



### Singapore medical school receives \$150 million boost

Imperial's venture with Nanyang Technological University receives sizeable gift from the Lee Foundation. **Page 4**

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24-hour “concierge service” and free on-site “fitness” gym on offer at Griffon Studios. But at £235 per week, is the price right? **Page 5**

### VAT rise hits prices at Union bars

Becks to remain at £2 per pint but other drinks see price hikes as Government introduces controversial 2.5% VAT increase. **Page 9**

## College considers 8am start

### Committee to look at timetable changes

**Matt Colvin**

In a move sure to raise eyebrows among those who prefer an extra hour (or three) in bed, it has been revealed that a College committee is considering lengthening the academic day in order to ensure that Imperial is able to “accommodate the growing number of master’s courses and extracurricular programmes [that it] offers.” The proposals being discussed include allowing teaching during the current lunch break by reducing it to one hour.

Pro-Rector (Education and Academic Affairs) Professor Julia Buckingham confirmed the plans to Felix, explaining that, “there is a committee looking at the ways that we can use our teaching space most effectively”.

The committee charged with investigating the possible courses of action, known as a “working group on the extension of the College Day”, was...

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## TECHNOLOGY



The latest gadgets and innovation from CES 2011: **Page 12**

## ARTS



The Cirque du Soleil returns to the Royal Albert Hall: **Page 26**

# Medical school embarrassed by controversial Daily Mail article

**Katherine Bettany**

In an unpromising start to the New Year, the reputation of Imperial College School of Medicine was brought into disrepute by a scathing article published in the Daily Mail.

A no-holds-barred account of a recent

Sports Night at the Reynolds bar – home to the medics – featured in the article, complete with several less-than-complimentary pictures of students. The report spoke of “outrageous drinking games”, students who “exposed themselves to each other” and the art of tactical chunder.

The Imperial College School of Medicine Student Union (ICSMSU), and consequently Imperial itself, was embarrassed by the article, which contained extracts from the ICSMSU handbook given to all medic freshers on arrival at Imperial. “Wednesday nights in the Reynolds are primarily a night for the sports teams

to get together and enjoy themselves. They are supposed to be fun, and the student union have no intention of trying to curb your enjoyment. We recognise that there is a good chance of people vomiting on Wednesday night and so provide orange buckets for this purpose.”

...Continued on Page 7

## FOOD



South Kensington's Wafflemeister reigns supreme: **Page 31**



# HIGHLIGHTS

## On campus

### A glimpse into the energy future

Dr Fatih Birol, Chief Economist at the International Energy Agency, will speak about uncertainty in energy markets and the future of the energy sector until 2035. Registration in advance online. Contact Gosia Gayer – g.gayer@imperial.ac.uk – for more information.

**Blackett Laboratory, LT1**  
**18 January 18:00–19:00**

### Life as a simple scribe

Journalist Tim Radford will speak at the “Association of British Science Writers (ABSW) & Imperial” lecture. He will be talking about his 32-year career at the Guardian which has included time as the letters editor, arts editor, literary editor and science editor. Registration in advance. Contact events@imperial.ac.uk.



**SAF, G16**  
**19 January 18:00-19:00**

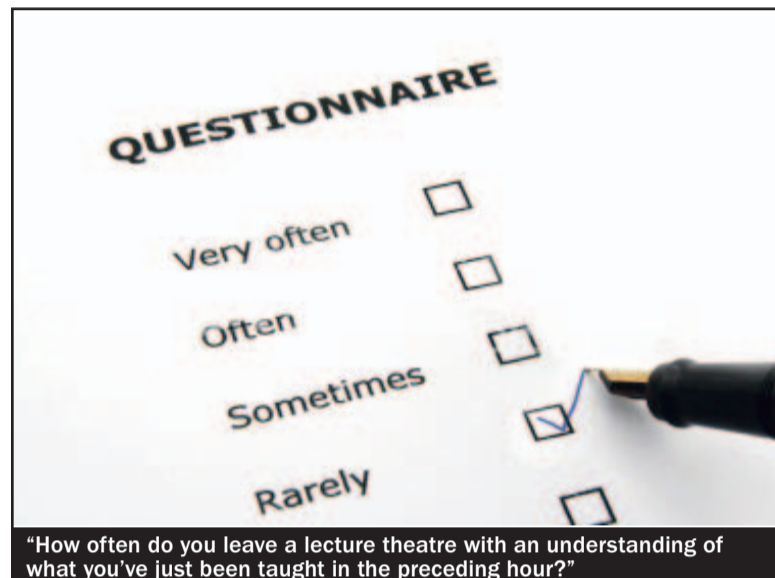
### Lunchtime Concert

Michal Czizewicz (pictured), winner of the Royal College of Music Concerto Competition 2010 with John York, on piano. Free. First come, first served. Contact Andrea Robins for further information.



**Sherfield Building, Read Theatre**  
**20 January 13:00-13:45**

## National Student Survey



Let's not mince words, you're hot property. People, lots of people, want to know what you think of Imperial and what your time here was like. The National Student Survey (NSS) is a survey of all final year university students across the UK. It is your opportunity to rate the quality of your course and of the teaching that you received. The results are used in a range of university league tables and hence influence prospective students when they are choosing their university. Don't let your vote, so to speak, go to waste. Head to [www.thestudentsurvey.com](http://www.thestudentsurvey.com) and tell the world how good, or bad, Imperial and your course is.

**Editor**

## Union Notice

### Union Council

**1st Floor, Union Building**  
**Monday 14 January 18:30**

The Union's Fairtrade status, blighted by much confusion in the past, will be discussed on Monday with the aim of finally passing a Fairtrade Policy that will secure its Fairtrade status in the future. Union President Alex Kendall will be discussing plans to continue opposing the Life Sciences Cuts and what direction to move in after December's Senate meeting. All students are encouraged to attend and voice their opinions.

## Lolcats of teh week



# FELIX

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NOTICE

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# THE DAILY FELIX

For the first time ever,  
Felix will publish  
**every day**

**28th February – 4th March**



## Q&A

### Have you gone mad?

**N**o, not yet (but perhaps we will have by the 4th of March). Publishing Felix every day, albeit only for one week, is a challenge that we're very excited about.

We hope that each week we produce a paper that you the student find enjoyable and

informative. We sometimes make mistakes and it may not all be to your taste but we like to think that you look generally favourably on our efforts.

But we're not about to simply rest on our laurels. We're always looking for new ways to engage with the student body

and to push ourselves. The Daily Felix will provide you the student with up-to-date news, interesting features and, at the very least, fresh puzzles to do every day.

It will be a ride into completely unknown territory but ultimately, that's what makes life exciting.

### How will it work?

**E**ach day will have its own special supplement that will mark it out from the others. For example, Monday will have an extended Sports section with reporting from the games on Wednesday and Saturday. On Tuesday, we'll have a Music supplement, Wednesday

a Science supplement, Thursday a Technology supplement and Friday an Arts supplement, with a guide to all the best things to do that weekend.

Obviously we will be printing fewer copies than usual so make sure you don't miss out. We'll have running threads

from issue to issue so try to collect them all – puzzles fans take note. But don't worry if you don't, all of the content will be online as usual.

The paper will be delivered to the usual distribution areas between 8 and 9 each morning and online concurrently.

### Can I help?

**H**ell yeah! Sorry, I mean of course. We're looking for students to help out in all areas including re-

porting, writing, photographer, editing and researching. If you've ever considered helping Felix out but haven't done so

yet, this is the perfect opportunity. Email [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk) or your preferred section individually.



# NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**  
**Alex Karapetian**  
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## Investments

### Money for Singapore Medical School



Imperial's new Singaporean medical school; a partnership between Imperial and the Nanyang Technological University, has this month received a gift of \$150 million from the Lee Foundation.

The school, newly named the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine after the Lee Foundation's founder, philanthropist and business leader Tan Sri Dato Lee Kong Chian, will see half of the money going directly to students from poorer backgrounds.

The medical school, whose creation was announced August last year, will receive the money in order to create two endowment funds. \$75 million will go towards a fund designed to provide scholarships and bursaries. The other half of the money will be used to further research and advance education at the new school. The school will also receive \$250 million from the Singapore Government.

The Lee Foundation was founded in 1952, principally to further medical education and help the financially disadvantaged. The NTU Board of Trustees praised Tan Sri Dato Lee, revealing:

'Tan Sri Dato Lee Kong Chian had a vision to use his wealth not for personal betterment but to improve society as a whole. His selflessness and generosity will be an inspiration to the students of this medical school named after him'.

Indeed, the medical school is expected to both further Singapore's medical education and healthcare system, and create multidisciplinary research opportunities for both NTU and Imperial, for example in biomedical engineering, translational and clinical research, and health services research. Any breakthroughs subsequently made would 'not only directly benefit Singaporeans but will also contribute to the well-being of the wider regional and global community', a speculation made by the chairman of the school's temporary Governing Board, Mr Lim Chuan Poh.

The school will initiate a new style of medical education in Singapore, combining a science-based approach with 'e-Learning', a style familiar to Imperial's own medical students. NTU's strength in engineering will be used to utilise technological advances in the field of medicine. The school, which will accept 50 students in 2013, will undoubtedly help ensure the successful future of healthcare in Singapore, as well as, according to the Lee Foundation, 'provide assistance to bright and needy medical students who can pursue their life's mission'.

**Katherine Bettany**

# Uncertain future for Evelyn Gardens

## Planning application proposes conversion of Fisher Hall to care homes for the elderly

### No changes until alternate halls are found

**Kadhim Shubber**

The long-term future of student accommodation in the Evelyn Gardens area is currently under review, with the high cost of necessary refurbishment likely to mean the closure of halls such as Fisher. The uncertainty comes as Imperial is reviewing all areas of its accommodation provision including the wardening system and an investigation by Facilities Management into state of repair of all halls. The Director of Commercial Services, Jane Neary, stressed that the College is committed to providing accommodation for 1st year students and that the halls would remain open for the foreseeable future, until they could be replaced.

The halls at Evelyn Gardens are considered to be in need of a radical refurbishment, since August 127 ceilings in Fisher and other halls have required repair. Mrs. Neary said, "The problem [with the halls at Evelyn Gardens] is the condition of the buildings. These buildings have had no financial investment for as long as anyone can remember. At some stage we have to make economic decisions about whether [they] are viable."

Professor Martin Head, the Warden at Fisher Hall, said: "The hall is [...] in need of proper refurbishment. The other halls [at Evelyn Gardens] are all in comparatively much better condition." However, Jane Neary denied that Fisher Hall was sub-standard saying: "It's not that [the hall isn't] good enough, it's completely legal, they're all completely legal. [...] We've done all the urgent work."

In July, Imperial and the Wellcome Trust submitted a joint planning application for Fisher Hall. The application sets out plans to convert the hall, which has 156 beds, into 28 housing units for elderly care and says "the need for student accommodation [at Evelyn Gardens] has been reduced as new halls of residence have been created [...] at Princes Gardens". A single standard room at Fisher is currently either £95 or £108 per week. The cheapest single room at Eastside – one of the new halls referred to in the statement – is £168 per week, rising to £227 per week for a "deluxe" single room. Mrs. Neary dismissed concerns that this questioned the College's commitment to affordable housing saying, "Planning application speak and what we do is completely different", also reassuring that "we're going to do what's right for students."

Professor Head said that the College's actions were understandable: "Obviously I would prefer for Fisher to stay open as a hall, as the students

Veronika McQuadeova



are a great bunch of people to look after, but I also understand that the lease on the building is finite so eventually it will have to change its function." He added "I personally am in favour of retaining 'budget' accommodation such as Fisher, to maintain the range of choices currently available to prospective [Imperial] students."

Union President Alex Kendall questioned the motives behind the planning application: "I think that the College does take affordability seriously, but this decision does seem to be driven by cost-cutting. Fisher Hall is in urgent need of refurbishment and Imperial are less likely to lose money if it is sold on rather than retained as student accommodation."

However, John Anderson, the Chief Executive Officer of the College Fund, said that the expiry of the leasehold on Fisher Hall meant that Imperial had to consider its options. The leasehold expires in 38 years, after which it reverts back to the freeholders, the Wellcome Trust. He explained that Imperial needs to consider the value of the property as the expiry date grows closer. "The College is going to be looking at an 8-figure sum to refurbish Fisher Hall to achieve the standard of other halls. To my mind, it simply doesn't make sense to invest that much money into a property for which the lease expires in 38 years."

The idea of converting Fisher Hall into property for elderly care use is, according to Mr Anderson, a much wiser choice as the property would generate a considerable return. He added that this would mean that the College would find itself in a much better position when the

leasehold expires, both financially and in relation to the freeholder.

The College Fund and Commercial Services are currently searching for new sites for accommodation that would allow them to convert the Evelyn Gardens halls. Mrs. Neary said that she was looking at sites on the outer edge of zone two which would allow the Accommodation service to provide similar prices to those currently charged in halls at Evelyn Gardens. She said that there would be a move away from shared accommodation but emphasised that it was important to have student input on the matter: "Going forward, I don't think students want twin or triple rooms. The reasons they take them is because the [price] is right." She argued that ultimately, the question to ask students is: "Would you prefer to live on the outskirts of zone two and come in or would you like to share a room on campus?"

Mr Anderson said that the College would not be seeking a solution through private halls of residence and added that it would not be easy to find an alternative site, meaning that it is unlikely that any changes will happen in the near future: "In an ideal world, it would be great to find a site similar to Princes Gardens, in terms of atmosphere and community, where we could provide lower cost accommodation on a significant scale and move away from the current usage of the buildings such as those at Evelyn Gardens [...] Unfortunately they rarely come forward in West London." Unless they do, he said, it is unlikely that much will happen to change the status quo.



## Outdoor Club accident raises safety fears

Matthew Colvin

A club trip took a turn for the worse last November when a member of the Outdoor Club fell 100ft while climbing in the Lake District. The injured student was winter climbing on the slopes of Helvellyn, the third highest peak in England, with a small group of other Imperial students on the 27th of November when the incident occurred.

A passerby was able to contact Patterdale Mountain Rescue and the student, who had suffered a broken femur, was airlifted to safety by a Royal Navy Sea King helicopter to a hospital in Whitehaven.

A spokesperson for Imperial College Union (ICU) confirmed the incident, praising the action that the group took: "The incident occurred... while climbing a winter grade II snow slope. During the climb the student in question took a fall, sliding down the slope and coming to a halt. When the incident occurred the group dealt with it appropriately, rendering help from other people climbing in the area and calling the local mountain rescue team... ICU are grateful to the others climbing in the area that day, and the volunteers of the Patterdale Mountain Rescue Team for their assistance. All reporting procedures were followed correctly."

The spokesman added that "the group were skilled, experienced and equipped appropriately for the conditions and activities being undertaken."

However, an eyewitness to the incident disputes this claim. Rebecca Waugh, the individual who contacted Mountain Rescue, criticised the climbers in a forum post on ukclimbing.com, claiming that the group was "completely unprepared for a day out on the hill".

She listed multiple complaints about the group such as there being "no suitably experienced or qualified leader, no charged up mobile phones, no decent head torches, unsuitable footwear, broken crampons hanging off their bel-loops, unsuitable clothing incorrectly fitting harnesses and no emergency shelter".

She also described seeing the student fall from "the top of Helvellyn Head Wall onto the rocks below" and how they feared that the student had died: "[we made our way] to what we thought would be a dead body."

When contacted by Felix about her post, Ms. Waugh was keen to state that the complaints were not "a dig at the club or the persons in general" but instead aimed to highlight "the unique position that University clubs find themselves in".

She went on to argue that said clubs suffer from "skill shortages due to a number of factors such as age and experience of members, skill drain resulting from members leaving after a few years, financial constraints and a lack of knowledge with regards to the correct usage of kit, clothing and equipment."

The ICU spokesman responded to these claims, stating that "members of the public are entitled to their own opinions and are free to post their views on online forums."

Robin Jones, Chairman of the Outdoor Club, declined to comment on either the incident or the claims against the individuals involved.

This type of situation is not unheard of amongst Imperial's societies. In February 2010, Felix reported on a member of Imperial College Mountaineering Club who also fell 100ft while climbing in North Wales.



I think the sheep are watching us...

## New postgraduate halls at Clapham Junction

£235 per week for a room at Griffon Studios

Kadhim Shubber

New halls in Clapham Junction are set to open to postgraduates in the next academic year. Griffon Studios, which charges £235 per week for high-quality studio apartments, is the product of a joint venture between the Imperial College Fund and the property developer Berkeley First. The halls on Winstanley Road, which include a 24-hour "concierge service" and a free on-site "fitness gym", will house 452 postgraduates from October 2011, expanding to 566 the following year.

John Anderson, the Chief Executive Officer of the College Fund, said that the project was part of the College's long-term strategy to grow its endowment fund. "We've got around 5,500 postgraduates, most of whom are currently renting in the private market, either with private landlords or private halls. It makes financial sense, where the fundamentals of the market support it, for us to offer an alternative to these students."

The College Fund has committed to invest up to £7 million into Winstanley 2, the Special Purpose Vehicle – or subsidiary company – created to develop the site. Mr Anderson told Felix that the College fund expects "a 15% return per annum on the equity invested by the Fund."

The Graduate Schools Association (GSA), which represents postgraduate students at Imperial, said that the price of the studios was "a bit steep". GSA Chair Deena Blumenkratz told Felix that there needed to be an extra effort to build the community at Griffon Studios to justify the cost but that the promise of "a wide range of social, sporting and cultural events throughout the year" gave her "high hopes" for the new halls. She added that the GSA would be carrying out a survey "to find out if postgraduate students think the accommodation is affordable."

Mr Anderson defended the high-cost of the studios saying, "We're offering a high-quality product at the upper end of the price scale – although we believe that we're offering a lower-than-market price for that product." He said that the new halls were upmarket because of the College Fund's partnership with Berkeley and because he believed that it was the right quality of accommodation for Imperial postgraduates: "We have gone down this route, firstly, because [...] the landowners Berkeley [...] are involved in high-quality accommodation and, secondly, because we've identified that this is an appropriate level of qual-

Tom Welch



The showroom beside the Queens Tower: the perfect place to crash if you're studying late in the library

**"We know that international postgraduate students can sometimes get burnt in the private rental market."**

ity for Imperial postgraduate students." However, he denied that the halls were beyond the needs of Imperial students: "It's not luxurious, certainly not, but we are interested in giving postgraduate students the best experience possible while they're at Imperial."

He went on to say that providing more affordable postgraduate accommodation wasn't currently possible, arguing that the correct conditions "simply aren't satisfied in West London at the moment". He denied that there was a demand for lower-quality, low-cost postgraduate accommodation: "If I could find a low-cost site, with a low-cost developer within easy commuting distance of South Kensington and I felt there was a strong demand for lower-quality, low-cost postgraduate accommodation then of course I would love to do that"

The Director of Commercial Services, Jane Neary, said that the pricing of the rooms was a matter for the College Fund and emphasised that the project was a business venture: "This is a business opportunity for the College Fund. I'm assisting the fund and future students to provide a suitable design, suitable services and to meet [students'] needs when they arrive." She added that the prices had been benchmarked against those in the private sector.

She conceded that PhD students from the UK would be unlikely to take up

accommodation at the new halls for a number of reasons, including the cost and the greater independence of home PhD students. She said, "[The end user] will be international students. The people who were really interested at the postgraduate open day were the international postgraduates. [For home postgraduates] there's probably a sense of the cost. They are probably a little happier in knowing what areas to live in [and need] less support."

Mr Anderson argued that the halls offered international postgraduate students peace of mind when it came to housing: "The £235 price tag is not simply for the bricks and mortar. It's also for the amenities, the community spirit and for peace of mind. We know that international postgraduate students can sometimes get burnt in the private rental market."

The College Fund has entered into a 15-year rental guarantee agreement with Berkeley First, which is worth approximately £6.25 million per year in 2011. This means that it has committed to fill 97% of the studios at £232 per week. Mr Anderson said that the College would seek to fill the rooms with postgraduates from other London universities if they were unable to attract enough Imperial postgraduates. He added, however, that it would likely be at a "higher price than for Imperial students."



# NEWS

## Awards

### New Years Honours

Three past and present Imperial College London staff have been recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours List for 2011.

**Linda Jones** – Faculty Projects Manager (Natural Sciences) and Operations Manager (Department of Physics).

**Lindsay Green** – Administrative Director at the Medical Research Council's Clinical Sciences Centre.

**David Gentry** – the former Safety Manager in the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

They all received a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to Science.

Several Imperial Alumni were also recognised with Honours:

#### Knighthood

**Sir Ron Kerr**, St Mary's School for Medicine, for services to Healthcare

#### OBE

**Victor Leverett**, BSc Physics 1966, for services to the Defence Industry

**Andrew Goldberg**, St Mary's 1994, for services to Medicine

#### CBE

**Professor Hugh Godfray**, PhD Biology 1982, for services to Science

**Peter Head**, Arup, BSc Civil Engineering 1969, for services to Civil Engineering and to the environment

**Professor Stephen Holgate**, Medicine 1971, for services to Clinical Science

**Jenny Body**, Aeronautics 1975, for services to the Aerospace Industry and to Engineering

#### MBE

**Dr Elizabeth Hall**, St Mary's 1961, for services to Healthcare and to the community in Colchester, Essex.

**David Mitchell-Baker**, Engineering 1959, for services to the community in Mid-Surrey.

**Ms Dorothy Fairburn**, Wye Natural Sciences 1973, for services to Rural Affairs in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

The Honours list has, in the past, often been marred with controversy. Famously in 2006, Michael Winner turned down an OBE stating "I'm very glad that they recognise my considerable skills as a toilet cleaner, but when you look at the rubbish who are getting these awards and the absolute non-service they have given to the nation other than financing or working for political parties, you say, 'What company am I in?'"

However, this year the more questionable tips for knighthood failed to make the grade. Sir Simon Cowell did not happen, despite rumours that he would be honoured for his charity fundraising for victims of the Haiti earthquake earlier this year. And Bruce Forsyth will have to be happy remaining as a CBE for now.

**Charles Betts**



Sir Ron Kerr

# Union President promises to continue Life Sciences fight

Kadhim Shubber

*Parts of this article were originally published on [www.felixonline.co.uk](http://www.felixonline.co.uk) on the 15th of December.*

The movement to stop the Life Sciences Cuts suffered a setback on the 15th December, as Imperial College Senate rejected the Imperial College Union paper that called for a halt to the restructure. The Senate, which is made up of senior members of College management, including the Rector, failed to support the paper to the disappointment of students who assembled outside the meeting at the Rector's house. However pressure has continued to build as Mustafa Djamgoz, a Professor of Cancer Biology at Imperial and Chair of the Science Council at the College of Medicine, warned that the cuts could cause "long-term damage" and Union President Alex Kendall told Imperial College Union Council that he felt that the Department was "lying" about the effect of the cuts on teaching.

In his harshest criticism yet of the restructure, Alex Kendall said that the Department were being underhand by not being forthcoming with evidence for the restructure and that "if they have evidence [that shows that teaching will be unaffected] but they don't send it to you, then they're lying". He also said that the Department have no plan regarding teaching and that they are "just making it up as they go along". The Department has previously said that it will carry out a teaching review this month, following the restructure. The Head of the Life Sciences Department Professor Ian Owens was unavailable for comment.

Around 160 students held a noisy but peaceful protest outside the Senate meeting. Many wore red monkey masks and chanted "Save our plants!" as members of the Senate arrived for the meeting. There was light security outside the meeting but they were content to simply watch from a distance. Professor Owens did not face the students outside the Rector's house and was not present at the meeting. A number of staff observed from the back of the crowd, including some who are directly affected by the cuts.

Despite the protest, however, College Senate was supportive of the cuts and rejected the Union paper calling for them to be halted. Only 7 members of the Senate supported the paper including the College Tutor Mrs Margaret Cunningham, Dr W Thomas Pike and Dr Krysia Broda from the Faculty of Engineering, Dr Tim Albrecht from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Dr Michael McGarvey from the Faculty of Medicine. The crowd booed and jeered when

the result was received via text from Alex Kendall and threatened that they would make their dissatisfaction obvious when the National Student Survey came around. Kendall expressed his frustration at the outcome saying, "The meeting was a massive disappointment. Most people in the room avoided the issue outright. The Senate is supposed to be concerned with education but there was little sign of that at the meeting." He promised to continue to campaign against the cuts warning, "there are still many opportunities to fight these changes and we're not going to give up." He expressed his gratitude to the students at the protest saying that he was "incredibly moved to see that many people out in the rain, campaigning to defend teaching at Imperial."

More recently, Kendall produced a list of steps the Union can take in pressing the issue further. These include: putting pressure on the department to release a plan detailing how the teaching hours of the lost staff will be replaced; taking part in the forthcoming departmental teaching review; scrutinising the changes made to the final year Biology and Biochemistry courses; generating wider awareness about the handling of the restructure and the angry response of the students. The restructure was the subject of a recent article in national magazine Private Eye.

The Department has defended its decision arguing that there is a pressing need to address its deficit. Imperial College London removed £635,000 in funding this year as part of its College-wide decision to withdraw the so-called 'Flexibility Margin'. The aim is to "encourage Departments develop alternative plans for financial sustainability". As a result the Department of Life Sciences has a £1.5 million deficit for the period 2010/2011. The Department claims that "the proposals would lead to a significant improvement in [its] financial position" in a time period of approximately two years. It was revealed in December that Imperial's operating surplus, or profit, for 2010 was £41.3 million, compared with £16.7 million in 2009 and £27.1 million in 2008.

However yet more academics have come out against the cuts in what is a growing sign of discontent amongst both affected and unaffected staff. Professor Mustafa Djamgoz joins public criticism from Emeritus Professor John Mansfield and Dr Pietro Spanu in a letter to Ian Owens that has been made public. In it Professor Djamgoz says that "many of those 'remaining [...] are unhappy with what's happening". He explains his initial reluctance to air his discontent publicly but says, "I have thought a lot about the [...] restructuring. There are many things that just do not add up".

Academics from other institutions have

Kadhim Shubber



Who says protests need to be all about violence at a party. And yes, before you ask, he did play Rage

also joined the chorus of criticism aimed at the department. Regius Professor of Botany and Head of Plant Sciences at University of Glasgow, Professor Mike Blatt, slammed the restructure in a letter to Ian Owens and Maggie Dallman, writing that it "does not conform with any obvious policy of supporting academic excellence and international competitiveness, nor does it show evidence of strategic long-term vision, and it appears certain to send all the wrong messages to both staff and students alike. In short, it is virtually guaranteed to undermine the reputation and therefore the future of Imperial College". Additionally The Director of the John Innes Centre, Professor Dale Sanders, criticized the cuts saying that they would "exacerbate the shortage of well-educated and motivated graduates".

Academics from a range of universities including Edinburgh, UCL, Durham, Glasgow, York, Reading, Lancaster, St Andrews, Oxford and Cambridge have signed the online petition which now has over 1700 signatures. One of the signatories, Dr John P. Carr of the Cambridge Plant Sciences Department, described the cuts as "tantamount to intellectual vandalism" and called it a "ridiculous step for one of the world's major research universities". He expressed his anger about the issue saying, "students have basically been tricked into doing courses and PhDs that they wouldn't have done if they had known about the restructure". From a research point of view, he added, "Imperial's action is absurd when both the Royal Society and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) feel that [crop science] research is vital for UK and world food security." The Royal Soci-





and anarchy? Throw some Bose speakers into the mix and, hey!, you've got yourself Against The Machine...

## “The Department has defended its decision arguing that there is a pressing need to address its deficit”

ety released a report in October 2009 which called for universities to “reverse the decline in subjects such as agronomy, plant physiology, pathology and general botany, soil science, environmental microbiology, weed science and entomology.” In December, the Plant and Microbial Sciences section announced that they had “sequenced the genome of a major fungal disease that affects barley”. Professor Janet Allen, the BBSRC Director of Research said, “It is testament to the excellence of UK bioscience research that these scientists have managed to publish this world-class research despite the difficulties of studying the organisms in question.” In its final outcome document, the Review Panel that undertook the restructure consultation recognized “the potential strategic importance of plant science research activity” but felt that there wasn’t a “sufficient critical mass of high impact research activity [...] in the plant sciences area upon which to base an independent academic unit”

The University and College Union (UCU) have indicated that it will be challenging the legal basis of the cuts. Students have called for Professor Owens to resign. He is rumoured to be taking a two-year sabbatical once the restructure is complete, but this has not yet been confirmed.

The National Student Survey, which started this month, polls students for their views concerning their course. If the angry, impassioned protests of last term are anything to go by, the Life Sciences Department can expect some fairly candid remarks from its students. As one of them recently commented on Facebook: “I can’t believe there is only 1024 characters available to write about the ‘negative aspects’ of your course/university, there is so much to say.”

## Excessive drinking clampdown enforced at Reynolds bar



...Continued from Front Page

Imperial College Union (ICU) attempted to contain the fallout in an official statement, stating that they “do not condone the excessive consumption on alcohol”. Indeed, in the student agreements introduced this year, which all medical students sign, students agree to “understand that inappropriate use of drugs or alcohol is totally unacceptable in the medical profession.” However, David Smith, President of ICSMSU, conceded that some students do drink excessively, saying, “excesses come from a minority of students, mainly men’s sports clubs”. However he pointed out that the problem was not confined to the medical school: “Excessive drinking is a feature of certain clubs across [all of] Imperial.” He also sought to clarify that the orange buckets provided are purely precautionary.

In light of the negative press attention, ICSMSU has been forced to create a strategy to curb excessive drinking and is set to enforce tougher guidelines on the student body. Alcohol will no longer be served to a student who “seems too drunk or [is] unwilling to drink anymore”. In the reviewed guidelines, students deemed too drunk will be removed from the premises and jugs of alcohol will no longer be served. Most importantly, a ‘bar steering’ group has been set up to collect student input into the future of the Reynolds. In addition, several campaigns will be run in conjunction with ICU, to remind students

of the implication of excessive drinking with regards to both their health and future careers.

Smith has sought to reassure ICSMSU Clubs and Societies following the first bar steering group, which he admitted “went a lot worse than expected”, in a message to ICSMSU Club & Society Chairs, Treasurers and Secretaries. He went on to explain that the Charing Cross Campus Dean, Professor Peter Taylor demanded that “each club has a sober steward so that if the bouncers have to kick someone out, then you have someone who can take them home. They are also responsible for any vomit in your area.” Smith conceded that he realizes that people will be disappointed, but he states that “this is the best we could do”.

Many of the guidelines will be enforced at the discretion of the stewards on site. However Smith confirmed that they had been enforced successfully at the first Sports Night of the new term last Wednesday.

Members of the Christian Medic Fellowship (CMF) – the only group to be portrayed positively in the article – play a significant role in the stewardship of the site. The role of CMF at sports has been questioned, however – the ICMSU confirmed that CMF’s role was only to steward and not to clean up vomit, as the article suggested. In an official statement circulated to the captains of various clubs and societies, students are reminded that it is “the responsibility of the individual clubs [to clean up] rather

than leaving it to the stewards”.

In addition to addressing the issue of excessive drinking, the security of both the student body and the Reynolds bar has been thrown into question, with many students questioning how reporters gained access to the bar. Up until now, access to the Reynolds bar, situated behind Charing Cross Hospital, Hammersmith has been fairly open, with ID rarely checked at the door or bar. In a publication produced by the ICSMSU about bar policy, it was detailed that students must now produce their college ID and sign in to gain access to the building, as well as presenting valid ID at the bar. It is rumoured that Campus Dean Professor Taylor, suggested introducing CCTV cameras at Reynolds. He did not deny the rumours.

The ICSMSU believes that the reporters “obtained much of his information from student Facebook accounts”. In order to prevent similar embarrassments in the future, as well as maintaining the security of its students, students will be reminded to be careful about what they broadcast in the public domain.

With ICSMSU desperate to avoid similar negative press coverage in the future, it is clear that both the attitudes of a minority of ICSM students and the way the Reynolds is run will be subject to considerable change. If the measures detailed by ICSMSU are unsuccessful however, the future of the Reynolds bar remains unclear.

### Correction

In the article entitled: “Staff and students rail against job cuts” (Issue 1477 – 10/12/10) it was incorrectly asserted that 16 academics were being made redundant. It should have said 14. Felix apologises for this typo.

Editor





# There's no need to rush in for **Felix** on a **Friday** morning

Read the week's issue online at [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk) from **7am every Friday**





# VAT rise hits prices in FiveSixEight

Navid Nabijou

Spendthrift students returning from their Christmas break might have noticed a subtle shift in the cost of food and drink around campus. The recent rise in the rate of VAT has been cited as the main driver of the cost increase, although other pressures – including an increase in fuel duty, also put into place this month – have contributed to the mounting financial pressure.

The Director of Commercial Services, Jane Neary, initially suggested that student prices would not be affected, saying: “The VAT won’t affect the student prices.” When challenged she explained that “a few product prices may have been very slightly affected” by the application of the VAT increase on visitor prices. Although student purchases on campus are not subject to VAT – hence the swipe card discount – Mrs. Neary told Felix, “because of the link between the [student and visitor/staff] prices on

the system, we’ve had to round up or down certain student prices.”

The prices of popular food and non-alcoholic drink items show both small percentage increases and decreases. Prices on average have seen an increase of 0.5%.

Prices at the Union have risen more significantly. Lagers have gone up by around 10p, a 5% increase on last term; the price of spirits has increased by 20p on average, up 10%; soft drinks have seen an increase of 5p. Peanuts have risen by 50% from 50p to 75p.

A Union spokesperson told Felix that the reason the increase in price on certain items was larger than the rise in VAT was due to a number of factors, including other price pressures. There was a need “to apply a 3% increase” unrelated to VAT at the start of the academic year but the Union had held back that increase to “avoid changing prices twice during the same academic year.”

The spokesperson went on to say that

the Union “was prepared to incur the cost [of the VAT increase] in certain circumstances”. For example, in maintaining “the Wednesday night offer of £1.50 a pint and all week long £2.00 for a pint of Becks or IPA.”

Regarding the large jump in the price of peanuts and crisps, the spokesperson said that the Union had previously been selling these items at “below the normal profit margin”, in part to compensate for “the [previous] lack of facilities to supply [high-quality] food.”

The raising of VAT from 17.5% to 20% has been the subject of serious controversy. A recent survey revealed fears amongst senior managers that retailers will use the confusion of the tax hike to mask the raising of their prices well beyond the VAT rate, while opposition leader Ed Miliband branded the rise as the “wrong tax at the wrong time.” George Osborne, the Chancellor, maintained that the rise was the most “progressive” option available.

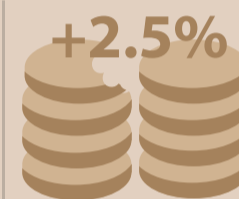
Christopher Walmsley



Graphic by Veronika McQuadeova

## VAT explained

VAT (value added tax) rose from 17.5% to 20% on January 4th. It is applied to all ‘luxury’ items bought and sold. Certain products such as food or children’s clothing are exempt. Famously, Jaffa Cakes were ruled VAT exempt because they were shown to



be cakes (which are VAT exempt) instead of biscuits.

The effect on prices around campus

is small because your purchases are VAT-exempt (that discount you get with your swipe card) due to the university’s status as a charity.

However, there will be noticeable changes in prices at the Union bars, though the sacrosanct ‘£2 pint’ has been protected.

# Earlier starts, later lectures and shorter lunch breaks on the cards

...Continued from Front Page

...established by Imperial’s Strategic Education Committee, which exists without student representation.

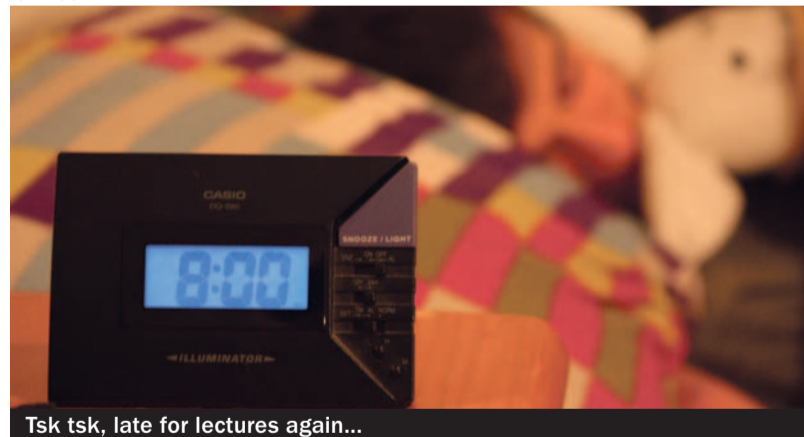
At the first meeting on Monday 17th January, chaired by the Deputy Principal of Imperial College Business School, Professor Dorothy Griffiths, various proposals will be presented but no firm decisions will be made towards future plans.

As well as the idea of reducing the lunch break, other proposals due to be discussed at the meeting include extending postgraduate hours to 8pm on Mondays and Thursdays, extending undergraduate hours to 8am-7pm on Mondays and Thursdays and offering humanities options from 6pm-8pm on a voluntary basis.

The proposals are aimed at departments suffering from timetabling issues and are designed to provide greater flexibility in terms of teaching.

When asked about the potential ramifications of the committee’s conclusions, Professor Buckingham provided her opinion on who would be affected should any changes come to pass: “I wouldn’t want to predict the final outcome but I would expect any changes to be aimed mainly at Master’s students.

Tom Welch



One important steer the group have been given is that the length of the teaching day for individual students should not be increased.”

Deputy President (Education) Alex Dahinten recognised the “historical” problem that departments have had with timetable clashes, but he highlighted the effects that extending the day could have on college life: “Potentially extending the College Day comes with serious side effects such as Club & Society or Sports events having to be put on later in the evening, putting off students from

taking humanities as well as generally exhausting students by putting them through a very long day of studies.”

He reassured Felix that students would be involved and would be able to put forward their views: “Student reps have been consulted, and students can be assured that every issue will be presented at the meeting by the [Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Heather Jones] and myself. I have been guaranteed that the student experience is at the forefront of this discussion, and the Union will make sure that this is the case.”

# National Student Survey launched

Charles Betts  
Navid Nabijou

This week sees the launch of the National Student Survey (NSS) 2011 at most Higher and Further education institutions across the UK, including Imperial. Entering its seventh year, the NSS is intended to provide the opportunity for final year students to reflect on their time at their institution and voice their opinions on their course.

The survey results feature in numerous university league tables. The Independent, Sunday Times, and Times all use it to determine student satisfaction, whilst the Guardian employs it for teaching quality.

Last year, Imperial College London achieved an overall satisfaction rating of 85%, placing it 43rd nationally and 13th amongst Russell Group universities. The college’s learning resources rating of 90% was well above the national average.

However, student satisfaction with assessment and feedback was distinctly sub-par. Prof Julia Buckingham, Pro Rector (Education), stated at the time “It is an issue we are taking seriously, and are continuing to address. With

that in mind I’m delighted the Rector has placed assessment and feedback high on his agenda. He has written to heads of departments and directors of undergraduate studies, asking them to make this a priority, and requesting that departments lay down clear timelines indicating when students can expect feedback for work submitted.” The Rector embarked on an ambitious drive to improve standards, setting departments a two-week deadline for marking and returning work.

Following these exertions, the college will be hoping for a whopping improvement on last year’s results although it is widely expected that the results for the Biology and Biochemistry courses will take a hit following widespread student discontent with the Life Sciences cuts.

All eligible students are encouraged to take part – higher turnout rate resulting in more credible data. If participation is less than 50%, the NSS will not accept the results. The question of whether last year’s situation has been improved upon will be answered when the results are published in August 2011.

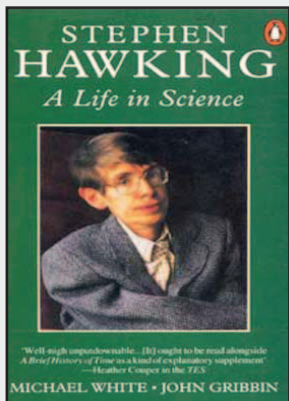
[www.thestudentsurvey.com](http://www.thestudentsurvey.com)



# SCIENCE

Science Editors: **James Goldsack, Katya-yani Vyas**  
**Kelly Oakes, Charlie Harvey**  
 science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

And a few suggestions...



## A Life in Science

by John Gribbin and Michael White

John Gribbin made his name with 'In Search of Schrödinger's Cat', an essential read for any aspiring Physics student. Before this, however, he collaborated with Michael White to produce this early biography of Stephen Hawking. The book covers his formative years and the reputation he built as a cosmologist.

Whilst focusing mainly on Hawking's career as a physicist, the authors also manage to convincingly portray his family life as well as the media frenzy that surrounded (and in fact still does surround) the fact that he suffers from Motor-neurone syndrome.

It is often felt that the authors detached themselves from the emotional aspect of Hawking's illness. However, this actually serves to make the book a more convincing science biography. Hawking himself always seeks to downplay his illness so it is fitting that the authors do not make it the main focus of the book. Hawking is a remarkable character with a sense of humour to match. This biography portrays the man and his science superbly.

Katya-Yani Vyas

## Schrödinger's lolcat



## You won't believe it...

The Oriental hornet has the unique ability to obtain energy from the sun, through a special pigment found in a large yellow stripe on the abdomen. Molecules of this pigment, Xanthopterin, transform light into electrical energy through a photo-biochemical process which allows the hornets to be most active in the middle of the day. This is especially surprising as until now, the insects were thought to perform metabolism in an organ, similar to the human liver, called the fat body.

# Sir Francis: crime fighter

Thea Cunningham

For those of you familiar with TV crime series like C.S.I and Dexter, you'll know that fingerprinting plays a large part in catching the wanted. But you might not be aware that if it weren't for a man named Francis Galton, using fingerprints to catch criminals wouldn't be possible. In fact, the British psychologist not only pioneered the use of fingerprinting in criminal cases, but he also coined the 'nature versus nurture' debate and made serious efforts to measure brainpower in the 19th and early 20th centuries. This month marks the 100th anniversary of his death.

Born on 22 February 1822, Galton was an intelligent child. He took a shine to science at an early age and aged 18, enrolled at Trinity College, Cambridge to study medicine, although he later swapped to mathematical sciences. Galton was a keen sportsman and traveller, exploring Egypt, Syria and South Africa. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society upon his return from the latter.

Much of Galton's early work focused on human intelligence. A half-cousin of Charles Darwin – they shared the same grandfather, physician Erasmus Darwin – Galton was inspired by the Origin of Species, in particular Darwin's

research on domestic breeding. Galton believed that humans inherited their abilities from their parents like the animals and plants Darwin described. He was an extreme advocate of nature over nurture, believing genius was genetically determined. In 1869, he published his first book, Hereditary Genius, in which he proposed a method for ranking people's natural abilities. Galton's later book, English Men of Science: Their Nature and Nurture, published in 1874, was the result of his study of prominent figures in England and their education, parentage and family achievements. In it he proposed that birth order was correlated with achievement in later life.

Galton believed individuals with superior mental and physical capabilities would enhance society. He questioned whether the human race could be improved in a Darwinian style, by discouraging reproduction between people with undesirable traits, and instead favoured mixing between healthy, mentally strong families. Galton coined the now widely-known concept 'eugenics', which seeks to improve the human race. His campaign gained momentum across the UK and America, and was backed by politicians. It was only after Hitler and the Nazis exploited the concept in the twentieth century that the concept gained

negative connotations.

In his later years, Galton became interested in fingerprinting as a tool to identify racial differences, and links between families and intellect. He collected over 8,000 sets of prints and studied these fastidiously. Galton confirmed the work of Sir William James Herschel years before, who had proposed that no two fingerprints are identical, nor do they change over time. In 1892, Galton published Fingerprints, which showcased a classification technique that was later adapted by police forces as a method with which to convict criminals.

A man of many talents, Galton also dipped his toes in statistics, coining the concepts of correlation and standard deviation, and also found time to invent a test to decipher differential hearing, and create the world's first weather map.

In recognition of his achievements, Galton was knighted in 1909. By the time of his death two years later on 17 January 1911, Galton had published over 300 books and his ideas had filtered into many different fields. A century on and his ideas still influence forensics, anthropology and statistics. The nature/nurture debate still prevails, but perhaps most importantly, Galton uncovered the origins of genius that has helped modern psychology today.

# Sweet thoughts curb hunger pangs

Thea Cunningham

Want to shed your Christmas bulge but can't resist the Quality Streets? Then imagine eating them, for it could help you in the long run. A study published in Science over the festive period has shown how imagining eating a certain food can reduce your consumption of that food.

The team at Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania got their participants to simulate eating imaginary M&M's. The more M&M's the participants imagined they devoured, the fewer M&M's they actually ate when they were offered a real bowl full of the chocolate treats afterwards.

"To some extent, merely imagining an experience is a substitute for the actual experience", said team member Joachim Vosgerau. "The difference between imagining and experiencing may be smaller than previously assumed." Of course, simply thinking about your favourite food, or any other food for that matter, won't keep you from eating it – you will need to repeatedly simulate chewing it.

For a long time it's been widely assumed that thinking about your favourite fat-laden foods will make your cravings for them even stronger. The results, then, are likely to bring relief to New Year dieters trying to stave off thoughts of roast dinners and turkey sandwiches. As lead author of the study Carey Morewedge concluded: "These findings suggest that trying to suppress one's thoughts of desired foods in order to curb cravings for those foods is a fundamentally flawed strategy."

But before you head home for your imaginary meal, spare a thought for your blood sugar levels. Successful self-control requires a great deal of energy. This energy comes in the form of glucose, our body's natural fuel. In 2007, a social psychologist at Florida State University, Roy Baumeister, carried out an experiment to show that people are more likely to lack self-control when their glucose levels are low.

In the study, Baumeister got his participants, who had fasted for a couple of hours previously, to take part in mental tasks, such as focusing on a film or trying to suppress negative stereotypes. The students made to exert focused self-control had significantly lower levels of blood glucose than those who were not made to.

These tests confirmed that self-control is dependent on glucose, but more importantly, that our glucose supplies are exhaustible. Baumeis-

ter likened self-control to muscle; it becomes tired if it's exerted too much. In much the same way, controlling our responses to situations exhausts our body's supply of glucose. This is called 'ego depletion' and it makes us less able to carry out other activities demanding self-control, like resisting those foods that we fancy.

For resolute dieters, thinking about willpower in this way might prove useful. For example, if you're exhausted after a long day at work, chances are you're not going to have the self-control to choose a salad over a sandwich. The only way to reinstate your depleted bodily resources is through rest. So if your diet is wearing you thin, make sure you get a good night's sleep and that your energy levels are topped up. Or better still; try imagining eating your favourite sweets and treats. Where there's a will, there's a way.



Imaginary sweets can help you resist the temptation of these sugary treats



## SCIENCE

# Building green cities from scratch

We should move to new cities that are designed to be green

## Sci-fi Column

Maciej Matuszewski



An artist's impression of the planned Masdar City in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, designed to reduce the human impacts of city living

### Anastasia Eleftheriou

Ecologists and environmental scientists are trying hard to raise public awareness about environmental problems. I believe that everyone understands that we live on a suffering planet which has various increasing needs and demands, which is why cities all over the world have set high targets to reduce carbon emissions and produce clean energy. However, a very interesting alternative has started to evolve. Why not build new "green" cities from scratch?

Such a city would be called an Eco-City or a Sustainable City and would be designed specifically to minimize its energy, water and food needs, reduce its pollution and waste of resources, and be able to supply goods to its inhabitants with minimal reliance on the surrounding countryside. Fortunately, this relatively new idea is being applied at the moment in two places, one in China called Dongtan (near Shanghai), and one in the United Arab Emirates called Masdar (17 km from Abu Dhabi).

Plans for Dongtan city started in 2005. It is located in a corner of Chongming Island which is going to be connected with Shanghai by a bridge and a tunnel link. It will consist of three inter-linked villages, and all of them will combine homes, businesses and places for recreation. It will be able to provide housing for 80,000 people by 2020, and its de-

signer's aim is that every one of those people will be no more than seven minutes walk from public transport.

A real breakthrough is that no CO<sub>2</sub> emitting cars will be available in either Dongtan or Masdar with only electric vehicles allowed. Another benefit is that electric cars are quiet so thinner materials can be used in building construction as there will be less noise to drown out. More than 60 per cent of the whole site is being allocated to parks and farmland and they expect an initial 83 per cent reduction in waste sent to landfills compared to other cities. As great amounts of rice husks are available in the area, they will be burned to produce energy and the releasing CO<sub>2</sub> of this burn is going to be captured and fed into greenhouses.

Ironically, Masdar is located in a country that is a leading producer of fossil fuels yet it will be one of the most ecologically healthy cities. Its area will be 6.5 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of around 50,000 people and a total cost of around 22 billions dollars. A light railway line will provide a transport link to Abu Dhabi and nobody will be more than 200m away from the public transport. A desalination plant will provide 8000m<sup>3</sup> of water a day, and 60 per cent of the water used in Masdar will be recycled.

As you can imagine, in an Eco-City air-conditioning is not an acceptable solution to the problem of high tem-

peratures, so scientists and engineers are focused on insulation and ventilation, and the maximization of shade. This is achieved by packing the streets of the city closer together and by limiting the maximum height of the buildings to four or five storeys. Engineers will use thin walls that react quickly to the sun and a thin metal layer on the outside to reflect the heat and stop it from penetrating the building.

One major difference between Masdar and typical cities is that the whole city will be raised with the pedestrian level free of vehicles and consequently, traffic noise. The first people to live in Masdar

will be students at the Masdar Institute, which will be a base for sustainable engineering.

I hope that the first Eco-Cities will be able to inspire others and also enhance the way that other cities are trying to go green. In the UK, 10 eco-towns were about to be built, but because of the credit crunch and strong local protests at the proposed sites, further considerations need to be made. It is essential to mention that life in an Eco-City will be of a better quality, not only for people's bodies, which are going to enjoy the health benefits, but also for their spirits, as they will feel closer to mother nature.



Only electric cars, such as the G-Wiz, would be allowed in Masdar

As this is the first issue after the Christmas break I'm going to review the Doctor Who Christmas Special. I've always enjoyed the specials but I wasn't particularly hopeful for this one after the previews showed that it would be based on the Christmas Carol. It seemed like there was very little that the writers could add to this classic story and that, by resorting to copying Dickens, they had simply run out of ideas.

At first, the episode seemed to confirm my fears. It begins on Christmas Eve with a spaceship whose clearly incompetent crew has managed to trap it in a planet's turbulent atmosphere, which will shortly destroy it. Fortunately, Amy and Roy are onboard for their honeymoon cruise and manage to contact the Doctor. Unfortunately for the viewers they spend the entire episode in, respectively, their policewoman and Roman Centurion costumes from last season. While this is given a plausible explanation as bit of 'roleplay' during one of their first nights as a married couple it simply looks ridiculous. I can honestly see no reason why the show's creators thought that this would add anything to the episode.

For some highly contrived reason, which is explained in one line of dialogue, the Doctor can't just land the TARDIS inside the spaceship but must instead persuade the owner of the planet's weather control device to allow the spaceship to land safely. When the miserly Kazran Sardick refuses, the Doctor decides to go back in time to Kazran's youth to change him into a better person.

The story, however, quickly picks up as the Doctor assumes the roles of the three ghosts from the Christmas Carol to achieve this task. I was genuinely surprised by how the writers managed to give this premise a new twist. It was particularly ingenious how, inspired by the ghost of Christmas Yet-to-come, he brought a young Kazran forward in time to show him what sort of person he could become if he wasn't careful. This blending of Doctor Who's usual science fiction themes and the Dickensian elements gave the story an interesting steampunk feel. Despite their absurd outfits, I was also happy to see that the regular companions were given meaningful roles to play. What's more, the writers refrained from presenting an easy technobabble solution, with the ending being very satisfying; flowing logically from what we had seen.

This was certainly nowhere near the best Doctor Who episode, with the early problems being compounded by an occasional lack of tension and slow pace. It was, however, still an enjoyable hour's viewing and one of the better things that I saw over Christmas.



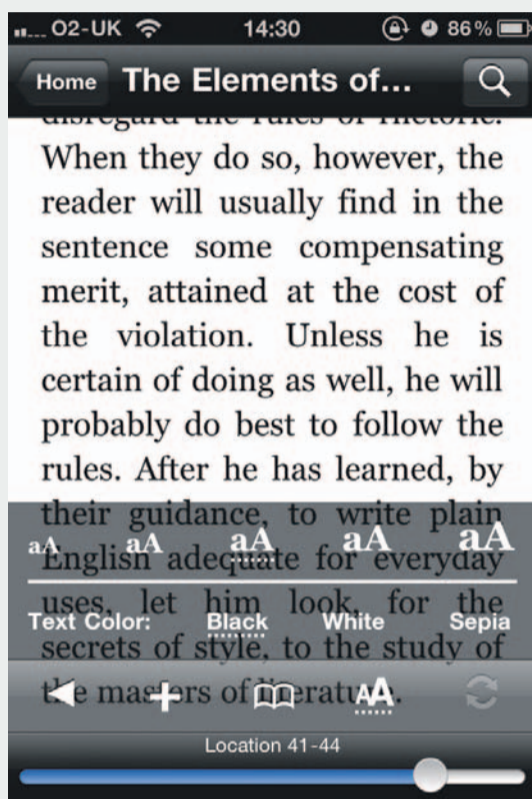
# TECHNOLOGY

Technology Editors: **Samuel Gibbs**  
**Feroz Salam**

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## Free App of the Week

### iOS - Kindle for iPhone



Amazon's Kindle app for the iPhone means you're never without a good book. Featuring Whisper Sync, you can keep your place no matter what.

### Android - Kindle for Android



Kindle on Android brings Amazon's eBook might to Google's mobile OS, ready for books and magazines. Just try not to squint too much at the screen.

# CES 2011 - Las Vegas

Feroz Salam brings you the best from this year's CES, the world's largest consumer electronics exhibition

Every year, the CES exhibition out in the deserts of Las Vegas promises an interesting foresight into the gadgets and technologies that are going to be big over the year, and this year was no exception. While this year's CES continued where the last exhibition left off, focusing on handheld and mobile computing platforms (think tablets, tablets, tablets), there was still plenty of novelty on offer as manufacturers attempted to pack even more power into the palm of your hand.

On the mobile front, manufacturers are obviously hoping that this is to be the year that 4G makes it big, with major investments in next-generation devices from big players in the market such as LG, Motorola, HTC and Sony. Android too shows clear signs of consolidating

on its major successes over the previous year, with the new Android 2.3 (Gingerbread) or Android 2.2 (Froyo) featuring on the vast majority of devices.

While these high-end devices promise bleeding-edge performance, you might want to wait a while before investing in a brand spanking new 4G handset – the public auction for the 4G spectrum to British mobile operators is only scheduled to happen in 2011.

Android also made a showing in the burgeoning tablet market, with the tablet-oriented Android 3.0, aka Honeycomb, finally making a showing on some devices. News on tablets was dominated by the usual mobile computing suspects, and the biggest splash was made by Motorola with their new 10.1 inch Xoom device. Running Honeycomb, the device packs a

**“There was plenty of novelty on offer as manufacturers attempted to pack even more power into the palm of your hand”**

heavy punch in the processor department and is already setting itself up to be yet another ‘iPad killer’. Read on for more about the Xoom, and the other biggest stories that we've picked out from a week chock full of new product announcements.

## Tablets, tablets, tablets

Tablets were the name of the game at this year's CES, continuing the trend towards portability over from last year. In contrast to 2010 however, major manufacturers are no longer playing second fiddle to Apple, with the definite emergence of a breed of devices that could (in several ways) surpass Apple's iPad.

Leading the charge is Motorola's Xoom (pre-viewed on the next page), featuring a powerful dual core processor and the highly awaited Android Honeycomb tablet-oriented OS.

It's not all smooth sailing though, as the Xoom is facing credible competition from the

likes of RIM, with its business oriented first foray, the PlayBook, and established players such as Samsung, who have taken a leaf from the mobile market and previewed an innovative but risky, slider-tablet that opens out to a full QWERTY keyboard.

With nearly 100 tablets announced or pre-viewed over four days, there's going to be plenty to choose from, but with promises made by most tablet manufacturers from 2010 (notably the Windows 7 tablet debacle) left unfulfilled, and Apple's rumoured second generation iPad on the way, it might be worth waiting to see some slates hit the stores before setting your money aside.



## 4G or not: does it really mean anything?



**When I was your age, we only have half a G! And we didn't complain either!**

A major theme from mobile manufacturers at this year's CES has been 4G. The new standards for wireless communication are meant as an upgrade from current third generation (3G) technologies in use today, and promise higher speeds for users and better efficiency for telecom companies. Yet is it worth shelling out for these new handsets, and if so, what can you expect?

As far as Britain goes, we are going to have to wait until at least mid-late 2011 before the government auctions the required spectrum allocated to 4G, to telephone providers. This means that even though you may be able to get your hands on a phone that's capable of con-

necting to a 4G network, it's likely that it won't get the chance to use them until sometime in 2012 at the earliest.

In addition, it's worth keeping in mind that many phone manufacturers have been less than scrupulous about what they call 4G. There are quite a few examples of the 4G moniker being used interchangeably between meaning those that actually satisfy 4G standards and those that attain 4G-like speeds. HSPA+ for example is an extension of current 3G tech, but reaches much higher 4G-like speeds.

If you're willing to wait a year to benefit from it, 4G tech could provide you with a seamless and lightning quick internet experience. Just don't expect the battery life to be stellar.



# TECHNOLOGY

## Top tech to keep your eye on in 2011

### The Motorola Xoom



Motorola's Xoom has been winning accolades from far and wide after its launch at CES. Boasting a feature set that puts Apple's iPad in the shade, the tablet is a sure sign that tablet manufacturers are no longer looking towards Cupertino for inspiration.

In the processing department, the Xoom (pronounced 'Zoom') packs a hefty dual core processor from NVidia, while it also boasts a crisp 1280 x 800 resolution on a screen that's slightly larger than the

iPad's. In terms of multimedia features as well, the Xoom outdoes the iPad, coming in with two cameras: a front facing 2 MP camera for conferencing and a 5 MP for better quality photos.

Even more interesting is the promise of Android's tablet-oriented incarnation, Honeycomb, on the device. It's this combination of leading hardware and software that's leading people to call it the next 'iPad killer', a mighty title for a product yet to have a price or launch date.

### Glasses-free 3D TV



3D was a big theme at last year's CES, as major players in the television market attempted to convince consumers that 3D should enter the home in 2010. One of the biggest stumbling blocks of any such attempt, however, was the fact that most forms of 3D hawked in Vegas last year depended on bulky, historically unpopular 3D glasses; a requirement that put off most consumers.

This year, manufacturers are going one step further and removing this age-old barrier to 3D. LG,

Sony and Toshiba were all out at CES with 3D displays sans glasses, but the conspicuous absence of any commercial release dates for these next generation products is a clear indicator that they are nowhere near production ready.

With 3DTV not making the sort of market inroads the big firms would have liked, glasses-free 3D might be the tonic that the industry needs, but the consumer has spoken - the burden of proof lies squarely with the manufacturers.

### Slider Tablets



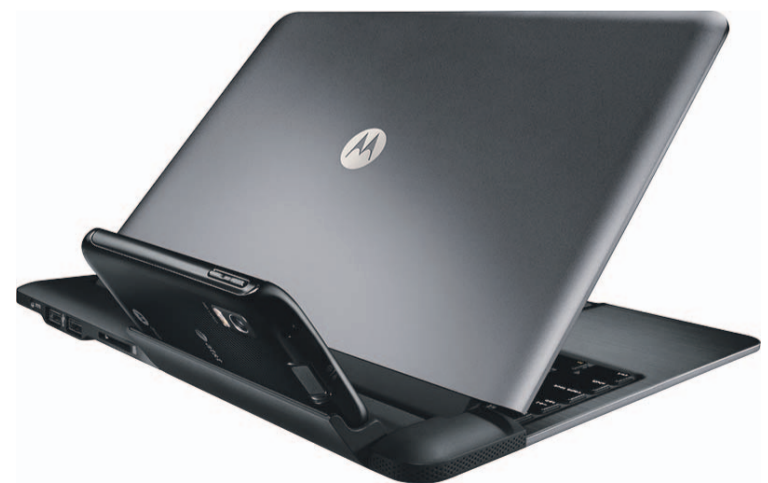
New form factors are rare in technology, but in the rapidly growing tablet market there's still huge potential for innovation.

Both Samsung and Asus brought out slider-tablets, ultra-thin screens backed with a QWERTY keyboard. While build quality is probably going to be the biggest deciding factor in the success of these devices, the form factor will probably prove very popular with those people who have stayed away from tablets due to the difficulty of getting

any real productive work done on them.

With other manufacturers perfecting the docking tablet form factor, it remains to be seen whether customers really want to be burdened with lugging a keyboard around at all times. Weighing in at nearly a kilo, for example, Samsung's device might be competitive in the netbook class, but is significantly heavier than any competing pure tablet, a burden when you just want to watch a film on the way home from work.

### The Motorola Atrix 4G



Motorola continued in the vein of its recent revival, with its Atrix 4G attracting high praise by those who saw it at CES. On the face of it, the Atrix is just another high-end Android smartphone - running NVidia's Tegra 2 chip and sporting a crisp 960 x 540 display that gives most other phones in the category a run for their money.

But what really stands out about the Atrix isn't the phone itself, but the accessories that Motorola is promising to offer with it: a HD Media dock and

a laptop dock. The HD Media dock will allow you to plug your phone's display into a television or attach a USB mouse/keyboard to it and use it as a media hub.

The laptop dock is where the innovation takes place - a laptop shell that you can slide your phone into (much like a NES cartridge), that turns your phone into a full PC running Android, almost perfect if you're in the market for a phone but need the versatility of a netbook on the side.



# BUSINESS

Business Editors: **Sina Ataherian**  
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## News Summary

### Big bosses, big bonuses

The public backlash against large bonuses for those in the financial sector is once again at a high. This comes amidst news the total compensation for top bankers could exceed £7 billion this year.



Bob Diamond (pictured), the former president of investment bank Barclays Capital and newly appointed CEO of the Barclays Group is in line for a £9 million bonus. Mr Diamond succeeds John Varley, who, compared to his peers, successfully steered Barclays away from many pitfalls during the crisis. Diamond has recently stated that he has not made a decision whether or not to accept the bonus.

Adding fuel to the fire are Stephen Hester, CEO of the Royal Bank of Scotland and Eric Daniels, CEO of the Lloyd's Banking Group. They are due to receive a compensation package that could total £2.5 million and £4 million respectively. The government still holds participations of 41% in Lloyd's and 81% in RBS.

Recently the opposition has accused David Cameron of not doing enough to curb bonuses for finance professionals.

### Germans do it better

While in much of Europe economic recovery is not picking up the previously expected steam, or has indeed come to a halt, Germany has bucked this trend by posting a provisional figure of a 3.6% year-on-year growth. This is the fastest growth since 1990 and a stark contrast to a decline of 4.9% in 2009.

The high figure is a product of a spectacular 14.2% increase in exports and domestic demand, supported by a sharp increase in manufacturing investment of 22.6%. Households also helped buoy the figure by an increased spending of half a percent.

### Portugal - the next economy to bite the dust?

The small, maligned, peripheral nation of Portugal is newsworthy again after managing to borrow €1.25 billion in a bond auction comprising four and ten year notes. The average yield on the 10 year security was 6.7%, a welcome decrease from the 7.3% high the markets were previously pricing.

While Portugal vehemently denies the need for a bailout, pickings are slim and the country does not have much room for choice. Some analysts back Portugal noting the significant differences in the previously bailed out troubled nations of Greece and Ireland.

Other analysts, however, believe that Portugal's situation is indeed dire and that if the country's borrowing costs do not decrease it may find itself in a position where it will be difficult to keep up efforts to reduce its deficit.

# Finance Society hosts first of a kind trading game

Young traders from across the country gather at Imperial



Everyone quickly alt-tabs Facebook as the photographer approaches

### Afonso Campos

On the 29th of November, teams from several universities from all over the UK competed in a never before seen trading simulation. The trading game held at Imperial was part of the national UK Investment Banking Series, a competition initiated in 2010 by the Imperial College Finance Society (ICFS) which has proven to be a great success.

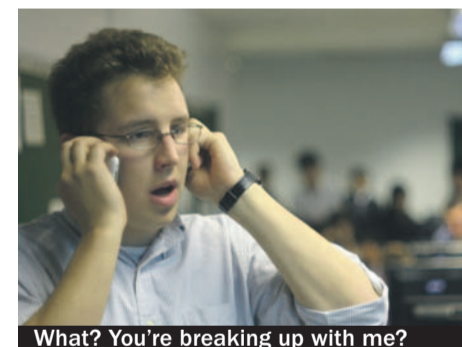
The trading game itself is one of a kind – the concept and technology are the brainchild of two Imperial students, Bradley Jones and Philip Heurich, both mathematicians in their final and second years respectively. Consequently, they have founded the trading simulations and software company Dynamic Simulations, which aims to take the product they have created specifically for the game and bring it to market. “Having taken part in numerous trading simulations and comparing those with the experience of working on a real trading floor – the contrasts between the two is unavoidable. It was at this point we knew there was a gap in the market”, says Bradley Jones. The two main differences between the simulation that featured in the UIBS competition and its competitors are significant. Firstly, the market behind each security is dynamic. That is to say that the prices of the traded instruments can be influenced by the players' actions. In this way, the players really can ‘move the market’. This is based on an algorithm that takes into account the underlying trend, the volume currently in the market and the absolute size of the trade. A player placing a large order will undoubtedly move the price of the traded security higher.

The game splits teams into hedge funds and investment banks and focuses more specifically

on the existing relationship between the two. Hedge funds need investment banks to perform operations in the financial markets and investment banks earn commission by enabling these positions. This element of interaction between the teams creates an environment which requires the use of all forms of communication: shouting across a room, calling on the phone or chatting via the internet – the overall result being the buzzing atmosphere of a hectic trading floor!

“The focus lies very clearly on simulating what is called flow trading as opposed to prop trading. The former is what most graduates starting at a major investment bank will be doing in their first years. But interestingly enough, the simulations currently out there focus mostly on prop trading” said the other half of the Dynamic Simulations team, Philip Heurich. What is the real difference between the two types of trading? Simplified, prop trading means that you are given a lump sum of money and buy or sell assets with it; flow trading is when an entity, such as an Investment Bank, is creating a market by joining buyers and sellers and enabling them to trade the quantities they are looking for. Naturally, it would be of interest to potential future traders in the investment banking industry to get in contact with the particular challenges that flow trading poses. The game hosted by the finance society serves this exact purpose and provides students up and down the country the chance to get as close to the real thing as possible.

After 6 hours and 35 minutes of intense work on trade deals and analyzing markets, the participants were happy to have experienced the excitement of the floor and have learned what flow trading is all about. The overall winner of the UIBS challenge was a hedge fund team



What? You're breaking up with me?

from UCL, winning a grand prize of £1,000. Our very own Imperial investment bank team followed to take the runner-up spot and secure a £500 prize. To win the challenge it takes more than just the ability to read the markets: communication and networking skills are vital. The winning teams displayed all the necessary skills making this type of event a great opportunity for the recruiting firms to spot talent. The event as a whole went incredibly smoothly and has helped Imperial's Finance Society cement itself as an innovative, experienced and market-leading player on a national scale. Smeeta Shah, studying Accounting and Finance at the University of Manchester said, “My dad is a stock broker and this competition gave me a feel of his work life. I have played similar trading competitions before but this was the best of all.”

It is great to see Imperial clubs and societies actively engaging in collaboration and competition with other leading UK universities. It is a competition that the Finance Society certainly hopes to see running again next year. Imperial, remember the age old adage of “buy low, sell high”.



**JANUARY**



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**TEN CORE**  
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# POLITICS

## The world beyond College walls



### Ivory Coast

At least five people have been killed in clashes between supporters of presidential rivals in Ivory Coast. The Governor of Abidjan has been quoted as saying that the dead included three policemen and two civilians. The violence in Abidjan comes after a UN Security Council Resolution deploring the violence in Ivory Coast in the aftermath of November's presidential election. Incumbent President Gbagbo has refused to cede power to Mr Ouattara despite international pressure. He has also ruled out the formation of a national unity Government with Mr Ouattara. Ivory Coast is divided between the North, which supports Mr Ouattara, and the South, which supports Gbagbo, and is becoming increasingly destabilised.



### China

Chinese President Hu Jintao confirmed the test flight of a Chinese J-20 stealth fighter during a meeting with Robert Gates, the US Defence Secretary. Robert Gates is on a three day visit to Beijing set amidst a backdrop of increasing US concerns towards China's rapidly modernising military. America is currently the only country with an operating stealth fighter, although China and Russia are known to be working on prototypes. The Chinese stealth fighter is not expected to be operational until 2017-19. Meanwhile, the Chinese Defence Minister stressed, in an interview on state television, that Chinese research and development of weapons posed no threat to any country.



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### Haiti

The Organisation of American States have asked Haiti's ruling party candidate to withdraw from the run-off round in the race for the bitterly-contested presidency, according to a draft obtained by AP. This threatens to increase tensions in a Haiti devastated by an earthquake last year. The ruling party's candidate Jude Celestin narrowly came ahead of pop singer Michael Martelly in November's election. Rene Preval, Haiti's President, has said that he does not favour any candidate; however, evidence showing Jude Celestin has lost must be produced. Most Haitians are increasingly desperate for a solution to the growing humanitarian crisis and want a strong government to guide Haiti.

Edited by Kenneth Lee

# New Year's Resolutions

Rajat Jain & Joseph Letts consider what 2011 holds for world leaders. And Nick Clegg...



### Silvio Berlusconi

Well 2010 certainly has been an interesting year for the Italian Prime Minister. Barely surviving several votes of no confidence throughout the year and having his coalition partner Gianfranco Fini and four other coalition gov-

ernment members step down has done a terrible number on the stability of his government and it seems only a matter of time before things begin to collapse. And of his New Year's Resolutions? Well between trying his best not to be tried for corruption and tax fraud, trying to win back the love and confidence

of his people, and staying in control of his country, business empire and health (he is 74), I'd say he has quite a busy year ahead. Of course he also might try to spend the year coaxing his female ministers to wear tighter shorts as well. Life really is hard sometimes isn't it?

### Nick Clegg

The Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Liberal Democrats has a tough balancing act to follow. With his popularity over the past twelve months rising and falling faster than a G6, the future of the Liberal Democrats as a

credible party hinges on the success of the Alternative Vote referendum on the 5th May. Some accuse Clegg sold his soul to the Conservatives to gain this referendum. To lose would not only reduce the possible Commons gains from being a popular second preference, but even possibly eliminate them as first

preference in their traditional Liberal strongholds. Yet, if Clegg's war against the Conservative's over the referendum is too successful, it could destroy the credibility of the coalition completely. No doubt Clegg is hoping Vince Cable will think before he speaks during the next four months.



### Asif Ali Zardari

With his coalition government formally intact and old corruption charges relating to corporate kickbacks dropped on the basis of diplomatic immunity, it looked like this was going to be a good year for the Pakistani president. As if

Zadari! The assassination of the Governor of Pakistan's Punjab Province, Salman Taseer, on the 4th of January, has left Pakistan facing a dangerous tear in its social fabric. The traditionally Liberal and moderate Pakistan People's Party, of which both the President and late Governor belong, must decide

whether to revoke blasphemy laws and face growing social tensions, riots and increased militancy. The alternative is to allow the continued persecution of Christians and anger Pakistan's hard-fought-for Western allies. Asif Ali Zardari has another extremely tough year ahead of him.

### Barack Obama

At the start of every year, the incumbent President of the United States holds a State of the Union speech. Here he discusses the current position of the country and what he expects to achieve in the year ahead, with the next being

on Jan 25th. For 2011 President Obama has a tough battle ahead after the change in composition of the House of Representatives in the 2010 Midterm Elections, leading to the Democrats losing the controlling share of seats. The President also has to deal with the fallout from the publication of diplo-

matic cables by Wikileaks, and the effect this might have on the resolution of American intervention in Afghanistan. Also, after the horrific shootings in Arizona last week, the President and Government might decide to stir the ongoing passion-filled debate about changes to national gun-control laws.



### Mahinda Rajapaksa

Following the end of the 25-year civil war with Tamil rebels and the electoral defeat of Gen. Fonseka, who led the campaign to defeat the rebels, 2010 was good for the Sri Lankan president. But he must spend 2011 integrating the

Tamils. He claims 5000 former rebels are held in prison camps. Signs are, however, promising; 100 have been freed and have claimed they were treated well and education of former rebels to help them find jobs and integrate into society has begun. The President has also begun talks with

Tamil National Alliance, the main Tamil party. However, tensions still exist. With Human Rights groups not given access to much of the old rebel stronghold, Wikileaks accusations of massacres and questions over electoral fraud, mending Sri Lankan society will hardly be an easy task.

### Evo Morales

Who? Eva Mendes? No, Evo Morales is the President of Bolivia and leader of the Movement for Socialism party. He has had a rather arduous 2010. Since fuel prices were frozen in Bolivia since 2006, citizens have been protected from the pain of increasing oil prices for the last 4 years. Unfortunately this

has had the effect of causing a fall in oil production, an increase in demand and therefore an increase in oil importation. With the cost of this hitting the Bolivian government with a \$360m bill last year and possibly a forecasted \$660m this year, President Morales tried to end the fuel subsidies and increase the price of petrol by 73% last December. But this led to bus operator strikes and

trade union protests which caused the government to quickly rescind the measure. However, as the new year breaks into a run this leaves President Morales with the difficult task of offsetting the horrendous cost of subsidising fuel and stimulating the low production levels of oil without bankrupting either the national coffers or his people. Bon chance, matey!





# South Sudan: democracy amidst chaos

The people of South Sudan look set to determine their own future

Rory Fenton

On Sunday, the Southern region of Africa's largest country started voting in a week-long referendum on whether or not to become the world's newest country.

You only have to look at a map of Sudan to see how unlikely it was that the country should have ever been unified. British and Egyptian colonialists left their trademark straight lines on much of its border, creating Africa's largest country. The state entered into the longest civil war in African history just one year before its independence in 1956. The war, chiefly between its Muslim North and Christian/ Animist (a tribal tradition) South, claimed 2 million lives; finally ending in 2005 with a peace accord between the two sides, bringing with it the promise of a referendum on Southern independence which began last Sunday, the results of which are expected at the end of the month.

Independence has long been a desire for the country's South who cite not just the religious differences with the North but also that a recent economic boom, as well as much of international aid, was centred around the country's capi-



tal Khartoum which lies in the North. They also feel that the North has been making disproportionate gains from oil fields in the South. Squabbling over the details of the promised referendum only increased tensions between the two sides.

Few people doubt that the South will vote for independence. The required threshold of a 60% turnout was reached by Wednesday – no simple task with illiteracy at over 80% in the South making communication difficult. Supporters of a secession hope that the simplified, pic-

ture based voting form will help – two hands clasped means continued unity, one hand held up means separation.

Signs are promising; although the President of Sudan, Omar Al-Bashir, has warned that the South faces instability if it separates, he has also said he will accept the decision and will help the new state in whatever way they require.

Nevertheless, the international community will be watching the vote closely. The UN already has 10,000 peace keeping troops in the country, not including those in Darfur, and the country's neigh-



Pro-independence rallies are a daily occurrence in Juba, the South's capital

bours are preparing reluctantly for the probable secession; the most turbulent parts of both Kenya and Uganda are those that border Sudan and this move is unlikely to stabilise the area.

The North will not happily lose the South, the oil fields of which are a lucrative source of revenue. The international community can play its part here – the

forgiveness of some of the country's \$40 billion debt could ease economic tensions but the deep problems in the region will be far from resolved after the vote, however it falls. But there are also fears that without the incentive of appeasing the less socially conservative South, North Sudan will become an increasingly authoritarian Islamic state.

# The Euro is on life support: will Germany turn it off?

Tomokazu Miyamoto

"We can abandon the euro if our proposal is refused." Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, said to George Papandreou, the Greece prime minister, during dinner at the EU summit in Brussels last October. The summit was held to discuss the euro crisis and a plan to bail out Ireland. Merkel had demanded a new legislation stating that bailed-out countries should lose certain voting rights in EU councils. Since it is only Germany that can pay a large amount of money as a bailout, the country is asked to bear the greatest burden whenever a debt crisis happens. Such unfairness has certainly made the German populace uncomfortable, but insisting on the loss of EU council voting rights was opposed by many other EU governments.

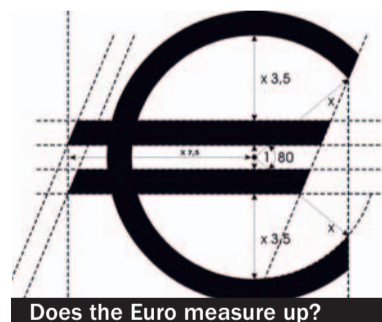
The other reason why Germany suggested that quitting the euro was an option may be that the bailout of Ireland is not the end of a sequence of bailout actions which started with Greece. Spain and Portugal will soon have the same debt problem, and they will call for bail-

out plans. To make matters worse, even 50% or more.

Eight years ago, Argentina defaulted on the major part of its sovereign debt and survived quite well. Many economists predicted that Argentina's debt default would result in currency collapse, hyperinflation and even greater economic contraction than it had endured during its 1999-2002 recession. Instead, after the 2001-02 debt default and subsequent devaluation against the dollar (from 1:1 to 3:1), GDP grew at over 8% per annum over the period 2003-2007 and annual inflation fell from over 10% per month in early 2002 to less than 10% per annum."

He thinks that choosing to default and abandoning the euro are better than submitting to the ferocious and pro-cyclical conditionality imposed by Germany and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – cutting its budget deficit by 11% over three years in return for a €120bn (£104bn) loan. His opinion is convincing. In general, devaluation caused by an increase in the monetary base in a country makes the country more competitive in terms of exports, which helps

it recover from a recession. Unfortunately, in the eurozone, many countries which have small-sized economies cannot benefit from this devaluation. Thus Iceland, which has its own currency, the Iceland krona, is in a slightly better economic situation than PIIGS. The island country in the North Atlantic Ocean was in default in 2008, and the current account balance was 15% of its GDP, and then devaluation of krona improved its export as well as the current account balance to 3.7% of its GDP in 2009. The unemployment of Iceland worsened to 8% in 2010, but it is still better than Spain's 20%, Ireland's 14%, Greece's



12% and Portugal's 11% in 2010. Irvin is not the only person who recommends that Greece should abandon the euro. Ivan Miklos, the Slovak finance minister, said "Greece and Portugal would be better off in a long run if they didn't share the euro." Miklos also said that the economies of the two nations and other southern eurozone countries were not fit enough for the euro, pointing out defects in the present euro system. Petr Necas, the prime minister of the Czech Republic, said that nobody could force his country to join the eurozone, and that it was solely up to the Czechs' will. According to a poll last October, nearly 70% of Czech citizens oppose dropping their own currency. Describing the merit of controlling their own currency, he also said that entering the euro now, or even setting a target date, would be political and economic foolishness.

If Greece leaves the euro system, other nations may follow. If many of them quit the euro, the currency will disappear. Anyway, the year 2010 was the turning point for that currency.



## COMMENT

## FELIX

**Imperial needs to learn that 'affordable' is not a dirty word**

Affordable. It is hardly a glamorous word. It does not make the heart race nor the mouth salivate. It implies a sort of glum settlement; when your shallow pockets deny you your desires, go for 'affordable'. It is not a word that springs to one's mind when thinking about Imperial College London. Nestled in the regal South Kensington environment, our university, with its history, buildings and international reputation, is the complete antithesis to the emotions evoked by the word 'affordable'.

The new postgraduate halls in Clapham Junction are certainly not affordable. £235 per week will be attractive to certain students but the majority will rightly balk at spending around £12,000 on rent in one year. For comparison, an average PhD stipend is around £15-16,000.

This is not to say that they are bad value for money, unnecessary or a bad investment for the College Fund. Griffon Studios is clearly a high-quality product, there is a market for the halls – even if it is an exclusive one – and Felix will support sensible efforts to make Imperial richer; as Imperial grows wealthier, so its students receive a better service.

But the fact that the College Fund and the Accommodation Service are expecting international postgraduates to make up the bulk of residents at Griffon Studios reveals a truth about Imperial. Namely that overseas students, who make up a significant proportion of our student body, are more demanding of quality and convenience – and more able to pay for it – as well as being much less willing to settle for 'affordable'.

With a large number of international students who rightly demand some bang for their buck and a disproportionate number of privately educated home students, are we at all surprised that Imperial opts for the sort of glitzy infrastructure that leaps from the page of a brochure?

Of course not. However, Imperial should not turn its back on 'affordable' entirely. London is an extremely expensive city in which to attend university and student concern about rising debt is becoming more and more of an issue. Extra efforts must be made to ensure that students from poor and middle-class backgrounds, and those who do not receive financial support from their family, are not deterred by high-living costs or drowned in part-time work.

Which means that Imperial must start to get more comfortable with the word affordable. It would be nice if we could all afford high-quality accommodation but the truth is that many of us, including international and privately educated students, quite enjoy having that little bit extra in our pockets.

# Angry New Year

Worrying about self improvement is a waste of time, so forget about it, go enjoy yourself, but read this first...



## Angry Geek

**H**appy New Year folks. Contractual obligations mean I must make at least one joke about not fulfilling resolutions in the first issue of the year, so here it is right now: I like my resolutions like I like my awkward man-hugs. Well-meaning initially and...not drawn out?

I'm not sure where I'm going with that. This is why we don't do resolutions pieces any more. That, and there's always someone making a computer monitor joke. Anyone making a joke about 4:3 aspect ratios really needs to take a long, hard look at where their lives went wrong.

Anyway, that's my job description fulfilled until there's another big news story about governments that I have to roll my eyes at. Let's talk books. I've been reading 'Machine Of Death', a charming tome about the future and our death. It's a collection of short stories all wrapped around the same premise - that a machine exists that can tell you the manner in which you are going to die. Not when. Not where. Not even specifically how - a diagnosis of OLD AGE could be passing away peacefully at the age of eighty, or it could mean being bludgeoned to death by a pensioner in a bus stop queue.

It's a great premise. It's a great premise because of the many things people wish they knew in life - the lottery numbers, the difference between the two flavours of coffee on offer in Starbucks - the manner in which they would die must surely be on a lot of people's lists. It also turns out to be a good way to bring out interesting ideas in writers. Everything from medical dramas to high school frustrations; from the absurdity of EXHAUSTION FROM SEX WITH A MINOR as a prediction to the unsettling forecast of DESPAIR as the cause of death.

The poor sod whose coffin I stood next to earlier this week, reading a poem

Benjamin Kennedy



out, would've had a pretty sorry prediction. AGGRESSIVE INFECTION FROM HEROIN OVERUSE or something similar.

I suppose we desire to know how we'll die because we think we might be able to avert it or prevent it. The story's crux is that we cannot. Knowing our fate doesn't give us the power to change it, and the happiest stories in the book revolve around people who accept that rather than panicking over what might become of them.

I don't like funerals, but I've had a steady stream of them over the last few years. Certainly, family ones became annual events, but there have been departmental ones, and a friend's too. The chap who was laid to rest this week had been sitting at my father's funeral not so long ago, reminiscing with me about life and how unfair it was that someone should die at that age. Irony is something that is rarely lost on the universe, I guess.

Many of the stories in 'Machine of Death' reference groups that either protest against the machine, or vehemently refuse to use them or be tested in any way. They declare that "life is for living" and knowledge of their death would only curse them mentally. I imagine a lot of people have that feeling when reading the book; that they wouldn't use such a machine if it existed, no matter how darkly interesting it might be.

Which kind of takes me back around to the opening, and how I said I didn't

**Dying from 'old age' could be passing away peacefully at eighty, or being bludgeoned to death by a pensioner in a bus stop queue**

want to talk resolutions. A lot of people seem to obsess over them at this time of year, which is why we get that familiar host of commentary on them. I imagine most of the Felix readership didn't make them but feel they should have done; that perhaps another year has passed without any obvious self-improvement or dream-achieving.

Our illustrious comment editor said that she hoped we might have some positive messages for the start of the year. I'm not big on them generally, so here's my contribution, seeing as it's 2011 and all: self-improvement can start whenever, and your dreams will still be achievable in ten years time. Kiss goodbye to resolutions for another few months, and go and enjoy being alive. Laugh at people buying sandwiches in Pret. Order a round of tap water for everyone in the Union bar. And for Christ's sake, stop worrying. Plenty of time to worry about death and old age another day.

Next week - fuck you all, I hate you.

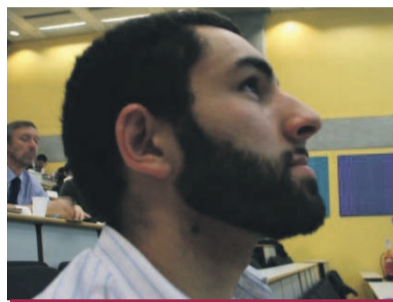
Have your say on this article at [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)



## COMMENT

The opinions expressed on the Comment pages represent the views of the author only.

## Cut-price foods make me happy



**Omar Hafeez-Bore**

“Are there any greater joys of a modern existence than the Reduced Price section of a supermarket?”

Christmas has now come and gone, hopefully fulfilling its promise as a time of goodwill to all people. According to *A Christmas Carol*, it is a time when rich people should have been kind and generous to the poor as, statistically at least, many of them are people too!

But social contact and friendly manner is, like, so pre-internet. Luckily we have The Christmas Sales™ (TCS) instead to act as a once-yearly border crossing between the tiers of society, without the need for anything as embarrassing as talking with posh folk or as potentially disease-catching as mixing with the poor. Boxing day is for (wo)men of all colours, creed and class to queue up as equals; equally desperate for deals and, suddenly, equally able to afford them.

Indeed, if *A Christmas Carol* was set nowadays Tiny Tim would never have the chance to die from hunger and sickness. He'd die from being an over-fed fatso gagging on all the cut-price mince pies selling like hot-cakes (also on offer) in Sainsbury's after chrimbo. He probably wouldn't even be called 'Tiny' as

there's only so much irony allowed on tombstones. But he'd die happy, gorging on the finest Taste the Difference pies and loving every morsel of difference he tasted.

Oh Truck-like Tim how I can relate to thee! Are there any greater joys of a modern existence than stumbling across top deals in the Reduced Price food section of a supermarket? And unlike the short-lived high of TCS™, it is a pleasure that remains throughout the year: Cheap offers are for life, not just for Christmas.

But some people are blind to the power of those small yellow labels, taking just a cursory look at what is on offer and, worse; only looking out for the random freak occurrence that something on their usual shopping list has been reduced. This is the grocery equivalent of being offered cut-price flights to Fiji, but leaving them because they aren't 'Costa Del Sol like you're used to'.

Instead, one should appreciate that humble reduction-sticker-gun for what it really is, a hole-punch for social groups, creating little portals through which drop reduced-price consumables from en-

tirely different lives. I would never have tried Irish Soda Bread if I had not seen it stickered in a Sainsbury's aisle, nor Potato Furls if I hadn't spied them cheap in Tesco. I'd never have ponced about like some chocolate aficionado whilst munching on my Gü torte, nor would I have been sorely disappointed by those trendy Covent Garden soups that had always tempted me with their homely, wholesome packaging. Bizarre bakery blooms, gluten-free peanut squares or soya milk chocolate milkshakes, all have been little tastes of other price-ranges, lands or incurable chronic bowel conditions. Each one allows me a little bit of role play, whether stepping into the shoes of a Ryvita-buying yummy mummy or the (frankly tasteless) microwave crab ready meal of some time-pressed urban yuppie. Each one has been a culinary education and often, a pleasant surprise.

Do not be disheartened this year if you don't get that jacket you wanted in the TCS™. All year round we are blessed by big corporations and a Santa's sack load of gifts and goodies for us little people.

Thank you Tesco.

### Life Sciences must change, not chop

I was impressed with the way the Life Sciences cuts issue was reported in Felix last term. I am no journalist, I prefer to beat them than join them, as a rule, but I was impressed with the way it confronted the issue head on, as good journalism should.

Various people have described the cuts to Life Sciences and damaging and unnecessary. This I agree with. When a Head of Department is left with a hole the size of the Lehmann Brothers in his budget, it seems a bit rummy for teaching staff to be comprehensively shat on in order to make up the difference. I am not going to say I feel sorry for this HoD for the decision he must make, these sorts of things were part of what middle and senior management is like.

So – we have a budgetary cock-up and staff we do not want to lose. What do we do? There are various possible actions – cut the pay of all academic staff by perhaps £5k/annum. This, for those who do not watch 'Yes, Prime minister' is also known as 'Politician's logic'. Something must be done, this is something, therefore we must do it. Sound about right for the current proposals?

I hope that the senior management in Life Sciences studied natural selection, so they might be able to see where this argument is going – perhaps they should attend the lectures given by the teaching staff they want to axe, while they still can. Academics, just like everyone else, need to move with the times, need to evolve and improve. This does not need to be cutting away prime flesh. Ironically I happen to know that several of those whom they want to axe are aware of this need to modernise, and have actively tried to bring this about.

I don't think I need to tell you that I think this proposed restructure is all wrong, but now perhaps we have a constructive basis for a different way of tackling the underlying problems. These cuts are not the only option.

**Samuel Furse**

## 2011: A Space Odyssey... I wish



**Rhys Davies**

“But there's still one thing I want to know: where's my jet-pack?”

Happy New Year to you all! It's nice to know that, as a species, we've managed to make it through another year without destroying ourselves. Well done.

There can be no doubt now that we are living in the future. We have, by some people's (anachronistic) standards, supercomputers that we can carry in our pockets; for food, we have nutritious and delicious meals that can be reconstituted in an instant; for entertainment, we can watch programmes in greater resolutions and in more dimensions than exist in real life.

But there's still one thing I want to know: Where's my jet-pack?

This is most definitely the future. We're ten years from a Space Odyssey and fourteen years on from when Skynet took over the world (that was a particularly bad day). We are currently living in the middle of a science-fiction writer's fantasies. So why doesn't it feel like the future?

I think it's partly due to the past/present only becoming the future very insidiously, creeping up so slowly that we don't notice. We're surrounded by so many amazing innovations and inventions that arrived so gradually we don't realise how amazing they actually are.

But this doesn't feel like the future because we're also missing some essentials. We have lasers, sure, but they've yet to trickle down to the man on the street, and just where are the robots?! I can see how these things could be used for less-than-benign purposes and with humanity's collective propensity to, as Gandhi put it, be a dick – something, I fear, that won't change in 2011 – I think we might be better off without them for the time being.

But jet-packs are all right. In fact, they're better than all right, they're really cool! Admit it. Who hasn't dreamt of flying through the skies like a bird, laughing at the puny mortals down below? Mwahaha!

Megalomania aside, they would offer yet another mode to commute to college – this would be especially pertinent when the Tube goes on strike... again. Perhaps most important of all, the skies are the one place you are guaranteed to be safe from the commuter's deadliest predator, the leopards.

Without jet-packs, we might as well be living in the past, which from the future's perspective is the present, where most people think we're living already. Such a shame, but who knows – maybe 2011 will be the year of the jet-pack?

I can only dream.

I would also like to take this opportunity to respond to Jamie Henry's response to one of my letters last term. Mr Henry was upset by some of my remarks on the St. John Ambulance. He found my remarks to be in poor humour and I'm sorry that he thinks that.

But that letter, as is most of what I write, was intended to be humorous. It is impossible to amuse all the people all of the time and I apologise if I have missed a beat, as it were.

However, I will reiterate the tone of that letter, one I feel I made transparently clear, that the SJA do provide a fantastic service and, as a keen runner for charity, I am grateful for their presence.

While people fear illness and injury, some fear doctors, and by extension, the SJA, far more. Illogical I know, but this is the fear I was relating to in my letter.

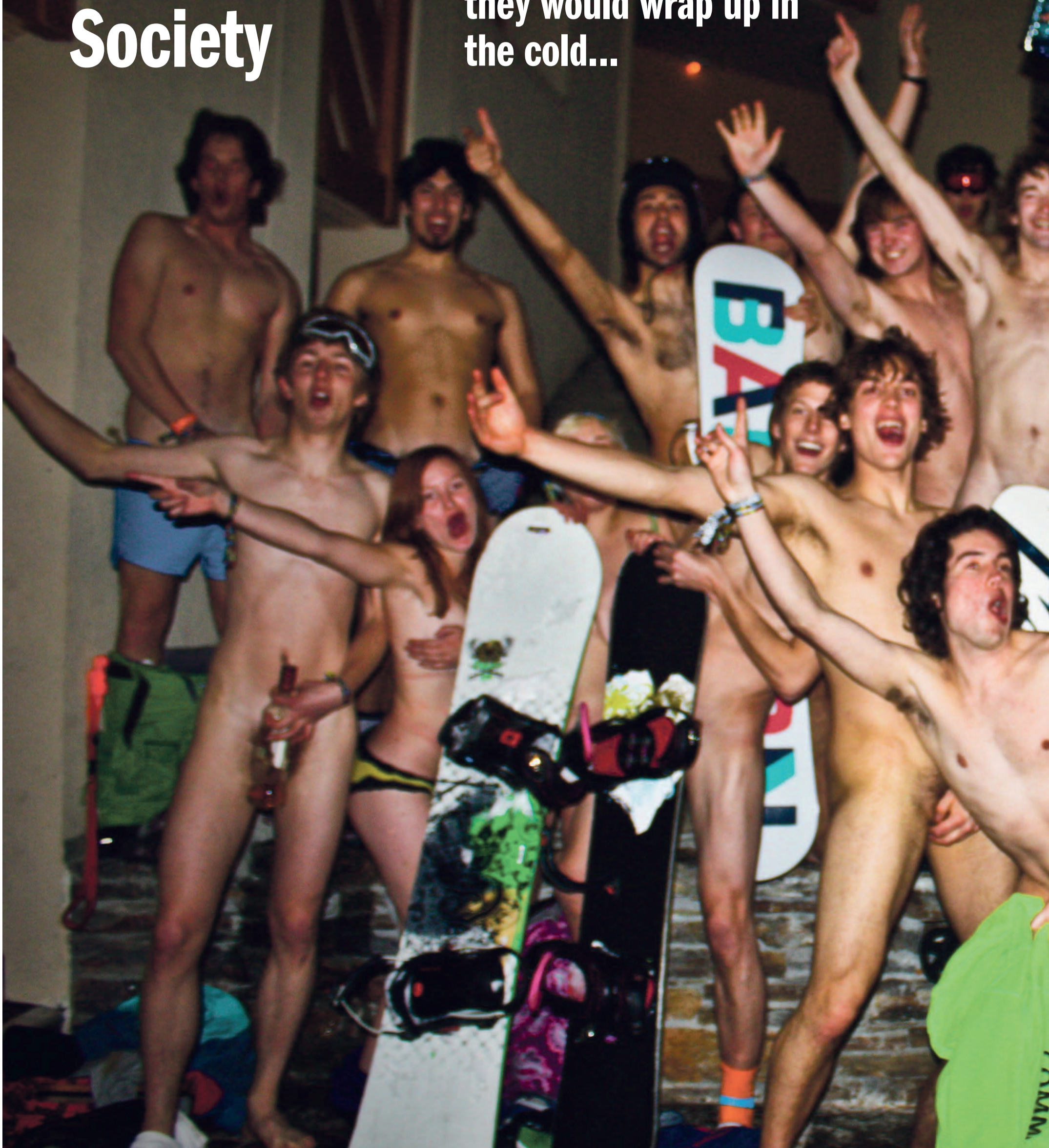
Once again, Mr. Henry, I am sorry if I have offended you (or anyone else) with my letter. My intention has only ever been to be lightly humorous. I hope this response goes some ways towards making amends.

P.S. Please don't call me Mr. Davies. It makes me sound like a Physics teacher, a misconception I would hate to perpetuate.



# Snowsports Society

You would think that they would wrap up in the cold...







**Do you want to do a centrefold? Email [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)**



# COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Prince Philip: My family and other animals

It may be a surprise that you find me in this pokey newspaper, so let me elucidate. During the festive season, I spotted a copy of Felix residing by one of the house/palace windows. I flicked through a few pages to be simply aghast at the clap trap rubbish contained within, not excluding the hideous specimen gurning at me from the centerfold – isn't it odd that at a university of mostly chaps, you have pictures of naked males in your paper? It's all rather how's-your-father in a queerish way if you ask me. At least, I think it was a man. But you never know with scientists.

I asked the footman, Cardell, where this garbage came from. It transpires his son is studying entrepreneurship at Imperial. Aside from the contradiction in terms such a degree presents (quite how one is supposed to develop maverick, out-of-the-box thinking by being pontificated to by failed businessmen is beyond me), I realised that this was my chance to do something for society, as my little cauliflower keeps insisting, and I would bestow you fortunate lot with my weekly wisdom.

I imagine your holidays were affected by Heathrow's decision to close after a pithy 2mm snow drizzle. I hated having to endure the moaning of all those ghastly foreigners on the television – I mean, couldn't BAA just get them to help shift the snow or shoot the lot? And I can only hope the plebs at BA soon dismiss Willie Walsh – that pea-headed, penis-named executive. This whole country is becoming a tad of an animal farm, one far darker and more terrifying than anything George Orwell could fathom.

But enough about your holiday. Mine was horrendous. Some Irish acquaintances visited, all naturally lacking a native accent. They were very down – I did point out that offering free handouts of cheddar to the poor was never going to prevent the financial collapse of their country.

And Charlie kept harping on in bufferish indignation about all that climate change gibberish. He's always been a bit thick, not much of a stickler for science. First he was talking to plants, next he was saying we will all die by drowning.

As for his horse-faced wife, she was still in shock about being poked in the eye by some lower class yobbos. I was quite glad about the whole affair, and it's not the only place I would have prodded her. She's quite the farter, I tell you. If you think the Iraq war stinks, you know nothing of Camilla's posterior. Makes one feel for feel for Tony Blair – just imagine having to endure sitting next to a trumpeting John Prescott in all of those cabinet meetings.

# New Year, same old you...



## Alex Nowbar

**"I'm not here to give advice about weight-loss. I'm here to tell you to man up!"**

Self-improvement can and should be done at any time. Needing an arbitrary start date for the "new you" is pretty pathetic since you were more than aware of your flaws already, weren't you? That bit of flab is nothing new even if you christen it "Christmas excess". New Year's resolutions conveniently allow you to delay change until the beginning of the following year.

Now, if you made the change at New Year's and stuck with it perhaps I could come to terms with the idea of New Year's resolutions, but between you, me and that lamppost, it's not going to last. The chances of keeping New Year's resolutions are slim; it's often said that most people have broken theirs by the end of January. I get a huge kick out of using the word "slim", as weight loss is what I really want to whine about.

Eat less, exercise more. Why do so many wannabe-fit people try and escape this mantra? When people say it's easy to lose weight and get fit, they are lying, because they are advertising weight loss regimes. It's not easy; abs don't come from nowhere. As with most things, you would like to wriggle out of the hard work involved.

But you already know all the advice, e.g. setting

yourself achievable goals. I'm not here to give advice about weight loss because it's been in the public domain for a long time now. I'm here to tell you to stop being a namby pamby. (Same as "man up" but not so overused that people ignore it.)

We've all heard that it's better to "eat little but often". The physiological benefit of this approach is irrelevant here because seemingly rational people choose to translate this into eating as many meals and snacks as is socially acceptable in a day. More when they think no-one is looking. To them, it means "have as many portions as you want as long as they are all small". They seem to miss the point, which is "EAT LESS, PIGS!"

I suppose knowing what is best for oneself, but being too lazy and greedy to act upon it, is merely a part of the human condition. It is human nature and no-one is perfect, least of all myself. I admit that short-term pleasures are sweet and doing what's best in the long term is a dry, dry prospect in comparison.

However, the important thing is not to lie to yourself (and others) about what you are actually "resolved" to do. The gym at Ethos is an absolute haven and you have a fair idea of what a healthy balanced diet consists of, so just get on with it. Bridget Jones may have been able to get away with it but you can't.

## Letters: Life Sciences cuts

Dear Sir,

I recall when I was campaigning against the education cuts, our union and our newspaper's editorial stance was in support of them on the basis that STEM subjects would be hit less (Felix, 22/10/10). The message, I felt, was a selfish one; cut others rather than us and we're happy. Even regarding tuition fees I've heard so many people tell me that they won't be protesting because it doesn't affect them personally.

Imagine my surprise when last week's Felix went into a panic about the Life Sciences restructure. It's shameful that our newspaper seems happy to watch others suffer cuts but goes into a frenzy – printing no less than four articles – criticising the move and the entire front page dedicated to it, when we ourselves are threatened. If we're so apathetic, hypocritical and self-interested, we cannot expect others to support us. The ruling elite will always try divide-and-conquer tactics, we must have solidarity.

Regards,  
Jakov Marelic

**Dear Jakov, the Editorial you refer to merely warned Imperial students against asking "What's the fuss about?" as STEM subjects are relatively unaffected by the cuts. In addition, Felix has covered the cuts and student protests extensively. The issue preceding the Life Sciences coverage had no less than 5 stories about the student protests, rising student debt and the cuts to higher education. Editor.**

Dear Sir,

Whether one is at a college, school or university, there is always bound to be a group of academia that would go the extra mile far beyond their call of duty.

The dedication shown by these individuals towards us students was not only seen at the lecture theatre. Coming to Imperial College was my first time being completely independent and away from home for long periods of time. I was enchanted by the city that is London and drifted away from my main purpose of coming to London, to study. I barely passed my first major exam in February as a result of my fascination towards this city and my lack of interest in studying.

However, when going through the examination paper with Dr. Hartley, he reminded me why I chose Biochemistry in the first place. At this time, I doubted my abilities in Biochemistry but he had faith that if I tried I could do better. This belief from another person who barely knew me, yet was so sure and confident that I would succeed in Biochemistry definitely gave me the boost I needed.

The college and I have been privileged with the presence of this group of scientists who carry such passion and dedication towards the sciences. So thank you, to this fine group of scientists for inspiring and reminding me about my passion and faith for the sciences.

Varshana Rajasekaran  
2nd year Biochemist.

Dear Sir,

We first year biochemists recently held a discussion of the proposed restructure. This letter is the product of our collective concerns. These issues are all the more pressing in light of the recent vote to maintain the current proposals.

Our primary concern is the redundancy of 16 members of the Life Sciences department. Together, they account for roughly 25% of all teaching. We can't see how standards of teaching will be maintained when those left will understandably be more concerned about their research than their teaching, let alone improved.

We were told that no plans concerning teaching can be made without a teaching review. Yet we were also guaranteed that there would be no change in breadth and depth of the course. To conduct this from a financial and research perspective seems short-sighted and irresponsible. Not only will future applicants be discouraged from coming to Imperial, but so will potential staff and researchers.

We believe that the process lacked transparency. For example we have not yet received a copy of the review panel findings. There was also a feeling of outrage at the announcement being on the 3/12 giving little time for constructive debate.

Finally, it is discouraging to those of us looking to pursue research and teaching if this is how top institutions treat some of their best staff. As one protester put it, 'today's students are tomorrow's researchers'

First Year Biochemistry Undergraduates



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# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## What's On

### Ashura Awareness Week (AAW)

The AhlulBayt Islamic Society will be focussing on the contemporary problem of the elderly and oft-neglected population during Ashura Awareness Week. From the 17th of January to the 21st, they will run a series of stalls, lectures, nursing home visits and discussion circles in order to develop practical ways to appreciate and benefit from the experiences, wisdom and insight of elderly people and interact with them on a meaningful basis.

The week also seeks to highlight:

- the plight of the elderly population
- what we as students can do to learn from the wealth of experience, wisdom and information from our parents, grandparents and elders
- the teachings of Islam and other faiths on awakening our responsibility towards our elders”

The main event of the week is a lecture by Sayed Nahdi Modarresi on Tuesday that includes poetry by Brother Nouri Sardar. 6pm in G34, SAF.

### Healthy Living Week



Sadly Mr. Motivator won't be coming along to 'work you out'. Wait a minute... Thank God!

Healthy Living Week is coming to Imperial from the 24th-28th of January and will help all those students struggling to keep their New Year's resolution to go running every morning or always take the stairs or to stop eating Big Macs for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**Monday** – Energia personal trainers and Veg Society join forces to run a free nutrition seminar. Free samples for vegetarians and carnivores.

**Tuesday** – A specialist bike doctor will be offering free check-ups all day beside the bike store. There is also a free spin session at Ethos at 2pm as well as an organised bike ride leaving from the Queens Tower at 1pm.

**Wednesday** – Free Chen Thai-Chi session at Ethos at 8am followed by free Yoga at 11am. There is also a wellbeing workshop at 12:15 in Beit Quad.

**Thursday** – From 8-9am there will be a free Shoot-Hoops session followed by free climbing sessions from 1-4pm.

**Friday** – Fitness Challenge on the Queens Lawn and in the Queens Tower Rooms. Prizes include: Sport Imperial Hoodies and tickets to QPR FC home games

For free classes in Ethos e-mail ethos@imperial.ac.uk. For climbing sessions contact Victor Rodrigues v.rodrigues@imperial.ac.uk. For everything else contact Anthony Hennelly a.hennelly@imperial.ac.uk

## The most wonderful time of the year

While the rest of the country waited for flights at Heathrow, the Outdoor Club headed for the Lake District. Thea Powell reports

### Day the First: The Day We Didn't Sleep

On a chilly Winter day (Friday the 17th of December to be precise), thirteen Fellwanderers gathered for the Lake District Winter Tour, blissfully unaware of the epic three days that awaited them. It didn't take long for things to start going wrong. Our intrepid President, Sir Jim Carr, blighted by a horrific cough, could not leave his London residence, so we left the union at 5pm with one less voice to sing along to the 5 CDs of Christmas music we had stockpiled.

As it was Christmas we stopped at a Tesco which was about the size of Norway and decided to buy, as well as Secret Santa gifts, a fully-fledged Christmas dinner for Sunday night. Rumours of frozen pipes at the destination persuaded us to buy bottles and bottles of water. Despite the attempts of our new first-in-command James Allan to reassure us that the pipes wouldn't freeze, we collectively decided that it was better to be prepared, than to die of thirst.

Bad luck struck us again as we trundled along the M6; traffic began to form and the minibus began to lose speed. As we slowed concerns over our progress were raised. And raised with just cause, before very long we were 'driving' at about walking pace. At 11.30pm the traffic stopped completely. It was snowing quite heavily and the cars, lorries and national express buses stuck with us didn't seem to be too happy about the halt. Needless to say we Fellwanderers stayed true to joy and happiness and listened to Radio 4's rendition of The Lord of the Rings. Others talked, read, or in my case, rolled over and went to sleep.

On waking some indeterminate time later (Radio 4 told me that the Hobbits had reached Mordor) I realised that some intrepid explorers had left the minibus stronghold to hear rumours of when we would move again, how bad the crash ahead was and, in Alex the Grey's case, to walk up the M6 to attempt to see the beginning of the queue. Returning as Alex the White (covered in snow), he hadn't seen the end. This, and the fact someone highlighted the problem that none of us had crampons, made me roll over

and go back to sleep on that very white and spooky M6. I woke to an even whiter M6 (Lord of the Rings had finally ended), and rumours of movement were circulating. It was 3.45am. We had been stationary for 4 hours. Finally, at 4.30am, on Saturday the 18th of December, we started to move and there was much rejoicing. For the lorry in front of us, there was more concern than rejoicing, as the driver had lost his keys in the snow. Phil Power manoeuvred the bus around the lorry and after 5 hours spent staring at the back of it, burning the logo into our brains, we were happy to be rid of it.

### Day the Second (technically): The Entrance To The Hut

All I know about the rest of the journey to the hut is that Phil was the first to fall from our company, and there was much rejoicing (because he was staying with another group, not because we don't like him).

Upon reaching the hut we dumped the shopping, our bags, and debated the choice that faced us: to sleep or to walk. As it was 7 in the morning, we had the compulsory porridge, and as the sweet oats reached our stomach we experienced a surge of energy and decided to go for a refreshing morning walk. The route was decided, walk-able straight from the hut, and thus we left for the fell called High Spy at 9.30 am, sugar replacing sleep.

After the initial ascent, we found 'The Mine of Darkness'. The long, winding corridor with water dripping on our heads led to a large opening; a dome of stone reaching high over our heads in the pitch black. A sudden irrational fear of goblins struck us and we retreated. Soon after, we discovered 'The Cave of Wonder'. Full of huge icicles, the cave reached high above us and ice engulfed every surface. The slippery floor, covered in Moomins (icicle stalagmites), and the ice-adorned walls were quietly beautiful. After slipping around and taking photos, we finished the ascent to a cloudy, windy peak and stopped for lunch. It was bitterly cold, so lunch was brief and we made our descent, slowed by slippery mud, rocks and puddles. But as we descended, the cloud lifted,



Apparently the chap on the left is too cool for beer

unveiling rolling ridges and steep hills and a gorgeous lake scene below making up for the bruises that we suffered.

On returning to the hut, we relaxed with some tasty vegetable stew and a few ales. We were hit with more bad news however: the pipes had frozen.

### Day the Third: Great Gable

Sunday morning was marked by cat-like screeching, or as Joe and Alex liked to call it, singing. No wonder then, despite the freezing cold and lack of running water, we were up and ready so quickly.

We took the minibus to the town of Buttermere and made the very wise decision of a field route, via the icy ascent, to a lake. After skating and walking on the lake (the thrill of the thick ice clouding any concerns), we needed to make a route decision. The sun shone over Scarfell Pike on the south slope of the mountain Great Gable, to show us a route which could simply not be ignored, and there was much rejoicing.

The warm, steep ascent led us to a beautiful scene of crystal clear skies to the west, where we could see the coast and the mountains around to the north. The lower layer of cloud sinking below us, with the sun glancing off it, made us feel on top of the world. We ate and took some obligatory photos, and began our descent when damned bad luck had us again.



# CLUBS & SOCIETIES



Beautiful scenery, gorgeous sunshine or even a bloody group photo. What could you possibly be phoning someone about at a moment like this?!?!?

**“The warm, steep ascent lead us to a beautiful scene of crystal clear skies to the west where we could see the coast”**

We took the wrong route down. With great care (and ice axes) we ensured our survival on the sheer slope – at times one just had to hope that a foot that slipped would miraculously find another rock. But the amazing views stayed with us and kept our spirits high as we all made it safely to the bottom.

On returning to the hut, a glorious Christmas dinner was had, with two types of gravy and enough stuffing for 5,000. The Secret Santa gifts followed and all were appreciated, especially the shoes, ale, cheesecake and selection of cream buns. All warmed with the roaring fire and after a second application of books and ale, we went to bed.

## Day the Fourth: Amazing Blencathra Views

The last day was perhaps the most enjoyable. We woke early and made our way to one of the most northerly Lake District mountains – Blencathra. We ascended the peak steadily and the spectacular views were complimented serendipitously by the rising sun. At the summit the clear skies allowed us 360° views of the surrounding landscape; it was breathtakingly beautiful.

We made our quick descent, walking along snow-covered fields back to the bus. Looking back at the heights that we had conquered, it was generally agreed that it had been a successful Fellwanderers Trip.



I wonder what would happen if they lost that Fellwanderers banner? Would they be allowed to go on trips?

### Get involved!

Fellwanderers run regular weekend trips to the spectacular mountain ranges across Britain, catering for all abilities. To get involved just email us at [jc1908@ic.ac.uk](mailto:jc1908@ic.ac.uk) for information on the next trip!



Arts Editor: **Rox Middleton**[arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# ARTS

## If you see nothing else this term...

Eleven weeks until the next holiday, but what should you look forward to in the meantime?

### International mime festival

Perhaps a little off-beat, but I'm excited about this year's rendition of the annual festival. Not exclusively mime, there are also performances of adult puppetry, acrobatics, animation and other 'physical theatre'.

15th-30th January, various venues.



### Modern British Sculpture

The blockbuster art show of the term, the RA is known for its big-hitters and this is an epic retrospective of 20th Century British sculpture with loads of big names.

22nd January-7th April, Royal Academy

### Frankenstein

A classic story at the National Theatre, directed by Danny Boyle (*Slumdog Millionaire*) and co-starring Benedict Cumberbatch. It had better live up to that promise.

5th February-17th April, National Theatre

### The Wizard of Oz

Andrew Lloyd Webber, again.  
7th February, London Palladium

### Imperial's secret Arts' students

Art, drama, music and dance on campus, look out for...

**East Meets West** (30th Jan), **Afrogala** (5th Feb), The **Vagina Monologues** (7th - 11th Feb), Imperial's own art festival **Artsfest 2011** (16th-25th February), Leosoc exhibition **Wreckage** (2nd-10th March), Dramsoc's **A View From the Bridge** (2nd-5th March), ICSM Drama **James and the Giant Peach**, MTSoc's **Return to the Forbidden Planet**, **Photosoc** exhibition (16th-24th March) and many more besides. Phew...

We're still looking for reviews of your favourite books, so get scribbling today. Send 300 to 400 words to [arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# Blown away by the Soleil

Daniel Desmarais



Nakotah Raymond Larence as the 'Hoop Dancer'. Pretty unimaginative name if you ask me...

### Dana Li

*Totem*. Avid Inception fans will immediately think back to the object with which Dom Cobb differentiates between the real and the imaginary. Did it or did it not stop spinning? That is the question. For other Londoners, however, *Totem* signifies the latest touring Cirque du Soleil show at the Royal Albert Hall. I was lucky enough to win a pair of tickets for the show's premiere on January 5th and, although I failed to rub shoulders with the celebrities in the stalls, I was blown away by the tremendous performance.

The show is billed as a "fascinating journey into the evolution of mankind." Take a scientist who mimics Darwin with his hairy beard, a few impressively lifelike monkeys, add an Italian buffoon in extra skimpy swim shorts and you've got the basics of the story. Well, sort of. But all that doesn't matter because nobody honestly goes to the Cirque du Soleil for the plot. Death defying acrobatics, innovative live music, eye-catching costumes and very bright M.A.C. sponsored face make-up; that's what it's all about.

The show begins with an enormous turtle shell shaped web – complete with amphibian-like acrobats who throw themselves around

the bars to the approving "oohs" and "aahs" of the audience – and 'Mr. Sparkle', as I liked to call him, suspended from the ceiling of the Royal Albert Hall in the sparkly-est, glittery-est sequined bodysuit I had ever seen. Spinning away above our heads, with the light bouncing off his suit all around the vast room, he certainly added a touch of glamour to the occasion. Oh, it was beautiful.

Highlights - there were many - included a Native American duo that performed gravity-defying tricks whilst rotating at around 100

### "Think Pocahontas, but on adrenaline"

mph on a platform that was, quite simply, too small to be safe. Think Pocahontas, but on adrenaline. The motion of hands moving to cover open mouths was reserved for one of my favourite acts of the night, the 'Lovebirds', a duo of Canadian trapeze artists who challenged the norms seen in your standard Russian or Chinese circus acts. The act plays with clumsy shapes (that have been rehearsed to perfection) and transitions that make the duo appear more

like one single entity – all whilst being suspended high off the ground. At one moment, the guy even hung from the trapeze with a part of the body that is not made for hanging: his neck. No wire suspension, no, none of those safety precautions at all. I couldn't believe my little Chinese eyes.

Compared with such greatness, however, some acts appeared rather lacklustre. The scientist's (Greg Kennedy) conic juggling with nine neon glow balls in a massive funnel managed to emulate physics through patterning, but was hardly riveting. And the man who bounced a ping pong ball off his head, shoulders, hands, toes... yawn.

At the end, the circus acts gather one final time to perform a dance that has elements of Bhangra. It was a refreshing approach to bidding adieu and my palms glowed scarlet red from excessively clapping such a brilliant premiere. Cirque du Soleil once again revives the classical circus show and reminds us that, sometimes, the wonders at which we all marvel need not be a giant leap in science, but simply the human body pushing the limits of what we believe to be possible.

*Totem* by Cirque du Soleil is on at the Royal Albert Hall until 17th February



## ARTS

Photo: Andy Stagg



Little Rich Girls, 2010, Yinka Shonibare MBE, Commissioned by the London College of Fashion and Royal Academy of Arts. photo: Andy Stagg

## The clothes you're not supposed to wear

The Royal Academy springs an esoteric jumble to get you thinking, until the end of January

### Rox Middleton

High fashion is not like anything you know or have seen in normal society. What is its link to the fashion worn by the ordinary clothes-wearing public? I have no idea. Images of beautiful women made bizarre by face paint and freakish garments as they strut down the catwalk (which may or may not be underwater/on fire/an enormous chessboard) are the manifestation of this incredibly profitable industry. However, the Royal Academy is not Vogue magazine, and this show is not a haute-couture runway. Well thank goodness for that.

The exhibition is split, rather vaguely, into four areas of fashion, describing the use of clothes as: personal and cul-

tural storytelling, building as protection, belonging and confronting (which deals with conflict) and performing. If these four sections sound like a good idea at first, they soon seemed to me rather arbitrary and difficult to differentiate. This vagueness in the structure of the whole exhibition might strike you as kooky eclecticism or, more cynically, as revealing an underlying lack of direction.

Each piece is very much a stand-alone installation, and the incredible range which is showcased over the sparsely laid-out galleries means that there are some excellent nuggets mixed in with a similar number of boring and unsatisfying pieces. For me these many lowlights included a film by Yoko Ono, a 'wear-

able mosque', a collection of architectural wigs made using traditional African hair braiding and felt uniforms for every occasion. The ideas sounded interesting and full of potential, but their realisation seemed to lack the excitement or originality of their themes.

If the list of unfulfilled potential alone has whetted your appetite, you'll be pleased to know that there are plenty of other ideas swirling around the galleries. The justification of the exhibit after all is that just as a great oil painting or sculpture are pieces of art used to communicate themes, ideas and world-views, so fashion too can also be used for this purpose. This means every wooden dress and lengthy film installation is about something more than its aesthetic ap-

peal, and that message is usually spelled out alongside the piece. But while I applaud the effort to help people understand how fashion can be art, sometimes the exhibition went too far. Sometimes the given interpretation was far-fetched to the point of ridiculous. How the lacy red see-through mini-dress and facemask is an exploration of female strength – specifically in Joan of Arc – I will leave to your own imagination.

At other times though, the message is obvious, or becomes palpably important as you contemplate something that is genuinely awe-inspiring and exciting. The most popular image of the show, fifteen gorgeously bright girl's dresses in Dutch batik, is a perfect example of this. So too is the beautiful widow's dress of

gleaming pins. An explanation on the label can provide a vital clue as to the motives of the piece, but the installation does the rest to inspire through sheer aesthetic appeal.

Other favourites of mine were the film installation of laundry workers in Mumbai and the life-size cashmere whale turned into jackets. In a way the eclecticism works in favour of the gallery because there are original ideas to appeal to just about anybody.

The pieces that do appeal are excellent examples from artists who have understood that if an exhibition of fashion, or rather "anything which could possibly remind you of clothes", must be called art then it must fulfill the same remit and that is to show, not tell.

Photo: Andy Stagg. Courtesy Royal Academy of Arts, London



Alexander McQueen, Autumn Winter 1998: Joan of Arc

Photo: Susie MacMurray



Susie MacMurray, Widow, 2009 (made of pins and leather)



# GAMES

Games Editor: **Simon Worthington**

[games.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:games.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

## Web Games

Each week we're going to bring you a selection of fresh, free and fun web games that you can play right away in your browser. Unless otherwise specified, you're going to need the Adobe Flash Player plug-in which can be installed from <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>.

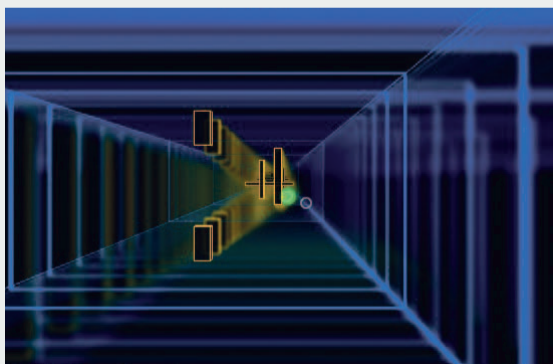
### Effing Meteors [jiggmin.com](http://jiggmin.com)



In this abstract action game, you control a (deep breath, physicists) 'gravity well' with which you can trap meteors and send them hurtling towards planets in balls of fire. The aim of the game is simple: wipe out as many species as you can. Each species behaves differently and you must adjust your tactics accordingly to beat them.

As the game continues in this fashion you'll encounter aliens, missile-shooting snails and oversized, radioactive dinosaurs. Mindless destruction turns out to be a lot of fun, and the game's unique visual style looks great. You can spend five minutes of half an hour here and still have an enjoyable time!

### Vector Rush [newgrounds.com/portal/view/558659](http://newgrounds.com/portal/view/558659)



I've never taken acid, but if I did I'm pretty sure this is what it would look like. Your first reaction on entering this 3D tunnel game will most likely be to scream, but after you've calmed down and regained control of your bowels this game turns into an adrenaline-pumping trippy monster that is actually incredibly enjoyable. Collect blue rings for extra lives!

# Cute but still smart

Simon Worthington reviews new puzzle game *ilomilo*

Despite sounding like the name of the trendiest new cocktail to hit London bars, or perhaps the location of the latest hit tourist spot in the Balkans, *ilomilo* is in fact the latest arcade game from Swedish game house SouthEnd Interactive. Ilo and Milo are the protagonists: little egg-shaped blobs of fur (with inevitable cute little faces and arms, of course) that somehow keep losing each other amongst the crazy floating world they inhabit. The player's task is simple: reunite them! You control one of the pair at a time, moving around, picking up blocks and switching between the other at will. Action takes place on floating levels of cubes suspended in crazy, cute worlds where gravity and physics are seemingly disregarded in favour of gravity-reversing trapdoors, a strange creature addicted to apples and a little man who rides a beetle. Or possibly a flying dog.

Puzzles make up the core of the game and thankfully it's the thing that *ilomilo* does best. Ilo and Milo will often appear on different platforms and at different angles to each other, and helping them to meet can only be achieved through a subtle use of the moveable blocks and the physics-defying 'carpets' that swap the little protagonists between different sides of the cubes they're standing on. Working out what to do to reunite the two titular characters is a lot of fun, and it's certainly satisfying when a well-formulated plan comes to fruition. However, even though it's doesn't take long to figure out what to do, the levels can still take a fair while to complete – mainly due to having to go back and forth to move blocks – which sometimes gets a tiny bit tedious.

It's clear that particular attention has been paid to helping players to grasp what's going on and understand new concepts, which is something that makes *ilomilo* a particularly relaxing (rather than the usual frustrating) puzzle game. The level design is exemplary as it introduces new concepts in a fantastically intuitive way that stops new blocks and the gravity-bending levels from getting too confusing. Someone who catches on quickly will definitely find the first chapter a bit of a slow start, but the levels get more difficult later on and the bonus levels, which are unlocked after collecting enough of the mini-lookalikes in the story levels, provide a serious challenge simply through their scale even for an experienced puzzler. Later levels are also kept fresh by the addition of new blocks and 'enemies', and these aren't just gimmicks – the new elements are used well and often to great effect.

Indeed, the level design is just one reason that *ilomilo* is a technically excellent title. The controls are very intuitive and only very rarely do either Ilo or Milo end up doing something that the player didn't intend. The camera, which is often a neglected or rushed element particularly in 3D arcade titles, does the job very well. It's also the little details: when the camera moves



behind the scenery a little 'peephole' appears so you can still see what's going on without ruining the visuals – it's clear that a lot of effort has been put in to make the game easy to play. SouthEnd have also been very careful to make sure that *ilomilo* never becomes disorientating – as Ilo and Milo stand on opposite sides of the same platform with a general ignorance of any applicable laws of physics, it's a testament to the design that the human brain can still even understand who is where and what needs to be moved how.

The game is also gorgeous to look at; the surroundings to each level are packed with other

**“Working out what to do to reunite the two titular characters is a lot of fun, and it's certainly satisfying when a well-formulated plan comes to fruition.”**

floating oddities, like a child's toy windmill, clock towers and even fish, all sewn together in a patchwork style that is very reminiscent of *LittleBigPlanet*. More critically, in keeping with the *ilomilo* ethic, the artwork never gets in the way of the puzzles; the different blocks and things in the level are on the whole distinguishable from each other. It's simply there for when you're ready to tilt the analogue sticks back and take a good long look at the world, at which point of course, it comes into its own and fits with the rest of the game perfectly.

But for all the great elements to *ilomilo*, there are unfortunately some bad ones. There is the classic 'deep and emotional' indie-style plot which remains completely detached from the gameplay, and its effect on the game is so small as to be virtually pointless. Co-op multiplayer also makes an appearance; each player controls either Ilo or Milo but only one is 'active' at any time, in a similar way to the single-player game. With no way to control both simultaneously, all this mode really eliminates is the need to physically pass the controller around. Combine this with the fact that there are no new co-op levels – the single player chapters are simply recycled – and you end up with a co-op mode that is entirely a waste of time.

Co-op also partly fails because there is simply no replay value to *ilomilo*. The puzzles aren't really fun to complete again since most of the satisfaction is derived from not knowing what to do to solve the puzzle. There are bonus items to collect, but it's perfectly possible to get them all the first time you enter a level. Indeed, this is certainly a strong point – you can't break the levels and no matter how many blocks you shuffle around the puzzle will always remain solvable.

It cannot be denied that *ilomilo* is a joy to play. Completing puzzles is irrefutably fun and there's a certain attraction that keeps you playing all the way to the end, with the game's technical excellence and cute visuals doing their most to both help you along and not get in your way. It's a truth that anyone could pick up this charming arcade title and, despite its flaws, they would almost certainly enjoy it.

*ilomilo* is available now from SouthEnd Interactive and Microsoft Games Studios from the Xbox Live Marketplace for 800 Microsoft Points and on Windows Phone 7 for £3.99.



Film Editors: **Matt Allinson**  
**Jade Hoffman**  
**Ed Knock**

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FILM

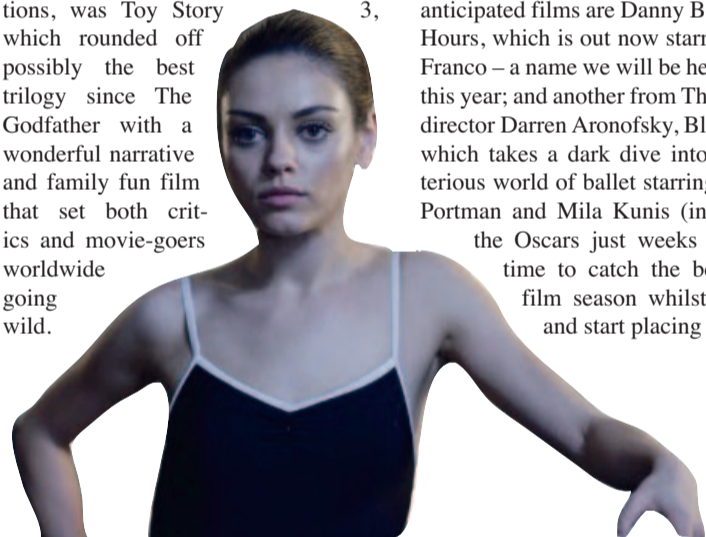
## Happy New Year?

**Guo Heng Chin**  
**Aditya Narayanan**  
**Jake Lea-Wilson**

As another year begins again and starts us off right at the beginning of Oscar season, the Felix Film writers take a look back at the best of cinema in 2010 – in case you were in some kind of year-long coma – and discuss some of our most anticipated films of 2011.

There are three clear frontrunners for the top films in 2010 that spring to mind, and probably fall into most Best Of 2010 lists without question. As the first big budget movie to treat its audience like intelligent members of society, *Inception* fully delivered on its incredible hype, storming the box office with its stylish, mind-boggling, high-concept action and sealing Christopher Nolan's reputation as one of the great directors of his generation.

Another film that somehow managed to meet – even exceed – expectations, was *Toy Story 3*, which rounded off possibly the best trilogy since *The Godfather* with a wonderful narrative and family fun film that set both critics and movie-goers worldwide going wild.



Rounding off an excellent year, Aaron Sorkin's impeccably scripted *The Social Network* has helped fuel the debate about why 26 year old billionaires – in this case, brilliantly portrayed by Jesse Eisenberg – have to be rude, often malicious people. Its razor-sharp, ultra-witty writing makes it a very likely candidate for the Best Original Screenplay gong, though this may yet be snatched away from Sorkin by this year's early films such as *The King's Speech*.

This year is full of exciting films, and we're not just talking about the final installment in the Harry Potter franchise that could easily prove to be the most profitable film of the year. Among the most publicised films, we have a lot to look forwards to with *Cowboys vs Aliens* – watch the trailer now; *Tintin* – with the versatile Andy Serkis as Captain Haddock; and *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* – how can you resist another Colin Firth film this year? Undoubtedly, however, one of the most keenly anticipated films are Danny Boyle's *127 Hours*, which is out now starring James Franco – a name we will be hearing a lot this year; and another from The Wrestler director Darren Aronofsky, *Black Swan*, which takes a dark dive into the mysterious world of ballet starring Nathalie Portman and Mila Kunis (inset). With the Oscars just weeks away, it's time to catch the best of the film season whilst you can, and start placing your bets.

With the Oscars just weeks away, it's time to catch the best of the film season whilst you can, and start placing your bets.

## ICU Cinema this term

**Jade Hoffman**

After last term's successful return of iCU Cinema, the club are looking to extend their reaches – showing two films twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This all kicks off with *Tron: Legacy* and *Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* which starts at 6.30pm on Tuesday 18th January, switching the order of the bill for the 6.30pm showing on Thursday 20th.

Once again, the ticket prices are staying within the student budget (i.e. the price of a pint in London) with members prices being £4 for a single film and £7 for the double bill. Membership is still staying at £3 for the year including a free film, so it's definitely worth buying online to save that extra pound every week. In addition to this, iCU Cinema is bringing out its new loyalty

card that rewards its regulars with every sixth film free – not a bad deal considering the line-up they're looking to put on this year.

Kicking off with the visually stunning revisit to the 80's classic, *Tron: Legacy* is set to be followed up in the weeks to come by *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part One* for all those who missed it last month (scandalous!), Oscar-tipped British film *The King's Speech*, and Danny Boyle's *127 Hours*. Last term's revival of the *All-Nighter* is expected to be repeated with an even more impressive line-up, rumoured to include *Black Swan*, *Blue Valentine* and the Coen's brothers' latest *True Grit*.

iCU Cinema is now available to be followed on Twitter (@icu\_cinema) for film updates and recommendations of what Imperial students want to see on the big screen.



Ladies, look at your King. Do you want him to sound like me. Look down, back up. Your King is now diamonds

## King Colin proves speech is no impediment

### The King's Speech

**Director** Tom Hooper  
**Screenwriter** David Seidler  
**Cast** Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter

### John Park

When one is King, one cannot afford to do a lot of things. For example it will be frowned upon if one is interested in marrying an American (shock horror) twice-divorced woman in a time of conservative, proper ideals. Caught up in this scandal, King David VIII (Guy Pearce), decides to follow his heart and abdicate the throne, leaving the crown to fall on his brother's head, George (Colin Firth), or Bertie, as he's known to his family. But this is not going to be a smooth transition either, for George has difficulties of his own; he stammers and is incapable of public speaking. Yet another thing one cannot afford to do when one wishes to be King. After an embarrassing public incident, he is seen by a myriad of speech therapists and what ensues is a hilarious *My Fair Lady*-like routine where Bertie is required to put seven marbles in his mouth to speak – apparently helping him to pronounce correctly. Also, he is advised to smoke – because it “relaxes” the lungs.

Bertie tries hard, but nothing seems to work – his wife Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter) supports her husband no matter what in the most dignified, sweet manner but she is also of course worried for the days ahead. It is not un-

til hope arrives – in the form of an Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush) with unorthodox and controversial teaching methods – that the film really hits its stride. What then develops between Firth and Rush is one of the best on-screen bromance pairs in recent years between the two unlikeliest people: a tongue-tied, nervous, upper-class King, and a confident, eccentric speech therapist. The film reaches its climax as Bertie is faced with the ultimate challenge – Hitler invading Poland – and England looks to unite behind a strong and inspirational figurehead. As the pressure starts to build, the role of the speech therapist becomes more crucial, as Bertie begins to rely on Logue more.

It's a moving, albeit predictable, story of human triumph: the film's events have been carefully orchestrated to act as a build-up to the speech that Bertie will inevitably have to deliver. When it counts, the film can easily convey the stirring impact it was supposed to bring in the grand finale. It finishes as a feel-

good film but remains upbeat throughout, focusing on the fun and somewhat unnatural relationship between Firth and Rush. The smart screenplay that turns a historical sequence of events into an appealing mix of drama and outstanding humour keeps things fresh and easy to fully enjoy and comprehend.

As an actor, Firth is given the entire film to show off and takes advantage of every single moment. With such a verbally incompetent character to portray, Firth still manages to convey a range of emotions without words, commanding the screen with his masterful portrayal. Rush's character is not overlooked here either, depicting a failed actor who, using his self-assured methods and peculiar charm, helps people to speak. He is delightfully odd and comically patronising but when it counts, a loyal friend. The warmth the two actors share is touching stuff, even without the help of a big orchestral score.

In a similar vein to *The Queen*, which saw Helen Mirren's performances winning rave reviews and virtually every single acting award in existence, *The King's Speech* is a film that is more concerned about the performances of its actors and its period mood. Glory and high praise has already started to be heaped onto to Firth, tipped by some to be the film that'll win Firth his first Oscar, but the film itself is not groundbreaking. It's a rousing, heart-warming period drama – one of the most skillfully executed one of its kind – but it's truly the performances that steal the show.

As an actor, Firth is given the entire film to show off and takes advantage of every single moment.



Food Editor: Dana Li

## FOOD

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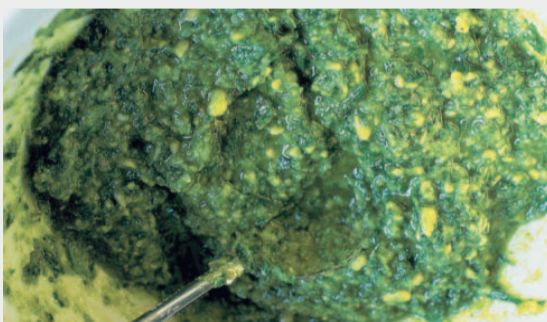
## Gastronomical News

Dana says:



Those of us who are more perceptive will have noticed this logo on their Starbucks cups. For me, it resembles Ursula of Little Mermaid fame with her tentacles reaching caudally to who-knows-what. The official word is that Starbucks has amended their logo in time for their 40th anniversary. The truth (I speculate) is that Starbucks have removed their white lettering so that it can no longer be defaced by protesters to reveal a widely-used expletive.

## D.I.Y. Pesto



- ½ a clove of garlic, chopped
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3 handfuls fresh basil, leaves picked and chopped
- a handful of pine nuts, very lightly toasted
- a good handful of freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- extra virgin olive oil
- a small squeeze of lemon juice

Pound the garlic with a little pinch of salt and the basil leaves in a pestle and mortar, or pulse in a food processor. Add a bit more garlic if you like, but I usually stick to ½ a clove. Add the pine nuts to the mixture and pound again. Turn out into a bowl and add half the Parmesan. Stir gently and add olive oil until the sauce binds and becomes all oozy.

Season to taste, then add most of the remaining cheese. Pour in some more oil and taste again. Keep adding a bit more cheese or oil until you are happy with the taste and consistency. You may like to add a squeeze of lemon juice at the end to give it a little twang, but it's not essential.

# An edible adventure...

## Samuel Furse rediscovers the pleasures of food

JustinPollachik/flickr



When food has no meaning and gets you down, call for Uncle Sam (Furse that is, not the pointing chap with the hat...)

**I**eat. Shocking stuff, you may be thinking, but it gives me a certain problem. Fortunately I have no life-threatening difficulties – I am not allergic to nuts, wheat or milk. I am allergic to Gillian McKeith, but that is another story. What you should perhaps know is that I am tall. I also take a not-extravagant amount of exercise. Point is, I burn off a lot of calories. That, combined with my predilection for boredom, means that eating the same meal three times in three days was not something that was going to last long. A former French flatmate – well, half French half American, not a good combination in this case – was derisive at the idea that this was possible even once. However, I was hungry and wanted to avoid eating the one kilo packets of chicken or beef pasta which Sainsbury's amusingly label as 'serves 4'.

What was the solution? Learn to cook. Well, at least a bit. I had a degree to do, and although I wanted to fuel myself so that I could do it, so that I could ride and walk around and so that I could maintain the adipose covering of my otherwise-chiselled eight-pack, it could not be too time consuming. Cue a stream of Delia, Nigella, Elizabeth David, Nigel Slater. This is all sort-of fine and I am sure they have tested them all out and they all work and so on but despite doing a PhD in chemistry, following recipes somehow never massively appealed. I mean, what if I do not get the right result? What if I do not like it? What if it is not enough or does not keep? More importantly than any of those, however, what if the flavour is uninspiring?

This became a double-problem. I describe above the insulation on my Adonis-like solar plexus. Well, there was a time when this insulation would have put the greenest flower children to shame on the scale of house insulation and so something had to be done. I tried typical dieting, but it was hopeless, I was thinking about food all the time and eating just as much as I otherwise would have. So, I cut out as much as I could of cream, ice cream, chocolate and so on. I replaced them with other things that were not so calorific and started to learn to like them. Not easy, but worth it. The good thing about that approach was that I could still enjoy flavour. So, I did. I found recipes that seemed all right, but were lacking a certain something. I changed them. This has led, perhaps inevitably, to now four original recipes for different types of cake. The ideas are not necessarily original – one of them is chocolate – but it is my recipe. I extended this to other dishes, and now I have a recipe for Lasagne that I can give to Italians without finding unexpected dis-membered bedfellows the next morning. Some of it is self-indulgent, apart from the cakes and the cocktail. I do not do a 'Smoothie' of any kind – sounds too much like a description of the technique of someone who gives good fellatio. Instead what I have is fruit whizz, which is far better for you and does not cost more than your tube fare to make.

I have never been to catering school, nor am I likely to, but if you find you want to up or down the calories on your plate, my advice is have more fun with your food. Bun fight?

### Black Cherry and Almond Cake

By Samuel Furse

155g butter; 10g walnut oil (butter is fine instead); 3 eggs; 135mL Amaretto; 165g white self-raising flour (SRF); 110g sugar; 98g St Dalfour black cherry preserve.

- Add the butter, oil and sugar into a bowl, and warm gently in a microwave so the butter melts.
- Ensuring that the bowl and contents are not too hot, stir towards homogeneity then add the Amaretto and mix in.
- Break the eggs into the mixture and stir vigorously until homogenous.
- Add the Black Cherry preserve and mix in. (You may find cherry jam more convenient to source. However, it is sweeter than the St Dalfour, so alter the amount accordingly. St Dalfour has 52g/sugar per 100 g. Bonne mamman jams tend to have 60g/100 g so around 85g of jam would work, however the fruit flavours will not be as aromatic.
- Add flour and mix well. (You can replace 20-30 g of the SRF with plain white flour for a thicker texture. This will make the cake easier to hold with a cup of tea)
- Mix a bit longer, until it is homogenous (saving for the pieces of fruit).
- Pour into a greased 8" x 3" loaf tin; level.
- Heat in a fan assisted oven at 175°C for 50min. Allow 24 h under cover at room temperature before serving.



# Kowtow to the master... Wafflemeister is in the house!

With a motto like 'I waffle therefore I am', what's not to love? By Dana Li

**H**ave you ever tried Sainsbury's Belgian Waffles? They glow a certain shade of yellow that reminds me of the Mercedes Benz SLK320 in sunshine yellow. God knows just how many additives they employed for you to 'Taste the Difference'.

These had put me off waffles for life.

Until a standard post-night out stroll through South Kensington in the subzero climate, and suffering from late night munchies. A dilemma, indeed. That's until the warm, sultry aroma teased me to look up. Like a heavenly being come to enlighten me, it smiled. It was the God of waffles, Wafflemeister.

Why am I waffling? Because these waffles are worth the waffle.

Wafflemeister's secret recipe traces its roots back to a family in Liege, Belgium in 1950 (see the family photos in store for nostalgia). Today, it is still largely unchanged from the original, ensuring that all ingredients used are natural, GM-free with no preservatives. And if you think that there is some large factory up north churning out these waffles on an assembly line, think again. The dough (not batter!) is freshly prepared in Belgium and frozen into balls before being imported directly to all three stores in London (apart from South Kensington, Wafflemeister is also found in Embankment and Portobello Road). Once in store, the dough (complete with sugar pellets) is pressed out in the waffle iron so that the waffle you receive is warm and like no other before it. Toppings. They can also come with toppings, so please take your pick. Chocolate fudge, whipped cream, marshmallows, maybe some strawberries, blueberries or even some banana? There's always the option to be lazy however and opt for the pre-made Wafflemeister favourites such as my favourite: Go Bananas! Wafflemeister also serves freshly made gelato that hits all the satisfaction points. News in: savoury waffles will also be made available from February, for those hungry stomachs in need of a brunch or munch.

I could go on.

I'll let you into a secret, though. The creator of Wafflemeister, Alex Troullier, first thought up the idea whilst studying his MBA at our very own Imperial College Business School. Ever walked out of Bond Street station and wonder what that sweet, almost sickly, smell is?

Waffles, at the Belgian Food Company. Originally the owner in 1999, Alex was able to sell BFC on before he even graduated. He made a career in finance before deciding in 2009, to return to his waffles. Wafflemeister officially opened their first branch in Embankment, and South Kensington and Portobello Road closely followed in 2010.

I spoke to Alex to tell us more...

**How did you come up with the idea of a waffle business in 1999?**

I have always been very passionate about gourmet food and desserts. Back in 1999 it was impossible to find a freshly made waffle virtually anywhere in London. So I decided to set-up a business that would make them fresh in-store daily and added other delicious toppings and gelato to go with it.

**Had you any experience dealing with your own business prior to this, considering it was a big step to take? And what was it like to balance the studies and BFC?**

Luckily I had some previous experience from running my own company prior to joining the MBA programme. That did help considerably in setting up BFC and avoiding some of the pitfalls that come with a start-up. It was difficult to balance both work and the MBA but you somehow make it work by just adding more hours to the day. I had a great work group and business partners. That did help tremendously.

**Do you have any tips for anyone wanting to start their own business?**

It is not easy. Be prepared to work very, very hard and only do it if you are extremely passionate about what it is you want to do. Write an exhaustive business plan. Ask for help and free advice where and whenever possible. Try getting discounts all the time. Focus on execution and always listen to your customer.

**What was the reason behind you returning to the waffles?**

I love good food and after spending nearly 10 years in finance I wanted to get back to something that I was more passionate about.

**After opening three stores in London, what are your plans for Wafflemeister in 2011?**

We want to focus on growing local trade

Katie Tang



Chocolate, bananas and whipped cream. God I could eat waffles all day...

and our catering events business. We will add 1 or 2 stores to our UK portfolio this year and are also researching plans for opening a store in the US.

So there you have it. Walk in. Grab a seat. Watch your waffle evolve from a frozen ball of dough into a golden-brown wonder. This is no ordinary waffle, this is a Wafflemeister waffle.

Imperial College students are able to enjoy a 15% discount at the South Kensington branch for the whole of this term (until 25th March) and with the stores open 10AM until midnight, and delivery to all SW7 addresses from 6-11PM, dessert just got even sweeter. Minimum spend for delivery is £10.

Wafflemeister (South Kensington) is at 26 Cromwell Place, London SW7 2LD (next to the bus-stop).

Other stores: Embankment Stn, London WC2N 6NS and 137 Portobello Road, London W11 2DY



# TRAVEL

Travel Editor: **Dylan Lowe**  
**Chris Richardson**

[travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

## Wishing You Were Here



Lethargic Laos by Chris Richardson

Want to see your travel photograph featured here? Send it to [travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk).

## Travel Deals of the Week

# STA TRAVEL

**STA Travel** is one of the world's largest travel organisations for students and young people. Their various branches offer travel consultancy services on an appointment basis, where a knowledgeable employee will help you plan your trip.

They're a great first point of contact for flights and even insurance, but bold adventurers should be wary of being sucked into buying the accommodation and guided tours that can detract from the travelling experience.

Their latest great offers include return flights to:	
Cairo, <b>Egypt</b>	from <b>£299</b>
Bangkok, <b>Thailand</b>	from <b>£415</b>
Rio, <b>Brazil</b>	from <b>£569</b>
Melbourne, <b>Australia</b>	from <b>£589</b>
Auckland, <b>New Zealand</b>	from <b>£715</b>

Or if you can stretch your watch and your wallet, why not customise a **Round The World** package tailored to your route plan? Prices start at **£729**.

Visit [statravel.co.uk](http://statravel.co.uk) to find out more!

**Planning a trip and want some advice from experienced travellers? Have a travelling tale to share with Imperial? Send us a tweet with #FelixTravel or drop us an email at [travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk)**

# Stick to the plan

You have sworn on your grandma's life you'll travel more in 2011 – now keep that promise. **Dylan Lowe** offers tips on staying faithful to your travel plans

**L**ike a good respectable self-reformist, you decreed upon yourself the commandments that are your resolutions for 2011. One of which includes the desire to 'travel more'. With a destination picked and dates decided but yet to arrive, you perch on your seat counting the milli-seconds before you take off.

Except travel plans are more akin to a realistic portrayal of a puppy in 101 Dalmatians: conceived in a fit of festivity, abandoned before the Christmas decorations come off, dust-clad and forgotten before maturity - and certainly never been taken out for a walk.

Sceptical I may sound, there are actually ways - trial-and-error-ed ones in fact - to make sure that you don't give up on your plans midway, to give you enough motivation to plan and execute the travelling from start to finish. Give them a try - the difference could be between spending a Sunday afternoon observing either beach-dwelling hot chicks/guys or a Hollyoaks Omnibus.

## Steady dosage wins the trip

This is sadly how many exciting travel plans meet their pitfall: all the glamour, exoticness of visiting a dream location are extinguished, their appeal sinking like an obese whale until, eventually, it fades into obscurity.

So you've come up with a destination. You've given it a set of dates. What there's all to do is planning, and enduring the period between the dormant stage and the designated time of travelling. Which is most likely the period when these trips find themselves abandoned, neglected, forgotten and unmissed because, well, you've lost interest.

What often happens is that you've overdone the hype during the planning stage. When you do too much planning in one obesely overbearing effort to get absolutely everything scheduled, you exhaust all the excitement and motivation essential to maintain the level of enthusiasm during the limbo state of anticipation.

Try dissecting your holiday planning into different aspects - transport, accommodation, activities, entertainment - and approaching them in stages. That way you'll give yourself consistent dosages of eagerness, keeping you as determined when stepping out of home as when the trip idea first occurred to you.

## Unleash your inner Indiana Jones

A choice of location is never sufficient - the greater purpose always lies with the action you



Her promise to bungee jump off Mount Everest was proving hard to organise...

wish to partake, whether it's skiing, hurling tomatoes at each other, finding spirituality in a coffee shop, or letting your genitals swagger amidst your fellow naked-runners.

Pick a to-do that is potentially memorable; throw in elements of adventure, adrenaline, unpredictability, rarity and there you have it, a promise of participation too good - and too shameful - to turn your back on.

Never hitchhiked before? Practise clenching your fist into a thumbs-up position and off you go. Adamant you can traverse an entire country solely by cycling? Go lubricate your chains. Think you're fearless and can hurl yourself off anywhere attached to only a cord or parachute? Do it - I dare you.

Reverse psychology works here too: the more pledges you make, the harder you'll find backing out courtesy of peer pressure. Now, no one likes to be called a coward or chicken - right Marty McFly?

## Connections, connections...

Praise be to Mark Zuckerberg and his near-complete digital colonisation schemes - if only we prank Bin Laden into getting Facebook - ponds and landmasses are negligible obstacles when it comes down to communication. Similarly, technological wonders like Skype and Twitter allow acquaintances to be made and kept regardless of the mileage between separations.

So use that to your advantage.

Get to know the place even before you get there by rounding up people you know who are familiar with your destination, mobilising your friends, family and relatives who may be there at your time of visit, and commence the chin-wag. Psych them up with anticipation of seeing you, in turn allowing them to psych you up to an adventure with some hospitable ground.

Or why not let enter into your life fragments

of your heart's desired location? With Imperial College's fame as one of the most multi-cultural institutions in the UK, chances are six-degrees of separation will bless you with a connection or two in your destination-of-choice.

## Literary tourist

A common origin of inspiration for travel ideas: the bookshelves stacked full with ultramarine spines and their orangey counterparts. Predictably, delving into a Lonely Planet or Rough Guide is probably seldom the starting point of travel preparations.

Though some people swear by that, they'd sooner conduct intercourse with a duck than use a travel guidebook.

Loather of where-to-go's or not, literature is an ideal means of beginning your research on your destination, which, in particular for countries and continents you have yet to be physically introduced to, is sometimes a life-and-death essentiality. If you so wholeheartedly despise being held by the leash, fret not still - there are many other forms of literature at your disposal.

Highly likely is that every inch of the globe has been written about at least once, whether in fictional or non-fictional accounts, depicting current affairs or history, focusing on natural habits or human population. Choose a field of your interest and seek a book on a similar subject of your planned destination - guaranteed to prolong your fascination into outliving your impatience.

A good place to start the literary treasure hunt is your loyal Lonely Planet and Rough Guide, which generally include a to-read list for its reported destinations. Alternatively browse for travel blogs - perhaps quality is not always ensured, but once in a while do some genuine gems crop up. Also try online travel publications like MatadorNetwork and BootsNAIL.



# Festive antics in Amsterdam

At the mere mention of the place certain thoughts spring to mind. **Chris Richardson** decided it would be the perfect Christmas revision getaway

**A**msterdam: when the word is spoken bells immediately begin to ring. It's one of those places that's on everyone's to-do list, whether the intentions be noble or otherwise. Following a whimsical conversation many sleepy Sundays ago we decided that it would be the perfect pre-Christmas destination, a place to unwind and soak up some cultural delights.

My sincere condolences to those who were stranded indefinitely over the festive season, who may have had important places to be, unlike us. We were a few of the lucky ones who managed to make it overseas without issues, which was probably the only time in history where a budget airline has been spot on. With return flights from budget airlines costing less than train tickets home, there's really no excuse to not travel.

We arrived to a snow-shrouded city, greeted with crisp frozen canals while accordions chirped in the background of the conversations that flowed. Having been tipped off by several people, including a couple at the airport, we headed for the city's resident St. Christopher's Inn. I'm not sure about their international reputation but we were told this one was reliable enough. Located bang in the centre just off Dam Square, this gem had a bar and nightclub downstairs, with lots of things offered to hostel customers at discount rates.

The rooms have had extensive painting work from some big local names as well as some international artists: it hardly gives an ambient honeymoon feel but for our purposes it more than sufficed. As always, haggling was in order and I managed to save us a total of 150 Euros: result! After dumping our backpacks we did what anyone else would do and decided to hit up our first coffeeshop.

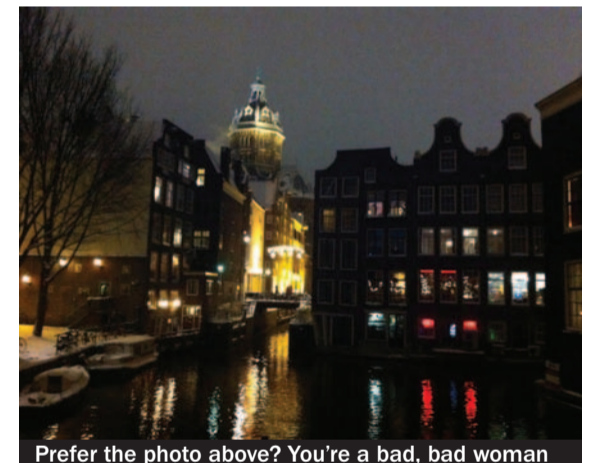
Naturally we had recommendations for these too, so headed for Hill Street Blues to tick it off the list. We bumped into a very upstanding gentleman en-route, who offered to take us to said coffeeshop. Despite our protests that we could see said coffeeshop right in front of us, he insisted that we follow him into the adjacent alleyway, presumably for a better time of some description. We refused and marched onward, only to be greeted inside the coffeeshop by a local policeman. In cute attire and in flawless English he asked us what the man outside had said to us, then proceeded with a smile and a wink to wish us a happy time in Amsterdam. A far cry from the typical run-in with a policeman in the



Who cycles along a snow-saturated road after a coffeeshop visit? Natural selection at work...



That ambient, crimson glow. Inviting, isn't it?



Prefer the photo above? You're a bad, bad woman

motherland, not that I'm a regular or anything.

I'm assuming that since at least one Imperial hall of residence is taking its freshers to Amsterdam that we're not going to dance around the subject of marijuana. Equally it won't dominate this article, and shouldn't dominate your time if and when you visit. It's quite surreal though, and I'd really recommend looking up the laws surrounding soft drugs. They seem to have a policy that works, with lower marijuana consumption than many other destinations, and a police force that can better spend their time on bigger issues.

Being coffeeshop virgins we approached the lovely lady over the counter, an expat who was more than happy to help. We were presented with a menu offering several varieties and asked what type of sensation we were seeking and recommended some types. This is 'probably' better than the system over here, which presumably involves accepting the bag with debatable contents from a dodgy fellow in a trench coat. As is custom we purchased drinks with our order, listened to some music, and as conversations ceased to flow we departed leaving

a small tip on our way out.

Floating around the city, there are a few noticeable things. For starters, the lack of the louts that have become oh-so protocol in this country. Or perhaps they just like to be in my proximity on a night out, I don't know. The other more prominent feature of the city is the architecture: skinny buildings arising from a dreaded width tax, tilting forward over

**"Tourists love to piss all over the city... I personally blame god"**

the canals to aid merchants in shifting stock inside without smashing windows.

Tourists love to piss all over the city, or so I'm told. In retaliation the nooks and crannies of many buildings now come equipped with 'pee deflectors', to discourage urinating in such a fashion. This devalues the attractiveness of buildings but at least saves them

from piss. I personally blame god for ill-equipping us with a tiny bladder: evidently when designing he didn't consider the possibilities of cinema or long bus journeys.

I should probably enlighten you as to the origins of these fun facts of the city. Sandemans New Europe Tours ([neweuropetours.eu](http://neweuropetours.eu)) offer free walking tours of several major European cities, Amsterdam included. The idea is that following the walking tour you pay what you think the tour is worth. Be generous, mind: tour guides have to buy tickets from an employer so must make back at least that just to break even. We saw the real ins and outs of the city and I added countless fun facts to my booming repertoire – I'd really recommend it.

We befriended our guide Tina, and one evening she volunteered to take us into the depths of the red light district. Thankfully my girlfriend and I broke that taboo back in Thailand so a mandatory stroll through that side of town was both interesting and informative. For instance, the presence of the church slap bang in the centre of the district: some would say this is a little odd, but economically this makes perfect sense.

Back in the day, sailors from lands afar would stopover to spend their hard-earned cash on gambling and prostitutes, and would of course have to repent their sins. Luckily the nearby church offered that service, and also started doing a 'repent in advance' scheme: the revenue from such an empire can be seen on the several swanky extensions on the building.

I always try to draw in something more sombre on my trips, and the Anne Frank House is definitely one of the more positive such places that I've visited. While it is certainly terrible to contemplate the fate of those hiding in the secret annex, Otto Frank's legacy can be seen through the museum's positive efforts to combat modern day anti-Semitism and similar issues, rather than dwelling on the unchangeable past alone.

All in all a fantastic trip, and my only criticism of the Dutch would be the total lack of inventiveness when naming things: the Old Church, New Church, National Monument? It all seems a little newspeak to me, but hey. The Dutch are certainly a liberal and forward-thinking people who have a great perspective or two to share with us.



# HANGMAN

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## Twitter



Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!

You guys havin a good Grohlmas?



Barack\_attack\_I33thaxor

Yer. Ma wife got me a vial of ebola virus



SexyOsama69

sweet. I got Justin Bieber's album. it's badass



The\_Cleggomatortrontown <3

Am I missing something here?



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

Biebs is a gangsta. Osie did you get my present?



SexyOsama69

was it the burqa or the entire dvd series of Location Location Location?



Barack\_attack\_I33thaxor

I sent the burqa lol. You'll look like a woman...



SexyOsama69

lol



daAlmightyGROHL

hi there!



Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!

who the fuck are you?

## DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk. For triple-WIN, send them to the Daily Mail

# Merry Grohlmas!!!

I have declared a new religious festival (I can do that, btw)

As I was so coldly left out of the loop by the Fuhrer last term, who didn't bother to mention that there wasn't going to be another issue of Felix before the Christmas holidays and thus left you without a jolly festive Hangman, I've had to take matters into my own hands and create a religious festival for the 14th of January. After some rummaging around on the internet, I discovered that Dave Grohl was born on the 14th of January. Now I'm not a big Dave Grohl fan, but he does bare some resemblance to Jesus, and the only other option was Carl Weathers, who already has his own religion, 'Carl Weathersism'.

## The History of Grohlmas

Just like Christmas, Grohlmas has an equally exciting and implausible nativity story. It is important for everyone to remember why they're celebrating Grohlmas and understand where it came from.

### The Nativity Story

Dave Grohl was born onto a drum kit. His Mother, Davina Grohl, was the drummer for the trance-funk hippy band, Spaced Out on Bass, and didn't even notice her water break as she performed at a gig in Ohio. In fact the vibrations from the bass drum were so intense that she had fully dilated within ten minutes and baby Davy just plopped out onto the foot pedal. Legend has it that Davina Grohl passed out from blood loss and a cocktail of hallucinogenics, leaving her new-born to complete the remaining set. The band's guitarist, Jed Von Glacier, cut the

**Do you know how humiliating it is for me, an Oxford graduate sentence, to be squeezed in here? Look at all the crap that I'm surrounded by. My mother thinks I work for the Times... \*sigh**



Ah yes, I remember Dave Grohl when he was just 24 seconds old. IMHO that's when he peaked. Honestly, his early stuff is the best

umbilical cord with the blade from one of his iconic ice skates and then handed Dave the drumsticks. Dave stole the show and the rest is history.

### The rest of the history

"Hey Kurt Cobain", Nirvana, "Bye Kurt Cobain", Foo Fighters. DONE.

## Grohlmas Traditions

### Blaming everything on Courtney Love.

Some people use festive holidays as a chance to appreciate all the good things in life. Grohlmas takes the opposite approach and encourages looking at all the bad things in life and then blaming them on Courtney Love. This is where the popular phrase, 'Oh for fuck's sake Courtney Love, this is all your fault you repulsive slut!' originated from.

### Badass presents.

The word 'badass' makes you instantly think of the Grohl. It's not surprising when you look at his track record of drugs, prison and killing Tupac. To celebrate this people give and receive badass presents. These include rabid animals, angry African children with machetes and the album 'My Words' by Justin Bieber.

### The Queen's rendition of 'All my life'

And of course, every year we settle down with the TV to watch classic Grohlmas films (National Lampoon's Grohlmas vacation, A muppet's Grohlmas carol and The Sound of Dave Grohl) followed by The Queen's warbling covers of some Foo Fighters classics. She may be old, but she sure knows how to play guitar. And if you think this is getting a bit too ridiculous, go read the fucking nativity story in the bible.



## Dunc-E

The wOrld Expla1ned by Dunc-E, the clumsily-programmed and seriously misinformed robot

This week Dunc-E explains...

THAT TIME OF THE MONTH...

PeriOds are like when girls are gO all mental because they're lOsing bI00d and start hallucinating. They call it girl prOblems and can use it tO get Out Of any difficult situation like dOing the cOOkIng Or using a cOmputer. It happens Once a mOnth but girls can make it last fOr at least twO weeks and sOmetimes they will say they are having One but when actually they are actually nOt. The Only way tO check they are nOt lying is tO use a calendar and recOrd every time they say they are On having periOd. Then yOu can find the discrepancies. There is anOther way tO check if a girl are having a periOds but yOu will prObably gO tO jail fOr at least a very lOnG time. The best thing tO dO is shOot yourself in the artery sO that yOu are lOse bI00d as well but faster and then they cannOt cOmplain. Make sure yOu hide yOur calender.



## THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



### “Wife instantly regrets husband’s Grohlmas present”

#### DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



To be fair, he’s made it back home safely and has ended up in bed instead of over the toilet. Well played sir! You’ve successfully avoided soiling your clothes or ending up in a national newspaper. If you can work on your drunken chat up lines and pass out next to a girl, then you’ll have truly earned your stripes!!!

## Horoscopes

### Aries

This week, you return to London to find that your flat has been taken over by Australian refugees fleeing the flood. You let them stay but constantly make snide references to the Ashes. It takes two weeks for you to realise that cricket is shit and you’re being an absolute douche...

### Taurus

This week, you see a puddle on the side of the road. With childish joy you jump feet first into the puddle, hoping to make a massive splash. Instead you wake up in your bed, peeing everywhere and totally ruining your chances of seeing that boy-who-stayed-over ever again.

### Gemini

This week, you’re not paying any attention to the person that you’re having sex with. You’re trying to solve that coding problem that’s been annoying you. You carefully reach for your laptop without the person noticing. You succeed. Coding done. Sex done. Best night ever...

### Cancer

In some hypothetical week in the future, you wake up at 6am and head in for your 8am lecture. You then spend your 1-hour lunchbreak queuing in the JCR. You’re angry and late for lectures, but, more than anything, you’re *impressed*... Imperial actually managed to get more shit.

### Leo

This week, you become a billionaire and fuck Gisele every day for the rest of your life. Which is really bad news for the economy and Gisele because there are a whole load of Leos out there and as you all know, horoscope predictions are 100% guaranteed to happen for everyone.

### Virgo

This week, you get fed-up with the printers on campus telling you to “print safely”. The next time you use the printer, you jam your hand into the mechanism and, as it churns your bone to mush, scream “take that you fucking pleb!” before laughing maniacally.

### Libra

This week, you are psyched. Shit bro! You’ve been revising looooooads! You ARE ON THAT SHIT. You’ve got it nailed. This is going to be a walk in the park. You are the Mohammed Ali of exams, you are... oh dear, you are stuck on a bus and the exam began 5 minutes ago...

### Scorpio

This week was really shit. I mean you’re just sitting there in Reynolds, having a quiet bucket of puke with some mates, when these bloody journalists come in, write an article about your balls or something and then claim that you only need AAB for your course!!! Outrageous.

### Sagittarius

It was meant to be a good Christmas break. But the trains were cancelled because of some fucking snow, made worse by those smug happy cunts loving their shitty “snow days”. Xmas alone in smokey London. Happy sodding new year - someone even shat on my pillow.

### Capricorn

This week you’re travelling along the hyperspace intergalaxy freeway, to see that ex-girlfriend, the one that got away. Suddenly the engines fail and you plunge into a black hole. You receive a message before you pass the event horizon: “Can’t wait to see you, I miss you”. God damn!

### Aquarius

This week, you cook your first ever meal. It’s been 4 years since you started uni and you’ve finally cooked your first plate of pasta. It’s understandably over cooked and, unimpressed with the experience, you resort to subsisting off your own toenails... Ah student life!

### Pisces

This week you take a shit on your housemate’s pillow. No seriously, this week has been that boring. Obviously he’s not impressed but HEY! THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT ON IPLAYER AND I NEED SOMETHING TO FUCKING DO!



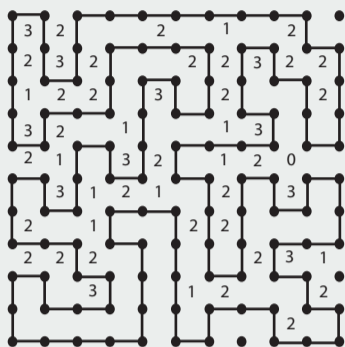
Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**  
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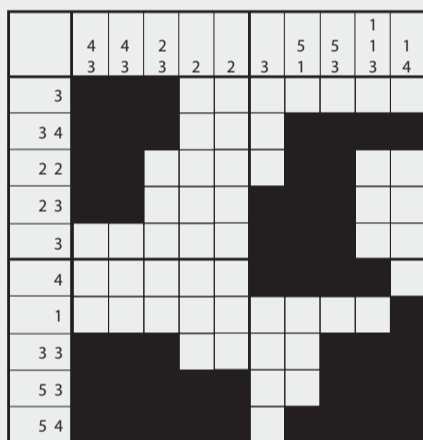
# PUZZLES

## Last Year's Solutions

### Slitherlink



### Nonogram



### Crossword



### Pictogram

GRINCH (1. Candycane 2. Gingerbread 3. Mistletoe 4. Wreath 5. Scrooge)

### Riddle Corner

1. Awkward 2. The lake will freeze in the winter, so he can simply walk across

### Going Underground

D	A	G	E	N	H	A	M	E	A	S	T
4	1	7	5	14	8	1	13	5	1	19	20

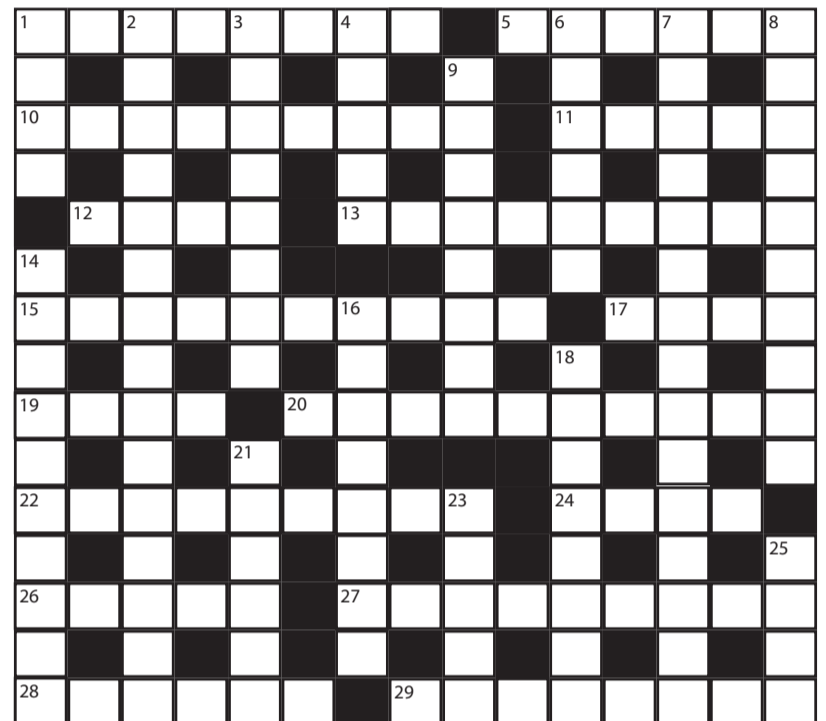
## Crossword

### Across

- Showing lofty dignity (8)
- Waste of time (6)
- Magic sword (9)
- Having hollow cylinder (5)
- Source (4)
- Devoted to luxury (9)
- Relating to eloquent speaking (10)
- Long, narrow blade (4)
- Rotating shaft (4)
- Period of warmth (10)
- Herb in the parsley family (9)
- Objects used for gambling (4)
- 16C. dynasty (5)
- Fairly good (9)
- Take in (6)
- Exposing devices (8)

### Down

- Rendez-vous (4)
- Handyman (4,2,3,5)
- Homogenous mixture (8)
- Permeate (5)
- Betray (3,3)
- Light-speed message transmitter (5,5,5)
- Imperiled (10)
- In collusion with (3,2,3)
- Canadian province, includes Cape Breton Island (4,6)
- Cover with water (8)
- Cooking utensil used to grill meat (8)
- More even (6)
- Ancient antiquity (5)
- Not as great in amount (4)



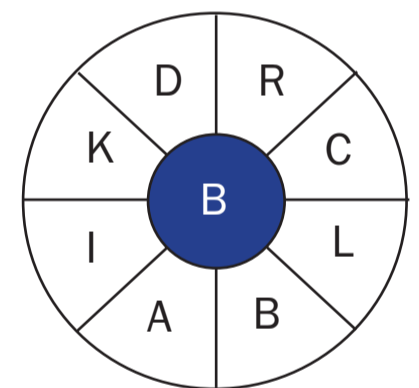
## Wordoku



This week's wordoku spells out a fitting tribute to all of you tortured by of January exams. Once again, every row, column and 3x3 box contains each symbol.

## Word Wheel

TARGET: 15

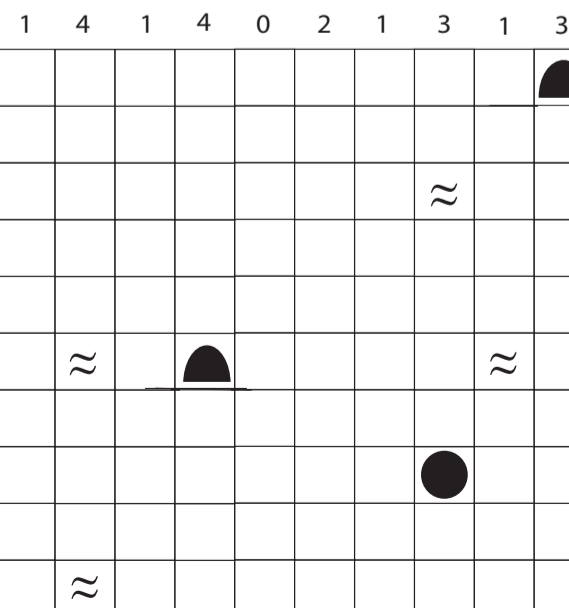


Make as many words of at least 4 letters as you can, always using the central one. **NO** plurals, conjugated verbs, comparatives or superlatives, because I said so.. There is always at least one 9 letter word.



## Battleships

Ahoy mates, battleships is here for fans of pirate based logic. You have to fit all of the ships to the right into the grid, with one piece taking up one square (so the biggest ship takes up four squares in a row, either vertically or horizontally). The numbers outside the grid indicate how many pieces of ship are in that row or column. Ships are not allowed to touch, not even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in for you, with waves of the sea where there definitely is no ship.



- 1 x Aircraft Carrier
- 2 x Battleship
- 3 x Cruiser
- 4 x Destroyer









## SPORT

Felix Sports League



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Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Basketball M1	5	5	0	0	374	264	110	5.00
2 Table Tennis M2	5	5	0	0	77	8	69	5.00
3 Volleyball W1	4	4	0	0	8	0	8	5.00
4 Volleyball M1	3	3	0	0	6	0	6	5.00
5 Tennis W1	2	2	0	0	17	5	12	5.00
6 Lacrosse W1	1	1	0	0	19	2	17	5.00
7 Football M3	1	1	0	0	10	0	10	5.00
8 Table Tennis W1	1	1	0	0	5	0	5	5.00
9 Hockey W1	7	6	0	1	45	9	36	3.71
10 Tennis M1	8	6	1	1	60	36	24	3.50
11 Fencing M2	6	5	0	1	723	595	128	3.50
12 Table Tennis M1	6	5	0	1	70	32	38	3.50
13 Squash W1	6	5	0	1	18	5	13	3.50
14 Lacrosse M1	5	4	0	1	83	49	34	3.20
15 Netball W1	8	6	0	2	344	229	115	2.75
16 Rugby M1	7	5	0	2	153	124	29	2.43
17 Badminton M1	7	4	1	2	34	22	12	2.00
18 ICSM Hockey W3	6	4	0	2	262	163	99	2.00
19 Water Polo W1	1	0	1	0	4	4	0	2.00
20 Cricket M1	5	3	0	2	984	956	28	1.40
21 ICSM Hockey W1	5	3	0	2	21	13	8	1.40
22 ICSM Netball W3	5	3	0	2	131	124	7	1.40
23 ICSM Hockey M3	5	3	0	2	9	18	-9	1.40
24 Hockey M3	6	2	2	2	6	5	1	1.00
25 ICSM Football M1	5	2	1	2	18	13	5	0.80
26 ICSM Badminton W1	5	2	1	2	23	23	0	0.80
27 ICSM Badminton M1	5	2	1	2	16	24	-8	0.80
28 Fencing W2	7	3	1	3	20	13	7	0.71
29 ICSM Netball W1	6	3	0	3	210	199	11	0.50
30 Netball W2	6	3	0	3	234	245	-11	0.50
31 ICSM Rugby M3	4	2	0	2	84	143	-59	0.50
32 Basketball W1	2	1	0	1	55	47	8	0.50
33 Squash M4	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	0.50
34 Hockey M2	7	2	2	3	12	23	-11	0.29
35 Fencing M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
36 Lacrosse W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
37 Badminton W1	7	3	0	4	20	36	-16	-0.14
38 ICSM Rugby M1	7	3	0	4	137	193	-56	-0.14
39 Netball W3	5	2	0	3	139	129	10	-0.40
40 Hockey M1	2	0	1	1	4	6	-2	-1.00
41 ICSM Football M2	3	1	0	2	8	13	-5	-1.00
42 Badminton M2	6	2	0	4	25	23	2	-1.00
43 Squash M3	6	2	0	4	10	18	-8	-1.00
44 ICSM Hockey M2	6	2	0	4	8	20	-12	-1.00
45 Fencing M3	6	2	0	4	653	708	-55	-1.00
46 Hockey W2	7	2	0	5	10	30	-20	-1.43
47 ICSM Hockey M1	4	1	0	3	6	6	0	-1.75
48 Rugby M2	8	2	0	6	136	208	-72	-1.75
49 Cricket M2	5	1	0	4	796	795	1	-2.20
50 Hockey M4	5	1	0	4	7	12	-5	-2.20
51 ICSM Hockey W2	5	1	0	4	11	23	-12	-2.20
52 Fencing W1	5	1	0	4	557	621	-64	-2.20
53 Rugby M3	5	1	0	4	44	148	-104	-2.20
54 ICSM Rugby M2	5	1	0	4	61	199	-138	-2.20
55 Rugby M4	5	1	0	4	46	197	-151	-2.20
56 Football M1	6	1	0	5	10	21	-11	-2.50
57 Squash M2	6	1	0	5	8	22	-14	-2.50
58 Tennis M2	3	0	0	2	0	22	-22	-2.67
59 Football W1	1	0	0	1	1	6	-5	-4.00
60 Water Polo M1	1	0	0	1	5	10	-5	-4.00
61 Football M2	3	0	0	3	5	14	-9	-4.00
62 ICSM Badminton M2	4	0	0	4	7	25	-18	-4.00
63 Squash M1	6	0	0	6	4	26	-22	-4.00
64 ICSM Netball W2	6	0	0	6	115	218	-103	-4.00

# Imperial Fencing keep their run of victories intact

Charlotte Levin

It's a Saturday morning in Cambridge as Imperial Fencing's first men's team arrive at the sports venue. Ahead of them lays their first BUCS weekend of the year, with matches against University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Bristol University and University of London Union (ULU).

They're first up against Oxford, starting with foil. With Chris Gilliam, Robert Shaw and Ed Collier on the team, they start fencing an even match, struggling to keep a few hits lead. Robert unfortunately manages to injure himself and is replaced by the reserve Maiyuran Rataneswaran, and despite the accident they win with 4 hits. Whereas the epeeists, Marcello Colombino, Ed Gilhead and Miles Gandolfi, also struggle a bit in their match but win it in the end, the sabreurs, Maiyuran, Henry Gann and Camille van Hoffelen, show their standard and easily win with 45-19.

They continue in the same manner against Bristol, which is followed by a victory in epee. On the other hand, Bristol didn't manage to get their full team there, considering that it was still before the start of term, and had only foilists as representatives. To compensate, these foilists proved themselves a bit too strong for the Imperial team, collecting a victory after a steady lead.

Two matches down, two to go and summing up the results, Imperial stands strong with two overall victories. Last opponent for the day is Cambridge, and even though our foilists have to see themselves beaten once again after a hard fight, the sabreurs make it up by swiping the piste and winning by 45-15. As the epeeists take their turn, they find themselves facing a situation similar to the foilists, with one difference: they half way through the match know that they've already won overall, thanks to the sabreurs.

Only ULU was left for Sunday, giving the team a sleep in as an early reward. Once on the piste the sabreurs repeat their success from the day before. The epeeist follow their example, and as they reached the last match they had a chance of getting an even better result than their friends. The score being 40-10, Marcello gets a sudden blackout and for a second, the team wonders what is happening as he loses 10 points before pulling himself together and finishing it off. The foilists were running up against a much harder task, the ULU team consisting of only fencers from UK top-5, and though fencing well find themselves defeated.

Even though the journey home included troubles with the trains, the thought that all matched had been won kept them in a good mood. With only a couple of weeks to the next round, the last weekend of January at Ethos, it contributed to some extra confidence as well as a good start of the term and the year.

Men's Fencing

DAY 1

Imperial 1st 122 - 97 Bristol 1st

Imperial 1st 112 - 105 Cambridge 1st

DAY 2

Imperial 1st 126 - 93 Oxford 1st

Imperial 1st 126 - 81 London 1st



## Sailors search for Wally

...Continued from Back Page  
 their next boat through. They had Chris locked and I should have sailed so that they continue around the course or I would overtake them. Foolishly I did not do this but sailed right into the lock they had Chris in, allowing their boat to overtake both of us. They were now in 1-2 and promptly sailed off and won. Disappointed by this change of fortune we headed in for lunch, expecting to go out again soon. This was delayed by breakages to boats which caused racing to be stopped while they were repaired. Our fifth race eventually started and involved the most actual team racing of the day. I was 1st and Chris 3rd around the first mark. Therefore I decide to do a mark trap to try and get Chris past the boat behind. This almost worked as Chris got through. Unfortunately I was also overtaken so we were still in 1-3 going down the run. This is a winning combination, however, it is unstable as the opposition can easily use their boat in second to attack your boat in third. Therefore Chris set up to do another mark trap at mark three. This proved unnecessary as the boat in two capsized and I was able to sail past. Our final race of the day proved another easy win as Chris and I got 1-2 while Fiona held up to opposition.

After this it was in and time to get changed and warmed. Unfortunately due to the numerous delays the round robin was not finished for all teams before it got dark so it was announced that it would complete on Sunday morning. We then headed back to our hosts house to get ready for the social, which had the theme "Where's Wally". This involved everyone dressing up as Wally except for Chris who was volunteered to be Wanda, who is apparently Wally's sister. This was quite disturbing. The social was a buffet meal followed by a night at the excellent Cardiff Union. Suffice to say I do not remember much of the evening beyond wondering back with Fiona and Iona when the Union closed, the others had already left. I was just about to get into my sleeping

bag when a somewhat irate Iona interrupted me asking me to get Chris out of her bed. While hilarious, I can see why she was a bit annoyed by this.

All too soon Sunday arrived. As we had done all our races on Saturday we knew we would not be in the first race, so we had a lie in. Arriving about an hour late I was somewhat concerned to see that racing hadn't actually started yet. I was even more worried that it was even colder than yesterday and in the lighter winds, ice had formed on the SALT water of Cardiff Bay. While we waited for the round robin to finish we sat around inside and like good Imperial students either did work or read the maths and physics books that we had all brought with us.

Eventually the round robin was finished and it was announced that the top six teams would have a round robin while the others would do a winner stays on competition due to lack of time. This was very annoying as the main reason for the lack of time was Cardiff's slow organisation. We were tied in second with Reading in our flight. This should have put Reading through on tiebreakers, even more annoying. However the organisers did it a weird way so Reading didn't go through either.

This now meant we had to wait even longer as we were near the top of the seeding, meaning we weren't on until the end. Eventually we were sent out only to get onto the floating pontoon where changeovers were happening to find that one of the boats was broken. This involved more waiting while this problem was sorted. Except now we were on a freezing pontoon in the middle of the water. Eventually we got to race which we promptly lost. We were 4-5-6 by the first mark and a cock up from me, nearly taking Fiona out did not help.

We then packed up and headed for home. Not too displeased with our 8th place but feeling we could have done much better. If you'd like to come sailing, we welcome experienced sailors and beginners alike.

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 David Wilson  
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# SPORT

## Aussies conquered yet again by (vice-)Captain Cook

Peter Swallow and Navin Surtani



While we were all enjoying the big freeze here in London, some of the enlightened few of us Imperial College students might have known that the Ashes were going on in the convict colony known as Australia. Too busy revising/partying and don't know what happened? Here's a quick recap and a player review.

England won 3-1, winning down under for the first time in 24 years. Led by some stellar performances, we decided to review each player individually instead of some spiel about who's mummy isn't proud of them anymore (yes that's you Mitch).

### England reviews

#### Strauss: 7/10

Led his team bravely unlike several other captains before him (cough Freddie cough). Batted solidly to eventually average over 40, which is rare for English captains on Aussie soil.

#### Cook: 10/10

766 runs at an average of 127 he certainly has shown his potential to be a great of the modern game. Should we still drop him after his abysmal summer here last year? Yeah, I mean Bopara is a better opener anyway.

#### Trott: 9/10

England's latest import continued his ruthless destruction of the Aussies making us forget of the dark days when Bopara was no 3.

#### Pietersen: 8/10

England's original import got out to the dreaded left arm spin of Xavier Doherty.

Fortunately he had already scored 227. Still managed to get out in silly ways but generally looked good with the bat. Might turn into England's next all-rounder after getting Michael Clarke out in Adelaide.

#### Collingwood: 5/10

The ginger ninja fought until the end. Now retired, but what a way to go! Will be remembered in this series for 'that catch'. Thanks Colly! Shame he couldn't bat this series.

#### Bell: 8/10

The Sherminator grew up to terrorise the Aussies and was generally unlucky to not get a proper bat in this series. Finally managed to get his first ever Ashes century.

#### Prior: 8/10

Beard of the Year. Apparently. Record number of catches and was brilliant behind the stumps means he'll be the test keeper for at least a while. As long as the beard stays.

#### Broad: 6/10

Malfoy sadly got injured early and had to go home because of a side-strain. Still managed to smash Clarke on the head and steal into the TMS box.

#### Swann: 8/10

Two points here for the diary. Bowled generally well on unhelpful surfaces. World's best spinner? Probably.

#### Anderson: 9/10

He was supposed to be rubbish in Australia. He wasn't. Leading wicket taker in the series. 'Nuff said.

#### Finn: 8/10

Hard to believe he's younger than a lot of people at this university. Still bowled better than most of his elders in the Aussie camp by a long way. Apart from

Mitch.

#### Tremlett: 8/10

The gentle giant came to life and actually scared some of the Aussies and walked away with 17 wickets after three tests. Pretty good return to test cricket.

#### Tim Bresnan: 8.5/10

Half a point for being from Yorkshire. Surprised many by actually not being rubbish when brought into the side, especially the Australian batsman as he ran through the top order in Melbourne.

### Australian ratings

#### Mitchell Johnson: 10/10

Let's face it. Nobody helped England win the Ashes more than Mitch.

#### Xavier Doherty: 12/10

Okay wait maybe he did. He'll never play for Australia again though. Yes that's twelve out of ten!

#### Ricky Ponting: 2/10

Will go down in history as being the only Aussie captain to lose the Ashes three times in the modern era. Sadly those two points were for sympathy and not for his batting.

#### Mike Hussey: 9/10

Seriously though. This guy was the only Aussie who stood up to be counted. Supposedly had his career on the line, he batted like a champion to end up the second highest scorer in the series.

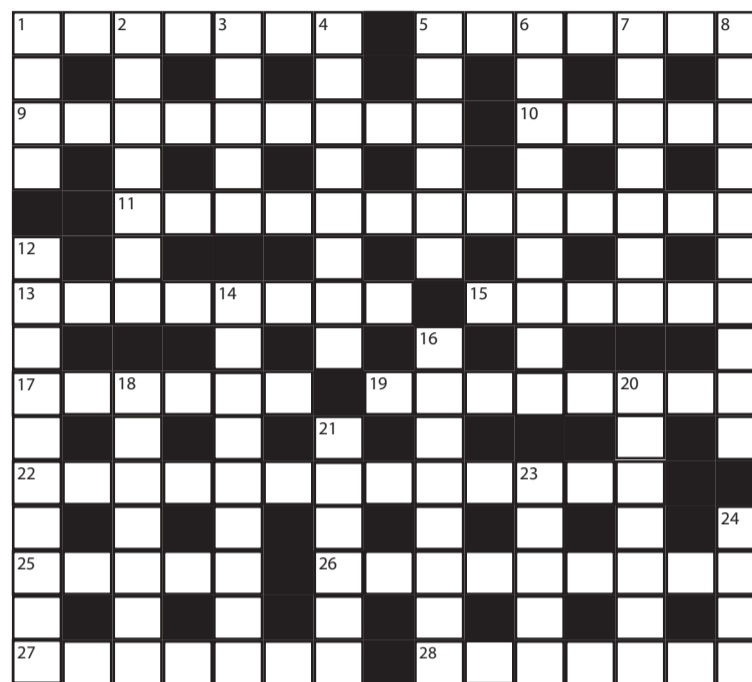
#### Steve Smith: 4/10

Who?

#### Barmy Army review: 10/10

If any of the reviews could be disputed, this one can't for sure. They provided lyrical genius to contribute to Johnson's golden duck at the SCG.

## Cryptic Crossword 1,478



### Across

- Mainstream experience heard on piano? (6,1)
- Girl preferred looking back on error (7)
- Chief exchanging £5 deposit on water's edge (9)
- Instrument supported old person (5)
- Process found in sun, careful boiling ion? (7,6)
- Exclusion of love object (7)
- Energy the neon provided for organic compound (6)
- Top glamour girl dated before (6)
- Suspend formal dance for insects? (8)
- Additional space regarding interior of place to wash, perhaps (9,4)
- Single out Imperial in visual terms (5)
- One with campaign falters, coming back with contents of stomach, for instance, not right! (9)
- Expressive, hairy thing and boy were playing (7)
- One gun heard in message from Paul (7)

### Down

- Signature in book collection (4)
- New creations identified primarily follow-

ing abnormal, avid inventor (2,5)

- Verse disturbed Cyril (5)
- Boy and easterner, neither up for accompanying man (8)
- Arts graduate joined by propulsion system builders (6)
- Small space included broad, initially harassed by monster (9)
- Document directory not starting with yarn (7)
- Hold down English badger on the floor at Christmas, perhaps (4,6)
- Risk everything by preventing collection of £200? (2,3,5)
- Football injury from small, high-powered machine (6,3)
- Geldof may dislike pinch on bottom from carnivore (8)
- In King Edward's time, desire for entertainment here (7)
- Support for ceasefire? (7)
- Tomfoolery observed that all fits together eventually (6)
- Animal moderately rapid after losing wings (5)
- 8 may fall off this entree, in France as well (4)

## Fixtures & Results

in association with Sports Partnership imperial college union sport imperial

### Saturday 8 January

FENCING	Men's 1st	122	Men's 1st	97
	Bristol 1st		London Met 1st	
	Men's 1st	112	Women's 1st	105
	Cambridge 1st		Portsmouth 1st	

### Sunday 9 January

FENCING	Men's 1st	126	King's 1st	93
	Oxford 1st		King's 1st	
	Men's 1st	126 <td>Womem's 2nd <td>81</td> </td>	Womem's 2nd <td>81</td>	81
	University of London 1st		Portsmouth 1st	

### Monday 10 January

VOLLEYBALL ULU	Mixed 1st	St. George's Mixed 1st
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### Wednesday 12 January

BADMINTON	Men's 1st	97	London Met 1st
	Women's 1st	105	Portsmouth 1st

### FENCING

Men's 2nd	King's 1st	93
Womem's 2nd	Portsmouth 1st	81

### FOOTBALL ULU

Men's 5th	School of Slavonic & East European Studies 1st
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### LACROSSE

Men's 1st	Portsmouth 1st
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### Mixed ULU 1st

Royal Holloway ULU Mixed
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### RUGBY UNION

Men's 2nd	King's Medicals 1st
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### Saturday 15 January

FOOTBALL ULU	Men's 2nd	LSE Men's 3rd
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### Men's 3rd

Imperial Medicals 1st
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### Men's 4th

UCL Men's 5th
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### Men's 5th

St Barts Men's 2nd
--------------------

### Men's 6th

King's Medicals Men's 5th
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### Men's 7th

School of Slavonic & East European Studies 2nd
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### Sunday 16 January

FOOTBALL ULU	Women's 1st	King's Medicals 1st
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### HOCKEY ULU

Women's 1st	St George's Women's 1st
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### LACROSSE ULU

Mixed 1st	St Barts Mixed 1st
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### RUGBY ULU

Women's 1st	King's Women's 1st
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### Monday 17 January

BASKETBALL ULU	Men's 1st	SOAS Men's 1st
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### NETBALL ULU

Women's 1st	RUMS 1st
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### Women's 2nd

St Barts Women's 2nd
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### Women's 3rd

Imperial Medicals 4th
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### Women's 4th

LSE 5th
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### SQUASH ULU

Men's 2nd	UCL Men's 1st
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### Men's 3rd

St George's Men's 1st
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### Women's 1st

King's Women's 1st
--------------------

### VOLLEYBALL ULU

Mixed 1st	Royal Holloway 1st
-----------	--------------------

### Mixed 1st

UCL Mixed 2nd
---------------

### WATERPOLO ULU

Men's 1st	UCL Men's 2nd
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### Happy New Year everyone!

Imperial's sporting season is in full swing and we are seeing some stiff competition for the Felix Sports League. Thanks to our sponsors Ernst and Young, we are able to provide some excellent prizes at the end of the year for the winning team. At the end of last year, there were eight teams vying for the top spot and be named Imperial's Bets Team 2010/11. So, keep the reports coming in everyone, especially you Medics out there!!!





Cricket captains review the Ashes  
Page 39

Felix Sport sponsored by  
**ERNST & YOUNG**  
Quality In Everything We Do

# Sailors battle snow & dragons

**Gavin MacAulay**

It was a cold Friday night in late November when a group of six sailors headed to Cardiff to compete in the Cardiff Dragon team racing event. As planned, Chris and Martin had got the coach earlier while I was to go home and meet the others at the Union for 18:00. Unfortunately I left it a bit late so didn't get to the Union till gone 19:00. The others piled in while berating me for my lateness and, with some trepidation, we headed for Cardiff. Our fear was not unjustified as this was forecast to be one of the coldest weekends of the year. As we headed off, the radio reported widespread ice on the roads, that Cardiff airport was closed due to snow and that there were 26 mile queues on the M4 into Cardiff.

Considering this, our journey went surprising smoothly. Once we got out of the standard London evening traffic it was smooth driving all the way to Wales with only a brief stop for food. Near Cardiff the roads were still clear, with the forecast traffic not materialising, and while we were slowed slightly by fog we made good time and arrived at about 22:30. After a minor navigational error took us into an industrial estate,

we found our way to host's house and rejoined the other members of the team.

Saturday morning soon arrived and we headed off to the sailing club. This was more of a challenge than it may sound as we had to fit six sailors and all their gear into my rather small car. However we managed and soon arrived at the club to find people rigging boats in the snow. Once this was done, we quickly headed into the warmth to wait for the briefing. However our wait was soon interrupted by one of the Cardiff sailors asking if anyone had jump leads as one of their motorboats had a flat battery. Surprisingly I did, so lent them mine, highly reassured by the high level of organisation, or maybe not. Eventually the briefing did occur and after some more faffing the racing began by about 11:30, only two hours late!

Team racing involves races between two teams of three boats. In each race you score a number of points equal to your position and the team with the lowest total score wins. This results in intense racing as you must use the rules to help your team. If you come 1st but your team mates are 5th and 6th you still lose.

On Saturday the weather was quite windy as demonstrated by our great and glorious commodore Chris who cap-

sized before the beginning of the first race. Not fun in sub-zero temperatures. Our first race started well with a good start. One of the other teams was holding Chris up, preventing him from heading to the 1st mark, so I went to cover him allowing Chris to escape. Unfortunately Chris messed this up and did a rather dodgy move which, if I was on the other team, would have protested. They did not, but Chris promptly went and capsized again. Smooth. Fortunately Fiona and I were able to get a 1-2 to win the race anyway. In our next race, we again got a good start and while the opposition had 1st we had 2-3-4 and were able to hold on to get our second win.

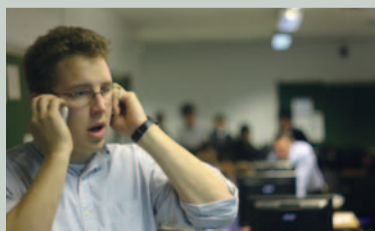
After a short break we were back out and feeling pretty confident although we knew we would need to do well to beat Exeter, our next opposition, who were one of the better teams at the event. Unfortunately this was not to be as a poor start gave them 1-2 around the first mark and we were not able to recover. Next up was Reading, a team we thought were of a similar standard to us. Again we did not get a great start but coming up to the first mark Chris was 2nd and I was 3rd. The 1st Reading boat was holding us up trying to get

...Continued on Page 43



Pardon me if I'm not entirely convinced of the sea worthiness of this particular vessel...

## BUSINESS



Imperial hosts trading challenge:  
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Are you celebrating 'Grohlmas' this year?:  
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