



# COMMUNICATING RISK

Interviews with scientists and journalists on the challenge of communicating risk accurately. **Page 10**

ISSUE 1487

“Keep the Cat Free”

# FELIX



06.05.11

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

## £40 million budget shortfall

CEO of Imperial NHS Trust, Stephen Smith, warns of funding gap due to ‘funding withdrawals’ from local Primary Care Trusts. **Page 2**

## Science Challenge starts

Funding difficulties mean this year’s delayed Science Challenge is vastly scaled-down in comparison to previous years. **Page 2**

## Football team fined

Football team sanctioned by Amateur Football Association and Sport Imperial after fans fight with UCL players at ULU Cup Final. **Page 4**

## Campus demonstration

Anti-Ethiopian government protestors descend on campus to protest an Ethiopian government conference in the Great Hall. **Page 4**

## Imperial mourns Anthony Soh

Friends hold memorial service in memory of 1st year Mechanical Engineering student Anthony Soh, who lost his life this Easter. **Page 5**

# MECH ENG BLUNDER

## £3 million exhaust system built with wrong type of steel; responsibility for error undetermined

**Kadhim Shubber**

A team of technical experts is currently investigating how a £3 million exhaust system, in the Mechanical Engineering building, came to be built with galvanised, instead of stainless steel. The College were reluctant to reveal the cost of fixing the error, saying only that it was less than half of the original cost, meaning that whichever party is found liable could face a bill of up to £1.5 million.

The heavy-gauge exhaust system is

supposed to ventilate toxic gases from engine test labs to the roof, and is part of a wider £13.5 million refurbishment of Mech Eng being carried out by the construction firm ISG.

The refurbishment was originally planned to have been completed in October 2010 but has faced delays and rising costs due to the exhaust system mistake and other additional work. The refurbishment is now intended to finish in the summer.

Steve Howe, Director of Capital Projects and Planning, said that when the

mistake was discovered, “it was felt that [the exhaust system] wouldn’t stand up to long-term use”. He emphasised that the liability for the mistake was still unknown and didn’t rule out the possibility that Imperial would have to meet some of the extra costs.

He said that other work, in addition to the original £13.5 million contract, was also ongoing and said that the final cost of the refurbishment was still to be agreed.

ISG did not respond to a request for comment.

## NEW WEBSITE



We redesigned our website. Check it out! [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)

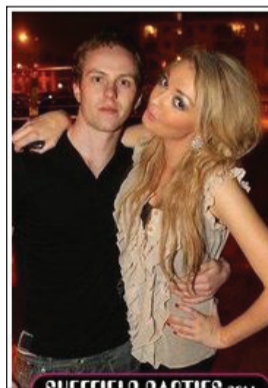
## BOOKS



Interview with novelist David Mitchell: **Page 25**

# Facebook fraud befriends freshers

This year, unsuspecting freshers became friends with ‘Demi’. But she doesn’t exist and the photo is stolen. **Page 2**



**Demi Atkinson-Turner** +1 Add as Friend

Born on 12 October 1989

### Basic Information

Interested in Men and women

## HANGMAN

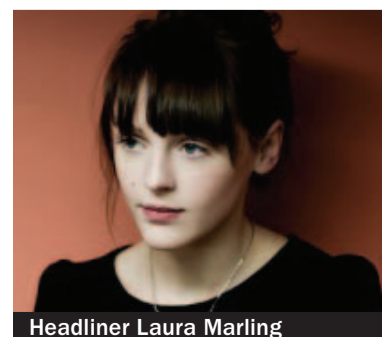


Looking back at ‘SexyOsama69’: **Page 30**

# The Summer Ball 2011

A new-look Summer Ball has been announced, with more live acts and a festival feel. But what do students think?

**Page 7**



Headliner Laura Marling

# HIGHLIGHTS

## On campus

### Lunchtime Concert

If you are looking for a break during all those hours of revision, or simply to enjoy something a little bit different on campus, this lunchtime concert, with Imperial performers, is just the right thing for you. The programme is yet to be decided, but it's free and open to all. Contact Andrea Robins – a.robins@imperial.ac.uk – for more information about the programme.

**Read Lecture Theatre, Sherfield**  
**12 May 13:00–13:45**

### Swarm of Robots

Dr Frantisek Stepanek discusses the role of microscopic robots in drug delivery in the body. These robots are being designed to adopt the characteristics of swarms of birds to deliver drugs in new ways. £3. Contact Jill Cook – admin@friendsofimperial.org.uk – for more information.



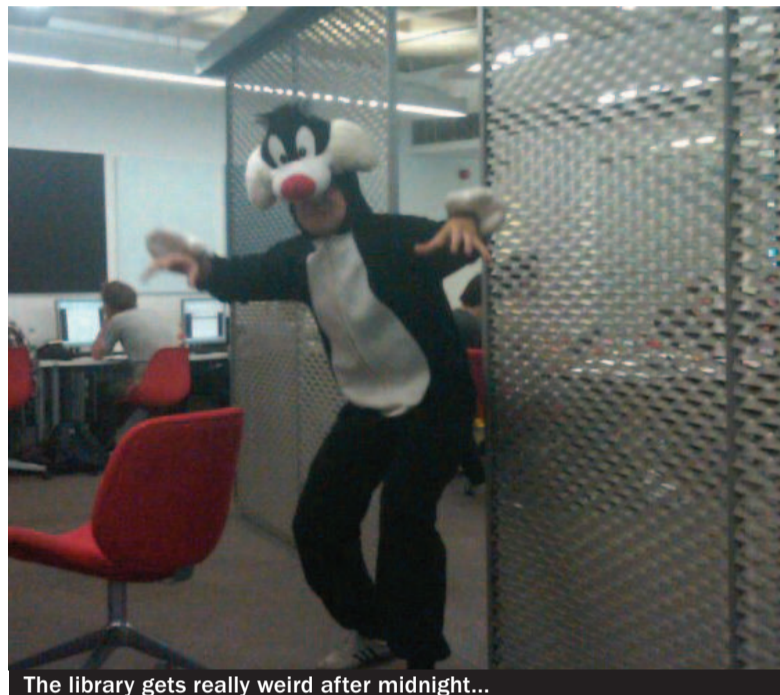
**G16, SAF Building**  
**12 May 19:00–20:00**

### Better, Stronger, Faster

Lower back pain will affect some 80% of us at some point in our lives, but our ability to treat this problem is limited at best. Professor Alison McGregor talks about why our backs have not been built to last and how environment, lifestyle, injury, and genetics affect the spine. Registration in advance. Contact Kathleen Weeks – k.weeks@imperial.ac.uk – to reserve a place and for more information.

**Glenister LT, Charing Cross Campus**  
**12 May 17:30–18:30**

## Sylvester goes to the Himalayas



You may have spotted Serge Vasilechko, pictured, running around campus this Easter, climbing stuff and generally acting silly. Fortunately it's not because exam stress has got to him. He's raising money for an epic 18-day, 660km cycle across the Himalayas. The money raised will go to community development projects through ChildReach International. Find out more by searching 'Sylvester goes to the Himalayas' on Facebook.



## Union Notice

### Union Elections

#### Nominations open Monday 9th May

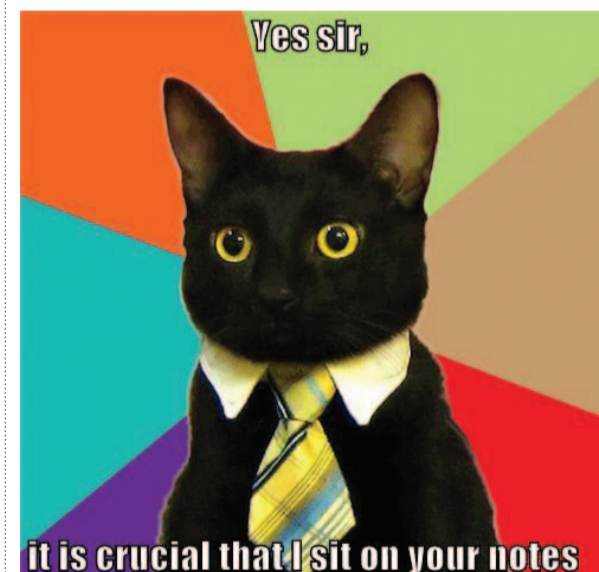
From the people who brought you 'The Sabbatical Elections' last term, get ready for this term's epic 'Central Union Elections'. The positions are all about contributing positively to the Union and to your fellow students' experiences at Imperial, and span a range of welfare and representation roles. They include: Council Chair, Court Advocate, Community Action Group Chair, RAG Chair, Equal Opportunities Officer, Disabilities Officer, LGBT Officer, International Officer, Interfaith Officer, Gender Equality Officer, Healthy Living Officer, and Environmental Officer. More information about these positions and running for election can be found at [www.imperialcollegeunion.org](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org). Get involved!

### Exam Calendar

### Centrefold

We hope that you've all been revising extremely hard this past Easter and... oh, you haven't? You've been frolicking in the sun, drinking Pimms and fantasising about Pippa Middleton? Well not to worry, there's still time! And to help you organise your revision schedule and remember what day your exams are on, we've made you a lovely exam calendar. It's on the opposite side of the Naked Centrefold. Good luck Imperial!

## Lolcat of teh week



# FELIX

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## £40 million shortfall in Imperial NHS Trust budget

Mike Finn-Kelcey/Imperial College London



Imperial NHS Trust CEO Stephen Smith

### Ben Scally

Imperial College NHS Trust faces a budget shortfall of £40m next year, according to CEO of the Trust and Pro-Rector Stephen Smith.

Recently published board papers have revealed, for the first time, the state of ongoing service level agreements for Imperial NHS Trust in 2011-12. Stephen Smith announced the £40m budget gap in a speech to the trust's board of directors and explained it was "due to volume and funding withdrawals" from the services commissioned by local Primary Care Trusts.

A spokeswoman for the trust said that £40m was "not a definite sum" and would depend on the outcome of the ongoing negotiations. She also refuted reports in the media that the trust is in 'turnaround'. The spokeswoman said that the current financial environment faced by acute trusts was "extremely tough". She also described the size and scale of the cuts that trusts have been asked to make as "very challenging".

A spokesman for NHS London said that there were always "robust discussions" about hospital budgets at this time of year, and that it was "committed to managing constrained levels of funding and using its budget more efficiently". He said that the NHS in London was "working hard" at this, and would be "radically slimming down its management structures".

The mounting financial challenge comes at a time when Imperial will also lose three of its senior executives. Stephen Smith will leave Imperial in September to step up his involvement in the newly founded Lee Kong Chian Medical School in Singapore, a joint venture between Imperial and Nanyang Technological University. In his place, Mark Davies has been appointed as interim CEO of the Trust. Chief financial officer Tony Graff will also leave at the end of the month, while chief information officer Alistair Shearin will retire in September.

Imperial NHS Trust covers North-

West London; and includes Charing Cross, Hammersmith, Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea, St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals. It is one of the biggest acute trusts in the country, with more than one million patient contacts each year. It is not yet known which services will be affected by the cuts. However, they will add pressure to currently constrained services – the Trust already has a backlog of orthopaedic and trauma cases. A spokesperson for the college was not available to comment on whether the cuts would have any impact on the quality of medical education offered to students across Imperial NHS trust.

The announcement adds to the problems troubling NHS London. As a result of tough ongoing negotiations, hospitals have become locked in arbitration, though so far Imperial has managed to avoid this fate. In March, Iain Duncan Smith, former Conservative leader, delivered a petition to Downing Street opposing local hospital unit closures. The strategic plan for NHS London has been under review since the coalition government halted the previous Labour administration's plans, which were largely based on recommendations drawn up by Imperial's Lord Darzi.

The coalition government has currently put Andrew Lansley's controversial Health and Social Care Bill on hold for a two-month 'listening exercise' following widespread criticism. This has been undermined by a leaked confidential memo from NHS chief executive David Nicholson, published in the Guardian, which drew a red line beneath certain aspects of the bill that the government will not change. Labour opposition has slammed the 'listening exercise' as a PR stunt.

Last month, the Royal College of Nursing passed an overwhelming vote of no confidence in the reforms after Lansley decided not to speak at its annual conference – the first health secretary not to do so in eight years. Lansley also failed to turn up to make a keynote speech at the launch of Imperial's newly formed School of Public Health, in February.

# Facebook fraud

## Christopher Richardson

With her big bright eyes, a selfless desire to help those in need, and an unrivalled passion for the sounds of obscure bands you'd have to Google just to maintain conversation, Demi Atkinson certainly ticked all the boxes. And to your average Imperial fresher, confined to our beloved South Ken bubble with a less-than-ideal male to female ratio, perfect she did seem.

We're lucky to live in a time and age where new students no longer face that daunting prospect of showing up at university and having nobody to talk to: thanks to Zuckerberg and his cronies one can muster up a whole jamboree of acquaintances before arriving on that rainy day in October. And that's what I and countless other schmucks spent hours doing in the months preceding moving-in day last year.

Like many, I'd had my fair share of regular conversations with Demi, mostly about her woeful life. Her mother was dying of cancer, so she'd selflessly flunked out of university to be by her side. Although her father had walked out yesteryear she wasn't entirely alone, and had both her older brother and close friends from Exeter standing by at all times to lend her a helping hand.

October came and went but Demi's mother was too ill to be left alone, so Demi had arranged a deferred place with Imperial. Unfortunately her mother passed away before Christmas, and myself and others gradually became more concerned as Demi's depression and cocaine use heightened, but spoke to her less and less as we settled into



university life.

When her best friend Lara announced the tragic news of her death we were all devastated. Demi had died of sudden unexpected death syndrome due to the unbearable stresses that life had burdened her with. As is the custom in this bizarre and often cringe-invoking age, countless messages bombarded Demi's wall, and amongst the dozens of freshers who knew her, several tears were shed.

But by pure serendipity it was unveiled that Demi didn't actually exist. Her mother hadn't died of cancer. There was no record of a deferred place for her at Imperial. Sudden unexpected death syndrome is genetic and generally affiliated with young Laotian men. Demi's Facebook photographs had been taken from an innocent bystander from Sheffield who an Imperial fresher just so happened to meet.

When confronted, Demi's profile as well as those of her elaborate friendship and family circle vanished into cyberspace. Somebody clearly had a lot of time on their hands, investing hours each evening not only talking to people, but also talking to themselves from the

dozens of faux accounts they'd created. One has to wonder what kind of motive someone would have. I mean, Imperial freshers are hardly the most robust or interesting targets in the world. Perhaps someone has a deranged ex-lover looking to keep tabs on them.

The whole situation seems like an Aesop's fable for the Facebook generation: we should certainly be more careful about who we're trusting online. I'm sure those involved will be a lot more sceptical: a well-established Facebook profile doesn't make anybody more 'real'. And as our social interactions diminish and we irreversibly dive further into dependency on such sites, perhaps we should also be asking what kind of responsibility the site owners should be taking.

Deceit on the internet is hardly a ground-breaking phenomenon, but it's the nature of this incident and the fact that it is so close to home that make it so interesting: how can a bunch of allegedly-bookish Imperialites be so blind and foolish to something which in retrospect seems entirely absurd? Be careful, kids: there are sick perverts out there, and they want to have a long, hard gaze at your revision-orientated status updates.

## Scaled-down Science Challenge launches

### Kadhim Shubber

The Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) Science Challenge finally launched last week. The essay writing competition offers cash prizes of up to £2,000 and is open to Imperial students and students from schools in the UK. However, the competition this year is vastly scaled-down in comparison with previous years and has faced delays due to funding problems.

Entrants have until 6pm on the 3rd of June to submit an 800-word answer to one of four questions. The Science Challenge is not usually held during the exam period, in previous years it has been announced in January and held in the Spring term. Additionally it is traditional for prominent scientists to pose

the questions based on their field of interest and then judge the entries, something that is not present this year.

The prize money this year is also substantially smaller. In previous years the total prize pot has been up to £16,000, while this year it is £5,000. It is also unclear what sort of awards ceremony there will be, if any at all, as the winners will be announced at the very end of the year on the 24th of June.

RCSU President Scott Heath explained that they faced difficulties in securing funding for the competition and that there was some doubt whether it would go ahead at all. Both Shell and Winton Capital Management, who have generously funded the competition in previous years, declined to sponsor the Science Challenge this year. He

said that they were left scrambling for sponsorship after Shell pulled out in October, but that they were unsuccessful. The only funding for the competition this year is £5,000 from the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

The uncertainty over funding meant that they were unable to confirm that the competition would go ahead until April, by which point it was too late to book prominent judges. It was decided that running a down-scaled competition would be better than not running the competition at all.

For more information about how to enter, go to: [www.rcsu.org.uk/sciencechallenge](http://www.rcsu.org.uk/sciencechallenge)

**Sports****Football team fined after ULU Cup fight**

The football team has been fined £100 by the Amateur Football Association (AFA) after a fight broke out at the 19th of March ULU Cup Final with UCL. The club was charged with failing to control its supporters, to which they pleaded guilty, and one individual, whose case has yet to be heard, has been charged with assault on a UCL player.

The fight is believed to have broken out towards the end of the match between a small group of Imperial fans and UCL substitutes. Simon Kilroy, Imperial club captain, said that he didn't condone "any act of violence or physical intimidation perpetrated by anybody associated" with the football club and that it was "disappointing that the actions of small minority of both universities have marred the game".

He added that he and other members of the football club committee "worked continuously with those inside and outside of the university to resolve the issue".

**"Two football club members have been banned from playing sport at Imperial again"**

Accounts of the violence differ, with Mr. Kilroy saying that the UCL substitutes turned a verbal confrontation into a physical altercation, while UCL club captain Mike Tetstall said that the trigger was when an Imperial fan slapped a UCL substitute's head. It is believed that one of the Imperial fans involved in the fight was wearing a red morph suit.

Mr Tetstall laid the blame entirely at the feet of Imperial saying, "the blame for the incident has to fall on the Imperial fans who went out of their way to start trouble"

In addition to the sanctions imposed by the Amateur Football Association, Sport Imperial has banned two Imperial Football Club members from all Sport Imperial facilities for life, meaning that they will not be able to play any sport at Imperial again. One of these club members is facing a charge for assault from the AFA. The sanctions for that member could include a complete ban or a fine.

Two other club members have been banned from Sport Imperial facilities until the 1st October 2011. Sport Imperial have also removed all funding from the football club for next year, although this is mainly in the form of equipment like balls, so will not affect the club's activities adversely. Sport Imperial did not return a request for comment.

The AFA have not issued any charges against UCL Football Club or its members.

The final was won 3-2 by Imperial.

**Kadhim Shubber**

**Read the full match report in the Sports section, beginning on the back page.**

**Chaos at campus demonstration**  
**Police prevent protestors from storming Sherfield**

**Ben Scally**

Chaos broke out at a demonstration held on campus when a fire alarm was triggered and forced hundreds of students to evacuate the central library. The demonstration was in protest at an Ethiopian government conference being held in the Great Hall on Saturday 16th April. In the confusion that followed the alarm, protesters breached police barriers and attempted to storm the Sherfield building.

Almost fifty people gathered to stage a demonstration against the Ethiopian government, which they accuse of human rights abuses. Protesters were initially penned near the biochemistry building, with a police guard limited to only a handful of officers. At 2.43pm, a break glass panel was smashed in the southern entrance foyer of the Sherfield building, triggering the fire alarm. The central library, which was packed with students revising for summer-term exams, was evacuated and hundreds of students spilled out onto the Queen's lawn. In the commotion, protesters broke past police barriers and tried to enter the Sherfield building where the conference was taking place. Police officers blocked protesters at the entrance to the building and more officers arrived at the scene shortly after. Hundreds of evacuated students gathered to watch the demonstration outside Sherfield, with some complaining about the disruption to their revision. The conference was cancelled due to the escalation of the protests and all of the delegates left campus for safety reasons. The protesters followed to the Ethiopian embassy on Exhibition Road to continue their demonstration. The library was eventually re-opened for students at 3.10pm, after almost half an hour of disorder, when college security officers reset the broken alarm panel. The identity of the perpetrator who triggered the fire alarm is not known.

A delegation of Ethiopian government officials, headed by Minister for the Civil Service, Ato Juneidi Sado, attended the conference on the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) for Ethiopia. The Network Against Injustice and Repression in Ethiopia organised Saturday's demonstration. Similar demonstrations, organised by affiliated groups, have led to the cancellation of GTP conferences held at two other western universities in recent months.

Ethiopia received 700,000 tonnes of food and £1.8bn in humanitarian aid last year alone, more than almost any other country in the world. However, demonstrators claim that the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) government is illegally misusing it, by refusing aid to supporters of the political opposition. Their allegations are supported by Human Rights Watch, which has warned of an 'aid-politics trap' in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian government denies any misuse of humanitarian aid.

Most of the students that gathered to watch the protests had not previously been aware of the situation in Ethiopia, and took an interest for the first time. A second year ISE student said it seemed like "a worthwhile cause" and

Ben Scally

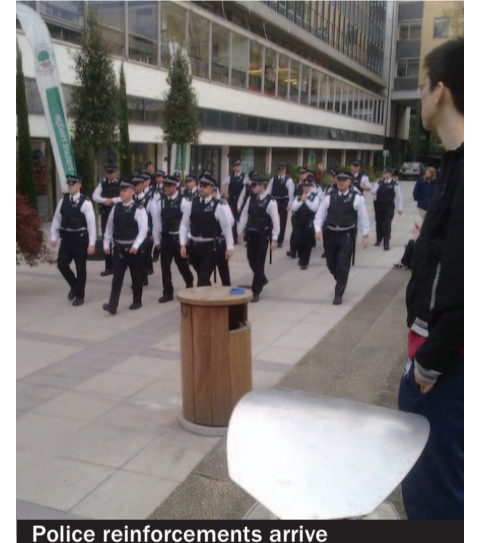


James Pope



Some students were unimpressed with having their revision disrupted

Michiel Blokzijl



Police reinforcements arrive

that "academic institutions can't become puppets to a political agenda." However, another student complained, "we don't know both sides of the story". Many students were unhappy with the distraction from revision and crowded around the library entrance, starting a small demonstration of their own.

Protesters at the demonstration were of all ages, and included many women and children. They waved Ethiopian flags and raised placards that read, "Great Britain Stop! Development Aid will be wasted!" One woman held a picture of the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, with a swastika printed on his face.

A protester, who had fled from the Ogaden region of the country to the UK, called the college "naive" for allowing the use of their facilities for the conference. On behalf of the protesters, he told Felix, "we condemn Imperial College for allowing these killers to meet here." He wished to remain anonymous for fear of retribution on his family, still living in Ethiopia. Later on, the same man said that today, "the truth prevailed."

A spokesperson for the Ethiopian embassy claimed, "some of them [the protesters] are allied to terrorist organisations" and cited a flag raised at the protest that they attributed to a rebel insurgency group, the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF). However, a key organiser of the demonstration refuted these claims and said that the flag belonged to the Ogaden region and its people, rather than just the ONLF.

The embassy's spokesperson also described Saturday's protest as a "very violent demonstration", but failed to provide evidence to support this. There were no reports of violence at the demonstration on campus.

Ethiopian satellite television covered the demonstration and broadcast the events on campus live worldwide.

A spokesperson for the college told Felix, "Imperial runs conference facilities that are booked by a wide range of organisations for private events every year. A booking of these facilities carries no endorsement by the College of the aims and opinions of the event organisers."

# Imperial mourns death of Anthony Soh

Friends hold memorial service in memory of 'bright and ambitious' first year



Anthony in Metric with his friends on the night that he was last seen

Friends of first year Mechanical Engineering student Yen Soh, also known as Anthony, laid flowers at the Serpentine last Thursday in his memory. His passing during the Easter holidays shocked Imperial's community.

The laying of flowers followed a memorial event in the Mechanical Engineering building, during which friends read eulogies to him and recited the poem "Death is nothing at all" by Henry Scott Holland.

He originally went missing on the 22nd of March after leaving Imperial College Union at around 11pm, after a night drinking with his friends. He was last seen turning into Kensington Gore and it was speculated that he had headed through Hyde Park back

to Wilson House, his hall of residence. His disappearance sparked a massive response online, with over 3000 people on Facebook raising awareness about his disappearance and volunteering to help find him. Search parties were organised and his brother, friends from home and Imperial, and even students who didn't know him directly, roamed South Kensington and Bayswater putting up posters asking for information about his whereabouts.

The police, who searched the Serpentine without success for four days following his disappearance, launched a missing persons investigation. Sadly, however, on the 6th of April, he was found in the Serpentine by a boat worker. The coroner found no external or inter-

nal injuries, or any water in his lungs and said that he had died from sudden cold water immersion, in the sense that the shock of the cold water stopped his heart.

His brother, Jeff Soh, described him as "full of energy and excitement" and "a friendly character [who] was able to get on with everyone."

Anthony will be remembered fondly as an intelligent and popular student. Facebook was flooded with messages of condolence on the Facebook page: 'Rest In Peace Anthony Soh' and others.

Dr Michael Bluck, Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Hall Warden at Wilson House, which was Anthony's student hall, told Imperial's *Reporter*: "Anthony was a very popular resident of Wilson House and his many friends will miss him dearly. He was well known for his effervescent nature and was always around if there was fun to be had. Anthony had a sharp technical mind, was a bright and diligent student of the Mechanical Engineering department, and had already shown great promise."

**"[He was] full of energy and excitement"**

– Jeff Soh

## Jeff Soh remembers his 'passionate' brother

**'There is no great genius without some touch of madness.'** (Seneca)

Anthony was always active and often 'hyperactive' in all positive senses of the word, ever since his childhood (after all – there were always three boys in the house). Brotherly competition was always healthy in the house, competing in strength, in speed, in eating watermelons, in academics...

Anthony was amazingly bright and ambitious; he always looked to excel, and was passionate about mechanical engineering. His mind was full of creativity and he was always experimenting in all aspects of his life from tic tacs to magnets, in martial arts and in engineering. He was always one step ahead of the game when it came to mechanical engineering, before KERS in formula 1 had come out, he had already thought of the idea of storing wasted energy in a car from coasting (when your foot is off the accelerator) in the form of electricity to be used (aged 15). He also had a passion for magnets and had experimented with devices to shoot out metallic objects using magnetic energy by

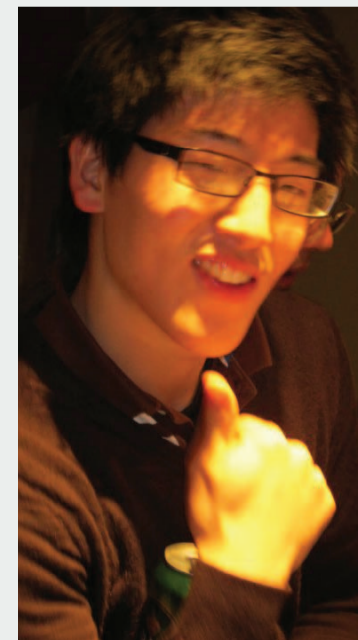
the age of 14, which came to be known as a 'rail gun' a few years later. His prediction that electric cars/motorbikes would dominate future travel at the age of 16 is also looking to come true... In my eyes, he was a true genius and we had always had a pact to start our business as the three of us...

Socially, Anthony was always full of energy and excitement. He was a friendly character and was able to get on with everyone. He was always the life of the party - his energy was contagious. He always tried to live by his favourite film: 'Yes Man'. Indeed he was a 'Yes Man', saying yes to life and trying all sports and activities from riding on his motorbike, ballroom dancing, violin, martial arts, piano, American football, football, tennis, rock climbing (the list goes on!)...

I have no fear to say that he lived his life to the fullest (a quality that I hope to learn and fulfill) – so much so that he was never one to go in the conventional manner, but always in what he loved doing best at that moment in time – and in that moment it so happened to be swimming in The Serpentine.

Although I am not religious, a statement that was taught to me has always stuck with me and that is that man has always wished to live as a God (for as a God you can live for eternity) and the Gods have always wished to live as man because when life is limited – life is sweeter. And I am confident to say that Anthony lived a life so full - that the Gods would indeed be jealous.

I like to imagine Anthony, the genius and cheeky character that he was, as having figured out the secret – cheated life and skipped to the ending, forever living in the heavens above as the hyperactive 18 year old, full of energy and mobility... whilst for the rest of us – we will reach heaven in old age, barely walking... so let the sadness go as once again, I he has figured it out and is one step ahead of us :)



Friends of Anthony put up posters in Bayswater

## The Summer Ball 2011

Why we made the right decisions...

Every year thousands of students look forward to Imperial College Union's grand event. This year is no different. The Summer Ball 2011 is this year's most spectacular event, with a host of great attractions, acts and entertainment to help you celebrate your hard year's work at university. Some of you may notice that the format has changed this year, and to be honest I believe it's changed for the better. I'd like to give everyone an insight to our process this year, hopefully providing transparency to those you may not understand the reasoning behind some of our decisions.

Firstly the ball this year has already been a massive achievement, with the best entertainments to date (by far) and the scale of collaboration with our students and College staff. This is no picnic. When we looked back at what stood out last year, we saw two major triumphs. Firstly the enormous success of our live acts stage, and secondly was the pure excitement and energy everyone had with each other. These are the two values we

as a Union believed we should develop and nurture.

The major failure last year was the formal dinner. The dinner in previous years has been heavily subsidised by the entertainments tickets of other students. Like last year's DPFS I believe this is morally wrong, and just plain unfair on those wanting to attend for entertainments alone. So this year, like last, no more subsidy for the dinner. Last year only a small minority (about 150 students) actually attended the formal dinner. For something that cost the Union a lot to put on this seemed an unwise move to make again.

It is an extremely costly exercise to only have a stage that's in use for its purpose for only four hours. Considering this was a major factor everyone enjoyed we wanted to expand on this offering. Making it bigger better and running it for longer. To do this within the restraints of licensing (music outside must finish at midnight) we collectively decided to

start the ball much earlier (mid day) and have two stages; one on the Queen's Lawn, and one on Prince's Gardens. This is great, but a new challenge arose about how we were going to fill out these stages with bigger and better acts, without increasing the cost of the ball itself. The solution was simple, we partnered up with Kings and Goldsmiths to not only bring more students to the ball with a whole new demographic, but to provide the expected higher caliber of entertainments. This collaboration is something we are very proud of; bringing a whole new dimension of enjoyment and atmosphere while retaining the traditional location of Imperial College's Campus.

So to recap, the ball is bigger better and longer than ever before, with more students and more areas. The next challenge was the subject of dress code. Although there is a certain expectation that the ball would have been black tie (as in previous years) we felt it was unfair to expect students to wear high heels or dinner jackets and be outside on the



**Ravi Pall**

Deputy President (Finance & Services)

grass for prolong periods of time. Hence the dress code is entirely up to you, just keep in mind that it's more like a day at a festival with the longer time the ball is open.

I hope that you are able to see our reasoning behind our decisions, this really is the biggest and best ball we have ever done. Tickets are on sale now [thesummerball2011.com](http://thesummerball2011.com) and with acts such as Ian Brown, Laura Marling, Chase and Status, Labrinth, Nero and more for only £40 (if you buy before Monday at midnight) how could you miss out. For those that still feel we have let you down may I point you to the UCL Ball. Scott Mills, Seb Fontaine and three djs from Kiss FM for £45 (their dress code is 50's/ smart or black tie)!

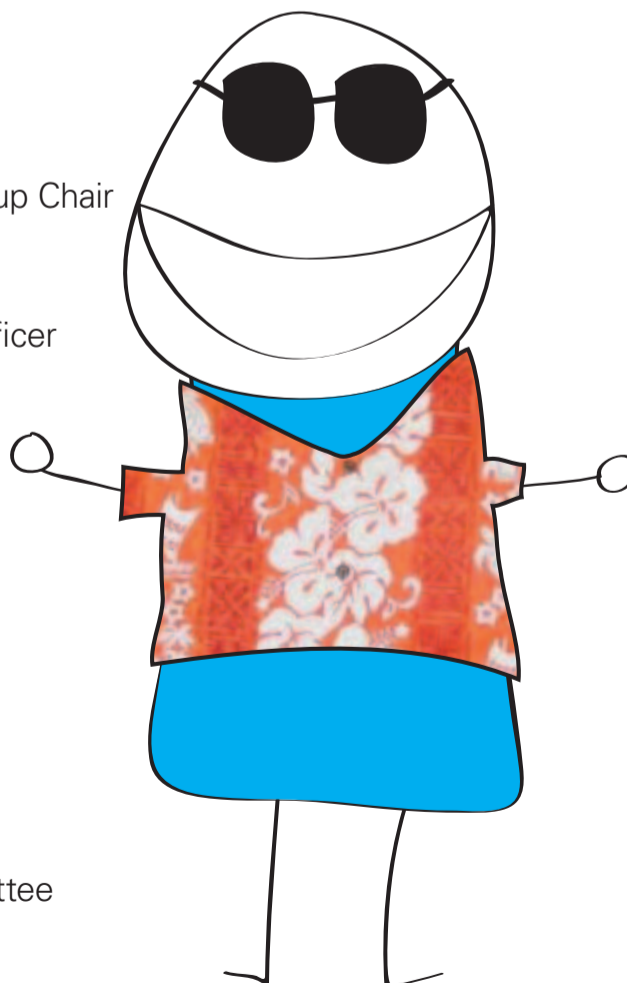
## Summer Elections - nominations open now

In the second week of the Summer Term, nominations open for a lot of positions within the Union for the 11/12 academic year. The positions are all elected by campus-wide secret ballot. The positions available are listed on the right and descriptions are online. The majority are hugely important representative roles for issues such as provision for students with disabilities or the environment; all these officers sit on the Union's Representation and Welfare Board. Other positions include the Chair of Union Council, and the Chairs of the Raising and Giving and Community Action Group.

Everyone should feel able to run for any of these positions; the Union will do all it can to raise awareness of the elections and to host your manifesto on the website, but it takes great candidates to make an election interesting. You can be one of those candidates.

Take a look at the positions and think about standing.

- Council Chair
- Court Advocate
- Community Action Group Chair
- RAG Chair
- Equal Opportunities Officer
- Disabilities Officer
- LGBT Officer
- International Officer
- Interfaith Officer
- Gender Equality Officer
- Healthy Living Officer
- Environmental Officer
- Entertainments Committee Member x 3



## Union Awards

Every year the Union recognises the students that have given their time and contributed the most to Imperial and their fellow students with Union Awards.

The awards we give include Union Colours - for significant and outstanding contributions to the Union. Outstanding Service Award, Union Fellowship and Distinguished Fellowship.

What we need from you is nominations for worthy students for this award. Nominations open next week and there will be plenty of information about it on the website.

Start thinking now!

# NO CINDERELLA, YOU SHAN'T GO TO THE SUMMER BALL...

But you can go to the summer *festival*. Jovan Nedic balances the debate on the new look Ball

flickr/rowl images



Mercury Prize-winner Laura Marling is headlining

The Summer Ball, a chance for staff and students to celebrate the end of their exams (sorry Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Biology), the end of another academic year, and for some, the end of university life, has always been a highlight of the Imperial social calendar. However, when the details of the Ball were announced during the Easter holidays, the response was mixed and for some the radical changes to the format have changed their end-of-year ball into an end-of-year festival. In a comment echoed by many, one student wrote on Facebook: 'It's simply not a Ball anymore'.

The changes to the Ball include moving it to earlier in the day (with the event starting at 1pm) the removal of the formal dinner as well as the formal dress code. The Ball is also no longer an Imperial-only event. It's being held in conjunction with King's College Union and Goldsmith's Union, and will be open to all London university students. Officially, the Summer Ball will finish at midnight where an after party for 1000 people will be held in Metric for an extra £5.

In a sense, however, this year's Summer Ball is the best in recent years. With an extremely strong lineup (in spite of a Chase and Status DJ set) and no increase in price from last year.

Still there has been a significant amount of controversy over the changes, with students discussing the changes extensively on Facebook and differing over the significance of the changes. Some want there to be a formal dress code, but are looking forward to the festival format, while others have lamented the loss of the dinner but are looking forward to mingling with students from other universities. Indeed it seems that with the full lineup now released, headliner Laura Marling has softened opposition to the changes, with the same student who said 'it's simply not a Ball anymore' declaring that Laura Marling 'pretty much makes up for everything'. However, a common complaint has been that students feel that they weren't consulted about the changes.

## Were students consulted?

Questions have been raised about the poor communication between the Union and the student body, with a lot of students feeling like they have been blindsided with the changes. There was initially little effort to explain the changes. One of the first questions put to Felix by a Chemical Engineering student was: "why have they made such a dramatic change? Was anyone pushing for such a change? Did they consult with many students before pushing these plans through?" The Union have strenuously defended the process behind the changes, pointing out that the changes were discussed in the Union Council and that the Ents Committee, which has three members, was involved. However, the widespread surprise at the changes shows

## The new format

For £40 (rising to £45 midnight Monday 9th) you get a range of live acts including Laura Marling, Chase and Status, Nero, and Ian Brown. It starts at 1pm, until midnight, when a £5 after-party starts in Metric, until 4am, when the Survivors' Photo will be taken. There will be funfair attractions throughout the day.

that there was little communication with the 'outside world', with no mention in the Union's all-student email, or on the Union website or Facebook page. A short article was published in Felix towards the end of last term and publicized on the Felix Facebook page and Twitter account, but by this point the changes had been all but decided. Union President Alex Kendall admitted that "people are concerned" and that they "probably needed to do more to get the changes across to people

before launching".

## Sharing with other universities

The response to sharing the Ball with other universities has been mixed. Opinion is split between those who feel that it is no longer a special event to celebrate the end of their year at Imperial and some cheeky chaps who are looking forward to girls from other universities balancing the male-female ratio. The Union has said that having a joint ball will mean that there is more money for live acts. However, all of the funding has come from the Union – the extra money coming from more ticket sales. It remains to be seen how many students from King's and Goldsmith's will attend but there is concern that Imperial students won't be able to attend the after-party in Metric because of the limited capacity. Deputy President Ravi Pall admitted that this might be an issue on his blog, saying "it is expected more than 1000 people would want to attend the afterparty" and that the £5 charge for the after-party was aimed at controlling numbers.

## No more dinner

The loss of the formal dinner has also created a stir. The Union argue that it's not a financially viable part of the Summer Ball. They argue that it is "immoral" to subsidise the dinner tickets, which last year cost an additional £45 on top of a standard entry ticket and say that the number of students attending the dinner is too low to continue running it. In his initial blog about the changes, Deputy President Ravi Pall, who also promised moving the event to after exams in his manifesto, claimed that only 300 tickets were sold last year, however that figure has now changed to 158. After the backlash against the changes on Facebook, the Union said that they would consider holding a dinner and opened a poll to see if there is enough demand for a £38 per person dinner in the SCR. The dinner will be quite unlike previous years, students will dine at different times depending on when they prefer. According to the Union, less than 150 students have said that they would want to go to the dinner, making it financially unviable.

## Gauging student opinion

To suggest that all Imperial students are against the changes to the Summer Ball would be ridiculous (see Tim Arbabzadah on page 18 for proof), but similarly to deny that there has been discontent would be wrong.

Hundreds of students were sufficiently unimpressed to sign an online petition demanding a formal dress code and a look at the discussions on Facebook shows a broad range of students expressing their discontent. Indeed a Facebook poll of around 600 students, though not statistically rigorous, indicated a lack of enthusiasm for (or knowledge of) the changes, with only 35 saying they preferred the new format.

Whether you can plausibly decide between the new format and the old format if you haven't experienced the new one yet is debatable, but it's too easy to simply write this off as 'Imperial students complaining again'. The truth is that most people who go to the Summer Ball have a really good time. There is every reason to believe that students will like the new format when they experience it, but it's easy to see why some students don't think it needed to be 'fixed'; it wasn't necessarily 'broken' last year.

## What will you wear?

The bulk of the anger has been reserved for the ambiguity of the dress code. With the previous evening format, the dress code was straightforwardly black tie. However, with an all-day festival it's not clear if that's practical. The Summer Ball website says that the dress code is "Dress to Impress!" but leaves the final decision to the discretion of students, "Fancy dress, black tie or casual – whatever you think is best". Students have lamented what they see as the loss of their main opportunity to dress up with their friends at the end of the year, or indeed at the end of their time at Imperial, and the demand for a formal dress code was so high that an online petition was set up demanding that the dress code be changed. It remains to be seen what will happen on the day, whether students will all telepathically decide to dress similarly, or if the event will see ripped jeans rubbing up against cummerbunds and bow-ties. Similarly, will the new changes be a breath of fresh air or the death of a formal ball that was loved by many?

# TUTORS & EXAMS

Union Page

## The tutorial system

By Alex Dahinten and Charlotte Ivison

### How the Tutorial System works

As an Imperial student, you have access to dedicated staff members whose job it is to make sure that any problems you have during your course, be they academic or non-academic, are resolved. They have different names depending on your course level; you have probably met some of the tutors during meetings scheduled by your Department. You can talk to them about any and all problems you're having, and it's a good idea to keep in close contact with them as they are a valuable source of support and guidance. This person should be easily contactable and available to meet with you. If you have a problem and can't contact them, or if they are difficult to contact you can talk to a more senior member of staff

who will work to ensure that the person is more contactable/responsive in future and who can offer an alternative source of help.

Especially now during the exam period, it is important that your let your tutors know should you encounter any difficulties or circumstances which impinge upon your revision or report writing. They will be able to advise you on how to go about resolving this or point you in the right direction.

### Who's there for me?

Most undergraduates should know who their tutors are, however, postgraduate tutors are listed below.

Masters students also each have a Personal Tutor. This is usually a member of academic staff allocated to you for the

duration of your course to offer help and support and follow your personal progress. MSc students can contact their Course Coordinator/Convenor if they're having issues with their Personal Tutor. MRes students will each have a project supervisor and can contact the Postgraduate Tutor in their department as an alternative source of support.

Postgraduate Research (PhD) students have a mentor and a supervisor (and possibly a second supervisor). Their Postgraduate Tutor also has a welfare role and will normally be the first source of advice if there are difficulties with (or between) supervisors. Research students who are unhappy with these can contact the College Tutors, especially if the nature of the difficulty extends outside your home department.

## Engineering

### Aeronautics

Professor Sergei Chernyshenko  
s.chernyshenko@imperial.ac.uk

### Bioengineering

Professor Rob Krams  
r.krams@imperial.ac.uk

### Chemical Engineering & Chemical Technology

Professor George Jackson  
g.jackson@imperial.ac.uk

### Civil and Environmental Engineering

Dr Ahmer Wadee  
a.wadee@imperial.ac.uk

### Computing

Dr Naranker Dulay  
n.dulay@imperial.ac.uk

### Earth Science & Engineering

Dr. Lorraine Craig  
l.craig@imperial.ac.uk  
Professor Robert Zimmerman  
r.w.zimmerman@imperial.ac.uk

### Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Dr Imad Jaimoukha  
i.jaimouka@imperial.ac.uk

### Materials

Professor Eduardo Saiz Gutierrez  
e.saiz@imperial.ac.uk

### Mechanical Engineering & Energy Futures Lab

Dr Maria Charalambides  
m.charalambides@imperial.ac.uk

## Physical Sciences

### Chemistry

Dr Sophia Yaliraki  
s.yaliraki@imperial.ac.uk

### Mathematics

Dr John Gibbons  
j.gibbons@imperial.ac.uk

### Physics

Professor Danny Segal  
d.segal@imperial.ac.uk

## Life Sciences

### Biology

Dr Gerard Bishop  
g.bishop@imperial.ac.uk

### Cell and Molecular Biology

Dr Ed Hendriks  
e.hendriks@imperial.ac.uk

### Molecular Biosciences

Dr Stuart Haslam  
s.haslam@imperial.ac.uk

### Centre for Environmental Policy

Dr. Tim Cockerill  
t.cockerill@imperial.ac.uk

## Medicine

### Institute of Clinical Sciences

Professor Anne Soutar  
anne.soutar@imperial.ac.uk

### Kennedy Institute

Professor Patrick Venables  
p.venables@imperial.ac.uk

### National Heart & Lung Institute

Professor Sara Rankin  
s.rankin@imperial.ac.uk

### School of Public Health

Professor Marjo-Riitta Jarvelin (PGR)  
m.jarvelin@imperial.ac.uk  
Dr. Paul Aylin (PGT)  
p.aylin@imperial.ac.uk

### Surgery & Cancer

Professor Catherine Williamson  
catherine.williamson@imperial.ac.uk

## Other

### Business School

Dr Mike Brocklehurst  
m.brocklehurst@imperial.ac.uk  
Dr Benita Cox  
b.cox@imperial.ac.uk

### Humanities (Languages)

Professor Charmian Brinson  
c.brinson@imperial.ac.uk

### Humanities (Science Communication)

Dr Stephen Webster  
stephen.webster@imperial.ac.uk

### Humanities (Science Medicine & Technology)

Dr Andrew Mendelsohn  
a.mendelsohn@imperial.ac.uk

### Humanities (Translation)

Dr Jorge Diaz-Cintas  
j.diaz-cintas@imperial.ac.uk

## Exam Stress and other issues

### Who to contact if you're in need of help

By Charlotte Ivison



If you have any issues in the run up to exams make sure you tell your tutor or another member of staff in your Department – they may be able to help. If you think there's anything that could affect your exam performance (other than a lack of revision) it's a good idea to fill out an extenuating circumstances form before your exams so that it can be considered when your exam is marked. The form is available from your department.

Don't forget that it's never too late to improve your exam chances (until, well the exams). Think about studying smarter, not harder. Do all the obvious stuff like taking care of yourself and making sure you don't have too many or too few breaks, and have another look over Imperial's study guide, available as a PDF at: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/students/studyguide> for revision techniques you might not have thought of. Good luck!

### The Health Centre

[www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk/exam.php](http://www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk/exam.php)  
020 7594 9375

If you're feeling worried about exams to the point where you're feeling ill, book an appointment with the Health Centre. There are even walk in appointments available the same day (0830hrs until 1000hrs Mon-Fri, 1500hrs to 1600hrs Mon, Weds, Thurs and Fri) so you can fit it in amongst all that revision. The Health Centre also has a great section on their website dedicated to exams, including looking at what kind of student you are and a list of useful resources.

### The Chaplaincy

[www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy)  
[chaplaincy@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@imperial.ac.uk)

The Chaplaincy is a quiet space where you can just sit and relax for a while, or you can talk to a faith adviser about any problems you're having, whether you're religious or not.

### Counselling

[www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling)  
[counselling@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@imperial.ac.uk)

The Counselling Service offer free appointments with professional counsellors for you to talk in confidence about any issues you're facing.

### Disability Advisory Service

[www.imperial.ac.uk/disabilityadvisory-service](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/disabilityadvisory-service)  
[disabilities@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:disabilities@imperial.ac.uk)

The Disability Advisory Service can organise extra exam arrangements for you if you have a diagnosed disability. They can also arrange for you to be diagnosed if you think you may have a disability. Their in house Dyslexia tutor can offer one to one support for anyone with a learning difficulty.

### English Language Support Programme

[www.imperial.ac.uk/humanities/englishlanguagesupport](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/humanities/englishlanguagesupport)  
[elspadministrator@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:elspadministrator@imperial.ac.uk)

The English Language Support Programme offers a range of classes and one-on-one support for students whose first language isn't English. Visit them on Level 3 Sherfield to see what's available.



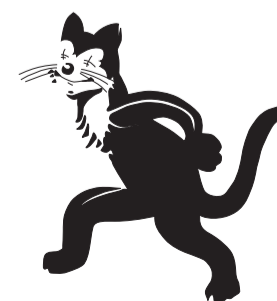


Full credit for the redesign goes to **Jonathan Kim**, with additional thanks to **Chris Birkett**

**IT'S FRIDAY...  
WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE...  
REBECCA BLACK APPROVES\***

[www.felixonline.co.uk](http://www.felixonline.co.uk)

\*may not be true



# FEATURE

felix@imperial.ac.uk

## The Scientists

**Professor Robin Grimes** is the Director of the Imperial College Rolls Royce University Technology Centre. He was featured in TV and radio coverage of the disaster.

**How did the media contact you and what was the process?**

Through the [Imperial college] press office if I remember rightly. Most of the TV stuff has been through the press office here at Imperial, who are very, very good!

**In the first few hours how hard was it to get information about what was going on?**

I was able to get information about what was going on, so I had a fairly good idea. The biggest problem was that the events were changing fairly rapidly and the way that an incident like this occurs is there's such a rapid evolution of the engineering process.

**So if you know what is likely to happen, how do you go about trying to put across the risk?**

I think you just tell the truth. You can't say 'I don't know' in a flappy kind of 'oh well' sort of way, you have to be able to give possibilities. But it's difficult. Academics are at a tremendous advantage. I don't receive any money for these appearances at all, so I can just tell it like it is. I think that's what people need to see; they need to see a calm, collected measured response.

**Professor Gerry Thomas**

is chair in Molecular Pathology in the Department of Surgery and Cancer at Imperial College. Her research is on the medical effects of the Chernobyl disaster, and has appeared on radio and television broadcasts to talk about the potential dangers of radiation.

**How did you get involved in talking to the media, and what was the process?**

[My head of department] passed [the media] onto me because he knew that this was my area. From then on, it just snowballed; the phone did not stop ringing.

**Wow. So you think that it's something that is important then.**

I think it's important to get the right messages across. It's better now than when it started but [the media] was not getting the right messages across at all, and it's actually misinforming the public.

**Do you think that scientific advice**

Layton Thompson/Imperial College London



**One of the criticisms that's been levelled at the coverage is that, people who are funded by nuclear companies have an interest in downplaying the danger. Is that fair?**

I think it's inevitable. [But] there's all the difference in the world, in my mind, between getting money that supports research, and getting money that goes into your bank balance. I don't have to do [research] on nuclear power specifically. I take money from companies specifically to fund PhD students, but that doesn't affect my career actually. And that's a big difference from someone in the industry who's paid a wage.

**Do you think any researchers were a little wary about talking to the media?**

Very much. People are very wary. A researcher spends a long long time really polishing up a piece of work. It's a very measured, thorough approach. Talking to the media is not.

**has been handled well in this situation?**

I think the scientific advice has been out there, the problem is the media reports in headlines, and its headlines are what the people remember, not what the scientists say. I had a lot of feedback from people, expats living in Japan, who were watching the international media as well as listening to the Japanese media, and a lot of them said thank god someone is actually saying what it is instead of blowing it out of proportion.

**Do you think honesty is the best policy?**

Absolutely. But you need to put it over to people in a way [the public will] understand.

**Do you think that researchers are reluctant to talk to the media for fear of their remarks being misinterpreted?**

Oh yes, there will be a lot of people like that. What you find is what gets reported, particularly in the foreign media, is the English without the qualifying words that we use in English, so things like 'it is highly unlikely that', will be twisted.

# COMMUNIC



## Anna Perman and Lizzie Crouch speak to us of the disaster in Japan and the challenges the

Sir John Beddington is the Government Chief Scientific Advisor. He was responsible for convening the 'Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies' (SAGE), which drew on expert knowledge to provide advice to UK citizens caught up in the crisis.

**What does SAGE look like?**

Well first of all SAGE is going to have key government departments and agencies in it. But also I believe that it's important that SAGE has independent people from outside government who are able to provide some not quite peer review, and are an independent voice beyond government. There's a variety of networks and for a good approximation, for most issues we have a bit of a yellow pages of people who know about different issues. So in the case of (this) SAGE, one of the key players within government would be the Office for Nuclear Regulation nuclear inspectorate, the health and safety executive, the health protection agency. But also because there are issues to do with actually predicting what's happening, you need the Met Office, because if you're having radioactive release, the weather's important.

So that was the government side. On the non-government side, we have a national nuclear laboratory which is arm's length from government. And also I wanted some independent academics so there were three we got for this particular job; one was from Imperial, Robin Grimes; one from Manchester, Richard Wakeford, who was an expert both in nuclear and in health issues; and the other was an independent lady called Sue Ion. That's SAGE. The



**"My job is [to be as factual] as I can. If I don't know, I say I don't know"**

scene is set for SAGE. That's the background.

**An issue that was raised about the advice that was coming from scientists was about scientists getting their funding from nuclear. Was that something that you had to take into account with regards to potential bias?**

Well I don't think there's a bias in that sense because you're actually doing calculations. If there was anything wrong with the calculations then that can be assessed. If we were talking about the wider issues of how one should develop a nuclear build within the UK, or how we should be operating at an International level in terms of nuclear safety, that's a different matter. We were there to say, 'what is the worst case in terms of radioactive dosage that might accumulate in the population?' I don't think there's an issue there.

**So going on to the media reporting of the crisis.**

# CREATING RISK



## Scientists and journalists about the reporting they face in communicating science and risk

**Did you find the coverage measured or were there any concerns there?**

I think that there was a mixed reaction. I think that some of the reporting was absolutely factual and appropriate. I think that in the early stages there was a lot of confusion and that there were mixed messages coming out in terms of different reactions to the crisis.

The thing that I [did], and I've never done this before, was that I start[ed] having a series of telephone conversations with the embassy in Tokyo. First of all I would give a briefing and say "this is the analysis, this is what we are estimating for ourselves in even a series of worst case scenarios" and basically we gave that reassurance. What I then had as part of that process was a question and answer session from embassy staff, people from businesses, people from schools and from individual families phoning in and asking a whole series of questions. Then a transcript of these conversations was put up on the embassy website. Remember the focus is on British nationals in Japan and having those conversations really worked. So [for example] when the Japanese tested the water they found that there was some trace of Iodine-131. I had a question, should I bathe my baby in bottled water? And the answer is no. So you can be reassuring. I think the important thing is be completely open for a Q&A, and when we didn't know, we said.

**There is a sense that as a government body, once you address people's fears, if you anticipate what they might be afraid of, you could be seen to be endorsing that viewpoint. Is this a way of ad-**

**ressing that?**

Well I didn't think of it in that context. I think that my job is to answer questions when they arise as factually as I can. And if I don't know, I say I don't know. For example, in the early stages, one of the things we didn't have really good information on was on contamination of food, seafood in particular. The sort of advice we were giving is that the Japanese are monitoring it, their standards are rather more stringent than what we have in Europe and that certain things were at risk. And the sort of advice we were giving was: 'if in doubt don't take vegetables from an area you don't know where it is'. Certainly don't take seafood, in particular seaweed and shellfish, from these areas.

**I know you recently joined Twitter (@uk-sciencechief), and you've used this website to have a more personal interaction, is that something [social media/personal interaction] you're going to look to continue?**

I don't know really. This was a one-off in the sense that it really seemed sensible to talk to the people in Tokyo. It's alright issuing some form of press release from here, but actually people in Japan mainly having access to Japanese media which, even if you speak Japanese, is.. well I don't know what the Japanese for millisievert is and I don't suppose many of the British population in Japan does. So I think that was a worthwhile thing to do.

In terms of how I deal with an emergency in the future I think I would probably say that I would always try to be outward looking.

### The Journalists

**Mark Henderson** is the Science Editor for The Times



**How do you go about obtaining scientific information for your articles? Can you give any examples of this from Japan?**

There was a number of sources of information coming out of Japan. For example the Japanese atomic industry forum was regularly posting information.

Compared with the volcanic ash – it was easier to get information than as organisations were less secretive. However, in that instance, it was harder to judge what the risks were from the information!

Because it was difficult to know what was happening in Japan, what we could do, and did do, from the information

**“The responsible thing to do is reflect the range of outcomes in any case”**

available, was to get good nuclear experts etc to get give a range of possible outcomes and opinions. Then, tell the readers the differences between the different possibilities and the likely outcomes based on what was known.

**How easy is it to get an accurate story across?**

Everyone is learning as they go along to a certain point. The responsible thing to do is reflect the range of outcomes in any case. You do have to take a degree of judgement on what expert opinion to take to help this process.

**Do you think that any researchers were reluctant to talk to the media for fear of their remarks being misinterpreted?**

In the Japan story, there was no reluctance; they felt the need to get the information out into the public. [Scientists talking to the media] has got much better and the Science Media Centre has helped also.

It used to be the case that scientists just ignored the media and wouldn't dignify them with a response. But realised that it wouldn't stop the media reporting the story, and that they were losing their voice in the debate. So now they are, more often than not, keen to speak with the media.

**Robin McKie** is the Science Editor for The Observer



**It has been said that during the first few hours that the details coming out of Japan were unclear – how difficult was it to get information?**

It was patchy. Sometimes you just have to put your hands up and say you don't know. You have to be honest about what you know. The broadsheets were good at this; for example, the Guardian and Times were responsible in their reporting what was or wasn't known.

**How important is the amount of scientific detail you include in a piece?**

If you have more than three salient facts then there is too much for the feature. [A science specialist reporter] is battling more than any other specialist with reader ignorance. There is a desire to know about science but there is a fear of it being complicated.

**The media has seemed to focus on the Fukushima situation at the expense of the earthquake damage and tsunami victims; do you think this is fair?**

The coverage of what was happening at Fukushima skewed the story away from what was an actual disaster. Initially it was made to look like nuclear disaster was imminent when it wasn't. There was too much emphasis on nuclear and not enough on what else was happening.

**Do you think scientists are reluctant to talk to the media for fear of their remarks being misinterpreted or mis-used?**

Scientists will always speak to the media. The American scientists will answer questions straight away, whereas the UK researchers (in a terribly British way) will have a think and come back to you in a few hours. I have been in this role for 29 years and the situation has improved.

Scientists now have to justify grants etc in ways that never did before, so they will speak to the press to raise their profile.

**Do you think that scientist's quotes are always used in the right context in science reporting?**

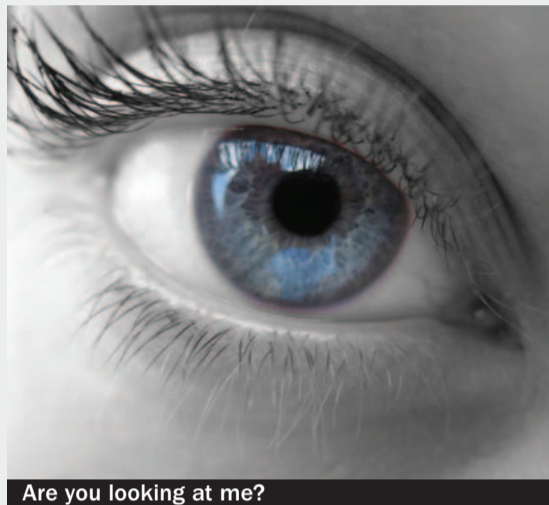
They aren't always used in the right context, and it is very difficult to put them in the right context. You are condensing complex situation into about 800 words, people forget how difficult that is.

Science Editors: **Charlie Harvey**  
**Kelly Oakes**  
**Thea Cunningham**  
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# SCIENCE

## You won't believe it..

### Beauty isn't in the eye of the beholder, it's in the eye



Are you looking at me?

Yes, maybe it's true that there are differing opinions on who we think of as attractive. Indeed, some people think Simon Cowell is good looking; still can't get my head around that one, but I digress. Yes, people have their own personal preferences – blonde or brunette, brainy or brawny, etc. However, numerous studies have shown that there are a significant number of traits that we all find attractive, no matter who we are. These include big eyes in women, big jaws in men, and symmetrical faces. These features are all signals to potential partners of good genetic stock. A symmetrical face, for example, shows that you are able to fight off parasites, which can distort the normal development of the body.

Well, one more trait has been added to the list of more-or-less universally attractive features – bright, white eyes. The white part of the eye – the sclera – is made of tough fibres, protecting the eye from various assaults. This white canvas, however, is rather delicate, and can be stained depending on various ailments one might suffer from. Yellow eyes, for example, can be caused by fat deposits as we age, or may indicate jaundice (a build up of bilirubin). Red eyes are caused by dilated blood vessels in the eye and can be symptomatic of anything from infection to allergy. The scientists behind the study, published in the journal *Ethology*, doctored 100 of pictures of eyes to make them appear bloodshot. Together with 100 healthy white eyes, the scientists asked people to rate the pictures on sadness, healthiness and attractiveness. Unsurprisingly, the white eyed folk did best on all three counts.

The sclera is an interesting part of the body to test beauty on because it is something that humans have which we don't share with our closest relatives – chimpanzees. All non-human primates have brown or dark brown sclera. It is thought to be this colour (similar to the iris) so as to mask which direction you are looking. In humans, the eye seems to have gained a secondary function (besides preventing you bumping into things) – communication with others. As well as attractiveness, the white eye can signal gaze direction and emotion. Vital messages in an increasingly social species.

**Charlie Harvey**

# The rise of consumption

**Amberley Stevens**

The infected individual wastes away with fever, sweats and a chronic cough. The disease appears to consume them from within. It is the same disease that consumes Satine, played by Nicole Kidman in *Moulin Rouge!*, and has been a big killer for centuries. Even today consumption, known now as tuberculosis or TB, is still the biggest killer out of all bacterial diseases. TB is caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) and, unlike other European countries, infection rates are on the rise in the UK, with 40% of cases here in London. This unexpected rise appears to be linked to the increasing number of internationals entering the country with undetected TB.

TB is hard to treat partly due to its complex cell wall which prevents many drugs from entering the bacterium. Standard antibiotic treatment lasts between 6-24 months. This poses a problem in many developing countries where clinics are few and far between and where patients often do not return for repeat prescriptions. Treatment is becoming increasingly difficult with the increase of multi-drug resistant strains. Vaccination, therefore, is seen as the best method to prevent infection and the spread of TB. The current vaccine, Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), which has left many of us with an ugly scar on our arm, is a live attenuated version of *M. bovis*, the cow version of Mtb. BCG has been in use for around 90 years but the many problems with this vaccine have led to a quest for a replacement. BCG only offers protection for around 10 years and protection wanes in adults. It also has different efficacy in different countries. A trial in India, for example, showed no protective properties at all. This may be due to a reduced protection in people in Asia and Africa who may have been exposed to other Mycobacterial species and may have genetic differences which reduces the vaccine's effectiveness.

In the past 90 years there have been no other successful candidate vaccines. Research into new TB vaccines is currently largely based on the search for highly immunogenic antigens (a substance that induces an immune response)



Oh yes, definitely a bad case of Bieber fever

on the cell surface of Mtb. A few possible candidates have been thrown up; there are currently 12 vaccines in clinical trials. GlaxoSmithKline's Mtb72f vaccine contains two surface antigens, one of which is a protein named PPE18, currently being researched in the Centre of Molecular Microbiology and Infection here at Imperial. Most vaccine candidates have little chance of making it through the vigorous clinical trials with preliminary data showing little more protection than BCG already offers.

In March, Imperial announced that the Tuberculosis Research Group in the National Heart and Lung Institute had discovered a novel target protein called EspC that may have use as a potential TB vaccine. The Veterinary Laboratories Agency pointed out in 2008 that EspC was highly immunogenic. The authors also stated that it was only secreted by Mtb, not *M. bovis* BCG, making it potentially useful for new diagnostic tests. New diagnostics are needed due to BCG interfering with the current test used and giving false positives. The Tuberculosis Research Unit have further shown EspC to illicit a strong immune response from T-cells isolated from patients infected with TB, therefore this makes it a potential vaccine candidate.

There are three main ways of tackling TB: diagnosis, vaccination, and drugs that reduce spread and pathology of the disease. TB is

transmitted from person to person usually through the air from the cough of an infected patient. Last month, Imperial published findings that MMP-1, an enzyme regulated by monocytes in the presence of Mtb, damages the collagen in lung tissue. This can result in coughing which can spread Mtb through the air. As there are drugs to suppress MMP-1 we may be able to reduce the spread of TB and reduce immunopathology.

It is unlikely that the vaccine candidates in clinical trials at the moment will come out of the pipeline to become vaccines. The current method of taking any protein that elicits a strong immune response and using it as a potential vaccine without knowing its function or structure is slightly worrying. It has clearly not been the correct method for finding potential vaccine targets due to a lack of new vaccines in the last century. One of the main problems facing vaccine construction is the incomplete knowledge of what constitutes protective immunity.

Until there is a good understanding of Mtb infection it is unlikely there will be a better vaccine than the BCG. The best option at the moment is to make a better BCG vaccine of which there are three potential candidates in clinical trials now. Only time and rigorous clinical trials will tell if one of these three will be the knight in shining armour of vaccines.

# Gene linked to alcohol intake found

**Charlie Harvey**

A gene associated with increased alcohol drinking behaviour has been identified, and may lead to a better understanding of the biological mechanisms that control drinking.

The research, published in the journal *PNAS*, identified the gene known as autism susceptibility candidate 2 (AUTS2) as the likely candidate. A variant of this gene, present in three quarters of people studied is connected with higher levels of alcohol consumption. People with this gene drink, on average, five per cent more alcohol.

While it is not known exactly what the func-

tion of AUTS2 is, it is known to be expressed in neurons that regulate reward behaviours and in neurons that determine alcohol sensitivity. The researchers believe that people with the more common gene may have to drink more to gain the same amount of reward. Fruit flies have a similar gene, and in tests researchers found that blocking the effect of this gene made the flies less sensitive to alcohol. As the name suggests, AUTS2 has also been linked to autism and ADHD – both of which are known to be connected with higher levels of alcoholism.

Clearly, there can be no single gene responsible for such a complex behaviour such as alcoholism. As lead author Professor Paul Elliott

notes "There are a lot of factors that affect how much alcohol a person drinks, but we know from twin studies that genes play an important role. The difference that this particular gene makes is only small, but by finding it we've opened up a new area of research into the biological mechanisms that control drinking."

Alcohol related diseases are a major burden in the UK, with 15,000 people dying from conditions such as liver cirrhosis, cancer and heart diseases each year. The researchers hope that a better understanding of the genetic mechanisms that govern alcohol consumption may lead to the development of individually tailored treatments for alcohol abuse and addiction.

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Technology Editor: **Feroz Salam**

# TECHNOLOGY

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## The Best of the Rest

### Dell Streak 7



Dell's own contribution to the Easter tablet bonanza has unfortunately not gone the way the company would have liked. The Streak 7, 2 inches wider than its older brother the Streak, was positioned by Dell as a firm step into the tablet market after the neither-here-nor-there Streak. Disappointingly however, the device sports the same resolution as the 5-inch Streak, with reviewers reporting that you can see individual pixels on the screen from normal viewing angles. With reviewers also panning its poor battery life and lack of USB charging options it seems as if Dell has merely repackaged the Streak with a bigger screen and little else. So what does the Streak 7 have going for it? Price and price alone – going at £299 it's one of the cheapest 7-inch tablets out there.

### Motorola Xoom



The Motorola Xoom is by all reviewer's accounts a well designed product that achieves what it promises on the tin, but its Achilles heel lies in the premium that Motorola expects you to pay for it. Sporting Android's spanking new Honeycomb operating system, the Xoom can do everything the iPad 2 can, with the added bonus of native Flash support and possibly future 4G expansion. Where it fails, as most reviewers seem to be complaining, seems to be in the general lack of apps for tablets in the Android market. While this is a situation that's bound to improve given time, the Xoom's hefty price tag of around £480 (WiFi only) to £560 (WiFi+3G) means it's wise to remember there are other tablets out there (and more coming soon) that will probably offer more bang for your buck.

# Have your cake and eat it too

**Feroz Salam**

This Easter heralded a slew of new tablet announcements, and the brightest of the latest generation of iPad contenders finally brought some variety and innovation to the tablet market. One of the best of these was the Eee Pad Transformer, a device that combines ASUS's netbook prowess and a bit of detachable-screen goodness to offer a tablet experience that doesn't necessarily mean sacrificing on productivity.

Felix was present at the UK release of the device, and we managed to get a first hand look at what looks like one of the strongest iPad alternatives to hit our shores yet. At first glance, the Eee Pad appears to be a simple netbook, but its selling point revolves around a clasp that allows you to pull away at the screen and use it independently as a tablet in its own right. The Transformer could prove a much more convenient way to get your music and documents into university without having to drag your laptop the distance, while keeping a neat keyboard and touchpad arrangement at home.

ASUS hasn't gone to town on the design of the tablet, but the dark brown metal casing it comes in feels solid to the hand and decidedly high quality. The keyboard itself is a neat chiclet-layout offering and the combination of a 1080p screen resolution and the manifold input options (even including multi-touch on the touchpad) makes the Transformer a remarkably versatile device. The response time between slotting the screen into the dock and being able to use the keyboard is virtually unnoticeable, which makes the experience of using the tablet as seamless as ASUS promises. The display, boasting the IPS LCD technology that promises power saving over standard LCDs, was deliciously sharp.

On the inside, the Transformer is very competitive, sporting the massively popular Tegra 2 dual-core chip, 1GB of RAM and 16/32GB of storage (with microSD expandability if you require it). One of the most useful features of



the device stems from its battery life. While the tablet alone offers 8 hours of performance, ASUS has also managed to cram a supplementary battery into the keyboard that activates when you slot the tablet into it that adds another 8 hours, taking its total performance to a solid 16 hours.

On the software side, the Transformer was widely touted as the first tablet to land in the UK sporting Google's Honeycomb version of the Android operating system. The tablet-oriented OS was reported to offer a much better experience than prior Android tablet offerings, and it doesn't disappoint. The UI looks a lot better now that it's been calibrated for a wider screen, and ASUS has added just the right number of widgets to improve the device without causing it to look overburdened.

That said, one of the more puzzling moments during the hands-on came when I tried to move between home screens on the device and it stopped responding completely for a few seconds, both in my hands and those of the demonstrator. Delayed responsiveness is an issue

that has been reported by others reviewing the device. While it didn't kill my experience with the device, I suspect it's something that could build into a nuisance if it happens too often.

If the Transformer's solid construction and neat keyboard arrangement aren't enough to drag you away from the iPad, you might just be convinced by the price. Starting at £379 for the tablet itself and £429 with the keyboard dock, it's a highly competitive offer from ASUS for a product that's pulling a Jekyll and Hyde act surprisingly well. It's worth keeping in mind, though, that 3G isn't offered on the device yet.

ASUS has turned out a solid, competitively priced product that carves out its own niche in what's quickly becoming a crowded market. The software on the device did seem a bit sluggish at times, but considering the regularity of updates it's possible that the issues have been fixed at the time of writing. If you're a student on a tight budget who needs the flexibility of a full keyboard but also wants to pick up a tablet on the cheap, this is the perfect device for you.

## ASUS Eee Slate: tablet workhorse

**Chris Bowers**

Currently, the tablet market is undeniably dominated by Apple, with Google's Android looking to take some share with Honeycomb. The tablet OS that has seen far less of the limelight so far however is Windows 7. Known of course as a desktop and laptop OS, it's also perfectly useable on a tablet, and this is what the Asus EEE Slate EP121 brings to the table.

As Windows is so associated with that desktop/laptop usage paradigm, you would expect a tablet that was to use it to its full effect to pack some punch, and on paper, the EEE Slate certainly looks to be shaping up. The tablet holds an Intel i5 dual core 1.3GHz mobile processor, sporting Hyper-Threading and Turbo Boost, 4GB of DDR3 RAM and a 64GB solid

state drive, which is an impressive specification. It's got the room for all of that though, as it has a 12 inch capacitive touchscreen and is almost three quarters of an inch thick. And at almost 1.2kg, this isn't something you're going to forget is in your pocket.

With that screen though, you also get a digitising layer and a stylus to go with it, allowing for easy note-taking and similar tasks as well as the ability to draw on the EEE Slate like a graphics tablet, with what you're drawing right under your pen. This brings the tablet into a different niche, especially when matched with the ability to run full Windows applications, such as Photoshop.

The EEE Slate isn't trying to compete with the iPad on its home turf. To really prove this point, there is no 3G version of the tablet, so

Asus isn't trying to market this to the "surf-on-the-go" consumer. I can easily see the majority of those who buy this tablet being businesspeople – taking notes in meetings and working on software they're used to on their commute. And when they get to the office, they can easily transfer their files to their main PC and continue work.

On the other hand, the fact that this tablet almost acts like a mini, touchscreen laptop means that you can't expect a huge battery life. But for those using it for meetings and short journeys, this probably won't be an issue, and the convenience of using the programs you're used to on the go will be a huge advantage. Therefore, despite a fairly hefty price tag, I can see the EEE Slate selling, and possibly bringing some of that limelight to Microsoft's offering.

## TECHNOLOGY

# Miles ahead and still racing

Sorin Cioban finds the iPad 2 delivers consistently

In February, right after using my first generation iPad for about six months, I knew Apple would soon launch its successor so I sold it in order to buy the new one whenever it came out. Not long passed before the end of term came, and I started queuing for the iPad 2 about 17 hours before it was officially launched in the UK.

The second generation iPad packs a 1GHz dual-core Apple A5 processor which is fronted by a 9.7" LED-backlit screen with a 1024 by 768 resolution (same as first generation) protected by what Apple claims is a fingerprint-resistant oleophobic coating. For all your photographic and teleconferencing requirements, there's the front and rear-facing camera; both with video recording (with the rear capable of 720p recording).

This overview of the iPad will be split into 4 sections – Speed, Screen, Cameras and Battery life.

## Speed

Having a dual-core chip on the device certainly makes application start a lot faster and work more smoothly. Among the 'made-for' apps I tried were the mother-Apple written iMovie and Garageband. Although I hadn't used



The iPad 2, looking much like the iPad. And the iPod. And the iPhone. Revolutionary design from Apple as always...

iMovie for iPhone before, I've just done a side-by-side speed comparison and I can say it starts quite a bit more faster on the iPad, and processes projects fast-

er than on the iPhone 4 as well. Overall, the new chip has improved the speed of the device and I'm looking forward to trying more apps designed to take advantage of the A5.

## Screen

When Steve Jobs presented the iPad on March 2nd, everyone was disappointed by the fact that it didn't feature a retina display. I assume that happened for two reasons. One is the cost of such a screen. The other is the fact that its implementation would bring another resolution to the crowd of iDevices, requiring all apps to be modified to look pretty on the new resolution.

While there is no retina display and it is not as pretty as that of the iPhone 4, the screen of the second generation tablet is so much better! The trick behind this is the simple removal of the metal edges from the iPad 1, thus bringing the glass closer to the screen.

As for Apple's claims that it has a fingerprint-resistant screen: simply put, it does not. After hours of continuous usage (obviously not while eating), it certainly needs to be cleaned so as not to look like you used it as a tray at McDonald's. Sure, they made the smart-cover with the "micro-fibers" that wipe the screen when you open/close the cover. While they do part of

the job by cleaning half the smudges on the screen whenever you open/close it, not adding them on the entire cover was a bit of a mistake on Apple's side, since they tend to leave 3 lines of fingerprints behind.

The screen is certainly pretty, but as opposed to that of the iPhone 4, it sure needs a lot of cleaning.

## Cameras

People nowadays seem to want cameras on everything. Before the iPad 2 was announced, I had some doubts Apple would add a rear-facing camera to the 10-inch device. But they did. Unfortunately.

Why am I disappointed? Let's put it this way – you have a device (regardless of its size) with a camera on it, right? So, even for the few times you will actually use it as a camera (or does anyone actually use their tablet – not necessarily an iPad – on a regular basis?), you want it to take good-quality pictures. Not DSLR-quality pictures, obviously, but not poorer than my first 1.3MP digital camera 11 years ago. I would've liked Apple to put at least a, say, 3MP camera on the tablet. Again, I definitely wouldn't use it as my main camera, but it would've been cool to have it for those moments when you're using the iPad, something comes up

**"They say it can film 720p. If movies in 720p looked like that, I'd cry"**

and it would take too long to pull the smartphone out to take a decent picture. And they say it can film 720p. If movies in 720p looked like that, I'd cry.

The front-facing camera, on the other hand, is decent. It does its job of a video-call camera. I can't really complain about its quality. It's decent enough to allow the person I'm doing a Skype/Facetime call with to see my face clearly.

## Battery life

Like the battery of the first iPad, the battery in the iPad 2 allows for quite a lot of browsing/music/video/gaming. Simply put, I bought the iPad on the 25th of March, used it through the weekend, charged it and went to Spain for 10 days. I did some revision (reading PDFs), listened to music on my flights and played some games. I didn't browse because the hotel didn't provide free WiFi so I bought a Vodafone USB dongle which I could only use with my Macbook Pro, hence no internet on the tablet. Thus, the iPad 2's battery lasted until I came back to the UK. Then I charged it again and went home for 2 weeks. This time, the battery died around the 7-day mark because I'd also used it on the internet. So, overall, I'd say it lasted for about 13-14 hours with no WiFi on, and about 10 with WiFi. In my opinion, that's quite a deal-breaker when deciding whether to take the laptop with you on vacation or the iPad.

## Conclusion

Overall, the iPad is an amazing device; obviously, it's not perfect. But with these specs and the base model at just £399, it's certainly the number one tablet on the market – at least at this point in time. I will most likely be unable to give up my laptop; but for people who just need a device for entertainment, reading, writing, taking notes, this is, I believe, what they'll probably be using in a few years' time.



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# COMMENT

## FELIX

### Nothing wrong with a few arts students – for decorative purposes

There has been a great hullabaloo about the Summer Ball. The old adage that the more trivial the matter, the more vicious the invective has been proved true once again by the arguments over the changes to the Summer Ball. Or Summer Festival, as it should probably now be called. Whilst students at other universities occupy lecture theatres to protest the effect of government cuts on their degrees, Imperial students suggest calling an Extraordinary General Meeting to demand that the dress code of the end-of-year party be obligatory black tie.

That is not to demean the desire of what seems to be the majority of students to have an event where they can dress up with their friends and celebrate the end of the year. In fact, Felix would advise students to consider the dress code to be black tie, regardless of the event's 'Whatever you think is best' label.

But unfortunately, amidst the furore over whether having Goldsmith's students within a 100-yard radius has the potential to ruin an evening, the core reason why the Summer Ball is so cherished has been forgotten.

We love the Summer Ball because we spend it with our close friends (and it must be said, not a small amount of alcohol). The novelty of wearing a cummerbund may add to the fun, but no amount of archaic dress can make you have a good time on your own. In any case, anyone who has attended previous Summer Balls knows that the adherence to the dress-code is far from universal to say the least.

No convincing argument has been put forward as to how the new format destroys this. Last year's formal dinner was so sparsely attended that it simply did not factor in the vast majority's experience of the Ball. The dress-code, although bungled, has not banned black tie dress, and in truth the incongruity of bow ties and an all-day festival is quite appealing. The selection of live acts seems better than ever and the cost has remained stable from last year. We would urge the Union to allow students to remain in the Quad through to the Sunday as usual, but we understand the pressure the Union faces from the Council with regards to their license.

The Union has certainly handled the proposed changes very badly. The new schedule came as a largely unwelcome surprise, and most students heard the news through negative responses on facebook rather than directly from the Union. Students have been right to make their voices heard, and all criticisms and suggestions should be publicly aired and discussed. But when the day in question comes around, we hope that more time is spent having a good time than playing spot-the-fine-arts-student.

# A load of balls

Wear whatever you want to the Summer Ball – I will



**Tim Arbabzadah**

**“Here is my advice to you: if you want to wear black tie, do it.”**

**T**he Summer Ball is once more drawing ever closer. The time when the girls get to wear expensive dresses, and the guys get to wear tuxedos with a real bowtie, (not one of those pre-tied ones, which don't allow you to wear it with the knot undone for that cool after party look). But wait, what's that in the sky? Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Yes, it is a plane. It's actually several planes doing a flyby for the Royal Wedding, but the plane I was referring to is the metaphorical one behind them. It's here to drop a bomb, a metaphorical bomb; this year the Summer Ball isn't officially black tie.

The decision to not officially make the summer ball a black tie event has caused about as much debate as the AV referendum. If you don't get that reference then basically that's a referendum that, no matter what way you vote, will literally end in Nick Griffin being personally called upon to choose who the next Prime Minister is. He will say Donald Trump and all of the UK's GDP will be put into trying to disprove Obama's birth certificate (Sorry, a bit off topic there. This just shows the harm revision does to my mind).

This year the dress code for the Summer Ball is 'whatever you think is best', and that caused some debate. There are obvious solutions to stop the debate. The first being just change the bit on the logo/event invites that says 'whatever you think is best' to 'black tie.' You could also say 'why don't you just wear black tie anyway, you arsehole.' You shouldn't say that, as it is unnecessarily rude. Your point still stands though. When you read the two back-to-back it's clear that they are just swings and roundabouts. So here is my advice to you – if you want to wear black tie, do it.

It is an old saying, probably, that it is better to be overdressed than under-

Ben Kennedy



Fine I'll wear black tie, but I draw the line at monochrome

dressed. Think about it guys, how many women have you heard say that George Clooney needs to tone it down on the stylish, suave suits as they make him repulsive. What about James Bond? You think he'd be a top secret agent if he walked around in shorts, flip-flops and a hat that 'makes him look well indie and unique'. Now any women reading this, how many guys said that Pippa Middleton was a bit too dressed up at the Royal Wedding. I'll tell you how many, none. She even got an appreciation group on Facebook, and so could you.

Another change you probably didn't notice or care about is that this year it is not just an Imperial event. It's joint with other universities, although it is held at Imperial. This is actually not a bad idea. If you think about it, getting some mixing of universities and more people could only be a good thing. There is a minor flaw though. Now, call me sceptical, but I doubt many people from the other universities will actually bother coming. No offense to the Union, but we haven't exactly got a reputation for throwing amazing parties. Although I don't mind that other universities won't be there, you can't force people to come. I guess it means we get more money for the Summer Ball, so why not?

The ticket prices are £40 if you buy them this week, with an extra £5 for the

**Think about it guys, how many women have you heard say that George Clooney needs to tone it down on the stylish suits?**

after party in Metric. I haven't heard anyone complain about the price but I'm sure someone somewhere will. If you ask me the cost is pretty reasonable, considering the length of the event. Think about Cambridge, the May Ball tickets are usually about £100. They do have open bar, but still, with the wonders of pre-lash, ours will end up cheaper. If you are complaining about the extra £5, then good luck going to a club and getting in for that. I guess it's like Spotify – you want the music, but don't want to pay. Although I have already locked myself out of songs on Spotify, so fuck you Spotify.

I will end this by borrowing a phrase from Angry Geek. It's not that I love or don't love black tie being officially a dress code – it's just that I don't give a fuck. Once more, if you want to wear it, wear it. I will be. If you want to come over and thank me for my wisdom, please do. I'll be the guy with my bowtie undone surrounded by women telling me I look suave.

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# EXAM CALENDAR



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2 May	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 June	2	3	4	5

## COMMENT

# Take up arms to defend freedom

Spain, 1936. As civil war sweeps through the country, volunteers from all over Europe flock to the standards of the Republican and Nationalist armies. Made iconic through Hemingway's dry prose and Picasso's chilling canvas, the Spanish Civil war was probably the last real instance in which thousands of individuals across Europe took up arms to defend their ideals in a foreign state regardless of their own nation's views on the matter.

Almost every country in the EU hails from the blood of foreign nationals who risked their lives to free them from their oppressors. From the Hungarian Legion in Italy during its Risorgimento to the British citizens, most famously Lord Byron, fighting for the freedom of Greece, modern-day Europe was born of a sense of brotherhood common to its people. Nor was this a phenomenon which was limited to the Mediterranean: in South America, the British Legion fought for the independence of Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru, while Garibaldi defended that of Uruguay. Lafayette and other French volunteers sailed to North

America to aid in the American Revolutionary War, and the citizens of the US reciprocated in both World Wars.

So where are today's Byrons? As the fiery Arab Revolution blazes on, one is left to wonder if the citizens of our nations will ever heed the call to arms. A stunningly cynical apathy is rife amongst the members of our generation, as if the seventy-five year gap which separates us from our grandparents' situation in Spain had bred nothing but a contemptible attachment to the easy lifestyle our ancestors shed their blood for.

This is not the first time the citizens of democratic nations have failed their neighbours. As part of a wider blaze of protests in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus which accompanied the death of Stalin, the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 bears many resemblances to the current situation in Libya. There too a whole nation spontaneously rose to rid itself of a hated government. But a disillusioned and spineless West simply stared on, not lifting a finger in the hypocritical attempt to preserve a freedom they let others lose.

We all insist on the values of a liberal and democratic government, but it would appear that we are also in too much of a lethargic state to provide any practical help to people who are trying to form one of their own. Since the fall of the Berlin wall, only religious extremism seems to be able to mobilize our complacent generation to the ultimate sacrifice. The political organisations formed the only internal political structures which allowed British and other foreign nationals to take a stance in Spain against the express wish of their governments, and these no longer exist. In 1848 democrats all over Europe took up arms and readily offered their lives for the cause of freedom, while today's liberals can scarcely be bothered to lift their pens.

Ours is a generation of cowards, more interested in flicking between channels to satisfy our perverse curiosity than to actually take any affirmative action ourselves. Too comfortable in our well planned-out lives, we will always be too busy with our own petty problems to occupy ourselves with defending a freedom we do not deserve.

## Alessandro Guazzi

**"In 1848, democrats offered their lives for freedom. Today's liberals can scarcely be bothered to lift their pens"**

# How to be British, apparently



## Rhys Davies

There was a wedding last Friday. One of slightly more importance than normal. Did you see it?

I'm afraid I missed it. Which was a shame because I had a personal invitation to Westminster Abbey but a very important engagement came up at the last moment. There was a wall that had been recently painted and they needed someone make absolutely certain that it dried. Like I said, a shame, but I'll catch the next one.

Say what you like about the Royal Wedding (And I believe Angry Geek already has, should you care to look at Felix's brand-spanking new website...), it was quite popular. Central London was filled with people cheering and waving flags as minibuses of royals drove by. And bunting. What the hell is bunting? After the ceremony, once everything had devolved into a general good time, a lot of people were saying how proud they were to be British.

That's nice for them but what does it mean? I've never considered myself to be British. I am a Prince of Wales, and will be until I die and my heart will always belong to the land of my fathers, that old land where the minstrels are honoured and free. But what does it mean to be British, especially in this

age, in this cosmopolitan melting-pot of a city? The English Defence League and the British National Party have very strong ideas of what being British means. They define themselves as true Brits so being British must mean being bigoted and xenophobic, short-sighted and small-minded, and being painfully, painfully white. Somehow, this doesn't seem correct – and not just because I don't want to live in a universe where the EDL and BNP can be right.

They are both very keen for immigrants to go "home" as well, positing that Britain is for the British. Does that mean that you're only British if you're born in this green and pleasant land? Is nationality something that boils down to just a bit of luck and geography? Again, I don't think so. Though an island nation, throughout history, Britain has played host to a thousand colours and creeds. Some have moved on afterwards but many more decided to stay, a testament to our accepting nature. Except the French. I draw a line with the French. Extremists want those who are different to them to go home but what is home? Isn't it somewhere where we feel welcome? For many people, that's right here, regardless on what's scribbled on their birth certificate.

Maybe being British is a matter of

stereotypes. If you conform to a certain number of hallmarks of Britishness, maybe that makes you British? So, being British includes (but is not limited to) drinking tea, queuing, talking about the weather, a stiff upper lip and poor dental hygiene, driving on the left, throwing vowels in words with reckless abandon and...royal weddings. While I know a few people like this, it's a narrow and rather twisted definition of Britishness. Stereotypes simplify trends into absurdity. That's why the BNP love them so much. While we do love tea in this country, we also drink coffee. Can drinking coffee be a sign of Britishness too?

This might be getting a bit too academic. If you're British (Proud or otherwise), you don't need someone to tell you, it's something you feel, something you know intuitively. It doesn't matter if breathe tea (not an advisable way to imbibe it) or can't stand the stuff. It doesn't matter if you were born in Bolton or Beirut. If this strange land, of Buckingham Palace and Chicken Cottage, of Pimm's o'clock and Tennant's Special Brew, of red, white and blue – and every other colour under the sun, means something to you, maybe that's what makes you British.

And if you're still confused, have a look at your passport.

## It's all an Olympic waste of time

I have been in two minds about buying my Olympics tickets for some time. This is a chance to see some great riding. But champing at the bit, I am not.

As one may expect, tickets are not cheap and of course I want good value for money. Seeing good horse-and-rider combinations strut their stuff is great, but it may be better value-for-money to invest in training with one of those riders. However, regarding tickets, as you may well know, one cannot simply buy them. It is a sort of lottery in which one has to register, ask for whatever tickets one wants and hand over intimate financial/personal details, all in order to wait with bated breath at the prospect of being allocated the 'requested' tickets.

I can easily add to this the necessity of having to use a VISA card to pay for such tickets. It looks like a revolting sponsorship deal. This does not reconcile with the otherwise rather sensible explanation currently doing the rounds. This is that due to a unique rule governing the use of VISA accounts, the tickets bought with them cannot be sold on to ticket touts and thus the price not be inflated or used as a vehicle for insalubrious activity. Of course it is perfectly possible that such a sensible rule and such a nauseating sponsorship deal are not mutually exclusive. If it were a combination of the two, I think it would reflect well on the organisers.

Commentators have been rather negative about the Olympics up to now, moaning that "It'll be crap because it is in London and not anywhere else", which is itself a relief. Perhaps the sort of furtive stubbornness we have seen from the Olympic organisers is the result of such attacks. The side-effects of having people tough enough to organise the largest sporting event in the world are a revolting logo, a nauseating sponsorship deal and a peculiar ticketing system. It all leaves me with a feeling that it is not quite cricket.

Samuel Furse

**"Central London was filled with people cheering. And bunting. What the hell is bunting?"**

## ARTS

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**Book Review**

Check out our new Books section on Page 24!

**The Echo Chamber** By Luke Williams

Luke Williams' debut novel, *The Echo Chamber*, is a beautifully woven reflection on a life of regret and unresolved identity. Across continents and generations, our misunderstood protagonist Evie Steppman crosses paths with many remarkable people that serve to shape her history, and the history of the world. That wealth

of cacophonous memories, heavy on our heroine's heart, is recounted through a curious medium: sound.

'Sometimes I have the feeling my memory is a mausoleum of broken sounds.' From page one, Evie Steppman laments her 'power of listening' that has defined and haunted her since conception. She explains how, content in the womb, she resisted birth, leading to the death of her mother and to a childhood searching for the love of a reproachful father. In the house where her father took his last breath – 'Inspired by the din in the attic, the sounds of my past begin to rise to a clamour' – Evie struggles to unleash her skeletons by writing her memoirs, alternating between fantasy tales and the histories of others as if to avoid committing to her own.

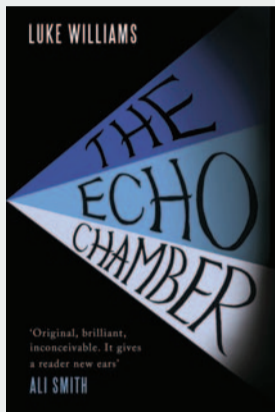
In rich detail, heavily reliant on acoustics, Evie describes her Lagos childhood in the dying days of the British Empire. The characters surrounding her express their conflicting views about Nigeria with bitterness and racism on all sides. However, Evie grows up blissfully unaware of the racial tension. She and her father are optimistic that independence will usher in a 'new era for Nigeria'. In reality the transition is rife with violence and the family flee to Scotland.

Adulthood follows for Evie as a sequence of ups and downs. Her father descends into madness, and she meets her equally addled grandfather. She mimes and works behind the stage in Oxford, and attempts to document the sounds of the United States. But most importantly her adult life revolves around a failed relationship with the beautiful actress Damaris. Evie's obsession with sound and Damaris's selfish character doom the relationship and appear to put a seal on Evie's romantic life.

Ironically, in her later years Evie starts to go deaf. The struggle to document her history culminates in her plan to burn the completed memoir as well as the artefacts of her past that fill the attic: diaries, postcards, maps of Lagos, 'a thousand useless possessions'. As if hearing her memories 'hissing and snapping, cracking like crinoline' on the funeral pyre will alleviate her regret.

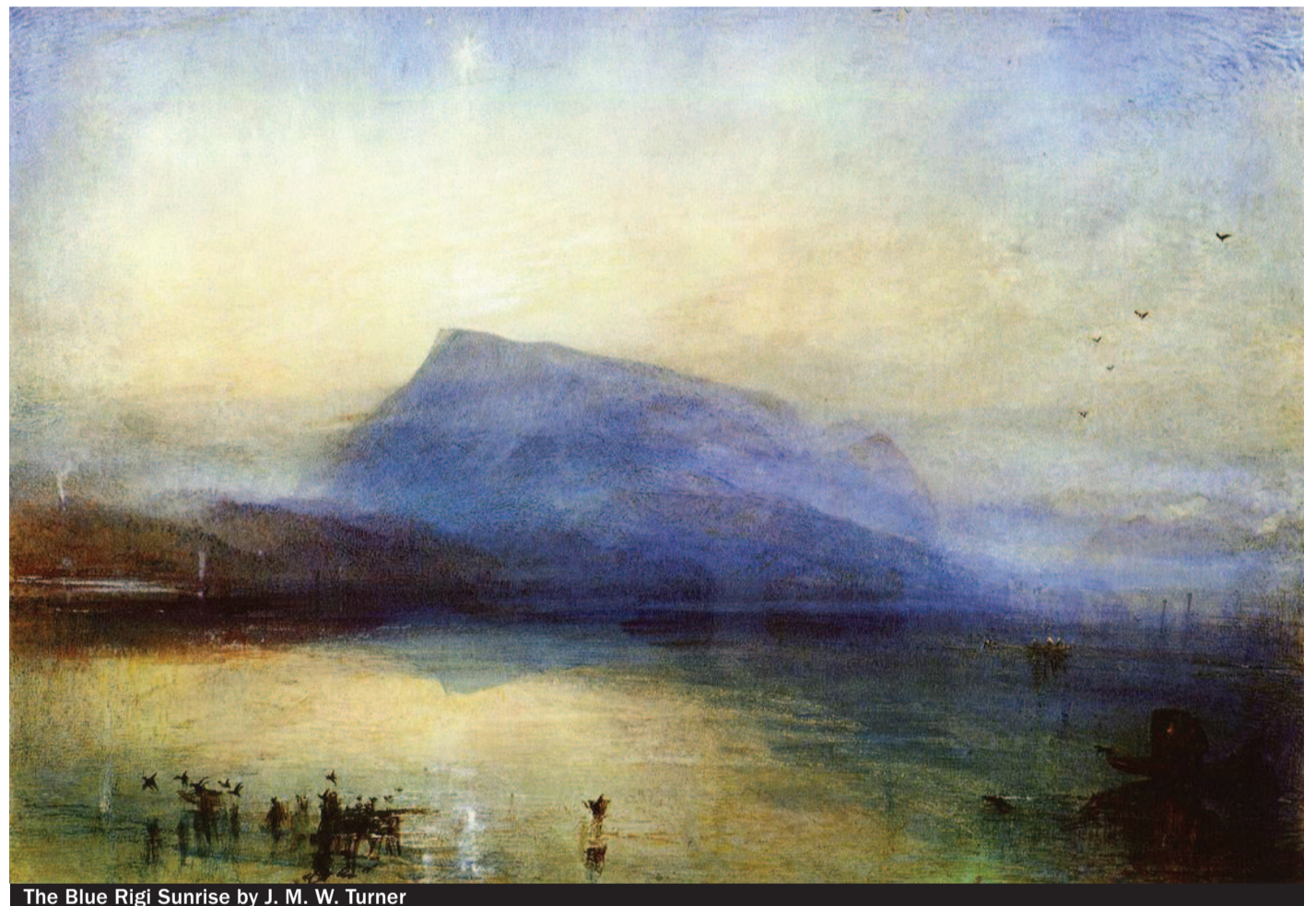
Luke Williams' new voice has the potential to be treasured by many. His evocative first novel of family, memory, empire, love found and love lost, is in many ways a triumph, but at times felt long-winded. However, Williams' narrator possesses a vibrant inner monologue to inspire many an immersive imagination. *The Echo Chamber* may have sometimes lacked focus on the character of Evie, but remains an engaging tale of interwoven histories.

Hannah Tullett



# Is it time to rethink the watercolour painting?

## Tate Britain challenges preconceptions about this medium



The Blue Rigi Sunrise by J. M. W. Turner

### Rocío Molina Atienza

Tate's attempt at redefining our vision of a medium, watercolour, so commonly associated with amateurship and spinsters trying to show off their artistic talent is definitely successful. After viewing this exhibit your conception of what can be done with watercolours will have drastically changed, and you may leave with a feeling of greater respect towards what may seem at first an easy medium to master.

The nature of watercolours, fast to dry, cheap and portable, make them a very appropriate medium to do preliminary works aimed towards preparing a greater piece. This is the place to which the academic art had relegated watercolour, as a mere in-step towards the creation of a greater work. Nonetheless, watercolours have had other uses through human history not so closely related to our modern conception of art but to more prosaic. Detailed botanical drawings were lit by the use of watercolours providing XIX century scientists with a catalogue of the most exotic creations of nature in faraway territories. Topography did also rely on

### "Your conception of watercolours will drastically change"

watercolours to transmit and record the fruit of its study.

The exhibit is well-structured, the onlooker is guided firstly through the most ancient uses of watercolours, which apart from the above mentioned include meticulously detailed portraits made during the middle ages. Their opacity and exactitude will undermine the preconception of watercolours as being only used in free hand romantic landscapes. Moving on through the rooms, a wide variety of landscapes is displayed. Turner's *The Blue Rigi Sunrise* is a coquette piece; one which has to be approached to fully enjoy it. The size of the pieces, around the dimensions of a sheet of paper, will stir the observer to move closer, creating a feeling of intimacy not usually achieved with the great oil masterpieces that dominate the collection of most museums. Another

remarkable piece is *The Blue Night* by Arthur Melville, where an uncommon vision of Venice is displayed: an intensely dark blue night surrounding the warm red lights of the Most Serene Republic.

The highlights of this exhibition are the fact that it caters for a wide range of tastes, since as we move on more modern artwork is on display. A particularly disturbing piece, *The Cry Of The Gland* by Jitish Kallat, greatly contrast with the pre-Raphaelite gouache is it sided by; hence, there is no time for boredom or repetitiveness on this show. Another reason for the success of the exhibit is the insight it provides into how watercolours are actually used. There is a room in which the technical advancements of the technique are displayed chronologically as well as explanations of a few techniques with paintings to exemplify them. This room helps bridge the final product we admire to the obscure workings of the artist. Experiencing the challenge of creating an art piece yourself, in spite of all the dishonoured role of the amateur, can be a fulfilling task which definitely helps to better understand art.

'Watercolour' at Tate Britain until 21 August. £10.90 with student card



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

# MUSIC

Christopher Richardson



Keeping it 'disco' at the Air Hockey World Championships...

## Fuck Buttons is the music scene's saviour

**Fuck Buttons**  
 HMV Forum, Kentish Town  
 Thursday 21st April  
 Christopher Richardson

In a decade unfortunately masked by the lousy sounds of **David Guetta** and **The Black Eyed Peas**, we should be praying to the likes of **Fuck Buttons** as our rare saving grace. If you've been living in the chart bubble let me bring you up to speed: the London-based experimental electronic duo have been tearing up the scene with their unique blend of minimalist sounds extracted from miscellaneous children's toys, and already have a few of those coveted Pitchfork ratings under their belts.

The duo appeared on-stage to greet a table full of electronic gizmos: with the retro Game Boys and Fischer Price keyboards it looked like a messy children's room, but they clearly knew what they were doing. As they faced each other in a head-on standoff we experienced an unusual form of audience interaction: rather than bowing to the crowd, they instead invited us in to look at some of the creativity that goes into the tracks we've come to love.

As my girlfriend so succinctly put it, "it was like watching a spaceship land". An uninterrupted hour or so of those anthems that have been the soundtrack

"The perfect accompaniment to a Sheen-esque shindig"

to my bedroom over the past few years was well overdue. In spite of the sticky floor everyone was moving in sync, accompanied by an impressive light display that added to the cosmic atmosphere.

The set ran perfectly as each track paved the way for the next in bursting crescendo. Rather than being exposed to their iTunes library we were watching the melodies being built from scratch, which included crackled yelping into toy microphones and belting tribal drums. Their delivery was so energetic, which definitely had a lasting impact on the audience engagement.

**Fuck Buttons** were definitely worth the wait, and I'll be bulk-buying tickets to their next London show as soon as it pops into existence. If your life is in need of a new soundtrack, I suggest you go and download *Street Horrrsing* and *Tarot Sport*, or at least check out some tracks on YouTube: their lyricless epics are guaranteed to be the perfect accompaniment to your study session or Sheen-esque shindig.

## José González teams up with orchestral collective The Göteborg String Theory to great success

**José González with The Göteborg String Theory**  
 The Barbican  
 Monday 11th April

Camilla Nicholson

**Little Scream** opened the show for **José González with The Göteborg String Theory**. A fairly unknown artist; at first shy and inverted, and very much in front of a judging panel as I doubt many of us in the audience had come for her – but who, immediately, grabbed our attention with her vocals. Quivering and modest, and then living up to her stage name, her songs were quietly powerful and deeply stirring. As part of a solo live show which more than filled the Barbican hall, **Little Scream** performed with a stamping foot as a drum, a cocktail of pedals as a band and a high tech microphone as backing singers. With a few awkward jokes thrown in, and some humble comments about 'playing a rough show' and jetlag, and music that could cut to the heart of us, we had all fallen in love with her by the end of her short set.

Left reeling by **Little Scream**, no one was quite prepared for the spectacle to follow. González opened solo, with *Hints* – just him and his acoustic guitar, as we best knew him. Already we were being reminded of how deeply moving his music is in person. But then he was joined on stage by **The Göteborg String Theory** orchestra – who turned out to be the perfect catalyst. Led by a

flickr/halfmadhalfinsane



And I thought Arcade Fire had a lot of band members...

young conductor; who was dressed in sloppy chinos and torn white plimsoles and who boasted dance moves comparable to the most recent version of Thom Yorke; the orchestra struck up a tune which no one could resemble to any González song. However gradually (as the backdrop slowly lit to reveal an upside down Swedish forest landscape at dusk) the violins and cellos quietened to allow for González's track, *Far Away*. They slowly began their contribution to the piece; starting with soft female backing vocals and a thumping bass drum, building to violins; wavering on two notes, off time and reaching a magnifi-

cent crescendo as more strings joined the tune at higher pitches and louder volumes. I could write about how **The Göteborg String Theory** enhanced every single song on the setlist, but the one that roused the most emotion in me was *Crosses*. Always a favourite track of mine, the staccato violins and faster tempo added newer heights to the climaxes and steepened the falls. The effect was overpowering. As they closed with *Teardrop*, I felt unsatisfied. Every single audience member gave a standing ovation – we were hungry for more. But the encore was to surpass all that had been done that evening. Starting with *Down the Line* – a number filled with pumping bass drum, sharp string accompaniments and feel-good trumpet riffs – the pace and mood of the evening was lifted to a new elevation. The conductor (who was a show in himself, really) conducted the audience into a synchronised clapping and stopped us with a single hand signal, flawlessly, in time for González to start vocals. Finally, the show was closed with the classic *Heartbeats* – a song which brought me close to tears with its sincerity and beauty, enhanced by the rising and gentle violin accompaniments.

The night was as magical as it was genius. After each song I could hear audible gasps and mutters as people struggled to come to terms with just how good this was. What **The Göteborg String Theory** did was add a new dimension to González's one man music – it did what one guitar and one male voice could not. The violins took the crescendos soaring, softening the moments of truest sentiment and raising the climaxes, whilst the double basses took us diving to the most intricate depths of González's compositions, and rocked us with their steady drones. **José González** quietly stunned us with his compositions and skill in delivering them; and the conductor, meanwhile, took us dancing.

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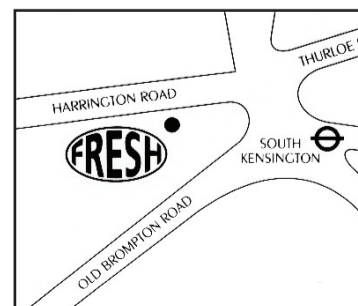
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# FILM

## Bollywood Bite

A monthly column dedicated to the Indian film industry by **Aamir Shamsi**

### Out on DVD

3 Idiots \*\*\*\*

Starring: Aamir Khan, R Madhavan, Sharman Joshi, Kareena Kapoor

Director: Rajkumar Hirani

Synopsis: 2 friends go down memory lane as they find a lead to track down their college buddy

It's finally here! If taken individually, Hirani's third film is a heart-warming story packed with laughs, emotion and great acting.

But not long into the film that you start to realise how similar the themes are to the director's first film (Munabhai MBBS): arduous student life, a cruel college dean (played by the same actor), parents' expectations, rebel student conflicting with the professors, bringing joy and compassion to a somewhat militant-run campus, mocking the "geek" and mistakenly falling for the dean's daughter. I suppose two films with such similar themes and settings can work if treated differently but when they share the same tone and look too, it becomes difficult to differentiate. I also fail to see why Rancho (Khan) needs to hide his true identity from his friends and the woman he loves, and disappear as if he never existed once his master's plan is fulfilled. There is no logical sense as to why, when there is no longer any real risk to his "mission" *per se*, he would sacrifice such meaningful relationships.

And so I can't help but see this as a more refined version in parts of his first with a different core plotline and that, along with the strange plot, I feel, takes away from its brilliance. Nonetheless extremely enjoyable!



### Snippet Reviews

**Game \*\***

Starring: Abhishek Bachchan, Kangna Ranaut, Jimmy Shergil

Director: Abhinav Deo

Synopsis: Crime thriller involving 4 strangers invited to play a game by a wealthy tycoon

Review: Interesting concept that eventually becomes very tedious and predictable

**Thank You \***

Starring: Akshay Kumar, Bobby Deol, Sonam Kapoor

Director: Aneez Basmee

Synopsis: A private detective aims to break up the marriage of his employer after falling for her

Review: Once again I'm praying this will be the last of Akshay's nonsensical and cringe-worthy comedies.

# Valhalla's fury

It has its faults but Marvel's *Thor* descends from the heavens to wreak havoc amongst us mere mortals



Odin never regretted trading his eye for wisdom, look at his bitchin' patch!

## Thor

**Director** Kenneth Branagh

**Screenwriter** Ashley Edward Miller, Zack Stentz, Don Payne

**Cast** Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman, Tom Hiddleston, Anthony Hopkins

### John Park

Now that Joss Whedon's *The Avengers* is official, it's about time we met some of the new Marvel superheroes. First up is *Thor*, the Norse God of Thunder who wields his trademark hammer to fight evil. Unlike the many superheroes we've seen who originate from Earth, Thor (Chris Hemsworth) is from a wholly different world, and has a lot of background information that needs to be explained. Fortunately director, Kenneth Branagh, is not afraid to jump straight in here, and show the magnificently designed universe of Asgard. We see Thor's father Odin (Anthony Hopkins) the ruler of Asgard, his brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston) and some lavish gold-painted set that truly raises the bar on what is now possible with modern day computer graphics.

Thor is an arrogant but talented warrior who enjoys nothing more than charging into battle. For years the people of Asgard have been in conflict with the Frozen Giants and after a long period of war their leader Laufey (Colm Feore) called an uneasy truce with Odin. As is common for any film plot that involves two gifted siblings, Thor's problems stem from his jealous brother. Manipulated into betraying his

father's orders by the cunning Loki who is an expert when it comes to twisting words, Thor's reckless behaviour threatens to destroy the unstable peace between the two races, and for this he is banished to Earth.

Scenes leading up to Thor's exile is comprehensively compact with some smooth voiceover work from Hopkins, and the first half-hour or so has an admirably focused tone that throws in some great action. The choreography is excellent, demonstrating just how a single hammer can be used for all sorts of creative fantasy fighting skills. Side-kicks worth rooting for also appear, although their developments are kept to a bare minimum (we'll just have to settle for being told that they have been Thor's friends for years and are utterly loyal to him). The Warriors Three (Ray Stevenson, Joshua Dallas, Tadanobu Asano) and Sif (Jaimie Alexander) form one heck of a team, taking on an army of Frost Giants just because Thor asks them to.

It's on Earth where events take a shift in tone. Thor meets Jane Foster (Natalie Portman) a smart astrophysicist and her companions Erik (Stellan Skarsgård) and Darcy (Kat Dennings) who provide some priceless comic relief that was lacking in the more serious first section of the film. Thor obviously has trouble finding his way around the new planet and his overtly confident attitude declaring to everyone that he is the great son of Odin (as if that is supposed to mean anything to the citizens of New Mexico) works well to loosen the reins a little and give our protagonist a breather from all the heavy

action. Hemsworth emerges as a steady lead actor, managing to breeze through the action whilst also handling the comedy well.

Problems arise as we constantly go backwards and forwards between Earth and Asgard. It's an indisputable fact that Asgard is much better to look at, and is filled with far more interesting characters and events. Hopkins has many memorable scenes as he speaks his lines with conviction, a standout scene involving a heated argument between Odin and Loki, with the son questioning his true origins. It takes time for Hiddleston's character to build but when it does, the actor's portrayal of insecurity, vulnerability and instability combine to produce one complex villain. Even Rene Russo, playing the wife of Odin, is given the chance to pick up a sword and take a swing at a Frost Giant. Things down on Earth seem a lot more tepid than that: Thor's journey for redemption is not clearly mapped out, and despite the actors' chemistry, the romance between Foster and Thor is underdeveloped.

But as a way of introducing a superhero we have never met before, Branagh has a respectable stab at the material. He involves all the right characters, sets the film up in the most gorgeous landscapes, and has found the right leading man for a challenging part. At the end of the credits, a caption reading "Thor will return in *The Avengers*" pops up. And we can't wait to see Hemsworth standing alongside of Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Mark Ruffalo and Jeremy Renner in May 2012.

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

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# TELEVISION

## Swords, incest, blood and babes

Guo Heng Chin on HBO's show with more epic beards than level 5 of the library

A few years ago, picking up 'A Game of Thrones' started a love affair that kept me up through the deep hours of midnight, and ended 5000 pages and 4 books later. I was swept away into the world of Westeros George R. R. Martin created and was entangled in the intricate plots and characters that the story is lived through.

A Game of Thrones is the first book in the epic fantasy series that is A Song of Ice and Fire, which follows the struggle for the Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms, set against a backdrop of political conspiracy, warring Houses and incest. The death of the King's Hand (the Prime Minister) triggers a cascade of events that would usher the end of the peaceful era, and threaten House Baratheon's place on the Iron Throne. Across the Narrow Sea, the last two remaining bloodline from the deposed House Targaryen are now of age and plot to return to the Seven Kingdoms with vengeance to seize the throne they believe to be rightfully theirs.

A Song of Ice and Fire is no doubt one of the most captivating epic fantasy series of our generation: it weaves a colourful cast of characters, a complex, mind-boggling plot that never ceases to conjure up new surprises, and a highly sophisticated world and its equally intricate politics, altogether in a trademark dark realism: people die in this story and the fact that you are a main character does not spare your head at crucial moments. It was one of those books that is good enough to make you feel as if reality (a.k.a. moments spent not reading the book) is an aching dream and the real world is whenever you get back to reading the book.

So it is to some disappointment initially when I heard that A Game of Thrones would be made into a TV series. Where is the honour of being translated into the silver screen in an epic 400-million dollar trilogy that was bestowed to the reigning fantasy book of the last generation? I won't be able to witness the glory of Winterfell and King's Landing and watch the battles unfold in Dolby Surround Sound and 3D? Damn that



I'd love to hold onto that flowing mane and ride her all day... what? I'm talking about the horse, you dirty so-and-so!

was disappointing.

However, during the build-up to the release of the first episode, I realized that being made into a TV series may actually do the books better justice than a film trilogy. To think of it, the first book itself (A Game of Thrones) is as thick as all three Lord of the Rings put together. Hollywood cut out a substantial amount of content to fit LOTR into a trilogy. To fit the whole of the Song of Ice and Fire series (7 books, with the

last 3 on its way) into a trilogy would require cuts so deep it makes austerity Britain seem generous! How about one movie per book, ala Harry Potter? With the staggering cast of protagonists and ultra-complex politics in A Song of Ice and Fire, to make a movie out of just one of the book would abridge the story into such simplicity it loses its essence. Unless of course each movie is a 6-hour long epic film, which I wouldn't not mind sitting through, although I am not sure if the rest of the people who have yet to read the books share my sentiment. Anyway the TV series would be made by HBO, who churned out TV greats like The Sopranos, Boardwalk Empire and the wire.

After watching the first two episodes of Game of Thrones, I am of opinion that the TV series is set for an epic win.

The CGI and set is good enough to transport the audience into a believable fantasy world, and is stunning to

**"So far, the amount of blood spilled seems promising"**

behold. The castles, the medieval stone rooms, the busy, muddy courtyard, all brought to life in an opulent and detailed set. The CGI panorama of King's Landing is stunning as well. It all feels like a movie!

Most of the characters were done to satisfaction. Sean Bean plays a wonderful Ned Stark, Lord of Winterfell, while Mark Addy excels as King Baratheon, a bashful and merry spirit trapped beneath the responsibilities of governing a kingdom. Lena Headey graces the screen as the cold-hearted, darkly ambitious Queen Cersei Lannister and Emilia Clarke bares all and yet retains a helplessness and innocence as Daenerys Targaryen, who would be interesting to watch as she grows to fulfil her destiny. Harry Lloyd is absolutely irritating as Viserys Targaryen, the naïvely ambitious older brother of Daenerys, which is how the character is supposed to be as per the novel.

The TV series do fall short on the character development section. But what could we expect, the TV show is already condensing so much content into ten 1-hour episodes. Some part may be a bit hasty, but generally, the show's pace is all right. Its already an achievement for the show to circumvent with some success what could be considered the sole flaw of the book, more of a necessity rather than a flaw in writing: the first 50 pages are a bit of a drag, because there are so many characters to introduce, nothing much happens! But it's essential in order to populate the stage with such a large cast and to lay the ground for such an elaborate plot.

While fans of the book watch with glee as each of George R. R. Martin's creations are brought to life in the TV show, those who have not read the books might struggle to keep up with who's who in the enormous cast of characters. Show, not tell, goes the adage for good scriptwriting, but it is a dilemma when you have such a vast number of protagonists. Short of

flashing character labels upon the introduction of each character, I really can't think of a way to familiarize the characters to a new audience effectively. The filmmakers of Game of Thrones wisely picked artistic integrity by opting to reveal characters by slowly trickling down the identities as the story unfolds.

Importantly the TV version stayed faithful to the books. Story and characters are all as they are in the book (at least till now). The more adult themes of the story- the incest and the sex -are undiluted. HBO has its experience with sex and nudity in Rome and its great to see that they did not shy away from it in Game of Thrones. Some reviewers complain about the excessive nudity in the show. However I think its great that those scenes were done with no punches held, not just because I'm a guy, but because it is the way the book was written and they are pivotal to the characterization and plot. The example of The Golden Compass, where the religious theme is watered down to cater to US audience, testifies that compromising the central elements of a story in the name of political correctness or mass appeal results in a film that is but a lame shadow of its source book. It now remains to see if HBO would stay true to the goriness of key events in the book. In the two episodes shown so far, the amount of blood spilled seems promising.

A Game of Thrones is a captivating read for its spectacular world, character and politics. HBO seems to have got it right, and hopefully, as Game of Thrones unfold, it would captivate its audience as the book does. It's a high call for a series of books written by an author hailed as 'the American Tolkien', but if Peter Jackson could do it, those guys at HBO (Benioff and Weiss) better do it as well!



### Dr Who

Read our reviews of the new season of Doctor Who at [felixonline.co.uk/tv](http://felixonline.co.uk/tv)

Books Editor: **Guo Heng Chin**

# BOOKS

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

## Once upon a time in Dejima

### A beautifully realised historical fiction

**Guo Heng Chin**

One of the joys of reading David Mitchell is the way his intricate prose immerses you into the rich, luxuriant and complex worlds he crafted; his intriguing plots and ability to get beneath the skin of a diverse cast of characters combines to create some of the most engrossing read in modern literature.

His latest book, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* brings us back to Japan during the turn of the 19th century, where a isolationist Shogun decree kept it as one of the last bastions of the Orient untouched by expansionist western powers of that time. The forbidding policy, in which even the act of teaching the Japanese language to foreigners is punishable by death, preserves the unique cultural heritage and independence of Japan, but at the same time pickles the island nation and dooms it to a gradual decline as it remains stagnant while the world beyond its seas progresses.

On the bay of Nagasaki, lies Dejima, the sole trading outpost of the powerful Dutch East India Company and Japan's only window to the outside world. Jacob de Zoet is a young twenty-something

clerk attached to the Company under a five-year contract at the end of which he hopes to return to Holland wealthy enough to take the hands of his sweetheart in marriage.

However, de Zoet's time in the Land of a Thousand Autumns would prove to be more than what he expected as he begins to unravel corruption rife through the Dutch East India Company ranks in Dejima. A chance encounter with the mysterious Orito Aibigawa sets Jacob on a besotted pursuit for her love and draws him into an adventure which would embroil him with sinister forces in the Japanese ruling elite and an adventure of murder and deceit.

In *The Thousand Autumns* David Mitchell conjures an exquisite stage of Edo Japan, and fills it with a colourful cast of characters who leap out of the page with the energy and grace of a nimble ballerina. It is also the work of a master prose stylist at his finest, for no less skilled hands could bring to life the story with such poetic grace.

Setting a story in which the characters are divided by a mutual language barrier may be an obstacle to effective interaction between the characters, but

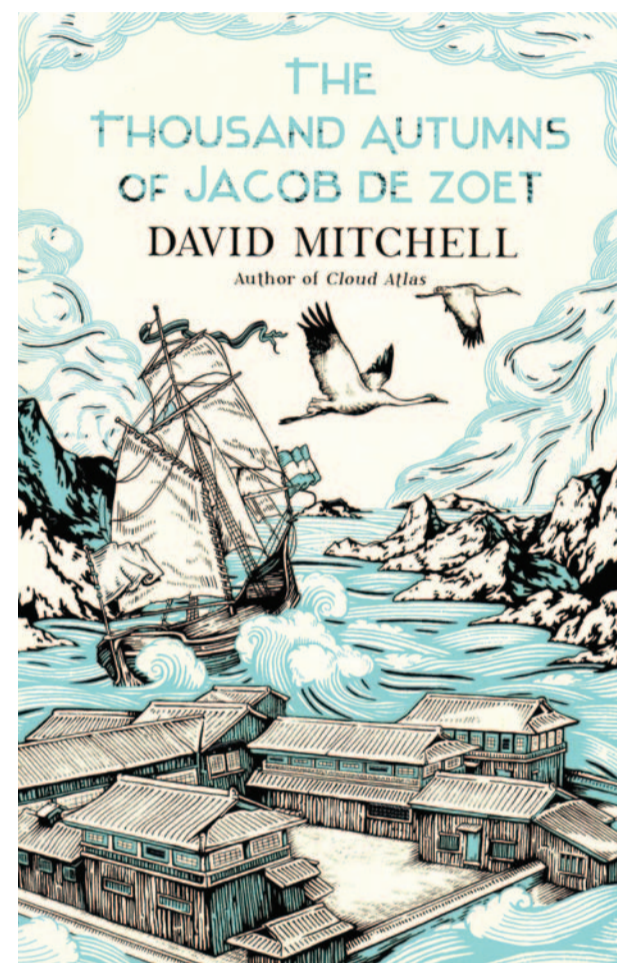
**"No less skilled hands could bring to life the story with such poetic grace"**

Mitchell grabbed the bull by its horns and turned the lack of a common language into plenty of humorous wordplays and puns with meanings lost (or muddled up) in translation, the gems that contribute to the novel's ingenuity.

The many years David spent in Japan as an English teacher and the meticulous research (he once spent hours researching whether men of that time used shaving cream just to complete a sentence about shaving) during the four years spent writing the novel shows in the depth of portrayal of the Edo Japanese culture, down to the quintessential qualities of the Japanese language.

All in all, *The Thousand Autumns* is a satisfying, immersive read which transports the reader to an almost fantasy-like world.

**The book is now out in paperback.**



**Read an interview with David Mitchell on the opposite page**

## Sex, drugs, and a pair of pink boots

### A provocative debut novel

**Celia Usero Navarro**

Reading the book feels as if I was living the story through the eyes of the characters.

The first character you are introduced to in *The Pink Boots* is Tayel. He sleeps with girls just because he can. Listening to the girl's shallow blabber and putting up with lame TV shows in return for mediocre sex suits him fine. He is miserable but he just can't stop, because deep down he knows, the girl who really is worth fighting for is a lot more complicated and he's not sure he's ready.

Jamie has a heart of gold but she just hasn't yet met the manager of the "Good Luck" Department in Life. It seems like all she ever does is give and give and in return life and other people deal her one slap in the face after another. She escaped from various foster homes in her early teens and after a series of disastrous events ends up with Maya, the dead gorgeous but psychotic drug addict. What was once a passionate and intense relationship turns into what can

almost be described as a force of habit: an unbalanced structure of dependency. Jamie is about to lose every last ounce of self-respect while Maya freely engages in her weird sexual endeavours. And that's when Jamie meets Tayel in a park.

Tayel made me laugh out loud several times: he's such a typical guy in a way, so stubborn and set in his opinions. But as you get to know him better, you realize these strong convictions come from a genuine place which he still finds overwhelming. It's the place that keeps him far from letting anyone in to his heart. On the other hand, the sweet bundle of love that is Jamie wants nothing more than to fill that void between them with all that she's worth but her chaotic lifestyle and friends keep getting in the way. When she finally goes off the coke, he decides to go on a bender. Reading the first part of the story was like watching friends of yours doing the mating dance but never quite getting down to the real business, only in *The Pink Boots* the wait and the characters

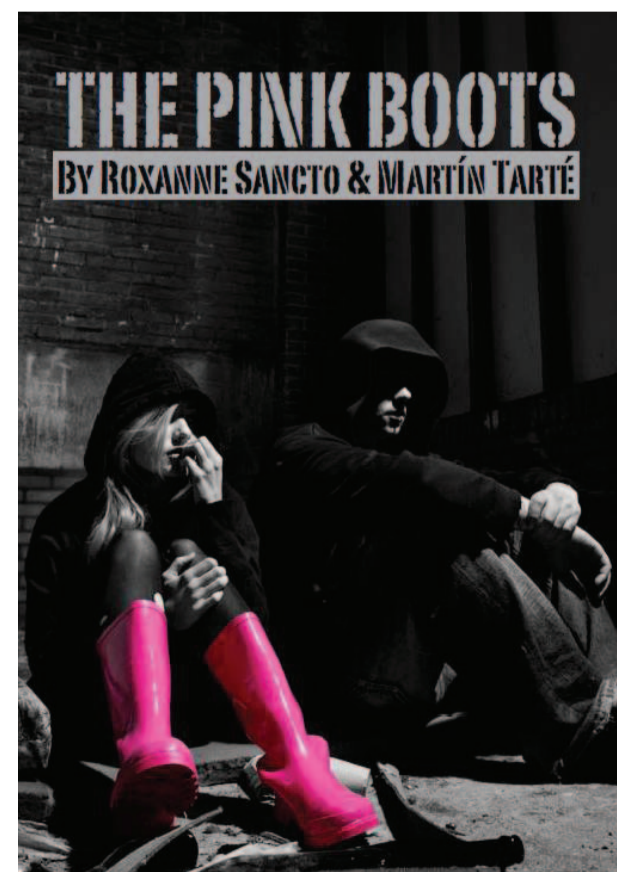
surrounding it, will leave you wanting more.

The second part of the book blew me away. It's filled with so much raw emotion. Jamie's anger and pain, her sense of not belonging to anyone and the kind of loneliness no one can really fill. Getting to know her story and then seeing her life spiralling downwards, and watching Tayel through his own struggle, until he finally realises what needs to be done but it is already too late, it made me cry like a little girl. The story reminds me a lot of Darren Aronofsky's *Requiem for a Dream*, only that *The Pink Boots* left me with a lot more memories of laughter. Each character in the book is lovable in their own little way, even Virgine the wannabe "artist", and Maya the lost junkie.

I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys the insight to both the male and female mind and likes it spiced up with a lot of sex, a lot of drugs and quite some rock'n'roll and rave folk.

**For more information go to: [www.thepinkboots.com](http://www.thepinkboots.com)**

**Interested in reviewing books? Email [books.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:books.felix@imperial.ac.uk)**



# A maestro of modern literature

Two-time Booker finalist David Mitchell talks about his latest book

David Mitchell is a major figure in contemporary English literature. Two of his novels, *number9dream* and *Cloud Atlas* were shortlisted for the Booker Prize. His latest book, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* follows the adventures of a young Dutch clerk in 18th Century Edo Japan in a tale of clash of cultures, corruption, love and redemption set amongst a rich backdrop of an empire shut off from the rest of the world. Guo Heng Chin had a chance to speak with David about *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* and his writing.

## What inspired you to write *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*?

Finding Dejima in 1994 during a trip to Nagasaki. I was 25, and not yet published, nor even that disciplined about teaching myself how to write, but when I came across the museum on the site of this partly reconstructed outpost of the Dutch East Indies Company, a sort of onboard Geiger-counter crackled, and I filled several pages of my notebook with notes. About 12 years and 4 novels later, it was time to bring 'My Dejima Book' into land.

## Do you put in much of yourself or people you know into the characters you create?

Your own personality leaks into all your characters, no matter how you try to insulate them. Characters take DNA from other sources too – people you know, other fictional characters, but a lot from the creator. Jacob is probably more principled than I am, and his faith in God doesn't come from me, and his rectitude is less flexible than my own: on the other hand, sure, he spent a long time living in Japan, not always understanding what he was seeing, and that's something I can certainly relate to.

## One of the gems of the novel is the way you transformed the lack of common language between the Japanese and Dutch characters and their effort to learn each other's language into a treasure trove of wordplay. What gave you the idea for all those witty puns and humorous 'lost-in-translation' moments?

With the wordplay in *A Thousand Autumns*, it was a necessity. I realized why nobody had ever done a Dejima-Nagasaki novel before: they (the Dutch and the Japanese) couldn't really speak each other's language very well! Leiden University had the daily journals that all the Dutch East India Company's chief residents of Dejima kept and they were translated into English. You can actually read what the problems were on Dejima in 1798. One thing they complained a lot is that "None of these translators speak Dutch! This is hopeless!" Even if they can, they sometimes pretend not to speak Dutch. And it was technically illegal for the Dutch to try to learn Japanese, but they did because the Dutch were very ingenious linguists.

For the first manuscript I made these tortuous, difficult subplots where I thought it would be a good idea to have a couple of the [Japanese] translators smuggle themselves out and gone to Batavia [modern day Jakarta] to learn Dutch, and they learned it really well and they

came back. So they at least they could speak Dutch, and I had the same really implausible ideas to increase the Dutch characters' level of spoken Japanese. Just so I can avoid the problem. But of course readers are intelligent people and they can tell when a book has been bent out of shape because the author is trying to dig himself out of a hole!

Then I realized that this isn't a problem at all, it's actually an addition to the book. There is a sort of humour; there is a lot of potential in miscomprehension or incomprehension. So really it wasn't an idea to use the wordplay of mutual language barriers, it was an act of surrender, I gave up trying to avoid the problem.

## Which authors would you cite as having inspired or influenced you?

Always a tricky one, literary genealogy. The closer you look at the verb 'inspire', the foggier it gets, and 'influence' is a cause-effect relationship I'd rather leave to anyone willing to spend time thinking about it. To do it myself seems a bit impure. But for whatever it's worth, the books I read as a kid which made me ache to write in a similar vein were Ursula le Guin and Isaac Asimov, plus Susan Cooper, plus 'The Sword in the Stone', and some of Penelope Lively's children's books. At Uni: Borges, Calvino, John Fowles, Angela Carter and Kundera all floated my boat. It was the 80s and unless you had POSTMODERNIST written on your face with a big marker pen, the doors at my university (Kent) wouldn't actually open.

In more recent years I try to keep my diet more omnivorous. I enjoy Sylvia Townsend Warner, Forster, the 19th century crew, Haruki Murakami, older-school Japanese writers like Junji Iwano, Tanizaki and Shusaku Endo. I never tire of re-reading Chekhov. He's just great. John Cheever, and an American poet James Wright. Primo Levi. Contempo-

**"When I came across the museum on the site of this partly reconstructed outpost of the Dutch East Indies Company, a sort of onboard Geiger-counter crackled, and I filled several pages of my notebook with notes"**



raries whom I enjoy include Sarah Waters, Michel Faber, Hari Kunzru, Nadeem Aslam and AL Kennedy, but there are lots of others.

Outside literature, I'm working through the box-set of 'The Wire', too – it's a mighty achievement, and serves as a reminder to up my game. Oddly enough (or not) I think that Kate Bush's songs work like short stories and mood poems. I don't know if she'd like to be thought of as an honorary writer as well as a singular musician, but that's how I do think of her. Mustn't forget Kazuo Ishiguro, either. And I've just 'discovered' Anthony Trollope – 'The Way We Live Now' is a gorgeous great hairy thing.

## Ursula le Guin and Asimov! Do you read much fantasy and sci-fi?

Not so much, these days, but I've digested a lot in my life, and as you know, once Science Fiction and Fantasy are absorbed into the body they are there for good. Neil Gaiman is a superlative writer, I think. Ballard really had something, too. I know '1984' well and think about it often – perhaps the best-realized political novel in the canon. Mostly my SF is administered visually, in the form of box sets. I know my Borg from my Romulans, and understand why the joke "How many Doctor Who fans does it take to change a light-bulb? Only one, but he's sure that the previ-

ous light-bulb is better than the present one" is funny. The borders between mainstream and genre fiction are getting hazy these days, and I think that's a good thing.

## Do you plan all aspects of your the story before you start writing or do you 'free write' like Stephen King?

Not all aspects, no, because that would preclude the happy accidents, and happy accidents are often the best bits. If I 'free wrote' I'd be afraid that I'd always make the same decision at the same junction, and so my novels would come to resemble each other. I think of a novel as a road-trip, where I set off at point A, will end at Z, and mean to pass through points D, K, O, R and V, but how I get to and from those points is something I won't know until I'm *en route*. Furthermore 'Z' may look very different when I get there to how I anticipated if beforehand. Mmm. This metaphor's gotten out of hand.

## Lastly, any words for aspiring authors?

The crucial stuff you need to know you can only know by writing. Get to it, and when you look back at what you've read and think, 'Jeez, this is awful', know that that is progress. And avoid sentences that have 'that that' in them, though it is perfectly okay to begin a sentence with 'And' now and again.

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# TRAVEL

## Wishing You Were Here



'Sparks fly in Kathmandu' by Navesh Chitrakar

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

## Travel On Your Doorstep

flickr/bluebeart



Brick Lane market on a Sunday

**Get there:** District line, east to Aldgate East  
**See:** The markets and vintage stores  
**Eat:** Street food or a tasty bagel  
**Cost:** £2-5 for a meal

If you're looking to pick up a new (well, old) bike, cheap clothes, miscellaneous bric-a-brac or even just have a cheap bite to eat and a beer in the sun, then head over to Brick Lane this Sunday. And it's just a stone's throw from Shoreditch and its exciting nightlife!

**Planning a trip?** Want some quick advice from experienced travellers? Have a travelling tale to share with Imperial?

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# A weekend in scenic Prague

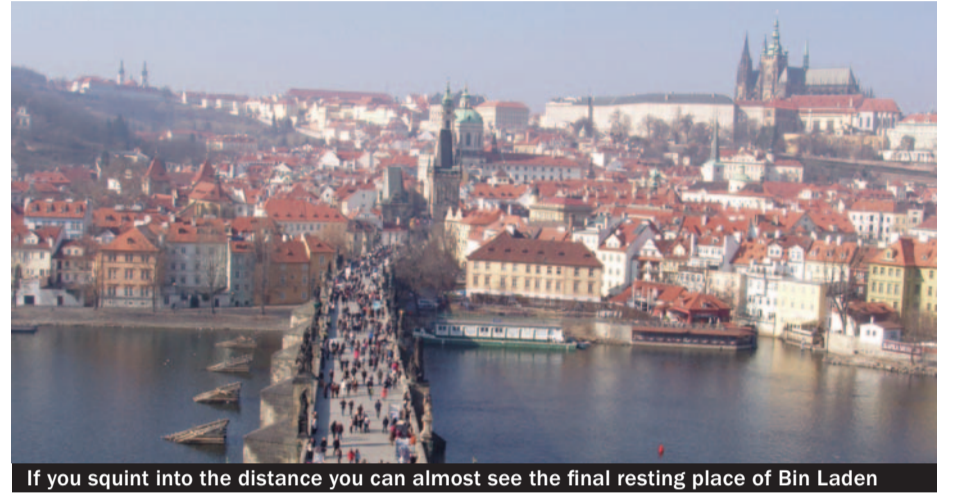
**Maksim Mijovic**

"Not many people know this, but the Nazis had lined the tunnels underneath Prague with dynamite and were prepared to destroy it as they retreated in the face of the Red Army. Were it not for a small group of Russian monarchists who opposed them for 5 days and managed to foil the plot, all of Prague's beauty wouldn't exist." We sipped our tea as Miloš continued his story. "And are they remembered today? There's a small memorial to them, about knee-high, somewhere in the city. That's justice for you."

As we sat in Miloš Gavrilović's tiny antique shop hidden in a side street off the old town square, hearing stories of the city of Prague and its past, there was a feeling of unspoiled novelty, as if we have found something truly new and special. However, it was not just the smiling, bespectacled old man who generated this impression – the whole city in cold grey February is like a flower waiting to blossom. All its treasures are there, aching to be discovered.

The treasures are truly endless. The obvious, but deservedly revered, Charles' Bridge and Prague Castle, both jewels of the gothic style, cannot be missed. There are also countless museums showing an incredible variety of exhibitions: on the old town square an exhibition of watch-making including information about the Prague Orloj (the 600 year old astronomical clock) faces a building housing photos and letters documenting the life of Salvador Dali. Not a stone's throw away is the Sex machine museum featuring, among its many quirky exhibits, a pornographic film from 1925, allegedly commissioned by King Alfonso XII of Spain.

Maksim Mijovic



If you squint into the distance you can almost see the final resting place of Bin Laden

All of these venues and many more accept an Imperial College card for a student discount, usually in the region of 40%.

Prague boasts many glorious landmarks, but equally it hides none of the scars of its history. In Wenceslas square stands the memorial to student Jan Palach, who burnt himself alive in protest of the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union. Further north in the Spanish synagogue in Josefov, the Jewish Museum of Prague presents an informative but chilling account of the lives of Czech Jews during the Second World War.

After a day's walking on the cobbled streets it was time to indulge in an altogether different form of tourism. In Kozi street, the restaurant Kozička boasts a wide range of European food including Czech specialties such as beef goulash with potato pancakes in an enviable environment. The smoky cellar look creates

an effect of smells, sights and sounds merging into one living hubbub and the food is well worth the price, with two eating a two course meal with drinks for about £25. Naturally, the selection of beers on tap is large: Svijany is recommended, whilst Kozel and Staropramen are ubiquitous. A pint shouldn't be bought for more than £1.50.

Not far from the old town square is Potrefená Husa, a branded pub chain run by Staropramen brewery that is also hot on the food front. Set in a more modern, bar-like ambience it offers an equally appetizing menu but a more restricted choice of lagers. Staropramen of all varieties are definitely worth a try, especially Staropramen Dark (Černý).

Despite only spending 2 days in Prague, the experience has succeeded in embedding in our hearts a desire to return there many more times – I'm sure it'll be even prettier in the Spring!

# World Cup woes for the residents of Rio

**Chris Richardson**

2014 will no doubt arrive in the blink of an eye and it'll be time again for that most glorious of sporting events. And with rocketing temperatures, minimal living costs and the nearby Copacabana beach boasting hot latina girls wearing next to nothing, what better venue for the World Cup than Rio's towering Estádio do Maracanã?

Legendary football manager Bill Shankly is incessantly quoted as saying football is more important than matters of life or death – if only the soon-to-be-ex-residents of Rio's favelas were in the position to be able to take such a shitty attitude towards what is, after all, just a game. But for the sake of a game, it seems, the government has been bulldozing such areas and forcing out their long-standing residents in favour of, amongst other things, car parks.

It is a move that is anticipated to be replicated in several Brazilian cities, and already has alarm bells ringing for Amnesty International, who are currently meeting with activists in Rio. The effects will be devastating for

Leuis/MundoReal.org



"Go compare! Go compare!"

**"The effects will be devastating for hundreds of thousands across the country"**

protesting the illegal forced evictions are as of yet making little progress: it seems that for now the children and elderly waiting to be rehoused will have to put up with the rats and whatever else the desiccated area is attracting. Hopefully this will change with added pressure from high profile groups like Amnesty.

I'm not suggesting we fly out to Rio and form a human chain, but it should be food for thought. Most of us care to at least to some extent whether our clothes and food are produced in an ethical manner, and in an age of increasing moral consciousness, perhaps some consideration here wouldn't put us out all too much.

The hundreds of thousands across the country who will be affected For years families have worked hard on building the community in such favelas, and in the space of days have watched them crumble for the sake of football and the Olympic games.

Current campaigning efforts by residents

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GAMES

# Portal 2? Like Portal but better, dummy!



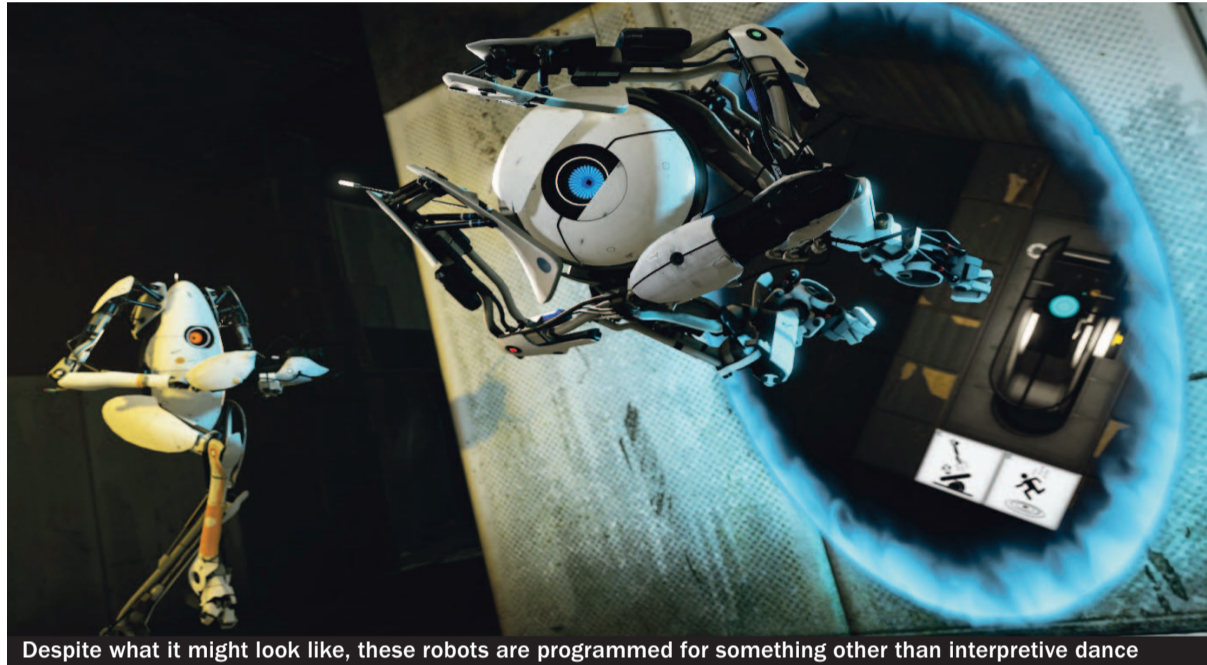
CEO Cave Johnson on why you should hand over your money

**H**ello Felix readers, Cave Johnson here, founder and CEO of Aperture Science. Now I'm sure you're all wondering, "Cave, why are you writing about Portal 2? Why are you breaking the fourth wall?" I'll tell you why, it's because I'm Cave Johnson and I don't let silly little things like rules and regulations get in MY way. I'll do whatever I damn well please and damn the consequences.

Here at Aperture we believe in striving for the best. We took the original Portal and thought, "What would make this bigger? Better? BOLDER?" And let me tell you, THAT was a hefty challenge. Multi-award-winning product, seamless design, revolutionary gameplay, it had our best eggheads scratching their shining bald domes for hours. They came back and said, "Cave, we can't make this game better. Please don't fire us." Did it anyway, no room for failures here. Got some smarter guys in, cranked out Portal 2.

Science has proven that short games are bad, no two ways about it, so we made Portal 2 even longer than Portal. Twice as long in fact. If you're dim witted it might even take you three times as long, maybe more, we don't know. We at Aperture only test with the best of the best, no dunces allowed.

"What about story Cave? Have you skimped on that?" Who do you think we are, Black Mesa? Of course we haven't skimped on story. Portal 2 has at least 65% more story than Portal 1, and you can go ahead and quote me on that (Disclaimer from the suits in PR: quoting me on that WILL result in a court



Despite what it might look like, these robots are programmed for something other than interpretive dance

injunction). It's got thrills, twists and turns and so much action it'll make the sappier amongst you soil your diapers. No, seriously, our story writers have told me those of you with weak hearts need to stay away from this game. We really can't afford another lawsuit.

We've also gone ahead and thrown in some new gameplay elements. I don't pay my lab boys \$100,000 a year just to sit on their thumbs and suck up coffee. No sir, Cave Johnson makes sure my boys work ten hours a day, seven days a week to churn out fresh new challenges. If they get exhausted, fire them and bring in new guys, simple as. We've got asbestos funnels, lasers, hard-light

bridges, plates that fling you about the room and more dynamic surface-coating gels than you have fingers (provided you only have two fingers, that is). All of these have been proven to be 100% safe for human use! (A note from the boys in the lab says that Aperture Science takes absolutely no responsibility for any damage or injury that probably will occur when you use our products).

Fact – the key to any successful co-operative test is trust. Now we understand you can't just trust anyone. Hell, I trust the next man just as far as I could throw him. Turn around, next minute he's stabbing you in the back or pushing you into a crusher. Boom, dead, end of story. The

solution? ROBOTS. Not only do robots give you a guaranteed six extra seconds of co-operation versus human subjects, you can't kill 'em. Just try, totally impossible. Perfect solution to co-operative testing. We've gone and designed thirty five new test chambers, and all require the use of two sets of portals and participants to complete successfully. If you manage to do it alone I will personally come to YOUR door and refund you the cost of the game, provided we haven't already spent it.

Now we've been receiving some complaints of late. Normally I'd respond to these in the usual way and throw them down into the incinerator, but our PR

department has somehow managed to convince me to try and tackle some of these issues head-on. Boost the company profile or some junk like that. One of the biggest complaints we've been getting from you big babies is the game's length. Stop and smell the ROSES people! I didn't spend thousands of dollars out of my own damn pocket to bring in writers and voice actors and only have one-tenth of their dialogue listened to! Slow down, open your eyes and ears, it's not like you young people have anything better to do besides watching pornography or washing your hair anyway.

If you moaning minnies are STILL going on, guess what? This summer we'll be giving you all FREE extra content. You hear that over your blubberin' and bawlin'? FREE STUFF. Would Black Mesa do that? Hell no they wouldn't! New levels, new challenges, new leader boards, all for nothing, NOTHING. I had to fire HALF MY STAFF just to afford this. Are you still crying now? I should damn well hope not! Why the hell am I even answering these God-damn letters, don't you think I have better things to do?!

So anyway I had a meeting with PR and Carol, and they said that I ought to just go right ahead and chuck those letters down the incinerator chute. Best thing for 'em if you ask me. To sum up, more challenges, more story, more fun. Just slow down and if we've not filed for bankruptcy we'll be getting out some more test chambers this summer.

Cave Johnson, we're done here.

Dictated but not read to **Laurence Pope**.

## Service stoppage since Sony server security scandal

**Simon Worthington**

It's been a frustrating fortnight for PlayStation 3 owners everywhere. PlayStation Network, the service used to play online on the PS3, was closed almost two weeks ago leaving gamers without access to any online content or multiplayer games. It was revealed that the service was closed not for maintenance but as an emergency security measure.

Sony's PSN servers were the target of a successful malicious attack by unknown hackers, who compromised PSN servers and made off with personal details, including passwords and e-mail addresses, from over 77 million PSN accounts. Included in the data stolen

is all 9 million accounts registered in the UK. Further information was also stolen from the servers of Sony Online Entertainment, a PC gaming service which runs the likes of EverQuest and DC Universe Online, where the hackers accessed an 'outdated' database from 2007, containing 12,700 credit card numbers in addition to a further 24 million usernames and passwords. Although Sony has confirmed that only 900 of these cards are still within the expiry date, it has quite rightly advised all users to pay special attention to their statements. The internet has been awash with rumours that credit card data is now up for sale to the highest bidder after Sony rejected a deal to buy it back.

Although specific details on the attack have not yet been released, the basics of the procedure used to gain access to PSN servers have now come to light. It was revealed a vulnerability with the PSN application server, sitting between the web server and the database, allowed the hackers to inject malicious code. Once they were inside the internal PSN network, they attacked the database server and gained access rights to the databases. Some commentators have claimed that the vulnerability was due to the servers using an out-dated version of Red Hat Linux that hadn't been updated with security fixes, whilst others claim that the intrusion was an inside job by disgruntled

employees recently laid off in massive job cuts at the company.

Sony has announced that it aims to get fundamental PSN services – that's online play, account management, chat and PlayStation Home – up and running before the end of the weekend, no doubt to coincide with peak revision/procrastination time for Imperial students. PS3 users will have to apply a mandatory update to their console and will be forced to change their password as they log into PSN, but this option is only available on the console on which they originally created the account in order to prevent anyone with access to the hacked data from doing the same. In the event that this console is unavailable,

users can use a verified e-mail address to change the password instead, underlining the need for any PSN users that re-use their passwords on other sites to change them as quickly as possible.

In what is surely a move to prevent as many disloyal PlayStationers from turning to Bad Billy Gates and his Xbox as they can, Sony are also going to be offering a 'Welcome Back' package of treats. Every user will receive 30 days free access to 'PlayStation+', PSN's premium pay-only service, and there will also be a selection of free content available that has yet to be announced. Rumours have also surfaced that Sony will be slashing the price of PS3 consoles worldwide at around the same time.

## FOOD

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**Vicky Jeyaprakash**

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## Gastronomical Musings

### Dana says:

The memorable scenes of Brad Pitt licking peanut butter off a spoon in *Meet Joe Black* is exactly how I'd like to imagine the grim reaper. Suave, suited and darn right fit.

Dana Li



Joe Black, I pay homage to you

It's not Brad I wanted to talk about really, though, it's the love of peanut butter. The legume delight.

Peanut butter ice cream, as I discovered this week is a heaven-sent tastebud delight. **Spuntino**, hidden behind panel windows and a wooden sign that screams renovation more than a tapas bar, has been a food blogging sensation for the past two months. Opening in March, and affiliated with its more sophisticated Venetian bars, Polpo and Polpetto, it offers simple Italian-American comfort food such as 'Mac and Cheese' and the not-so-tiny 'Slider' burgers. That's just a detour, though, of what I really wanted to share with you. The 'Peanut Butter and Jelly' is fast becoming Spuntino's trademark dessert, boasting a decent-sized sandwich of the smoothest peanut butter ice cream with flavours at full whack, and a filling that verges between a jam or syrup of some kind with a hint of raspberry sourness. Peanut butter love to the max! I say, if it's the grim reaper's choice of food, it's good enough for me.

It feels like a terribly apt moment to go get myself a peanut butter Ben's Cookie now to sort this PB love out. Yes, we're on initial terms. PB and I. That, or a peanut butter milkshake at **Ed's Diner** (which make the best, creamiest, heart-attack-inducing milkshake, end of)... Oh, the choices.

If you're feeling the love, check these out:

**Spuntino** 61 Rupert St, London W1D 7PW.

**Ed's Diner** Unit 34b London Trocadero, 19 Rupert St, London W1D 7PA.

# Convenience for the poor?

## Samuel Furse explores why we dump our dosh in Greggs



Why this photo is not a true representation of Greggs: there is only one chav. In reality, they gather in herds...

It is just fat pikeys that shop in Greggs. Surely? I mean, it must only be they who demand an opening time of 0700 on weekdays, freshly-baked multi-grain loaves, Empire biscuits, and roasted chicken sandwiches complete with delicate slivers of red onion. Must be. There is no other answer, clearly.

Think for a moment, how often you buy lunch. We have all done it – either a result of poor planning the night before, greed, or because colleagues were going out to buy and it was just easier to go with the 'it' crowd. In case you thought you were getting off lightly by being the last one to decide and appear as the most reasonable-sounding, I am afraid that reason can easily be boiled down to simple laziness.

If you are thinking that you might do this more often that you can remember, you might like to consider the following:

- Sandwiches now cost about £2-3 per pack on average. I want to eat two of these, and I am not alone;
- A drink. Another £1;
- A chocolate bar or cupcake, something sweet, £1-2, because, it is not a meal without something for dessert now is it?;
- The coffee you had on the way in, £2. Did you think you had got away with that one? Nice try: it costs money too.

That makes a monetary total in the region of

**“I am not going to wax lyrical about their wares in a Marks and Spencer ‘food porn’ advert sort of way”**

no less than £7. That is even if we take one off the list for the sake of a conservative estimate, and because not everyone has two sandwiches and morning coffee from Moonquids-Caligula-Kingdom-coffee-cottage in the same day. £7 is not that much though. If it is once a week, that makes £210 per year. On an Undergrad term-table that is. If you are a postgraduate who eats out like this 3-4 times a week, this is an annual bill of £1,400. The average bursary of an Imperial College postgraduate is now approaching £12.7k/annum.

This does go much further than sandwiches I am afraid. Would you spend £5 on a packet of coffee that would make only 8 cups worth? Of course not. That works out to 63p/cup. Not so expensive compared to the £2 one from Asteroidfrancs-Augustus-principality-whatever-coffee, though.

You may be wondering exactly why Gregg's is relevant though. Based on the opening para-

graph neither I, nor they, have the idea that their clientele is a single-market for shoppers, of whatever waist measurement, on a budget. However, I am not going to wax lyrical about their wares in a Marks and Spencer 'food porn' advert sort of way. What I will say is that freshly-baked goods, sandwiches that are 10% cheaper than Sainsbury's and a range that allows some 'proper' shopping on the side, gives this lot a corner of the market that they are not really being challenged on. At least, not nationally. Local competition to Imperial would include the Sandwich shop on Gloucester Road, which probably has the widest range of fresh made-to-measure budget sandwiches I have ever seen in one place. So one way or another it can be done on the cheap, but the total is still the fat side of £5 per day.

Undoubtedly none of this costing business looks good. I can feel it too. I suppose what I should do now is extol the virtues of eating some of last night's leftovers for lunch every day. The rough cost of cooking-a-bit-more-for-tomorrow's-lunch is probably no more than £5/week, so it sounds as though it will work financially. But how often have you seen a colleague or friend or whoever eating their lunch out of one of those zipped cool-case things with a plastic fork, in what is surely an utterly joyless manner? Too often. This is something of a paradox, then. Do let me know if you solve it. Answers on a postcard, please.



# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

The idea of a chess-related event at Imperial isn't a new one: the last major open tournament held at Imperial was the 1st Chessmaster British Blitz Championships back in 1999, which Hackney famously dominated en-route to a well deserved victory. Going back even further, Imperial is quite a famous venue for weekend congresses, as often as three times a year, spanning from the 70s to the 90s. The current students and indeed the organiser had no idea of this when the thought of hosting a chess event crossed our minds, and once we had booked the beautiful activity rooms on the first floor of the Union, the pressure was on to live up to our reputation.

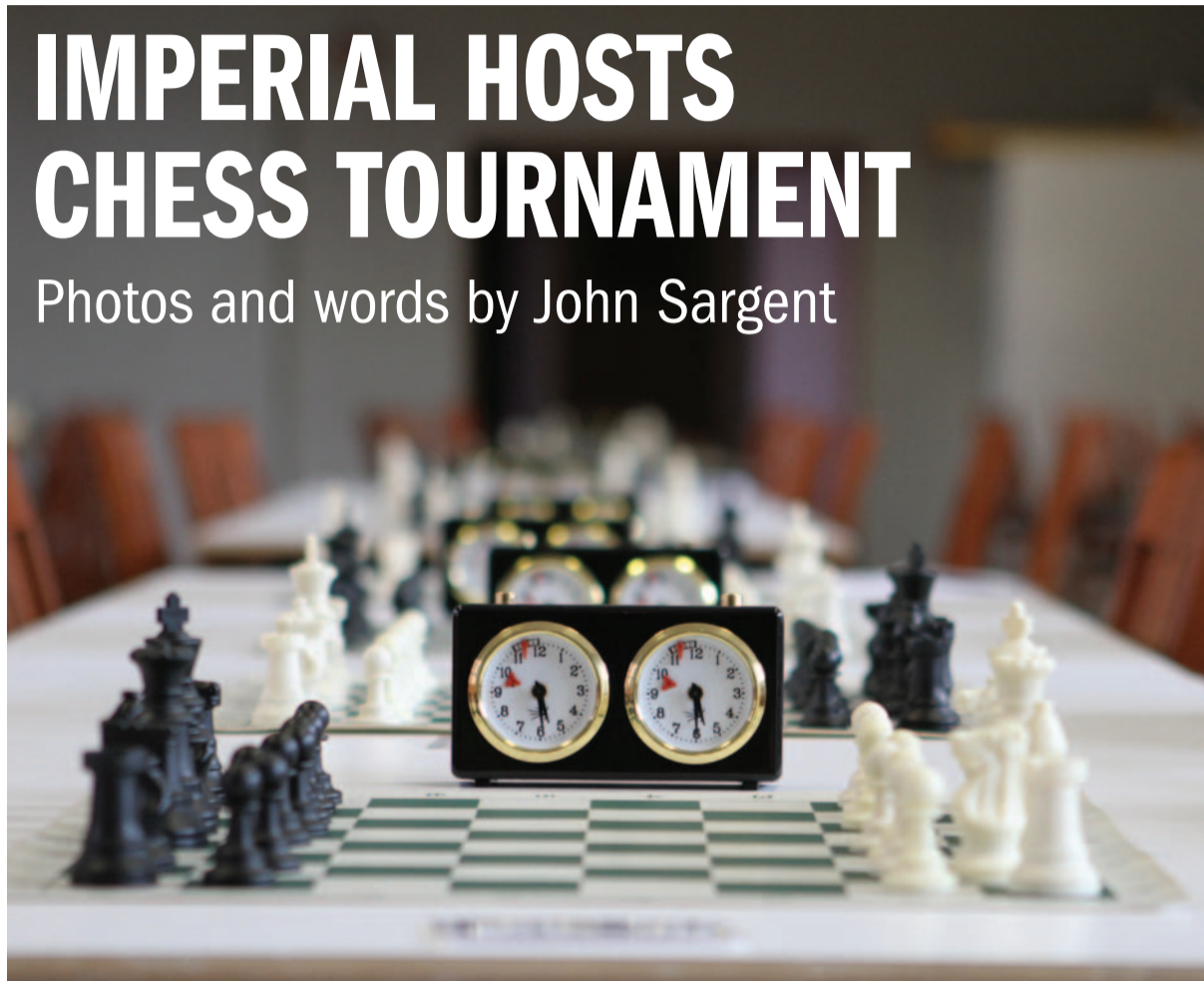
Setting up on the Friday night was an interesting affair, particularly with the Union (despite being equipped with an awesome dining hall) seemingly only having ten tables in the entire building. The meeting rooms in the east wing basement were duly plundered, a process taking approximately four hours and ending in several hearty drinks on Friday evening. The end result, though, was spectacular: the well lit event hall was set up and players would find themselves competing against each other in the shadow of the Royal Albert Hall the next day.

Saturday morning proved both productive and hectic, with everything being set up but chaos when it came to putting individuals into new teams. When the dust settled, the event started only twenty minutes late, with nineteen teams taking part. The fact that there was an odd number of teams was actually a blessing in disguise: teams with players departing during the day were able to 'steal' players to fill in during rounds – this meant no boards were defaulted, and even players receiving a bye could participate in a rated game!

Among the event's guests included the esteemed kingscrusher (Tryfon Gavriel), famous for his chess videos and thousands of followers on YouTube. At a "measly" ECF rapidplay rating of 208 (for those unfamiliar with chess ratings, this is comfortably Master strength), he was playing as the lowest rated player in

## IMPERIAL HOSTS CHESS TOURNAMENT

Photos and words by John Sargent



the daunting Team Barford, arriving as the team to beat with an average grade of 211!

Extra tables and analysis boards were available near the entrance of the room, which players used in the gaps between rounds but almost not at all during lunchtime, with most of the hall taking advantage of the longer break to get a proper meal in, in the many nearby restaurants and cafes.

The day was regularly interrupted with muffled screams and shouts of joy from the downstairs student bar, where a large number of cricket fans (mainly Sri Lankan) were congregating to watch the Cricket World Cup Final. After lunch (during India's match winning innings: say that three times fast!) the attitude was somewhat more subdued

**"I attempted to have the [Cricket] World Cup Final moved to another date to accommodate the chess, but they rather rudely never got back to my e-mail..."**

and the chess was a tad quieter. For the record, this event organiser attempted to have the World Cup Final moved to another date to accommodate the chess, but they rather rudely never got back to my e-mail...

Rounds one and two started slightly late but with an awesome turnaround thanks to our guest arbiter Alex Holowczak, by the start of the third round after lunchtime (which was a generous hour, not common for a chess rapidplay event!) the day was looking like it could be back on schedule by the end of the day.

Barford were sole leaders after second and third seeds Athenaeum A and Kings Head I drew their match in Round 3, but the afternoon got especially tense when Team Barford were spectacularly beaten by Athenaeum A in Round 4! Paul

Thorainsson managed a victory against Venkat Tiruchirapalli and Charles McAlleenan held Andrew Stone to a well deserved draw on bottom board despite being 46 points his junior, for the match to be decided 2.5-1.5 in Athenaeum's favour. This resulted in Kings Head and Athenaeum having a joint-lead for the next round, with Barford a single point behind and ready to pounce.

The final round saw Barford in prime position to pounce, playing Kings Head I and pulling off a victory. However, Athenaeum A won their match as well which clinched first place outright, so Barford had to settle for second place after leapfrogging Kings Head I, who put in a great performance to finish 3rd overall.

Other notable mentions that won prizes include Cereal Imperial which won the best-academic-institution prize, as well as a storming tournament from juniors from Wilson's School who deservedly pick up the best-average-U150 prize as well as keeping all the university teams on their toes! Finally, the best game prize (which was offered on-the-day) as judged by English IM Thomas Rendle went to the Round 3 encounter between Chris Tandy of the Mushrooms who played against Tom Slater of the Southampton Cheetahs.

After packing up, the day ended with a lot of the Imperial crew celebrating at the event organiser's residence, with special guests Postman Patzer (Kishan Pattni) and DJ Hippo (Justin Hadi) keeping the party going into the early hours.

The event was an overwhelming success and thanks must be given to all parties involved in setting up before and after as well as all the team captains and players who made the day a fantastic one over-the-board as well. Special thanks must be given to Adam Raoof and Sean Hewitt, who helped tremendously with the organisation of the event beforehand, as well as John and Christine Constable who generously offered to lend us top-quality equipment for the day's proceedings. We look forward to seeing you at Imperial College's events in the future, which will hopefully be soon and frequent!



# HANGMAN



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## Ohbitchuaries



We're sorry to say that Twtter will have to take a break because we're in mourning for Osama/revising for exams. It'll be back when our exams finish/Osama comes back from the dead.



### Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor

It's not my fault! Dey were asking me to give da go-ahead for 'Operation Turn-Obama's-bedroom-into-a-bouncy-castle'. It was a srsly misleading name for a mission. Who's goin to turn up to dinner in nothing but my Shelly's underwear? Who's goin to steal my Shelly's underwear? Who's goin to host the Disney Teen star themed parties? I'll miss ya Osama Montana :( xx



### SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

He was a great guy. Perhaps a little misunderstood. Ppl look at him and just think '9/11' – he must be a terrorist. People are like so judgmental, and that was the central theme to our hit Broadway musical, 'Toppling towers and economies', which we co-wrote. Everyone remembers the classic tunes like 'that's what overdrafts are for' and 'Waiter! There's a plane in my trade centre!' x <3



### Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!

Osie was a fuckin laugh! There was this time when we gatecrashed a night at Tiger Tiger. The theme was superheroes and Osie was dressed as wonderwoman. He was wasted and got with this fresher dressed as batman. He was so fucked he was actually convinced he was wonderwoman. When we got home he just started ironing our clothes. Not sure what happened to Batman. xxx



### The\_Cleggomatortrontown <3

I guess he was alright, but there was this night when all the guys stayed at mine, and Osie was like just ironing all our clothes. In the morning I opened the fridge and all my petit filous were gone! He denied it, but he was running the round the house screaming 'WONDERWOMAN NEEDS HER SUSTENANCE!' before asking where I keep the little spoons. I'm still one little spoon down



### willyoujoinmymiliband?

Whu? What? Who's dead? Am I dead? SHIT! WHAT!? AM I DEAD!? I knew those 12 tabs of acid were a bad idea :( :D :D

# OSAMA: THE LOLZ WE HAD



## The true story of how he died

This week we tragically lost one of our most beloved heroes of Twtter. Osama bin Mohammed bin Awad bin smokin bin Laden, more commonly known as 'Osie' to his closest friends, was savagely murdered by a bunch of seals on the morning of May 2nd, 2011. Osie was just having his morning 'Bonne Maman Wild Blueberry Conserve' on toast and catching up on the latest developments in 'The only way is Islamabad', which he had sky-plussed, when he was rudely interrupted by a huge seal disguised as a travelling salesman. Midway through browsing the seal's selection of marigold gloves and Scotch-Brite™ scourers, it suddenly dawned on Osie that something

wasn't quite right. Before he had time to say "These low-grade rubber latex knock-off gloves wouldn't last two plates", twenty five Hawaiian warrior-monk seals belly-flopped from a Chinook into his outdoor pool, which was commissioned during his bid for the 2016 Olympics. The seals stampeded/rolled through Osie's French windows and pulled out their battle rifles.

Heroically, Osie utilised his nearest and least-attractive wife as a human shield and survived the first barrage of gunfire. Using this ingenious wife-shield tactic, Osie managed to hold his ground for at least fourteen seconds until he was down to his last wife. With a heavy heart, Osie bravely stood behind his 15th and most attractive lover, whilst he tried to think of a plan B. As the seals were all reloading, Osie took his chance and double-back-flipped behind his Caliph-sized bed to grab his AK-

47. "As long you as you live under my ocean, you'll live by my rules!" shouted Osie. The seals were so taken aback by this unexpected quote from Disney's 'The Little Mermaid' that they momentarily lost concentration and Osie unloaded rounds of indiscriminate fire towards those fucking asshole seals.

If poor Osie had watched the Blue Planet episode on Hawaiian monk seals, which he had sky-plussed, then he would have known that the species are notorious for their bullet-proof blubber. As Osie lay cradled in the arms of the traveling salesman seal with 25 bullets in his body and head, he managed to say one last thing before his final breath... "Tell Cleggman it was me all along... I stole his Petis filous from the fridge... lol". And the seal wept a small tear, for he had managed to grow quite fond of Osie in those four minutes of knowing him.

## Osie's Best Bits

### Most Memorable Occasions

When Osie suicide paint-bombed the opposition team, along with the entirety of his own team, at Milton Keynes paintball centre. He was subsequently banned.

When Osie invented the car, only to later find it had already been invented.

When Osie broke Disneyland's Downhill double dipper water slide by going down sideways. The warning sign clearly stated 'ATTENTION CHILDREN: PLEASE DO NOT TRAVEL AT

AN ANGLE PERPENDICULAR TO THE AXIS OF THE WATER SLIDE'

When Osie turned up to the Oscars dressed as Steve Buscemi's wife. (Picture below).

When Osie received his Blue Peter green badge for saving a shrew from an eagle.

### Most Memorable Quotes

"That's not C4! They're platforms for my shoes! I'm bringing back the 70s!"

"Obie... since when were you black?"

"WHO STOLE MY ALADDIN COSTUME!?! WHO THE FUCK STOLE MY - Oh, lol, I'm wearing my Aladdin costume."



Lads on tour

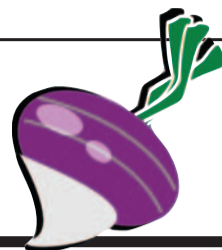
'FFS! Gor drove us off the cliff. LEARN TO DRIVE A FUCKING WARTHOG'

"Feel my head, Gor! I've got a temperature!... It's BIEBER FEVER! LOL!"

"WONDERWOMAN IS SUSTAINED!"

# the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



## Environmental Physics exam to become more environmentally friendly

In a drive to "practice what they preach", several changes have been introduced to the optional course in the Physics syllabus – effective immediately. The overhaul was a culmination of a series of incidents such as lecturers refusing to print off handouts, teaching in unlit rooms and suffering sleepless

nights over the guilt of doing otherwise. The final straw came at the end of last term, when a class was delayed by half an hour because the lecturer had boycotted petrol. In protest, several disgruntled students retaliated by leaving their lights on at home and linking her to live streams of their rooms.

All problem sheets, solutions and handouts will henceforth be only available online and printing discouraged; students who find it difficult to read text off a computer screen are advised to buy a Kindle or use the printer while nobody is looking. The syllabus itself will remain largely unchanged: apart from the occasional panda bear in presentation slides to contextualise the publicity aspect of environmentalism, the course will continue to teach about climate modelling and alternative energy resources such as the methane farts of obese women.

The most important change is how the course will be examined. Students will now take a test on Blackboard in the computing suite. Not only will this save paper, but also put an end to students write in massive letters in order to use up as many answer booklets as possible, as some sort of joke. Views from the students are mixed: on one hand, the potential for cheating is a definite plus. However, Saul Russo, a student currently on the course, isn't so optimistic: "I spend enough time on Facebook when I should be studying. What makes anyone think I won't be on it during the exam? It's torture."

Welcome back, and enjoy the Summer term...



trolololololol

### DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



"You can fucking well step over me! I'm not moving from this paddling pool until Justin Bieber, Rebecca Black, Rihanna, and the now deceased Shah of Iran come and lick my balls..."

## Horoscopes

### Aries

This week, you're seriously considering offering your lecturer sexual favours in return for exam questions. Like a true entrepreneur, you make a slide presentation before talking to him. Your proposal is called "Ass for Questions." He agrees, you hurt.

### Taurus

This week, the Union lift is finally working again. But the question on everyone's lips is "Did Donald Trump really abseil from an eagle and dick Osama in the face?" Like the mystery of Obama's mother's birth certificate, I'm worried that we'll never know the truth...

### Gemini

This week, you're all ready to go to the Summer Ball wearing leather chaps and a gimp mask when people start clamouring for black-tie. Sigh. Fine. You go to the Ball wearing leather chaps, a gimp mask AND a black-tie. Fucking whiny twats.

### Cancer

This week, you decide to take a break from revision and have a beer in the Union. Before you know it you're on a one-way flight to Mexico with a greasy-haired Swede called Hussain. He calls you beautiful. You call your Senior Tutor and tell him you won't be sitting your exams.

### Leo

This week, you suddenly wake up in the exam room. Fuck, how long have you been asleep? You lean over to the guy on the next table and ask loudly, "Hey Human, what year is it?" Nobody is amused. You get kicked out of university. You still don't know what year it is.

### Virgo

This week, you're in the library, studying as hard you as possibly can. You've been going for 12 hours solidly when your brain gives up and shuts-down. It's a weird sensation. It's as if you... DON'T... GIVE... a... SHIT... ANYMORE...

### Libra

This week, you're staring out of the library windows, at the smug bastards outside enjoying the sunshine. The heavenly sunshine. You shake your fists at them. You suddenly wake up in the middle of a biology exam. You don't do biology...

### Scorpio

This week, you have an existential crisis. It preoccupies you for a few minutes but unfortunately existential crises aren't useful revision tools so you ignore the majesty, strangeness, and complexity of existence and go back to doing algebra. Sigh...

### Sagittarius

This week, you're chewing on your nails. They actually taste quite good. Kind of like candy floss. A dinosaur sized gummy bear suddenly walks by, chatting to John Lennon... Wait a minute. You're asleep again, aren't you? Goddamnit!!!

### Capricorn

This week, you meet a Prince. A fresh prince. He tells you he's from Philadelphia. You tell him you don't date soft cheese. He tells you that you've misunderstood him. You tell him that you're a Imperial dropout and not to "use fancy words with me mister!"

### Aquarius

This week, you're wholly convinced that all the exam-related jokes in the horoscopes are the funniest thing since Prince William came too soon. Mostly because you don't have exams to revise for. Oh wait, that's just me. MWHWHHAHAHAHAHAHA

### Pisces

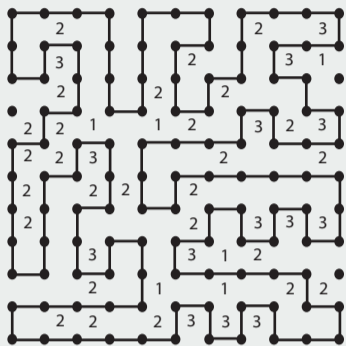
This week, you realise that the Royal Wedding didn't change your life one bit. You call up the Queen and say "Oi bitchface! I want my money back!" The examiner takes your phone off you and kicks you out of the exam room. You're still waiting for your money...

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

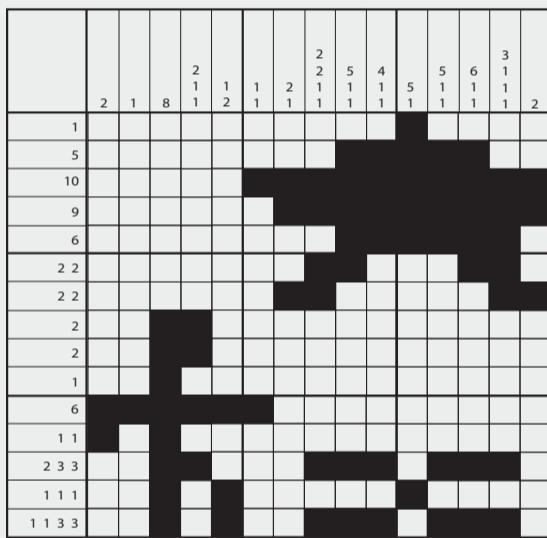
# PUZZLES

## Last Week's Solutions

### Slitherlink



### Nonogram



### Crossword

**QUICK** - Apologies for the omission at 9ac - answer was myopic, lacking foresight. How fitting! **Across**  
 1. Test Tube 5. Upshot 10. Loose 11. Cryptonym  
 12. Microchip 13. Egypt 14. Rebukes 16. Coin-op  
 18. Ignore 20. Affably 22. Nihil 23. Time Limit 25.  
 Steadying 26. Aerie 27. Stereo 28. Crayfish **Down**  
 1. Telemark 2. Stoic 3. Tree Of Knowledge 4. Bac-  
 chus 6. Pathetic Fallacy 7. Honeycomb 8. Tomato 9.  
 Myopic 15. Big Cheese 17. Eye Teeth 19. Entail 20.  
 Armiger 21. Gnosis 24. Marri

**CRYPTIC** - Apologies for the poor numbering, the clues did still work! **Across.** 1. Encompass  
 6. Moses 9. Alias 10. Speculate 11. Iceberg 12.  
 Tangent 13. Three Piece Suit 17. Charles Dickens  
 21. Shampoo 23. Speckle 25. Discourse 26.  
 Infra 27. Palsy 28. Potentate **Down.** 1. Emaciate  
 2. Crime 3. Musketeer 4. Assegai 5. Sceptic 6.  
 Mourn 7. Space Time 8. Sleuth 14. Rehearsal 15.  
 Secretion 16. Ussenate 18. Ego Trip 20. Used up  
 22. Phony 24. Kafka

### Going Underground

B	O	R	O	U	G	H
2	15	18	15	21	7	8

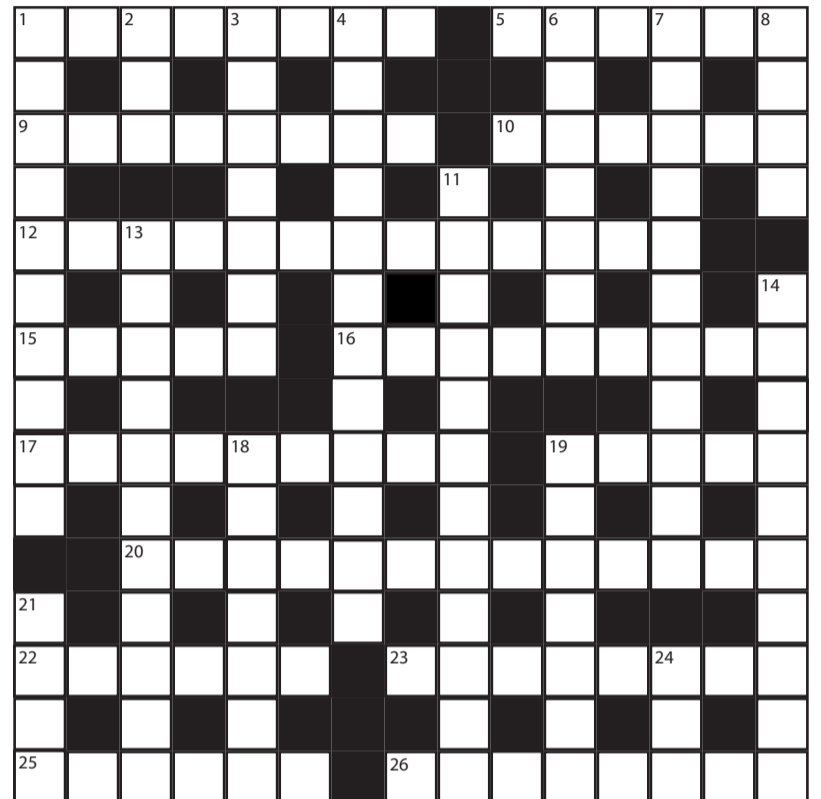
## Crossword

### Across

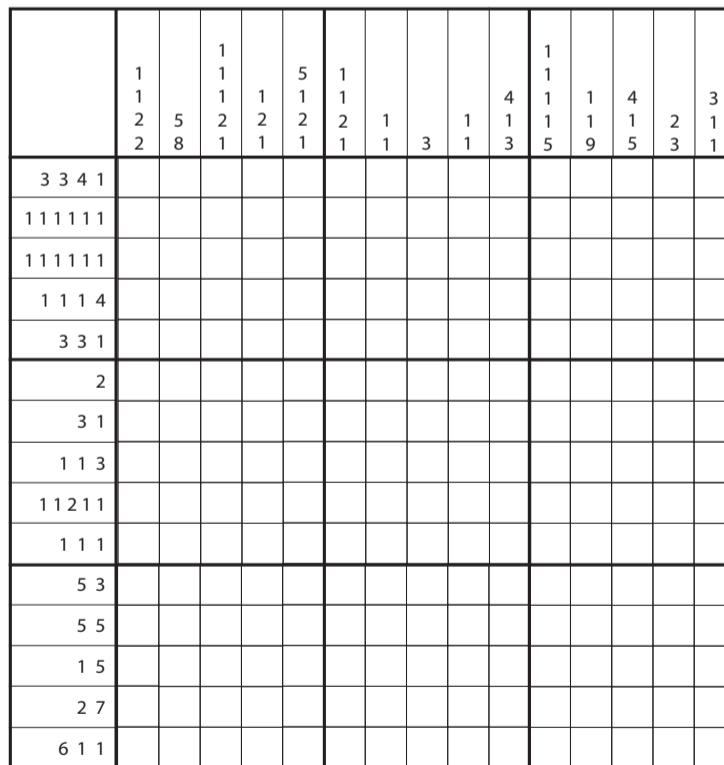
1. Trigger (5,3)
5. General reptile (6)
9. Rough estimate (8)
10. Lack of interest (6)
12. Breed of dog with a long, mostly white coat (7,6)
15. Slightly raise one's shoulders (5)
16. Edible item (9)
17. Go past a point unintentionally (9)
19. People's republic, formerly Zaire (5)
20. Quickly aroused to anger (5-8)
22. Irritable; clever (6)
23. Soak up again (8)
25. US northwestern state (6)
26. Cheapest part of a ship for passengers (8)

### Down

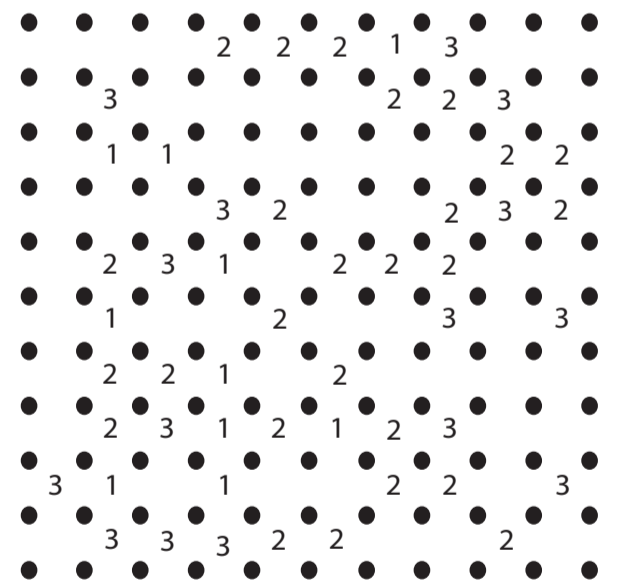
1. Act of putting under water (10)
2. Trouble or afflict (3)
3. Jungle book author (7)
4. Scottish river estuary north of Edinburgh (5,2,5)
6. Drive (7)
7. Device for augmenting thrust of a jet (11)
8. Rotations of Earth (4)
11. In an unfair manner (5,3,4)
13. Nickname of New Jersey (6,5)
14. Reasonably priced (10)
18. Constellation which the sun enters on October 23 (7)
19. Having ability to achieve something (7)
21. Norwegian city (4)
24. Eggs (3)



## Nonogram - Royal Wedding



## Slitherlink



## ChessSoc Chess - White to play and win

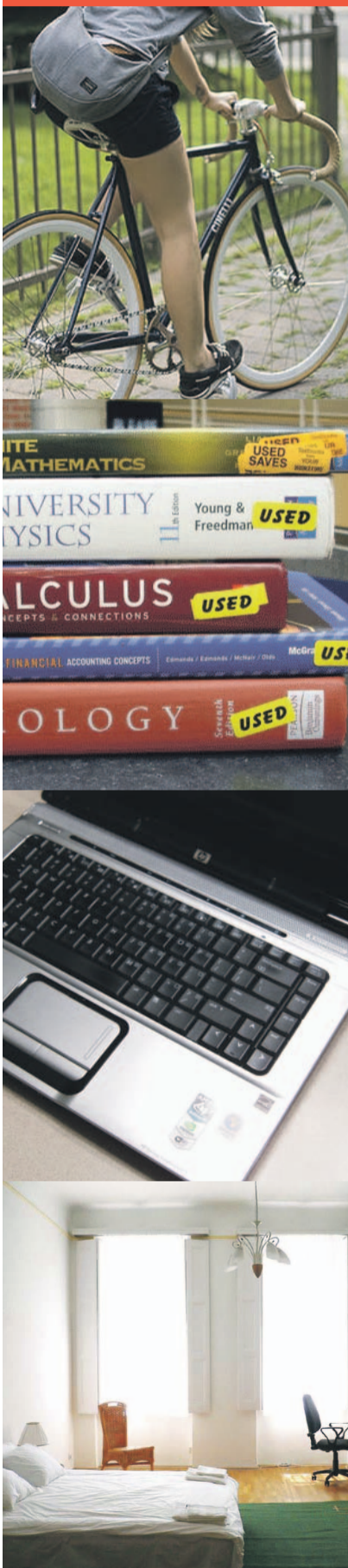


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### Twin Room

Twin bedroom available, two minutes from South Kensington. Sharing with female PhD £130pw  
Email Helga via [gudo.j.ln@gmail.com](mailto:gudo.j.ln@gmail.com)

### House

House for rent in Bayswater. Four single rooms and one large double room. Available from mid-June to early-September. Single rooms range from £95-120pw. Double room £180pw  
Contact Alex on 07735457634

### Single Room

Single room available in Hammersmith from 1st June – 30th September. Furnished. Sharing with five male students £400pcm  
Email Thelma via [thelma.pinto@nhs.net](mailto:thelma.pinto@nhs.net)

### Double Room

Double room in Hammersmith, available until 31st August. Overlooking Lillie Park. £100pw  
Email Dimitris via [dim07@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dim07@imperial.ac.uk)

## MISC

### Driving Lessons

Learn to drive while you are learning!  
Imperial College students special offer: 10hr block booking for £250.  
Will pick up and drop off at college.  
email: [mph.icdriving@gmail.com](mailto:mph.icdriving@gmail.com)  
Philip -DSA qualified (grade 6) driving instructor

### Programmer wanted

Paid work  
Experienced in C++ and Java  
Email Peter via [peter.ziegler@rca.ac.uk](mailto:peter.ziegler@rca.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

Bride of Satan looking for holy priest to cleanse and save soul. If interested prove piety by performing a miracle by making me pass my exams.

### Women seeking Women

Short-haired know-it-all looking for similarly minded blonde bombshell to spend hours on exhausting, pedantic arguments about the appropriate use of the word 'whom'. If interested, find the mistake in this advert and email the Editor.

### Men Seeking Men

2nd year Aeronautical student at end of tether looking for Biology Brad Pitt lookalike to sooth exam fears. If interested, sleep with Angelina Jolie and post proof in international media.

### Men seeking Women

Horny-as-hell postgraduate looking for hot-as-hell 1st year to listen to sexy RnB through the night and talk about emotional issues. If interested, post sexiest RnB song you know on Felix Facebook page.

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Sports Editors: **Jovan Nedic**  
**David Wilson**

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Fencing W1	9	9	0	0	1210	607	603	5.00
2 Fencing M1	10	10	0	0	1229	919	310	5.00
3 Table Tennis M2	11	11	0	0	156	31	125	5.00
4 Water Polo W1	8	7	1	0	102	24	78	4.63
5 Volleyball M1	11	10	0	1	22	4	18	4.18
6 Volleyball W1	11	10	0	1	21	4	17	4.18
7 Basketball M1	12	10	0	2	917	735	182	3.50
8 ICSM Netball W1	12	10	0	2	493	312	181	3.50
9 Lacrosse M1	11	9	0	2	154	85	69	3.36
10 Tennis M1	12	9	1	2	84	60	24	3.25
11 Table Tennis M1	12	9	1	2	84	60	14	3.25
12 Basketball W1	9	7	0	2	464	348	116	3.00
13 Netball W1	13	10	0	3	546	367	179	2.92
14 Squash W1	11	8	0	3	31	12	19	2.55
15 Hockey M1	12	8	1	3	46	25	21	2.50
16 Rugby M1	14	10	0	4	344	191	153	2.43
17 Hockey W1	13	9	0	4	67	24	43	2.23
18 Lacrosse W1	9	6	0	3	110	64	46	2.00
19 Table Tennis W1	6	4	0	2	20	10	10	2.00
20 ICSM Football M1	9	5	1	3	28	18	10	1.67
21 ICSM Hockey W1	20	10	3	7	54	48	6	1.40
22 ICSM Rugby M3	10	6	0	4	252	266	-14	1.40
23 Football M1	13	7	1	5	34	20	14	1.31
24 Badminton W1	13	7	1	5	44	60	-16	1.31
25 Hockey M2	12	5	3	4	22	26	-4	1.25
26 Football W1	7	4	0	3	19	19	0	1.14
27 Tennis W1	7	4	0	3	42	42	0	1.14
28 ICSM Hockey M3	7	4	0	3	11	27	-16	1.14
29 Netball W3	9	5	0	4	291	217	74	1.00
30 Hockey M3	11	4	3	4	17	13	4	0.91
31 Badminton M1	11	4	3	4	44	44	0	0.91
32 Fencing M2	10	5	0	4	1122	1128	-6	0.90
33 ICSM Hockey M1	10	5	0	5	25	20	5	0.50
34 Netball W2	12	6	0	6	445	483	-38	0.50
35 Badminton M2	10	4	1	5	43	37	6	0.20
36 ICSM Hockey M2	11	3	3	5	19	29	-10	0.09
37 ICSM Netball W2	11	5	0	6	341	360	-19	0.09
38 Squash M4	6	2	1	3	8	7	1	0.00
39 Ice Hockey M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
40 ICSM Football M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
41 Lacrosse W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
42 ICSM Football M2	5	2	0	3	14	16	-2	-0.40
43 Fencing W2	10	4	0	6	1142	1170	-28	-0.40
44 Fencing M3	10	4	0	6	1146	1201	-55	-0.40
45 Football M3	11	3	2	6	22	30	-8	-0.45
46 ICSM Badminton W1	9	2	2	5	32	46	-14	-0.67
47 ICSM Badminton M1	10	3	1	6	24	56	-32	-0.70
48 Squash M3	9	3	0	6	17	26	-9	-1.00
49 Tennis M2	10	2	2	6	40	79	-39	-1.00
50 Hockey W2	12	3	1	8	13	41	-28	-1.25
51 ICSM Rugby M1	11	2	1	8	144	427	-283	-1.82
52 Water Polo M1	3	0	1	2	23	30	-7	-2.00
53 ICSM Rugby M2	12	2	1	9	200	438	-238	-2.00
54 Rugby M2	14	3	0	11	194	356	-162	-2.07
55 ICSM Hockey W3	5	1	0	4	4	17	-13	-2.20
56 ICSM Hockey W2	10	2	0	8	21	42	-21	-2.20
57 Rugby M3	10	2	0	8	71	357	-286	-2.20
58 Hockey M4	11	2	0	9	15	32	-17	-2.36
59 ICSM Badminton M2	6	1	0	5	16	32	-16	-2.50
60 Squash M2	12	2	0	10	16	44	-28	-2.50
61 Rugby M4	8	1	0	7	59	325	-266	-2.88
62 Football M2	12	1	0	11	14	36	-22	-3.25
63 Squash M1	7	0	0	7	5	30	-25	-4.00
64 ICSM Netball W3	9	0	0	9	186	352	-166	-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

# Men's and women's fencers crowned BUCS Champions

...Continued from back page

Gilliam and Robert Shaw, had a similar start to the girls as their opponents, University of Edinburgh, had a team consisting of no foilists. They won their match by 45-26, a good index for the others to work with. The epeeists Marcello Colombino, Ed Gilhead and Miles Gandolfi met a stronger team than their foil fencing friends and lost by one hit, 44-45, after a thrilling last period. From here it was down to the sabreurs Maiyuran Ratneswaran, Didier Nohlmans and Henry Gann to make sure the men followed the women in to the final. To ensure this they could lose by a maximum of eight hits. Though, keeping in mind that the team has had 45-15 (victory) as their worst result, no one was really worried. Edinburgh decided to put up a greater fight than any other team so far, and managed to get 29 points. The overall score was 134 – 100 and the foilists found it highly amusing to point out to the sabreurs that their score had been better, always having been the other way around.

In the finals, the men faced St Andrews University and the women Cambridge University. For the women Cambridge were known opponents from the Premier League, with only mi-

nor changes to the team, whereas St Andrews were completely unknown to the men. Both had the order foil, sabre, epee and fenced in parallel with the Sport Imperial leaders supporting from the stands.

The women won their foil match 45-21 and the men repeated their result from the semi-final: 45-26. From here it continued, sabre being up next. The male sabreurs improved their score from the previous match and won by 45-20, leaving it to their epee team go get one point to get the gold. For the women the challenge got slightly bigger, some of the fencers for Cambridge being unknown. Nevertheless, they stayed strong and won by 45-30, and the women were now 6 hits from becoming champions. From this position, the competition was turned into something different. Both teams would win, anything else would be a massive failure, and the goal was now to win before the other IC team did. The women's match started a bit earlier than the men's, meaning that they'd reached four hits by the time the guys started. While Alice was trying to get the final hits Marcello was rushing it a bit too much in his excitement. Eventually Marcello managed to score the striking hit and both the

leaders from Sport Imperial and both teams started cheering loudly. The girls had another change of fencers before Emily ended the insecurity with another round of cheering. From here, the girls almost gave up in their relief, combined with tiredness and the knowledge of Cambridge being the only epee team they had lost to. As their match finished 39-45 the final was over and the total score 123 – 96 for Imperial. Meanwhile the men were still at the end of their match. This one had been much more even as St Andrews refused to let Imperial win with more than necessary. Challenging them all the way to the end they brought it up to 44 – 44 when Marcello put an end to it and got the final point. With this the men won by 135 – 90 and did it in the best way possible: a clean sweep.

The prize ceremony was a happy moment for Imperial Fencing, collecting many gold medals and smiling broadly at a successful season. In addition to the already impressive double gold. Hannah and Maiyuran were awarded woman and man of their respective matches, an award decided by the referees. With the first team together collecting 200 BUCS points the club has had its most successful season ever.



## Charles Betts

Judging from the BBC's "Most Viewed" online articles, it seems the big story this week is that Osama Bin Laden is finally dead (complaints directed to the Editor please). And so the excitable conspiracy theorists are out in force, claiming that the chap died years ago from kidney failure (yes, sugary Afghan sweets and not a 24 Jack Bauer style shoot-off caused the demise of the world's most wanted terrorist) and that the news was not released until now for one of two reasons.

(a) Mr Gaddafi is still in power, alive and kicking, and hence the clearly logical thing was to divert everyone from this fact using the most absurd distraction technique since Adolf Hitler decided to grow a moustache. Or:

(b) There was fear Donald Trump would start clamouring for Bin Laden's death certificate, and those in the know claim the evidence would have raised a few beards.

But the real news, the thing everyone should be talking about... no, it isn't how fit Pippa

# Premier League Bin Laden 10

## With all the Osama excitement, you could almost forget that Chelsea could win the league

Middleton is and who shot-gunned her first... is that a dodgy goal line call and an offside have sent Chelsea storming down Manchester United's neck. If only Jose Mourinho – and not Harry Redknapp – were at the helm of Tottenham, we'd have heard the question "Why?" repeated a few dozen times, thrown in with the occasional mention of miracles, and how the whole of UEFA hates the poor little moaning shit-stirrer.

Football is normally the reserve of beer-bellied men that need to so badly demonstrate the extent of their insight, the clarity of their judgement, the supremacy of their knowledge, that they come up with the most awful clichés – it was a game of two halves, a player fouled an opposition member in the box and "paid the penalty". But this season's Premier League has become, forgive the expression, a belter.

Back in February, Ferguson wrote off Chelsea's chances as they lingered 12 points adrift from leaders United, and at the time saw Arsenal as their only contenders. But in a comeback as good as any Lance Armstrong, Zinedine Zidane, or Niki Lauda could muster, the Blues will go top of the league on Sunday if the beat

the Red Devils at Old Trafford.

United fell foul of an unsuccessful counter-attack strategy against Arsenal, losing 1-0 last weekend and reducing Chelsea's gap to 3 points. And yet there were signs that this tactic would fail earlier in the year, during their Champions League clash against Chelsea. United won the first leg 1-0, however Chelsea's 16 attempts on goal to United's 5 showed how lucky they were. Had Torres not been taking a siesta, and Rooney not been so bullish, the score line could have easily been reversed.

Anelotti has been here before. In February of 2005, his Milan side were 12 points behind Juventus. But by April, with three games to go, they were lagging by just 3 points. Has he learnt from that experience? His record isn't promising, during his eight seasons with Milan, he only managed to win the title once. Only on two other occasions did the team come close again to winning the Serie A as they finished second in both 2005 and 2006. The excitement of it all has got me churning out those despicable clichés right, left, and through the middle. At the end of the day, it's the goals that count.

# SPORT

James Brown



## Football: Men's 1st team win ULU Challenge Cup Final

...Continued from back page  
ward in an attempt to level the score before half time. They were rewarded handsomely when Benincasa played a delightful through ball to Eshun, who raced onto the pass and delicately lifted the ball over the UCL keeper's head with remarkable calm.

Towards the start of the second half Imperial looked to lose some of their early impetus. This changed somewhat when Hill, forced off by injury, was replaced by Wilson – an inspired substitution which restored a good deal of composure and shape to the Imperial side. Both teams pressed on, but the two strongest defences in the league helped to keep the scores level until the 75th minute. Imperial were slightly overexposed at the back when UCL crafted a slick move – culminating in a headed goal for their striker.

Aware that time was running out, Imperial switched to an aggressive

3-4-3 position. The quality of the Imperial midfield began to show, and when Weedon played the industrious Robinson through on goal in the 86th minute, he took his chance beautifully – slotting home to level the scores at 2-2 and spark mayhem on the touchline. Imperial were in the ascendancy and, with the indescribable support of the fans behind them, dug deep to try and find a winner. Hearts were in mouths when Fryatt made a desperate goal line clearance, but Imperial pushed on.

Entering the 93rd minute of the match, when weary legs were all but resigned to extra time, Benincasa again played Eshun through on goal. All present held their breath as Eshun – 1st XI POTY, and with more than 50 Imperial goals under his belt, powered toward goal – but he made no mistake. Pandemonium ensued.

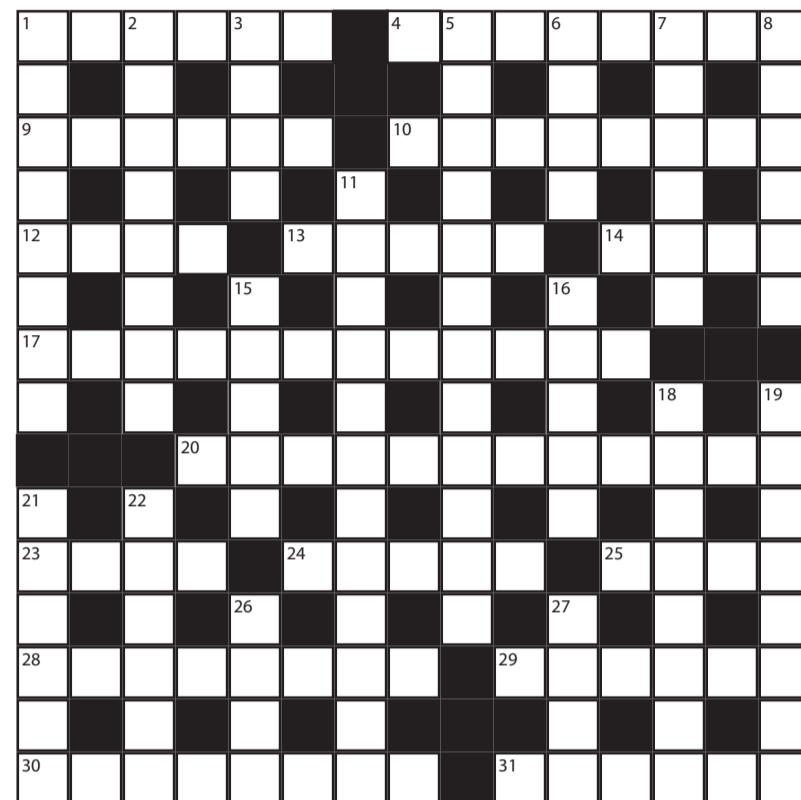
Imperial gathered themselves and saw out the last agonising seconds in good

style, to cap a stunning comeback and take a 3-2 victory. Not even a misplaced trophy could dampen the enthusiasm of the Imperial contingent, who headed back to South Kensington as champions.

### In the next few weeks...

I'm not going to lie to you guys, but it has been a busy Easter! Sport at Imperial is getting better and better every year and as such, more and more teams are making it to various BUCS and ULU finals that all happen after our last issue of the Spring Term. If I put everything in this week, there would be 10 pages of sport, so keep an eye out, I promise your report will go in.

## Cryptic Crossword 1,487



### Across

- 1 Put an end to juice game (6)
- 4 Celestial body is a drug (8)
- 9 Neighbours on either side make animal noises (6)
- 10 Portuguese count in Western coast of Ionian province (8)
- 12 God with sore back (4)
- 13 Distorted facial expression in the hoods (5)
- 14 Hear hear? (4)
- 17 Sex addict can champion many movements (12)
- 20 Christian ship on the run crashes, but brings them back dead or alive (6,6)
- 23 Significant work stirring soup (4)
- 24 Looks at the gentry (5)
- 25 Steady business (4)
- 28 Dizzy Prime Minister (8)
- 29 Past elements include faded colours (6)
- 30 Indication to stop in a seedy part of town (3,5)
- 31 Remained boring-sounding (6)

### Down

- 1 Burning to hold a note while giving voice (8)
- 2 Inform us about costumes (8)
- 3 Chase around London neighbourhood (4)
- 5 North country measurement from police HQ (8,4)
- 6 Throw out, so as to measure up (4)
- 7 Empty lives of Greek fruits (6)
- 8 Jackass has master key (6)
- 11 Calm hometown somewhere in the Empire (12)
- 15 Confusion over no money runs riot (5)
- 16 Cherish the radioactive material found in the valley. (5)
- 18 Exclusively non-drinking lyrics in disarray (8)
- 19 Compressed tread contains enough to be flattened (8)t
- 21 Bird in an apartment over the riverhead (6)
- 22 Tightened wallet is dead (6)
- 26 Malign head of African state (4)
- 27 Massive Virginia highway (4)

## Medics Netball round up season with gold medal

### Lindsay Hennah

With all the excitement of Varsity out the way, with the BUCS season finished, and with no fixtures left until October, it's about time that Medics Netball had some of the limelight.

Netball is one of those sports that lots of boys claim not to like, mostly because they don't understand it. Despite not being able to run with the ball, netball is an extremely skilful, fast paced sport. And the Medics happen to be rather good at it.

This season, the Imperial Medics netball 1st team have played netball three times a week since the beginning of the season, almost without fail. That adds

up to in excess of 34 hours of matches. In that time, we've scored more than 1400 goals. That's more than a goal every 90 seconds. And if that doesn't make for exciting viewing, I don't know what does!

Of those 34 games, we've lost only four. (One of these was started with only five players (traffic on the way there) and we only lost by one goal.) If I may say so myself, that's pretty impressive!

Last term, the team went to Sheffield for the BUCS South-East Conference cup final. 128 teams enter this competition, so even to get this far was an achievement. Our rivals in the final were Brighton 1s, whom we had both lost to and beaten during the season.

This was the first time we'd progressed so far in this competition; we were the under-dogs...! People are often fooled by our team – we often turn up in dribs and drabs, with mismatching kit and occasionally we have to start with 5 players. And I think that Brighton might have fallen for this disguise. We ended up the proud owners of shiny gold medals, having beaten Brighton 41-25.

This season has been one of our most successful yet. We are the top of the ULU Premier League; the Manchester United of netball. (Proud owners of 2 gold medals!) We are also joint top in our BUCS league. And we're in the league second from the top. The Imperial team are in 3B, which is 3 leagues

below us. Incidentally, we also beat the Imperial team 46-25 at Varsity. Not really as close a game as they might've hoped... We also got to the final of the ULU cup and were unlucky to lose what was a close-match, with the other team having an 8th player in the form of their umpire. Though we can't really complain about another medal, even if it is silver!

So I just want to thank all of the girls who've been so committed this year, particularly Cat Atkin, our oh-so-nearly-a doctor! Playing as much as we have, and as well as we have, and fitting in all of the other medical school obligations is tough. I'm the proudest and most grateful captain ever!

Jack Patten



The team celebrate their tremendous season with champagne

## Imperial wins ULU Cup with last minute goal

**Tom Fryatt**  
 ULU Football Cup Final  
 Men's 1st 3 - 2 UCL 1st

The end of spring term saw the 1st XI clash with UCL in the ULU Cup Final. The two teams had been head and shoulders above the competition throughout the year, with Imperial denied the league title by a single point after suffering their only defeat of the season against UCL's. This only strengthened Imperial's resolve, and the squad went into the game in high spirits, and with a legion of fans to help them on their way.

Imperial suffered an early setback when centre-half Farag failed a late fitness test and was ruled out. Despite this Imperial began the game well, dominating the first 20 minutes with composed play. On the break however, UCL threatened, and with Hill picking up an early booking in the centre of the park – presumably for appearance' sake, the back four could no longer rely on the usual degree of protection. After 25 minutes, Imperial paid the price for allowing a UCL forward a moment too long on the ball, as he threaded the ball behind the Imperial defence to his strike partner, who duly put his team ahead.

Imperial were buoyed by the belief that they had the better of their opposition, and surged for-  
*... Continued on Page 35*

# Best in the UK

**Charlotte Levin**  
 BUCS Fencing  
 Men's and Women's @ BUCS Finals

Imperial Fencing's first teams came to the BUCS Championships semi-finals with an amazing season in the bag. Both of the teams were undefeated in their leagues and had confidently gone through their knock out rounds. In everyone's mind were the double silvers from last year, where both men and women were close to grabbing the gold but in the end were defeated. For the women this year was of extra importance, having ended up second two years in a row.

Starting the semi-finals the ladies faced Durham University, the team Clare Harding (Imperial sabreur), used to fence for. It was already known that Durham had a strong sabre team, but were not as strong in the other weapons. As they had won against Oxford University with only a single hit, a team that Imperial had beaten convincingly twice, the girls concluded that they had a fairly good chance. Up on piste first were Hannah Bryars, Outi Supponen and Alice Mitchell, ready to fence foil. No one from the Durham team was an actual foilist, which meant that even though there was nervousness involved our team could win comfortably with 45-12. Epee coming up next with Alice,

Charlotte Levin and Emily Bottle, with the goal to simply keep Durham on a score as low as possible to facilitate it for the sabre team. Facing a bit more challenge in this weapon Charlotte managed to hold it fairly alright at the end with the final score 43-38. This meant that the sabreurs Clare, Hannah and Zoe Robinson needed no more than seven hits to win, a task they accomplished early but then found the opponents one step stronger and lost 33-45.

As the women had advanced to the final with the overall score 121-95, the men were going a similar route. The foilists in the team, Ed Collier, Chris  
*... Continued on Page 34*

### TECHNOLOGY



An in-depth review of the iPad 2:  
 Page 15

### FILM



Thor wreaks cinematic havoc:  
 Page 22

### TELEVISION



A Game of Thrones – blood and babes:  
 Page 23

### GAMES



Why you need Portal 2 in your life:  
 Page 27

### FOOD



What's the appeal of Greggs?:  
 Page 28