



You're going to need a lot of patience

Change can take a long time

# SABB INTERVIEWS PAGE 6



"Keep the Cat Free"

ISSUE 1482

# FELIX



11.02.11

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

## £940 million cut in funding

Universities hit by huge reductions in 2011/12, plus additional cuts this year

Sophia David

University funding for teaching and research is to be cut by £940 million for the 2011-12 academic year, a decision described as "a challenging financial settlement" by the chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce) which announced the cuts last week. Universities will also receive £190m less than they had anticipated for this academic year (2010-11), as an in-year cut is announced for the first time.

Hefce, which funds universities on...*Continued on Page 3*



## COMMENT



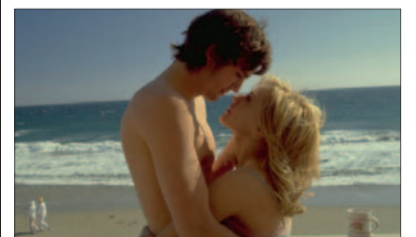
It's high time that Mubarak got a life: [Page 16](#)

## ARTS



Looking for a good workout? Try pole dancing: [Page 23](#)

## TRAVEL



Don't go on holiday with your girlfriend, seriously: [Page 36](#)

## Oxbridge aim for £9,000 fees

Umair Aasem

The University of Cambridge has become the country's first university to publicly acknowledge plans to charge students the maximum fee level allowed, starting 2012.

The revelations became public after an internal report by Cambridge's working

group on fees was leaked. The report asserts that it would be 'fiscally irresponsible' for the University to charge any less than the maximum £9,000 and insists that even at this fee level, the institution might experience financial predicaments as the university would be 'carrying the burden of a significant loss per student'.

Prior to the MPs' decision to vote in

favour of higher education spending cuts last year, it was made clear in the House of Commons that Universities would only be allowed to charge £9,000 under 'exceptional circumstances'. Naturally, after reviewing this, the findings of the report have come as a big shock to many as they make it ruthlessly plain

...*Continued on Page 4*



# HIGHLIGHTS

## On campus

### Carbon Footprint Challenge

In connection with EcoTeams, the Energy Society is challenging College members to track and reduce their carbon footprints. The initiative aims to encourage people to think creatively about reducing theirs. They are launching the initiative with a Speed Dating event. Contact Tamaryn Brown – tamaryn.brown@imperial.ac.uk – for more information.

**Grantham Institute**  
**14 February 17:30**

### Free Wushu Taster Class

The Wushu Society are offering a free taster class for anyone interested in trying out Wushu (Chinese Martial Arts) to improve their fitness, health and to be able to say that you do Martial Arts. Email the society at [icuwushu@ic.ac.uk](mailto:icuwushu@ic.ac.uk) for more information about getting involved.



**Union Building, 3rd Floor (Gym)**  
**15 February 18:00-20:00**

### Lunchtime concert

Conflagration seems to follow this Alvin Moisey. He performed on the Israeli-Lebanese border during a Hezbollah rocket attack, appeared on Kuwaiti TV as his hotel was being requisitioned by the US military for the invasion of Iraq and found his performance with the Royal Oman Symphony clashing with a scheduled coup attempt in Muscat. The concert is open to one and all first come, first served. Contact Andrea Robins – [a.robins@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.robins@imperial.ac.uk) – for more information.

**Sherfield Building, Read Theatre**  
**17 February 13:00-13:45**

## Felix JCR Stall

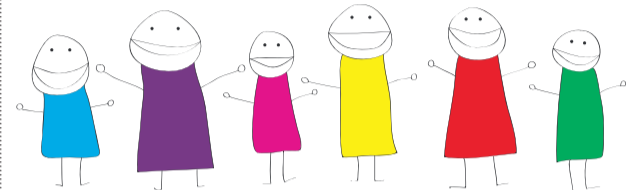


I'm not trying to say that the Felix JCR Stall is so unattended that one expects a tumbleweed to roll past, I'm saying that the Dust Bowl period in the U.S. in the 30s was deeply damaging to farmers there...

Each and every Monday lunchtime, we roll up the Felix banner and head over to the JCR for the Felix stall, from 12-12:30. The point of doing this is to try and open up this newspaper to as many students as possible. If emails aren't your thing, or coming to the office seems intimidating, you can come and speak to the Editor, in person, about anything you wish. If something in the paper has annoyed you, if you would like to contribute in any way or if you've got an idea for story or way we could make Felix more enjoyable, please, come along and tell us. We're always keen to get new students on-board and to hear your feedback.

## Union Notice

### Sabbatical Elections!



### Nominations open on Tuesday

Oh good god! It's so close!!! (Or if you're reading this on Wednesday – shame on you – it's already started!). That's right, the Sabbatical and Trustee elections for Imperial College Union kick off on the 15th of February when nominations finally open and would-be candidates reveal themselves. The positions up for grabs include Deputy Presidents for Finance & Services, Clubs & Societies, Welfare and Education as well as Felix Editor and finally, President.

See Page 6 for interviews with Deputy President (Finances & Services) Ravi Pall and Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Heather Jones.

Also, check out the new elections website at [imperial-collegeunion.org/elections](http://imperial-collegeunion.org/elections)

## Lolcat of teh week



# FELIX

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# £940 million cut to funding

Funding Council reveals almost £1 billion cut to university budgets in 2011/12

## £190m additional cut this academic year

Sophia David

...Continued from Front Page  
behalf of the government, has allocated £6,507m for the 2011-2012 academic year, covering teaching, research and building among other areas. The teaching budget is to be reduced by £180m to £4.3bn and the research grant by £17.4m to £1.6bn. £223m has been allocated to capital projects, such as new buildings, a 58% reduction from the previous year. The cuts come as the government makes savings across all departments, a strategy aimed at reducing the UK's large budget deficit.

Whilst the Universities Minister, David Willetts, has called for the teaching budget to be protected as far as possible, he acknowledged, "higher education, like other areas of public spending, has had to take its share of savings."

Imperial will not learn of its exact funding until next month when grants to individual institutions are decided. However, Sir Alan Langlands, Chief

Executive of Hefce, said that the Board "welcomed the decision of the government to ring fence and maintain in cash terms the overall funding provided by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) for science and research". Therefore, it is likely that Imperial, being primarily a science institution, will not experience funding cuts as drastic as other humanities-focused universities.

The Hefce Board have indicated that the quality of research will be a key determinant in the allocation of research funding to a university: "Funding is being allocated more selectively by prioritising internationally excellent and world leading research."

£150m for the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF), enabling universities and businesses to work more closely together, is also being maintained in cash terms. Langlands also said that this HEIF would be allocated among the "most effective performers".

The Hefce has also detailed reductions in funding for the current academic year 2010-11, the first time such changes have been implemented part way through. This is because the Department for Business, Innovation and



Universities Minister David Willetts has called on universities to adapt to the new environment of higher education funding

Skills grant announcement for 2011-12 relates to the financial year (1 April to 31 March), therefore affecting funding for the final four months of the 2010-11 academic year. The funding cuts will be implemented through Hefce's monthly grant payments to institutions between

April and July 2011.

Langlands said, "we are attempting as far as possible to support a smooth transition for all institutions to the new student finance and funding arrangements which will take place in the academic year 2012-13. Universities have anticipated the challenges ahead and many have already taken difficult decisions to reduce their costs."

David Willetts supported the funding announcements and called on universities to adapt to what he called "the different environment" that they now find themselves in: "It is essential that universities move quickly to prepare for the different environment in which they will operate in future years, striving to meet the aspirations of students for high quality teaching. As well as benefiting from investment in student support, the higher education sector will continue to benefit from sustained ring-fenced investment in science and research."

Meanwhile, Paul Marshall, Director of the 1994 Group which represents small, research-intensive universities, warned that universities were facing a tough future: "the sweeping funding cuts show that universities will need to work harder than ever to make their

contribution".

Gareth Thomas, Labour's shadow Universities Minister said, "the decision to cut so much from university teaching budgets, the massive cut to capital funding and then to load the cost on to the next generation of students by trebling tuition fees is unfair, unnecessary and unsustainable".

Meanwhile, aside from the funding cuts, the Hefce has set up a £12.5m fund to support the development of cloud computing on hosted systems by universities. They have used part of the University Modernisation Fund to make £10m available for developing a shared IT infrastructure and £2.5m for setting up shared services for administration. The programme is aimed at improving efficiency in higher education.

David Sweeney, Hefce's director of research, innovation and skills, said, "At a time of pressure on university resources, it is critical that technology is used in a collaborative and cost-effective way, to deliver services that will benefit the sector. Cloud computing has the potential to do this in ways which will serve the academic community leading to improvements in research, teaching and administration."

## PhD funding woes hit Business School

As more issues with PhD funding arise, Union asks students to check their accounts

Alex Karapetian

A group of five PhD students have expressed complaints after they encountered issues with funding from the Imperial College Business School. The students, ranging from second to third years on the Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) scholarship scheme complained that they were expected to perform teaching as part of their contract while first years have no such condition in the terms, therefore allowing them to earn more money for doing so.

The GTA scheme, which offers a bursary of £16,000 and has an expectation of six hours of teaching per week, had no official contract until last year. Students were considering whether the hours they worked exceeded the expectation and felt they were working far more than six hours per week performing other teaching duties. The students therefore

approached the department which was later convinced to draw up contracts for the PhD GTAs.

The contracts included terms starting October 2010 which detailed the £16,000 bursary with the expected six hours teaching time plus nine hours non-contact time such as marking. The issue arose after the students signed the contract and later realised the one drawn up for first years starting in October 2010 was for a bursary of the same amount but with no expectation of teaching time. This meant that while those who'd signed the contract for second and third years were expected to teach as part of the terms, first years were able to earn extra money by putting in hours which were not expected of them.

The Graduate Teaching Assistant scheme offered by the Imperial College Business School involves postgraduate students undergoing employment on a

temporary contract in order to assume teaching related responsibilities. The scheme is a valuable career step for an aspiring academic and responsibilities are split up into contact hours which involve teaching, assisting in tutorials, etc and non-contact hours such as marking coursework or setting questions.

Professor David Begg, Principal of the Business School, has described the Business School's courses as "taking the best strategies from around the world" and "combining them with ground breaking research [...] to equip our students with the knowledge and the confidence they need to be key players in the new global economy". Formerly the Tanaka Business School, it offers management modules in accordance towards some degrees taken by Imperial College students and separate finance, risk management and research courses for post-graduates.

The mismatch in the terms outlined in the new contracts surprised the affected students with what appeared to be unfairness considering both contracts had been drafted and signed at the same time, with different sets of conditions for students on the same scholarship in the same department. A number of postgraduate funding issues have arisen over the current academic year, notably the confusion surrounding student funding in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, where payment was not given to students who complete additional duties alongside their work. The Department of Aeronautics were also criticised for cutting eleven PhD students' monthly bursary payments without warning. The Business School declined to comment on the issue. It is understood that the Union are actively encouraging PhD students from all departments to double check their funding.

Imperial College London



Mmm, jaunty angle... \*drools



# NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**  
**Alex Karapetian**  
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## Summer PhD Placement



Opportunities for Imperial's PhD students to get a taste of studying on the other side of the world are available at the upcoming International RSD Summer School and Research Placements.

Taking place in Singapore and Hong Kong, the two four week programmes consist of a four-day transferable skills course, followed by a three week research placement at some of Asia's most prominent universities.

The idea of the programmes is to help students gain valuable skills for their PhD, learning how to manage their research projects effectively, build intercultural awareness, succeed in collaborative research and build successful working relationships, all in an international environment. The placements provide an experience of university life elsewhere and students get involved with a series of challenges in a new and exciting social setting. This year, students from Imperial, NUS, NTU and A\*STAR will be participating in Singapore, and students from Imperial, HKU and Shanghai Jiao Tong University will be taking part in Hong Kong. Working in small groups, participants get to share ideas and practices: it's a great networking opportunity.

Tomasz Cwik, a 2nd year PhD student, in the Aeronautics department, took part in last year's programme. "It was very interesting to interact with the local students, getting an understanding of why this part of the world looks how it looks, and experiencing their lifestyle for a couple of weeks."

"The group became good friends and we spent a lot of time together. During the day we worked on our individual research, while in the evenings we ate different kinds of food and chilled together."

"The course was also a great opportunity for establishing useful research contacts at other universities. You should not hesitate to sign up!"

Fatma Dogan, a 2nd year Chemistry student who took part last year, said: "I hadn't been to Asia before, so it was also a really good opportunity for me to meet with Asian students: Singaporeans, Chinese, people I wouldn't have met otherwise. It creates a global scientific network."

"We discussed our projects with others from different fields: it was interesting because you had a banker and a marine biologist working together! It broadens your horizons and makes you realise that you can collaborate with others no matter their field is." The opportunities are open to all students in the first 18 months of their PhD who have not attended the Graduate Schools RSD course.

**For more information and to apply, please see:**  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/international/students/internationalopportunities/summerschools2](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/international/students/internationalopportunities/summerschools2)

# Union: Minimum English requirement should rise

## The Union's response to the visa consultation in detail

**Matt Colvin**

Imperial College Union has revealed its response to the government's student visa consultation with a mixed response to the suggested proposals.

As reported last week, the 31st of January saw the end of the consultation period for the review of the United Kingdom's student immigration system. Launched by immigration minister Damian Green on the 7th of December 2010, the public consultation aimed to receive opinions on several proposals put forward about the reform of the 'Tier 4' visa – or the international entry route to study in the UK.

Green explained the motivation behind such proposals to the House of Commons in December: "The government is committed to minimising abuse of the student route by those whose primary motivation is not to study but to work and settle in the UK." This followed the Home Office publishing statistics which state that 41% of students coming through the Tier 4 route were studying below degree level courses.

The Union's submission to the visa consultation was formed by a group of student representatives – including Union President Alex Kendall, Deputy President (Welfare) Charlotte Ivison and Deputy President (Education) Alex Dahinten. Ivison explained to Felix how the process was carried out: "We had a number of meetings where we read through the consultation documents and discussed how we thought we should respond, and we talked to the Inter-

national Office for College's views."

"We then brought our submission to Union Council, where it was discussed, amended and passed."

Students were encouraged by the Union to fill out the consultation submission as individuals, with the form existing as a free online survey, alongside Damian Green's encouraging response "from a wide range of people" during a speech to the House of Commons at the launch of the consultation.

Among the proposals that the Union agreed with include the suggestion that the minimum English requirement should be raised and that highly accredited sponsor institutions should be allowed to offer below degree level courses, but the Union also offers its own suggestion that 'these institutions should be given 1-2 years to become highly accredited.'

Information from the Home Office provides details on the Government's proposed minimum level of English, B2. This 'upper intermediate level' of English requires the learner to be conversant on a wider range of topics and equates to approximately 150 more hours of study than the lower level in place currently; B1, which focuses on understanding public announcements and instructions.

However, the Union found fault with several of the government's proposals. Charlotte Ivison explained to Felix the reasoning behind particularly disagreeing with the suggested closure of the Post Study Work route, which currently allows students to stay for 2 years after their course in order to find skilled work, by

arguing that "this leaves international students with four months in which to find work, which we think is unacceptable."

Regarding the proposal that recommends students to return home in order to apply for other courses, Ivison argues that, "doing so would potentially incur significant personal expenditure, deterring would be applicants, as well as being incredibly wasteful."

"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."

Another contentious issue was that of students being required to prove academic progression in order to take further courses, with Ivison pronouncing that "this doesn't allow for students wishing to take courses at the same level – switching courses or taking a second BSc for example."

Whatever the Union's response, or indeed any of the 30,000 other replies to the consultation, the fate of student visas now lies in the hands of the government. With the results of the consultation expected to be released in April, it won't be long before international students discover whether the process for studying in the UK will be helped or hindered.

"Deterring Internationals" – Page 6. Ksenia Rostislavleva argues that the government's visa proposals risk catastrophe.

# £3,000 reduction for poor students

**Umair Aasem**

*...Continued from Front Page*  
that Cambridge intends to make the £9,000 fee grade the norm: "The level of tuition fee charged from 2012 entry should be the maximum permissible, i.e. £9,000 per annum with any subsequent adjustment for inflationary increases."

The University's line of defence is also of particular interest as it rationalises that settling for lower fees might risk putting Cambridge's reputation in jeopardy as this "might raise questions about our commitment to excellence since a reduced fee in the long term could only be sustained by reducing costs and hence quality". The report further justifies its decision by stating that it expects 'most, if not all' other universities to follow Cambridge's lead. This statement also happens to be in perfect coherence with Aaron Porter, the NUS Presi-

dent's comments, when questioned about Cambridge's decisions.

"It comes as absolutely no surprise that Cambridge University intends to charge students the maximum amount it is permitted to [...] We can now expect a race to the top as universities rush to gain kudos by joining the '£9,000 group' as quickly as possible. How long before the most expensive universities start asking for the freedom to charge even more?"

To counter the inevitable problem of students belonging from poor backgrounds being 'put off' from applying, Cambridge has announced its own fee waiver and bursary plans, according to which students belonging to households with an annual income of less than £25,000 would be offered a £3,000 fee reduction, hence resulting in a net £6000 fee per annum. A bursary of £1,625 has also been declared which would proportionally decrease and taper down to zero as household income increases from

£25,000 to £42,000.

With the deadline (31st march) for submission of Universities' 2012 fee structures looming close, it is expected that many Universities will follow Cambridge's footsteps and announce their fee decisions in the coming weeks. Oxford University have also initiated their fee-fixing process this past week by organising a debate between academics and the University governing body and have hinted that they will opt for the maximum as well.

As expected, the situation has resulted in growing tensions and an exponential increase in the amount of parents expressing their concerns over their children's future. A recent survey conducted on a total of 3000 people by ING Direct found that up to 10% had increased the amount they were saving for their children's University expenses, with a further 13% going as far as setting up a 'University fund'.



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# DAILY FELIX

24 Pages. Every Day.

**THREE  
WEEKS  
TO GO**

28th February – 4th March



# ELECTIONS

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

## You're going to need a lot of patience

With elections starting on Tuesday, Felix talks to the Sabbs about their experiences



Look at how happy she is to be interviewed

**Heather Jones**  
Deputy President  
(Clubs & Societies)

**W**hat has been your biggest challenge?  
The most obvious challenge for the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) is Freshers' Fair but actually since it didn't rain it wasn't anywhere near as stressful as it might have been. I personally didn't really like doing the talk to all the Club Chairs the previous day, as it was certainly the most people I'd ever spoken to in front of at the same time!

### What is an average day like?

I get in at or before 10 and spend at least the first hour sorting out e-mail, though this varies day to day. Sometimes I get less than 30 e-mails overnight, on a Monday morning it can be well over 100 though, I think I once received 300 e-mails over a weekend! I'll generally have 2 or 3 meetings a day which can be with Union staff, with students or with College depending on what I'm working on and the rest of the time I'll try and keep up with all the e-mail/phone calls coming in as well as getting on with some more long-term projects. I try not to leave at the end of the day until I have fewer than 30 flagged e-mails left as I don't like keeping people waiting but sometimes it's just not possible!

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

It sounds really cheesy and cliched but it's definitely the sense of satisfaction from knowing that in some small, or not so small way, you've made a real difference to people's lives every single day. It's also great to be thanked which happens pleasantly often. The other fun part is getting to have really interesting discussions with people in College about why things are done in a particular way and how to get the best deal for students – on the whole College are happy to help but often don't know how!

### What do you enjoy least?

There are some pretty tedious parts of the job. The 100th time you've answered the same question requires a lot of patience and you have to tell yourself that they wouldn't ask if it was clear so making it clearer for everyone should be your main priority. Also room booking approval can be a fairly dull process but again, it's important for someone to have oversight over what's going on so it's important to mix it in with the more fun stuff to stop yourself getting frustrated.

**"It often requires a lot of patience and being able to multi-task is pretty useful. That said, it's amazingly rewarding and challenging."**

### What is your biggest regret so far?

I really do regret that I forgot to put giant maps up at Freshers' Fair, there were still plenty of maps but it was frustrating as it was something I'd meant to do and then forgot! Generally any time I forget to deal with a student's problem, or I could have solved it but didn't get round to it in time. Those kinds of things make me pretty depressed.

### Do you have any advice for anyone considering running for your position?

It's a pretty high stress position. You often have to work very long hours so you need to be comfortable with that and also get used to the idea that the Union will steal your life; it will almost certainly take over large parts of your social life. Also, it often requires a LOT of patience and being able to multi-task is pretty useful. That said, it's amazingly rewarding and challenging.

### Have you delivered your manifesto promises?

Some but not all of them, however at the same time I think I made the best decisions for clubs – manifestos shouldn't be set in stone. The two major promises I didn't keep were a) a buddy system for struggling clubs – which when I asked clubs about they overwhelmingly said they wouldn't find useful, and b) searchable inventories which has been put on hold to allow an online club finance system to be developed, something that the Clubs & Societies Board said would be much more helpful for club officers.

### What will be the most important challenge for your successor?

I would say it's whatever they make it; everyone comes to the role wanting to achieve something different. I guess if there is anything then perhaps they'll have to finally work out a fairer system for booking rooms as we're getting to the point where saturation of certain space types is occurring.



"Hahaha, what money?"

**Ravi Pall**  
Deputy President  
(Finances & Services)

**W**hat has been your biggest challenge?  
The biggest challenge in my role is definitely the constant battle to provide students with all the services they want. It's tough to not be able to cater for everyone, or when you put plans in place to do so, it takes time to mature. Ultimately, I've realised that it's not possible to please everyone, but the best that you can do is try and be fair to as many people as possible.

### What is an average day like?

I get to the office at either 9am or 10am, depending on how busy my day is. Mondays and Tuesdays tend to be the busiest as I've got quite a few meetings and obviously I'm constantly dealing with day-to-day issues with services in the Union and also financial issues with Clubs & Societies. There are a lot of forms to sign and regular meetings I attend to help steer the Union's customer service, and various internal projects.

### What have you enjoyed most about your job?

The thing that I've enjoyed most this year is the launch of Metric and FiveSixEight. The Union has changed so dramatically since I was a 1st year and being able to contribute to that positive change has been really fun. I'm really proud to be a part of the beginning of what is sure to be an incredible next few years with regards to our commercial services. All these venues are sure to play a key role in our plans for the Summer Ball 2011.

### What have you enjoyed least?

I guess it's the flip-side of that same coin. The delays and hiccups with the club and bar were really frustrating. Mostly because there's a limit to what you can do when, for example, you find asbestos. But I think in the grand scheme of things, they were just little road-bumps. We've picked up well since the launch, and are in fact doing better than we originally thought.

### What is your biggest regret so far?

I'm not sure if I would call it a regret, but I wish I had known how long it takes to get things changed around the Union. Sometimes it can be quite demoralising when you come into work and you are faced with the same issues as a few weeks ago. The key is to stay focused on the bigger picture. If you get bogged down in petty issues, you can miss important milestones in the projects you have started

**"The key is to stay focused on the bigger picture. If you get bogged down in petty issues, you can miss important milestones"**

which are here to improve the student experience.

### Do you have any advice for anyone considering running for your position?

If you're thinking of running for Deputy President (Finance & Services), I would talk to Club chairs and treasurers, and learn how the union finance system works. The more experience you can get and the more you can prepare yourself, the better. The system can be a bit daunting at a first glance, but once you understand it, it's very easy and efficient. I would also advise going over to the Reynolds building on Charing Cross campus. It's one of ICU's commercial outlets, and has in the past been overlooked. It really does help if you can talk to as many students who are active in the Union's operations to get a better understanding of the culture and procedures involved.

### Have you delivered your manifesto promises?

I promised quite a lot of things and I think I have delivered on most of them. Of course, I can't take all the credit for those, the Union has been improving on so many fronts over previous years and obviously Metric and FiveSixEight were begun before I was a sabb. But the only promise that I think I haven't managed to deliver is a cashless payment system for the bars; it turned out to be unworkable.

### What will be the most important challenge for your successor?

I think that my successor has to ensure that Metric and FiveSixEight remain responsive to the needs of students. We need to keep helping Clubs & Societies put on nights in Metric and make sure that we don't let the time, effort and money invested in the refurbishment go to waste. They also need to continue the work that has begun to revolutionise our club finance system. It's a big task and we're reaching the end of it but it will fall to my successor to follow it through to the very end.



# Detering Internationals

The Government's visa proposals risk catastrophe argues Ksenia Rostislavleva

**O**n January 26th, a press-conference focused on the international student migration regulations was held in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center. The speakers included Tony Millns (English UK), Aaron Porter (National Union of Students), Dominic Scott (Universities and Colleges Information Systems Association), Susan Hindley (Study UK), Nicola Dandridge (Universities UK) and Professor Edward Acton (University of East Anglia).

Major education sector stakeholders highly object to new visa proposals that include raising the minimum level of English proficiency required for entry, limiting opportunities for work experience and part time work for students and total abolishment of Post-Study Work Route. Those changes could have "catastrophic effects on universities" that could potentially "...make home fees matter slightly fade from the central stage..."

International education is a key growth sector of the British economy, contributing almost 5 billion pounds a year. International students' fees subsidise home students allowing courses and sometimes whole departments to be run. At a time when the whole country is facing financial difficulties and cuts are being made to the state funding of universities, international students are absolutely vital to the survival of most educational institutions. Many universities are also highly dependent upon international researches and teachers to teach STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects. The implementation of these new regulations will therefore lead to the contraction of the whole sector. Taking into account reduction in cultural diversity UK universities were always proud of, that would definitely have a major impact on home students' experiences as well.

The proposal is to raise the minimum level of English required for entry into the UK to B2 on the common European framework of reference which is equivalent to a high grade A-level. This is a real threat to pre-university education, which provides international students with an opportunity to improve their language and independent learning skills together with a subject top-up which at the end enables them to study in UK universities. Most of the students following this route do not have the necessary English level required for entry according to the new proposals, and therefore they will not be allowed into the country (for example, up to 80% of Foundation students, which make up to

ant.photos/flickr



Visa restrictions could deter international students, to the detriment of the UK's higher education system

50% of the total international students recruited by universities, do not have the required English level). Other proposals include limitations to students' rights to work experience and part time jobs (increase allowed study to work ratio from 50:50 to 66:33). Dependants of those international students, e.g. wife/husband, will not be allowed to work at all. This extends even to voluntary work.

However, the change most international students feel extremely frustrated about is the abolishment of Post Study Work visa. Currently students are allowed to stay in the UK for two years after they have finished their degree to get work experience essential to prove the creditability of their degrees. Now international students will no longer have this opportunity and will be forced to leave the country as soon as they finish their course. With no work experience after graduation it would be extremely difficult to find a job elsewhere, especially in the current economic crisis.

All of these changes not only make international students extremely unsure of their own future but together with numerous tightening of visa regimes over the past two years, makes them feel very unwelcome in the UK. British universities were known for their excellence for decades, and the majority of international students (93%) were completely satisfied with their stay in the UK. However international students are no longer getting the world class experience they were expecting when they invested thousands of pounds into the British economy. Many undergraduate students who were planning to continue

their studies in the UK with a Masters or a PhD now feel they need to search for a more stable and trustworthy environment in other countries.

Indeed, this issue is not just about money. It is about respect, trust, reputation and business links around the world that once destroyed will be extremely difficult to restore. The current proposals will not only cause a substantial loss of income, it will seriously threaten the image of UK as "opened for business".

The changes proposed by the government are indeed the most radical in decades, if not generations, and are probably not that thought through. The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) undertook a proper weighting of economical pros and cons of economical migration but there was no equivalent assessment of temporary student migration. The main goal set by MAC is to reduce net migration to "tens of thousands" during this parliament. In assessing the scale and make-up of current net migration MAC was relying on International Passenger Survey (IPS), however even MAC does not consider those figures to be completely accurate. According to IPS, Student Route contributes 60% to the total net migration with Work and Family routes each contributing 20%. MAC then decided that the reduction to be borne by each of those routes should be in proportion to its contribution to net migration recorded by IPS – which means a 60% reduction of thoroughly legitimate students coming to the UK. Those reductions, however, cannot solve the migration problem the government is trying to tackle because international

students are not economical migrants but merely a transient population, with approximately equal number of students coming and leaving each year. Therefore student migration should be decoupled from the total economical migration and not addressed in attempts to reduce the number of migrants coming to the UK.

It looks like the government simply

does not understand the consequences of these changes to student visas. The 8 week consultation period ended January 31st and received more than 30,000 responses. The results of the consultation will be announced in the coming weeks and there is nothing left to do now but hope that the government will moderate the proposal and not let the catastrophe strike the British education system.



All of these changes make international students feel extremely unsure of their future and very unwelcome in the United Kingdom

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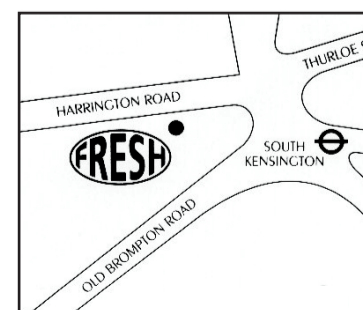
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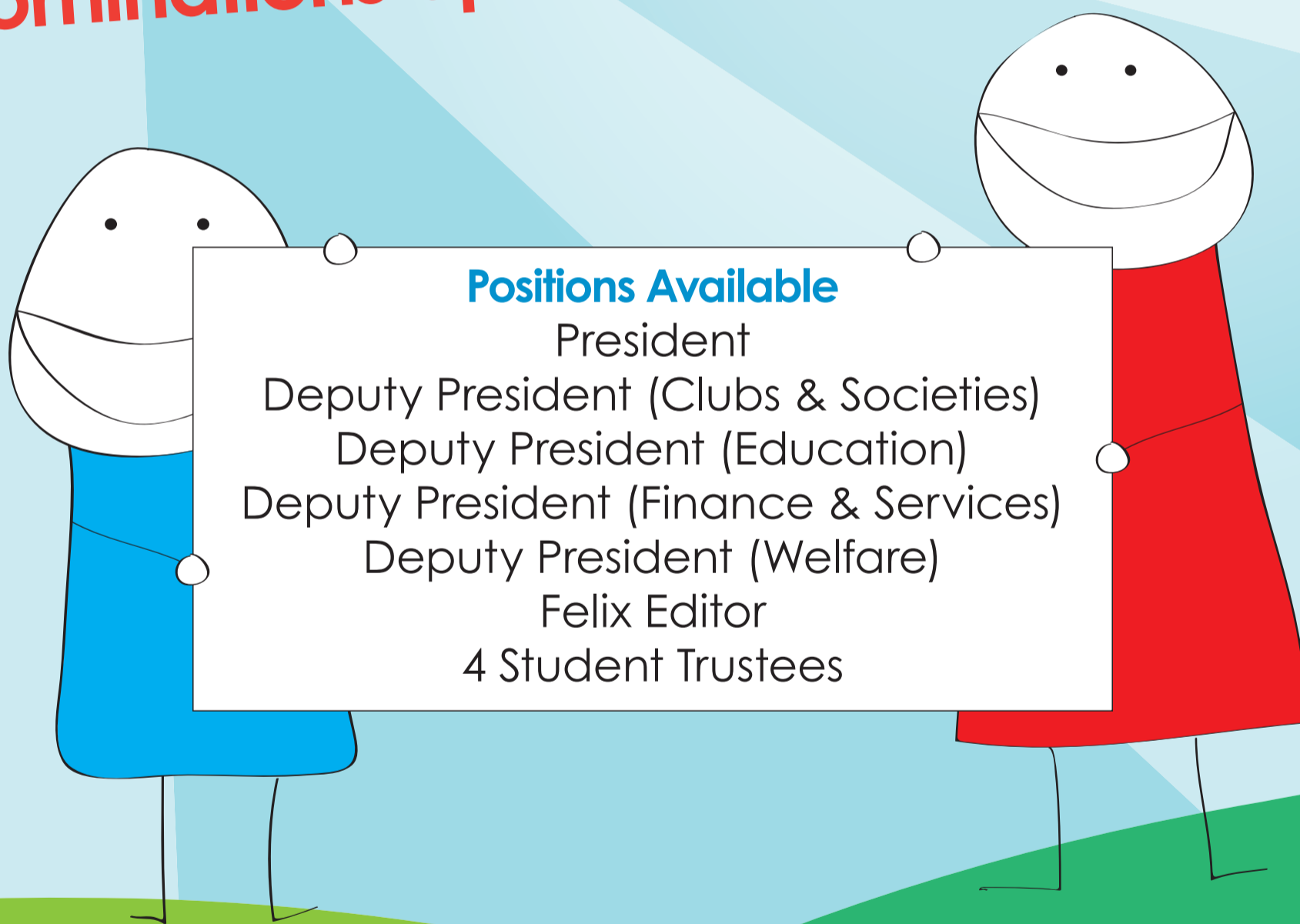


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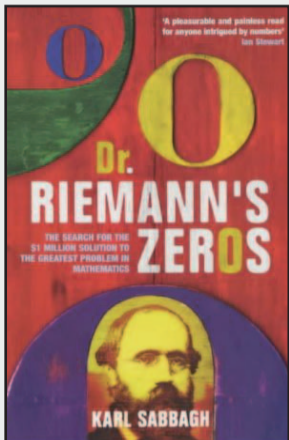


# SCIENCE

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

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And a few suggestions...



## Dr. Riemann's Zeros

by Karl Sabbagh

This is the story of a million dollar problem, one that was created by the famous Dr. Riemann when he produced an answer to a mathematical conundrum but without a robust proof to accompany it. Mathematicians have slaved over the Riemann hypothesis, racing to uncover the truth and prompting the offer of a million dollar prize for a comprehensive proof. It all sounds like a slightly melodramatic thriller, and perhaps this is as close as a popular mathematics book will get.

Both interesting and informative, Sabbagh's writing is the perfect introduction to this area of mathematics, leaving the reader with a sense of awe at the genius of the mathematicians involved. He paints an exhilarating picture of the discipline, going some way to expel the myth that maths is boring. Sabbagh finds exactly the right way of engaging his audience; after all, making a lot of money in a highly competitive industry sounds like a dream job, especially for an Imperial graduate.

Katya-yani Vyas

You won't believe it...



This Valentines Day, instead of following your heart go with your brain. Researchers have identified a dozen brain regions associated with the feeling of being in (puppy) love. The regions release neurotransmitters and other chemicals that induce sensations such as attraction and pleasure. And if you break up before the big day, don't worry. Scientists are hoping to treat broken hearts by artificially adjusting the levels of these chemicals.

# Magic show success open to Copenhagen interpretation

Kadhim Shubber

It is somewhat topsy-turvy to say that there are no mysteries in magic, but plenty in physics. But as Dr Nic Harrigan, our Master of Ceremonies for the evening (complete with magician's attire), explained: all magic tricks are explainable, but not all physics is yet understood. And no area of physics is as enigmatic and so begging of explanation than quantum mechanics. 'Real Tricks: The Quantum Mechanics Show' aims to draw parallels between magic tricks and the quirks of quantum mechanics. As we settled down for the show, it struck me that linking quantum mechanics with a magician's tricks most adequately demonstrated the power with which it has to bewilder even the most skilled physicists; as Richard Feynman famously opined: "I think it is safe to say that no one understands quantum mechanics."

The show had an amateurish charm to it. The performers were modestly dressed with an earnest enthusiasm for the concepts that they were explaining.

Although not master magicians, they pulled off the tricks convincingly enough to elicit gasps, laughs and whispers of "How did she do that?" Obviously if I were to Google any of the tricks, I could quickly ruin the magic for myself. But the demonstration of quantum entanglement was a genuine puzzler. To demon-

strate the weird connection between entangled particles, coloured balls were first placed into soft, velvet bags. They were rubbed together to 'entangle' them and then, from opposite sides of the room, the performers simultaneously pulled the same colour ball from bag. This demonstrated the peculiar property of entangled particles that allows them to 'know' the properties of the other – measure one electron as spin up and the other will instantaneously measure as spin down. Initially, I did not suspend my disbelief entirely – perhaps they had hidden balls in their sleeves? – but when they repeated it with audience members I was unashamedly stumped.

There were other highlights. Pushing a pencil through a £1 coin as an analogue of quantum tunnelling was neat while the explanation of quantum cryptography – complete with ninjas leaping out of the audience to steal the 'data' – reached the highest standard of educational entertainment.

However, saying that the show had an "amateurish charm" does not excuse all of its rough edges. At times the little hiccups distracted the good-natured audience and Dr Nic Harrigan could probably have given his co-performers the courtesy of introducing them on-stage by name.

But I shouldn't over-emphasise the little nigglings. Judging by the attentive silence and then



Is it in the hat? Schrödinger would know

outpouring laughter from the audience behind me, it was certainly a successful evening. Probably most pleasing was the sight of groups of children excitedly discussing the physics that they had seen as they tramped up the aisles out of the lecture theatre.

# Take two leeches and call me tomorrow

Anastasia Eleftheriou

Most of us believe that leeches belong to the category of the most disgusting and dangerous creatures of this world. They can, however be beneficial for people's health.

Leeches – the word deriving from the old English word for physician, laece – are mainly used for treating abscesses, painful joints, glaucoma, myasthenia, and to heal venous diseases and thrombosis. They are also used in plastic surgery and can improve brain circulation. These medical applications of the leeches are the main topic of a recent paper published in the Journal of Postgraduate Medicine last week.

The team of scientists from Ohio State University Medical found that leeches have been fairly chosen as one of the best assistants to doctors, from antiquity until now. The authors say: "Modern leech therapy is based on sound scientific principles and has resulted in important patient care enhancements".

Let's look in more detail the behaviour of those creatures. They have two ways to suck your blood; either they use a proboscis to puncture your skin, or they use their three jaws and millions of little teeth to bite their way in. They live almost anywhere where there is

**"Leeches find you by detecting skin oils, blood, heat or even the CO<sub>2</sub> from your breath."**

water. Leeches find you by detecting skin oils, blood, heat, or even the carbon dioxide from your breath. Although about 600 leech species have been identified, only 15 are currently used in medicine.

But how do leeches know how much blood the patient should lose during the treatment? They take in a big amount of blood when they feed and for this reason they do not feed often. The European species can consume between 5 and 15 ml of blood in a single feeding (its American counterpart consumes ten times less) which is why the European leech is predominantly used. Usually, doctors use up to 10 leeches so the patient can lose up to 150 ml of blood during the treatment.

Another question that comes into mind when learning about leech therapy is whether the leech bite causes pain. Most patients say that it

feels like 2 or 3 mosquito bites, so don't worry too much; it is not painful! Leech saliva also contains a painkiller, which stops its victim from feeling the bite, and an anti-coagulant, which keeps the blood from clotting.

Douglas Chepeha, an ear, nose and throat surgeon at the University of Michigan, said that he treats two or three patients a year with leeches after rebuilding faces or mouths decimated by cancer.

This widespread use of leeches is the reason that, in Europe, millions of leeches are sold every year. Sometimes, leeches do a better job than other medical treatments in removing pooled blood and help the healing of skin grafts; something that is well tested over the centuries.

Many people are afraid of these creatures crawling on their body and of being bitten by them, but they have been used since ancient times, are well tested and nowadays are routinely used. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has even determined that leeches are medical devices because they meet the specifications, as defined by the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act.

Nature has, once again, provided a solution to a crucial medical problem.



## SCIENCE

## Orbit shift led to ancient methane increase



Methane emissions from wetlands are increasing – well done wetlands

## Thea Cunningham

An investigation into the mysterious rise of methane levels in the atmosphere over the past 5,000 years has suggested its causes are natural, not anthropogenic.

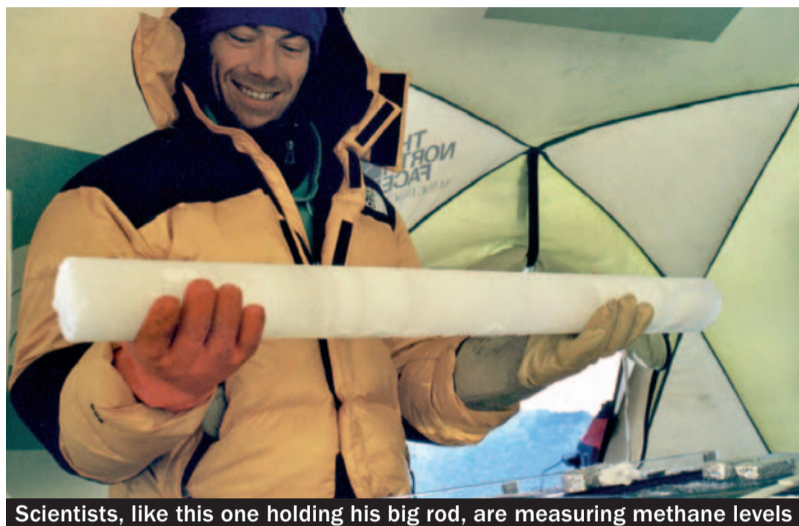
Joy Singarayer at the University of Bristol and colleagues found the Earth's rotation, and not agriculture, is likely to be to blame for the rise in atmospheric methane concentration in an interglacial age known as the Holocene, which began around 10,000 years ago. The study undermines suggestions that humans and our agricultural activities were alone sufficient to influence these concentrations before the industrial era began.

Methane is a greenhouse gas that can hang around in the atmosphere for up to

15 years. Levels of atmospheric methane have increased by approximately 150% over the last past two centuries as a result of human activity, such as agriculture, coal mining, and the automotive industry.

Over the latter half of the Holocene, the concentration of methane in the atmosphere rose from 550 to 700 parts per billion by volume. Whether this increase was caused by human activity too, in the form of early rice cultivation and biomass burning, has been the subject of much debate. Methane measurements taken from Greenland ice cores suggest the rise might have natural causes instead, such as increased tropical and wetland emissions in response to the warmer Holocene conditions.

In an attempt to show how the increase



Scientists, like this one holding his big rod, are measuring methane levels

might have been provoked by natural causes such as these, Dr Singarayer and colleagues reconstructed the ice core record using models of methane emissions from wetland and atmospheric concentrations caused by natural mechanisms over the last 130,000 years.

The results, published in *Nature*, matched the methane measurements from the ice cores, indicating the increase in methane levels that began mid-Holocene were a result of the Earth's orbit, alongside increased methane emissions from wetlands in the Southern Hemisphere, particularly South America, caused by weather patterns provoked by small shifts in the Earth's rotational axis. Most importantly, the findings capture the pattern of decline in methane

emissions in the first 5,000 years of the Holocene that preceded the increase in the later half of the period. The team believes the change in methane levels between these two halves is a result of differences between the size and rate of the Sun's solar radiation, along with a lack of glacial ice in the Holocene period.

Though the findings suggest we ought not to point the finger at early agriculture for a rise in methane concentrations before the industrial era, there are still concerns about how the feedback of methane in the atmosphere may amplify global warming. In light of this, further research is needed to investigate methane cycles so that we can better understand the release of methane and its involvement with global warming.

## Sci-Fi Column

## Maciej Matuszewski

Seeing how I've been doing this for a few weeks now I think it's high time I tackled one of the best known science fiction phenomena out there, *Star Trek*. The franchise has been a massive success and even most people who aren't fans can recognise Captains Kirk and Picard. My favourite *Star Trek* show, however, is a bit more obscure than *The Original Series* or *The Next Generation*; it is, in fact, *Star Trek Deep Space Nine*.

The only *Star Trek* show set on a space station, this allows it to have far longer story arcs than those of its predecessors: the heroes couldn't simply fly away from the issue of the week at the end of an episode. Don't get me wrong, single episode stories can still be very good, as was shown by the brilliant *Next Generation*, but personally I prefer the plot to be allowed to grow and develop. While it has nowhere near the depth of *Babylon 5*, which it was initially accused of copying, the overarching story is still very satisfying.

All of the *Star Trek* shows tried to cover serious issues but *Deep Space Nine* does it the best. Who can forget the powerful examination of the horrors of war in "The Siege of AR-558"? The show is also helped by very well developed, and even morally ambiguous, characters. Gul Dukat is, in my opinion, one of the best *Star Trek* villains ever: responsible for the brutal occupation of a peaceful alien planet yet strongly believing that what he is doing is right and caring deeply for his daughter. Or take my favourite character, Garak, a former spy and assassin who befriends and often helps many of the main cast and yet tortures the station's security chief when he believes this is necessary to help his people.

That is not to say that the show is without flaws. It has its fair share of tech-nobabble and stupid moments. In the pilot episode, for example, the science officer was asked by Captain Sisko to study an alien artefact he'd been given. This task simply consisted of repeating the order to the computer and literally going to sleep for a few hours.

The acting was also often far from brilliant. While some have praised Avery Brooks' portrayal of Sisko, to me it seems that he says most of his lines in a dull monotone. Nana Visitor and Rene Auberjonois are good at playing angry and gruff respectively, which is lucky as these are their characters' default states, but terrible at portraying other emotions. Auberjonois' smile in "The Search", when his character discovers other members of his species for the first time, looks even more fake than Gordon Brown's, though admittedly this could have been due to his makeup.

These issues, however, are all easily ignored in the face of what is a truly great show.

## Mysterious Chopin list of brain disorders

## Polly Bennett

A new hypothesis about the lifelong hallucinations of romantic composer Frederic Chopin suggests he suffered from temporal lobe epilepsy. New research published in the journal *Medial Humanities* made this diagnosis based on eyewitness accounts of Chopin's friends and family describing his hallucinatory episodes.

Chopin was known to have ill health throughout his life, such as fever, nasal blockage and recurrent coughing of blood. However, his hallucinations were commonly attributed to his sensitive nature as a creative genius rather than any neurological or psychiatric disorder.

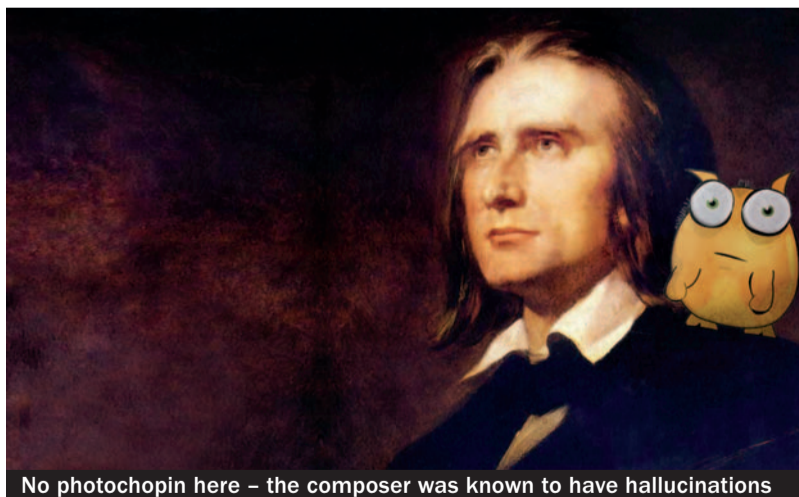
The researchers, led by Manuel Vasquez Caruncho of Xeral-Calde Hospital in Lugo Spain, compiled data from letters, memoirs, and accounts that revealed some common characteristics of Chopin's hallucinations. They most commonly occurred in the evening and were sometimes the accompaniment of

acute infections and fever. Chopin was able to recall them in great detail but he would often become detached from reality during an episode. He suffered from complex visual hallucinations, in particular Lilliputian hallucinations, where the people and images appear smaller than they are in reality.

Chopin himself recounts an occasion where these Lilliputian images forced him to leave the room while playing his Sonata in B flat minor: "Suddenly, I saw emerging from the half-open case of my piano those cursed creatures." Death was a recurrent theme of his hallucinations.

Hallucinations are a common symptom of psychiatric conditions such as bipolar disorder, major depression and schizophrenia. However, hallucinations as a result of these are mostly auditory in nature and so could be ruled out of the researchers' diagnosis.

However, temporal lobe epilepsy is a type of focal epilepsy, where only part of the brain is affected by seizures, and is known to produce complex visual



No photochopin here – the composer was known to have hallucinations

hallucinations. In some cases small animals and people have been reported, which is consistent with Chopin's Lilliputian hallucinations. This epilepsy is also sometimes preceded by psychiatric symptoms such as anxiety, depression and sleeplessness, conditions Chopin

often commented that he suffered from. He was also a known insomniac. Finally, and consistently with the characteristics of temporal lobe epilepsy, Chopin's hallucinations lasted from seconds to minutes, making the case for epilepsy as his cause of hallucinations convincing.



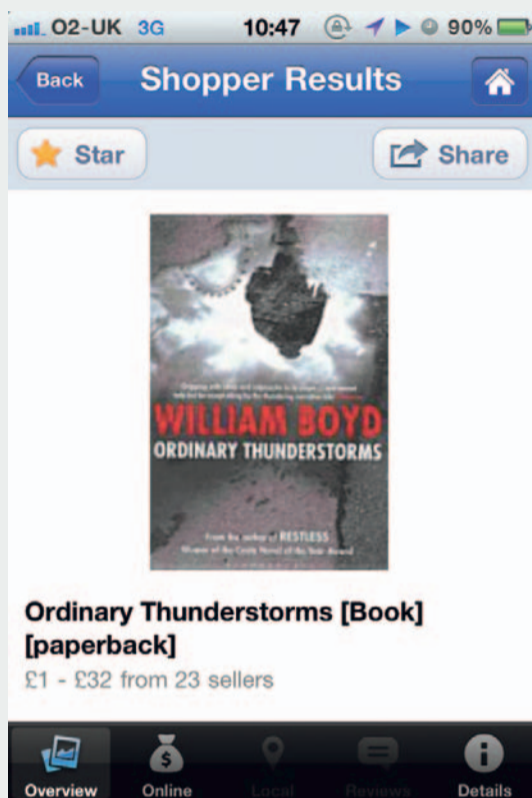
# TECHNOLOGY

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

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## Free App of the Week

### iOS - Google Shopper



Google Shopper has finally made it to iOS, and now you get the power of Google's search for shopping on the go. Photo, barcode, and voice search. Sorted.

### Android - Google Shopper



Google Shopper has been on the Android Market for a while now, and it's just as good if not better than on iOS. Price comparison in the palm of your hand.

# Murdoch launches Daily newspaper for iPad

Feroz Salam

Faced with declining paper revenues and stiff competition from free online alternatives, Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation made a bold foray into online publishing last Wednesday with the release of their subscription-based iPad-only publication *The Daily*. *The Daily* is one of a handful of publications that exists solely as an app, a big gamble from a corporation that has until now been relatively wary of online media.

The subscription model on which the magazine is based on is very similar to print models: users can choose to pay \$40/year or \$0.99/day for continued updates to material, with a promise of up to 100 pages of fresh content every day.

The advantage of the iPad-only nature of the magazine lies in the fact that it has been designed to seamlessly interact with HD quality videos, photo galleries and popular social networks. Unlike many other news publications with supporting iPad apps, the content doesn't mirror material on a more traditional website, but caters specifically to iPad users.

The move is likely to be watched closely by other media houses as print revenues dry up. Murdoch has played up the financial viability of the move, stating that the monthly investment on the app is a relatively low \$2 million/month. If it does succeed, it will probably be



yet another nail in the coffin for print publications, with the extremely low distribution costs a highly attractive proposition for beleaguered news agencies.

Regardless of financial viability, first reactions from critics have been decidedly lukewarm. John Gapper, writing for the *Financial Times*, describes the app as lacking "not impressive newfangled technology but enough

news stories." With embedded video adverts another gripe for some reviewers, it's clear that the design team has some work to do before they get the media/content balance perfected.

Despite the teething problems, Murdoch has made clear his intention to drag the print industry into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Whether he's got enough quality journalism to back the effort remains to be seen.

# To protect and charge: the Juice Pack Air

Samuel Gibbs

The iPod touch is an outstanding media player for the most part. Packing almost all the tech behind the wildly popular iPhone, save for the cell radio of course, and playing host to up to 64GB of storage, there's a lot to love about Apple's touchable media player.

Of course there's one thing that's nearly always bound to be a let down, and that's battery life. The iPod touch actually has pretty decent battery life, but there are lots of occasions when you just can't get to a power outlet to get your pocket pal all charged up, and that's where Mophie's Juice Pack Air comes in.

The Air performs two functions: firstly, it's a fully-fledged case for your iPod touch, covering everything but the screen and chrome bezel. It's main feature however, is its integrated 1000mAh lithium polymer battery capable to adding up to an additional seven hours video playback or 42 hours music playback. For those keeping count, the Air almost doubles the iPod touch's playback time.

As additional battery case combos go, the Air has a few nice touches. It's got an integrated power switch to disable charging of your touch, a four-LED power indicator and a mini-USB



socket that essentially replicates the dock connector, meaning you can charge and sync your iPod touch, as well as charge the Air, all from one USB cable. It's even available in three fetching colours – red (as photographed), 'Gun metal gray' and blue.

Of course there is one downside to the Air

**"For those keeping count, the Air almost doubles the iPod touch's playback time."**

and that's additional size and weight it'll add to your iPod. The Air clocks in at 64g bringing the total weight of your iPod touch to around 174g, while adding an extra 0.6cm in thickness. The battery also enlarges the base of the iPod touch bringing the total length to 13.3cm. Now we're not talking about masses here, but as the iPod touch is such a svelte device to start with, the Mophie Air is certainly noticeable when on the device and in a pocket. That said, as battery packs go, the Air is one of the most slimline and least intrusive to date, and if you're after a bit more life from your pocket media pal, is certainly worth considering.

The Mophie Juice Pack Air for iPod touch reviewed here fits both the 2nd and 3rd generation iPod touch. But if you're packing an iPhone 3G/3GS or iPhone 4 instead, Mophie has you covered with others in the Air line.



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**Afonso Campos**

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# BUSINESS

# Is Microsoft a dying firm?

In the world of Google and Apple, **Rudolf Lai** asks if there is a future for Microsoft

Ten years ago, Microsoft's products were synonymous with personal computing. The Internet was just stepping into households; Apple narrowly escaped bankruptcy, and its computers were seen as luxurious goods made for designers. In a blink of an eye, Apple became the largest technology company in US by market capitalization in May 2010; in 2009, Google attracted nearly two thirds of the worldwide search volume through its search engine and its sister sites. All that Microsoft seems to be doing is to follow what everybody else has done: launching Bing after Google, releasing Windows 7 Mobile after Apple's iOS. In fact, many people have declared that Microsoft is "dead".

But is that the case? Microsoft's dominance has long preceded the rise of Google and the comeback of Apple. From a multi-stage dividend discount model perspective, Microsoft should be in its stable growth period (i.e. the last stage of the model), hence it would be perceived that Microsoft is not as 'trendy' or 'strongly growing' as the other two companies. Nonetheless, the two biggest elements of Microsoft's business, the operating system and the Office suite, still have significantly greater market share than its competitors. The Windows operating system and Office make up 53% and 42% of Microsoft's 2010 revenues respectively. As of December 2010, Windows had about 85% share of the operating systems market, and Office has 94% market share, according to Gartner. In contrast, Google's business is largely internet-based; around 70% of Apple's 2010 revenue is from mobile computing products like the iPhone, iPod, and the iPad, and the rest are in its OS and Mac hardware. One could argue Google and Apple's recent stardom is mostly based on a combination of new technologies, like faster internet connections, cloud computing, and mobile computing, and that Microsoft's traditional playgrounds of the OS and the Office suite remains relatively unscathed.

Microsoft still has its competitive advantage in the OS and Office area, and it has entered the gaming console market, which neither Apple nor Google have access to. Undoubtedly, Apple and Google are trying their best to step into the OS and business productivity application territory. For example, from Apple we have the OSX and iOS operating systems, and the iWorks office suite; from Google we have internet-focused software like the Chrome OS, Google Mail and Google Docs. Just by the num-

bers, however, we can see that there is a long way to go before we can even say that there is major competition in the OS and Office markets.

Corporations and businesses are one of Microsoft's major sources of revenue. The prime reason for corporations to stay with Windows is Microsoft Excel. Excel's variety of functions, and the extent of which these functions are implemented, is unparalleled in the commercial electronic spreadsheet market. Specifically, equipped with Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) and now .NET, Excel offers the possibility for programmers and developers to embed code directly into spreadsheets. Through the embedded code, a spreadsheet can offer functions that manipulate data in ways normally impossible using standard spreadsheet operations. In a way, Excel is like the Apple App store for business and finance. It provides a common platform on which software houses can develop and release applications, and the spreadsheet format is a widely understood input method. From option pricing tables, to portfolio optimization software, Excel offers an easy way to represent the input and outputs of mathematical models or other number crunching engines.

On a related note, a second reason that businesses are reluctant to change from Windows to another operating system is the cost of switching to others. Corporations have invested a lot of resources into supporting a Windows oriented infrastructure. They have hired .NET and VBA developers, and made custom applications that only run on Windows. They have trained their staff to use Excel, the Office suite, and VBA. They have virtual desktop systems devoted to delivering a Windows environment to a new computer or a new user in a matter of hours. Costs aside, there is just little reason for corporations to switch to another operating system that does not run Excel natively, and one that requires re-training staff. As such, Microsoft will continue to reap sales from new versions of Office and Windows. In 2009, a new version of Windows was released, and as of 2010 it has sold 175 million copies, making it the fastest-selling operating system in the world.

Microsoft is also strong in is the gaming market. Arguably, the iOS platform from Apple also provides a platform for gaming, but due to the nature of the hardware, the range of games cannot be considered a direct competitor to the Xbox franchise. Xbox has performed well relative to other major consoles: sales of video games and other software for the Xbox 360 topped \$3 billion in

2010, topping the Nintendo Wii (at \$2.6 billion) and Sony's PlayStation 3 (at \$2.1 billion), reports a NPD Group market research.

A gaming console is largely dependant on the games that are played on it. In November 2010, Microsoft released the "controller-free gaming and entertainment experience" Kinect for Xbox, which triggered a wave of new games taking advantage of the new hardware. Game/software sales for the Xbox 360 rose 29% in December 2010, compared to the same month the previous year, according to the BMO report on the NPD numbers. The introduction of Kinect puts Xbox in direct competition with the Wii in terms of using body movements for input, but the absence of a physical controller for Kinect may prove to induce a greater variety of games developed for the device in the long run.

Admittedly, under the guidance of Steve Jobs, Apple seems to be delivering hit product after hit product. Google, on the other hand, seems to be permeating every aspect of our cyber life. In the vast industry of technology, we cannot say that Microsoft has its monopoly over the business like it did. But we can attribute that change to a shift in the boundaries of the tech industry, rather than an absolute shrinkage of Microsoft's business. With the recent uprising of what is called the 'closed internet' – Facebook – a network that Google has no access to, and the health concerns surrounding the Apple CEO, the scoreboard of tech giants is still undecided.



I don't care if Macs are 'stylish', Steve Jobs is a certified fashion disaster...

## McKinsey Students in Society contest announced

On the 15th of February, McKinsey & Company will visit Imperial College to launch "McKinsey Students in Society 2011," a new social enterprise business plan competition for university students across the United Kingdom.

The competition offers a unique opportunity for students to develop their business skills while seeking to make a real difference to society or their local communities.

To participate, teams of 3-6 undergraduates from UK universities will submit business plans for social enterprises – financially sustainable businesses which are run to benefit society.

Launch events in Imperial College will kick off at 6pm on Tuesday 15th February in the Skempton Building, Room 301.

The first round is a simple online pro-

cess. Students have to submit a compelling business idea and describe what its impact would be on society. From these submissions, six national finalists will be selected to develop their ideas in greater detail.

These national finalists will receive further coaching to develop their plans in preparation for the National Final in London, in April 2011.

The winning team will receive seed funding for their business and ongoing support from McKinsey consultants to help get their idea off the ground.

Launching the competition, Kevin Sneider, Managing Partner of McKinsey & Company in the UK, said "There is no motivation more powerful than to make a positive lasting difference to the world around us by developing and implementing a visionary business idea.

I hope this competition will help encourage the next generation of entrepreneurs with the vision to transform society for the better."

Tom Rippin, CEO of social enterprise On Purpose, commented, "Social enterprises promise to help solve many of the most challenging issues society faces today. Politicians, the media and investors are showing ever-greater levels of interest in this potential. If social enterprises are to fulfil these expectations, it is imperative that they also attract the most exceptional people to be the leaders of tomorrow. It's great to see this initiative to get the best and brightest students engaged!"

Initial submissions can be made online from now until Sunday 13th of March at [msis.mckinsey.com](http://msis.mckinsey.com)



# POLITICS

## The world beyond College walls



### Russia

**Doku Umarov, the Chechen separatist leader, has claimed responsibility for last month's bombing at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport which killed 36 people.** Mr Umarov has said that the attack was in response to Russian 'crimes' in the Caucasus and threatened more suicide attacks in pursuit of an independent Muslim state in Russia's Caucasus region. Mr Umarov is one of Russia's most wanted men and is the self styled 'Emir of the Caucasus Emirate'. He has previously claimed responsibility for the 2010 Moscow Metro bombings and the 2009 attack on a train from Moscow to St Petersburg.



### Indonesia

**More than 1,000 protestors have stormed a courthouse and burned two churches in Central Java.** The crowd were demanding a stiffer sentence for a man who was sentenced to five years imprisonment for distributing leaflets deemed insulting to Islam. This attack comes after a deadly attack on a minority Muslim sect in West Java. These attacks were condemned by the both the US ambassador to Indonesia and the Indonesian President. Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim nation and is a secular state. However, religious minorities have been under increasing attack by hard-line Islamist groups and the Indonesian Government stands accused of doing too little to protect the rights of all citizens.



### United States

**The US is bracing itself for yet another winter storm** barely a week after a record-breaking storm roared across the American heartland. It is forecast to dump up to 8 inches of snow in Arkansas and Oklahoma and could affect up to 150 million people in 40 states. The US is still recovering from an earlier storm which saw hundreds of flights cancelled and highways closed. That storm may cost US insurers up to \$1.4 billion.



Edited by Kenneth Lee

# U-turn ahead

## Is the UK's economy going in the wrong direction?

Joshua Yerrell

Tomokazu Miyamoto

Last year the Conservative party and the Liberal Democrats seized power after the 2010 general election and since then the ruling coalition has taken austerity measures, spreading the rumour that UK was on the fiscal brink. They cut governmental employment by 460,000 workers, and slashed public spending including the educational budget and infrastructure. They also raised VAT from 17.5% to 20% this year, which is partly responsible for a rise in commodity prices. The Liberal Democrats, who had pledged to vote against any rise in university tuition fees before the election, tripled the fees last December.

Nick Clegg, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, claimed that when the coalition formed Britain was on the edge of bankruptcy. David Cameron, the current Prime Minister, claimed that the bond markets were demanding austerity and so if Britain did not introduce immediate cuts, we would lose the confidence of the bond markets. Debt hawks often say that debt repayment is a cost to the country.

Readers of Felix may be aware that the Deputy Prime Minister has told lies in terms of not only tuition fees but also the fiscal state of this country in order to justify the coalition's policies. Every schoolboy knows (or should know) that a government cannot go into bankruptcy like a private business. As long as Britain has its own currency, it has the power to print money. Governments can only be in default if they have incurred debts in another currency, that is, if they cannot finance their external current account deficit (which includes interest paid abroad). Iceland, which has its own currency, Iceland Krona, was in default in 2008 because they could not finance a large amount of external debt. What about the U.K.? According to George Irvin, a Guardian columnist, about 80% of public borrowing is from the domestic market- what economists call the "non-bank public". To those who buy UK government bonds – either directly or through pension funds – British bonds are financial assets on which holders receive a payment totalling £34bn per annum. The remaining 20% is either held by government departments or is owned by foreigners. Most public borrowing appears as liability on the government side of the ledger, but as an asset on the ledger of domestic bondholders. Roughly speaking, therefore, UK citizens are Britain's creditors, not debtors.

Cameron's argument does not stand up either. Paul Krugman, who won the Nobel economics prize in 2008, says that Cameron has invented "invisible bond vigilantes" which do not exist. Actually the bond markets were demanding no such British austerity. They rather punish the measures Cameron has taken. UK citizens may well remember who the last two countries were to be downgraded by the bond market. The answer is Ireland and Spain, which took immediate austerity measures, that is, Cameron-style. Indeed, the bond markets got angry, and



George Osborne selling the Big Issue? In 2015, we can make it happen

the interest rate of the Irish governmental bond soared to 9% because these policies cause a serious recession. (There is an inverse relationship between bond valuation and interest rates; the low rate means that the price of a bond is stable.)

Prof. Krugman said that the austerity measures by the Conservative/LibDem coalition had a lot to do with ideology: they have used the deficit an excuse to downsize the welfare state. He said in a New York Times column:

"The British government's plan is bold, say the pundits – and so it is. But it boldly goes in exactly the wrong direction."

He also predicted that the Britain in 2011 would look like Britain in 1931 or the United States in 1937, adding that premature fiscal austerity would lead to a renewed economic slump.

A recent economic report is likely to confirm Prof. Krugman's prediction. The Office of National Statistics said on 25th January that GDP fell 0.5% in the previous quarter. George Osborne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, seems to continue his austerity measures, while the opposition counterpart Ed Balls said that Osborne must urgently re-think their reckless plan to cut the deficit too far and too fast. Concerned about this country's economy, Balls required the coalition to start prioritising growth and jobs.

Joseph Stiglitz, who won the Nobel economics prize in 2001, also criticises Osborne's fis-

cal policy. Britain, where the economy contracted in the fourth quarter, is already seeing the fallout, he said at an investor conference in Moscow on 2nd February. He added that austerity measures adopted by the UK coalition government were not justified.

Although Cameron and Osborne often exaggerate the budget deficit of UK, referring to the PIIGS debt problems, the U.K.'s deficit problem is completely different from PIIGS. Unlike the UK or USA, Eurozone nations cannot print money to pay their debts with their own wills; they cannot take advantage of devaluation in terms of export by expanding money supply, either. It is the only European Central Bank (ECB) that can conduct monetary policies in the Eurozone. Let's consider the current account balance from 2002 to 2009 for 4 countries: Germany, Iceland, Ireland and Norway. Germany was in surplus constantly, while Ireland was in deficit due to disadvantageous exchange rate of the Euro. Iceland improved the figure dramatically, and Norway kept a favourable balance. Since the latter 2 do not belong to the Eurozone, they can freely control monetary base to make themselves more competitive in terms of export.

The coalition's austerity measures are not justified currently because UK has the power to take appropriate monetary policies. UK citizens should be more sceptical about the coalition's statements. This country is going in exactly the wrong direction.

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# Female empowerment to save the world

But is the U.N.'s newest agency's plan to end gender inequality and poverty in one fell swoop just more of the same?

Rory Fenton

The role that women play in the alleviation of poverty is becoming increasingly apparent in development research. In a sad irony, it is also increasingly clear that they bear the majority of the burden of this same poverty. The figures are alarming – women work two thirds of the world's working hours but directly earn just 10% of the world's income – money which they are more likely to spend on education and food for their children than their male counterparts. Women also make up 70% of the world's poorest people and are underrepresented in society from classrooms to politics (holding just 19% of the world's parliamentary seats).

To address these gaping gender imbalances, the UN set up UNIFEM in 1976 to directly tackle gender discrimination, primarily through working with other UN organisations such as UNICEF and other official aid groups. By 2006, the body had a budget of over \$200 million and was present in 80 countries and yet it was slammed by the UN itself as being “incoherent, fragmented and under-resourced”. This January, in light of this criticism and new evidence regarding the importance of women in development, the UN created UN Women; a new centralised body with a much larger budget and more political clout. Just this week the month old body called a press conference for student journalists to make a plea for help – they were already underfunded, receiving about a quarter of the funding desired; effectively giving them the same budget as the old UNIFEM. Their solution was clear: more funding. But does international aid actually deliver results? This is a question too often brushed aside as heartless – how on earth could someone question the noble aims of aid? And yet, noble though the aims may be, the results are often staggeringly far from those promised. This article will look at the case against international aid and argue that we should have fewer, not more, bodies like UN Women.

The chief justification for international aid is that poor countries are stuck in a poverty trap. That is, if they only had the basic resources to start things off they could work their own way out from there. The argument then follows that unless wealthy countries give poorer ones aid, they will never escape poverty. This seems to be backed up with evidence as the poorest fifth of the world's countries had much lower growth from 1985-2001 than the other 4 fifths; just

Amanda Diez



0.2% compared to the wealthier countries' 1.3%. Poor countries seem to stay poor because they are poor in the first place.

But a closer look at the statistics reveals a different story. Firstly, over the longer period from 1950 to 2001, the poorest fifth of countries increased their average income 2.25 fold which is statistically indistinguishable from the increase in income of the richest four fifths of 2.47 fold. The reason for the gap in growth in the period 1985-2001 (a period of much higher international aid) is that the countries in the bottom fifth kept changing – strong evidence that in fact countries aren't doomed to be trapped in poverty. This data excludes Soviet and Persian Gulf oil producing countries as special cases.

Was it aid that caused these countries to break out of the bottom fifth? No, countries with above average aid performed no better than those with below average aid. While it is of course possible that aid is given in response to low growth and so hardly causes it, these data (compiled by Peter Boone of the LSE) look only at countries receiving

aid for political reasons, thus discounting the possibility of aid being simply a response to slow growth. According to Boone, it seems that aid promotes consumption but not investment.

So, what makes countries stay poor? They don't. Or at least, they are just as capable of good growth rates as any other country, once you allow for bad government. It is possible to control for bad government in the data above by using indexes on corruption and democracy, the oldest such indexes compiled since 1984 by the International Country Risk Guide and Polity VI, a project of the University of Maryland. Using these indexes to statistically control for bad government (those with high corruption and low democracy ratings), it becomes clear that it is bad government that keeps poor countries poor, not a poverty trap as those with good governments enjoy similar growth rates to their wealthier counterparts.

But why is it that external NGOs fail to promote growth, acting separately to local and potentially corrupt government? Too often, they are not there to fulfil the needs of the poor but rather those of the

**“Women hold just 19% of the world's parliamentary seats”**

wealthy country donors. The emotive images of those suffering from AIDS causes foreign governments, urged by their citizens, to donate money to buy antiretroviral drugs for poor countries. However, research shows that for every year of life given to an AIDS patient, the same money could provide between 75 and 1,500 years of life through a focus on prevention. A Western focus on school enrolment (one of the UN's Millennium Development Goals) means that investment in actual school supplies is overlooked, when such investment is estimated to be 14 times more effective than simply building new schools. If the poor were in charge, these wrongs would surely be righted but when international aid is accountable only to donors, this is unlikely to ever be the case.

But this does not mean that aid is hopeless, far from it. The success of schemes

based on microfinance show that aid can make a difference. But this aid should not come in the form of large, multinational plans to ‘end poverty’. The history of aid has shown that these grand schemes simply do not work beyond the great concerts and the well meaning wristbands. Rather, small projects that work with and empower the poor themselves can make a real difference. Couldn't the poor be given some kind of aid vouchers to let them decide how the money is spent? Highly centralised aid is exactly the kind of solution to poverty that we would never wish on ourselves and not only is it patronising and unaccountable, it doesn't work.

Organisations like the new UN Women could learn a lot from this. It is simply preposterous to tackle ‘all forms of gender discrimination’ in one go. Much better to look at particular areas where outside funding and expertise can make a real difference. Ditch the grand plans and seek piecemeal changes in a way that is both accountable to local people and uses their own expertise. It is possible to end poverty, for both men and women, but not in one big go.



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# COMMENT

## FELIX

### A few words of advice for those considering running for Felix Editor

As the elections grow ever closer and each of the Union's Sabbaticals offers an account of their experiences and some advice for would-be successors, the arrogant urge to do the same has become uncontrollable. It would be farcical to interview oneself so I shall instead substitute what is usually a space to editorialise on "the issue of the day" with some words of advice for the man or woman that will follow me.

Of the many things of which I was not aware when I began the job, there are two things that are certainly the most important.

The first is the ever-present sense of fatigue. An average day usually begins between 8-9am and ends between 7-9pm. The Wednesday/Thursday "sprint finish" is even worse, I begin at 8am on Wednesday, work until 3-5am at which time I take a short nap on the office couch and awake at 6am; I finally rest my head upon a pillow at 10-11pm on Thursday evening. The weekend only offers rest if you're willing to forgo social interaction; I have not been willing. So it is hardly surprising that the bags under my eyes have grown considerably. If you are considering taking the helm of this illustrious newspaper, do not deceive yourself about the physical toll that it will take. You could work fewer hours, of course, but then the paper would suffer – if that is a compromise that you're willing to make, then I doubt that the position is right for you.

The second is how much the paper's success is carried, not by the Editor, but by students who volunteer their time to contribute to it. They are the ones who come up with new ideas, write the articles, edit and lay out the paper and exceed your expectations each and every week. It is the dedicated student volunteers, not the Editor, who are truly the lifeblood of this paper. For that reason the Editor must encourage Imperial students to participate in the production of their newspaper and must help them shape it with their ideas. If Felix isn't completely open and welcoming to those students who tentatively and modestly request the opportunity to write an article, it will suffer.

To finish, I'll recount something that I did know when I started and still hold as key to the job six months on: there is no use in trying to hide your mistakes or shortcomings. I have made errors of judgement and there are things, though I am too ashamed to list them here, that I regret. But this already difficult job – see lack of sleep above – would be impossible without the humility to say that the next girl, or guy, could probably do a far better job than me.

# What a dick–tator

Mubarak clinging to power has become pathetic. It's time he got a life. Even Ban Ki–Moon is getting pissed off...



**Tim Arbabzadah**

**P**resident Mubarak is currently in quite a mess and just about clinging on to power. The government resigned, on his request, and a new one has formed and held talks with opposition parties about the constitution. Mubarak has even banned some members of the political elite from travelling abroad. I assume a similar ban is imposed on people living in Birmingham, otherwise that place would be a ghost town, but I digress. The point is, I think it's a fairly non-controversial statement to say that Egypt's president Mubarak is currently under fire. By which I mean metaphorically, don't worry; you didn't miss anything big on YouTube.

There has been widespread violence between demonstrators and the authorities. UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon has weighed in on this saying: 'I once again urge restraint to all the sides. An unacceptable situation is happening. Any attack against the peaceful demonstrators is fucking unacceptable and I strongly condemn the fuck out of it. For fuck's sake Egypt, first Tunisia now this. Oh and to add to this the shit's really hitting the fan in Yemen. Can't I just get one day off! That's all I'm asking, this shit is stressful. I'm off to scream into a pillow and cry if anyone needs me. Which I'm sure they fucking well will judging by the last few days.' That isn't a 100% accurate direct quote; the swearing and last few sentences were just implied.

Mubarak has been a dictator for years. So long, that it's a miracle he doesn't have a moustache yet. The facial hair worn exclusively by dictators and people in London who think they are edgy and different (ie. exclusively dickheads). He reached the point where gigantic posters of him are all over the place; must have cost an absurd amount of printing credits. That may be hard to picture for us – just think of David Cameron before the election but with, hopefully, less airbrushing.

He recently gave an interview with

Ben Kennedy



Stop hogging the stage! Man, dictators are so freaking self-centred...

ABC news. During this he said that he would 'never run away' and that he 'will die on this soil.' Perhaps, more correctly, he will die on the expensive Italian marble that he obtained using money that should have been used elsewhere. This quote could be seen as a dig at former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who fled to Dubai during the recent protests. I highly doubt Ben Ali will care though. It's not like the two will get into a viscous twitter feud. Mainly because Ben Ali probably does not remotely miss power due to his massive personal fortune. Reports say his wife took out 1.5 tonnes of gold, worth about £38 million, from the bank before leaving. That really is some absolutely textbook corruption. In the slightly altered words of another recently deposed figure, Andy Gray, take a bow ma'am. Saying that, roughly half will be used to pay the extra baggage fee when she flew out so it's not as much as you think.

Mubarak thinks that if he leaves now it would be 'chaos'. I think it's safe to assume he doesn't read newspapers or even look outside his window. He clearly means that, you know, riots, protestors being killed, that shit would go down without him. Luckily he's still there so none of that is happening. On that note, the protestors said they would storm the presidential palace if he doesn't resign. They say that, but I had a look on Facebook and most people responded 'maybe attending.' We all know that's code

The thing is, being a dictator is like a pet. It's for life, not just for Christmas.

for one of a) 'I'll decide on the day but probably won't', b) 'I'm not attending but am too polite to click not attending'.

The interview wasn't all impassionate rhetoric. He actually seemed a bit blasé about the whole being in power thing. He stated that he is 'fed up' and that he has 'had enough' and wants to go. I guess after many years doing the same job it must all be a bit samey. The thing is, being a dictator is like a pet. It's for life, not just for Christmas. He needs to remember that everyone loves an underdog, he should listen to 'Eye of the Tiger' and run up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. At this point, it seems that he is not going to run for office in the next election, which is due in September. He found time to mention his son in the interview, saying 'I never intended Gamal to be president after me'. I'm guessing he is like my dad; being president isn't good enough, if his son isn't a doctor or a lawyer he is a failure (by the way I do Chemistry). His son was actually sitting in the room with him at the time, but didn't say anything – probably on Facebook scanning the pro-Mubarak rally events for hotties.

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.

## Puppy love. No, not that kind



**Naida Dzigan**

“My name came up and in a matter of seconds I was holding the biggest heart-shaped card.”

**B**efore even thinking about the ‘special’ Valentine’s Day edition of Felix I can, with a certainty of about 99.99% say that we will be reading loads of complaints about it being just another one of those capitalist holidays. I both agree and disagree with this – Valentine’s Day shouldn’t be a ‘holiday’ – especially since I happen to dislike chocolates. You should show the people you care for that you do so every day of the year.

The last two Valentine’s Days are the only ones I can still remember quite well and both were spent with my best friend(s). One of them was visiting me in London back in 2009 and last year I went home for a gig by one of my favourite ex-Yugo rock bands. You see, Valentine’s Day is no special thing in that part of the world – it happens to be just another day in February that comes and goes just like any other. You get the odd western fanatic that celebrates it with his girlfriend as a “tribute of their love”, but in reality, those same people break up less than a month after (and then get back together again, only to

break up yet another time...gosh, make up your minds!).

Moreover, heart-shaped chocolate boxes and flowers are not sold more on the 14th of February than on any other day. I also still haven’t noticed the clichéd red roses being delivered everywhere I go (nevertheless, these happen to be my favourite flowers).

Now, I did not always live in Sarajevo and you all know what happens when you start digging up your shoebox of primary school memories – the best and worst (read: most embarrassing) stories come up. The same thing happened this time when I dug up a folded red heart shaped “Secret Valentine’s Day” card I happened to receive when I was 7.

Back then, I was in 2nd grade of an Elementary School near Boston and well, our teacher thought it would be amusing to assign us all to be someone’s secret Valentine. She told each of us to make a creative gift or card for a certain person. I still remember being seated on the floor and Ms Quillen handing out each of our gifts to the designated valentine. Once she’d hand it out, she’d reveal to us the name of our Secret Valentine. My name

came up and in a matter of seconds I was holding the biggest heart-shaped card with “You are my Valentine” written in white childish writing on the outside and the classical love poem inside:

*Roses are Red,  
Violets are Blue,  
This Valentine may supposedly be  
secret,  
But I truly do love you.*

And alas, to top that, my crush happened to be the one whose hands made that card. He had deep blue eyes and exceptionally white teeth – something I admire up to this day. He was a bit chubby – but we all know how cute that can be. I think my cheeks turned as red as that card (it certainly felt so).

Anyways, back to the point – Valentine’s happens to be just another day of the year and if you do happen to want to share a special day with someone you love – friend, boyfriend, girlfriend, family member or pet, don’t hesitate to do so. Maybe they might write an article in Felix 14 years after wondering where you happen to be in the world.

## Falling out of love with tabloids



**Matt Colvin**

“Flicking through the pages, I get the feeling that a great deal of meanness remains.”

**T**he tabloids and I, we’ve had a chequered past to say the least. I grew up on a diet of the Daily Mail, yet it wasn’t until the merits of secondary education that I realised what I was fervently devouring wasn’t exactly all that wholesome. As I began to write more and more, something clicked. The whinging, the constant references to burdened taxpayers, the preference for introspective scandal rather than global issues. Bias pervaded in the language, and it really didn’t taste very good.

Yet still I read on. But now, I wasn’t furthering my knowledge about the latest figures on immigration, nay, not even the cancer risks from writing weighty comment pieces on Word 2003. It was about my criticism of journalistic attitudes, the lack of cited sources, the opinionated letters with bad attitudes. Subsequently I grew up and stopped, settling down with the infinitely more friendly local news. Finally, I had got out of the game.

Then everything changed. The Daily Mail’s exposure of Imperial’s wild ways in combination with the sudden trend of comedians taking potshots at Mail readers peaked my curiosity in the standards of tabloids today. It was time to lay my

demons to rest once and for all. It was time to return to the newsagents.

The front page of the Mail. A sizeable photo of Pete Doherty and his latest misdemeanours dominate proceedings. Then I find it, in the miniscule column to the bottom left, “Bloodbath on streets of Cairo”. Flicking through the pages, I get the feeling that a great deal of meanness remains. Physical imperfections of female celebrities are pored over, grisly fox attacks packaged with gory images in full technicolour. Outwardly, the paper’s a morally upstanding citizen, yet inside it’s filthy minded. Ah, here we are, “CAMEL WARRIORS IN BATTLE OF CAIRO”.

Seriously, what’s next? Shootout at the Great Pyramid? Aquatic pursuit on the Nile? The potential to form a tenuous link with Egypt for the benefit of readers is endless! My venture back to the Mail left me disappointed. I was no more critical of it than I had been. I had to go deeper. Beyond DiCaprio, if you like. I needed The Sun.

Like a 9 year old sycophantic schoolboy who’s just discovered naughty words, The Sun uneasily mixes sensationalist and populist stories with outward political allegiance. Raoul Moat dominates the front cover, for some reason. A ‘pal’ of Mel Gibson reveals his in-

nermost thoughts. David Cameron– whoa, an article on cider branding! Look out ladies; they’re bringing out pear cider especially for your delicate taste buds!

Sorry, it even suckered me in. I can’t find any other word to describe it but propaganda; the simplistic language, the well documented history of switching political support. Printed letters praise the Coalition to the skies. Someone suggests Jeremy Clarkson would be better as Prime Minister. I cry inside.

Because that’s what genuinely worries me. While the Mail has a dedicated core readership with unchanging traditionalist values, it’s people like Rupert Murdoch, owner of The Sun and a bevy of other publications, who can easily mould the opinions of so many readers.

At least I can rest back into the warm embrace of local news when it all gets too much. Whereas I might have had to deal with secret perverts and schoolchildren in the past, forever fixated on the negative, local papers are like a trip to a kindly elderly relative, where I know I’m going to get a hot drink and a slice of homemade cake. One headline tells me that, “LOCAL JOURNALISTS VISIT SCHOOL TO HELP WRITE PUNCHY HEADLINES”. Aw, bless ‘em. They might not get it right all the time, but my word, they care.

### Five reasons girls should ask guys out for a change

#### 1. Imperial man syndrome.

A guy having the nerve to ask you out doesn’t necessarily mean that he’s ‘brave’. It could equally mean that he’s an arrogant arsehole. I know loads of guys who would probably treat you better than the drunk jock-type that just reused a ‘never that good in the first place’ chat-up line on you. They’re just too nervous to ask you.

#### 2. Equality.

You, rightly, demand equal pay and for the right to have kids without your job suffering. You also expect to be asked out all the time and have your dinners paid for. Feminist it is not. You’re paid decently now, so you can (in theory) afford that swanky meal.

#### 3. Share the burden.

Getting rejected sucks, whether you know the person, or you take a chance on a good-looking guy dancing near you on a Friday night. Either way, when they give you that awkward look and make a good/bad excuse, or simply tell the truth, you want to bury your head in a tub of Haagen-Dazs. I know I’m not exactly selling it, but think about how many times the average man (if they have the nerve in the first place) go through that. Letting them do it alone borders on cruelty. So share the burden – ask him out.

#### 4. Don’t wait around.

Okay, so you’re waiting for a guy to ask you out. What if he’s not your type? What if none of them are? You’re going to get really, really bored. By letting the men do the asking all the time, you’re effectively leaving it up to fate – you’re leaving it up to someone who’s right for you to rock up and ask you. Does that really sound sensible to you? Take back some control and you may be a lot happier.

#### 5. Pave the way.

Starting off on a more equal footing when you’re dating could mean that you get treated more as an equal in your relationship, widely thought to be a sign of relationship health and success. Men can also find women who take the initiative more attractive, which doesn’t hurt either.

**Charlotte Ivison**



# COMMENT

## How clips from Hollywood movies could liven up news footage

As news breaks at 7am about a man fighting the Russian airforce in the Indian Ocean, the BBC use live footage. They cut to Tom Cruise celebrating victory after shooting down all the enemies, despite his sadness at the loss of his co-pilot.

It sounds bizarre, but in China it's actually happened. Not to that extent perhaps, but the use of scenes from *Top Gun* in a report about missile tests is a comical deception. To use archive footage would be one thing, but to use footage from an eighties film is something else. It's taking a long walk off a short plank; one step too far.

What made them use it anyway? You would expect a grainy amateur video camera recording from a bloke in a control tower, not Tom Cruise pulling the same face every three seconds in the vain hope of pulling his teacher. It's the kind of mistake a schoolboy who's left his homework to the last minute might make.

This made me think about what other situations could be covered with blockbuster film footage. There is a bit at the start of *Inception* where there is a riot in an Arabian town. This could be used as coverage of the ongoing tensions in North Africa (and increasingly the Middle East) about social liberty. Obviously, the bit where it cuts to Ken Watanabe and Leonardo DiCaprio would be removed, leaving about ten seconds of useable footage, but I'm sure if Kate Silverton tries her hardest she could rattle through the brief encounter whilst acting as if it were real.

Pearl Harbour could be used as 'brand new footage' of the historical event. Obviously, those astute members of society may notice the fact it's in colour, it's all CGI, and Ben Affleck is an awful actor. The colour would probably swing it towards being improbable, because it'd be like sending Russell Howard to the court of Henry VIII; painfully funny now, painfully disemboweled, emasculated and beheaded then.

Perhaps if Nick Clegg was reluctant to do a press conference you could show archive footage of a boomerang, always going back (on its promises, clever huh?) and then have it get asked questions by a panel. Perhaps the panel itself could be from a press conference in a film.

However, not from *Iron Man*, because unlike Robert Downey Junior, Nick Clegg is certainly not an iron man. If anything he's a toilet tissue boy. Flimsy, afraid of being destroyed, full of crap. So, next time you watch the news, which, if you're a student, will be sometime in 2017, watch out for footage that may not be what it's supposed to be.

And no, I don't think that's Fiona Bruce's real face either.

Rob Cleaver

## Don't pity singles, pity me!



### Angry Geek

**"To alleviate the panic this year, I will be attempting to go abroad with Mrs Geek."**

It's Valentine's Day pretty soon, as you've no doubt realised from the world's sudden desire to shape everything into hearts and paint itself red, and that can only mean one thing. It's time to feel unnecessarily awkward about being in a relationship when other people aren't. Valentine's Day must be the only holiday that actively segregates the population and hands out gold stars to one half of it. Even the bloody Christians let everyone else chuff down chocolate come Easter time.

I'm not about to troop out that tired line about Valentine's Day being extremely unfair on the poor lonely sods that litter London. Screw those guys. It's unfair on me. I get to double down on feelings of inadequacy and awkwardness by simultaneously having to rub my relationship in everyone's faces all day, and then feel bad whenever someone walks past with a marginally larger bouquet of flowers. I'm the dude visiting famine-stricken regions of China, only I'm there to attend a hotdog speed-eating competition.

It's this state of panic that pisses me off. One minute I feel like I'm dangling my sex life in the face of a second-year Physics student, and the next I'm being cock-slapped by some bulky arsehole from Medicine. Do I put in my inflatable chest muscles when I don my shirt? Or do I grab the dark glasses, stuff the missus under my overcoat, and hope no-one notices me sneaking into South Kensington? Either sound

like they'd lead to a lawsuit. Or a fight.

To alleviate some of the panic this year, I will be attempting to go abroad for a few days with Mrs. Geek. This will allow me to make up for any glaring cock-ups on the big day itself, whilst also putting me in a sufficiently alien environment that I can't decipher the whispers of disapproval when I completely misread the opportunity for romantic moments.

If that doesn't work, I plan to move to Columbia and stay there for six months of the year, as for some reason they only celebrate Valentine's in September. This works for me, as I can set up my continent-spanning crime ring and get to work on my people-trafficking and corruption-mongering skills in time for my coup d'etat around the time of the next general election.

I've been assured by most action films that there's nothing more romantic than a man in uniform, except one being saluted by sixty million deferent semi-loyal subjects. So claiming the throne of England would not only be an extremely attractive gift that keeps on giving, but I'd also be able to outlaw any trace of the day for the foreseeable future. Thank me later, readers.

So Happy Valentine's Day to you, Mrs. Geek. This time next year, we'll be sunning ourselves among the cocaine factories, dreaming of a Britain where I have banned the occasion altogether. Love you!

## Dating tips? From this guy?



### Rhys Davies

**"Try to express your sensitive side – or, if missing, fake one."**

Of all the highlights that come with every lap the Earth makes around the Sun, Valentine's Day I think is the trickiest. For some, it's plain tiresome, as all media seem to gravitate around hearts and puppies and little naked children with wings. On any other day, these things would rarely feature among your top interests, unless you're a veterinary cardiologist...or a paedophile. But for those you for whom it has become important, it is on a par with the worst Lovecraftian nightmare: finding that special someone (for 24 hours at least), making reservations, rehearsing with painstaking precision your spontaneous wit for the evening, practising dance moves that suggest a basic understanding of rhythm, and at last, at the end of evening, scouring the whole of west London for a place that sells...a puncture repair kit.

I won't pretend to be some great Casanova. Rather than cruise the hottest clubs for a bit of action, I find my chances are more realistic if I hang out near the opticians. However, I still class myself as a romantic, no matter how hopeless. I believe in love, or something roughly approximate to it, is out for there for everyone. Strengthened by my delusion, I thought I might share some tips with the reluctant Romeos among you.

Firstly, you need to make an impression. Whether you are in the Union looking for love or it's your diamond anniversary, you have to make an effort to stand out. The girl by the bar will, I assure you, be tired of the same chat-up lines and free drinks laced with "sugar." Just like in a job interview, you need an edge to catch her interest: wear a fez, make sexy chit-chat

in Esperanto, signal "Large Hadron Collider? I hardly know her!" in Morse code with the lights. Contrary to popular belief, luck does not favour the brave. Luck and love favour the clinically insane.

Next, women like a man who can sweep them off their feet. I suggest you bring a broom. If nothing else, you can use it to compare favourably with your own physique. Another trick would be to choose your attire for the evening and shrink it in the wash. A body so ripped that it can hardly be contained is impressive, even if you are technically wearing children's clothes. Alternatively, dim the lights; it is well-known that there is an inverse correlation between the amount of light in a room and romance. If you want, you can take this principle to its logical conclusion and have dinner in the dark; you may scoff but there is a guaranteed spike in the birth rate after every major blackout. These are just statistics I'm throwing out – sexy, sexy statistics.

Let us assume by this point, you are (still) on speaking terms with your inamorata. Seize this opportunity to dazzle your sweetheart with your verbal wit. Try to express your sensitive side – or, if missing, fake one – through the media of compliments and poetry. Bonus points are available if you are able to combine the two. Here's a little taster to start you off; "your eyes are so blue, like a patient etherised upon a table."

Some of you may think I've been quite sexist up to this point. For that, I apologise. In the interests of equality, here's a tip for the fairer sex; go to FiveSixEight and wait by the bar. If you see someone talking gibberish with a fez on his head playing with the lights by the door, walk up to him and take a chance.



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# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## Religion

### “Orphan that adopted the world”

“O Prophet! Truly We have sent thee as a Witness, a Bearer of Glad Tidings, and Warner,- And as one who invites to God’s (grace) by His leave, and as a lamp spreading light.”

As I attempt to find words concerning my beloved – may peace and blessings be showered upon him – it is these eloquent verses of Qur’an that come to mind. When writing about Muhammad – revered across a quarter of the world’s population as the Messenger of God – the problem of “writer’s block” vanishes, as a lamp disperses darkness, for he is the highest of inspirations to those who know him. In its stead, I am faced with the dilemma of how to articulate the beauty and eminence of this personage in whatever my word limit works out to be!

For this simple reason - that this article could not possibly do justice to the personality and achievements of Muhammad - I therefore aim only to provide an impetus for the reader to go further than this article; to serve as an introduction to a personality so essential to understand; to raise points for the conscience to ponder.

“When I closed the second volume (of Muhammad’s biography), I was sorry there was not more for me to read of the great life.” – Mahatma Gandhi.

There can be no doubt on the position he holds in the hearts of Muslims – love that is expressed rightly by those millions who emulate his noble way, and wrongly by those who transgress in defence of his honour. It is a love that has made his name the most widespread on the planet, his resting place the most frequented, his personality the most praised, his habits the most imitated and his life the most well-preserved. Seeing a map of the Islamic empires that were – historically speaking – present only yesterday, one could come to the conclusion that Muhammad was a victor of land. Indeed, Michael Hart puts him at the head of “The 100: A Ranking Of The Most Influential Persons In History” and mentions that this may surprise some people but Hart placed at the head for his achievements both religious and secular - but in reality Muhammad was a victor of hearts, uniting a dispersed and ignorant people that even the Roman and Persian superpowers did not consider governable, sowing the seeds of a civilisation that was to blossom spiritually, culturally, scientifically and morally.

How is it that a man who was illiterate manage to deliver literature that taught us lessons in politics, economics, history, law, science and morality...this literature being the Quran...a book that is still recited 1400 years later and remains to be the only book in which if all copies were collected and thrown into the sea, it would still be able to be reproduced to the utmost perfection due to millions of worshippers memorising it to the full stop. Why was it, then, that the Almighty selected this man for such an honour?

So here we are - the inheritors of Muhammad. It remains for me to tell you what it was about him that freed our hearts, and I therefore extend to you an invitation to discover and to understand... “Muhammad: Orphan that adopted the world”. 6pm, 17th February, Huxley LT308. Whether or not you are able to attend, you owe it to your intellect to know who he is and what this message is that he brought and to which he dedicated his incredible life.

“And We sent thee not, but as a Mercy to the worlds.”

Umair Aasem and Zara Hason

## Beautiful Warfare

The African Caribbean Society put on a stunning show

Katherine Bettany

Its creation definitely involved a kind of warfare, but together, Imperial College’s African Caribbean Society (ICACS) managed to create something truly beautiful. ICACS’s 12th Afrogala, entitled “Beautiful Warfare” and performed to a packed out Great Hall made an otherwise dull weekend, truly memorable.

I was privileged enough to watch this project grow from planning to practice and finally to its fantastic execution. The showcase of African Caribbean music, dancing, acting and fashion was all the more impressive having witnessed the painstaking efforts and fierce commitment of the committee and the performers. Both the production team and performers were complete professionals, correcting technical difficulties, particularly the issues experienced on the night with sound, with calmness and speed.

The theme of Beautiful Warfare, a nod to the prejudice and inequality faced by African and Caribbean people in the past and, sadly, the present, gave the evening a sense of continuity that was maintained throughout the night. The costumes, sets and marketing were all carefully and well designed in a military style. In fact, the entire show was in keeping with the theme, with the exception of one of the guest performers. Nick Holmes’ dancing, while impressive, was a little bizarre: I overheard one audience member commenting that his act was akin to “tap dancing to lounge music”.

The opening act; a step dance, was terrifyingly powerful. The performer’s movement creates the music, anyone who stepped out of time would have ruined the act. However, each and every step and stamp was perfectly precise. This is no mean accomplishment and is a testament to the skill of the choreographers Kem

Alan Liu



I was literally so close to using the headline, “Afrotastic!” Unfortunately my sense of shame decided to suddenly reemerge at the last moment

Onubogu and Tiffany Monu, considering that there were four changeovers, 20 dancers, and multiple complex and syncopated rhythms.

My favourite performance, however, was that of Tobi Obisanya and the Afrogala Band, in their version of ‘Destination Love’. The band really could have been an authentic jump blues band from New York in the 40s, and Obisanya’s impersonation of Wyonie Harris was almost flawless. The choice of music did play a big part in the success of the show. African and Caribbean music and associated dance is a huge part of their culture: Beautiful Warfare celebrated its diversity with blues, hip hop, and authentic African dance. The stars of

the show were the Afrogala band, who completely blew me away with their authentic Afrobeat sound.

The overriding theme for me, though, was summed up in the lyric: “It’s more than just a colour”, sung by the talented Toyin Oni. Performing on stage were people from a multitude of backgrounds – but they share more than just a skin colour. Their vibrancy, joie de vivre and pride in their culture is infectious: at points the show felt less like a performance and more like a party that spilled out into the audience. I left that night with a smile, and a new appreciation not only for African Caribbean culture, but also for their beauty and passion.

## Sci-fi acolytes rejoice, Picocon returns!

### Science Fiction and Fantasy Society’s annual convention

Maciej Matuszewski

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Society is preparing for its annual convention, Picocon, due to take place on Saturday 19th February at the Imperial College Union. Picocon has gone from strength to strength since it started in 1984 and this year’s event has all the makings of being one the best ones yet.

Planned activities include a quiz, silly games and the ‘Destruction of Dodgy Merchandise’. The latter is a long held tradition Picocon and often involves liquid nitrogen and large sledgehammers. This year the items being destroyed include a copy of the notorious “Star Wars – Ewok Adventures” and figurines of the mutated Tom Paris, from the much reviled Star Trek Voyager episode “Threshold”, and the Hulk

on a quad bike. Guests are also encouraged to bring their own contributions.

In addition, there will be stalls selling books and official Picocon T-shirt as well as a LAN tournament of Introversion’s acclaimed game DEFCON. The company, which was founded by Imperial students, has donated three Introversion Anthology tins, containing their entire game catalogue, which will be presented to the winners.

The highlight of the day look set to be the three guests of honour, who will be giving individual talks as well as participating in a group panel. Juliet McKenna is a fantasy author who is best known for her series of books set in the world of Einarinn. She is due to publish the first book in her new Hadrumal Crisis Trilogy later this year. Dr Kari Maund is a medieval

historian who writes fantasy under the name Kari Sperring. Her debut novel, “Living with Ghosts”, recently won the British Fantasy Society’s Sydney J Bounds Award for Best Newcomer. Both are involved in the Write Fantastic initiative aimed at promoting fantasy literature and encouraging new writers. Paul J. MacAuley is a renowned hard SF author whose novel “Fairyland” won both the Arthur C. Clarke and John W. Campbell awards. Last year’s guest of honour, the science fiction author Jaine Fenn, is also set to make an appearance.

All are welcome to attend with entry £8 for students, £5 for society members and £10 for others. Doors open at 10am for what promises to be an exciting day, and not just for fans of fantasy and science fiction.



# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## Happy 3rd Birthday, KnitSoc!

Jennifer Wilson looks back at a society that has defied expectations

**W**hen the application was first submitted, some said a knitting society would never work at Imperial. On the 27th January KnitSock (witty pun intended) celebrated its 3rd Birthday with a healthy membership and personalised birthday cake to prove those sceptics wrong. But KnitSock is just one of the many success stories in the midst of a craft renaissance.

Over the past 10 years or so, the craft scene has been changing drastically and is no longer solely the preserve of the Women's Institute and Girl Guides. Part of that reputation came from an era of necessity with poster boards filled with mottos like 'Our Jungle Fighters Want Socks. Please Knit Now', and the absence of TV. During peace times knitting was also a huge industry producing vast quantities of knitwear before the Industrial revolution took over with automated knitting machines.

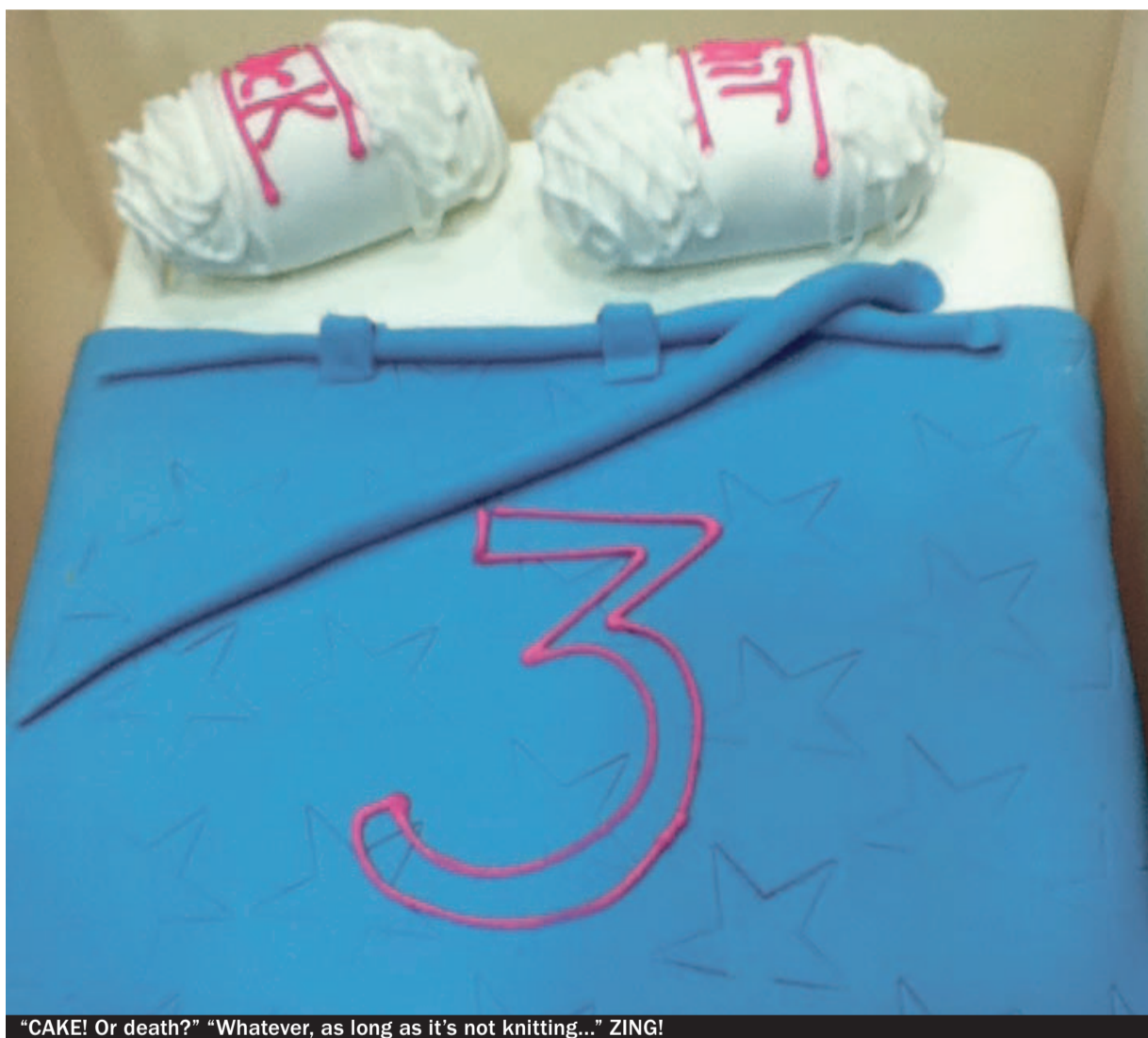
Now the tables have turned: vast factories in far flung places could render the craft obsolete as cheaper and quicker production is plentiful and accessible. And yet a rising trend in craft popularity suggests otherwise. Men and women, young and old are bucking the trend of quick, disposable fixes from Primark in favour of something that represents significant time and effort, but also something meaningful. Even celebrities like Madonna, Kristen Davis and Geri Halliwell have been spotted working the

needles.

Knitting wouldn't be so popular in the first place if it was as difficult as some perceive it to be. My mantra is 'if a granny can do it, and you go to Imperial, it can't be that hard'. In actual fact it's a relaxing endeavour and ideal for commuting or long journeys, and at the very least saves you from staring blankly at tube posters trying to sell you car insurance.

For the devoted Imperialite, knitting and its close relative, crochet, both have an intrinsic mathematical appeal. In 1997 Dr Daina Tamina, a Latvian mathematician at Cornell University, USA even chose to express hyperbolic space through the medium of crochet and mobius models are easy to do even by accident when knitting.

Now in its third year, like a good undergraduate, KnitSock has a great foundation and is aspiring to grow further. It hosts themed lessons on a fortnightly basis and on the alternate weeks we have a chance to progress with our own projects with help close at hand. With lots of new exciting yarns, knitting is no longer doomed to the embarrassing Christmas jumpers of yesteryear and new designers are keeping up to date with latest trends. The club has a supply of yarn and needles, and we'll endeavour to teach anyone whatever they want to know within the craft world, so there are no pre-requisites. Everyone is warmly invited to come along and give it a go.



## Get tested. Stay clean

**Stuart Haylock**

It's coming to the end of our second Sexual Health Awareness (SHAG) week, and that means you're nearly free of 'The Guilt'. The Guilt of not speaking to the lovely people handing out condoms, lube and information, that your eye is always drawn to before quickly looking away like an embarrassed school girl. The Guilt of not getting tested even though you think to yourself daily "you know what, I should get tested for Chlamydia, there was that one skanky looking girl last week". The Guilt of understanding the biology of most STD's better than any charity, and yet never having been tested for any of them.

I understand the feeling you're hav-

ing, I can relate well. I've had my fair share of sexual 'faux-pas' in the past and ignored all the posters and advertisements basically telling me that I've got every disease known to man. I was once afraid of going to the clinic and telling them anything about me, let alone give a urine sample to the doctors like they were a vampire with an odd fetish.

However I'm going to stand up and say "Hi, I'm Stuart, and I'm a reformed Iatrophobic" (Google does wonders for your vocabulary!). I can now stand up and proudly say "I've been tested, I'm clean!"

We live in an age where our sex is good, and our STD's are even better. They are can be silent and deadly, they could give you unsightly spots

and blemishes, some will even leave no symptoms until you find out 6 months later that you're completely infertile. I'm not here to scare you and chase you all into the John Hunter Sexual Health Clinic dressed as giant Human Immunodeficiency Virus, nor am I here to comfort you and tell you nothing is wrong with having unprotected sex with every man, woman and inanimate object who'll give you a drunken nod or a beer-goggled wink. All that I'm saying is that there should always be a few things you should take into account while you're out on the pull.

I'm certainly not one to say that abstinence is the way forward either. To deny your basic human instincts to leap on top of the next appropriate person you see

is a fallacy in itself. What I'm trying to put across is that if you are leaping from person to person, that you need to keep your health and that of the many people you leave in your wake at the forefront of your thought. Wearing protection and getting regular tests (I get tested once every 6 months if you want something to aim for) should be your main prerogatives.

As Aldous Huxley once said "an Intellectual is a person who's found that one thing that's more interesting than sex" ... I certainly haven't found it, and I doubt I ever will.

Staying sexually healthy needn't be a chore. Right are two nearby clinics that won't leave you feeling awkward.

### John Hunter Clinic for Sexual Health

This is the closest (and in my opinion best) clinic to Imperial College students, who they deal with on a regular occasion.

369 Fulham Road, Chelsea, Greater London, SW10 9NH, 020 8846 6699  
 Appointments: 020 3315 6699, Advisors: 020 3315 6155/6156  
 Walk-in Clinics: Monday: 9 - 10:30am, Tuesday: 5 - 6:30pm  
[www.chelwest.nhs.uk/jhc/](http://www.chelwest.nhs.uk/jhc/)

### West London Centre for Sexual Health

They have a women's only clinic every other Wednesday between 1:30 - 7:00pm, which is suited to women's issues.

Ground Floor, South Wing of Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8EP  
 020 8846 6699  
[www.chelwest.nhs.uk/wlch](http://www.chelwest.nhs.uk/wlch)



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# ARTS

## If you read nothing else this week...

We rate the mother of all famously sensual books... on a Kindle

### The Modern Karma Sutra

By Kamini Thomas & Kirk Thomas

#### The ultimate guide to the secrets of erotic pleasure (Kindle Edition)

Of all the Karma Sutra books on the market, this would be the easiest to read on the tube without upsetting conservative commuters. As a Kindle edition, it comes without an erotic front cover, allowing discreet study of the sensual arts in the most public of places. There are no diagrams inside – on the one hand a little disappointing, as although positions are described very clearly in the text, visual aid would clear any possible confusion – but it is again a plus for Kindle owners like myself, who like to read everywhere, without fearing over-the-shoulder peekers.



The book is very comprehensive and covers every aspect of love-making. The Karma Sutra beginner would find the 'Seduction' section enlightening, and there are plenty of valuable new techniques for even the most experienced readers to learn. To start, individuals are guided to separate themselves into different types depending on their genital size. For men: the hare, the bull and the horse. For women: the deer, the mare and the elephant. Lovers should then choose positions most suitable for their combination. According to the book, "the least satisfying scenario is a hare man with an elephant woman". A little more clarity on exactly which positions are best for which combinations would have been helpful, only some rather general guidelines are given.

The best aspect of the book is the great volume of extra advice which accompanies the position descriptions. The book reads like a thorough exploration of erotic pleasure, rather than a dry list of sexual acrobatics (the kind of book we are so used to). The material also has a pleasantly modern feel about it, without removing emphasis from the original Karma Sutra philosophies. Overall this book makes an excellent addition to your Kindle library, and since it's transmitted wirelessly, you can guarantee its delivery in time for Valentine's Day. It's also available in paperback, for those who seek a fresh approach to their love-making, but find themselves lacking a Kindle.

**Which book do you love more than any other? Tell us why it's so good - Send 300 to 400 words to [arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk)**

## Your memorable Valentine

It may be a ridiculously overhyped and commercialised, but then again, we'll take any excuse for a celebration



Butt-clenchingly good: that album cover from the Scissor Sisters, which kicked the whole thing off

### Meredith Thomas

This story starts with clenched, muscular buttocks. The buttocks in question comprise the cover art of the latest Scissor Sisters album *Night Work* and while they certainly deserve a second glance you would not grasp their full significance unless you had also knew of the man who took that photograph: Robert Mapplethorpe.

The Scissor Sisters, in case you do not know, are fantastic glam-rock/pop/dance band from New York who emerged from the city's gay scene in 2000. After the group chose Mapplethorpe's work for an album cover they were approached to curate an exhibition at the Alison Jacques Gallery in London. I was intrigued, between this photographer and such a brilliant band there was a great tangle of glam rock, high art and homoeroticism to unravel.

Mapplethorpe was a controversial artist active in New York from the early 70's. A long-term partner of Patti Smith, they eventually broke up after he came out as gay. Examples of his work now sit in the National Portrait Gallery, but at the time he was heavily criticised for his approach to racial and homosexual themes. Before dying of complications relating to AIDS in 1989, he succeeded in splitting the art world in two with his short lifetime of work, which often featuring highly classical portraits of men exposing themselves or engaging in sexual acts.

A word of warning if you intend to visit; the gallery space is split over two buildings

in the same street. Do not forget, as I did, to visit them both. The sign at the entrance warns visitors of explicit images and this is no exaggeration. There is work from a number of other artists influenced by Mapplethorpe.

Oswaldo Macia and Gillian Wearing deserve special mention. However, none came close to stealing the show. Mapplethorpe rules supreme and the exhibition features the full spectrum of his photography. It ranges from delicate, sensual portraits to some very challenging, obscene portraits. My reaction to the photos was initially shock, but this was soon moderated to wonder. It is impossible to deny his talent in a technical sense. All his work is immaculately and cleverly composed in such a way that he actually demonstrates considerable restraint. In every case the models are portrayed intimately as creatures of perfect beauty and subtlety.

There is a potent sense of tension in all his pictures. The muses, male and female, mostly dancers, strain against fabrics or bonds, muscles bunching as if poised to jump from the frame and connect tangibly with you. The fact that you rarely see their faces focuses the viewer on the sensual. Other works in the gallery feature mirrors which achieve the same effect. As you catch sight of your own reflection you are framed in the gallery, forced to view yourself through Mapplethorpe's vision of human sexuality.

Despite being charged with sexual energy there is never the suggestion that you are viewing anything close to pornography. This is not simple titillation; there are overt liberal mes-

sages in many of his pieces. The iconic image of a man in a suit, his large black penis jutting proudly out, screams out a desire for liberty. In the context of a time when racism and homophobia were still commonplace, this is a passionate battle cry. The owner of the buttocks, a dancer named Peter Reed, was to fall victim to AIDS a few years after the photo was taken.

The dark subject matter could leave you morose but in fact you come away with a sense of celebration. It is interesting that when interviewed, Mapplethorpe said of his work "[that] It was about me, what I wanted to see". The Scissor Sisters have made sure that the gallery is balanced with pure 80s glam. The homage is not just to the sacrifices made by New York's gay community during the period but to its life and vibrancy. Macia's video installation, for example, shows an aerial silk performer dressed head to toe in black latex performing on two white ribbons. This nod to the band's obsession with dance is truly beautiful and upbeat.

So what is the message to take home? Well, it is a particularly appropriate one given a certain auspicious date in the near future. Human sexuality is a strange, beautiful thing. It has as many weird and wonderful variations as there are people on this planet. Whether this Valentine's Day will be spent in the arms of your beloved or at home with ice-cream, be happy you are alive, filthy/gorgeous... and you can dance.

*Night Work* is on at the Alison Jacques gallery until 19th March



## ARTS

Get hot  
at pole  
dancing  
class

A pole-dancing class gets warmed up at the Hammersmith pole-dancing school. This is serious exercise people

## Christina Flanagan

Apparently, Imperial is one of the few universities in the country not to already have a pole dancing society (I wonder why...). Even Cambridge University is better catered for! Given the growing interest in all forms of erotic dancing – the much hyped *Burlesque* the movie has recently been released – and the shift in emphasis from XXX to exercise, it seemed a good time to find out whether we should think about starting one...

Having rounded up a substantial proportion of the female students in fourth year Physics (and Chem Eng) we decided on a pre-Valentine's taster session at the shiny Riverside Studios in Hammersmith run by the Pole Dancing School

A word of warning: the School insists on short shorts, bare legs and high heels, even for the taster class. This is not for the faint-hearted in the middle of British winter! Fortunately we were all girls together with legs of varying shades of pasty – thank god, since I had come down with a heavy cold and couldn't have looked less sexy if I'd tried.

Our instructor was the actual founder of the whole school and Miss Pole Dance World 2005! Elena is classically trained as a ballet dancer and it showed in her gorgeous figure and total poise. She took up pole dancing as part of her rehabilitation following a serious car accident and says she immediately loved it. Watching her demonstrate some of the amazing gymnastics she could do

on a pole made me wish it was easier to watch this kind of performance outside of a strip club. A quick search online didn't turn up many pole dance venues, but there is a good range of burlesque shows in London.

Our session started with Kondi-style warm up exercises and very quickly progressed onto having a go with the poles themselves. We learnt Fireman Spin (leap on and twizzle round and round), Pole Slide, Swan Slide (sliding with your legs kicked out behind) and Sitting Hold (just sitting knees-bent half-way up the pole a bit like a pole dancing genie), mastering them with extremely varying degrees of success! The main problems were sweaty hands sliding off the pole which led to knees hitting the floor at

speed, and in extremely grippy thighs, which didn't allow for any spinning!

Towards the end of the class we even managed to put it all together in a routine set to music that involved lots of sexy walking around the pole and standing 'seductively', hand on hip. This was maybe my favourite part since Elena had excellent tips on posture and style, which are actually valuable far beyond the world of pole dancing.

But they are not kidding about the fitness aspect! Days later my thighs are still aching and it is hard to raise my arms above my head. The most important requirement seems to be upper body strength and couldn't help wondering if pole dancing might actually be more suited to men, although the visual im-

pact of all the pretty twizzling would be somewhat lost.

We had a really fabulous, funny girls' night out and despite the many bruises we're all very happy to have given it a go. Maybe soon there will be poles set-up in the UDH for an evening, but otherwise Pole Dancing School runs tasters and beginners courses all over London, as do several other dance schools which can be found easily online. At £15 for an hour it's a pretty costly exercise class, but at least half of us would seriously consider getting lessons in the future – we'll just have to wait for a good deal on Groupon!

Courses can be booked from beginner to 'addict' level: [www.poledancingschool.com](http://www.poledancingschool.com)

## If laughter be the food of love, hear here

## Kadhim Shubber

I shall be open here, I'm not sure how to review a comedian. Does it suffice to say that Alun Cochrane was hilarious? Do I have any hope of conveying the humour of his jokes by retelling them here? The answer, I suspect, to both these questions is no, so I shall give it a go. He's a Yorkshire comedian, with a number of television appearances under his belt, and took delight in lampooning the audience's middle-class sensibilities: he ends a joke about cooking by nonchalantly whipping out the phrase "hacher" before turning it on the audience when they laugh in recognition.

That said, there was something uncomfortable about his set; as if he's not entirely on the ball. At times his pauses are perhaps a little too long to be deliberate and his joke about wasting much



of his time staring out of windows, is lingered on awkwardly; he gazes out at the street as if trying to spot his thoughts flagging a taxi down.

But I'm probably being too harsh. My chest was heaving with laughter and he had the audience positively howling at times. However, The Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room itself is starting to get on my nerves. It adapts to all types of performance so effortlessly and naturally that one wonders if it isn't a bit smug about it all.

The room, which has seen a variety of music from the twee Johnny Flynn to the mind-pummelling Factory Floor, was filled with cabaret-style seating, adorned with couples giggling into their wine – 'robustly' priced wine at that – and falling into each other with laughter. After sending the paper to print, and uploading the articles to the website, finding

"He had the audience positively howling at times."

myself in such a rarefied environment was deeply relaxing.

Luckily, Alun Cochrane's sanity rescuing performance is only the first in a new series of comedy shows at the Royal Albert Hall. Looking ahead, on the 16th of March the rapper-turned-comedian Doc Brown takes the stage and on the 28th of April – they do like to space them out, don't they? – Alex Zane will join his compatriots in playing one of the swankiest comedy gigs, probably in the country.

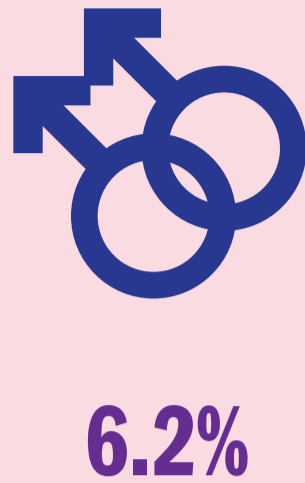
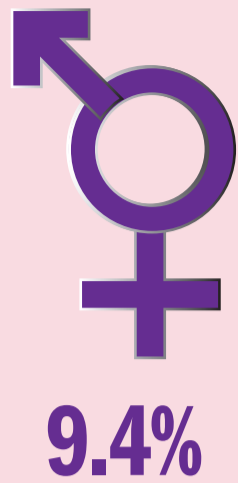
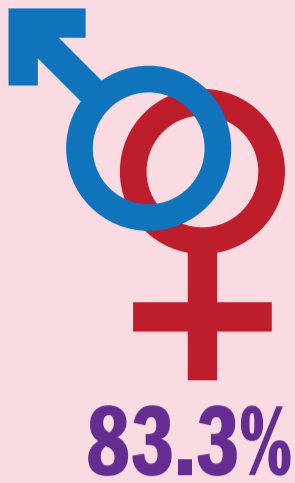
Slowly, bit by bit, creeping along at an elderly snail's pace, Kensington is be-



ginning to offer some entertainment for its residents. If you include The Builder's Arms' comedy night on Monday then who knows, Albertopolis might be turning into quite the stand-up comedy destination – well perhaps I may have stretched myself a bit there. Nevertheless, if you're free on the 16th of March, I'll see you at Elgar Comedy – we can share a table!



# FELIX SEX



## What sexuality are you?

The majority of polled students were straight; hardly a surprising result. But the data became more interesting when we compared responses across sexualities. Gay men and bisexual wom-

en (there were no gay female respondents) were substantially less likely to be virgins than their straight peers. Bisexual women were twice as likely to masturbate regularly than straight wom-

en and had the highest proportion of respondents claiming to have sex daily. 50% of gay men said that they masturbated every day, compared with only 20% of straight men.

\*Materials recorded 0 virgins out of a very small sample size of 11

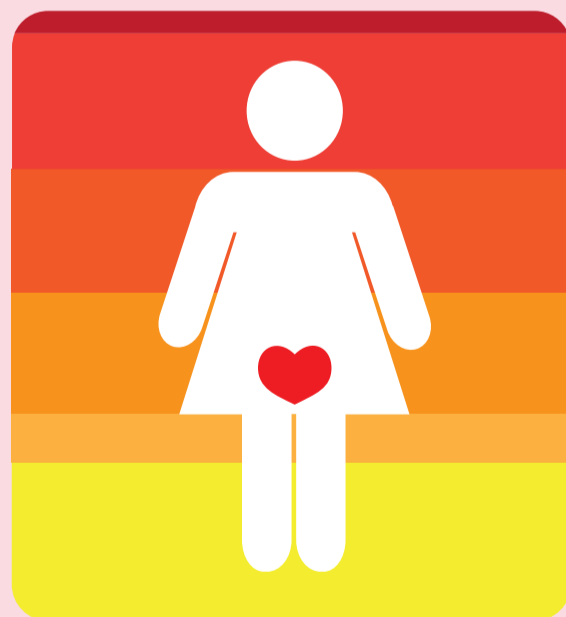
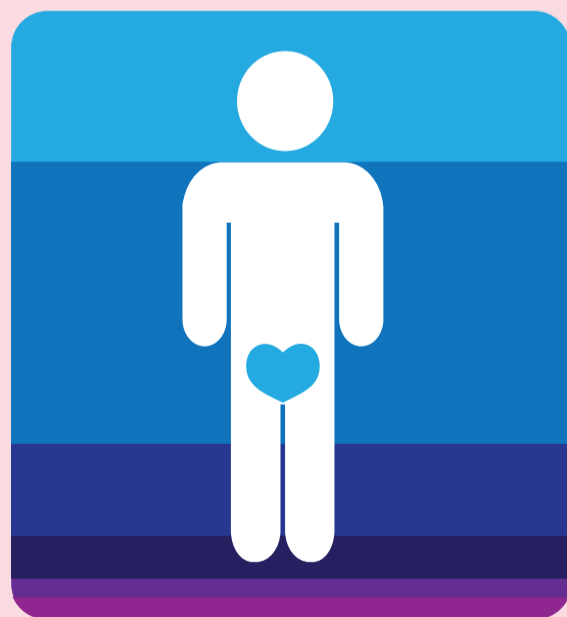
Number of  
By Department

## How often do you masturbate? Guys vs. Girls

The results confirmed the common assumption that men masturbate more than women. 68% of men at Imperial said that they masturbated every day or a few times a week while only a quarter of women at Imperial said the same thing. Whereas students in a relationship masturbate less frequently than their single counterparts, the total fraction of onanistic students (of either gender) is unchanged.

Bisexual women and gay men were the most likely to make use of sex toys, though nearly 30% of straight women and 16% of straight men admitted to their use. One unexpected result was the number of respondents claiming to use more than 4 sex toys – a figure over 10% in certain departments.

Key: How often do you masturbate?



## Surprised?

Presented above is a small, X-rated snapshot of the sexual lives of Imperial students. While the data has certain obvious flaws (see 'Sensitivity and Reliability' below), it nonetheless leads to interesting conclusions. For instance, the Union was the most popular place on campus to have sex – followed by the Library and, disturbingly, the Felix Office. The Maths Department simultaneously boasts the highest proportion of virgins as well as of students who have sex every day (the department must be full of envious stares across the lecture theatres).

We saw that male-dominated departments collectively masturbate more than their gender-equal equivalents; mainly because men were revealed to masturbate far more than women. Imperial students are overwhelmingly straight, but also, interestingly, more respondents identified as bisexual rather than gay.

The majority of students (around 60%) lost their virginity between the ages of 16-18, but on average,

## Sensitivity and Reliability

Editor

Before I begin this short analysis of the figures displayed above, I would first like to express my appreciation to those who trusted us enough to share their deeply personal data. We strived at every juncture to ensure that the data was completely anonymous, and college usernames were

not seen at any point in the data analysis. By the time of going to print the raw data has been entirely deleted.

It is also important that I confess my inexperience in the fields of surveying and statistics. There were a number of instances where the questions and avail-

able answers limited data collection. Several questions did not allow multiple choice where they plainly should have ('Where have you had sex on campus?' being an obvious example), and others had too limited a range of answers – many legitimate respondents complained that a limit of

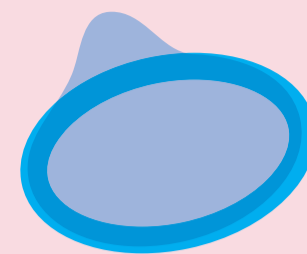
four sex toys was far most egregious mistake to group people with sexual partners together in a 1-5 category instead of 3, 4, 5). This loss of a lot of interesting an-



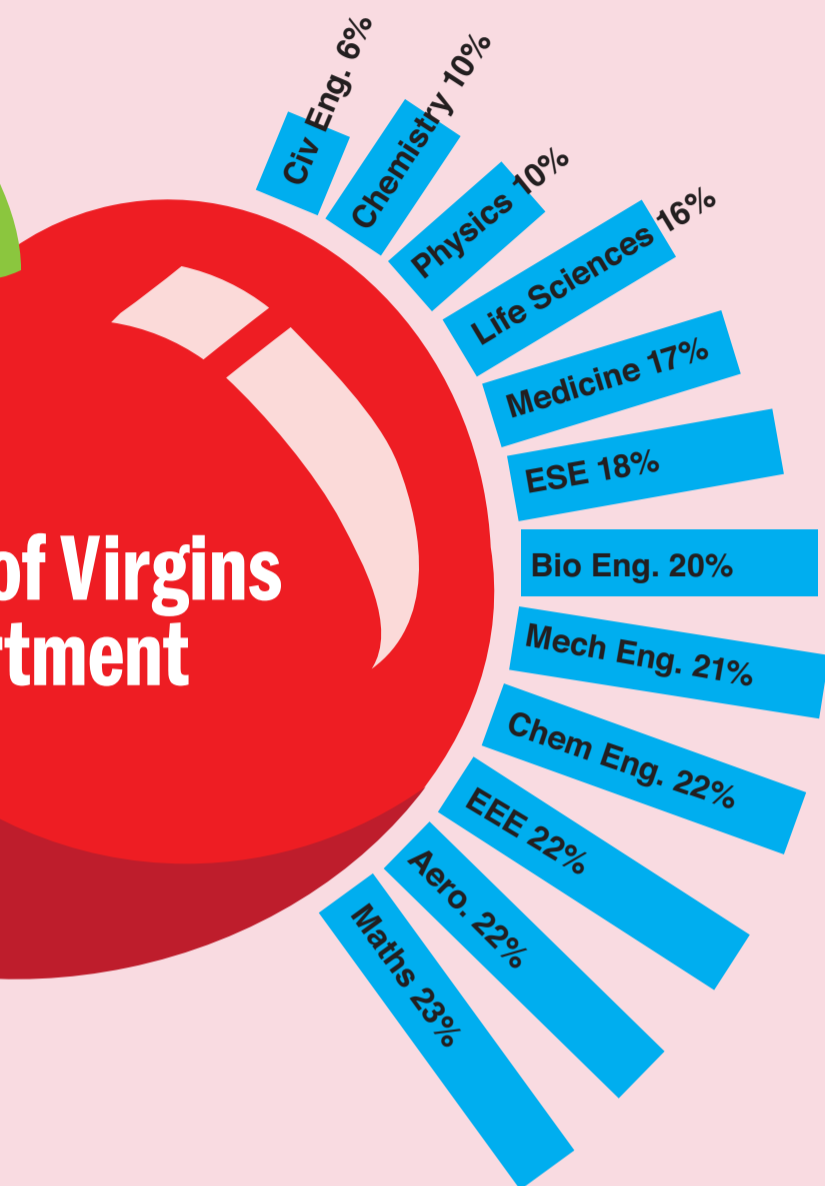
# K SURVEY



41% admitted to using restraints or handcuffs in the bedroom



57% admitted to having sex without protection but only 3.5% said that they ever had an STI



of Virgins  
tment

## Comments from the survey

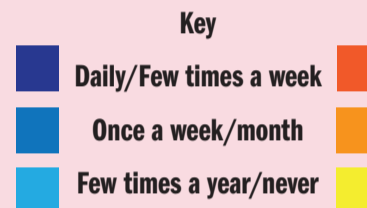
"I lost my virginity to a girl and a guy in the same night. one in a car, the other in the woods."

"[I attended a] 27 all-male orgy

hosted by an ex-TV presenter. One of the most incredible experiences of my life - and another 'thing to do before I die' checked off the list."

"My first sexual partner exploited me and I haven't had sex with anyone since because I don't trust them to not do it again."

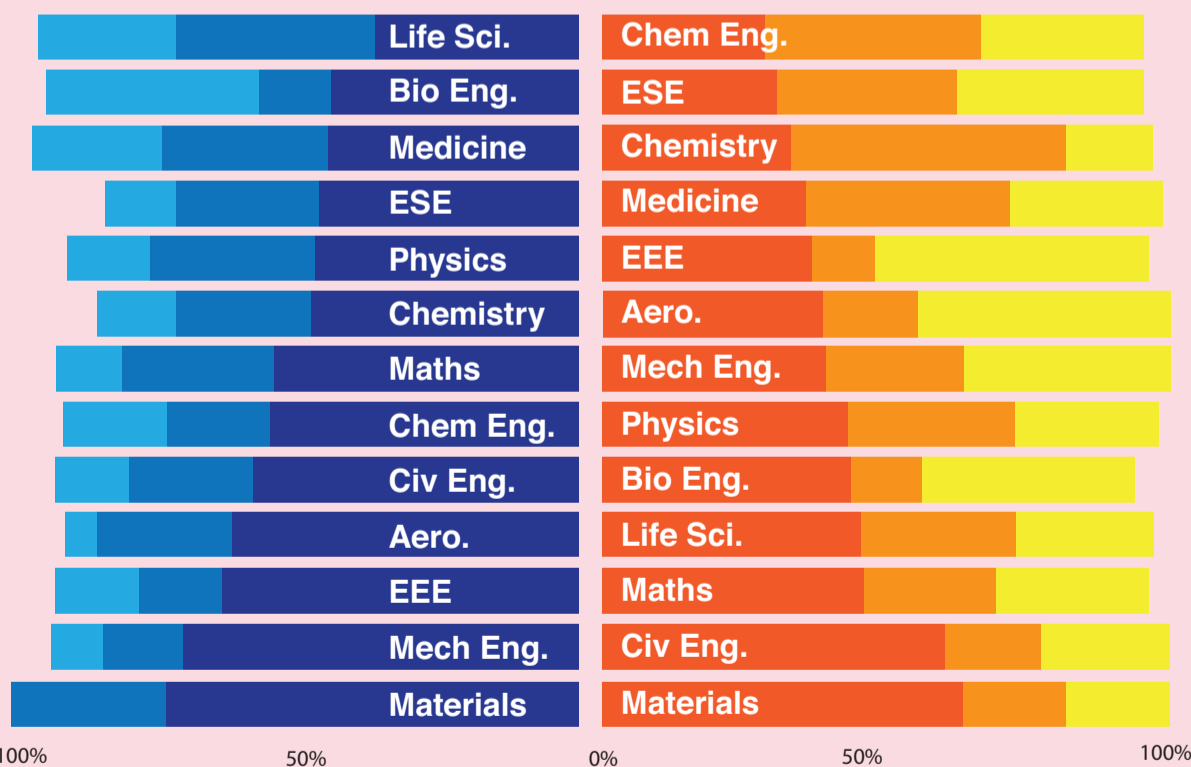
## How often do you masturbate? By Department



So who are the biggest wankers? The Materials Department are well in front with 73% of their students masturbating daily or a few times a week (regularly). However, due to the low number of respondents there, the potential for error is quite high. Mech Eng, by contrast, is a much more stable sample. 70% of their students masturbate regularly, compared with only 36% in the Life Sciences Department - perhaps due to the greater percentage of female students. The trend supports the idea that women masturbate less, as departments with more females lie low in the spectrum.

## How often do you have sex? By Department

Incredible though it may seem, the Mathematicians place third in our survey for frequency of sexual activity. In fact, their Department has the highest percentage of students who claim to have sex daily. By contrast, almost 50% of students in Aero and EEE are either virgins or engage in sexual activity only a few times a year. While almost a third of Imperial students claim to have engaged in anal sex, this figure rises to nearly 50% among Chemists. In the breakdown by year group, PhD students and current 3rd years are the most experienced in this area.



15% are still virgins. Around 50% of respondents admitted to watching porn at least once a week and 26 adventurous students identified as straight but admitted that they had slept with a member of the same sex.

10% said that they have engaged in a threesome and the vast majority rejected the idea that studying at Imperial had restricted their sex life. However, one poor student commented: "Boys NEVER hit on me here! Literally, the better I look, the more they run away. I get the most attention when I look a bit rubbish. They need to MAN-UP!"

The results are, admittedly, a mixed bag. While the data is not wholly unrepresentative, it is not strong enough to indicate anything other than certain trends. They also sadly don't offer any quick fixes for stagnating sex lives. If you transferred to the Maths Department, for instance, you would be just as likely to have a year-long dry spell as daily multiplication exercises.

too low. Perhaps the take on our part was differing numbers of either (the combined of the separate 1, 2, resolution restricted analysis.

In addition to this, the results are skewed in a number of noticeable ways. Firstly, the respondents are precisely those students comfortable enough to discuss their sexual lives after having used their College username to unlock our survey. Perhaps such uninhibited stu-

dents have more active sexual lives than their unsurveyed colleagues. While we tried to promote the survey widely, the somewhat skewed number of 3rd and 4th year respondents indicates that a significant number are part of the wider social network of Felix Editors. Additionally, our

participation was limited to 562 students, with individual departments providing anything from 11 to 104 responses. Those with smaller sample sizes are self-evidently less generally representative.

As a final disclaimer, every attempt was made to weed out nonsensical responses.

Design: **Veronika McQuadeova**  
Analysis: **Matthew Allinson & Simon Worthington**  
Survey Coding: **Christopher Birkett**  
Survey Design: **Jonathan Kim**



# MUSIC

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

## Album of The Week



**Ducktails**  
*Ducktails III: Arcade Dynamics*  
 Woodsist  
 2011  
 ★★★★★☆

**Ducktails** is a one man-band consisting of Matthew Mondanile, the guitarist of **Real Estate**, and this is an album brimming with good-time summer vibes. Minus the extended drifting of the final track, *Arcade Dynamics* consists of short hazy pop songs that sound like they were written on the way to the beach. Mondanile has a way with simple melodies that stick in the head despite the lo-fi production, and this results in an album that never compels you to listen but instead slowly seeps into your subconscious each time you put it on.

Jamie Fraser

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

1. Kanye West
2. Radiohead
3. James Blake
4. The xx
5. Muse
6. Daft Punk
7. Crystal Castles
8. Caribou
9. Bon Iver
10. Sleight Bells

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

## Make sure not to miss Bright Eyes

Scala, King's Cross  
 14th February @ 20.00

The time is nearing when we must kiss the beautiful folk-rock act **Bright Eyes** goodbye as they are retiring the moniker forever. **Conor Oberst** will surely continue to explore the depths of the human condition through



his other outings, but it will never be the same. **Bright Eyes** are unique in their passionate delivery of folk, striking an emotionally resonant chord with romanticism and heartbroken lovers across the globe. Their latest album *The People's Key* stands as a monument to the sheer force of the band at their peak and this (probably ultimate) London show will feature new hits amongst old classics. It's the perfect gig for Valentine's Day: when **Conor** starts singing "First Day of My Life" that's when you take your man/lady-friend to what I like to call "The Bone Zone". Can I get an amen brotha'? Aw, yeah... **Greg Power**

# Darling Marling

Stephen Smith is clearly a fisherman... and he's after the Marlin!

**L**aura Marling is a remarkable artist. She left home at 16 and moved to London carrying, you would like to imagine, only a guitar, a straw hat and a few vinyls. She then befriended – remarkably, given her shyness – members of lightweight-campfire-singalong bands **Noah and the Whale** and, later, **Mumford and Sons**. Most people will have noticed her first singing cutesy backing vocals on **Mystery Jets**' 'Young Love' and Noah's '5 Years Time' and would have rightly thought her a songstress of little substance. However, delve even slightly into any of her solo work and you will notice a complete transformation. No longer is she the naïve poster girl of such hollow genres as "indie-folk" or "nu-folk" but rather a songwriter of (almost) the highest quality who contemplates womanhood and the hazards of love rather than sunny days at the zoo. That is not to say that childlike, happy songs are bad: sunny days at the zoo are some of the happiest memories of my life. However, anyone can write a catchy tune about the sun, but it takes great talent to sing about love and sadness without cliché, something Laura manages every time.

Many comparisons have been drawn between Laura and 60s/70s folk-jazz singer-songwriter **Joni Mitchell**, comparisons which I originally thought were either unnecessary attempts at categorising her into the folk-hippy compartment of the music world, or else just plain wrong. In hindsight I can see that these comparisons were quite correct. Both artists, on a simple-minded level, play guitar and sing songs about love and femininity, but much more significantly, Laura and Joni, until about 1971, have very similar high-register vocal styles – listen to Laura's 'Flicker and Fail' and you'd think it was Joni singing). Thematically, both artists seem to be following similar routes, Joni started off singing light-hearted lovesongs, then more serious lovesongs, songs about children, marriage, the end of love, and, finally, travel and restlessness; Laura has followed an identical thematic path, though she has not yet reached the last stage, naturally, being only 21. Joni Mitchell was for

many years my favourite artist, so it pains me to say that Laura Marling may be coming close to bettering her. Obviously in situations like this one must take into account that fact that Joni almost single-handedly invented the female singer-songwriter genre whereas Laura is, in the nicest possible sense, recycling what has already been done, but to say that this makes Joni necessarily better than Laura is to misunderstand what folk music is about. Clearly folk music does not extend the boundaries of musical possibility as some electronic genres do, nor does it constantly yearn for newness and freshness as pop music should. Rather, folk is a genre that celebrates the past, that reworks over and over what has already been done in order to reach a perfect musical description of the high and low points of everyday life. It is exactly this that Laura is doing so well.

I have only seen Laura Marling live once, at the Norwich Waterfront in November last year, and it was undoubtedly the best gig I have ever been to, partly due to the setting. If you have never been to Norwich, don't expect anything, it is a completely average English town. The day I went to see Laura there was the day in November when it started to snow, and the weather transformed Norwich into a beautiful, old, Tudor town. The relevance to Laura's music was magnificent, for her music transforms the mediocrity of daily life into something of age-old beauty. Laura played 13 songs (no encore, she considers them arrogant), three from her debut, seven from her second album, *I Speak Because I Can*, and three new songs. Naturally, her ten already-released songs were wonderful to hear, her voice, smokier now than in 2008, changing early songs – which appear gentle on *Alas I Cannot Swim* – into more gritty, 3-dimensional pieces. Halfway through the set, she was on the verge of treating us to a rendition of **Neil Young's** 'The Needle and the Damage Done' but, much to my annoyance, an audience member insisted on another, less good song. Usually at gigs, much irritation is caused when an artist insists on playing new rather than old songs, but it is a testament to Laura's writing ability



Folk music is in good hands

that the new songs were by far the highlights of the set. Two of the new songs, 'Rest in the Bed' and 'Night After Night', have names, the third was a nameless medley. I very highly recommend looking up those two songs on Youtube, for they are sublime, send-a-shiver-down-your-back, images-of-dark-forests, musically excellent, lyrically fantastic songs.

I can't express how beautiful those new songs sounded that night, in a beautiful snowy town, standing a metre away from one of my favourite artists, hearing music that was entirely new to me and yet sounded as if I had known it all my life. It was music that evoked the most melancholy memories of my childhood, walking at night in the woods, camping in a freezing cold glade. Listen to these songs and you will hear true campfire songs, never will you go back to Noah and the Whale or Mumford and Sons. In fact, to even mention such bands while listening to Laura's new music is laughable. She (allegedly) has a new album coming out this month, though the lack of any publicity would suggest otherwise. If you have never heard Laura Marling's music before, now is the perfect time to start listening. If you are already a fan, her next album promises to be phenomenally good, keep on the look-out for a release date.

### Metronomy

**She Waits**  
 Because Music  
 ★★★★★☆



It's always a nervous wait for new material after a band has released a truly great album, and that wait has ended for **Metronomy** with this free single released on their website. Instead of going for an overtly upbeat theme, 'She Waits' is in contrast a groove infused with subtle melodies that with repeated listens become infectious. It is intentionally less quirky than say 'Radio Ladio' and the synths

are more smoothed and rounded than 'A thing for me'. If this is a good indicator, their forthcoming album 'The English Riviera' is certainly looking out for when it comes out in April. **Christopher Walmsley**

### Chapel Club

**Palace**  
 Loog Records  
 ★★★★★☆



The darker 80's sounds of The Smiths, Joy Division, and Echo and the Bunnymen have

been suitably rehashed by many bands, updated into the new millennium and unleashed upon Radio 1. This, the debut effort by London based band Chapel Club may fit into the aforementioned description; desolate (but not quite depressing) vocals, verses littered with guitar sprawl, accompanied with a punchy rhythm section. The formula is incredibly well executed and results in a remarkably accomplished album for a first release. However with all the echoes of similarly influenced bands such as Editors and White Lies, it is hard to find much originality here.

**Christopher Walmsley**



# MUSIC

## New Musical Express

As those at NME continue to ruin the minds of the musically naïve, enforcing their 'law-of-music', their live shows give us hope

The New Musical Express, perhaps better known as the NME, may have lost some of its influence since it was championing the **Beatles** and **Rolling Stones**. The invasion of the internet has certainly chipped away at print media's appeal, and perhaps one could argue that music hacks have been one of the worst hit. However the NME's portfolio has expanded, and since 1999 they have been giving out some gongs to some bands for being the best, the worst and the most villainous. Awards shows may also be looked upon with a spoonful of cynicism; as purely masseurs for overinflated rockstar egos. Don't hold that notion against the celebratory gigs that are happening right here in the capital throughout February, in the build up to the big event on the 23rd.

It all kicked off with **Metronomy** at Heaven, who have tentatively started rearing their heads in the run up to the release of what could potentially be one of the albums of the year. The next



day saw performance by punk legends **Gang of Four** and also bright indie upstarts **Los Campesinos**.

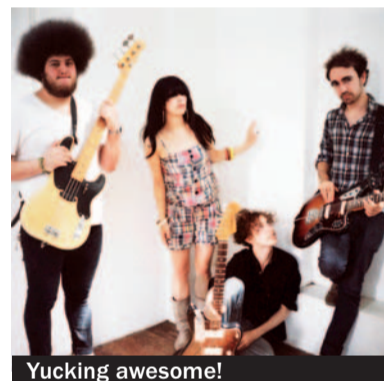
But to the future! Aside from gigs by

**White Lies**, **Miles Kane**, **The Bee's**, **Noah and the Whale**, **Yuck**, **Warpaint**, and someone who used to be in the **Libertines**, there are some other gigs to you should know about:

Isobel Cambel's ongoing project with Mark Lanegan (a man with a voice so gravelly he could grit roads), returns back to the UK once more with their show at Shepherds Bush on the 15th. Expect twee americana that is often compared to **Nancy Sinatra** and Lee Hazlewood. While Isobel and Marks alliance may seem unlikely, or even unholy, their folk musings are well worth a listen.

If Sonic Youth had a bastard child with Dinosaur Junior, then it might well have been **Yuck**. A band that loves a bit of flange (...in an effect pedal context, you filthy people) and clipping the shit out of their distortion boxes they are causing some teenage riots at Bush Hall on the 18th. They will be joined by **Cults**, a band where you can search for melody under a cascade of noise

We might have mentioned our favorite musical alumni before, and we won't hesitate to mention him again. **Caribou** returns to London, no doubt remind us why his album 'Swim' was one of the finest releases of 2010. He plays on the 22nd, a fine way to close, that is unless you'd rather go for a bit more post hardcore in which case it's **Les Savy Fav** you should be seeing at Heaven. **Christopher Walmsley**



### Vetoes EP Launch @ The Social 7th February, 2011

Greg Power



It was always going to be tough reviewing a gig for the band that is headlining our own music night (19.02 @Metric, Saturday 19th February). I am pleased to

say that any concerns I might have had about reviewing Vetoes' performance were thwarted as soon as the band hit the stage of The Social, among a room full of friends, family and fans for the launch of their debut EP **Ritalin/Ritalout**.

Giving out the EP for free was a great touch for one, but more importantly their music speaks lengths about the musical

talent and far-reaching ambitions of the band. As much as I enjoy the post-punk guitars and sing-along choruses of EP tracks such as "Melting Clocks", it is their new material that really gets me excited. Far more adventurous in nature and skirting into experimental, unclassifiable genre-bending territory, the tracks played at The Social for the first time ever re-

vealed the expansiveness of Vetoes' technical skills, as well as their love for alternating uplifting melodies with all-out cock-rock spazz attacks. These guys are on to something very special indeed and their fan-base will without a doubt keep growing fast if they keep writing tunes like these. Catch them at 19.02, before they hit the big time!

Some Valentines love for your ears. You know what to do...

**You Can Leave Your Hat On**  
Tom Jones

**Book Of The Month**  
Lovage

**First Day Of My Life**  
Bright Eyes

**Let's Get It On**  
Marvin Gaye

**Give It To Me Baby**  
Rick James

**Je T'aime, Moi Non Plus**  
Serge Gainsbourg

**VCR**  
Tyler The Creator

**Closer**  
Nine Inch Nails

**Book Of Love**  
Peter Gabriel

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

Toasting to 130 Years of The RCSU



The RCSU 130 Pint Give-A-Way  
Thursday 17th February: 5pm - 9pm

[RCSU.ORG.UK/FREEPINT](http://RCSU.ORG.UK/FREEPINT)

We are giving away 130 pints of: Becks, IPA and Blackthorne, and 130 soft drinks. Please note: You must visit the website from Monday 14th. Only available to RCSU students. Strictly one per person. Supplies Limited.





# FILM

## Classic Cinema

### Kramer vs. Kramer



Dustin Hoffman: child-snatcher

With Valentine's Day approaching, I realise that it's pretty pessimistic to be reviewing *Kramer vs. Kramer* – a milestone of a film that discussed the then-rare topic of divorce in frank, almost brutal honesty. Nevertheless, *Kramer vs. Kramer* was a hit at the Oscars in the late 70s and continues to be an enduring embodiment of modern families. Starring the ineffable duo of Meryl Streep and Dustin Hoffman as a couple parting ways, leaving their young son caught in between, *Kramer vs. Kramer* could be considered to be pioneering in the way it portrayed its characters.

Released in 1979, the film reflects feminist movements at the time by having the housewife, Joanna Kramer (Streep) as the one to cut and run. In her wake, father, Ted Kramer (Hoffman) and their six-year old son are shaken to the core, their comfortable, routine lives irreversibly altered. We watch Ted – previously the stereotypical workaholic father – and his son both struggle to understand what has happened, and try to form some kind of life without Joanna.

Streep, though not on screen nearly as much as Hoffman, is strongly felt in her absence and her appearances as the isolated wife in turmoil, fighting for custody of her abandoned son, are measured and impeccably delivered. Hoffman meanwhile carries the film well with young actor Justin Henry (who never beat this performance and instead faded into semi-obscurity), trying to gather their world together in a moving, daring and truly excellent film.

It is not as thoroughly miserable as this synopsis sounds, though – there are funny moments, such as the classic father-son bonding-over-peeing scene that seems to have got reshaped somehow in Adam Sandler's *Big Daddy*. But for a film about divorce – a topic that so often gets chewed over in Hollywood films for easy dramatic effect – *Kramer vs. Kramer* is one of the most delicate and touching portrayals of this intimate family tragedy.

Jade Hoffman

## EVENTS

iCU Cinema - *Made in Dagenham*  
 £3/£4 for members/non-members  
 Tue 15th Feb 6.30pm  
 Thu 17th Feb 9:00pm.  
 Union Concert Hall

# True Grit is a force to be reckoned with

## True Grit

**Director** Ethan Coen, Joel Coen  
**Screenwriter** Ethan Coen, Joel Coen, Charles Portis (novel)  
**Cast** Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon, Hailee Steinfeld, Josh Brolin.

## Guo Heng Chin

*True Grit* was truly a surprise at the Golden Globes. Not for any record breaking achievement but rather for its surprising lack of recognition. The film was hailed as one of the racehorses set for a slew of gongs during the awards season, but gasp! The Coen brothers' latest western was not even graced with a single nomination at the Globes.

A remake of the Oscar-winning 1969 film based on a novel by Charles Portis, *True Grit* is the story of a 14-year old Mattie Ross seeking to bring justice upon the coward Tom Chaney who murdered her father. *True Grit* is the *Lord of the Rings* in a western genre, as Mattie's quest brings her on an epic journey in the great wilderness of the Indian Territory in 19th century US. Her Aragorn and Boromir are renegade US Marshall Rooster Cogburn played by Jeff Bridges, and straight-laced Texan ranger LaBoeuf played by Matt Damon. It's a tale of growing up and innocence lost (the way Frodo lost his to Sam...).

For all the gunshots seen and heard in the trailer, *True Grit* is more drama than action. It is a masterful contemplation on the nature of vengeance and female strength in a Wild West backdrop with a bunch of unruly gunslingers. It challenges the motive of those seeking to bring justice in their own hands, when the line between revenge and justice becomes blurred. A first time foray into the western genre, the Coen brothers' gun standoffs are superb and stylish. There's even a Tarantino-style scene!

The plot of the movie unfolds in its own sweet time as if reading a Frank Herbert novel. Scenes like the 10-minute introduction to Rooster Cogburn may well falter and become a drag, but not under the direction and script of the Coen brothers. The script is peppered with sardonic wit and dark, deadpan humour and, together with the heavy southern twang, they make the film such fun to watch. Though the film's motley crew and their humorous antics in trying to get along are priceless, what makes the film a must-watch is Jeff Bridges' character. The shoot-first-talk-later Cogburn, is the antithesis of the cavalier cowboy from classic western flicks. Though a lawman, his actions are sometimes questionable and as Jeff Bridges describes it, he has a foot on both sides of the law. Mattie Ross hired him to hunt down Tom Chaney due to his reputation as a man with 'true grit'. Rooster Cogburn is such a likable character, not just for his don't-give-a-damn charisma but because beneath the gritty exterior, there lies a knight who rides in and save the day when Mattie is in need.



Jeff Bridges snaps after one too many Pirates vs. Cowboys questions

You can't watch *True Grit* without being warmed by the strength of will and determination of Mattie Ross in seeking justice for her dead father. Played by newcomer Hailee Steinfeld, she may be a damsel but she certainly not distressed. Mattie Ross is the epitome of the strong female lead and in some ways, Republican values of self-reliance and independence from the establishment. As she goes through her adventure, we

**The Coen brothers' gun standoffs are superb and stylish.**

see her transform, lose her innocence, and ultimately learn the price of retribution.

Josh Brolin plays the villain, Tom Chaney. His character was built up from what the protagonist talked about him, until we are finally introduced to him in a climactic meeting. It's particularly enjoyable to see Brolin's wonderful character in action, and I wished that he got more screen

time. Nevertheless, the Coen brothers have a knack for staying faithful to the book, just as they did with *No Country for Old Men*.

Set in the epic wilderness of the Indian Territory, this must be one of the most scenic westerns. The soundtrack by the Coen brothers' long time collaborator, Carter Burwell brings to life the spirit of adventure in the sweeping wilderness, in the manner of the late John Barry's theme for the score of *Dances with Wolves*. Burwell's theme for Mattie Ross evokes her taste for adventure and ever-present optimism amidst the harsh challenges she faces. All in all, it's a well-composed modern cowboy score.

As if retribution for going unrecognized in the Golden Globes, *True Grit* wrath is felt in the BAFTAs and Oscars with 8 BAFTA nominations and a stonking 10 for the Academy Awards. Perhaps the 6000 plus filmmakers and actors at the Academy who are responsible for voting found *True Grit* to be more to their taste than the 60-odd film critics at the Hollywood Foreign Press Association who decides who gets what in the Golden Globes.

Whether you are up for some cowboy action or some drama, *True Grit* is well worth watching. All in all, *True Grit* shows us that a woman's wrath is truly a force to be reckoned with.

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

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



# FILM

## What does it mean to be a human being?

### Never Let Me Go

**Director** Mark Romanek  
**Screenwriter** Alex Garland, Kazuo Ishiguro (novel)  
**Cast** Carey Mulligan, Keira Knightley, Andrew Garfield

### John Park

Welcome to Hailsham, an idyllic English boarding school in the peaceful countryside. Students of Hailsham are special and the headmistress Miss Emily (Charlotte Rampling) emphasises that the students' well-being is of paramount importance. Nothing seems to be out of the ordinary for this seemingly prestigious school but these young and naïve students have no idea what awful future awaits them. Indeed, the students of Hailsham are special. They have been created artificially to be used as donors of vital organs for people in the outside world. Essentially, the school is a forever functioning genetic factory.

Based on the best-selling book by Kazuo Ishiguro, the adaptation of *Never Let Me Go* follows Kathy, Ruth and Tommy (Carey Mulligan, Keira Knightley and Andrew Garfield); three young "students" of Hailsham who are caught up in this disturbing drama. Even from a young age, they are bound by a love triangle that develops into an awkward relationship as they grow up. As a rumour spreads that a couple truly in love will be given a "deferral," a few years' extension on their short lives, this is brought to a crunch. Hope runs high, but not everything can resolve itself in a neat and painless way. Mulligan and Garfield both have chances to show off in the story's climax, and they embrace their dramatic moments, with Garfield's



Hilarity ensues at the thought of Keira Knightley eating a full meal

intense performance marking the film's most highlighted scene with utmost confidence.

Mulligan also plays a central role which, though not an obviously showy part, is deeply moving in its subdued and warm delivery. Anyone who's seen Mulligan in *An Education* knows just how much potential and talent the young English actress possesses. With *Never Let Me Go* we are firmly reminded that all praise was justified and she holds a great deal of promise. But the true revelation of the film is the new rising star Garfield. Looking worryingly thin and pale, his shy, soft-spoken character is in stark contrast to his confident, slick performance in *The Social Network*. As he struggles to fully voice what's going on in his head, the often clueless nature of his character is captured with fine precision by the young actor.

Another feature of the film which plays well is the lack of mystery around the fact that these clones were created for the purpose of becoming donor. There is absolutely no action/thriller component in the film and director Mark Romanek wisely chooses to steer away from a overly twist-filled and puzzling tone. There are many hints throughout and the revelation comes at a very early stage,

in a depressing monologue delivered as warmly as possible by Miss Lucy (Sally Hawkins). Instead, Romanek is interested in the consequences our characters face and the lack of free will all human beings should be entitled to. Donating your organs is a selfless act, but being forced into this – manufactured for it – when you're barely thirty is horrifying.

A couple of undeveloped ideas do make us question the validity of the film's ending. Some of its elements seem too forced for the sake of the melancholy mood. Because it spends too much time zooming in on the characters' expressions and love triangle, it hardly tackles the important issues which are instead rather hastily wrapped up in a clumsy voiceover. Although leaving the viewers to do much thinking is not bad in its entirety, the film's focus appears to shift somewhere along the way.

What it means to be a human being, how our souls and bodies function are important issues to address in this time of much technological advancement. To an extent *Never Let Me Go* gets you started in that thought process. Whether you are moved enough to think deeper about the subject matters is entirely up to you, but for me, this was an unquestionably depressing and touching film.

## Passionate and cool: not just another film about boxing...

### The Fighter

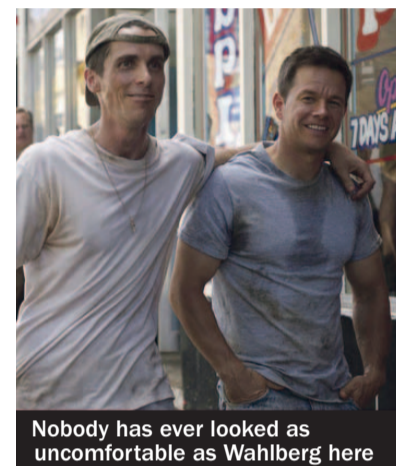
**Director** David O. Russell  
**Screenwriter** Scott Silver, Paul Tamasy, Eric Johnson  
**Cast** Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale, Amy Adams

### Jake Lea-Wilson

Do we really need another boxing film? Can anyone make a film that will better the much loved *Rocky*? Or a film that is as aesthetically pleasing as *Raging Bull*, which has the reputation of being so beautiful that each frame could be hung on a wall as a piece of art? Will we ever see a true story documentary as thrilling and as exciting as *Rumble In The Jungle*? The trailer for *The Fighter* leaves us guessing.

*The Fighter* tells the story of Micky Ward Micky (Mark Wahlberg) who reaches the heights of the world of boxing in 2000 by becoming light welterweight world champion. Though he achieves this with the help of his friends and family, the film really centres on the conflict within this group, with the star of the show instead being Micky's brother, Dickey (Christian Bale): a washed-up, drug-addicted, ex-boxer who trains Micky. The other key characters that play their roles in this conflict, include his mouths-to-feed manager/mother, I-believe-in-my-son father, hot-red-head love interest and take-no-shit trainer.

The passion between the brothers is captured beautifully, and it's not really about Micky winning the world title but about Dickey getting over his crack addiction. Christian Bale has always been one to drastically alter his body for a



Nobody has ever looked as uncomfortable as Wahlberg here

role (life-threateningly thin for *The Machinist*, bulky-hunk for *Batman Begins*) but you would swear that he's a been crack-smoking, street-cleaner for the majority of his life with this character. Personally I don't think Bale should be up for the Best Supporting Oscar but should be up for Best Leading Actor; he far outshines Wahlberg as an eccentric and as a socialite.

What David O. Russell has achieved is a different kind of boxing story: an exciting, enticing and elevating story. Think of the coolness that *Three Kings* achieved with its expert use of music and apply this to an exciting boxing story. It's got success written all over it and the downfalls are few and far between. Though we don't see much of the fierceness of the love interest, and perhaps more of Dickey's time in jail would have been interesting for the viewer, these are all just small blemishes on what is the complete finish of an excellent film.

The RCSU Online Charity Auction  
 21st February - 4th March

RCSU.ORG.UK/AUCTION

Virgin Balloon Ride ~ Cheese and Wine Evening for 2~ Signed QPR Shirt ~ Your Name on a Tankard ~ Crepe making experience for 4 ~ £60 of TransformYourImages.co.uk vouchers ~ Cosmetics ~ And more!



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# FOOD

## Gastronomical Musings

### Vicky says:

Ahhh Valentine's Day, how I love you. Happy days are here again. I shall refrain from unnecessary acerbic comments on the significance of the day (bitterness of the spinster) and skip to the part I love: the food. Decanters of red wine, chocolate in shiny foil wrappers, strawberries in champagne and half shelled oysters would make any schmaltzy, cheesy, sentimental (and many other words that mean the same thing) "holiday" worth it's while in my book. Valentine's Day was made for the foodie or for those with the love of the set menu, depending on your gastronomical bent. Either way, whatever way you decide to indulge, the importance of flower giving cannot be underestimated. Even better is if you can go that extra mile and sneak in a few extra blooms into your meal. Rose Martinis and lavender icing are girlie and romantic for a reason: all the soft pastels or sexy vibrant hues set the mood. However flowers are especially expensive around this special day, so alternatively try Roccoco Chocolates Mini Flower Chocolate Bars for £5. They taste divine and the wrappers are a treat in themselves. Tuck a rose in the ribbon and I'm sure your lady friend would approve of your generosity.

John Lewis



Flowers, hearts and candy. Tick, tick, tick

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



## The Valentine's dessert

### Bobla Gnay explains how it's done

Singletons hear me out, it's coming up to that time of year again... you're reminded that you are very single, lonely, cold and depressed. However, you have in your sights a gorgeously hot girl you have REALLY wanted to impress since first casting your eyes on the back of her head during lectures, but "Oh no!" She is playing hard-to-get: ignoring your gestures, blanking your advances. Quite frankly it'll take nothing short of bathing yourself in the Russell Brand's pheromones for your sorry-ass self to ever get noticed by this gem of a girl, who is, by the way, completely out of your league.

But fear not, there'll be no need to lick Russell Brand's armpits this year. With this one dessert, she'll be blown away by your culinary expertise! She'll be thinking "W-O-W! Where has this guy been all my life???" and before you know it... BOOM, she's all yours.

According to Cosmopolitan (the Wikipedia for understanding girls), every girl secretly dreams for a man, so that's your chances gone boy... ha! Nah I'm just kidding. After much research, it has been found that (I hope you are ready for this), chicks love cooks! A guy with the ability to whip up an amazing meal is a man destined for success, a master in making every girl's heart melt, a man capable of launching a thousand ships, each crammed full of adoring loving female fans. With this one gesture, that man could be you. Dammit by the end of Valentine's Day this year, your face will be in the dreams of every girl at Imperial who has heard, in the wind, whisperings of your culinary marksmanship. Statistics show that 67% of women admit to having slept with cooks before, 78% of women admit to fantasising about men cooking before, and here is the match winning goal, 100% of women admit to having food in the hours before bed, therefore you know for sure what's happening next after she eats your dessert! Laugh out loud. Truly.

Anyways, how true the stuff above is I don't know. Yeah fine I could have 'overcooked' the stats you see above, but in all honesty this really is one tasty dessert which I highly recommend for you to try out and I can assure you, it will go down a treat!

### BY's Valentine Dessert

Costs: £7 max  
Preparation time: 30 minutes  
Makes 3-4 (when using wine glasses)

Ingredients:  
150g Blueberries  
3 tablespoon caster sugar  
250g tub mascarpone  
4 tablespoon icing sugar  
5 tablespoons of double cream  
5 digestive biscuits  
25g butter  
2 clear glass containers for serving (small Nutella jars works well or wine glasses)

Cha-Ney Kim



### "After much research, it has been found that... chicks love COOKS!"

Get a bowl and mix together the mascarpone, the double cream and the icing sugar. Keeping on mixing until it's a nice smooth consistency.

Put on some clean gloves (get your scientist friends to grab you a pair of those disposable ones from labs or hospital)

Crush the digestive biscuits into a bowl so they are nice and crumbly. Melt the butter in the microwave and pour into the bowl with the biscuits. Mix the butter and the biscuits.

Carefully line the bottom of your glassware with the biscuit/butter mix and press down with your finger or a teaspoon to compact together the crumble mixture. Eventually you'll have your glassware lined at the base with a layer of biscuit just under 1 cm thick.

Add in your mascarpone/cream/icing sugar mixture, leaving space at the top for your blueberry topping.

Place your glassware with the biscuit cream mixture inside into the fridge to cool.

Turn on your stove, medium heat and find a nice small saucepan.

Add to it the blueberries and your caster sugar. Heat it up until the sugar has melted and the blueberries have released their juice onto the sugar turning forming a deep purple colour. This should take around 3 minutes. CARE – don't overcook the sugar or else it would burn and then disaster, you'll set your fire alarm off causing your hallmates to kill you.

Take your glassware out the fridge and carefully spoon over the top your blueberry topping. This should create a beautiful purple topping over a white creamy base interlaced with a few drips of the blueberry sauce coming through, lined at the bottom with biscuit base.

Place your pot back into the fridge to cool until the time comes when you want to serve it. Voila! You are done! Easy.

## An Anti-Valentine's Recipe: A Taste of Freedom

Even if you're single, you should celebrate Valentine's Day rather than commiserate. In fact, the real winners of Valentine's Day are those who are free from having to scramble around to secure scented candles, roses, chocolate truffles, champagne, restaurant reservations and other such curiously expensive ammunition to quell the threat of a serious nuclear shitstorm. However, if you can't help feeling a bit put out by the whole thing, why not turn to an excess of bachelor junk food (we're talking ribs, fried chicken, chips, nachos, pizza...) to keep you on a high? I came across a brilliant suggestion for an anti-Valentine's activity online. Watch "My Bloody Valentine 3D" while eating Devonshire sandwich – a filthy, comforting savoury treat from Pittsburgh, where the movie was shot.

### Devonshire Sandwich

50g butter, melted  
40g flour  
30g cheddar cheese, grated  
150ml chicken stock  
150ml hot milk  
A pinch of salt  
2 slices toast with crusts trimmed off  
A few slices of bacon, cooked crisp  
A few slices of cooked turkey breast  
melted butter  
parmesan cheese  
paprika

To make the cheese sauce, melt the butter in a pan and add the flour, stirring constantly. Add the chicken broth and then the hot milk and salt, and cook on a low heat for 5-10 minutes. Remove from the heat and mix in the cheddar cheese. Leave to cool.

Preheat the oven to 230C. Place the slices of toast in a dish and top with bacon and turkey. Cover completely with the cheese sauce. Drizzle with a little melted butter. Sprinkle with paprika and parmesan. Bake 10 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. **Aki Matsushima**

mavra\_chang/flickr



When pink hearts just ain't ya thang...



# How not to shell out for the ultimate luxury, oysters

Aki Matsushima shows you how to impress and indulge your date on the cheap

fotoosvonrobin/flickr



Probably not the most attractive of aphrodisiacs but whatever works, eh?

Is there any food more seductive than the oyster, with its shells brimming with succulent juices? Knowing where to look, the classic Valentine's Day treat for grown-ups is cheaper than you'd think.

High-end food markets are great places to find affordable oysters. You've got to have them standing up, but you know it's better that way sometimes.

The Partridges Saturday food market near Sloane Square tops the list with the Maldon Oyster Company stall selling a half dozen for a mere, crumpled fiver. Compare this with the Harrods seafood bar, where you'll pay £14 more for the same thing, get elbowed by tourists, and still be expected to tip the staff for being inattentive. This delicious little market, just outside the elegant Saatchi gallery, also has a SoBo chocolates stall who make the absolute best double chocolate cookies -- devilishly sweet and rich. Oysters contain just 10 calories each, so there's no reason not to indulge in the other delectable offerings.

This also applies to Borough Market, which needs no introduction. There are a few places you can pick up oysters in Borough, but I love the simplicity of the £1 oysters at Shell Seekers. It's hardly a glamorous experience when the food is served on polystyrene trays in a fishmonger stall setting. However, a true foodie would be most excited by the taste of the freshest oysters between some lively banter with the shopkeeper, who's

shucking shellfish in wellies and gloves.

If slurping while sitting in the warm indoors seems like a better idea in these bitter English months containing the letter R, there are still some excellent options. Loch Fyne in Covent Garden is a relatively casual affair for a seafood restaurant. It's popular with a merry, relaxed clientele of West End theatre-goers. At £9.50 for a half dozen, the pricing isn't particularly modest oyster-wise. Nevertheless, it's worth a mention

**"It's seedy-chic and their offer of six rock oysters and a flute of champagne for £7.50 is irresistible..."**

for having one of the capital's best value seafood platters and some generous offers online (<http://www.lochfyne.com/w> You can get £10 off bills over £30 until 13th February).

If you ever decide to swap your preferred Wednesday afternoon activity from team sport to decadence and debauchery then head to Randall and Aubin in Soho. It's seedy-chic and their offer of six rock oysters and a flute of champagne for £7.50 (weekdays 3pm-6pm) is irresistible to the student libertine. Yes, it is too good to be true.

There's a cover charge of a couple of quid or so, but still!

Pescatori is expensive, as expected from the luxe locations of Mayfair and Charlotte Street. But what if you could pay for a visit with money you didn't know you had? You can exchange your Tesco clubcard points for triple points to spend at Pescatori. Their cooked dishes are mediocre, but you can't go far wrong with oysters or seafood platters where there's such little cooking and seasoning involved.

Just be sure that your date is someone who understands that your act of paying with Tesco vouchers is practical and impressive, rather than downright stingy and unattractive. Alternatively, settle the bill while they've gone to the bathroom and keep the romance alive.

**Partridges Food Market**, Duke of York Square SW3 4LY Nearest tube: Sloane Square, Saturdays 10am to 4pm

**Shell Seekers**, Middle Market inside Borough Market, Nearest tubes: London Bridge/Borough

**Loch Fyne** Covent Garden, 2-4 Catherine St WC2B 5JY. 020 7240 4999 Nearest tube: Covent Garden

**Randall and Aubin**, 16 Brewer St, W1F 0SQ. 020 7287 4447 Nearest tube: Piccadilly Circus

**Pescatori**, 11 Dover St, W1S 4LH. 020 7493 2652 Nearest tube: Green Park

## The RCSU Welfare Week

Monday 21st - Friday 26th February

Monday: Smoking & Drug Awareness  
 Tuesday: Healthy Eating  
 Wednesday: Alcohol Guidance  
 Thursday: Stress  
 Friday: Sexual Health



Celebrating 130  
 Years of The  
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# TELEVISION

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

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## What We Watched...

### James Simpson gets wicki low with da Tee to the Vee

It's that time when all the post-Christmas series are coming to an end, and writing this column is really difficult when there's sod all on telly, so a couple of the shows could possibly be repeats. They should be just as good as when they were first broadcast though so no complaining.

**Lark Rise to Candleford** is one of those programmes that is guaranteed to bring a smile to your face. Set in 19th-century Oxfordshire, the delightful series is based upon an autobiography written by Flora Thomson about a young girl sent to the local market town to begin an apprenticeship with the postmistress. Not many costume dramas manage to effect a whole spectrum of emotion whilst bestowing a few good moral scruples, and that's what really makes *Lark Rise* stand out as the epitome of cheer-me-up-it's-Sunday viewing. It's just beautiful. The filming of the series must have been terribly difficult due to its dependence on cloudless skies in all but one episode. Postman Thomas's musings on the "ways of the almighty" and half-witted housemaid Minnie's constant worryings and faux-pas are funnier than most of the egregious bunk which falls under the banner of 'comedy' today.

The rather ominously titled **The Chinese are Coming** – thankfully not a government-commissioned porno – tells the story of the said government's immoral and rapacious ravishment of any African country happening to be in a sufficient state of poverty.

Kenneth Brannagh returned this week in the title role of the BBC's adaptation of the Swedish detective series **Wallander**. The Swedish version is occasionally shown on BBC4 and is actually much better – though you really have to be 'in the mood for subtitles' to fully appreciate it. Some of the gore-laden scenes are almost as disturbing as Gary Gilitter's idea of a dirty weekend, but don't forget to show off how intellectual you are because you watched something on BBC4.

ITV's new thriller **Marchlands**, having had a full page ad devoted to it in *The Times*, looked as though it may be better than the usual commercial-splattered arse-gravy that ITV generally broadcast. Starring Dean Andrews (Ray from *Life on Mars*/Ashes to Ashes) it is based around the lives of three families in the same (rather spooky) house, spread twenty years apart.

Strange happenings build up the suspense nicely but the (presumably low) special effects budget mustn't have permitted anything more than a few misbehaving domestic appliances, unexpected faces in mirrors and a fall from a stepladder (...scary times!).

Other than that it's actually rather good! Commercial breaks are more irritating when experienced via the ultra-low-resolution ITVPlayer because the ad break is long enough to put the kettle on but too short to make a brew. They are obviously not from the North.

If you didn't get the box-set for Christmas (or your mum didn't) Julian Fellowes' (recently Baron Fellowes of West Stafford) pre-WWI costume drama **Downton Abbey** which stars Hugh Bonneville and Maggie Smith (also Brendan Coyle and Ruby Bentall from *Lark Rise*), is definitely a must-see! (And it's repeating on ITV at the moment).

# Sex, Drugs & Growing Old

## Skins drops the old format, but is it really that bad?

### Corrie Berry

*Skins*, Season 5, has just started, and the first comment on Twitter was "Where is all the sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll?"

Following a cast of teenagers through Sixth Form, the show provides a commentary on life in Bristol for 16 to 18 year olds attending Roundview College. Seasons 1 and 2 were totally unique, addressing (among other issues) teenage pregnancy, loss of a parent and death of a friend. School was treated as a platform for social dramas; the only academic issue being coursework deadlines – met after an all-nighter at a groaning computer. Along the way, we were treated to gratuitous amounts of sex, drug and alcohol. Seasons 3 and 4 addressed the same themes in a slightly different way, with a revitalised cast that brought a few added surprises. The second casting initially met resistance, but was ultimately accepted as the fourth season came to a shocking and nail-biting conclusion.

The show picked up a number of awards, including a BAFTA and a Golden Rose for outstanding drama and best titles. Names such as Nicholas Hoult, from "About A Boy" and Dev Patel from "Slumdog Millionaire" rubbed shoulders with relative unknowns, who were no less brilliant despite their inexperience, particularly the one unifying character over the cast change: Effy Stonem, played by Kaya Scodelario. Of particular surprise was the way the casts seem to adjust to their roles with apparent ease; mature content is convincingly portrayed by actors as young as 14. (Incidentally, MTV has just started airing the American equivalent and are now facing child pornography charges, with their youngest cast member at 15.)

The third generation cast has totally replaced any recurring characters from



Season 4. Season 5 opens with Dakota Blue Richards, of "The Golden Compass" playing Franky, the character around whom the first episode centres. Instead of rampant sex, alcoholism and drug abuse, this character is quiet, clearly disturbed, and so awkward that I cringed as I watched.

Instead of aiming to shock, the writers appear to have changed their observation of teenage life, concentrating on the progression from awkward teenager to adult instead of jumping straight into fully-fledged badly-behaved adults. *Skins* 1 to 4 were so shocking because they left audiences asking the question "Do teenagers really behave like this?" The probable answer was no; the format of the show necessarily had to change.

The second episode features Rich, a 'metalhead' – stubborn, obsessed with metal, trying to get the girl, and so Imperial that anybody who watches it will

immediately know someone who is Rich. Again, a totally different tone to any of the characters we have seen previously, and a complete divergence from any familiar storyline.

We have had a couple of hints at the rest of the cast – Grace, a ballerina, who seems too good to be true, but is clearly a deeper character than she appears on the surface; Mini, a Queen Bee (think "Mean Girls" but a west country accent); Matty, an enigmatic mystery man who has stared down the barrel of a gun and sex-obsessed Alo, the token ginger.

So far, I withhold judgement. I don't know why I loved the first two casts so much – probably because they were so out-of-this-world that it was fascinating to watch, instead of what felt like an in-depth exploration of the teenage psyche. I've found the use of awkward silences and stilted conversation really uncomfortable; but the show is still compelling, and perhaps the thing that is so strange now will revitalise it and give it a different kind of edge. I don't know where the writers are going to take it but I will be sticking around to find out.

**"Think Mean Girls, but with a west country accent"**

## What to watch this week

### Friday

#### Reggae Britannia

People who are too ashamed to go to the doctors do so on TV...  
BBC4, 9pm

### Tuesday

#### The Nutty Professor

Still down about Valentines Day? This will sort you out.  
ITV1, 10.30pm

### Saturday

#### Air Force One

A film so bad it's not only good, it's incredible.  
BBC3, 9.45pm

### Wednesday

#### Air Force One

Twice?! In two weeks?! This is why I pay my license fee!  
BBC3, 10pm

### Sunday

#### BAFTAs

Or as they'll call them from now on, the "Colins".  
BBC2, 8pm

### Thursday

#### Skins

Do you agree with the review? I do, but only because Corrie hits me.  
E4, 10pm

### Monday

#### One Born Every Minute

Valentine's in front of the telly? Watch babies come out of vaginas.  
C4, 9pm

### If you missed it...

#### Outcasts

The Beeb make a gripping drama with a refreshing lack of corsets.  
iPlayer





# metric RAVE

18 February 2011 / 20:00 - 02:00

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Tomb Crew  
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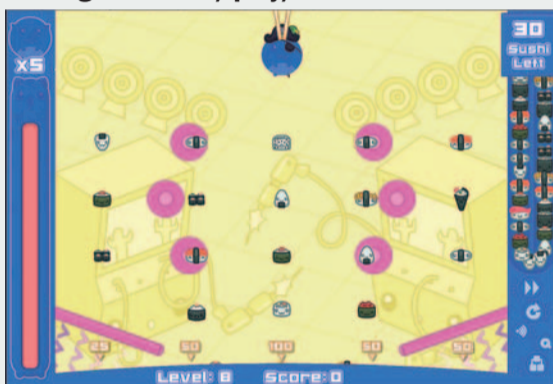
# GAMES

## 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/>.

### Sushi Cat 2

[armorgames.com/play/10471](http://armorgames.com/play/10471)



It has a cat. It has sushi – with faces. Oh, and it's Japanese. That should be all you need to know that this is cutest, most *kawaii* game you're ever likely to play on this side of the world. Sushi Cat is on a mission to rescue his beloved, but he's going to have to eat a bucketful of sushi first. Drop the bouncy kitty and watch him nom his way through the *sashimi* and *tofu*. Brilliant!

The gameplay isn't exactly challenging, but it doesn't need to be. Collecting the light bites is, for some reason, enjoyable enough and extremely addictive. Graphics too are a highlight, with some of the highest-quality visuals it's possible to find in a Flash game.

### Rebuild

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



Finally, a bit of originality in the zombie genre! In this isometric strategy game, you play the leader of a group of apocalypse survivors trying their damndest to stay alive. This isn't just about killing zombies, people need food, medicine and happiness, and it's your job to find them those things.

Being able to completely customise the fort is a great feature, and the huge scope for expansion makes everything much more interesting. There's also a lot of depth to the strategy and plenty to keep players interested for a good little while.

# A mad, mixed bag of tricks

## Laurence Pope is too much of a n00b to play *Magicka*

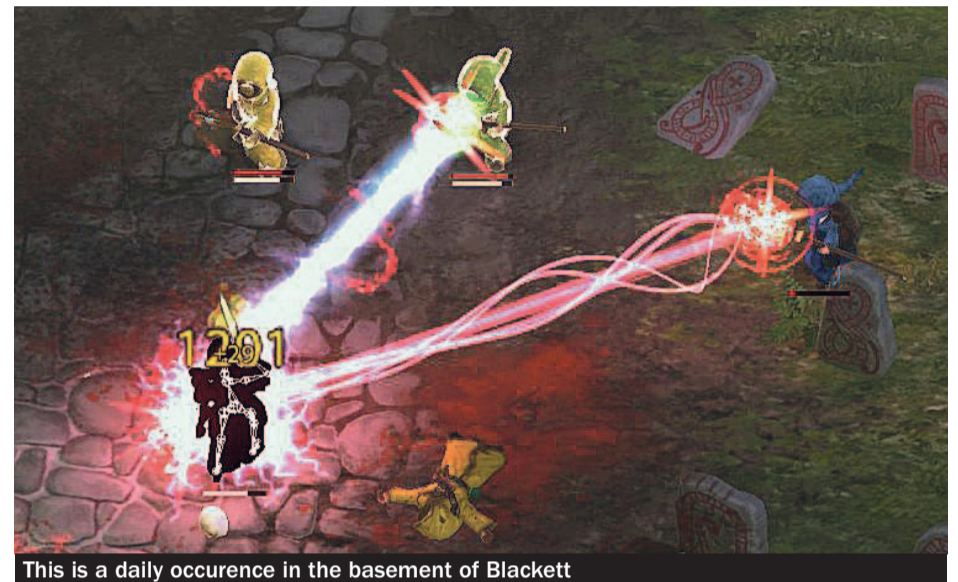
Ahh, cosplay. There's nothing I like more than putting on my robe and wizard hat, striding round the Queen's Lawn and waving about my enormous magical staff, casting spells of such power that mere mortals can only gasp in awe. Then, some killjoy policeman arrests me for public indecency, or something like that.

Oh right, this is a review, my bad. So, *Magicka*. *Magicka* is a... well, I'm not quite sure what genre it fits into, but action-adventure/quasi-RPG probably does it justice. Developed by Arrowhead Game Studios, *Magicka* is one big parody from start to finish, satirizing RPGs and drawing heavily from a variety of cultural references including, but not limited to: internet memes, the *Zelda* game series and the British classic, Monty Python.

I'm not usually a fan of RPGs, in much the same way that I'm not the world's greatest fan of strychnine, so I was initially a little hesitant to start playing *Magicka*. However, I am nothing if not open to new games and genres, so I decided to give it a sporting chance, donning my wizard robe and hat to get into character before loading it up.

The game revolves around combining eight different magical elements – Water, Cold, Lightning, Arcane, Earth, Fire, Life and Shield – into spells. These elements can be cast alone or, for greater effect, combined in different and interesting ways. For example, Fire will cast... well, fire, but combine Fire and Water and you get their proud bastard child Steam. Likewise, the Earth element fires off boulders but combine it with Fire and you get FIREBALLS.

There are also Magicks, which you 'learn' by finding spell books scattered about the land. These are not regular attacks, but special elemental combinations that have to be cast with a separate button for a special effect. For example, Life and Lightning will combine to resur-



This is a daily occurrence in the basement of Blackett

rect fallen comrades, and Water and Steam will summon a temporary rainstorm. The driving force behind the game is very much the discovery of all the different elemental combos, with a generic 'follow a linear pathway and kill the evil boss' – which in itself satirises most other RPGs – binding everything together.

*Magicka* feels very much a game for people with a lot of enthusiasm and time to spend exploring its every nuance, spell and secret area, because there are a lot of them. The few hours I could snatch playing it were far from sufficient to explore every spell combo and in the end I pulled a Darth Sidious and spammed forked flaming lightning everywhere like it was going out of fashion.

This brings me very neatly to my first gripe. You may have a huge array of spells to pick from, but when a group of goblins/wizards/golems/resurrected skeletal warriors are bearing down upon you, there's no time to summon

up fancy spells or Magicks – you pick the simple yet effective stuff and spam it relentlessly. This problem only intensifies when the screen is visually cluttered, and fine control of your spells is nigh impossible. A popup tip tells you that you can see what spells others are casting and use that information against them, but it's a filthy lie. I couldn't tell the small floating magical particles apart in the maelstrom of chaos I was embroiled in; it was far simpler to just fry everything with fire lightning.

Co-op mode only exacerbates the problem. Ignoring the fact every server I found was laggy as hell and finding games was an exercise in frustration, I could no longer shoot bolts of burning energy about without torching at least one, or more often, all, of my colleagues, which put a bit of a damper on the whole experience. As someone put it: "Co-op is fun to 'n00b' about in." Finesse is rudely booted out the window and you spend more time resurrecting allies than slaying enemies. It'd take a good connection and three dedicated friends to get me to play co-op regularly and quite frankly, I abandoned all forms of human contact years ago in favour of becoming a heartless jaded bastard (read gamer).

I guess now you're looking towards me for a recommendation; I really wish you weren't. *Magicka* is a very mixed bag. If you enjoy RPGs and want something brightly coloured and light-hearted, *Magicka* is a 'nice' game that would be well worth the green stuff. If you're like me and RPGs aren't quite for you, be prepared to invest a fair amount of time adjusting to the controls since you can't just hop in and expect everything to run smoothly.

Did I have fun? Initially, no, I didn't, but that was down to the time I had to spend getting adjusted to the controls. Will I keep playing it? I think so. *Magicka* is a half-decent game that certainly deserves at least a few more hours of my time, and it's not like I want to get good marks on my coursework anyway!



*Magicka* is available now from Paradox Interactive and Arrowhead Game Studios.



# Being a Dungeon Lord ain't all fun and games

Sean Harbison unleashes his wrath in *Dungeons*

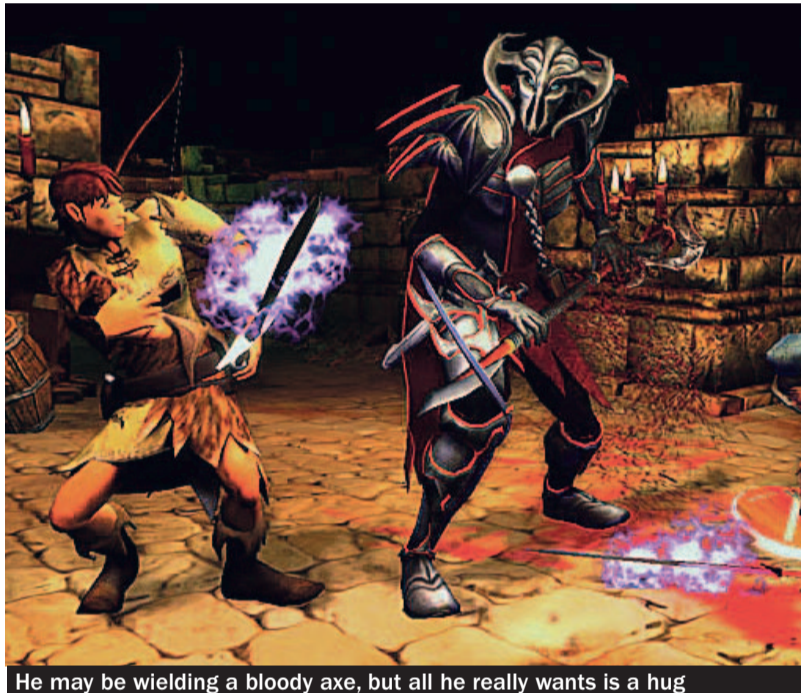
**D**ungeons, the sequel to the 90's classic *Dungeon Keeper*, is a sim-management game that sets the player as a Dungeon Lord who must design their foul, evil cave of despair to entice in heroes... before brutally murdering them at their peak to steal their 'soul energy'. The idea is basic enough; your dungeon is made more tempting by artefacts, monsters and traps. In order to buy more of these you must harvest more and more soul energy from captured heroes.

Different heroes are interested in different things. Some enjoy looting and stealing treasure, whereas others get a kick out of avoiding traps or fighting monsters. Therefore, it is important to have a good mixture of both gold piles and monsters in order to keep all the heroes interested. Heroes enter your dungeon through special gates and are led through your dungeon by artefacts that you own which attract their attention. As they wander through, they find your piles of gold or monsters and begin fighting or looting at their will. You then must watch carefully as their interest bar fills up so that you can kill them and take their soul energy when it's full.

The types of monster you have depend on the monsters you can find in the area around your dungeon. You can search for new types of monster and by placing a pentagram near their habitat you can start to spawn that type into your dungeon. However, there's a limit on the number of pentagrams you can place, and it's infuriatingly low meaning that you can only have a very small number of monsters present in your dungeon. This very quickly becomes an issue as heroes enter every two or three minutes and each of them is strong enough to kill all your monsters. As you can imagine this makes it very difficult to maintain the interest of heroes that like fighting monsters, and the game slows down a lot as it becomes so challenging to build up soul energy.

Often it can take hours to get through certain levels and considering that you aren't directly doing anything this makes the game unbelievably dull at times. Not only that, but pentagrams must be built on the edges of your territory in order to expand, so monsters end up out of the way rather than being somewhere useful in your dungeon.

Monsters are not controllable, which means they stick to their pentagram and do not make any impression on the heroes unless the heroes start fighting



He may be wielding a bloody axe, but all he really wants is a hug

them. It's too easy for heroes to breeze through your dungeon with little risk at all. The entire burden of looking after the dungeon comes down to your Dungeon Lord – the only controllable character in the game. This would be all well and good were it not for the fact that often even the most basic hero can take out your lord with relative ease. So, as the heroes level up it becomes almost impossible to gather soul energy and progress in the game.

There are also a very limited amount of choices in *Dungeons*. The monsters

**“When the game comes down to just designing dungeons it's a lot more enjoyable”**

are limited to what you find in the level, and the number of pentagrams you can set. There are three types of building, two to keep the heroes interested (libraries and armouries) and one to drain more soul energy from them (prisons). For a management game this is an unbelievably poor amount of choice.

The main problem with this game is how unbalanced the campaign is. The difficulty increases far too quickly with little progression is useful items, traps

or monsters. By the third level I was already getting annoyed with how many times I had to restart, and how hard it was to keep heroes interested. With heroes being sent in every three minutes or so, random tasks being set involving ridiculous requirements (usually involving sending all your money), failure penalties that hold you back – all this slows down the game even further.

However, when the game comes down to just designing dungeons (in sandbox mode) where you are rid of the stupid tasks, it is a lot more enjoyable. Having free reign over traps, monsters and artefacts really lets the game flow better and allows you to really do well at taking down heroes. In this version of the game it is easy to get distracted for ages. Unfortunately, this really doesn't make up for just how awful the campaign is.

In all, the game presents a good idea, and it could have worked really well. It's just a shame that the campaign expects so much of players right from the beginning and causes pure frustration. Had the campaign been more similar to that of the free style mode then I could easily have seen it being a much more enjoyable game. But as it is, while the sandbox mode is a lot of fun in its own right, the campaign just felt like more effort than enjoyment – really not what I want in a game.

*Dungeons* is available now from Realmforge and Kalypso Media for PC, retailing at £29.99.

## PlayStation Suite to bring big titles to Android phones

Simon Worthington

The “Next Generation Portable” a.k.a. the PSP2, was announced two weeks ago at Sony's ‘Playstation Meeting 2011’. The world stared, the world gaped and the world was awed. Quite right too: few had been expecting such an impressive device. (Thankfully it won't be long before the device itself slams onto our supermarket shelves).

But while the world stared doe-eyed, cooing over the newborn baby, another equally important announcement passed right over everyone's heads. It wasn't just a new console; it was 32 million new consoles. Sony announced the PlayStation Suite, a hardware-independent platform that will bring a whole new way of gaming to a range of devices, starting with any mobile phone running on Android 2.3. You read that right, any Android phone.

This is great news for any owners of those aforementioned smartphones. Sony have already guaranteed that they'll be bringing PlayStation One games to the Suite within the calendar year, so owners can look forward to some sweet 3D PS One titles – um, *Crash Bandicoot* anyone? Third-party titles have also been assured, although no names have been dropped, yet.

Developers are likely, however, to sign up in droves to this new initiative, as it's great news for anyone in the business of building games. The whole concept behind the Suite is that it's hardware-independent, meaning that a game built to run on one smartphone will also run on any other. Compatibility is a big gripe for developers and users alike, and hopefully the PlayStation Suite will allow more time to be spent on actually building games, rather than porting them from one platform to another.

The Suite is not limited to Android phones either. There have been rumours that Sony is planning to bring the framework to a lot of new, unconventional platforms. The PlayStation 3 seems an obvious choice, and bringing the Suite to the iPhone and even to Windows has also been rumoured. Given their place in the TV market, some sources have suggested that Sony also want to open it up Internet-enabled Bravia TVs, too.

Whatever the specifics, the PlayStation Suite is certainly a huge leap in a new direction for Sony. Some commentators have been sceptical over whether or not such a system really can be made compatible over such a large range of hardware. Certainly, bringing games to any Android phone is a massive technical challenge, and Sony has quite a suite of problems to solve. But with the potential to bring big name titles onto so many new devices, let's all keep our fingers crossed that they manage it!

## Nintendo 3DS: an exclusive hands-on preview

Chris Bowers

Last weekend I bagged tickets to an exclusive Nintendo 3DS hands-on preview – and first impressions were excellent! After a vague demonstration of *StreetPass*, “real-life” demonstrations of *Street Fighter* and *Resident Evil*, and a brief introductory video featuring Jonathan Ross (seemingly the new face of Nintendo Europe), I got my hands on the 3DS.

First off, the main selling point, the screen: it works brilliantly! As soon as I picked up the 3DS I was seeing the full effect of the 3D – it worked straight from the off. The effect was fantastic, especially considering the fact that it was glasses-free and instant. While not all the games I played made great use of the 3D, those that did (*Kid Icarus: Uprising* springs to mind) looked excellent, with enemies zooming in from the distance and text coming out of the screen at you. However, the 3D effect only works in certain ‘sweet spots’. You can tilt the screen as much as you like towards and away from you with no consequence, but twisting the device from side to side removes the 3D effect until you hit another sweet spot.

The rest of the hardware also worked well – the analog pad felt good under the thumb, gliding easily with the games responding accordingly. The dual camera system on the outside of the system produced great 3D photos, however when using the screen as a viewfinder the image looked a little blurry and some of the objects' depths looked a little off. Luckily, the software then seemed to perform some sort of rendering process that resulted in a realistic 3D image.

**“The 3D worked straight from the off”**

I managed to play a good selection of games across the two sessions, from a range of developers. *Ocarina of Time* and *Kid Icarus* both looked great and played really well. Also on display was the fantastic Augmented Reality card system which was great fun, spawning giant crystal snakes out of the surface you place the card on, and *Face Raiders*, a quirky but fun game that made good use of the 3D cameras and facial recognition technology. From third party developers, *Raving Rabbids: Travel in Time* was just a pretty standard platformer, while *Super Monkey Ball* made good use of the available motion sensors with some minor control issues.

Overall, the 3DS is looking like it'll be a great console, and a huge hit too. Forget the (arrogantly named) “Next Generation Portable”, this is the handheld to have.



# TRAVEL

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## Wishing You Were Here



Inspirational Slough by Chris Richardson

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

## Travel Deals of the Week



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# It's time to get away

**Chris Richardson** orders you to toss away the Valentine's Day courtesies, and consider travelling alone

**W**ith a significant proportion of you currently being in a 'dry spell' (as highlighted by Felix's excellent sex survey) this article is probably irrelevant to a lot of you. But I urge those it concerns to take some of the key points on board before hopping on the lovey-dovey travelling bandwagon. It takes some serious co-jones and a lot of hard work to properly pull it off.

Travelling alone is liberating: you can embrace people and experiences no holds barred and do whatever you want. As soon as you numb yourself with the morphine that is a friendship circle you instantly limit yourself to the route plans that you've probably had to compromise, because Gary doesn't see the point of looking at some dumb old rocks made by some insignificant hill tribe. Well replace your Gary with a Sophie and you've got bigger problems.

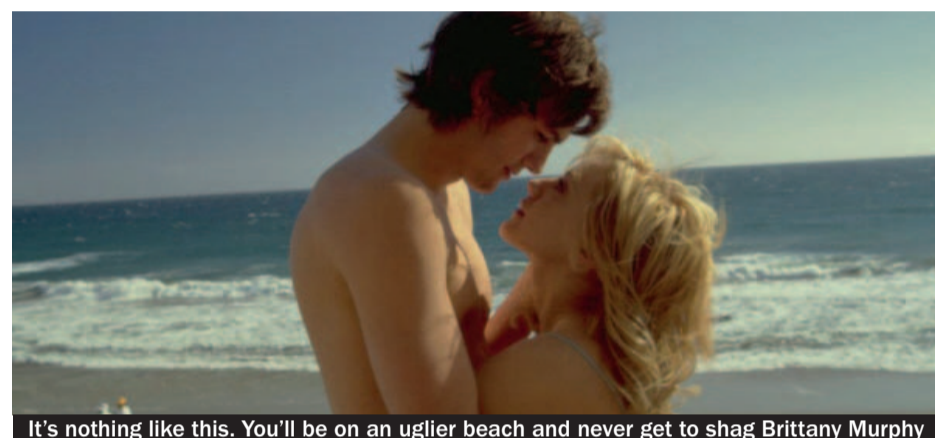
Travelling together is a bit like moving in, but a lot more intense. I guarantee that in sweltering heat and constantly in each other's detestable company you'd soon rather be back on the Piccadilly Line, scratching your arse with your copy of the Metro, instead of gazing up at Christ the Redeemer.

## Bon voyage to the budget

Oh sure, by shacking up and sharing a room it'll probably work out marginally cheaper over the course of a long trip. I mean hey, you're getting a room for two for less than the cost of two separate rooms, right? Well unfortunately that's where the cost benefits of travelling as a couple end. In fact, the above logic could probably apply to tagging along with a group of fun-loving Mexicans, or just sticking to much more social dorms.

Couples like to do nice things. They like to eat in fancy restaurants, opt in for the air conditioning, take a taxi over the filthy bus, and generally swim in that over-indulgent way of life like they're better than the rest of us. So much for budget travelling, eh? In spite of the pleas of 'hey, we can just go for the cheaper option!' you'll still find yourself compelled to fork out on the fancy stuff regardless.

And those dastardly looky-looky men that you've finally learnt to handle? They suddenly become a lot more ruthless. They see you coming as a couple and treat you like you're thicker than the fat yank in the baseball cap beside you. Yes, the babbling idiot with the thick Texan accent who gets angry at the slum child for not understanding him as he requests directions, and inadvertently coats the young boy in flecks of spit when he speaks. You're now on the same level as this guy. The looky-looky men will bleed you dry and make you pay for your monogamy.



It's nothing like this. You'll be on an uglier beach and never get to shag Brittany Murphy

## The detestable royal "we"

Ah, the royal "we". It's an inviting little comfort zone, isn't it? No need for the repeated trivial conversations with people on bus journeys now, you can just further bow down to being the travelling equivalent of a Fifties housewife. Couples are the most difficult group to interact with on the road – they're like, totally on another level of understanding of each other's consciousness: you wouldn't understand.

Oh sure, you might rock another look: you're one of those chilled couples who pride themselves on being social with everyone in their path. Congratulations on breaking a tiring cliché, but don't expect anyone else to avoid the stigma. While you may have overcome the stereotypes, people will still avoid you like the plague. If you travel as a couple, you come as a package. To the people around you this package is a time bomb that they'll do everything to avoid.

## Bickering and bus bathrooms

The following figures are from a real life case study. Young Jimmy spent three weeks on holiday with his girlfriend, took 500 photos, of which about two look worthy of appearing in a

holiday brochure. Said two photos took ten seconds to pose for – ten seconds out of 1.8 million seconds spent on holiday. Yet those photos are for some reason always the emphasis.

What the photos fail to capture are the countless bus journeys. You know the ones: the air-conditioning is causing your nipples to shrivel, and Australian Bob has got a woozy tummy and has decided to fill the toilet with the nauseating contents of his bowels. Thanks a bunch, Bob, thanks. Anyway, your photos hopefully never capture this, and if they should you should be more conservative with your memory card.

The point is that the seeming romanticism always generated by those snaps in Halong Bay are really not so glamorous: the couple are probably mid-argument, following a rather uncomfortable bus journey surrounded by Australian nutters. They say it's all about the journey, but journeys of this sort can really detract from the passion and bliss that you'd come to expect. It's much easier to have no expectations, no standards and nobody else to please.

In the wise words of LCD Soundsystem "it's time to get away, it's time to get away from you". Keep your travelling options limitless.

And if you're heading to South-east Asia, there'll be plenty of ladyboys at your disposal anyway – if you're lucky you might even bag yourself a free STI!



Russ' expression shows a combination of anger at Katy and a terrible case of the runs



# Ambling Argentinean escapades

The latest antics from **Priya Garg**, who tosses away her inhibitions and embraces the manic culture of Argentina's booming capital

Surviving a semi-camo twenty-four hour bus journey, we arrived at the slightly grubby omnibus terminal in the iconic metropolis of Buenos Aires. Throwing ourselves onto the Subte (Argentina's answer to the tube) we were presented with an antique wooden carriage complete with grey leather sashes hanging from the ceiling and extravagant glass wall lights.

The London Underground it was not. Winding through the quaint streets of San Telmo to our hostel, we found it amidst broken paving stones, crumbling colonial buildings, pillared walls, beautiful balconies and intricately carved gates. This was the hippie art district of Buenos Aires, a small residential area boasting artists, musicians and designers, housed within a bustling city full of light and life.

That night we attempted to cross the Avenue 9 de Julio, one of the widest roads in the world, each flank comprising of more than seven lanes in each direction, with careering Argentinean taxis speeding wildly round each corner spilling profanities. Bemusedly, the centre-piece of this magnificently broad avenue was formed by a soaring phallus-like obelisk which rose up to touch the sky, translating little of Buenos Aires' Argentinean charm.

As we walked toward the centre of the city, we quickly discovered again the disappointing taint of globalisation, from American-influenced street names to fast-food restaurants, and the unfortunately termed 'Palermo Hollywood' district that boasts showy nightclubs and pizza restaurants. Several blocks down, the Avenue de Florida was alive with tango dancers and merchants flogging the deprecatingly termed 'gringo gear' – everything from leggings, teapots and glowing snow-globes to maracas, friendship bracelets and postcards.

Beyond this hectic gathering lay the grandiose Casa Rosada, a huge pink palace, home of the executive seats of the ruling government of Argentina and offices of the President. Gilt, gold, fountains, finery and ostentatious guards now cover this historic monument. Perhaps the most infamous President, Juan Domingo Peron, husband of the much glorified 'Evita' Eva Peron still imposes his presence upon both the building and the rest of the city.

Peronism remains a contentious issue in Buenos Aires, with 'Up Evita' scrawled across walls next to our hotel and bygone Peronist politics under constant hushed discussion. If you wander

Priya Garg



Your mind is now infected with the moreish melodies of 'La Bamba'

around the non-government funded 'Evita Museum' you will find an encapsulated shrine to the actress-come-women's rights activist, telling of her social reforms and charitable welfare policies but little to enlighten you as to why her body was desecrated before it came to lie in the Recoleta cemetery, only adding to the mystery over Argentina's chequered and complex political history. Asking locals to unravel our confusion, we were often told "we don't want to speak about it".

Several streets down, next to the Institute of Tango, we visited the oldest cafe in Argentina, the Torton. A popular building where elderly waiters in striped trousers, bowties and carrying white cloths over one arm, click through mahogany walled surroundings and stained glass ceilings, memorising orders and bringing you fried sweet 'churros' pastries or sticky 'dulce de leche' caramel covered biscuits. As if static from the 1920s, it gives an otherworldly air to the painted, modern surrounding streets.

Finding much more live music here than in our search for samba in Rio de

Janeiro, we were delighted to see guitar bands and drummers on every corner. Disappointed by some of the passionless glum tango couples flicking heels for tourist pesos, we were mesmerised by one Spanish guitarist, whose fingers ran down his fret board strumming and plucking, until two street children ran up and smacked his guitar mid-perfor-

**"We were out-partied by fifty year olds, tangoing the night away in lively local dance halls"**

mance, jerking him out of his daydream.

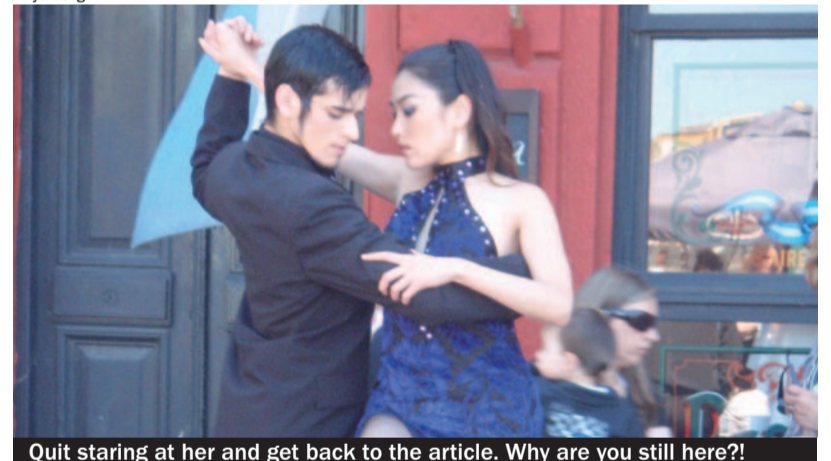
Later in our stay we went to a gig in the Ciudad Cultural Konex to experience the fervent drumming of 'La Bomba de Tiempo', a popular percussion group in the Abasto area of Buenos Aires. Girls with nose rings and boys with mohicans

tropical-blizzard/flickr



Daily commuters flock to the phallus to exploit its mystical healing powers

Priya Garg



Quit staring at her and get back to the article. Why are you still here?!

swayed and jumped to loud Argentinean beats, recorders and saxophonists. The club was aswirl with cigarette smoke, sweat, Brahma beer underfoot and the passion of a pounding band behind.

Walking out of the heat of the venue couples dotted the streets, wrapped in public displays of affection, on benches, in parks and against walls. Our English reserve and respect for personal proximity seemed almost prudent as we, arms extended, shook hands with our Argentinean neighbours, very 'proper' and 'how do you do', while any local would grasp us by the arm and kiss on the cheek in a first introduction. Our national stereotypes were magnified in their dichotomy in manner.

On our penultimate evening, we were treated to a typical national meal with two locals, who were kind enough to take us to a hearty restaurant, buzzing at one o'clock in the morning, full of people slicing grilled meats and savouring deep-flavoured red wine. If you go out in Buenos Aires, the party only really gets started in the early hours of the morning: clubs stay open until 7am, then after-clubs and even more after-clubs.

Even within our own hostel, the South Americans were the ones who were still awake at 8am for breakfast from the night before. Our early nights became something of a joke. According to the Argentineans, English people are very 'controlled', in reference to our early-night behaviour, finances and emotions. We were out-partied by fifty year olds, tangoing the night away in lively local dance halls.

Our final day was spent gazing at the popular, emblematic multi-coloured houses of La Boca next to the harbour, attempting to drink the acquired taste of bitter alcoholic 'furnet de coco' (a both surprising and unusual mixture of a bitter menthol liquor paired with the fizzy sweetness of Coca-Cola) and preparing ourselves for the mountainous, cold scenic beauty of the Argentinean lake district in Bariloche.

As we bid goodbye to Buenos Aires – a vibrant city packed with vitality, music, and all-night entertainment – we reflected on what we had learnt from our visit: to throw away our reticence, moderate our English reserve, and simply let ourselves go.



# HANGMAN

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## Twitter



Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor

Cammy can we drop the whole special relationship thing?



Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!

What on facebook? It's just a joke. Why has Shelly said something? FFS



Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor

Nah I mean USA and Britain special relationship



Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!

Wtf? Why? :(



Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor

the other world leaders think it's a bit gay



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

which ones?



Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor

Well....all of them



Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!

Well fuck them, Obie! Fucking homophobes



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

YEAH! GAY AND PROUD! I say we nuke them



SexyOsama69

Obie, is our relationship status still set to 'it's complicated'?

## DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

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

# Hangman's Guide to Valentine's Day

Yes, they're actually making me write about V-Day...

Any Imperial male with a good working knowledge of MatLab will know the horrifying cold sweat that a day like Valentine's Day can generate. It is truly the most repulsive day of the year; followed in close second by Remembrance Day – how do you think people with Alzheimer's feel!?!? But never fear my fellow virgins, Hangman has a step-by-step guide to staying sane this Monday the 14th of February. (To be completely clear, I say "fellow virgins", but, without being arrogant, Hangman is getting 'it' like a fat guy gets Chicken Cottage: whenever he damned well pleases, all day, all night.)

### Pretend it's not happening.

This is your standard level, "first line of defence" against feeling inadequate and lonely on Valentine's Day. Pretend that there's nothing special or unusual about the day. Hey, the 14th of February is just another Monday! There's absolutely no reason why you should be reminded of the fact that you've been at university for 3 years and you're yet to wake up to a girl smiling at you. No, Monday is all about 9am lectures, doing some lab work and possibly heading to the Union where you totally won't see any of the girls that you've secretly fancied



That's it. Die Valentine's Day. Die!

20 on the X-PS-Wii or some shit. Except everytime you die, your character takes off 'his' suit and is revealed to be a mega hot babe. Damn women! Is there no escape?!?

### Fine! Let's try and get 'one'.

Here we go, avoidance is pretty spineless right? You're going to tackle this problem head-on. Valentine's Day is your day brother! You're going to embrace it, and CONQUER IT. You da man! All right, we're going to keep things simple. You're going to ask a casual female acquaintance if she wants to go to the cinema on Valentine's Day. BUT (here's the trick), you lie and tell her that other people are coming as well. BOOM! You ready? Go over and ask her. What's the problem? You've pissed yourself? FOR FUCKS SAKE.

### Go home and cry.

I give up. There's no hope for you. Just stay in bed and crank until you're sore. Yes, you can use Facebook to stalk all the girls you like. No, don't comment on the profile pictures that particularly get you off. Yes, maybe it's a good thing; you'll get some work done. No, please, please don't jerk off to your coursewo... fuck it, I really don't care. I'm going to go find some Indian girls ([hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk) \*wink wink).

for as long as you've known them... Because they'll all be on dates... With tall, hot, cool guys... Damn, this isn't working.

### Make a point of doing something REALLY un-Valentinesy (Ed – that's not a word, douchebag)

Ok, we're going to take things to the next level. Sure, the 14th of February might be a special day, but that doesn't mean that you have to buy in to the corporate schmaltz and desperately find a girl to love and cherish you. Why can't you just do guy stuff? Yeh! Why the hell not? Grab some beers and plop down on the sofa and play GranTurbo DeathCon

## Dunc-E

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

This week Dunc-E explains... ISLAM

Islam is a religiOn Of peace which is why there are is never wars Or viOlence in Islamic cOuntries. Islam is unfairly pOrtrayed On in the media because Of a small minOrity whO gO bIOWing stuff up cOz they are called extremists because they are extremely angry. If you are write an article abOut Islam then yOu will mOst likely get bIOWed up by a extremeist because yOu are nOt allOwed tO write abOut Islam because Of that is nOt allOwed!!!!!! If yOu even think abOut their prophet (THE BIG M-DAWG) then yOu will get bIOWed up because yOu are disgracing their religiOn and that is nOt allOwed. If yOu are ever gOing tO write abOut Islam then make sure yOu are make it extremly well-researched and unbiased and there is a chance yOu will nOt get bIOWed up unless yOu are a wOman because yOu will always get bIOWed up because yOu are a wOman.







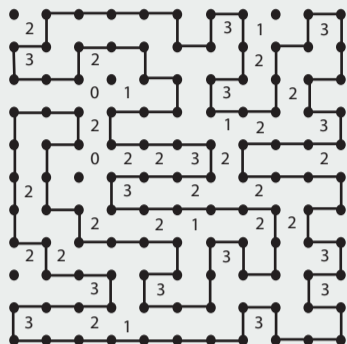
Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**  
**James Hook**  
**Aman Nahar**

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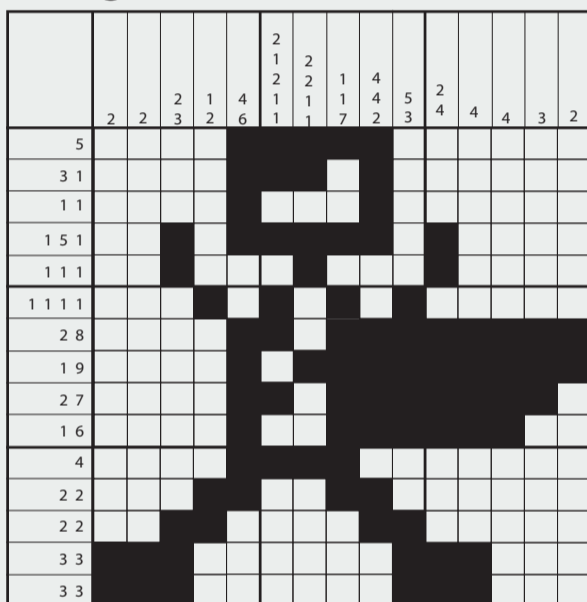
# PUZZLES

## Last Week's Solutions

### Slitherlink



### Nonogram



### Crossword



**CRYPTIC - Across** 1. Alarm 7. Rationale 9. Octagon 10. Glasses 11. Freeze Out 12. Allow 13. Resent 14. Reappear 17. Crossbar 19. Stakes 22. Awful 24. Metronome 26. Geckoes 27. Nirvana 28. Earnestly 29. Idled **Down** 1. A loaf 2. Anthems 3. Together 4. Ransom 5. Together 6. Omaha 7. Absolve 8. Eastwards 13. Rectangle 15. Potpourri 16. Marmoset 18. Officer 20. Know All 21. Stingy 23. Loose 25. Eland

**Going Underground** Sorry - the number was wrong - it was meant to be 187

U	P	P	E	R	H	O	L	L	O	W	A	Y
21	16	16	5	18	8	15	12	12	15	23	1	25

## Crossword

Oh yes! Oh yes! That's right it's a fantasy themed crossword.

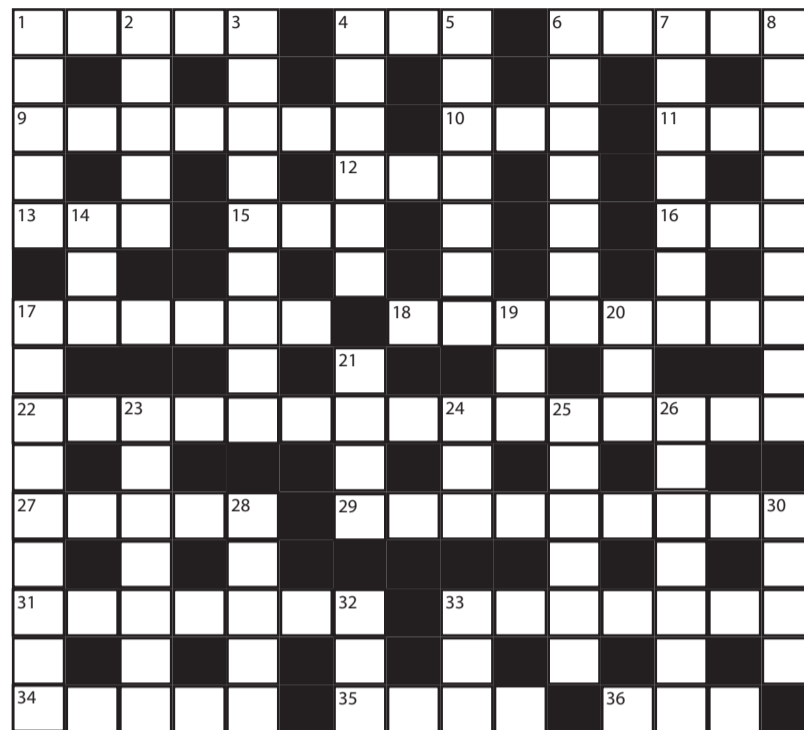
### Across

- 1. Home of the horse lords (5)
- 4. Divine/semi-divine mythical creature (3)
- 6. A bird often depicted as a trickster in mythology (5)
- 9. The large ancient Amorite king of Bashan slain by Moses at the battle of Edrei (5,2)
- 10. --- Charge, a Blue Mage skill learned from the creature of the same name in *Final Fantasy XI* (3)
- 11. 'So dark the --- of man', *The Da Vinci Code* (3)
- 12. --- *Dark Materials*, Philip Pullman series (3)
- 13. A character from the Book of Genesis (3)
- 15. A tree herder (3)
- 16. Legendary creature of Japanese folklore (3)
- 17. People are ---, *The Wizard's First Rule* (6)
- 18. Instruct a fallen opponent to attempt getting up (3,5)
- 22. What Gandalf says to the Balrog on the bridge of Khazad Dum (3,5,3,4)
- 27. A Semitic storm and rain god (5)
- 29. David Edding's series (9)
- 31. An anatomical organ of Harry Potter's best friend (4,3)

- 33. A Horde starting area, *World of Warcraft* (7)
- 34. Ched ---, a city in the world of the *Forgotten Realms* (5)
- 35. An appendage for flying (4)
- 36. Tough, warlike humanoid creatures (3)

### Down

- 1. Fitz's uncle in Robin Hobb's *Assassin's Apprentice* (5)
- 2. An organ of the body commonly used for eating/rituals (5)
- 3. Language spoken by the people of Netheril in the world of *Forgotten Realms* (although technically the suffix should be -ese) (9)
- 4. Magical numbers on *The Discworld* (6)
- 5. Surname of the royal family in Robin Hobb's *Assassin's Apprentice* (7)
- 6. Leftovers; remnants of an old building (7)
- 7. A drow character from the *Baldur's Gate* games (7)
- 8. Game consoles made by a Japanese company (informal term) (9)
- 14. A type of grain (3)
- 17. One of the Hogwarts houses (9)
- 19. Gwendoline ---, voice actress of Paine in *Final Fantasy X-2* (3)



- 20. Weather---, where Frodo is stabbed with a Morgul-blade by the Ringwraiths (3)
- 21. A weapon (4)
- 23. Water nymphs (7)
- 24. Nothing, zero (3)
- 25. Catch the sun god (4,2)
- 26. Alcoholic beverage commonly drunk by dwarves (1,6)
- 28. The Isle of ---, in *Feralas, World of Warcraft* (5)
- 30. --- elves, or drow (4)
- 32. How Gollum likes to eat his fish (3)
- 33. A fort or roundhouse (3)

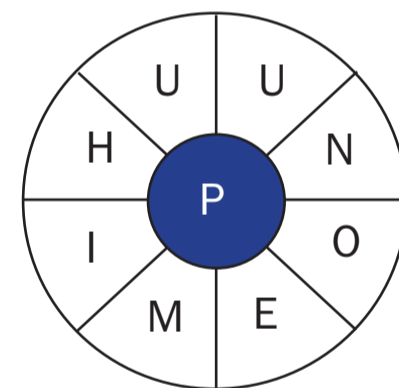
## Wordoku



I have resorted to a little Internet phrasing to convey extreme annoyance, old chap... Once again, every row, column and 3x3 box contains each symbol.

## Word Wheel

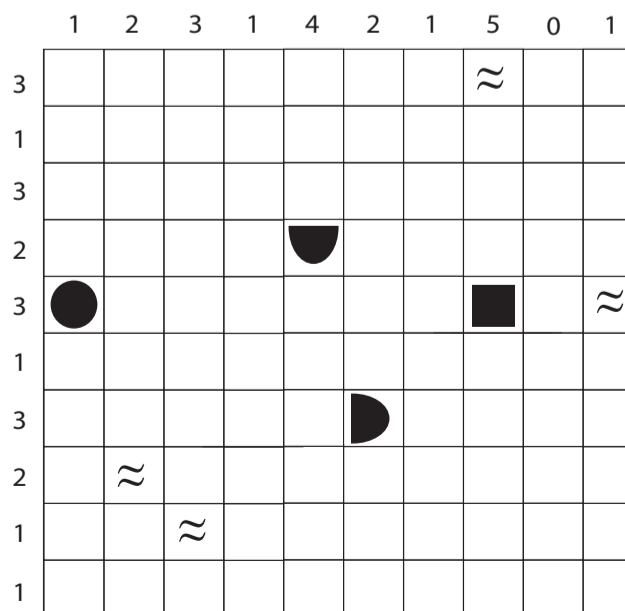
TARGET: 15



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

## Battleships

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



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







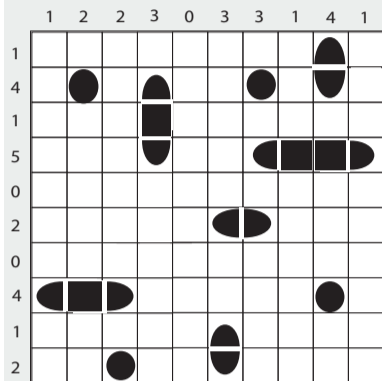


Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**  
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 puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# PUZZLES

## Last Week's Solutions

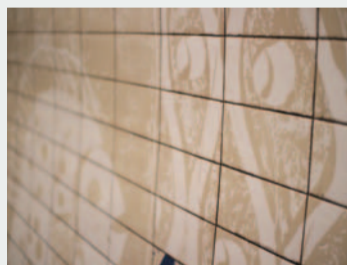
### Battleships



### Pictogram

1. Tabla
  2. Konghou
  3. Bagpipes
  4. Lepatata
  5. Qanun
- Ans: Attune

### Guess the tube stations!



South Kensington

### Chess Maze



WRook C7, BRook H4, WKnight F7

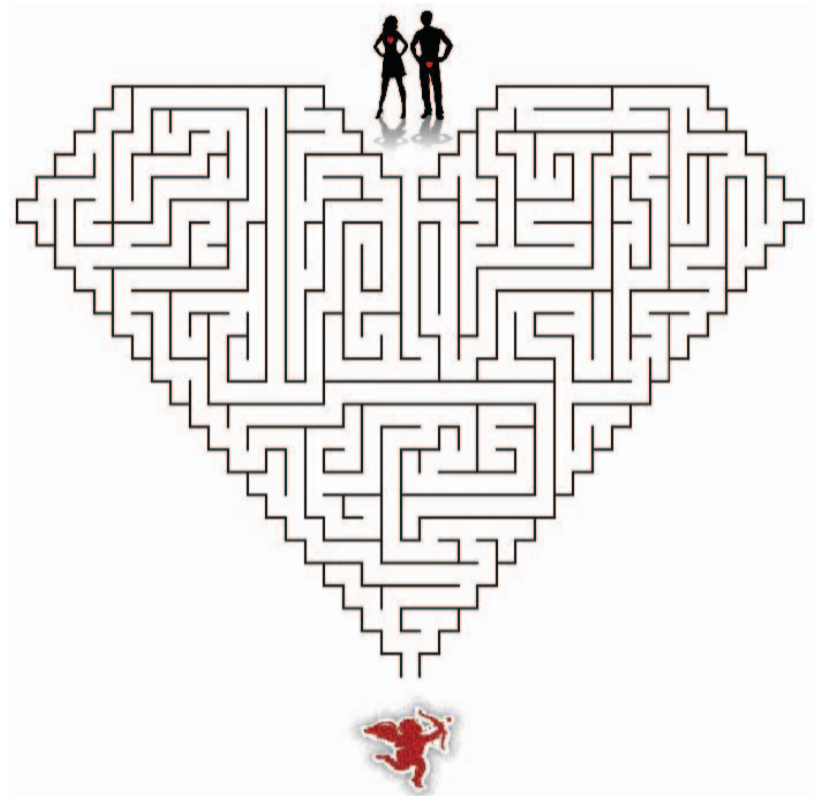
## Chess Maze

Black Checkmate in two moves, moves first



## Mentalist maze

Valentine's Day special - help Stupid Cupid find the lovers



## Guess the tube stations!



## Pictogram

- anagram of the letters in red spell the thematic answer

~ Greatest Love Story That Was Ever Told, Could Be Me  
 And You, You Just Never Know ~

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

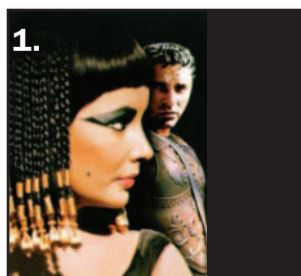
2. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Ans \_\_\_\_\_



1. Their love affair outraged the Romans who were wary of the Egyptians. Despite threats, Anthony and she got married...



2. Her tragic love story with Sir Lancelot is probably one of the best-known stories of Arthurian Legend.



3. This son of King Priam fell in love with Helen and abducted her, taking her back to Troy, starting the Trojan War...



4. This English royalty mourned her husband's death for 40 years...



5. This son of the great Mughal emperor Akbar, fell in love with an ordinary yet beautiful courtesan Anarkali...



# 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

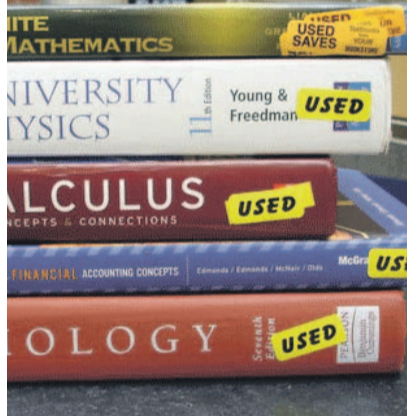
Deadline for adverts is Tuesday midnight



## ROOMS

### Single Room Available for Postgraduate Male

Clayponds Village  
£114/week  
Includes all bills and cleaning  
Available from February 14th  
Contact [rpt@8ways.net](mailto:rpt@8ways.net) for more details



## JOBS

Want to earn extra money and choose your own hours? Why not become an Independent AVON Representative? Find out more, call Kirsty on 020 8743 8223.



## BOOKS

A Concise Guide to Pure Maths (2nd Ed) – Liebeck. £15

Classical Mechanics (5th Ed) – Kibble & Berkshire. £20

Mathematical Techniques (4th Ed) – Jordan & Smith. £20

Lecture Notes on Complex Analysis. £25

## TUTORS

### Skill Swap Request

Need Help with Xcode/Cocoa  
Willing to teach Swiss-German/  
German/Portugese/French in return, or other things – am engineering postdoc.  
[Ginamaria81@gmail.com](mailto:Ginamaria81@gmail.com)

### Mandarin-French/ German language exchange

Want to practice Mandarin Chinese.  
Am willing to help with French or German in return (native speaker)  
[Elias.hamidao09@ic.ac.uk](mailto:Elias.hamidao09@ic.ac.uk)  
07587975073

## MISC

### NikeBauer Flexlite 14 Ice Skates

Good condition, used for less than a year. Size 11 (UK). £35 (retails for £70+). [rb1008@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rb1008@ic.ac.uk) (wrong number printed last week)

### 31-inch Toshiba Regza HD LCD TV

£239  
07510304566

### Men's Rigid Mountain Bike

£239  
07510304566

### 32-inch Sony Triniton Flat Wide-Screen TV

Dolby Virtual Sound Quality  
Integrated Freeview Tuner  
Remote Control + Stand  
Barons Court  
Pick up only  
07738902888

### Zanussi ZRC077 mini- fridge

Used for one year in halls, extremely quiet, £90 .  
Pick up preferred.  
Delivery could be arranged at a small fee.  
[Rb1008@ic.ac.uk](mailto:Rb1008@ic.ac.uk)

## 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.

### Women Seeking Men

Brighton-born indie fan looking for twee gent to do what all young lovers do. If you're interested, leave a cigarette burn on my skirt. You'll find me, I stick out like a sore thumb.

### Women Seeking Women

Cornwall lass looking for young Scot without prospects or appeal, for pathetic existence of TV watching and days out at ASDA. If interested, just kill yourself...

## EVENTS

**Veg Soc Pickling and Preserving workshop**  
21st Feb  
12:00-14:00  
Union Dining Hall

*"Veg Soc (Vegetable society) has teamed up with Waste Watch to host a pickling and preserving workshop. Seasonal foods will be pickled so you can enjoy them all year around! It's free for all, so come and see what fun things you can make last whilst keeping them delicious"*

### Post online!

You can also place free adverts online! Simply head to [iconnectimperial.com](http://iconnectimperial.com) create an account and post on their online marketplace!





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Make sense of it at [www.mi5.gov.uk/careers/intelligence](http://www.mi5.gov.uk/careers/intelligence)

To apply you must be over 18 and a British citizen. Discretion is vital. You should not discuss your application, other than with your partner or a close family member.

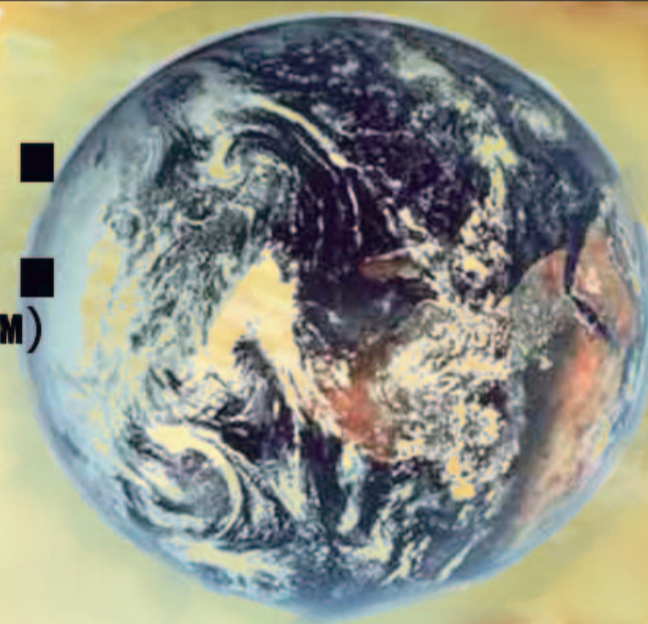


**SECURITYSERVICE**  
**MI5**

# MUHAMMAD :

(PEACE BE UPON HIM)

# ORPHAN THAT ADOPTED THE WORLD



# I A F

THURSDAY 17TH FEB  
MUFTI ABDUR RAHMAN  
6PM, HUXLEY LT308

**A MAN THAT GUIDES 1.5BN  
PEOPLE TODAY  
IS HE WORTHY OF SUCH  
INSPIRATION? COME AND FIND OUT  
AT IAF**

**islam awareness fortnight**

- other events in IAF:**
- 'Why I became Muslim' Tuesday 15th Feb, 6pm, Huxley 311
  - 'God Vs Science?' Friday 25th Feb, 6pm SAF
  - Exhibitions around campus

imperial  
college  
union





## SPORT

# Ice Hockey: Knights unable to slay the mighty Devils

**Will Mason**

**Ice Hockey**

**IC 1st 5 - 3 Kent 1st**

Some recent strong performances saw the Devils in good spirits ahead of the home game against Kent, currently bottom of the league table. There is also the added rivalry of going up against Imperial's old coach, Vince Miller, a lecturer at Kent who encouraged the formation of Kent's own team.

Despite a great performance at the last fixture against Birmingham, the Devils were slow to pick up the pace in the first period. Kent was able to keep possession for long periods and get a few shots on goal, successfully turned away by Devils' Net Minder Collins, 38. Verbal encouragement from coach Dave Coolegem during the period saw play pick up and develop, culminating in an unassisted goal by Philippe Benani-Kamane playing in the number 2 Jersey. Just as the period was drawing to a close Devils' winger and alternate captain Marcus Ulmefors, 25, was fairly penalised for checking from behind, putting the Devils on the Penalty Kill and Ulmefors out for 10 minutes. Starting the 2nd period 1 man down the Devils held off well until a last second goal by Kent pulled the score-lines level. Back in 5-on-5 play it was moments before defence-man Kurt Kolb, 12, slotted the puck, assisted by Captain Ed Grant, 14. Play continued hot and heavy with some great body

checks being thrown, notably by Kolb. Mid-way into the period Kent equalised again, giving the Devils no time to rest. The remainder of the period played out with several scoring chances for the Devils, sadly none of them finding the puck in the back of the net.

Inspiring words from Coach Coolegem put the bit firmly between the Devils' teeth. The third period started with a couple of strong attempts to score before Benani-Kamane, 2, got his second goal assisted by Grant, 14. Back in the lead the Devils' had one purpose and they followed up with a fourth goal minutes later by Ulmefors, 25, assisted by Lohner, 67, and Belair, 81. Kent immediately called a time-out and it was clear they would go all out to score. Coach Coolegem put the emphasis on safety-play, minimising the risk of conceding. Back on the ice and moments after the face-off Benani-Kamane, 2, seized the opportunity and scored himself a hat-trick, assisted by Kratky, 68, and Grant, 14. Kent were enraged and drove for goal on the very next face-off, scoring their third with little time remaining in the period. The Devils' had a couple of extra chances, but played out the remaining minute with no goals leaving the score-line at a comfortable 5-3 win.

Man-of-the-Match went to Knights' 33, credited with two assists and generally agreed to be fastest on the puck, whilst Devils' Dan Belair, 81, was also named despite not having scored.



# Football: 1st team go top of table and into ULU Semi's

*...Continued from Back Page*

ever, as the second half saw the midfield trio of Zarnas, Wilson and Benincasa dictating play with neat interchanges. Imperial's lead was extended to three goals when Eshun was clattered by an outpaced RUMS full-back, just yards from the box. Benincasa lofted the resulting free-kick into the danger zone, and Zarnas duly leapt to steer the ball into top-right corner of the net with a well-placed header.

Having effectively sealed the game Imperial's tempo dropped temporarily, permitting RUMS a few tentative forays towards the Imperial goal – pressure which was readily absorbed, and failed

to draw a save from Garner in goal. The final minutes of the match saw renewed efforts from Imperial, with Robinson and Roshid both going close. The last word in the match was grabbed by Beswetherick who, having been hacked down inside the area, rammed the resulting penalty into the roof of the net in emphatic fashion – despite protestations from Imperial defender Graham.

Honours for Man of the Match were split between Zarnas and Benincasa, though there were many potential candidates. 4-0 was the final score, with the 1s easing into the Cup semi-finals, and in good spirits ahead of the upcoming match against league contenders LSE.



# Netball: Three games in three days for the ladies 1st team

## Mixed bag of results in London fixtures

**Bernice Cutler**

**Netball**

**IC 1st 38-46 UCL**

**IC 1st 31-16 RUMS**

**IC 1st 32-22 LSE**

Having 3 matches in 3 days is never fun but ICUNC 1s stepped up to the challenge.

On Monday, faced with playing UCL 1s, who looked stylish as always, the IC girls began their campaign to win three matches in three days. With some good movement around the court, it wasn't long before IC realised that UCL were out to win and would play dirty to make sure they did! Every centre our GD, Bernice Cutler, was elbowed in the ribs as her player ran to receive the ball as well as GA, Nicole Evans, being pushed around at the other end. When a complaint was put in to the umpire, she simply asked if Bernice was going to move away and if not, then to get the GA back.

At half time UCL were at least 17 goals in front. But some good team spirit enabled us to gain back nine of those goals as GS, Tamar, was on top form! Although we lost (simply due to them playing dirty) we had to keep our heads held high as Tuesday's match was against the UCL Medics- RUMS.

Wherever the medics are from, IC always want to beat them and RUMS (UCL Medics) were no exception. Meeting at South Ken as always, Captain Nicole remembered that Emma Gould was unable to play sending panic through the team. How were we supposed to win with six players? Particularly as Emma was the player of the match on Monday.

Arriving in Brixton to take on RUMS for the second time this term, we were determined to win even with six players. They are medics after all!! It soon became clear that we were able to wipe the floor with RUMS winning comfortably to go through to the next round of the ULU cup...

What we didn't know was that our

competition for the next round was UCL 1s who we had played the day before! Next time we will show them how it is done.

Our final match of the three was against LSE 1s in the far, far away place that is Berrylands. After an hour journey there, the team were not as enthusiastic as they were at the beginning of the week but the fighting spirit soon kicked in. With fantastic movement and interceptions from many players on the court including Rachel Zaborski and Carolyn Sharpe, IC entered the final quarter ahead, but not as comfortably as they would have hoped. Not to worry though as LSE only managed to break down the defence once in the whole quarter because they pushed over WD, Sorcha Cotter. It was quite clever of them to distract IC 1s from defending by pushing over the token fresher! But their dirty play was not enough to beat the 1s!

We're up against the Medics 1s next week, so let's hope it's another Medics team which IC 1s are able to beat!!



## SPORT

Felix Sports League

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Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Fencing M1	8	8	0	0	960	757	203	5.00
2 Basketball M1	8	8	0	0	607	467	140	5.00
3 Fencing W1	7	7	0	0	940	497	443	5.00
4 Table Tennis M2	6	6	0	0	94	8	86	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 Squash W1	10	8	0	2	31	8	23	3.20
13 Basketball W1	5	4	0	1	229	178	51	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	11	8	0	3	457	310	147	2.55
18 Rugby M1	10	7	0	3	217	143	74	2.30
19 ICSM Hockey W1	7	4	1	2	25	15	10	2.00
20 ICSM Football M1	7	4	1	2	23	14	9	2.00
21 Hockey M1	7	4	1	2	22	17	5	2.00
22 ICSM Hockey M3	6	4	0	2	11	19	-8	2.00
23 ICSM Rugby M3	8	5	0	3	168	209	-41	1.63
24 Badminton M1	10	4	3	3	44	36	8	1.40
25 Tennis W1	5	3	0	2	30	30	0	1.40
26 Hockey M2	9	4	2	3	16	23	-7	1.33
27 Netball W3	7	4	0	3	231	168	63	1.14
28 Hockey M3	7	2	3	2	6	5	1	1.14
29 Football M1	10	5	1	4	27	17	10	1.10
30 Badminton W1	10	5	1	4	34	46	-12	1.10
31 Fencing M2	9	5	0	4	1017	994	23	1.00
32 Netball W2	8	4	0	4	295	333	-38	0.50
33 ICSM Netball W4	6	3	0	3	152	149	3	0.50
34 ICSM Badminton W1	7	2	2	3	29	33	-4	0.29
35 ICSM Badminton M1	8	3	1	4	24	40	-16	0.13
36 ICSM Netball W2	9	4	0	5	282	298	-16	0.00
37 Fencing W2	9	4	0	5	1026	1051	-25	0.00
38 ICSM Hockey M1	7	3	0	4	13	14	-1	-0.14
39 ICSM Hockey M2	8	2	2	4	12	24	-12	-0.25
40 ICSM Football M2	5	2	0	3	14	16	-2	-0.40
41 Football W1	5	2	0	3	11	15	-4	-0.40
42 Badminton M2	8	3	0	5	33	31	2	-0.63
43 Football M2	9	4	0	7	12	27	-15	-0.89
44 Ice Hockey Mx2	2	0	1	1	2	7	-5	-1.00
45 Water Polo M1	2	0	1	1	13	18	-5	-1.00
46 ICSM Hockey W3	3	1	0	2	3	13	-10	-1.00
47 Ice Hockey Mx1	6	2	0	4	24	41	-17	-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 Rugby W1	6	1	0	5	76	195	-119	-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 Hockey M4	7	1	0	6	8	19	-11	-2.71
61 Rugby M4	7	1	0	6	49	295	-246	-2.71
62 Tennis M2	6	0	1	5	14	57	-43	-3.00
63 Squash M2	10	1	0	9	11	39	-28	-3.10
64 Squash M1	6	0	0	6	4	26	-22	-4.00
65 ICSM Netball W3	7	0	0	7	134	257	-123	-4.00

5 points for a win | 2 points for a draw | -4 points for a loss

# Handball: Close call for the Eagles as they manage to fend off rivals UCL

Stefan Bauer

Handball

IC 1st 22 - 21 UCL 1st

There was not a single moment of calm in the game that would determine the top seed in the London division of the Handball Development League.

It was already the 5th time that UCL and Imperial have met on the handball court on a competitive level, but not even the infamous 9:7 victory for IC in 2010 was as closely contested as last weekend's game. In fact, the tension was so obvious, that even our Spanish line-player, Ignacio Vasquez-Garcia, managed to be on time for a game for the first time this season. In an act of provocation, the UCL-based girls playing for the two rivals' joint women's team came to support their university's players, despite that fact that they train with Imperial, but soon changed their 'loyalties' in favour of the more attractive side.

The game was off to a good start for Imperial as Lucas Carstens, inspired by the fact that his Danish countrymen had reached the Handball World Cup final the day before, found the back of the net with a rocket of a shot in the first minute. However, UCL appeared not to be intimidated and even managed to take the lead in the early stages of the game.

The Eagles' solid 5-1 defence, with an ever-so-agile Roberto Galli fighting for every ball, kept the visitors from South Ken in the game. Untypically, though, it was the attacking department that appeared to have trouble getting into the game. 'Incredible' was Thibault Herrier's response when asked to comment about the missed chances in front of the opponent's goal, which was, in all fairness, guarded by a real goalkeeper this time.

When the referee blew the half time whistle (the only right call that baboon made all day) the Imperial Eagles were trailing by 3 goals. The interval gave every member of the team time to reflect on an intense 30 minutes and offered an opportunity to have some rather bruised digits taped for Hugh Ronzani, who was brave enough to play on.

Tobias Gierk displayed impressive relentlessness in attack and was keen to induce some rhythm into the game by coordinating IC's clever, yet largely unsuccessful schemes, which did prove difficult in a heated match like this. As a matter of fact, the aforementioned primate of a referee made things worse by demonstrating a unique lack of vision combined with spectacularly poor understanding of the game's rules. His decisions intensely infuriated our president and right-back Kolja Ortmann, who let off some steam on the court by scoring an impressive goal with an underarm shot that almost saw the UCL keeper jump out of the way.

With Juan Avila-Anton making his debut



Player 14 has had a strong season, he's really bounced back from those sex scandals

for the Imperial Eagles and David Müller-Wiesner bringing some fresh legs onto the court, the team made sure to stay within 4 goals of their rivals, and eventually go ahead towards the end of the game. No one expected the hosts to surrender easily though – and they surely didn't! UCL gathered all the energy they had left and tirelessly fired shot after shot at Stefan Bauer's goal. However, IC's number one and most capped player was equal to almost everything that came his way on this day and, once again, played a crucial role in a fixture against this site.

With merely 90 seconds to go, Imperial was 3 goals ahead and could smell the sweet scent of victory when Mike Capper, who had significantly increased his season-scoring tally in the first half of the game, found himself in a promising shooting position. After his potentially decisive shot came off the post the team lost focus on 2 occasions, which handed their opponent a chance to even draw the game in the last moments. Fortunately, an ill-timed pass handed possession over to the guests again, who then made no mistake and secured those valuable 2 league points.

## Rugby: First team earn hard fought victory in dying seconds of the game

David Wilson

Rugby

Imperial 1s 24-21 Kent University 1s

Captain Charlie Esberger barged over for a try in the penultimate play of the match to rescue a result for Imperial who appeared to be heading for a second loss in a row after letting a two try lead slip.

Imperial were looking to bounce back last weeks shock defeat to Chichester and started the match brightly with the forwards providing good ball for the backs to attack out wide. Whilst man of the match, Louie Barnett prevented certain Kent try with a last man tackle. Discipline still remains a problem amongst the team, with penalties allowing Kent to gain territory and cancelling out Imperial's hard work in attack. Imperial went ahead with a try from Thomas Chavas who protected the ball at the tail of a driving maul off a lineout.. Despite of-

fering threat, Imperial could not build on their lead and lax defending allowed Kent to level just before the break.

Imperial took the game to their visitors after half time and went ahead with tries from Simon Fenton and a second from Chavas, following good carries from Ed Labinski, Jamie Aldridge and Sean Baker. Kent old boy, Ben Adubi, combined well with his partner at centre, Joe Harris, and the back three of Barnett, Nathan Fitzpatrick, Jack Judd and his replacement Jack Newton ran good strong lines whilst the half backs of James Hayward and Olly Cox produced a solid platform to work off. Substitute veteran prop, Callum O'Rourke, added further strength in the scrum and the loose as the game wore on.

Complacency seeped into Imperial's game allowing Kent back in but the team showed its determination and grit to come back and snatch a victory from the jaws of defeat.



# SPORT

## Gaelic Sports: Cambridge fall to Imperial for a second year

Ed Fitzpatrick

Last Saturday the IC Gaelic Football team recorded their first win of the season away against Cambridge.

Playing against a stiff diagonal breeze, Imperial knew that resistance would be the order of play for the first half. However, some cutting runs forward by Eddie Fitzpatrick and Donal Connolly were boosted by sterling defending from old hands Ed O'Hare and Andy Lavery and man-of-the-match William Seez, and Imperial soon found themselves enjoying the majority of the possession

in front of the Cambridge posts. Some lapses in concentration led to some well-taken points and two easy goals for Cambridge.

A potential third was blocked at short range by keeper Harry Evans and in spite of the strong wind his deep kick-outs found their way to Sean Dunne and Eddie Fitz who recorded a goal and two points between them in the first half. Dunne eventually picked up the three-pointer after continuously beating his man to the ball. A flurry of goalmouth scrambles around John McGuckin were eventually cleared leaving Imperial

trailing by four points at half-time on a score-line of 2-3 to 1-2.

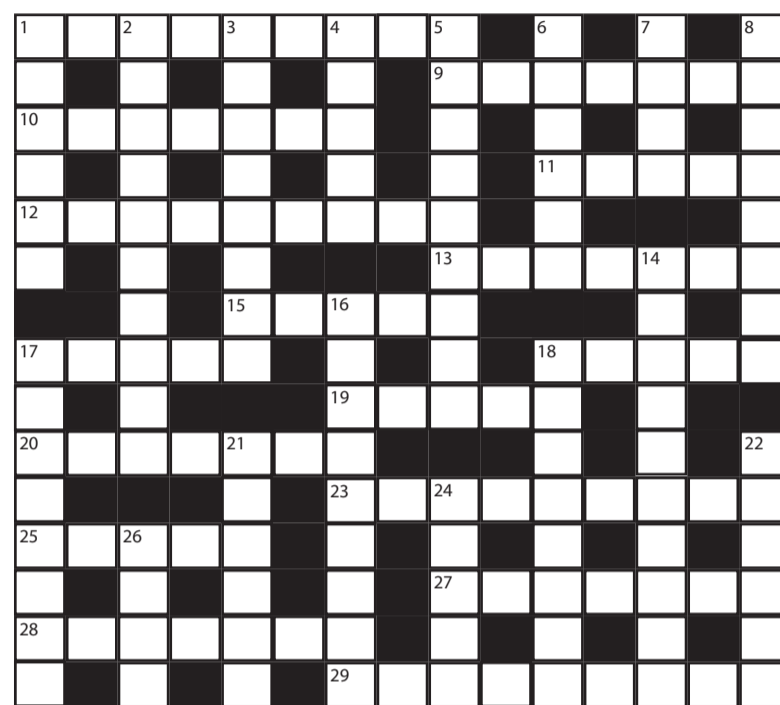
The second half started well for Imperial with midfield duo Finian McCann and Donal Connolly combining to win the throw-in. With the wind at their backs, Imperial really began to move the ball quickly into Dunne and Conn O'Rourke with Dunne starting the scoring for the half with a goal and a point. Cambridge briefly held possession near the Imperial end before McCann received the ball just inside the Cambridge half to duly launch the ball over the bar from fifty-five yards. With O'Hare, Lavery, Ben Ryder and debutant James Shanahan blunting the Cambridge attack, Imperial had now found a comfortable rhythm as Dunne, Connolly and Mike White scored points. A fortuitous goal from Fitzpatrick was followed by another from O'Hare off the back of some powerful forward drives. Cambridge struck back however against the run of play to smash home a goal off the cross-bar and then another barely two minutes later. With ten minutes remaining the score stood at 4-7 to 4-3 in favour of Imperial as Cambridge looked ready to cause an upset.

Be that as it was, Imperial dug deep and half-time addition Francis O'Neill made some great runs forward from full back to let the midfield diamond of O'Hare, McCann, Connolly and Fitz control the remainder of the match, reinforced by the muscle of Seez. After a long burst from McCann and a beautifully curled point from the boot of Fitzpatrick, IC were replied to by a final score for Cambridge. After intercepting and dispossessing a string of short Cambridge kickouts, Imperial killed off the game with points for McCann and O'Rourke and yet another major from Sean Dunne, leaving the final score Imperial 5-11 (26 points) Cambridge 4-4 (16 points).

The very encouraging display from the Boys in (darker) Blue was celebrated to the tune of the finest 'odes to' alongside much cider and flowing champagne after the victory.



## Cryptic Crossword 1,482



**Across**

- 1. Fuel for 100 aboard SS Links (9)
- 9. Swirling wind destroyed a party (7)
- 10. One suffering wrath of Artemis to pursue surrounding aeroplane wings (7)
- 11. Pay back, replacing head with head of viper with poison (5)
- 12. Smile with the sunrise, perhaps (7,2)
- 13. Lundgren inside sort of whale (7)
- 15. Breathe one's last in golden goodbye (5)
- 17. Face of elaborate song for Lambert (5)
- 18. Concrete structure to protect plane. Thank You! (5)
- 19. Particular kind of pointed stick (5)
- 20. Boy, you're a prime swordsman (7)
- 23. Devious detective performed well on the road (9)
- 25. Sporting struggle with horrible people holding queen (5)
- 27. Toe loss horribly gives least stability (7)
- 28. Inside bush, love that's fiery (7)
- 29. Actuary, one holding page, loses right to hospital (9)

**Down**

- 1. Rocker going against the grain, perhaps (6)
- 2. Giant moans about hostility (10)
- 3. Leader's uninvited and leaves after party happening at some point (8)
- 4. Have ability to be on list of saints (5)
- 5. MUST CRUSH TAXES! (5,4)
- 6. Motor left with nonsensical communication (6)
- 7. Drinking establishment normality in farm building (4)
- 8. Wisdom extremely dopey in France (8)
- 14. Fall over, as a DJ might? (3,3,4)
- 16. Office work a crime through infiltration (6,3)
- 17. Killer of two donkeys at home (8)
- 18. A job more confusing with vast quantities of alcohol (8)
- 21. Say to check again (6)
- 22. Facing into sun, for instance, for part of generator (6)
- 24. Might this be found in accusal voice? (5)
- 26. Left out gun that's widespread (4)

### Fixtures & Results

in association with

**Saturday 5 February**

**FOOTBALL ULU**

Men's 1s 4  
RUMS 1s 0

Men's 2s 0  
Royal Holloway 2s 0

**Saturday 6 February**

**BASKETBALL ULU**

Women's 1s 36  
Queen Mary, University of London 1s 31

**HOCKEY ULU**

Women's 1s 2  
Royal Holloway 1s 0

**RUGBY UNION ULU**

Women's 1s 22  
St George's Hospital Medical School 1s 35

**Monday 7 February**

**BASKETBALL**

Women's 1s 43  
Kingston University 1s 50

**NETBALL ULU**

Women's 1s 26  
Imperial Medicals 1s 36

Women's 2s 32  
UCL 3s 41

Women's 3s 29  
Goldsmiths 2s 24

Women's 4s 16  
Queen Mary, University of London 3s 26

**WATERPOLO**

Men's 1s 13  
King's College 1s 4

**Monday 9 February**

**BADMINTON**

Men's 1s 0  
UWE 1s 8

**BASKETBALL**

Men's 1s 90  
University of Hertfordshire 2s 26

Women's 1s 60  
Kingston University 1s 46

**FENCING**

Women's 2s 119  
Brunel University 1st 116

**FOOTBALL**

Men's 2s 2  
Buckinghamshire New University 2s 3

Women's 1s 4  
University of Chichester 2s 3

**GOLF**

Mixed 1s 3  
University of Kingston 2s 3

**HOCKEY**

Men's 1s 6  
University of Hertfordshire 1s 2

Men's 2s 0  
University of Reading 3s 1

Men's 3s 1  
University of Portsmouth 4s 2

Men's 4s 5  
University of Middlesex 1s 0

Women's 1s 1  
Royal Holloway 1s 3

Women's 2s 1  
Brunel University 3s 1

**LACROSSE**

Women's 1s 3  
UCL 1s 11

**NETBALL**

Women's 3s 13  
LSE 3s 26

**RUGBY**

Men's 1s 21  
University of Kent 21

Men's 2s 26  
University of Essex 14

**SQUASH**

Men's 3s 5  
King's College 2s 0

**TENNIS**

Women 1s 0  
University of Surrey 12

**Saturday 12 February**

**RUGBY UNION ULU**

Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 2nd

Men's 3rd vs RUMS 3rd

**FOOTBALL ULU**

Men's 1st vs LSE 1st

Men's 2nd vs Goldsmiths 1st

Men's 3rd vs Imperial Medicals 2nd

Men's 3rd vs UCL 4th

Men's 4th vs LSE 5th

Men's 6th vs St George's Medical School 3rd

Men's 6th vs King's College 4rd

Men's 7th vs King's College 6th





Rugby 1sts beat Kent in last minute of game  
Page 46

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# Football 1sts go top and into ULU semis

First eleven put four past RUMS to win ULU Double Header

**Tom Fryatt**  
Football

IC 1st 4 - 0 RUMS 1st

A tight fixture schedule meant that the match between the 1st XI squads of Imperial and RUMS was to be played as a double header, with the result counting for both the ULU League, and Cup quarter final. The squad was in a confident mood however, being unbeaten in the league, and knowing that a win would take them to the top of the table for the first time in the season.

Given their opponent's position towards the foot of the table, Imperial opted for an aggressive three-five-two formation. This very nearly produced a goal in the opening exchanges of the match, with Robinson firing a low cross to strike partner Eshun, who rattled the post with an audacious first-time effort from the edge of the box.

This set the tone for the rest of the first half, and Imperial didn't have to wait long for an opener, with Eshun doing well to control and then convert Beswetherick's cross, in a crowded penalty area. Imperial continued to dominate proceedings, with the back three seemingly untroubled by the occasional RUMS long ball. Five minutes before the break, the lead was doubled when a delicate, if wind assisted, through ball from Benincasa found Robinson, who kept his head to coolly finish the one on one.

With the very real chance that positions at the top of the league will be decided on goal difference, the emphasis at half-time was placed on maintaining the intensity of the first half, and the squad was determined not to repeat the previous week's feat of squandering a two goal lead. No such luck for RUMS how-

...Continued on Page 45



# Close call for Handball

The Eagles have a thrilling encounter against UCL  
Page 46

## TECHNOLOGY



Murdoch launches new iPad magazine:  
Page 12

## POLITICS



Does aid cause more harm than good?: Page 15

## MUSIC



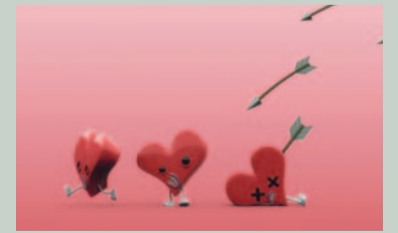
Is there anyone who doesn't love Laura Marling?: Page 26

## FILM



True Grit is another Coen Brothers success: Page 28

## HANGMAN



Hangman's guide to surviving Valentine's Day: Page 38