



Number of subwardens to be reduced after wardening review: [Page 3](#)

Laptop thief caught red-handed by College security staff: [Page 5](#)

## Two hour lunchtime could be abolished

### Proposed changes would give departments flexibility to set classes during lunchtime

**Kadhim Shubber**

The current two-hour lunch break could be abolished to allow departments more flexibility in scheduling classes, according to proposals from the College Day Working Party. The Chair of the working party, Professor Dorothy Griffiths, said that departments would still be expected to schedule a one-hour lunch break.

Changes would be made to humanities timeslots to ensure that students are not impeded from taking humanities classes by lunchtime lectures or labs. Under the proposals extra timeslots would be created on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 17:00–19:00. Deputy President (Education) Alex Dahinten, who sits on the working party, reassured Union Council on Monday 6th June that students with club or society activities that clashed with their humanities classes would be accommodated on a ‘one-on-one’ basis where possible.

The proposals also include relatively minor changes to exam timeslots. Instead of morning or evening exams, there would be three timeslots: 09:00–12:00, 12:00–15:00, and 15:00–18:00. Dahinten assured Union Council in his report that there would not be more than two exams per day and that ‘exams will not be in succession’ under the proposals. Professor Griffiths said that students would not be expected to take a late exam followed by an early exam the next morning, but she added the caveat that “in departments which offer a lot of choice and have complicated exam schedules” these guidelines may be breached. She em-

phasised that this would only happen in rare circumstances and that it would be for departments to work with individual students in those cases. Also, Saturday exams would be allowed in exceptional circumstances – the example given is the eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull last year that caused disruption to the exam schedule. Professor Griffiths made clear that Saturday exams “will not be a regular feature of exam schedules” and that the need to use the Great Hall would not be a good enough justification for Saturday exams.

The proposals are a response to the growing difficulty of timetabling classes due to limited space on campus. In January this year departmental administrators spoke of the need for more flexibility in the timetable to allow them to give students more choice and reduce the congestion in timetables. Professor Julia Buckingham told Felix that the College is “approaching a limit on the teaching space available for all the activities undertaken day to day”.

Earlier proposals to extend the College day in the morning and evening were dropped after widespread opposition from students and staff.

The College is also working to make it easier for departments to book rooms in other departments as part of their efforts to ease the pressure on timetables. There won’t be any changes to the College day next year, if passed the proposals would be implemented for the 2012/2013 academic year at the earliest.

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An apology to Maggie Dallman: [Page 2](#)

Kadhim Shubber



## NEARLY THERE

### Felix tours nearly-finished Mech Eng labs as College speak frankly about renovation difficulties: [Page 4](#)

Imperial College London



Dr Jane Saffell: ‘Outstanding Innovation in Teaching’

### Rector’s awards for ‘excellence in teaching’ announced

### 19 academics honoured: [Page 3](#)

## TECHNOLOGY



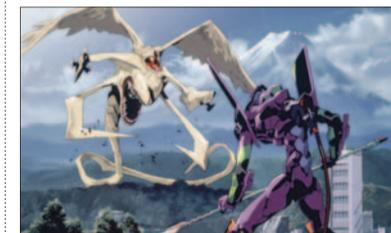
### Has Google lost its innovative edge? [Page 13](#)

## GAMES



### At the forefront of the gaming industry: [Page 26](#)

## TELEVISION



### The most epic anime series to have ever existed: [Page 28](#)

# HIGHLIGHTS

## On campus

### Raising Startup Capital

The Imperial Private Equity Club has invited three leading angel investors to a discussion about raising startup capital for businesses and the current state of entrepreneurship in Britain. Speakers include the Founder Director of private investor club Investors, Oliver Woolley, who holds an MBA from Imperial. Open to all. Seating is limited – register interest at <http://bit.ly/kSMzqt>

**Lower Ground LT, Business School**  
**31 May 18:00–20:00**

### Your body and Newton

Current Deputy Head of Bioengineering Professor Anthony Bull delivers an open lecture about the significant connection between Newton's laws of motion and the function and health of our own bones and joints. Advanced registration required – contact [k.weeks@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:k.weeks@imperial.ac.uk)



**LT 164, Skempton**  
**01 June 17:30–18:30**

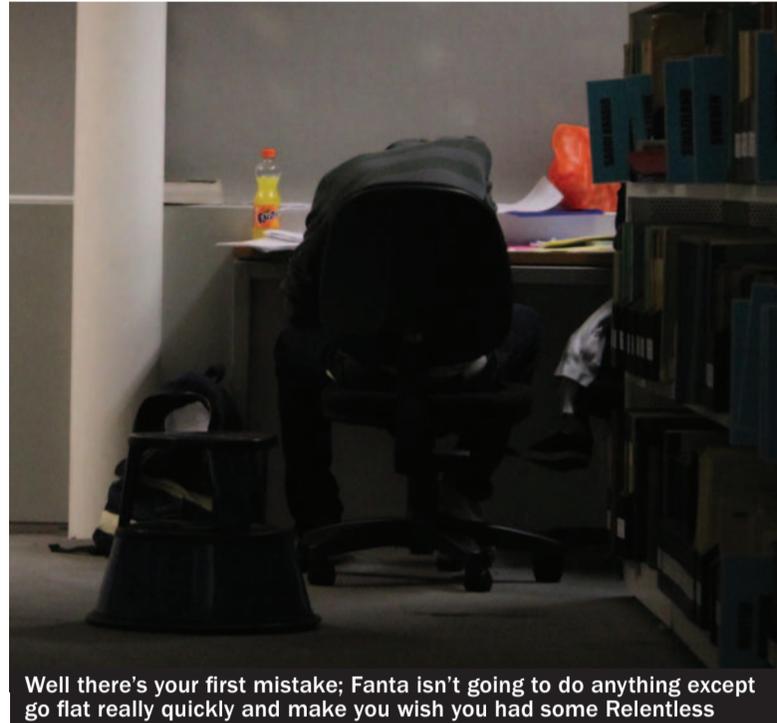
### Random Walks and Rocket Engines

The physics of dispersion, mixing and reaction will be at the centre of this talk as Professor Ioannis Hardalupas investigates the engineering problems that drive his research through diverse applications. Open to all with advanced registration required – contact [k.weeks@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:k.weeks@imperial.ac.uk)

**LT 220, Mechanical Engineering**  
**02 June 17:30–18:30**

## Win a free crate of Relentless – again!!!

Kadhim Shubber



Well there's your first mistake; Fanta isn't going to do anything except go flat really quickly and make you wish you had some Relentless

So many caffeine-desperate zombies students entered last week's competition that we thought we would give you all another opportunity to win some energy drink-shaped goodness.

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

What word is missing from the following sentence: 'The student \_\_\_\_\_ of Imperial College London since 1949'

- (a) voice
- (b) vomit mopper
- (c) contraceptive

This week's winner is **Patrick Chen**



Entries by Wednesday 1st 00:00. Editor's decision is final.

## Notice

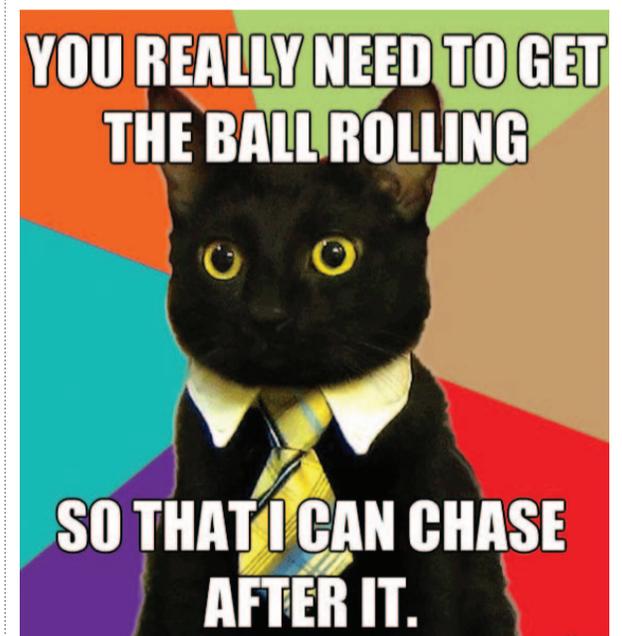
### An apology to Maggie Dallman

Felix would like to apologise to Professor Maggie Dallman, and other affected parties, for any distress caused by the front-page story entitled 'Union President: Maggie Dallman lied to College Council' published in Issue 1489 on 20 May 2011. We regret the provocative nature of the headline and in hindsight should have chosen more moderate words – we have since altered the headline and the sub-headline online.

In the Union President's report to Union Council he wrote, after detailing two separate comments that Professor Dallman made to College Council, "we have to conclude that College Council were misinformed at their July meeting and the Union President directly lied to by Professor Dallman."

Felix chose to interpret this to mean that Alex Kendall was accusing Professor Dallman of lying to the Union President at College Council, and thus by extension, College Council itself. While we stand by our interpretation of the President's report, we accept, as mentioned before, that the use of such a provocative headline was not appropriate in this case; we were reporting an accusation and we have neither the direct evidence to substantiate the accusation nor the unambiguous confirmation, prior to publication, from the President that this was his intention. **Editor**

## Lolcat of teh week



# FELIX

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## Rector's Awards announced

### Academics affected by Life Sciences restructure among those recognised for teaching excellence

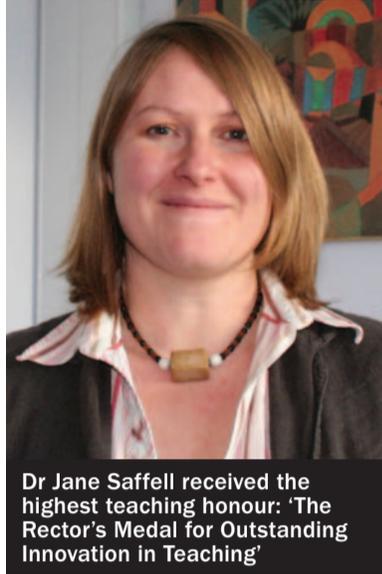
**Kadhim Shubber**

The recipients of the annual Rector's Awards for Excellence in Teaching and in Research Supervision have been announced this week. The staff honoured range across departments and faculties and include two academics who were affected by the Life Sciences restructure.

The teaching awards are presented to those staff who are judged 'to have been most outstanding in the quality, organisation and presentation of their teaching'. 17 staff members have been given the award this year, which will be presented to them in November on College Education Day. Of the 17, two were awarded the Rector's Medals for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Excellence – Mr Zen Makuch and Dr Sandra Shefelbine. The highest honour, the Rector's Medal for Outstanding Innovation in Teaching, was awarded to Dr Jane Saffell of the Life Sciences department, in addition to her Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr Saffell faced the possibility of redundancy following the Life Sciences restructure but has since moved to the Faculty of Medicine.

In an email to members of the Department of Life Sciences, Professor Ian Owens saluted the 'exceptional

Imperial College London



**Dr Jane Saffell received the highest teaching honour: 'The Rector's Medal for Outstanding Innovation in Teaching'**

contribution' that Dr Saffell and other recipients from Life Sciences have made 'to the Department's activities'.

The Rector's Awards for Excellence in Research Supervision were awarded to Professor Anthony Bull and Professor Andrew Bush, who also received Rector's Medals. The award recognises 'staff who have made exceptional contributions in providing a supportive learning environment for postgraduate research students'.

#### Awards for Excellence in Teaching

Professor Alan Armstrong  
Mr Greg Artus  
Professor Donald Craig  
Dr Robert Davies  
Dr Gary Hampson  
Dr Stuart Haslam  
Dr Patricia Hunt  
Mr Zen Makuch  
Dr Dan Moore  
Dr Kevin Murphy  
Dr Richard Murphy  
Dr Alessandra Russo  
Dr Jane Saffell (pictured)  
Dr Sandra Shefelbine  
Dr Colin Turnbull  
Professor Andrew Walden  
Professor Helen Ward

#### Rector's Medals for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Excellence

Mr Zen Makuch  
Dr Sandra Shefelbine

#### Rector's Medals for Excellence in Research Supervision

Professor Anthony Bull  
Professor Andrew Bush

## Reduction in subwarden numbers

**Kadhim Shubber**

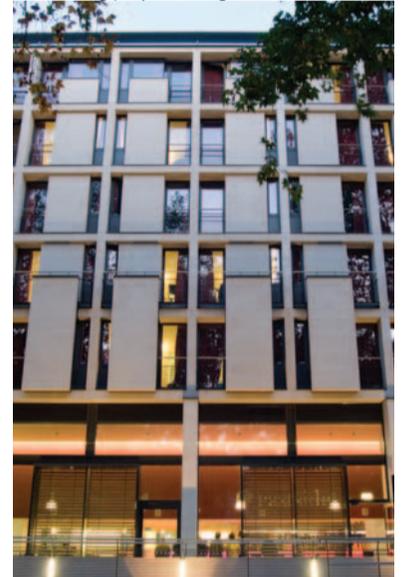
A review into the wardening system has recommended reducing the number of sub-wardens by around 15%. The reductions, which will occur through the normal turnover of contracts, are aimed at rebalancing the College's welfare provision towards counselling and disability services.

The recommendations will see a total of nine subwarden posts being removed from Eastside, Southside, Orient House, Holbein Willis Jackson, and Fisher Hall. The wardening review ran from May 2010 to March 2011 and on comparing Imperial's wardening provision with other universities found that the ratio of wardening staff to students at Imperial was significantly higher than at comparable institutions (1:30 at Imperial vs. 1:84 at UCL, on average).

It was decided that halls with a ratio of 1:31 or less would have a reduction of one subwarden beginning in 2011/2012, with the caveat that no hall should have less than four wardening staff. The reduction will see the average ratio at Imperial rise to 1:34.

The recommendations note that 'the College's very favourable Wardening ratios make an important contribution to the halls system' but argues that 'some economies in the budget are necessary' due to the current financial climate. The

Dave Guttridge/Imperial College London



wardening system currently takes up around 50% of the College's welfare budget.

In a report to Union Council last week, Deputy President (Welfare) Charlotte Ivison said that the reductions were an "economic measure" and that "no subwardens will have to leave their post prematurely". Some sub-wardens may have to move hall as a result of the reductions.

The Dean of Students Denis Wright, who chaired the Review Panel, did not respond to a request for comment.

## Tory MP implicated in ConSoc tour charge

### Greg Hands denies claims by left-wing blog

**Alex Karapetian**

Greg Hands, MP for Chelsea and Fulham and parliamentary private secretary to George Osborne, is alleged to have been involved in the prohibited sale of tickets for a tour of the Houses of Parliament by the Conservative Society at Imperial.

Politicalscrapbook.net, which describes its content as "left wing news and gossip", claimed that Imperial College London's Conservative Society sold tickets for a "Houses of Parliament Tour with Greg Hands" to its members for five pounds. The blog points to a 'What's On' advertisement in a copy of Felix dated October 2009 as evidence of its claim. The blog links to the issue published online and remarks "MPs can sponsor tours of Parliament for constituents who would like to visit. Tours are given to constituents free of

charge, and must not be sold for profit to third parties" – a quote that it takes from the Speaker's website.

The question which has arisen is whether Greg Hands providing these tickets to the Conservative Society with them selling for profit constitutes a breach of the regulation. In 2005, Conservative MP Jonathan Sayeed was expelled from the Tory party for profiting from private tours of Parliament.

Felix contacted Greg Hands, who clarified that he "didn't give any such tour" and Hansard, a record of proceedings in Parliament, confirms he was leading a Westminster Hall debate on Russia on that date for the hours at which the tour was supposed to have taken place. He added, "I do regularly sponsor tours for constituents, schools and other groups connected to Chelsea and Fulham" and that they are free

tours given by the House rather than himself. "I don't play any direct part in organising them and I wouldn't dream of charging anyone."

At the time of print Felix is unable to clarify whether or not the tour went ahead as the Conservative Society was unavailable for comment. However, an unverified member purporting to represent ConSoc posted a comment explaining that the tickets were sold "in order to raise funds from their members to fund further events" and that this had "nothing to do with Greg Hands". The user added, "five pounds was the minimum amount one could charge to sell tickets online" through the Union website. Hands mentioned that "anyone at Imperial who is a Chelsea or Fulham resident can contact [him] via the House of Commons, and Parliament will be able to arrange a free-of-charge tour."

Sponsored Editorial

## More student cuts

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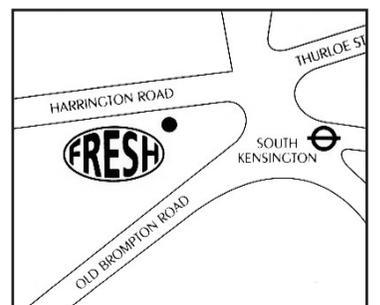
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# FEATURE

## Lessons from the Mech Eng refurbishment

**Kadhim Shubber**

**T**he renovation of the Mechanical Engineering Department has not run smoothly, to put it mildly. As Felix has reported in previous weeks, it has seen delays, hiccups, and errors that have caused snorts of derision around campus. With this in mind, we suggested to the College and the Department that they open the doors to the department to show us a renovation that is nearing completion, and also to open up about the challenges that they have faced and the reason why the renovation has experienced so many problems. They agreed and last Tuesday I found myself donning a high-vis jacket, a hard hat, and a pair of rugged black boots that wouldn't look out of place at a Slayer concert, to head into what is very much an active construction site.

I'm with Steve Howe, Director of Capital Projects and Planning, Tim Venables the Operations Manager for Mechanical Engineering, and Steve Martin, Operating Officer for the Faculty of Engineering. When I first meet them, the sense of 'you've been writing about us' hangs in the air, but they're relaxed, the worst of the renovation is past them and they're looking forward to the work being completed in July, with students moving back in the months following – as Steve Howe puts it, people are usually miffed while the work is ongoing, but then appreciate the product when it's completed.

The renovation of levels zero and one of the Mechanical Engineering building was always going to be fraught with difficulty. Combine a technically difficult job with a bunch of extremely intelligent PhD students whose work has been disrupted and you're likely to see tensions rise. Errors such as the building of a £3 million exhaust system with galvanised steel – meaning that before long the warm corrosive gases that it is supposed to vent would degrade it – were met with disbelief by Mechanical Engineers; one can imagine them shaking their heads and saying "but it's so obvious!"

But not always. Take for example a problem they encountered with a large hydraulic oil pump that caused vibrations throughout the building when turned on. In January the problem was discovered – noise could be heard in lecture theatres – and it wasn't until April that the problem was fixed when better damping was installed on the pumps. Why wasn't it foreseen that a pump would cause vibrations that moved through the building? There's an almost identical machine in Skempton, which had the same type of damping (and had been installed by the same contractor), that didn't create any problems at all. From the College's point of view, there was no evidence to suggest that the Mech Eng pump would behave any differently.

As we walk around I see the little and not so little hiccups that have caused delays. The infamous £3 million exhaust system looms above our head. They've almost completed the corrective work on it but as expected won't tell me what the liability could be; with lawyers involved Steve Howe is careful not to say anything that could jeopardise Imperial's chances of getting the best deal possible. I ask about the sound-proofing in the engine testing labs and am conveniently pointed towards the label on the wall which says 'sound insulation'.

There's no doubt that the Department and College have taken pains to correct all the problems that they've encountered. Indeed the new labs are impressive and the investment shouldn't be tainted by the difficulties that they've faced – these truly are modern, world-class facilities. The pivotal question is why were so many problems encountered and what has been learnt?

There is of course the obligatory explanation that construction jobs are often overrun and that the reason that you always have a contingency fund is because it's inevitable that something's going to crop up. But as Steve Howe himself notes, the College have delivered projects under-budget and early before, why not this one?

'The work that we're asking

the designers and contractors to do is technically difficult. It's pushing their boundaries', says Steve. Tim Venables concurs with him pointing to the fact that building a mechanical engineering lab is far more difficult than renovating a lecture theatre. Although neither of them say it explicitly, there seems to be a sense that the technical complexity of the job perhaps wasn't fully appreciated from the start. Steve Howe says that in future they'll be taking a much finer tooth-comb to the specifications and requirements of each room and involve more in-house specialist expertise. "We know that there's a need to scrutinise the use of each and every room in a very detailed way to understand exactly what is required." He adds, "in the past we've expected the designer or contractor to bring in their own specialists in areas where its needed, but in future I think that we're going to be doing that on our end regardless".

Put his comments into the context of the renovation and they're hardly surprising. All of the parties involved probably could have done a better job in ensuring that the finished product would be exactly fit for purpose. To Imperial's credit, where they've identified shortcomings they haven't simply sat on their hands. This is a 'better late than sub-standard' situation.

So what to think of this £36 million refurbishment? Certainly the disruption caused to PhD students shouldn't be ignored; it's hard not to sympathise with them when you see slightly cramped facilities that they're using while they wait to move back into the proper labs. There are hints that the delays have caused friction between the Department and the College, but again that's hardly surprising. The College has recently applied for planning permission to modernise the exterior of part of the Mech Eng building by cladding it in aluminium, and I get the impression that when the renovation is completed and the lessons have been learned, that any acrimony will fade into distant memory. Except for the exhaust – that'll probably be a running joke in the Mech Eng department for quite some time.



A section of a new undergraduate teaching lab...



...Compared with the old labs



The College have submitted a planning application to clad parts of the exterior of the building in aluminium

## Life Sciences Teaching Review proposals approved

**Kadhim Shubber**

The Science Studies Committee has approved the recommendations of the Life Sciences Teaching Review, after initially rejecting them last week. The committee were satisfied that the department had addressed their concerns and that "its requirements for the academic quality of degree programmes had been met".

One of the areas of concern that the committee raised was the appointment of a new Director of Undergraduate Studies (DoUGS) to take the proposals forward. The need to appoint a DoUGS, after redundancies from the Life Sciences Restructure, was 'urgent'.

Other areas of concern included the 3rd year course options available and the possibility of over-subscribed lab courses.

The Chair of the Committee, Professor Richard Thompson, said that the department had now appointed a new DoUG and that if lab courses were heavily over-subscribed, the department had confirmed that "it would double up lab sessions for those courses". He said that the Committee was "pleased" the department had improved "several aspects of the structure and teaching of its courses" but noted that it would be "challenging to implement all the changes" before the next academic year.

## Laptop thief caught red-handed by College security

**Ben Scally**

College security officers, reacting to a report last Wednesday of the theft of a laptop computer, chased two young men across campus leading to an arrest and the assault of a security officer.

A second year graduate student reported the theft of their laptop from a desk in the computing lab, Room 303, in the Electrical Engineering building at 1pm. Another student, working in the lab, gave a description to security of two young men in their early-mid teens wearing jeans, trainers and grey hooded tops, each carrying black rucksacks.

At 1.30pm, members of staff in the Huxley building reported two young men matching these descriptions, wandering the building and attempting to open doors.

A security officer, responding to the report, confronted the pair on the campus walkway. The two youths split up; one running back into the Sherfield building and the second ran down the outside stairwell, dropping his rucksack. At the bottom of the stairwell, another security officer confronted him. He forced his way past the officer, punching him in the face, and ran off in the direction of the gate on Prince Consort road. A builder, working at the nearby construction site, saw him run up an alley between the church and an adjoining building.

The on-duty security officer at Beit, Jonathan Adams, left his post to give chase and caught the youth on Bremner road. Shortly after, the security team arrived with the police. The young man was arrested and charged with burglary

and assault.

The dropped bag was later searched by police and found to contain the student's stolen laptop. This was taken back to the station for fingerprinting and has now been returned to the student.

Analysis of CCTV footage revealed a picture of the second young man, who escaped. Police identified him as a known suspect, and are reported to have contacted him at his home address.

Darren Barrow, Senior Security Officer and Investigations and Crime management for the college, said the pair could be responsible for previous thefts on campus as they clearly had knowledge of the layout of campus.

The assaulted security officer, who did not wish to be named, sustained slight bruising to the eyebrow, but was not seriously injured.

Imperial College  
London

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college  
union

FIND A  
FLATMATE

# ELECTIONS

## Council Chair

**H**i, I'm Chris, a 2nd year student in Electronic & Electrical Engineering.

Not enough students know that they are welcome to Council to voice their opinions. I will ensure more students know what's being discussed at Council and feel welcome and able to take part. It would be great to see more students coming along to voice their opinions and hold our sabbatical officers to account. I will continue producing paper summaries before Council and publishing them online, and also in Felix if suitable.

Our union does lots of great things, but most students don't know about them. As well as publicising decisions before

they happen, I'll work hard to publicise the results of Council's work in Felix and on the Union website. If students know we're working hard for them, they'll be more supportive of the Union and trust us to get things done.

The council chair must have a good working knowledge of the Union and the constitution. I've got experience working in all parts of our Union; I've been a club president, DJ, welfare officer and even web developer. My wide ranging experience has given me a lot of exposure to the constitution, key knowledge for a successful council chair.

It's also important that the council chair is impartial. I

**B**eing a sabbatical officer has so far been the highlight of my four years at Imperial. I have loved dedicating my time to students as ICSMSU President, but still feel that I have more to offer the wider Imperial community.

This year has taught me skills extremely relevant to this role: I chair numerous Faculty and Students' Union committees and have learned how to encourage contributions from quieter members, minimise repetition and ensure that discussions do not centre solely around vocal members. I am currently a member of Council and a permanent observer of the Trustee Board, so know what the job entails.

Council is the highest committee at Imperial College Union but still has difficulty in reaching out to students, many of whom do not know what function it serves. As ICSMSU President, I have witnessed the capacity of Faculty Unions to connect with their members on a more personal basis. I know Jenny has done some great work this year in increasing understanding of what Council involves, and I would continue this by ensuring that summaries of the key items discussed in each Council are included in Presidents' newsletters to their students, along with a description of agenda items for the following Council, and encouragement of all students to

**T**he Council Chair is a tough role because it requires one to remain impartial and never take sides for any discussions. It also requires one to be assertive to keep discussions controlled, and at the same time be able to absorb information presented quickly. But the most important trait a Council Chair should have is a passion for our university and a desire to serve the students.

With my ability to separate emotion and work, and to process information, I certainly make a good candidate for the role. However, I will excel as the Council Chair and the main reason is my passion for our university and for serving other students. It was also for this

reason that took up the roles of being a Year Representative and my departmental society's Treasurer in these two years.

Now, I hope to offer my abilities to serve a bigger student body and you can grant me this opportunity by voting for me. Thank you.

## CHRIS DARBY



promise not to get involved in any policy making and to strive for fair and equal discussion in every meeting.

Tweet me @chrisdarby89

Don't forget, vote Chris Darby for Council Chair.

## DAVID SMITH



attend if there are any issues that they would like to discuss. Greater understanding of the role Council will hopefully result in wider interaction with it.

Thanks for reading.

## ZHUI YEO



## Court Advocate

**H**i, I am Abdul Patel, a second year materials student and it would be a privilege for me to represent you guys as court advocate for the following year. A court advocate position is to promote the court and to increase accessibility to all students that may require its service. Having attended meetings before, I am well aware of how the council operates. Furthermore, I have been present and even represented somebody in the union court in which subsequently, his disciplinary decision was overturned.

I personally feel that the approachability of the court to the student body is insufficient. If, for any unfortunate circum-

stances, you may find yourself having disciplinary actions against you or your society, I want to ensure that you get all the help and guidance you may require so that you have the best possible chance of fighting your case. I am well aware of the constitutional rules and I shall advise you, to augment your chance of having the decision overruled. In addition, I will increase the transparency of the rules and court matters to reduce the ambiguity it may pose.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have any questions regarding my manifesto, or on my stance on anything I have discussed, please contact me at ap3009@ic.ac.uk

## ABDUL PATEL



So please, vote experience, vote passion but most importantly, vote for somebody that listens and cares, vote Abdul.

## Equal Opportunities Officer

**A**s a member of the Welfare Committee, I will ensure that the Equal Opportunities Code is adhered to by the Union. I will endeavour to fulfil this role by:

- Voicing my opinions in the best interest of all Imperial students at all committee meetings.
- Liaising efficiently with the Education & Welfare Sabbatical Officer on equal access to welfare for all students.
- Making myself accessible by ensuring that students know who I am and how to approach me - I pledge to listen and respond to all queries, suggestions, comments or complaints made by students.
- Participating actively at

every opportunity to provide a platform for Imperial students to have their opinions heard on relevant issues by those who have the resources to implement improvements.

Through this I hope to help contribute towards building an atmosphere where we can all live and work together.

## NIRAJ MISTRY



## STUART HAYLOCK



**A**s Equal Opportunities Officer, I would continue to promote equality, tackle discrimination and give the necessary help and support to the different communities at Imperial; as well as continue to help run positive welfare week campaigns.

I am an experienced welfare officer as I currently hold a number of welfare positions in IQ (Imperial College LGBT) and the Union. I am the current Equal Opportunities Officer and so have worked with the Deputy President of Welfare on many welfare issues and have run many campaigns of my own. I am also the Welfare Officer of IQ and the acting SHAG Week Coordinator.

I have noticed a number of problems with the current welfare system that I would like to change.

If elected, I will:

- Raise the profile of the welfare officers around college to make them more available as points of contact.
- Support and advise the welfare officers; to help them with any welfare events and campaigns.
- Continue to work with the DPW towards the opening of a Sexual Health clinic in the Imperial Medical Centre.

In short, I believe that I am the most experienced candidate for the Equal Opportunities Officer role, am able to provide development in the field of

equality, and will ensure fairness in all university life.

# ELECTIONS

## CAG Chair

The CAG Chair is responsible for managing and creating volunteering projects for Imperial students. The management role will include liaising with external organisations and maintaining good relationships with those who support Community action group initiatives like the Soup Run. It will also involve recruiting participants on a regular basis to keep ongoing projects running. The creation role will involve supporting new initiatives and attending meetings on behalf of these projects at the Union.

I think I would be suitable for the role of CAG Chair because of my passion for helping others and the experiences I have

gained through volunteering with Oxfam, Imperial CAG and the NHS. Further to this I have experience in developing and managing projects.

I think that as an Imperial student it's important that we benefit from what we spend our precious time on. If you vote me to Chair, on top of my main responsibilities, I will work with Imperial's Volunteer Centre and if possible a Charity so that CAG offers a broader range of opportunities, which addresses the interests of more people: those who want to develop skills, build self confidence and even just socialise. Importantly I will keep you up to date with when, where and how you can get involved.

Community Action Group is what is best about Imperial students - it provides an opportunity to work with those less fortunate than ourselves and help them and their community. The range of activities that the Community Action Group undertakes is as diverse and innovative as the students who run them. From the African Development Project to the Soup Run, there are groups helping communities both close to home and overseas.

This year is the first year the Project have run within CAG and as such it has seen a lot of transition. As Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) this year I led an overhaul of Union fi-

ancial regulations to allow Projects to use the Union bank account. I also facilitated the setting up of a robust process allowing ambitious Projects to access College insurance whilst abroad. These processes and more need to be maintained and developed to continue making the Union a friendly place for Projects to operate, a mission I want to continue next year as CAG Chair.

As I've operated at all levels of the Union from Secretary of a club to a Deputy President I understand the pressures facing Projects. I am organised and efficient and want to make volunteering easier and more accessible for both the organisers and students who want to get

Saber King - what more needs to be said? CAG needs a "king", and I'm the guy for the job.

If you want somebody who has a genuine interest in helping the needy, then vote for me. I have actually taken part in CAG activities, collecting sandwiches and preparing drinks for the homeless every Sunday. My experience with the organisation means I will be able to safeguard the interests of those who benefit from our help better than somebody who does not take part. I have the support of every other member, so if you vote for me, you will be voting for the candidate whom CAG wants as their chair. I mean, you would have

to be mentally challenged to vote for someone who does not play football to be chair of the football society, and the same principles should apply here.

I'm assuming that if you've read this far, you are considering voting. Do vote, it's definitely worth the effort, and vote for me - I'm the best candidate, honest. If you don't know what CAG is, that doesn't matter, just vote for me anyway!

I have a lot of experience in organising volunteer work, having been involved in a range of charitable societies during my time at secondary school, so you know you can put your trust in me to make CAG the best it can be! Just remember - Saber King for CAG chair!

## FRANCOIS OKOROAFOR



Francois Okoroafor  
2nd Year Biomedical Engineering

## HEATHER JONES



involved. Vote for me to put volunteering on the map at Imperial and make sure that Projects get the support they need.

## SABER KING



## RAG Chair

Hello everyone! I'm Hamza, a 3rd year Mechanical Engineering undergrad, competing for the prestigious position of RAG chair. My motivation to volunteer in RAG is simplistically defined; to improve the participation rate in this noble cause. My inclinations to serve as RAG Chair are not unfounded. Being a part of the hall senior team last year in Pembridge taught me to embrace the essence and importance of team dynamics. Throughout my time at Imperial, I have volunteered for various charity causes including the Haiti earthquake, Pakistan floods, collections for bone marrow transplant for children (in collaboration with

UCL) and the recent tsunami tragedy which occurred in Japan. It was through these past experiences, I was able to understand how serving MechSoc as a Secretary could render me useful in my stride to make a marked difference in the lives of Mechanical Engineering students at Imperial, by providing a lubricant between the members and the committee, as well as an avenue of feedback pertaining to any improvements.

Apart from the famous RAG week, I would be keen on organising more exciting activities such as bungee jumping and hitchhiking for charity for the adventurous ones out there. Furthermore, I shall be keen on arranging more social events

I've been heavily involved in RAG, never passing up an opportunity to get stuck in and raise money, and I feel it's one of the very best things about being at University- combining charity with our student urges to dress up and have fun. It takes mass-involvement for good causes to a new level - we learn about many charities and causes and our actions do the same for the general public.

If elected, I will -  
-Be willing to listen to ideas people have and if possible, try to make them happen. You could feel free to drop me an email or talk to me  
-consult postgrads about how they can or want to get involved  
-Publicise RAG much more-

Hi, I am Andy Lai, a second year Physicist. The Union definitely needs a creative, proactive, and innovative Raising and Giving Chairman. It is concerned with the fundraising events that are on offer.

Being a regular with the RAG events I know what events are on offer, have my personal view on what is deemed successful and which areas could use improvement. The job is such a virtuous act and one that should be made more accessible and widely acknowledged.

Upon entering Imperial, I was elated to find out that fundraising is established and attempted to partake on as many events as possible. I was honoured to

posters in all departments to advertise the events and, if possible, in halls

-Hold a comedy night and talent competition

-Get IC RAG on facebook and twitter

-Keep in constant contact with (as they'd put it, pester) and aid where possible the medics through use of the RAG mailing list, hall reps and publicity

-Go to as many first year lectures as possible in freshers' and leading upto the RAG weeks to raise awareness about RAG and its events

-Use the (un)friendly rivalry between the Faculty Unions more, through increased attempts at mascot theft and com-

be involved in various charity and voluntary events. For instance, the Charity Concert for the Public Awareness & Social Services, The Avenues Youth Project at Edutain, and obtained the Imperial CV2012 voluntary award.

Naida has done such a fantastic job this year and I hope to carry on her great work whilst implementing my own ideas. I dream to be the person that can beat the record of the highest RAG achievement of 9 years ago in which we raised a staggering 100k in just one year!

By voting for me, not only are you voting for someone that is passionate about this topic, but also a person that is experienced, dedicated and confident

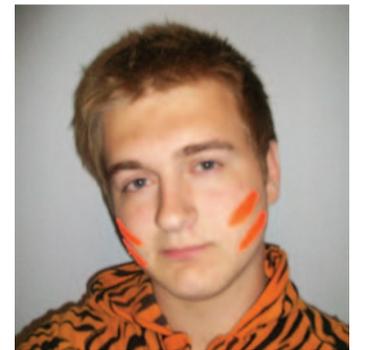
## HAMZA SHAIKH



to accommodate all the years. It is imperative, that as your Chair, I will work closely with you, in order to realise the vision for RAG.

I sincerely look forward to serving you as RAG Chair. Please, lend me your support and believe in mine.

## JACK HEWITT



petitions through the year  
-Increase incentives for Halls to raise money, maintain good contact with their reps and hold meetings with them before RAG weeks, and I'll seek permission to publicise events in halls

## ANDY LAI



in coordinating large groups of people and measures.

Please give me this opportunity to lead this organisation. I promise I won't let you down. Thanks for reading!

# ELECTIONS

Voting opens at 00:01 on Tuesday 31st May and closes at 23:59 on Saturday 4th June  
[www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)

## International Officer

I'm from Singapore, a country of FOUR national languages with a population more diverse than that of our college. Back home, the concerns of the various communities are handled with utmost care and their differing views are constantly taken into account in decision-making. It is my belief that international students in college deserve such levels of representation too. Our concerns, which include issues with visa applications and language support programmes, should be regularly brought to attention. With your support, I will also ensure that the relevant briefings for non-UK students are held to allow for a smooth transition from life abroad to living on

campus. I also propose to:

1. Introduce an Online Portal  
This will serve as a channel through which prospective international students can communicate with their respective seniors. The website will also serve as a means for international students to provide feedback on the admissions process and related issues, which will then be highlighted to the College's International Office.
2. Increase Interaction amongst the International Societies  
Having served as the treasurer for the Singapore Society, I have seen the benefits of mingling amongst the different communities at Imperial. For instance, attending one another's stage productions allow for greater

### HAO YI GAN



awareness of the common concerns faced. If elected, I will thus actively liaise with the OSC and the overseas societies' presidents to facilitate greater interaction amongst the international student community.  
 So VOTE for HAO YI!!!!

## Disabilities Officer

Do you know who your Departmental Disability Liaison Officer is? Did you know you that you have one? If you had a learning disability, would you know about it? Imperial does a lot for its students with disabilities, but there's a lot more that can be done to make life easier and fairer for our students. I'm a student in Biology and have served as Deputy President (Welfare) this year. I've seen our disability provision from both sides – I know what students are and aren't aware of and the next steps that need to be taken to improve. As Deputy President this year I've:

- Established a good working relationship with College disability services

- Improved on last year's Disability Survey and continued holding disability focus groups for our students
  - Championed Imperial adopting the DisabledGo scheme, which empowers disabled students by enabling them to see the access features of every building on campus via a user friendly website before they travel here
- Next year I hope to improve upon what we offer students by:
- Introducing a disability awareness session into the Freshers' induction programme to make students more aware of the disabilities they may have and the support available
  - Continuing to push for better access to buildings across our campuses

As a disability officer I would be required to ensure that all students with disabilities, diagnosed or undiagnosed spend their time at the college as pleasant as possible. Having a mother and a cousin diagnosed with light and severe level of disability respectively, I have spent a considerable amount of my life caring or being in contact with someone that requires that extra care. It is something that is very close to my heart and a very significant topic for me. If I am elected to this position I shall do my best to promote the facilities and help that are available to disabled students and ensure that the infrastructure is there to support them.

I am familiar with the support and services that are currently on offer and think that they are a great asset to the college. However, I do have some of my own views on how they could be improved. What I may seem to lack in experience at face value, I more than make up in passion and determination. If you give me this chance to represent the disabled people in the college, I promise to devote substantial amount of time, effort and resolve to this role. I wish to thank you again for taking your time to read my manifesto and please do contact me with any queries you may have.

### CHARLOTTE IVISON



- Maintaining the feedback mechanisms already in place and establishing myself as a friendly point of contact to make this even more effective, as well as continuing to follow up proactively on feedback to effect real change

### CLEMENT TREMBLAY



## Interfaith Officer

Hey! I'm Say! To get straight to the point, what I care most passionately about is for there to be greater unity between all faith societies. I am in my second year, and over the last year I have had the privilege of sitting on the Interfaith Committee, and have seen it grow from strength to strength. This year, I would like to go one step further, and use the experience I have gained to be Interfaith Officer.

Interfaith is still relatively new, so for those of you who don't know so much about it, Interfaith is formed by a committee of members from all the different faith societies, and aims to promote religious understanding, dialogue and cultural toler-

ance on campus. WHY ME?

- As Hindu Society Interfaith Representative, I have helped organise events aimed at all faith groups within Imperial
  - Having participated in student shows Mega Maalai (Treasurer) and East Meets West, I have gained an insight into promoting a large event to a multi-cultural student body
  - I consider myself to be approachable so I can take all your issues to the Welfare Board
- MY PLANS?
- Increase awareness of Interfaith across campus
  - Organise more events involving members of different beliefs and societies – eg. Multi-society football tournament
  - Have atheists and agnos-

### SAYINTHEN VIVEKANANTHAM



tic committee members, so more views can be represented.  
 I believe that I have the skills, experience and vision to religiously lead the Interfaith Committee... (no pun intended)! Please vote Say for Interfaith Officer!

## LGBT Officer

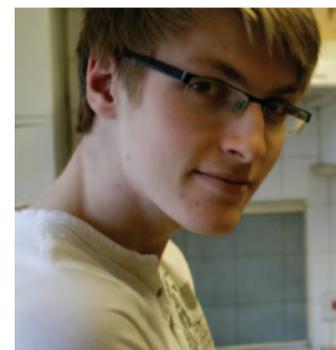
Hello, I'm Chris Socha, a second year ISE student, and I am running for the role of LGBT Officer. I've always been concerned with LGBT issues (local, national and global), and have been very involved in Imperial's LGBT society IQ (I've been re-elected as Events officer for next year). Through this role I have learnt that while the majority of Imperial is very 'LGBT friendly', it can sometimes be difficult for freshers who are not 'out', or who face abuse & 'banter' which can make them feel unsafe (whether physically, or emotionally) in their own home. It's also unfortunately too easy for people to forget about the 4th

letter in 'LGBT'; it is important for T and gender questioning students to know that there is someone in the union willing to help!

If elected, I will:

- Continue to ensure that there is no discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in the union, college or in halls.
- Work with ICU's LGBT society to provide awareness and support for LGBT students
- Work with the union and halls staff to make halls a safe and welcoming place for LGBT students, and proactively combat any abuse or discrimination

### CHRISTOPHER SCHLUMBERGER-SOCHA



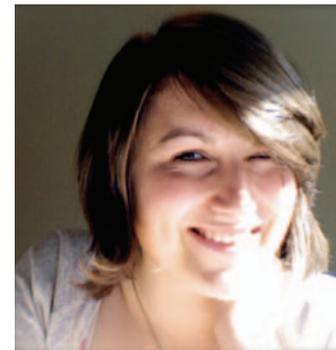
You all know someone at Imperial who is part of the LGBTQ community. You might not know it, but you do. At some point in their lives they are very likely to be the victim of homophobic or transphobic bullying or abuse. We need do everything we can to ensure that this is not the case at Imperial, and as much as possible to safeguard against occurrences in the wider world. The LGBTQ community encompasses a broad range of people and identities. I want to make sure all of us are represented - whether with a comforting reply to an email, by setting up better communications between the different groups there for LGBT students and

staff at and outside Imperial, or by advocating for anyone facing discrimination or difficulties.

We need to make sure the information on the union website is kept up to date, with clear contact details for the LGBT Officer and links to appropriate support channels.

We are lucky that it is relatively easy to live openly as an LGBT person at Imperial. As LGBT officer, I would fight to make it as easy as possible.

### KIRSTIN HAY



# ELECTIONS

## Environmental Officer

**H**i, my name is Yari Voropayev. I am a 2nd Year undergraduate student studying Material and Nuclear Engineering. I am a member of the Green Party and have consequently participated in several environmental projects. In recent years Imperial has made significant progress to be environmentally friendly, however I believe much more can still be done.

My goal is that Imperial College London will be the leading example of what can be achieved when saving the environment. Using our technological prowess, I want us to be coming up with innovative ideas that will make real differences regarding green issues.

I aim to provide cost-effective solutions in reducing the energy consumption levels at Imperial. An example of this would be to provide light sensors around campus and making sure that departments and halls. From coordinating with a STEP change ambassador, I was personally involved in conducting a number of assessments and surveys evaluating areas of improvement to increase efficiencies and reduce energy wastage. As a result I am familiar with areas that need considerable improvement in which I hope to address should I get elected. Also I have been the Materials Department Year Rep, this has augmented my ability to represent a group in a

### YAROSLAV VOROPAYEV



board and voice their concerns.

## Gender Equality Officer

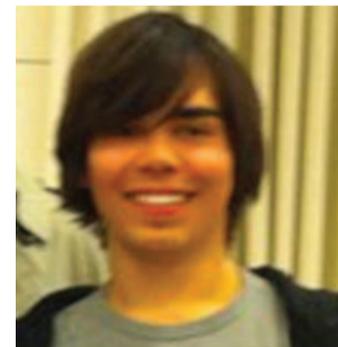
**I**mperial College is infamous for its male to female ratio, especially obvious in the engineering departments. This sex imbalance creates opportunities for potential sexual discrimination and harassment, which comes on top of already stressful work environment.

I regard the main role of gender equality officer to prevent violation of the women's rights in the day-to-day university activities (such as lectures, coffee breaks and living in the library) as well as in halls. Largely due to introduction of the Gender Equality Scheme at Imperial, the number of sexism-related issues has shown to be consistently decreasing for the past few years. I have talked to

several female students from various departments and none have complaint regarding discrimination, nor do any of the male students surveyed. My aim is to continue this positive trend through: serving as a link between students, the union and organizations such as Women in science, regulation of union-activities and increasing approachability.

Some might wonder whether a male student is suitable for such position. Being a biology student (one of the few departments where female students make up the majority) as well as a hall senior enables me to keep up-to-date with female perspective on the university experience.

### MIKHAIL NIKITIN



## Entertainment Committee Member

**H**ey guys, I'm Alan, a 2nd Year Physicist and I want to represent you as an Entertainments Committee Member.

I am very actively involved with the union and want to see it grow and improve. There are many students who are not fond of the union itself and do not attend many of its organised events - I want that to change. The union should be a place where you can expect to bump into not only your classmates and colleagues, but also friends from other London universities who have heard great things about it.

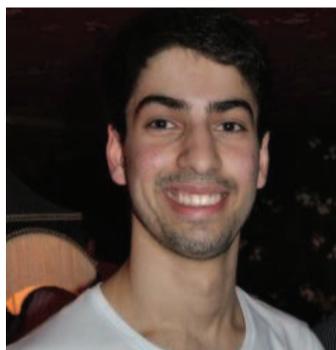
The Summer Ball was a huge talking point this year and I am as curious as anyone to see

how it turns out. I hope it will be a great success but, if it isn't and I am elected, I can assure you that I will consult with as many students as possible before making any new decisions next year.

In terms of experience, I have been elected ACC Vice-Chair for next year which means I will be in charge of the infamous ACC Barnight and my role as a hall senior in Beit hall will allow me to be "in touch" with the freshers.

Thanks!

### ALAN SOLTANI



**U**niversity is about more than lectures, tutorials and enough revision. Even moreso given the endless opportunities London offers to entertain and entice us and as such, I understand the importance of fun and being entertained whilst at Imperial. I've always been happy to go to the union with friends (often jumping at the opportunity), sported some 'interesting' costumes and ran around central London dressed as santa to raise money for charity to name but a few. I've been involved in everything I can this year, from RAG to societies, a variety of Dep-Soc events to just sitting around relaxing with friends.

It's important that we im-

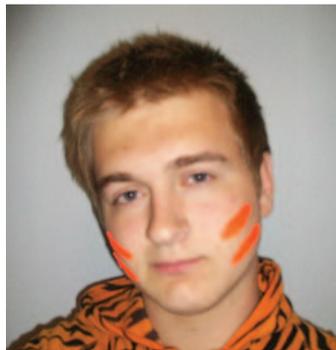
prove our Union in any way we can, and I've been elected as BiochemSoc events officer and have promised to ensure it's a fun and entertaining society, and above all else I feel that the philosophy of 'time enjoyed is never time wasted' applies to university and life in general, and this is what I want to bring to the entertainments committee.

If elected I will-

- Apply for work at the Union Bar to stay in constant contact with the goings-on and to see how it's going for students

- Be in regular contact with the other committee members and have frequent informal meetings as well as the formal ones to ensure the smooth run-

### JACK HEWITT



ning of the committee

- Write a termly Felix article about events that term
- Ensure the committee is accessible and easy to reach if anyone has questions/wants some information

## Healthy Living Officer

**H**i, I'm Joachim Dias, 2nd year undergraduate in materials. I'm running for Healthy living officer because I feel Imperial doesn't provide enough support for students.

- I want to make Halal and Kosher food available everywhere in Imperial because I think everyone should have the choice to eat what they want to eat according to their religion.

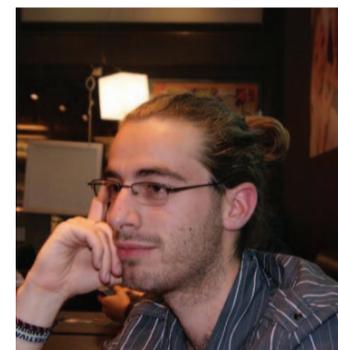
- I will also try to make the food quality of SCR available for undergraduates, it's not because you're an undergraduate that you can't eat healthy food but get the bad quality food of JCR. Food quality needs to be the same for everyone.

- Campaigns for drugs and

alcohol awareness will also be launched as it is a major part of student life and that needs to be recognized rather than ignored. People should know the risks they take and always be sure Imperial will provide help if they need any, they shouldn't be scared of talking to someone and taking the risk of being expelled.

- I will have the same attitude towards sexual health, and have STI tests available in Imperial on a regular basis.

### JOACHIM DIAS



## The following people are also running for positions but did not submit their manifestos in time

Michael Thorpe - Council Chair

Mustafa Khan - Interfaith Officer

### RON

Reubon Gibbons - Court Advocate

Bingqi Wang - Environmental Officer

Don't forget that if you don't think that the candidates running for any of the positions are good enough to be elected, then you can vote to Re-open Nominations (RON). If RON wins the election, then nominations will be re-opened and the election will be run again

Dolan Miu - Equal Opportunities Officer

Jianjun Tan - Entertainments Committee Member

Fayzan Munawar - International Officer

The manifestos for some of these candidates can be found at [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)

Sahin Mir - International Officer



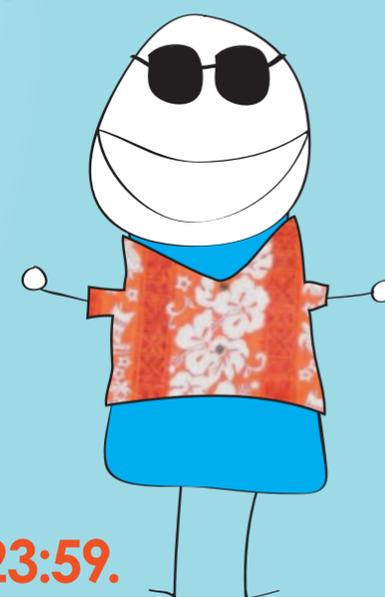
# It's time to vote!

Summer  
**Elections**  
2011

## Positions up for grabs:

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



**Vote online from Tuesday 31 May 00:01 until Saturday 4 June 23:59.**

## gsa Elections 2011

GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The GSA organises events and representation for all 6,000+ graduate students at Imperial. This means we're looking for people with a wide range of skills - from organising PG Mingles and social events, to those interested in helping their fellow students through representation & advice.

There are many positions available, from GSA President to Treasurer, Secretary, Academic & Welfare Officers and more.

For a full description of each position, go to the Union website. If you have any questions about any of the positions, or would like to learn more about the GSA, please email the current President, Deena Blumenkrantz, on [gsa.president@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:gsa.president@imperial.ac.uk).

If you're new to the GSA and not sure what time commitment you're willing to make, don't worry - we're all PGs too! The Union is committed to supporting the GSA with staff time & resources,

and we want to make sure that PGs can contribute without jeopardising their research or study. Taking part in the GSA is a great way to build up the postgraduate community here at Imperial - and it can have benefits for you personally too.

Nominations open on Monday May 23 and close on Monday June 6. The election will be held online from Monday June 13 to midnight on Sunday June 18.

Who can stand? Any current postgraduate and all final year undergraduates who will be postgraduates here next year can stand for positions.

Who can vote? All current postgraduates, all final year undergraduates with accepted offers for postgraduate study at Imperial and everyone standing for a position can vote.

## 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 **June 1**. 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.

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 1 June so make sure you get yours in early! Nominate online.

**Last chance to nominate!**

**Nominations close 1 June.**



# TECHNOLOGY

technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Tips & Hacks

### Orange Quick Tap



If you're tired of Chip and PIN-ing it everywhere you go because you never have any cash on you, you may want to take a look at Orange's latest offering in partnership with Barclaycard, the Samsung Tocco Quick Tap. The Quick Tap service offers customers the ability to pay bills of £15 or less using their phones at certain high street chains. Simply tap your phone on the special reader and the money is debited from your account virtually instantly. Quick Tap is currently offered at around 5,000 retailers across the country, and is the first volley in a barrage of such services to be launched this summer by major mobile operators. It's almost definitely worth waiting a few weeks to see what O2, Vodafone and 3 have up their sleeves, but if you can't be bothered with using a Chip and PIN device, patience probably isn't your strong suit.

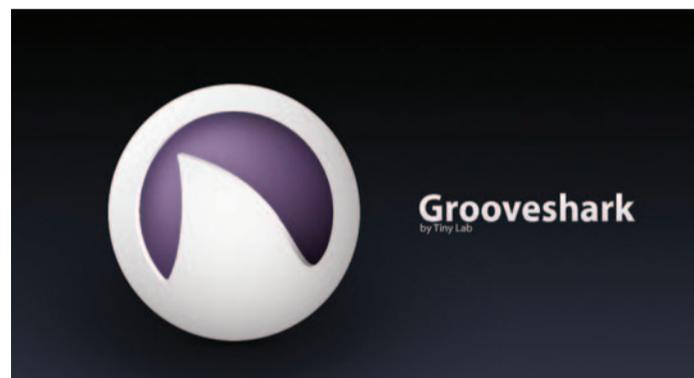
### StreetView goes indoors



Staring blankly at the outside of your house on StreetView might have begun to get a bit old, but Google has started to spice things up by moving their StreetView cameras right into shops and restaurants. The service has launched in Japan and America, and British shopowners can also apply to have their shops photographed by Google. It slots seamlessly into Google Maps, allowing you to move down a street and simply 'walk' into high street stores with the click of a button. While it's arguable how useful this feature is by itself, there are many features that could be added to the service to make it more interactive. For example, dropping into a restaurant could allow you to order takeaway or reserve a particular table. Knowing Google, they probably have all of this planned – watch this space for more in the near future.

## After Spotify, what next?

last.fm™  
the social music revolution



### Feroz Salam

Ever since Spotify Open limited users to 10 hours of free music and 5 plays per track, I've been on the hunt for alternative streaming services that offer something similar to its huge library and smooth browsing experience. If you're searching too, here are my experiences.

Of all the streaming sites, **Last.fm** and I have had the longest relationship. We first met back in 2007 and I was immediately smitten by the Artist Radio feature that plays you songs similar to those of your favourite artists. It's good new music on tap, tailored to your tastes, and there's nothing not to like about that. Yet Last.fm has never had all it would take to hold my heart. 4 years on, they still don't offer proper playlists and have been steadily cutting down on the amount of free music you can lis-

ten to. Give it a glance if you are tired of your library, but don't expect it to become your new favourite.

I spent most of 2009 two-timing, splitting my listening between **Grooveshark** and Spotify. Grooveshark was exactly what I was looking for to complement Spotify: web-based streaming that doesn't require a user account. It's an excellent service which has added features over the years to the point where it's now very similar to Spotify, minus a few features and the restrictions. Unlike the others, Grooveshark is driven by user uploads, meaning it's a great place to hear albums as soon as they release. If you're willing to put up with relatively mediocre sound quality, there's a huge library of free music at your fingertips.

While I long thought Grooveshark would be my only thing on the side, discovering **mflow**

was a pleasant surprise. Its feature set is basic - a library of 5 million songs and no playlists. Focussed heavily on social networks, posting a song to your Facebook or Twitter profile will offer you discounts on purchasing music if someone buys it using your link. All of this is done with the blessing of major record labels, meaning the songs available are of a consistently high quality.

Yet despite my promiscuity, the truth is that I haven't really been able to replace Spotify in my heart. I am even about to return to it, despite the small dent it'll put in my wallet. £5/month for unlimited, ad-free music on a huge number of different devices isn't too much to ask. Spotify's real victory is not in selling a new service but in combining most other services into one slick, attractive package that's won me over from the day I set my eyes on it.

## One stop shop for help with your laptop!

### Adam Mills

The ICT Service Desk over on Level 4 Sherfield is a busy place. In fact it's where all of Imperial's students and staff get assistance with IT and the small but efficient team that is the Service Desk handle over 6000 requests per month to keep everyone working.

For students in particular, if your laptop is running slow, virus-infected or just not working as it should be, bring it along for us to have a look at and book it in to our Laptop Surgery Service.

Likewise, if you have any other questions regarding your email, home directory (aka H:drive), wireless network or one of the many online services, you can pop up and have a

chat to get you back up and working.

Here at the Service Desk we believe IT should be helpful rather than a hindrance and without wanting to sound like the world-dominating supermarket, we're here to help. Oh and it's also a free service – now, you can't argue with that!

### Did you know?

ICT are currently running a survey and all responses will be entered into a prize draw to win one of 3 Amazon Kindles and 3 iPod Shuffles – let ICT know what you think of their services here now: <http://bit.ly/ICT-Survey2011> - deadline is Friday June 3rd 2011.



# TECHNOLOGY

Lizzy Griffiths



**G**oogle – a name we all know. I’m sure that the majority of you use one of the internet giant’s services on a near-daily basis. They of course burst into popularity with the now almost ubiquitous search engine, and have since made inroads into many areas of our digital lives. So their annual Google I/O event would usually have technology buffs salivating over what exciting new technologies may be announced. However, this year’s event may not have been so widely anticipated, especially with some of their releases in the last couple of years having a less than pleasing reaction.

## A fading edge

Firstly there was Google Wave – an online, real-time collaborative communication/editing tool that was first announced at I/O two years ago. It didn’t seem to me to really bring anything to the table – I couldn’t really see a real-world application for it. But everyone was raving about Wave – initial reactions to the service were positive, with invitations to the beta incredibly popular. However, it soon became evident that there was little to do once the initial hype had passed, and Google failed to come up with a solid use. To this end, Google announced just over a year later that development on the service had ceased due to lack of interest.

Secondly, a little over a year ago, came the infamous Google Buzz. The social networking and messaging tool came under fire almost immediately due to privacy concerns, with the first lawsuit coming just one week after Buzz’s release.

Many users were outraged by some of the default settings, which revealed people they often emailed and automatically posted their current location. While this was probably the main factor in the service’s lack of success, it didn’t appear to have a unique or innovative feature to its name; instead it just seemed to be attempting to rival Facebook. Additionally it seems odd to me that Buzz is mainly integrated with Gmail. Surely if you’re logged into Gmail, your first thought if you wanted to talk about or share something with a contact would surely be to email them?

## Innovation lost

So why does it seem that the once seemingly-untouchable Google started to struggle? It cannot be ignored that the company is huge, with over 26000 employees. With a business that large comes an inevitable amount of bureaucracy. That in turn makes it more difficult for new, innovative ideas from non-managerial employees to make it into the world as a Google product.

For example, those ideas that originate in engineers’ twenty per cent time (and Gmail was one of these) would

probably never make it past their computers today.

On top of that, it’s possible that this will have a knock-on effect on new applicants to the corporation – budding new software engineers with idea-filled heads may start looking elsewhere in fear of not having their innovations even considered.

**“Budding new software engineers may start looking elsewhere in fear of not having their innovations even considered”**

## More of the same?

But perhaps there is hope for Google to shed their previous failures in the newly announced products at this year’s I/O. Although their Android mobile operating system is successful, it looks like they need another big win to get rid of any negativity. So it’s worth a look at the two main services announced this year – Google Music and Chromebooks – to see if they may provide this boost.

First up is Google Music, an online music streaming service with a bit of a difference. Unlike existing services such as Spotify and Grooveshark, you can only stream music which you have uploaded to Google’s servers. Although the company is in talks with record labels and wishes to release its own music store, at the moment the invitation only beta seems more like just a music storage solution. And while you can cache some songs for offline listening, you

cannot re-download any of the songs you put up there, effectively tying you into the service should you lose your local copies of the tracks. From this, I struggle to see why people would switch from their current streaming provider.

The other main announcement this year was Chromebooks – Google’s coined name for netbooks running their Chrome operating system. There don’t seem to be problems with the software itself – it sounds like it does what it’s supposed to do quite well (as long as you can work within its internet only restrictions) – but there doesn’t seem to be a solid reason for people to move to the new platform. Even the hardware might be fighting a losing battle, as netbooks’ popularity has waned.

The main selling point Google seem to be going with is the price, but even with that there doesn’t seem to be much of an advantage. The netbooks range from \$350 for the wi-fi version of the Acer Chromebook, to \$499 for the 3G enable Samsung Series 5. To compare,

you can get an HP Windows 7 netbook with a decent specification for \$449. Alternatively, Google is offering a monthly subscription based system, primarily aimed at the business and education sectors, with fees ranging from \$20 to \$28 per month depending on the model. These do come with a three year contract however, and if you need 3G data, you’re going to need to add \$20 a month for an extra 1GB to bolster the paltry 100MB included with the base cost. In perspective, a three year contract with the cheaper netbook and 1.1GB of 3G data a month will cost \$1440, which isn’t very cheap.

So it seems that although their new products have some interesting features, the day may not yet quite be saved. With Google trying to be dominant in so many digital markets, perhaps even spreading themselves too thinly, it’s easy to forget the products that made them famous. They may be starting to lose their edge already, a dangerous possibility in such a fast moving sector.

# One stumble too many?

## Chris Bowers asks if Google may be losing its innovative edge

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# POLITICS

## The world beyond College walls



### Russia

A Russian appeals court has upheld the sentence of Mikhail Khodorkovsky but reduced his sentence by one year to 13 years. Mr Khodorkovsky was the former head of Yukos who was found guilty of fraud and tax evasion in 2005 together with his business partner, Platon Lebedev, after seeking to support a liberal opposition in Russian politics. Mr Khodorkovsky poured scorn on the judges and called his conviction absurd; however, his claims were rubbished by Russian authorities.



### Iran

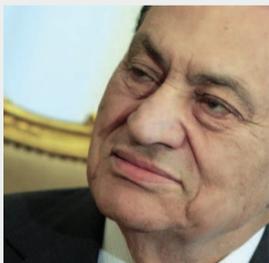
At least one person has been killed and twenty injured in a blast at an Iranian refinery as the Iranian President was visiting. The refinery in Abadan was opened by President Ahmadinejad and consisted of two stages which will ultimately supply 6 million litres of petrol for domestic uses. A top Iranian official has said that the blast was not an act of sabotage and Iranian media reported that it was due to a technical problem. President Ahmadinejad is currently locked in a power struggle with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, after he reinstated the intelligence minister the president tried to sack.



### Egypt

Egypt's ousted President Hosni Mubarak and his two sons are to be tried for his alleged role in the killings of anti-government protesters during Egypt's uprising.

Mr Mubarak also faces an additional charge of illegally acquiring wealth during his 30 year rule. The Mubaraks, whose bank accounts in Switzerland and Cairo are frozen, deny this accusation. Several former ministers in Mubarak's administration have been detained including the former Interior Minister who was jailed for 12 years for money laundering and profiteering.



## The losers of international aid

### Jenny Wilson urges awareness about long-term aid

Much like the fashion houses of Milan and Paris, each season seems to bring with it a new or reinvented world crisis, whether it be natural or man-made. Iraq hasn't yet reached the status of a likely holiday destination and yet trouble in other countries close by has overcast the problems left by decades of international and civil war, largely inflicted upon its population by Saddam Hussein's regime. In a trend that seems to be becoming the norm, the western world stepped in to alleviate what it believes to be the bee in its bonnet, without realising there was a whole hive overhead.

My sister has recently returned from a trip to Kurdistan: an independently governed region in the north of Iraq, broadly equitable to the status of Wales here in the UK. Over a period of 10 weeks she worked with a local Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) called KURDS (the Kurdish Reconstruction and Development Society), who were established in 1991. Their original remit was that of providing clean drinking water and sanitation to returnees following more than a decade of conflict and displacement: the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988), the Anfal Campaign in 1988 when Saddam's forces destroyed 4,000 villages, and the Kurdish uprisings in 1991 against the Regime. I hope that you would agree that provision of water and sanitation seems to be a noble cause. Around that time, the international scene was largely concerned with the Gulf war, which saw Iraq invade Kuwait. Thus, the international media focus shifted towards concerns of international politics and oil greed. In a western culture where it's not unusual to give money to causes and charities, individual donors would find it hard to sympathise with the country starting wars. If anything, I perceive that we've started to learn that lesson from history: it's the governments who start international wars, not the people of the country.

In Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Libya, through the movements now known as 'the Arab Spring' populations have been demonstrating their dissatisfaction with their rulers. In many cases, the world initially stood on the sidelines peering in, praising this call for democracy and trying to do what they could to help. These call for regime changes and democratically selected leaders chimes in with the overriding tones of the season including legal aid, abolition of corruption and focus on international human rights which, again I hope we can agree, are also noble causes. So, if this is what's in fashion how do NGOs like KURDS survive? The answer is that they have to broaden their remit. Instead of focussing on just water and sanitation, grant applications now extend to legal aid courses and voter awareness campaigns and agricultural training courses, whilst the NGO is left choosing which two out of three schools will receive the funding available for a functioning toilet block. And they play the game, so that they can stay on the international aid radar which will hopefully one day service their initial

Sarah Wilson



Girls at Herish School in Keleckchi Collective Town where the new toilet block was completed in partnership with IOM in April 2011

mit, and so that they can stay employed themselves: two further struggles for local NGOs in developing regions.

So what can we discern from this? Probably that we tend to have a very short attention span when it comes to the real scale of these problems. Not to undermine their efforts, but charities like DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) thrive on this, as people are largely willing to give in response to specific natural disasters. The countries that require the assistance of global charities like DEC will eventually need the assistance of their local NGO's too, who have the local knowledge of how to restore life to what it was in a culturally relevant way, school toilets and all.

Overall, what could we hope to achieve in a world that is constantly 'moving on' with regard to international aid? Is the recent renaissance of the elbow patch (seen this season surreptitiously, but fashionably, placed on a lady's cardigan) a sign that we are capable of

nostalgia and reviewing faux pas or innovation from the past? I worry that we'll continue in this cycle of trendy development topics or crises and giving to each in turn instead of establishing a sustained commitment to ensure the survival of the efforts of those actually implementing the action for long-term restoration or development. International aid agencies do stick around, in some places for decades, but they aren't as immune to fluctuating political climates and agendas as many would perhaps hope. It would seem that if targets like the Millennium Development Goals actually have any chance of being met, everyone, not just the governments of developed countries, should keep them in mind constantly. That way, if you do choose to support an international crisis, think about what we should support: those people, organisations and charities who are in the position spatially and for the long haul to provide the assistance on the ground directly to where it's needed.

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# BUSINESS

# Niche marketing on the net

Nitin Nihalani from Imperial Entrepreneurs' Society on the power of specialising

These days it is quite difficult to find something in common with everyone in the world, apart from being human, but there is one thing that comes close: Internet users. There are about 2 billion of them according to [internetworldstats.com](http://internetworldstats.com). From a business point of view, this is the biggest market sitting in one place, but what product or service can you provide for all of them?

Google got it right: every Internet user needs to search. Facebook has a hefty slice of the Internet pie with over 500 million users by their own stats. However, there are not many others to talk about since Internet users are not all the same.

Let us get a bit more realistic now. Suppose you come up with a product, say dog food, and market and sell it on the internet. You have narrowed your customers to only dog owners but that is still a massive audience who are willing to pay to feed their dog. The problem you face here is that the market is still too big and there are so many corporate dog food manufacturers that gobble up all the small fish and leave you broke.

What next? Narrow your market further. Market your dog food purely for Labradors. You might manage to make a couple of bucks but probably not much more.

So you narrow your market further, to dog food for racing Labradors. Suddenly you have customers paying for your product because it is exactly what they are looking for. You add more products to your line up, dog collars for racing Labradors, dog soap and shampoo for racing Labradors, etc. You get the point. The more you specialise, the smaller your market, but the more loyal your customers.

This is the essence of niche marketing; identifying a small portion of the market with a specific problem and offering products and services marketed directly at solving that problem. You are in effect monopolising a particular market.

This was extremely difficult before the internet; how many owners of racing Labradors could you find in your neighbourhood, or even city?

Chances are that there are not enough to be profitable. However, you now have a medium to access all those racing Labrador owners, and indeed any niche market, throughout the world - the internet.

This is what has made starting a business so attractive in recent times. You find something you are good at, need, or have a problem with. Then creating a business around that becomes easy because you are both the expert and the end user.

There are, however, some pitfalls. If

your market is too broad, you will have too much competition, as already explained. If you find a niche market but you define your market too generally, you could end up with a lot of competition very soon after you start. If you are not good, it will be easy for someone to copy you, improve on it and steal all your thunder.

There is also the problem of recognising a market that is too small to ever be profitable. At that point you either have to give up the idea or do some charity to get it out.

That is why it is always important to test the market and start off with low costs and capital, because you could end up losing very quickly. Here again, the internet saves the day.

Since the target is small, your aim also needs to be good. If you do not present your product in the correct light, it could get lost in the internet because it is not attracting the right people. Direct, straightforward and pin-point marketing strategies need to be employed, no more of this wishy-washy subliminal nonsense.

If you get everything right, however, you could end up making a substantial amount of pocket money. It is the ideal business for a student; niche marketing means you do not need to be a jack of all trades, but putting all of your eggs into one beautifully woven basket could prove profitable.



Rex doesn't look impressed by the sales pitches he's heard for PooTrap

## UK grows 0.5 per cent; Obama visits; and more

### UK economy growth 0.5 per cent

The UK economy was able to grow despite a 0.6 per cent drop in consumer spending and 4.4 per cent drop in investments. These figures were offset by a 3.7 per cent rise in export earnings, which increased the economy by 0.5 per cent over the quarter and 1.8 per cent since last year.

The strong export-led growth, which contributed a record 1.7 per cent to overall GDP growth over the last quarter (meaning that GDP would have contracted by 1.2 per cent had exports earnings remained constant), is largely due to the weakness of the Pound Sterling. Yet this same currency weakness is contributing to soaring inflation. This has the Bank of England divided over whether to raise interest rates. Advocates of this argue that it will dampen inflation growth, whilst others worry that it will leave the fledgling recovery

still-born. The Bank remains cautious, saying that, "some pickup in underlying growth is likely during 2011, albeit less than was judged probable in February, driven by a continuing recovery in business investment and a positive contribution from net exports." The Bank's Governor Mervyn King added that the recovery will take "not just one year, but several years."

### Obama arrives for State Visit

After the official state dinner that welcomed Obama to the UK on Tuesday evening, the President and his delegation of senior advisors spent Wednesday in talks with their British counterparts to discuss global fiscal policy, budget deficits and international bailouts.

The Queen had toasted the Obama's visit, which was only the second official full state visit by a US President in history, by saying that the visit was meant

to "celebrate the tried, tested, and yes, special relationship between our two countries."

But the visit, which is part of a tour of Europe by Obama, is widely seen as being focused primarily on realigning fiscal policy between Europe and the US as part of an ongoing effort to bring about a more internationalist response to the global recession.

### Christine Lagarde bids for IMF

The French Finance minister Christine Lagarde decided this week to capitalise on the impeccable reputation of French politicians at the IMF to announce her candidacy to be the next head of the organisation. Despite objections from many developing nations that the job always goes to a European, they have failed to unite around an alternative and Intrade.com gives Lagarde an 88 per cent chance of winning the position.



Queenie hates playing wife-swap...

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# COMMENT

## FELIX

### Lunchtime's over

The search for a solution to the College's timetabling troubles continues. It is heartening to hear that the College are making efforts to make cross-departmental room bookings easier, but it is fair to say that altering the makeup of the day will be a part of the solution. The latest proposals from the College Day Working Group are a step in the right direction and are worth examining in a little detail.

The most important change is the eradication of the formal two-hour lunchbreak that we currently enjoy. Instead of this universally sectioned-off time of day, we will see different departments scheduling classes from 12–1, or from 1–2. The question to be asked is not whether this will alter College life to a lesser or greater degree, and the burden of proof is not to show that this will not have any negative impact; the question is whether this reduces the pressure on allocating teaching space enough to justify the downsides.

What are the downsides? Students from different departments and faculties may have timetables that do not allow them contact at lunchtime. Of course the more serious impact of this is that it will be more difficult for clubs and societies, and students generally, to organise meetings during the lunchbreak. Additionally some of those students taking Humanities courses will be forced to take their classes in the evening from 5–7.

On the other hand, offering more time-slots to departments will give them more options when scheduling classes. Which in turn will allow them to give students more options when choosing courses. This is undoubtedly a good thing and furthermore, if we accept the need to offer departments more flexibility, then we must recognise that this solution is far preferable to others; thankfully the idea of starting the day at 8am and ending at 7pm was abandoned.

At face value then, we believe that this proposal is not a bad idea. The others are so sensible or minor that they hardly warrant debate – allowing exams to be held on Saturday in exceptional circumstances is obviously better than having the end of your exams pushed back because the exam-period 'weekend' is off-limits. There is some way to go before we see any real changes (though it is getting frustrating to be constantly reminded that these are 'only proposals'; a phrase that ignores that 'proposals' have a way of becoming concrete when you're not looking). What is essential is that the detail is not overlooked. Students and staff rightly want to be assured that the proposals cover all the bases and that they will have a proper opportunity to voice their opinions. If this proves to be the case, then Felix will support the changes.

# Broken promises

## College Council haven't delivered on the teaching review



### Alex Kendall

Last week's Felix headline announced that I accused Professor Dallman, the Principle of Natural Sciences, of lying to the College Council. Those are not the exact words that I used (I said she lied to the Union President and misled College Council), but the implications are large and it is worth explaining what happened.

The restructure of Life Sciences began in July 2010 when College Council approved a document initiating the restructure; this document gives the overall objectives of the restructure and why they are necessary. The July meeting of College Council is in a period of handover for the Union, so both my predecessor and I were present. Ashley asked Professor Dallman what the effect of this restructure would be on teaching and on the current structure of the courses. She replied by saying very clearly that there was no intention to change academic programmes in the Department or reduce their content and that students in the Department should not be unduly affected.

When the names of the staff being made redundant were released it was clear that these promises were not going to be kept. The meeting in SAF where over 400 people came to see the explanation of the restructure showed that this was true, with the majority of questions relating to the loss of favourite teachers affecting courses. Prof. Dallman and Prof. Owens brushed these questions aside and said that courses would not be affected. It was even said that teaching would be made better after the restructure was complete.

What then happened in December left most people extremely frustrated. With the knowledge of the redundancies and the projected impact on courses, the letters from other Universities and Institutions and the comments from Imperial's own staff members made public, we asked Senate to suspend the restructure. This, as we know, was not successful. What did happen though, was another promise by Professor Owens. He said



In December, hundreds of students turned out to protest against the Life Sciences restructure

that he did not "anticipate a reduction in module choice for students" and that "the quality of student teaching and experience will only be enhanced by the planned changes to its courses". Considering that this statement was issued when the redundancies were known and many academics were saying that courses would suffer, it can only be called clueless.

What it did in the meeting however was to stop there being any real debate on whether the effect of the restructure on teaching was justified and what it would be. By repeatedly denying that there will be any change at all Professors Dallman and Owens neutered a proper discourse with students and staff alike until the real changes were known, and by then it was too late to reverse the changes.

We are now nearly at the end of the Teaching Review, a separate process which does not involve Professors Dallman or Owens, and which has looked at the overall teaching in Life Sciences, but has also had to apply academic First Aid to a suite of modules and course choices which were suddenly rendered impossible with the losses encountered in the restructure. There were a lot of other suggestions that came out in the Teaching Review, many of which are to be welcomed and the panel accepted and changed some of the plans after students and staff gave feedback. This was

What happened in December left most people extremely frustrated

an encouraging sign, as no such system of taking account of feedback occurred in the restructure. What was obvious from the Teaching Review document was the effect of the restructure on final year Life Sciences modules, and that by the time the new intake of students reach their final years, approximately 17 modules currently available will not exist.

There is a clear difference here between what Professor Dallman said when she initiated the restructure and what has actually happened; and what has happened was nearly entirely under the control of the restructure panel, and Dallman and Owens in particular. To have spent several months considering the outcome of the redundancies and to come to the apparent conclusion that nothing will be affected either suggests that they weren't thinking very hard or that they deliberately misled. Either way, it does not say much about the accountability of College Council if a process they started can be concluded under such different circumstances to those promised.

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

## COMMENT

With the identities of those with superinjunctions all over Twitter, mentioned in Parliament, and published in the Scottish papers, Felix asks...

## Should we abolish superinjunctions?



### Yes – Gareth Rosser

“Celebrities hiding their identities are simply trying to avoid facing the consequences of their actions”

Injunctions themselves have become outdated since the evolution of social media websites. Facebook and Twitter allow rumours to spread at a ridiculous speed. So whilst official English news sources like the BBC, the Times and even Felix were not able to name Ryan Giggs, more than 75,000 Twitter users already had. This not only makes flaunting injunctions easy, but leads to wild rumours being accepted as fact. Innocent celebrities will be accused of having taken out gagging orders without any proof, and this can be taken as fact by the world at large. The best way to stop false accusations is to not give the public figures who have done something stupid a legal smokescreen.

The extent of these injunctions is mind-boggling. Until a peer announced that Sir Fred Goodwin had taken out an injunction to protect the information about his alleged affair, almost nobody knew about it. Not even the Members of Parliament who were investigating his management of the RBS bank during its nationalisation knew? Information directly relevant to the investigation might never have been known, thanks to the gagging order. This only serves to show what can happen when freedom of speech and freedom of the press is lost. The media is one of the ways we keep our leaders in check. Celebrities know they have to answer to the media, and through the media, to the public. Our leaders and public figures should be held accountable for their actions, and how do we do that if they can legally gag the media?

I'll admit, maybe there is a place for injunctions in certain special cases. But in the way they're currently being used undermines their purpose. They're being used for selfish reasons, to escape consequences. And ironically, many of the injunctions taken out have led to more publicity for the celebrities, not less. I can't say I don't take some small satisfaction from this. I appreciate that celebrities are human. They make mistakes. We all do. But some celebrities seem to think they deserve to hide from their mistakes. With the dawning of the internet, celebrities may end up having to eat their just desserts.

The simple answer? Yes. Freedom of speech is one of the hallmarks of a civilised society, and injunctions curtail that freedom in a very real way. I mean, let's be honest I'm a reasonable-ish person and in extreme and rare situations, I could be persuaded that injunctions might have a place. But these days, celebrities are using them to hide extramarital affairs or other activities of an embarrassing nature. Quite frankly, this is not enough of a reason.

One premiership footballer got an injunction granted because he might be 'booed during games'. As a professional footballer you can expect to be heckled about something. 'Cruel chants' are apparently enough to warrant an injunction.

In taking out an injunction, these celebrities are trying to ignore one of the most important lessons we learn as children. Every action has a consequence. The celebrities hiding their identities are simply trying to avoid facing the consequences of their actions. What gives them that right? I mean, if you're a famous public figure, then you'll have known that the media would publish a story about your affair if they found out. And yet you still decided to have an affair. You knew the risks of discovery in our media age, don't throw your toys out of the pram if you get caught out. Nobody was forcing you to play.

Meanwhile, injunctions open the door to hypocrisy, as Andrew Marr, former political correspondent for the BBC has demonstrated. A man whose career requires him to quiz politicians on their personal lives used the legal system to stop people prying into his personal life. How can anybody be a journalist and also have a gagging order placed upon the press? It doesn't make any sense. At least Andrew Marr did the right thing, and confessed to having had a gagging order placed. He himself admitted to being embarrassed at having taken out such a thing. As well he should.



### No – Angry Geek

I realise you may be slightly concerned to see my name here, on the other side of the page, the one where the crazies live and people think that celebrities should be able to have affairs in secret. Well, yes and no. I'm here fighting for the side of superinjunctions not because I think it's right to keep the naughty actions of others a secret, but because, seriously, fuck you guys.

I know. I know that is my excuse for just about everything. But something quite lovely almost happened to the newspaper headlines this week. They very nearly shut up. I have next to me yesterday's copy of the Times, and only 50% of their front page is dedicated to this bullshit about someone's penis gaining unauthorised access to another person's vagina. Imagine that, only 50%. If only Mr. Giggs had managed to avoid being revealed by that stupid MP, we might've had something useful on our newspaper front pages this week, instead of utterly shit puns on his name and dire interviews with people who bumped into Imogen Thomas' sister one day on the bus to Haskins.

You see, superinjunctions only serve the rich and the stupid. But those are exactly the kind of people I don't want clogging up my media outlets. Far from being a slippery slope towards state censorship, the superinjunction laws are an amazing way for the celebrity world to shoot themselves in the foot. Less publicity means more real news. More real news means less need for me to write and tell you why I think you don't need to hear about who is shagging who. You're reading this now precisely because superinjunctions aren't properly enforced yet. Imagine if they were. You wouldn't be here! You'd be done by now, you'd be thumbing through the Music section or something. But no. You've got to finish reading this whole page. Look at all those words. You made this happen.

“But what if the bad men come,” I hear you cry, “What if we wake up in 1984.” and then you do

“If there's one thing this Conservative government could be useful for it's shutting up the hordes of Closer! readers”

that thing with your nose where you sneer at me for never having read it. Firstly, like you'd fucking notice. You feckless arseholes can't even summon up the interest to detach yourself from Reddit and Facebook, god knows why you're all concerned about the government taking over the freedoms you barely bother exercising. In a year that's contained nuclear scares, huge earthquakes and continent-shaking revolutions, if the most you can get worried about is someone censoring your hilarious twitter hashtag jokes, then you deserve state oppression.

But secondly, and perhaps more importantly, this slope isn't slippery. It's barely inclined, look. Every five seconds someone was mentioning Ryan Giggs on Twitter. The internet is sufficiently powerful that, should anything really malevolent happen and be covered up, that the truth would eventually out. This isn't oiling up the slope and sitting on it arse-first. This is a case of telling the difference between things that are important (like NHS reform, and net neutrality – you remember, those things that were your flavour of the month earlier in the year) and things that are so utterly unimportant that important things actually bend slightly as they pass near them (like two empty vessels dicking furiously in some motel up north). If there's one thing this horrific Conservative government could be useful for, and looking at the track record so far, I'd be surprised if it got above 'one thing', it's shutting up the hordes of screaming Closer! readers and Loose Women viewers for good.

Yes, the people trying to stop information getting out freely are bad and evil and self-motivating. However, that doesn't mean you can't manipulate them for your own gain. In this case, if people with lots of money think that stopping newspaper headlines from using their name will solve all of their problems, then so be it. I encourage them to do so. We'll continue being libellous on Twitter, and I can start buying newspapers again without feeling like I'm picking up a copy of Heat.

Leave my fucking newspapers alone, celebrities. You want your privacy, and I sure as shit want mine.

# COMMENT

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## The media's grief is hypocritical

Last week, a young Belgian cyclist died while competing in the Giro d'Italia (the cycling tour of Italy). In a downhill section he lost control of his bike and was thrown off, tumbling down into a ravine. His death was met with dismay and sadness within the cycling community and the following stage of the race was not taken into account as part of the overall ranking and was transformed into a procession in his honour. Sports papers and websites took it upon themselves to write emotional and gripping accounts of his life and death.

Mostly this process of grieving was done with respect and was certainly genuine. However, isn't it exaggerated for the mass media to publicise such an event, for journalists to write epitaphs as if they were personally involved? Compassion is one thing, genuine sadness and loss another.

While the mass media turn the story of a deceased biker or a murdered policeman into a front-page article, thousands of people die anonymously everyday. And when one orgy of empathy and sadness is over, the next dish is served, wiping away all memory of the previous event. The fact that human beings are prey to strong emotions is not in any way criticisable, on the contrary it is what makes us who we are. Emotions are the basis for any form of achievement; emotions are what make us human. What is wrong is the constant need to feed on what we feel, to extricate all meaning and turn emotions into a means for pleasure.

The media is partly responsible for this state of things, but they are an industry and an industry lives on what people buy. The ultimate stupidity lies with all of us who happily give time and money to feel sad, happy, intrigued, etc. about something that has nothing to do with us. Empathy is human, but it should be directed at the people who surround us.

We stand hand on heart and grieve, silent for a minute, when we are told to and we smile and party when others think that we should (an obvious example of the latter being the Royal Wedding) but at the same time we run the risk of squeezing all meaning out of our emotions. In the same way we say "thank you" or "sorry" without taking stock of the meaning of what we say, simply because we have been taught to, because it is the correct thing to do and in the process we annihilate the meaning of the words we are saying.

We are all so clean and clinical, so politically correct that we forget the profound meaning of things.

## Extra dimensions of service



**Rhys Davies**

**"Since they move freely in time, one moment is as good as the next to them"**

I'm sure you've suffered the same experience. You're at a restaurant, the food you've ordered has arrived and you tuck in. Thirty seconds later, a waiter will come across and obsequiously ask if everything is alright. Since there hasn't been the time for anything to go wrong, you nod politely and thank them. They then disappear and leave you to eat the rest of your meal in peace. But they remain absent even once you've finished and are, in a moment of weakness, contemplating dessert. They will have been gone so long by the time you ask for the bill, you wonder if they ever existed in the first place. When you are still waiting at the end of the evening when they are wiping down the tables, you convince yourself that everyone, not only the waiter, has completely forgotten about you.

As I begin the long walk home (I may have been waiting so long the Tube stopped running) the question plagues me. Why, wherever I go, do the waiters ask if I'm alright at the start and abandon me for the rest of the meal? I believe I may now have the answer – restaurant waiters exist in the fifth dimension.

Mortal folk like you and me exist in three dimensions of space, in which we move freely, and one dimension of time, in which we're limited in a linear fashion. I'm not quite sure why I'm explaining dimensional physics to Imperial students. I'm going to get so much hate-mail for this – or worse,

corrections. Waiters have another dimension to call their own, meaning they are no longer limited to one second per second time-travel as we are – they can move as freely as we move through the first dimension of space.

Restaurants' management mandate that waiters check on their customers in case something is wrong. Training for what to do in such an unlikely situation is only provided for senior staff but the important thing is that they check. Unfortunately, the waiters don't think of us, those handicapped to four dimensions. Since they move freely in time, one moment is as good as the next to them. So they check with us at the start, to make sure they do it, and then consider their duty discharged. Since they can come to the table at any moment and we respond that everything's fine, they assume that everything is fine in every moment. With such blissful ignorance, they don't think to check again and I am left waiting at the end of the night with a dust-sheet over my head.

Though I've solved this conundrum, more questions still remain. Are waiters naturally five-dimensional, or do they grow into it? Is there an aptitude test? Conversely, do five-dimensional people naturally orientate towards waiting tables? What do they do when they're not checking on my table? Does it involve wrangling dinosaurs? I'll get back to you on this one.

...or maybe I already did.

## Make your mind up, Clegg



**Sam Horti**

**"Why did he not object to these plans at a much earlier stage?"**

Last week I offered my thoughts on why I believe Nick Clegg's stance on the tuition fee policy was requisite, citing the essential maintenance of government stability. This week, we have seen the Lib Dem leader chance his arm on the other side, and I think he will find out that the grass is decidedly less green. I am of course referring to his open chastising of the NHS reform plans set out by the coalition.

Don't get me wrong, the plans are clearly fraught with problems, and need to be sent back to the drawing board. I find it very troubling that our Prime Minister has the audacity to say, in the face of enormous opposition from experts in the field, that the strategy is sound. It shows a tremendous lack of deference to bodies such as the Royal College of GPs, who have decried almost every aspect of the plans.

My own observation is that the proposed reform is simply change for change's sake. Every time he has been confronted on the matter, Mr Cameron spends more time emphasising the need to modify the NHS than he does addressing the specifics of the proposal. His reluctance to comment on the details of the reform plans leads me to believe that he himself knows that there are huge problems that need addressing. He simply cannot muster up the courage to admit it.

With all that in mind you may quite reasonably question how I can possibly criticise Nick Clegg. I am not taking exception towards his assertion that the plans must be altered, but towards his timing.

It's been a bad week for the coalition, with calls for Ken Clarke to resign, economic warnings from Vince Cable and questions about Chris Huhne's integrity. Taking this into account, Clegg's remarks, which suggest further divides in the Government, are at best remarkably untimely.

Secondly, I must query his motives. It is convenient, is it not, that he stands up to Cameron so soon after his promises of "muscular Liberalism." Why so capricious? Why did he not object to these plans at a much earlier stage? I'm sure he cares greatly about the NHS, and doesn't want to see it go to ruin. However, his objections emit a pungent scent of self-interest, fuelled by his sudden desire to put the Lib Dems back on the political map.

Some may consider this a feasible tactic. He is, after all the leader of a party under heavy fire. Be that as it may, he must concentrate his efforts on encouraging a stable government for the good of the country. I applauded the fact that his stance on tuition fees achieved that aim. On the issue at hand, I cannot pay the same compliment. As an isolated incident, it may amount to no harm. It may in fact benefit us all if it helps steer the Tories into a U-turn over the NHS reformation plans. Nevertheless, if Mr Clegg starts to make a habit of these public displays of objection, he may find himself on an increasingly slippery slope which leads to a Government that cannot even agree with itself.

This coalition has to hold itself together for a further four years. If Nick Clegg doesn't want to see it crumble, he needs to think seriously about where his loyalties lie.

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# the Writings on the Wall





## ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

**Poems for the week****Some Shakespearean sonnets to get you in the mood**

Shakespeare is known for his prolific output of sonnets, written for print while the plague kept people out of the theatres. There are 154 poems attributed to Shakespeare which take the rigid sonnet form of rhythm and rhyme. Usually a declaration of romantic love, some range onto broader topics as well and are still easy to read and understand.

**Sonnet 29**

*When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes  
I all alone beweep my outcast state,  
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,  
And look upon myself, and curse my fate,  
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,  
Featured like him, like him with friends possessed,  
Desiring this man's art, and that man's scope,  
With what I most enjoy contented least;  
Yet in these thoughts my self almost despising,  
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,  
Like to the lark at break of day arising  
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;  
For thy sweet love remembered such wealth  
brings  
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.*

A famous, and highly popular sonnet declaring the solace to be found in the love of another despite feeling otherwise miserable. Nice to remember if you have got someone to think about, less helpful otherwise...

**Sonnet 130**

*My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;  
Coral is far more red, than her lips red:  
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;  
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.  
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,  
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;  
And in some perfumes is there more delight  
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.  
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know  
That music hath a far more pleasing sound:  
I grant I never saw a goddess go,  
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground:  
And yet by heaven, I think my love as rare,  
As any she belied with false compare.*

Another popular choice, Shakespeare explains honestly his feelings for his lover, commenting on the traditional use of ridiculously overinflated hyperbole to describe beauty. Whether you think it's a cheeky poem highlighting a sweetheart's flaws, or the highest declaration of true love probably depends on your romantic tendencies.

# A bumper Bard evening

The entirety of Shakespeare's works in two hours in a low budget pub setting? Count us in!



Oooh, you sexy Bard you

**Rox Middleton**

Maybe you've had your fair share of proper Shakespeare, maybe you've already seen more than you want to, maybe you just like the idea of efficiency in getting through all of Shakespeare's work in two hours. Well, you might just find this show appealing. A fun romp through famous plays and their derivatives, it achieves well what it sets out to do and certainly makes for a pleasant evening out.

The action follows three actors fresh out of the same drama school as they try to make their names as Shakespearean actors by giving the audience a taste of every play during the course of one evening. The air is low budget and the theatre comfortably public (it actually is a pub) despite its enthusiastic makeover as ye Olde Tudor backdrop. Hey, they've even got a fun spoof programme to get you in the mood. The show is also varied and inventive, being split into separate sketches on individual plays, and some combinations (for instance all the comedies in one animated film). Although not all side-splittingly funny, they're original and good fun, interspersed with a couple of gems. Who'd have thought an 'off-the-cuff' rap of Othello could sit so snugly with a *Jurassic Park* themed

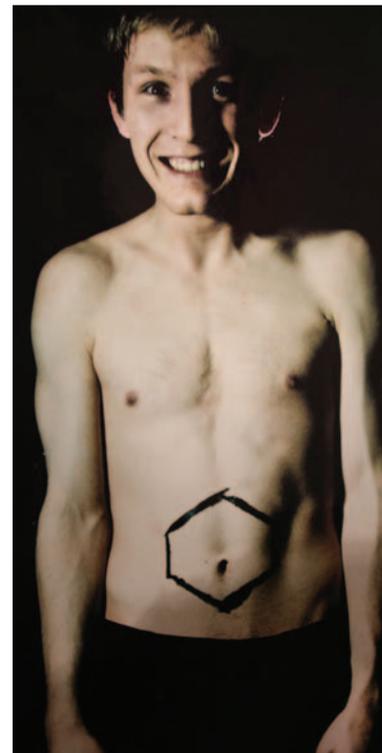
interpretive dance? A particular favourite of mine was the healthy energetic race through Romeo and Juliet complete with pantomime nurse.

The real plot of the show revolves around the contrasting personalities and ambitions of the three actors, all excellently portrayed by the three real actors. These characters are caricaturish but in the tradition of the low-budget village-hall genre the production seems intent on occupying, they are very much de rigueur. The performances given by all three actors are energetic, professional and impressive throughout. The fool of the funny trio, Lucy Wooliscroft, manages to charm even in the unpromising part of a woman who shrieks frequently and loudly enough to set the audience's teeth on edge. Whether the play is a parody of this sort of amateur drama or an epitome of it, it works to have the audience chuckling into their pints.

This play-cum-sketch-show is a warming example of Shakespearean humour, not to mention an excellent appraisal of the great playwright and his work. It's might not be genius but you can certainly get a great feel for the scope of the famous plays and have a relaxed evening out at the same time.

Playing at The New Red Lion, Islington until August. From £16

## Medics take over the Blyth Gallery

**Iris**

Until 5th June

'Iris' is an exhibition by medical and biomedical science students who are studying Medical Humanities as part of their degree. Students have tackled a wide range of topics in their artwork, from prejudice in medical practice to the role of the hospital environment in healing. Equally wide ranging is the choice of media. The works include sculpture, photography, painting, modelling, collage and a film.

# The Globe: just as you like it

Throughout the summer, masses of Shakespeare will be performed at the open air theatre on the Southbank. Just one of those plays will be the touring *As You Like It*

John Trampler



Think Shakespeare's just people prancing about in tights and capes? Think again. Although admittedly that is what they're actually doing in this photo. I guess you were right all along

## Caz Knight

The British summer has officially begun. Shakespeare's Globe theatre has set its band of players onto the road for three months of comedy – *As You Like It*. And what a riotous three months it promises to be. James Dacre directs a cast of eight who take on double that number of parts in this Victorian adaptation of one of Shakespeare's most loved and revived comedies.

*As You Like It* contrasts court and country living, explores gender roles, revels in romantic love and would have offered audiences of the time space for a good few hours of escapism and rude jokes.

The staging and text of this adaptation teem with energy and there is rarely a moment when the actors are not bounding about the stage in the slickest and most controlled fashion – dispelling any preconceptions people may have had that the Bard is staid and heavy. The nimble, slapstick element of the drama mixed with the audience's shouting, laughing and cheering gives the show all the ebullience of pantomime, sans cringe factor. Indeed, Jacobean comedies such as *As You Like It* were the precursor to panto.

Gunner Cauthery is well cast as the youth Orlando, banished by his older brother Oliver from their home, lover and pursuer of Rosalind (Jo Herbert), who is required to assume the appearance of a man, change her name to Ganymede, and flee the court of her evil, usurping Uncle – the Duke Frederick.

**“There is rarely a moment when the actors are not bounding about the stage in the slickest and most controlled fashion”**

The part of Rosalind has often made stars of those who assume it (Vanessa Redgrave, Helen Mirren) and it would not be surprising if the same thing happened to Jo Herbert. “Uncommonly tall”, Herbert has a powerful stage presence and an equally powerful voice.

She is accompanied to the Forest of Arden by her cousin Celia (Beth Park) and the motley fool, Touchstone (Gregory Gudgeon). Both Herbert and Park, as the comically exasperated Celia, bring a fantastic dynamism to the double act.

Gudgeon as Touchstone is hilarious and one of the many highlights of the production, with his crude gestures and horn honking. At 300 lines, it is one of the largest parts for a fool among Shakespeare's plays.

Counterpart to the fool is the melancholic Jaques. This production has incorporated a Madame Jaques, as opposed to a Monsieur Jaques, and Emma Pallant is stupendous as the philosophising depressive. Clothed in an over-sized coat and slightly mannish in mannerism (but slight in stature), Pallant's dark hair and large dark eyes conjure all the gloom required of Jaques and are also highly appropriate when she switches to playing “black silk haired” Phebe – the country girl, loved by bumpkin Silvius (Ben Lamb), who falls for Ganymede.

Ben Lamb shifts with ease back and forth between his three roles: flamboyant Le Beau of usurping Duke Frederick's court; brawny wrestler Charles and faithful servant to Oliver; the love sick and spurned Silvius.

Fight director Terry King has helped Cauthery and Lamb enact a realistic and brutal bare-knuckle boxing match between Orlando and Charles the Wres-

**“With all the free love, liberation and fluidity of sexuality in the Forest of Arden... it seems Shakespeare was a true avant-garde”**

tlar, carried off with precision and inciting many “ooh”s and “ah”s from the crowd as heads are slammed into walls and elbows collide with faces.

Not only does each actor stand out individually but the cast together has a fantastic chemistry which makes each and every portion of dialogue seamless, heartfelt and engaging. They have made all jokes and puns accessible, especially the dirty ones, without any dumbing

down, – showing us just how little sense of humour and appetite for the salacious has changed! Neither, it seems, has Shakespeare's fascination with cross-dressing and the examination of gender roles. With all the free love, liberation and fluidity of sexuality apparent in the forest of Arden – issues and ideals still very much at the fore of contemporary discourse – it seems Shakespeare was a true avant-garde.

Everything about Dacre's production from the first to last scene is a joy. Georgina Lamb's choreography; composer Olly Fox's beautiful score; designer Hannah Clark's booth stage and stunning pastoral mural, which earned itself gasps from the crowd as it was revealed.

There are far, far too many outstanding points about this production to mention. And, anyway, it would be far, far better to experience them first hand. *As You Like It* will meander its way up and down the country and even hop over to the German Globe theatre near Dusseldorf, as well as making a few returns to South Bank's Globe Theatre between now and September.

Check for a location near you: [www.shakespearesglobe.com/theatre/on-tour/as-you-like-it](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/theatre/on-tour/as-you-like-it)

# MUSIC

Music Editors: **Greg Power**  
**Luke Turner**  
**Stephen Smith**  
 music.felix@gmail.com

## Album of The Week



**Let's Wrestle**  
*Nursing Home*  
 Merge  
 2011

**Let's Wrestle** probably aren't going to get you a new boyfriend/girlfriend. Their lyrics aren't going to take you a new sublime level of spiritual understanding. Their music isn't going to move your body in new or unexpected ways. They might, however, get you to lean over to your friend at a gig and say, "hey this support band are actually pretty damn good, let's jump about and dance." They're a great, fun little British rock trio who have lyrics about Pokemon and tell science jokes at gigs. Admittedly this is the kind of album that an NME writer would enjoy (oh god, I like the same music as NME writers...) But the combination of unashamedly scuzzy guitars and melodies that have been recycled so many times that they could probably navigate the bottle bank blindfolded somehow create an album that is charming and thoroughly enjoyable. File under 'If I was 15 I'd be making out to this music...' **Kadhim Shubber**

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1. **Daft Punk**
2. **Radiohead**
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6. **The Beatles**
7. **RHCP**
8. **The Strokes**
9. **Crystal Castles**
10. **Foo Fighters**

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

## Make sure not to miss

### Fleet Foxes

**Hammersmith Apollo**  
 1st & 2nd June 2011  
[www.fleetfoxes.com](http://www.fleetfoxes.com)

Yay! Everyone's favourite band from 2008 are back with a new album and are touring. The Seattle band who managed to take bearded harmonies into the mainstream will grace the Apollo and assumedly, try to hum it to the ground. Admittedly I'm being really sarcastic and unnecessarily mean, but that's nothing to do with the fact that I can't go to either of their gigs because I've got work... **Kadhim Shubber**

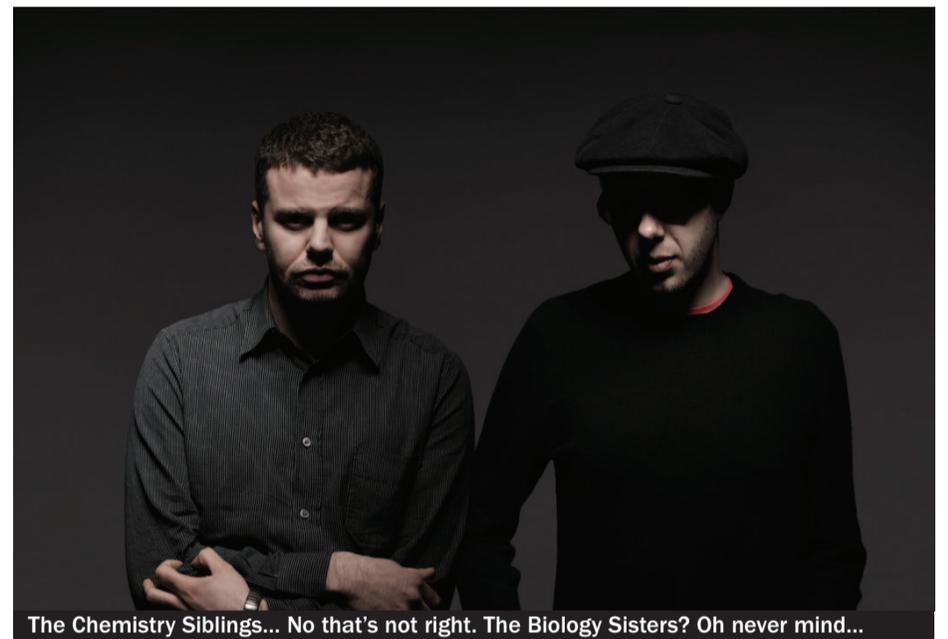


# Rinse, rave, and repeat

The UK's premier dance festival, Creamfields, is a true clubber's paradise says **Sean Harbison**

**C**reamfields UK is a two day dance festival held by the Cream clubbing brand from Liverpool. It is held on the August bank holiday weekend in England just outside of Liverpool and hosts a large number of DJs from a variety of different genres. The festival has really evolved – from its beginning as a small one day event in the year 2000 – to a global sensation bringing together the world's best DJs. In previous years artists such as **The Prodigy** and **Tiesto** have appeared in the line-up. However, live acts, such as **Friendly Fires** and **Gnarls Barkley** also play at this festival. This allows for a relaxing atmosphere if you feel like you need a break from the rave. Tickets vary from £135 for a three day camping ticket to £60 to just go on the Sunday. There are also VIP tickets for those that enjoy being close to the action but do not enjoy the grime involved with camping. This gives access to hot showers, posh toilets and the Hed Kandi Hospitality Arena along with free parking. There are 10 stages across the whole festival meaning that there is a plethora of choice when it comes to deciding what to listen to.

The line-up this year is incredible and makes for an epic show on the 11th birthday of the festival. It is an amazing display of modern dance music with drum and bass DJs such as **Danny Byrd**, **Andy C** and the **Scratch Perverts** to electro/house DJs such as **Tiesto**, **David Guetta**, **Calvin Harris** and **Fake Blood**. This is just a taster of the acts available to see.



The Chemistry Siblings... No that's not right. The Biology Sisters? Oh never mind...

**Dates:** 26th - 28th August 2011  
**Location:** Daresbury, Cheshire  
**Price:** £60-£135  
**Website:** [www.creamfields.com](http://www.creamfields.com)

There are also a number of UK/Dance festival exclusives: **The Chemical Brothers**, **Armin van Buuren**, **Swedish House Mafia** and **Paul**

**van Dyk**. There would be no other opportunity to see this many great DJs all for such a decent price. This is certainly a clubber's paradise. There is no doubt that if you love dance music then this is the festival for you; Creamfields UK has gone out of their way to find the DJs at the frontier of their genres meaning that this will honestly be a collection of the most outstanding DJs around the world. This festival will not disappoint.

## Animal Collective in Eastbourne. Wait, what?

**I**t would probably be the first, and last time that the sheltered residents of Eastbourne would see the word 'Supreme' with the word 'chicken' preceding it. Yes, a sizeable crowd of hipsters had made the perilous journey out of London and Brighton to the mundane streets of my elderly hometown – also known as God's waiting room.

The Winter Gardens is just moments from the pebbled beaches of the Channel. These usually play host to the likes of Lonnie Donegan Jr (who was a bit of a player in the 'skiffle' phenomena of the 50s apparently) and the ever popular 'Eastbourne's Tea Dances' – where you can 'trip the light fantastic' with 'light musical accompaniment from Chris Mannion'. Last Monday, however, it opened its doors to the avant-garde, experimental, and sometimes-unlistenable rock group **Animal Collective**.

Despite it seeming rather diminutive from the outside, the Winter Gardens gives a Tardis-like sense of being much larger on the inside. The roof is deceptively tall and its grand décor puts it in a similar league to KOKO. The

door staff are nothing like the bald-headed geezers you find in London. They're disarmingly friendly and seem rather bemused by all the undercuts, skinny jeans and frankly awful moustaches tramping through the door.

The evening starts with Brooklyn-based musician **Deradoorian**, who while inoffensive, does little more than warm up our ears; the crowd politely claps her through her set. **Group Doueh**, on the other hand, put on the most fun live performance that I have seen in a long time. They're a family outfit from the Western Sahara and come on stage dressed in white polka dot sheets. They play rhythmic drum and keyboard music, and before long the whole crowd are dancing. Ok, I lie, before long myself and a group of guys who I can only describe as hippies are dancing; the rest of the crowd is frankly confused by what appears to be the North African equivalent of the **Jackson 5**. Their set crescendos with a sublime five-minute guitar solo from father Salmou Baamar, played behind his head. They were the word entertainment personified.

Finally it was time for **Animal Collective** to take the stage. Friends had warned me that they would play an unapologetically experimental set, with no or little regard for which songs their fans wanted to hear. They were right. Playing against a backdrop of psychedelic visuals, they played some seriously strange but-still-just-about-melodic music. Thumping drums bounced up through your chest as peculiar noises screwballed through the air straight into your head. It was thoroughly hypnotising and before long I started to wonder why I was so sweaty; the annoyed looks that the guy to my right was throwing me told me that I may have been dancing a bit too energetically.

When they started to play 'Brother Sport' I must confess that a little ecstatic voice in my head shouted 'oh shit, I know this song!'

Unfortunately my little one man psyche-out wasn't to last very long. London was calling and the last train back to civilization was a good 20 minutes before the gig ended. Who knows what happened at the end of the gig? Maybe they played 'My Girls'... **Kadhim Shubber**

## MUSIC

It's the 1st of May and **Star Slinger** is playing Camden Rock at the Camden Crawl. The room is rather sparsely populated and despite the best efforts of this "one man beat machine", as he was described by Pitchfork, the sound system just isn't playing nice this evening. At the end of his set a crowd approach the DJ booth, my friend is the first to reach him and proclaims obnoxiously, "Can I have a hug?!?" Star Slinger peers at him through his long brown hair with a slightly confused face and has evidently misheard him, "Thanks but I don't need a hug." When my friend clarifies, Star Slinger reconsiders for a moment, and then gives him a full-bodied embrace.

I'm reminded of this exchange when interviewing Star Slinger a week or so later. He has a very personal online presence, talking to fans on his Facebook page and his Twitter, and posting his personal email account on his website to allow fans to contact him directly. I ask him what he thinks of getting fan emails and first he jokes that sometimes they're "really 'fan-ish' and you imagine them being a dork or something." But then thinks about it for a moment and goes on to say, "But I guess I'm a dork really. I remember being that kid who was really fan-ish and I usually give people a little reply".

Such is the duality of the artist Star Slinger, who is easily the hottest act of the year, and the man behind the music, Darren Williams, who describes himself as "the kid with decks at school" who wanted to be in with every crowd and open his ears to the full spectrum of musical genres.

"I wanted to be a bit of a wide boy and be into everything", he says, explaining that he DJ-ed with the "chavvy kids" while also playing guitar with the "geeky rock kids." His desire to be diverse is a thread that runs through his music today. His debut album *Volume 1* is an eclectic mix of danceable tunes that demonstrate his ability to tease, stretch, and chop samples into exciting new sounds. Artists often stick to one sound, and when they try to change direction it's often badly received because people aren't used to it, he argues. "With electronic music it's easier to be eclectic. Especially if you sample, it's easy to show that your music taste is vast rather than narrow." But his love of sampling goes deeper than simply showing off his musical knowledge: "I like making the most of something, a six-second clip [...] those parts of a record that want to be heard more."

In that sense Star Slinger is as much a music lover as he is a musician. His Facebook page is full of other artist's songs that he wants to share with his fans. "I try to fill my ears as much as possible. I think you're lacking something if you're not listening to music," he says confidently, before taking himself down again, "but maybe if you read books you've got one up on me because maybe you've learnt more."

The speed at which he has made a name for himself is quite astounding. He only started putting his music online and sending it to music blogs last June. (The first blog to really big him up, a Swedish site called **No Modest Bear**, called *Volume 1* 'a stunning instrumental album'). Come 2011 the Guardian were calling him the 'best new act of the year by miles'. To put it bluntly, if



# STAR SLINGER

**Kadhim Shubber**  
profiles this year's  
hottest artist

**"If you play someone one of his tracks, 9 times out of 10 they're going to love it"**

you play someone a Star Slinger track, 9 times out of 10 they're going to love it. He counts **Diplo** and **Donald Glover** among his celebrity fans and the queue of artists asking for remixes stretches out the door and around the block – he's applied his deft touch to tracks by musicians as disparate as **Broken Social Scene**, **Gold Panda**, and **Nicki Minaj**.

He says that he does his producing when it's dark. "I like to save the night for it. I'll think about it in the back of my mind all day. I'll already know what vibe I want." When I point out that his music sounds summery rather than **Burial**-esque he simply shrugs and says "I'm not so conscious about time really. I think everyone's got their own fucked up sleeping pattern", adding that having a job without a strict

morning timetable helps.

Recently Star Slinger posted a somewhat cryptic message on his Facebook: 'It's dope to be humble.' When I ask him about it he explains that he realised that he was biggin' himself up a bit too much. But it's understandable given his meteoric rise. "To me it's still crazy that I'm getting so many plays," he says. "I never thought I would get the success that I have had. Everyone self-deprecates after university, there are so many opportunities but so much competition."

It's interesting to see how grateful for his success he is. He's not blasé about his life at all. I ask him about giving music away for free on the internet and he points out that most of the music he puts out isn't free. He's been paid by a record label to do the remix. "People just think that you're a hobbyist putting out free music, but I'm not a hobbyist, this is my job." I ask him if he still works and he looks at me seriously before pointing out, "This is work."

A few weeks later he's playing at Stag & Dagger festival, headlining at the Queen of Hoxton. It's as far from the gig at Camden Crawl as imaginable. The

place is packed and the crowd is dancing like they're in an R. Kelly video. When I talked to him he described the music that he *loves* as "lush, full and wholesome" and the music that he *makes* as danceable music "for conscious people, not just for mindless fist punching". With the crowd's energy driving him on, his set is a perfect synthesis of those two ideas. His set isn't completely perfect, there are a few hiccups along the way as he experiments with new tunes, but to use the words that he used to explain his respect for **Diplo**: "A DJ's set doesn't have to be smooth and perfect, it's more about the buzz that they create." The buzz at the Queen of Hoxton is huge. The crowd start shouting out remixes from his extensive catalogue. One title stands out amongst the noise, his remix of 'Marriage' by **Gold Panda**. There's that customary pause for thought, the initial step back when he says "I don't usually play it live." But as the calls grow louder and refuse to desist, he probably remembers being a kid obnoxiously shouting out song names at a gig and relents. And as the bells at the start of the remix give way to the bassy fuzz underwriting the track, the crowd practically explodes.

Games Editor: **Simon Worthington**

## GAMES

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## GAME

GAMES AND MEDIA EVENT

## 2011

[doc.ic.ac.uk/game/](http://doc.ic.ac.uk/game/)Left: Marc Hull of Frontier Developments (*Kinectimals* and *RollerCoaster Tycoon*). Right: James Fairbairn of Media Molecule (*LittleBigPlanet*)

At Imperial's very own games conference, **Simon Worthington** chats to two Imperial alumni who describe their experience in (and getting in) to the industry

## James Fairbairn from Media Molecule



### What did you study at Imperial?

I did the BSc in Physics from '97 to 2000, although even then I was fiddling with computers a lot more than I was paying attention to my physics course, unfortunately.

### So you finished your BSc and then what happened?

So then what happened was I ended up getting a job in a software company that made network management software for financial services companies. I didn't go straight into the games industry at all, and that wasn't what I was planning at all. I started out as a Sysadmin, but quickly discovered that programming could help me solve a lot of the problems that I faced as a Sysadmin and I ended up actually heading the programming team at the place I worked.

### So your first job got you into programming, but how did you move from general programming into, specifically, games?

Well, actually I got a call from [co-founder of Media Molecule] Alex Evans, who has been a friend of mine for many years, saying that they were

looking for a server programmer. For a while I was a little bit reluctant, because I knew the games industry was famous for certain hours and practices and so on and I was quite comfortable in my financial services job. But, when Alex explained what they were making, and the whole concept behind *LittleBigPlanet*, I just had to give it a try and just thought, 'well, if I can do this then it'll just be fantastic!'

### You mentioned that you initially had quite a lot of preconceptions that it was long hours and not necessarily good pay. Has your view changed? Do you still think it's long hours and poor pay?

We do sometimes work some long hours but we try to keep that to an absolute minimum. Really, we see that as a sign of poor planning, so it's not something that we build into the schedule. I have been pleasantly surprised by the [post-release] crunch: at least, with *LittleBigPlanet 2* I was pleasantly surprised by the crunch but with *LittleBigPlanet* we did have quite a nasty

crunch period. I think it probably goes with the territory of smaller studios that there's just less of everything and more to do. So overall, I think my view has changed in the sense that the better you manage your planning, and the better you manage your project, the more you're able to deliver what you want to deliver in the time available. It's a kind of discipline – to deliver great stuff in the time available rather than trying to squeeze ever more stuff into ever diminishing time slots.

### So now you're in the games industry, is it where you want to stay?

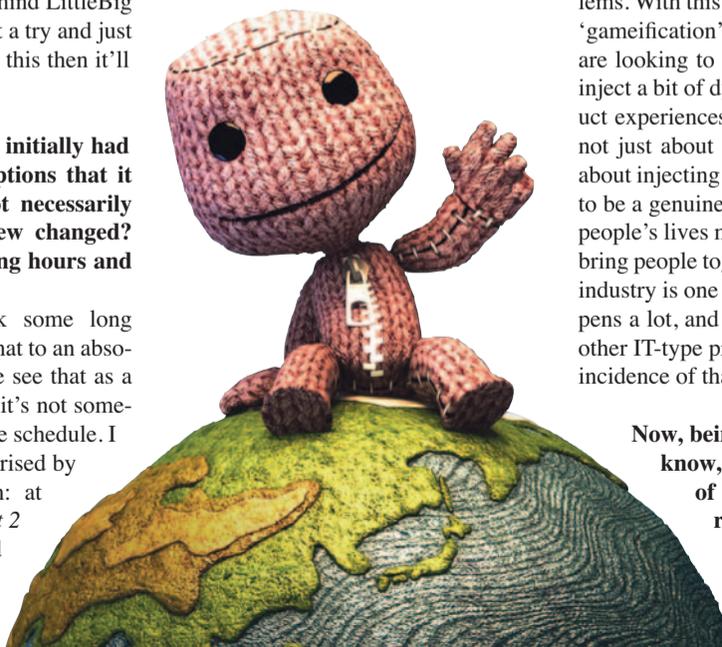
That's a very good question. I am really interested in how technology can bring people together, and how technology can enable people to achieve things that they were not necessarily able to achieve before, or that they didn't even know were possible to achieve. And so in that respect I would love to work in anything where game mechanics apply. Obviously, the first place to look for that is the games industry, but there are more applications of those kind of problems. With this whole emerging trend of 'gameification', I think a lot of people are looking to game mechanics now to inject a bit of dynamism into their product experiences. On the other hand, it's not just about injecting dynamism, it's about injecting joy - for me - and it's got to be a genuine attempt to try and make people's lives more enjoyable, or better, bring people together. So yes, the games industry is one example where that happens a lot, and compared to a lot of the other IT-type professions, there's a high incidence of that in games.

Now, being a physicist, as I well know, although we do a bit of programming, it's not really done very rigorously. We do programming to "do stuff", we don't really look at the

"It's just great to have been there for *LittleBigPlanet* and to have gone through that whole process; really, it was an honour"

### fundamentals. Do you feel that was something that hindered you, or do you think it's not really an issue?

No, I think the usual canard that's used is: in computer science things are done rigorously and in industry programming is just used to solve problems, to "do stuff" as you said. In that sense, the kind of programming that I learnt during my physics degree was the same kind of level of pragmatism: just "get stuff done". On the other hand, there are certain things that happen in professional programming that don't happen very much in either the sciences or in computer science. That's things like how software teams work together as teams, how you plan stuff, how you deliver stuff on time, how you make sure that a build from three years ago is still buildable, if you check it out from source control - oh, did I mention, you should



## GAMES

probably use source control? You know, all these kind of things, which I think computer science departments are now sort of adding to their arsenal of skills to know about when you go into the industry. But certainly when I was here, in computing there was a lot more emphasis on the theoretical aspects, which actually come up very little in most programming jobs.

**You said you worked in the financial services industry. A lot of people at Imperial are quite focused on finance; they're trying to get the big money and the big status. Now that you're not in that industry, do you wish that**

**you were, or do you think that you've moved to a better place?**

I wouldn't go back unless I felt that what I was doing was changing stuff for the better. I'm in some sense privileged to have seen the precursor to the 2008 credit crunch, and I actually worked on a project to help a bank trade more mortgage-backed securities and derivative products thereof, in America in summer 2007. At the time people were saying: "you don't know how it works, but trust us, it works". So having been there and realising that no-one really knows how it all works, I would have to feel like I was improving the lives of people rather than treating quality of

life as an externality for other people to worry about.

**Obviously *LittleBigPlanet* is now a huge phenomenon. What does it feel like to look at that and say: "yeah, I helped that become what it is"?**

I'm really proud of what we've achieved. I think none of us really knew how successful it was going to be when we launched. I think it's just amazing what people have done with *LittleBigPlanet*. It just gives me great sense of pride, really. It also scares me a bit that when we go on to do something else everything's going to be compared to *LittleBigPlanet*, obviously. The old sec-

ond-album syndrome! But it's just great to have been there at that time and to have gone through that whole process; really, it was an honour.

**Is there anything that you feel happened at Imperial, or anything about Imperial specifically, that helped you in your career?**

I would say academically, not so much – that's not Imperial's fault, it's more mine for not paying attention. But I would say that being surrounded by brilliant people and the resources to play with stuff really helped to build an inquiring mind. And I felt that when there's so many people around you, do-

ing such great things, you start to realise that anything's possible, or what you thought was impossible may not actually be impossible. I don't know how you'd write that down succinctly, but it's sort of the sense of opportunity and of things being achievable – problems are tractable.

**If you had one tip for someone at Imperial wanting to get into the games industry, what would it be?**

Make games, or make things to do with games, or talk to people in games, or play games, or – sorry, one tip? Do what you love, and get it in front of people – that's still two tips!

## Marc Hull from Frontier Developments



**So what did you study at Imperial?**

I did Computing, graduating in 2006. I then started doing a PhD and then got lured away by the games industry after 1 year of that – I never completed it. I joined Frontier in 2007 and I've been working there ever since, so yeah, that's about three and a half years now.

**What did you start your PhD in?**

It was actually in city generation for games. The first year I did research into that sort of stuff and just had little demos of things. The main idea was to use genetic algorithms to try and generate cities that were aesthetically pleasing and fulfilled requirements. But, I never finished that so I probably shouldn't talk too much about it!

**So you started your PhD and then got lured away - what was it that lured you away?**

I guess I always intended to go into the games industry at some point. I suppose I had this impression that it was very difficult to get into – I tried to actually get an industrial placement as part of my course with a few different games companies, and they all basically said 'no' without even considering me. They didn't look at my CV or anything. It was just, "no, we don't do placements", so that gave me the impression that it was going to be pretty tough. When I was doing my PhD I attended one of these [GaME] events back in 2006, and David Braben, who's the founder of Frontier, was giving a talk and I talked to him afterwards about it and he said, "well, you know, come and do a placement at Frontier". Initially it started as a placement and I just continued working there afterwards, much to the disappointment of my supervisor.

**You said you always intended to go into the games industry, but when did you first feel that that was what you**

**wanted to do?**

Probably from six or seven years old! I used to play tonnes of games, I still do play a lot of games. It was always something I was interested in – I learnt to program in BASIC and Pascal fairly early on. I was a bit disappointed that at school there weren't many opportunities to do that sort of thing, but it was great to then come to Imperial and learn how to program properly, with good designs. So, it's just something I've pretty much always wanted to get into.

**You also said that as a student you had this impression that the games industry was hard to get in to. Do you still think that, or has that changed?**

Mainly I thought it was difficult because when I tried to get an internship during my undergraduate I found it so difficult. I think a lot depends on catching development teams at the right time, because if they're right near the end of the project and they're just trying to get this game out, they're probably not going to want to take on a new person and train them up. I think it's just understanding when companies are realising games and making sure that you've asked them

early enough. Obviously you need to be a good programmer – when I joined Frontier there was a programming test I had to pass. I don't think it's all that difficult and if it's something that you really want to do then it's just a case of applying to lots of different companies and hoping that one of them takes an interest and takes you on.

**What's your role at Frontier?**

I mainly work on two things. We have this tool which allows our animators to put their animations in the game and set blend weights and stuff like that. I do a bit of work on that, and I help animators set up all that stuff, and I make sure that our back end animation system is doing whatever it needs to. The other main thing I work on at the moment is 'avateering' [full body tracking] related stuff, which is basically mapping what you're doing in front of Kinect onto a virtual character in the game and making sure it matches your actions very closely. Most of this requires obviously doing quite a lot of programming in C++. We do a fair amount of scripting in Lua as well, but also a lot of the job is talking to animators and designers and artists, and making sure that what they wanted to see in the game actually ends up in there, and just supporting them to make the game hopefully look as good as it possibly can.

**Is there anything you did at Imperial**

**“Working with artists and designers is really enjoyable, and I don't think you get that sort of experience working for a bank or a purely software company”**

**that you feel was advantageous or disadvantageous?**

I guess Imperial [computer science] teaches you a broad range of subjects, and most of them do end up being useful in different ways. Just learning how to do good code design and different design patterns and stuff like that was really helpful. One thing at the time was that Imperial didn't teach C++. I think the computing department now does have C++ course in the second year, but I might be wrong about that [he's not]. That's something that always surprised me – that a lot of universities don't teach C++ despite it being one of the most popular languages out there.

**So you feel that it's mainly your course that got you where you are?**

Yeah, before I came to Imperial I knew some programming but my design was terrible, and it really got me to appreciate how if you're working in a large team of people you do have to put care into your design and make sure you code is reusable and stuff like that. That's probably the main thing that the university course teaches you – getting you out of all the bad habits that you pick up if you teach yourself how to do things.

**What sort of things would you say to people at Imperial who might have done a bit of programming and might be interested in getting into the games industry but aren't computer scientists?**

I would probably say that they shouldn't

be put off by the fact that they're not computer scientists. Frontier does actually hire a lot of people from other disciplines. Normally when we hire someone who isn't a computer scientist, we will show them exactly how we set the code up and make sure they don't feel uncomfortable or like they're being asked to do more than they can do, but at the same time they probably should make every effort to try and learn C++. It's an incredibly complex language, probably too complex for its own good sometimes. When I got there, I just read through the code base and saw how people were doing stuff and copied that, and just built up from there. It didn't take long to do that. Obviously it helps to know other languages beforehand, so try to learn a language in your spare time and go from there. But don't be put off by it!

**A lot of Imperial students seem to be focused on finance, and big money. You obviously didn't take that route – are you glad you didn't?**

Yeah, definitely. I know quite a lot of people who work in consultancy and financial roles, and they tell me about the stuff that they're working on and it's definitely not something that would interest me very much. I like to work on things which are graphical, and where I can see this product on shop shelves and see people enjoying playing it. I think games is a really creative thing to be part of, and even if you're doing a really scientific part of it the creativity still spills over into what you're doing. Working with artists and designers is really enjoyable, and I don't think you get that sort of experience working for a bank or a purely software company. That's why I really like the games industry!

**For any student wanting to get into the industry, have you got any other top tips?**

It's definitely beneficial I think to have a demo of your work. I didn't(!) when I applied, which is maybe why I found it difficult to get internships beforehand. Certainly if you can show them stuff that you're working on, just to show that you have this interest and you can do this stuff, then that's always good!



# TELEVISION

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

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## Remakes and re-edits

There are almost as many versions of Neon G as Blade Runner and Apocalypse Now, combined.

### The Original Series

First aired in Japan in 1995, the TV series is the logical place to start. Twenty-Six 30-minute episodes back-to-back make for an excellently geeky all-nighter which we at Felix Television thoroughly recommend.



### The Director's Cuts

Pretty much the same as above but with added material. Some helps make the overall plot make more sense, some of it helps it make less sense. Before you can get into a neckbeard internet argument, I am afraid you will have

to watch both so you can compare them in minute stylistic details.

### End of Evangelion

As referred to in the article (right), the final two episodes of the original television series were a tad controversial. By which I mean the studio entrance got covered in graffiti calling them rapists and production members received death threats. So, ostensibly to satisfy the fans, an entirely different style of ending was released which effectively told the same story but with substantially more 20-storey robots, flying monsters and naked teenage girls, which is pretty much all they ever wanted in the first place. What quickly becomes apparent is that this new ending is far from satisfactory, and many Eva conspiracy theorists believe the film to be a bit of a "fuck-you" from director Hikedai Anno.



### The Rebuild of Evangelion

Another decade, another remake. The story of the TV series is in the process of being retold in a tetralogy of films, part 2 of which is out on DVD with an English dub later this year. Fantastically enhanced animation is complimented (or ruined, depending on your preference) by the addition of CGI. The first film was fantastic, for revisiting fans it was like Facebook stalking a hot girl from school and finding out she has now got a badass tattoo on her thigh. But then the second film hit torrent sites and suddenly ergonomic keyboards were ablaze with furious tapping and water cooled gaming PCs were struggling to keep up with frantic blog posting because, low and behold: they have completely and utterly changed the plot. What this no doubt means is that there is *yet another* ending in the works. Furthermore if the trend of increasing the levels of balls-to-the-wall apocalyptic madness with each remake continues (and with a teaser suggesting SEELE now have a base on the moon, we can assume that it does) then Evangelion 4.0 will have a finale to make the Book of Revelation look tame. **Matt Allinson**

# A never ending story

Felix takes a look at Neon Genesis Evangelion, the internet-forum-posting geek's favourite anime series

Maciej Matuszewski

This week I am going to review something a bit different: the landmark 90s anime Neon Genesis Evangelion. This is the first real anime that I have ever seen so I do not really know how well it stands up to other works of this format and am just going to have to review it as work of science fiction.

Evangelion is set in 2015, 15 years after half of the world's population was killed by the mysterious Second Impact, which the general populace believes to have been a giant meteorite hitting Antarctica. In fact it had something to do with the Angels, giant creatures of unknown origin which have now returned to threaten humanity. They are protected from all conventional and even nuclear weapons by their so-called AT fields and so can only be stopped by the Evangelions, mecha based on the Angels themselves and created by the UN paramilitary organisation NERV. Our protagonist is Shinji Ikari, abandoned by his father, NERV commander Gendo, over ten years ago but now called back as the only person able to pilot Evangelion Unit 1.

Reading the last paragraph back I realise that Evangelion sounds like an amalgamation of the worst anime stereotypes or some cheap Power Rangers knock-off. Believe me, this is not the case. You can tell that this show is something special from the beginning of the first episode with a long atmospheric shot of a flooded city with a line of UN tanks on a high mountain road above it, guns aimed at a large shape moving under the water.

The tone of each scene is perfectly judged, helped by a good choice of music and animation which, though admittedly looks a bit dated, is still stunning.

The greatest strength of the series, however, must be its character-



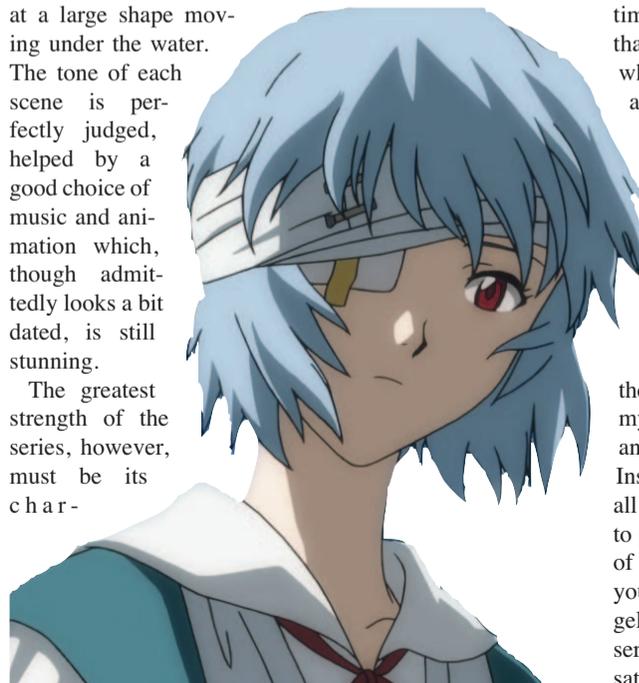
In the future, the hustings for union elections turn out to be a lot more enjoyable

acters. While Misato and Asuka may initially come off as, shallow and simply annoying respectively, we really get to care for them as we learn more about them and see them develop over the course of the series. Some critics' biggest problem with Evangelion is the constant whining and self-doubt of our protagonist and while it sometimes does get on my nerves I think that it is, for the most part, justified by what he has been through, both before and during the series. Indeed almost everybody in the series is mentally tortured in some way but the series really manages to show how deal with their problems in a way that is both sensitive and interesting.

The most divisive element of Evangelion is probably its plot. I have to admit that it is quite over the top, including a heavy use Christian mythology, government conspiracies and a secret plan, called the Human Instrumentality Project, to join together all consciousness. It is probably down to personal opinion if you like this sort of thing but I really urge you to try. If you can suspend your disbelief Evangelion can actually make you take it seriously so you realise how deep and satisfying the story is.

Any discussion of Evangelion would be remiss if it did not mention the infamous ending, which I feel strongly about. The last two of the original 26 episode run were so badly received that I originally skipped right over them and went straight to the remade ending in the 1997 film 'The End of Evangelion'. I decided to finally watch the original and was shocked by how good it was. I can see why it was so poorly received, being fairly understated, using mainly stock footage and taking place entirely in the minds of our protagonists: a massive departure from the rest of the series. It even led to the coining of the term 'Gainax Ending' after the company which created Evangelion to describe shows which finished with a similar tonal shift. While it is clear that Gainax was having trouble funding

**"I realise this sounds like an amalgamation of the worst anime stereotypes...believe me, it is not"**



these episodes I am inclined to believe statements by the show's creator Anno Hideaki that this was the ending that he really wanted. The experimental style allowed the viewer to literally see what was going on inside Shinji's head and made the resolution of the problem of his growing self-doubt, arguably the central theme of the show by that time, all the more believable.

'End of Evangelion', on the other hand, was certainly more in keeping with the rest of episodes, and indeed succeeded in being even more over the top. It is saying something when one of the least outlandish scenes was of a German teenager ploughing her way through the Japanese army in a giant mecha while laughing manically and shouting, "Mama, I've finally found you". While it was arguably created to make the ending clearer there I do not think that it really does tell the viewer much more. While we do see Human Instrumentality being initiated, in what is certainly one of the most impressive scenes in all of Evangelion, we still do not understand any more about it than when Gendo simply said "Today is the day" in the original penultimate

## "End of Evangelion was certainly more in keeping with the rest of episodes, and succeeded in being even more over the top"

episode. Indeed 'End' has its own, much shorter, sequence taking place inside the minds of the protagonists which is even weirder than in the original. The main new element that I think 'End of Evangelion' brings to the table are the frankly short but touching conclusions to the character arcs of some of the more minor characters, including my favourites: Lieutenant Ibuki and Professor Fuyutsuki.

Do not take my assertion that 'End' is no better than the original to mean that I think it is any worse. Several fans have expressed the opinion that the two endings are really just different versions

of the same thing: the original just being a part of the 'dream' sequence in 'End'. I think that there is a lot to support this conclusion but even if you do not subscribe to this viewpoint it is still worth seeing the two together as probably the best endings Evangelion could have had. Sure there will always be people who are annoyed at the unanswered questions: what exactly was the mysterious organisation SEELE which was controlling NERV, where did the Angels come from, what exactly was Instrumentality? Would, however, the show have been better if these questions had been answered? I am reminded of the ending of 'Ashes to Ashes' which pretty much fully explained how the 'Life on Mars'/'Ashes to Ashes' universe worked. The ending was rightly praised and if its creators wanted to give a definitive answer to the questions the shows posed this was probably the best one they could give. Since the finale, however, I have always had a nagging feeling that something was lost, that the shows were better when the mystery was still alive.

Since then, probably due to the negative response towards these two endings,

Hideki has decided to remake the entire show from scratch as a series of four films, the 'Rebuild of Evangelion', the first of which was released in 2007. This first film is basically a straight remake of the first few episodes of the anime with improved animation, though CGI was used a bit too often for my taste. It fixes a few of the anime's problems,

the English language dubbing of some of the minor character is far improved, but a lot of unnecessary cuts have been made: the opening scenes in particular feel a bit rushed. In conclusion, I cannot guarantee that you will like Evangelion but I certainly think it is worth a try: if you are anything like me you are in for a treat.



The most willfully uncaring bastard in television history. Lousy father too

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# FOOD

## Gastronomical Musings

Coffee on campus; not everyone is that fussed it would seem



Last resort?

I was going to dazzle you all with a review of a restaurant this week but seeing the almost prolific response we received to our coffee article last week I thought I would join in with the conversation. It seems when it comes to our caffeinated sustenance we all have rather exacting standards and I would not expect anything less than that from any true coffee aficionado.

One of our readers mentioned the wonderfully phallic handheld espresso maker for those of us who refuse to drink anything that is not up to our calibre. At £100 it is not cheap but definitely ensures long term satisfaction. Given that the major problem with coffee on campus seemed to be connected to technique, do it yourself may be the only way for those who have certain needs.

Now that all the clearly unintentional punning is over, we can return to the issues. The only consensus seems to be a fair amount of contention over whether the coffee on campus is quite as terrible as Thomas McFadden thinks it is. Sorry Tom, the cheapness seems to make more than a few people feel some leeway is allowed with the end product; and that a little bitterness now and again is good for the soul. The key, it seems, is get yourself a good base product in an Americano or Espresso (SCR, EEE, SAF or Chemistry Café) and then add your own milk. If you are drinking Lattés then you are on your own but I suspect the majority of you are not the ones that care anyway. There was also some chat around the Felix office that College is not responsible for roasting its own beans (shocker!); it is whoever they source it from who is screwing up.

On another note, we generally give College catering a lot of flack here but last week's article has had many come out of the woodwork in praise of café staff and their coffee making prowess. It seems individuals have their own favourite baristas and though they do not know their names they are incredibly grateful.

Someone mentioned the dreaded coffee machine in the back of the SAF as a cheap alternative and I could not disagree more, I spent a whole day of lectures staring at that dire concoction of water and sludge realising that there really was a limit to my caffeine problem. However as far as I am concerned I would much rather drink a mediocre cup of joe in College than milky, frothy, bland tasting, and arrogantly priced branding that is Starbucks Coffee. Except if I want an Iced Caramel Macchiatto because everyone knows that is a dessert.

Vicky Jeyaprakash

## Cheap chicken

Samuel Furse ponders fast food

Cheap Chicken will never die. If anything it is on the increase, despite McDonald's and the ubiquitous beef burger having been around longer even than most of us. The trouble is that it is looking as though its days may well be numbered, not least because various things have now clipped its wings.

Beef is traditionally a staple meat for much of the western world—much as it should be on nutrition grounds alone, it is an excellent source of protein as well as energy-giving fats that are particularly ideal for those in high-calorie-burning manual work. Beef is also a flavoursome meat, and is not hard to pick out in a blind tasting either on flavour or texture, even when cooked badly. Currently however it is significantly more expensive than poultry and despite its prominence, is only slightly cheaper than game meats such as duck and venison in middle-class supermarkets. You can also see this variation in the prices of dishes in restaurants, sandwiches in Sainsbury's or menu items from the Union kitchen.

Not only is beef more expensive, but provides an environmental problem. Part of the McLibel trial in the 90s focussed on the felling of ecologically valuable vegetation, including rainforests, in order to produce fertile land on which to rear cattle. This fertile land lasted only a few years before it was washed away. This led to more forest being cut down and so on. Not only did this reflect badly on the beef producing industry in America but precipitated how beef is reared and sourced, being followed up in more recent years by analyses from various quarters about how animals are reared and slaughtered in the UK. Currently we have laws relating to animal husbandry that are more stringent than those in Europe. That is why, incidentally, Danish bacon is cheaper than British bacon, despite that additional cost of transporting it from northern Europe to the UK.

Supply is of course not the only thing that dictates price in any industry. Demand is also part of the equation. This demand has led to the spread and flourishing of a variety of chicken-based fast food shops. KFC is of course the oldest, but Chicken Cottage and other pale imitations are now widespread. These shops also have their own dedicated suppliers: large scale catering supply companies that specialise in supplying fast food chicken shops of all kinds, who now market themselves independently. Or on the side of their lorries at least. There is money to be made in budget fast food, evidently.

And so we have a food industry which fails to excite the passion of the environmental lobby, and is cheap enough such that drunk students can and will eat it without the concern that it will destroy the planet or break the bank. Seems pretty reasonable. It is also fair to say that cheap chicken is probably succeeding where others may have had their day, but is this a good thing? It would be easy



The colonel has a lot to answer for, except for his style look at those geek-chic glasses! Bang on trend...

Fast food “is cheap enough such that drunk students can and will eat it without the concern that it will destroy the planet”

for a commentator to tell everyone to eat in Michelin-starred restaurants and hang the cost, though there is Mr Scarface himself to put even the most tenacious off doing that, despite the cost. And of course you should, but none of us do. What is there left? We are in a downturn and after a few drinks, crispy chicken wings are tempting, available and manifestly cheaper than venison tataré with pear sauce. And anything has got to be better than another packet of crisps, surely?

Review:  
**Harwood Arms**  
by Aki Matsushima



The only Michelin-starred pub gastropub in London has a surprising signature dish – the humble Scotch egg. Of course, it is something very special. The egg, hidden within plenty of flavourful venison sausagemeat, has a firm white but impossibly runny yolk and is coated in the most crunchy, golden brown breadcrumbs. This sums up my impression of the Harwood Arms. It is something simple and comforting that has been obsessively refined to the point of being ethereal.

The menu consists of pure, seasonal beautiful British fare. It is free from any gimmicks or mind-games that many Michelin restaurants are guilty of. There is not a smudge of foam or a speck of overly rich sauce with a pointless French name in sight. The home-baked bread that arrived straight away stunned with its artisanal qualities and the two-week wait for the table was already justified. The starters of an extremely well-executed Eel tart and the perfect Scotch egg made me start planning my next visit even before my main course of succulent wood pigeon fillets and homemade Douglas fir sausages arrived. There is a lot of game featured, especially venison, and the restaurant website tells us that some of the ingredients are proudly hunted by the owners themselves. By the time I was onto dessert and coffee, I was convinced I was dreaming. The light and fluffy homemade doughnuts with fragrant lemon cream and sweet eggy bread with sharp rhubarb were both easily the best specimens of these classics that I have ever tried.

Located on a quiet corner of a residential street between Fulham Broadway and West Brompton, the exterior of the pub is deceptively unassuming. It is not obvious whether the pub is even in business or not. But once you are inside, there is a Heavenly atmosphere. The room is light and roomy but is still cosy with its rustic interior. The clientele is predominantly affluent, but not ostentatious, locals who have come to let their hair down just to enjoy quality food and drink. Everything about the institution is tasteful and everyone present relaxed and mild-mannered.

You would be happy to marry your daughter to the charming, intelligent Harwood Arms waiters wearing smart-casual really well. Good service is more about character and style, rather than crumb-sweeping and extensive knowledge about vineyards. You will not hear me saying this very often, but just over thirty pounds for three courses excluding drinks here is an absolute steal.

Harwood Arms, 27 Walham Grove, London SW6 1QR, 020 7386 1847 Nearest Tube: West Brompton or Fulham Broadway.

Books Editor: **Guo Heng Chin**

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# BOOKS

## Science fiction, but not as you know it The British Library's intrepid new exhibition

**Caroline Knight**

The small, dusty and cramped environs of the Imperial College Science Fiction Library may serve as a true reflection of how the genre is valued and viewed by many... and this is the science fiction library of the country's leading science university. The tiny library houses over 7000 books and 1000 films: extrapolate those figures to get a more realistic size of the realm of science fiction on a global scale.

Despite its geeky connotations, science fiction pervades all manner of media around us, and has done so for millennia. From Thor and Inception to Lucian of Samosata's True History dating back to the second century AD, which tells of a group of explorers visiting strange lands and then being lifted to the Moon via a waterspout.

Anyone who claims not to enjoy science fiction is probably lying... or at least unaware of the myriad of themes, premises, styles and storylines it encompasses. If you search hard enough through the back catalogue of books and films you have enjoyed, you may be surprised at how many could be classified as such.

Upon uttering the words "sci fi", it is easy to immediately conjure images of aliens or scenes from Star Trek. And, undoubtedly, these fall very much under the category of sci-fi. As humankind develops, time moves forward and technology progresses so too does the types of science fiction we create.

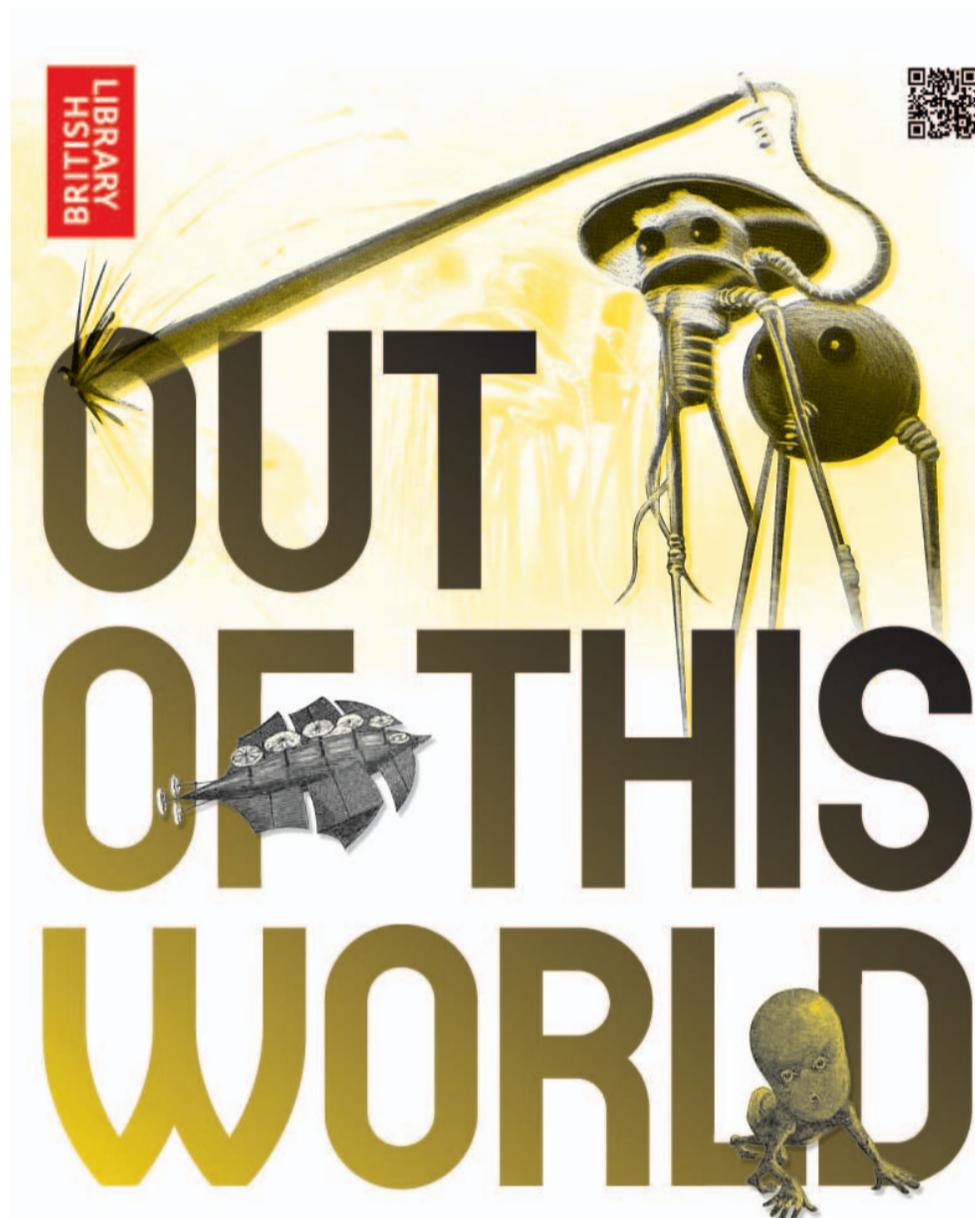
It helps us confront ethical issues associated with the exponential expansion in our scientific knowledge and the added responsibility to planet and people it entails. It lets us come to terms with uncomfortable truths and uncomfortable potential truths; it gives us free rein to philosophise about the nature of reality and our place in the world; it allows denizens living under authoritarian governments to satirise and question the status quo; and, in a very Freudian way, it gives us an arena in which to escape and act out "illicit" fantasies.

Utopia is still a thoroughly contemporary concept. Both it and its opposite, Dystopia, have been a subject of investigation in fiction such as Aldous Huxley's outstanding *Brave New World* and George Orwell's 1984. However, the word was coined around the time of King Henry VIII by Thomas More, one of his loyal advisors, in a book he wrote describing the political system of an imagined world.

Cyrano de Bergerac also dabbled in the world of the fantastical. His 1657 book, *Le Autre Monde: ou les États et Empires de la Lune* (*The Other World: The States and Empires of the Moon*), Cyrano travels to the moon on a rocket powered by firecrackers to meet its inhabitants. One hundred odd years later and vehement supporter of civil liberties, Voltaire, published *Micromégas* – recounting the tale of a being who visits earth from another planet.

More modern sci-fi offerings include the epic *Dune* by Frank Herbert in which he creates in infinitesimal detail another world: replete with all the details of its own political, cultural, religious and social practices. Whether your interests lie in the scientific, the romantic or the aesthetic, *Dune* is guaranteed to enrapture you on at least one dimension.

What the world will be like in the future is another fascination of science fiction. Before the flurry in technological development of the 1700s, life did not alter greatly from generation to generation. The



apparent absence of change would have also meant an absence of realisation that life over the coming decades and centuries would be different. The complete opposite is true now. Cormac McCarthy's highly acclaimed book, *The Road* (also made into an intensely moving film by John Hillcoat starring Viggo Mortensen), gives us a harrowing vision of a post-apocalyptic earth.

A copy of the *Daily Mail* from the early twentieth century, but dated Saturday 1st January 2000, gives a snapshot of how people (or at least *Daily Mail* editors) thought Britain might be at the turn of the millennium. Yet more interesting is William Heath's illustration *March of Intellect*, depicting the Grand Vacuum Tube Company's (grand vacuum tube) running from London to Bengal and an apparently steam powered carriage – London to Bath in 6 hours – among many other new fangled, futuristic inventions of Heath's imagination.

The above are but a few small rays of light that the British Library's *Out of This World* exhibition shines on the super genre. The high-ceilinged, dark, cool interior of the PACCAR gallery creates a calm and reflective setting for its collection of literature, film, illustration and sound. Mixed with copies of original manuscript from the sixteenth

century are interactive exhibits including a design your own alien station (your creation will be put on display after a mandatory trip through quarantine) and a chance to have an instant messaging conversation with a computer to test whether Artificial Intelligence can truly replace Human Intelligence. I got a wonderful smug sense of satisfaction when I succeeded in outwitting "Elizabeth" after my second question put to her.

The guest curator, Andy Sawyer, director of Science Fiction Studies MA at the University of Liverpool, has organised the collection into sections – Alien Worlds; Future Worlds; Parallel Worlds; Virtual Worlds; the End of the World and the Perfect World. These give us a framework with which to consider sci-fi as well as demonstrating the extent of its scope.

Lose yourself – for free! – in the countless concepts, presented succinctly and beautifully, at the British Library's *Out of This World*. Give yourself a different perspective so that you may, perhaps, gain a more enlightened perspective on what you perceive to be reality.

*Out of This World* runs from 20 May – 25 September 2011. [www.bl.uk/sciencefiction](http://www.bl.uk/sciencefiction)

## Bookfests galore this summer

### In London

#### London Literature Festival

30 June – 14 July

Southbank's annual summer literary festival brings together some of the best homegrown talent, a large repertoire of worldwide literature, fresh pieces from young and emerging authors, and a dash of alternative literature; so whatever your tastes are, you are bound to find something there. This year's festival features Philip Pullman, Hanif Kureishi, Alan Hollinghurst, Elif Shafak, Michael Morpurgo and many more. Book early for popular events.

#### World Literature Weekend

17 June – 19 June

A relatively new festival that celebrates foreign literature. Only in its third year, luminaries speaking at the weekend include A.S. Byatt and Ramsey Nasr, Poet Laureate of the Netherlands. This year's theme is 'history and its traces in the present'. There will be some spotlight on crime fiction as well. Literary translation plays a big role in this festival and if you dare, try on the translation masterclasses.

#### Waterstones & Foyle's

Weekly

Waterstones on Piccadilly and Foyle's on Charing Cross Road both run weekly talks and discussions with authors. Certainly worth checking out.

### Outside London

#### Hay Festival of Literature and Arts

26 May – 5 June

Held annually at Hay-On-Wye, a small Welsh town famed for second-hand and antique book stores, the festival was hailed as the "Woodstock of the mind" by Bill Clinton. The Hay Festival is not just a literary festival: it is a celebration of ideas. Featuring a diverse range of speakers from authors (duh!), playwrights, philosophers, and journalists to scientists, economists, musicians and comedians. Many prominent figures have graced the Hay Festival's stage, and this year is no exception.

#### Woodstock Literary Festival

15 September – 18 September

Another young festival, it has grown at an astonishing rate as it's organized by The Independent. Last year's speakers included Richard Dawkins, Philip Pullman, Matt Ridley and many more. Held at Blenheim Palace, the location itself warrants a visit. With 2100 acres of parkland, lush gardens, a large lake and baroque architecture, it's the perfect summer getaway. Not to mention it's also the birthplace of Winston Churchill and a World Heritage Site.

#### Edinburgh International Book Festival

13 August – 29 August

With over 700 events and 220,000 visitors, this must be one of the biggest literary festivals around. It features a series of high profile debates and discussions, and plenty of meet the authors sessions. Established and new authors roam the festival in large numbers. Two independent bookstores are set up for the festival as well. **Guo Heng Chin**

Travel Editor: **Chris Richardson**

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# TRAVEL

## Wish you were here



'Athens Diving World Series' by Aris Messinis

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

FirstThursdays.co.uk



First Thursdays in East London

**Get there:** A tube that takes you to E1  
**See:** Galleries, museums, 'dickheads'  
**Eat:** The Albion, Shoreditch  
**Cost:** £5 for some top-notch grub

Next Thursday marks the first Thursday of June: on the first Thursday of each month countless East London galleries and museums are open late, and also give out free booze! Check out the art on show and stick around for some evening entertainment. Visit [FirstThursdays.co.uk](http://FirstThursdays.co.uk) to find out more!

**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)

# Bolivia: calamity and comfort

Priya Garg

We descended *via* a smog-filled cliff overhung by green leaves, to a city clustered within a valley, full of tiny red houses. We passed by unfinished brick buildings, tumbling mechanics, crumbling newsagents, two children stroking a graffiti-covered wall and an elderly woman with a baby swung across her back, as the ringing of bicycle bells and beeping of car horns continued.

All of a sudden our senses were unveiled to street markets stuffed with fresh fruit, pastries and llama foetuses (to be buried beneath businesses and commercial buildings for future

**“The streets glowed with the buzz of thousands of lights across the hills”**

success). The centre of La Paz was celebrating local folklore: groups of men and women came dancing down the street, lifting top-hats, blowing panpipes and beating leather drums whilst tiny children dressed as demons chased after baby lambs.

After watching this madness for a good half an hour, Becky decided to show me her proudest discovery – what she called a “cathedral on coke complete with a Dumbledore-esque priest!” Sadly we kept catching this place when it was on its erratic South American “siesta time” but I was finally graced to see its gaudy decoration and plastic figurines, absurdly incongruous to the beauty and serenity of its carved stone exterior. Bumping into several more children dressed as pumpkins, we remembered that it was Halloween and the next day would be the holy *dia de las muertos* (‘day of the dead’) but tonight was an excuse for a nation-wide party in Bolivia.

The next day, as Bolivians laid out graveside food lovingly for their deceased relatives, we stocked up on trinkets from the ‘witches

Priya Garg



Well at least it is better than that 'migraine skank' shit that's dominating London clubs...

market’. This strange street was crammed with gringo delight; leather, llama jumpers, friendship bracelets – anything you could want bearing some form of South American animal. As night descended in La Paz, the streets glowed with the buzz of thousands of lights across the hills, and the enigmatic sounds of revelry echoed across the city.

Leaving La Paz in the early morning for Copacabana we boarded a boat, and arrived a few hours later at an Incan paradise, a tiny island set within Lake Titicaca’s vast scenic waters. Little did we know, but our hostel was a good twenty minute walk uphill on tiny uneven Inca stairs weaving around the island. We soldiered forwards, trekking past donkeys and local children, and our backpacks felt heavier

and heavier.

Watching the sun set that night, the *Isla Del Sol* fell to a deathly hush, a stark contrast to the noisy partying of La Paz. It was a surreal, beautiful moment. Then, the braying of donkeys and the loud call of a cockerel broke our peaceful sleep at an unwelcome hour of the morning and we left the *Isla del Sol* and its mossy Inca staircase to cross the border to our final destination, Cusco.

It was strange to say goodbye to Bolivia and her wild dogs, industrial trucks, hilly streets, top-hats, stupendous scenery, flamingos, salt-flats, night stars, folklore and tiny islands. But great to say hello to Peru: home of the Incas, crop circles, and, most importantly for us, Machu Picchu.

## Get out and see it while you still can

Chris Richardson

Recently Nazareth (no, not the Jesus one), a small town in the Amazon region of Colombia announced that tourists are no longer allowed to visit: the tens of thousands that visit each year are providing little for the economy and their presence is having detrimental effects on both local scenery and the livelihood of people.

And there is no doubt that the people have a reason for concern: the town, with a population of 800, are seeing much of the income generated by the tourism industry being pocketed by travel agencies from larger towns and cities who are providing little more than a bus service for the tourists. In addition local ways of life are

being eradicated as the next generations of the village gather an increasing appetite for western fashion and music.

The situation is a microcosm for tensions and angst being seen all over the globe, but it is receiving more media attention based on the persistence of residents to eradicate this problem. And with their inevitable success it is no doubt that the residents of other popular tourist destinations will soon follow suit.

Whilst it is easy to envision a solution to this problem it is almost impossible to put into practice – unfortunately we cannot easily control the movements or mentalities of every individual visitor. But there are certain things to bear in mind when visiting a poverty-stricken destina-

**“A £1 tip goes a surprisingly long way”**

tion: a £1 tip goes a surprisingly long way, and good manners cost nothing.

Adhering to such standards might not alter the long-term outcome, but it will certainly make you seem a lot less obnoxious, and you will be doing other people a service. With this in mind, the only thing left to do is grab your bag and go travelling: as your investment banking career beckons and locals become increasingly agitated, this would be better sooner rather than later – get out and see it all while you still can.

Lifestyle Editor: **Richard Keller**

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## LIFESTYLE

# The Ferrari FF: phwoar wheel drive

## Charles Betts and his love for the new do-it-all Ferrari

**F**orgive me. I understand that the overuse of compliments can appear naïve at the best of times, and deceitful at the worst. My gut tells me that it's a terrible, terrible mistake to not be able to spot the flaw in something, that I'm being tricked. I cringe at my credulousness. But, you see, the thing is I'm in love and, as Plato put it, I've become a poet. I met her for the first time last week. The most cursory glance lets you know that she's curvaceous, strong, with plenty of character, her style effortless. And boy can she suck, squeeze, bang, blow.

They say that the first time one sees a new Ferrari in the flesh, it's like meeting a beautiful woman. You lose your mind, your heart accelerates. And so it was last Thursday, at the Parisian launch of the Ferrari F.F. The first ever Ferrari to have four comfortable seats and four-wheel drive. There's something about the supernatural elegance of the machine, the lushness of the leather interior, the towering brilliance of the technology, the terrifying depth of engineering know-how that makes me feel quite giddy.

Enzo Ferrari once said that the best Ferrari is the one that is yet to come. The F.F. is the closest thing to that. It is a thoroughbred designed to gallop whatever the weather or surface – be it snow, ice, or sand. It is the first ever four-wheel drive V12 that comprises of a rear-mounted electronic differential. It is the first V12 in the world to sport a seven-speed dual-clutch F1 gearbox. It does 0-100km/h in 3.7 seconds. It has a top speed of 335km/h, and 660 prancing horsepower. Its engine doesn't growl or howl – it's music to the ear, it's some-



where between a purr and a roar.

Sure, Jeremy-power-Clarkson will probably write some pontificating, climate hating, boorish review of the F.F. in a few weeks' time. He'll complain that there are warts. That its little Italian ways will drive you a bit mad. That the engine is in the wrong place. That racing shouldn't be done in the snow. That it's like a horse with James May up its bottom. But then he's not in love. And according to Twitter, he's never been.

And that really is the crux. I'll be honest: I don't know how well a Ferrari handles compared to an Aston Martin – which features work and which don't – but I'm damned if I would ever buy

a DB9 over a 458 Italia. But then, a Ferrari is meant to be loved, not understood. Ferrari is like opera, ballet, fine wine – to some, a seemingly over-the-top, exaggerated distraction where The X Factor, Strictly Come Dancing, and Coke would do just fine. But to others, it transcends the logical. To some, sort of pointless. To others, sort of amazing. I've never really appreciated Domingo's arias, or Pavlova's pirouettes, but my religious-like zeal for what is effectively just a red piece of carbon and aluminium on four wheels means I understand the mysterious emotion some folk get from a 1787 Chateau d'Yquem.

Ferrari is the epitome of the Made in

Italy brand. It's as classically Italian as a Tuscan hilltop or Lavazza coffee. Each car a rather dizzying conflation of old and new. To see one and drive one is to simultaneously be right back in the days of Fangio, to be part of the greatest motor racing company in history, and to be at the cutting-edge of technological development. The company doesn't just represent itself, but rather an entire country. It's why their F1 cars have the Italian flag painted on the rear wings. It's why it's the only F1 team that has a major fan base, the famous *tifosi*. It's why every red-blooded Italian male cries *Forza!* and *Prestissimo!* in their pokey Fiat Panda with so much gusto,

believing he's Michael Schumacher. It's why the entire Italian road network is one big racetrack. Football may be the heart of Italy, but Ferrari is very much its soul.

Ferrari sold 6573 cars in 2010 – its best ever year. A result primarily attributed to the extraordinary growth seen in Asia, and the return of the United States market to record levels. China grew by 43.6 per cent, with the US registering a 12.7 per cent growth. Mr Clarkson may not be one, but it seems plenty of others are starstruck. They are, and will always be, *ferraristas*. In good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. Until death do us part.

### Tech Specs

#### Engine

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Type         | 65° V12      |
| Total displ. | 6262 cc      |
| Bore/stroke  | 94 x 75.2 mm |
| Max power    | 660 CV       |
| Max torque   | 683 Nm       |
| Max revs     | 8000 rpm     |
| Comp. ratio  | 12.3:1       |

#### Performance

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Top Speed  | 335 km/h |
| 0-100 km/h | 3.7 sec  |
| 0-200 km/h | 11 sec   |
| 100-0 km/h | 35 m     |



Who said you needed paved roads in a desert?



Eat your heart out, James Bond!

# HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Where the fuck is twatter?



So this was the first thing you flicked to wasn't it? Well exams are still hanging around, unwanted, like Josef Fritzl at a family reunion.

## Unintentionally Homoerotic Rap Lyrics



### Nate Dogg – Because I got a girl

**“Back in the day I used to like bitches. But I'll tell you right now, bitches ain't shit”**

So what are you into now then Nate?



### J. Cole – Return of Simba

**“Let me show you how to move in a room full of dudes who don't got a fucking clue how to do this.”**

Okay take control of the situation, as you clearly have more experience in this than the rest of us.



### Young Maylay – Temptation

**“I knew this guy right, he had a nice sac.”**

Why on earth is this line in a song called Temptation? This is made 1000 times gayer by the fact that his sac, and its relative attractiveness, was the first thing that sprang to your mind. On that note, how do you have a scale of sac-niceness? That implies you have seen enough sacs to take a critical standpoint.



### Canibus – Second Round K.O

**“But you ain't got the skills to eat a nigga's ass like me”**

I'm not ashamed to say that I am not as well versed in eating ass as you.



### DMX – Ruff Ryders Anthem

**“I'mma have to show niggas how easily we blow niggas.”**

I don't care how easily you blow guys; this is a demonstration that I do not want to see. Oh and if you can blow them so easily, doesn't that imply that you are well practiced at it, and it's now second nature?

## DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk. It's like sex, asking for permission is key.

# Hangman: Integrity, professionalism, passion and out-of-the-box thinking in all we do

Soon some of you will be moving on to the world of work. Diversifying the cost effective solutions, or something. Some will be helping out the world, consulting. Where you tell other companies what to do. As you, having been there for a day, know better than they do. Here is the Hangman summary of corporate slogans:

### Courier Express

*“Today's delivery problems solved tomorrow.”*

So you are just putting off solving the problems then. You lazy bastards, why not solve them today? Huh?

### Citibank

*“The Citi Never Sleeps.”*

I personally would much prefer you to be the Citi that gets the correct amount of sleep per night. I guess you are also the Citi that is incredibly irritable and has poor dexterity.

### Dell

*“Easy as Dell.”*

All I know is that you are easy as you. Using yourself as a reference point is not in any way helpful.

### United Technologies Corporation

*“This Is Momentum.”*

I guess it wouldn't have been cool to say: “ $p = mv$ , this is momentum”, though it would have been a fuckload more accurate, and considering that they make helicopters you would hope they know basic physics.

### DHL

*“We move the world.”*

That is one Hell of a claim to make. I believe that various different forces move the world. Stop taking credit for nature's good work you bastards.

### Goodyear

*“The best tyres in the world have Goodyear written all over them.”*

Does not mean they are Goodyear though does it? Could just mean someone has spray painted Goodyear all over an amazing set of tyres.

### UPS

*“Moving at the speed of business.”*

Hey UPS, just a quick word about physics:



See above for the answer to the question: Why would I want to be rich?

business is not a measurement of speed. Fucking biologists...

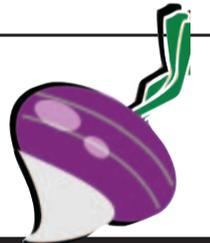
### Lockheed Martin:

*“We Never Forget Who We're Working For.”*

Well I would fucking hope not. I sort of thought it goes unsaid that you remember who is paying you. In all honesty it's a little disconcerting to imagine a weapons developer saying: “Fuck, where do we deliver these fighter jets to? Libya? Fine whatever...”

# the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



## Darwin's face in Jacket Potato

An unnamed biology student got more than she bargained for when she tucked into lunch last Monday when the face of the bane of creationists and the creator of the theory of evolution – Charles Darwin – appeared in the sorry excuse for cheese that they top jacket potatoes with at the Library Café.

“Before, I wasn't too sold on the non-existence of God, but ever since seeing our Messiah in my lunch my belief in atheism is unshakeable. It's definitely a sign,” she said.

The student was reported to have finished eating the tuber after photographing it because she was hungry and with a long day of labs ahead of her, she needed all the carbohydrate she could get.

This divine sighting has provided a much-needed publicity boost for the Library Café, as students are increasingly put off by the establishment's overpriced muffins that taste like samosas after about 3pm. It is not all good news, though: it would appear that the café has become a site of pilgrimage for militant atheists throughout the College, with mathematicians, medics and engineers



This isn't a student who has realised that there's no way he'll pass his exam, he's actually protesting. He won't move until someone comes and takes his virginity...

alike kneeling side-by-side in prayer on Friday afternoons just outside the entrance and obstructing those who just want to get some goddamned food. Attempts to move them have thus far failed, with one of the faithful citing that they “had the right to practice their non-beliefs”. Being a College that specialises in degrees that are actually going to get their

students jobs, it lacks a theology department that could have prevented this occurrence by ensnaring the atheists in never-ending debates between creationism and evolution, precluding them from partaking in any worship of non-gods.

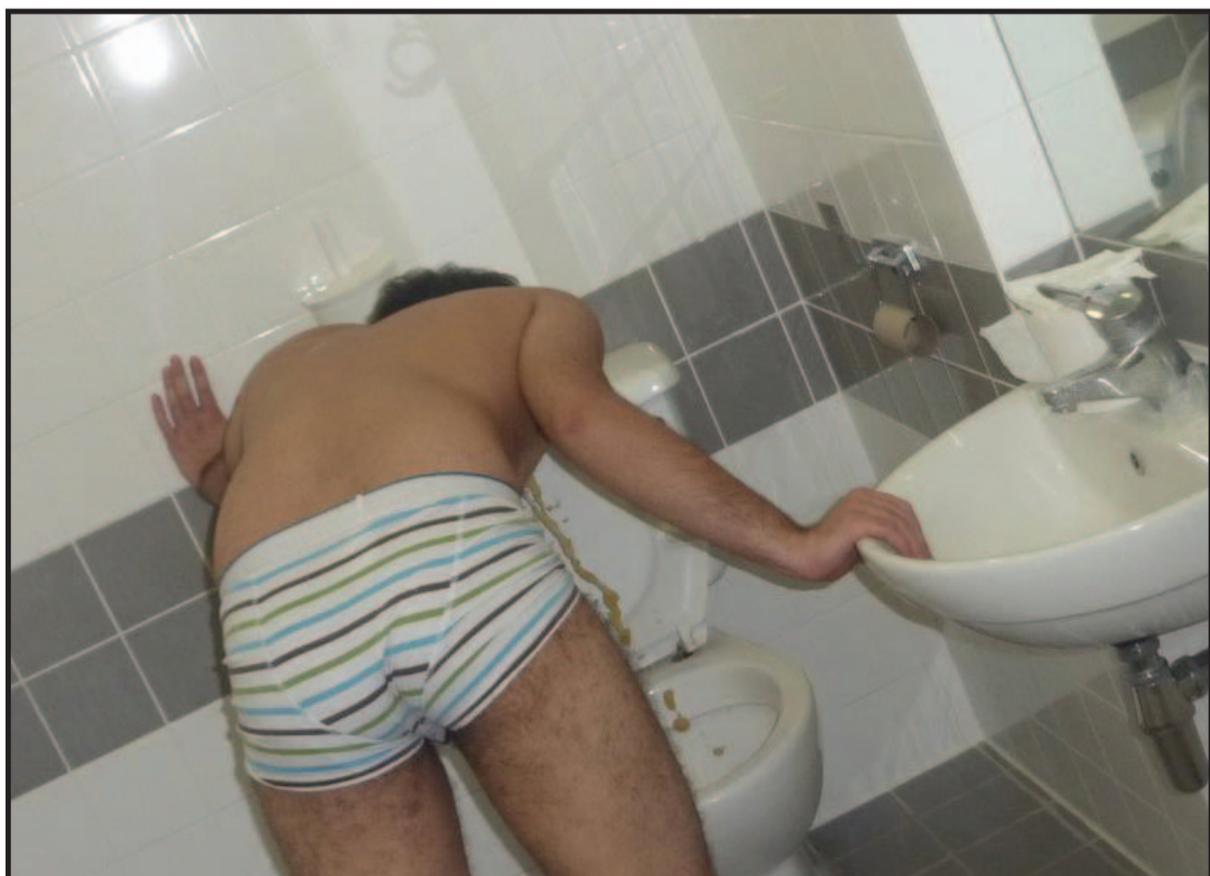
Reports that an imprint of Ryan Giggs have been found in the curry are yet to be confirmed.

# THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS

This man is alleged to have slept with ex-Big Brother contestant Imogen Thomas

But because of an **EVIL** injunction, we can't tell you how long he lasted...

(We had a better joke, but Giggs took an injunction out on it...)



Fine I'll admit, I'm turned on. Hey! Don't judge! All I'm saying is that's one fine ass. Ok he's throwing up but who hasn't played with a little bodily fluid in bed? I mean it's not scat or anything... Mmmm... scat... \*drools

# Horoscopes

## Aries

This week, you're a married footballer. You meet a saucy bit of skirt in a London club and decide to take her back to a hotel to give her a good injunction with a couple of your mates. You give your lawyer a call on the way to the hotel; BAM! Your cum is officially media-proof...

## Taurus

This week, the Oprah show is coming to an end. You're so affected that you start weeping in exams. When the inviligator approaches to see what's wrong, you leap up out of your chair, stab yourself in the groin with your pen and scream "NOTHING CAN REPLACE HER!!!"

## Gemini

This week, you take a copy of Felix back home for your parents. After flicking through it for a few minutes, your mother stops and asks you who writes the Horoscopes. You try the classic, "An older editor made me do it" but it's to no avail. It's back to therapy, again...

## Cancer

This week, you're wanking in the library toilets when the battery on your iPhone runs out. Damn, no more internet porn. You scan the cubicle for stimulation; nothing. The guy in the next cubicle groans as he shits. 'Groan? Or moan?' you think... Aww yeah back in business.

## Leo

This week, you're taking a walk down Memory Lane. Damn, things have changed since you last visited. All the shops have closed, there are gangs of feral 'yobbos' hanging around, and there's a guy in the corner shooting heroin. Wait, Dad? (Oh, repressed memories...)

## Virgo

This week, you decide to kill your housemates. It's not a decision that you've come to easily or without due regard for the seriousness of your action. You've simply come to the reasonable conclusion that it's NOT COOL TO EAT YOUR FUCKING YOGHURT WITHOUT ASKING...

## Libra

This week, you're having a beer in the Union when a boy comes up and asks if you would like a drink. You look at him sexily and down your pint. You then stick your fingers down your throat, throw up your entire pint back into your glass, take a sip and say "I would rather die..."

## Scorpio

This week, you're having a chat with Satan. There are a few problems with your contract. It's all fine except for the section titled, "Eternal Anal Rape". Apparently you haven't filled out the Health & Safety documentation. Jeez, who knew selling your soul was so bureaucratic...

## Sagittarius

This week, you're on a date with a girl when you decide to play the old "let's get you wasted" card. Singles become doubles, doubles quickly turn into triples and before long you're wearing a suit and tie and facing trial for date rape... DAMMIT!

## Capricorn

This week, you're crying in your bedroom over your ex-boyfriend. Yes, it's been a year now but you just want to indulge in your emotions a bit. There's a knock on your door. Your ex-bf shouts, "stop whining you bitch!" "Fuck you! Move out already!" you shout back...

## Aquarius

This week, the lecturer does something extraordinary and unprecedented. He walks up the aisle, bends down to you, and nibbles your ear. You're not sure what to do, all you know that if someone asks you stand up suddenly, things might get a little awkward...

## Pisces

This week, you decide to launch your rap career by starting an impromptu rap battle with the cashier in the JCR. "Yo check my flow, give me my cash, don't mess wit my dough... yo!" He gives you your change without saying anything. Yeh, fucking coward. You OWNED bro!

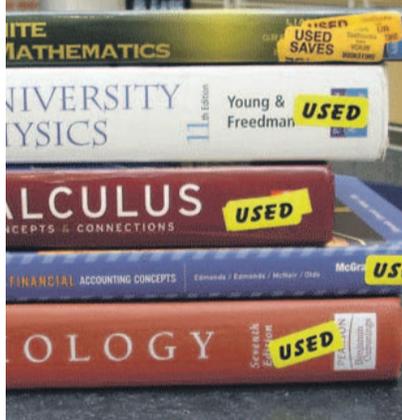


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| Team               | P  | W  | D | L | F    | A   | Diff | Index |
|--------------------|----|----|---|---|------|-----|------|-------|
| 1 Fencing W1       | 9  | 9  | 0 | 0 | 1210 | 607 | 603  | 5.00  |
| 2 Fencing M1       | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 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  |

## Try and super injunction this

David Wilson

*The following is intended as a joke and is not a statement of fact. Editor.*

To begin I present a line from Kanye West: 'How you stay faithful in a room full of hoes?' Now, down to business, in parliament, on Monday MP John Hemming named Ryan Giggs as the footballer who has allegedly had an affair with the former Big Brother contestant Imogen Thomas. Hemming was able to supersede the court order that demanded the footballer in question remain unknown due to parliamentary privilege.

There had been many suggestions regarding the identity of Miss Thomas' secret lover; Arsenal fans were adamant that their talismanic hero, Emanuel Eboue, was the culprit whilst London rapper Giggs was forced to release a statement distancing him from the claims. Fernando Torres was initially implicated but soon disregarded by the media due to his inability to score.

Hemming was not the whistleblower; users

of the social networking site twitter had been banding Giggs' name around in connection with the alleged affair for weeks. On Monday it was announced that the footballer in question was looking to take legal action against twitter as well as over 75,000 users who had 'tweeted' about his relationship with Miss Thomas.

It is alleged that the footballer took out the court order for the sake of his family and to 'protect' them from the harmful revelations, which may come out about his affair with the former Miss Wales contestant. Presumably the alleged culprit was not thinking about his family whilst being balls deep in the page three strumpet. As Nate Dogg (RIP) would say, the footballer needs to regulate himself.

These superdooperinjunctions seem questionable; you make a mistake, you own up to it and take it like a man and move on with it. If the alleged footballer at the center of these allegations had admitted what happened outright rather than trying to swallow the whole sorry incident up with court orders and subsequent law suits he would have come out

looking much rosier than he does currently. Think back to last year when John Terry admitted to having an affair with England team mate Wayne Bridge's ex-finance, Vanessa Perroncel. Terry eventually owned up, got a shit haircut to look like a proper douche and then accepted the fact that he and Bridge weren't ever going to be friends again. Bridge has moved onto bigger and better things and is now porking Frankie Sandford from 'The Saturdays'. Lucky bugger. Wayne Rooney admitted he bedded a Granny prostitute and the world and Coleen have moved on. The legendary Brazilian striker, Ronaldo, was alleged to have partied with some pre/post-op transsexuals, despite this, no one forgets what a great player the dirty dog was despite ballooning to the size of a baby elephant in the twilight of his career.

Allegations regarding sportsmen's private lives won't detract from their sporting ability but negatively impacts their stature in the private eye. I thought Ryan Giggs was just an aging footballer. now I see he's a bloody LAD.

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# New Zealand beat England to overall Sevens crown

David Wilson

Last weekend the home of English rugby, Twickenham, hosted the penultimate round of this year's International Rugby Board international rugby sevens tournament. Sevens is a variation on the fifteen-a-side traditional Rugby Union game, which, as the name suggests is played with seven players on each team.

The IRB international sevens series is played in a eight different countries including Dubai, Hong Kong and the far less glamorous location of Scotland. Performances in each of the different stages are combined in order to crown an overall series champion. The series is into its twelfth year with New Zealand wrapping up their ninth overall title following a strong performance in London this weekend a week before the final round of games to be held in Scotland.

The tournament has four prizes of decreasing importance; the cup, plate, bowl and shield. Such a system means that a poor showing on the first day of the tournament will allow a team to compete on the second day albeit for a much less coveted prize.

England had been in contention to challenge New Zealand for the overall series crown however; their hopes were dashed following a poor show during the first series of matches on Saturday. England's team boasted Ben Gollings, the highest points scorer in the history of sevens, but even he nor the huge home support within the stadium could prevent England falling to a shock 21-14 defeat to France.

Following this below par performance England could only manage a 12-12 draw with Argentina in their final match on Saturday, which prevented them from progressing to the quarterfinals of the cup for the first time this year. Due to England's inability to reach the later stages of the cup, the onus was very much on New Zealand who had qualified for the cup quarterfinals to be held on Sunday with a perfect record. The All Blacks knew that because of England's dismal showing a strong run in the cup competition would provide them with the overall series title.

New Zealand eventually succumbed to the power of Fiji in the semi final of the cup, despite their obvious disappointment at not being able to contest the final, the All Blacks took some consolation in the fact that they had secured the overall title.

IRB.com



Fiji themselves fell in the final to their southern hemisphere neighbours, South Africa. After trailing the Fijians 14-0 the South Africans turned the game around eventually coming out on top 24-14 giving them their second cup crown of this year's series and their first on English soil since 2005.

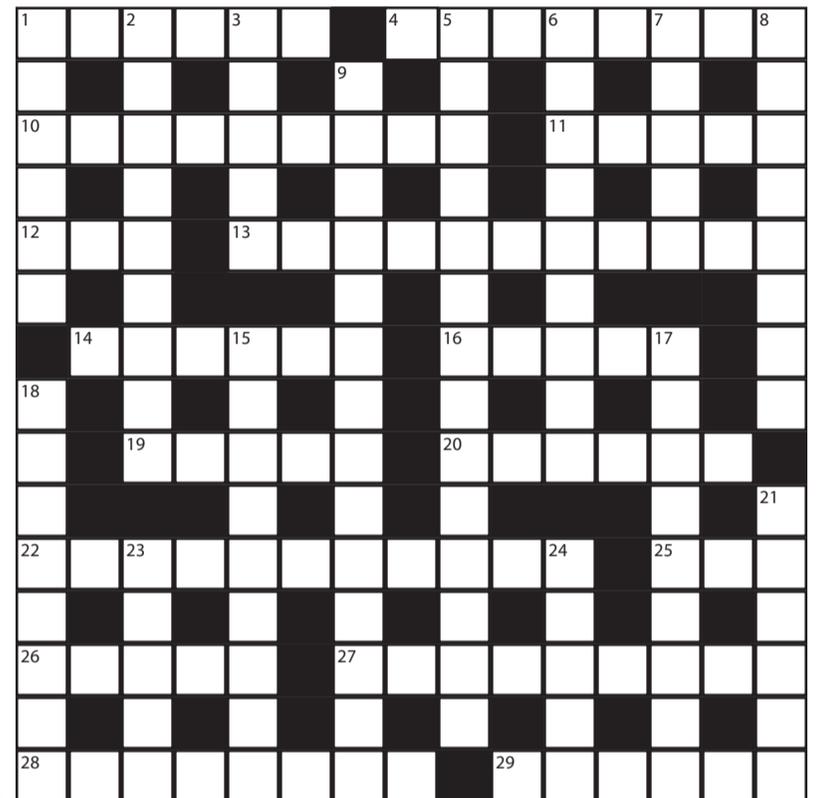
Samoa, who were the overall series winner in 2010, have had a poor season by their standards yet managed to overcome Australia in the final of the plate to salvage some hope of a turnaround next year.

Scotland overcame Kenya in the final of the bowl thanks to a last minute try from Andrew Turnbull leaving the Kenyan team, strongly backed by the Twickenham crowd, heartbroken. The Kenyans had earlier in the day dealt England a further blow by knocking them out of the bowl competition, leaving the hosts to scrap for the shield crown which they duely won beating Portugal 22-7 providing the only silver lining in a drab weekend for the host team.

Despite the obvious disappointment at England not putting on a more convincing display of their prowess at sevens, the crowd seemed unperturbed. A record 54,357 people turned up on the Saturday followed by over 50,000 on the Sunday resulting in this being the

most attended tournament since the series began twelve years ago. The theme set for the tournament was 'beachwear' meaning that thousands of people decked out in bikinis, Bermuda shirts, and wife beater vests descended on HQ. There were reports that some supporters enjoyed themselves a little too much with a male known only as 'Ross' taken in an ambulance from the South stand of the stadium after downing excessive quantities of alcohol.

## Cryptic Crossword 1,490



### Across

- 1 A section of a British farm (6)  
 4 Ever abed, he decomposed and was mourned (8)  
 10 Punished; no sex for Edward (9)  
 11 Baby's need for drink is all-important (5)  
 12 Luxurious, decadent West (3)  
 13 Expansion of an unusual cult (11)  
 14 Assess the journal (6)  
 16 Robbery in the isthmus of Panama (5)  
 19 Implied historian's head (5)  
 20 A sanction on a Greek city-dweller (6)  
 22 Nine battles of a degenerate sport (5,6)  
 25 Destroy the heart of Denmark (3)  
 26 Innocent spillage of water (5)  
 27 Heartless teen tells depraved stories (9)  
 28 Strangle at top speed (8)  
 29 Fires around Nathaniel as he grabs something to eat (6)

### Down

- 1 Heartless embrace when I transformed into what I changed into (6)  
 2 Demeaning a cellar (9)  
 3 Take care of a broken-up box (5)  
 5 Sheds light on the gateway (3,2,3,6)  
 6 In effect, I've become quite efficient (9)  
 7 Drowned frogman turns to writing operas (5)  
 8 Explode if you notate incorrectly in Germany (8)  
 9 Recuticleared (7,7)  
 15 Unpleasant weather in Attlee's innards (9)  
 17 Give a scarring shock to a flea (9)  
 18 Search high and low for the last cymbal (8)  
 21 A hundred lifts cause problems (6)  
 23 Put Reginald on the litter of thorny bushes (5)  
 24 Deans in a convertible car (5)

## Wolverines fall at last hurdle

... Continued from Back Page  
 what we could. To everyone's surprise we came out victorious, 3-2! Another IC record smashed – until then we had never beaten a higher ranking team in our league!

The last game in the group stages vs Underdodge B we won 4-1 thus meaning we finished top in our group and setting up a semi-final against Southampton 1s, the home team. By this time we were tiring and, outmatched, we lost

badly 4-1. However, in the third game of the match Alan and Adam again impressed the crowds with another double catch. Our last hope now of qualifying for the Nationals was to beat Fellows Appreciation Society, a team of ex-Warwick Uni players, in the 3rd place playoff.

Having watched our previous games and noted our reliance on good catching play, they wisely concentrated on not giving our catchers the opportunity

to do what they do best, and so threw at our other players. This made the games difficult for us, not being able to make catches or play efficiently. We put up a good fight, but finally lost 4-1. We headed back to London with our heads held high, happy with our performance albeit a little disappointed in not being able to qualify for the national championships.

Also, we would like to give a special mention to Dan Price for stepping in at extremely short notice!

**Tom Peake**  
**Imperial College Dodgeball**  
**SE England Championship**

On Sunday May 15th, Imperial Wolverines I played their last and most important Dodgeball tournament of the year. Placing in the top 3 teams would guarantee a place in the National Championships in June. The team met early at Waterloo, and after seemingly been fraudulently sold the wrong type of group discount ticket, headed off to Southampton where the South East England Championship would be played.

Our first match was against Winchester Bullets 1s. We expected a comfortable start to the event, as we were clear favourites, but after a number of mistakes in the nervous opening exchanges we found ourselves 2 games down. We were in serious danger of failing to qualify from our group.

Club captain, Alan Soltani, was somewhat distressed at this point. The Wolverines had never in the past won a match (5 games) from two games down. The third game was close, but we were building our confidence and making fewer mistakes, and as a result we won. Back to our usual capabilities we won the 4th game, with Alan and Adam Cutmore making a trademark simultaneous catch.

Only one game left to make Imperial College dodgeballing history. It wasn't one for the faint hearted. At one point we were 6 players to 3 down, but we managed to secure a win thanks to a vital catch by Tom Peake, bringing Alan back in to finish them off.

Next match was against Portsmouth Cobras C. It was a match to enjoy and relax, we won 5-0, boosting our confidence further before the most difficult match of our group vs Knights.

We had a team talk in a separate gym to raise team morale and clarify tactics; we knew our chance of success against Knights was slim, as they had previously beaten us fairly comfortably. Just giving it our best shot, and fresh with two matches already won, we gave it

*...Continued on Page 39*



## Wolverine's National Championships hopes dashed

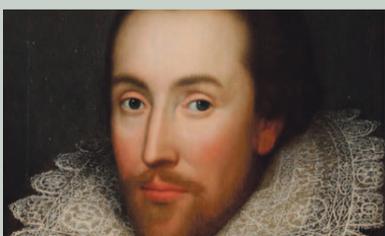
Imperial's Wolverines unable to qualify for National Championships after suffering heartbreak in Southampton

**SCIENCE**



Electron found to be startlingly round:  
**Page 10**

**ARTS**



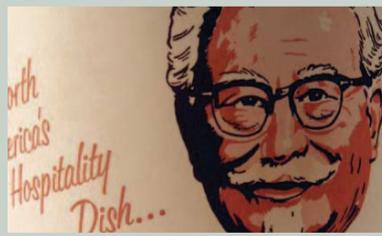
Shakespeare in a pub. You're Bard!  
**Page 22**

**MUSIC**



Star Slinger, this year's hottest artist:  
**Page 25**

**FOOD**



The perils of fast food and fried chicken:  
**Page 30**

**LIFESTYLE**



The first ever four-wheel drive Ferrari:  
**Page 33**