for Jesus Christ Superstar's Gethsename). Nuff said. Listen to it, bitches.



## Books

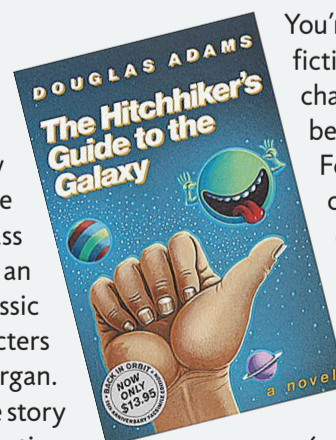
Well that's what a library is for. The Haldane has possibly the most inexplicably diverse collection of books, from Hugh Laurie's only novel to modern classics like Tolkien's Lord of the Rings Trilogy. I've found some real gems in this section, but also some rather dull affairs; like all artistic forms, it's a definite mixed bag.



### Ragtime

I must admit I've taken this book out a fair few times but now have my own copy so you can read it instead. Ragtime is the tale of three families in turn of the century New York. An upper class white family in New Rochelle, a black couple from Harlem and an immigrant family from Latvia. E.L. Doctorow's American classic cleverly intertwines these three stories with the real characters from the time period such as Houdini, Henry Ford and J.P. Morgan. As we see the lives of these families become more involved, the story takes on many twists and turns, addressing the big issues of the time.

### The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy



You're at Imperial, how could you not read this book? Science fiction at its best and its funniest, Douglas Adams' trilogy of four charts the adventures of Arthur Dent, a regular shmoe whose best friend, Ford Prefect, happens to be an alien. Arthur and Ford bumble about the universe discovering lost planets, new civilisations run by mice and trying to answer the ultimate question- what is the meaning of life? (For those of you that don't know, it's 42).

Hitchhikers, despite being completely barmy fiction is actually a really good introduction to the sort of humour you'll find at Imperial and the people you'll meet. Although I never did quite get through the fifth book (yep, there's actually five).



# Scouting for the next best thing

Since its inauguration in 1991, the Graduate Fashion Week has been the go-to place for industry insiders to scout the next household name. **Kawai Wong** counts its importance.



A model poses for the camera for Shireen Erfani-Shomaly's collection in 2009. She is a graduate of University of East London. The winner of the River Island Gold Award went to UCA Rochester Fashion Design student Myrto Stamou who showed a collection of Grecian gowns.

While the press-day invites from M&S or Aspreys headed straight for the recycling bin, the invitation to Graduate Fashion Week remains securely fastened to the diaries of buyers and editors. The annual event which begins on the 6th June this year will take place at Earls Court 2. Static exhibitions as well as 22 fashion shows showcases the works of BA students from across the country.

Dresses sculpted to architectural

precision as well as innovative and futuristic designs attract fashionistas of all calibres to attend the event. Last year, the fashion mongul of the blogosphere – Susie Lau of Stylebubble, was given a stall at the exhibition to blog live from the event. Street style hunters, such as the photographers from Facehunter, ElleUK and Style Scout, need rolls and rolls of films (or memory sticks) to capture the diversity and originality of the eclectic fashion which the UK is renowned for.

Knowing the importance to keep

the blood flowing in fashion design in the UK, many big names from the industry, such as Gareth Pugh, Giles Deacon, Zandra Rhodes, Victoria Beckham, Erin O'Connor and Claudia Schiffer proudly lent their time to the shows.

Creme de la creme of the fresh graduates from 50 universities across the UK will compete for a place in the Gala Show, where all the guests on either side of the runway hold private invitations. The show culminates in an award ceremony, where a winner will

be selected by a panel of judges.

This year, the fate of the students will be decided by Alberta Ferretti of her eponymous label, Kim Jones of Dunhill, Lorraine Candy of Elle, Dylan Jones of GQ and Naomi Dominique of River Island.

The most outstanding collection will be awarded the River Island Gold Award, which a cash prize of £20,000 as well as an extra £2000 as an reimbursement for their education will be handed out.

The first GFW happened in 1991, when Smirnoff sponsored a student fashion show at the Business Design Centre in Islington. Sponsors come and go, and sadly GFW hit the trough when it found no willing companies to fund the event in 1993.

Luckily, the Health Education Authority, BHS, Esprit and Topshop recognised the importance of promoting and supporting the talent of tomorrow, and they have since linked their names with the event. The bucket was finally passed to River Island, who has been funding GFW happily since 2004.

Apart from signing the cheque for the Gold Award, River Island also recruits ex-GFW participants for design roles. This year's collection of printed mini shorts, PVC body sculpting dresses, jewellery and footwear modelled by the singer-songwriter Kelis. Menswear will be fronted by Diversity dancer Ashley Banjo. The pieces will hit the stores from the 24th May.

Members of the public can buy tickets for the exhibition and the shows on the GFW website. A limited number of tickets at £50 will get you into the invitation only Gala Show at 8pm. This package also includes entry for the award ceremony as well as the after show party.

**Gradute Fashion Week, 6th June - 10th June, Earls Court 2.**

## News Strip

Gabby Gentilcore

Fashion Reporter

### Cat Deely Designs for Links

The first international spokeswoman of Links of London will step up to design for the jeweller, Links of London.

*felix* has learnt that TV presenter Cat Deely has designed a friendship bracelet for the brand.

The bracelet will hit the stores in September.

### 70s Fashion Brand Biba Relaunches

The brand was acquired by House of Fraser in November last year. *felix* has learnt that the brand will officially be relaunched in September. A new in-house design team will stay true to the original passion and energy of the iconic brand by referencing its extensive archive.

### SATC2 Induces Shoe Frenzy

Sex and the City is set to spark a new Westwood craze when "the Carrie factor" is added to a pair of shoes that have only been seen on the catwalk. The shoes that Carrie wears in the film's official poster will be available exclusively in Vivienne Westwood stores and boutiques.

### Model Lara Stone is a Laydee

Vogue cover girl and Louis Vuitton spokeswoman Lara Stone married Little Britain star David Walliams in London this weekend.

Lara wore a bespoke and long corseted dress designed by Riccardo Tisci, the creative director of Givenchy.

### Isabella Blow's Clothes Collection to be Auctioned Off

The late stylist and magazine editor, Isabella Blow – who was close friends with the late Alexander McQueen – will see her private clothes collection auctioned off at Christies this September. The extensive collection includes over 90 outfits.

She purchased McQueen's first collection in its entirety for £5000. Isabella Blow suffered from breast cancer and she committed suicide 3 years before McQueen.

### Lady Gaga Takes Internship

Lady Gaga will take an internship with celebrity milliner Phillip Treacy.

The hats maker has previously designed several headpieces for the star, including the lace face mask as well as elaborate headgears. Although details have yet to be confirmed, this will solidify the bond between fashion and music.

# The hidden subtleties of eye make-up

Charlotte Morris

After introducing the fundamentals of make up over the last few weeks, we can move on to some more exciting aspects of make-up, the ones that can really make you stand out from the crowd.

It's often said that the eyes are the windows of the soul. Eyeliner and mascara can prove to be the difference between being a Plain Jane to being a sexy fashionista, giving shape and definition to highlight your eyes. They really are the fundamentals of eye make-up, but there is still a lot of scope to play around with colours, application techniques and different types of make-up

available.

When it comes to eyeliner, there are a few different types to choose from; not only liquid or pencil, we also have cakes and gels and other, more exotic types, such as felt-tips. Personally, I use a combination of a kohl pencil and a cake eyeliner. An important point to note when using cake eyeliners is that a quality brush to apply it with is essential. Because the kohl pencil is easier to apply, I use this on the bottom eyelid, and then apply the cake eyeliner to the top. I find it best to have a variation between black and brown eyeliners so that you can use brown during the day and black for a night out.

You don't have to limit yourself to black and brown. For a night out, experiment with other colours. I find that



**BENEFIT BABE CAKE**  
£15.50

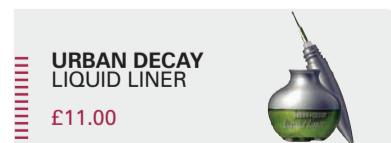
This cake eye-liner is perfect. It lasts forever and with a choice of black or brown, it's compact and suitable for day and evening-wear. Don't forget, you need to find a good brush to accompany this cake eyeliner, which Benefit will also provide for a meagre £12.50. Their 'Get Bent' liner brush makes for easy application, especially when doing the top eyelids.

white and silver work well, as do metallic blues and purples.



**BOBBI BROWN LONG WEAR GEL EYELINER**  
£15.00

Long-lasting and water resistant, this gel form of eyeliner offers the precision of a liquid liner but is easier to apply than most liquids.



**URBAN DECAY LIQUID LINER**  
£11.00

Available in over ten different colours, this liquid liner will allow you to experiment with new exciting looks.



## James Freedman joins the Fellwanders Spring Tour at the last minute and survives the icy Cairngorm plateau with style

As I sat in my first class seat on the train from London to Aberdeen, enjoying the wireless internet and table service, I spared a thought for the Fellwanders who were enduring a twelve hour minibus journey up the M1. Not too much of a thought, however, because it was interrupted by a stewardess bringing me my lunch. The journey almost seemed too luxurious a preface to a week's walking in the mountains; I felt much more at home when changing onto my bus in Aberdeen, and I was greeted by a fish and chip shop connoisseur of a bus driver with the words: "Braemar? What the \*\*\*\* do you want to go there for?" Welcome to Scotland.

I was made to feel much more welcome when I rounded the corner into Braemar Lodge to discover the group still unloading the minibus. There were a few surprised faces at my unannounced arrival, but after locating the only free bunk, I soon settled into an evening of wishing I'd stopped at a supermarket to buy some beer.

Bright and early on Sunday morning, it was time to get stuck into some Munros. First up were the twin peaks of North Top and South Top, although not before a long trudge along a snowed over Landie track – something that would later develop into a theme of the week. Our first ascent began, and after a brief delay for Dave to change up his shorts for his trousers, and another brief delay for Dave to add thermals under his trousers, we broke through the cloud and onto a beautiful plateau. North Top proved a challenging find on the lunar landscape, but Alex's stellar navigation guided us to our first Munro of the week, and all without anybody falling off a cliff or being caught in an avalanche. A quick trek back across the Moon and South Top was also ours.

Our descent was sped up considerably, at least for some, by the frequent

deployment of essential safety equipment. Unfortunately, all this time was then lost to The First Great Snowfight. Small skirmishes had been taking place all the way down the hill, and things gradually escalated until snowballs the size of beach balls were being exchanged, despite constant threats from the resident schoolma'am that "we would be in so much trouble". Not long later, we were trudging back to the minibus through the snow.

Back in the hut, Jim and Peter treated us to a delicious Sunday roast, full trimmings included, and there was much rejoicing. Despite our efforts, we didn't quite manage to finish everything; after all, "there's no need to ram

**Once again, we managed a whole day without anybody falling off the many available cliffs.**

meat down your throat just for the sake of it", right?

Early nights followed for most of the group, except for the dedicated team of dessert designers who worked into the early hours creating The Beast.

Forged from every imaginable ingredient, The Beast was a four-layered monstrosity of heart disease waiting to happen. Weighing in at approximately twenty kilos, it was unlike anything we'd ever seen in a kitchen, and it hadn't even left the pot yet. That would have to wait for a day of settling.

Sunrise on Monday greeted us with traditional Scottish weather, or at least it would have done, had the traditional

Scottish weather not obscured it. Carn a Tuirc was our goal, and undeterred by the wind, the rain, and the complete absence of any shelters marked on the map, we headed up.

The view from the summit was non-existent, so we stayed only to argue briefly about our next destination, and which way it was, before setting off for Cairn of Claise. Once again, we managed a whole day without anybody falling off the many available cliffs. Morale dropped considerably on the descent, until finally we dropped out of the cloud and the minibus came into view, although still several hundred metres below us. Thankfully, our trusty survival bags were once again at hand to speed our descent. Stopping only to discuss the possibilities of multiple roadkill rabbits as dinner, we headed back to town to see what Braemar had to offer.

Aside from whisky, walking equipment and woollen clothing, Braemar does not offer much, so our time would mostly be split between the single pub and a delicious-looking takeaway, The Hungry Highlander, that served the best of world cuisine: Fish and chips, pizzas and kebabs.

After a quick trip to the pub, we returned to the bunkhouse to discover that the Beast was about to be unveiled in all its glory. A ten minute struggle ensued, after which we finally managed to release it from the pot, and it sat in the middle of the dining table challenging us to finish it – or even start it!

The top layer was a milk chocolate and marshmallow affair, followed by a layer of white chocolate and brownie clusters. Below that, the cereals kicked in, with one layer of rice krispies and toffee and another of cornflakes. The whole thing was almost six inches high, and nearly two feet in diameter. Eating it all this week would be quite a challenge...

... a challenge we got stuck straight into as soon as we'd finished our chili

# Hiking Club discover the beast within



Come Spring, the Hiking Club migrates to warmer lands

pasta. Perhaps ambitiously, we set ourselves the target of eating a quarter every night, and dished portions out amongst the group accordingly. Some complained they were being served too little, some too much, but nearly all of us were soon stilled by the sheer sweetness of the dessert. Throughout a whole evening of the traditional game Werewolf, and some of its lesser-known variants, we struggled to finish the culinary task we'd assigned ourselves.

No walking was planned for Tuesday, so we seized the opportunity for a lie in with both pillows and stayed in bed until the decadent time of eight o'clock, when I walked into town to buy pancakes, satisfying myself that I had made my culinary contribution for the week, and leaving the preparation in the much more capable hands of Jen, who did not disappoint. Well stuffed, we headed off to Balmoral to see the Queen. Unfortunately, the Queen wasn't in (kind of her to tell us), so we just had a poke around her house instead, and then strolled around her oversize garden.

Secretly, I'm sure everybody was counting down the minutes until our

distillery tour began. Jim, James, Peter and I even found a mini hill to climb, although despite our best efforts, we failed to get lost.

Royal Lochnagar did not disappoint! Our tour guide survived most of Joe's technical questions, and provided us

**...we evaded the werewolves, and the Russian spies who were camped out in the vicinity.**

with plenty to taste at the end. She seemed very keen for us to know that Royal Lochnagar are now owned and operated by Diageo, so it would be criminal of me not to further her cause by leaving out that essential factoid. This being my first time, I discovered how water and barley become hangers, and I gather that even the seasoned whiskey tourists learnt a thing or two.





A quick stop at the supermarket for some, and a quick stop at the pub for others, was necessary on the way home, where we settled down to try out all the whiskey we'd been coaxed into buying at Royal Lochnagar. Our local culinary experts once again ex-

## Our final day was scheduled to be a long one: a 28km circuit of five mountains.

celled with a risotto, followed, as usual, by Beast. Unusually, however, tonight's serving of Beast contained some unpleasant surprises: My slice in particular seemed to have an unusually high onion content. The shocking combined flavour of onion and marshmallow forced me to retreat from the kitchen, tail between my legs, and not return for the rest of the night.

Wednesday would bring us the mar-

quee walk of the trip: Cairngorm and Ben Macdui – the second highest peak in the UK. Not satisfied with only the two Munros, Alex had also hatched a secret plan for the more adventurous group members to take in another pair and walk most of the way back to Braemar from Aviemore. However, before we did any walking, we'd have to negotiate the sixty mile drive to Cairngorm Ski Centre. With a long walk ahead, we were taunted all the way up the first ascent by the sight of skiers the other side of the fence, enjoying the snow that was making our lives so difficult. Twenty minutes in, Anna, Joe, Peter and I could no longer resist the temptation, and, ignoring the disdainful glares, we returned to the base station to rent equipment, buy lift passes and enjoy the Easter snow.

While we were wasting our day frolicking around with gravity, Alex, Jim, James, Gavin, Jiri and Eva set off on their marathon hike, heading from Ben Macdui over to Carn A'mhaim. After a pitched battle with some wandering orcs at the summit, they slew three dragons along the river back to Braemar, and would have hiked all the way home had Rafal not intercepted them

with the bus.

Although, I wasn't there, so I can't be certain. They might have exaggerated things a bit.

The next day arrived with a curious mixture of slackers' fresh legs and hikers' stiff legs, but nothing like that would deter us from upping our Munro count. We set off early to Beinn Bhreac, along a route spied by Alex on yesterday's return. After another prolonged track trek, we set off into the wilderness past a house that looked suspiciously reminiscent of Dog Soldiers. This was too much for James and Dave, who soon after decided that they'd be much safer in the minibus, and disappeared back down the track to hide. Once we'd evaded the werewolves, and the Russian spies who were, for no apparent reason, camped out in the vicinity, we began to climb up to the peak of Beinn Bhreac. At least, we thought it was the peak, but our celebrations were cut short by Alex's announcement that actually the real peak was further over to the East, and was a phenomenal four metres higher. So off we tramped through the wind until we reached the summit, when we decided that it was too windy, and that we should all lie down behind the cairn for a nap.

Refreshed, we began to head home, taking a detour to take in a gorge that apparently 'looked nice from the map.' We were lured in by the promised of picturesque scenery to admire while enjoying our lunch. Along the ridge, we were blessed with amazing views of some of the week's earlier walks, which was good, because the gorge itself was disappointingly quarrylike. No matter, morale was high on this bright sunny day as we made good pace home.

The car park presented us with an interesting distraction in the form of a biotoilet, which as far as I could tell, is simply a toilet with fewer moving parts and many more instructions: so many, that quite a queue formed just because we all took the time to read them.

We arrived back in Braemar relatively early, which offered us an opportunity to head into town and remind ourselves that there wasn't much there. A local tea room provided a welcome change of scenery from the bunkhouse, however, and much entertainment and discussion of child labour laws when a six-year-old child came to collect our dirty crockery at closing time. Another delicious dinner, this time haggis, was followed by nervous servings of Beast, with much poking to find any stray slices of cheese or onion that may have sneaked in.

Our final day was scheduled to be long one: a 28 kilometre circuit taking in a measly five Munros. Early starts were required, including some last-minute packing for the one person who had to ruin everything by leaving a night early.

Uncharacteristically, this walk allowed us to get immediately stuck in to the climb; no flat tracks would eat up our morning today. We were headed for Lochnagar, a beautiful lake beneath beautiful cliffs that gives its name to the whiskey produced at Tuesday's distillery. Up in the snow on a clear day, we had breathtaking views of the Cairngorm National Park and of all our week's walking, and mid-morning we hit our first Munro, Cac Carn Beag. Once we'd arrived at this summit, the highest of the day, we had also completed nearly all our ascent, so we took some time out for photographs and

snacks, interspersed with some final last-day snowballing for those of us who still hadn't tired of it.

Carn a' Choire Bhoideach and Carn a t-Sagairt Mòr soon also fell to our relentless boots, although the third surprised us with a lone aircraft wing resting near the top. Dave's aeronautical engineering training let him down as he failed to identify it from a sole wing, but through the wonders of mobile internet we identified it as a RAF Canberra, WJ615, from all the way back in 1956, which unfortunately collided with the mountain after overshooting a night-time landing nearby.

On we hiked, with some of the group making the most of the last of the week's survival bagging opportunities in the snow (some of us had been issued new bags and were forbidden from unwrapping them).

We soon reached Cairn Bannoch, and pressed on to Broad Cairn – with fewer than a hundred metres of descent and ascent between peaks, the going was not tough, and at the top we took some time to survey our day's impressive accomplishments. That was the end of our climbing for the week.

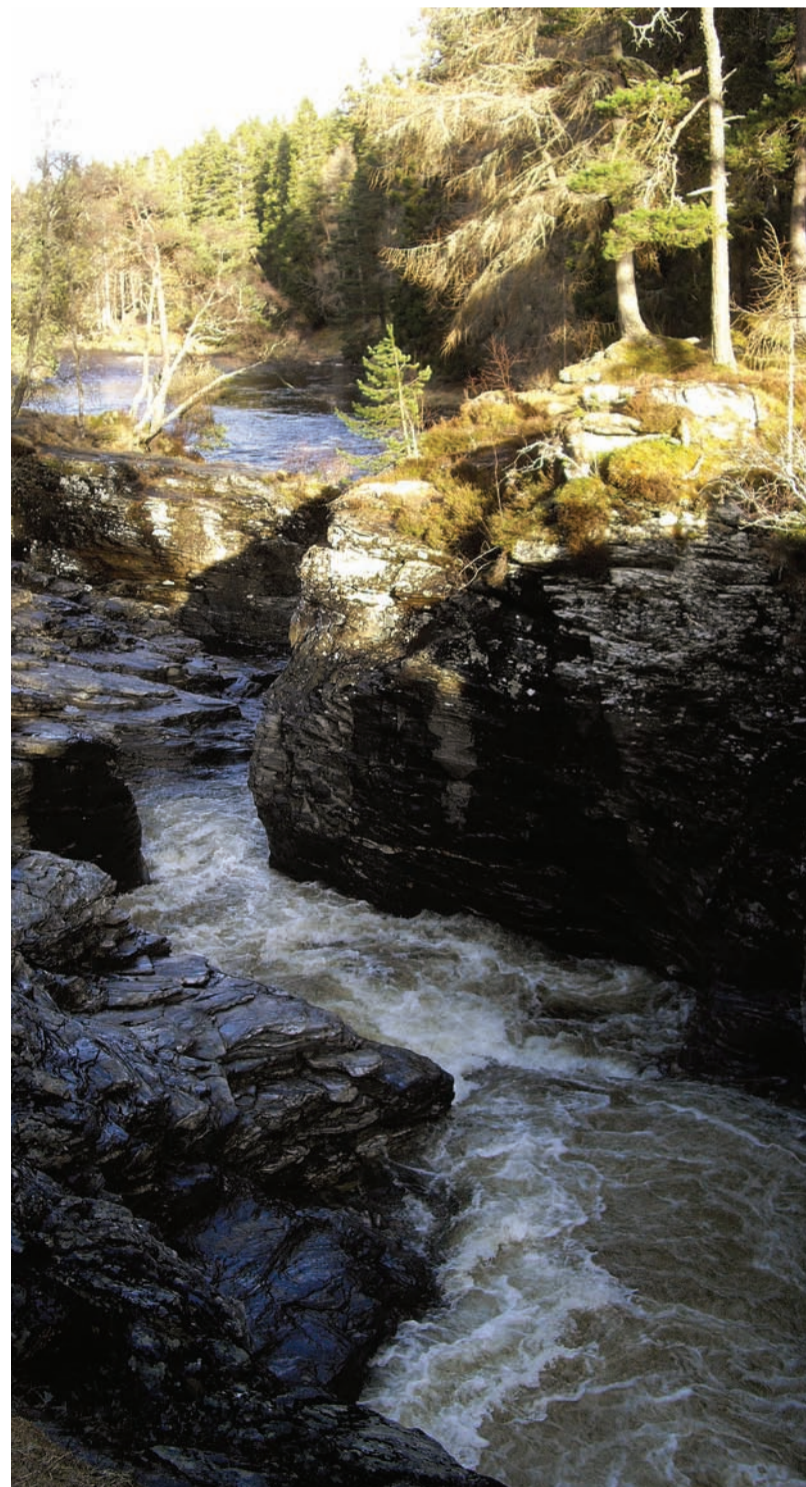
It was not the end of our walking, however: we still had nine kilometres

down to and along the side of Dubh Loch, along some tight, steep tracks. As we neared the water, Alex became increasingly nervous, obviously aware of Dave's plans to enact the 'tradition' of submerging the trip leader, but fortunately for him we never came close enough to the waterside.

Perhaps much later than some had expected, we returned to the car park after an impressive day, and a far more impressive week's walking.

The end of that walk also signalled the end of my time with the Fellwanderers. After an undignified change in the back of the minibus, I was abandoned in Ballater to make my own way home. Not that I had much to complain about – my own way home involved the sleeper train down from Aberdeen, including breakfast served to my cabin. Followed by Beast, of course!

Special thanks go out to all the Fellwanderers committee for a well-organised and exciting trip, Jim and Peter for keeping our engines running on delicious meals, the entire group for being great trip-mates, and Rafal, Joe and Jules for all the extra miles they did in the driving seat of our minibus.





# The Open Source Problem

**Feroz Salam** looks at why the open source mantra is so confused

If you're unfamiliar with the concept of open source software, you're definitely not alone. In a market full of expensive consumer electronics that are locked down and bound to carriers and application stores, the concept of releasing the code to software that has taken you hundreds of hours to create may seem unintuitive, even silly. Yet despite the unorthodox business model that it engenders, open source software is surprisingly successful. A Linux server is probably behind a majority of websites you browse daily, whilst open-source Android powered smartphones have recently begun outselling the iPhone in the US. Yet despite a few notable exceptions, the concepts behind open source are opaque to the average consumer, which is in my opinion, to the detriment of the entire movement.

One reason for this situation could be the fact that the concepts and ideology that define free/open source software have been made ridiculously complicated by those creating the software. It's hard to get an ideological movement going if no-one within the movement can agree what the ideology truly is. An interesting example of this situation is the case of Linus Torvalds and Richard Stallman, two very important people in the world of open source. Between them, they have helped in the creation of some of the most widely used software tools in the world. Yet their philosophies on the way code should be released differ greatly. Stallman is the leading figure in the Free Software Movement, an organisation that works towards software that can be freely distributed, modified and used without restrictions. The Free Software Movement could fairly accurately be described as the radical far-left of the software industry. Stallman, in a testament to this culture, will only use a single Chinese netbook that solely runs free and open source software and nothing else. In contrast, the general open source movement



(that the Free Software Movement attempts to distance itself from) isn't as concerned with the licensing issues as they are with spreading the concept of open source, even if that means having to work with closed-source companies in a trade-off. Those behind the Linux kernel recently accepted a code contribution from Microsoft, with Linus Torvalds (the father of Linux) saying: "I really find the whole notion of Linux as being "against Microsoft" to be silly and wrong-headed." With there being no agreement within the movement, it's hard to attract investment from businesses, who worry that the frequent and drastic licensing changes that have typified the last few years of open source software design, might work against them in the long term.

One of the greatest things about open source software is choice. There's a huge amount of software out there, and some of it is great. Yet the community behind open source software can sometimes be intimidating to say the least. From Stallman with his frankly ridiculous Free Software Song to the endless bickering about software choices on internet forums, getting advice on software that is impartial and unclouded by dogma is hard. Advertising campaigns seem only to

attack other closed source software without really educating people about benefits of open source. The end effect is a confusing jumble of contradictory ideas all being shouted at loud volumes - an effect that is frankly annoying and off-putting.

Yet despite these problems, open source software has grown remarkably over the last decade. Linux has been at the forefront of this growth, with its dominance of the server market, running the majority of the world's supercomputers, and even the surprising rise of Google's Android mobile operating system. In some ways, the approach taken by Linux has been the most pragmatic, accepting help from those who offer it regardless of differing ideologies and with a surprising resistance to dogma. Its success shows that open source can succeed. Yet as long as the continual disputes over ideology and licensing continue, it's probable that businesses won't see open source as a serious and viable option to replace their current software packages. In the end, consumers will simply choose big named closed-source alternatives that don't come with the baggage of ideologies that they feel they have no personal investment in or simply don't understand.



## All Google TV'd out

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

If you haven't heard, Google launched its attempt to infiltrate the TV space with Internet content. Google TV aims to bring not only video but the whole Internet onto the small screen. But it's not the first to attempt to do so. Microsoft tried and failed to do the same thing many years ago with its WebTV. Google thinks the failures of the past have been due to poor implementation, but I beg to differ.

OK, having certain web content on your TV would be a boon. Web video such as YouTube, Hulu and the plethora of other user created and network produced online video sites often deserve to get off your monitor and actually onto your primary watching device, your TV. But anyone who's ever tried to surf the web on their TV will know that it's a paradigm that simply doesn't work.

The thing is your TV viewing experience is a long distance one. You sit several metres from your TV and control it with a simple remote. Reading subtitles, and possibly the digital text that replaced TeleText, is about as much reading as you're ever likely to do on your TV and there's a reason for that. Reading text on your TV is both a strain on your eyes and plainly annoying if the text is too small.

To do justice to web browsing on your TV you're going to have to sit pretty close to that screen of yours, even if it is a monster. And that's the problem; you are going to have to get off your comfy sofa and either grab a chair or sit on the floor in the middle of your living room. If your TV was the only place to consume the web, perhaps this would be a viable option, but it's not. I for one am not going to bother getting off my arse just to view a bit of news or IMDB on my TV when I

can just grab my iPhone, my laptop, my netbook or perhaps my tablet and do it. It'll be a damn sight better browsing experience on all those devices than it possibly could be on my TV.

If we look at the devices that can currently access the Internet that pack a browser and are plugged into your TV, we've got things like the PS3, the Wii, Media Centre PCs, perhaps even a Boxee box or Mac Mini. All of these devices do an admirable job of rendering text on the big screen, but you have to zoom in so far to actually read it that it disrupts the browsing experience well beyond being a decent one.

Is the answer reformatting and reflow of text to fit the screen? Perhaps you could strip out the content from the site and display it in a purpose made 'TV mode'. But again, isn't it just easier to grab that netbook that's beside you?

The other problem with browsing on your TV is that for the most part, TV watching isn't a solitary experience. Are your friends, family or strangers watching in from the street, really going to be chuffed with you taking up all or a significant portion of the screen to look up who directed the Exorcist? Perhaps the only social aspect of the current web experience is web video, meaning the browser simply gets you to the video content, nothing more.

Google initially wants you to use another box under your TV that essentially sits in between your content boxes like Sky, Virgin, FreeviewHD or FreeSatHD receivers and your TV. It's another box to buy that doesn't really do anything you can't already do with other devices. Perhaps once Google manages to get Google TV into actual TVs with partners like Sony, maybe you'll find it gaining traction. But that's still only a maybe for the big G.

## Weekly Wrap-up: A quick guide to the best of the rest you might have missed

Roll up, roll up, what have we got for you this week eh? Well in the wake of the Google geekfest that was Google IO, the big G's web video format came under a bit of fire.

WebM, heralded by Google as the open source answer to the video war currently raging in the HTML5 spec, has spiked the interest of the MPEG-LA, the folks who licence out the H.264 specification. According to them, the WebM with VP8 video codec flies just a little too close to the premium H.264 codec and therefore might

not be as free as everyone thinks. Maybe Steve Jobs was right when he said patent litigation was not far away for the open source audio and video codecs.

The little green Android has also been in the news this week with Froyo causing quite a stir. Google claims Android 2.2 has the fastest mobile browser and it's quite possible with Froyo showing a 4.5x speed increase in several benchmarks over Eclair. Then we've got the news that 'Gingerbread' will be the next tasty edition

of Android, packing WebM support among other things and will land around Q4 2010.

More mobile news this week from Samsung with Europe's first Bada phone, the Wave. OK, the phone is pretty sweet, but Bada, well, let's just say it's a bit disappointing. Slap Android on it for goodness sake!

LG showed off some serious 3D screen real-estate this week

with their 84-inch 3DTV, packing a whopping 3840x2160 resolution. That's UHD, or Ultra HD; shame about the highly 'fashionable' glasses you need.

Sony was in on the OLED action this week with its prototype rollable OLED display. The 4.1 inch display is 80µm thin and can wrap around anything thicker than 8mm in diameter, like a pen or pencil. Outputting 16M colours with a 1000:1 contrast ratio and 100nits brightness, the 432x240 resolution display could be the future of wearable, rollable, slide out displays just like every decent sci-fi movie. Let's just hope it makes it to market in the near future.



Social networking is a luxury that the majority of us enjoy in one form or another, but it's undoubtedly a great way to get into trouble if you're in the public spotlight. To save his players from that problem, England manager Fabio Capello has banned his squad from partaking in Twitter and Facebook. To be fair out of the preliminary named squad only Darrent Bent, the Sunderland

striker, actually used Twitter. So if you were hoping for in-the-dressing-room progress reports from Rooney, Lampard and Rio, I'm afraid you're out of luck.

Nokia and Yahoo announced a partnership this week to trade services. Nokia is going to run Yahoo's online mapping, to take on market leader Google Maps, whilst Yahoo is going to bring its webmail expertise to Nokia phones. More competition is always good, but can *Nokia* really compete?

Last but not least, Apple launched the iPad in the UK today. Available in store with seriously short supply, good luck actually getting one.



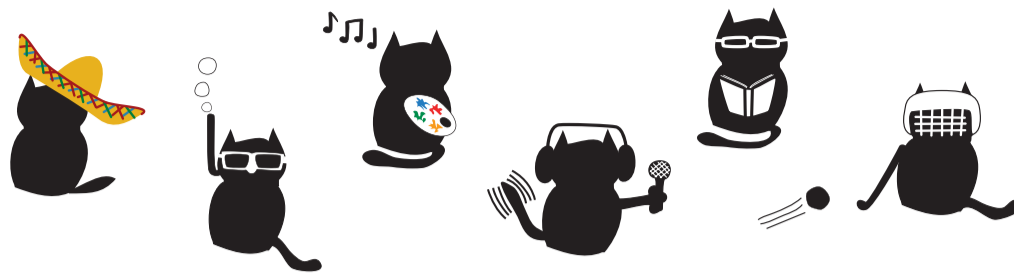


# What's on...

## Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editor – Ziggi Szafranski

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



### Tues 1st June

#### "End of Life" – Special Medical Ethics Lecture

- Doors open 12:15
- Huxley LT 144
- Free entry! (although RSVP is necessary)
- Professor Avraham Steinberg will be the keynote speaker at this event, which is run by the Chabad of South Kensington
- To RSVP, or for more info: info@skchabad.org

#### DramSoc Play Proposals!

- 6pm, DramSoc Storeroom (www.dramsoc.org/storeroom if you don't know where it is!)
- Have you ever thought about directing a play? Or have you got a great idea for a play we could do next term? If so why not come along to Play Proposals and tell us about it! There are two plays to choose for next term alone, so if you want to direct one, or just have an idea, pop along and let us know!
- For more info, or if you have any questions, email acting@dramsoc.org

### Weds 2nd June

#### DramSoc Summer Workshop

- 2 - 4pm in Activity Space 2
- Free to everyone this term
- Say goodbye to the drab world for two beautiful thespian hours. Comedy, Impro, games and scripts. Everyone welcome, even if you've never set foot on greasepaint!

### Summer's here...

Well the weather's been gloriously sunny recently, so I hope you've all been out enjoying the sun when you've not been either a) revising or b) attending these lovely events we've been advertising here for you!

**And if you're organising something and you want more people there, let us know and we'll advertise it for you!**

### Fri 4th June

#### Is Belief in God Reasonable?

- 6:30pm, Clore LT, Huxley
- IC Christian Union ask "Is belief in God reasonable?" and invite you to come along to watch a debate on that very subject!
- And if that's not enough to entice you, the debate will be chaired by felix's very own Dan Wan!

Events are trickling back in, but we're still in need of more!  
**Want more people at your event? ADVERTISE IT HERE!**

### To Do...

- 1) Actually get down to some revision...
- 2) Send in your events!! This page only works if you actually send me things! Email your events to:  
**whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk**  
 (Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...) **by end of Tues 1st June**
- 3) Did I mention to send in your events?! Pretty please?

### ADVANCED NOTICE

#### Thursday 10th June

- Chaplaincy Exhibition Opening
- 6-9pm, Chaplaincy Centre, Beit Quad
- The opening night of an exhibition showing the work done by the Chaplaincy Artist in Residence, Kate Keara Pelen The collection will include a specially commissioned piece for the Prayer Room
- A chance to meet Kate and learn about her work
- Drinks and snacks will be available!

# COFFEE BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch  
coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



[Insert Title]

Sean Farres Puzzle Captain

Zenzizenzic is a word meaning 'the square of a square, squared' i.e. an integer's eighth power. I inform you of this as I wanted to begin this piece with a big 'Z'.

Murdoch's away so I've got these first two pages entirely to myself! Which would have been fantastic had I had more notice; it really just means more work for me to do. So this week, you may or may not have yet noticed, but there's a big maze on the opposite page. This was not made by me, it was dug up out of a much older issue and was contributed by Natalie Wood.

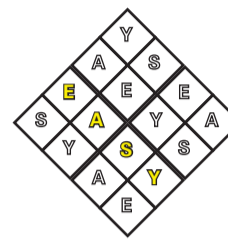
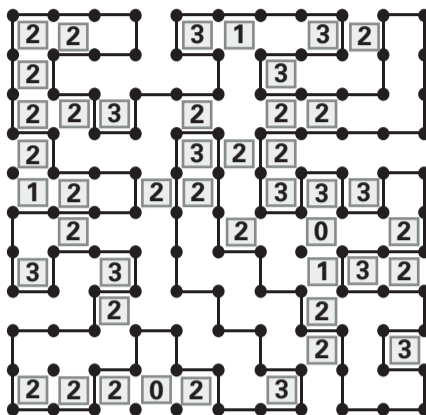
Look forward to seeing more resurrected puzzles in the coming issues. Also look out for the re-separation of Nonogram and Slitherlink, and the return of Wordoku!

A final note; I'm constantly looking out for new puzzles to bring you so if there's a type of puzzle you'd like to see, let me know!

If there's a puzzle here you just don't like and think should be cut tell me what it is and that'll be the puzzle that gets replaced.

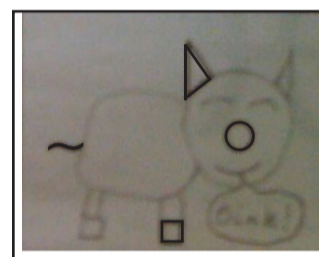
Don't want to see your favourite puzzle cut? Send in your answers! All popular puzzles will be spared.

## Solutions for Nonolink and Bridges 1,462

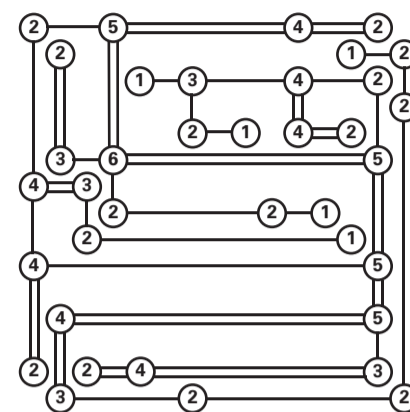


Here are some solutions to the Procrastination Puzzles section, in case you found them tricky.

The below farm animal picture was submitted by Sheryl.



This winning solution (for both the Nonogram and the Slitherlink) was submitted by GLT who also was not alone in realising I had made a slight mistake and the Slitherlink numbers populated the shaded cells! Sorry. Nevertheless there were numerous submissions this week despite exams. Keep those submissions coming.



Once again GLT's taken the big points. Though there were many runner-up solutions and don't forget, these can score points too.

Want points? Or perhaps you just want to make sure your favourite puzzle stays in the paper? Submit to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk).

## FUCWIT League Table

### Teams:

- Harry Potter Trio 261 Points
- The Tough Brets 215 Points
- The Cool Kids and Fergal 40 Points

### Individuals:

- Matthew Colvin 231 Points
- Sheryl 234 Points
- GLT 156 Points

The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is new and improved, with an iPod nano for both the team and the individual with the most points at the end of the year.

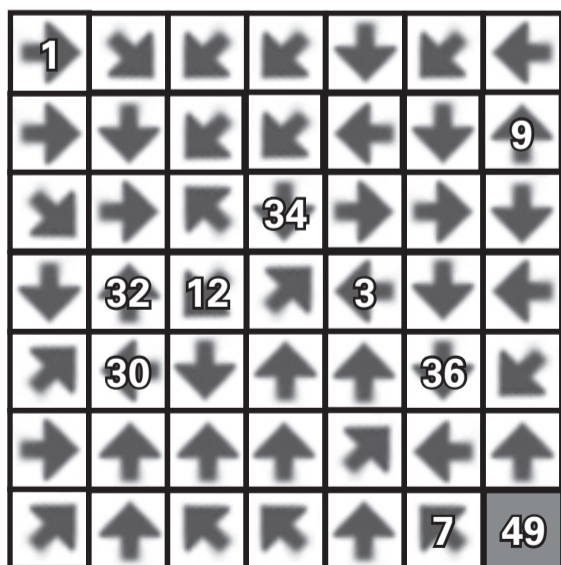
5 points for the 1st correct answers for all puzzles on these pages, 4 points for 2nd, 3 points for 3rd, 2 points for 4th and 1 point for 5th.

Now then FUCWITs, answers to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). Go!

Quote of the Week

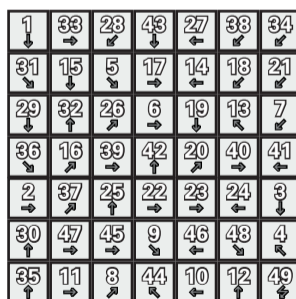
William Blake: "No bird soars too high if he soars with his own wings."

## Arrow Maze 1,463



**How to play:** Fill all the squares with numbers to form a path from 1 to 49, such that the arrow under each number points to the square containing the number one greater (except for 49 obviously, which has no arrow, being the end of the path).

### Solution 1462



GLT has taken the points again for yet another puzzle! Is no one going to stop this winning-streak?! Sheryl is quietly creasing the gap, coming in 2nd on this puzzle and many others.

As always we can put a guest puzzle in, so if you fancy your name in print drop us an email at [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

## Wordpath 1,463

### ORIGIN:

EXAM

### DESTINATION:

PASS

### How to play:

Make a path from the origin word to the destination word by taking steps between words using one of the three following methods:

**Letter Substitution:** Substitute just one letter.

e.g. WORDS -> WARD

**Anagram:** Rearrange the letters.

e.g. WARD -> DRAW

**Wordslide:** Replace the current word with a new 4 letter word from any 5+ letter word that contains them both.

e.g. DRAW -> WING (via DRAWING)

No consecutive steps may be made by the same method.

e.g. WORD -> WARD (by LS) -> WARE (by LS) would be **invalid**.

Points are awarded for the earliest SHORTEST valid path between the two words. Dubious words will be checked against the OED. Send your solutions to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk).

### Solution 1462

- EXAM  
MINE via EXAMINER
- MING (LS)  
NESS via MINGINESS
- NEST (LS)  
FAIN via FAINEST
- FAIL (LS)

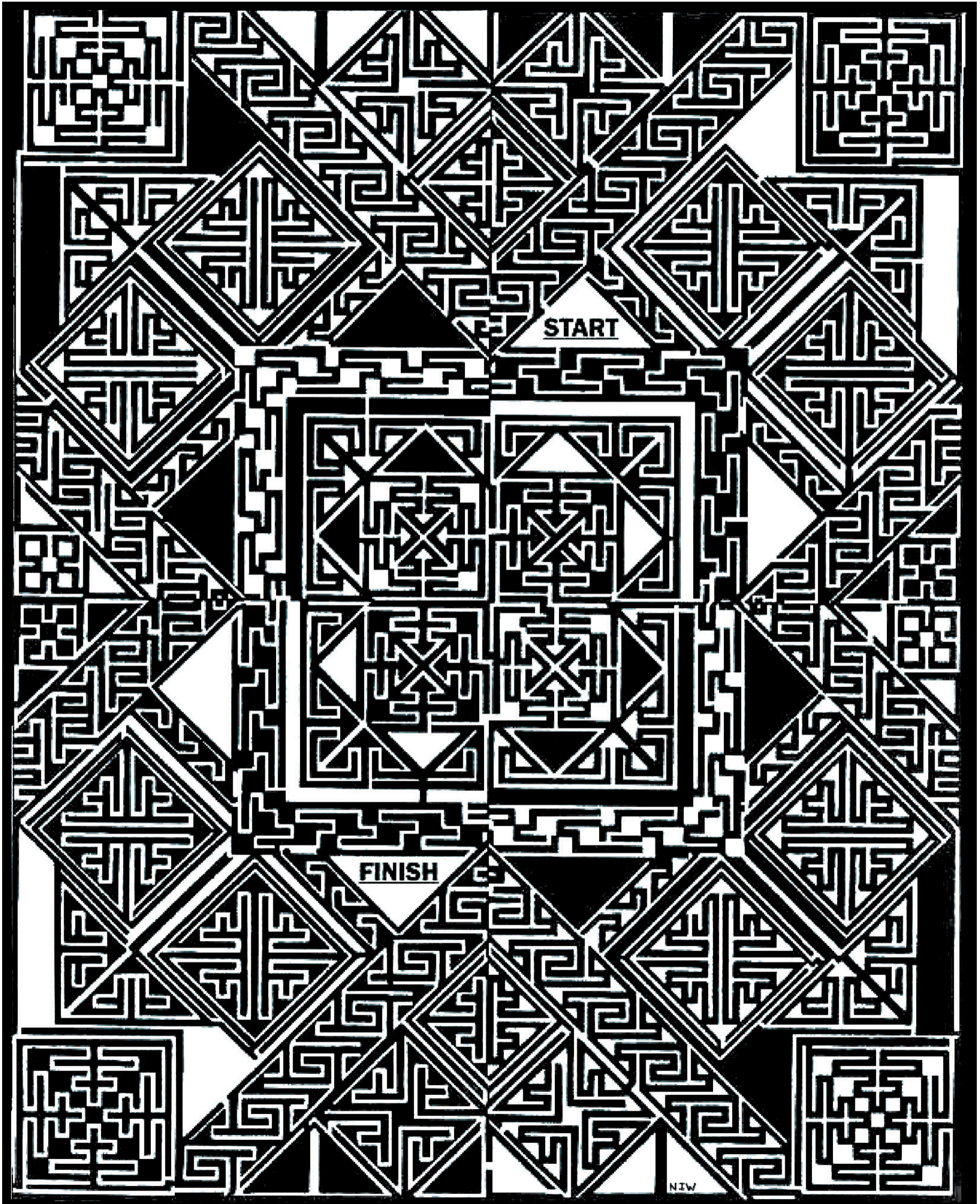
Mark Mearing-Smith took the points this week!

### Scribble box

Long Random Scribble box

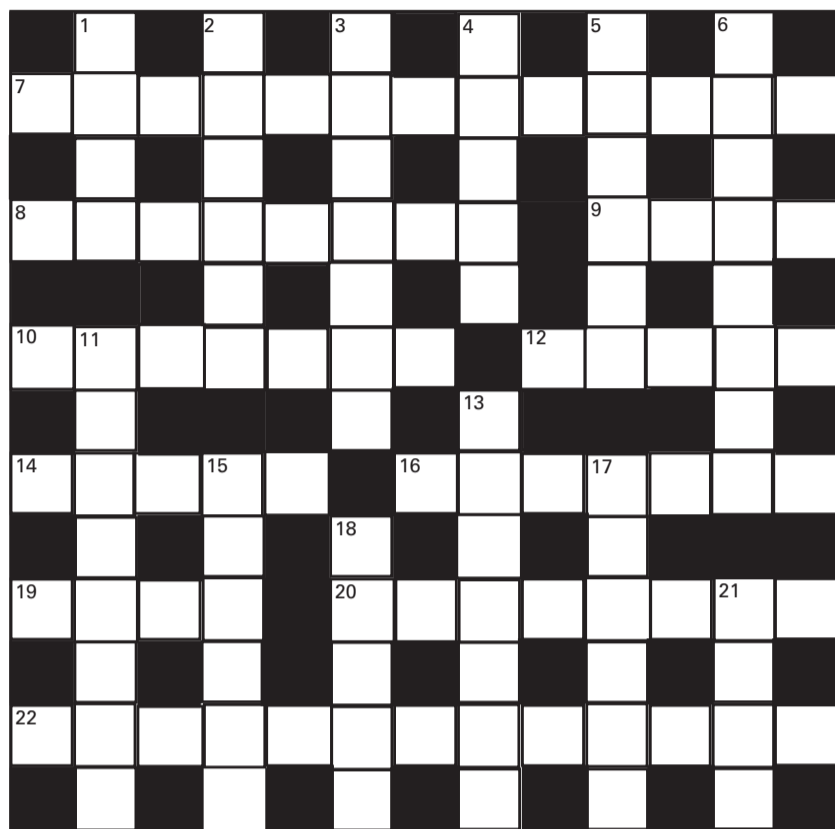
# Relic 1,463

A maze from issue 1,123 by Natalie Wood (with minor restoration).



NIW

# A quickie (crossword) 1,463



## ACROSS

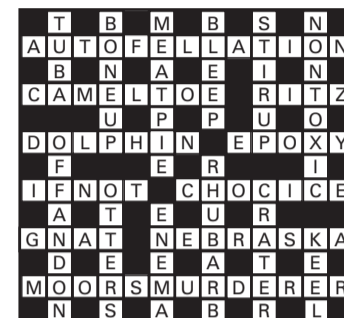
- 7 Rhymer's freedom - iconic steeple (anag.) (6,7)  
 8 Persistently nags (3-5)  
 9 Verve (4)  
 10 Premium biscuits - brown-noses (7)  
 12 Dice game - curls one out (5)  
 14 Ready to start 'banging' (2,3)  
 16 Illegitimate child - absolute fucker (7)  
 19 Ctrl+Z (4)  
 20 Tramps (8)  
 22 The most manly kind of love (13)

## DOWN

- 1 Revise hard (4)  
 2 Melon-twisting Madchester anthem (4,2)  
 3 NWA member (found in chilled drinks?) (3,4)  
 4 Not quite 'absolutely aresholed', but en route (5)  
 5 East-end bloke (Dave Lloyd?) (6)  
 6 Pugilist - Rag-and- bone man (8)  
 11 Intermittent - "Have you tried turning it \_\_\_ again?" (3,3,2)

- 13 Haggis-like midlands dish (7)  
 15 10100 (6)  
 17 Hypnotic stupor - Defunct 90s dance movement (6)  
 18 Egg machine (5)  
 21 Throw - onanise (4)

## Solution 1462



GLT won this week. That's pretty much all there is to say... I don't see why this box has to be this big. There's not that much information that has to go here. We only had two entries this week so send more to the usual place; [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). (Yay, done!)

Crossword by Peter Logg

## Scribble box

# Hummus-scopes: Horoscopes packs a healthy lunch

Drain chickpeas, crush garlic and add two heaping spoonfuls of hate and desperation. Goes down smooth.



## Aquarius

After a disastrous food-experiment left you with a colostomy (When they say its hot, you'd better believe them!), you

decide to stick with plain foods from now on. Nice, simple hummus. Nothing bad can happen with hummus. Suddenly, a man jumps out of your bowl and stabs you in the eye. Warning: may contain ninjas.



## Pisces

This weather is glorious! It's so good in fact that you get your sandals out of the wardrobe - but you keep your socks

on, just in case. As you strut about campus with pride, a rabid *felix* editor pounces on you and rips off your feet, carrying them back as a cannibalistic sacrifice to the pagan gods of Watford.



## Aries

Enjoying the sunshine, you check your fridge for some ice-cream. Success, it's there! But when you open it up, you realise something's

wrong with the freezer - it's all melted into a vanilla goop. Unperturbed, you dig in. Only then do you realise that it wasn't ice-cream but your house-mate's urine sample for chlamydia screening. Still, it'd be a shame to waste it now.



## Taurus

The bathroom smells funny. The mould in the bath is pretty rank by now. Armed only with a toothbrush, you wade in to tackle

it. Your feeble attempts only serve to enrage the mould. It grabs you with a tendril and draws you to its fausty breast. Since you haven't gotten any since 2007, you go down on it with a passion. You get a yeast infection - what a whore!



## Gemini

The night before your exam, you stay up playing *Modern Warfare 2* to calm yourself. It doesn't work. In the exam hall, you draw a

blank. The invigilator comes over to tell you time is up. You drop into a crouch, knife him and strafe your way out. The security lodge sends out a juggernaut and you never get past the front door.



## Cancer

This report is driving you mad. Spreadsheets, T-tests, chi-squared. What the hell is a chi and is it a square? You

didn't come here to do maths, you came to do... Mathematics and Computer Science. You press your face against the screen to become one with Excel. It doesn't work. Instead, the screen breaks and you get bits of glass and *WoW* in your eyes.



## Leo

You wake up one morning to find a baby left on your doorstep. You take it in, raise it and teach it everything you know. With the

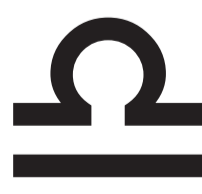
exam coming up, that has shrunk to just fluid dynamics. Worse still, you can't find a sitter on the day so take Baby with you to sit the exam together. Amazingly, he passes with a first. You are a great teacher...but not a good student. You fail.



## Virgo

You had heard the sex scene in *Avatar* was a bit weird but you thought it might involve more blue people. With horror,

you realise you're not watching *Avatar* but a sex-tape your parents made. Still, porn is porn. But then, with even greater horror, you realise you're not watching a tape - you're in their bedroom.



## Libra

Why is the Library so damn hot? The rank smell of sweat and fear hang heavy in the air. You search for a fan but the noobs playing

*WoW* have taken them all. You try to open a window but Security have nailed them shut. As a last resort, you pull all the books off the shelves, start a massive fire in the silent study area and throw yourself in. Ah, relief!



## Scorpio

You spent the entire term cooped up in the Library but now summer is here - and you're ready for it. Sandals, shorts, flowery shirt;

you're all set. You grab your shades and head to the nearest beach. Unfortunately, you accidentally revised through to January and everything's frozen over. Determined to make the best of a bad situation, you buy an ice-cream. It melts.



## Sagittarius

You should be focussing on this revision lecture but the girl in front of you is just so beautiful. You try to talk to her but she shushes you.

Undeterred, you cut off a lock of her hair for some self-abuse later. She doesn't notice so you trim a little more off. By the end of the session, she's bald and you have all her hair in your lap. Desperate to get rid of the evidence, you eat it. And choke.



## Capricorn

You're in the Union, getting famously gazeboed when your friend hands you another drink. You smash it before

declaring it UCL-weak bull-piss. The bar staff have had enough of this and finally snap. They lay into you mercilessly with beer taps. Crumpled and beaten, you spit out some teeth and your tongue. Still now you won't be able to taste the next...pint?

# Hangman

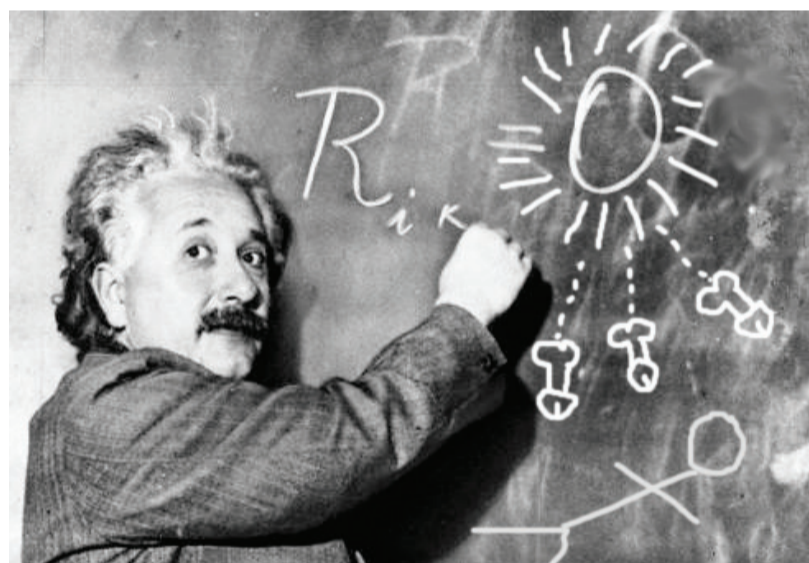
hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## THE SUN EXPLAINED BY REAL SCIENCE

Before you read the following two columns, may I make a disclaimer: Don't read the following two columns

**T**he Sun is a powerful enemy and should be regarded as such. The only people that like the Sun are trees, and what do we need trees for? Yeah exactly - nothing! The Sun just sits there and burns (or fuses, or fizzes or whatever). You can't even look at it without incinerating your retinas. What is the point in something you can't look at? Useless lump of gas. It's not even one of those cool suns that collapses to a black hole, no; it's one of those lame-ass white dwarf ones. I dread the day we make contact with alien life forms in other galaxies and they laugh at our solar system, "HAHAHAHA, Planet Earth,

you are so gay! Your sun is so gay and small and all your dicks are small and your children are well ugly HAHA-HAHAHA". Bloody aliens with their bloody big dicks and sexy children. However shit the Sun may be at being a sun, he's still a dangerous c\*\*t. He burns your eyes, gives you cancer and steals your jobs. If you think slapping on a palm-full of sun cream is going to stop him from molesting you with his rays of tiny quantum penises, then you had better think again! Did you know that a freckle is actually a bruise from a quantum penis? Subjection to constant bombardment of quantum penises is now more formally known as 'tanning'.



Einstein won the Nobel prize for his revolutionary paper on quantum penises

### My Summer Frolics

A summery poem by Mustapha Hungmun

Everyone seems to love the summer,  
Girls walking about in slutty shorts,  
Guys walking about in slutty shorts,  
Children walking about in slutty shorts,  
And yet only I make the discerning question,  
What is summer?  
Who is summer?  
Am I summer?  
Is it that summery sip of a zesty quencher?  
A jubilant promenade down summery paths?  
The morning robin that wakes me with his summery song?  
No, seriously what IS summer?  
At first I was being all philosophical and poetic, but now I'm just freaking out, Too many words, who am I? I don't even know what I am anymore, SHIT I'm having an existential crisis here...SHIIIT...  
FUCK...AHHHHHH, This gun, it's the only way, banish these tyrannical thoughts, I hope my head misses the keyboard.....

k.cfgyaillew`cgpaew687f3;iy



## TWATTER

**Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!**

Srsly, whers Gor? Havn't seen him for a while



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

Now that I'm not prime min I'm doin what I've always wanted to do and startin a metal-rap band with Johnny Majorz



**Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!**

Well I'm assuming ur playin drums Gor, seein as u used to play for metallica, but Johnny Majorz? Can he even play an instrument?



**Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor**

Are you kiddin? He's an insane rapper. He's like a 16th African American or sumthin. Helped Jay Z with his first album.



**Johnny\_Majorz\_aka\_pussydestroyer**

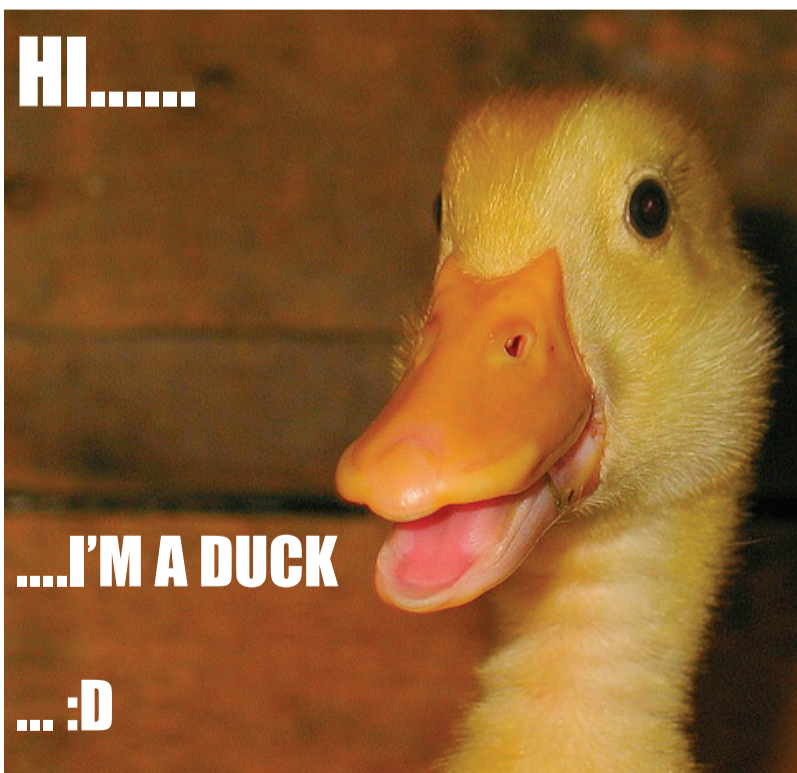
Yo shut da fuck up Boyeeee! Don't mess wid Johnny Majorz, he's a lethal weapon and keeps ur ho's in cages. Yo, I spit like a soldier, ur daughter's hot, but I'll wait till she's older. Luv JM xxx



## THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



### JAMAICA BUILD NEW STADIUM IN BID FOR 2016



HI.....

....I'M A DUCK

...:D

### POLITICAL DUCK SHARES A FEW TRUTHS

# Inspiring the Best



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**Limited Places Available!**

# felixSport : your new summer revision guide

The final whistles have been blown and the sporting season has drawn to a close. As the shadow of exams looms, summer is upon us, with its own special set of events. *felixSport* takes a look at some of the welcome distractions available for the dedicated procrastinator sports fan over the next few weeks.

## FIFA World Cup

### What's going on?

Football World Cup in South Africa from the 11th of June to the 11th of July

### When can I watch it?

All the time, really. Three matches a day in the group stages (till the 25th of June) followed by the knockout stages, with the final on the 11th of July.

### Where can I watch it?

Pretty much everywhere. Coverage is split between the BBC and ITV, so you can get it in the pub, at the union, or in the library on iPlayer

### Why should I watch?

It's a question of national pride! And if your country hasn't qualified you can always support England and pretend to weep as they go out on penalties in the semi-finals or something.

## Roland-Garros

### What's going on?

The French Open of tennis. Held in Paris during the last week of May/first week of June, it's one of the most coveted titles in professional tennis.

### When can I watch it?

Matches every day from the 23rd of May till the 6th of June, with the women's final on the 5th and the men's final on the 6th

### Where can I watch it?

Live BBC coverage online or on the red button (if you're lucky enough to have digital TV)

### Why should I watch?

Defending champion Roger Federer takes on King of Clay Rafael Nadal

## Guinness Premiership

### What's going on?

This Saturday sees the final of the Guinness Rugby Premiership between Leicester and Saracens at

### When can I watch it?

The kickoff is at 5.30pm

### Where can I watch it?

Sky Sports 1, so find a pub (or a loaded mate!), or go down to Twickenham to watch yourself

### Why should I watch?

Top quality rugby between favourites Leicester and underdogs Saracens

Imperial College  
London

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Now!

Summer  
Accommodation

reminder

If you're staying in London over the Summer or you're just visiting for a few days, keep things simple by staying with us.

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More information can be found online:  
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t: 020 7594 9444  
e: [accommodation@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@imperial.ac.uk)



## Imperial Men's Cricket 1st XI are victorious over neighbours King's College 2nds and UCL Medics this week

**Pete Swallow** Cricket

Imperial College Men's 1st XI  
– 259 all out  
Kings College London 2nd XI  
– 158 all out

Imperial won by 101 runs

**A** very makeshift 1st team turned up to the beautiful Berrylands ground and were bathed in sunshine under the guidance of second and now first team captain Pete as the pre-match warm-up was immediately scrapped. Fearing the worst after losing the toss, IC were shocked to hear that KCL 2s wanted to field in the 26 degree heat. Looking forward to a long patch of sun-bathing, Pete sent superstar Anirudh and Joe O'Gorman to open.

This proved to be an inspired decision, leading to a season (and probably much longer) record opening stand of 136 off just 16 overs. Anirudh's chanceless, classy 75 showed the immense potential that he has when he concentrates. Only his ability to hit a reverse sweep so well as to pick out the only fielder on the boundary stopped him from going on to get a huge score: as

he quite elegantly stated back on the boundary "if there wasn't a fielder there that was 6". Joe continued to bat well until fatigue got on top of him and after being dropped twice in one over he holed out for an excellent 80. Adam, coming back from being dropped after his shocking 21 byes the game before, hit a quickfire 24; Bernard contributed a solid 29 to propel IC to what was looking like a huge total. Unfortunately, the lower order couldn't quite make the most of the opportunity and despite several elegant shots (including a beautifully timed lofted drive from Pete, who promptly missed the next quicker ball with an attempt at the infamous Imperial College Late Cut; for some reason, his team mates thought that he was ignoring their calls that a faster ball was coming), the scoring rate slowed. Imperial finished on a decent 259 all out, but a lot more had been expected by the captain after such a brilliant opening.

After a decent tea, the team reluctantly took to the field in the sweltering heat and an opening combination of Daanish and Sridhar plugged away and were rewarded; Daanish was swept straight into the hands of an expertly placed Vinno at shortish midwicket. Sridhar got the other opener lbw, which brought the expected 1st team ringer to the crease. He smashed some incredible straight drives before playing all around

an extremely slow ball from Anirudh. Pete chipped in with a wicket, courtesy of a fortuitous lbw decision. A quick change then brought on the second slow bowler, Joe, and the spin twins ran through the middle order, with Joe taking 2 wickets in two balls (the hat-trick ball was dispatched for a one bounce four much to the amusement of everyone). To their credit, the last KCL batsmen hung around, fortunate in one case where Adam showed why he was "forgotten" (or more bluntly dropped) with a missed stumping. They managed to hit some big shots before the re-introduction of Daanish lead to the number 10 being caught out. The result though was never in doubt as Imperial pulled off a huge 101 run.

After the game, wanting to instil some proper cricketing traditions into the team, Pete lead the players to the pub for a few social drinks and discussion about the game. On the way back, man-of-the-match Joe showed that even charity shopping was too expensive for him as he picked up a very manly cardigan from the train. Adam, not wanting to make the journey boring either, spent his time chatting up drunken married women at Wimbledon station and relieving his very weak bladder at several stops on the tube line with his team mates showing true team spirit by holding the doors open. Classy to the end.

**Alex Tinsdale** Cricket

Imperial College Union 1st XI  
– 248  
RUMS (UCL Medics) 2nd XI  
– 168 all out

Imperial won by 84 runs

**O**n Wednesday, Imperial batted first and were given a rapid start by our own IPL import Anirudh, who set off like a Delhi Daredevil and Deccan charged his way to 26 from 22 balls, including a monstrous six over long on. However, searching for one DLF maximum too many, he made a Rajasthan Royal mess of another booming drive and was caught in the outfield.

However, this setback only brought Captain Ankit Patel to the crease. Calling upon his subcontinental ancestry, he and Matt Tarr mastered the conditions and batted their way to a comfortable 100-run partnership. However, with Ankit a fan of the quick single and Matt considerably less so, a run-out seemed to be the inevitable end-point of the partnership. It was perhaps wanting to put the captain-in-waiting in his place, Ankit ran out Matt

Tarr for a very well-played 49.

In fact, the run-out seemed to be the dominant theme for the rest of the Innings. Iain "please-put-in-the-report-that-I-was-the-only-one-to-time-the-ball-off-the-front-foot-all-day" Stobbs smashed a very quick 36, even occasionally timing the ball off the front foot, before a dodgy call from Ankit sent him on his way. However, oblivious to the cascade of falling wickets at the other end, Ankit batted on until the penultimate ball for an excellent 92, but not before he'd had time to give Adam Hugill the show-and-go en route to run-out number three.

A target of 249 in 40 overs was always going to be tough as the pitch was, by the half-way point, starting to resemble the surface of the moon, and so it proved. Once Hasit and Anirudh had removed their openers, the rest of the team offered little resistance. Hasit picked up 4 wickets and Sridhar 3 (for zero runs), with Ahsaan Ismail ripping out both the middle and leg stumps with one delivery despite the keeper standing up to the stumps. It was fortunate that, on this occasion, the ball hit the stumps after the batsman missed it; on an astounding 21 other occasions the ball missed bat, stumps and keeper, contributing 21 byes to extras and a huge fine for Adam Hugill at the end of the season...