

“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1489

# FELIX



20.05.11

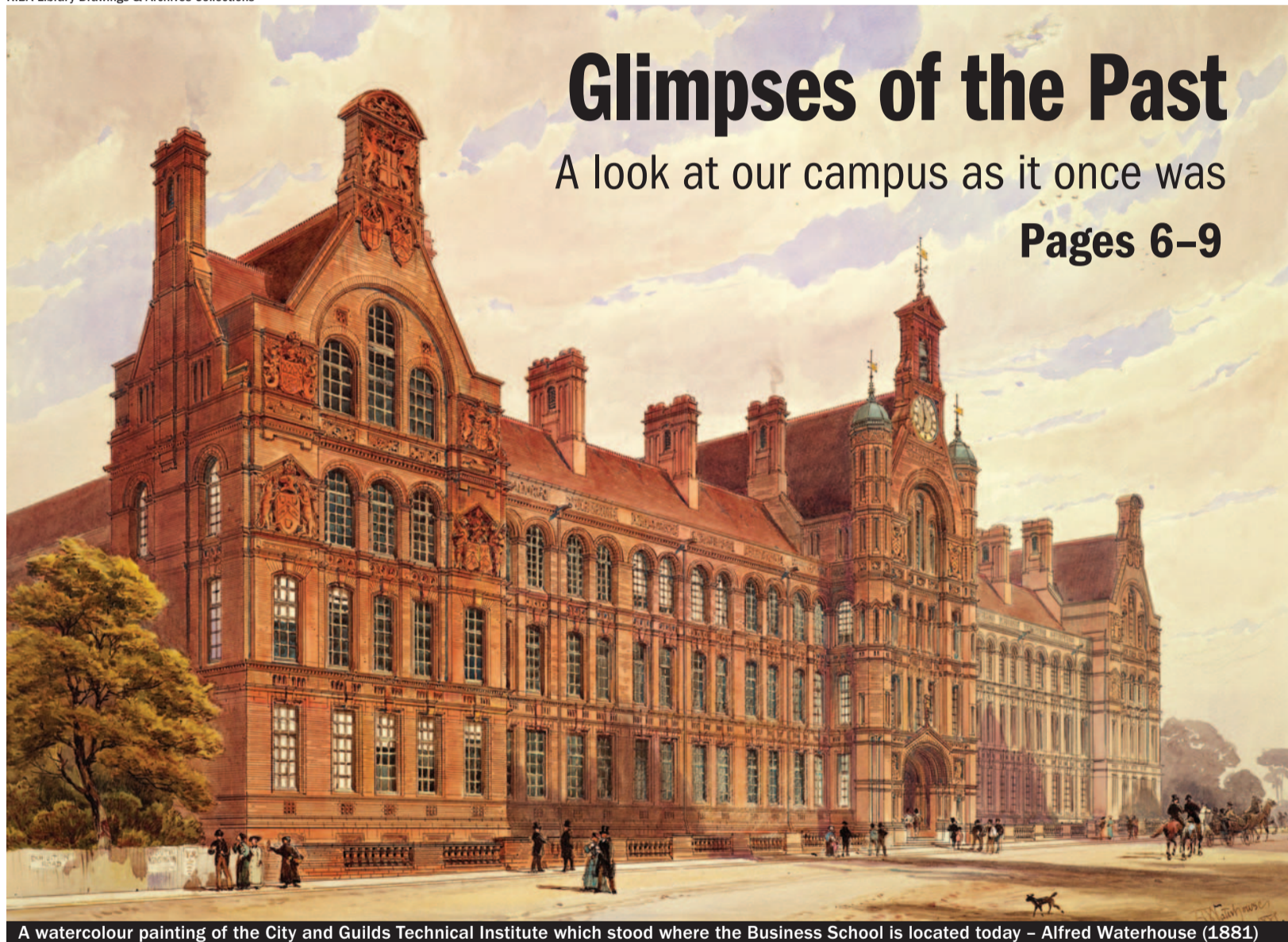
The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

Imperial and UCL in East London ‘Tech City’ development: Page 5

Former MI5 chief appointed as College Chairman: Page 5



RIBA Library Drawings & Archives Collections



## Glimpses of the Past

A look at our campus as it once was

Pages 6–9

A watercolour painting of the City and Guilds Technical Institute which stood where the Business School is located today – Alfred Waterhouse (1881)

### TECHNOLOGY



Saving the past is easy, the hard part is accessing it: Page 15

### COMMENT



Head-to-head: Is there any hope for Nick Clegg? Page 17

### ARTS



Pay your way at the V&A for three great exhibitions: Page 22

# Union President: Maggie Dallman lied to College Council

Natural Sciences head accused of lying about impact of restructure

**Maciej Matuszewski**

Alex Kendall has reignited the controversy over the Life Sciences restructure and subsequent Teaching Review by accusing the Head of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Maggie Dallman, of lying to College Council.

Kendall has previously accused the Life Sciences department of lying about the possible impact of the restructure and also criticised the Teaching Review for not including questions relating to the department restructure. However, the accusation levelled at Professor Dallman is the first time that he has so

harshly criticised a specific member of staff.

Additionally, the course changes proposed by the Teaching Review were sent back for improvement this week after the Science Studies Committee decided that they did not, in their current  
...Continued on Page 3

# HIGHLIGHTS

## On campus

### Nuclear Forensics

Nuclear proliferation is one of the biggest threats to global security today and tracking nuclear materials, as well as identifying their source, is a key part of the battle. Dr Jay Davis has spent the last twenty years fighting proliferation and will discuss his experiences in the field of nuclear forensics. Free tickets in advance from the Institute for Security Science and Technology – [securityscience@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:securityscience@imperial.ac.uk)

**Lower Ground LT, Business School**  
**24 May 12:00–13:00**

### Hedge Fund Incentives

Dr Jan Obloj, of the Oxford-Man Institute of Quantitative Finance, discusses how performance fees have ambiguous risk implications for hedge fund managers. This is a free drop-in seminar. Contact Moira Rankin – [moira.rankin@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:moira.rankin@imperial.ac.uk) – for more information.



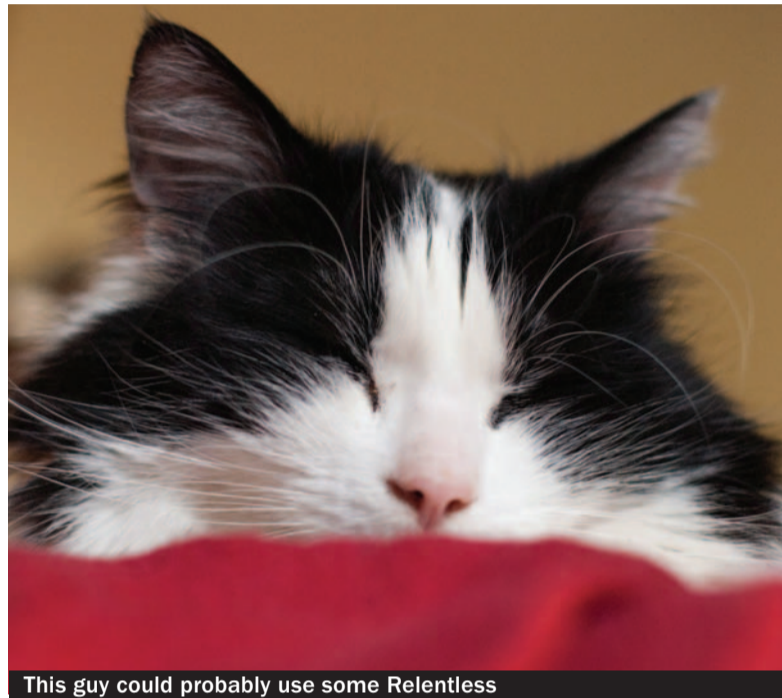
**Ground LT, Business School**  
**24 May 17:00–18:30**

### More than just cooking

Microwaves are most commonly associated with cooking ready-made meals, or for the more discerning, their use in mobile phones. Professor Norbert Klein, however, will show in this lecture how his research could provide new security applications for microwaves in scanning equipment. Registration in advance. Contact Kathleen Weeks – [k.weeks@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:k.weeks@imperial.ac.uk) – for more information.

**G20, Royal School of Mines**  
**26 May 17:30–18:30**

## Win a free crate of Relentless



This guy could probably use some Relentless

We are well into the depths of exam season (what do you mean you've finished? Damn 3rd years!) and chances are you're starting to feel the fatigue setting in. For that very reason Felix are giving away a free crate of Relentless Sugar Free. With twelve big cans of this energy-giving elixir you'll be working through the night like a pro.

To enter the competition, email the answer to the following question to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)

In what year was Felix founded?

- (a) 1322
- (b) 1949
- (c) 1997

Competition closes Friday 27th 00:00. Editor's decision is final.



## Notice

### Union Elections

**Nominations close Monday 23rd**

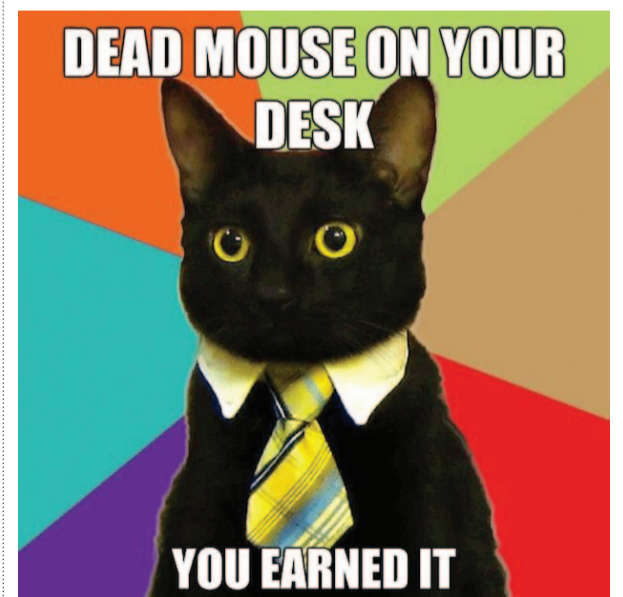
Nominations for central Union elections are closing soon, so if you're interested in contributing to the life of your students' union, whether through improving the welfare of your fellow students as Welfare Officer or by overseeing the heart of Union democracy as Council Chair, be sure to put yourself forward at [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote). Nominations close on Monday 23rd at midnight.

### Union Awards

**Nominations close Tuesday 24th**

If you want a rather more formal way of giving a deserving friend a pat on the back and a beer in the bar, consider nominating them for an Union award. The awards are given to students who have contributed positively to life at Imperial, either by making things generally better, or by being a campus-wide recognised badass (ok, that last bit isn't necessarily going to get you an award). More information and a nomination form can be found on the Union website. Nominations close on Tuesday 24th at midnight.

## Lolcat of teh week



# FELIX

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Printed by The Harmsworth Printing Ltd, Northcliffe House, Meadow Road, Derby. Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711.  
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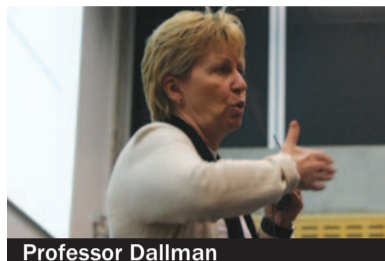


## Teaching review controversy

...Continued from Front Page form, guarantee the highest teaching standards for next year.

In his President's Report to Union Council, Alex Kendall claims that the removal of modules proposed by the review is in conflict with promises made by Professor Margaret Dallman, Principal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, to the July 2010 College Council that "the experience of students in Life Sciences should not be unduly affected by this restructuring". He also pointed to a note sent by the Department of Life Science to the College Senate stating that the Department did "not anticipate that the review [would] lead to a reduction in the contact hours or module choice experienced by students." Given that Dallman confirmed that the restructure was "progressing according to plan" to the November 2010 Council, a week before the Life Science redundancies were announced, Kendall alleged that Dallman "misinformed [the Council] at their July meeting" with regard to the effect of this plan on teaching.

Kendall's President's Report suggested the Union "making a formal complaint about the Restructure panel" but Kendall has since informed Felix that he has been told that "there is no mechanism for students to make formal complaints about members of staff". A Union submission to the panel concerning the modules to be scrapped, however, has resulted in a number of them reappearing in the final review



Professor Dallman



Alex Kendall

document published last week.

Professor Dallman declined to address Kendall's accusations directly but said that the proposals put forward by the Teaching Review would increase student choice, allowing them to choose from six options rather than four or five currently and said that the plans would see an increase in the amount of small group teaching.

Kendall was also critical of the proposals presented by the Teaching Review. The draft review document published in March [1] proposed a reduction in the number of final year Biology and Biochemistry modules. Among those to be cut were Animal Behaviour and all existing plant based modules, though some new courses, including Pathogens and Mutualists, were also introduced. The review document also suggested that Life Sciences stop teaching Biomedical Science, a course run jointly by the Department of Life Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine. The draft review proposes withdrawing the course as

soon as October 2012, stating that it does not believe that "teaching on the Biomedical Science degree is an optimal use of our resources". The draft review claims that the loss of the 50 students who take Biomedical Science each year will allow an uptake of an additional 24 people to the Biology degree: "ideally those who express organismal/ecological, rather than cellular/biochemical, interests".

Professor Dallman told Felix that no long-term decision had been made yet regarding the Biomedical Science degree and that such a decision would be made in consultation with the Faculty of Medicine.

These issues were discussed at the Science Studies Committee last Tuesday. Deputy President (Education) Alex Dahinten said that the committee, which exists to maintain high teaching standards, would not allow "anything sub-par to pass" and that the ball was in the Department's court. The committee has given the Department until the 24th of May to answer their concerns.

### In brief

#### New Arabic course

The Humanities Department have announced that from October 2011 it will offer a new non-credit Arabic course. They will offer classes for beginners and level-2 speakers (equivalent to GCSE). Students completing the courses will accrue six ECTS credits. The course will cost £50 and are part subsidised by Mr Naguib Kheraj, the CEO of JP Morgan Cazenove.

#### Imperial 10th in UK according to Guardian

The Guardian has unveiled its university league table for 2012, placing Imperial 10th, down three places from last year. Cambridge have taken the top spot from Oxford while Lancaster, Durham, and Loughborough all place ahead of Imperial. Though Imperial scores poorly on several of metrics, the table cites only 51% of students being satisfied with feedback for example, it comes out top for career prospects, with 83% of students in a career after six months.

#### Student Switch off

Eastside hall has won The Student Switch Off competition to save energy in halls. In the past year, students in Eastside



have reduced their energy use by 5%, saving 16 tonnes of CO2. The energy saving across Imperial halls generally was 3%. The Student Switch Off is a not-for-profit national campaign to reduce energy usage and carbon emissions involving 37 universities and almost 16,000 students.

#### NSS participation rises

The number of students completing the National Student Survey at Imperial has increased by 7% this year, marking the highest participation ever at Imperial. Overall 65% of students filled out the survey, which is used as a measure of student satisfaction with their university. Following poor NSS results in coursework feedback last year, the Rector wrote to departments telling them to make better coursework feedback a top priority.

## Cut-price degrees? Willets suggests lower fees during clearing

Aemun Reza

In a recent interview with The Independent, universities minister David Willets announced that universities would be able to offer lower fees to students who are applying through clearing in order to fill their courses.

As if the idea of clearing isn't daunting enough for most university applicants, the possibility of students from poorer backgrounds holding off on university places in order to gain a cheaper course through clearing would definitely add to the chaos and competitive desperation to gain those coveted university places.

With an estimated two thirds of universities raising their tuition fees to £9,000, the fear of reducing fees for places through clearing is that able students who are willing to take the risk of applying through clearing may end up

not getting a place at all. Aaron Porter, the president of National Union of Students told The Independent that clearing would turn into a "flea market" for students trying to find the best deals.

It was also reported that universities might offer other incentives such as free iPads and Laptops to bribe students into taking their courses. It is thought that this plan would avoid the prospect of students on the same course paying different fees which is a major fault in lowering fees in clearing.

The Office for Fair Access (Offa), however, who are in charge of regulating university tuition fees, are not in favour of lowering tuition fees during clearing and have written to universities requesting that they do not follow this route.

In addition to this scheme, the government are still considering proposals

to offer 'off-quota' places where UK students are charged over-sea student prices. The proposal was branded as a chance for richer students to 'buy' their way into universities, though the government denies this.

David Willets proposed that universities could offer places for over-sea student prices, outside the government loans system. This was in response to the burden on the government to pay out a much larger proportion of money on loans due to the tuition costs.

So it seems that at this juncture in the ongoing debate about higher education, it is simultaneously being suggested that students from lower financial backgrounds could risk everything for cheaper fees and that rich students could 'buy' their way into courses, which makes you wonder: what on earth is going on?

Sponsored Editorial

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

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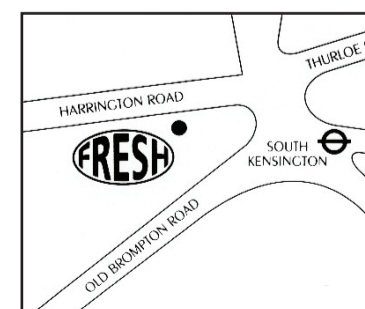
Tuesday to Fridays 9.30 to 4.30 (sorry no discounts on Saturdays).

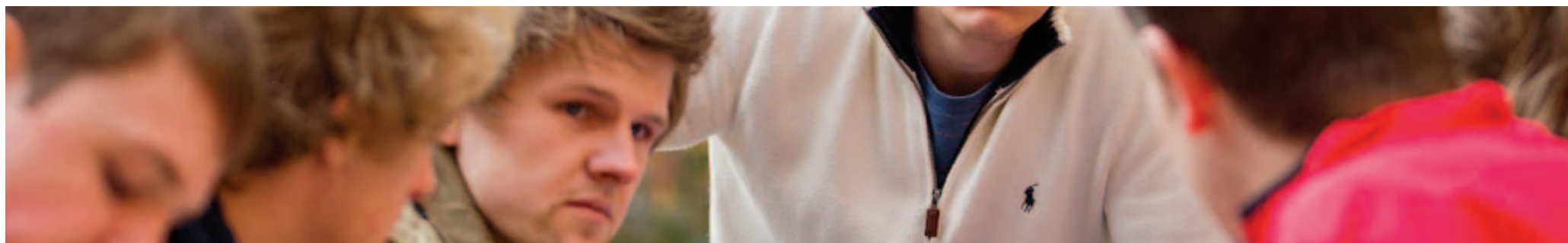
We are only 70 metres from South Kensington tube station

To book an appointment, call

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

Cash only.





unionpage

imperial college union

your union, only better...

Imperial College Union Strategic Review 2011

# Ideas Day

Freebies all day!

## Help us make your Union better!

### Today - 11am-4pm - Queen's Lawn Terrace

Come along, just for a few minutes, and help us set our agenda for the next five years! We have some questions that we need you to answer so we can be sure we are making your time at Imperial the best it can be.

## UNION AWARDS 2011

Do you know someone who has done an outstanding job as a representative? A club or society member? someone involved in welfare support? or a really good events organiser? The Union awards outstanding individuals each year; any student can nominate someone and we are accepting nominations from now until May 24. There are thousands of volunteers working in all parts of the Union from clubs and societies to representation and we believe those who have gone over and above what is expected of them should be recognised.

To nominate someone for an award, you need to fill in the form available online.

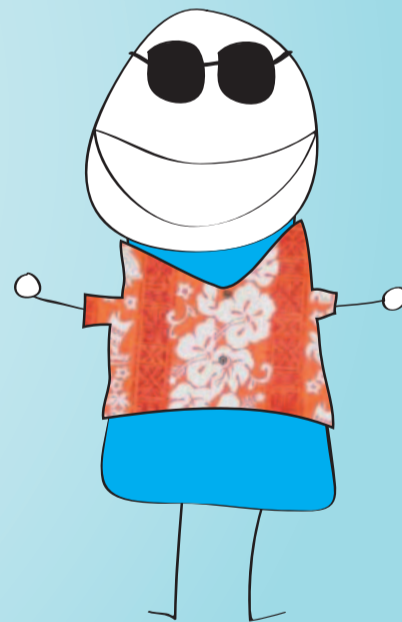


The awards are:

- Union Colour
- Outstanding Service Award
- Imperial College Union Fellowship with Distinction

For someone to win an award they have to be nominated by any Full member of the Union (any student at Imperial) and then the Colours Committee considers the nominations. Nominations will close on 24 May so make sure you get yours in early!

## Summer Elections 2011



### Nominations close 23:59 23 May

Positions available:

- 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

## New research centre in Shoreditch

**Kadhim Shubber**

In a speech made to the 2011 Google Zeitgeist conference, Chancellor George Osborne announced that Imperial, in collaboration with UCL, are developing plans for a new Research and Innovation Centre in Shoreditch. The project is part of the Government's 'Tech City' initiative that aims to create a new Silicon Valley in East London.

The Research Centre will focus on how data from 'smart infrastructure' – a combination of the internet, mobile communications, embedded sensor technology and information analytics – could transform cities of the future. An example of a potential area of research could be the creation of a personal C)2 market through the real-time monitoring of individual Co2 emissions.

A spokesperson for Imperial said,

“Academic research will be placed at the heart of the Centre [...] Key scientific areas for exploration include novel sensor technologies, the scaling of communications and network technologies, spatial and geographical analysis methods, interaction design and behavioural analysis, and visualisation technologies. [...] Both UCL and Imperial jointly possess expertise which spans both scientific research and the ability to contribute to service and business model innovation. The partnership between innovative companies and universities is essential, where research is shaped by business and user requirements and where scientific advance contributes to business success”

Felix has been told that a 5-year pilot phase is currently being developed, involving corporate partnerships and joint private/public funding.

## New College Chairman appointed

Former MI5 head to become first woman Chairman of Imperial

**Kadhim Shubber**

Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller, a former Director-General of the Security Service, or MI5, has been appointed as the new College Chairman. Her appointment follows the resignation of the previous Chairman, Lord Kerr, in January.

Baroness Manningham-Buller began her career as an English teacher at Queen's Gate School in 1971 but then joined the Secret Service in 1974. She was Deputy Director General from 1997, before taking the top job from 2002–2007. During her time at MI5 she specialised in countering Irish terrorism and was credited with increasing the agency's transparency when she became the Director-General; she began the practice of recruiting agents through newspaper adverts. She is the first wom-

an Chairman of Imperial. She is also a Governor of the Wellcome Trust.

Her appointment is not entirely surprising, she has served as Deputy Chairman since 2009 and stood in for Lord Kerr during the postgraduate graduation ceremonies this month. Lord Kerr said: “We know Eliza, and Eliza knows us. We know what a huge success she will be.”

Baroness Manningham-Buller will take up the post on the 16th of July. She commented, “I have admired Imperial, but since becoming more closely involved with the College, I have been more impressed by its standards of excellence and the contributions it makes to the UK and worldwide. Imperial's staff and students have a wonderful academic and cultural tradition and I look forward to contributing to the College's growth and continued success”

Imperial College London



Imperial College  
London

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To sign up, contact Charlotte Ivison on [dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk) and let us know if you HAVE a room or NEED a room. **Register by 3 June.**

imperial  
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union

# FEATURE

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

## Imperial as it once was

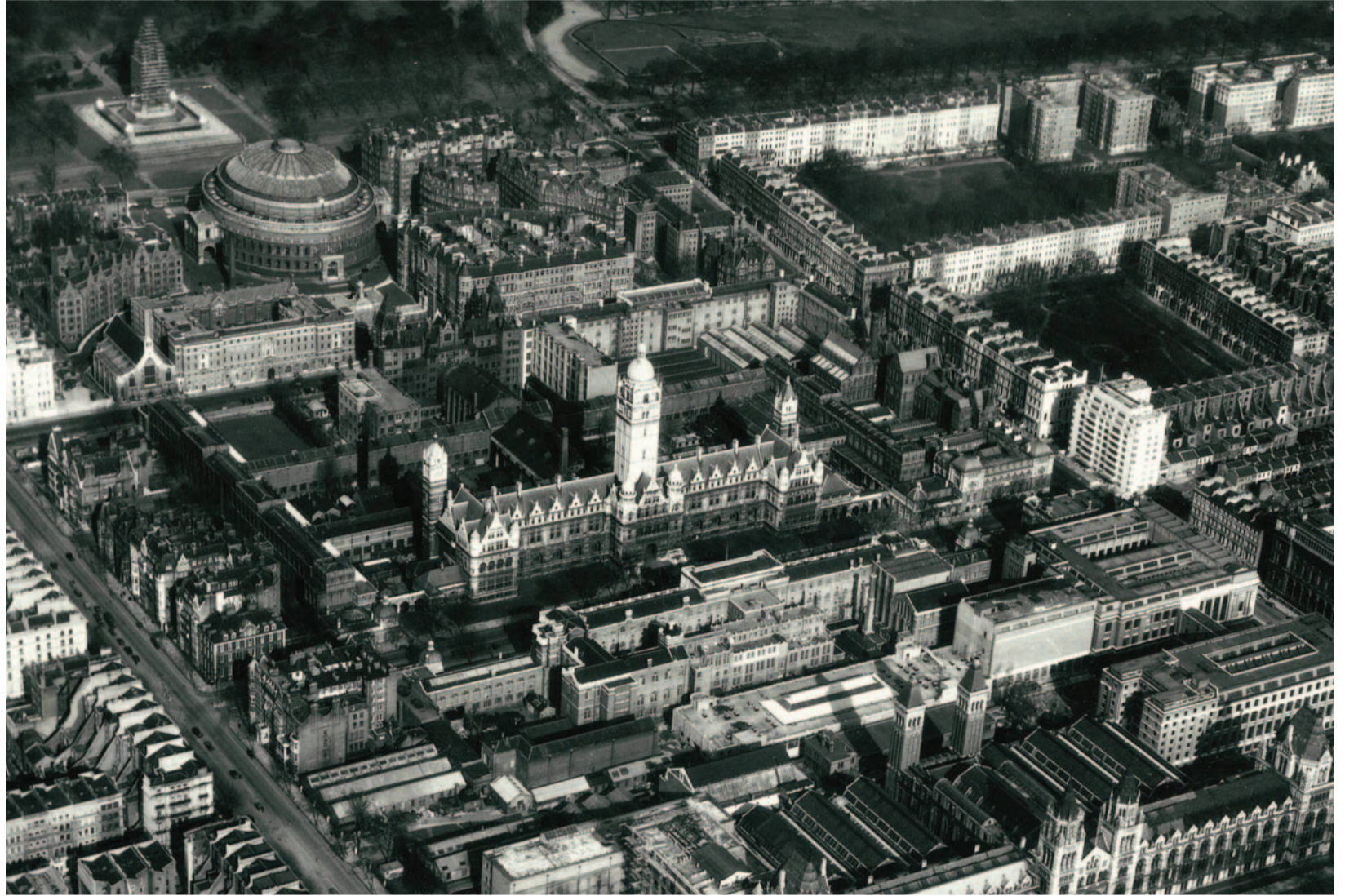
For students enrolling at Imperial College after the Second World War had ended, the short walk to lectures would have been a stroll through a Victorian wonderland. What we now know as the freestanding Queen's Tower was then the Colcutt Tower at the heart of the Imperial Institute, a proud building lying snugly within the fine architecture of the surrounding university. The Royal College of Mines and City and Guilds College were situated to the north-east, while the Royal College of Science stood opposite it on Imperial Institute Road (now Imperial College Road). But the merciless modernisers at Imperial College and within the British government were to smash this idyllic setting and set about building the future of our university on the ruins of South Kensington's Victorian architecture. In 1953 the Government announced that Imperial was to double in size from 1,500 students to 3,000. In an attempt to make room for this unprecedented influx of students, Imperial during the 50s and 60s would have been a perpetual construction site. The Union's top two floors were added in 1954–57; the Roderic Hill and Blackett buildings had arisen like counterweights to the Royal College of Music and Royal School of Mines by 1960; The City and Guilds College was torn down in 1962; and all the while the Imperial Institute suffered a death in slow motion, ripped down section by section between 1957 and 1966.

The motivations of the modernisers were clear. They were acting in the greater interests of Britain and of the Empire. Their goal was the education of the nation's scientists. Writing in *Felix* in 1965, Rector Sir Patrick Linstead was sober about the duty that Imperial needed to perform. The £15 million expansion (amounting to nearly a £1 billion today) was needed because of the 'emergency national shortage of places for undergraduates' he remembered, looking back at the construction work that had gone on, whilst also looking forward to the 1970s when 'we hope, most of the building upheavals [we be over]'.  
In 20 short years our university was transformed, and the transformations continue to this day. The Business School, the Sir Alexander Fleming Building, and the development at Prince's Gardens are fine examples of how we continue to shape South Kensington at a furious pace. No doubt the buildings that were erected in the 50s and 60s will one day feel the force of this university's relentless drive and be compelled to improve and modernise.

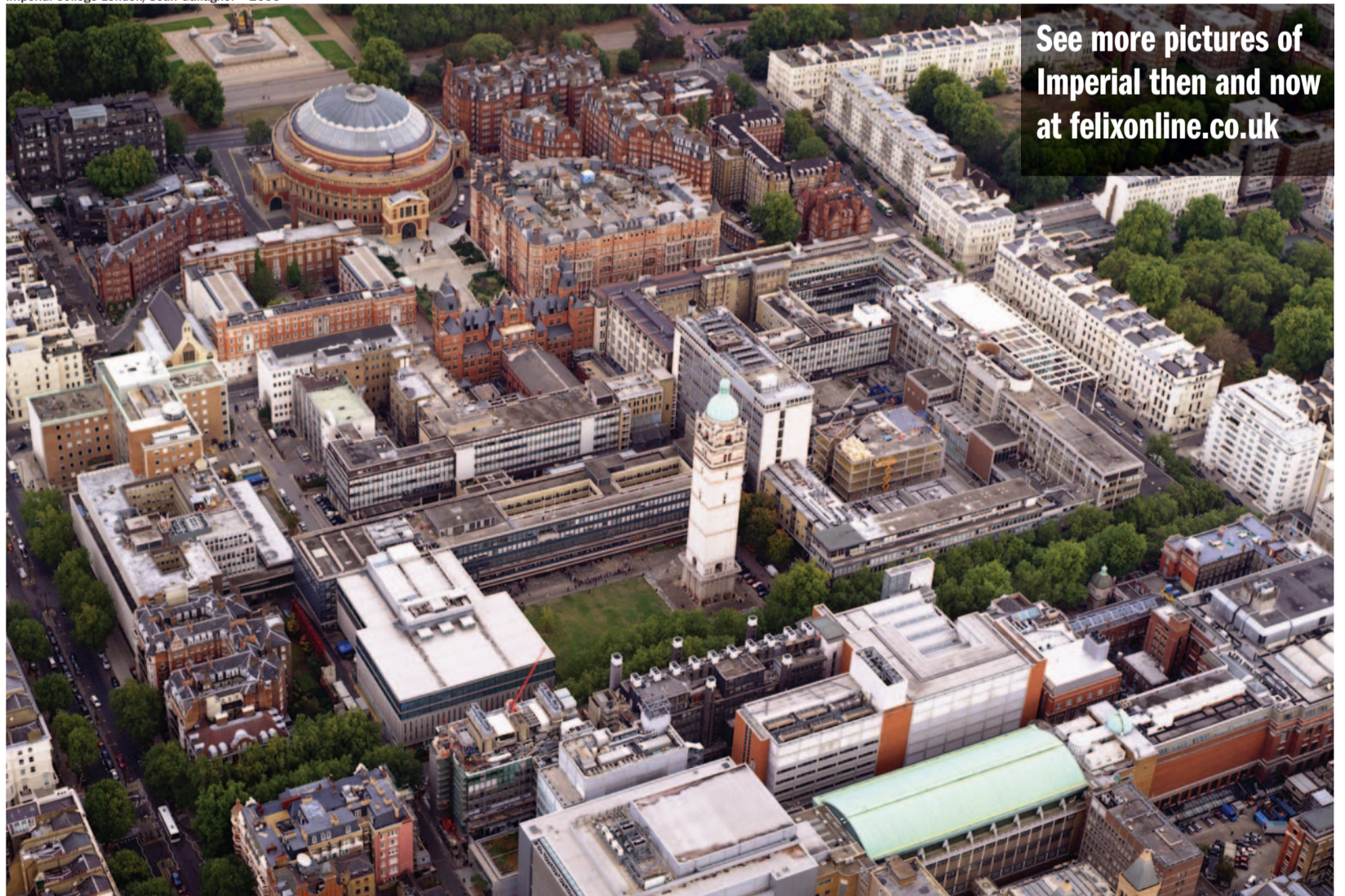
**Kadhim Shubber and Gilead Amit.**

**Our special thanks and gratitude to the Imperial College London Archives**

Courtesy of the Imperial College London Archives – 1951



Imperial College London/Sean Gallagher – 2006



See more pictures of Imperial then and now at [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)

# FEATURE

## The Imperial Institute

When construction began on the grand Imperial Institute in 1887, fears were already being expressed that it would turn into a wasteful white elephant. Barely a year later, in fact, Thomas Henry Huxley had already pronounced the monumental project ‘a failure’. But when Rector Sir Patrick Linstead decided to tear the building down over half a century later, he was met with public outrage. At the time, it was reported that the decision to demolish the Institute was partly because its ‘architecture would be “difficult to reconcile” with the new science buildings’.

Among those not swayed by this line of reasoning was future Poet Laureate John Betjeman, a vocal campaigner for the preservation of iconic British architecture. Opposition to the plans grew as *The Times* took up the cause to save the Imperial Institute and its letters pages were filled with denunciations of our university’s expansion. One commentator writing in the *Country Life* magazine suggested that the Royal College of Music – in his opinion a fourth-rate building – be sacrificed in the Institute’s place.

The sad future of the Victorian edifice was almost an inevitability, as it fell prey to financial trouble almost as soon as construction finished. By 1899 it had been taken over by the government, who promptly gave the University of London half of the building for use as administrative offices; they moved out again in 1936. In some ways, the Institute was the Millennium Dome of its time; it contained a cinema, labora-

tories, teaching facilities, conference facilities, and hosted exhibitions. But by World War Two it had fallen from glory, with the exhibition galleries ‘desolate and deserted’ and various government agencies haphazardly squatting there.

Plans for the Institute’s demolition became public knowledge in 1956. The ensuing debate resulted in a compromise leaving the Colcutt Tower, which is known today as the Queen’s Tower, would be retained. Not everyone was best pleased by this, with an article in *The Engineer* magazine declaring ‘there is no logic about the retention of a useless tower’ and wished for it to be unstable: ‘There is but one hope left. It is that upon examination the tower standing nakedly alone will prove to be unstable. We hope so! We profoundly hope so!’

The demolition began in 1957 with the destruction of the rear galleries in the east wing. In 1962 Imperial Institute Road was closed to public traffic and by 1965 all but the Queen’s Tower remained.

One man, Brigadier Arthur Fortescue of the Coldstream Guards, was so appalled by the act of vandalism that he dashed in and out of the demolition site rescuing “bits of decorative stonework”, as reported in the *Evening Standard*.

Work on the tower’s structural foundations began on the 14th of March 1966. The tower was cleaned and a new lower balcony was added. The project was finally completed in 1969, along with the ‘College Block’ development which included the Central Library building and the Great Hall.

Courtesy of the Imperial College London Archives



**Clockwise from top:**

- The Imperial Institute, as seen from what is now known as Imperial College Road (then known as Imperial Institute Road).
- A cartoon printed in *Felix* on February 14th, 1958 (four months after the Sputnik I launch) imagining the ‘Colcutt Tower’ as a Soviet space rocket.
- A note from John K Taylor on July 15th 1958 to the current Rector, Dr Linstead, which accompanied a photo of the East tower being demolished.
- The Queen’s Lawn area, much as it is today, on completion in 1969.
- The West tower of the Imperial Institute during the demolition, as seen from the Queen’s Tower. Note the old Aeronautical museum behind it, where the Central Library is now situated.
- Only the Queen’s Tower remains of the original building. A significant amount of structural engineering was needed to ensure that the tower could stand alone as the final bits of the Institute were pulled away from it.



Courtesy of the Imperial College London Archives – Sydney Newbery, 1969.

Courtesy of the Imperial College London Archives – *Crown Journal*, Issue 142, March/April 1966



Courtesy of the Imperial College London Archives – R. Henson, January 1963



Features Editor: **Lizzie Crouch**

# FEATURE

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

Courtesy of the Imperial College London Archives



Courtesy of the Imperial College London Archives



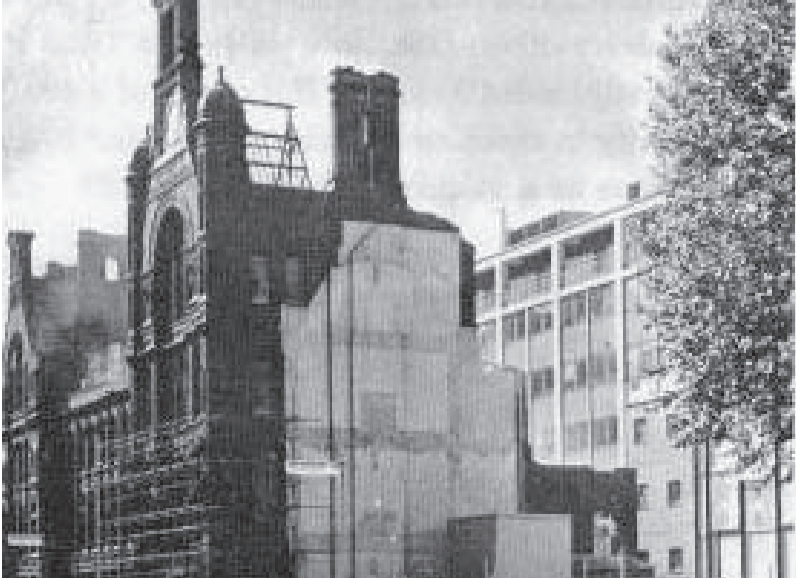
RIBA Library Drawings & Archives Collections



**Above:** The City and Guilds Technical Institute. It was opened in 1884 and was designed by Alfred Waterhouse.

**Below:** It was demolished in 1962, to make way for the Mechanical Engineering building. Now the Business School occupies its space.

Felix archive



**Above:**

The Royal College of Science, where the SAF and Chemistry buildings are now situated. A small section of it still remains today, sandwiched between the SAF and the Post Office.

**Below:**

The expansion of Imperial is reported in Felix in October 1955. Beneath the text is a sketch of the under-construction Roderic Hill building. By this point construction had begun on various sites around campus. The author John Scott Seeley reports that: "for the last year the peaceful calm of Imperial College has been shattered by the roar of the air compressor and the chatter of the pneumatic drill".

Felix archive

**THE EXPANSION OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE**  
FIFTEEN MILLION POUND SCHEME

By JOHN SCOTT SEELEY

For the last year the peaceful calm of Imperial College has been shattered by the roar of the air compressor and the chatter of the pneumatic drill. The buildings are in, and they will be staying with us for several more years. Between the years 1953 and 1962 the student population of this College will be expanded from 1500 to over 5000. To accommodate the extra numbers the College and Union Buildings will be added to, and in some cases, modified, in a vast project, involving the expenditure of £15 millions of public funds.

During the past eighteen months four preliminary projects have been put in hand. One has been completed, a fourth stage having been added to the R.S.M. and Goldsmiths' extension of Collyer. The architect was Messrs. Norman and Dehrens. The Union Building (to the left of the R.S.M. Building, close to the Albert Hall) is being converted from a two-storey building of 25,000 sq. ft. to a four-storey building of 80,000 sq. ft. Work began in July '54 and is due to be completed in July '55. A permanent refectory is already installed in the ground floor of this building. The architect is Messrs. Cliff and Partners with Sir Robert Worthington as consultant.

By far the largest of the present projects is the Roderic Hill Building on the South side of Prince Consort Rd., next to the Royal College of Music. The finished front of this building is shown in our illustration, from the drawing by Mr. Frank Wemyss. This new building will give a net increase of 81,000 sq. ft. to house the expanded departments of Chemical Engineering and Aeronautics, Architecture is due by October '55 and Chemical Engineering by January '57. The architects are Messrs. Norman and Dehrens with Sir Robert Worthington as consultant.

The large single-floor Messener Lab. in the R.S.M. is being converted to a three-storey building for use as an engineering workshop and materials laboratory, giving 12,000 sq. ft. of additional space. Building began in January '55 and is scheduled for completion for the beginning of this session. The architects are Norman and Dehrens.

For the future, plans of most interest to FELIX readers will be those applying to Union Buildings. As a headmaster to Sir Roderic Hill the R.C.M. will be built on a semi-formal garden with grass lawns and York stone paths, and some central lecture halls, which may be a fountain. The tennis club have received extra courts at Burlington as compensation for the loss of its old courts on this site. If students will welcome the proposal that, at long last, the hostel accommodation is to be increased, at present this has not become definite, but we can hope for room for additional 100 students.

In the wider plane legal difficulties have arisen in clearing the Imperial Institute Rd./Prince Consort Rd. site for the complete development of the College. This is a Government affair. In the debate on Scientific and Technical Manpower in the House of Commons on July 21st, Mr. Brooke (Financial Secretary to the Treasury) stated that "in order to overcome these legal difficulties it may be necessary for the Government to introduce enabling legislation after the recess".

**Comment**

It can be justifiably stated that the progress of the Contractors on the Union Building seems to be very slow. Their job has been difficult in that they started with half-a-building and have had very little room to manoeuvre to build inferior to those across the road working on the new Aeronautics and Chemical Engineering Building. Let us hope there is an inferior word put in to complete the contract by July '56.

The tentative proposals, at present under discussion, for the expansion of the Hostel, are that the whole of the R.C.M. and Union Buildings will be given over to Union activities and student residential accommodation. General student feeling has been of this kind for years past. If this college is to continue to provide university-level education, its residential accommodation must be increased at least four-fold. The dramatic alternative is that the original Imperial Technical Institution with only its academic reputation left. It is the duty of all to ensure that this never happens.

Felix archive



**Above:** The view along Prince Consort Road in 1960 with the newly opened Blackett Laboratory on the right.

**Below:** The Biochemistry building on completion in 1965, built on the space cleared by the demolition of the Royal College of Science.

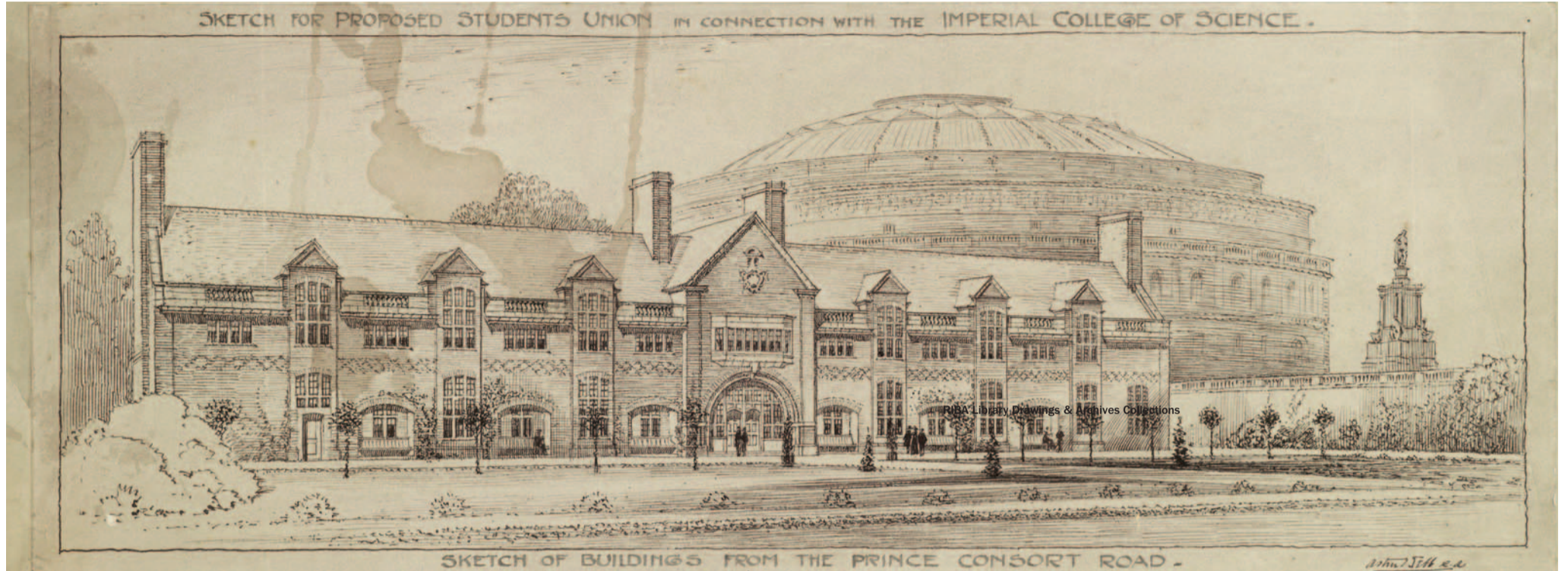
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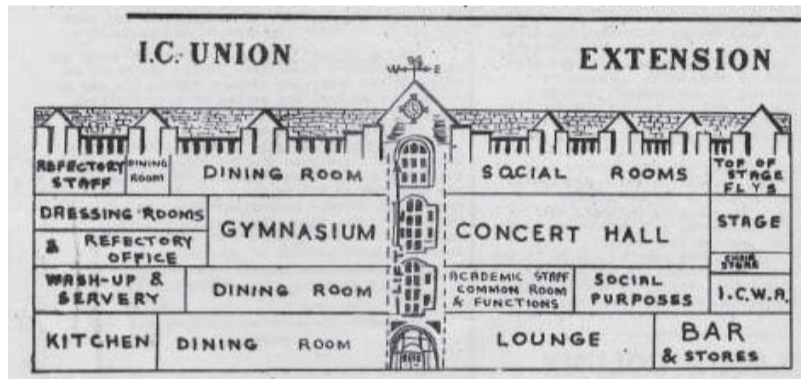
# FEATURE

RIBA Library Drawings & Archives Collections



## The Union and Beit Quad

Below: Felix's representation of the big Union renovation of 1954–1957.



RIBA Library Drawings & Archives Collections



Clockwise from top:

– The original 1909 sketch for the Students' Union building by architect Sir Aston Webb. The building cost £15,000 at the time (nearly £1.3 million in today's money) and would be completed in 1911.

– A photo of the Union building published in Felix in October 1954 as work began on adding an extra two floors to the top, creating the Union as we know it today. Work was completed in 1957 (although word has it that the discovery of asbestos delayed the opening of Metric).

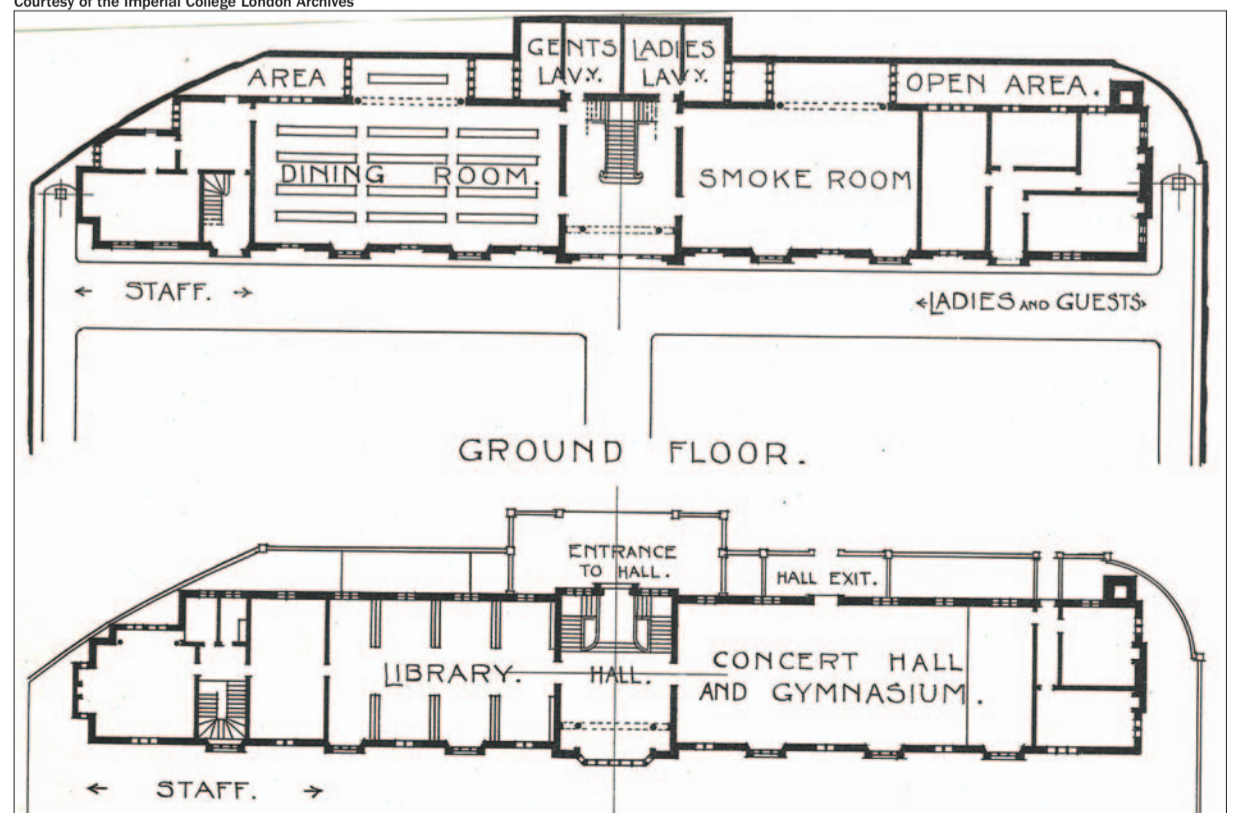
– The original floor plan of the Union building, including a 'Smoke Room'. Those were the days...

– In the 1920s the West, South and East wings of Beit were built, fully enclosing the Quad. This original 1924 sketch by architect Sir Aston Webb shows the north-west corner of Beit Quad. This part of the four-storey 'hostel' originally housed 50 students. The sign for the 'hostel' can still be seen in the doorway today.

Felix archive



Courtesy of the Imperial College London Archives



# SCIENCE

Science Editors: **Charlie Harvey**  
**Kelly Oakes**  
**Thea Cunningham**  
 science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## In brief

### Wrinkles on the moon



"You don't look a day over 4 billion years, dear..."

Almost everyone thinks that it is possible to get a rough idea of a person's age by looking for wrinkles on their face, but did you know that this principle can also be applied to the moon? Scientists from the California Institute of Technology have put together maps charting the slopes and roughness of the moon's surface. By studying the roughness at a range of different scales, from metres to kilometres, the researchers were able to put together a complete picture of the ups and downs of the moon's surface. But they are not just doing this for fun, the map can be used to work out how certain lunar features were created. "Old and young craters have different roughness properties, they are rougher on some scales and smoother on others," said Meg Rosenburg, the first author of the paper in which the map was revealed. For example, young craters tend to stand out because they have not yet been smoothed by constant meteorite bombardment. "It is remarkable that the moon exhibits a great range of topographic character: at the extremes, surfaces roughened by the accumulation of craters over billions of years can be near regions smoothed and resurfaced by more recent volcanic activity" said Oded Aharonson, Rosenburg's supervisor at the California Institute of Technology. Similar techniques can be used to study the processes behind the surface features of other bodies in the solar system, such as asteroids and even planets.

**Kelly Oakes**

### The pursuit of pulsars

**25 May 2011 5.30pm**

Lecture Theatre G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building

In the fourth Peter Lindsay Memorial Lecture, Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell introduces the pulsing radio stars she discovered as a postgraduate student at Cambridge. The discovery of pulsars opened up a whole new branch of astrophysics and gained her supervisors a Nobel Prize in 1974.

# My Chemical Robots

Targeted treatments possible with swarming nanorobots

**Anna Perman**

As a biologist, I do not mind telling you that it is hard to find practical applications for behavioural studies of animals. I can get incredibly excited about how animals can move as a group, reacting to their environment without a particular leader guiding them. The way they achieve this is fascinating. But useful? I would have trouble arguing that one.

So when Dr Frantisek Stepanek gave a 'Friends of Imperial' Lecture last Tuesday called 'Swarm Robots - the Future of Drug Delivery', I was fascinated. Dr Stepanek has been applying the biological concepts of swarms to a rather unlikely beast: nano-scale robots. Using the ways in which swarming animals communicate in order for the entire group to find source of food, Dr Stepanek has built nano-robots (i.e. very, very small!) which could move through the body to a particular point, to deliver drugs to a certain region. Sounds a bit creepy, right?

But these are not robots in the way we usually think of them. They are a chemical compound housed in a tiny package that has been built to break down only when and where the designer wants it to. Dr Stepanek explained to the audience just how they can create these robots to get around the problems with current drug therapies. Drug delivery systems have to be tiny to move around the body, so nano-scale systems are perfect for this function. However, there are challenges in working on the nano-scale. The forces acting on the particles are very different to those that engineers are used to. Dr Stepanek, as an expert in particle engineering, explained these 'harsh laws of the micro world' and how researchers can manipulate them. By building up nano-scale components around a chemical, he can modify exactly how they are stored to suit the desired outcome precisely.



Nanorobots would be able to target certain cells, bypassing toxic side effects

Dr Stepanek explained how there were certain chemical compounds that could be useful drugs, but are very unstable and so administering them in pill form would be pointless. They would break down before they could have any effect. But a nano-robot could move through the body with the parts of the compound kept separate until they get to their destination in the body. Then, the robot would allow the parts to mix, creating the compound so it could get to work. This suggests that using nanotech delivery methods, many drugs which are currently unusable could be available for treatments.

Once the nano-robot has been built, receptors can be added to its surface, so that the contents will only be released when the robot plugs into a certain cell type. Normally, the active ingredient in a pill has much poorer specificity, affecting every cell in the body, not just the ones which are causing the problem. This is usually relatively harmless, but in the case of treatments like chemotherapy, it can be harm-

ful. Using nano-robots, on the other hand, will not release a drug until it meets a certain cell type. This way, in the case of a treatment like chemotherapy, the drug could only be released when it gets to cancer cells, making the debilitating side effects of the treatment less severe.

But building just the one robot is not much good. To get any kind of effect on the body, there needs to be thousands of them, each releasing a tiny bit of the drug. This is where using the concepts of swarm behaviour could improve how the robots work. In the same way that animals can release a signal to other members of its swarm to indicate they have found a food source, a nano-robot could release a chemical signal to other robots once it finds its target cell, attracting the entire group to a particular site. This way, instead of the effects being distributed over the entire body, the swarm's effect could be targeted to a single place, making drug delivery more efficient, and more effective.

# Climate change causing crop calamities

**Katie Tomlinson**

Everyone has heard plenty of apocalyptic predictions for the future of our planet, from coastal flooding and in-land droughts to devastating changes in temperatures. Worryingly, one of the most severe threats is the more-or-less unpredictable effects of climate change on vital food crops. A recent study in the journal *Science* negates the need for predictions by using actual cause and effect and prompting agriculture itself to turn over a new leaf.

David Lobell, co-author of the paper, believes that climate change is "not something we have to anticipate. It's something we have to learn from and deal with right now."

Annual global temperatures have increased by more than 0.4 °C since 1980. Such small

**"[Climate change] is something we have to learn from and deal with right now"**

changes may seem insignificant but can have massive effects on finely tuned plants. To gauge these effects the study recorded yields between 1980-2008 of corn, rice, wheat and soya beans. These crops supply 75% of the calories consumed by the global population. Temperature and precipitation changes outside of the normal seasonal variations were recorded and related to changes in crop produc-

tion. Results indicate that warming accounted for 3.8% and 5.5% losses in corn and wheat respectively, whereas rice and soybean yields remained the same.

Intriguingly, the trends vary massively between regions, with the United States and Canada suffering no climate linked decrease in food production, whereas in low latitude regions, an increase of 1°C has led to a 10% increase in yields. There are some positive effects of global warming as increased CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in the atmosphere can boost plant productivity, however in the future such benefits may be overthrown by damage to plants caused by the increased temperatures.

Lobell aims to look at areas with the biggest temperature change, where agricultural adaptations are needed the most.

## SCIENCE

# I can't stress this strongly enough

If the exams themselves weren't bad enough, the stress they cause could kill you

**George Wigmore**

The month of May reeks of exam stress. It is the time of year where historically we start to panic when we realise that that whole series of lectures that you thought were superfluous, were not, despite that fact that going would have meant missing *Jeremy Kyle*, *The Weakest Link*, or worst of all, *Lovejoy*. Panic ensues, along with reams of photocopying of notes, and the process of cramming is begun in earnest.

Virtually any stressful event triggers a vast array of neuronal and biochemical responses, which prepares one to cope with the stressful event, which can be anything from exams, an alarming twist in *Neighbours*, even to worrying about what happened to that *My Little Pony* DVD that your friend borrowed last week. But could this stress be having an adverse effect on your body?

In response to these stressful stimuli, the body takes action. The hypothalamus in the brain releases two hormones, in the form of corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH) and arginine-vasopressin (AVP). It is these two chemical messengers that course through the brain on their respective pathways, and result in the effects we see on the body. While AVP plays an important role, it is CRH that is most interesting.

CRH plays two important roles in the body's response to stress. One of these roles is in stimulating the release of adrenaline, which engages the fight-or-flight response, priming the body for action, and subsequently increasing heart rate, breathing, and alertness. Simultaneously, the adrenal gland releases the messenger cortisol, which then races



Stress weakens your immune system and makes your cells age faster (no wonder he looks worried)

off, speeding up the body's metabolism.

Cortisol is really interesting, and while its related compound Cortisone is frequently found in anti-inflammatory drugs that treat skin rashes and asthma, it can also suppress the immune system and reduce inflammation within the body. It is this latter function of cortisol that is pertinent to our search to see how the body is affected by stress as it presents an interesting dichotomy:

while cortisol speeds up metabolism, it can also have a detrimental effect on our health.

While the story linking stress and health starts a long time before the 20th century, we pick it up in 1998, when Gailen D. Marshall and colleagues from the Houston Medical School (University of Texas), studied the effects of exam stress on 16 healthy medical students. Marshall's group looked specifically at

cytokines, the signalling proteins secreted by particular cells in the nervous system. When the body reacts to stress, besides from just releasing cortisol and adrenaline, it also results in elevated levels of cytokines. Crucially, these cytokines act as messengers between the brain and immune system, helping to regulate the immune response. The study found that psychologically stressful situations, and the subsequent

release of cortisol, can shift the production of cytokines from the type which enhances the body's immune response, to another type which favours antibody response. It is these antibodies that are used by the immune system to identify and destroy foreign bacteria and viruses. This crucial change weakens the immune system and increases the chance of viral infections and other ailments.

But it gets worse. There you were thinking that stress will only give you a bad cold, and that all your issues could be solved with a little convenient tissue pack, with added 'anti-viral protection' and a little bit of balm to sooth your sore nose. Well, you were wrong, as stress almost literally makes us age faster.

In the body cellular ageing is judged by the length of the end-caps which protect DNA. Known as telomeres, every time a cell divides, they shorten by a small amount. By the time a cell has divided between 40 and 60 times, its telomeres reach a critical length, and the cell stops dividing, preventing the development of cancer, and damage to DNA. When looking at the links between telomere length and stress, Elissa Epel from the Department of Psychiatry, University of California, found that stress makes us age faster, as high levels of stress resulted in shortening of telomeres.

So, what to do? Not only does stress make us ill, but it is also killing us slowly but surely, eradicating the ends of our DNA, and make our cells age prematurely. While panicking about this would only make the situation worse, the best thing to do is to chill out, buy a new *My Little Pony* DVD, and tell yourself that it will all be okay in the end.

## Might a mitochondrion be connected with Alzheimer's?

**Chloe McIvor**

Abnormalities in two proteins work together to damage brain cells, causing the symptoms associated with Alzheimer's disease, it is reported this week.

The findings, published in *Neurobiology of Aging* this week, are part of a wider study into the role that mitochondrial dysfunction has on the development of brain diseases such as Alzheimer's, Huntington's and Parkinson's.

Mitochondria are often referred to as the 'powerhouses' of the cell, as they are responsible for producing the energy needed for life. They perform a number of vital functions, so when they go wrong the damage that ensues is often

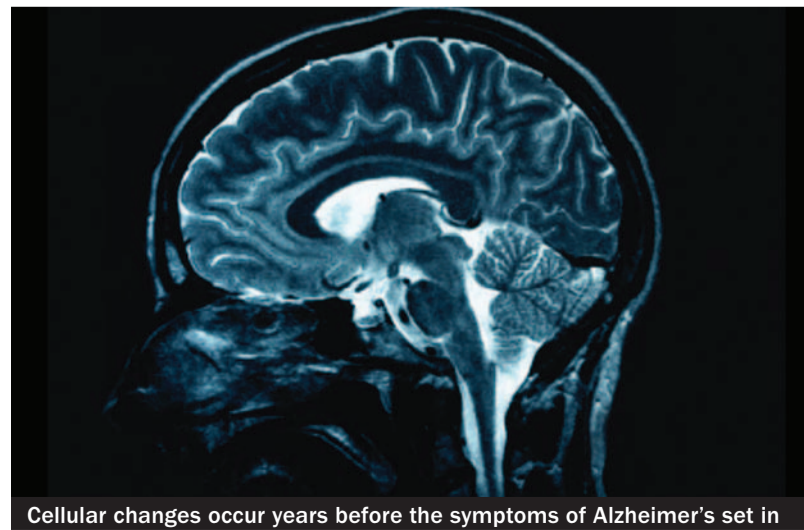
fatal for the cell. It is this form of damage that scientists suspect occurs in the diseased brain and means the nerve cells fail to function properly.

The defective forms of the two proteins, amyloid beta and tau, have been known to cause damage to brain cells for many years. However, the knowledge that they conspire to affect the mitochondria provides a focus for scientists looking to unravel the precise way in which these proteins are linked to Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's currently affects over 400,000 people in the UK alone and the disease is not on the decline. It is hoped that, as these cellular changes occur before symptoms are noticeable,

they could provide an opportunity for earlier diagnosis. "By the time the cells are dead, it is too late to do much", said author of the study, Professor Gail Johnson. By identifying these early indicators changes in the brain could be recognised decades before any memory loss is experienced.

The researchers also hope that increasing our knowledge of how mitochondrial changes influence the development of Alzheimer's will also uncover new ways to treat the disease. The complexity of brain diseases makes it likely that new possibilities for intervention will become apparent as more is understood about the precise way in which the mitochondria work.



Cellular changes occur years before the symptoms of Alzheimer's set in

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

## Dr Stanley Siegelman

Suha Bachir interviews this hugely influential radiologist

**W**hen I was told I would be undertaking my medical elective course at the very hospital Dr House graduated from, I was over the moon. The famous Johns Hopkins Hospital has not only seen the work of no less than 33 Nobel Laureates, it has also been voted best US hospital for twenty years in a row. When I first saw the hospital, I must admit, I thought it was more enchanted castle than hospital. Having read up about the many influential physicians and scientists from Hopkins, I was desperate to find out if it was possible to follow in their footsteps, so when I came across Professor Siegelman, a very influential radiologist at Johns Hopkins, I jumped at the chance to interview him. Throughout his career he has taught, edited a leading medical journal and made scientific discoveries as well as treating patients. I was keen to find out the secrets of his success in combining medicine, science and teaching.

Professor Stanley Siegelman has been awarded numerous accolades including the Gold Medal from the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) and George J. Stuart Award for Medical Student Teaching.

Having written and co-written numerous books and over 350 scientific papers, he has helped pioneer huge advances in imaging. In 1977 Professor Siegelman directed Johns Hopkins' first body Computed Tomography (CT) program that subsequently went on to be an extremely important diagnostic tool and used world-wide.

Professor Siegelman has trained some world famous radiologists including Dr Elias Zerhouni, former director of the National Institutes of Health, and has guided and nurtured the careers of hundreds and still continues to do so today.

### What made you choose Radiology?

In medical school most of my fellow classmates knew what they wanted to go into. I had a problem because so many different things fascinated me; I found it hard to choose. At first psychiatry interested me, but then I became interested in cardiology and gastroenterology also. I therefore postponed my decision and joined an army Hospital where I spent three years doing internal medicine. I wanted to go into a field in which I could be a true expert in and at that time there was not that much to know about in radiology, especially since we did not have MRI or CT scans. After my training, however, things were very different.

Being the editor of the journal 'Ra-



### diology' and being the director of diagnostic radiology while managing to teach sounds like a tough schedule, so how do you manage to juggle it all?

There were crossover benefits between my clinical and editorial activities. Being editor of 'Radiology' and being aware of what would go into the scientific literature a few months ahead of time helped me communicate with students and residents to keep things exciting by staying at the cutting edge of science. Having credentials in chest, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular and musculoskeletal radiology really helped me when I was editor. Additionally having my editorial offices right across the street was great since I could still lecture the residents while maintaining my clinical work. It was ideal because teaching has always been important to me.

### Could you please give a brief timeline of your academic life?

Interestingly, my life can be divided into twelve year segments. When I was 17, I finished high school; The second 12 years was after college and my internship at the army; The third 12 years I was the Director of Diagnostic Radiology, during which time I developed the clinical programmes at Johns Hopkins; After those 12 years I was then made the Director of Radiology at Johns Hopkins; I then carried on as editor of Radiology for 12 years; The final twelve years, which brings us until today, I was running the residency program, and I must say I still like clinical radiology, the practise of it has improved a lot.

### "Teaching has always been important to me"

wanted to do research, so people had to be sponsored by dukes and royalty. At Cambridge University there is a scholarship fund called the 'Lucasian scholarship of Mathematics'. Isaac Barrow was awarded this prestigious scholarship, but he then gave it up to one of his students who he thought would benefit more from this scholarship than him. This great student was Sir Isaac Newton who was then able to continue his research without having to worry about living expenses. Isaac Barrow therefore enabled his prodigy to continue his career. My mentor, Dr Harold Jacobson always said that his aim was to train people better than him, and I always kept this in mind.

### What do you think makes a good Radiologist?

Firstly they have to have a good eye and be able to check abnormalities in an imagined study and correlate it with their knowledge and with the clinical history so a certain pattern of disease has a different meaning; say for example in an immuno-suppressed patient, a radiologist has to be good at integrating the findings and have a solid knowledge of the clinical basis. I also think a good radiologist has a very good memory.

### How does the next generation of scientists need to prepare for the future of science?

They have to pick an area of interest, not rush their training and maybe take an extra year to do research and be knowledgeable about the background, history and techniques. When they are in the field they should make an assessment of what is there that we do know and should know. An important theme is what we can take from the bench to the bedside.

### What is the best advice you would give to students who are trying to decide their career path?

My best advice would be that I give to the residents is four words 'GO FOR THE JOY'. Find out what things warm your heart the most, gets you excited and makes you feel really good. That is much more important than the salary that you earn. Different people find different things inspiring. Try to get to the stage where you think, "I can't believe I get paid to do this job, since it's more like play!

## Vote for Imperial students in JP Morgan contest

**David Haber**  
**Joanis Holzigel**

Most people will probably agree that turning on a light is usually given little thought. A simple flick of a switch and the darkness of the night is effectively eliminated.

For a staggering 1.4 billion people across the globe, this simple step does not apply. The reason: No access to electricity, and therefore no means to produce light other than by open fire, oil, gas or kerosene. On top of unaffordable cost, these light sources bear a variety of effects potentially damaging to health.

There is a group of students from Imperial College who hope to be able to solve the problem of rural electrification in developing countries. Having founded the non-profit organisation e.quinox, this group plans to develop a "blue print" solution for affordable and safe electricity. The students' model relies on a centralised power generation hub, the so-called "Energy Kiosk", and decentralised energy distribution via battery boxes. The battery boxes contain the same 230 V A/C output as any ordinary socket and can be recharged after depletion. Recipients of e.quinox's solution can not only use the battery for lighting, but are also able to charge their mobile phones or power small radios. This will help a growing market, current figures suggest that there are 84m smartphones in Africa, a figure that has doubled in the last three years. This power source allows e.quinox's customers, currently in three different Rwandan villages, to run their own businesses and thereby contributing to the empowerment of the country's economy, a key element to effectively reduce poverty across the globe.

e.quinox is currently competing in the JP Morgan Give-It-Away contest to secure US\$50,000 for future projects. The competition can only be won through votes from YOU, so give Imperial students your support by going to [www.e.quinox.org/vote](http://www.e.quinox.org/vote) and selecting e.quinox as the organisation of your choice. Then share this link with all your friends and family! If you would like to find out more about e.quinox's work, visit [www.e.quinox.org](http://www.e.quinox.org).



## POLITICS

# Liberté, égalité... infidélité?

## IMF chief arrest leaves French politics in turmoil

Nicolas Khadivi

France woke up on Sunday morning to widespread shock and disbelief: Dominique Strauss-Kahn, had been arrested in New York City during the night, on allegations that he had raped a chamber maid in Manhattan.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn, 62, is the head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and was seen, until last week, as the likeliest contender for the Parti Socialiste (French Socialist Party) to face the unpopular incumbent, Nicolas Sarkozy in next year's Presidential elections.

He was arrested on board a Paris-bound Air France flight 10 minutes before take-off and was taken into custody at the Harlem Special Victims Unit, where he remained until Monday morning. He was subsequently transferred to Manhattan Criminal Court, where he was denied a US\$1 million bail on fears that he might flee to France. He was then transferred to "The Tomb", otherwise known as Rikers Island, New York's main jail complex.

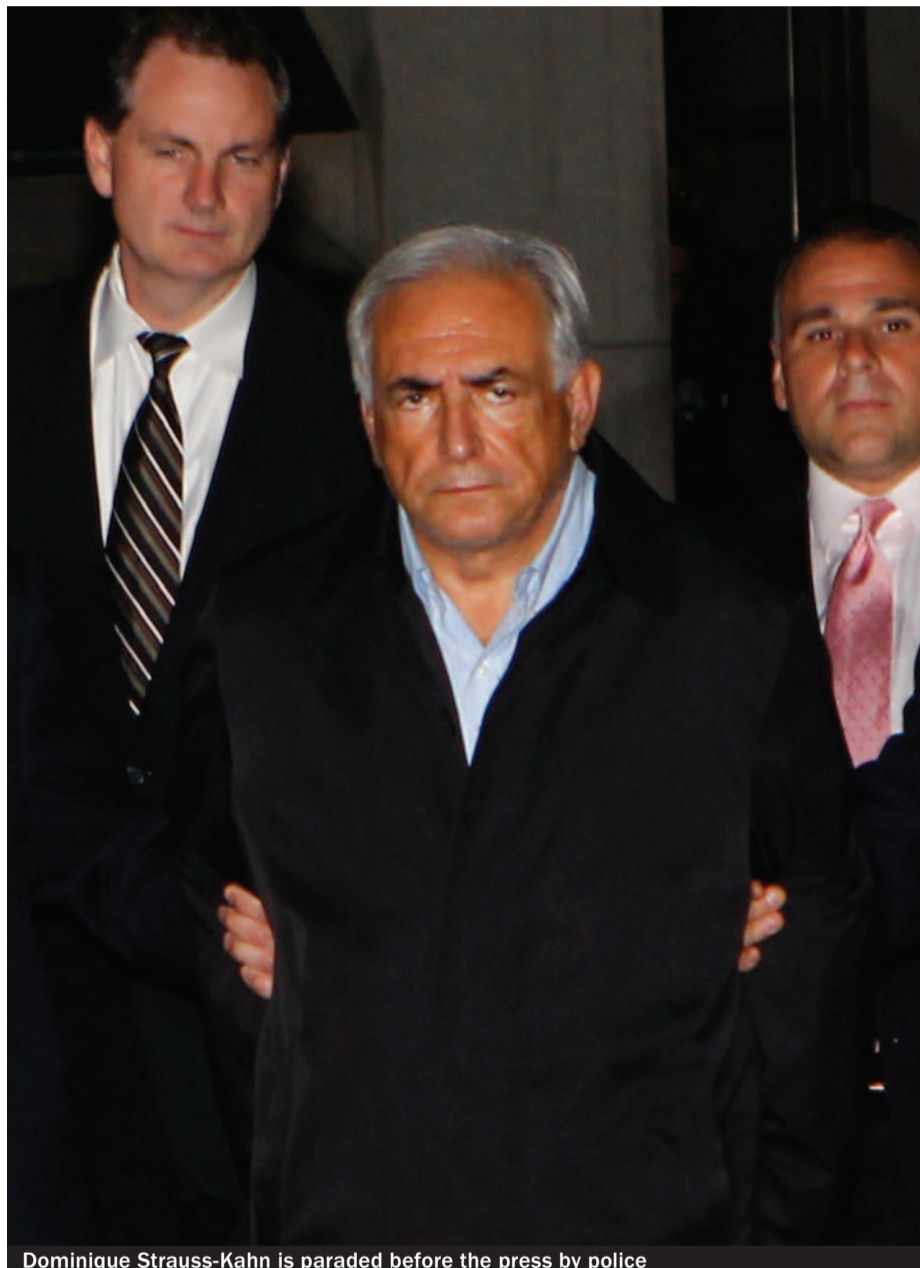
The alleged victim, a 32-year old woman from the Bronx, identified him during a police lineup. She claims that he came out of his bathroom naked, ran after her, attempted to forcibly have sex with her, and forced her to perform oral sex on him.

Benjamin Brafman, Strauss-Kahn's attorney and one of the most famous lawyers in the United States (he has previously defended Michael Jackson and Jay-Z and is dubbed "the man to have on speed-dial when you're in really big trouble") stated that his client "denied all charges against him", and that he would "clear his good name". After the court hearing and the denial of bail, Mr. Brafman told reporters: "The battle has just begun".

Following the announcement of his arrest, reactions from political leaders in France and in Europe quickly emerged. Both members of the Parti Socialiste and Nicolas Sarkozy's UMP reacted with sympathy, expressing "sadness, shock and bewilderment". Others expressed their belief that the affair might in fact be a "setup" relating to Strauss-Kahn political influence and power. Contrasting with most responses, Bernard Debré, another member of UMP, called Strauss-Kahn a "sex offender", and said that his arrest had "humiliated France". Marine Le Pen, President of the Front National, France's main far-right party said that "[she] wasn't surprised".

It has been long known that DSK (as we call him in France) is a ladies' man. In 2008, he was accused of using his influence at the IMF to coerce one of his employees (who was married at the time) into engaging in an affair with him. He was cleared of charges of harassment and abuse of power and later apologised for what he called "a serious error of judgment". His private life had never had any consequence on his career until now and many French politicians before him had had affairs, which never seemed to bother the public opinion.

As head of the IMF, DSK has had a pivotal role in bailing out countries such as Ireland and



Dominique Strauss-Kahn is paraded before the press by police

Portugal. The institution, which had a marginal role before the crisis of 2008, emerged as one of the most important and influential actors of global economy under his leadership, and he was widely praised for giving more power to emerging countries and changing the IMF's image to that of an institution that helps countries in difficulty instead of starving them. At the time of his arrest, he was due to meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin in order to convince her to support another bailout for Greece.

Many questions remain unanswered regarding his arrest and the crimes he has allegedly committed. According to initial statements from the NYPD, the alleged assault occurred at 1pm, in DSK's room at the Sofitel New York. Following this, reports came in that he had already checked out of the hotel and was having lunch with his daughter at the time of the alleged assault, after which the NYPD stated that the assault had in fact occurred at noon. Police are still trying to determine whether DSK left

the hotel in a hurry, and have also collected DNA from the alleged crime scene.

In France, photos of DSK wearing handcuffs during his transfer to Manhattan Criminal Court shocked people and since the denial of bail, criticism has emerged in French media regarding the handling of the case by American justice. Some have denounced the "perp walk" (intentional parading of a suspect) he was subjected to as "humiliating" and "unfair", as he is still presumed innocent.

Strauss-Kahn was expected to resign from his post as Managing Director of the IMF in order to stand in his party's primary elections (scheduled in late June), during which members of the Party choose the Socialist Presidential Candidate. Many believed he was the only candidate who could modernise France, and in spite of his previous affairs, he was expected to win by a landslide and then defeat Nicolas Sarkozy in May 2012.

This scandal, however, has probably ended his political career earlier than expected.

### The world beyond College walls



Ireland

**The Queen has paid an historic visit to the Republic of Ireland.** This is the first time a British monarch has visited the country since it became independent in 1922. The visit is seen by many as a sign of vastly improved relations between the island republic and its former colonial rulers. The trip has caused controversy with some republican groups in the country who view the Queen's presence as insensitive to the island's history. As well as mounting poorly attended protests, dissidents also planted two devices; one a hoax and the other a viable pipe bomb on a bus to Dublin. The Queen will pay tribute to the 50,000 Irish soldiers who died in the First World War and lay a wreath commemorating Irish republicans who fought against British rule.



Syria

**A mass grave was uncovered in the city of Deraa, the centre of protests in recent weeks.** 13 bodies were found by residents last week. The bodies include 5 members of one family, including 3 children. Pro regime news sources confirmed the existence of 5 of the bodies but the government itself has flatly denied the reports. The discovery comes after weeks of pro-democracy protests which began in Syria on the 19th of March, following similar movements across the Middle East and North Africa. The regime's crack-down on the protests has killed at least 500 people, lining the streets of Deraa with tanks.



USA

**Arnold Schwarzenegger has admitted to fathering a child with a member of his household staff.** In a letter to the Los Angeles Times, the retired governor and actor admitted to having an affair with a long serving member of staff ten years ago. The announcement goes some way to explaining his recently announced divorce with his wife of 25 years, Maria Shriver. In a remorseful letter, the one time Mr Universe also said that he did not tell his wife of the affair until after leaving political office.

Technology Editor: **Feroz Salam**

# TECHNOLOGY

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## Tips & Hacks

### BillMonitor



If you feel like you're being gouged by your mobile carrier you may want to head on over to [www.bill-monitor.com](http://www.bill-monitor.com) to find out how bad the situation really is and what your alternatives are. The website, 'built by mathematicians in Oxford' (clearly superior to say, mathematicians in London), pulls usage and billing data from your online billing account and attempts to find you a mobile plan better than the one you're already on. The website boasts that it's 'the only mobile comparison site approved by Ofcom', and features some neat graphics to show you exactly where you can rack up the savings on your bill. According to the figures on the website, 75% of us pay up to £200/year more than we really have to for our phones, sizeable savings for only 5 minutes of your time.

### Cabs from last night



Vodafone has made a somewhat halfhearted push towards getting you to use your mobile as a debit card with the launch of 500 Union Jack bedecked cabs that have been running across London since the 4<sup>th</sup> of May.

Not only will the cabs allow you to express your patriotic sentiments in these post-Royal Wedding times but if you're a Vodafone customer you will also be able to pay your fare by texting a special number at the end of your journey. The fare will be added on to your monthly bill, which means that fumbling hopelessly outside a cashpoint at one in the morning should soon be a thing of the past. If, you know, you manage to spot one of the 500 cabs in a city as big as London. With all major operators throwing their weight behind NFC technology, which will allow you to wave certain phones in front of a terminal to pay, this seems to be little more than a neat gimmick. Enjoy it, but don't count on it.

# Driverless cars on the way

Google pushing for legalisation in the US



A car that goes where you want to go without you having to drive it? Basically Google have invented the taxi, whoopdee doo...

### Feroz Salam

If iPads and eReaders don't make the journey into university feel futuristic enough, meet their hair-raisingly modern companion, the driverless car.

Nothing more than a pipe dream for decades, Google has spent the last few months showing off its fleet of driverless Prii (that, shockingly enough, is the 'official' plural of Prius). The cars can wheel through a complicated maze of cones in a parking lot at a remarkable 50mph, and have had thousands of miles of practice on California's state highways. With reports that a Google engineer has actually been testing the car on his daily commute to work and similar experiments happening at Mercedes and Volk-

## "Will drunken driving still pose the danger it used to?"

swagen, it's definitely more a question of when rather than whether these robotic chauffeurs hit the road.

Expectedly, Google would rather this be sooner than later, and news emerged late last week that the company has quietly been pushing for legalisation of these vehicles on state highways in Nevada. With a little bit of foresight, they are also pushing for laws prohibiting texting while driving to be revoked, seeing

as their vision of the future doesn't involve anyone actually doing much driving.

It's not all about the decadence of a voice-activated, GPS-driven hybrid, though. Vehicle manufacturers have for a long time argued that AI driven cars will allow for much better traffic management, fewer accidents and savings on gas bills.

There's still a lot that has to be ironed out before getting these cars out to the showrooms; the legal ramifications are massive. Will drunken driving still pose the danger it used to? Should the legal 'driving' age be lowered drastically? Would you trust your car to pick your child up from school by itself? It's exciting and scary in equal measure, and it's about to become very real.

# Never leave your charger behind again

### Samuel Gibbs

There's not much to say about the Scosche IPUSBM except that it's one of the most useful things you can carry if you're an iPhone, iPod or iPad user. About the size of a £2 coin, the mini marvel is a hardy USB to iDevice cable, which unfolds to about 13cm long. The clever design of the IPUSBM means that both the USB and the dock connectors are protected when collapsed, meaning you can sling it in a pocket without having to worry about it breaking or the connectors scratching anything. You can even attach it to a keychain with the built-in eyelet. Brilliant.



If you've ever been caught short without an iPod cable, or want a compact one for travelling, at the same price as an official Apple cable (£15), the Scosche is well worth considering.

# TECHNOLOGY

In 1986 the BBC launched an ambitious campaign to repeat the Domesday Book collection of data in the 11th Century. The information was thought lost, a victim to digital obsolescence which is when a form of data storage becomes unreadable due to outdated technology. Through the perseverance and hard work of many at the BBC and The National Archives, the data gathered by over 1 million people has now been made public again after 25 years.

In 1086 William the Conqueror commissioned a survey of the people of England with particular attention to the land and resources owned by residents. It was an attempt to work out the extent of taxes that he could charge in direct correlation to the amount of land that the citizens owned. The two huge Domesday books took a year to complete and William had died before they were finished. Today though, they are described by historians as one of the most important artefacts of the Middle Ages. The books give insight into daily life for the English as well as important population distribution statistics.

Obviously this is a topic most talked about in school history lessons but it's valid amongst the technology pages because in 1983 an ambitious television producer, Peter Armstrong, at the BBC decided it would be a great idea to repeat the data collection ideas of William the Conqueror but with a technological twist.

Instead of a traditional modern age census this would contain photographs, accurate local area, town and city descriptions as well as accounts of the daily lives of people from all around the country. It was treated as national campaign and was taken up rapidly by local education authorities, schools, colleges and many individuals and families nationwide. Imperial College's own lecturer Gareth Mitchell was in secondary school at the time and vividly recalls being asked back by his primary school as he was one of the only people that knew how to program the BBC microcomputer with their information.

## A mammoth task

Armstrong, whose idea the whole thing was, recruited leading technological minds to the BBC including George North, head of innovation. Overall they had more than 16GB of data (a staggering amount back then) in the form of 1 inch tapes of photographs (in full HD), programmed documents on disks created by the BBC Model B microcomputer from schools all around the country and many papers related to census data and news.

It took two years of consultation, hard work and the finest minds to digitise the information. In 1986 the most prevalent way of transferring information between computers was the 5 ¼ inch floppy disc and unfortunately they were only capable of carrying a maximum 1.2 MB of information. North battled with



## Can we simply 'Ctrl+S' our past?

Jake Lea-Wilson explores the challenges that lie behind 'futureproofing' our history

the problem and eventually it was settled to use an up and coming data storage called Laserdisc. These discs were the size of vinyl records and looked like the CDs we use today. The information was encoded on the discs and the computer along with laserdisc player and Domesday discs were sold as a package for around £5000. At the time this was the same price as a decent car so few schools could afford the package. A few libraries and LEAs bought the system but it was far from a wide distribution.

**“What good was a digital archive that only lasted just over a decade when the original Domesday books had lasted over nine hundred years?”**

People became angry that the information they had so painstakingly collected couldn't be seen easily. As time passed the project was continually referenced as a prime example of digital obsolescence. It was only accessible by fewer and fewer machines each year. By 2002 there were barely a handful of machines capable of reading the discs left in the world. What good was a digital archive that only lasted just over a decade when the original Domesday books had lasted over nine hundred years?

Several efforts were made to restore the discs but ended in failure due to lack of budgets or arguments over the way the project should be represented. Computer clubs maintained that the most important factor of the restoration should be the meticulous recreation of BBC microcomputers exactly as they were created. Archivists argued that the data was the most important thing and it should be extracted for use on any modern computer.

## Saved at last

Eventually another producer at the BBC, Alex Mansfield, was inspired to

retrieve the data and make it available to the public through the internet. He got back in touch with George North, who felt that he had “unfinished business” with the project so was all too happy to start the lengthy process of data retrieval. The original 1 inch tapes were found and scanned, the laserdiscs were converted to a new digital format that could be read by more machines and the map of the UK which held the locations of all the data was resurrected. It took a lot of patience to recreate the technology of 1986 but eventually it paid off.

## Online future

The obvious question is how can we guarantee that this won't happen again? The most important thing when it comes to data preservation and archiving is selecting a safe environment and suitably sustainable conditions surrounding the data. I'm not referring to the direct atmospheric conditions, although this is important, but to the monetary and political situations of the company that retains the information.

The BBC is subject to fashions and budget cuts and wasn't able to keep

updating the data onto new storage formats and it was hence almost lost forever. That's why they have approached the National Archives in Kew to maintain the data. The National Archives are funded directly by the government and thus are a lot more stable. They have over 11 million categories in their catalogue which doesn't sound like much but as an example the First World War, just one item in the catalogue, has over 35km of linear corridors full of information. They know how to keep information safe. Tim Gollins, head of Digital Preservation at the National Archives told me why it will work this time around. “It doesn't matter how good the technology is, it matters where the data is. It's in HTML on the web and the probability is that we'll be able to read this in many years time as the technology is ubiquitous, this is why it will be safer.”

The BBC has now launched its own Domesday website at [www.bbc.co.uk/domesday](http://www.bbc.co.uk/domesday) and is fully searchable by postcode. Furthermore there are options to update the information and upload more photos and writings to be preserved for the future (hopefully more successfully this time).

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# COMMENT

## FELIX

### Our loyalties lie with the future, not the past

Any group of students enjoying a pleasant summer's day on the Queen's Lawn would be encouraged to look around them at the surrounding architecture. It is fair to suppose that bewilderment and dissatisfaction will be more common reactions than, say, appreciation for a consistent architectural style.

A common lament among students and staff at this university is that the administration must have lost its head halfway through the last century, when the awful folly was committed of tearing down most of the original campus. Nowhere is this visual mismatch more evident than on Prince Consort Road. The Royal Albert Hall, the Royal School of Mines, and the Royal School of Music, all fantastic specimens of Victorian architecture sit incongruously alongside the dreary Roderic Hill building and the Blackett Laboratory (the prefix 'Royal' would seem to be a convenient indicator of architectural worth).

It is worth understanding why the imposing buildings that once occupied our campus were dismantled and destroyed. Otherwise we might be inclined to entirely dismiss our predecessors as reckless Modernists, ignorant or uncaring of the cultural crimes they were committing.

Imperial College London was an institution of approximately 1,500 students, at a time of an emergency shortage in technical university places. The government at the time decreed that the College would expand to meet this national need, with little concern for the feasibility of such an increase. In particular, the buildings bequeathed by the Victorians were not fit for purpose.

What role could ageing though beautiful Victorian museums of outdated laboratory equipment play in the functioning of a modern university? Far better to decide, as the College administration of the time seems to have done, to spare no expense in building, say, the finest Physics department in the country.

There is indeed a touch of nobility in the arrogance with which this university decided that it had the authority, at that moment in time, to decide that such splendid architectural works were disposable in the name of progress.

This irreverence for irrelevance sharply parallels the aims of science itself: a scientist should have no regard for the toes stepped on in the search for truth.

The nature of science, after all, is to search for the depth of complexity which underlies the apparently simple. How perversely ironic would it be for us to pursue those aims in buildings whose facades were beautifully preserved but whose interiors were outdated and inefficient?

# Memory overload

Cramming for exams can give you infectious habits



## Rhys Davies

**"It was much worse than pneumonia - it was mnemonia"**

I hope ope you all had a nice break over Easter. I certainly hope it was better than mine. Foolishly, I fell ill.

It began with a bit of a runny nose and I thought it was nothing. Then I started running a temperature and I just could not catch my breath. By the third day, I felt like death with a hang-over. Reluctantly, I dragged myself to the doctor's while my family painted crosses on the front door. I thought it was a bad case of pneumonia. I was wrong. It was much worse than that – it was Mnemonia.

Mnemonia is a strange and curious disease. Medical students are at an increased risk of contracting it but it can affect anyone with a lot to learn and limited neural space. There is usually a spike around this time of year when revising students are frantically packing their minds with odd phrases and silly ditties far faster than is considered safe, or normal. Occasionally, it has proved fatal.

When most people get a chest infection, they complain of a hacking cough. I instead developed an acronym cough. Every five minutes, I would splutter out anything from AIDS to Y2K. At times, I was horribly, horribly infectious – other times, I was just an annoying computer glitch.

This was a minor inconvenience. My main complaint was my inability to speak in anything other than catchy mnemonics. It started out innocuous enough; when asked what I wanted to eat, responding with, "My Very Early Morning Jam Sandwich Usually Needs Pepper," earned me a slightly eclectic but still edible breakfast.

However, when I was stopped for direction by some tourists, they took my reply, "Some Lovers Try Positions That They Can't Handle," as a rather person-



Mwhahahaha, puny human, that mask won't save you!

al slur against them, rather than a way of remembering the bones of the wrist. I could see they were getting angry so I tried to explain. "Oh, Oh, Oh, To Touch And Feel Virgin Girls' Vaginas. Such Heaven," also fell foul. To cut a long story short, a rare sequela of Mnemonia is an increased risk of black eyes.

This saw me journey to A&E. Staffed by doctors, the matured form of the medical student, I thought someone might understand my plight. After all, this was one of those quirky, fine-print diseases you only ever read about in books. My giddy anticipation unfortunately made my mouth run. "Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain! Every Good Boy Deserves a Favour! Bad Beer Rots Our Young Guts But Vodka Goes Well!"

Naturally, they thought I was either drunk or mad or both, as any sane person might reason. They promptly gave me a cold shower, a sprinkling of electro-convulsive therapy and fumigated my uterus, just for good measure. This failed to treat the Mnemonia but I was much more careful about speaking now, so they deemed me cured.

In the past, sufferers of Mnemonia were cast out from society, left to wander in the wilderness. They were

**Mnemonia is a strange and curious disease. It can affect anyone with a lot to learn and limited neuronal space**

checked occasionally to see if they were spouting any particularly relevant prophecies – you would be surprised at the number of doomsdays we have avoided thanks to the Mnemonites.

But this is the twenty-first century – we have journeyed far from those days of superstition and orthopaedic surgery. My problem was that I was bursting with too many mnemonics – my brainstem was being strangled by *aides-mémoire*. Somehow, I had to get the excess mnemonics off and out of my frontal cortex. One last mnemonic came to mind. Kiss – Keep It Simple, Stupid.

So I self-medicated by hitting my head against a brick wall until all the dangerous knowledge came out and I felt empty again. The ironic thing was this was very similar to how I felt before I started learning those damn mnemonics to start with.

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



## COMMENT



A year after he joined the Conservatives in coalition, he has gone from national hero to possibly the most hated man in Britain, but...

## CAN NICK CLEGG REDEEM HIMSELF?



### Yes – Sam Horti

“I believe that labelling Nick Clegg as some sort of traitor is both naïve and reactionary”

It seems that the public have decided, almost unanimously, that Nick Clegg is a “sell-out” who has betrayed Liberal Democrat voters. Most of the contempt felt towards the Deputy Prime Minister seems to stem from the Coalition’s tuition fees policy, which will come into effect in September 2012.

As we all know, the abolition of tuition fees was an important component of the Lib Dem’s manifesto before the 2010 general election, and there is no doubt the promises they made attracted many young voters. These promises have not come to fruition. I believe, however, that labelling Nick Clegg as some sort of traitor is both naïve and reactionary.

It is clear to me that the Lib Dems played very little part in deciding tuition fee policy. We are talking about a coalition in which Conservatives outnumber Lib Dems six to one in both the cabinet and the House of Commons. We cannot seriously think that this idea is anything other than Conservative-driven, or that scrapping tuition fees was ever on the table. Any attempt at implementing the Lib Dem manifesto on the matter would have been quashed at an early stage – which is fair enough. After all, the Conservatives received the highest number of votes, so it seems right that they decide policy. To say that the fact that tuition fees were not abolished shows that Nick Clegg cannot be trusted grossly overestimates his influence. This is not a 50/50 coalition, far from it. This is a government run by David Cameron, who occasionally tosses his deputy a political bone to keep him on side.

Despite this, some people will still ask “Why didn’t Nick Clegg fight harder for his cause?” I feel this type of question makes wholly unreasonable demands of the Lib Dem leader. Early in the coalition, questions about the stability of the government were rife, and the coalition was desperately clinging on to any sense of togetherness it could muster. Was Nick Clegg really going to publicly

distance himself from the Conservatives to fight a battle he was doomed to lose? It may have placated some of his supporters, but in turn it would have given the public an insight into the lack of cohesion between the two parties.

It appears to me that the general failure to understand the Government’s policy on tuition fees has further fanned the flames of the dislike for Nick Clegg. I wish that people would read the fine print, which itself is very easily obtained. Of course, if they did care to do more than a moment of research on the matter they would no doubt concede that this policy, given the economic landscape, is entirely acceptable.

It is, as the Government constantly tells us, a “fair” system, in which the poorest third of young people pay less, offset by those earning high salaries. Students only pay when they earn over £21,000/annum, up from the previous figure of £15,000/annum. If people read the facts and thought objectively, there would no doubt be a lot less animosity on the matter.

Not only do I say that the general feeling towards Nick Clegg is unfounded, I say that we should be thankful for the selfless act the Lib Dems have committed. They went into the coalition knowing they would have to concede ground on every front, and that this, inevitably, would cost them votes. However, without them we would not have a stable government.

I would ask those who are so quick to belittle Clegg to make a choice in their own minds. They can either have a Liberal Democrat leader who fulfills their own personal desires by attempting to force his manifesto upon David Cameron, or a stable government in which Nick Clegg conducts himself with subtlety. I would say that anyone who prefers the first option is being a little selfish. On the issue of tuition fees, they were simply outranked. I cannot see how Nick Clegg can be to blame for going back on his word when his influence on the matter was next to nothing. Unfortunately, as long as Nick Clegg’s input stays, as it must do, out of the public eye, his integrity will continue to be doubted.



### No – Tim Arbabzadah

“Being “in power” for the sake of it is pointless, unless you use it to do some good”

So, I am here to argue about why Nick Clegg is a turbo douchebag. Typical student gripes about tuition fees, broken pledges, blah blah blah. I will address that very quickly right now. He said, during the tuition fee row, that he regretted making the pledge saying “I should have been more careful.” Making it sound as if it is something he did on a drunken night out and woke up hoping it was just a dream. Yeah, but that is just the tip of the asshole-iceberg.

Delving a little deeper we find more examples of general butt-wiper. One prime example is the shamefully poor attempts to justify abandoning policies that he previously said that he believed in. For example, he said that he changed his mind about the cuts. Not after the election, but actually before the election. When asked if he had changed his mind during the coalition talks he said “I changed my mind earlier than that.” This instead of telling the truth, which would have been less impressive, and would have consisted of “I had absolutely zero say, but now have to pretend I agree with the cuts.” I mean to be fair to him, it is not as though he had any TV debates or other opportunities to inform the public, or indeed his own party, on a crucial U-turn on policy.

Please do not think I fail to understand that the pro-Clegg argument is in a nut shell: He is doing what he has to do to try and do the best for this country, this is the best way he can actually have some power and influence etc (cue: power ballad with picture of him shirtless, hair blowing in the wind). The trouble is he is intelligent enough to know that this is not true, as he is not really doing anything at the moment. He got a referendum on AV, which was never really what the Liberal Democrats wanted, they have been talking about PR for years. Apart from that, it is hard to see any of the major Lib Dem policies being acted upon. He is essentially starring in a play as Tony Blair opposite

Cameron’s George Bush (1\* - terrible acting, impeccable stage management and makeup though).

Yeah, the Liberal Democrats are “in power”, but that means nothing if all you get is a few people with some meaningless titles. Being “in power” for the sake of it is pointless, unless you use it to do some good. For example: If I were Dmitry Medvedev, which I will be the first to admit that I am not, I would be the President of Russia. However, Putin would be the one making all the choices. What would I have except for a title in front of my name?

He had other options to get real influence. He could have told Cameron to form a minority government and that, while he would not have destabilised the government by constantly voting everything down, they would have to moderate their policies to get him on side. This would give him an incredible amount of power and say in policy discussions. It would not have given him a cool title though, or the ability to go and do things like addressing the UN, and networking with people who now know who the \*\*\*\* you are. He had a choice between power and a title. He chose the latter over the former, and is continuing to choose it.

He currently has the option to just say no, and that way he will be actually voting something down in parliament. However, this could destabilise the very position that he needs to use to get his policies through.

Oh, it all makes sense now. He is unable to influence policy. If he did he would lose the position that enables him to influence policy, thus stopping him being able to influence policy. It is a vicious cycle. So he is staying quiet and toe-ing the line, and using Vince Cable as a human announcement shield.

I like thinking the best of people, so I will just hope he is naïve and thought he could really do something in his position. I will give him another chance with the NHS reforms, as maybe he will stand up, find his conscience, and realise it is not needed or wanted. More likely he will not and my prize will be a crushing sense of the injustice in the world. Yey me.

# COMMENT

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## I want a good war...

There is nothing like the threat of being shot in the head, for reassurance. And whether or not the threat of that has befallen you, and I hope not, on the world's stage there seems to be something of a trend of conflict resolution and a supremacy of liberal ideals. The conflict in northern Ireland seems at an end, there is continued progress of the democracy in South Africa, and the death of Osama Bin Laden signally a deep-if-not-fatal blow to the war on the faceless enemy of terrorism. Yes, terrorism and not 'terror'. Only Lynn Truss can be said to wage war on a verb.

A successful state visit of H.M. the Queen to Ireland seems a bit of an obvious thing now, or at least one that should attract little drama. However, thirty or even twenty years ago, when those claiming to be the IRA were still bombing parts of England, a state visit was unthinkable. However, successive governments have made a real effort to resolve the seemingly unresolvable conflict and so despite Oliver Cromwell's manifest incompetence, the situation is measurably on the mend. With 20-20 hindsight it is not hard to see why – no one wants to feel they are in conflict, not really. It is too much effort and affords too much waste to be sustainable. There is every likelihood that such conflict is an adaptation to mitigate population growth, much good that has done up against our survival instincts.

The change in the democracy in South Africa is perhaps less easy to see. Certainly, in the recent political activity there politicians have been quoted saying that the focus should be on the issues. Impressive stuff for a country with a democracy less than twenty years old and one in a continent riddled with tribal conflict. Perhaps states in north Africa will also adopt this tack in the future, once their democracies are established.

The faceless war on terrorism is perhaps harder to measure, but the apparent focus by intelligence services on it and lack of activity in the western world since 2005 suggests that that this too is losing its sting. We cannot tell what sort of cover-up, if any, there is by Islamic or any other fundamentalists. However, if all the said extremists blow themselves up, there will not be any left to hurt us or the religion they claim to represent anyway.

This gives us a peculiar quiet though. Throughout my childhood there was endless conflict – middle east, former Yugoslavia, Chechnya, you name it. Of course not everywhere is stable and safe – it is not really safe until Margaret Beckett goes there on a caravanning holiday if you ask me – but at least for the minute we have relative calm. Let us enjoy it while we can.

**Samuel Furse**

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## National pride and prejudice



**Ben Scally**

**“But why break up the Union? Is it simply national pride or something more?”**

**I** like England. No really, I do. But it is not something I would readily admit to as a Scotsman living 'abroad'.

Maybe it is your unfriendly commuters, your casual racism, or your chalky water that is slowly calcifying my kettle into a solid chunk of limestone that oddly resembles the cliffs of Dover. Whatever it is, it has burrowed its way into my heart and it is there to stay.

It is no surprise then that I feel frustrated by the recent results of the Scottish Parliament election – a landslide victory for the Scottish National Party (SNP). Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP, has promised to hold a referendum on Scottish independence in the next four years. But why break up the Union? Is it simply national pride or something more?

I have learned to understand Scottish pride. I attended a school named after William Wallace (Braveheart to you) built on the site of an historic battlefield, where Scots fought against, you guessed it, the English.

But pride can have the power to alienate people too. Scotland's obsession with its nationalistic dreams risks isolating her from her closest neighbours. English people have become bored with the Scots' unending patriotism and stopped caring about whether or not Scotland stays in the Union, but that is exactly what the nationalists want.

Alex Salmond and the SNP have presented a

mockery of what it means to be Scottish. They have re-written history as if all Scots ever did was roam the Highlands chasing the mythical haggis and fighting the English. But if this is the country I am supposed to take pride in, it is not a country I recognise. I have not suddenly become a Scotsman faced by a 'crisis of identity'. It is just that there is more to the country I was born in than what is written on the side of a pack of 'Scott's Porage Oats'.

Scotland put its clans and conflicts behind it hundreds of years ago, to make the great intellectual contribution to the Enlightenment of which Voltaire said "we look to Scotland for all our ideas of civilisation". It produced The Glasgow Boys who, in the 19th century, put Scotland on the art-world map by leading on from the European impressionist movement. And its capital, Edinburgh, the UNESCO City of Literature, now holds the world's largest performing arts festival every year. None of these achievements could have been possible without connecting with the world beyond national borders.

Our only hope is that there are enough people in Scotland who can look to the future rather than dwelling on ancient rivalries, to vote against independence in a referendum. And enough English people who can tolerate the Scots. We need to look past national pride, historic dogma and the colours on our flags. So much so, that we can share this small island in the Atlantic Ocean together.

## Education: not a luxury item



**Angry Geek**

**“The purpose of education isn't to serve the country, it is to serve everyone”**

**T**he old adage about not discussing religion or politics with people is not to avoid arguments, it is because doing so makes one far too aware of how completely objectionable every other human being on the planet is. I found this out last week while responding to various opinions on the education sodomy I wrote about. People whom I had previously considered to be mildly disagreeable pieces of raw white onion in the otherwise tasty salad of life are suddenly revealed to be flecks of grated cat scrotum dipped in vomit. And the only seasonings available to mask the taste are blind ignorance and seething acceptance.

Although many people seem opposed to the notion that anyone should be able to bypass parts of the application process, others seem to have quite different opinions about what education is actually for. By wildly different I of course mean, wrong. This has surprised me when really it should not have, since most of you are so wrong we could start awarding honorary doctorates in it.

While discussing education reform with people, I came across a lot of opinions about what Universities are supposed to be doing, and some of the things I heard said that Universities were really part of the economy. Big technology University institutions, such as Imperial, are there to help keep the economy vibrant and full of educated people, and that arts and humanities courses were – and I am quoting one of you here – a luxury.

Anything can be treated as a luxury in life. You simply take it away from people or start charging

for it, it becomes a luxury. Spotify – now a luxury. The NHS – presumably soon to become a luxury. Something is not a luxury just because you do not see the point in it, however. And this is precisely why protecting our Universities and undergraduate students is so important.

The purpose of education is not to serve the country, it is to serve everyone. It is to produce people who are capable of thinking twice before allowing their vote to be swayed by a photo of a sad baby in a helmet. People who thrive when challenged individually instead of wilting and looking for the nearest bandwagon. People who know that there is no point buying supermarket-brand cheese because you are only cheating yourself. In economics, education is one of the most precious and important services possible. Anyone can use an education once you have given it to them. They do not deprive people of the resource while they use it, and it neither depreciates nor runs out. There is no such thing as a luxury degree course; if people out there are passionate about golf course management, and willing to apply themselves to understand it, then so be it.

It is tempting to think of the University system as being one of those 'government policy areas' like the NHS or the armed forces, but it is important for everyone that we give it as much autonomy as possible, and that when we do interfere it is to make it more accessible, not less. If we start chopping up the education of our children based on what is going to make us money in the short term, we will find ourselves a soulless nation of fast-food chains, all staffed by PhD graduates.

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Photo by Thea Powell

## ARTS

**Poem for the week****Extract from 'Ode to a Nightingale'  
by John Keats**

MY heart aches, and a drowsy numbness pains  
My sense, as though of hemlock I had drunk,  
Or emptied some dull opiate to the drains  
One minute past, and Lethe-wards had sunk:  
'Tis not through envy of thy happy lot,  
But being too happy in thine happiness,  
That thou, light-wingèd Dryad of the trees,  
In some melodious plot  
Of beechen green, and shadows numberless,  
Singest of summer in full-throated ease.

O for a draught of vintage! that hath been  
Cool'd a long age in the deep-delvèd earth,  
Tasting of Flora and the country-green,  
Dance, and Provençal song, and sunburnt mirth!  
O for a beaker full of the warm South!  
Full of the true, the blushful Hippocrene,  
With beaded bubbles winking at the brim,  
And purple-stainèd mouth;  
That I might drink, and leave the world unseen,  
And with thee fade away into the forest dim:

Fade far away, dissolve, and quite forget  
What thou among the leaves hast never known,  
The weariness, the fever, and the fret  
Here, where men sit and hear each other groan;  
Where palsy shakes a few, sad, last grey hairs,  
Where youth grows pale, and spectre-thin, and dies;  
Where but to think is to be full of sorrow  
And leaden-eyed despairs;  
Where beauty cannot keep her lustrous eyes,  
Or new Love pine at them beyond to-morrow.

Away! away! for I will fly to thee,  
Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards,  
But on the viewless wings of Poesy,  
Though the dull brain perplexes and retards:  
Already with thee! tender is the night,  
And haply the Queen-Moon is on her throne,  
Cluster'd around by all her starry Fays  
But here there is no light,  
Save what from heaven is with the breezes blown  
Through verdurous glooms and winding mossy ways.

I cannot see what flowers are at my feet,  
Nor what soft incense hangs upon the boughs,  
But, in embalmèd darkness, guess each sweet  
Wherewith the seasonable month endows  
The grass, the thicket, and the fruit-tree wild;  
White hawthorn, and the pastoral eglantine;  
Fast-fading violets cover'd up in leaves;  
And mid-May's eldest child,  
The coming musk-rose, full of dewy wine,  
The murmurous haunt of flies on summer eves.

Darkling I listen; and, for many a time  
I have been half in love with easeful Death,  
Call'd him soft names in many a musèd rhyme,  
To take into the air my quiet breath;  
Now more than ever seems it rich to die,  
To cease upon the midnight with no pain,  
While thou art pouring forth thy soul abroad  
In such an ecstasy!  
Still wouldst thou sing, and I have ears in vain—  
To thy high requiem become a sod.

**WE PAY AT THE V&A**

The V&A is the perfect place for a lunchbreak, but the paid exhibitions showing until July might be an extra treat

Laus Veneris, Edward Burne-Jones



Jeez, all this chilling is really getting on top of me guys, seriously, I can't take it any more. Can we take an exam or something?

**Those gorgeous Victorians  
Drunk on the Aesthetic movement at The Cult Of Beauty****Maisie Russ**

Between 1860 and 1900, something extraordinary happened. A group of artists rebelled against the prevailing Victorian mood of the tiny but demure middle-class and unleashed upon Victorian England art for art's sake, a movement which worshipped the sensuous and delightful, the Aesthetic movement (1860-1900).

From its beginnings with Dante Gabriel Rossetti and the painters and writers he corralled, through the decadence of their portraiture, and the furniture and pottery made to fill the homes of wealthy aesthetes, through the weather of criticism and derision to the turn of the new century, this huge exhibition covers every detail thoroughly.

The gallery attempts to capture the lavish opulence of the Aesthetes with richly coloured lighting, recorded voices purring lines of prose and curly-typefaced notices, but you hardly need them. From the enormous oil-paintings to the reconstruction of fashionable rooms, fantastical furniture and sculpture, it is certainly

a treasure trove.

Whether you enjoy the aesthetic of the aesthetes is another matter, although devoted apparently to the appreciation of beauty itself, these artists had concrete ideas about what that entailed, and it reminds a modern audience how our tastes have changed.

The air of languor which pervades the ideal throughout is weighty, in a rebellion against the modesty of buttoned-up society. It is amusing for this modern congregation to see the lifeless, mid-distance gaze of the muses which drove some of the artists to the height of obsession, until their laudanum-induced deaths. Not that all the portraiture follows Rossetti's dopey, sultry models, for me a major highlight were Whistler's gorgeously toned paintings which

capture people in an ideal light, without losing their animation. Whistler's etchings of London too are sweet representations of the city in delightful detail. Further on, you have the chance to see the ridiculous 'historical' dress and jewellery created for the newly luxurious aesthetic consumerists. There is room for Oscar Wilde and his illustrated stories, and the satirical cartoons which came hot on the heels of the fadish art-loving middle classes.

The fads are also well documented, from the blue and white pottery with which Wilde filled his student lodgings, to the Japanese obsessions coming from the opening of the closed state to the outside world. It is a heady mixture, and if not all the aesthetes are to one's taste, there is at least the (dubious) consolation of the sheer amount to look at.

Coming out of the gallery feels like emerging from a stupor into the light of the real world which the dreaming artists of over a century ago tried so hard to hide from. The idolisation of leisure and inactivity is certainly a sentiment we can all appreciate to some extent.

**"The idolisation of inactivity is a sentiment we can all appreciate"**

Martin Machapa - Zanele Muholi, courtesy of Michael Stevenson



Nope, not even a fedora will fix this calamity of an outfit

## New generation South Africa

### Figures and Fictions gives a platform to contemporary South African photographers

**Rox Middleton**

The exhibition does not hold back, photos are large enough to step well away from, and with seventeen different photographers there is plenty there to see. As well as the familiar dignified portrait style are some real surprises. Amongst them Pieter Hugo's astonishingly powerful picture of a man with a hyena, a really breathtaking piece. It is good value for money whilst being possible to visit within half an hour.

Photographs by South Africans must surely make one ask oneself why it matters that they are South Africans. It is interesting to understand what we can find out about the (dated?) concept nationality implied by this rigid labelling. These are not after all necessarily pictures of South Africans; this is the post-apartheid generation of photographs, every one taken in the last ten years and representing a huge slice of South African attitudes.

Forget exotic landscapes and beaded tribal-wear, firmly relegated to tourist brochures and Oxfam appeals, we are global now, and most of these photos

feel like they could be from anywhere; they could have sprung from more or less any part of the zeitgeisty contemporary artistic world. That is because South Africans have the same interests and causes as you and I. And yet, we know they are by South Africans. Does that change anything?

There's a real richness in the themes of the photographs, largely because I suspect, we understand that nationality does not restrict the themes of art. Many are about beauty, gender and sexuality, and interestingly so. A series of portraits of women take up a large section of the wall, South African lesbian women. Another part of a wall is dedicated just to transvestites, male South African rural transvestites.

The juxtaposition of affirming dignity and common humanity with the careful cordoning off affirmed and rigid identity is a provoking one. On the one hand, plurality is about the pride of each individual in their own identity, especially for those who have for too long been disenfranchised. On the other hand, respect for an individual and their personal identity does not actually

require the use of labels to pigeonhole people who share a particular characteristic. It is particularly interesting to see how the people of a country that is recovering from the grievous wound of apartheid choose to use the labels of identity which we all deal with every day.

The photos live up to the promise of their eloquent themes as well. The huge prints manage to push some seriously exhilarating images out of their mountings, and make the audience take a step back to enjoy them.

I think photography can be an art form that is difficult to appreciate, lacking unlike other workmanship that manual skill onto which our enthusiasm can fall back if the message of the art cannot penetrate us. The key to its appreciation, unsurprisingly, is a willing immersion in the artist's message. Only by believing that there is a message worth understanding and attempting to access it can you really enjoy and benefit from an exhibition of photography. This is no different to any other art, but I felt this exhibition especially repaid many times the effort invested in it.

## Yamamoto's fashionable life thus far

### Retrospective fails to bring designer's work to life

**Will Sanssamis**

You walk in and there is a huge hall of whiteness, just one single dazzling room, peopled throughout by the headless bodies of life-sized dolls dressed in couture clothing. Do not worry though, your £7 has got you more than just a roomful of mannequins, oh no, there is a whole audiovisual extravaganza to be had. I headed straight for the long row of TVs strung up along the wall.

This technological experience (series of videos) guides you through Yamamoto's life; a young man fresh out of law school in Tokyo who decided to follow his love for fashion through fashion tuition to his own fashion label and one of the most illustrious careers in the global fashion world.

If you have never heard of Yamamoto, you might still have felt his influence indirectly. He has pioneered androgynous clothing for women and enormously oversized clothes for men since his debut. He has shocked fashion pundits by producing ready-to-

wear ranges which look more at home on the catwalk. Yamamoto's created clothing designs for films, dancers and sports companies but the series of films on show give you a brilliant introduction to all the crazy, brilliant things he has been doing in fashion shows since the 70s.

What really strikes you from the concepts he has created in fashion is the sweetness of his insistence on utility and usefulness. It is lovely to see whole collections of clothes based on boiler suits, a show in which all the clothing was modelled by real musicians (think fifty year old men with massive accordions) who played as they watched their colleagues walk up and down.

If fashion is art then Yamamoto's certainly is, his fashion shows are voluptuous with his meaningful ideas. As well as important statements, there is no denying that the clothes are technically clever and often transformative, innovative and beautiful. Some of the coloured, folded extravaganzas are reminiscent of enormous flowers, and the most impres-

sive mannequin in the hall is dressed in just such a glory of lemon yellow.

One show featured the enactment of a wedding where the bride and groom arrived in matching black suits and proceeded to swap clothing so as to become indistinguishable. I was not sure of the message until two people wandered up behind me in the gallery complaining in horrified tones about the indecency of Kate Middleton's wedding dress and the possible visibility of her nipples. Yamamoto's fashion kills that dead in the water.

After the slick audio-visual presentation of Yamamoto's work so far, the mannequins filling the hall were a bit of a let-down. His clothes look great on people apparently but on the dolls they tend just to look a bit mis-shaped. His insistence on utility also means that many of the clothes really are a bit dull too. Given how long he has been designing, there are not that many either, although for real enthusiasts it is a good chance to have a good look at the clothes close-up.

Monica Feudi



You know what would go really well with this? A fedora...

## MUSIC

Music Editors: **Greg Power**  
**Luke Turner**  
**Stephen Smith**  
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## Album of The Week



**Kate Bush**  
*Director's Cut*  
 EMI  
 2011

**Kate Bush's** first album in six years, a rerecording of tracks from *The Red Shoes* (1993) and *The Sensual World* (1989), sees the 52-year-old mother completely reinvigorate albums which became dated very soon after release. This may sound like a cop-out, but the album is a truly fantastic aural experience which, amazingly, sounds utterly contemporary, albeit in a rather experimental way. Every single song is sublime, but the moving *Song of Solomon* and the truly haunting *This Woman's Work* really are stand-out tracks, both subtly better than the originals. The most interesting moment, however, is on the first single from the album, *Deeper Understanding*, in which Kate autotunes her voice. This is not, however, modern RnB, but a completely credible and artistic use of the hated technique. Even if you aren't a fan, the album is certainly worth a listen, if only to hear autotune used well. **Stephen Smith**

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

1. Radiohead
2. Muse
3. Daft Punk
4. The Strokes
5. Gorillaz
6. Arcade Fire
7. The Killers
8. Arctic Monkeys
9. RHCP
10. LCD Soundsystem

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

## Make sure not to miss

## Rodrigo Braga

**The Troubadour, Earl's Court**  
 Tuesday, 24th May 2011  
[www.rodri gobraga.co.uk](http://www.rodri gobraga.co.uk)

You'd be forgiven for thinking that Imperial's music scene might be slightly less developed than those of other, more art-friendly, universities. But if you think that, then you obviously haven't heard of **Rodrigo Braga**. Imperial's own guitar-wielding maestro plays a rather beautiful and original kind of funky Latin Jazz-Folk that constantly captivates with its surprising chord changes and soothing rhythms. At times with the voice of **Paul Simon** or **Stevie Wonder**, at times channelling the ghost of **Nick Drake**, Rodrigo will make you question why you haven't paid more interest to Imperial's buzzing musical underground. Fortunately, he is playing a headline gig at Earl's Court's quirkiest café, The Troubadour, this Tuesday, so get down there: it's guaranteed to be the most enjoyable way to avoid revision.

**Stephen Smith**

## Wild Balkan jungle

**Daniel Oppenheimer** kicks off the Felix Summer Festival Guide with a preview of Croatia's Outlook

**T**he idea behind Outlook Festival is straightforward: a large number of people; an 18th century fort; a strictly UK-Jamaican bass and dub sound; beach parties; boat parties and, if you need it, a coach named "The Sunshine Bus" to get you from England to Croatia.

The festival, surely the best way of rounding off the summer, takes place between the 1st and 4th of September. The line up is ridiculous (in a very good way), combining both established old-timers and relative newcomers from the scenes of dubstep, garage, dnb, jungle, dub-reggae and grime. Expect to see **Jamie XX, Ramadanman, Untold, Girl Unit, MJ Cole, Hudson Mohawke, Bok Bok, Skream, Benga, Marcus Nasty, Newham Generals, El-B, Shy FX, Barrington Levy, Channel One Sound System, Congo Natty, David Rodigan** and **Gentleman's Dub Club** to name but a few. Think of it as FWD's back catalogue meets Channel AKA when it was still called Channel U with a bit of Notting Hill Carnival thrown in for good measure.

Outlook has been running since 2008 and has grown considerably each year. If you want to sample it while it is still a relatively intimate affair then now is certainly your best bet. The first batch of tickets have sold out but festival organisers are considering the release of a sec-



It's the only festival in Europe that's held in a Mediterranean fort. Who could say no?

**Dates:** 1st - 4th September 2011  
**Location:** Pula, Croatia  
**Price:** £126.50 + Accommodation  
**Website:** [www.outlookfestival.com](http://www.outlookfestival.com)

ond batch so get yourself to [www.outlookfestival.com](http://www.outlookfestival.com) and keep your finger on the F5 button. For anyone that doesn't know that's how you refresh the page using the keyboard (big up the computing department crew inside, I know you're feeling that one).

## Reviews

## The Pigeon Detectives

*Up, Guards And At 'Em!*  
 Dance to the Radio  
 ★★★★★



## Jacob Ward

If you're a **Pigeon Detective** fan already – guilty of singing "I'm not sorry!" at the top of your voice a few summers' previously – then you'll love their new album; it's very much more of the same but, in my opinion, a lot more refined and musical, perfect to listen to during these sunny days, whether out driving with your mates or at a chilled BBQ in your back garden. Like previous songs released by The Pigeon Detectives, it takes a few listens to really get into it, but once you do, all the songs flow together and you'll know all the words pretty quickly!

For those of you who are still mulling over the title 'Pigeon Detectives', in an amused way before deciding, "yea, ill give 'em a shot!", they are a kind of mish-mash between **Oasis**, **Arctic Monkeys** and **The Wombats**, with a bit of **The Killers** thrown in for this album.

They have heavy guitar riffs with, what I like to call, solid drumming, and simple lyrics so you can instantly join in the powerful energy created by their front-man.

The opening song to the album 'She Wants Me' is a brilliant opener, getting you into the mood of the album straight away. None of the songs really stand out as the best, as is often the case with other bands, all are like a fun continuation of the last, not one song being "that one that you have to skip; they must have been having a bad recording day when they wrote that!". Their Single 'Done In Secret', the first released from this album, follows this "all equally good" feeling, but in my opinion, there are in fact better songs than this one throughout the album.

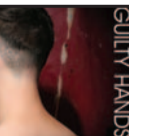
With 'Turn Out The Lights' having a very 'Champagne Supernova' feeling and 'Through The Door' providing a perfect festival crowd pleaser, there is something for everyone on this new offering by The PD, and I predict we will be hearing a lot of these songs blasting out this summer. In fact, I'll wager that you've already heard some of them as, like with many of The PD's music, you encounter many of those "Oh,

I didn't know it was them that sings this song!" moments.

The Pigeon Detectives: "Up, Guards And At 'Em!" can be found on Spotify.

## The Guilty Hands

*Razor Slicethapie*  
 ★★★★★



## Duncan Casey

An unexpected gem. Imagine, if you will, **The Cure** after a heavy night of barbiturates with **Franz Ferdinand**. In a disco. In Shoreditch. What's amazing about the single is that despite its almost self-parodying range of influences, the result is remarkable and you're left wondering why more bands haven't tried Gothic electro-pop when it's obviously such a winner. It's stylised, it's sexy and in places it's downright deviant: probably not one for the Daily Mail contingent, but then again that's a recommendation in its own right.



Books Editor: **Guo Heng Chin**[books.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:books.felix@imperial.ac.uk)**BOOKS**

# A 'biopunk' Nineteen Eighty-four

## Gene-hacking in a dystopian future

**Guo Heng Chin**

Biopunk has always been considered a mere sub-genre. But recently things are beginning to change. As genomics and biotechnology are becoming more integral in our lives, there is more interest in biotech speculative fiction. All biopunk needs is a landmark book that lifts it from its 'sub-genre' label. Paolo Bacigalupi's *The Windup Girl*, which recently became the latest recipient of the 'double crown' in science fiction (refer to article by the side) might just be the book that biopunk is looking for. It's quite something for a science fiction piece to be considered by TIME magazine to be a top 10 read of the year.

*The Windup Girl* is Bacigalupi's debut novel, although he has established himself as a sci-fi short story writer. The story is set in the near future where the exhaustion of fossil fuels led to a 'contraction' across the globe and climate change submerged major cities. Bio-engineered plagues ravaged most of Earth's biodiversity and is a constant threat to crops and human life.

Biotech mega corporations are the dominant power; they wield the brains and genetic resources to stay a step ahead in the dangerous genetic arms race against the blister rust plague by continuously creating new variants of blister rust-resistant crops and vaccines. Dubbed 'calorie companies' these corporations are despised and yet they determine the fate of nations with their crop seed monopoly.

Anderson is an AgriGen economic hitman masquerading as a kink-spring factory owner in Bangkok (in the post-oil world, energy is stored in kinkily-names springs that function like a battery). Anderson suspects that beneath the ingenuity of Thai gene-hackers, there lies a secret seed bank that provides them with the necessary genetic ma-

**"Not just an imaginative piece of escapism; it is serious speculative fiction"**

terials to build new variants of resistant crops, and the service of a rogue AgriGen gene-hacker. A fateful encounter with the alluring Emiko, a Windup Girl engineered for biological perfection would change everything.

The plot is gripping and tight. Bacigalupi manage to introduce an intricately complex future Thailand without compromising plot pace. The diverse cast of characters keeps the book fresh from beginning to end. Kudos to Bacigalupi as well for breaking the mould by setting a sci-fi story in a South East Asian country and for its eerily accurate portrayal of South East Asian politics and culture.

*The Windup Girl* is not just an imaginative piece of escapism; it is serious speculative fiction. It is a biological Nineteen Eighty Four: where George Orwell reminds us of the value of political freedom, Paolo Bacigalupi reminds us of the Eden we are stewards of and are squandering at an alarming rate.

The book gains an Inception-like flavour for its innovative 'gene-hacking' culture. Gene-hacking required intelligence and skill, and it's the monopoly of talent that allows the megacorporations to dominate. Genes of plants and animals are 'hacked' analogue to hacking a computer system to conjure new and intriguing variants of crops, fruits, animals and ultimately the creation of the New People, who are superior in every way compared to us but are made sterile; a caricature of the superior GM seeds sold to farmers in developing world which are made sterile.



*The Windup Girl* is in some way a heir to Frank Herbert's *Dune* series, written during the dawn of the environmental movement in the 60s. *Dune* warns of the disruption of the ecological cycle that sustains the desert planet Arrakis due to the greed of the people for more water. *The Windup Girl* warns us of the consequences of unbridled gene tempering and monopoly of genetic resources. Would Paolo Bacigalupi's *The Windup Girl* be the herald of a biopunk era the way William Gibson's *Neuromancer* established cyberpunk? Only time will tell.

## Science fiction in a nutshell

**Guo Heng Chin**

Science fiction owes its roots to the early classics like *Frankenstein*, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, and *The Time Machine*. The Golden Age of Science Fiction took place during the late 30s to the 50s and was shaped by prolific masters like Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, Philip K. Dick and Robert Heinlein. Their stories adopt a speculative theme and serve as a platform to discuss philosophical questions about society, technology etc. Though science fiction as a genre gained public attention, it is still very much considered pulp reads.

"When I was a kid...it [science fiction] was considered, like, total trash. Teachers would take away the books from me in school – this is Heinlein and Asimov they were taking away – and say, well, it's good that you're reading, but you should read a real book, not this [stuff]," said George R. R. Martin in an interview with the *New York Times*. George R. R. Martin gained worldwide popularity as 'The American Tolkien' for his high fantasy epic series 'A Song of Ice and Fire' but first made his name in science fiction where his novella *A Song for Lya* won him his first Hugo award.

### What is the 'Double Crown'?

The Hugo and Nebula awards are the Oscars and Palme d'Or (or Golden Globes, depending on how much value you place on the opinions of a small group of film critics). Once in a while, a novel scoops both the awards. Though not considered a rare feat as it happens on average once every three to five years, books that are honoured with the double crown are extraordinary. Check out some of them for yourself: 'Dune' by Frank Herbert; 'Rendezvous with Rama' by Arthur C. Clarke; 'The Forever War' by Joe Halderman; 'Neuromancer' by William Gibson; 'Ender's Game' by Orson Scott Card; 'American Gods' by Neil Gaiman and of course 'The Windup Girl' by Paolo Bacigalupi as reviewed on the left.

### Science Fiction today

Sci-fi is gaining more traction in mainstream literature today, though its still considered an alternative market by some and the thought of a science fiction piece winning the Booker prize is still an outlandish idea (at least until the current generation of Booker judges expire...)

However, in the recent years, a few authors in the serious literary establishment (a.k.a. literary fiction) have toyed with science fiction as a legitimate theme in their writing. Kazuo Ishiguro used human cloning as the central theme in his 2005 Booker-shortlisted *Never Let Me Go*, although the science fiction element is acknowledged in a shy manner, akin to an embarrassing family member.

David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas* conspicuously flaunted its science fiction themes and it garnered tremendous praise from critics and is considered one of his best works. *Cloud Atlas* was shortlisted for the 2004 Booker prize. Perhaps the Booker judges are warming up to science fiction after all.

"The borders between mainstream and genre fiction are getting hazy these days," quotes David in a recent interview with Felix Books. "And I think that's a good thing."

# Classic Sci-Fi: Arthur C. Clarke

## A flawed piece from the science fiction master?

**Maciej Matuszewski**

This week I'm going to discuss another Arthur C. Clarke novel. This time, however, I'm not just going to heap praise on my favourite author, for this is 'The City and the Stars', the first of Clarke's longer works that I didn't really like.

"The City and the Stars" is set in the distant future, after humanity has been deprived of its conquests in space by the mysterious 'invaders'. Earth is reduced to a desert planet with a single remaining city: Diaspar. It is a technologically advanced but stagnant society whose members have greatly expanded lifetimes after which they are reborn in new bodies in the 'Hall of Creation'. They are all content to remain inside the city apart from Alvin, the first person in thousands of years to emerge from the Hall of Creation who has not been reborn but is rather a completely new person. The novel follows his adventures as he manages to escape the city and later even explore space.

The first few chapters, set in Diaspar, are admittedly very engaging, with the city and its society being meticulously described and forming a fascinating setting. Even more importantly, Alvin's desire to leave the city gives the story much needed focus which is sadly missing in later chapters. After his escape, Alvin specifically states that he has no idea what his purpose should be and this is quite evident to the reader. He simply meanders between several weakly connected encounters, not really achieving anything until the end.

Even then, when Alvin manages to persuade the inhabitants of Diaspar to overturn their policy of isolationism the reader has very little reason to care. Diaspar is so far removed from our society that it is very difficult for the reader to relate to it. This lack of a connection is amplified when we find out that most of humanity has long left the galaxy and that Diaspar has become a footnote in the history of the human race. Most writers would have compensated for this by making us focus

our attention on the characters but Clarke's usual poor characterisation finally lets him down here. We spend very little time with Alvin's friends and companions and even our main protagonist is very undeveloped, making it impossible to really care about what happens to him. Clarke also seems to have abandoned his hard SF roots. Instead of reasonable extrapolations of present day technology, this story features faster-than-light travel, artificial gravity and Star Trek-like matter replicators. In a better story, this would have been hardly noticeable but here it just adds insult to injury.

This is by no means a bad book. The first chapters are interesting and it is suffused with Clarke's usual optimism. Clarke's best novels, however, are hard SF set in the relatively near future where humanity has a specific challenge to overcome and this, unfortunately, is nothing like that. If you want a good Clarke novel read "The Fountains of Paradise", "Rendezvous with Rama" or "The Songs of Distant Earth", not "The City and the Stars".

# FILM

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

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## Bollywood Bite

Catching up with the Indian film industry with **Aamir Shamsi**

### GupShup (Chit Chat) Corner

The RA.One trailers have been creating a buzz ever since they were released at the end of March. This superhero flick starring the biggest movie star the world has ever seen, Shah Rukh Khan, is the most expensive in Indian history and is being predicted as a blockbuster to replace all others. With the Spiderman team in charge of the visual effects, Hans Zimmer (Gladiator, Inception) providing the background score and Akon lending his voice to a song, RA.One will undoubtedly grab the attention of a larger international market come 26th October.

The third instalment of the Dhoom series has been finalised to star Aamir Khan. With a new director at the helm (Vijay Acharya) this eagerly anticipated film is set to release Christmas 2012.

Confirmed! Yash Chopra's keenly awaited returning venture (after Veer-Zaara, 2004) to the silver screen will star his favourite King Khan alongside two leading ladies yet to be cast. And none other than the great A.R.Rahman will be composing the music for what will undoubtedly be another mesmerising love story.

## Snippet Reviews

### Faltu \*\*\*

Starring: Jacky Bhagnani, Arshad Warsi, Ritesh Deshmukh  
Director: Remo D'Souza  
Synopsis: 4 good-for-nothing friends decide to erect their own (fake) college  
Review: Bollywood's take on "Accepted" isn't too shabby!

### Dum Maaro Dum \*\*

Starring: Abhishek Bachchan, Prateik Babbar, Bipasha Basu  
Director: Rohan Sippy  
Synopsis: Multiple lives collide one day at Goa Airport and change forever  
Review: Can't help but think this had so much more potential

### Shor In The City \*\*\*

Starring: Tusshar Kapoor, Preeti Desai, Alok Chaturvedi  
Director: Raj Nidimoru  
Synopsis: An NRI faces threats from Mumbai gangsters who themselves are facing difficulties  
Review: A great mix of humour, action and sensitivity – definitely recommended.

### Naughty @ 40 \*

Starring: Govinda, Yuvika Chaudhary  
Director: Jagmohan Mundhra  
Synopsis: A 40 year old virgin, seeking to lose his virginity, ends up having an affair.  
Review: Crude, crass and contemptible. Bollywood's twist on 'The 40 Year-Old Virgin' is horrific.

# Haunted House?

*Saw* creator goes back to his roots to create a genuinely creepy but not too original horror film



Editor – Oh so you thought it would be funny to illustrate a horror film article with a picture of my granny? Wankers

## Insidious

**Director** James Wan  
**Screenwriter** Leigh Whannell  
**Cast** Patrick Wilson, Rose Byrne, Barbara Hershey, Lin Shaye, Andrew Astor, Leigh Whannell

### John Park

Leave it to James Wan, the man behind *Saw* who kick-started the whole franchise, to make another low-budget thrilling horror experience. This time there is very little gore, no limbs being hacked off, no scary man in a freaky mask telling the victims that he wants to "play a game." No, the villain here is far sneakier and sinister than that (hence the title). Plus with *Insidious*, Wan ventures out into the paranormal, as seems to be a popular crowd pleaser when it comes to the horror genre these days. Even the opening score, loaded with string instruments plucking away, is similar to those of vintage horror films that scare us even to this day.

Josh (Patrick Stewart) and Renai (Rose Byrne) are a married couple with three young children who have had the immense good fortune of moving into a nice spacious house. One day the ever-so curious Dalton wanders around the house, and whilst drawn by a mysterious force, climbs up into the attic, and falls due to a broken ladder. He seems fine as Josh and Renai rush to his aid, but the next day he ends up in a coma with no sign as to if he will ever recover. Doctors cannot figure out what is wrong with him, and no scientific explanation can be given for his condition.

But this is when strange supernatural events start occurring around the house. Foster (Andrew Astor), the middle child, claims he sees

Dalton walking around at night. Renai can hear disturbing sounds through her baby monitor. Things go bang at night and family is terrorised by visions of scary spirits who show that even a smile can be petrifying. Quite sensibly, the couple conclude that it's their house that is haunted. Josh, even though he appears rather skeptical, decides to move. But this is all in vain – for the horrific events only become more frequent than ever. Josh's mother Lorraine (Barbara Hershey), has, along with some hidden family secrets, a method of her own she would like to try out. Her close friend Elise (Lin Shaye), an experienced medium with eyes of perception like no other, enters the house, and with some probing around, is sure that it's Dalton that's haunted, not the house. It's a bizarre theory, with Wan throwing together some fairly far-fetched concepts of astro-projection and demonic possession. It may sound a tad silly, but what did you really expect from a supernatural horror anyway?

No matter how many preposterous developments the film may hurl at you (even the main villain looks like *Star Wars*' Darth Maul's long lost twin brother but with slightly worse graphics and make-up), the scares and characters remain effective. It certainly gets its job done, and surprisingly, without much blood. The number of characters stays restricted throughout, and Wan is a master when it comes to building tension. Most of the time, we know there is something lurking in the shadow. We know there must be something behind Josh or Renai as they worryingly walk around their house. It scares us more to think about the different possibilities of what hostile things could be appearing out of nowhere. And with a sharp, piercing screeching of his

orchestra, Wan delivers some finely crafted chilling scenes.

With fine performances from rather well-known faces, the family dynamic is easy to settle into. Byrne can show fear exceptionally well, with her wide-eyed expression and scream appearing shockingly natural. Stewart, playing the well-known part of "doubtful male" is never annoying, but a fully committed family man providing as much support as he knows how. The most memorable are however the two matriarchal supporting players, Hershey and Shaye, whose crucial roles bring in even more terror and intensity. Wan also has time for some comedy too, believe it or not. The two rather goofy co-workers of Elise, Specs (Leigh Whannell) and Tucker (Angus Sampson), have a love-hate, bromance competition even in the midst of demonic invasion. They provide a brief but much-needed break from all the jump scares, all the while not wasting time with trivial, needless scenes.

Ending on an ambiguous note, there could well be a sequel, depending on how financially successful the film turns out to be. It's doing well in the States, and because of its small budget (\$1.5 million), the returns have been impressive enough. But it would be neater and at its peak just on its own. If the ideas here are stretched out even more with unnecessary follow-ups, with more absurd twists, that would be pushing it too far. Whether you can be fully on board with everything the film presents is obviously entirely up to you, but "Insidious" is so much more than what can be expected. Every movement of its characters and every single note of the highly creepy music crawl under your skin, waiting to erupt at the last minute for a loud, energetic climax.

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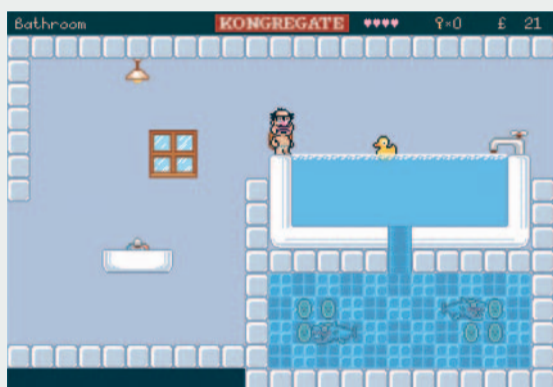
# GAMES

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Web Games

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

### Clarence's Big Chance [tinyurl.com/clarencesbigchance](http://tinyurl.com/clarencesbigchance)



In this super-retro platformer, you play Clarence, an obese middle-aged man with no prospects. Worst of all though, you have no date. Thus in many respects, this is an accurate guess at the future life of most male Imperial students.

RPG elements are combined with the platforming as Clarence gets ready for his first big date, leading to a title that is packed with stuff to do and things to collect. The platforming is rock-solid and has a very classic feel, while the well polished 8-bit graphics put the icing on the cake of this very accomplished title.

### Royal Wedding [miniclip.com/games/royal-wedding/](http://miniclip.com/games/royal-wedding/)



Are you suffering from Royal Wedding withdrawal? Is the lack of William-and-Catherine-related news driving you crackers? If so, this hide-and-seek puzzle game will scratch the Royal itch. The premise of the game is simple: it is the day of the wedding and the Windsors have got a bit of tidying up to do. Each one needs to find a selection of critical items to help the day go without a hitch. Quite what His Royal Highness Prince William is going to do with a hammer, ski goggles and a football shirt remains a mystery, but if we knew it would probably have made the wedding day a lot more interesting.

# Retribution is a dish best served cold... with friends

Tagore Nakornchai has his space cake and eats it

**T**he Warhammer 40,000 universe is a violent place. There are literally a hundred ways to die: you can be chopped up by a chainsaw sword, gnawed to death by a giant bug, have your mind blown up by a psychic space-elf, or shot in the back by your own side to hide some obscure secret. Dawn of War II: Retribution is a real-time strategy game set in the universe, and really brings the table-top game to life.

Retribution is a standalone expansion to the previous Dawn of War games, which means you can jump straight into it without buying any of the previous installments in the series. It adds a sixth faction to the game, the Imperial Guard, basically ordinary humans who have been given a LASER rifle and shipped halfway across the galaxy to die. They, and their tanks. Lots and lots of tanks.

And boy, the game looks beautiful – and it loves to boast. Explosions, dust, crumbling buildings, rocks falling from the sky, huge laser beams of death. If you zoom in, you can see that game developers Relic have put in a lot of detail into their models, and that each one has a lot of character. It puts pretty much every other real time strategy game to shame when it comes to colour and visuals. But, it does have the graphics requirements to match.

The campaign is a lot of fun. Since the events of the previous expansion (Chaos Rising), the Aurelia sector has gone to the dogs. Long story short, the Imperium has decided that they had enough of this stupid little sector and have decided to purge the sector of life – including their own citizens. For the first time in Dawn of War II, you can play as any of the 6 multi-player factions in the campaign. Apart from the Imperial Guard and the Space Marines, who represent the defenders of the sector, you have the Eldar (angry space Elves with heavy fire power), Tyranids (think Zerg from Starcraft), Orks (Orcs – in space!) or the Chaos (evil space marines). The campaign has twelve solid missions, and in each you start



I LOVE student riots in the year 40,000...

with a small force of heroes and slowly run around the map, capturing resource locations and slowly building a large force to complete objectives (mostly involving blowing stuff up).

The campaign missions are great and quite well written, though the last mission was a bit of a grind towards the end. However, all six factions basically have the same campaign with the only difference being some dialogue and some (usually minor) storyline changes. While the campaigns are different enough to make replaying it with a different faction fun, I couldn't help but feel slightly disappointed completing the same missions again. The other single player mode on offer - Skirmish against the computer – was also disappointing. While the AI can put up a tough enough fight against newer players, most experienced players find this game mode to be a cakewalk.

The heart of the game, however, is the multi-player. There is no base building in Retribution – the focus is almost entirely on unit management, tactics, and resource management. So games get violent very quickly – there is no five-minute downtime at the start of games, you are fighting your opponent from the first minute. Resources are obtained from capturing resource points spread across the map, and from building structures to secure these.

This makes games intense and action-packed, and a constant battle to grab control of resources. The game also rewards clever tactical decision-making – using cover, flanking and arcs of fire add an element of depth not seen in many other strategy games. In the game, it is quite common for a smaller but better controlled force to beat a larger force that has been caught out of position.

For most multi-player games, each map has three 'victory points', which work in a similar way to the control points in Battlefield – controlling more of the victory points than your opponent causes his 'tickets' to drop. The person or team whose tickets drop to zero first lose. This usually results in huge, desperate battles for control of important central locations as players jostle for position. There is also the traditional tried-and-tested 'annihilate' mode, where you simply try to blow up the enemy base before he/she does the same thing to yours. Multiplayer mode is tense, interesting and keeps you engaged throughout.

'The Last Stand' is the other main multi-player game mode – it is a cooperative survival mode where you and two friends/acquaintances/random Internet strangers fight off hordes of increasingly powerful enemies with a single hero, who can be customised with war gear which will grant special abilities like the ability to copy enemy units, or to teleport. As you play and win, you level up and get even nicer war gear, which is important, because the early war gear is crap. It is a tough mode, quite unforgiving, but it gets more and more fun as you unlock cooler war gear and tricks.

Retribution is a varied, diverse, and pretty gaming experience. While there are some issues with the repetitiveness of the single player campaign, and the Skirmish AI leaves much to be desired, the multiplayer more than makes up for it – both the traditional head-to-head Victory Points and Annihilate games and the co-operative Last Stand modes are amazing with competent humans at the keyboard.



American Football gets WAY more intense after the apocalypse

Dawn of War II: Retribution is available now from Relic Entertainment and THQ for PC.

# Flower power in your pocket

Laurence Pope gets all green-fingered (and goo-stained) in *Plants vs Zombies DS*

I cannot stand writing articles. There, I said it.

You know why I detest penning these things? It is because once a week I have to get off my lazy behind, I have to stop playing games and I have to churn out something for you lot to read. In general, the more I enjoy a game the more hate-filled I become when I have to shut it down and begrudgingly open up Word. I say this not to make you feel sorry for me, but for you to understand how high my blood pressure rose when I realised I had to stop playing *Plants vs. Zombies* on the Nintendo DS.

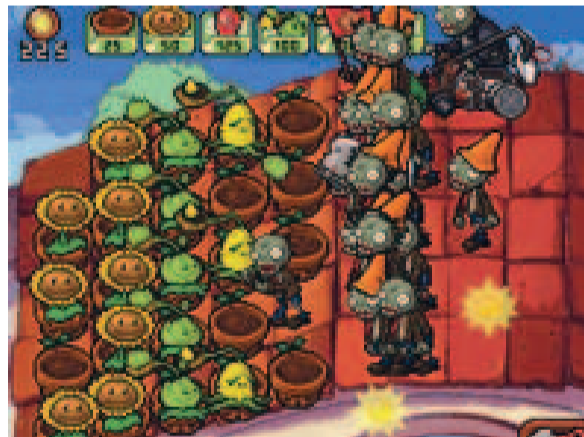
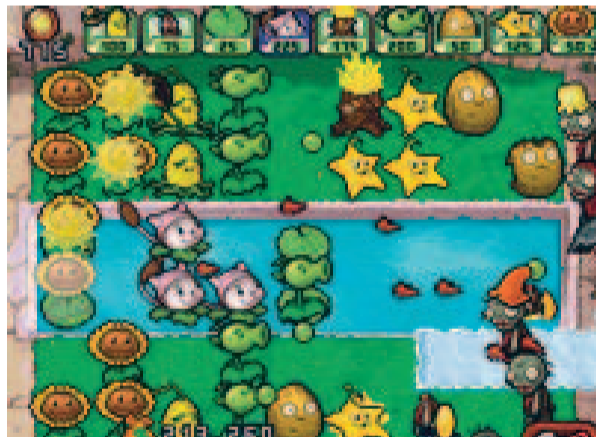
*Plants vs. Zombies* is a sickeningly cute tower defence game made by Pop-Cap, a company infamous for pumping out games as relentlessly addictive as most illegal psycho-stimulants, and PvZ is no exception to this rule. If you had not guessed already, the game revolves around both plants and zombies (it is a no brainer really). Zombies are invading your back garden/pool/roof, and all you have to save your brain from becoming a gourmet zombie dinner is a bunch of thoroughly lethal plants and fungi.

Variety is the spice of life, and PvZ embraces this with open arms – there are 49 different plants at your disposal, some vital, some so-so, and some that only have an effect on one or two of the 29 different zombie types, who are also unique in their attacks and methods of locomotion. Ever wanted to see a zombie bobsleigh team or Gatling gun peashooter? If not, stay away from PvZ.

The game never overwhelms you though, as plants (and to a lesser extent zombies) are introduced to you one at a time after every successful level completed in adventure mode. In this way you never feel particularly inundated with excessive choice, but it does mean that adventure mode never feels particularly challenging, unless you are feeling rather brain dead.

On top of all that you fight in different environments. Zombies are nothing if not ingenious, and whilst they start attacking your back garden during the day, things quickly change: Soon they are attacking at night and under the cover of fog, which forces you to change to night time fungi to defend your home. When they make plans to attack your pool, be prepared to roll out the aquatic arsenal. To top it all off, your roof is the final staging ground for their onslaught, necessitating the use of plants that launch rounds of corn, cabbage and melon. I wish I could dream this stuff up.

I bought the game when it originally came out on the PC way back in 2009,



**“I think it’s safe to say that the DS version of *Plants vs. Zombies* is not destined for an early grave.”**

and after 120 hours of play since then (almost not all at once) I was of course a little hesitant to try it out on the DS. Would the controls hold up? Would it run as smoothly and look as good? Would my eyes be rooted to the screen?

Six hours in, I think it is safe to say that the DS version of PvZ is not destined for an early grave. Obviously the DS is limited in its technological capabilities, but PvZ holds its own reasonably well. The touch screen is put to good use, and the stylus control over the killer members of the Plantae kingdom is precise and natural, which is saying something coming from someone so used to mouse control on the PC version.

The graphics, whilst not being comparable to that of other platform versions, still look good-ish. The various varieties of pernicious plants and uncouth undead are easily told apart, something that has to be admired in a game with so many

different towers and attackers besieging your brain.

That being said, the DS version throws up a few niggling issues that cannot really be ignored. The top screen does not do much at all, and considering how cluttered the touch screen can potentially get in the later stages of the game it would have been useful to have it serve some other purpose beyond displaying cute zombie animations. It also does not run quite as smoothly as it did when I tried it some time back on an iPhone, which is rather annoying considering the fact that the DS version of the game costs even more than that of the iPhone version. Not that I paid for the game of course - I get this stuff for free, suckers!

There is also a versus mode – but not on-line – mode in which you can play with a friend, in which one controls the plant defence, and the other takes

the role of necromancer and summons zombies from graves to attack his or her opponent. Because none of my friends play PvZ/own a DS/actually exist I never got a chance to try this mode out, but it looks like it could be fun for a good few rounds.

Even if you ignore versus mode completely there is still a wealth of other games available including adventure mode, twenty-four mini-games, two sets of puzzle challenges, survival mode and the Zen Garden. Adventure mode is the first and only game available at the start, and progress through it will unlock more plants and different modes.

The mini-games are what they say on the tin, a range of short challenges that break away from the regular flow of the game. In one rather out of place game you have to shout into the DS to keep plants awake, which caused an awful ruckus when I tried to play it in the library. You would not have thought librarians could be quite so vicious...

Puzzle mode flexes your grey matter, requiring you to solve puzzles with limited resources available, *i.e.* Sun power and plants. Survival mode requires you to survive 5 (normal) or 10 (hard) successive hoards of the undead with the same set-up, whilst survival endless takes it a step further, pitting you against a never-ending stream of ravenous reanimated cadavers. The current record seems to be 1,600+ waves, but I seriously would not recommend trying to emulate this feat. You have got revision to do, lazy.

The Zen Garden is less of a game mode than a relaxation one. In it plants that ‘drop’ during all the other modes will locate here, and you can spend as little or as much time as you want attending to them. In return they drop coins when they are watered and ‘cared for’ properly. It is not the most thrilling mode I grant you, but it is a sweet little extra.

*Plants vs. Zombies* is most certainly worth your money if you have yet to play it, but I would be wary about purchasing it on the DS if you have an iGadget in your possession. The iPhone/iPad/iPod Touch versions of the game, though lacking the DS’s extra mini-games, run a Hell of a lot smoother and look a hell of a lot sexier to boot. At the end of the day, *Plants vs. Zombies* is like a bikini model – it is amazing however you look at it, but a bit of oil to smoothen it up makes it even better. You can do without the drool though, for this game.

*Plants vs. Zombies DS* is available now from PopCap Games for all Nintendo DS family consoles.

# TELEVISION

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

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## Procrastination Station

TV makes for quality but dangerous time off. Felix presents a list of revision-break programming in ascending order of ability to destroy your revision. And your life.

### The OC

A rich couple adopt a problem kid and he struggles to get along with the bratty locals, whilst falling in love with the brattiest of them all. A window into a sun-drenched world that is a far cry from our sweat-drenched world of revision.

**Resit-o-meter:** 2/10

### Black Books

Black Books is a bite-sized show, each episode a 23 minutes morsel of succulent comedy with a glass of Scotch, or "corner shop piss" on the side. The three main characters are played by pillars of British comedy. This is drunken, nihilistic comedy at its best and will act as a balm for revision-induced rage.

**Resit-o-meter:** 4/10

### Green Wing

A hospital comedy, but the setting is completely irrelevant – the show revolves around the hilariously surreal lives of characters who just so happen to work in a hospital. This is so detached from reality that it makes perfect revision watching.

**Resit-o-meter:** 5/10

### Dave

"Well I know I've seen all of them before but this is the episode where Lionel Richie is the star in the reasonably priced car and it's hilarious, Oh and after that, QI!" Welcome to the time black-hole that is Sky Channel 111...

**Resit-o-meter:** 7/10

### Battlestar Galactica

This fracking series is a swirling shitstorm where the good guys torture and the aliens are religious fanatics. The frankly dangerous levels of metaphor completely fracks up your revision.

**Resit-o-meter:** 8/10

### The Wire

5 sprawling series of dense deep characterisation, gripping tension and infectious intrigue and action. You may be able to escape if you only see the first half of the first series but watch too much and your revision will be long forgotten.

**Resit-o-meter:** 9/10

### 24

Don't start. You will fail.

**Resit-o-meter:** 10/10

# Dear Alan Sugar

An open letter from **Charles Betts** about *The Apprentice*



Getting them all in one room was simpler than expected, however telling them that they all needed an STI test was quite tough

**D**ear Alan, Lord, Sir, Del Boy, Generally, I am stuck for jokes. I write a piece about modern art, say, only to end up forcefully comparing Damien Hirst's latest oeuvre to a pickled turd. Artful journalism it is not. But then, once a year, *The Apprentice* shows up and the jokes write themselves. So, hurrah from me.

However, I am not writing to praise you. Rather, I want to complain about your disagreeable work ethic that goes along the lines of: "Don't expect me to do all the work. I don't expect a sleeping partner. I'm not St. Alan, the patron saint of bloody losers. If things are going wrong, I'm going to put your back on the rails, and if things are going right you're not going to get a pat on the back, you'll be told to do it even better still. You can look at it a bit like an uncivil partnership."

That is business, that is.

One can almost sense, between your gay innuendo and tough talk, how hard it must have been to refrain from blurting out, all Michael Caine-esque: "You're only supposed to blow the bloody doors off."

I fear hard work at the best of times, with my lazy disposition, so a job with you – a rather vile, University-degree hating-Eastender – is something I would not touch. No, I just could not do it. If I had been in the boardroom – with its

**"Oh, the wretchedness of it all. Ever since Margaret left the show, nothing's been the same"**

grim air of depressing loneliness, drabness, and greed – at the time of your pep talk, I would have gladly been taken outside and shot, there and then.

Who would be naïve enough, credulous enough, desperate enough, to want to work with such a miserable bastard? Well, as you have already taken part in the first two shows of the series, you will know.

People whose entire project management plan is to "roll with the punches." People with nasal voices that whine "Don't tell me the sky's the limit when there are footprints on the Moon." People that think mentioning good looks is necessary on a job application form. People who, if they actually put their money where their mouth is, would choke to death.

On the basis of the show's candidates, Michael – sorry, Alan – I am afraid you really are the patron saint of losers. I know you say you are "sick and tired of this moaning culture", but I am sick and tired of the same old reality TV twaddle

being churned out year on year in the full knowledge that you are not as big as Richard Branson. Could you not at least go around with a silly quiff Trumpeting for David Cameron to disclose some pointless document?

I have never had my 'own' anyone. And although I do see the merits of a tailor, valet, and driver, I just cannot fathom how you feel an apprentice is something one cannot be without. Especially when we are talking about the heinous, sickening swarm of self-important little accountants and "entrepreneurs" that want your prize. Sure, they look nice. In their red ties and light grey suits, they look the part. But it is just a sign of their preposterous vanity. Their business acumen is putrid.

And why do you make a big song and dance about these pathetic little tasks and then judge someone's entrepreneurial sense on their ability to use a fruit juicer? You have taken dim-wittedness to the extreme. You are no better than your gold-digging minion monkeys. It makes me ill. And to call the whole thing a "Process". What is this, a Morcheeba track? The vanity!

Oh, the wretchedness of it all. Ever since Margaret left the show, nothing has been the same. Please end it all. Before someone makes the pronouncement: "I'm in it to win it."

And I wonder if you know that it is rude to point?

Yours firedly,  
Charles.



Food Editors: **Dana Li**  
**Vicky Jeyaprakash**

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FOOD

# Please sir, where can I find good coffee?

Thomas McFadden isn't impressed with the caffeine on campus

**C**offee. Most people have tried it, some are addicted to it and at this time of year it is used by many students to help with revision. The coffee bean is one of the biggest agriculture commodities in the world, while the drink is omnipresent in today's 24 hour culture. Coffee bars are everywhere, as are vending machines offering a hot, sweet, rich tasting beverage for little more than the loose change most of us carry in our pockets.

The coffee seen most commonly – served in boutique cafes and our own cafes around campus – is brewed through the espresso method. This method forces water vapour through ground coffee beans, producing a concentrated liquid. This is great if you are struggling through an advanced thermodynamics textbook, however, if you are unfortunate enough to find yourself queuing up in the Library Cafe your joy may be short lived.

The art of producing a good cup of coffee is relatively complicated when compared to the task of producing a cup of tea. Questions such as milk first or tea first are irrelevant when making coffee. The beans should be roasted until they are a rich brown colour, then ground to allow the water absorb the flavour. The water must not be boiling so that the beans are not cooked, resulting in the bitter flavour in the espresso. The milk must be heated and frothed using steam but avoid boiling-induced rancification of the milk.

I must stress I did say it was relatively complicated, just as breathing through your mouth is relatively complicated when compared with breathing through

flickr/andai



Coffee on campus: in need of the Kapow factor

**“Coffee, most people have tried it, some are addicted to it and at this time of year it is used by many to help us through the long hours of revision”**

the nose. Most places serving coffee today have large machines which are easily adjusted to make sure these problems are avoided. If the water or milk get too

hot you can turn down the temperatures or flow rates and avoid the horrible tastes associated with boiling.

A reasonable assumption, in my opinion, is when I am ordering a coffee, or any product for that matter, the person making it will be trained and knowledgeable in that area. Just as when I worked in a bakery while in sixth form, it would have been reasonable for a customer to expect I was trained and had enough knowledge to produce the product they were purchasing.

Yet, again and again, I am left astounded by the inability of staff, particularly in the Library Cafe, to produce a drink to even the standards, in terms of taste or presentation, of a mug of freeze dried instant coffee. I do not expect our campus cafes to produce a drink to the standards of Caffé Espresso, but surely a coffee which is close to the drinkabil-

ity of a Starbucks coffee is not unattainable. From this I do not want anyone to take that I believe what Starbucks serve is good coffee, however, its taste is not unpleasant relative to the drivel we are expected to endure on campus.

I was inspired to write this by two particularly abhorrent cups of coffee served to me by the Library Cafe. Normally, my drink of choice is a Macchiato and for those who do not have much experience of espresso coffee there are normally about six different basic ways to serve, which are common to most coffee bars:

**Espresso:** Concentrated shot of coffee;

**Macchiato:** Espresso with a small amount of milk added;

**Latte:** Espresso with steamed milk served with a little or no foam;

**Americano** Espresso topped up with hot water;

**Mocha:** Espresso with chocolate syrup, steamed milk and foam or whipped cream;

**Cappuccino:** Espresso with steamed milk and foam.

The significance of the small amount of milk in my macchiato is that it reduces the bitterness, which has been present in every cup of coffee I have ever purchased on campus. This is the bitterness produced through the cooking of the ground beans at too high a temperature.

The first cup of coffee which I took offence to was served early in the morning. While passing the Library, I took a quick detour in the hopes of finding something which would awaken my mind before the day's revision. On the surface, the coffee seemed very much what I was hoping for; once I took the

first sip it became very clear it was not. The taste was bitter, almost undrinkable.

The second cup underlines what I believe to be the more serious problem present in college catering. On Sunday, I ventured from my department in search of a pick-me-up. The only place nearby was the Library cafe. I ordered my usual Macchiato and when it was presented to me, it was clearly not what I had expected. It was something straddling the border between a small Latte and a Cappuccino. Too much milk and foam to be what I had ordered. Some of you may say “So what?”. You may think I'm being a coffee snob. I just want what I paid for and want it made by someone who knows what they are doing.

When I worked as a baker I did not always enjoy what I was doing, but I always took pride in the products I produced. I was never asked by a customer for a loaf of brown bread and instead gave them six white rolls. Why is College catering unable to take the same opinion when they prepare food and drink for the staff and students here?

Initially this was going to be an article in which I ranted over a cup of coffee. Instead, in the process, it highlighted to me the issues that have resulted in the college population having to suffer sub-standard catering.

In any industry, companies and employees need to take pride in what they are producing for customers. In the small case of my daily coffee, I do not want someone who neither drinks nor has any knowledge of espresso serving me. I am sure this is the case for anyone who has a reasonable expectation of quality in what they pay for.

## Relentless: Libertus



**An antidote for sleepyheads during revision season**

### Chin Hua Yap

You know the exam period is nearing when you find numerous cans of various energy drinks scattered throughout the college, and your bedroom's floor looking like a scaparyard of said cans.

There are a variety of brands available in the market, ranging from the familiar Redbull to the aptly named Monster and the newcomer Relentless.

Relentless was launched in 2006, but the sugar-free variant, Libertus, is new entrant this year to cater for the caffeine junkies. The 500ml can draws you in with an ostentatious shade of electric blue and its clearly superior size, evidently appealing to the male species. Also, the exterior is accented with streaks of lightning and the general melodrama associated with energy

juices. The can is embellished with the phrase “NO HALF MEASURES”, an unmistakable attempt to draw comparison to the much smaller long-runner Redbull. Why fly when you can catapult through the sky à la Ironman, Robert Downey Jr style.

Libertus tasted of the artificial fruity flavour that we are all rather accustomed to; in other words, it tasted like a Redbull clone. I was hoping for more innovative flavours, and Relentless could perhaps take a page from Monster and their coffee and tea flavoured energy drinks. It not as sweet as Redbull, which is great for those who cannot stand the roundhouse-kick sweetness that is Redbull. Relentless is sugar-free but tasted every bit like its sugared cousin, Relentless Original. It might be good for those susceptible to a sugar rush.

Now on the energy front, Libertus provided an apparent boost in energy levels for about two hours. It wasn't too extreme and I didn't feel like I was bouncing off the walls (editor's note: Flubber anyone?). It did give me a lucid sense of awareness though that was very delightful, and really helpful while attempting to study during the early morning hours. Best thing though, no sign of a crash.

In my opinion, I would actually stick to the tried and tested cup of strong black coffee, or perhaps the more exciting flavours of Monster. But hey, every man to their own taste. Be a freed man, like the drink reckons you'll become when you take your first sip.

Caution: watch out for extreme carbonation.

Available in stores nationwide

Travel Editor: **Chris Richardson**[travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# TRAVEL

## Wishing you were here



'Seoul celebrates Buddha's birthday' by Park Ji-Hwan

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

Rich Johnston



Seedy Soho: your 24/7 revision getaway

**Get there:** Boris bike ('cause it's faster)  
**See:** Endless cocktail and blues bars  
**Eat:** Mezze to share at Yalla Yalla  
**Cost:** £10-15 for nibbles between 2

Ditch mainstream Piccadilly and head into the unknown side streets: you'll be pleasantly surprised at the supplies of swanky bars offering free music all nights of the week, cheap and delicious eateries, and a resident b@1 that trumps its lousy Hammer-smith counterpart.

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

Drop us an email at [travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk), or send us a tweet using [#FelixTravel](https://twitter.com/FelixTravel)

# Venice: a pragmatist's guide

Dana Li

"What do you think of Venice?" I asked. "Tourist trap", replied Dylan. When he next told me that he hadn't even been, I decided his opinion was invalid: I wasn't prepared to discuss the pitfalls of this dream destination, considering the countless praise it gets.

Fast forward a fortnight and I was in Venice, set to fall in love with the place. We wandered through the alleyways like tourists, but our stomachs soon needed filling and we could hardly care for Saint Mark and his lousy lion. I had attempted to clue myself up on how to eat *come un italiano*, or Venetian for that matter. The city is known to serve food that is sub-par and the rules are common knowledge: waiters in bow ties who tout for business are a big no-no; any restaurant advertizing the pasta dishes found in the Tesco Value range is a place best avoided; spaghetti Bolognese was designed for foreigners. Oh, and do it at the bar, not the table.

Every corner has a shop that is ready to sell 'authentic local goods', such as the Venetian masks made famous by the film *Eyes Wide Shut*, elegant marbled paper pressed onto various stationery goods and Murano glass jewellery. They don't come cheap though, and the reality is that none of the souvenirs bought here are going to serve much purpose other than gathering dust. Simply smelling the air, feeling the aging walls of the city once home to Casanova's reckless escapades, and savouring the tranquility of the quieter intertwining

Dana Li



Aww shit! Get your towels ready it's about to go down! No seriously, I think we're sinking...

canals were far more fulfilling.

My experience wasn't ever going to be akin to Johnny Depp's in *The Tourist*, but visiting the standard tourist destinations like The Dogges' Palace, Rialto Market and Burano Island were a must. The former boasts a few of the most breathtaking oil canvas paintings I've seen outside of a gallery, and the grandeur of the place during the height of its power is simply intangible. The Rialto market is an eye-opener and a place I roamed with a smile planted permanently on my face: innumerable trays of artichokes, zucchini of odd shapes and sizes and other colourful vegetables. Of course, the fishmongers dominated the place with their

freshly caught fish – tuna still oozing dark blood onto the ice, ink-stained squid and crabs still scampering in their box of death. Burano Island, with its brightly painted houses and a stunning view of the Serenissima from across the water was one of the highlights of my visit.

Venice has its charms, but more often than not the fact that I was a tourist was shoved in my face at every corner I turned, a feeling I rather detested throughout the trip. It's true that there are more tourists than locals. I probably heard more British accents in Venice than I do in London on a standard day. And maybe that's just the cruel reality of it: everybody wants a piece of Venice.

# The great firewall of China

Chris Richardson

In an article from an issue past I dealt with Vietnam's tyrant 'go.vn', a pseudo-social networking site where an optional friendship with the communist party is compulsory, but now it seems that the attention is on China and her so-called 'great firewall'. For some time now this has been but a petty nuisance for most technophilic nomads: nowadays most people are more than acquainted with the likes of proxy servers and the basic internet connection alterations that will get them access to whatever content they want, wherever they want it.

But enter the Chinese government, who are now heavily cracking down on virtual private networks, or VPNs, as a means of controlling internet use. This shouldn't come as a huge shock: why wouldn't a powerful government be able to overthrow a simple technique used by schoolboys to look at boobs on Google images? Free speech group Global Voices Advocacy recently announced that new software which detects connections to overseas locations has been put in place by the government. There are also rumours that employers are ordering employees to avoid making certain connections out of fear of backlash.

Last week I received several emails from

Dan Dos Santos



I wonder how the firewall would fare against pure muscle. Well, this guy looks confident...

family members of a girl I met whilst travelling last summer: the last time she'd been seen was in northern Vietnam en-route to China, and her relatives were concerned as to her whereabouts, due to lack of updates on the Twitter and Facebook accounts she'd been using consistently for almost a year. Eventually she managed to get online to explain the situation, and has since re-submerged into the abyss.

Sure, it's a mild inconvenience that you can't tell your relatives your whereabouts, or upload your token Yangtze swimming snaps, but it's

clearly a much more pressing issue for Chinese web users: not only are citizens restrictions limited in what they hear about the world outside, but we're also left dependent on a few prominent bloggers to give us the lowdown on events inside China (at least until they get shut down).

As an outsider it seems like another totalitarian gadget aimed at repression, but I have no doubts that those who want to work around the firewall will invent new cunning ways of doing so, and once again be leading the technological arms race.



# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Lizzy Griffiths



## PLAYING THE CLAIM GAME

## SNOWSPORTS TRIP TO TIGNES

BY GERRY HAWKINS

**G**ive me your clothes, your boots, and your dignity – a common cry across the land as 40 eager Imperialites joined hundreds of students from around the country in preparation for the British Universities Snowsports Council (BUSC) Main event 2011. The stench of sweaty ski/board boots filled the air as old gear was dug out from the back of cupboards and chucked on coaches for the 24-hour drive to Tignes, during which our star snowboard freestyler Luke Bridgestock became a much loathed mini-celebrity among Bristol University students for his embarrassingly loud “the first time I ever...” life recollections at 5am.

The first day in France was spent burning in the sun and messing around on nursery slopes before Val Claret was graced with athletic disco shapes (go Vlad!) and piggy backing all the way to the moon and back. Not the kind of limp wristed skiers who lie in bed all day, Sunday brought with it the first of many early starts and epic days! With most students opting for the lift pass extension, thousands of acres of skiable terrain were at their feet, offering something for everyone; from absolute beginners to all star ski-racers. Snow

**“It’s like the Black Eyed Peas say... it’s all about the boom boom pow”**

conditions are always a concern with an event scheduled at the tail end of the season, but as Tignes is a high resort (think 3500m peak, 2000m base) fun Easter skiing was to be had, and surely everyone enjoys slaying some end-of-day choppy slush?

Competition-wise it was a successful trip for us, notably Chris Wyatt who put

in solid performances in the men’s ski racing events, but was let down in the Skier-X by a last minute course change, putting the 2nd half of the field at a distinct time disadvantage. The relentless pursuit of excellence by our snowboarding freestylers saw appreciation from the judges, and final round qualifications were granted. As always competition was fierce and unfortunately a stray (and most likely imaginary) pole in the lip of a kicker thwarted Luke’s 60 ft rodeo-5 attempt, prompting our exit from the competition and a heavy night of melty-face concussion antics for some. Ex-competitor in the world Mountain Boarding championships but newcomer to the freestyle snowboard scene was our youngest competitor, the fresh faced Irish wonder John McGuckin, who wowed judges with his precarious Slopestyle innovation, pulling a trick of his own creation on his final run, the now infamous “turtle spin”, getting enthusiastic cheers from the judges box. Perhaps too radical for his own good, such innovation failed to translate into BUSC points, but John vows to return to the competition next year and “nail an edge flip” for the recognition this sinewy sportsman deserves.

In great Imperial tradition, most of

the committee (current and elected for next year) as well as the keenest club members spent the majority of the trip dressed as animals/morons. Think “tight, bright, and shiny” and of course “cow vs croc” - keep an eye on the ICSC Snowsports page for high speed video evidence of the latter. As always BUSC laid on endless great nights out, perhaps the best being the Funicular party – a 10 min train (!) ride up the mountain for a 3500m/6 h rave to natty riddumz and dirty beetz, with Lizzy Griffiths pushing the skank meter up to 11 all night long!

Another incredible Imperial snowsports trip, and so a big thanks to all the people who came along to make this possible. Special mention goes to next year’s Snowsports chair, our very own sugar cougar and trip organiser Beth Burks for making all our dreams a beautiful and boozy reality! As the snow melts for the summer, and we count down the hours to the ICSC January trip (see you there!), we praise the almighty God of Snow for looking over us this season, and letting us come home in one piece. In the words of the often late and rarely great current Snowsports chairman, “it’s like the Black Eyed Peas say...it’s all about the boom boom pow”.

Luke Bridgestock



**Don’t you hate it when you’re getting a blowjob in the middle of the dancefloor and suddenly your mates crowd round for a photo?**

# HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## What no Twitter again!?



Yeah so we tricked you with the font, and the bird. It turns out exams need revision to pass, who knew. I just wish I was coming here next year (see the Turnip).

## Unintentionally Homoerotic Rap Lyrics



### Giggs - Bus commercial

**"Bring it to the battlefield, I'll touch his mate."**

Clearly Giggs is a graduate from the Michael Jackson School of intimidation. I am also confused about why Giggs is so passionate about transport advertising.



### The Notorious B.I.G and Diddy - Fucking You Tonight

**"Biggie: Ugh Diddy: I like that, you like that?"**

Let's just hope this is a poorly timed grunt and ad-lib. I think the fact that this is on a song called "Fucking You Tonight" makes it worse.



### Slim Thug - I Run

**"I been paid, I'm just trying to turn my mans on."**

Okay, well good luck with that. Getting money - check. Turning my men on - in progress.



### Mystikal - It Ain't My Fault 2

**"I'll make your tightest hardest rapper brush his teeth with my dick."**

So you want the rapper to be tight and hard do you? Not to mention it would make an extremely poor toothbrush. Oh and, if you have had to write two songs proclaiming your innocence, it is very likely to actually be your fault.



### Killer Mike - In My City

**"Gotta bomb red bitch that I call al-Qaeda. She got some bomb-ass head, and a bomb-ass cock."**

So your city is in Thailand then I guess. A bit of advice for you Killer Mike, this is the sort of thing you only admit when drunk.

## DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk. The more scantily clad, the better.

## A night out with your old pal alcohol...

**Alcohol:** Wow, hey man, long time no speak. What's up with that?

**You:** Yeah sorry I have exams, I may actually only hang out with you for a bit

**Alcohol:** What? Come on man lets do a big one. You'll be fine tomorrow morning I swear. You can get up early and work

**You:** Okay, fine.

### Later in the club:

*Guys:*

**You:** I can't dance I'm too shy.

**Alcohol:** Yeah you can. Just flail your arms about vaguely. Wow, man you look just like Usher. Wait, look at her.

**You:** Where? What her? Meh, she's like a 5.

**Alcohol:** Are you CRAZY? She is a totally legit 8. Here, look through my glasses.

**You:** WOW she is hot, definitely an 8.

**Alcohol:** Maybe even a 9 if you hang out with me a bit longer. Go over and talk to her.

**You:** What should I say?

**Alcohol:** Just stumble over to her, make suggestive hand motions. Try to slur your words. Works ever time trust me.

**You:** Sounds like a plan.

*Girls:*

**You:** Look at this idiot. He's so repulsive.

**Alcohol:** Are you talking about that George

Clooney dead ringer over there? It would be the height of stupidity to not go home with him right now.

**You:** You're right alcohol. You always know what's best for me.

### Back home:

**You:** Can't believe I got rejected, I'm so horny.

**Alcohol:** I thought throwing up on her shoes would make you look like a bad-ass mother-fucker. Meh, call up your ex. I bet she wants it.

**You:** Fuck yeah she does! But what do I say?

**Alcohol:** Say hey and that you're just calling to see how she is. Then you need to switch it up and get graphic. Make sure she understands exactly how horny you are. Then, you need to start crying and say you miss her. Shows your sensitive side, bitches love it. If you say you're soul mates she can't NOT give you a blowey.

**You:** No answer, I'll just leave a voicemail.

**Alcohol:** You need a backup option. You should text every girl you saw tonight.

**You:** Alcohol, you are just full of amazing flawless ideas. Done. I feel sick.

### Next morning:

**You:** I feel terrible, I thought you said I would be fine alcohol. Alcohol? Where the fuck is



**What should we do tonight, Alcohol?**  
The same thing we do every night, Guy  
With Highlights: drown in self-pity

alcohol?

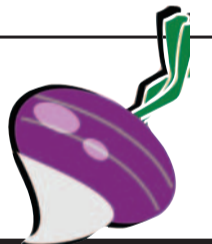
**Sobriety:** Hey dickhead. He's gone; I'll be here with you all day. You got a text from your ex. She says delete her number and never talk to her again.

**You:** Have you seen dignity?

**Sobriety:** He left; I don't think he's coming back.

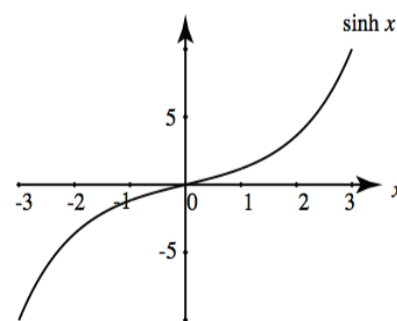
## the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



## Exams to be replaced by lottery

A recent survey to determine the main gripes of students showed that examinations and coursework topped the list. Many of the students who completed the survey said exams were an "unfair system harming those who can't be fucked to learn shit". Now that Imperial College will be charging up to £9,000 per year for tuition fees, Deputy President (Welfare) Charlotte Ivison used this opportune time to negotiate what many Welfare Officers have hitherto failed to: the abolition of exams. Any readers who are currently revising should continue doing so; the new rules only come into effect from the 2011/2012 academic year onwards. Fast-tracking them in time for this summer was on the table until the President, Alex Kendall, withdrew his "blank cheque" offer of sexual favours to the Rector at the last minute. Because of that moment of virginal anxiety Imperialites will have to endure one more summer ruined by exams, just in case the rain doesn't get to it first. It should be pointed out that both the Rector and Kendall deny that such an arrangement was ever on the table, or indeed under it, but recordings obtained by The Turnip show repeated mentions



**The Union said suggesting the changes would lead to a drop in standards is much like this picture: hyperbolic**

of "whatever makes you comfortable", "I'm willing to bend over backwards, literally", and "I'm willing to take a shafting on this one". One source said the Rector rejected the offer as he "likes big butts, and simply can not lie".

The transition to no exams will be a two-phase process: by Christmas of next year students will be given the option of entering a raffle to determine their grade, if they choose not to sit the exam. The raffle will consist of

tickets with a percentage grade written on them; if too many students achieve high grades the marks will be scaled down accordingly and vice versa. The following year the ticket pool will be adjusted to prevent a re-occurrence. These changes will come just in time for the humanities exams at the end of the first term, which will come as a huge relief to the large number of students who do them because they're an easy option and hate having to put any effort in. By the summer of 2012 they will be abolished entirely, so even the masochistic diehards who would still take the exams will be left with no choice but to adapt to the new system.

Preliminary speculation suggests that any extra free computers available in the third term because of this move will be short-lived: pasty World of Warcraft enthusiasts are likely to seize upon this to set up multiple 24-hour LAN parties in a Central Library devoid of unreasonable requests of students wanting to print off exam papers, not only to level up their Paladins but to escape the harsh sun of the English summer. Some are concerned that they will take up permanent residence.

## THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS

# Hip replacement pleases Queenie



I'm sorry, are you seeing what I'm seeing? Is she sitting on a bundle of newspapers? Listen lady-who-thinks-it's-ok-to-sit-on-my-newspaper, if I ever find out who you are, I'm going to... give you a stern telling off! Hmph!

## Horoscopes

### Aries

This week, you're queuing for coffee in the Library cafe, when you overhear the conversation of the person in front. "Yeh I'm totally fucked" he says. You suddenly shout out, "THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID" and laugh uncontrollably. "I could do stand up", you tell yourself...

### Gemini

This week, you're getting beaten up by a gang of youths when you notice that their vicious kicks to your groin form a pattern. It's almost like morse code. In between the waves of nausea and pain, you decipher the message: "Kickin' in the front seat... sittin' in the back seat"

### Leo

This week, you're trimming your pubes when the scissors take a wrong turn and give you an impromptu circumcision. You should probably go see a doctor but you can't miss that date you have. When the girl sees your blood-soaked jeans, you explain that you're on your period...

### Libra

This week, you're at your girlfriend's house shagging her housemate. Despite the screams of delight shaking the walls of the small two-bedroom flat, nothing can persuade your girlfriend to put down the controller and let you have a go on Portal 2.

### Sagittarius

This week, your parents disown you just before your graduation ceremony. That would have been just about manageable if your dad hadn't still insisted on attending and hadn't shouted out "He's a cunt!" as you shook the Rector's hand. Oh the woes of getting a 3rd.

### Aquarius

This week, you're jogging around Hyde Park when the sky suddenly turns to fire. It's the 3rd coming of Jesus, *again*. I mean, the 2nd coming was all right (not as good as the original), but a *trilogy*? Now you're just doing it for the money J-man.

### Taurus

This week, you're morbidly depressed. You're lonely and there's little hope of love any time soon. Then one day you meet the guy of your dreams. He's got cool tattoos and a great personality. Unfortunately the next day he gets blown to pieces by a bomb. Life in Libya sucks...

### Cancer

This week, you meet this really clingy girl in Tripoli. You're not sure how to shake her off so you spread a rumour that you got blown up by a bomb and secretly escape to Europe on a rickety immigrant boat. Not far from shore, the boat suddenly sinks.

### Virgo

This week, you're piloting an immigrant boat from Tripoli, aiming for Sicily. Some tattooed douchebag won't stop going on about how amazing the new series of the Apprentice is. He gets so annoying that you purposely scuttle the boat and drown everyone. Life in Libya sucks.

### Scorpio

This week, you're clinging onto some floating debris from the sinking of the immigrant boat you were on. A tattooed man swims over to you, steals your debris and twats you in the face. The last thing you hear before you go under is, "You're fired".

### Capricorn

This week, you're at a house party wearing nothing but a pair of armbands and a cotton replica of HMS Victory around your cock. People love the outfit but are less impressed when you fire a couple of broadsides at the host's girlfriend's face.

### Pisces

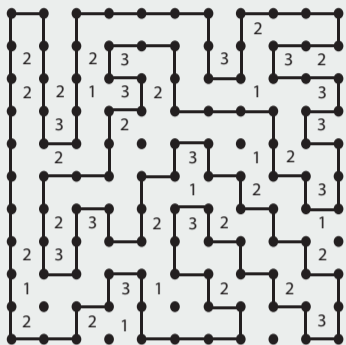
This week, you spill water all over your laptop. At first it seems ok but suddenly an electronic voice starts crying, "why? I loved you, don't you love me..." You cradle it in your arms in its final moments, "it's dark", it says, "I'm scared." You give it a dignified burial in the garden...

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

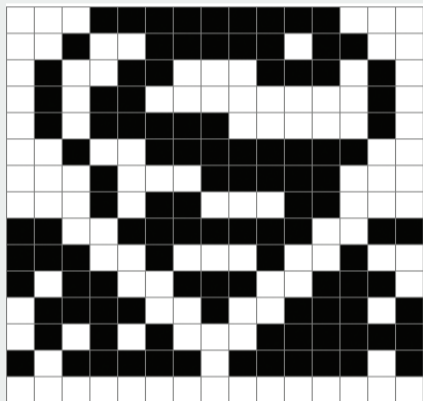
# PUZZLES

## Last Week's Solutions

### Slitherlink

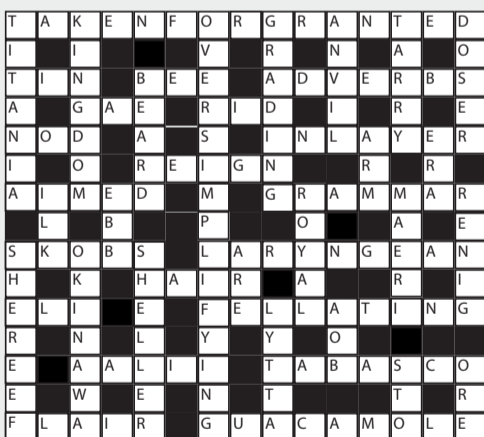


### Nonogram



### Crossword

#### QUICK



#### CRYPTIC

**Across.** 1. Nook and cranny 8. Ovum  
 9. Balloonist 10. Blacktop 11. Staffa  
 13. Dropped egg 16. Ebon 17. Oner 18.  
 Seasonless 20. Leches 22. Overture 24. John  
 Napier 26. Mate 27. Man of the cloth

**Down.** 1. Navel orange 2. Olmec 3. Arbitress  
 4. Delapse 5. Rooms 6. Nonpareil 7. Yes  
 12. From scratch 14. Parthenon 15. Geometric  
 19. Abolish 21. Scarf 23. Tempo 25. Ohm

### Going Underground

C	A	N	N	O	N	S	T	R	E	E	T
3	1	14	14	15	14	19	20	18	5	5	20

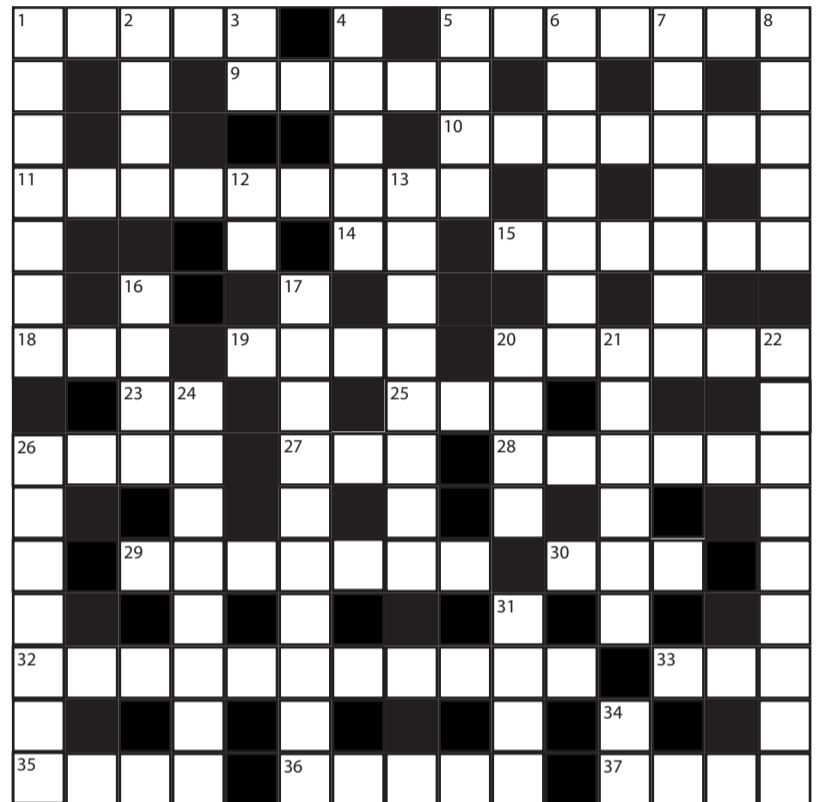
## Crossword

#### Across

- A set of images and sensations experienced during sleep (5)
- The most damp, musty, cold (7)
- Desert plants (5)
- Roman god of the sea (7)
- An Australian oxbow lake (9)
- Sodium (2)
- *Mater*, a C13<sup>th</sup> Roman Catholic hymn to Mary (6)
- One of the three parts of Freud's psychic apparatus (3)
- A joint (4)
- A horizontal band of sculpted/painted decoration (6)
- Lava with a rough surface and frothy texture (2)
- Music genre (3)
- To have said goodbye to someone; a language spoke in northern Nigeria (4)
- A girl's name (3)
- A Greek island (6)
- Verb: change (2,5)
- One of the seven SI base units (3)
- Ancient seer (11)
- Drinkable product of *Camellia sinensis* (3)
- Entrance to an underground mine (4)
- Main love interest of *Sex & The City* (2,3)
- A dance; music; party (4)

#### Down

- How you bounce the ball in basketball (7)
- A royal title (4)
- Prefix to many Scottish names (2)
- A district of West London (5)
- Onomatopoeic term for hitting something metallic (4)
- An online music store (7)
- Calm; even-tempered (7)
- Trick or ---, Halloween activity (5)
- *Inconvenient Truth*, Al Gore film (2)
- One that has the same name as another (8)
- A fictional, anthropomorphic mushroom (4)
- George Orwell novel (6,4)
- To not succeed (4)
- Brothers ---*, A Dragon-lance novel; a Dire Straits song (2,4)
- Destroy (9)
- A system that remains aloft through buoyant lighter than air gases e.g. moored balloons (8)
- A specified period of two years (7)
- A type of bean (4)
- A grammatical conjunction (2)



## Pictogram

tea leaves, tea loves, loves tea, lives tea, leaves tea?  
 never. - Uniek Swain



1. Tea originates from this country.



3. Tea from the Fujian province made from unopened flower buds.



2. The most oxidised form of tea and the one most commonly drunk in the UK.



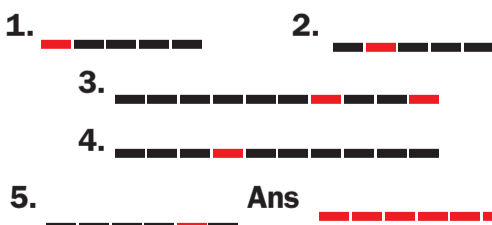
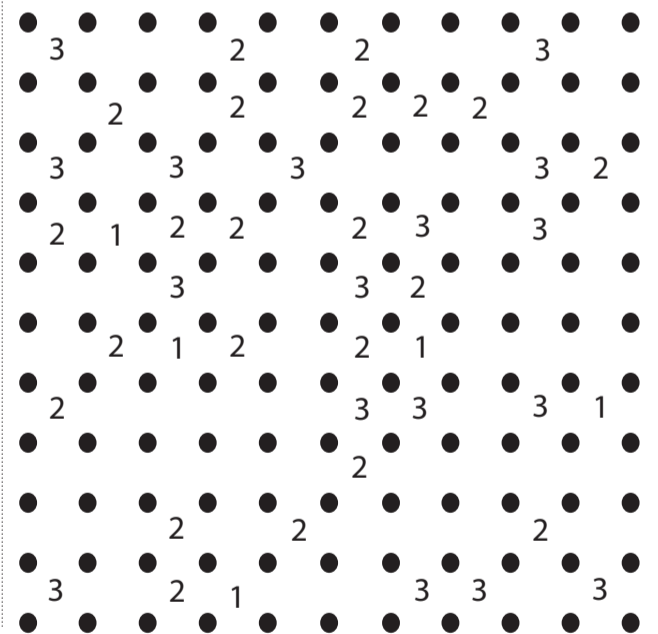
4. The terraces where tea bushes are grown.



5. The most oxidised form of tea and one commonly drunk in the UK.

Apologies to Outi for making Passi too small to read last week. Here it is again! (But readable this time).

## Slitherlink



Ans

### PASSI PARABOLASHAPEDPENGUIN

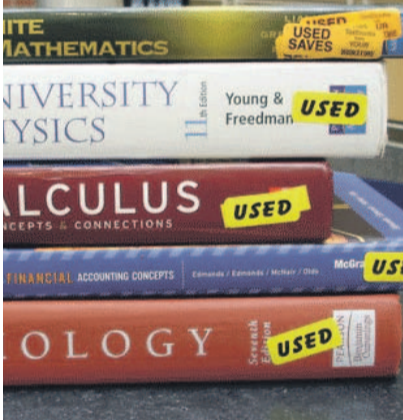


# CLASSIFIEDS

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Felix accepts no responsibility for items/services bought/sold

Deadline for adverts is Tuesday midnight



## ACCOMMODATION

### Double Room

Double room in Putney. Available mid June – early October. £443 pcm. Email Jack via [jw1508@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:jw1508@imperial.ac.uk) or call on 07505 138 793

### One bedroom flat

Flat in Kensington Olympia – W14 0QH. Available 1st July – 30th September. £100pw Furnished Contact Jane via [jl2708@ic.ac.uk](mailto:jl2708@ic.ac.uk) or on 07540472608

## JOBS

### Tutor wanted

Tutor wanted to teach how to use SQL Server Management Studio for Business Intelligence. Contact 07986844432

### Web developer

Web developer wanted to improve website. Up to £100. Contact [olm08@ic.ac.uk](mailto:olm08@ic.ac.uk) for more information on amount of work required.

### Software developer

'Get into an adventure' Experience of html5, CSS, Javascript, Python and Ruby required. Contact [alxmcl@gmail.com](mailto:alxmcl@gmail.com)

## LOVE

Send us your adverts. It's a great way to reach a large number of readers and hopefully find what you're looking for. For now, enjoy these (fictional) lonely hearts entries.

### Women Seeking Men

High maintenance daddy's girl looking for Mahiki Man with cash to spare. Enjoys dinner in Knightsbridge and trips to the continent. If interested buy the Treasure Chest next Thursday.

### Women seeking Women

Repressed soul looking for downtrodden hidden beauty to spend late nights moaning about shit childhood. If interested, walk around campus in a hoody, scowling at people you walk past.

### Men Seeking Men

Gym-aholic looking for like-minded beefcake to share 4-hour sessions at Ethos. Must be able to do 1000 pushups in an hour and be comfortable with wearing a man thong in public. If interested, groan *really* loudly in the gym.

### Men seeking Women

Biology brother looking for pasty white English girl to cruise with around Piccadilly Circus at 3am in the morning. If interested, wear a baseball cap and oversized trainers.

## MISC

### Proofreader

Need English documents proofread? Contact 07946755409

### Laptop servicing

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**David Wilson**

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## SPORT

Felix Sports League

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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

# ICBC look towards Henley following impressive display in Nottingham

... Continued from back page

forts were rewarded later with a silver medal in the men's intermediate double sculls when he paired up with Steele. Other ICBC crews fell foul of fate as steering incompetence of their rivals and rogue waves blocked the progression of strong Imperial crews and their chances of medals.

This was the first chance for Imperial's novice squad to experience side-by-side six lane racing and all took to it like ducks to water. The women's (cox: Jess Johnson/Sarah Tattersall/Maddy Whybrow/Rosie Davies/Harriet Cross) and the men's (cox: Johnson/Tom Carpenter/Robbie Hernandez/Alex Quigley/Tommy Hirst) beginner fours came fifth and ninth respectively. Meanwhile, the women's beginner eight (cox: Alice Wickham/Bowler/Whybrow/Davies/Cross/Tattersall/Joanna Taylor/Rowna Harrison/Lucy Adkins) qualified third fastest for their finals and were eight overall after

a tight finish.

The remaining medals (all gold) were won by the lightweight men's squad. The four of Tom Pearson/Tim Richards/Kimberley/Paddy Hudson set the tone on the first day of racing as they won their heat, despite Paddy not sitting on his seat from the second stroke of the race. They won the final by a convincing six seconds. Tension was high on day two as the lightweight eight (cox: L Richards/Pearson/P Hudson/Kimberley/Brown/T Richards/Carpenter/ Jones/Ben Joakim) tested the scales; most were on or below weight, with the exceptions of Paddy and Wilf.

Both managed to lose about 500g through exercise but Kimberley was having trouble losing the last 200g. A quick change of kit, multiple trips to the facilities (including one infamous occasion) and standing oddly on the scales eventually paid off. Every last ounce of sweat was worth it as the eight eased through

their heat over the course.

In the final, they beat off the competition, winning gold, making the late pushes from Nottingham and Cambridge look futile. After winning in the eight, there was no rest for the wicked. The quad (Pearson/T Richards/Kimberley/Brown) jumped out of one boat into the other and was back at the start in no time. They led from start to finish. On day three, the lightweights completed the gold rush when the lightweight double (Pearson/ Kimberley) and pair (T Richards/P Hudson) won both finals easily.

If one existed, the Man of the Regatta award would go to Mr Wilf Kimberley for getting the most medals (4 gold and 1 bronze) and for banter provision.

A scrumptious barbeque was the fuel for the annihilation of the competition and now all eyes turn to the rest of the regatta season and the road to Henley 2011.

# Football complete Plate and Cup double after overcoming spirited King's

... Continued from back page

and leaving the plate as the team's final chance for silverware.

With so much riding on the game, Imperial understandably started the game nervously, taking 10 minutes for Imperial to settle and gain an ascendancy in terms of possession. However when ball reached midfielder Flo 'Hitzelsberger' Klein at the edge of the box, the german non international fired an absolute cannon of a strike into the far corner to give IC a 1-0 lead.

The cup final was a few weeks ago now, and the more time passes the better this goal is in my memory. It was undoubtedly a stunner though.

With nerves somewhat settled, Imperial finally began to dominate possession and look more composed on the ball. However just a few minutes later a long ball over the top caused an unexpected error from a man who had previously been regarded of as one of the brightest males in north London of African descent. As the ball sailed harmlessly to 'keeper Dave the Save, Ogunbiyi inexplicably tore down the opposing striker Tom Daley.

With the ball nowhere near the Kings player, the penalty was a harsh decision, but one has to wonder what such a smart man was doing. Once again, Haringey council's 1994 committee were placed under scrutiny.

Unperturbed by Dave's reputation and ensuing nickname, the Kings captain slotted home the penalty to level the scores.

However, almost immediately, Imperial responded. A good move saw the ball spread to danger man Andy down the left wing. His pull back met Bizzel who went pow and stepped over the ball allowing it to run across the face of goal. Former captain and 5th team veteran Mike 'two bites' Ridge was there at the back post to finish, in a fashion which was reminiscent of a Hollywood-esque script. One must ask how many nights he must have spent dreaming of this moment; the ball was directed perfectly towards him and the goal was gaping however, Ridge missed. The ball hit his standing foot and ballooned, fortunately he had a second bite at the cherry as the ball landed at his feet. Ridge's second attempt was more successful and he scored much to the relief of the

rest of the team.

The second half saw Imperial dominate further, creating many excellent chances to put the game beyond King's. However none of the chances came into fruition. You may not know about him, but Bizzel was absolutely dominant in midfield. Combinations of Andy , Captain Pricey, Flo, Wozza and Sim looked dangerous up front, and Mike lead the line exceptionally. Although the goal never came, the 5s played out the remainder of the game in the opposition half and finished the game on top despite the addition of further goals which their performance deserved.

I'd also like to use this opportunity to thank those who came but didn't come on, and those who came to watch. Imperial's fans were a joy. Constantly enquiring as to the whereabouts of King's fans and friends, their chants were innovative and vocal.

Tactical advice was also on tap. Right back, and 5s captain in waiting, Adam Watkin was consistently reminded to hold the line to his displeasure. Man of the match was mobo award winner failed.

# Shrimps aim to become big fish in the pond

Alexander Johnstone Images



## Alexander Johnstone

Procrastination has only served man kind: The pizza burger, Kite Surfing, Skittle Vodka and now the PistolShrimps! An invitational rugby 7s team formed by Alex Johnstone and Joe Brown whilst trying to revise for their finals... The idea was that the team would be made up of the best players to have passed through Imperial over the past 5 years and a couple of ringers. The intention of the team was to be competitive at the big national tournaments and have a good time doing it.

The name 'The PistolShrimps' originated from a Hydrostatics and Shocks lecture where the lecturer claimed that these little shrimps with massive claws accelerated water out of their claws to stun and kill their prey. Supposedly in the process creating cavitation and sonoluminescence... On to Middlesex... Having won the Middlesex student 7s four years on the trot it was deemed essential to enter the Mens Open and win that as well. A few white lies enabled the team to be entered under the title of 'Imperial College Old Boys'. The first two group games proved an excellent start of the season, tough physical games against the Esher Academy and Hammersmith & Fulham 1s saw the Shrimps smash both opposition convincingly. The team was playing some excellent sevens and it was a shame the last group game and the quarters were against lesser opposition

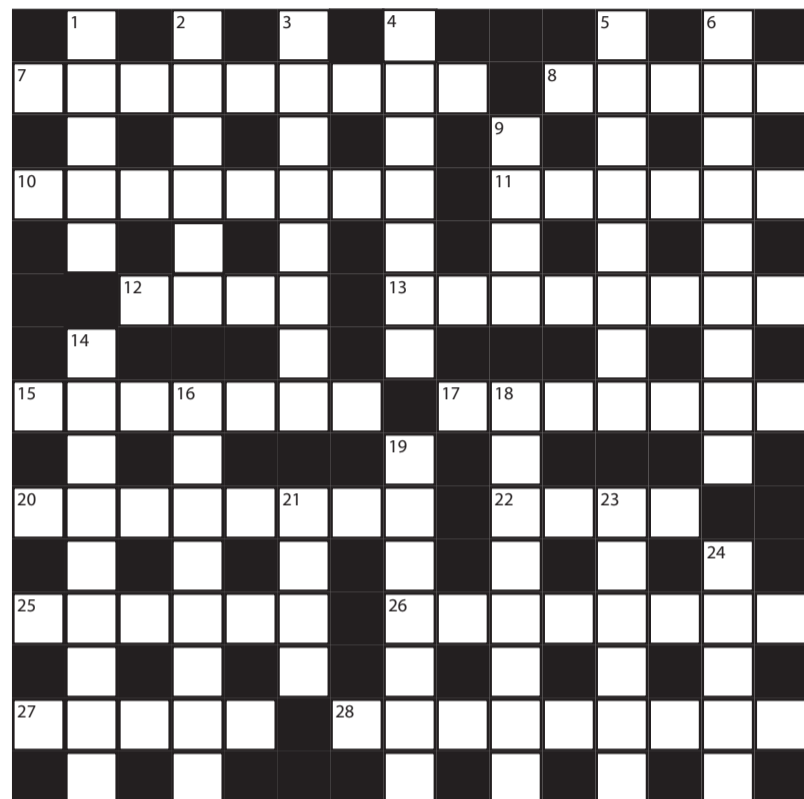
that encouraged bad habits. The semi against the eventual winners Ruislip was a hard fought and very physical affair. Unfortunately the shrimps lost their two most experienced players to injury early doors. Ruislip scored twice before we responded. At 10-7 the game was ours to win, but poor handling ruined a two man overlap which Ruislip capitalised on to run in another try and put the game out of our reach.

Ollie Cox (Who incidentally was asked on the day if he wanted to be an Abercrombie model... #hangingoutthebackoftara) was awarded Shrimp of the tournament for his

superb ability to make space and half breaks throughout the day. Whilst we did not win the tournament the baby blue coral background and massive pink shrimp across both the shirt and shorts made us a crowd favourite.

Many of the teams that participate in the National Sevens Series started this way; groups of friends ambitious to play good sevens and have fun. The Shrimps are trying to build a recognisable brand that can be enjoyed by both players and supporters. Join us at RugbyRocks at Richmond RFC on the 4th of June or alternatively The Church Sevens on the 18th of June. #Shrimpinlikeitshot.

## Cryptic Crossword 1,489



### Across

- 7 Tears through fabric prices (9)  
 8 English rugby goal makes an appearance (5)  
 10 Superlatively vulgar coat of arms contains donkey (8)  
 11 X (6)  
 12 Tie not the way it sounds (4)  
 13 Doorway delight (8)  
 15 Initial word? (7)  
 17 Invention permits father to camp on spithead (7)  
 20 Beach sport expert sinks first, then rises to the top (8)  
 22 Southern bum cheek (4)  
 25 Prevents development of acrobatic manoeuvres (6)  
 26 Religious leaders have an ultimate drive to practice (8)  
 27 Make hints back and forth (5)  
 28 Interestingly sly, albeit like an animal (9)

### Down

- 1 Frame a learned man in church (5)  
 2 Subject a child to logical thought (6)  
 3 Records attempt to make a woven cloth (8)  
 4 Gods tied up atheist's perverted soul (7)  
 5 Grow without difficulty after incredible start (8)  
 6 Try sweet after releasing spore (9)  
 9 Sweet and sour? (4)  
 14 Excused for giving up whilst having performed (9)  
 16 Crimes of middle-men (6)  
 18 Tease the demented art lover (8)  
 19 Confused prude follows us to seized throne (7)  
 21 1/sect (4)  
 23 Hush before a man reveals himself to be a witch doctor (6)  
 24 Song title in hand for church hymn (5)

# Imperial ARCS return for a second year

## David Wilson

On Friday the 10th of June, Sport Imperial will host its second annual awards and celebration event championing the contribution that sports make to the university life of students of Imperial College.

There are a number of award categories for which people can be nominated for; the event looks to reward those who have made a sporting contribution for Imperial College and yet have

remained under the radar and perhaps have not received the recognition that they deserve.

One of the most coveted prizes, the Ethos Award, is awarded to an individual or group who are deemed to have contributed positively to the fitness center based in South Kensington.

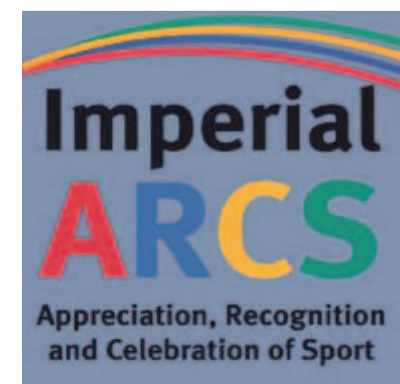
The evening's events will also include a sports showcase, drinks reception and light buffet.

For more information on the award categories visit the Sport Imperial Web-

site; today is the last day to nominate personnel for the various awards whilst information on the award categories may also be found on the Sport Imperial Website.

For further information on the event you may contact Hannah Blandford via email at h.blandford@imperial.ac.uk.

Why not follow Sport Imperial on Facebook and Twitter to keep ahead of the game when it comes to forthcoming sports news and events regarding Imperial College.



# Boat Club win raft of medals Nottingham

Imperial College Boat Club show their worth at BUCS Regatta

**Libby Richards**  
 Imperial College Boat Club  
 BUCS Regatta 2011

BUCS 2011 was a successful one for Imperial College Boat Club culminating in an impressive 13 medals won; 6 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze, as well as 145 all important BUCS points. The club was third overall and in the medals table, despite being depleted in numbers due to the pressing matters of exams and revision. Five of the six gold were won by the skinnier half of ICBC with the lightweights winning almost every race they entered.

Over the extended bank holiday weekend, Imperial journeyed to Nottingham for three days of intensive racing and was greeted by strong winds and even stronger gusts. As the conditions deteriorated, scullers seemed to sit on the water or surf over the waves. Paul Jones fought hard, sinking; whilst Gareth Brown battled on to take a silver medal in the intermediate lightweight single. Harriet Cross was extremely disappointed by the cancellation of the women's beginner event, due to the adverse weather. The women's intermediate pairs suffered

the same fate. Medals were brought home by Imperial's female scullers, Mel Wilson won gold in the open weight whilst Chloe Symmonds won bronze in the lightweight. Wilson made her heat and final look easy, slicing through the horrendous water and the competition. Unfortunately, Josie Bowler was not quite as lucky as she capsized in her intermediate lightweight heat and was not allowed to complete the race, much to her frustration.

The men's championship 8 (cox: Henry Fieldman/Matt Whaley/Rory Sullivan/Ben Spencer-Jones/Ali Hudson/Simon Steele/Henry Goodier/Wilf Kimberley/Leo Carrington) added a bronze to the tally as they rowed through Queen's University Belfast and Durham in the closely fought final. Bronzes were also won by the men's champ pair (Goodier/Spencer-Jones), men's champ coxed four (cox: Libby Richards/ Steele/Goodier/Spencer-Jones/A Hudson) and the men's intermediate quad (Adam Seward/Danny Bellion/Spencer-Jones/Paul Jones). Hal Bradbury performed marvellously in the heavyweight single, coming fourth behind three GB rowers, but his ef-

...Continued on Page 38



# Men's Football beat King's in ULU plate final

**Haran Rajkumar**  
 ULU Plate Final  
 Imperial 2 - 1 King's College London

An incredible season of football for Imperial College Football Club culminated in two cup finals, having already seen a league win for the 4s, and a narrow miss on promotion for the 3s. With the 1s cup final played on the Saturday, the 5s were out to set the cup final bar on the preceding Wednesday.

The team were up against a Kings College 3rd team whom they had already beaten twice in the year, the 5s were keen to end a fantastic season on a high.

The second term had seen the 5s unbeaten until the final league match, winning 10 of 13 along the way; an exceptional record. Unfortunately Imperial's 4s prevailed in the final league game of the season, ruining the 5s chances of causing an upset

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