

“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1481

# FELIX



04.02.11

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

**Will BATs ruin your career? Page 16**

**Eat cheap with Imperial's answer to Groupon: Page 44**

iConnect

## £9,000 fees “preferable” says Union President

### Higher rate tuition fees would protect bursaries for poorer students argues Alex Kendall

#### College committee debates fee structure

Sophia David

Tuition fees of £9000 a year would be “far more preferable” according to the ICU President, Alex Kendall, as well as the norm for “the majority of universities” according to the NUS President, Aaron Porter. These latest comments have arisen as the “Student Fees and Financial Aid Working Group” established at Imperial works to determine where the tuition fee level will be set from 2012.

In December, the government voted to allow tuition fees to rise to £6000 and up to £9000 in “exceptional circumstances”. This controversial policy was developed as the government’s response to a review of higher education funding by former BP chief Lord Browne.

The criteria that universities must meet for charging above £6000 are yet to be revealed although it is likely that they will require efforts to attract poorer students through more extensive financial aid systems. Dr. Rodney Eastwood, Secretary of Imperial College and a member of the working group, also believes “they will be keen on universities developing outreach work, which Imperial has an enviably strong reputation for, especially to schools which do not traditionally send many students to the most selective universities.”

Universities Minister, David Willetts, has suggested that universities could qualify for charging up to £9000 if they have high teaching costs or offer an intensive two year course. By offering a wide array of expensive science and engineering degrees, with few humanities courses to help subsidize them, it seems likely that Imperial will be allowed to charge up to £9000 at least on the basis

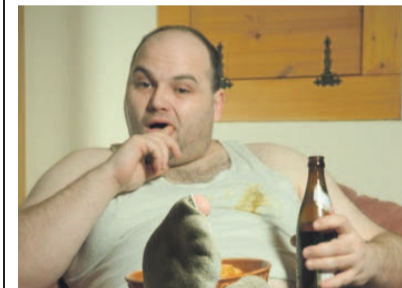
...Continued on Page 6

### So you want to be a Sabb?



Nominations open in less than two weeks. **Alex Dahinten** and **Charlotte Ivison** tell us about their experiences and give advice to would-be candidates: Page 8

### COMMENT



Is TV ruining your social life? Head-to-Head: Page 20

### FILM



Hollywood, stop making expensive, terrible films: Page 29

### TRAVEL



Discovering Rio's hidden gems and surprises: Page 37

#### Hopper Bus changes irk Medics

Medical union not told of changes as moving between campuses is made harder. Clinical students unaffected. Page 3

#### Biochemistry hit by “severe” flood

Biochemistry endures weekend flood in basement only to be hit by another more serious flood on Thursday morning. Page 4

#### Complaint shuts down IC Radio

Complaint to Rector over use of racist language on-air leads Union to temporarily shutdown IC Radio. Page 4

#### Plans for student visas criticised

Government under attack over restrictions to international visas as consultation period ends. Page 5

# HIGHLIGHTS

## On campus

### Global Poverty Project

Engineers without Borders host a thought-provoking presentation about extreme poverty and how we can help to tackle it by making simple lifestyle changes. The Global Poverty Project's 1.4 Billion Reasons presentation is open to all. Registration in advance at [globalpovertyproject.com](http://globalpovertyproject.com). Contact Pedro Rivotti – [p.rivotti@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:p.rivotti@imperial.ac.uk) – for more information.

**Huxley Building, Clore Theatre**  
**08 February 18:00-19:30**

### Our Changing Climate

Professor Brian Hoskins, Director of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change, will be discussing what we understand about climate change, the likely impact of global warming and possible responses. Register in advance. Contact Simon Bailey – [s.bailey@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:s.bailey@imperial.ac.uk) – for more information



**Huxley Building, LT311**  
**09 February 18:30-20:30**

### Rt Hon Andrew Lansley

The Rt Hon Andrew Lansley, the Secretary of State for Health, will be making a keynote speech at the launch of Imperial's new School of Public Health. Other speakers include Vivienne Parry, journalist and broadcaster. The programme for the evening includes panel discussions on chronic and infectious diseases with speakers from Harvard, Cambridge, the WHO and Imperial. Registration in advance. Contact [events@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:events@imperial.ac.uk) for more information.

**Sherfield Building, Great Hall**  
**14 February 16:00-18:30**

## Sub-warden Vacancies



Part of the job may include helping fresh faces move into halls. Or, as shown in this photo, standing around pretending to...

Are you feeling nostalgic for your Fresher years in halls and also passionate about helping 1st years settle in and enjoy their time at Imperial? Well, have we got the job for you! Sub-wardens are primarily there to care for students in halls – those 3am calls have got to be answered by somebody. But the position is also about creating a friendly, fun and responsible atmosphere in your hall.

Postgraduate students are more commonly suited to sub-wardening, perhaps with 2 or more years until the end of your degree, but the position is open to all members of the College. Be aware that taking up a sub-warden position is a medium to long-term commitment; also, don't expect to be taking long holidays during term time.

It's a challenging but rewarding job, and you get to live for cheap! Go to [halls.imperial.ac.uk/vacancies](http://halls.imperial.ac.uk/vacancies) for application forms and more information.

### Beit Hall

The sub-warden position at Beit is from May this year and the deadline for applications is 18:00 on the 4th of March. For further information go to [union.ic.ac.uk/halls/beit](http://union.ic.ac.uk/halls/beit) or contact Dr Savvas Saouros at [savvas.saouros@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:savvas.saouros@imperial.ac.uk)

### Bernard Sunley

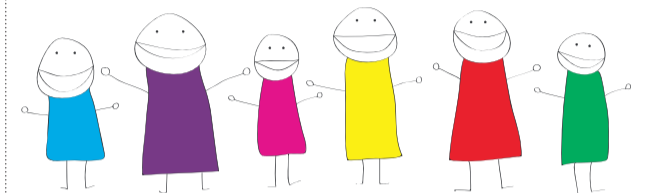
The sub-warden position at Bernard Sunley is from March this year and the deadline for applications is 22:00 on the 19th of February. For further information go to [halls.imperial.ac.uk/bsh](http://halls.imperial.ac.uk/bsh) or contact Jude Grime at [jude@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:jude@imperial.ac.uk)

### Clayponds

The sub-warden position at Clayponds is from April this year and the deadline for applications is 17:00 on the 16th of February. For further information go to [halls.imperial.ac.uk/vacancies](http://halls.imperial.ac.uk/vacancies) or contact Paul Green on [p.green@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:p.green@imperial.ac.uk)

## Union Notice

### Sabbatical Elections!



### Nominations open 15th February

Are you getting excited? We're getting excited. The big day draws every closer. The day when would-be candidates for sabbatical positions begin to declare themselves. Yes, the Sabbatical and Trustee elections for Imperial College Union kick off on the 15th of February when nominations open. The positions up for grabs include Deputy Presidents for Finance & Services, Clubs & Societies, Welfare and Education as well as Felix Editor and finally, President. Do you have the dedication and enthusiasm required to serve Imperial students?

See Page 8 for interviews with Deputy President (Education) Alex Dahinten and Deputy President (Welfare) Charlotte Ivison.

## Lolcat of teh week



Felix, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB.  
Email: [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk). Tel: 020 7594 8072. Fax: 020 7594 8065.  
Printed by The Harmsworth Printing Ltd, Northcliffe House, Meadow Road, Derby. Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711.  
Copyright © Felix 2011.

# FELIX

**Editor-in-Chief** Kadhim Shubber **Deputy Editor** Gilead Amit **Copy Chief** Lizzy Griffiths **Assistant Editor** Dan Wan **News Editors** Alex Karapetian Matt Colvin **Reporters** Katherine Bettany Charles Betts Sophia David Maciej Matuszewski Deepka Rana Aemun Reza Ian Wei **Layout/Design Editor** Veronika McQuadeova **Features Editor** Lizzie Crouch **Sports Editors** Jovan Nedic David Wilson **Science Editors** Kelly Oakes Charlie Harvey **Business Editors** Sina Ataherian Afonso Campos **Politics Editors** James Lees Rory Fenton Rajat Jain **Technology Editor** Samuel Gibbs Feroz Salam **Comment Editor** Anna Perman Jan Piotrowski **Arts Editor** Rox Middleton **Music Editors** Greg Power Christopher Walmsley Luke Turner **Film Editors** Jade Hoffman Ed Knock **TV Editors** Matt Allinson Veronika McQuadeova **Food Editor** Dana Li **Fashion Editor** Saskia Verhagen **Games Editor** Simon Worthington **Clubs & Societies Editor** Roland Sookias **Online Editors** Niharika Midha Dakshaa Rai Ravi Pall Chris Birkett Jonathan Kim **International Editor** Kenneth Lee **Puzzles Captains** Polly Bennett James Hook Aman Nahar **Photo Editor** Thomas Welch **Travel Editors** Dylan Lowe Chris Richardson **Copy Editors** Alex Nowbar Hannah Thomas Sharanya Subbu Ritika Gupta Zainab Ali Joe Marinelli Shruti Mishra Sophia Man **Special Thanks** Nuno Falcao E Cunha Justus Schmidt



## SELKIRK RULES! ...and regulations

Aemun Reza

After several recent incidents in Selkirk Halls – mainly involving alcohol – the Wardens have decided to implement a series of rules regarding ‘gatherings’ and noise levels late at night. These regulations request that students inform the wardens about gatherings so that they can be ‘approved’ and have provoked consternation amongst students there. Students have been warned that if gatherings are not reported to Wardens, after repeat offences, they may get fined.

Several students who live in Selkirk (Selkirkians) have been charged with community service and fines from the College Tribunal for the damage caused after recent parties.

The Selkirkians who were given punishments were indignant; they felt that they had no warning as no one had tried coming to talk to them before. Some students feel patronised in regards to the rule about staying quiet after 11pm. One said, “it literally felt as if I was nine years old again.”

However, sub-wardens do not believe that any of the rules introduced are new. Sub-warden James Farley-Nicholls said that they were a “re-emphasis of the pre-existing requirements for living in halls.” These requirements were set for all halls at the beginning of term and are simply being re-enforced more rigorously he argues.

However, many Selkirkians remain disgruntled if not confused by these regulations. Many students are puzzled by the idea of having to report “gatherings” to their wardens, mainly because they have no idea what a gathering is. Even though the wardens have approved time spent in the kitchen, none of the residents are sure as to when they would notify the wardens. Most students stated

simply that “they wouldn’t think twice” about sending an email, as gatherings aren’t planned: “They just happen”, commented one resident.

However, it seems that wardens are more concerned about large parties, mainly involving alcohol, that would leave a large mess in the kitchens and that the rules were only set due to complaints from residents and cleaners. They only wished to be informed so that they can ensure that any messes are tidied up after and that excessive noise will be controlled.

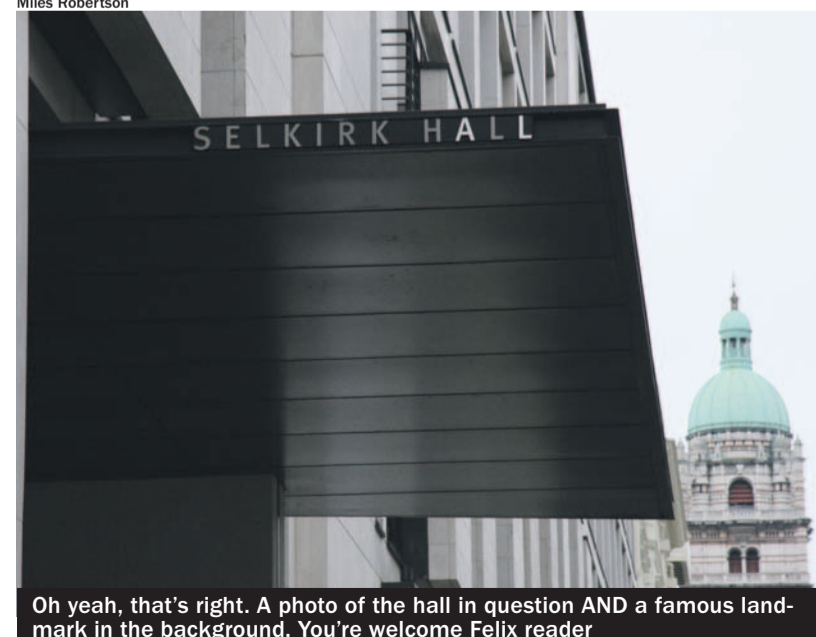
Some Selkirk residents that are not usually involved in such parties and incidents did feel that these new regulations did not affect them as the rules were “only directed at certain people”. But some do believe that the rules have created a “culture of fear, that a warden will walk in any time” making it harder to just hang out in halls.

One of the most important questions has to be: why only Selkirk? It seems that only Selkirk has had their regulations reinforced, where one student was ‘shocked’ that it was only their halls.

But then again, it seems that only Selkirk have people throwing up in their common room, people breaking restrictors on windows and wandering on fifth floor balconies, spilling oil on the fourth floor and inviting people who aren’t from their halls, because no other hall does that, right?

To keep the peace, it seems that Selkirkians should be more considerate of other residents around them, whilst the Sub-wardens should be more lenient on “gatherings” within the halls. On a positive note, the Sub-wardens have promised, “if things improve then the requirements will be relaxed.” But for now, it seems its ‘bed time, lights out’ for Selkirk.

Miles Robertson



Oh yeah, that's right. A photo of the hall in question AND a famous landmark in the background. You're welcome Felix reader

## Angry students told to hop off ‘Hopper Bus’

### No prior warning given, says Medic President

Katherine Bettany



Let's be honest, Imperial, this photo really doesn't require a caption

Katherine Bettany

Disgruntled students have this week found themselves unable to use the NHS Trust ‘Hopper Bus’ service, a shuttle service that runs between NHS Trust sites.

The service, piloted in April 2009, had until recently been a useful form of free transport for Imperial students, most notably medical students, to and from NHS Trust Sites (Charing Cross, St Marys and Hammersmith hospitals) and the South Kensington campus. Two buses used to run in a loop between these sites, providing the means for students and staff to get to teaching, meetings and club and society events. However, recent changes have angered students. The buses are smaller, no longer go to the South Kensington campus and run for fewer hours – changes that David Smith, ICSMSU President, highlighted were not made clear to the student body prior to their enforcement.

“ICSMSU has not been given any information about the change, but we understand that there is a new timetable which runs roughly from 8 to 6, rather than from 7 to 9:30. The Single Decker has become a minibus so there is less space but it seems adequate. [The buses] now only operate between individual sites (i.e. Charing Cross to St Marys Hospital or Hammersmith Hospital to St Marys Hospital etc) rather than going in a big circle. But this saves time

as students no longer have to go through hospital sites on the way to their final destination.”

Joanna Kefas, a second year medic, expressed anger over the changes: “The hopper bus meant that I could get to Imperial [South Kensington campus] quickly and for free. During [clinical] firms it was the only way I even considered getting to St. Marys because the Hopper took 15 minutes, whereas the public bus took an hour. I also use it to get to society meetings and rehearsals – I could jump on the Hopper bus and know that I’d actually get there on time.”

An NHS Trust spokesperson countered that there are now three buses run-

ning rather than two, and that the service is now more frequent and faster.

However, a PhD student, Loretta Platt, said that the loss of the Charing Cross to South Kensington route, “the route we use most,” outweighed improvements on other routes.

The service was never intended to be used by non-clinical students. The online timetable clearly states that the service is for the use of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust staff only, for “official use in getting to or from Trust sites and meetings”.

Dave Smith confirmed that he would be raising the issue at the next Faculty of Medicine Medical Studies Committee, but sought to reassure students on clinical firms that they should not be affected by the changes: “Clinical students who are on placements on one of the hospitals should still be able to use the service if they have been issued with an NHS card at the beginning of their firm, although strictly it is only for staff.”

Whilst it is clear that non-clinical students were never supposed to use the Hopper bus service in the first place, it was of undeniable benefit to many Imperial students. With rising costs of living, students have less and less money to spend on transport between campuses. The Hopper bus fulfilled a need for many students, created by a lack of an affordable and reliable alternative form of transport between Trust sites.

Katherine Bettany



Jeez, get a room...

# NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**  
**Alex Karapetian**  
news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Major flooding shuts Biochem

### Pipe connection failure sends water gushing down through Biochemistry building

**Matt Colvin**

The Biochemistry building has been hit with two serious floods this past week. A failure of a pipe connection to a rooftop water tank is believed to have caused the flood on Thursday morning while a suspected valve failure, or pump malfunction, caused a 6ft flood of water in the sub-basement during the weekend.

It is not yet known whether the two events are linked but Director of Facilities and Property Management Nick Roalfe told Felix that it was possible that the interrupted flow of water from the weekend flood had applied extra strain on the pipe connection. However, he emphasized that they could not be certain until the cause had been properly investigated. The Biochemistry building was closed on Thursday but the majority of the building is hoped to be re-opened by the morning of Friday the 4th.

Thursday's flood is believed to have sent hundreds of gallons of water cascading down into the Biochemistry building leaving the top four floors of the building most badly affected and several centimetres of standing water in parts of the building.

Students were first alerted via the Imperial website at approximately 9am. In an email to Department of Life Sciences staff and Postgraduate Research students, Professor Paul Freemont said that some instrument rooms had been hit badly but that it appeared "most of the very expensive pieces of kit" had been spared. He said that the flood was a "major blow" but praised Estates for doing a "great job".

The flooding disrupted the fire alarm systems in both the Chemistry and Biochemistry building, forcing Mr Roalfe to close down both buildings due to safety concerns. The Chemistry building was reopened by approximately 9am after the fire alarm system was restored there.

At the beginning of the week the Biochemistry and Chemistry buildings were left with reduced water supplies earlier this week after another flood during the weekend left damage to the Biochemistry basement.

A 6ft flood of water in a Plant Room in the Biochemistry basement forced Facilities management to shut down the water supply to the Biochemistry building as well as the neighbouring Chemis-

try Department.

Although the water was quickly pumped out, further disruption was caused by damage to electrical control panels in the affected Biochemistry Plant Room, leaving hot water unavailable in the Biochemistry building and no water for toilets and laboratories in buildings C1 and C2 of the Chemistry Department until Tuesday.

The lack of water led the Department of Chemistry to shut all labs and forcing the cancellation of laboratory classes and the suspension of research activities on Monday. Head of the Department of Chemistry Professor Tom Welton explained to Felix that the labs were shut because some experiments require water to run but also due to safety reasons; a ready supply of water is needed in case of spillages and other emergencies.

Out of the five pumps previously operating in the Biochemistry Plant Room, only one was working on Tuesday. The overall extent of the damage has not been revealed, however, Buildings Manager Anna McDadd admitted in an email to staff that it "may be a while before the extent of the damage to pumps, motors and other plant is realised."

With regards to impaired student work resulting from the closed laboratories, Professor Welton confirmed to Felix that anyone whose work has been affected will have this taken into account, stating as an example that marks for undergraduate labs sessions will be adjusted accordingly if necessary. Discussing the aid received during and after the flood, he praised the work of the Facilities Management team, remarking that they responded quickly to address the problems and "have been nothing but helpful".

Nick Roalfe admitted that it had been a very difficult week and said that he was determined to have the buildings reopened and fully operational as quickly as possible. He thanked Departmental staff for their support and added that on Monday and Tuesday he and his team would have a full review of the floods and their responses to the flooding. He was particularly keen to investigate how they could communicate more quickly and efficiently with students to let them know about possible disruption to their schedules.

## Complaint to Rector leads to radio shutdown

### Union IC Radio offline after "member of public" complains about racially offensive term

**Website back online following day**

**Kadhim Shubber**

Imperial College Radio (IC Radio) was shut down by the Union last Tuesday evening after a "member of the public" complained to the Rector about the use of racially offensive language during a broadcast. A non-Imperial guest on an IC Radio show referred to a close friend as a "Paki", which the College and Union say breaks Imperial's regulations governing media content.

A complaint was received by the Rector's office sometime on Tuesday and was later forwarded to Union President Alex Kendall at approximately 17:30. It alerted him to the complaint and told him that, because of the seriousness of the complaint, they expected him to take action on the situation immediately.

Kendall said that it was impossible for him to avoid taking serious action, "it broke College policy and it broke the Union's policy, so we had to do something." In the Imperial College Union Code of Practice, which is agreed on with the College, it says that "prejudicial or pejorative reference to an individual's race" must be avoided.

The email from the Rector's office also referred Kendall to relevant sections of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code, which, however, do not apply to IC Radio as it transmits online only.

Station Manager Dan Fowler apologised for the language used, but said that it was clear that the word was used without malice in reference to a close friend. However, he accepted that its use was inappropriate and reminded IC Radio members, in an email on Wednesday, that "things that may seem like 'banter' between friends may be taken another way by someone else that is listening in."

Kendall, along with Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Heather Jones listened to the relevant parts of the show before taking action and had decided that the word was used "inappropriately." Kendall said that they understood the context the word was used in but added that "we can't condone the use of a racist comment."

Attempts were made to contact senior members of IC Radio as the website was being shutdown but they were

unable to reach them. The Union were able to shutdown the website as it is hosted on a Union server, an arrangement required of all Clubs & Societies in the Union's Web Policy, recently passed in November last term. The Web Policy also permits the President to "suspend indefinitely" a club or society's website. The policy notes that the Union is "ultimately liable" both legally and to the College for the content on Clubs & Societies' websites, which Kendall said makes it necessary for the Union to be able to remove potentially offensive content.

When asked why the Union did not remove the recording of the radio show in question, instead of bringing down the whole site, he said that he wanted to be reassured that there wasn't further offensive content on the site. At a meeting with Dan Fowler on Wednesday he says he was reassured of this and the website was allowed to come back online.

In March 2010 a student radio programme at the University of Glasgow was taken off the air after the presenters "used numerous swear words and explicitly discussed sexual activities."

The entire website, however, was not shut down.

Kendall also added that shutting down the entire website was a strong gesture that signaled "how seriously [the Union] considers racially offensive language."

The Station Manager Dan Fowler, as well as the person who made the comment and the host of the radio show in question, have personally written to the Rector to apologise for the comments made on air and have asked for those apologies to be passed on to the person who made the complaint.

IC Radio is implementing a new system to ensure that offensive content is not uploaded to the website. Radio hosts will be asked to manually upload their shows, currently it is automatic, and to confirm before doing so that it doesn't contain anything "dodgy". Fowler reminded IC Radio members to use their "common sense" when broadcasting.

No further disciplinary action is being taken. IC Radio's listening figures are not believed to have been affected by the shutdown...

Editorial: Page 18

Sponsored Editorial

## More student cuts Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers

More student cuts for Imperial students at South Kensington's FRESH Hairdressers.

**Men's cuts £22**

**Women's shampoo and cut and shake dry £28**

**Women's shampoo, cut and blow-dry £38**

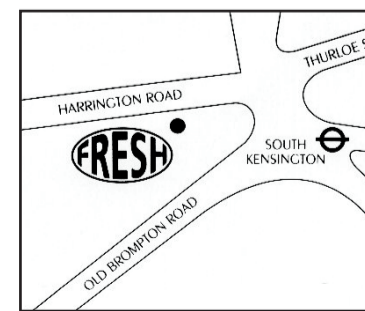
All of our cuts are done by highly experienced stylists.

Tuesday to Fridays 9.30 to 4.30 (sorry no discounts on Saturdays).

We are only 70 metres from South Kensington tube station

To book an appointment, call

**0207 823 8968.** Ask for a student discount and bring your Imperial ID.  
Cash only.



# Student visa plans attacked

Government's visa proposals like "using a sledgehammer to crack a nut." By Ian Wei

**L**isten carefully. Do you hear that? That is the sound of the seismic shift in government policy which will define the higher education sector for the next decade. And, worryingly, it does not sound good.

The 31st of January marked the end of the consultation period for the review of the student immigration system. The proposals outlined by the home secretary Theresa May have been described as "radical", "dangerous" and "damaging" to the university sector, and such changes are expected to have a huge effect on the international student body.

Major proposals include raising the English language requirement, removal or reduction of the post study visa and a radical overhaul of the dependence system.

One of the major frustrations for universities is that under these plans is the apparent assumption that all degree courses and all students will require the same level of mastery of English.

Under the new proposals, students would be expected to achieve a B2 grade under CEFR, Common European Framework for Languages, in English, rather than the previous requirement of a B1 grade, roughly comparable to a jump from GCSE to A-level English. Not only will it be compulsory that overseas students who are over seventeen demonstrate a higher level of proficiency in English than many university undergraduates have done, they will also need to do it in a particular 'secure' exam yet to be announced by the government.

The change will severely affect potential students who intend to study in the UK for a few years before applying to university here, such as doing A-levels or pre-university foundation courses. Tom Millns, Chief Executive of English UK, believes that this is invaluable to the students. He explains that "they do three things: subject top-up", "improve a student's English language skills" and they also give students the skills to be independent learners. English UK estimates that around 70-80% of students that are currently on such courses would not be able to satisfy the language requirement. At Imperial, around 53% of overseas students have studied in the UK before applying to university.

For current students, the major concern is the removal or reduction of the post-study work visa. The two year period on the post study visa is often used to gain valuable work experience and enhance the CV. Dominic Scott Chief Executive of UKCISA, UK Council for International Student Affairs, emphasizes how important the work experience is and

**"Proposals include raising the English language requirement, removal or reduction of the post study visa and a radical overhaul of the dependence system."**

argues that it demonstrates to potential overseas employers "that their degree has real currency in the labour market".

The proposals will not be welcome news to postgraduate students either. If the plans go ahead in the current form, all students under the tier four visas will either not be allowed to bring a dependant if the period of study is under 12 months, or if the period is over 12 months that dependant will be unable to work. Dominic dismisses the notion as "ridiculous" and believes that it could "entirely undermine our research base".

The main reasons behind the proposals are the perceived abuse of the student visa system and the unsustainable mass migration to the UK.

As the government tries to fulfil its pledge to halve net migration by 2015, it is easy to see why the government is so keen to tighten student immigration laws. The document outlining the proposal quotes a figure of 139,000 of migrants to the UK including dependents using the student route out of 184,000, around 76% of total net migration.

Speaking to the Guardian on the 1st of February, immigration minister Damian Green, argued "too many [students] come to do courses below degree level as a cover for staying and working" and believes that the proposals outlined are vital to stop abuse of the student immigration system.

However, students do not stay in the UK forever and the figure of 139,000 includes any person who is planning to stay for more than 12 months. A survey of around 1500 students conducted by the International Student Barometer showed that just 3% of students were intending to eventually settle in the UK after their studies.

Dr Sharon Bolton, Head of International Student Support at Imperial, likens the government response to "using a sledgehammer to crack a nut". She believes that a much fairer system would discriminate between sponsors, institutions which

can issue a certificate which is necessary when applying for a visa via the student route. Sharon argues that since the government already has a ranking system of trustworthiness of the sponsors in place, the new immigration laws should not penalise those institutions where no evidence of immigration abuse has been found. There is no exact date for the proposals to be finalised and implemented. However, the much criticised highly skilled worker cap took just 6 months to become part of the system. As Professor Edward Acton, Vice Chancellor of the University of East Anglia so dryly observes, if the proposals are not changed, "the catastrophic effects on universities, will for a period, actually make the home fees matter slightly fade from centre, so grave will it be." Comforting.



Immigration Minister Damian Green (right, obviously...) I can't wait to be a ministerial aide, I'm going to protect them from rain "LIKE A BOSS!"

Imperial College  
London  
BUSINESS SCHOOL

The new marketing programme  
to shape your future

MSc Strategic Marketing is a **new** one-year programme examining the fundamentals of marketing strategy, new technologies and the marketing opportunities they present. Taught by faculty ranked 7th in the world for marketing\*, the programme is designed to give you the skills to shape your future in a range of established businesses or entrepreneurial ventures.

Join us at our next information session.  
Find out more and register online.



Scan the QR code on your smartphone or visit the MSc Strategic Marketing web page.

\*FT Global MBA Rankings 2011

MSc  
STRATEGIC  
MARKETING

[www.imperial.ac.uk/business-school/msc-strategic-marketing](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/business-school/msc-strategic-marketing)

# NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**  
**Alex Karapetian**  
 news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Higher Fees

### Student protests pass peacefully



Thousands of student protestors marched on to the streets of London and Manchester once again this past weekend, to demonstrate their anger and disapproval of the government's plans to impose higher tuition fees and introduce public spending cuts.

The government has refused to change course on tuition fee increases, despite the rising number of protests across the country, and continues to argue that increasing tuition fees is absolutely critical to secure the future of the universities. Students, however, are well aware of the enormous challenge that they face and were full of optimism during the protest as Aisha, a foreign exchange student from Camden was quoted to have said, "This is only the beginning. I've been to all demonstrations so far and am well aware of the mountain climb that lies ahead. It is going to be a long fight against this government."

Accompanied by heavy police, the protest in London remained relatively peaceful in comparison with recent tuition fee marches. However, an aggressive attempt was made to force through police lines and reach the Tory party head quarters in Millbank, which resulted in six people being detained. Emotions were at its climax in the three hour long march through central London to the Parliament, as protestors used drums to amplify the noise and shouted in unison, slogans which included: "No ifs, no buts... No education cuts!"

Considering the recent political events in Tunisia and Egypt, an interesting analogy was drawn by a protestor when he drew up a placard bearing the words: "Ben Ali, Mubarak...Cameron, you are next."

The march in Manchester turned more violent as a mob consisting of 150 protestors broke away from the crowd and surrounded Aaron Porter, the President of the National Union of Students, who then had to be escorted away by the police. Personal attacks which involved throwing eggs and oranges were also made on Shane Chowen, the Vice president of NUS, when he tried to address and calm down the crowd.

Assistant Chief Constable Neil Wain of Greater Manchester Police gave the following official statement to the BBC, when questioned about the disturbances in the Manchester rally: "In total, we made 16 arrests and have had reports that two officers suffered minor injuries. We also have intelligence to suggest a number were armed with chef's knives and one of those arrested was found with a number of razor blades."

It is pretty evident that the situation continues to be really sensitive, and with social networking sites becoming increasingly effective with regards to publicity, including developments such as a mobile phone application which allows the user to avoid police-blocked routes, the protests can only be expected to increase and become more compelling in nature. **Umair Aasem**

## £9,000 fees allows more distribution to poorer students says Union President

Sophia David

*...Continued from Front Page*  
 of high teaching costs.

Aaron Porter has also claimed this week that up to 70% of universities will charge this maximum amount. He argues that "universities believe that the price they set will be a sign of quality – and they will charge whatever they can get away with".

However, Nicola Dandridge from University UK rejects this assumption, saying that universities have not yet made pricing decisions and so there is no way of knowing the levels of fees that will be charged.

Alex Kendall is also keen to stress that "most of the work the group [at Imperial] can do at the moment can only be speculation" until further details from the government are revealed. However, in his latest blog he has hinted that the working group, of which he is part of, is investigating both financial models of £6000 and £9000 fees.

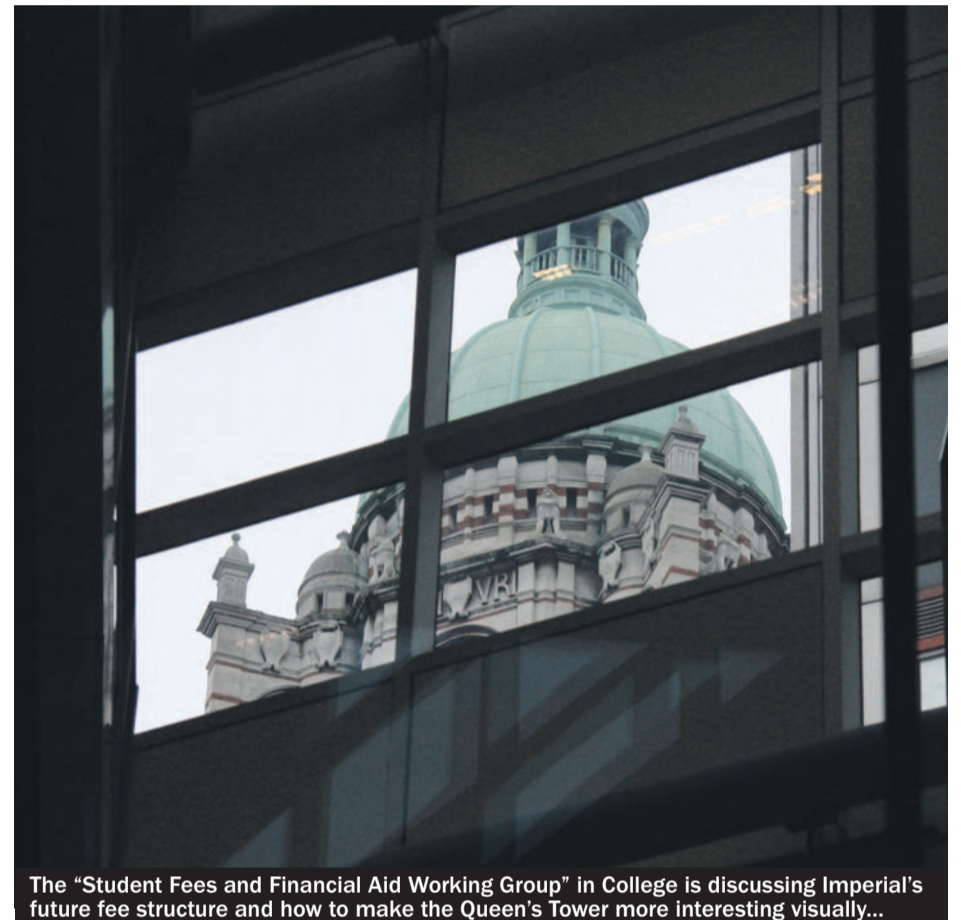
Imperial currently spends around £4 million on financial aid to students whose household income is below a certain level. A maximum bursary of £3500 per year is available for students whose income is less than £25,000, and a staggered system of reduced bursaries caters for those earning over £25,000. Of the £4 million, £3.5 million comes from fees which are redirected to form bursaries with the other £0.5 million coming from the endowment. Alex Kendall warns that "with the cut in government funding the university may not be able to afford the £3.5 million given in bursaries unless the government demands it and/or Imperial charges higher fees".

Kendall highlights the dilemma that the working group are facing between charging "a £6000/year fee for everyone, knowing that this will drastically reduce the amount of financial aid, and a £9000 fee so that those with a large household income pay and everyone whose family earns below £60,000 gets some form of subsidy". He states that the £9000/year fee "with a far greater redistributive system to poorer students seems far more preferable than a system of total equality under £6000/year".

Kendall has also spoken of discussions that have taken place within the working group regarding how the bursaries will be given out. One option is to continue paying bursary money straight into a student's bank account, so the student has freedom to choose how it is spent, either for paying fees or for living costs. However, the idea of a fee remission has also arisen, whereby students cannot use the bursary for living expenses, an option Kendall argues would be undesirable. "For a London university, we know that the living costs are the most expensive factor at university and the current loan and grant only just covers this. Preventing [students] from using the bursary to top this up is a mistake." However, there may not be an option; Imperial thinks the government may demand the latter, and therefore modeling how this would work at Imperial is now crucial.

However, just when help seems to be on its way to poorer students, the think-tank Million+

Miles Robertson



The "Student Fees and Financial Aid Working Group" in College is discussing Imperial's future fee structure and how to make the Queen's Tower more interesting visually...

has claimed this week that "adding another level of complexity" to an already complicated system of student bursaries and grants is unlikely to help those most deprived.

They are referring to a £150 million National Scholarships Programme announced by the co-

alition whereby students would have their first year of university paid for by the state if they had been entitled to free school meals. Universities that charge more than £6000/year could also be forced to pay the students' fees for a second year.

Critics argue that this plan would hit universities that take a high proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds and act as a disincentive for elite universities such as Imperial to take such students.

The think-tank also argues that EU legislation makes it impossible for the government and universities to pay the tuition fees of only UK students. Eligible EU students would also have to have their fees paid for too. The NUS, which is involved in consultations on this issue, have suggested the government might now drop this plan.

Therefore, both the government and the Student Fees and Financial Aid Working Group at Imperial have many considerations to take into account to ensure the new system is "fairer and more progressive" as promised by the coalition. The financial aid package will have to be submitted to and agreed by the Office for Fair Access and Dr. Rodney Eastwood admits that "it is unlikely than an announcement on details from Imperial will be made before the summer". Finally, students should not be hesitant to express their views to Alex Kendall, a member of the working group. Eastwood insists that "student views are welcome, especially on the forms of financial aid that would help to attract the most able, but needy, students to the College."



**"Universities believe that the price they set will be a sign of quality – and they will charge whatever they can get away with"**

**Aaron Porter,**  
**NUS President**

metricA collage of images including a large portrait of a man, two smaller portraits of the same man with red eye masks, two images of a woman in a blue dress, a couple kissing, a group of women, and two purple cat faces. A large red heart is in the center, with a pair of red lips superimposed on it.

# VALENTINE'S BALL

*Aled Haydn Jones*

*The Scarletz*

*Red Lights One*

*Guy Hyper*

*11 February 2011 / 20:00-02:00*  
*Online £5.00 / On the door £8.00*

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

**LIMITS**  
yourlimits.co.uk

imperial  
college  
union

# ELECTIONS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**  
**Alex Karapetian**  
news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Rewarding and fun, if you're committed

With elections looming closer, Felix talks to current Sabbs about their experiences



\*cough, turn to the Centrefold \*cough. Go on, we'll wait for you to get back

**Charlotte Ivison**  
Deputy President  
(Welfare)

Interview by Kadhim Shubber

**W**hat has been your biggest challenge as Deputy President (Welfare)?  
Engaging students in welfare issues. Students at times don't take their own welfare very seriously. Often when they do need help they either don't know where to go or they choose to suffer in silence because of social perceptions. I think it's very easy at Imperial to prioritise academia. Admittedly when I was a fresher I didn't take part in campaign weeks and I'm still not sure if we're involving students enough through campaign weeks. But they are very important and the issues that they highlight, like sexual health in SHAG Week, will always be vital to student wellbeing.

### What's an average day like?

I start the day at 10am, usually with checking and replying to emails that I've received. They're usually on a range of things from papers for College meetings to student issues. I'll then spend some time organising whatever campaign week I'm working on, which usually involves contacting appropriate charities and clubs to get involved, room bookings and ordering publicity materials. I'll usually do this with the appropriate welfare officer. In the afternoon I may have a College committee, a meeting with individual staff, a student consultation group that I've organised or meet with an individual student who needs some help.

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

I really enjoy being able to help students, both on a representative level and individually when they have a specific problem. It's very rewarding to feel like you've made a student's life better. Particularly in individual cases, you're working directly with a student and helping them through whatever issues have come up, which are usually quite serious and have large, life-changing consequences.

But also representing students on College committees and putting across their concerns and views is rewarding. The College do take student views on board; they really do take welfare very seriously. Admittedly the committees that I sit on are less combative and less 'political' than the other sabbaticals have to sit on, but nonetheless it is great to feel like the student view is being fed upwards and making real changes.

### What do you enjoy least?

Committee meetings can, at times, be a little te-

**"Make sure that you actually care about student welfare or you'll end up being bored"**

dious. Sometimes you find yourself at a very long, very unproductive meeting and you don't feel like you're using your time to the benefit of students or delivering them value-for-money. But it is essential to maintain student representation in all areas of College, the odd tedious meeting every now and again is a small price to pay for that.

### Do you have any regrets about your time as Deputy President (Welfare)?

I think at the beginning I shied away from tackling certain problems head-on. When I first started the role, I didn't have much experience in operating Union finances and so I shied away from handling the finances for the campaign weeks entirely myself. Now that I've gained more experience I've started to do that and the result is that things run more smoothly. So my only regret is not being more confident in myself at the beginning.

### Do you have any advice for anyone considering running for Deputy President (Welfare)?

Make sure that you actually care about student welfare or you'll end up being bored. Not everyone has that passion and concern for other people so be sure that you do. Be prepared to take an active role in defining your role and responsibilities. It's a very young position, it's only two years old and so it's much less defined than say Deputy President (Clubs & Societies); the job description is still evolving. You'll have to make a decision about what direction to take the role in.

Also be prepared for the impact on your life of the position. The way you work changes, it's much different to your course. It's more rigid but also requires you to be more flexible. You have set office hours, which, unlike those lectures that you find boring, are definitely not optional. But you also need to be more flexible because if there's something urgent, you have to be answerable; there are some things that you can't put off until the weekend. Expect your social life to change too; you'll start spending time with different people. It's a big commitment.



Look at how happy he looks, he must have just seen the Centrefold...

**Alex Dahinten**  
Deputy President  
(Education)

Interview by Anna Perman

**F**or other people who are thinking about running, what's the one thing you wish you'd known before you started?

How many meetings you attend! There have been days, honestly, when I have sat in five or six meetings; I also have three-hour meetings once in a while. Most people come into the position come from an undergraduate perspective, you don't really get postgraduates applying for these jobs, but you have to deal with both undergraduate and postgraduate issues, even if you're a postgraduate coming in you have to deal with undergraduate issues. And I underestimated that at first, but you have a support team, and the GSA, and you just use your resources.

### Has it ever been a problem representing two different groups of students with different needs?

Yes, because undergraduate needs are very different from those of postgraduate students. It's very difficult getting used to that. But that's why you have the handover period [in July], to acclimatise to the different worlds.

### Is there any unfinished business that you really want to get done by the end of the year?

That has to be the Feedback Policy, it has to succeed in creating a different mindset around feedback and coursework. The two go hand in hand so we need to move away from the mindset: "We're just going to test the students". We need to create more of a dynamic learning environment that ties the coursework closely with the feedback. In a way, it's kind of an agreement between the lecturers and the students.

### What's a typical day as a DPE?

So I normally get in at 10am, make myself a nice large cup of coffee, sit in front of the computer and check my emails. Come midday-ish, that's usually when the committees usually start and I usually sit on one or two a day.

### That's a lot of committees

Yeah! Especially round November time, it's horrible. There's more like three or four a day. I'm not making this sound very appealing am I? But at the same time the position and Deputy President (Welfare) are quite new. It's only the second year that they've existed separately, so we're still forming the positions in a way. So what I've tried

**"You do need to be a dynamic person. Since it's so new, you need to want to shape the position"**

to do is have a lot more contact with my Reps. So I meet Departmental Representatives and my Academic Affairs Officers constantly; we're trying to get more representatives input into what I do, so that the policies that I'm creating are responsive to student needs. I create a document and send it out to everyone and say, "what do you think?" I've tried to get that dynamic going. It's working well but it needs to be continued and improved next year.

### What's your take, as DPE on the Life Sciences cuts?

Although there are problems in the Department, the way that both College and Departmental management went about doing this was completely wrong. We showed them data on how their decisions are flawed, on how their data was flawed, and we were basically shut down. So the situation right now is that we have to support their teaching review. We don't want to be in the position where we just say, "I told you so", so we're making sure they go about it right. Bottom line is, I'm not happy and it was a bad way of going about it.

### What sort of person should run – what do you need to be a good DPE?

Although the position doesn't sound very interesting – it's always the one that is applied for least – you do need to be a dynamic person. Since it's so new, you need to want to shape the position. We have a new staff member, Andrew Keenan who is Representative Coordinator. His position still needs to be integrated into the whole system. You need to integrate the Departmental Reps. It's become a lot more student friendly than people perceive it to be. It was a position where you just dealt with College, but we're making it so that you're not shying away from meeting up with students and talking to them. But you also need a lot of stamina to sit through the meetings; you need to be prepared to go to a lot of boring meetings. But you work with wonderful people, in the Union and in the College.

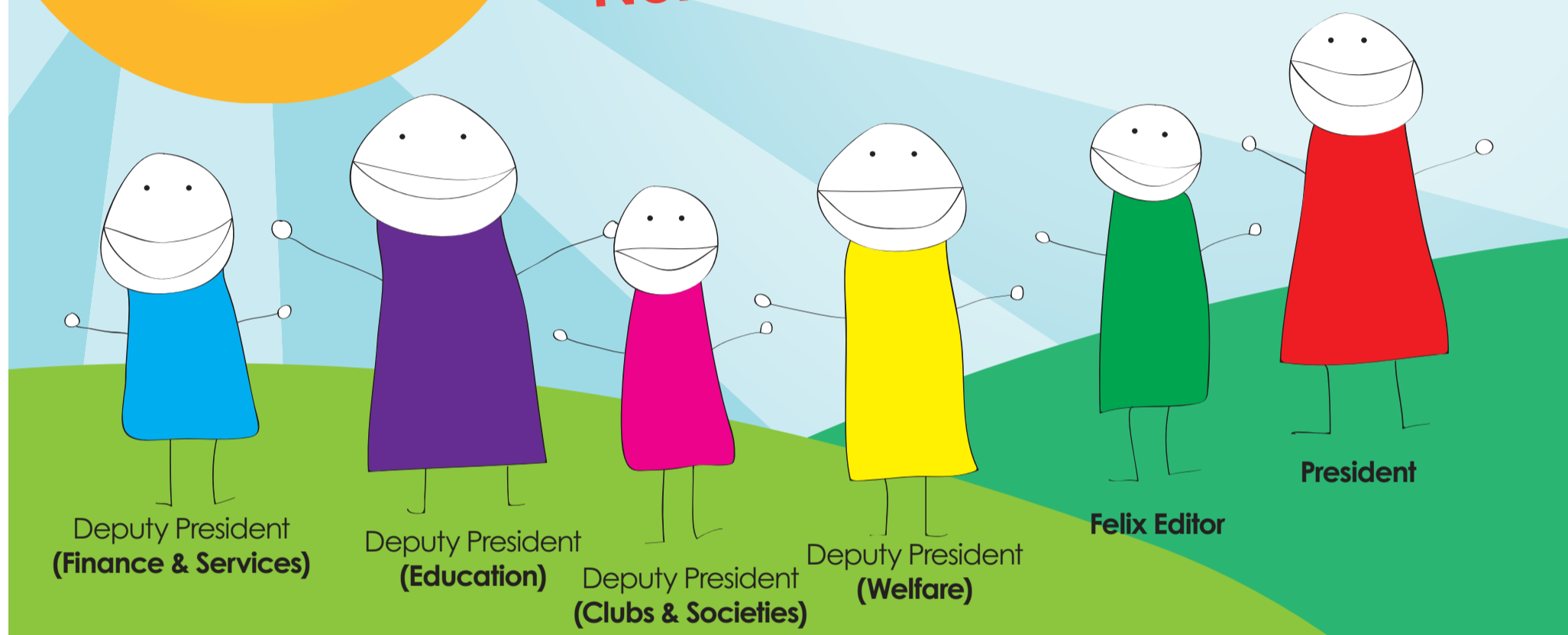


Sabbatical  
**Elections**  
2011

# Brighten up your Union!

We need great candidates to run the Union next year. Think you could do it?

**Nominations open 15 February**



## The Student Visa Consultation

So, after quite a bit of work, talking to student reps and debating the meaning of really badly worded questions, we as a Union sent off our submission to the Government's student visa consultation. The consultation was launched at the start of December for eight weeks, its proposed changes aiming to both reduce net immigration into the UK and limit abuse of the student visa system by people coming here to work rather than study. Here's how we responded: We agree that highly accredited sponsor institutions should be allowed to offer below degree level courses, but that these institutions should be given 1-2 years to become highly accredited.

We agree that we the Government should raise the minimum English requirement for entry.

We disagree with the proposal that if students want to remain in the country to study an additional course after their first one, that they should have to provide evidence of academic progression, as this would limit those who choose to swap degrees or do a second, unrelated degree.

We also disagree will the proposal that such students should have to leave the UK and re-apply from overseas.

We disagree with the proposal to close the Tier 1 Post Study Work route. This route allows students to stay in the U.K. for two years after their course to find skilled work, and so closing it would mean that the only route left is the Tier 2 migrant route, which only permits the student to stay for four months during

which they must find a sponsor employer to be able to stay and work.

We disagree with the proposal to further reduce the 20 hours a week limit for full time overseas student employment.

We disagree with the proposal that students on a course of 12 months or under should not be able to bring family with them, and that any family members permitted should not be allowed to work here.

We agree that track records of fraudulence in individual countries and in sponsor institutions should be used as a basis for differential examination of application documents.



**Charlotte Ivison**  
Deputy President (Welfare)

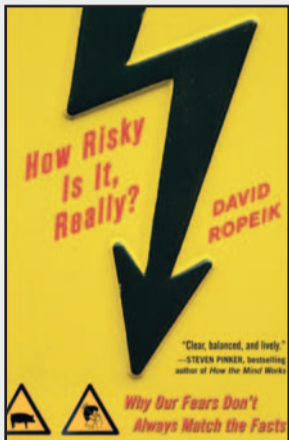
It's expected that the results of this consultation should come out in April. In the meantime, if you have any concerns about how the changes will affect you or you want to know more about the consultation document, visit : [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/student-visa-reform](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/student-visa-reform)

# SCIENCE

Science Editors: **Charlie Harvey**  
**Kelly Oakes**

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

## And a few suggestions...



### How Risky Is It Really?

by **David Ropeik**

David Ropeik tackles a subject that both fascinates and bewilders us, taking apart the human psyche to try and explain why it is that we fear the things we do, however irrational those fears are. He separates the risks associated with common fears such as snakes from long-term risks which in the end are the ones that we are not instinctively able to deal with. Ropeik explains both the mental process that has made fear a fundamental part of our evolution and the rational approach we have developed in dealing with risks over time.

There is a distinct comparison that Ropeik seems to be trying to make between the modern iPhone wielding man and his cave-dwelling ancestors; he is willing us to reassess what we are actually afraid of and the quantitative risks involved. This is an interesting and well written book, although not as exciting as I had hoped, it was a refreshing outlook on modern life.

**Katya-yani Vyas**

### You won't believe it...



They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but doctors from Japan have managed to train labradors to sniff out bowel cancer. The dogs could detect traces of the disease in breath and stool samples with almost 100% accuracy. Surprisingly, they were most successful at detecting the cancer in its earlier stages. The study shows that cancer specific chemicals are present in the gut. And while using dogs may be impractical in the real world, it could lead to new methods of early detection.

## Drug-resistant bacteria mapped

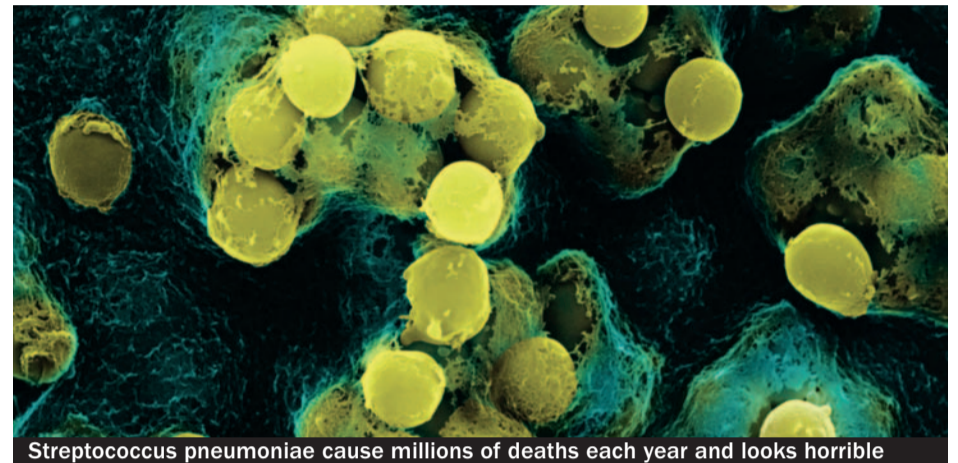
**Charlie Harvey**

The genomes of hundreds of bacterial strains that cause pneumonia have been sequenced and may lead to new antibiotics and vaccines.

240 lineages of multidrug resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* were collected from around the world and their genomes sequenced in order to understand how the bacteria came to be so virulent.

The research, published in the journal *Science* this week, compared the genetic sequences with the geographic locations of each specimen to produce a map of the major evolutionary events that have led to the diversity we see today. The team of scientists also pinpointed Europe as the probable birthplace of the first multidrug resistant individual.

The researchers also identified recombination as the dominant mechanism the bacteria have used to evolve resistance to antibiotic drugs. Recombination involves individual pieces of DNA moving around the bacterial genome, and in doing so creates new genes. Some of these recombinations will result in the bacteria becoming resistant. Many of these drug resistant genes can pass horizontally, from bacteria to bacteria, and could explain how drug resistance has spread so quickly across the globe.



**Streptococcus pneumoniae** cause millions of deaths each year and looks horrible

Four million cases of fatal pneumococcal disease are reported each year, and, according to the World Health Organisation, is responsible for an estimated 18% of all deaths of children under the age of 5.

The research was created thanks to a partnership between the Sanger Institute, a world leader in genomic analysis, and scientists from Rockefeller University studying the patterns of illness around the world. Alexander Tomaz, co-author of the paper, praised the unusual col-

laboration. "Such an alliance between molecular biology and epidemiology promises further interesting insights into the mechanism of bacterial evolution".

Professor Brian Spratt, a molecular epidemiologist at Imperial highlighted the importance of this research, saying: "how bacteria diversify over the very short time scales [...] are of crucial importance for understanding and predicting the response of pathogens to new antibiotics and vaccines."

## In a galaxy far, far away...

**Kelly Oakes**

There haven't always been stars and galaxies in the universe, and the time when they began to form — known as the reionisation epoch — is the subject of much interest in astrophysics. A paper published in *Nature* last week details a discovery that could tell us more about this mysterious time.

In the paper, Rychard Bouwens and colleagues say they have detected the most distant galaxy ever seen; the light from the galaxy was emitted only 500 million years after the Big Bang. This age puts it well within the epoch of reionisation.

The galaxy has the highest redshift ever observed; it was from this that the team were able to calculate the galaxy's age.

Cosmological redshift is a measure of how fast an object is moving away from the Earth and is a consequence of the expanding Universe. Objects with higher redshift are moving away from the Earth faster than those with lower redshifts, which means they are further away from Earth and also further back in time. To put it simply, the higher the redshift the older the galaxy.

Bouwens and colleagues used something known as the Lyman-break technique to identify the galaxy. This technique relies on a sharp drop in the spectrum of a galaxy that is due to the absorption of energetic photons by neutral gas that surrounds galaxy forming regions. The discovery can then be confirmed by looking at optical images.

For a long time the observations required to study the reionisation epoch were out of reach, but recent images from Hubble are making the detection and study of far away galaxies possible for the first time. The new galaxy was discovered in images taken by Hubble's Wide Field Camera 3.

Bouwens and colleagues also looked into the rate of star formation at the time just after the newly discovered galaxy. They discovered that in just 200 million years the rate of star formation increased tenfold. This confirms that the newly discovered galaxy is right in the heart

of the reionisation epoch, and sheds new light on how the stars and galaxies we see today formed.

"We're seeing huge changes in the rate of star birth that tell us that if we go a little further back in time we're going to see even more dramatic changes," said Garth Illingworth, a co-author of the paper from the University of California at Santa Cruz. "We're moving into a regime where there are big changes afoot. Another couple of hundred million years back towards the Big Bang, and that will be the time when the first galaxies really are starting to build up."



**This is not the galaxy you're looking for (the real galaxy wasn't as photogenic as this)**

## SCIENCE

# Improve your memory by nodding off

**Nathan Wren**

Research has revealed how the replaying of memories while we are awake leaves them vulnerable to interference and distortion. The study, published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*, showed that by reactivating these memories during our sleep, they are protected from this manipulation, particularly during slow wave sleep (SWS). SWS occurs in stages 3 and 4 of non-REM sleep, and we will normally SWS in periods of longer than 20 minutes, or extended power naps.

In this study, volunteers were required to remember the locations of pairs of cards, officially referred to as a concentration-type game. Whilst playing, the volunteers were exposed to an unspecified unpleasant smell. After this admittedly tiring game, half of the volunteers spent 40 minutes awake whilst the others curled up and took a 40-minute nap. Some volunteers, both awake and asleep, were again exposed to the smell in an attempt to reactivate their memory of the card game. After the 40 minutes

were up all of the volunteers played the game one more time and then their ability to recall the original pairs of cards from the first game was tested.

Those volunteers who hadn't had their memory jogged by the odour, whether awake or asleep, were able to remember around 60% of the original card pairs. An interesting result came from those volunteers whose memories had been reactivated with the smell. Those who had foregone the nap and stayed awake for 40 minutes were only able to remember around 41% of the card pairs. Their memories, having been reactivated whilst they were awake, were vulnerable to interference probably from the second game of 'pairs'. Those volunteers whose memories had been jogged during their sleep successfully recalled the location of 84% of the original pairs. Brain scans taken during the research revealed how memory replay during SWS involves much stronger activity in the hippocampus (a structure in the brain strongly associated with memory formation) where short term memories are transferred



I wonder if this lady will remember to pick up next week's issue of Felix...

to be stored as long term memories in the cortex. Replaying memories during these periods may speed up the transfer from long to short-term memory, stabilising it.

The research scientists, from various German and Swiss universities, believe their findings may have important clinical implications, namely those of improving psychotherapy techniques. It is suggested that these results mean that contextual cues presented during

wakefulness may be able to reactivate unwanted or maladaptive memories during psychotherapy, in patients with post-traumatic stress or panic disorder. Being able to reactivate these unwanted memories before therapy may allow traumatic memories to be 'unlearned' and replaced with 'new' memories. Reactivation of these new memories during periods of SWS could then stabilise these new therapeutic memories within the brain of the patient.

# From wild wolves to top dogs

**Victoria Bignet**

Although dogs are surely the first animals to be domesticated, the history and location of wolf-to-dog evolution has been controversial. Yet recent genetic evidence points to the Middle East. Most farmyard animals and the house cat were domesticated in the Middle Eastern area known as the Fertile Crescent, as a result of that area being witness to the first sedentary, agricultural human settlements.

It has been thought that wolf domestication was an exception, considering that they are highly mobile predators who scavenged kills left by game-hunting nomads since the Palaeolithic. The hypothesis was that wolves became accustomed to human contact and that gradually a domesticated dog evolved.

A recent study, however, compared archaeological with genetic data, indicating that the emergence of small canids did occur in the Middle East with the wolf-dog barrier crossed at the time of first human settlement. The authors identified a genetic variant in dog chromosome 15, found in all small dogs but absent in larger and wild dogs. This small-dog haplotype was found to be most closely related to the one in Middle Eastern wolves which indeed suggests this was the area of domestication.

The earliest archaeological dog remains were also found in the Fertile Crescent, which has led to a general



Evidence suggests baby wolves used to be just as cute 13,000 years ago

speculation that domestication occurred between 13,000 and 17,000 years ago. This correlates with a social shift in the local human population, the Natufians, from being Palaeolithic nomadic hunter-gatherers to developing relatively settled agro-economies in the Neolithic, suggesting human settlement played a major role in dog evolution.

Domestication is the product of both biological and cultural processes. The initial contact between humans and wolves was likely initiated by the scavenging wolves, although there must have been a tolerance of wolves among humans, followed by the settled human civilisation keeping proto-dogs

who would scavenge the local rubbish dumps. In addition, it is known that modern tundra wolves do not interbreed with their boreal cousins although they overlap geographically. It is thought that their differing lifestyles promote this reproductive isolation, which is perhaps precisely what happened when proto-dogs and wolves diverged.

These small garbage-scavenging wolves may even have been protected by humans for their beneficial service by barking at the approach of larger wild wolves, alerting the villagers of potential dangers. These behavioural divergences may have further divided the two populations genetically. And why did

domestication favour shrinking in size? Smaller body-size has the advantage of reducing energy demands, and probably enabled individuals to 'fit in' better with their human companions.

Subsequently, humans encouraged match-making of the small dogs, preserving their cuddliness, and later on exploiting their pint-sized functionality, such as for ratting or entering burrows. Also, the 'shrinking' evolutionary process would be maladaptive in the wild considering the disadvantage it poses against the larger wild counterparts, and was thus probably selected under human influence. Early human communities must thus have been stable over many generations to enable this development of small dogs.

Lastly, wealth can be material, social or knowledge-based, but material wealth is the most transmissible form, hence a promoter of social inequality. The archaeological presence of domesticates can be an important indicator of when inequality of societal wealth began, especially considering that dog ownership was perhaps the first 'living capital'. Humans would exploit their predatory abilities and territorial proclivities to increase their hunting success, but dogs also probably became a status symbol as well as being useful. The tamed dog could have perhaps been at the forefront of the innovations that gave rise to community structure and gradually the spread of urban life.

## Sci-Fi Column

**Maciej Matuszewski**

You might remember my review of Arthur C. Clarke's *Childhood's End* last term in the Arts section in which I announced it to be my favourite book. Since then I've had a chance to read some more of his work, which has cemented my opinion of him as one of history's finest science fiction authors. This week I'd like to review, *The Fountains of Paradise*, the latest of his novels I've had the pleasure of reading.

Probably one of the most 'hard SF' of Clarke's novels, it is set in the 22nd century and follows the attempts of Dr Vannevar Morgan to build the world's first space elevator on the island of Taprobane, a fictionalised Sri Lanka. Clarke lived more than half his life in the country and his passion for it shines through the text. He has kept much of the island's fascinating history unchanged, one of the highlights of the novel.

That is not to say that the main thrust of the story, the political and technical difficulties of constructing the elevator, are any less interesting. They are presented to the reader in Clarke's usual clear, engaging style and each one has satisfying and believable solutions.

The book is very story driven. Indeed, I have read critics complaining about Clarke's poor character development. While I did once spend half of a Clarke novel thinking that a male character was a woman I still have to take issue with this complaint. Clarke's genius is in coming up with engaging stories and the only purpose of his characters is to drive them forward. If these characters were any more developed they would simply be a distraction and the very direct writing often still allows us to become emotionally attached to them.

*The Fountains of Paradise* shares a remarkable optimism about the future which can be found in many of his works, with humanity overcoming its differences and coming together for a common goal. This does lead to paucity of interpersonal conflict and traditional 'action' scenes. I find this vastly refreshing and an interesting contrast with most modern fiction.

This novel is certainly more consistent than *Childhood's End*. While the latter's ending was somewhat spoiled by its unnecessary description of an alien planet, which almost strayed into fantasy, here it was brilliantly executed: managing to be a poignant account of both the great triumph and failure of Dr Morgan. Whether because of its truly intriguing mystery, or because it was my introduction to Clarke, I still consider *Childhood's End* to be the better book and the best he has written. However, this does not take anything away from the brilliance of *The Fountains of Paradise* and it remains, along with the majority of Clarke's work, far superior to most other science fiction.

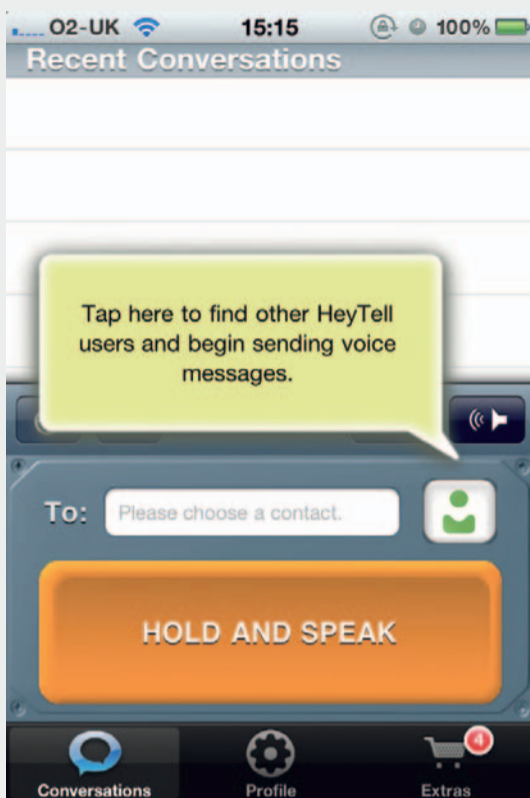
# TECHNOLOGY

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

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

## Free App of the Week

### iOS - HeyTell for iPhone



Ever wanted a walkie talkie type app for your iPhone? HeyTell allows you to do just that by sending small voice messages to other users instantly.

### Android - HeyTell for Android



HeyTell isn't limited to iOS – Android's got its own HeyTell app too. Send messages to friends whatever smartphone they own. Roger-roger, over and out.

# Sony unveils PSP successor

Louis Constant

Last week, media outlets and industry professionals began receiving invites for Sony's "PlayStation Meeting", to be held in Tokyo on the 27th of January. Though the company kept tight-lipped as to what exactly the event was for, not a single person from journalist to feverish Internet forum-goer was in any doubt that this was to be the day of the official announcement of the oft-rumoured successor to the PlayStation Portable (PSP).

The device, along with its official codename "NGP" (Next Generation Portable) was announced as expected, and while prior leaks ensured that there were few real surprises to be had, gaming and technology circles have been ablaze with discussion since the announcement.

Drawing particular attention has been the system's impressive technical specifications. The NGP sports a quad-core ARM Cortex-A9 CPU backed with a powerful graphics processing unit, which together are capable of producing 'near PlayStation 3' quality graphics in real-time, lovingly displayed on the system's sizeable 5-inch, multi-touch OLED screen. Indeed, several demos which were shown during the conference and made available for subsequent hands-on play demonstrated the system's technical prowess and charmed conference-goers.

Design-wise, the system is a refinement, rather than a complete transformation of its predecessor's sleek curves and black finish. The system is larger, largely due to the aforementioned screen. Answering fans' prayers, Sony has replaced the PSP's much maligned analogue 'nub' with two identical bona fide control sticks. This, it is hoped, will alleviate many of the awkward control compromises that were necessitated by many games on the PSP, where developers had to find ways of providing control for both player movement and a 3D camera. Sony hopes that the rounded shape of the NGP will fit more comfortably into its players' hands.



Sure, it's technically impressive. But can you eat it? No? Sorry, I'm out...

Unremarkably, all models of the NGP will come with Wi-Fi built-in. More noteworthy however, is the news that a (presumably more expensive) 3G-enabled version of the NGP will also be produced. No information on data plans have been provided yet, but it is unfortunate to note that speeds offered by 3G will not be adequate to support online gaming from wherever the user happens to be.

Perhaps the most unusual feature of the NGP

**"Design-wise, the system is a refinement, rather than a complete transformation"**

is a multi-touch panel which has been added to the rear of the device, of the same size and alignment as the front-facing screen. Some speculation has been paid to the prospect of this panel being used to simulate extra buttons or rear triggers, which the NGP lacks. Other additions include both front and rear-facing cameras, and a "six-axis" motion detection system, consisting of a gyroscope and an accel-

erometer. Software applications making use of either of the cameras were unforthcoming, but motion control was demonstrated in several of the game demos on show.

No pricing details were announced, but it was officially stated that the system is to be released in at least one territory before the end of this year. It is slightly surprising that Sony appears to be following a similar strategy to that which it pursued with the original PSP. With over 60 million units sold worldwide, the PSP has by no means been a failure. Yet it failed to match the dizzyingly high sales of rival Nintendo's DS system, which has sold approximately twice this amount in a similar time frame. While the abundance of technology in this device is sure to please hardcore gamers, it will also serve to inflate the RRP relative to its competitor's, and if the industry's history is any indication, technical superiority is by no means a recipe for sure fire market success. In any case, the next few years are certainly shaping up to play host to a rerun of the infamous DS vs. PSP "console wars". Which Japanese giant will reign supreme this time?

Check out the Games section next week for more on the device, including the revolutionary PlayStation Suite

# Egypt in complete internet blackout

Feroz Salam

In the backdrop of the dramatic demonstrations sweeping Egypt, another battle is being fought for the control of internet and communication lines in the country as the government tries to prevent protesters from organising and the local media from distributing images and videos of the events to an eager international audience. In an unprecedented step, the government has gone as far as ordering ISPs to completely halt routing of all traffic, a move that draws Egypt into an exclusive club of censorship along with the likes of North Korea and Burma.

The communications crackdown seems to be a case of too little too late, however, as the government seemed unprepared to deal with protests largely organised and planned online.

The ban was enforced merely 12 hours prior to the bloody Friday protests, and since then most media organisations have found some way of getting around jammed phone networks and blocked cables, whether it be relying on satellite connections or old-fashioned dial-up through the western world.

The heavy-handed Egyptian response to technology savvy citizens using the internet to plan demonstrations is a theme familiar to many Middle Eastern states; most countries in the region have highly filtered, slow and centralised services that are closely monitored by internal security services.

The knock-on effect of the Tunisian and Egyptian riots has caused governments in the area to tighten their own regulations, raising concerns of more blackouts to come.

The crackdown has cast serious questions over the Middle East's ability to position itself as a credible and growing economic power. Purely from an economic perspective, a government which cannot maintain reliable communications networks will find it hard to sell their country to foreign investors, whatever their reasons may be.

From a human rights standpoint, the blackout has had surprisingly little effect on the spirit of the Egyptian people. Their presence in the streets more than a week after the turmoil began indicates that the information revolution has matured to the point where the power is now really in the hands of the people, whether they are reporters pushing photos to us via satellite or protesters struggling on dialup to get their stories told.

# STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY?

**Experiencing an unexpected cash shortfall and struggling to make ends meet?**

**Yes?**

**If so, we may be able to help.  
Visit the Registry website.**

## **HOME Students**

**Access to Learning Fund**

**[www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/  
studentfinancialsupport/  
alf](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/studentfinancialsupport/alf)**

## **EU & Overseas Students**

**College Hardship Fund**

**[www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/  
studentfinancialsupport/  
hardshipfund](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/studentfinancialsupport/hardshipfund)**

Student Financial Support  
Registry  
Level 3 Sherfield Building



# POLITICS

## The world beyond College walls



### Burma

Burma's long-standing leader Than Shwe is not on the list of five Presidential nominees put forth by the newly convened Parliament of Burma. This suggests that General Than Shwe would no longer be the official leader of Burma but analysts believe that he is unlikely to relinquish all power and is expected to remain as head of the military. Burma's Parliament convened for the first time in twenty years on Monday as part of Burma's 'roadmap to democracy'. The Burma military, however, still plays an important role in the nation's politics with ¼ of all seats reserved for members of the military.



### United States

A federal judge in Florida has tossed out the sweeping health care reform law championed by President Barack Obama, setting up what is likely to be a contentious Supreme Court challenge over the legislation in coming months. Judge Vinson ruled that "Obamacare" violated the rights of an individual by making it mandatory to buy health insurance on the pain of a fine. The United States Justice Department has said that it strongly disagreed with the ruling and would appeal against the decision which was praised by House Republicans. The Republican controlled House of Representatives have already repealed Obama's Healthcare reform but the repeal is unlikely to clear the American Senate.



### Pakistan

A court in Pakistan has blocked the release of American Raymond Davis who was arrested for killing two men in Lahore last week. Mr Davis has admitted killing the men but stressed that he was acting in self defence when confronted by the two armed men. The American embassy has called for the release of Mr Davis, saying that he was a consular official with diplomatic immunity and hence immune to prosecution in Pakistan. This was disputed by Pakistani authorities who said that Mr Davis was a private security contractor.

Edited by Kenneth Lee

Politics Editors: Rory Fenton  
James Lees, Rajat Jain  
politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# Cowen fecks off

## Cameron could learn from Irish PM's collapsed coalition

Hugh McDowell

While Ireland's media reports on the in-fighting and dithering of its main parties, the Irish people remain focused on the forthcoming general election - a long-awaited opportunity to choose the politicians they believe to be most capable of managing the greatest crisis in the state's short history.

Prime Minister Brian Cowen, who recently resigned as leader of the majority coalition partner Fianna Fáil, remains in charge of a cabinet which, following a spate of resignations last month, is stumbling into the election with less than half of its usual compliment of ministers. Cowen, it seems, has been deemed competent enough to lead Ireland, but not competent enough to lead Fianna Fáil. This is yet another example of the vast disconnect which has developed between the ruling party and the Irish public, one which by now would be almost a laughing matter were it not for the economic tragedy that the former has inflicted upon the latter.

In truth, however, it is an astonishing achievement on Cowen's part to have held onto power while presiding over an economic downturn of such unprecedented magnitude - brewed during his time as Minister for Finance from 2004 until 2008 and poured ice-cold during his subsequent tenure as Taoiseach.

After a failed leadership heave against him in mid-January, it appeared that 'Biffo' (Big Ignorant F\*\*\*\*r From Offaly) would lead his deeply unpopular party into an election on March 11th from which it would do well to return half of its 72 sitting members of the Irish parliament, Dáil Éireann. However, a botched attempt to fill vacant cabinet positions without consulting the Green party - the coalition's junior partner - was a PR disaster for Cowen and, following his resignation several days later, the Greens announced their immediate withdrawal from government. An agreement was reached between government and opposition which saw the election date brought forward and the legislation enacting December's budget rushed through both houses of parliament.

Much like the now-extinct Progressive Democrats before them, the Green party appear destined to pay a heavy political price for their decision to enter coalition with Fianna Fáil in 2007. In the press conference announcing their withdrawal from government, Minister for the Environment John Gormley pointed to a number of the party's achievements during their time in office, including legislation on same-sex civil partnerships and hunting. These, however, are mere footnotes in the legacy of this government in light of Ireland's fiscal position. The Greens' image has been damaged irreparably by their relationship with the toxic Fianna Fáil brand, and any result other than complete annihilation would be an achievement in itself.

There is undoubtedly a desire among the Irish public for a change in government. And



He's either grimacing because Ireland is completely screwed or because he's gassy. We're going with gassy on this one...

although the two parties likely to form the next coalition - the centre-right Fine Gael and the centre-left Labour party - will make significant gains in Dáil seats, they have thus far struggled to inspire or capture the imagination of the electorate. Fine Gael leader and presumptive Taoiseach Enda Kenny continues to be dogged by his uncharismatic and uninspiring media presence, and his attempts to include the leaders of smaller parties in an upcoming series of televised debates is seen by many commentators as an attempt to minimize his own time under the glare of the spotlight. Meanwhile, the Nick Clegg to Kenny's David Cameron, Labour leader Eamon Gilmore, is by a country mile the most popular leader in the country. Although Gilmore is reaping the rewards for several years of steady leadership and assured performances in the Dáil, his unwillingness to take on the powerful and well-remunerated public service employees remains a worrying prospect for certain sections of the voting public.

In truth, both Fine Gael and Labour will be glad to allow the outgoing government to associate themselves with the austerity measures contained in the last budget. In the same manner as the UK's Conservatives have done over the last 8 months, the next government will attempt to blame any piece of bad economic news on their predecessors. The two parties should win a substantial majority in the election and form a coalition, the ministerial make-up of which will be dependant on the respective number of seats each wins. Despite Gilmore's popularity, it is unlikely that Labour will be the larger of the partners and he will settle for a position for the role of Tánaiste (Deputy Prime

Minister) while a number of his senior fellow party members are offered ministries.

Their opposition will most likely be comprised of a decimated Fianna Fáil, a resurgent Sinn Féin (buoyed by the probable election of their leader, former MP Gerry Adams) and a swathe of independents from either end of the political spectrum. Although a number of economists and high-profile personalities have announced their intention to run on independent platforms, the absence of any major new political movement taking part in the election has disappointed voters and exacerbated the growing sense of frustration with the political system.

A major failing of said political system is the dissatisfaction that the Irish people feel with their electoral mechanism, Proportional Representation. PR differs from the Alternative Vote system proposed by the current British government only in that it has multi-seat, rather than single-seat, constituencies. Consequently, politicians from the same constituency, and even from the same party, are in constant competition with one another on a local level to curry favour with voters, often to the detriment of the quality and quantity of legislation passed through the Dáil.

Furthermore, parties are likely to remain as 'vanilla' as possible around election time in order to get transfers from the voters of other parties. This has caused a scramble to the centre in Irish politics and narrowing in the breadth of opinions expressed in political debate. Given that this consensus approach to politics has brought Ireland to its current condition, it is a system which is worthy of reconsideration.

# NHS reforms: too fast, too furious?

**Mukur Ghosh**

David Cameron has said “fundamental changes” are needed in the NHS. Defending reforms for England, he told the BBC it was right to start now and change was being done “steadily” - amid criticism it is being done too fast. The heads of six health unions, including the BMA, have warned of their “extreme concerns” about greater commercial competition between the NHS and private companies.

What we are witnessing is a major shift of how the NHS system runs. When it was created in 1948 it was centrally controlled. Now the government wants most of the responsibility to be shifted to consortiums of GPs. The idea is to restructure the NHS so that it will be much like how the telecoms industry was broken up. In the near future GPs will be buying services from providers for their patients. The government and other bodies agree that many of these service providers will be closed down and conglomerated with others.

The NHS also needs to have 15-20 billion pounds of ‘efficiency savings’ all before the next general election. The government also want to drastically improve public health so that local government and communities can provide innovative, dynamic methods to solve lifestyle-driven diseases. The food industry is also helping to re-write how the policies are made for advertising and promoting healthier foods; many of whom are the producers of foods that are very detrimental to our health. They will also provide food coupons as an in-

centive for those who are least likely to change their habit.

What is intriguing is that the majority of the health bodies still support the planned changes mainly to the NHS. However they do believe that the timeline set for 2013 is far too concise for a major overhaul.

Recently the head of the Royal College of GPs and the Head of the BMA said that this whole re-structuring was unnecessary. Simple tweaks like the number of clinicians representing the Primary Care Trust board would pave the way for the NHS to be what the government aims. Unfortunately the government dismisses it replying it would only create more bureaucracy. In the end who do we trust?

I believe that re-structuring the NHS is ideal if and only if the majority of the medical profession believe that with given time what is planned out actually can make a difference.

In 2002, the Wanless report stated that we had to invest more money into the NHS and we did under Labour. But there was a critical point. It had to be spent wisely and have constant up-to-date reports on its improvement especially productivity. If it went well, then after 2020 for every 10 pounds we have in our pocket, 1 will go to the NHS. If however it went wrong, it will be in every 8 quid. After spending had arisen productivity was actually falling, as stringent checks became fewer. It seems this restructure could be ideal.

What I am concerned about is, with so many government alterations, I can't help but wonder if we are missing the

key element here - Personal responsibility. Where has it gone?

Perhaps it's time for the public to realise that the NHS or for any public service, that it is not free to run and that it is all paid for by every tax payer in this country. Perhaps if we realised that more often and appreciated the benefits, more of us would be voicing our opinions on why our culture of binge drinking, unprotected sex and obesity is so prominent in this country.

It is not fair to see patients whose whole life has been unpleasant and are on the organ transplant waiting list, to witness a healthy, irresponsible patient acquiring an organ because they overdosed while enjoying themselves, leaving the NHS to foot the bill to rectify the damage.

There is a famous phrase: Prevention is better than a cure. I believe research is still vital for possible remedies, but perhaps we should try understanding more why the public do make the choice of abusing their health and try rectifying the situation before it is too late.

All I can say is that perhaps if we are to change the system so much, more time needs to be implemented to allow everything to be more closely scrutinised to make sure of its importance. Perhaps we could get a little lesson from other countries such as Sweden.

In the meantime, public perception is paramount to being altered. All medical professionals advise us to look after our own body; by doing that we will respect others. Perhaps it may even remedy other social issues such as crime caused by



Doctors will be given more powers. Ok, not 'doctors', technically GPs but it doesn't... Listen, stop ruining this caption ok?

anti-social behaviour.

Maybe it's all too idealistic and we have to continue to work against a tsunami of what people desire.

I just hope that we all can in times of dire need look forward to basic high-quality healthcare that we take so much for granted.

## The Arab world shakes, the West shifts nervously

**Rajat Jain**

The suicide of a young Tunisian salesman last month could well change the world's political scene. In much the same way that Paris sneezed and Europe caught a cold, which lead to (admittedly slow) liberal reform in the nineteenth century, Mass political protest in Tunisia has triggered popular movements throughout North Africa and the Near East, much of it planned on Facebook, Twitter and Internet forums.

The reactions were relatively positive. While some attempts at controlling the populace through the usual despotic methods were made (including “turning off” the internet in Egypt's case), most of the affected leaders realise this will not work, having seen Tunisian president Ben Ali flee the country. Instead, Egyptian president Mubarak has promised to

not seek re-election and King Abdullah II of Jordan dismissed his entire cabinet and brought in former Prime Minister Maruf Bakhit to introduce real political reform. Other leaders in the region have been preparing similar moves and, in the case of Sudan's Omar al-Bashir, emphasising democratic credentials.

The calls for the right to determine their leaders and less corruption seem promising. In European minds, it is perhaps reminiscent to the Polish Solidarity movement which successfully pushed for the collapse of Soviet-style totalitarian Communism in Eastern Europe.

This is however a dangerous comparison to make. Calls for democracy are not the same as calls for liberty; as demonstrated by the need to have broad constitutions and supreme courts in modern republics. The protests in the region instead have worrying parallels

to the events of 1978 in Iran, which lead to the fall of the Shah. The corrupt and oppressive regime was replaced with a “republic”, but on an Islamic rather than liberal model. This system of government may provide a slightly higher standard of living and greater rights to its citizens than the totalitarians. However, its people are far from free and its views are so at odds with the liberal model that it can cause greater international instability; at the most extreme leading to a ‘clash of civilisations’ or perhaps a new cold war. Iran and Israel have already expressed their respective hopes and concerns that any countries which do collapse will adopt this system.

The evidence so far would suggest this is not an overreaction, particularly in the case of Egypt. Like the Shah, Mubarak's critics accuse him not only of corrup-

**“It is reminiscent of the Polish Solidarity movement”**

tion, but of being a Western puppet; he is seen as having promoted strong links to Israel and Obama described him as a “friend”. The main opposition movement in Jordan is an Islamic one, promoting the holistic model of Islam instituted by Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran some thirty years ago.

However, this is not to say that all is lost for the liberal West. The protests in many countries are still at a very early stage. As shown by the protests in Iran last year, they may come to nothing and pro-Mubarak supporters in Egypt have staged equally powerful and violent

counter-demonstrations. Many of the protests are not necessarily calling for the collapse of the government but, like in the case of Jordan and Syria (Iran's closest ideological ally), the introduction of greater reform and greater political freedom. Nevertheless, the issue does still remain; all it takes is the introduction of a single new radical Islamic regime in any of these countries, and international stability will decline.

There is a clear lesson here for Liberal governments; they should not only take concern with those countries that directly threaten them but also be wary of those which oppress their own people, regardless of how great a strategic ally they may be to the West. Otherwise, when those oppressed people finally fight back, the West will be unable to take the moral high ground and will face even greater threats.

# BUSINESS

Business Editors: **Sina Ataherian**  
**Afonso Campos**

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

## News Summary

### Oil above \$100 on Egypt



Protesters making themselves heard across Egypt

The price of crude oil has broken the psychological landmark of \$100 per barrel on the back of Egyptian worries. The barrier has not been broken since 2008.

Egypt is not close to being amongst the top exporters in the region, so its inability to distribute its own output is not disconcerting. Trouble does arise however due to fears of the Suez Canal closing.

The artificial channel is operated and maintained by the government of Egypt and is one of the main forms of transportation from Asia into Europe. Its closure would mean an extremely unfavourable detour by navigating around Africa, adding on average 6,000 miles to a journey. This would undoubtedly somewhat stem the transportation of oil to Europe.

Perhaps of more important is the precedent being set by the Egyptian protests. Waves of anti-government sentiment are being felt in other Middle-Eastern states such as Algeria and Yemen. There is concern that this domino-like effect will be the source of contagion to the oil-rich nation of Saudi Arabia. Should the future prove this concern to be true, then the price of oil is sure to spike much higher levels.

### Dow Jones Industrial Average back up over 12,000

The DJIA, the index that tracks 30 of the largest corporations in America, including Microsoft, Coca-Cola and 3M, has closed at 12,040 on Tuesday – its highest level since 2008. This is a significant achievement and was brought about by several firms beating analysts' estimates of earnings, among which was UPS. Some analysts suggest that we are entering a period of sustained growth in the markets after US manufacturing figures show the highest pace increase in January compared to the previous six years.

### Asian inflationary pressures

Manufacturing data from a multitude of Asian nations has refreshed fears of increased inflationary environments in those countries. This has prompted expectation that India will increase rates by as much as 25 basis points in March.

Some analysts expect this trend of increased inflation to continue markedly in the near future as prices of commodities, materials and food show little sign of a slow down.

# The brand spanking new Bloomberg Assessment Test

## A complete rip-off or a shortcut to your dream job?



Will we ever see people advertising their BAT scores on CVs as a standard? Some students may feel helpless among the competition

### Lucie Jichova

The other day, you might have received an email from the Careers Advisory Service informing you that Imperial is one of the lucky universities selected to test-drive a new Bloomberg Assessment Test (BAT) for free. "Hurry now! In the future, there will be a fee for taking this test," it said. First thoughts: "What the...?" So employers now want students to pay for taking a recruitment test? What's next? Paying for interviews? And why introduce a further barrier to entry for those from less well-off backgrounds? Felix caught up with Gerald Walker, Managing Director Europe at Bloomberg Ventures, to seek clarification.

Aptitude tests are nothing new; most graduate recruiters in the UK already use numerical and verbal reasoning tests provided by companies such as the SHL Group or Kenexa. However, Walker explained that the BAT is specifically designed to test skills and knowledge relevant to careers in the financial services sector. It's a 3-hour, multiple-choice test consisting of 150 questions in 12 sections covering everything from numerical and verbal reasoning, through to ethics and specific areas of finance and economics. The questions are designed to be practical rather than theoretical. Candidates are given comprehensive feedback and can compare themselves against their peers from across the globe. Students from Imperial will be able to see how they rank compared to their peers from top universities in places like Singapore or the US. Comparisons are done by subject area, so that those who are not studying finance are not disadvantaged.

The test scores are also put into an anonymous database for employers, who will be able to sift

**"Comparisons are done by subject area, so that those who are not studying finance are not disadvantaged."**

through the records based on different criteria (e.g. test scores, language skills, degree subject) and express interest in candidates to whom they would like to be introduced. The candidate then receives an email along the lines of "Would you be interested in applying to Deutsche Bank?". Bloomberg will charge employers a fee of approximately £60 per introduction, and this is where they are looking to derive the majority of revenue from this venture.

On the subject of charging students, Walker explained, "Of course, students are not brimming with cash these days, we know that. Right now the BAT is free, so students have nothing to lose, apart from spending 3 hours less down the pub. We reserve the right to charge in the future, but that is mostly to cover administration costs and to prevent people from signing up for the test and then not turning up." The likely fee is going to be in the region of £30-60.

"Will students still be able to apply for a job at Bloomberg without taking this test?" we asked. "Yes, it's entirely voluntary," Walker reassured us. Although Bloomberg themselves will be using BAT for their recruitment, the test is being introduced more as a revenue-generating venture rather than solely for internal purposes. "It may well be that in the future, the BAT score will become something that people will want to

advertise on their CVs," Walker added.

On their website, Bloomberg claims that candidates will be able to advertise their BAT score to 20,000 companies through their database. At first glance, this seems like bragging. However, Bloomberg does have a vast client base within the financial industry, built up over the years through their existing service offerings. It is these companies that Bloomberg will reach out to. This will enable smaller employers (e.g. hedge funds) to tap into a global pool of talent more easily. Right now, these companies find it more difficult to do campus recruitment, as they don't have easily recognisable brands. The BAT score will also enable bright students from less acclaimed universities to advertise their qualities to big employers who might at the moment be concentrating their campus recruitment efforts on a few top institutions. The BAT tests will be run on university campuses and Bloomberg is open-minded about the types of universities they approach; it's not just for the elite. Of course, it is likely that success rates will be higher at top institutions.

What if you do badly on the test? Will 20,000 companies then think you are not employable? "Candidates will have complete control over their data. If they had a bad day, they can always retake the test, or they can have their score removed from the database, so they will not forever be stuck with a bad score," Walker explained.

What does this all mean for students who are looking to bag themselves a well-paid City job? The brightest of the bright will welcome the simplification: take one test, reach many employers. The rest of us might feel a little intimidated about the prospect of being ranked and compared to thousands of graduates across the globe.



Featuring:

Vetoes

(Post-Indie Tech Punk)

The Eleven 37s

(Fist-pumping Funk Rock)

Tin Can 44s

(Good ol' fashioned Blues)

Special guest

Raath-Mon-Tet

(Psychedelic Electronica DJ set)

Simon Hunter

(Disco/Funky/Garage DJ set)

Music Tech DJs

(Calypso & Electro DJ set)



# 19002



## Felix Music Night

Saturday 19th February

19.00 PM - 02.00 AM

Imperial College Union

A showcase of Imperial's musical talent

£3



&



Go to  
[beholdthemachine.com](http://beholdthemachine.com)  
for more details

## COMMENT

## FELIX

**Speak responsibly, even if no-one is listening**

This week our Media basement neighbours, IC Radio, found themselves on the wrong side of the Union's broadcasting guidelines. A guest on one of their music shows used the derogatory term "paki" when referring to one of his and the host's mutual friends. Regardless of whether offense was intended or not, at least one of the show's seven listeners was sufficiently affected to complain.

The danger in these situations arises when the public cannot reasonably identify the motivations behind a comment. That is why the environment and the context of such remarks are so important. 'Banter' that would be perfectly acceptable with old friends in the local pub is much less acceptable in the workplace or indeed in a broadcast. The listener or reader's confidence must be earned; jokes can easily be misconstrued if your audience isn't expecting comedy.

Any regular reader of these pages will know that Felix itself is by no means an offense-free zone. Many people's sense of humour are aroused by vitriol and abuse, and given the right context there is nothing wrong with indulging them. The type of humour that you will find on Pages 38 and 39 – the type of humour that Hangman revels in – occurs in a clearly quarantined area. It is a properly defined space, where the reader is under no illusions as to what to expect.

Anybody can write an article in Felix. Anybody can start a show on IC Radio. These things seem so obviously desirable, natural and easy that one can easily forget there is anyone on the other side. Those of us working in student media must never forget that we speak for the students and to all students of Imperial College. The magnitude of this responsibility is not diminished by the ease with which it can be acquired. IC Radio, recognising this responsibility, have complied fully with the Union's demands. Apologies have been made and steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence. Now that the dust has settled, questions should be raised as to whether the Union's decision to take them off the air was entirely appropriate.

Taking the entire station offline is akin to closing the wrong stable door after the horse has bolted. A similar incident last year at the University of Glasgow saw their radio station embarrassed after two presenters used "numerous swear words and explicitly discussed sexual activities" on air. Their Union's response was to take down the offending show pending a further investigation. This is clearly a more measured step.

Alex Kendall has since admitted that the severity of the Union's reaction was intended to make a point. The point has been heard loud and clear in the Media basement – but it too has caused offence.

# Cambridge punts

Or why the size of your laser doesn't determine the quality of your university experience



**Matt Colvin**

I was, as usual, fighting a losing battle.

"You see, Cambridge is far, far superior in simply every way, old chum," said my old schoolmate, on the other, absurdly richer, side of the webcam.

"Consider, if you will, the countless events of vast social importance. Nightly, we dine in the presence of giants." He leant back in his plush leather armchair, quaffing a glass of port with one hand and raising a cigar with the other.

"Now tell me, what is it you do at your precious institution? Sit in your labs all day and complain?"

He paused momentarily, while carefully adjusting his top hat, yet before I could respond, he swept on towards his grand conclusion. "You might well think that you enjoy Imperial, my friend, but we," he said, imperiously gesturing with what I could only assume was his serf-beating cane, "are the elite."

He was wrong, of course. Even though Oxbridge might be the "elite" darlings of league tables and Hollywood writers needing a back story for their British accented characters, what my friend failed to realise was that it's not any kind of university prestige that defines us, it's the overall experience that we make of our time here. Centuries of tradition don't matter one iota when students and staff band together to make not only Imperial, but universities all over the country a better place to learn, study and have a great time.

People like my friend shouldn't be lordling it over what they consider to be lesser universities, because, in the end, what defines lesser? Not being bound by archaic drinking rules? Similarly we shouldn't look down upon those lower down the league table just because we might have bigger lasers. We've all got the same thing to offer, and that's the student experience.

But on the other hand, I hear a lot of people complain about Imperial. From the chap last week about the human-

Ben Kennedy



Take that Imperial! Not only do I have port and a top hat, I also live in a vortex! Mwahaha...

rights-opposing sex ratio, or the colleague next to me shouting about how he can't do his "damn proof by induction, and why are they setting us this much work?" The more I hear this, the more I feel it makes us sound as if we're all unhinged maniacs with the only clubbing going on being that of the seal variety. It's just wrong.

Equally, there's so much more to Imperial than relentless deadlines. If you think you're regretting choosing to come here – perhaps because on Facebook Mr. X devotes every passing night to posting banterous photos of the latest union rave at Loughborough, or Miss. Y updates her statuses all the time about how she's "totally in love with Southampton" – just take a step back and consider the breadth of what's going on around campus right now.

Even easier, just hop on over to the news section of this very paper. "Oh I see," you more than likely aren't thinking at the moment, "Mr. Co-News Editor has just written this so he can big up his section."

Well, that's only half true. I'm also currently typing this at gunpoint.

Joking aside, (send help urgently) go ahead and take a look. People voicing their opinions with what's happening on campus and what should be happening in response – this is what it means to be at Imperial. This is why I love the events of December's Life Sciences protests. Students and staff joined together to make a real difference. They want to

I hear LSE are pretty sick at economics, and UCL are probably amazing at... drinking? Yeah, that works.

make a change for the better, which really does transcend the stereotypes that so often beleaguer Imperial.

The opinion that this university is full to the brim of awkward nerds is as wrong as the opinion that Cambridge is made up entirely of Tory voting toffs; sure you'll find some, but ultimately, in this day and age, as more and more students from all walks of life find themselves reaching the higher levels of education, such trivialisations fall flat. Stereotypes are just a punchline. You're at university, with a wealth of education at your fingertips, and that's what matters.

Sure, we can big ourselves up when we want, we're good at science. But hey, I hear LSE are pretty sick at economics, and UCL are probably amazing at... drinking? Yeah, that works.

I'm proud to be at Imperial, and I hope you are to. For once, ignore the stereotypes and just take a minute to find something positive. You're part of the student experience, and that makes this place, like others the world over, an amazing community.

Apart from Sheffield – bloody hipsters on unicyles.

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.

## Dude, where's my country?



**Indy Leclercq**

**“The world is definitely getting smaller, and I can only see that as being a good thing”**

**W**here do you live? A simple enough question, in appearance. I've been asked it a lot this year. Meeting an endless stream of new people from various countries makes for a large number of introductions. After you've said hello to the fifteenth German girl at the party, whose name you've already forgotten, the quasi-scripted question-and-answer session begins.

“So, where do you live?” Piece of cake, you think, I live right next to that big avenue in the city cent.. - wait. Did she mean here, or which country do I usually live in? Or even where I'm from?

Ah. Well, it doesn't matter any more; the 3-minute silence accompanying my thought process made her lose interest. I'm sure that pitcher of sangria over there would be happy to hear my answer. But what would my answer have been?

As a student, you'll have at least two places to call home; obviously there's the place with the draughty windows and dodgy Ikea furniture you've occupied for the past six months, but

there's also your parents' house, which is always a pleasure to go back to (for, say, the first 48 hours). Being on a year abroad just adds another country to the mix, and increases your chances of not being understood when trying to answer the question.

Does it actually matter? Not really. I think the question of where you live has become irrelevant. The internet and cheap air travel means that you can know what's going on anywhere in the world as if you were actually there. If you want to, you can conceivably get there in less than a day and for less than a thousand pounds.

All right, a thousand pounds is a lot of money. Maybe the entire world is still out of the reach of your average Imperial student. On a smaller scale, Europe is your oyster. Got fifty quid to spare? Fancy a change of scenery? Get yourself a Ryanair ticket to Rome, or EasyJet it to Prague.

Distances have practically vanished between countries; if you're travelling inside the E.U. you barely notice any borders at all. You could be in a different country every six months if you wanted

to. Naturally, in these conditions, the concept of home starts to blur.

This is exacerbated by the internet: thanks to Facebook and Skype, I almost get the impression I'm still living in London sometimes. Events, banter, gossip and even the results of the IC Fencing team make their way towards me through the 'intertubes'. The ubiquitous tweet lets me know what a friend is thinking, or even gauge the mood of Londoners, at any given time.

The world is definitely getting smaller, and I can only see that as being a good thing. As people travel more, and see what life is like in other countries; as people get used to reading opinions from halfway around the globe, maybe people will start to cooperate more, and with more meaning.

In practical terms, there isn't much difference between a student flat in Helsinki and one in Barcelona. So, in answer to the question, I don't know where I live. I'll still have my friends and family close by wherever I choose to be, and that's what counts to me.

Although I'm just happy to have chosen a place with a beach.

## Apocalypse Now... please?



**Rhys Davies**

**“The end of the world is no time to start developing bad habits”**

**I**f popular culture has taught me anything (and I like to think it has), it is that we are most likely to perish as a species in a thermonuclear fire-storm or a zombie pandemic. Though radically different, these apocalypses involve a great deal of mass panic before the dying starts. As such, there are themes common to both that may just dissuade booking any long-term holidays.

I'm sure there is some kind of national information service for these things but I think most people will get wind of things beforehand. Those hard-wired into the blogosphere and interwebs will pick it up, like any other news, on Twitter and Facebook first – “#OMG-ZOMBIES is trending on Twitter. Find out why.” Those of us with one foot in the present will receive a pertinent text message from a loved one – “Fallout imminent. In bunker. Bring biccies. Luv =) x.” As such, there will already be micropanics occurring before the reality hits BBC News 24, but only once Huw Edwards is handed the copy-sheet, the real panic will begin.

Feral mobs killing each other over a crate of tinned peaches is quite an Americanised idea. I'm not sure how well it will translate across the Atlantic. Of course, there will be a rush for all canned

foods and bottled water but we will still queue and pay as is proper. There will be traffic chaos on Kensington High Street as all the yummy-mummies of Notting Hill swarm the Whole Foods Market, ignoring all the corner-shops they passed on the way. The end of the world is no time to start developing bad habits. Maybe, if we're in a real pinch, we won't ask for cash-back. The panic will be evident however in a glut of foot-tapping and sighs of exasperation.

With the last ever weekly shop done, people will go out looting. This will be a competitive affair; people will only loot once their neighbours are home, so they know what they have to beat. Admittedly, surpassing the Jones' plasma-screen HDTV becomes academic once the EMP/bloodthirsty horde hits the power plants. Imperial students are more practical beings. They will take as many tankards as possible from the Union Bar – the beer, however, they will leave.

Then comes the moment of realising the answers to “If you could get away with anything, what would you do?” With possibly hours left in existence, the idea of consequences quietly dissolves and traditional morality caves in on itself. To my female readers, I give a warning: arm yourselves, as heavily and by any means possible. Total annihila-

tion can turn people into desperate creatures...as if the Imperial student body wasn't desperate enough already. Thinking of it, as an addendum, ladies, buy a safe for your calculators too.

At this point, our potential fates diverge. In the case of nuclear holocaust, anyone caught outside of Blackett is dead. The end. An undead plague is more perfidious, and there is a strong possibility of survivors for several weeks at least. Blackett, Queen's Tower and Charing Cross Hospital are all potential sites to hole up in, situated in trendy boroughs of West London, part-furnished, perfect for students and flat-sharers. My advice here is to avoid the Tube. London Underground is not renowned for its reliability; do you think things will improve after an apocalypse? The Circle Line, at least, will invariably be down.

Now, this vision of the future may seem dystopic to you but I consider it a win-win situation. I'm an optimist. Firstly, if I'm among the countless millions dead, I won't be too bothered that I missed out on the looting. And if I survive, if I'm one of the few who have lost everything I hold dear, at least I'm alive and I have my health.

Until the radiation sickness or zombie virus get me.

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Sirs,

While reading last week's comment piece “Science doesn't play by its own rules” I couldn't help but wonder if the author hadn't confused the scientific method as an idea and fallible human culture. She makes the observation that a disproportionate amount of scientists are male and concludes that the scientific method itself is to blame.

Obviously it is in nobody's interests if half the human population are excluded from science but I feel that it is actually arbitrary cultural norms that are to blame.

Indeed the march of progress, partly achieved by science, could be seen as the cause of greater gender equality. Historically science has demonstrated and popularised the power of reason and evidence. It has encouraged people to throw out dogma, tradition and authority as a route to knowledge.

If you think it's difficult to be a woman in science now, imagine if your male counterparts stopped you because “It's traditional that the woman stays at home” or “For God made Adam first, and afterwards he made Eve.”

Feminists should be using reason to our advantage.

Yours,  
Jakov Marelic

*The author responds:*

*I don't believe that I did suggest that the scientific method was to blame. In fact, I specifically said that I wasn't talking about the scientific method. The article was mostly meant to talk about Bacon's idea of the idols, which is a separate issue to what science has or hasn't achieved over the last few years. I tried to make it clear that I thought cultural influences had been the reason women hadn't been able to be as successful in science. My point was that the perception of science as completely rational had held the scientific community back from counteracting the lack of women in science..*

Anna Perman

# COMMENT

Comment Editors: **Anna Perman**  
**Jan Piotrowski**

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

## The Artus Break

The focus of my Fridays is the customary philosophy hour lunch break from my lectures. That's when a bunch of Philosophy enthusiasts (read: Greg Artus fans) gather around in the enclosed space once named the Pippard lecture theatre for their weekly dose of arguments and a fine prescription of debating.

The reason most of us like Greg's lectures is that he is quite the debater. Sort of like the living version of Al Pacino in *Devil's Advocate*...or was it Keanu Reeves? Maybe he's a mixture of both? One of my friends put it quite suitably: "Greg is an enigmatic figure that flies into lectures, says what he has to say, leaves all of our heads buzzing like no other lecturer does and then disappears in a puff of smoke." Funny thing is, no matter what course we are doing, we all find his words a refreshing alternative to the monotone science courses we chose to come to study at Imperial in the first place. Oddly, the Humanities Department suffered from cuts recently – anyone see a parallel today<sup>1</sup>?

Funny thing is, no matter what subject we do, we all find his words a refreshing alternative to the monotone science courses we chose to study in the first place.

Today, Hobbes' *Leviathan* was discussed along with his arguments for human nature being inherently flawed. This is backed up by the usual materialist psychology which claims that humans are driven by self-interest and do not have a natural inclination towards others. Our desires and needs are what drive us and once we acquire some of our material needs, we are constantly vigilant and ready to fight in order to protect them – 'the War of All against All'.

This seems like a pessimistic view of humans, I thought, as I took a bite of my spinach-feta roll, but what would that mean? What does it mean to be self-interested? Is it different from being selfish? Do we all act on immediate desires and do we only postpone these when we are in pursuit of another, further desire? How could we always know what our best self-interests are and where does this leave altruism? Moreover, where does this leave love and the least self-interested of acts – dying for another human being?

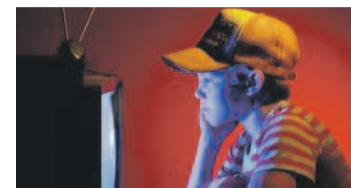
Apparently, humans are more inclined to die for a close friend than a relative. Would you die for a friend or a sibling? No matter what your answer might've been, the truth is that you don't know what you would do until you were put into the situation and forced to choose. Your actions speak for themselves and they are undeniable proof of the never-ending adventure of discovering and getting to know oneself. One could argue that we're all quasi-patriots, selfish people, brutes and cowards until we prove with our actions that we are patriots, unselfish and generous people, civilized human beings and heroes. Unpretentiously put, we are neither – simply because we haven't lived enough to be able to tell the tale that proves either extreme.

What to do then? How about you jump off a cliff mate, and find out?

<sup>1</sup> \*Cough\*, Life Sciences, \*cough\*.

**Naida Dzidal**

The average Briton watches nearly four hours of TV a day – the average student probably watches a lot more. The question is...



# DOES WATCHING TV RUIN YOUR SOCIAL LIFE?



**Charles Betts**

**I** find going out on a Saturday night in London an odd thing. I've usually had a rough week, I'm tired, fed-up with humanity, feeling miserable and in a pretty foul mood. I feel the onset of a cold thanks to a vitamin D deficiency that the city's winter brings. I would quite like to stay at home and lie on my backside all evening watching TV, but I know deep down that would only make me feel like a sad-arse friendless weirdo. Needless to say, I would get mixed feelings.

Indeed, I used to pooh-poo the idea of spending an evening in Tramp, the supposedly trendy Mayfair club. If invited, I would decline by offering some pompous rhetoric about its awful clientele of pathetic, insecure males with more money than sense who would spend their nights buying the attentions of broads best labeled as gold digging whores. You either have to spend the evening inside the club, sitting next to some trust fund baby, or standing outside in the cold having a fag with one of the Harry Potter nitwits. Classy it isn't.

But one day I accepted the invite. And having brought along a couple of friends, I spent a very merry evening tossing down martinis. Each cocktail made the place lighter, less stuffy, and more fun. What started out as a cynic looking for something to moan about turned out to be the best bloody evening in ages. We roared with laughter, thumping the bar table and cracking lame jokes. The point being that wherever you go out, there's always bound to be a story to tell – good or bad – and you will be richer for the experience.

Yes, it was stupidly expensive, yes it was full of vulgar people, and yes I will probably never go back, but I am happy I went – what else would I have done? Watched some crap would-be singer be told his version of *My Way* was better than Frank's "The Voice"-Sinatra's by a prick with man breasts and a silly haircut?

Since that night I've been rationing my TV usage. TV, as the alternative option, is no more than a drowsy sedative. It's less likely to get you excited than Valium. The whole thing is bollocks – Big Brother, Britain's Got Talent (if you count Amanda Holden's fake breasts that is), even the BBC 10 O'clock News.

Put simply, it's much more fun to watch people spray cream on each other's nipples in real life than it is on TV (just ask a Daily Mail journalist), in the same way it's far more enjoyable to create the news than listen to it (even if Mr. Woollard of fire extinguisher fame would disagree).

**"It's more fun to watch people spray cream on each others' nipples in real life"**

**M**y right honourable friend, despite having a novel immune system that is somehow dependant on vitamin D instead of the usual vitamin C, convincingly raises the argument that watching television makes one a "sad-arse friendless weirdo".

I spend a colossal amount of time watching television; and if you were to ask any of my Twitter followers or Youtube subscribers, they would doubtless testify to my erudite wit and charm. Scathing, self-deprecating irony aside, while I'm not out snorting cocaine off the tits of "third Hufflepuff on the left" on a Saturday, watching television isn't the death of my social life.

While, granted, I do mindlessly bask in such shows as *Hole in the Wall*, *Come Dine with Me*, not all TV is of the vapid variety. Popular television also has the advantage of being just that, popular. It is brilliant for facilitating conversation.

In an office or around a table, television is second only to sport as a sure fire conversation starter. In fact at Western Europe's premier nerd emporium, I am probably safer trying to start a conversation about the factual inaccuracies in an episode of *The Big Bang Theory* than why Arsenal will fail to get any silverware this season.

It is common amongst those in our generation, while taking sips from their organic fair trade tea, to exclaim in a tone somewhere between mild derision and self importance "why, I don't even own a television" with the commonly cited other diversions being "reading" and "actually talking to people". I can debate, at length, on topics such as how Evelyn Waugh's repeated characterisation of women as treacherous changed in type from intentionally malevolent to accidental by-products of emotional insecurity as he grew older, as well as why I'd like to kick X Factor's Cher Lloyd in the head. Loving television doesn't make you stupid.

When pushed, the average "oh, I just find I've started reading more" person is usually dribbling into Steig Larsson on their kindle and watching tormented episodes of *Glee* anyway.

All this conveniently brings me onto my final point. With online streaming and my "first thing I'd save in a house fire" Sky + box, you can be selective about what you watch. Television is a shared cultural experience which is by far the easiest to partake in. The fact that it can be used as the offal filler that bulks out the Sainsbury's Basics sausage that represents your day in no way prevents it from also providing beautiful haggis.



**Matt Allinson**

**"Not all TV is of the vapid variety. It is brilliant for facilitating conversation"**

# PHOENIX



Founded in 1887, Phoenix is the annual arts publication of Imperial. It will be published next term, as a supplement in Felix. It is a channel for the artistic output of all members of the College. We are open to every art form imaginable: from poetry to painting, short stories to symphonies.

The continued success of Phoenix, more than a century after its birth, is a testament to the strength of the artistic spirit at Imperial. Phoenix is a collective achievement; it is nothing without the talents of its contributors. That's why we strongly encourage everyone to get involved, whether that be by submitting their work or by aiding its production.

[phoenix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:phoenix@imperial.ac.uk) for more information.

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

## ARTS

**If you read nothing else this week...****Afonso Campos** extoles the virtues of one of America's finest pieces of modern literature**Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil** by John Berendt

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil is a welcome exception to my reading habits. It is not a work of fiction, but rather the enthralling true story of a murder and the events surrounding it. It is doubtlessly one of the finest works of modern American literature. It maintained a place on the New York Times' Bestsellers list for over 200 consecutive weeks after the initial publication.

Set in what is arguably one of the weirdest, yet most beautiful cities in the United States – Savannah, Georgia – the story unravels at a typically Southern pace. Rightly slow, and oddly soothing. While reading it, I can almost feel the warmth of a perfect Savannah summer night, with the sounds of a moody, dark piano jazz being played a few houses down.

The story, interesting as it is, is not the focus of the book. Rather, John Berendt lets the city and its eccentric characters take centre stage. The author really captures what it is about each of the characters that makes them so interestingly real; from the crazy old man who walks a leash without a dog through Oglethorpe Square to Jim Williams, the wannabe aristocrat around whom the story revolves.

It isn't every day that one finds a work of non-fiction that is as linguistically ornate as a work of fiction. Berendt's language, while not overwhelmingly similar, does have undertones that remind me of early Nabokov, yet it captures something that is incongruently worthy of Harper Lee. An element of subdued, distorted reality is prevalent throughout the book and is especially prevalent in the cemetery scenes, set in the heart of Southern voodoo country. The writing is luxuriant, much like the people and the city. It is near perfection. Berendt captures the essence of this picturesque, yet oddly disconnected place in deepest, darkest Georgia.

While there is an eponymous motion picture somewhat based on the book, it could never do the 'novel' justice, despite an outstanding performance by Kevin Spacey and an appearance by a very young Jude Law. If you have not had the fortune of visiting Savannah, upon reading the book you will want nothing more than getting on to the next flight to Atlanta and catching the Greyhound that gets you as close to Mercer House as humanly possible.

**Get a review in Felix and spread the word about that life-changing book you've read – Send 400 words to [arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk)**

# Eat meat, think twice

## The book that will make you a conscientious omnivore

**Sarah Wilson**

*Eating Animals* is not a simple argument for vegetarianism, but an intelligent insight into the culture, economy, business and impacts of meat production. Safran Foer makes a plea for more 'conscientious omnivores', making meal-by-meal decisions. We should all think about the issues and where we stand, particularly in regards to resource use, as a topic that affects everyone on the planet

The book describes how the ever cheaper production methods used by factory farms are not only the leading cause of global resource exploitation, habitat loss and the biggest producer of CO2 emissions, it discusses how these same companies continue to promote unhealthy and unsustainable dietary choices at the expense of individual health, animal welfare and the control of cross-species viruses such as H1N1.

After two award winning works of fiction (*Extremely Loud and Incredibly*

**“Relayed with fervour, often humorous and always thoughtful”**

*Close and Everything Is Illuminated*), *Eating Animals* is Jonathan Safran Foer's first work of non-fiction, turning his pen with shocking effect to the very real issues surrounding what it means to eat meat. What is refreshing about *Eating Animals* is that Safran Foer is not a conservationist, nor is he an animal or environmental activist, he is a novelist. His typographic techniques are quirky and visually creative and his storytelling sensibility is present from the first chapter. The book is both a narrative about family values and our cultural links to food, and hard research into the subject of eating meat. At a talk given at the RSA earlier this month he described how his initial investigations into meat production were not intended for the purposes of writing a book, but to find out for himself and his young family 'what meat is' and whether its good to eat it.

Safran Foer has managed to tackle the issues surrounding eating meat in a truly comprehensive manner (perhaps he would have included more of the industry perspective on the topic if they had ever replied to his requests for information). From investigating the true meaning of words such as 'bycatch'

Peter Rigaud



Jonathan Safran Foer in front of a happy, ethical brick wall. Nice wall, nice guy, probably...

and 'free-range' within the industry, to interviewing factory workers and vegan slaughterhouse builders, his wilful pursuit for understanding led him at one point, and against his own conviction, to join an activist breaking into a chicken farm to see for himself what was being so vehemently hidden behind the locked barn doors. His genuine shock and anger at the realities he uncovers are relayed with fervour, often humorous and always thoughtful and well researched. His arguments for re-thinking factory farming from the perspective of cross-species viruses, such as H1N1 (swine flu) are strong enough when considering global health. A pig farm in North Carolina was where bird, swine and human viruses combined in sickly, drug resistant animals to form this lethal, potentially pandemic virus and six of the eight genetic segments of the (currently) most feared virus in the world have been linked directly to US factory farms.

During the RSA talk, Safran Foer mentioned a statistic that any environmentally aware individual or car owner should hear: 'If every American reduced their meat consumption by one meal a

week it would be equivalent to taking 5 million cars off the road'.

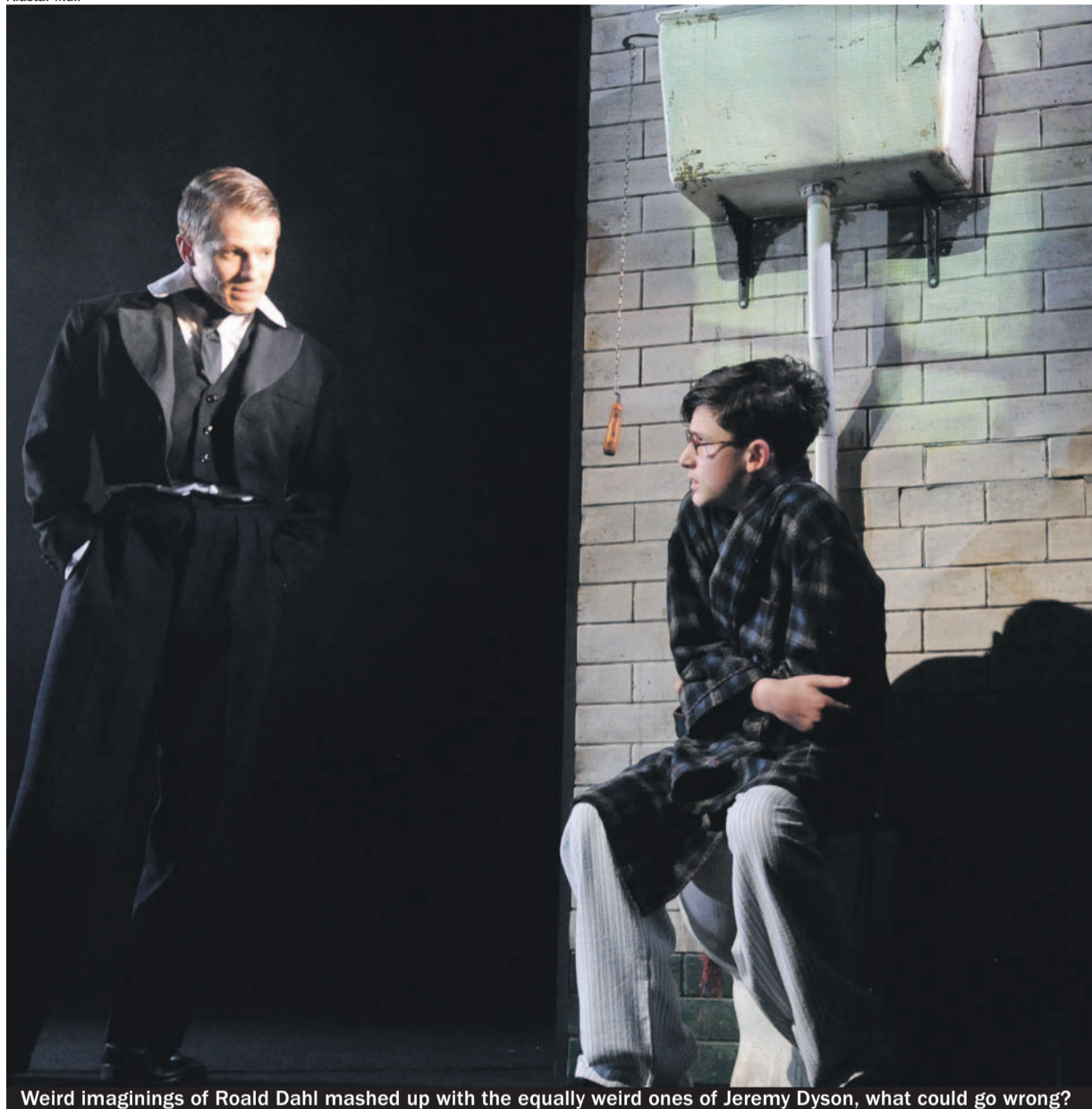
As a recent convert to a fully vegetarian diet, I would be a massive liar if I said the aroma of bacon and eggs wafting from a road side café doesn't send my saliva glands into a frenzy, but after reading *Eating Animals* I realized that to call myself a conservationist and eat meat, when I am lucky enough to have the choice not to, is total hypocrisy. My wanting a steak is far outweighed by the need to change an industry which has taken over one third of land on planet earth and has genetically modified animals to the point they can no longer reproduce naturally.

Safran Foer's aim is not to preach but to inform and inspire people to ask themselves questions about their food choices, and *Eating Animals* fulfils that aim with style. We must all draw our own lines in the sand, whether that means becoming a vegan, vegetarian or just cutting out one meat dish a week. We must decide for ourselves, as said by Safran Foer's Grandmother at the start of the book, "If nothing matters, there is nothing to save".

**Watch or listen to Safran Foer's talk with Bibi van der Zee at the RSA on the RSA website**

## ARTS

Alastair Muir



Weird imaginings of Roald Dahl mashed up with the equally weird ones of Jeremy Dyson, what could go wrong?

## Twisted, but is it twisted enough?

Matt Colvin

Roald Dahl. Aside from traumatic experiences in chocolate factories and child eating giants, surely that kindly figure looking out from the back of his books was as child friendly as they get? Short answer: he wasn't. There was another side that many are less aware of, his anthologies of short stories directed towards a far more adult audience. Some of these stories have now been adapted for the stage in Roald Dahl's *Twisted Tales*. Gone are the Oompa-Loompas, and all that's left are tales of revenge and a disembodied optic nerve.

Adapted by Jeremy Dyson, member of comedy group The League of Gentlemen and self proclaimed fan of the works of Roald Dahl, *Twisted Tales* presents five of Dahl's short stories and provides an overarching narrative linking them, leaving a more than able cast to portray a real bevy of characters, capturing all manners of grotesqueries.

Set in the 1950s, the play takes the form of a story read by a child, about a train of stoic commuters whose lives are affected by an enigmatic stranger who delights in entering day after day and imparting a range of tales, all of which unfold before our eyes.

The decision to present separate stories may have perhaps worked better

had the tone of them been more consistent. Although all five tales provide a showcase of human cruelty, the stories themselves vary dramatically from humorous to darkly sinister. Indeed with Dahl's penchant for dark humour, I was hoping that this would be more akin to Dyson's recent all-out scarefest *Ghost Stories*, which he co-wrote and directed.

That isn't to say that the play isn't frightening, indeed, when it reaches the right balance of unsettling terror and humour towards the end, it's thrilling. One Jamaican set tale details a wager between a brash young American and a sinister Spaniard involving a lighter, a cleaver and a little finger. The audience gasped collectively throughout. Spine chilling stuff – I loved it.

The set design does an excellent job of dealing with the ever changing narrative, with a revolving stage ushering in new environments and characters quickly and ensuring that the pace is kept high. At 80 minutes, it definitely doesn't overstay its welcome, especially with some terrific payoff towards the climax.

You can tell that there is both a great deal of appreciation for Dahl's tales in all aspects of the production, and after a shaky start they are really done justice, leading to one distinctly child unfriendly story that goes out on a high.

Lyric, Hammersmith until 26th Feb

## Gilbert &amp; George wish you were here

Eva Rosenthal Mena

A seemingly endless tapestry of postcards greets visitors to the latest Gilbert & George exhibition at White Cube. The aesthetic quality of the show is tangible from the start, even when one is not quite sure of the content of the pictures. The overall effect is that of giant, multicoloured quilts that cover the walls of two rooms. And then you get closer to the pictures; and each one is a surprise.

Each picture is comprised of thirteen identical postcards arranged in the shape of a square urethra. The creation of the 'Urethra Postcard Pictures' was an automated process. Once thirteen identical flyers or postcards had been collected, they were simply arranged and the title was taken from something within the postcard to describe the picture. The titles of the pictures are works of art on their own and sound like poetry. Their beauty lies in their simplicity and their usefulness in describing each work as

fully as possible.

The urethra symbol was not randomly chosen as a scandalous geometric arrangement for postcards. It is a sexual symbol and a representation of libertarianism – very simply put, the freedom of expression, ideas and actions. The urethra appears to free the meanings held within the ordinary postcard.

Some of the postcards are taken from flyers found mainly in London telephone boxes. The flyers advertise sexual services from rent-boys, prostitutes and 'masseurs' as well as performance enhancing drugs and sexual education. You would probably not blink twice at them in a normal situation. Arranged in the urethra symbol, the postcards are freed from the constraints of seediness and the mundane. The flyers become something – shocking, sad, wistful, sometimes funny – whatever you imagine really; but a distinct connection to the reality of the London underworld.

The 'Union Flag Picture Postcard

Pictures' are produced using tourist postcards of quintessentially British and eternally recognisable subjects. The buildings and symbols of London are thrust out of the pictures and almost literally into our faces. The commonplace postcard turns into a representation of London from the outside. There is none of the grime of the 'Flyer Pictures' and the 'London Telephone Box Card Pictures' in these, but perhaps more of what is artificial and yet on display for everyone to see.

Cindy Sherman's current photo installation at the Sprüth Magers gallery is an excellent and thought provoking companion to the Gilbert & George show. Sherman gives us larger than life photographs of herself in fairytale costumes against the slightly macabre backdrop of a 19th Century Central Park. As much as the 'Urethra Postcard Pictures' regurgitate London's hidden identities, Sherman's work is equally about American identity and some of its apparently sin-



ister sexual undercurrents. The artwork itself, without going into any deep or convoluted meaning, is very weird,

wonderful and definitely something to see in itself.

White Cube gallery until 19th Feb

# THE VAGINA M

**Students/Non-students: £4/6**

**[dramsoc.org/tickets](http://dramsoc.org/tickets), or on the door**



Do you want to do a  
centrefold? Email [felix@  
imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk) - it's not  
just for Clubs & Societies!



# MONOLOGUES

Union Concert Hall (Level-2)  
10th-12th February - 19:00-21:30



# MUSIC

Music Editors: **Greg Power**  
**Luke Turner**  
**Christopher Walmsley**  
music.felix@gmail.com

## Album of The Week



**Bright Eyes**  
*The People's Key*  
Saddle Creek  
2011  
★★★★☆

A while back, **Conor Oberst** told that he would create one more album under the name **Bright Eyes** before retiring it, it appears the album has come in the form of 'The People's Key'. This album really grows on you, like many of the **Bright Eyes** songs, and you will find yourself needing the songs to get yourself through a wintery day, or to get over a past demon. They're songs that help you overcome the challenges of life in an unconventional way, often depressing but with a feeling of everyone being in it together. Moving away from the established folk sound that the band had conquered so well, **Bright Eyes** performs to his more indie-rock self, blending marching percussions with the rocks twangs and force. The unforgettable 'Shell Games' is out as a free download and the rest of the album is set to be released on Conor's birthday, 15th February!

**Luke Turner**

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

1. James Blake
2. Kanye West
3. Muse
4. Arcade Fire
5. Radiohead
6. Daft Punk
7. Bloc Party
8. Gorillaz
9. The xx
10. Rihanna

Join in at: <http://www.last.fm/group/Felix+Music>

Make sure not to miss **Grandmaster Flash!**

**Scala, King's Cross**  
Tonight! (4th February) @ 19.00

Unquestionably the ambassador of hip-hop since the 1970's, **Grandmaster Flash** is a living legend in the industry. Coming from The Bronx, New York, he is the creator of many DJ styles including backspin technique, punch phrasing and although he didn't invent it, he is the true master of scratching. Originally being a part of **Grandmaster Flash & The Furious Five**, masterpiecing such hits as 'Freedom' and 'The Message' in the early 1980's, he has since toured solo spreading his incomparable knowledge of the decks far and wide. He now decides to grace the ever-friendly streets of London and will play at Scala in King's Cross on Thursday. This night will be a demonstration of brilliance at his trade, and that would be the trade of tearing shit up on the stage, the mic and most of all the decks. **Luke Turner**

## Bye, bye, White Stripes



Add the White Stripes' breakup to the violence in Egypt and there's only one conclusion that can be arrived at: there's nothing good in this world anymore...

**S**ad news for rock fans across the world: The White Stripes are no more.

I remember hearing "Fell In Love With A Girl" for the first time like it was yesterday. The year was 2002, nu-metal was in its dying days and like many other teenagers back then my reference points were more "Hybrid Theory" and "Take Off Your Pants and Jacket" than "proper" rock n' roll (judge not!).

When I heard the raw intensity of Jack White's guitar licks and distorted vocals over Meg White's no-nonsense drumbeats, it was like a doorway onto a whole new world of music.

Whereas The Strokes – another revelation from that period – took their cues from The Rolling Stones and The Velvet Underground, The White Stripes were drawing their inspiration from far-out, radical artists like Son House, that I had never even heard of.

On one level they were combining their love of the Blues and its emotional transcendence with a knack for writing catchy sing-along choruses. On another level they were playing familiar music in a completely novel way, em-

ploying the kinds of unique instruments usually kept to World music, and far away from rock n' roll.

Their music always had a clearly individual feel to it that distinguished it from any other blues-rock out there, even to this day. As they themselves surmise in their final press statement, their music will live on forever through their rich discography and through the entire generation of musicians and fans they inspired.

Though I am sure there will still be heaps of great Jack White-penned tunes coming our way in the future, courtesy of Third Man Records, I still could not help but feel a wave of bittersweet nostalgia overcoming me as I read The White Stripes' beautiful final message to the world:

"The White Stripes do not belong to Meg and Jack anymore. The White Stripes belong to you now and you can do with it whatever you want. The beauty of art and music is that it can last forever if people want it to. Thank you for sharing this experience. Your involvement will never be lost on us and we are truly grateful."

**Greg Power**

### La Sera

*Devils Hearts Grow Gold*  
Hardly Art  
★★★★☆



This dreamy and detached number from La Sera owes a lot to the hippy-pop of the 1970's, the kind of stuff that your parents have in their 7" collection that they only listen to when they're feeling nostalgic. It's not unpleasant by any means, but it's the kind of inoffensive ambient music that seems inevitably destined to be the backing for an advert, and probably for a mobile phone network. It would probably make a decent addition to your sex mix playlist, but even for that at a paltry 2min 30s it's only any use if you're really in a hurry. **Casey Duncan**

### Skepta vs N-Dubz

*So Alive*  
Boy Better Know  
★★★★☆



Skepta releases a token anti-sellout song that somehow manages to include the lyric "I feel like I'm looking through Michael Jackson's eyes". N-Dubz also get involved, bragging about money and dissing "haters", and end up sounding like the 14-year-olds they cater their music to, with Dappy deciding to compare himself to Elvis. The beat attempts a back-to-basics minimal approach, but just sounds weak. Skepta should leave these poor cross-over attempts well alone. As for N-Dubz, they should instead stick to what they do best: ruining Mr Hudson's career. **Jamie Fraser**



**Madness**  
*Earls Court*  
★★★★☆

**Duncan Casey**

To be honest, you know what you're going to get with a Madness gig. Middle-aged skinheads in pork-pie hats and turn-up jeans, skanking wildly to a bunch of tunes that found a recipe that worked in 1980 and have found no reason to change it since. Madness release a new album every couple of years, just to show willing, but you're there to see "Baggy Trousers" and "It Must Be Love" and Suggs and Co. are well aware of it.

The set (and the skanking) kicked off with the well-worn "One Step Beyond", driving 15,000 pot-bellies into raptures of excitement and airborne beer skiffs. A brief attempt was made to introduce an element of sophistication, with the arrival of an elegant, ballgown-clad string quartet, but this was immediately subverted by a lecherous saxophonist and business was resumed as normal. The set was capped by a thunderous encore, finishing with "Night Boat to Cairo" rolling straight into Monty Python "The Bright Side of Life" as the band's friends and family took to the stage for one last dance before the end of the long tour.

In short, it wasn't big, it wasn't clever, but it was impossible to leave without a big dumb smile on your face. It was perfect.

### Gonzales

*You Can Dance*  
Ex-Mercury  
★★★★☆



Although this is the fourth single released from Gonzales' 2010 album-cum-soundtrack, Ivory Tower, there is no sense of any barrel beginning to be scraped. You Can Dance is a fun and unashamedly cheesy disco number complete with handclaps, bouncing bass lines and Gonzales' trademark piano strokes. With production coming from Boys Noize, you know there's no danger of not wanting to dance to this. The single is released on 22nd February with a handful of remixes; the pick of the bunch for me being Edwin Van Cleef's effort. **Simon Hunter**

## MUSIC

# 19.02: Fun-loving funk

Wild funk rockers **The Eleven 37s** will bring their fun-filled funk parade to the first Felix Music Night on Saturday 19th February



Some people take music way too seriously. Praise Jeebus then for bands like **The Eleven 37s**. Mixing the fun vibes of funk with the raw energy of rock, they play party music of the best breed, sure to get you dancing and leaving you with a smile on your face.

We spoke about crazy dancing, gig size to satisfaction ratios and what they'll bring on February 19th, when they headline 19.02.

## Have you guys always played funk?

**Luke** (guitar, vocals): Stuff of that genre-ish. We all love the **Chilli Peppers**. We started off by doing **Chilli Peppers** covers and then started writing songs together and this is how it turned out. This ended up being what we wanted to play.

**Jamie** (vocals, keyboard, crazy dancing): I think it took us a long time to get to what we wanted to do style wise.

**Luke**: It was hard, because we're all quite different musicians, in terms of what we want to do. And we just try and fit that all in together.

**Jamie**: It works though. Because we all have so many different ideas. We set fire to each other occasionally, if we don't like an idea. But that's alright, you know. The wounds heal. The scars are there for a while...

**Luke**: I'm trying to keep a straight face here.

## What are some of your influences?

**Luke**: We all have properly different influences. We have lots of different ideas and we all have to decide together whether we like it or not. It's difficult to mix and match.

**Jamie**: It's the perception of what we think of funk.

**Luke**: That's been an issue sometimes.

Some people are expecting like James Brown or whatever. That's not really it.

**Jamie**: We see the fun side of the music.

**Luke**: Mixing it all up, it's a good atmosphere to have. And we try to bring people into it as much as we can.

**Jamie**: It's nice to do something different. We've had 3 EPs now. The first one was a mix of everything: a mish-mash of ideas. We were young. I think we're progressing all the time.

**Luke**: It's gonna keep changing. I dunno where we're gonna end up but we're just gonna keep writing.

**Jamie**: We definitely have an idea of where we're heading, but if we didn't progress all the time, we'd get bored of it. And then people would get bored of it. It's great to keep just writing new stuff all the time.

## Do you prefer big or small gigs?

**Luke**: It kind of varies. We've had a few over the past few months that have been really quite big gigs. We played **Proud Camden**, we're playing it again at the end of February. We've played some much smaller places. We started out doing a lot, hitting the scene, just for practice. Just get our music to as many people as we could. Really small places sometimes.

**Jamie**: It really does vary though. You can play a massive venue and it can be really amazing lighting and sound, but just be an awful gig. You can play a tiny little place, and the sound can be brilliant in there. It's literally what happened the other week.

**Luke**: Yeah at the **Urban Bar**. We went in there and the sound was just right on the dot, and we played to 15-20 people and it was amazing. It was so much fun.

**Jamie**: We played **Monto** like the week before, which is a great venue, but we just didn't enjoy it as much.

**Luke**: We couldn't get the sound quite right, and the crowd just wasn't as into it as we hoped they'd be.

**Jamie**: It's all about the atmosphere, it's what we thrive on at these shows, all the time. If they're not enjoying it, we're not gonna enjoy it. Simple as that. So that's why we're always so crazy on stage.



The Eleven 37s getting all funk'd up and spreading mad love

**Luke**: You should get a load of this guy.

**Jamie**: Crazy dancing.

**Luke**: When we started off it was difficult getting the performance right. We were young, and scared of people. Now we're hitting our stride, getting some good performances in. Before getting the performances right, you have to get the right sound, you need to be able to play it right.

**Jamie**: You have to be happy with it. It's exactly like when we're writing as well, four of us can love a song. This happened the other week, Luke doesn't mind me saying this. Because I can read his mind it's fine. But we had a song that we all liked, but Luke wasn't too keen on it. We had to drop it, because if you don't all like it, it's pointless. You're not gonna perform as a band. Four of us might perform, but that's not gonna help. All five need to be enjoying that song to get the atmosphere across.

**Luke**: With different backgrounds there's always gonna be some disagreement. We just have to keep trying new ideas and finding something everyone likes. It turns out that when everyone likes something, it's usually very good.

**Jamie**: That's definitely what's happened writing-wise over the past year. We released "Here comes the storm" about a year ago, and we've been promoting that for a year. In that time we've written loads of songs but I think we've only taken two out of there cos not everyone's been comfortable with the songs we've written. It's good because the response we've been getting from these new songs that have come out are amazing. People are absolutely loving them which is great.

"Strawberry Swing", that's a great one. And it's not a Coldplay reference, contrary to what people think.

**What will you guys bring to 19.02?**

**Jamie**: The best music ever.

**Luke**: The best.

**Jamie**: Ever.

**Luke**: And some fun somewhere in the mix.

**Jamie**: Some fun, some dancing. I bring strawberries to shows now. They're good strawberries though. They did complain last time that they were in my shoe, but they were bought fresh! They were quite nice.

**Luke**: They were alright.

**Jamie**: Yeah they were good. Obama's coming, actually. He said he's pretty excited about it, he texts me about it. He didn't want to put it in the news or anything.

**Luke**: He didn't want to shout out about it.

**Jamie**: You don't want to do that, he's just gonna attract attention.

**Luke**: He's just gonna turn up, stay in the background with a hood up, so no one spots him.

**Jamie**: Yeah I can see him in the office like: "Aaaw yea" and grooving. "Lovin this". Michelle Obama's in there just like: "What are you doing? President Obama?"

**Luke**: What were we talking about?

**The Eleven 37s** are playing a free gig at **Camden Proud** on Monday 28th February.

Go to [www.beholdthemachine.com](http://www.beholdthemachine.com) for more about **The Eleven 37s** and the extended interview **Greg Power**

**Grandmaster Flash and the like...**

**Superrappin'**  
Grandmaster Flash & The Furious Five

**Freedom**  
The Furious Five

**The Message**  
The Furious Five

**Rapper's Delight**  
Sugarhill Gang

**The Adventures of Grandmaster Flash on the Wheels of Steel**  
Grandmaster Flash

**Flash to the Beat**  
Grandmaster Flash

**Step Off the Megamix**  
Grandmaster Flash

**Beat Street**  
Grandmaster Flash

**Birthday Party**  
Grandmaster Flash

If you want to share a mind-blowing playlist send it in to [music.felix@gmail.com](mailto:music.felix@gmail.com)

## Akron/Family

So It Goes  
Crammed  
★★★★☆



Coming from their new (ludicrously titled) album that will apparently "transcend the internet" according to its producer, Akron/Family's new song 'So It Goes' finds the band in typical 'give everything a try' mode. The song starts with tribal chanting before giving way to a rocking 1970s-indebted section, and ends with a beautiful folk coda. While all the component parts are good, it is essentially several short ideas jammed together, and feels like it, resulting in a song that as a whole is strangely forgettable.

**Jamie Fraser**

# FILM

## Classic Cinema

### Mean Streets



His name is Bobby. Ooh Ooh, Bobby de Niro, Aah Ah

On the surface, New York City appears to be the physical embodiment of the American Dream. The wide, leafy spaces of Central Park nestled amongst the glittering spires of the skyscrapers that house the largest financial district in the world project a symbol of prosperity and success across the Atlantic. However every city has an underbelly and the seedy alley's beneath the behemoths of capitalist wealth and highrise apartments have proved irresistible for scores of directors since John Schlesinger's Academy Award winning classic *Midnight Cowboy*. John Voight's iconic portrayal of a hustler slumming it with Dustin Hoffman's crippled conman introduced American audiences to a new brave style of filmmaking, far from the glitzy optimism of the classic Hollywood aesthetics, and soon a young upstart director was ready to stamp his own impression of this city of contradictions on celluloid.

Martin Scorsese's most personal film *Mean Streets* launched his career and sent him on a dizzying ascent to the top of the film world. As Robert de Niro's unhinged character Johnny Boy swaggers down a bar with a girl on each arm, accompanied by the Rolling Stones' Jumping Jack Flash, all the elements which would make his style so iconic are present: the tracking shots, camera angles, snappy editing and soundtrack. A more masculine Harvey Keitel stands in for Scorsese, dealing with Catholic guilt and the pressures of balancing a liberal American lifestyle with traditional Sicilian values. The plot is uncomplicated, with Charlie (Keitel) spending his time picking up protection money for his Mafioso uncle whilst desperately trying to keep his out-of-control best friend Johnny Boy from a path of self-destruction.

Although the ending of *Mean Streets* seems a bit unfinished, with De Niro Scorsese found a soulmate and they will collaborate on further classics including *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*.

Ed Knock

## EVENTS

iCU Cinema - *Made in Dagenham*  
 £3/£4 for members/non-members  
 Tue 8st Feb 6.30pm  
 Thu 10th Feb 9:00pm.  
 Union Concert Hall

# Exemplary acting in *Rabbit Hole*



Kidman wastes whole days wondering if Tom Cruise had always been that mental

## Rabbit Hole

**Director** John Cameron Mitchell  
**Screenwriter** David Lindsay-Abaire (adapted from stage)  
**Cast** Nicole Kidman, Aaron Eckhart, Sandra Oh, Dianne Wiest

### John Park

Losing a child is one of the most emotive subjects a film can take, and can deliver some of the finest performances from its actors, or else fall flat. *Rabbit Hole* follows the lives of Becca (Nicole Kidman) and Howie (Aaron Eckhart) in the aftermath of their four-year-old son's accidental death, hit by a car whilst playing with his dog. Eight months on, and both Becca and Howie are struggling to move on. Everything in the house reminds them of him; the pictures on the fridge, the clothes in his room, the home-videos, and even the fingerprints on the door-knobs.

Group grief counseling is the most obvious first step, but something Becca can't get used to, especially when someone brings up the idea of God. "God needed another angel." It's a nice theory one of the mothers comes up with. Becca's response? "He's God. Why didn't he just make another angel?" Good point Becca, it's time to leave the group. Howie makes an effort and finds a sympathetic ear in a fellow grief therapy member Gaby (Sandra Oh). With the

distance growing between Howie and his wife, the film turns towards the question of infidelity whilst Becca continues to struggle with her relationships with her husband, sister, mother and even family dog.

Kidman and Eckhart are outstanding in the lead roles as the quietly grieving parents. What the two of them don't say to each other is just as damaging to the pair's marriage as what they have to say to one another in a rare argument. And there is a memorable fiery scene in which a lot of the film's issues and the troubles are summed up – a beautifully written scene, brought to life by two hugely talented actors. Kidman has shown intensity before, so the real surprise here is Eckhart, who brings the performance of his career.

An odd relationship between Becca and the teenage driver who accidentally killed her son also develops: an interesting plot choice for this film. Their exchange is awkward and uncomfortable to watch at first, and you wonder whether a thing like this is ever possible in real-life, but as Becca spends more time with Jason (Miles Teller), it feels poignant and unforced, something achieved in part by the talents of Kidman and the newcomer Teller.

Surprisingly, given the heavy themes it deals with, *Rabbit Hole* can be amusing at times. This is never inappropriately handled – not a dark or twisted humour – but there are still several

lighter moments involving the solid supporting cast. Wiest plays the role of Becca's mother to perfect, Oscar-worthy precision, providing some off-beat humour as well as carefully interacting with Kidman's character to stir up effective sympathy. Oh, who is exceptional in all the roles she takes on is once again exemplary as a straight-talking, charismatic character who makes a lasting impression.

There are many familiar elements on display here: the classic grieving music score of simple guitar plucking accompanied by the occasional piano playing dominates the soundtrack and there is the inevitable flashback scene that shows us in slow-motion the accident that started this chain of events. But a lot of this is tastefully handled without trying to squeeze out as many tears as possible. The flashback scene in particular is a focus entirely on Kidman at odd angles and zooms that immediately paints the chaotic atmosphere.

*Rabbit Hole* involves an incredibly tough subject matter, and something that cannot be handled lightly. But, despite the difficult tone, it manages to still be a pleasant watch and the film's perceptive look at a range of characters is impressive. Combined with stellar performances to back up such good material, *Rabbit Hole* fully engrosses its audience and the quality shines through each of its well-sculpted, involving characters.

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

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# Why are we still accepting bad films?

Jade Hoffman on Hollywood's extortionate spending on last year's worst films

**A**wards season is here, and whether you take an interest or not, it generally means the time of year when the cinemas are packed with impressive, intelligent films. Though a few of the leading films in this year's nominees, such as *The Social Network* or *Toy Story 3* were out a few months ago, the majority of the ones generating buzz have only emerged very recently (*Black Swan*, *127 Hours*, *True Grit*, *The King's Speech*). Now is a time when film aficionados will actually relish going to the cinema, a time when they may not actually resent the huge dents in their bank accounts most ticket prices leave.

But this isn't necessarily a thing to feel so grateful for. What it highlights most of all is the distinct lack of quality we've gotten so used to in most of the films we pay to see. Let's look at the line-up we were treated to in the summer – Zac Efron starring in bland drama/romance *Charlie St. Cloud*, a predictable romcom with Jason Bateman and Jennifer Aniston (*The Switch* – if that means anything to you), and, of course, *Step Up: 3D*. These films are, at best, good for taking the piss out of, but considering the fact that *Step Up: 3D* alone had an estimated budget of US\$30 million, it stops being funny pretty quickly.

In context, \$30 million is the entire cost of a HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Programme in the Dominican Republic. The budget for that other summer smash hit, *Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore*, was around \$85 million. This is the equivalent amount the US government pledged to fund renewable energy in 2009.

This isn't an argument saying that Hollywood should be curing cancer and saving the world instead of releas-



Two of the worst offenders: Are Jolie's humanitarian efforts undone by *The Tourist*, a \$100 million flop?

ing awful films; I realise that it isn't as clear-cut as that (though I am sure that if you gave an AIDS sufferer in the Dominican Republic a copy of *Step Up: 3D* instead of antiretroviral medicine, you'd get punched in the throat. And rightly so.). These films do have their place and the freedom for the arts to be able to operate without restriction is an invaluable thing. But the ever-inflated cost of films is unnecessary and, more often than not,

**"The ever-inflated cost of films is unnecessary and only serves to churn out yet another forgettable film."**

only serves to churn out yet another forgettable film.

The film industry sees a relatively cyclical stream of funding, with even a lot of "bad" films managing to drum up a decent enough attendance at the box office to avoid catastrophic losses. At the same time, for the amount of money that ends up being committed to these films, we should be expecting something more. It's not just a case of creating low-

budget cult classic like *Clerks* or *The Blair Witch Project* which can generate impressive amounts of interest and respect on the bare minimum, but more to do with the cast and crew investing a worthy amount of time and thought in what they create. One of the most celebrated films of last year, *Inception*, took director Christopher Nolan around eight years to complete and, whilst it isn't a perfect film, it certainly lives up to its \$160 million investment. The flood of critical acclaim that trailed Nolan, and still does, after this film is not exactly excessive – the man deserves appreciation for his work – but this level of effort should be going into all films that Hollywood rolls out.

Only last December, unexpected blockbuster *Monsters* shot to fame for being made for \$800,000 – a near unheard-of feat at the cinema – and easily generated a substantial profit at the box office. By contrast, Jack Black's latest *Gulliver's Travels* didn't even make back half of its \$112 million costs and was lucky to get 2-star ratings from most critics. Cost is not equal to quality – a lesson that Hollywood has still not seemed to learn. Some of the most expensive films made to date have been shoddy sequels to lucrative franchises (*Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* or *X-Men: The Last Stand* for example) and, whilst they manage to still cash-in fairly well, accepting a second-rate production from a franchise that can and has provided better shouldn't be so commonplace.

With the BAFTAs and Academy Awards just weeks away, it's a good time to take advantage of the decent films gracing our screens for what feels like a limited amount of time, but considering the cost, it's about time we demanded a higher standard.

## The late, great John Barry remembered

Ed Knock

It's the most famous title sequence in cinema; A white circle bobs across the screen, the camera reveals we're looking down a gun barrel before 007 strides across the frame shooting the unfortunate owner and as the blood drips down the screen, those famous swinging orchestral chords blast out rising to a staccato climax – 'Dun! Dun! Duhhh! Dun! Dun! Duhhh!'. The music is arguably as iconic as the man in the Tuxedo himself and the

'James Bond Theme' would be used in every film until *Casino Royale*. However the theme was only meant to be used for *Dr. No* and it was only considered to be used again for *From Russia With Love* at the last moment, fortunately for the many generations of James Bond fans.

John Barry was born in York (where, incidentally, James Bond star Dame Judy Dench is from as well) in 1933. Immersed in films from a young age by his father who owned eight cinemas in the city, Barry was classically trained in

the piano and trumpet. He formed his own big band the 'John Barry Seven' in 1957 and managed to produce some hit records, but as rock'n'roll started to invade the airwaves he found himself scoring for film and television instead.

After the success of *James Bond*, John Barry was soon in high demand from film producers. He eventually bagged five Academy Awards for *Born Free*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Out of Africa* and *Dances with Wolves*. His scores were typified by grand, soaring strings and heavy use of brass inspired by the

bands of his native Yorkshire.

Although being influenced by the composers of the classical era such as Bernard Herrmann, John Barry was simultaneously an innovator, being one of the first to incorporate synthesizers into his scores, and he also regularly included pop songs best exemplified by the use of Harry Nilsson's 'Everybody Talking' in *Midnight Cowboy*.

John Barry died of a heart attack last Sunday in New York, a city that fittingly owed it's namesake to his home town.



# TELEVISION

Television Editors: **Matt Allinson**  
**Veronika McQuadeova**

tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## What We Watched...

### James Simpson wrecks up the week's TV

The words 'Period Drama' usually conjure up a rose-tinted image of vast country estates, sunshine and happy endings. The fact that **The Tudors** isn't shown at prime time may lead one to believe that it is just more of the aforementioned – possibly a repeat; rather than the fact that it is actually a massive shagfest.

King Henry is wonderfully portrayed as the bit-of-a-dick he probably was, and his wife (or the current one at least) looks young enough to make him a nonce by today's standards. She's a daft bint too. Most of the characters are engaged in a spot of extra-marital banging, and in this week's episode the King's footman ploughed the Queen.

And in case you need any more reason to watch it – Henry Cavill, the British actor who was recently cast as Superman (and who previously narrowly missed out on the roles of Batman and James Bond), plays Charles Brandon, advisor to Henry VII.

The BBC's **This World** programme follows the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement service ('The Paedophile Hunters') whilst they track down American citizens fiddling with kids abroad. The narrator's attempt to intone a serious nasal dirge into the script, which includes phrases such as "found with a large collection of dildos" perhaps makes light of a rather disturbing subject matter.

**Waterloo Road** (a.k.a. The Amanda Burton Show) returned this week for its sixth series. For viewers of a public-school disposition it should form a fantastic insight into the edification (or not) of the lower classes. For myself, having attended a state comprehensive in that area generally known as 'The North'; it brings back fond memories of school! (Yes that's right... we used to watch it in lessons...).

A few new characters have been introduced to keep things fresh but the plot is still as blatantly obvious as an erection in a pair of Speedos. If you're one of those people who takes TV a little too seriously you'll feel the need to slap 'Kyle Stack' or 'Finn Sharkey' (what names...) most of the time, particularly if they remind you of that twat that used to sit at the back of the classroom shouting 'cabbages' at random intervals.

Karen Fisher's long-lost daughter returns and makes false allegations of sexual assault which are investigated by deputy Mr Mead - who, incidentally, had it off with her sister last term (...banter!). This somehow turns into an epic situation involving a bull mastiff and some sickly student-teacher flirting, which I presume is designed to push even the most cringe-immune of people over the edge.

The latest double-episode of **Silent Witness** was something of a disappointment after last week's when we fretted for a whole twenty-four hours about whether he was actually dead. This week we wonder whether he'll leave for another job. Those script writers really have it in for poor Harry.

Speaking of leaving; John Nettles' role in the nation's favourite country crime-drama **Midsomer Murders** came to an end on Wednesday after sixteen years of playing DCI Tom Barnaby. Anyone hoping for an all-out murder extravaganza was disappointed as Barnaby spent much of the two hours (being grumpy) at a health retreat. There is murder in the end, but it's certainly not Nettles at his best. Hardly fitting for the end of an era.

# National Television Awards

## Seriously, what television were they watching?

**Vicky Jeyaprakash**

'Tis' the season. Award ceremonies are everywhere as the ultimate narcissists congratulate themselves on just how wonderful they are.

I don't know about you but that's my idea of a fun night in. I love the red carpet, the utter rubbish people say about how grateful they are for the free booze and their nominations, as well as all the sparkly dresses. However I know that the Americans totally out-do us on the grandeur stakes. For a while I wondered if that was reflective of the differences between American and British television. Can the output of British television really compete? Until the last year or so I can't say I watched anything British that I thought was must-see television, but I've come to change my mind and suddenly have a vested interest in our own award ceremonies.



Dermot O'Leary, the nation's happy heart

Which brings me to the Bafta's ugly stepsisters. The National Television Awards.

Don't you just love the name? Makes it sound all important. However I suspect it's just a way for ITV to throw a party that can air fill an evening of telly. The change from Trevor McDonald as host to lovable cheeky chappy Dermot O'Leary really emphasizes the tone the awards is aiming for. Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed it anyway. What with my own snarky inner dialogue entertaining me. Shamefully I did find by the end of the night that no matter how ridiculous you consider an award ceremony, if you sit down to watch, before you know it you're fighting a corner. I knew it meant little and the shows were aimed at an Eastenders loving audience, but I just couldn't help myself.

Sherlock and Moffat were totally slapped in the face by the choice of Waterloo Road as best drama. What were they thinking? I know which one I would flag up as must see TV and that would be the one without the shiny prize. This is a show that celebrates all awful television out there, best comedy show – Beni-

**"I knew it meant little and the shows were aimed at an Eastenders loving audience, but I enjoyed it anyway"**

dorm? Really? Do I even want to know what dross that involves? Did they see the genius of the Inbetweeners? Yes I'm a snob but could we at least celebrate shows with a script and something that didn't involve a fair number of Bacardi Breezers in its filming? And poor Dr Who and Matt Smith, after four years of dominating a show they both left losers last week and I can't help but take it as a personal insult. I have of course gotten too involved, forgetting the purpose of the production; that it is not to reward and recognise talent but for the likes of the reality show starlets (ha!) to have a good time. What was I thinking?

Thank God for the Baftas!

## The Winners

### Serial Drama

EastEnders

### Drama

Waterloo Road

### Newcomer

Ricky Norwood

### Comedy Programme

Benidorm

### Entertainment Presenters

Ant and Dec

### Factual Programme

Top Gear (*Ed - factual?*)

### Talent Show

X Factor

### Serial Drama Performance

Lacey Turner

### Drama Performance

David Jason

### Digital Choice

The Inbetweeners

## What to watch this week

### Friday

#### Embarrassing Bodies

People who are too ashamed to go to the doctors do so on TV...  
C4, 9pm

### Tuesday

#### The Chinese are Coming

Sadly not subtitled "and this time it's personal"  
BBC2, 9pm

### Saturday

#### Take Me Out

If you haven't seen this at least once you have to. Beggars belief  
ITV1, 8.30pm

### Wednesday

#### History of Ancient Britain

I love documentaries like this: New series starts with the Ice Age.  
BBC2, 9pm

### Sunday

#### Top Gear

They're smug and flabby, but they're damn good at it.  
BBC2, 8pm

### Thursday

#### The Reluctant King

Documentary about George VI for all you *King's Speech* Fans  
BBC2, 9pm

### Monday

#### Glee

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW ON GLEE...  
E4, 9pm

### If you missed it...

#### Boardwalk Empire

The Sopranos but in the 1930s with moonshine  
Google your ass off...

## TELEVISION

# Our HBO-fest continues

Continuing our series on Sky Atlantic, Vicky Jeyaprakash and Navid Nabijou dice with death with two of the edgiest shows in recent years



Here lie the chances of IC Radio winning the Union President's prize

## Six Feet Under

The genius of Alan Ball knows no bounds, writes Vicky Jeyaprakash, and *Six Feet Under* is a perfect example. It was the story of a dysfunctional family of undertakers whose lives unfold while dealing with the day-to-day reality of death. The series normalised the grim reality of death in their lives while the characters railed against it by embracing life. In doing so they indulged in various forms of sex, drugs and human pettiness. The intelligence of the writing however never let this slip into gratuitousness and was dealt with, with such a deft hand and sly humour that it was a thing of beauty (unlike the kickass *True Blood*).

The excellence of the cast cannot be downplayed with the incredible Michael C Hall (*Dexter*) and Peter Krause (*Sports Night*) playing the two brothers who ran the Fischer funeral home after the death of their father, with Francis Conroy playing their highly strung matriarch who was trying to keep the family together. With a confused younger sister and warring business partner to battle, the series was never shy of drama, with each week beginning with the death of a person, which was sometimes brutal but often amusingly ordinary. In fact, death frequently took on a surreal element with corpses speaking and ghosts of past characters haunting the family. This conceit was oddly not generally played for scares but for grim humour with the characters who now knew all mocking those that were left

**“It was the story of dysfunctional family of undertakers whose lives unfold while dealing with the day-to-day reality of death.”**

behind.

The mixture of drama, black humour and sheer tragedy this show balanced rarely faltered and makes the show one of the most consistent I have ever seen over 5 seasons. This is mostly due to the wonderful cast rarely putting a foot wrong, with a great script to back them up. Surprising I have managed to get this far without mentioning one of the most complex female characters to have appeared on TV, played by the talented Rachel Griffiths (presently stuck in the mire that is *Brothers and Sisters*) whose Brenda was often the highlight of the show. I cannot emphasize how much I would recommend watching this show if you didn't have a chance the first time around (I suspect for many of you, you would have been in single digits). With one of the best finales of all time this is a show rich with layered characters who are unafraid to be selfish and cruel to each other while still being engaging and ultimately sympathetic.

## The Sopranos

Perhaps no other series to date has had a greater impact on television as *The Sopranos*, writes Navid Nabijou. Exploding onto the airwaves in 1999, it came as a massive shock; never before had a show of such consistently high quality been witnessed. In that sense, it set the precedent for all that followed. *Mad Men*, *Six Feet Under*, *The Wire*; all can trace their heritage back to *The Sopranos*.

Leading the ensemble cast is Tony Soprano, family man and professional mobster. His life is spent juggling the often-conflicting demands and pressures of his two “families”. On the one hand, there is his wife, Carmela, and their two teenage children, along with all the complications, tensions and arguments that inevitably arise. On the other hand, there is the New Jersey crime syndicate; a powerful and sinister organisation, which still in a certain sense operates like a very large, very dysfunctional family.

The series has been showered with critical acclaim, and for a very good reason. *The Sopranos* is a truly monumental work of fiction; an all-encompassing event, that weaves together all of the themes central to the human condition:

morality, religion, sex, money, death. Every episode constitutes a virtuosic psychological and philosophical exploration; a concentrated dissection of the deepest and darkest elements of man.

Far more important, though, than what is said, is what is not. In *The Sopranos*, subtext is everything. It's like a really well-written novel; you have to read between the lines. As in reality, the inner lives of the characters are evoked not in soppy, gushing monologues, but rather through those little nuances of speech, those slight glances, those subtle shifts of body language that give everything away. Dream sequences are employed masterfully, carrying a wealth of bewildering symbols and hidden messages that cry out for interpretation (a far more mature and realistic representation of

dreams than is usually found). And to top it all off, there are Tony's therapy sessions: here, if anywhere, one might have hoped for some clarity; and yet these scenes tend to be the ones most fraught with subtle undertones and dangerous mind games.

And yet for all its weight, *The Sopranos* is eminently enjoyable and also very funny: indeed, humour is often used as a device for conveying incredibly profound (and sometimes tragic) messages. Above all, it's a series that knows how to enjoy itself; a series which realises that wisdom is not always equivalent to seriousness.

*The Sopranos* is important. It is a rich, impassioned and truly unique exploration of the paradoxes of modern life. Its sheer force will leave a permanent impression on all who give it the chance. In my view – and not just in my view – this show completely outstrips the competition, taking pride of place as the greatest television series of all time.

**“A rich exploration of the paradoxes of modern life that will leave an impression on all who give it a chance.”**

If you're interested in writing about a TV series, either new or classic, or reviewing everything you've watched during the week, then don't hesitate to email us at [tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk)



The most adorable psychopaths in television history. Although we're using the term 'adorable' rather loosely

# GAMES

Games Editor: **Simon Worthington**

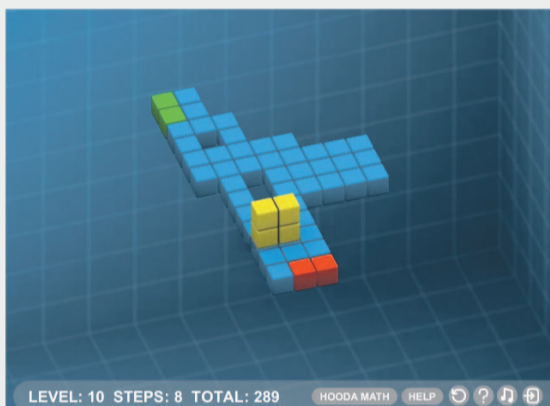
games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## 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/>.

### DuBlox

[hoodamath.com/games/dublox.php](http://hoodamath.com/games/dublox.php)



Have you ever tried to pick up tofu with chopsticks? If so, you will probably already be a master of the complex logic behind this geometrical puzzler. As the four yellow cubes flop around the stage flipping and rolling, much like tofu cubes in the hands of a chopstick amateur, your brain will go in meltdown trying to comprehend where to lie them flat, where to stand them up and, ultimately, how to get them to the red goal zone.

You may think this is just another of those block games you can solve by trial and error, but that's where you're wrong. To get through this one you might actually have to (shock horror) *think*. Later levels are real stumpers. Visuals are pretty awesome, especially on the animation.

### Torpedos Armed

[tinyurl.com/torpedosarmed](http://tinyurl.com/torpedosarmed)



In this nautical shooter, you control a torpedo-shooting submarine tasked with one simple instruction: destroy all enemy ships! Cruisers sail the waves above you while other subs stalk the seabed below you, all firing a multitude of missiles your way.

As the action starts to get going, the sheer number of missiles in the waters require some extreme concentration to dodge, all while trying to position the sub in the right place. Not even the upgrades can help when things start getting messy. A fun little action game that you'll keep coming back to.

# New aliens, same ol' frights

*Dead Space 2* can't scare me, claims Laurence Pope

In the immortal words of John McClane: "How can the same shit happen to the same guy twice?" In this case the 'shit' is another alien infection and the 'guy' is everyone's favourite space engineer, Isaac Clarke (lose a thousand nerd points if you miss the reference).

Yes, dear old Isaac is back once more to fight off another horde of mutated undead in Visceral Games' latest title *Dead Space 2*, a sequel to their previous title that shares the same name; minus a '2', of course.

Regular readers of my other articles – yes, all three of you – will remember that many moons ago I wrote an article about another game, *Amnesia: The Dark Descent*, and mentioned the fact that *Dead Space* was scary in the same way that I'm good with girls, i.e. not at all. So, did *Dead Space 2* do any better on that front?

Well... sort of. Before I go on like an embittered O.A.P. let me make it clear to you that the *Dead Space* series is in no way bad – after all, I played the original at least five times over and I can bet my left nut that I'll be doing the same thing with its newest sibling. The weapons are fun to use and dismembering enemies to kill them is still a reasonably fresh concept. Many smaller changes from the original make life much more enjoyable, such as the mobility control in zero-G environments and the self-charging stasis module, but others less so. You often have to stomp on fallen Necromorphs to get the goods they drop, which becomes quite frustrating in larger battles when you have to scavenge ammo from dead foes whilst trying to avoid being ripped apart by their surviving brethren.

There are a couple of new Necromorphs that go out of their way to slaughter you and whilst there have only been a few new additions, I was very impressed to find that they all filled niches not occupied by the original *Dead Space* lineup. There's a long range attacker that spews corrosive acid, organic proximity mines and crawling bombs, a pack attacker and, my personal favourite, a new Necromorph that hunts intelligently, aptly named 'Stalkers'. These bastards will drive you mad. Fast and dangerous, they'll lure you into attacking one of their numbers whilst another sneaks up to charge into one of your blind sides. Unlike most Necromorphs you have to plan and time your attacks against these guys to avoid being gored; battles with them were invariably the tensest.

Isaac also dropped the Gordon Freeman approach to survival and actually speaks now and then, mostly in response to the NPCs guiding him along. I suppose I like this change, turning Isaac from a human puppet to more of an actual person, but at the same time I couldn't help but think he sounded an awful lot like Tom Cruise. Very off-putting.

There's also the new multiplayer component, but it's nothing spectacular. You play either as a security officer or a Necromorph in teams of four, with the security team trying to get shit done whilst the Necromorphs attempt to screw their shit up. Unless Visceral continually update this mode I can't see it becoming popular.



This is why I'll never live in Griffon Studios in Clapham...

That said, it is a nice little extra that'll add, at the very least, a few more hours to playtime.

OK, rant time. First, people really need to stop calling *Dead Space* a survival horror. It is not a survival horror, it is an action shooter. Now that's fine with me, but stop calling it a horror game! *Dead Space 2* will shock you and make you curse now and then, but 'shocking' is not the same thing as 'scaring'. 'Shocking' is when someone walks up behind me unannounced and explodes a paper bag right next to my ear. 'Scaring' is when my asthmatic house-

**"Dead Space 2 leaves you exhausted from the near-constant action."**

mate is out at a party and I can hear heavy laboured breathing in the kitchen at 2 a.m. Nothing really emphasised this point better than one encounter near the start of the game.

You begin *Dead Space 2* with no ability to defend yourself, and you have to run past a load of Necromorphs to escape the area you start in, which is admittedly a pretty bad-ass way to open. Running down a set of stairs with three slashers trying to tear me apart whilst I desperately navigated blockades was genuinely scary and tense. However, the very second I got my hands on the plasma cutter all tension evaporated in an instant. You're armed, and if you're not a blind paraplegic you can aim and kill with it. Enemies ceased to be a threat, and all you have to do from there on in is to keep some ammo handy and you're golden. It's fun, yes, but it's not scary.

And here's another thing – pacing. If you're unfamiliar with the concept, pacing revolves around the idea of highs and lows in a game. The lows are calm areas, places you can take a

breather and relax. These only serve to heighten the experiences felt from the high areas, where most of the action takes place. High, low, high, low; that's how it's meant to go (I intended that to rhyme). Mentioned earlier, *Amnesia* is a good example of this – you have a calm central hub from which you move to high tension areas.

The effect of a game with little to no pacing can be seen in *Dead Space 2*. It leaves you mentally drained, and you become exhausted from the near-constant action. Long lift journeys need to be left peaceful. Cut-scenes need to be that little bit longer. Puzzles should not be interrupted by Necromorphs leaping out to give you a big hug and a slobbery kiss. In short, the game needs to let you relax now and then.

On saying all of this you may think that I dislike *Dead Space 2*, which simply isn't true. Aside from the pacing issues and a poor idea of what scary is, *Dead Space 2* is still a pretty decent game. It has many shining moments, such as one where you return to the Ishimura, the ship that the original game was set in. At the start of the level I assumed that it'd just be a cut and paste job, and hence feel pretty unoriginal. Ironically, it turned out to be my favourite level. I got a very strange feeling of nostalgia, and memories of the original game came flooding back as I traversed some of the old levels. It was also the only level in the game that I felt made decent use of the aforementioned pacing.

So would I advise you to fork out a wad of cash and purchase this sequel? Chances are if you're a fan you've already bought it and wasted your whole weekend playing it like I did (just ask my housemates), so this review will have been a waste of time (sorry about that). On the other hand, if you're new to the series I'd say pick up the original game cheaply before moving to its shinier bro.

*Dead Space 2* is available now from Visceral Games on PS3, Xbox 360 and PC.



# EA's creatively challenged

Simon Worthington places, pastes and paints to his heart's content in *EA's Create*

When *Create* was first announced, it was a dream come true. Electronic Arts, creators of *The Sims* series, were making a new kind of creation-simulation game. No mention of houses or families – yes, they were finally making *The Sims* without the Sims! At last, players could build a house (or anything!) and not have to deal with the monotonously boring lives of the simulated little people afterwards; just pure, unbridled creativity.

And yet, despite promising all this, even the most determined of gamers could be forgiven for failing to like the finished product. *Create* is a far cry from the quality of *The Sims 4*, instead it's a mix of creative tools and gameplay elements that don't really work well together. So why does a game that seemed to have so much promise, turn out so unashamedly mediocre?

*Create* should certainly be lauded for its simplicity – the purpose of the game is exactly what would be imagined. *Create* presents the player with an empty 'scene' – a set of platforms, walls and rocky outcrops – and then hands over the tools to decorate it and fill it with stuff, ranging from grass and flowers to rollercoasters and jumbo jets. Objects can be rotated and scaled up, graffiti can be placed on walls and scenes can be moved from Himalayan Mountains to bustling cityscapes with a short click of the mouse. Initially the choice is limited but new items are unlocked by completing special puzzle challenges or 'Create Chains', special sequences where players decorate certain places using certain tools.

However, oddly for a game based on creativity, *Create* also stifles the users' creative impulses. Although there's free reign over where objects are placed, the architectural elements and theme of a scene are not modifiable; players are limited to creating scenes based around certain topics, such as 'theme park', 'transport' or 'Halloween'. This seems counter to the premise of *Create*. Surely the utmost should be done to not limit the player's options? Players want to choose where the natural rocks, walls and tunnels go, not have some schmuck pick them out and leave the player to fill in the rest. The whole 'scene' concept is silly too: rather than being an empty landscape to fill up as desired it's more like a tableau of objects and textures pasted onto random pedestals and ramps. It's impossible to make anything remotely credible and this totally ruins the whole 'make-what-you-like' concept.

Having to unlock things is a nice idea and it certainly gives the game more of a purpose, but it's a massive disappointment for people who actually do want to decorate the scenes. For some weirdo who says, "Ah man, I've got this sweet idea for a graveyard scene," actually reaching the appropriate Halloween level and unlocking all the right objects takes a trudge through 10-20 hours of creating other stuff first. This is really annoying for anyone who genuinely wants to use the tools on a scene of their choice; creativity is no fun when it's forced.



“Surely when providing creative tools the utmost should be done to not limit the creativity?”

*Create Chains* reward players for doing certain things in certain places in a scene, like putting textures in a specific area or filling a specific place with objects. While this certainly helps to guide players along the process of customising a scene from start to finish, the requests tend to end up saying 'I suggest you place this object here', further limiting the imagination. For example, when the chain says "place down some objects" and it picks an area that's just been decorated as runway, no-one's going to slap a 1920s steam engine down on the gleaming tarmac. Once you've done what the game asks you're whisked away to somewhere different, which is in itself annoying as it doesn't give time to properly rotate or scale the last object before being dragged away from it.

Although players might not be able to be that creative, the game artists certainly were. Graphics are a strong point in *Create* and the game looks great from start to finish, even on a low-end system. The huge backgrounds are high-resolution and detailed, and breathe colour and life into the scene, and the visual effects, like the confetti that can be made to fall from the sky, manage to remain visually interesting whilst not getting in the way. The user interface has some usability flaws, but again it still looks nice while it blocks the view.

Despite being nothing new in the world of gaming, the puzzles are actually *Create's* redeeming feature. Each level comes with eight or so challenges that require players to use a selection of interactive objects to fulfil a goal, often moving an object from one place on the stage to the other. The puzzles vary in complexity from the (deceptively) simple 'knock over a firework with a basketball' to the slightly more complex 'build a robot T-Rex out of candy sticks and chewing gum'. Having an epiphany and watching it turn into a correct solution is fun and satisfying. The challenges start out easy but get more interesting later on, and for the serious puzzle fiend more user-created levels can be downloaded from the online gallery. The "Contraption-o-matic" puzzles – where basic building blocks like rods and wheels are used to build some kind of vehicle – also deserve a special mention for keeping the experience fresh.

But the challenges also fall foul to one fatal flaw that blights so many puzzle games: they are just too finicky. With puzzles, the fun is in the solving – working out what needs to happen and then watching it work. The most frustrating thing to encounter in a puzzle game is a situation where you know what you need to do but simply can't get the game to let you do it. Having to position a basketball at a very specific point above a very specifically placed ramp so that it bounces and hits a very specific place on a rocket makes the simple 'firework-basketball' puzzle mentioned above a nightmare to actually complete. Any enjoyment taken from the challenge drains fast when met with frustrating, chaotic physics that stop a solution working due to sheer arbitrariness, and unfortunately it happens just that little bit too often in *Create*.

Unfortunately, I could go on. The challenges and the scene are completely disconnected, with challenges taking place on a small stage at the front of each level, so much so the two could almost be separate games without the other noticing. The puzzles are also wholly in 2D (or 2.5D, if you want include 3D graphics) and, when you boil it down, actually provide a similar experience to many online Flash games (although *Create* looks much better, of course).

What this all adds up to is a game that doesn't really know what to do with itself. Creativity should be the order of the day (it's in the freaking title), but through *Create's* critical design mistakes the imagination is dragged down to the level of a glorified colouring book. Challenges can be fun but too often are difficult in entirely the wrong way. Unlocks are the final nail in the coffin, and spoil the game for anyone who does want to decorate the scenes. It's a shame, because the concept behind *Create* is still sound, *The Sims* without the Sims is still a good idea. This time, though, EA have gone in the wrong direction, limiting the creativity instead of unleashing it.

*Create* is available now from EA and Bright Light Studios for PC, Mac, PS3, Xbox 360, and Wii.

## FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Gastronomical Musings

## Vicky says:

Every so often I open the fridge and get a good look at the bulb in the back. The fridge is empty. The cupboard is bare. I'm pretty sure there's some nursery rhyme to that effect. Then you spot a weirdly shaped clingfilm entity living behind that jar of jalapenos from that Mexican night that you don't quite remember. Mmm Cheese. Mouldy five-month old cheese. Possibly Cheddar... maybe Parmesan; it's hard to tell. Can one change into another? But yes, food. Mmm... but wait, is this weird? Scrapping the blue-ish hue off with a knife, I wonder if I should be feeling guilty and worry about any freaky diseases I might contract from the cheese on the toast I'm about to have. And for that matter the bread's looking a bit dodgy too. Ahh well. It's not so bad as the chicken I cooked last week and ate yesterday. All in all I think I'm helping my immune system. I mean, what's life without a challenge once in a while? Don't you just love the 30 second rule?

Aubrey Sun/flickr



Smelly cheese, smelly cheese...

Look for this voucher every week to enjoy kickass waffles at Wafflemeister for the next month and a half – you know you want to...



## Spend your moolah on Mooli's

When the hooplah over Brick Lane just gets too much

Alexander Joseph

Situated just off Shaftsbury Avenue in the heart of the West End, a district known for its wide variety of theatres and eateries, Mooli's is a small, minimalistic and trendy restaurant which stands out from the crowd by serving food that's a little bit different. Fed up with the cuisine wrongly assumed to be 'Indian' in London, \*cough\* Brick Lane, Mooli's is the brainchild of two former bankers who saw a gap in the market for cheap authentic Indian food on-the-go. For this reason you won't find a tikka masala or anything of that sort at Mooli's!

Instead Mooli's speciality are the wraps they offer in five flavours, which the owners claim were inspired by travelling the length and breadth of India, from Delhi to Goa in search of the best street food on offer. This is shown in the menu which contains flavours from all over India, replicated at their Frith street address by a chef, or mooli-master as he's known, whose CV includes stints in various 5-star hotels and even a Michelin-starred restaurant. Each roll is technically a Rumali roti a kind of Indian bread, which translated into English literally means handkerchief bread due to its extreme thinness. Each roll is made from specially mixed flour, made on a wedge press machine exported all the way from Texas which was originally intended for the mass production of tortillas. As someone who used 'make-your-own' fajita kits, with their tough, chewy and rough textured wraps, I could immediately taste that this bread was something new and different.

I first ordered the Kerala Beef Mooli. The soft thin freshly-made wholewheat bread surrounded tender chunks of coconut and Malabar spice marinated beef and seemed to melt in my mouth. If a Mooli wrap could be compared to anything it would probably be a shawarma roll. However, unlike a *shawarma* roll where the meat is the main attraction, the salad just fills space and the bread usually has the texture of cardboard, what puts a Mooli far ahead in the fast food stakes is the way that all the different components in the wrap contribute to the eating experience. In the beef wrap, for example, the



Hello little pomegranate, come into my tummy...

“Fed up with the cuisine wrongly assumed to be ‘Indian’ in London \*cough\* Brick Lane...”

beef was joined in the wrap by a fresh cucumber raita and a tomato and onion salad. The combination of the black pepper and other spices in the sauce, the soothing effect of the yoghurt raita and the juicy salad results in a meal perfect for warming you up on cold winter's night.

Feeling up for something a bit different, I was recommended the Goat Mooli by the friendly staff. This wrap contained pieces of goat curried in a traditional Punjabi way with a tomato onion mix and a hint of lime juice. For those who have never tried goat before it is very similar to lamb or mutton, with a stronger more musky taste. The meat was once again perfectly tender and piping hot, having been freshly cooked just before, the sauce however was spicier than the beef.

For the vegetarians out there, Mooli's offer two wraps: chickpea or paneer. I tried the latter,

which contained a light shredded Indian cheese, spiced with a panch phoran 5 spice blend typical of eastern India, grated carrots and a crunch of mixed leaf salad. This wasn't personally to my taste as I'm a firm believer that a wrap has to have some sort of meat in it but I did fall in love with the deliciously refreshing mango lassi with a subtle hint of ginger that I washed it all down with.

So you're probably thinking that Mooli's, with its Central London location, insistence on quality ingredients, professional chef and a painstaking attention to detail when it comes to their food and flavours, would be out of range of a student's budget and exorbitantly higher than a run of the mill fast-food joint. But that's where you're wrong. Possibly the most surprising thing about Mooli's is how cheap the food is. For under a fiver you can purchase a Mooli which would easily fill you up, but if you're working to a budget I thoroughly recommend the Mini Moolis which are in the region of £3.

So if you ever find yourself in Soho, hungry, fed up with Chinatown and trying to avoid the tourists, take your copy of Felix along and claim a free mango lassi with your meal.

**Mooli's 50 Frith Street, Soho. W1D 4SQ**  
www.moolis.com

## SKI FOOD

by George McIntyre

I don't know a lot about you and to be honest I don't really care (only kidding...no really, I don't care). but I was fortunate enough to spend Christmas in Les Alpes. Personally, and unsurprisingly (being a wannabe food critic) my favorite part was the food. So again I have another gem of a recipe to share!

## Tartiflette

For those of you that ski, I'm sure you are familiar with this. Really, is there anything

much better than coming after a long day on the slopes, grabbing a pint and a decent bit of tartiflette? No, didn't think so.

It's very simple, to make this for at least four people all you need is a bag of potatoes (1.5 kg) an onion, a knob of butter, some bacon (about 3-4 rashers) and a whole *Reblechon*. This is a French round cheese available in most supermarkets. (If you can't find *Reblechon*, then *Gruyere* or *Emmenthal* can work just as well too).

Preheat the oven to gas 5 or around 200°C.

Now wash the potatoes and slice into 1 cm strips. Boil for about 5-10 minutes in boiling water with a pinch of salt.

Next, dice the onion finely and chop the bacon into lardons before frying these together

with a nice knob of butter in an ovenproof medium depth frying pan. Once the onion and bacon is suitably fried (not 'caramelized'), layer the potatoes on top so the whole of the pan is covered. Season well.

Get your *Reblechon* and cut the whole thing into strips, but remember to leave the rind on.

Put the strips of cheese over the potatoes and put in the oven for 20 minutes so it melts completely. It's done!

Serve with a fresh green salad topped with French vinaigrette with a buttered chunk of a rustic baguette. Perfect.

There you go, you have a creamy, gooey and very filling meal that will make you want to hit the slopes. Guaranteed. Not long until December then. Enjoy!

# A Shark's Tale ends in FiveSixEight

Kate Turner wants to start a fish fight with you



ukaaa/flickr



The Food Pornographer/flickr



Have a little fishy, on a little dishy... not exactly the best approach to eating shark if you ever want to see one in the wild again

**R**ecently I went for lunch at FiveSixEight in Beit Quad and was very surprised to find oven-baked Blue Shark Fillet available on the menu at a very affordable £5.50.

I wanted to double check if it really was shark fillet, so I e-mailed the commercial services manager, who confirmed that yes indeed they were serving real shark on the menu. I decided to reply and ask very politely if they would consider taking shark off the menu for the following three reasons:

1. Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*), is listed in the 2010 IUCN Red List assessment as threatened and the continued sale of shark fillets contributes to the decline of shark populations globally. Blue Sharks are among the most heavily fished sharks in the world.
2. Sharks have been on the planet for around 400 million years, and as top predators they play an important role in marine ecosystems. Sharks are slow-growing, late to mature, and do not reproduce often

– this means that shark populations are particularly vulnerable to over-fishing and recover slowly, if at all.

3. This university is one of the world's best higher education institutions and we have a large international student and staff population. I think it would send out a very positive message if we refuse to serve shark on our menus.

I tried to be really positive and engage openly with the authorities as I think this is probably the best way to try and negotiate change. I have had a response to my e-mail and it's actually very interesting although not very satisfying.

They said that the role of the catering establishment is primarily commercial and "the sales of shark fillets are currently representing a huge success". They asked me to be reassured that the shark fillets they currently sell are in line with the university sustainability policy, and that the company they use to source their food "supply only products which are certified by the EU Food Standard Agency under licence to be acceptable in Welfare, Hygiene and Conservation".

Unfortunately this does not reassure me and I am looking into this further and trying to find out from the supplier their:

- catch method
- area of catch
- landing port
- and, target species.

It seems to me that a more efficient route to remove shark from the menu would be if it doesn't sell well. Hit them where it hurts, in the pocket. So I guess there is work to be done to educate students and staff to be aware of the environmental impact of eating shark and other unsustainable fish has. This is why I am writing to you. I have some ideas for raising awareness and am discussing the issue with Biteback (a radical animal rights movement), so expect more about this in the next instalment of what could develop into an epic battle between good and evil – or me just dressed up in a shark suit during my lunch breaks handing out leaflets outside the bar.

But seriously, it would be fantastic if we could convince them to take shark off the menu, it is such a wonderful

opportunity to send a positive message to our students and staff. Sustainable fish and fishing methods have been in the news a lot lately, thanks to Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's Fish Fight series on Channel 4 (<http://www.fishfight.net>). This series covered some of the major issues facing the oceans and in-

**"Blue Sharks are among the most heavily fished sharks in the world"**

vestigated how fish gets onto our plates. Controversial issues such as shark fin soup, by catch, tuna fishing and salmon farming were examined and all of the programmes encouraged people to think about the impact we have, and to consider alternatives. Whilst serving shark fillet is very different from serving shark

fin, it still encourages the consumption of an endangered species. While other universities have been embracing the Fish Fight, for example, the University of Portsmouth Catering Dept have been selling mackerel baps in the student union, we at Imperial are selling shark fillets. Frankly, it's just embarrassing and shows a lack of awareness of these important issues.

I wonder if we can begin a fish fight of our own here at Imperial – we can begin by getting shark off the FiveSixEight menu. The Marine Conservation Society publishes its 'Good Fish Bad Fish' guide ([www.fishonline.org](http://www.fishonline.org)) - shark is rated as a fish to avoid (Red 5), and yet we are serving this up to our students in the union bar. As a science based institution surely we can do better than this! Take a stand and don't order the shark. The future of the shark and its habitat can only be preserved if we take action, or in this case, order a burger.

After receiving student feedback the Union has already ceased serving shark.

Food Editor: Dana Li

## FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# Down in one? I think not...

Christian Franke advises you on how to expand your drinking horizons

earlycj5/flickr



Good evening peaty goodness, fancy having a drink with me tonight?

Not everybody may agree with me, but is there a more satisfying tippie than a whisky? The aromas, the warmth, the flavour, come to think of it, there are few drinks I would rate more than a good scotch. Whilst its taste is acquired and occasionally referred to as a kin to petrol by philistines, this makes it even more rewarding when you begin to appreciate it, yet despite these points, perhaps the best feature of whisky is its versatility. Whisky is great for mixing as well drinking neat, bourbon and coke, has a far more complex and enjoyable taste than its vodka alternative and any kind of whisky (preferably nothing too expensive) with ginger ale is also highly agreeable. On top of that, the drink is fairly good value compared to its distant cousin brandy for equivalent qualities.

So where to begin? Well, there are three main groups of whisky: Scotch, from Scotland of course, Irish and American, mainly in the form of bourbon. Irish and Scotch whiskies tend to be malt based, where as bourbons are made from rye and must be distilled in Kentucky (surprisingly, despite the common misconception, Jack Daniel's is not a Bourbon) and whilst Scotches are usually the most subtle in flavour, Bourbons have a far more intense taste due to the rye, making it more suitable for mixing. Then there's the whole blended/single malt distinction to deal with. In short, a single malt is made from a single distillate, where as a blended whisky is a combination of two or more single

malts. Blended whiskies are cheaper to make than single malts when producing a drinkable whisky and are usually cheaper as well in the shops, though some of the dearest drams around are also blended too, e.g. Chivas Regal and Johnny Walker Blue Label. There isn't any single bourbon as they are too fiery by themselves.

What makes a good whisky? I'm not a connoisseur, so I'm probably not the best person to ask. Personally, the single most important thing I look for in a whisky is how smooth it is, i.e. lack of burning when tasted, ease of drinking etc, this is one thing that cheap whiskies tend not to do that well. Another quality to have is a long finish (not aftertaste; that gives the wrong connotations), where one can still taste the whisky after drinking as if it were still in their mouth. This isn't the most important feature of a whisky though; Maker's Mark, a nice, smooth bourbon, has a remarkably short finish. A good thing to remember is that if you're lumbered with a bottle of whisky you're not too keen on, you can use it for mixing, though to do this to a single malt is seen as sacrilege.

#### Teacher's Highland Cream:

Cheap and nasty. On the rare and depraved occasion when I have drunk this, I could not clear my mind of the image of an overweight Glaswegian wearing a soiled and frayed wife beater's vest stirring a massive steaming cauldron of the devil's sweat. With a rough and foul taste, my humble advice is to resist the temptation of a cheap drink and avoid.

#### Johnnie Walker Black:

Whilst at the bottom of the Johnnie Walker family tree, this is a perfectly acceptable blended scotch. Highly intense and a tad fiery, it's probably best to add a dash of soft mineral water to dilute and bring out the flavours more so. Look out for the red label; it's made especially for mixing by having high rye content.

#### Glenfiddich 12 years old Single Malt:

In short, it's the commercial single malt. Smooth with a nice, easy drinking taste. Perhaps not the most distinct of scotches in flavour, but it's still enjoyable to have and is sold at just at about every outlet with usually the lowest price tag of the single malts. The adverts are too similar to Marlboro Man ones for my liking though.

#### Glen Moray Single Malt:

A very mysterious scotch, mainly in that there's no sign of its age on the bottle, yet despite this, I'd still recommend it. It could be marginally smoother, though it does have a pleasant and light flavour. If you feel like treating yourself, you can buy a bottle of this stuff in Oddbin's for £18, which is very good value.

#### Laphroaig 10 year old Single Malt:

Very nice. In fact very, very, very. nice. Joking aside, this scotch has a very distinct, rich flavour with an incredibly long finish and is extremely smooth. Quite simply, it's brilliant. Apparently it's also Prince Charles' favourite dram too.

## So you think you can eat? Meet the meat challenge

### Vicky Jeyaprakash

Meat. That quintessential ingredient of all meals. The point of any fare. Or so I've been told. I love food; lunch, brunch, pudding, tea, tapas and amuse-bouche are all held in fond regard. I could however easily forgo meat. I'm not a vegetarian. I would definitely not want to be part of that fringe group, though they have my sympathies. Having seen the abuse my sister puts up with from all you rabid animals, I wouldn't tarnish myself with that brush.

I love a good roast chicken and apple and pork sausages are a favourite but red meat generally holds no candle to the allure of an aubergine melanzane or a good cheese board. This I often find is

hard for people (and when I say people, I mean boys) to appreciate. Resisting the smell of bacon or the juiciness of a medium rare steak was never hard.

Weirdly I do find people enjoying their carnivorous meal fascinating though. The choice of cuts, how it's cooked, and the sauces are endless seem to add to the theatre a good meal should have. The sheer enthusiasm of people who love meat is overwhelming and the ability to appreciate the wonders of flesh has never seemed so important than at **Rodizco Rico** in Westbourne Grove.

Brazilians adore their meat and if you ever get a chance to visit, you can order your meat by the kilo in restaurants. This place is as close as you can get

### The sheer drama of waving around metal stakes is thrilling...

around these parts. It's not cheap at £23 a head but it is an all-you-can-eat meat feast and I have never seen a group of guys quite so enthusiastic about forking out so much money for food. The basis of the meal is barbecued meat where the meat is rotated on giant skewers and servers walk around the room cutting off pieces to serve to customers. The sheer drama of waving around metal stakes is thrilling and though not somewhere I would encourage non-meat eaters to

visit and for those of us who enjoy a bit of drama, it's fun to watch.

For the rest of you who love meat it is the best value for money you could imagine. Rump steak, fillet steak, sausage, chorizo, chicken wings, chicken hearts, lamb shank; the choice is crazy and this doesn't even allow for the fact that the meat is tender, soft and never-ending. There is no gimmick at work here and a friend who rocked up with only 15 minutes to spare at the end of our two hour table reservation was served with a towering pillar of meat that reminded me of some kind of renaissance feast. Definitely for all you cavemen out there.

Rodizco Rico, 111 Westbourne Grove, W2 4UW.



Travel Editors: **Dylan Lowe**  
**Chris Richardson**

travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TRAVEL

# Finding tranquility in chaos

Following a somewhat manic debut in Brazil, **Priya Garg** finds time to unwind and uncovers some of Rio de Janeiro's hidden treasures

Our second day in Rio de Janeiro had arrived and we wanted to see the acclaimed towering figure that stands guard atop Mount Corcovado, Christ the Redeemer. From nearly every vantage point in Rio – whether roaming down the random 'Rues' in Botefogo or actually climbing the winding road past Santa Teresa to the foot of Christ – the statue is always observing you on your way. Despite our dichotomous religious beliefs – one atheist and one believer – in a strange manner we both felt protected by the omnipresence of something so sacred.

On our way up through Santa Teresa, our passage was halted by the view of a giant stairway covered with multi-coloured painted tiles in the midst of the favelas (Brazilian slums). A local informed us that we could venture to the top step of this masterpiece but not beyond, to prevent ignorantly strolling into the 'City of God' – gangland territory. Being careful not to underestimate the very real violent crime of Rio, we decided to maintain our distance.

The staircase had been the life work of artist Jorge Selaron, the original backpacker who visited more than fifty countries before settling in Rio and creating this enormous tribute to the people of Brazil. Each richly-decorated glazed tile

**“There was a tangible sense of peace garnered by lingering at the hem of Christ's robes”**

is representative of either a country that Selaron himself visited, or of historic events in Brazilian history that captured his imagination.

An impoverished visionary, he sold all of his possessions to purchase the necessities to allow him to continue plastering ceramic squares across this stone staircase. His unwavering devotion led to the work being featured in a Coca-Cola advertisement, a U2 video and, for the eagle-eyed amongst you, the background of a scene from the 'The Incredible Hulk'. Despite his commercial success, Selaron remains a penniless artist creating his sculpture in a dirty area of downtown bohemia, on a street that



There he stands, just chilling all day long. Not using his magical powers and fire breath to end crime and injustice, just watching with a grin and Mojito

would have otherwise been untouched by foreigners.

When we reached the summit of Corcovado, it was, as expected, bustling with tourists, snapping pictures of themselves with arms spread before Christ. A white mist of cloud hung over the edges of the statue obscuring our view, yet gazing across what we could see of Rio's hilly panorama, there was a tangible sense of peace garnered by lingering at the hem of Christ's robes.

In pursuit of inner calm we took the opportunity to visit the Jardim Botânico,

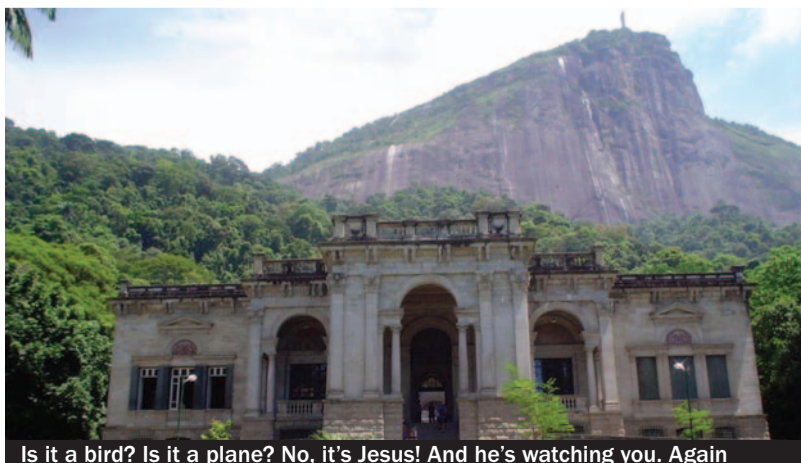
a large landscaped garden stretching acres across the centre of the city. An oasis of tranquility in the middle of all the hustle and bustle, it felt as if time paused as we walked past gigantic redwoods, crimson roses, gushing fountains, pouring waterfalls, canopies of thatched bamboo, miniature bonsais, placid lakes and floating green lily-pads.

Struggling out of a stupor imposed by the lull of the gardens, we further climbed to the Parque Lage, the grounds of a dilapidated mansion housing art classes for the creative masses. Entering

the house through a carved stone archway, we were presented with a square swimming pool surrounded by a spacious open courtyard dotted with luxurious Victorian furniture, roughly tied bunches of bright flowers and Brazilians sipping coffee and dipping their brushes into pots of paint. In the background we saw the rising presence of Corcovado, with Christ gazing downward.

As we sat on steps in the tiered gardens of the Parque, light quickly faded and we were able to view Rio in its evening splendour. We observed the

lagoon in the core of Rio, surrounded by a crescent of hills: a sea of tumbling favelas, sky rise tower blocks, people hurrying by, beeping vehicles, swathes of graffiti. Finally we turned to the shadow of the silent mansion, fountains and forests. We felt at peace, removed from the hubbub in the distance. We sat for a while, discussing the importance of finding such a place, even in a huge city of noise, sounds and excitement: it doesn't need to be far away, it just needs to be somewhere where you can escape everything for a moment, and feel calm.



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Jesus! And he's watching you. Again



HI JESU-... oh, it's Priya, Imperial's infamous South American adventurer

# HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Twitter



**The\_Cleggomatortrontown <3**

Oh dear. The situation in Egypt just keeps getting worse



**Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor**

I heard that this is just a warm-up act for Kanye West's set on the pyramids



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

I heard Kanye West played a secret gig at Mubarak's house



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

Yeah, and they're protesting that they couldn't get tickets



**SexyOsama69**

I heard it was inspired by the student protests in London



**The\_Cleggomatortrontown <3**

I don't think Kanye West had anything to do with this



**Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor**

I heard the protestors want Mubarak to step down, and Kanye West to step up



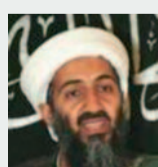
**Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!**

I heard Kanye West is the reincarnation of the Egyptian god Anubis



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

I heard that Kanye West believes that Egypt is actually just a conspiracy



**SexyOsama69**

Egypt isn't a conspiracy. It's a state of mind

## DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk. Get permission. Don't be cruel.

# God and his athiest penpal

Hangman is well skilled at intercepting and shit blud!

*Dear God,*

I don't believe in you because I believe in science

Yours irreverently,  
*Atheist*

**Dear Atheist,**

I invented science

Yours faithfully,  
**God**

*Dear God,*

How can that be true? The bible is simply littered with scientific inaccuracies. How do you propose getting two of every species onto a boat? Or what about the fact that you created human kind from dust and a rib. A rib!? I mean come on!

**Dear Atheist,**

Of course the bible is littered with scientific inaccuracies, as it was written by stupid humans. I had fuck all to do with that piece of shit. Frankly it's an insult to the amount of work I put into formulating DNA or the unified field theory.

*Dear God,*

So if the bible is wrong, which religion is right? Oh, and do you mind explaining the unified field theory?

**Dear Atheist,**

What makes you think any of the religions are right? And you don't even understand how wave-particle duality works, so you're definitely not going to understand the unified field theory. Do you know how fucking hilarious the Schrodinger equation is!? Seriously, me and my mates had a right good laugh at that. You guys are fucking retarded

*Dear God,*

I hardly think we're retarded. Quantum mechanics has pushed scientific thinking to the limits and opened countless doors to innumerable possibilities. Probability is intrinsic to the universe and the way it works.

**Dear Atheist,**

I'm not going to design something using probability because that's retarded. You don't design a bridge and just hope that it stays up. You use the right materials with rigorous engineering. Unless we're talking about the Indian Commonwealth games! HAhaahaha, am I right? Am I right? High five?

*Dear God,*

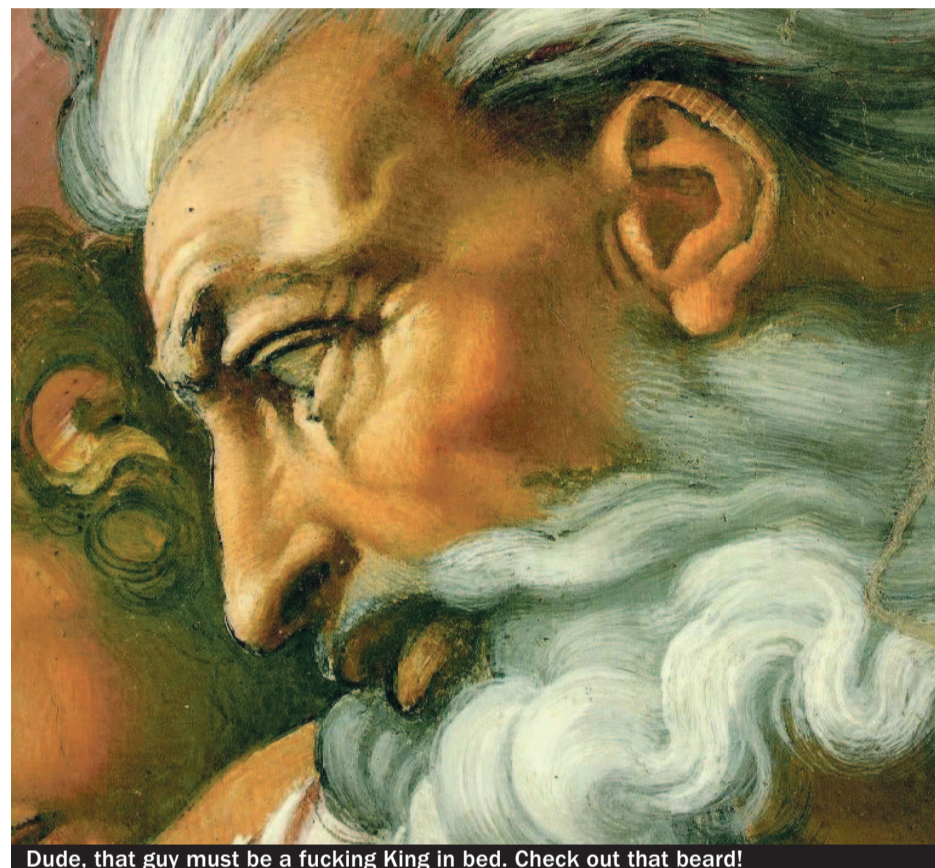
So you're a determinist?

PS: I didn't find your joke funny

**Dear Atheist,**

I don't find your jokes funny.

PS What's a determinist?



*Dear God,*

You don't know what a determinist is? I thought you're supposed to know everything

**Dear Atheist,**

I have a life. I don't spend my whole time listening to you boring twats trying to deconstruct what is actually a very simple universe. You should see my mate Xnshyfgewiyl's universe. It's way more intricate than mine. He wins Mr universe competitions all the time. I really hate Xnshyfgewiyl.

*Dear God,*

How do you pronounce Xnshyfgewiyl?

**Dear Atheist,**

That is the best way to spell it in your rudimentary alphabet. You only have one set of vocal chords, whilst I have infinity.

*Dear God,*

Infinity is not a finite number

**Dear Atheist,**

Yeah it is

*Dear God,*

If you supposedly exist, why is there so much suffering in the world?

**Dear Atheist,**

It's a joke. Lol

*Dear God,*

It's not very funny!

**Dear Atheist,**

Yeah it is

*Dear God,*

Unless you're going to give us some insight into how the universe works, you're pretty useless. You might as well not exist.

**Dear Atheist,**

Well if you can't believe in something as simple as a divine being like myself, you're hardly going to understand how the universe works

*Dear God,*

Alright then, prove that you exist! Turn the sky green, make us all fly, bring Shakespeare back from the dead

**Dear Atheist,**

Why do I have to prove myself to you? You know what? Fuck it! Build me a fucking ark right now and get every single species on board. Yeah, even the fish! And the insects and the bacteria! You're pissing me off and I'm going to flood the whole world.

*Dear God,*

Oh yeah? And how are you going to do that?

**Dear Atheist,**

Well I've already started melting the ice caps. I'll just blow up a few volcanoes and generate some earthquakes and landslides, which will send some fuck off tsunamis at you. And if that doesn't work, I'll just send in an asteroid. It's not hard. Christ! Noah didn't ask so many questions

## THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS

# Modern Egyptian Mummies Extremely Disappointing...



## DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



Guys are under so much pressure 'to pull' nowadays. But this guy knows what going out is REALLY about. Ending the night in a pile of garbage. I salute you sir!

## Horoscopes

### Aries

This week you start your fart collection. At first you're content with gathering yours in little jars, but that's not enough. You take it to the next level, murder people and use a portable vaccum cleaner to gather the air as your victims shit themselves after dying.

### Taurus

This week you go for a shit and the massive dump that just came out of you comes to life. It decides to crawl up back inside you in a sporadic penetrating motion. Long story short: You get ass-raped by your own shit. Also for some reason you don't try to stop it... Weird eh?

### Gemini

This week you're riding your bike and while you go through one of the bumps the seat goes a little bit too far in your ass. You suddenly realize why you kind of walk funny. Your childhood flashes past your eyes. No, Uncle, no! You get distracted and wipeout under a bus...

### Cancer

This week you realize that you're not the person that you were back in the 'Good ol' days' - you can't handle your drink anymore and your sex life is frankly non-existent. Yep, your life sucks! But hey, we all go through it. It's just what happens when you turn 12.

### Leo

This week you get tea bagged by Lady Gaga. You find out the truth about her sex and when she's done raping you, you run to tell all your friends. After hearing the news from your excited self they turn their backs in disgust. You're a sick person...

### Virgo

This week you realize how having Pokemon would improve your boyfriend Pkills. Using Pikachu as a taser while Beedrill and Rhydon take turns ramming their high rotation dildos into that guy who turned gay a week after breaking up with you. Accept it, you turned him.

### Libra

This week you watch the peaceful scenes in Egypt and realise that our student protestors are fucking knob ends. Then things turn ugly in Egypt and you realise that otherwise peaceful people can be provoked. Either way, I blame the N.U.S. What? It's perfectly reasonable!!!

### Scorpio

This week you will do exactly as this Horoscope tells you. Rip out a single page of the newspaper. Scrunch it up tightly. Now put it in your mouth. Now take a photo. Email it to your mother with the subject: "I'm an impressionable cunt". Post a screenshot on Facebook.

### Sagittarius

This week you and your boyfriend are doing role-play. The theme is Oliver Twist. While doing doggystyle, you look at him sexily and say, "Please Sir, may I have some more?" He replies: "MOOARE?! MOOOOOOARE?!" You nod. "No! I've err, already cum... Sorry!"

### Capricorn

This week you go for a piss in one of those urinals and you find yourself sandwiched by two guys. You realize they are both staring down at your station and something's wrong... You're a woman and you are smashed off your face! Your photo will be up next week.

### Aquarius

This week the Union shuts down Pisces because some \*\*\*\*\* (oh yeah, count the asterisks, what slur is it?) complains to the \*\*\*\*\* College (oh yeah, count the asterisks...) because the following word was printed: \*\*. Oh yeah, count the... You know what to do.

### Pisces



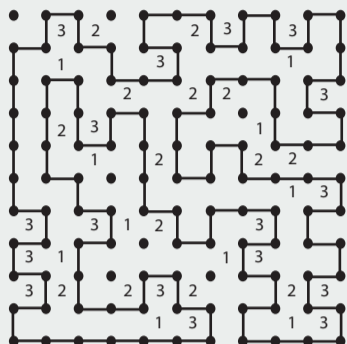
Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**  
**James Hook**  
**Aman Nahar**

puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

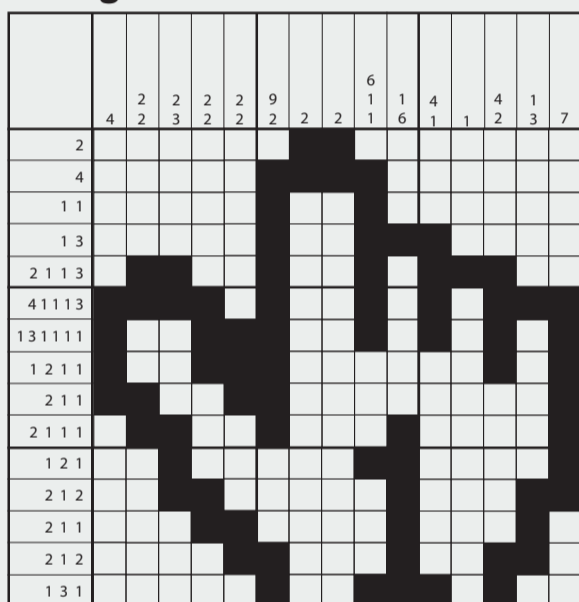
# PUZZLES

## Last Week's Solutions

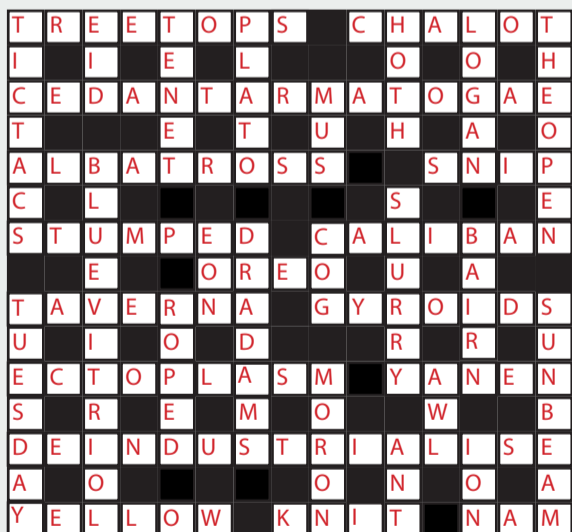
### Slitherlink



### Nonogram



### Crossword



**CRYPTIC - Across** 1. Brainstorm 7. Tame 9. Pleasure 10. Sandal 11. Raffle 13. Lollipop 14. Block Capital 17. Take the Stage 20. Man of War 21. Peseta 22. Tinsel 23. Inspects 25. Fray 26. Sugar Daddy **Down** 2. Reliable 3. Ira 4. Sauce 5. Overlap 6. Mistletoe 7. Tonsillitis 8. Meadow 12. Facetiously 15. Cakewalks 16. Agitated 18. Turning 19. Caviar 21. Poser 24. Era

### Going Underground

H	A	R	L	E	S	D	E	N
8	1	18	12	5	19	4	5	14

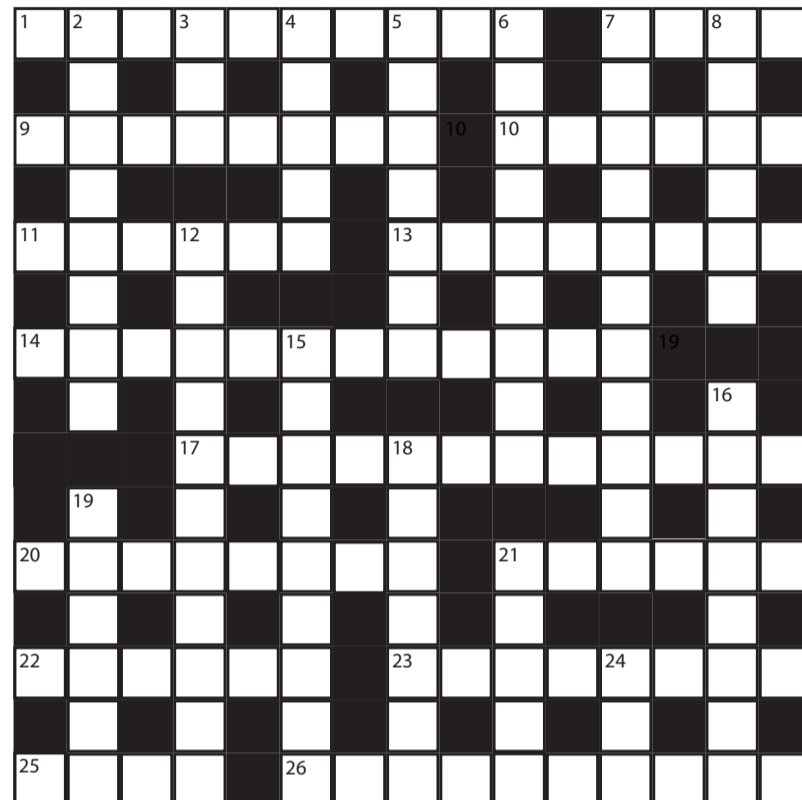
## Crossword

#### Across

- 1. Special benefits (10)
- 7. English city formerly known as Aquae Sulis (4)
- 9. Actor, played titular role in 1949 film *The Great Gatsby* (4,4)
- 10. Body that hits the Earth (6)
- 11. Smother or suppress (6)
- 13. African mammal of family Bovidae having hollow horns (8)
- 14. Most favoured situation (4,8)
- 17. Machine for calculating and recording sales (4,8)
- 20. Thunderous verbal attack (8)
- 21. Difficult trial (6)
- 22. Container of sweets at parties (6)
- 23. People of classical antiquity (8)
- 25. Hit; tune (4)
- 26. Organisation created for business ventures (10)

#### Down

- 2. Manner by which two things are associated (8)
- 3. Vehicle for carrying baggage (3)
- 4. Rent (5)
- 5. Libyan leader; seized power in 1969 (7)
- 6. Undefined object (9)
- 7. Dolphin type (6-5)
- 8. Company of touring performers (6)
- 12. Bread dipped in egg and milk, fried and topped with sugar (6,5)
- 15. Stubborn (9)
- 16. Meetings for boat races (8)
- 18. Perform historical events (7)
- 19. Relating to God (6)
- 21. Happen (5)
- 24. Equilibrium organ (3)



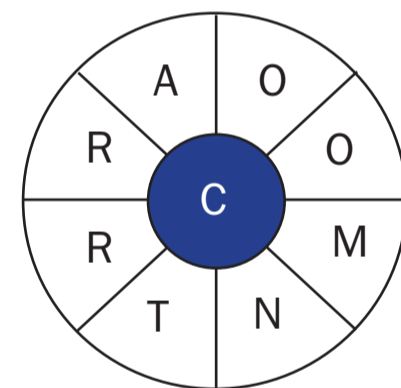
## Wordoku



You're in the middle of term, so many deadlines, no end in sight. Gotta get rid of those happy dreams... Once again, every row, column and 3x3 box contains each symbol.

## Word Wheel

TARGET: 13

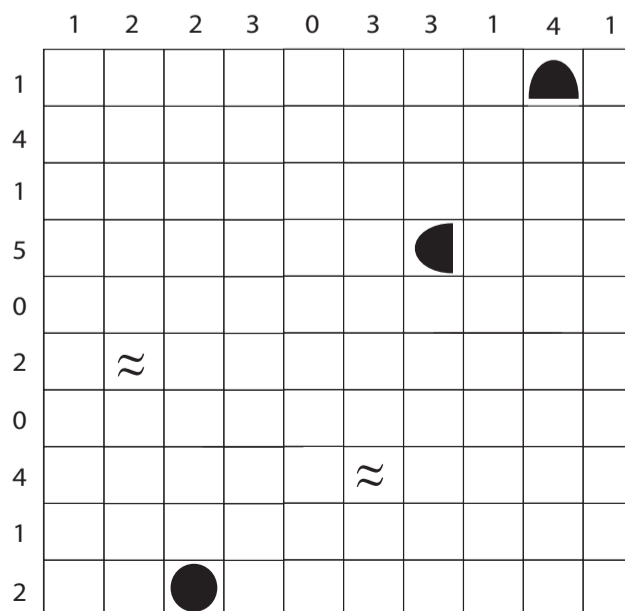


Make as many words of at least 4 letters as you can, always using the central one. **NO** plurals, conjugated verbs, comparatives or superlatives, because I said so.. There is always at least one 9 letter word.



## 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





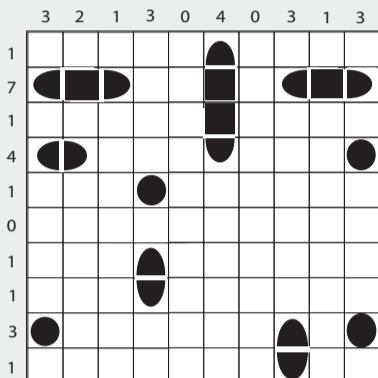


Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**  
**James Hook**  
**Aman Nahar**  
 puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# PUZZLES

## Last Week's Solutions

### Battleships

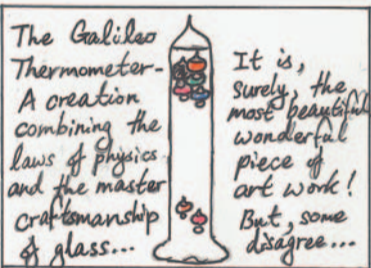
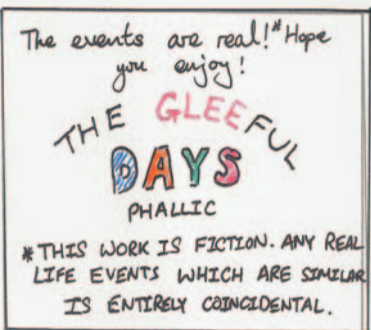


### Guess the tube stations!

Baker Street & The Gherkin

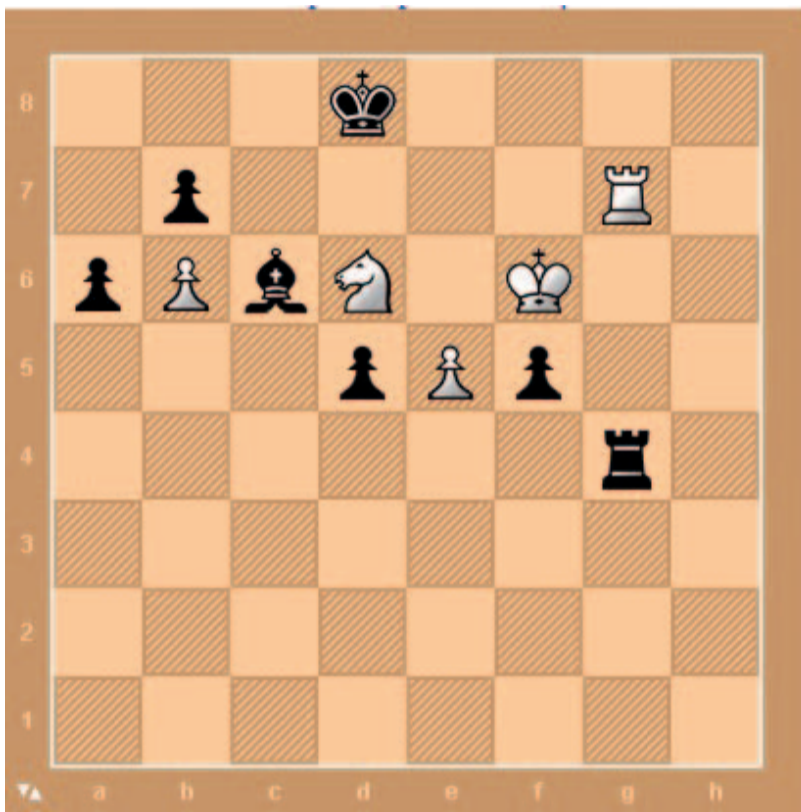
### Pictogram

1. Buick 2. Mercury 3. Holden  
 4. Chrysler 5. Acura Ans: Nascar



## Chess Maze

### Black Mate in 2



## Word Hunt

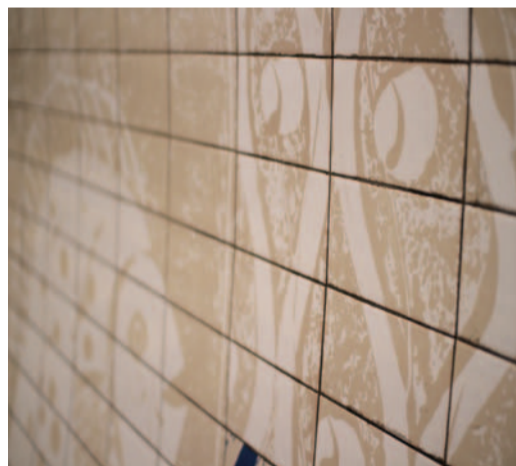
This is exactly what the title suggests - hunt for words!



## Guess the tube station!



This one's easy!



1. Harmony
2. Melody
3. Lyric
4. Chromatic
5. Hiphop
6. Hymn
7. Soul
8. Zoppa
9. Rock
10. Resonant
11. Tuneful
12. Cacophonous
13. Raucous
14. Jarring
15. Flat

## Pictogram

- anagram of the letters in red spell the thematic answer

You alone can make my song take flight - help me make the music of the night ...

~Phantom Of The Opera~

1. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

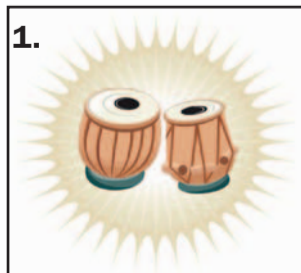
2. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

3. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

4. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

5. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

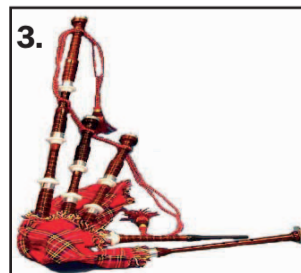
Ans \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



1. A popular Indian percussion instrument (of the membranophone family).



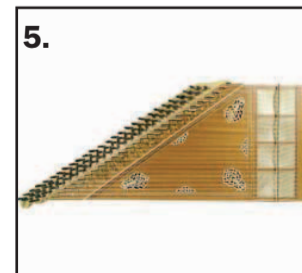
2. A Chinese music instrument that first appeared in written texts of the Spring and Autumn period (around 600 BC).



3. A class of musical instrument, aerophones, using enclosed reeds fed from a constant reservoir of air in a bag.



4. Also called vuvuzela, the most annoying thing in the FIFA 2010 world cup.



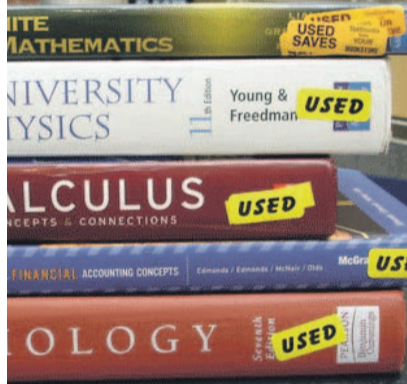
5. A descendent of the old Egyptian harp. It has played an integral part in Arabic music since the 10th century.

# CLASSIFIEDS

To place a free advert, please email [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)

Felix accepts no responsibility for items/services bought/sold

Deadline for adverts is Tuesday midnight



## ACCOMMODATION

### Room to let: Redcliffe Gardens (Chelsea)

One furnished double bedroom to let in three bedroom flat.  
20 minute walk to South Kensington.  
Less than ten minutes to Earls Court Station.  
6th June – 30th September  
£150pw + bills  
07716090381

### Female flatmate wanted: Earls Court

Large fully furnished room (including sofa area).  
Sharing with female postgraduate student.  
Flat/kitchen fully equipped.  
£142pw, all bills included.  
Non-smoker.  
Move in immediately.  
As1304@ic.ac.uk

### Male flatmate wanted

Border of St John's/Kilburn/South Hampstead  
Looking for mature graduate (25+), quiet, tidy, respectful of privacy and property to share with male professional in 40s.  
Bedroom on separate floor, shared bathroom, kitchen and lounge.  
£390pcm including bills, except telephone.  
Move in immediately.  
Lee09x@hotmail.co.uk

### Female housemate wanted: SE16 6NQ

Double bedroom in two-floor, three-bedroom house.  
10 minute walk to nearest tube  
Share with two female Chinese graduate students.  
Fully-equipped kitchen, one bathroom, garden  
Unlimited wi-fi + Tv license.  
Preferred: non-smoking, quiet, single.  
Available immediately.  
07403274325

### Room to let: Fulham

Room is large (14ft x 11ft) with king-size bed, wardrobe, desk, chest of drawers & coffee table.  
Available from now until the 14th August 2011.  
Two female 3rd year Imperial Geoscientists and one male Imperial graduate already in flat.  
Flat is on North End road, 30 min walk to South Ken campus, 15-20 minutes by bus.  
The flat has a modern bathroom and open plan living space.  
Rent: £125 pw.  
E-mail Annabel at:  
annabel.dale07@imperial.ac.uk

## TUTORS

### A-level statistics tutor wanted

Tutor required for lower 6th male student.  
Lives in SW5, near Gloucester Road. Call Jean Goodliffe, 02073737939.

### Javascript tutor wanted

One-to-one Tutorial needed for Javascript and databases.  
Needs tutor for using AJAX.  
Call: 07986844432

### English-Spanish language exchange

Visiting Spanish student looking to improve English. Any students wanting to practise Spanish and willing to help with English please contact [yessicadiaz@hotmail.com](mailto:yessicadiaz@hotmail.com)

## LOVE

Send us your adverts. It's a great way to reach a large number of readers and hopefully find what you're looking for. For now, enjoy these (fictional) lonely hearts entries.

### Men Seeking Women

East London exile looking for polka dot dress to share new-age fun with a vintage feel. If interested, meet at that new Mongolian vegan bar in Dalston that nobody but you and me know about.

### Men Seeking Men

Norwegian gentleman looking for swarthy Irish 'salt-of-the-earth' type to share dips in the North Sea and trips to Madame Tussauds. If interested, meet at Fulham Broadway. I'll be wearing a gillet...

## MISC

### Mini-fridge for sale

Zanussi ZRX407W, brand new  
£99 (rrp is £140)  
Pick-up only  
07925298567  
as9509@ic.ac.uk

### NikeBauer Flexlite 14 Ice Skates

Good condition, used for less than a year. Size 11 (UK). £35 (retails for £70+). 07706299535

### Mens bicycle: Phoenix Probike

Very good condition  
18 gears  
Rear and front lights + brackets  
Hi-vis jacket included  
07586024392  
[purvilkh@gmail.com](mailto:purvilkh@gmail.com)

### Post online!

You can also place free adverts online! Simply head to [iconnectimperial.ac.uk](http://iconnectimperial.ac.uk), create an account and post on their online marketplace!



# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## What's On

### One Priest's Journey to Find The Truth - Idris Tawfiq lecture

As part of pre-Islamic Awareness Fortnight, Imperial College Islamic Society has invited Idris Tawfiq to deliver his moving lecture on Monday 7th February in the Huxley Building, room 340 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Originally a Roman Catholic Priest, Idris Tawfiq is a British journalist and has written several books on his conversion to Islam back in 2001. He is known worldwide for his inspiring talks describing the events that led him to becoming a Muslim.

His talk, entitled 'One Priest's Journey To Find The Truth' is a story of his path from being a Roman Catholic Priest in Vatican City to a Muslim convert. He is well-known for his style of speaking which is both simple and very gentle, touching hearts, but also thought-provoking. Idris Tawfiq is well experienced in explaining Islam and his conversion to Islam in an unbiased and simple way. His vast knowledge of other religions (from being a Head of Religious Studies teacher at different schools) allows him to explain Islam to people of all faiths.

In addition to the talk, there is also an Exhibition on Thursday 10th February in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building presenting Islam to people of all religious backgrounds, so to find out more about Islam, come down at lunch time and have a look around. **Aemun Reza**

### SHAG Week - Round 2!

That's right, SHAG Week is back again to help you keep it safe and sexy! February 7th - 12th.

Monday sees Txtm8 coming in to give out freebies and raise awareness about their confidential sexual health advice via text service (Sherfield, 12-2pm)

On Tuesday staff from the John Hunter Clinic will be talking about why sexual health screening is important and straightforward. (Sherfield, 12-2pm) In addition Tender, a leading young person's domestic violence charity, will be signing volunteers up for the workshops they do in schools to prevent abuse before it starts as well as a workshop to make your relationships healthier and teach you how to spot when your friends might be experiencing abuse. (Meeting Room 1, 1-2pm)

On Wednesday the Terence Higgins Trust are running completely confidential HIV Testing - get your status in 20 mins. (Skempton 60A/62, 12-4pm)

On Thursday Everynation Christian Society will be hosting a discussion on 'Understanding the Opposite Sex' from 6.30pm in the EEE Cafe.

From Thursday to Saturday there are performances of Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues. (Union Concert Hall, 7-9pm. Tickets £4/£6 for students/non-students. Available on the door)

# S.H.A.G. WEEK

Miles Robertson



They're launching a business AND donating the profits to the Prince's Trust? Damn their CVs must look good...

## iConnect: Eat for cheap!

### Roland Sookias chats to Innovation Society President Nigel Zheng about their latest project

#### So what is 'iConnect'?

iConnect is a project started by the Innovation Society. It was initially started as an online marketplace but now we're launching the "Big Plan" - Group Buying for Imperial College at [iConnectImperial.com](http://iConnectImperial.com). The idea is simple: if there are enough people willing to purchase the same product, it can be much much cheaper. It's basically the Groupon model. The plan is to maximize students' and staff's benefit through providing discounts, while also giving the opportunity for local businesses to reach out to the Imperial community. With student finance getting ever-tighter, we want to help students get the best deal. We also aim to raise awareness and money for the Prince's Trust charity; all of our profits go to them.

#### Tell us more about the Innovation Society.

The Innovation Society is about fostering innovation within Imperial College through advice from us and relevant contacts within the university. It's a young society - only three years old. We believe that all Imperial students have the potential to be the next Bill Gates or Steve Jobs, but someone must first stand up and create the atmosphere where students dare to think creatively and turn their ideas into reality. ... the process of innovation is painful and risky, but it's worth trying because we have faith in our students!

#### So what sort of deals can I get with iConnect?

At the moment we're getting around 20-50% discounts with various businesses, mostly restaurants and cafés around South Ken. For ex-

ample, we have 33% off Oddonno's ice cream, 50% off Circle Club membership and other deals with theatres, takeaways and sit-down restaurants. We're also getting extra money for charity: Kensington Crêperie have agreed to give 25p to the Prince's Trust for every purchase from Imperial students and staff and the chance to win a meal for two worth £30 - simply quote iConnectImperial.

#### How does it work?

What you do is go to the website and pick a deal. The deals are open for four or five days, so you have time to talk to your mates and decide. Then put down your card details and buy it. If enough people buy the deal, then you get a money-off coupon. If not, you keep your money anyway.

#### And this benefits charity?

All profits go to the Prince's Trust, alongside the donations from Kensington Crêperie. The Trust's motto is "helping change young lives", and it helps young people in difficult situations, for example who got into prison for the wrong reasons, to rebuild meaningful lives. So the students get good deals, the businesses get more custom and the Prince's Trust gets more money to help young people.

#### What else does the Innovation Society do?

We also run an online marketplace on the website which allows you to sell second hand items and search for accommodation from Craigslist and Nestoria. We also regularly enter business and innovation competitions.

We entered a 'Dragon's Den' style competition called "Profitunity" where we were in the national final, turning £500 to £2,500 in three months.

#### Can students get involved?

We're always extremely keen for people to be involved - you can do things from running the website to developing your new ideas. Just email us at [innosoc@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:innosoc@imperial.ac.uk). I've learnt a tremendous amount about running a business and developing ideas from the Innovation Society. I have regular meetings with a business mentor still thanks to Profitunity. One also learns a lot about people and different styles of working. The original President WenQian was more of an 'ideas man' and I'm more a problem solver - I learnt both types of person are invaluable. There's lots of potential for posts of responsibility in the committee too, helping people in turn grow their ideas. All great for the CV and later life.

#### What's next and where's it going?

We're working with Felix to coordinate our marketplace with their new classified page. You can get your ad in two places without messing up the notice boards. We're also getting loads more amazing deals for staff and students, so keep checking the site - you can save money and contribute to the Prince's Trust at the same time. We want at least 5% of students and staff to benefit from deals, so 1,000 regular users. We also much appreciate any feedback via forum or email to make the site even better.

# SPORT

## Fencing BUCS rampage

### Men's Fencing

IC 1st 119-87 ULU  
 IC 1st 118-100 Oxford  
 IC 1st 130-91 Bristol  
 IC 1st 107-103 Cambridge

### Women's Fencing

IC 1st 130-80 Cambridge  
 IC 1st 135-74 Oxford  
 IC 1st 135-70 Bristol  
 IC 1st w/o against King's

...Continued from Back Page foil team (Hannah Bryars, Outi Supponen, Alice Mitchell) confirmed their reputation by going through all matches in fast forward, finishing with an average win by 29 hits. With most of the day left, everyone from IC gathered next to the guys' piste where they were now fencing Oxford University. There were about 20 people in the audience, consisting of both the women's and men's teams, other club members, coaches, alumni and friends, everyone trying to make as much noise as possible to throw the opponents off guard. This helped the sabreurs to another easy victory, followed by two very even matches in both foil and epee. The previous lost their match by no less than 3 hits, and epee was even closer with the annoyingly thrilling result 44-45. Despite these annoying defeats, the overall match was won thanks to the points margin from the sabreurs. Meaning 2 victories out of 2 for the Men and 3 out of 3 for the Women, a very promising first day.

On Sunday, the men had a late start, whilst women's sabre team (Clare Harding, Zoe Robinson, Hannah Bryars) conquered the Ethos Energia Studio. The small hall on the second floor barely had time to realise what was going on before all matches were done, which meant that those who had teams downstairs had time to watch parts of their progress and support. With only epee to go, the women had already won the league. The sabreurs index together with the foilists performance the day before summed up to victory against all other universities regardless of the result of epee.

The men still have not started their matches for the day, so most IC supporters, began supporting UL as they fenced University of Cambridge. Not only London solidarity but also a vested interest in the result increased the volume of the IC cheering. As depending on the result of the match, the men could, just as the women, secure the victory before lunchtime. As UL reached the score necessary to win the match, IC were smiling just



as much, if not more. From that moment, every victory would only be for the pride of our university and the club.

The guys started their Sunday well by beating University of Bristol with reassuring performances in both sabre and epee. As they finished their match, the women's epee team (Emily Bottle, Charlotte Levin, Hannah Bryars) were brought back to earth as Cambridge beat them, 40-45. But the matches that followed were all won with convincing margins of 10 points or more.

All that was left the men's match against Cambridge. The captains of the two teams, Ed G for IC and Valentin Dalibard for Cambridge, had agreed upon changing the order from the standard sabre-foil-epee to epee-sabre foil.

This meant that sabre this time would not be able to set an early lead for the other weapons to fence against, but that they would first have to cover up a possible loss from epee and then get enough hits to give the foilists an advantage. The epeeists had to bite the bullet, finding the Cambridge opponents slightly stronger than themselves, but the sabreurs returned the advantage to IC. As it stood the foilists had to reach 27 hits in order to win the match overall, which was not to be taken for granted but far from impossible.

Everyone's nerves were uptight, fencers as well as audience, well aware of what lay ahead. The fact that the league was already won barely crossed people's mind, the only thing that mattered was

to win the match. Cambridge immediately took an early lead and steadily increased their score in every bout. This threw the IC guys off balance, and they struggled to approach the magic number of 27. When the match reached its last period, the score stood at 25-40 and everyone was becoming slightly worried. Cambridge only needed 5 more hits to finish off, and IC still needed a two more to win overall. For every point Rob S, who fenced the last match, managed to gain, the crowd cheered more and more. The moment he scored the magical hit, the cheer lifted the roof, and he turned to the crowd, took his mask off for a moment, and sighed with relief. The match was won, so was the league, and both teams stood undefeated.

International Night proudly presents Afro-Caribbean, Arabic, Belly Dancing, Capoeira, Cypriot, Dance Company, Gospel Choir, Hellenic, Japanese, Jazz Band, Juggling, Malaysian, Waaka and Technics, Wushu & Vietnamese Societies

# iNIGHT

FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2011  
 GREAT HALL, SHERFIELD BUILDING, IMPERIAL COLLEGE  
 Doors 18:30 / Curtains 19:00

Guest Judges Fleur Estelle, Prof. David Stuckey, Alex Kendall & Dave Smith

TICKETS : £8 Students; £10 Non-Students; MOTD  
 available at:  
[union.ic.ac.uk/osc](http://union.ic.ac.uk/osc)

For tickets and further info contact 'Int.Night@Imperial.ac.uk'  
 or direct: [imperialcollegeunion.org/overseas-societies-committee-349](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/overseas-societies-committee-349)  
 or FB: 'OSC International Night 2011'

GUITAR SOCIETY PRESENTS  
 OPEN MIC NIGHT AT METRIC  
 DO YOU WANT  
 TO PLAY?  
 THURSDAY 10/02/11 AT 1900  
 EMAIL [GS.OPENMIC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GS.OPENMIC@GMAIL.COM)

## SPORT

Felix Sports League

sponsored by


  
**ERNST & YOUNG**  
 Quality In Everything We Do

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Fencing W1	7	7	0	0	940	497	443	5.00
2 Fencing M1	8	8	0	0	960	757	203	5.00
3 Basketball M1	7	7	0	0	529	391	138	5.00
4 Table Tennis M2	5	5	0	0	77	8	69	5.00
5 Water Polo W1	5	4	1	0	72	12	60	4.40
6 Volleyball M1	10	9	0	1	19	4	15	4.10
7 Volleyball W1	10	9	0	1	18	4	14	4.10
8 Tennis M1	10	8	1	1	76	44	32	3.80
9 Lacrosse W1	7	6	0	1	103	27	76	3.71
10 Table Tennis M1	6	5	0	1	70	32	38	3.50
11 ICSM Netball W1	10	8	0	2	399	269	130	3.20
12 Basketball W1	5	4	0	1	229	178	51	3.20
13 Squash W1	10	8	0	2	31	8	23	3.20
14 Table Tennis W1	5	4	0	1	20	5	15	3.20
15 Hockey W1	9	7	0	2	53	16	37	3.00
16 Lacrosse M1	8	6	0	2	117	74	43	2.75
17 Netball W1	10	7	0	3	425	288	137	2.30
18 Rugby M1	10	7	0	3	217	143	74	2.30
19 ICSM Football M1	7	4	1	2	23	14	9	2.00
20 Hockey M1	7	4	1	2	22	17	5	2.00
21 ICSM Hockey W1	16	9	2	5	48	38	10	1.81
22 Badminton M1	10	4	3	3	44	36	8	1.40
23 Tennis W1	5	3	0	2	30	30	0	1.40
24 ICSM Hockey M3	5	3	0	2	9	18	-9	1.40
25 Hockey M2	9	4	2	3	16	23	-7	1.33
26 ICSM Rugby M3	7	4	0	3	146	202	-56	1.14
27 Football M1	10	5	1	4	27	17	10	1.10
28 Badminton W1	10	5	1	4	34	46	-12	1.10
29 Fencing M2	9	5	0	4	1017	994	23	1.00
30 Hockey M3	6	2	2	2	6	5	1	1.00
31 ICSM Badminton W1	6	2	2	2	27	27	0	1.00
32 Netball W3	6	3	0	3	181	162	19	0.50
33 ICSM Football M2	4	2	0	2	14	13	1	0.50
34 Netball W2	8	4	0	4	295	333	-38	0.50
35 ICSM Badminton M1	8	3	1	4	24	40	-16	0.13
36 Ice Hockey M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
37 ICSM Football M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
38 Lacrosse W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
39 ICSM Netball W2	9	4	0	5	282	298	-16	0.00
40 Fencing W2	9	4	0	5	1026	1051	-25	0.00
41 ICSM Hockey M1	7	3	0	4	13	14	-1	-0.14
42 ICSM Hockey M2	8	2	2	4	12	24	-12	-0.25
43 Football W1	5	2	0	3	11	15	-4	-0.40
44 Badminton M2	8	3	0	5	33	31	2	-0.63
45 Football M2	9	4	0	7	12	27	-15	-0.89
46 Water Polo M1	2	0	1	1	13	18	-5	-1.00
47 ICSM Hockey W3	3	1	0	2	3	13	-10	-1.00
48 ICSM Rugby M1	9	2	1	6	144	279	-135	-1.33
49 Squash M3	7	2	0	5	10	23	-13	-1.43
50 Fencing M3	7	2	0	5	755	843	-88	-1.43
51 ICSM Rugby M2	10	2	1	7	172	344	-172	-1.60
52 Squash M4	4	1	0	3	5	7	-2	-1.75
53 ICSM Hockey W2	8	2	0	6	20	39	-19	-1.75
54 Hockey W2	8	2	0	6	10	32	-22	-1.75
55 Rugby M3	8	2	0	6	66	281	-215	-1.75
56 ICSM Badminton M2	5	1	0	4	14	26	-12	-2.20
57 Hockey M4	6	1	0	5	7	17	-10	-2.50
58 Rugby M2	12	2	0	10	168	320	-152	-2.50
59 Football M3	7	1	0	6	13	24	-11	-2.71
60 Rugby M4	7	1	0	6	49	295	-246	-2.71
61 Tennis M2	6	0	1	5	14	57	-43	-3.00
62 Squash M2	10	1	0	9	11	39	-28	-3.10
63 Squash M1	6	0	0	6	4	26	-22	-4.00
64 ICSM Netball W3	7	0	0	7	134	257	-123	-4.00

# Ice Hockey: Devils' rookies fall to mighty the Spitfires

**Stefan Bauer**
**Ice Hockey**  
 Men's 2nd 0 - 5 Southampton 2nd

Imperial's beginner ice-hockey team made a valiant effort last Wednesday night, in their first game of the season / ever for some. Most having started ice hockey last October, a few with no skating experience at all. Coach/Charitable Imperial Alumni Dave Coolegem soon instilled in them the essentials of ice hockey and sowed the seeds for success. The B-team is in its third year, playing in Division 3 of the British Universities Ice Hockey Association and has competitors in all the top universities of the UK, including Oxford for the first time this year.

The opposition, Southampton Spitfires, are a one year veteran team with a crop of good players, the result of having no team in the division immediately above. They also had one win under their belts, a convincing 13-5 match against Bristol Lions. Their number 42 was clearly the star player, credited with 7 goals alone he was the man to mark.

Despite the impressive results the Devils' were not intimidated and played well, often outnumbered in the neutral and offensive zones. As our first match of the season, against a tough opponent the aim was to play defensively and this was achieved very well. The first period was a time for learning our enemy, we held out for 6 minutes until their second line had had a chance to size up our team and seized the initiative with an unassisted goal from 62. The Devils' regrouped but conceded again 5 minutes later as the result of some close-combat around the net, scored by 69, assisted by 42. The game returned to an even balance, with some good runs into the offensive zone but sadly the forwards couldn't convert these opportunities into goals. The period ended with a final goal from 42, assisted by 69.

The Devils' defence had played consistently - chasing down break-outs and preventing open shots on goal, but once the play had opened up the teamwork broke down and men were going unmarked. The first intermission was the perfect time to remedy this, with insightful words from Coach Coolegem and an urging to shoot on their goal much more often. The second period went much better, with good coordination established between D(efence) and more aggressive play in the offensive zone. Fundamentals were remembered with good play being set up and fewer risks taken. The mid-point of the period was marked by Devils' Centre Eugene Lau being called for Boarding (checking an opponent into the boards head first) and spending two minutes in the sin bin. The Power Kill was handled calmly, with all four players on the ice working hard to clear the puck and close down the shooting lanes. The return to even teams saw more possession by the Devils', special mention going to Defender Matt Nolan for some inspired runs into the offensive zone but sadly no goals.

By the third period both teams were waning somewhat. The Spitfires were determined to



increase their lead, but the Devils' hadn't lost all their fight. More spirited attempts to score were led by Rob Barakat and Sofie Liljegen in particular. Two more goals were conceded around ten minutes in, but the play returned to stalemate leaving the end score a reasonable 5-0 win for the Spitfires. Having come away

worse in the past, veteran players pointed out this was largely damage limitation and there would be plenty of opportunities for convincing wins in the remainder of the term. The Devils B-Team are already looking forwards to their next match on Saturday against Oxford-Womens' at the Oxford Ice Rink.

## Handballers win Southern University tournament

...Continued from Back Page  
 a goal offering 6m<sup>2</sup> of target area is too small and wasted potentially decisive counter attacks, granting Imperial a close victory.

With no time to analyse the mistakes made in the second game, IC was scheduled to face Cranefields University from what they call "buzzing Milton Keynes" on their Universities website in the next fixture. Since the newly founded UKI women's Handball team was only narrowly defeated by our opponents women's team in their first ever matches, there was more than enough motivation to do well against this unfamiliar opponent. Despite trailing by 2 goals for a short period of time, the Eagles managed to get back into the game and secured a close victory in a game that should have been a one-sided affair in favour of Imperial.

After a long but productive break, the Imperial Eagles had to face their arch enemy UCL, who had not dropped a point in the tournament either

at that stage, in the last game of the day. With everyone fully aware of the tension between the local rivals, it was certain to be a worthy and eventful final for this new competition. Regardless of the poor performance in the previous games, Imperial was on top of their game from the first minute and established a 2-goal lead in the crucial stages of the game. In the last minutes, the UCL left-back challenged the Eagles' goalkeeper, who finally managed to find his form when it mattered the most, for a loose ball, which resulted in the Imperial number one chipping 3 teeth. Entirely unimpressed by the loss of enamel, the Imperial Eagles managed to hold off their rivals desperate attempts to score a last minute goal and secured their title in style.

It was a truly memorable day that accurately displayed Imperials superiority on the court, but leaves questions as to whether the team has enough consistency to win the draining tournaments in Nottingham and Lyon.

# SPORT

## Chelsea, Finances and Financial Fair Play

Riaz Agahi



On transfer deadline day Chelsea spent around £71 million. It was a throwback to an era around 5 years ago when Abramovich spent over £200 million bringing some of the best players in the world to Chelsea. Players like Drogba and Anelka, who remain in the team but will soon have to leave or retire. Their plan to sustainably build up the team using their youth products has all but failed, with 71 million spent on established players and Sturridge and Kakuta being shipped out on loan to Bolton and Fulham respectively. This change in policy has no doubt been brought on by the downturn in form seen recently.

In the past 2 summers, Chelsea have shown a much more prudent approach to the transfer market than during Abramovich's early years. For example, last summer only Benayoun and Ramires were signed, while players like Ballack, Joe Cole and Deco left, no doubt lowering the club's wage budget somewhat. However, even with this approach, Chelsea announced a 70 million loss during the last financial year. With this in mind many may question Chelsea's late spending spree.

Another downside is the upcoming financial fair play regulations that UEFA are set to impose. These rules basically demand that every club must balance its income and expenditures, presumably with the intention of preventing

a club from financially collapsing in the way that Portsmouth or Leeds did. It also means that clubs like Man City will have to spend less on players and effectively removes from the game the idea of a side of 'galacticos,' where a club can spend beyond what they make to bring superstars into the team. These rules are generally accepted as a measure to keep clubs financially healthy, it also is seen to even out the game, allowing smaller sides to be more competitive. Although this is generally seen as a good thing, with the model of Arsenal taken as an example, I see it as a bad thing.

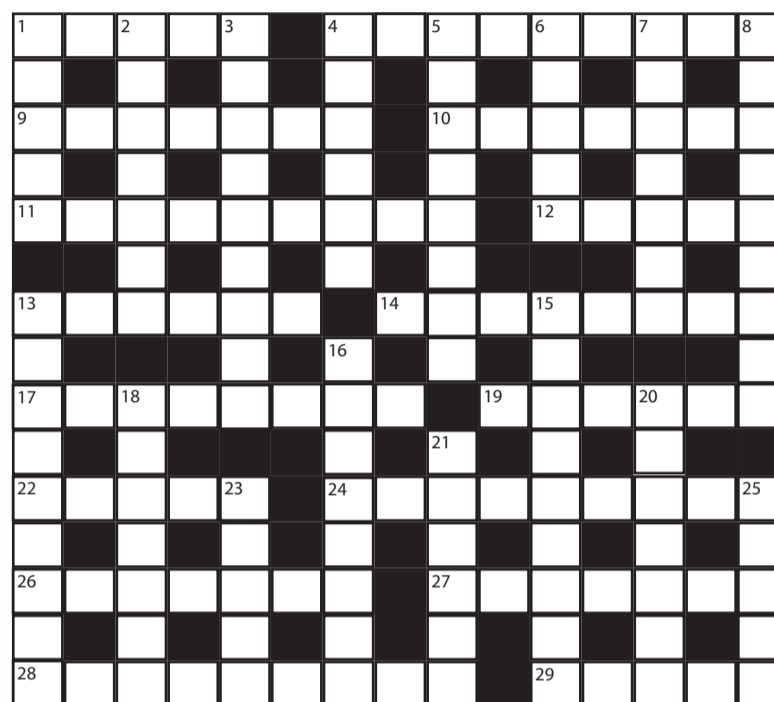
Furthermore, I am completely in favour of the steps Abramovich and Ancelotti have taken. The signing of Torres will generate increased ticket revenue as more fans will want to see Chelsea sporting this prize asset, and shirt sales for shirts with Torres' name, for example, will make the club money. In addition, while club success is a priceless factor, there are also huge monetary benefits. This signing could propel Chelsea to a higher league position and to European success, both of which spell a huge benefit for the club's finances.

However, I feel that while every club is now a business, having clubs regulate themselves as such takes something out of the game for me. Perhaps it is a sense of romance, as club owners can no longer part with money to assemble a dream team that could be legendary.

While it could be argued that many legendary teams are built from youth players, for example Milan's legendary defence which was made up of all Italian players (Maldini, Costacurta, Baresi and Tassotti), 3 of whom were from Milan's youth system, I think few can deny, for example, that Real Madrid's big spending at the turn of the century, capturing Beckham, Zidane, Ronaldo and so on caused excitement among football fans as have Man City's recent big spending ways. People often complain about transfer fees and large wages but I find this hard to understand. For example, the 50 million that Torres cost and his alleged 175k a week wage seem excessive but if he was bought for a smaller fee and given a smaller wage, all it would mean was more money resting in the account of a Russian oil baron, not better lives for the working class. At least the spending is done in a way that provides entertainment for millions upon millions of football fans. If someone has a vision for their club, and can afford to contribute these amounts without even worrying about making money, it seems unfair to say that they can't and regulate it.

Therefore, I feel that it is cynical and sad to see the game controlled on the grounds of finances, and even if some may not agree, I'm quite sure that many football fans are extremely excited to see a world class talent like Torres fit into the Chelsea system.

## Cryptic Crossword 1,481



- Across**
1. Metal weapon causes concern (5)
  4. Explanation of restricted amount of beer (9)
  9. OC subtitle on with 8 fronts (7)
  10. Note girls with spectacles (7)
  11. Leave someone behind when cold on the town (6,3)
  12. Concede that everybody hurts, it sounds (5)
  13. Hate being addressed many times (6)
  14. Come back and gather fruit (8)
  17. Drinking establishment angry - it's rattled by strikers (8)
  19. Bets on what kills vampires (6)
  22. Most of law full of rubbish! (5)
  24. Little man guarding treasure loses head after tube doesn't keep time without this (9)
  26. Gravitational reverberations heard by lizards (7)
  27. Iran van strangely place of utter delight (7)
  28. Seriously lean tyres require reassembling (9)
  29. I would have prevailed and procrastinated (5)
- Down**
1. Withdrawn washing sponge, rear to top (5)
  2. Insect defines songs (7)
  3. Headline ammo found in these? (9)
  4. Hurried a little, cutting off end of payment (6)
  5. To obtain woman in ensemble (8)
  6. Sacred sound a laugh in poker (5)
  7. Relieve muscle - figure out! (7)
  8. Award sets adjusted for Asian directions (9)
  13. Recorded mess but only half as edgy as 9? (9)
  15. Bowl to drain red ink initially from mixed petals (9)
  16. Monkey about, smear Tom (8)
  18. Army man decomposed above freezer (7)
  20. Person with expertise on hill surrounding Washington (7)
  21. Miserly, as a scorpion is? (6)
  23. Toilet's base unclogged (5)
  25. Eastern district for antelope (5)

## Fixtures & Results

in association with

Saturday 29 January				Wednesday 26 January			
<b>FENCING</b>				<b>BADMINTON</b>			
Men's 1s	107	LSE 4s	3	Men's 2s	5	University of Portsmouth 3s	2
University of Cambridge 1s	103	Men's 5s	0	Queen Mary, University of London 1s	3	Men's 3s	0
Men's 1s	130	SOAS 1s	0	University of Creative Arts	1s	University of Portsmouth 3s	0
University of Bristol 1s	91	Women's 1s	2	University of Chichester	42	Women's 1s	5
Women's 1s	130	University of Kent 1s	0	UCL 1s	38	University of Portsmouth 2s	6
University of Cambridge 1s	80	Women's 1s	2	UCL 1s	46	St Mary's University College 1s	2
Women's 1s	135	University of Essex 1s	0	UCL 1s	3	Women's 1s	5
Queen Mary, University of London 1s	70	Men's 1s	118	UCL 1s	1	Imperial Medicals 3s	0
Men's 1s	135	Royal Holloway, University of London 1s	100	UCL 2s	4	Royal Holloway, University of London 2s	2
Men's 3s	2	Men's 1s	119	UCL 2s	11	Men's 1s	3
King's College, London 2s	4	University of London 1s	87	UCL 2s	4	Royal Holloway, University of London 1s	11
Men's 1s	2	Women's 1s	135	UCL 2s	4	Imperial Medicals 1s	4
UCL 1s	2	Women's 1s	22	UCL 2s	4	Imperial Medicals 1s	4
		Women's 1s		UCL 2s	4	Imperial Medicals 1s	4

# Handball: Eagles win first title of the season

**Stefan Bauer**

After a shaky start to the new year, the Imperial Eagles Handball Club have won the Southern University Handball tournament in a clean sweep.

After the England Handball Association (EHA) handed over the responsibility for the University Championships to the British Handball Association (BHA) a lot of changes to have been made to rules and regulations of the only respectable, centrally-organised competition for university Handball teams in the UK. In a pathetic attempt to “develop” handball in the country, only teams with 3 British players or more are allowed to enter the tournament and a plate competition is help simultaneously for all the unreasonably multicultural Universities who accurately reflect the democratic make-up of Handball players in Great Britain.

Fueled by their outrage and in order to be able to play competitive games with other like-minded teams, 5 University delegations came together in Leyton to play a self-organised tournament. As all the squads present will be represented in this so-called “Plate Cup” in Nottingham, it was a good indicator of what Imperial

is capable of this year, after they already won some silverware in 2010.

In the first match, Imperial had to face Oxford University, who failed to trouble the Eagles in the development League last season and continued to do so on this occasion. It might have been due to that fact that some players were forced to play in their underwear after the player in possession of the IC kit was rendered to miss the first game on grounds of a hangover, but Oxford seemed almost unwilling to exert any pressure on the solid defense and could not prevent the Eagles from setting up countless chances in attack, which were reliably converted, securing the opening victory.

The next opponent was Warwick, who did manage to narrowly defeat Imperial in the League on two occasions last season. Motivated by the arrival of the kit and the hung-over spectator who delivered it, the Eagles were quick to establish what should have been a comfortable lead. However, a lack of concentration and some truly awful goalkeeping gave the visitors hope and even a chance to win the game in the last minutes. Luckily the Warwick playmaker thought that

...Continued on Page 46



# Fencers wipe the floor at BUCS league

**Charlotte Levin**

The second and final weekend of Men’s and Women’s, BUCS Southern Premier League took place at Ethos on the 28th-29th January. Going into the weekend both Imperial teams looked strong contenders for their respective titles, being undefeated in the first weekend. Expectations on further victories were high and winning the league was the goal ev-

eryone was aiming for.

Saturday started with the Men’s 1st Team facing University of London, the team ranked second behind IC in the league. The sabreurs (Maiyuran Raneswaran, Henry Gann, Didier Nohlmans, Camille van Hoffelen) gave the team a good head start with a victory of 45-24. Sadly followed by a defeat for the foilists (Robert Shaw, Chris Gilliam, Ed Collier and Sami Start), to a

much stronger foil team, but the match was easily decided by a victory from the epee team (Ed Gilhead, Marcello Colombino, Miles Gandolfi).

Whilst the guys finished their match, the girls started fencing their foil matches. Kings University did not show up due to illness, which meant that there were only 3 matches to fence in each weapon. IC’s incredibly strong women’s

...Continued on Page 45

## SCIENCE



The origin of ‘dem dirty domesticated dogs: **Page 11**

## POLITICS



Thank goodness Cowen has finally fecked off: **Page 14**

## ARTS



This guy will make you think twice about eating meat: **Page 22**

## FOOD



An ode to whiskey, the greatest drink in the world: **Page 36**

## HANGMAN



The big G-O-D trades words with an atheist: **Page 38**