

ISSUE 1494

"Keep the Cat Free"

FELIX



24.06.11

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949



HIGHLIGHTS

Front Cover by Hamish Muir

On campus

Science Question Time

Science Question Time is an exciting collaboration between the Biochemical Society, the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) and staff at Imperial. At this third Science Question Time, Philip Campbell, Editor of Nature, and Clare Matterson, a Director at the Wellcome Trust, will be joining other esteemed scientists to discuss 'impact'. Free but contact k.weeks@imperial.ac.uk for advance registration.

Lecture Theatre 164, Skempton
05 July 19:00-20:30

Silfest 2011

Silfest is a music festival that's held every year at Imperial's Silwood campus in Berkshire. Tickets are only £14 per person but increase to £16 per person on the 1st of July. It has a traditional fete theme. Contact rosalie.burdon10@imperial.ac.uk for more information.



Silwood Park Campus
16-17 July 12:00-02:00

Stand-up Mathematics

Matthew Parker is a mathematician turned comedian who now uses comedy to help teach and increase awareness about mathematics. His shows are described as "topical and daft". The event will be followed by a drinks reception from 17:45 in the Great Hall. To register a place at the Graduate School of Engineering and Physical Sciences (GSEPS), email graduate.schools@imperial.ac.uk with your CID no.

Clore Lecture Theatre, Huxley
22 July 16:30-17:45

This year the *Felix* team have produced enough news to create a stack of papers **3,000 metres high.**

That's around **33 times** the height of the **Queen's Tower!**



Don't forget to recycle your *Felix*

STEPCHANGE >>> Stamp down your carbon footprint

Physics lectures in SAF?

Cross-departmental timetabling could be introduced by October 2012

Kadhim Shubber

The College has announced an initiative to "implement a College-wide timetabling project" that could see departments sharing major lecture theatres and potentially reduce the need to build new lecture theatres.

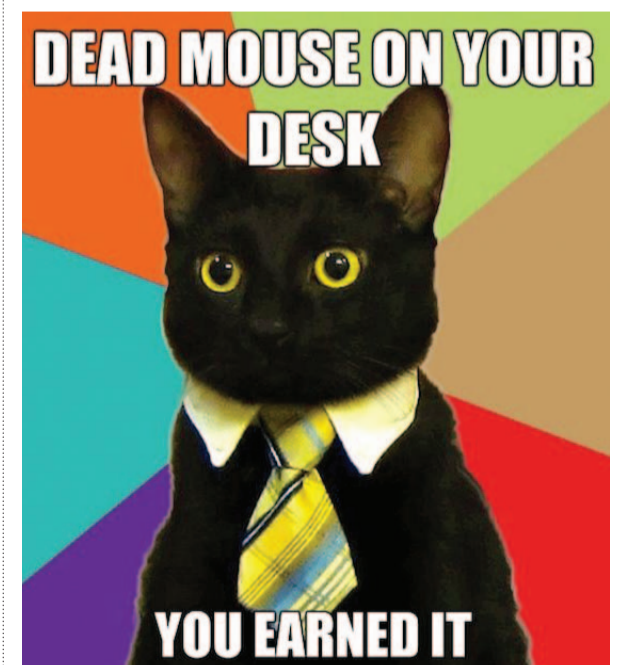
The proposal comes out of work done by Professor Robin Leatherbarrow and his team and would see a "centralised software solution" for timetable management being

implemented across Imperial.

A separate College Day Working Group, led by Professor Griffiths, has been investigating changes to the structure of the College day in past months. Their latest proposals would see the lunch break reduced from two hours, to one hour.

Professor Griffiths said that she was aware of the timetabling project but rejected that it would affect "the need to review the College day."

Lolcat of teh year



FELIX

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Printed by The Harmsworth Printing Ltd, Northcliffe House, Meadow Road, Derby. Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711.
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Students warned about campus pervert

Aemun Reza

On Saturday 18th June, during the Summer Ball, an at around 3pm in the Central Library, a female Imperial student, who has asked to remain anonymous, was followed into the 2nd floor toilets by another person who then attempted to take pictures of her by sliding their mobile phone underneath the stall.

The female student told Felix that, "this person positioned herself/himself in the cubicle to me and proceeded to take a succession of photos of me with a mobile phone by sliding their hand from underneath the partition and then again from underneath the door before fleeing."

After the initial shock of the incident, the female student informed the security guard on duty, who had spotted a tall, slim man of Oriental descent taking pictures of him on a mobile just moments before she had arrived.

Even though the library was virtually empty, the student remembered that there was also another female student standing outside the toilets by the water fountain at the time of the incident. She described her as "around 5 foot 2-3ish, with long brown hair and wearing colourful shoes."

The student said that "when I first spoke to campus security, they seemed very taken aback at the incident, and I guess I could assume that this sort of thing probably had never occurred before."

She then reported the incident to Sheffield security in the hope that they would be able to examine CCTV security but she felt that the female supervisor showed a "complete lack of sensitivity and rudeness." However, security has been through the CCTV footage of the reception but could not come across an Oriental male holding a mobile phone in the reception area. The Head of Security of Sheffield informed Felix that there are no CCTV cameras in the area of the bathroom.

They believe that finding the exact identity of the person will be difficult due to lack of description from the library security guard and the fact that the female student only caught a glimpse of hand taking the picture. They assured Felix that they are doing all they can to catch the offender.

However, the female student was unhappy with the way her case has been dealt with. "For the amount of tuition fees Imperial charges, this sort of appalling level of service provided for the safety of its students is, I feel,

utterly unacceptable," she said. Even though security had immediately contacted the police and advised the student to do the same, she still felt that she had to take the responsibility of reporting the incident to the Chelsea Police station herself, where she then says she waited for four and a half hours to talk to an officer. An officer has been assigned to the case and a report is going to be filed.

As this incident occurred during the exam period, the female student was "pretty shaken" as it has significantly affected her revision. She said that her department was "fairly sympathetic" but felt that they weren't "particularly supportive". The department stated, "The regrettable incident described has been noted by the relevant Personal Tutor, the Senior Tutor and the Examinations Officer and placed on file. The incident will be discussed by a sub-board of the Board Examiners consisting of the Senior Tutor, the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Chairman of the Board of Examiners in July and then again at final moderation."

The female student would like to warn other females to be vigilant about "such a depraved person roaming around College."

Disappointing Summer Ball turnout

Union expected to release Ball finances next week

Kadhim Shubber

The Union have admitted that the turnout at last week's Summer Ball was disappointing, saying that the poor weather, a low turnout from other universities, and the number of students who hadn't finished their exams "had a big hit on sales."

The Union were forced to hold the Summer Ball two weeks before the end of term this year, instead of the usual one week, because the clash with Glastonbury meant that "acts and equipment" would have been too difficult to hire. Union President Alex Kendall explained that the difficulty in having the Summer Ball at the very end

of the event, and on the day, meant "last minute ticket sales weren't as good." In previous years there has been a significant spike in ticket sales in the run-up to the Summer Ball and several hundred on-the-door sales.

However, he also pointed to the live music on offer, like Laura Marling and Ian Brown, saying that "the live acts were great," and pointed out that the Summer Ball after-party was "packed." The after-party in the Union had a capacity of 1000 students and ended at 4am. Agreements with the Council and neighbours over noise meant that the after-party could not continue into Sunday as in previous years. The Survivor's Photo had to be hastily organized by a Felix photographer at the end of the night when it became clear that arrangements had not been made.

Kendall said the Union had been vindicated in removing an explicit black tie dress code and letting people wear what they want at the Summer Ball: "I think we clearly were justified in saying that black tie wasn't compulsory as people looked comfortable in whatever they were wearing."

The Summer Ball was split between two stages this year, with student bands in Prince's Gardens and external acts on the main stage on the Queen's Lawn. The low turnout meant that Prince's Gardens, where the food stalls were sited, was virtually empty for much of the day. Kendall admitted that the Prince's Gardens stage "could have been more full."

Deputy President (Finance & Services)-elect Michael Foster, whose responsibility it is to plan next year's Summer Ball, said that he would gauge the reaction of students "and adapt accordingly." He assured students that any decisions on the direction of the Summer Ball "will be based on student input, opinion and feedback, as well as an objective assessment of the Ball's success."

Felix has set up an online Summer Ball feedback form. Tell us what you thought of the Ball if you went, and if you didn't go let us know why at felixonline.co.uk/summerball

of term, after everybody's exams, is that first years would be moving out of halls.

The full financial implications of the poor turnout are not yet known but the Union says it will release the full figures early next week; it is still analysing bar sales and tickets sold on the day. However, members of the Union have privately acknowledged that the losses could run into the low tens of thousands.

1269 tickets were sold, with the vast majority of this believed to be Imperial students. Union President Alex Kendall said, "I would suggest not expecting turnout from other [universities] in the future," although other students would always be welcome. He said that the poor weather in the run-up to

Awards

Rector's Awards for Excellence in Pastoral Care and for Supporting the Student Experience

Excellence in Pastoral Care

Dr Martyn Boutelle (Rector's Medal)
Dr Vanessa Garcia Larsen
Dr David Hartley
Professor Anthony Kucernak
Dr Paul Wilde - Chemistry

Excellence in Supporting the Student Experience

Miss Amy Allinson
Miss Julia Cork
Dr Lorraine Craig (Rector's Medal)
Mrs Joanne Harlow
Mr Chris Harris
Miss Anna Hikel
Dr Martin Holloway
Dr Philip Power
Dr Emma Watson (Rector's Medal)
Ms Jo Williams

Union: Recreational Clubs Committee (RCC) Colours

Distinguished Service Award

David Coolegem
Jennifer Wilson
Simon Child
Rachel Fox

Full Colours

Ryan Tunstall
Clare Tan
Marie-Eugenie Joanny
Robin Jones
Timothy Runcorn
William Mason

Half Colours

Christina Kontoghiorghie
Gemma Bale
Choo Zheng
Jonathan Ely
Jaimie Henry
Yi Fei Li
Jonathan
Pritchard
Sara Arbos Torrent
Thea Powell
William French
John Davey
William Eldred
Jan Jachnik

Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) Colours

President's Award

Paul Beaumont
Elwin Carlos
Laura Jeffrey

Outstanding Service

Elwin Carlos
Deep Shah

Full Colours

Ben Chappell
Vanessa Hume
Zeki Ilkan
King-Hing Lo
Jacklyn Nagle
Dan Wan
Edward Willans
Kelvin Wong

Half Colours

Joanna Cai
Silvia Colucci
Lisa Hale
Alan Itakura
Chandni Nakum
Mia O'Gorman
Stefano Pennese
William Prince
John-Oliver
Thornton
Elena Trabucchi
Maria Veiga



NEWS

FEATURE

The American Dream Graduate studies in the USA

Tom Neiser

If you think the grass might be greener on the other side of the pond, here's what you need to know to apply for a PhD at US universities.

Generally, graduate studies in the United States take five years. This seems like a long time compared to the three years of a PhD in the UK. However, the first year of the US PhD is equivalent to the one year Masters of Science courses in the UK, which means that the effective time you spend doing PhD research is only a year longer than its UK counterpart. If you are considering an academic career this extra year might give you a crucial advantage when competing for postdoc positions. As a PhD student you often have the most productive phase in your third and fourth years.

During your first year of graduate studies you will do a Masters de-

"There's no central application system like UCAS"

gree. Hence it is most convenient to continue in the US after your three year BSc course at Imperial College. However, a Masters in your pocket will not weigh you down. While you still have to take the so called qualifying examinations for the US Masters, the courses will often be very similar to the ones you have already done and you won't need to do them again, which leaves time for research in your first year. If there is a considerable overlap, you might be able to do the qualifying exams at the beginning of your graduate studies and obtain the US masters after a few weeks in graduate school. Some universities even offer an initial 'free shot' at these exams.

So how do you get in? There is no central application system like UCAS and there are typically no interviews, which might be a relief for some of you given the track record of the average Imperial Student at Oxbridge interviews. An application to US universities has three components: a statement of purpose, GRE exams and letters of recommendation.

The statement of purpose is much like your personal statement, where you elaborate on your motivations, experience and research interests. The GRE exams are like the SATs for

graduate students and are divided into a general GRE and a subject GRE. The general GRE consists of three sections that test your verbal, quantitative and writing skills. To see which scores will get you into which grad school you can check the university website and the www.gradcafe.com. You can book the exam up to two weeks before you plan to take it. You can even resit the exam, but be aware that the score report will show all your attempts. For PhDs where the subject GRE is a prerequisite, it is a crucial component of your application. It tests the knowledge of your subject at undergraduate level with 60-100 multiple choice questions that you have to answer in almost 3 hours. Note that you should start preparation at the end of the summer between second and third year (third and fourth year for MSci students), because you can sit the exam at only one date in November. It is difficult to prepare properly during the first term. Letters of recommendation are very important and should be written by someone who knows you very well and ideally who is also known by many other researchers in your favourite field of research.

Funding is often a deal breaker for most students considering a PhD in the US. Don't be discouraged. Firstly, admission officers know that students are financially challenged and often enter graduate school with a considerable debt. For the record, US undergraduates pay between \$30,000 and \$50,000 annually throughout their 4-year Bachelor. You will be surprised to find that universities compete for you with lucrative scholarships. The financial package attached to your offer of admission will obviously be greater the stronger your application is. This often covers your tuition fees for the first year (roughly \$35,000) and you can always do a Teaching Assistantship (TA), where you work between 5 and 20 hours a week for 9 months and earn a salary of \$18,000. During the remaining years you will attend few classes and hence will only pay a small tuition fee. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to work as a 'graduate research assistant'. This means you can assist your supervisor and do research contributing to your PhD for an annual salary of \$19,000. Hence you are in the blissful situation where you get paid for research that you would do anyway. It's almost too good to be true.

Registration chaos for Business School courses

Alex Karapetian

The registration system for optional course modules in Business In Science, Engineering & Technology (BEST) was hit with problems on Monday. The Departmental Student System (DSS) used for registering optional modules in courses across college was swamped with connection requests as students logged on to pick their chosen modules in the morning.

The registration system is handled on a first come first served basis and registration was due to open at 9:00am on Monday morning. Since a substantial number of connection requests were made by students trying to use the system concurrently, it appeared to be down as the connections were slowly handled. One student from the Department of Computing complained that by the time they gained access to view the system at 9:10am, all courses with the exception of two were already full, with one option from the previous year shown in error.

Students complained of the system's faults especially at such a critical time as registration and many were left without their preferred options. Tony Field, reader in Performance Engineering at the Department of Computing, commented in an email that the system in place was "a new piece of software" and that "we can safely conclude it doesn't work", noting the lessons to be learnt regarding testing quality of service, performance and other requirements in forward-facing systems for students and staff alike.

Questions have been raised as to whether the problems ought to have been prevented due to its foreseeable nature and how these issues will be

Complaints after high demand brings down registration system

addressed. A number of students have also complained about the timing of the opening of registration. Exams are still ongoing across campus, and a 9:00am opening time may not be optimal. Students also may not know their timetables for the coming year and may end up dropping options they register for due to clashes with compulsory modules. In addition, third year students, notably in the Department of Computing, are on industrial placements and are unable to check the system until a designated break.

The issue of each student having an equal opportunity to take these courses has been raised, and Undergraduate Programmes Manager Edina Hamzic-Maguire commented that the faculty are "aware that the system is not perfect and [they] are reviewing it." Colin Love, Director of Undergraduate Studies explained to Felix that they "teach some 2200 students a year on BEST courses and demand for places outstrips supply by three times on average."

Derryck Stewart of the Department of Physics apologised to their undergraduates and explained that "some places on some courses have now been reserved for Physics students", raising more questions regarding equal opportunities. Hamzic-Maguire went on to mention that "some departments have integrated these modules into their programmes and those have had a chance to pre book spaces."

Colin Love explained that "the DSS

system [they] are using this year is not owned by the Business School so the website capabilities are out of [their] control" and continued to mention that he understands "the first come first served allocation of places is not perfect but in the absence of a better system [they] made no changes this year."

Regarding reserved places, he said that "departments were contacted in May and invited to hold some places for their students" and that the allocation "is earmarked for particular courses but not for individual students." He explained "where actual demand from a department exceeds the reserved places their students have to compete for places alongside everyone else."

Addressing the earlier complaint of the options not all being available in the morning, he said "the system crash caused this also as the production team could not log in to activate all the options".

"We have done whatever we could in the run up to today to liaise with departments and ensure most students have a fair chance of registering on these extremely popular courses". By 10:00am on Monday over 60% of the BEST course places had been allocated. The Business School online page linking to DSS noted that the technical difficulties were resolved at 9:40am.

"We are delighted to say that by midday on Monday all 2200 places were allocated and we look forward to welcoming those students to BEST classes from October."

Union supports journal subscriptions campaign

Matt Colvin

The Union has publicly condemned the behavior of large academic journal publishing companies, claiming that their services are detrimental not only to Imperial, but to the Higher Education sector in general.

Currently, about 50% of Imperial College Library's budget is spent on journals, which are either provided on an individual basis or as part of a larger deal through a publishing company, which instead allows staff and students access to thousands of academic references.

At the most recent Union Council

meeting, which took place on the 13th June, a policy was passed outlining the Union's dissatisfaction against publishing companies, with specific reference and heavy criticism made towards the journal pricing of Elsevier and Wiley-Blackwell.

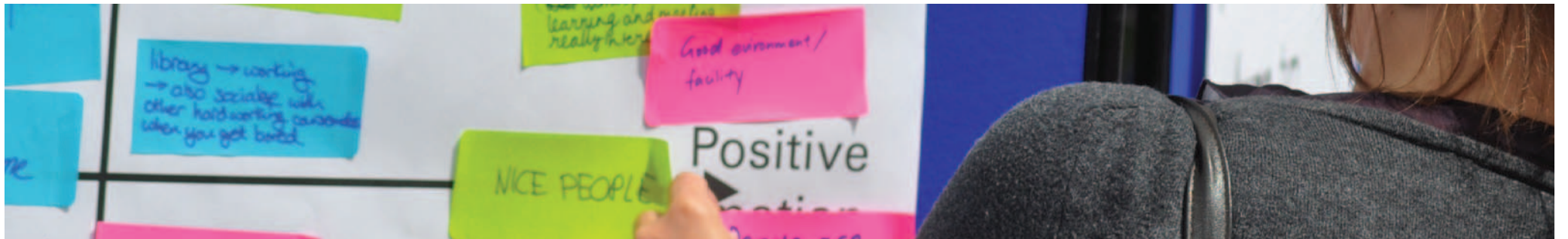
In a note brought to the Council meeting by Deputy President (Education) Alex Dahinten, mention is made of publishing companies being "aware of the need for their product, which is reflected in the pricing," moving on to explain that subscription prices rise by about 6% per year.

Dahinten argued that over-priced

journal subscriptions are compromising the Library's ability to provide a service to academics and students at Imperial.

Director of Library Services Deborah Shorley is supportive of the Union's position on the matter, remarking that the Library is "very grateful to [the Union] for its support."

"We are determined to do all we can to safeguard access to the information resources. Our students and researchers need to do their work but we don't underestimate the task ahead of us so it's great to know that the Imperial student body is right behind us."



unionpage



Imperial College Union could not operate without it's Student Officers.

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and effort over the past year.

It is really appreciated.

Thank you

SUMMER BALL

Tom Roberts

Felix has set up an online feedback form so that you can tell the Union exactly what you thought of the Summer Ball if you went, and can explain what deterred you if you decided not to. Whether you want to praise, criticise constructively, or vent your frustrations, go to www.felixonline.co.uk/summerball and let us know what you think.

We have decided not to 'review' the Summer Ball (beyond reporting the facts on Page 3 and printing photos of students looking silly on the next four pages) so that the discourse is driven by your opinions, not ours. The Deputy President (Finance & Services)-elect Michael Foster has told Felix that student input, opinion and feedback will determine any decisions made about next year's Summer Ball so make sure to speak up.

The feedback form will up for two weeks (until the 8th of July), after which we will start analysing the results.

felixonline.co.uk/summerball



Christopher Walmsley



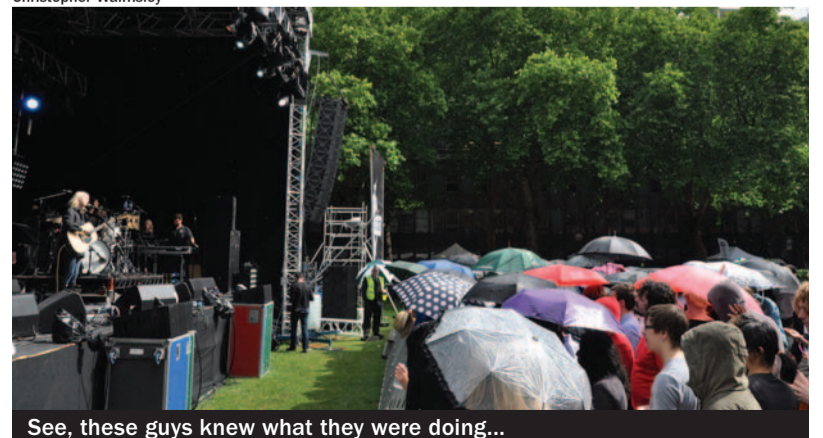
Laura Marling enjoying a few moments of sunshine between the hail and torrential rain

Tom Roberts



No umbrella? Didn't you read the forecast? Rookie error...

Christopher Walmsley



See, these guys knew what they were doing...

SUMMER BALL

Christopher Walmsley



Nero's tattoos are definitely the coolest thing since Hangman got Jabba the Hutt tattooed on his balls...

Christopher Walmsley



Oh hot girl with the amazing tattoo, will we meet again?

Christopher Walmsley



Left to right: Goldsmiths, King's, Goldsmiths, IMPERIAL!!!

Christopher Walmsley



Partying all the way to Saville Row...

SUMMER BALL

Tom Roberts



During his set, Ian Brown starting slating the Theory of Evolution. (Dude... know your audience)

Charles Poon



Did you know that the Queen's Tower has a Twitter account? Check it out: @ICQueensTower

Christopher Walmsley



Despite concentrating really hard, lady in red's attempts to kill Ian Brown with her death stare sadly failed...

Christopher Walmsley



"Dude, the caption to our left is SO funny" "Yah mate..."

SUMMER BALL

Kadhim Shubber



This is what happens when you shout, "Who wants a 1st, but doesn't want to work for it?"

Kadhim Shubber



See? There were at least two reasons to go the After-party

Kadhim Shubber



"Dude, you think we'll ever get girlfriends?" "Meh, who cares?" "I love you..."

Kadhim Shubber



Union staff pose for a photo at the end of the night. Nope, I don't 'get' the Massive Floating Eye either...

SCIENCE

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

In brief

Black future for coal miners



Decades after pit closures that claimed 170,000 jobs across England, coalfield communities continue to suffer from chronic arthritis, asthma and long-term back problems.

Researchers at Durham University found that people living in coalfield areas were 27 per cent more likely to suffer from a limiting long-term illness. The results suggest that more government assistance and focus is required if coalmining communities are to be given a chance at regeneration and improved health.

According to the findings, regeneration efforts in some less-deprived coalfield communities have helped improve health and economic stability, but poorer areas have found it more difficult to bounce back. These communities may have to rely on government initiatives to tackle inequalities with wealthier areas.

One such initiative, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT), has pledged £30 million to help coalfield areas overcome health and skills inequalities, achieve economic growth, and become self-sustaining communities. Andy Lock, Assistant Director at Coalfields Regeneration Trust said: "We know that health problems are still very severe in some places and our challenge from Government is to continue to address health inequalities. Our success is built on working collaboratively with communities and to support their responses to local health needs."

The pit closures between 1984 and 1997 left coalfield areas environmentally degraded and in poor economic condition. Many were isolated in rural areas, with poor infrastructure and little opportunity for commercial growth or tourism. The effects of these closures are still being felt in England's poorest areas, leading to long-term medical conditions and widespread unemployment.

Kate Hazelhurst

Science Question Time

Tuesday 5 July 2011 from 6.30pm

Join a panel including the editors of Nature and Research Fortnight, to discuss the impact of science on economic, academic and political matters. Register online at:
sciencequestiontimejuly2011.eventbrite.com

Breathing life into spaceplane technology

Andrew Purcell

The dream of spaceplanes has often been dismissed as fantasy, born out of bad 1950s science fiction films. According to most industry analysts, the rightful place of the spaceplane – along with food pills, floating cities and personal jetpacks – is consigned to the dustbin of history.

However, one small company in Britain doesn't seem to have got this message. Oxford's Reaction Engines Ltd believe that they now have the technology to turn this dream into reality.

The reason that so many experts have long been sceptical of spaceplanes is simple: the amount of fuel required to propel them into orbit makes them extremely heavy. When the Space Shuttle launches, it is connected to a huge orange tank, which holds the liquid oxygen fuel required for the Shuttle to escape the Earth's atmosphere. Carrying this enormous amount of fuel is not a problem for the Shuttle, as it takes off vertically – like a traditional rocket. But with a true spaceplane, there is simply no way to carry this much liquid oxygen without making the vehicle far too heavy to ever get off the ground.

Yet now, Reaction Engines Ltd believe that they have come up with an ingenious solution to this problem: breathable rocket engines.

Rather than carrying large amounts of liquid oxygen fuel, Reaction Engines Ltd's Skylon spaceplane will have an engine which is capable of using oxygen from the air as its fuel source, thus avoiding the necessity of carrying large volumes of liquid oxygen fuel. Upon reaching an altitude where the air becomes too thin to continue using oxygen this way, Skylon will simply switch its power source to a small, secondary rocket booster of conventional design. Recent tests of these engines have been successful and the first orbital test flights of Skylon are planned for 2018.

Skylon is controlled by remote and will have the capability to put both astronauts and satellites into orbit. According to Mark



Hempell, Future Programmes Director at Reaction Engines Ltd: "Skylon will be able to carry 15 tonnes to a 300km equatorial orbit, which is pretty comparable with the Space Shuttle."

Yet, Mr Hempell is keen to stress that the comparisons with NASA's Space Shuttle end here. The Shuttle has become notorious for its long and difficult turn-around times, whereas Mr Hempell claims that Skylon will be ready to go back into orbit just two days after landing: "Our turn-around will mostly be taken up by hull inspection, in order to make sure that we haven't received any micrometeorite impacts that we weren't aware of. Everything else you don't touch. That's how the two day turn-around time is achieved."

However, not all share Mr Hempell's optimism. Christopher Carr, a Senior Researcher at Imperial College's Space and Atmospheric Physics Group, believes that getting the neces-

sary government support for this project may prove trickier than anticipated. He says: "Skylon would be fantastic, but we don't do these big kinds of technical development in Britain anymore. It would be a bit like us doing Concorde again. It would be great, but is our government really committed to supporting this level of programme? Or, is it going to be yet another case of a great British idea that eventually gets built by some other country?"

Perhaps Mr Carr is right; maybe the right political and economic climate just isn't there at the moment. However, all of the early signs seem to show that Reaction Engines Ltd really do have the technology in place to support their claims.

Perhaps this is exactly the sort of innovative project our Government should be investing in, if it is to boost our economy and, at the same time, restore Britain's position as a world leader in aerospace technology.

Quantum Uncertainty, Does God play dice?

Matt Allinson

The most recent Friends of Imperial event was a lecture by theoretical physicist Antony Valentini given to a packed SAF lecture theatre. The topic, Quantum Uncertainty, was a popular one: the fact that the half the audience had iPads and the other half had walking sticks – and one rather cool gentleman had both – represented the diverse crowd that such a topic could attract. Most theoretical physics lectures that generate large audiences do so off the back of a German man with distinctive hair, and this talk was no exception. The sub-heading of the lecture was taken from a famous letter from Albert Einstein to Max Born, in which he wrote: "Quantum mechanics is certainly imposing. But an inner voice tells me that it is not yet the real thing. The theory says a lot, but does not really bring us

any closer to the secret of the 'old one.' I, at any rate, am convinced that He does not throw dice."

In the broad introduction to the field Dr Valentini agreed with Einstein's sentiment, deriding the "pseudo-spiritual" nature of most popular interpretations of quantum mechanics, describing the uncertainty principle as mysticism and complaining that to view a solid definable concept of reality as old fashioned was wrong.

His alternative theory focused around an overlooked quantum mechanical model, the Pilot-wave theory of motion proposed by Louis de Broglie. Using the same mathematics as the much more commonly recognised Copenhagen Interpretation, the Pilot wave theory results in a deterministic interpretation of quantum dynamics, hence the idea that God does not play dice. By explaining everything without recourse to equations, Dr Valentini struggled at times to

satisfactorily explain all his concepts, but given the complexity of the topic at hand, the audience did its best to keep up. This was especially the case towards the end of the talk, where definitive proof of more deterministic quantum theory was apparently to be found in the Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation, due to the conditions in the universe just after the big bang being different to as they are now.

The lecture ended there, as this was as far as current research extends. It felt a little unorthodox for a public lecture to have such an open ended finale with no answers, but it gave a good impression of the challenges facing Dr Valentini and his colleagues. It seems lonely being at odds with a large portion of the scientific community, but the lecture was a fascinating insight into the fundamental questions remaining in a field which many people considered wrapped up.

SCIENCE

Is hypnosis all it's hyped up to be?

Camila Ruz

"It got to the stage of desperation, I tried GPs, neurologists, psychiatrists and other types of psychotherapists... it was purely because I was out of any other choices that I tried it."

'It' was medical hypnosis and it reduced Timothy Ellison's weekly migraines to monthly mild headaches. Timothy had to seek private help because, although hypnosis has been practiced for a long time in the private sector, it has never been offered by the NHS.

This may all be about to change. Last Monday, recommendations made by the Royal Society of Medicine's Hypnosis Section stated that "The NHS could save millions of pounds if it made better use of hypnosis for a wide range of common conditions." The hypnosis they talk about is completely devoid of the swinging watches and semi-magical qualities of myth. Instead it sounds like any other medical tool - sharp, efficient and precise.

It is a tool that is able to help people with depression, irritable bowel syndrome and chronic pain that other more conventional methods can't treat.

Yolanda Rengifo Aguirre, the psychotherapist that treated Timothy's condition, says: "In my experience, therapy in the trance reaches parts of the patients that other psychotherapies do not reach. It is effective in changing the clockwork of the mind, such as the subconscious inner patterns of being in the world that make us ill and distressed."

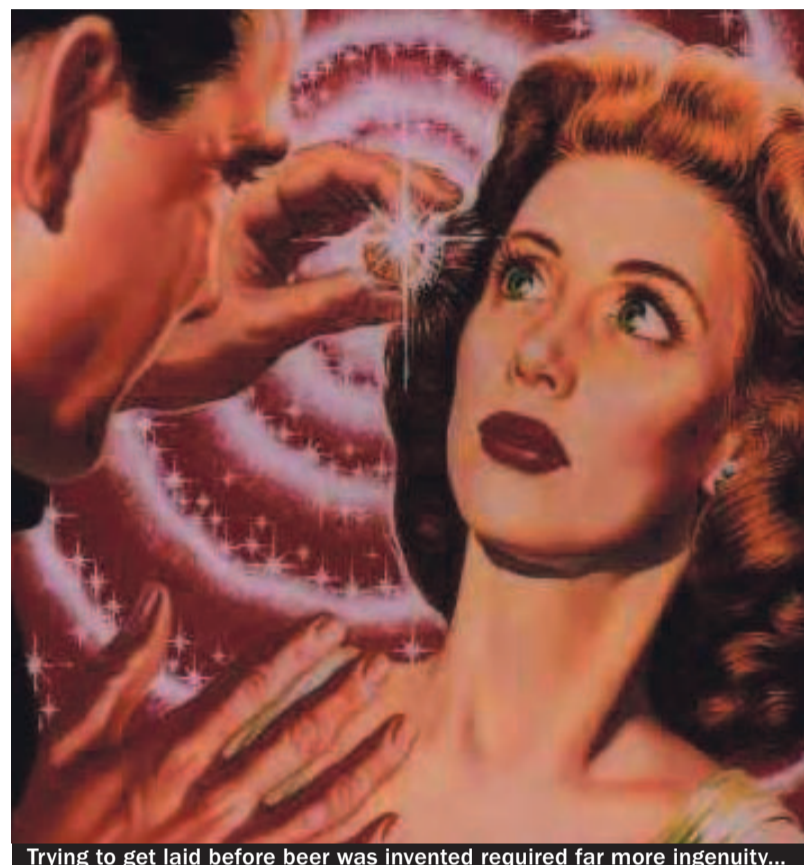
Yolanda used clinical hypnosis to "show Timothy the origin and maintaining factors of severe psychogenic migraine headaches. Hypnosis can be effective in working to resolve and heal any trauma or inner psychological conflict that could be subconsciously triggering it."

Timothy said: "Hypnosis helped me in discovering why I had migraines. It helped me respond to stress in a way that was not self-harming, by noticing the early signs in my body as a warning device. These signs tell me to relax instantly and so avoid triggering the migraine."

Clinical hypnosis therefore gives insights into psychosomatic conditions that other techniques simply cannot do. In its ability to find subconscious causes, hypnosis is effective in treating anxiety induced disorders from panic attacks

to insomnia. Hypnosis can also be used as a tool to help treat more complicated cases of psychological distress such as anorexia and bulimia: "They learn why they behave in a particular manner and how to change their responses before they occur. These are the responses that were automatic or compulsive in the past, that's why I use clinical hypnosis extensively in the effective treatment of eating disorders," says Yolanda. The pinpointing of these mental habits is part of what makes medical hypnosis so effective in cutting the recovery time in many of these cases.

But if medical hypnosis is so effective why haven't we heard more about it? The problem is that it is currently only done privately and when done by a fully trained psychologist, as it has to be, it is extremely expensive - often up to £100 an hour. As Timothy said: "Hypnosis changed my life. I think it could benefit a great number of people. I am sorry for the people that cannot afford treatment and are suffering as I suffered." Putting it on the NHS would bring medical hypnosis onto the radar of people who have run out of choices, giving people like Timothy another chance.



Trying to get laid before beer was invented required far more ingenuity...

Government calls for better circus animal welfare



That tasted ggggreat

Kate Hazlehurst

Martin Lacey stands proudly in the centre of the big top, arms splayed, red suit barely stretching over his ample belly. His ungainly appearance is deceptive. To a roar from the crowd, he drops to his knees as a flash of white and black passes above his bald head. The lion lands with a snarl, and the audience rise to their feet, gasping with delight as it settles by Lacey's side like a Golden Retriever. He stands and bows to rapturous applause. The show is a success.

For one of these performers, the reality of success is a difficult life on the road, training for hours each day and pacing a cage smaller than the average living room.

Earlier this month, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) released what it calls a 'tough new licensing regime' for animals used in circus performances. Assessment criteria include transport conditions, size of living quarters, and treatment by animal trainers. According to Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman, the stringent guidelines will improve quality of life for performing animals.

A noble aim indeed, but will it be enough? In 2009, Professor Stephen Harris and his colleagues at Bristol's School of Biological Sciences com-

pleted a comprehensive survey of circus animal welfare worldwide.

What they found is hardly surprising. "Quite simply, there should be an outright ban" said Professor Harris, speaking from the Mammal Group Lab at Bristol University. "We don't need animals in circuses...the requirements of these animals are so specific you just can't meet them in a circus environment."

It seems that the British public agree. A government opinion poll in 2010 revealed that 71% of the UK public support a total ban on all performing animals across the UK. Of DEFRA's licensing proposal, Professor Harris said "I think it's a rather farcical process. I mean, if you look at the welfare situation in zoos it is pretty terrible anyway, and those animals are kept in one place. So in circuses, well, there simply aren't any welfare standards."

Martin Lacey's white lion and other exotic creatures will continue to perform for delighted crowds across the country, and perhaps they will be better protected from poor treatment at the hands of their owners.

But if pressure and petitioning from welfare groups, charities, higher-profile scientists and the public continues, DEFRA may be forced to take a stronger stance.

Global cooling?

Andrew Purcell queries claims that decreasing solar activity will trigger an ‘ice age’

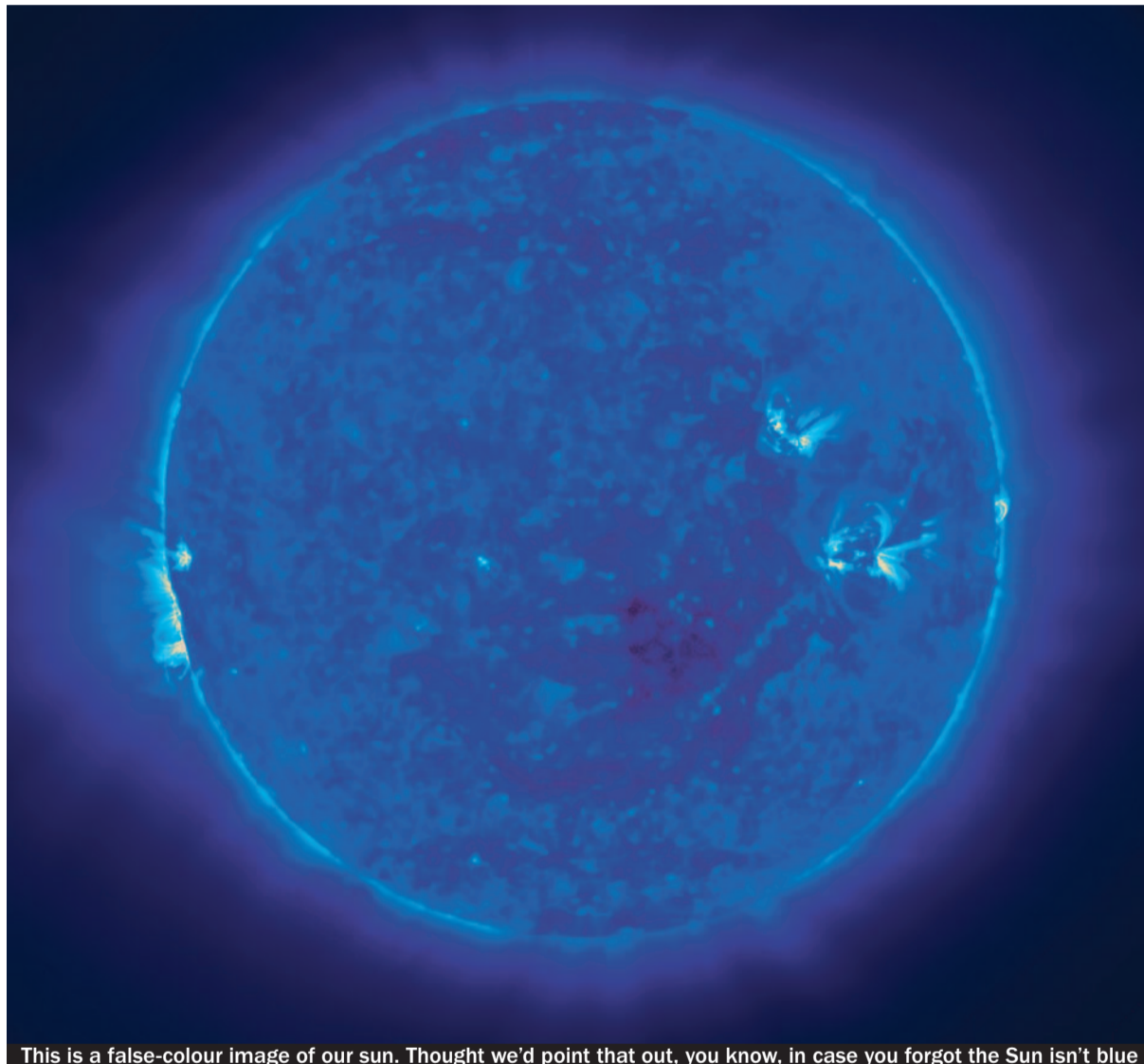
The last week has seen a flurry of excitement over reports that solar activity may be set to decrease. Climate change deniers have sprung upon this news, with prominent Daily Telegraph blogger, James Delingpole, advocating that we increase greenhouse gas production, in order to mitigate any cooling associated with this decrease in solar activity. In an article, which opens with the words “It’s official: a new Ice Age is on its way”, Mr Delingpole goes on to claim that the news “makes global cooling a much more plausible prospect in the next few decades than global warming”. Mr Delingpole isn’t alone. The Register was also quick to pounce on this news, as was Daily Mail columnist, Richard Littlejohn, who claimed “the world has actually been getting cooler in recent years”.

So, what is the evidence to support these claims? Are we actually heading for a new ice age, or are the climate change deniers on some pretty thin ice?

Well, Mr Littlejohn’s claim is clearly nonsense, as the ten warmest years on record have all occurred since 1998. But, what about the claim that the Earth is about to enter a new ice age? To judge the merits of this claim, we will have to look a little more closely at the science...

The Sun’s activity is cyclical, with the overall strength of the Sun’s magnetic field rising and falling periodically. Each cycle lasts roughly 11 years and we are currently approaching a solar maximum, due in 2013. However, there is evidence to suggest that the next cycle, with its maximum expected in 2022, may be significantly weaker. This prediction was made at a recent meeting of the American Astronomical Society and is based upon observations that a gaseous river, which flows beneath the Sun’s surface, is forming at a slower rate than observed during previous solar cycles. Also, scientists have noted that the average magnetic strength of sunspots has been decreasing in recent years and that coronal activity is unusually low at the moment.

Yet, this doesn’t necessarily mean that we are likely to see a decrease in the effects of global warming and it certainly doesn’t mean that we’re heading for a new ice age. This proposed decrease in solar activity is likely to lead to an average global temperature decrease of between just 0.1 and 0.3 °C. By contrast, anthropogenic global warming is set to cause an increase in average global temperatures of roughly 4 °C by the end of this century.



This is a false-colour image of our sun. Thought we’d point that out, you know, in case you forgot the Sun isn’t blue

Similarly, the predicted decrease in solar activity could lead to a 4 per cent increase in polar sea ice. This is – quite literally – a drop in the ocean, especially when one considers the fact that global warming is set to cause a 40 per cent decrease in polar sea ice.

Equally, those celebrating this news as a long-sought-after excuse to keep on burning fossil fuels and driving gas-guzzling cars seem to have conveniently overlooked a few other facts.

For one, there’s the problem of oceanic acidification. Increased carbon dioxide levels will continue to acidify our oceans and destroy coral reefs, even if solar activity becomes significantly reduced. For another, what happens when solar activity returns to normal? Nobody is suggesting that the predicted decrease in solar activity will be permanent, so any reduction in our efforts to tackle global warming would only result in a potentially disastrous ‘double-whammy’ period of warming once this period of low solar activity

has subsided.

Such a period of relative cooling may last just the one 11-year solar cycle, but some are predicting another Little Ice Age, such as that experienced from the mid-16th to the mid-19th century. During this period, winters were unusually cold and the Thames froze over regularly.

However, despite widespread claims to the contrary, the links between decreased solar activity and this unusually cold period are not clear. While it is often claimed that the Little Ice Age was caused exclusively by a period of low solar activity, known as the Maunder Minimum, the Maunder Minimum lasted just 70 years, whereas the Little Ice age lasted 300 years. It has been suggested that the Little Ice Age could also have been caused by high levels of volcanic activity, or even a temporary decrease in the functioning of the Gulf Stream.

During the Little Ice Age, the cooling effect is thought to have varied signifi-

cantly across regions, with Europe having been affected significantly more than North America for instance. Also, while winters were generally much cooler during the Little Ice Age, summers were not as strongly affected. Thus, given that climate change is already predicted to cause the UK to experience more extreme seasonal variation (i.e. warmer summers and colder winters), a return to Little Ice Age conditions could be particularly bad for the UK.

London is roughly on the same line of latitude as Moscow and currently experiences abnormally warm winters – given this latitude – due to the winter-warming effect of the Gulf Stream. If average global temperatures continue to increase, causing ever-greater glacial melt water to continue decreasing the salinity of our oceans, this is likely to lead to major changes in the activity of the Gulf Stream. Thus, winters in the UK will become drastically cooler.

Coupled with a further potential decrease in winter temperatures, caused

“The total energy reaching Earth from The Sun is expected to drop by just 0.1%”

by decreasing solar activity, this has the potential to be disastrous. Consequently, rather than diminishing the need to tackle climate change, the prospect of decreased solar activity causing cooler winters, serves only to add impetus to the already drastic need to tackle climate change.

On a global scale, if the projected decrease in solar activity does occur, and if it does cause a limited global cooling effect, this should be seen as a temporary reprieve, with the potential to buy us some much-needed time to increase our efforts at reducing global atmospheric CO₂ output. It should certainly not be seen – as the climate change deniers would have us believe – as an excuse to do absolutely nothing.

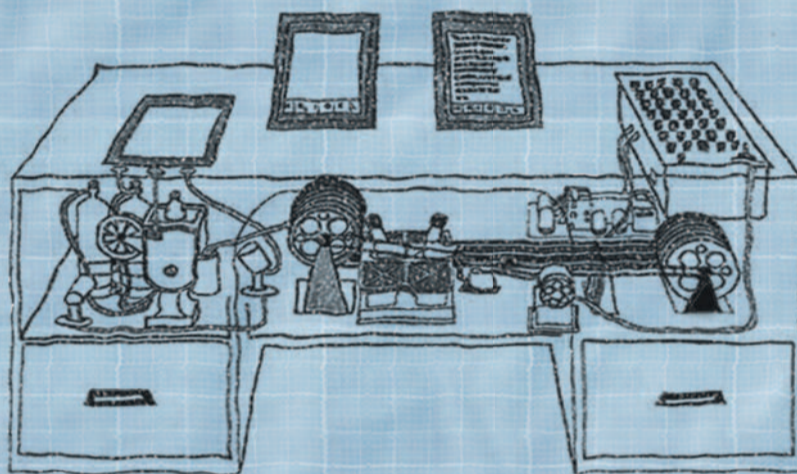
The hypocrisy of the climate change deniers is truly staggering. Quick to refute the overwhelming body of scientifically-sound, peer-reviewed evidence in support of global warming, these so-called ‘sceptics’ have jumped upon these predictions of decreasing solar activity unquestioningly; predictions which were made in provisional form at a small conference in New Mexico and which have not yet been subjected to the rigors of peer review. It is worth bearing in mind that, even if these predictions do turn out to be accurate, the total energy reaching Earth from The Sun is expected to drop by just 0.1 per cent.

In light of this, the crowing of the climate change deniers seems, at best, woefully misguided and, at worst, wilfully misleading. Perhaps unsurprisingly, few of the climate change deniers have made reference in their articles to the fact that Dr Frank Hill, one of the scientists responsible for the predictions, chose to clarify things by issuing the following statement:

“We are NOT predicting a mini-ice age. We are predicting the behaviour of the solar cycle. In my opinion, it is a huge leap from that to an abrupt global cooling, since the connections between solar activity and climate are still very poorly understood. My understanding is that current calculations suggest only a 0.3 °C decrease from a Maunder-like minimum, too small for an ice age. It is unfortunate that the global warming/cooling studies have become so politically polarising.”

I, SCIENCE

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Tips & Hacks

Bitcoin: truly anarchist currency



Money made and traded online is valuable. Companies across the web have been striving to find a model for digital currency that works. From Facebook to Farmville; World of Warcraft to Second Life people are buying currency that is used online even though it has no physical manifestation. Stranger still, people are willing to accept payments for goods and services in the real world using these virtual currencies. In 2009, Satoshi Nakamoto, a Japanese cryptography expert created the world's first decentralised digital currency and Bitcoin was born.

Now this sort of economic alchemy has been done before. All modern day government-backed currencies are fiat: their value is not tied to anything physical. But unlike conventional currency, Bitcoin (BTC) has no centralized issuing or holding authority. Its production is hardcoded into the software itself and cannot be altered. Only market forces control its value. So what benefits does this offer compared with the tried and tested British Pound Sterling?

Transfers are conducted from peer to peer and are certified by the network itself so there is no need for banks or other third parties, resulting in almost no transaction fees. Your account can't be frozen, even by the founders of Bitcoin, so you have complete liquidity and freedom to spend your money irrespective of external forces. This is extremely valuable to people who keep large amounts of money on-line in accounts at companies such as Paypal. Earlier this year the US government froze hundreds of millions of dollars in online poker accounts leaving thousands of people without access to over 80% of their net value, something that would be impossible using this new currency.

There are still a lot of kinks that need to be ironed out. Last week \$500,000 worth of BTC were stolen, causing the currency's market value to crash from \$20 per 1BTC to just \$0.01 per 1BTC. However, it has subsequently bounced back. Furthermore, the anonymity that the system affords attracts a black market where people buy and sell contraband such drugs, weapons and stolen personal information so governments are becoming increasingly weary of this uncontrollable marketplace. Right now you can only use Bitcoins to buy niche tech products and services and gimmicky alpaca socks.

However, if major retailers start taking virtual currency seriously it could revolutionize our perspective on money, doing for finance what the internet did for publishing, ownership and transfers. **Adam Labi**

'Everything everywhere' a reality?

Feroz Salam picks out the top tech debuting this summer

As summer draws nearer and the spring round of exhibitions and trade fairs draws to a close, there's a lot of shiny new technology to look forward to over the next few months. Driving the latest round of products is the incessant slide towards perpetual connectivity: be it mobile, tablet, laptop or the increasingly elusive desktop, all major tech players are pushing to have you wired 24/7.

NFC and mobile wallets

The most noticeable push this summer will lie in NFC and the possibilities it opens up for mobile wallets. To the uninitiated, NFC chips are a close relative to the RFID chips that you have in your student and Oyster cards. The new NFC technology that is being championed by telecom operators and device manufacturers alike will allow your phone to read and write data to sensors and other phones by touch alone.

The applications for the technology are very promising. Tapping two phones together could transfer a song between friends, or connect them on Facebook. The real money will lie in mobile wallets, however. The concept of using your phone as a wallet (tap-to-pay on special till sensors) has been floated for at least a decade and has made some inroads in the Far East, but hasn't kicked off in earnest yet. This is all set to change in the next few weeks, as card companies, phone manufacturers and line operators are all jockeying frantically for a slice of what might be a huge revenue pie.

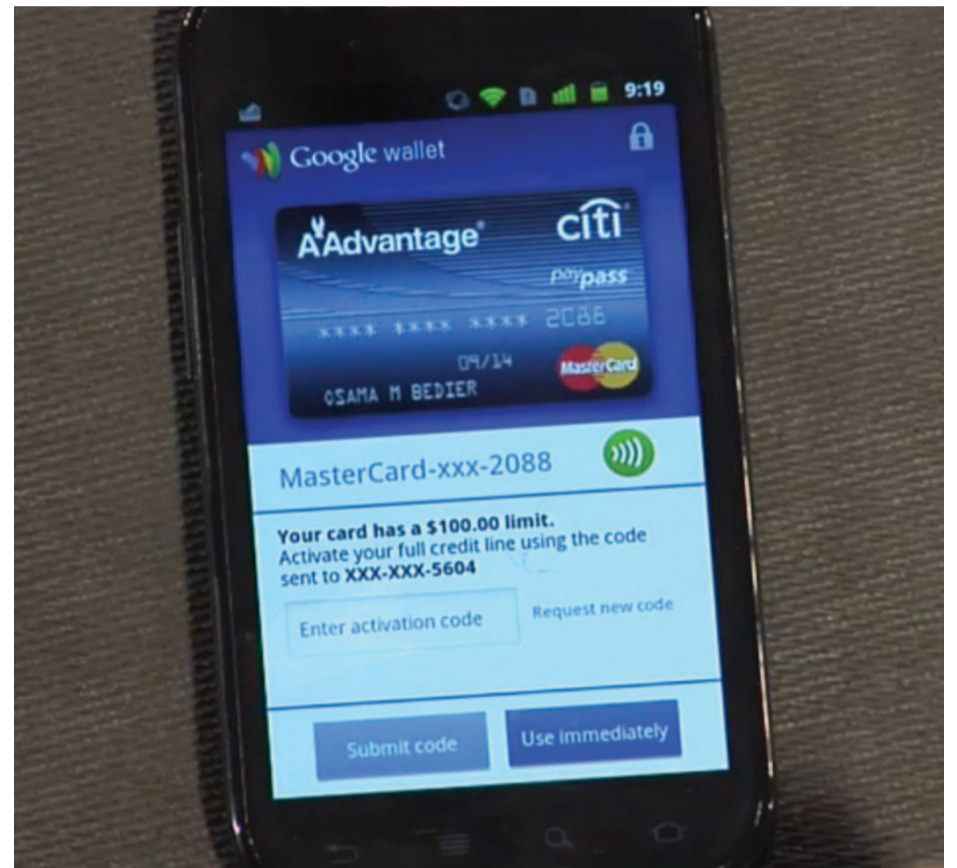
Orange's Samsung QuickTap handset has already been introduced in the UK, and the three major mobile operators in the UK (Everything Everywhere, Telefonica and Vodafone) have just announced a move to form a mobile payment joint venture that will bring widespread coverage 'before the end of the year'. With Google Wallet also promising similar functionality in the near future, the death of cash-points may be within sight.

Location, location, location

GPS on phones has been available for some time now, but it has taken a while for most businesses to cotton on to the potential of knowing exactly where your user is. While services that depend on location often tread the fine line between creepy and useful, there's something to be said for the wealth of location-based discount services mushrooming on social networking sites. Check-in, publicise the restaurant, receive a coupon and everyone's happy. It's not everyone's cup of tea, but on a student budget, I'm not complaining.

Take your stuff with you

The potential of the 'cloud' has been trumpeted by the media for the last few years now,



but there has been a stark absence of many real cloud products beyond data backup and Google docs. If the last few months are any indication, however, 2011 is poised to be the year where you'll never have to worry about leaving home without your books, music or videos.

Amazon, Google, Apple and Spotify all have huge plans for your music library - their services will all give you varying degrees of access to your songs across your devices. Spotify's services have been up and running in the UK for a while now, and the others are supposed to roll out from late 2011 onwards. Along with the Kindle's cross-platform books service and rumours of a launch for streaming movie provider Netflix, there will soon be no barrier to carrying your media with you wherever you go.

The summer will also see the launch of Google's Chromebooks in the UK. A radical re-envisioning of what a laptop should look like, the system only comes bundled with what is essentially a browser. In future, you will be able to find all the software you need through their online apps. It's a bold move, and there's no telling how far it will go just yet, but if you're buying into the cloud philosophy and want a basic computer on the cheap, this will probably be worth having a look at.

Finally, a free lunch?

The implications of all this innovation are huge. On the one hand there are the positive consequences: we will see people finally being

able to exchange media seamlessly by tapping phones together, while physical money is making its inexorable decline into obsolescence. Devices around us are becoming smarter and increasingly interconnected every day: integrating chips into almost everything we own is becoming an expectation rather than a luxury.

As always, freedom comes at a price. Ubiquitous computing has been driven in part by a system of barter in a 21st century context: your personal information in exchange for a service. This has worked brilliantly so far: swapping some personal information for targeted advertising is a price that most of us are willing to pay. Yet technology companies are constantly redrawing the boundaries, and for the first time the, dynamic is shifting away from users choosing to upload their data and towards devices constantly collecting data from your palm as you travel, spend money and make friends.

If nothing else, it's always worth remembering that anything you put out there on the internet will always remain on some server, owned by a company that you have no control over. Facebook, Twitter and Google have us wrapped around an innocuous finger of free services and constant connectivity. The onset of ubiquitous computing might take nothing from your pocket, but will drop these companies into your life forever. As gloomy a prophecy as that may seem, the information is only there if you choose to give it to them. So if you do choose to tap-to-pay using NFC or coupon your way around town with foursquare, always remember the hidden price you are paying for the service. Have a great summer!

TECHNOLOGY

Augmented reality is here

But Chris Bowers examines whether it is all that it is cracked up to be

Just what is augmented reality? I was at an augmented reality conference recently and the best definition was this: “Augmented reality is an integration of the real world with computer graphics that you can interact with.”

So we are looking at something that augments your reality with something you can play about with. A good name then. But it’s all very well and good creating a pair of goggles that overlay what you see with floating unicorns and fairy dust, but it doesn’t really add anything – it’s gimmicky. The general consensus of the conference-goers was that the augmentation had to be useful.

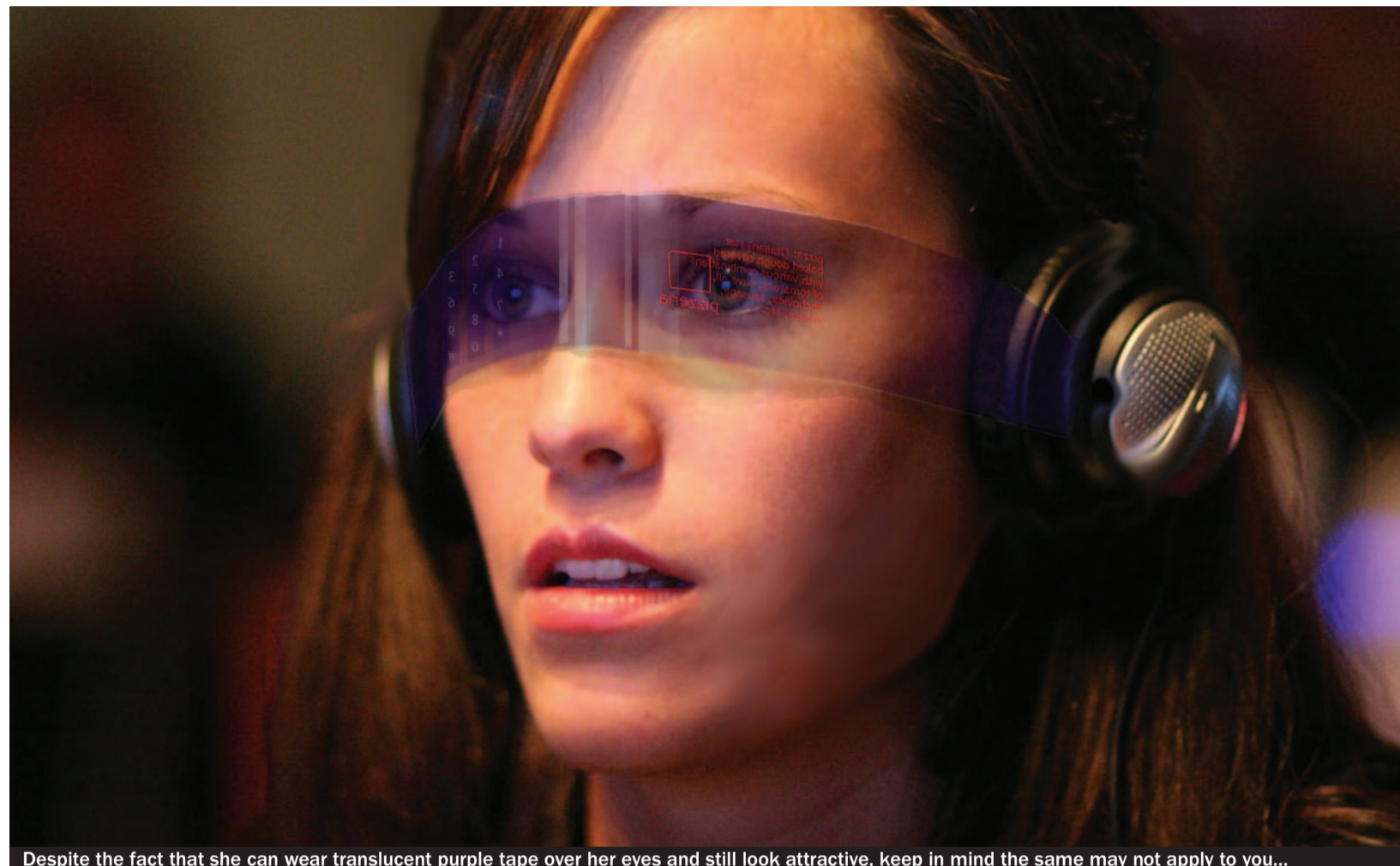
Augmented reality is only just emerging from that gimmicky stage. It’s a young technology that is slowly coming into the public eye. The main limitation, until now, has been the technology required for it to be both useful and unobtrusive.

These limitations were twofold: the reliance on fiducials (those black and white square markers), and a lack of a bridge between the user and the augmented world. But in the age of the smartphone, the latter issue is moot. Now it has become a lot easier for those innovators in augmented reality to start distributing their content to the masses.

Still an infant industry

One such company at the conference was Wikitude, showcasing their self-named augmented reality browser. Available on all major mobile operating systems, Wikitude allows you to look at your surroundings through your smartphone’s camera. It will then overlay information and facts about what you can see, including user-added content and geo-tagged tweets. This is an interesting use-case, and it certainly seems to be popular (it was voted the best augmented reality browser two years in a row).

“Researchers at the University of Washington recently managed to embed a four-by-four grid of blue and red pixels in a single contact lens”



Despite the fact that she can wear translucent purple tape over her eyes and still look attractive, keep in mind the same may not apply to you...

However, it lacks a great deal of interaction, and you have to walk around with your smartphone in front of you to get the effect – not a great look.

So the next step could be augmented reality eyewear – either glasses or contact lenses. Both of these options may be less obtrusive, but there are, unfortunately, disadvantages to both. People don’t want to wear unstylish eyewear just for some extra facts about their surroundings. With contact lenses it’s a technological barrier – not just getting enough pixels in a contact lens, but also having them close enough together. This is necessary to give the illusion that the overlaid content is a lot further from the eye, else it would obscure the user’s vision.

However, advances are being made in both of these areas. Vuzix and DARPA have both created pairs of augmented reality glasses that, while not supremely stylish, look more like futuristic sunglasses than lab goggles. On the contacts front, the technology is a lot further behind, but is catching up. Researchers at the University of Washington recently managed to embed a four-by-four grid of blue and red pixels in a single contact lens, close enough to avoid the afore-

mentioned occlusion problem.

On the other hand, if Ken Blakeslee – an investor in many companies involved with augmented reality – is to be believed, the glasses technology could be made ready very swiftly. What is lacking is a consumer demand for augmented reality itself. Without this demand, companies and investors won’t put the money required into research and development of the technologies.

Perhaps with more advancements, the general public may find something that leads them to be more interested. That said, in a time of recession and careful investments, we’re definitely going to need to get augmented reality away from being a gimmick. It needs to be something that enhances the user’s life.

Thankfully, some people do seem to be heading in that direction. One particularly interesting presentation was from Holition, who describe themselves as “leaders in augmented retail”. They described an advertising/retail initiative they had undertaken with Selfridges and watch manufacturer Tissot. Customers outside the store were given a single coloured watch band to put on. They could then hold this up to a web-

cam above a screen on the wall of the store to see a Tissot watch on their wrist in real time, and use that touch screen to customise the watch with immediate effect. In addition, they could take this watch placeholder with them to use on the Tissot website at home with their own webcam.

This is a great use for augmented reality. It brings benefits to both parties, which means it’s exactly the sort of initiative that will bring the technology closer to the public eye. For the consumer, it saves a lot of time with trying on the accessory, and allows them a lot more customisation than they would get in the shops. It can save and even generate extra revenue for the company (as they need make fewer watches if most people use this system). This particular example gave a return on investment of four to one. It was also said that the trial was considered a success, with others also having been completed. This is a hopeful sign for pushing augmented reality forward.

Making it a reality

So where does the technology go from

here? It really needs something to push it forward, to accelerate its growth. And if investors aren’t prepared to stump up their cash, maybe it will be games that provide this spurt. The games industry is huge, and if it were to adopt augmented reality *en masse*, it would almost certainly make it big very quickly. This is definitely a possibility, as we’re starting to see examples of this already.

The Nintendo 3DS is the main contender here, with its impressive augmented reality software. Effects such as apparently warping the surface that you’re playing on bring a worthwhile addition to the game, but perhaps without the 3D it wouldn’t have such an effect. But Nintendo aren’t the only ones – Samsung demoed their AiRaid game at the conference. It’s a game based on a similar concept to Nintendo’s own Face Raiders, but at least it shows that companies are taking an interest.

It’s good to see that some big names in different sectors of the market are really getting their hands dirty with augmented reality. It is an emerging technology, and it may still take a few years before it takes off. But when it does, I’m sure it’s going to be huge.

POLITICS

The world beyond College walls



Somalia

Somalia's Prime Minister Mohamed Formajo has refused to resign, defying an UN-backed deal to oust him. The deal extends the mandates of the Somali President, Speaker and their deputies until 2012, and was reached after months of squabbling between rival political parties. Mr Formajo claimed support from the people and there have been protests against the deal in the capital Mogadishu. Somalia has been without an effective Government following the fall of Said Bare's regime in 1991.



Nepal

Nepalese troops have destroyed the last minefield in Nepal, five years after the end of the civil war. This makes Nepal only the second country in Asia to be completely free of mines. The clearing of the minefields were agreed upon as part of the peace agreement with the Maoist rebels who now form part of the Nepali Government. Despite the clearing of the minefields, Nepal however still faces many challenges ahead including how to demobilise the 19,000 former Maoist soldiers.



China

The People's Republic of China has said that it would abstain from using force to solve maritime disputes in the South China Sea. This comes after Vietnam, which was blamed by China for exacerbating tensions, held a live fire drill and issued a decree specifying who will be exempted from a draft during a time of war. China is involved in a territorial dispute with the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and Brunei over the strategic Spratly and the Paracels which are also believed to contain oil and gas deposits.



Edited by Kenneth Lee

The Politics of Summer 2011

Who will come, who will see, who will conquer?

Rajat Jain

With Felix Politics on holiday for the summer, you're probably worried that you'll either have to read a proper political paper for the next three months (really very dull) or become completely ignorant of the world around you. Fear not! Below are the only important headlines that may, or may not, occur. Read these and you can spend the rest of your summer lying on a beach, without a care in the world.

President Ahmadinejad faces impeachment

One would think the West would be excited by the possibility of the end of the anti-Semitic, homophobic, nuclear weapon developing, hate-mongering and increasingly anti-democratic rule of Iran's current president. Unfortunately, in Iran the president is not as powerful as the title might suggest and things can get a lot worse. Ahmadinejad is not facing pressure from the same moderate political opponents who protested the election results in 2009, but from his former ally, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, who is the absolute authority in this theocratic state. The first signs of a rift emerged in April, when the Supreme Leader reinstated the intelligence minister that Ahmadinejad had just fired. As befits any man with a childish passive-aggressive personality, Ahmadinejad refused to turn up to work, missing a number of important meetings, for eleven days. Now the parliament has rejected two of his ministerial nominees, accusing him of choosing friends and challenging clerical rule. Politics in Iran is highly secretive but speculation is rife about the kind of power plays that are taking place between parliament, the revolutionary guard, guardian council and supreme council, who all take some part in ruling the Islamic Republic. Ahmadinejad's impeachment or resignation looks increasingly likely. This could signal an end to what little democracy the people of Iran had since the 1979 revolution. Alternatively, optimists may hope that it will mean the end of nuclear weapons development, assuming Khamenei's fatwa against them was sincere.



Muslim Brotherhood elected in Egypt

Following the ousting of President Hosni Mubarak after 30 years of power, the interim military government has promised free and fair parliamentary elections in September. The

problem is Mubarak was not just unpopular for his corruption and crackdown on dissidents, but for making peace with Israel and being seen as a pawn for the West. The Muslim Brotherhood, a radical Islamist group, was legalised after the revolution and formed its own party. Recently, they have declared an alliance with liberal parties, however if they make a strong showing at elections, it could lead to new tensions with Israel and a step back in the Middle East peace process. Intervention by the United States or Israel may even be on the cards.



Greece defaults - Euro collapses

European Finance ministers have refused to increase Greece's bailout or improve conditions unless austerity measures are pushed through. This, however, is becoming difficult as Greeks take to the streets in increasingly violent protests against the proposed budget. David Cameron, meanwhile, has declared that he is unwilling to increase loans to the Eurozone country unless he must do so due to IMF obligations. This all puts the Eurozone under increasing pressure. Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany has suggested allowing Greece to default if it comes to it, an option that is considered suicide for the Greek economy by many economists. France's finance minister, Christine Lagarde, has refused to consider that as an option. If it were to happen, it could well send a shock wave through Europe that could spell the end of the Euro.

Sarah Palin to stand for president

The former Grand Old Party candidate for vice-president has, at the time of writing, yet to declare whether she will stand for president. The formal elections aren't until next year, but the Republican Party is preparing for its primaries, with debates already taking place. Now, I'm not suggesting she is a credible candidate, but let's face it - the only thing that makes these elections bearable, regardless of which party you support, is the slightly thick Republican candidates. With George W. Bush long gone and Donald Trump recently backing out, Palin (who recently questioned whether the Libyan-military-thing we're involved in is a war, intervention or "squirmish"), is looking to be the our only chance to laugh smugly at Americans while sipping on fine wine in the south of France (or wherever you happen to summer).

Gaddafi Dead

With pundits increasingly warning of a stalemate, the western alliance has been increasing the military assistance to the Libyan rebels. A victory would be a clear sign to other leaders, such as Syria's al-Assad, that they are not immortal. With any luck, it will also reduce suspicion of the West, particularly important after Blair and Sarkozy's "deal with the devil", when they met Gaddafi. It could also give a popularity boost to Presidents Sarkozy and Obama who are both facing re-election.



Sarkozy will not stand for re-election

Early next year, France will hold its Presidential elections, but incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy has yet to say whether he will stand. His wife, whose photos strangely seem to appear in more newspapers during international conferences than her better half's, is pregnant and has said she does not want him to stand but that it is ultimately his choice. Despite Sarkozy's failure to reform the economy, he has still been described the best candidate for the job by his centre-right party. He also no longer has the threat of a strong centre left candidate. The socialists were widely expected to choose Dominique Strauss-Kahn who, as head of the IMF, was likely to understand how to keep the economy strong and competitive while maintaining the values of the French Left. However, he is facing trial in New York for rape. Instead, with anti-Islamic sentiment growing since 11th September 2001 and anti-European views emerging due to bailouts of weak economies such as that of Greece, it seems the far-right may well sweep to victory. Their new leader, Marine Le Pen, is young, ambitious and charismatic. With no strong left-wing showing and no *status quo* candidate to fall back on from the centre right, the EU's most important country could be about to elect a reactionary racist.



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BUSINESS

Buffer – Because you want to tweet better

Afonso Campos talks to Joel Gascoigne about Buffer and startups in general



Buffer founders Joel Gascoigne and Leo Widrich planning world tweetmination. Maybe. If they can get over the OS war

The proliferation of Twitter is ubiquitous to say the least and despite the service being almost universally loved by its users, annoying your followers with a barrage of tweets is not a gargantuan task to accomplish. Enter Buffer.

Buffer is a simple, yet highly effective web application that lets you add your messages to be automatically tweeted at scheduled times, thus avoiding a backlash in the form of decreasing followers. Its co-founder, Joel Gascoigne, puts it best: “Buffer is a smarter way to Tweet”. I was lucky enough to drag Joel away from his text editor long enough to find out what makes him, and Buffer, tick.

Joel, a Warwick University computer science graduate has a long history of early adoption of emerging trends. He embraced the power of the web at the almost premature age of 12 when he first started creating websites, and throughout university he worked as a freelance developer and designer. It was never his idea to leave university to set upon the typical route of the many students taking a graduate job: his aspiration was to be completely independent and build something substantial without being told what to do by anyone else.

Clearly one with a startup mindset, when the time came for his final group project at university, Joel created an interesting location-based social network where your friends could check-in at different places on campus. Joel’s idea actually preceded the behemoths that are now Facebook Places, Foursquare and the prevalence of smartphones. While the entrepreneurially minded Joel would

have liked to continue this project, he came to abandon the idea as his fellow group members had different plans.

Following university, and further proof that Gascoigne is a forward thinker, he co-created OnePage; a one-stop shop to easily and automatically disseminate your Internet presence, in the style of prominent sites such as about.me, before these even existed. Although the project lasted over a year, it was not

“Buffer is a smarter way to Tweet” – Joel Gascoigne

a complete success and he did not get the traction he desired. During the time, it also transpired that his co-founder and himself, while good friends, just did not work that well together; a most important of realisations.

Armed with the experience of building two dynamic and intelligent web applications, Joel set upon getting Buffer off the ground. Joel is a keen follower and believer in the Lean Startup method, first pioneered by entrepreneur Eric Ries, which advocates constant deployment of features and launching with a minimum viable product. Before even starting to build the application Joel wanted validation that his idea was a good one, and put up a landing page with a description of the product, different pricing levels and an e-mail form. With careful analysis of the traffic on his preliminary site he was able to track the metrics that eventually validated his

idea. He also gathered over 120 e-mails of prospective subscribers and immediately engaged in conversation with them to understand what they really expected and wanted out of Buffer. These conversations and his acorn of an idea became the paramount shapers of the application. He then set about actually developing the website, which from start to finish took Joel a mind-blowingly swift seven weeks to set up.

With the application up and running, Joel knew that in order to transform the product from an idea into a real and scalable business he would not be able to do it alone. This is when Leo, a young student and keen entrepreneur himself came to the rescue. He is much more than just a product evangelist or simply Joel’s right arm. He is an integral and vital part of the business. Despite the lack of a technical background, Leo managed to previously hack together an interesting cooking social network for students, giving Joel faith in his can-do nature. Having just finished his second year exams, he is taking a year out of university to focus exclusively on Buffer during this high-growth stage.

At the very earliest stages of Buffer, Joel had to keep freelancing in order to be sustainable, despite having his first paying customer within the first three days of operation. Buffer has now grown significantly to over 12,000 users, a healthy portion of whom are paying. This has allowed Joel to stop freelancing and dedicate his full attention to his creation. At this point, he isn’t raking it in yet; in fact, he is making less money now than when he was freelancing. Borrowing a phrase from the prolific Paul Graham, Joel describes

Buffer as ‘ramen profitable’. Something tells me Joel does not mind that the riches haven’t yet come and relishes in continuing to develop the application in unique and interesting ways.

His product and idea are both, without a shadow of a doubt, really great, but this alone is not what makes Joel a successful entrepreneur. He has a great attitude that is to an extent shaped by some of the world’s best entrepreneurs. Joel finds it of the utmost importance to keep placing himself outside the traditional comfort zone and finding challenges. He feels that this is the only way to keep satisfied and truly learn in a continuous manner.

When asked about his competitors, Joel was candidly frank. He knows they are out there and he acknowledges that there are similarities in the product, just like different car manufacturers embed similar characteristics in their vehicles. Different car brands get you from A to B, but what really matters is how they do it. He invokes a quote by Henry Ford: “The competitor to be feared is one who never bothers about you at all, but goes on making his own business better all the time”. It’s a decidedly healthy and refreshing attitude in a world of startups obsessed with an idea and the eventual exit. In fact, Joel believes that an undue focus on getting investment or exiting eventually derails founders and drives them to focus on the wrong things.

Before our interview was over, Joel passed some great advice to students potentially interested in entering the exciting world of startups. He thinks it is crucial to take advantage of the summer, as there is unlikely to be a stretch in their lives that is so unconcerned with time or money; two of the biggest con-

straints on young founders. He believes it to be the perfect time to really experiment and try new things. To that effect, Joel is always open to talking and helping out young startup founders, feeling that having gone through the process very recently, he is in tune with the worries and questions they may have.

With close to 350,000 scheduled tweets to date, Buffer is clearly on the uptrend. There is no doubt that as more and more companies and individuals find their voices on Twitter, Joel and Leo’s application will become increasingly attractive. While Birmingham has thus far been a good home for Buffer, as soon as their lease expires next month, Joel and Leo are off to San Francisco to see for themselves the allures of the almost mystical Silicon Valley. They are already making ripples across the pond, with the Twitter API big chief requesting a meeting with them.

Interestingly, during my interview with Joel, Buffer raked in almost another thirty users. To put things into perspective it took him a week to get those many users when he first began.

If you take nothing else from Joel’s story, remember three key things: the importance of simplicity of your product, the importance of a right co-founder and the veritable will to make it happen no matter what. Expect great things from this duo.

Check out Buffer at <http://www.bufferapp.com>
Find Joel’s blog on: <http://joel.is>
You can also follow Joel on Twitter: [@joelgascoigne](https://twitter.com/joelgascoigne)

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COMMENT

FELIX

'Try harder next week'

I hope that you will excuse me for writing in the first person. This is the last article I will ever write as Editor of this publication and, as such, it is quite a significant moment for me.

When I first came to Imperial in 2007 to study Physics, I would not have believed it possible that one could invest so much time, effort, and emotion into any one project. I started right at the bottom of the Felix hierarchy, writing articles for the Politics section (in fact, I think I may have started even lower than this; my first appearance in Felix was in a photograph of a cross-dressing party from halls). The newspaper quickly became a home for me, a place where I met my closest friends and found refuge from my sometimes-stifling studies.

My writing was incredibly poor, and my editing probably worse. I made a shocking number of mistakes and missteps; I am happy to say that this continues, though, I hope, at a marginally reduced frequency. I remember trying to resign my position as Politics Editor after a particularly awful week – three separate letters of complaint about three separate problems in my section – but the Deputy Editor at the time understood that Felix is built upon inclusiveness, opportunity, and humility; he laughed off my resignation and told me to try harder next week.

From these ignominious beginnings, I worked my way up the ladder, learning different skills in different sections, until, in my 4th year, the student body gave me the opportunity to take the helm. It is not a responsibility that I have always felt comfortable holding and I have not always fulfilled my duties as well as I should have. Where I have made mistakes I have done my best to correct them and I have always endeavoured to, in the words that stay with me three years on, 'try harder next week'.

However, though the work has been hard and the hours long, it has always been a privilege to edit this paper with the many students who volunteer their time in the Felix office each week. It has been deeply fulfilling to see my ideas and aims become reality, and it has been a joy to see students and staff pick up the paper each week. There is nothing quite like it. The depths I sink to when I make an error are nothing to the dizzyingly-high peaks when someone dashes over to grab a copy as soon as I have laid it down.

I have worked on this paper for four years – despite, paradoxically, having only completed three years of my degree – and it is time for myself and my generation of editors, to let a new generation shape Felix, and make of it what they will. I would only ask them to always remain true to its ethos: to always ask people to 'try harder next week' instead of chastising them; to always make every effort to encourage students to get involved; to always be humble enough to admit their mistakes; and to always give Felix their all, and then some. For me, it is goodbye. Thank you all for your support.

We'll meet again

Saying goodbye isn't easy, no matter how often you do it



Naida Dzigal

"I thought it was a foolish thing to say. Wasn't it obvious I'd miss you all?"

One might think that, after having changed nine schools and two universities, I'd have gotten the hang of farewells.

It is true that up to the age of eight, I can hardly remember some of the faces of my 'friends'. Then again, were we really 'friends'? Surely rubbing paint in each other's faces and playing tag during recess (as I did with one particular boy) is not what you'd call friendship now. Nevertheless, despite the childish nature of these attempts at socialising, you might even conclude we had a crush going on. I never got to say goodbye to him because I actually did not know I was going to leave the States in the summer of 1997, for good.

By the age of sixteen, I think I got so bitter about continually leaving that I stopped socialising in secondary school. I was the tall kid with the massive headphones and the dark jeans, and I spent quite a significant amount of my time with my head buried in a book. It would be stupid of me to say I did not have any friends, I just never made much of an effort to 'hang out' after school. I knew that in a year or so, I'd leave them and that would be that.

But then, after we graduated in 2007, they made the effort to see me. An email turned into an in-depth analysis of Anna Karenina and some of the best brownie recipes I have ever tasted. These two people were quite different, and I am not sure they would have gotten along, but surprisingly, they mirrored some of my interests and I found that I was laughing at a computer screen every other night. A graduation trip to Ibiza was a nice kick-off for the summer before uni started,



Hello, goodbye... see you on the other side!

and I found that I enjoyed just having fun with other people. By the time I was leaving Sarajevo and Vienna to come to London, I had a handful of new friends and we have managed to stay in contact every now and then. Holiday trips to Christmas markets, catching up with friends, English-style pubs everywhere I go, and nice tunes in the background are what I love about going back home. Oh and homemade food only my mum can make.

Fast forward almost four years to that post-final exam Union session and one might think that indeed, we no longer have the 'until I finish uni' excuse to use. Most of the people I know will go on to work in the City as consultants, a few are starting their PhDs and second MSc's, and a handful will still be at Imperial for another year. It seems that everyone has been doing the same thing for the past month – everyone is saying their goodbyes.

With one group of friends, I vouched to meet up once a year in a different place in the world. With another, I promised to visit London every now and again. I've offered my home for each and everyone to come and visit and I really do mean it when I say "I'll miss you". There are a couple of instances where I have even forgotten to say those three words – it might have been due to the fact that it was quite late at night that The Goodbye had taken place, or

The world is extremely small – I am astonished at how often this has been demonstrated

maybe even because I had thought it was a foolish thing to stay. Wasn't it obvious that I'd miss you all? Everyone has their moments and each relationship is unique. If it were up to me, we'd all be able to teleport or travel at the speed of light whenever we wanted to. And I choose to ignore the limitations of that idea.

One night in November 2007, a friend and I blagged our way into a VIP area of a nightclub in Piccadilly. It was about one in the morning when I saw a familiar face walk into the room and I heard my name screamed over the music: NAIDAAAAAAA!! My reaction was the same and this was a perfect example of one of the things I tend to repeat in my monotonous goodbye speeches: The world is extremely small and I keep getting astonished at how often this has been demonstrated to myself. I am not afraid to say that indeed, I'm one of those suckers who believe that we shall meet again when the time is right – or when I happen to find a better brownie recipe to share. Goodbye my friends, until we meet again!

Have your say on this article at felixonline.co.uk

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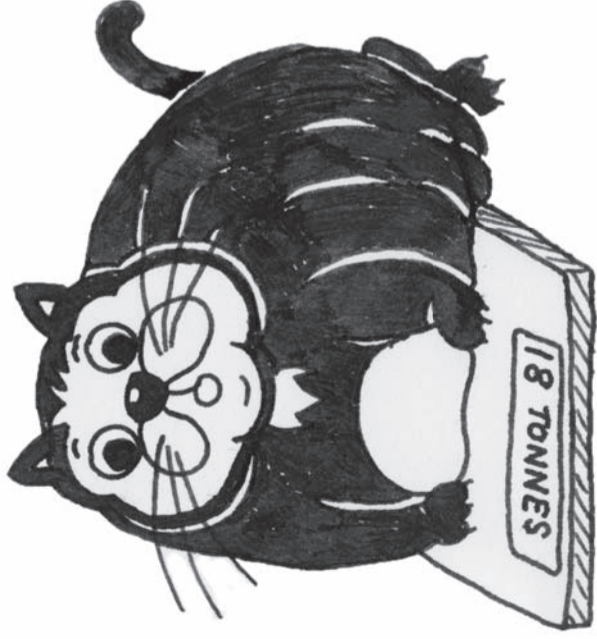
Felix's contributors are its life and soul. These students, no matter how small or large their efforts, are the people who have made Felix the success that it has been this year, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart. Editor



A YEAR OF FELIX

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That's enough to cover the Queen's Lawn 415 times



All that paper weighs approximately 18 tonnes. That's the same as three African elephants



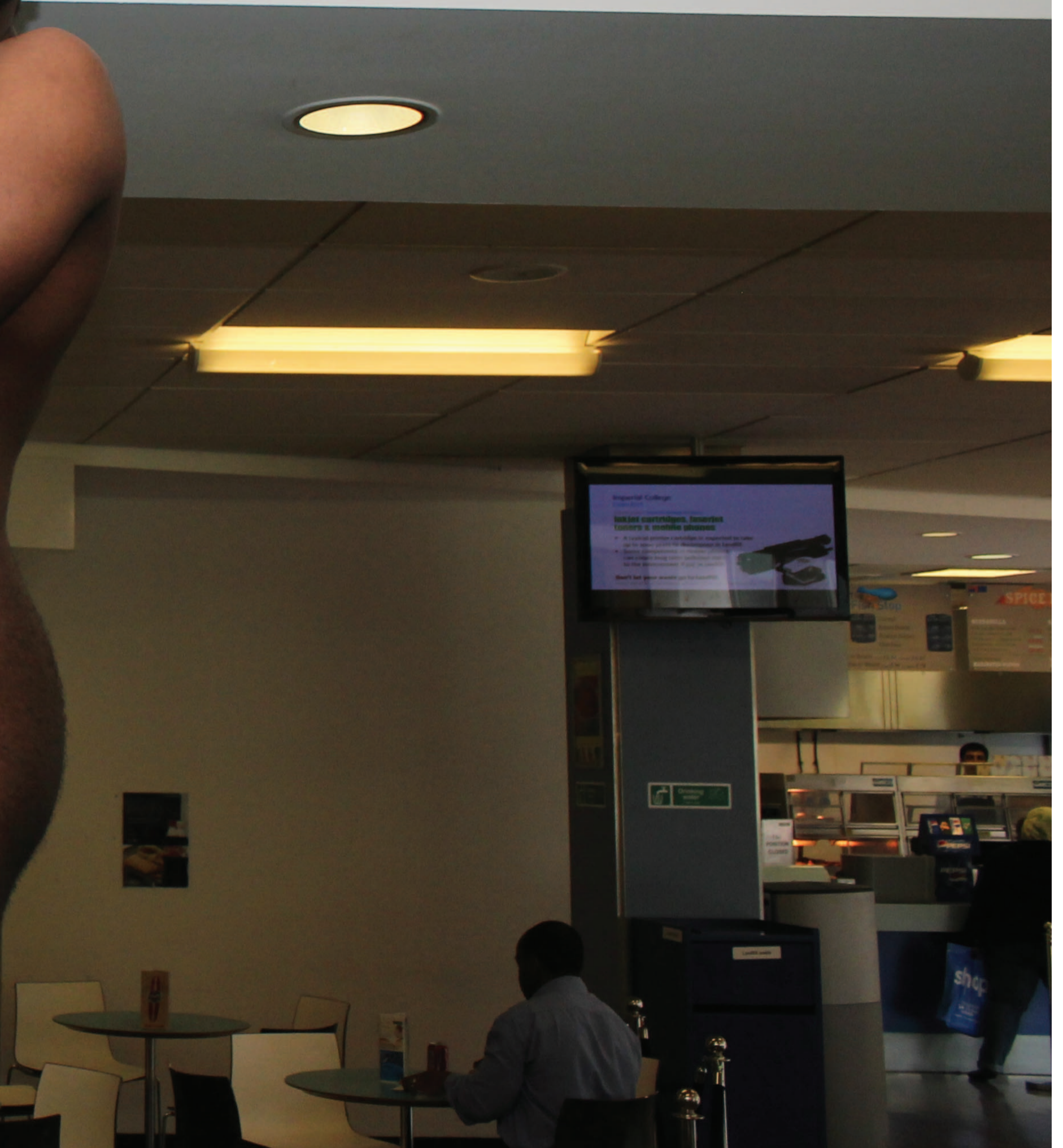
If you stacked up every copy that we've printed....

YOU WOULD FORM A TOWER 3KM HIGH

That's 33 times taller than the Queen's Tower

MILLION | Approximately

**YEAH, WE'RE NAKED IN THE JCR
AND WHAT?**





GEOLOGISTS THEIR SHINY





FELIX 2010/11

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CITY AND GUILDS COLLEGE UNION

FINALLY USING MASCOTS AS THEY WERE INTENDED





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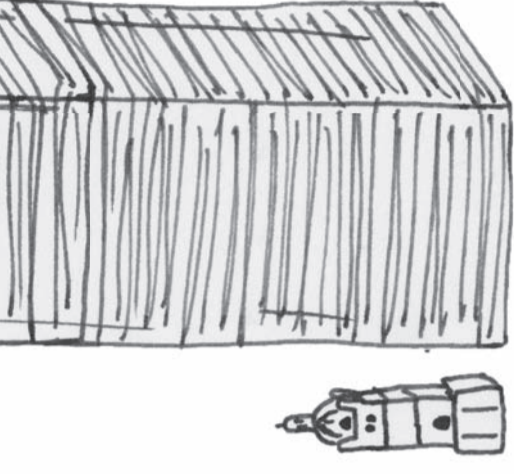
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“Keep the Cat Free”

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COMMENT

A pat on the back for humanity



Rhys Davies

“It’s good to see more and more gorillas finding employment as club bouncers”

I’m not one for blowing my own trumpet, but sometimes when I look down on this sprawling metropolis of science and soccer, of museums and Metro newspapers, I think we can feel a modicum of pride. I’m not talking about just London though. It’s everyone, the whole human race! When I think about what we’ve achieved, I have to say that humanity’s pretty great.

And how did we find ourselves in this most envious position? Was it through strength? Um, no, we’re actually pretty weedy, especially compared to our distant cousins, the gorillas. They could easily rip your whole arm off. If species success was measured on strength alone, we’d barely get an honourable mention. But in reality, we are gracious winners. It’s good to see more and more gorillas finding employment as club bouncers.

Well, maybe it was our flighty feet that gave us the evolutionary edge? Again, not so. Humanity is the asthmatic kid of evolution, always getting picked last for P.E. – we’re not even in the same league as the likes of the leopard.

But there isn’t a secret order of leopard high elders controlling the sum of world politics behind the scenes (probably). How come? It is because, though we are not the fastest or the strongest, we are the smartest. From a little clump of tapioca-mush in our heads spring all of humanity’s achievements. This is why I think we’re pretty groovy; the entire sum of art, philosophy and science has arisen from a few thousand years of semi-random electrical discharges.

Soaking up mankind’s finest endeavours, I can almost forget that we’re little more than complex, over-complicated machines for replicating lengths of a sugar-base polymer.

It can be a bit of a downer to think that purpose of life is just to beget more life – no matter how fun the process may be. But then I realised, because $E=mc^2$ and Michaelangelo’s David have no impact on passing on the genome, they are more significant, not less. Einstein, Monet, Nietzsche, Newton, Descartes. Undeniably great men but where are their children now? It is the fruit of our minds, not of our loins that allow us to achieve immortality. They allow us to

leave a legacy in a language written in more than just A, G, C and T.

But our minds have a dark side also. With such a grand capacity to think, we are so vulnerable to over-thinking. We can take one event, one comment, and torture ourselves over its most absurd interpretations. This is the price for our mental agility; Mr Hyde to our otherwise fantastic Dr Jekyll.

And even when we’re thinking straight, our minds can be our sternest critics. We set impossible standards – the only ones worth reaching for – and crucify ourselves when we fail to reach them. We could be the brightest spark, but if we can’t please ourselves, then everything else is worthless. The reverse can be just as true; sickening sycophancy only builds up illusions of greatness.

But these are just blemishes on what is truly a beautiful mind. I am willing to pay in psychosis and neurosis for all we have gained, and have yet to gain, from this brilliant collection of electrical impulses and ion imbalances. Could a flagellar motor do that?

Think about it!

Murrayfail



Andy Murray may have made his name as a great British and mediocre international tennis player but when it comes to fending off burglars (otherwise known as false alarms) he really ought to leave it to the pros. Kim Sears, his girlfriend, questions Murray’s decision to defend her honour with a tennis racket...

Murray: I was just lying in bed when I realised that there was a burglar trying to attack my girlfriend. My racket was obviously my weapon of choice. Haven’t you seen what I can do with that thing?

Kim: No way is a racket any use against a burglar. What were you thinking Andy?

Murray: I was thinking I’d catch him off guard with a good smash, rather than my signature dropshot that I always use even though Rafa and Roger can reach it, no problem.

Kim: First it was all that Playstation and now it’s tennis. I’ve had enough of your frolicking. You say it’s your life but when you gonna win one of the big tournaments?

Murray: That’s not what you were saying last night, remember? About how you were going to give me my first grand slam? That was the whole reason my racket was in bed in the first place!

Kim: Yeah, well what applies in role-play doesn’t apply IRL. For example, last night I was actually picturing your big bro.

Murray: What!?! I’m defo superior to Jamie.

Kim: Well, at least he’s won Wimbledon.

Murray: But that was only doubles - I work alone baby. And it was MIXED doubles at that! Everyone knows women’s tennis is just a glorified fashion show.

As overheard by Alex Nowbar

Living up to election promises



Simon Worthington

“The question I’m asking is – did they make the difference that they promised?”

I want it to be the year where your Union makes a Guinness World Record attempt.” “Vote for me for better quality lecture notes.”

Sorry, what? Can you say that again, please? I think my brain might be haemorrhaging. I was expecting to hear some realistic, sensible proposals coming out of your mouth, but instead all I’m registering is a massive pile of crap. If you haven’t got it already, those phrases up there are all extracts pulled directly from the manifestos of next year’s Sabbatical officers.

Just look at them. What do they even mean? They’re either so vague and woolly as to be pretty much meaningless, or else they’re so badly thought out that they’re unfeasible in practice. People promise stupid things – one candidate promised to campaign for a “freeze on fees for international students.” Seriously, what position do people think they’re running for? – Rector? If not, then this ‘campaign’ is pretty much futile – I’d like to see a Union Sabb forcing the college out of hundreds of thousands of pounds a year in the name of some ideal.

For many candidates, their manifesto is just a big pack of lies – stuff they just came up with to get your vote. I hold the (somewhat cynical) view that many candidates have no intention of keep-

ing any of their election promises because they know once they’re in power, they can do pretty much whatever the hell they like. After their year of ‘representing our views’, they walk out the door and disappear. I’m not saying the elected officers don’t make a difference – anyone remotely involved with the Union knows that they do. The question I’m asking is – did they make the difference that they promised?

The short answer is that no-one knows, or, at least, no-one bothers to check. Once the year is done and dusted, no-one looks at whether the elected officers achieved what they promised us they would, or whether they sat on their thumbs all year.

What all this leads to is a system where candidates can say one set of things in their manifestos and then, upon election, act completely differently. This renders the whole democratic process meaningless – if we can’t rely on what candidates say they’ll do, how do you choose who to vote for?

Clearly then, it is important that the elected officers are held to account if we want to bother with this whole voting business. Felix doesn’t enjoy covering it, because stories about Union politics are boring and the majority of students couldn’t give a toss anyway, so without

the voters themselves to dole out the punishment, who else is left? Thankfully, there’s the Union Council.

Union Council voted last week to deny the current Deputy President (Finance and Services) an Honorary Life Membership of the Union, an accolade that was given to the five other Sabbs. The decision was quashed by Court because the voting procedure was unconstitutional and it still hasn’t been fully resolved, but I’m glad that Council did it. This isn’t a poke at the DPFS himself – I don’t know anything about his job and I don’t know whether his performance deserved such a ruling – I’m just glad that the Union Council actually has the balls to deny an elected officer such an award if they think that it isn’t deserved.

It means that someone is holding people to account, and is smacking them down if they’ve done a bad job. Although it’s a tiny decision in the grand scheme of things, it shows that their heart is in the right place. If elected officers are finally being held to account for their performance in office, it means that we might actually be starting to move away from a culture of nonsense manifesto points and Sabbaticals who can do what they want. Ultimately, that’ll lead to a more meaningful election process and, therefore, a better Union for everyone.

Poems for the Week

To Summer by William Blake

O thou who passest thro' our valleys in
Thy strength, curb thy fierce steeds, allay the heat
That flames from their large nostrils! thou, O Summer,
oft pitched'st here thy goldent tent, and oft
Beneath our oaks hast slept, while we beheld
With joy thy ruddy limbs and flourishing hair.

Beneath our thickest shades we oft have heard
Thy voice, when noon upon his fervid car
Rode o'er the deep of heaven; beside our springs
Sit down, and in our mossy valleys, on
Some bank beside a river clear, throw thy
Silk draperies off, and rush into the stream:
Our valleys love the Summer in his pride.

Our bards are fam'd who strike the silver wire:
Our youth are bolder than the southern swains:
Our maidens fairer in the sprightly dance:
We lack not songs, nor instruments of joy,
Nor echoes sweet, nor waters clear as heaven,
Nor laurel wreaths against the sultry heat.

A Something in a Summer's day by Emily Dickinson

A something in a summer's Day
As slow her flambeaux burn away
Which solemnizes me.

A something in a summer's noon —
A depth — an Azure — a perfume —
Transcending ecstasy.

And still within a summer's night
A something so transporting bright
I clap my hands to see —

Then veil my too inspecting face
Lets such a subtle — shimmering grace
Flutter too far for me —

The wizard fingers never rest —
The purple brook within the breast
Still chafes it narrow bed —

Still rears the East her amber Flag —
Guides still the sun along the Crag
His Caravan of Red —

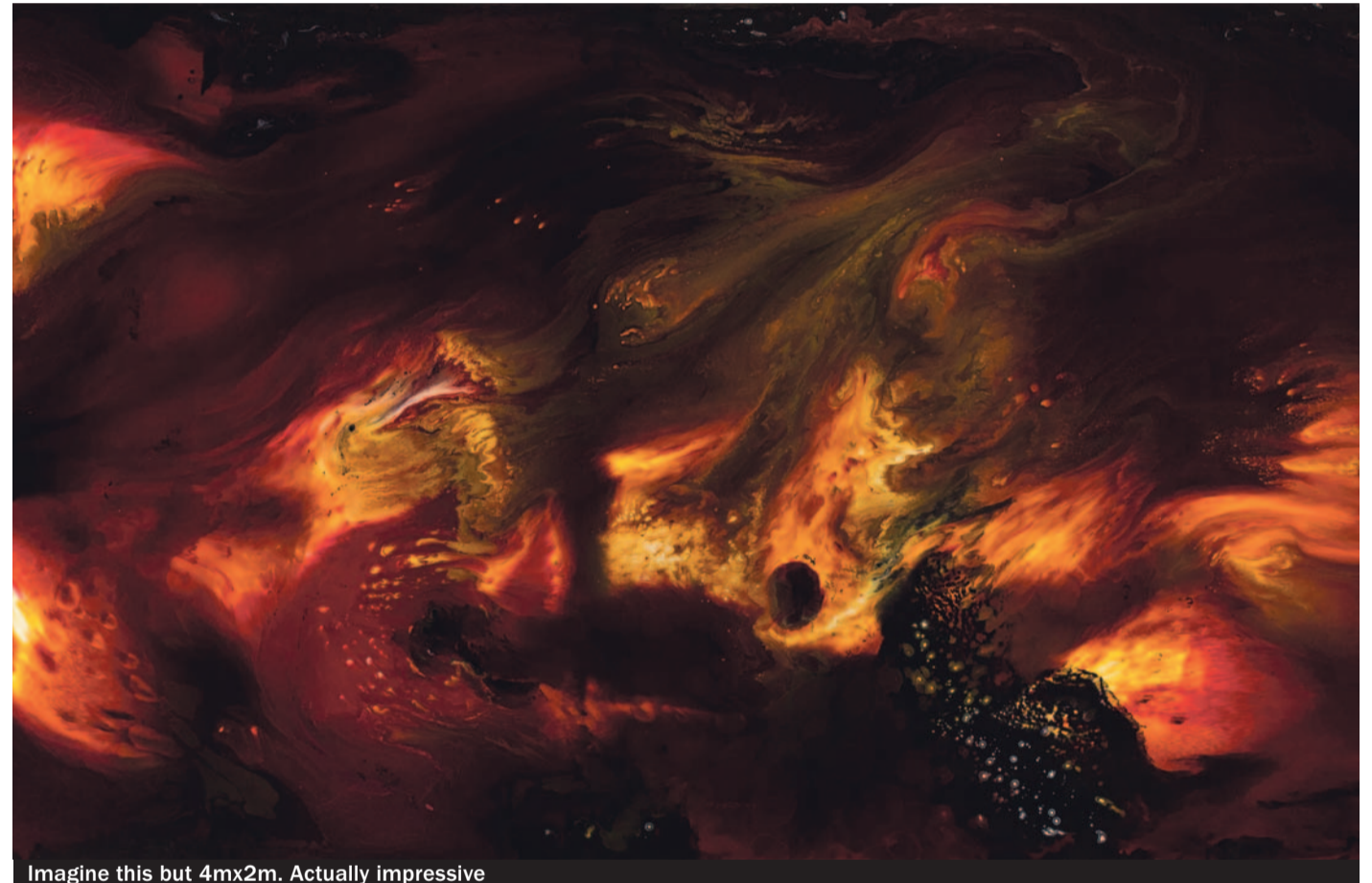
So looking on — the night — the morn
Conclude the wonder gay —
And I meet, coming thro' the dews
Another summer's Day!

**Have a great Summer.
See you next year!**

Have a Ball at the RA's Summer Exhibition

The annual artistic extravaganza returns to draw the crowds to the Royal Academy for a mixed bag of works

Deep Impact: Keith Tyson



Imagine this but 4mx2m. Actually impressive

Will Prince

Over the past three terms, I've made a habit of sitting on the fence when it comes to reviewing. I've never known quite why we don't include ratings in the Arts section, but I suspect it might be due to the fact that it would just be a constant stream of three star reviews. Having said this, I wouldn't give the RA Summer Exhibition three stars. Well, at least some bits of it. Christ, other bits I wouldn't even care to deign with attention. This, dear reader, is the Summer Exhibition dilemma.

I struggle to think of anything, like, anything at all, that changes and renews itself on a regular basis and yet consistently succeeds in making the grade as the Summer Exhibition does. Take its distant cousin, the Summer Ball – 2010 offered Tinie Tempah, 2011 brought with it Ian Brown. The decline is so steep that one could easily be lead into thinking that the Beatles had reformed just to play in 2009. Any DPFS could learn a thing or two from the annual exhibition of the work of the students of the Royal Academy.

Like I said before, the exhibition isn't wall-to-wall stunners. Anthony Green's small crop of postcard, pastoral scenes appeared to be painted on the theme of Beryl Cook with a

headache. Surrounded by chocolate boxey oil paintings, the collection had echoes of Labrinth grinding out a set in the rain with everybody else, ironically in retrospect, waiting for him to play "Let the Sun Shine". The nature of the Exhibition is that the vast majority of pieces are for sale, and despite the fact that I doubt many semi-blind cave dwellers visit the exhibition on the hunt for a painting of an old man and a dog decorating a nude woman in a field, I suspect someone will buy it. Possibly along with a copy of Stooshe's new single, the tender love ballad 'Fuck Me.'

Just as one man's Chase and Status is another man's Chew Lips, it's not hard to stroll, nose aloft, past into the more edgy corners of the Exhibition and find something to one's taste. Early on in the exhibition, one encoun-

**"Head and shoulders
above the rest stands
Michael Sandle's
collection on the horrors
of war"**

ters Keith Tyson's *Deep Impact*. A huge piece, eight metres square, depicting a maelstrom of swirling, foreboding darkness, topped of with a name that sounds like a low-grade porn film. It washes the beholder in a charging anger that with every glance throws up before unnoticed details, all contained in a smooth, almost cold slab. A feat of practical creation as much as conceptual, the skill in its crafting is belied as the guide lists it as being made of 'mixed media'.

Different rooms are given over to different curators, each of whom bring unique flavours to each room. Prints this year have a greater presence, afforded more walls in the exhibition and not as crammed as has been the case in bygone years and water colours are making an unwelcome resurgence, death by pastel colours is apparently in vogue. Head and shoulders above the rest stands Michael Sandle's collection on the horrors of war. The pieces are displayed with a strange air of memorabilia to them and mix silent, portentous sculpture with pieces made of scatty splinters of emotion. Tim Shaw's sculpture of a man in flames, running, stands as a poignant testament to the horrors of war, with the painful directness that the more solemn pieces lack.

Until 15th August at the Royal Academy

Psycho Alice in post-exam wonderland



The Duchess David Beaton relaxes at the Summer Ball...

DramSoc's free re-imagining of the intoxicating tale goes on the rampage on the Queen's Lawn

Shamini Bundell

Staring at a pile of Civ Eng textbooks proved too much for one Imperial student today, as Alice Liddell was reportedly seen wandering around the Queen's Lawn talking to flowers. A friend told Felix that Alice had had "a bit of a Donnie Darko moment" earlier in the library and had since been behaving extremely irrationally. "She started following me around earlier," reported Union Fellow Tosin Ajayi "I was running really late and I'd lost my gloves or I would have stayed to help."

Alice is believed to have developed some sort of multiple personality disorder and has been seen around campus apparently talking to her reflection in various windows and bathroom mirrors. Some students have theorised that drugs may be involved having yesterday seen Alice at a party in Metric acting totally "off her head". Medic Robyn Jacobs denies any link with illegal substances claiming that Alice, a close friend, was merely "getting in touch with her inner child". Let it be noted however that the

suspicious grin on Robyn's face might lead some to believe that this story is merely a cover for some darker involvement in DJ Dave Beaton's Metric-based rave scene. Further comments from Robyn relating to how Alice "totally fancies me" cast further doubt on the

"Alice is described variously as a short African medic, a masters student with a funky black fringe and a tall slim girl with light brown hair"

story.

Laurence Pope believes revision stress is more likely to blame, and has himself been having a tough time re-

adjusting to a post-exam lifestyle. His experiences during the revision period have led him to smash all clocks and watches in his room and take up drinking enormous amounts of tea.

Despite a serious commitment to the meditation society over the past few weeks, Laurence has found it hard to move on. "I can't stop going over and over the exams in my head, thinking about the questions that I couldn't answer. Why is a raven like a writing desk? It's driving me mad. More tea?"

Alice is described variously as a short African medic, a masters student with a funky black fringe and a tall slim girl with light brown hair. If you do see Alice on the Queen's Lawn this evening at 6.30pm it is recommended that before seeking help you hang around for a bit – apparently watching her go mad can be pretty funny. However the ICU Deputy President for Welfare is taking this case very seriously and would like to speak to both Alice and anyone else with exam-based mental health issues.

Union Concert Hall. 18:30. Friday 24th June

Get Doon for Gogol at the Young Vic

Julian Barratt takes the lead in the Russian classic, Government Inspector

Will Prince

FIFA 2001 gave me unrealistic expectations in life. Never before had I realized that you could transfer Thierry Henry, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Fernando Hierro (to name but a few) to Leeds United and create a star-studded, world beating super team. In truth in reality, you couldn't, but through the wonders of modern technology, beautiful things were possible.

The Young Vic's new re-working of the Nicolai Gogol's Government Inspector brings to together a cast of similar traits. Julian Barratt of Mighty Boosh fame leads the cast that includes Smack the Pony's Doon Mackichan and Fergus Craig, off, err, Star Stories. Ok, so maybe it's not quite a Leeds team of 01-02, but the strength of this production came in the cast.

The play has been brilliantly reworked, adding touches that tailor the humour to an English audience and give little bursts of the kind of off-beat comedy that both Mackichan and Barratt are so known

for (and Gogol not so much.) Combining 1830s Russian with touches of 1940s horror films, the opening minutes seem far from the play's origins, but give the piece a kookiness that will entertain the faithful and intrigue the sceptics.

Barratt appears not to play the role of

"Despite Barratt's big billing, Mackichan does steal the show a little"

the Mayor, but rather let Howard Moon do it, bringing a slightly awkward uneasiness to his presence on stage. Combine this with a wardrobe camp costumes and the Young Vic's usual frugal ingenuity in set construction, and at times, the production has slight touches of panto. Polished is not a word that sprang to mind.

But each of the actors themselves, each member of the cast possessed a star, winning quality. Their comic air and the natural humour tended to prevail in the face of comedy's historical cornerstone, delivery. Despite Barratt's big-billing, Mackichan does steal the show a little. Her competition with her own daughter (played with ample squeakiness by Lou Brearley) to woo the 'Government Inspector' makes for a rip-roaring display of comedic crowd-control. The cherry on the cake comes in the form of Dr. Gibner, whose infrequent additions in German provide one of the funniest elements of the production.

The piece is novel no doubt, but weighs too much on the shoulders of Barratt, who in truth lacks the gravity and presence to carry the piece. I like my Boosh as much as the next man, but I fear the Government Inspector preaches a fable of the TV/theatre divide. Sometimes it's just best to keep the stars in the places they shine, in reality it never works like it does on FIFA.

Young Vic until 9th July

Keith Pattison

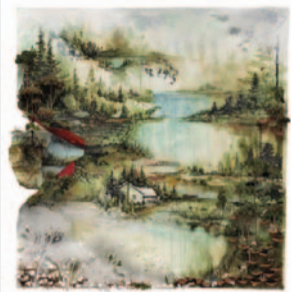


...and here's the Duchess relaxing at home

MUSIC

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

Album of The Week



Bon Iver
Bon Iver
 4AD
 2011

This is certainly the best album released so far this year, and it will probably remain that way unless **Joanna Newsom** sneaks out another before December. Often sounding very 80s with **Peter Gabriel**-esque synths on the opener 'Perth' and familiar pop-rock nuances on 'Beth/Rest', the album combines a huge range of influences in interesting and varied ways. Remarkably, however, the album is completely cohesive and utterly original. This eponymous second album is streets ahead of his previous (and excellent) record *For Emma, Forever Ago*, which, when listened to after *Bon Iver*, simply sounds dull and repetitive. Finding words to describe the sheer beauty of this album is difficult, but I wrote a poem to explain how it makes me feel.

Autumn

Autumn breeze frigidly touches ailing dreadful lives
 Harshly darkness quietly surrounds the broken souls

Mellow serenades that once played between hearts
 Pathetically have transformed into bitter sad songs.

Somewhere beyond the flossy clouds
 Cupid has lost his romancing arrows
 Plays sad sonorous tunes on his bow
 Dedicated to all weepy lonely hearts.

Howling chilly wind blows through the mist
 Sounds of sorrow spread all over the place
 Fuzzy humid air submerges the inner lust
 Lives decay slowly as the autumn leaves fall.

Harry Rickerby

Make sure not to miss

Arcade Fire

Hyde Park, London
 Thursday 30th June 2011
www.livenation.co.uk/arcadefire

This truly promises to be the most epic gig this summer. Kings of Indiedom **Arcade Fire** present a huge, festival-sized performance in Hyde Park, alongside the fantastic **Beirut**, in their biggest UK show ever. You'll be sure to hear songs from their recent third album *The Suburbs*, as well as fan favourites from the fantastic *Funeral*. On the downside, you'll have to bring earplugs since you'll need to put up with support from faux-folk yawn-inducers **Mumford & Sons**, as well as awful punk-revivalists **The Vaccines**, but you can take that opportunity to get dinner. The best part of the evening, however, comes right at the beginning when brilliant Canadian violinist **Owen Pallett** (formerly **Final Fantasy**) plays his half-hour set. Make sure you buy your tickets quickly, because this promises to be the biggest gig for many many months. **Stephen Smith**

Astronomy and plasticine

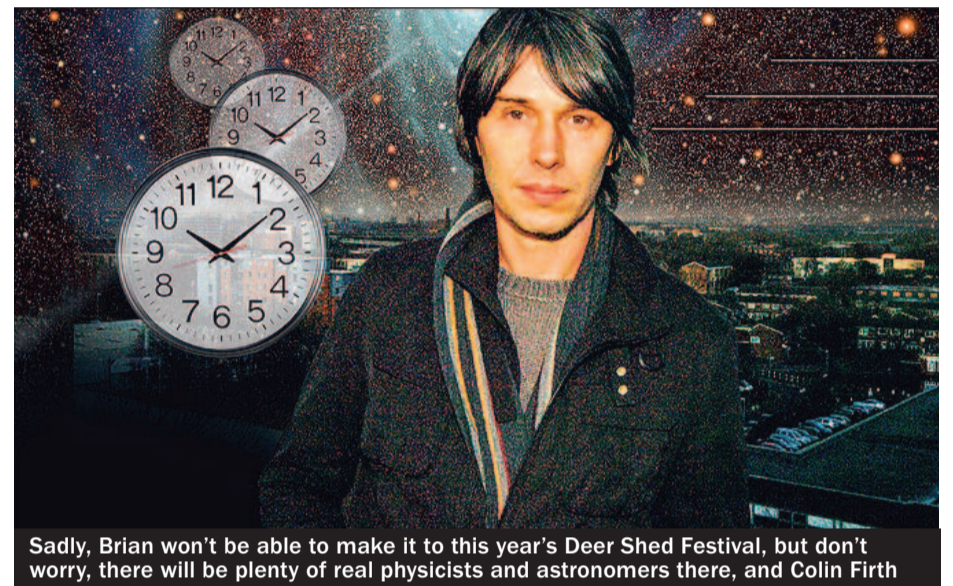
With ukelele workshops, a pop-up planetarium and The Go! Team in attendance, **Stephen Smith** can't wait for this year's astro-themed Deer Shed festival

Writing about music quickly makes you cynical about dull and repetitive festivals all over the country, all playing boring music and all with the same sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll attitude. But occasionally there comes along a festival so perfectly conceived that you can't quite believe that it's real. The Deer Shed Festival is a perfect example.

This year's festival is headlined by superb alt-rock outfit **I Am Kloot**, whose recent album *The Sky At Night* gives rise to this year's festival theme: astronomy. On Saturday night, a group of professional astronomers will lead festival-goers on a star-gazing trip, with telescopes and binoculars provided of course.

When not staring at the stars, you will be asked to make a small plasticine alien to place on the papier-mache moonscape for an epic stop-motion film, and once you've done that you'll be able to make an alien mask out of milk bottles. And all this while bouncing around the fields on a free space hopper.

Friday night sees an unnamed Russian cosmonaut hosting an evening of comedy and cabaret, and afterwards, he'll be helping to send a mysterious object space-bound.



Sadly, Brian won't be able to make it to this year's Deer Shed Festival, but don't worry, there will be plenty of real physicists and astronomers there, and Colin Firth

If all the astronomy gets too much, you can always retreat into the wonderful music on offer, including the fantastic **Go! Team**, the beautiful **Leisure Society** and the always fascinating **Erland and the Carnival**. Deer Shed really is a science student's dream.

Dates: 22nd - 24th July 2011
Location: Topcliffe, North Yorkshire
Price: £59
Website: www.deershedfestival.com

Glorious Glastonbury

As the UK's most famous festival gets underway, **Duncan Casey** tells us what awaits the lucky few with tickets

This year's Glasto line-up is sufficient to send a tingle up the spine of even the most jaded festival veteran. Somerset's annual 'festival of music and contemporary performing arts', to give it its full title, will roll out in a scant five weeks' time with its usual blend of anarchy, bass notes and bemused-looking cattle. This year, **U2** are finally going to chance their arms on a headline slot alongside an eclectic bill stretching from **Paul Simon** to **Pendulum** to the **Wu-Tang Clan**, supported by a thousand or so other acts to an audience of approaching a quarter of a million souls.

On the downside, your ticket also means you're stuck with indie bed-wetters **Coldplay** and a surgically-enhanced dancer by the name of **Beyoncé Knowles**. Still, the joy of Glastonbury's epic size and scale mean that there are large parts of the festival that will be free of such frippery, and the crowds of teen-boppers rushing towards the commercial tat will leave you free to explore the Healing Fields and Stone Circle, rock out all night in the sci-fi weirdness of Shangri-La or simply drink too much pear cider and slump in a mud-



Glastonbury: Mud, hippies and Colin Firth

dy corner somewhere.

Glastonbury is totally unique amongst festivals, a throwback to the '60s and '70s when the events were about more than the music and instead became a cultural force in their own right. Glasto has retained at least of that spirit, despite its vast security fence and slick corpo-

Dates: 22nd - 26th June 2011
Location: Glastonbury, Somerset
Price: £200
Website: glastonburyfestivals.co.uk

rate PR, making it the only major festival in the country where you stand a greater risk of making a fool of yourself country dancing with the Wurzels than you do of being compelled to listen to the latest round of identikit beige popsters while being force-fed Virgin cola. For all the tabloid headlines, you can tell your Mum it's safer than London – you might get mugged for your ice cream by a man dressed as a seagull, but your stuff's pretty much sacrosanct – so long as it's waterproof. No matter how gloriously sunny the Spring may have been, one thing you can rely upon is that it will rain for Glastonbury, and the weather gods will pour their wrath upon the uncaring hordes and turn the valley into a scale model of the Somme. We won't care. I'll see you at the front.

Summer festival round-up

T in the Park

Dates: 8 - 10 July 2011
Location: Balado, Kinross
Price: £185
Website: www.tinthePark.com
We said: "T in the Park is a festival known to offer a huge variety of first class music and this year is no exception."

Creamfields

Dates: 26th - 28th August 2011
Location: Daresbury, Cheshire
Price: £60-£135
Website: www.creamfields.com
We said: "This is certainly a clubber's paradise. There is no doubt that if you love dance music then this is the festival for you."

Glastonbury

Dates: 22nd - 26th June 2011
Location: Glastonbury, Somerset
Price: £200
Website: glastonburyfestivals.co.uk
We said: "This year's Glasto line-up is sufficient to send a tingle up the spine of even the most jaded festival veteran."

Deer Shed

Dates: 22nd - 24th July 2011
Location: Topcliffe, North Yorkshire
Price: £59
Website: www.deershedfestival.com
We said: "Occasionally there comes along a festival so perfectly conceived that you can't quite believe that it's real. The Deer Shed Festival is a perfect example."

Lovebox

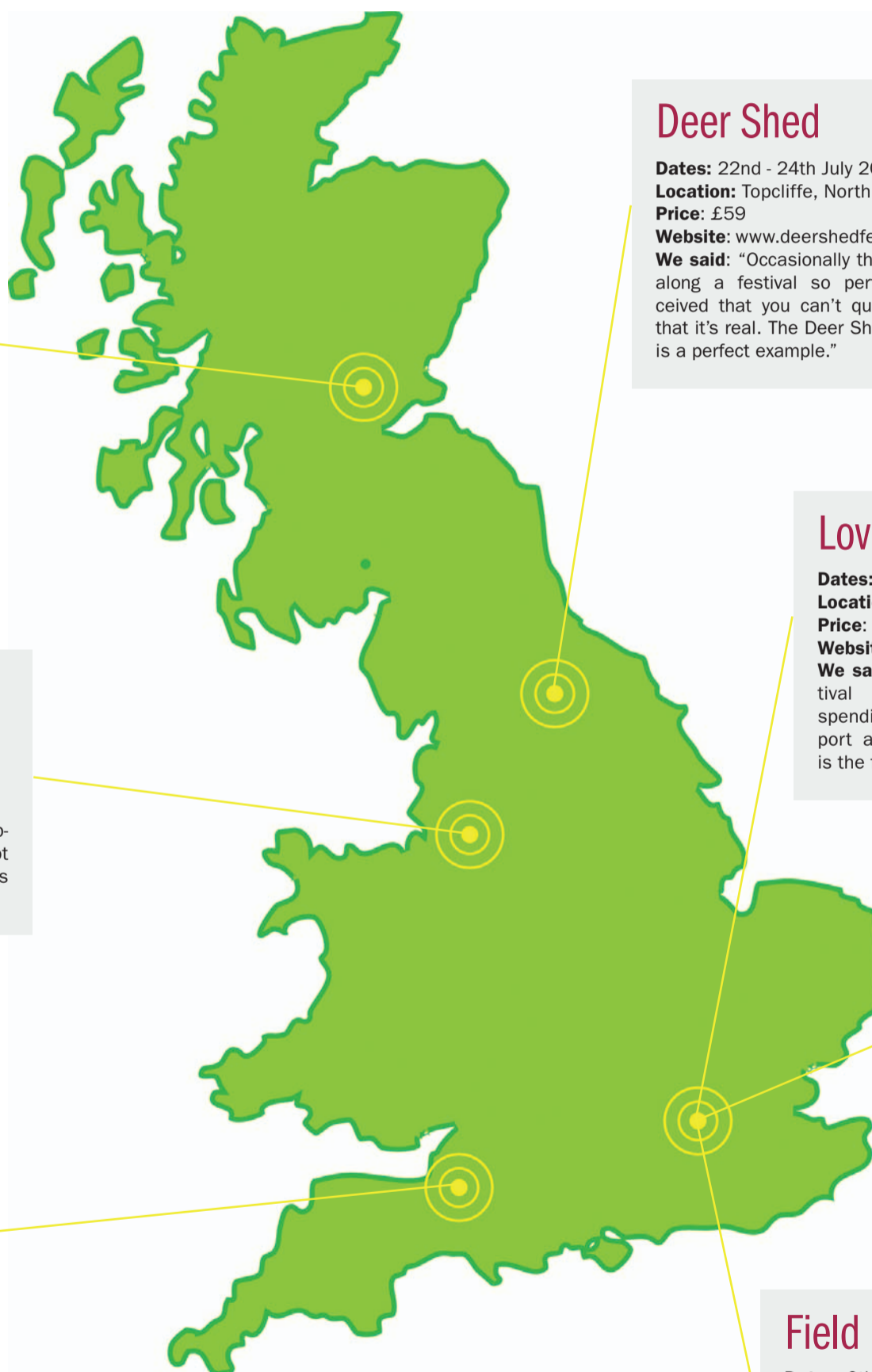
Dates: 15 - 17 July 2011
Location: Victoria Park, London E3
Price: £99
Website: www.lovebox.net
We said: "If you want the best festival experience around without spending huge amounts on transport and accommodation, *Lovebox* is the festival for you."

South West Four

Dates: 27 - 28 August 2011
Location: Clapham Common, SW4
Price: £85
Website: www.southwestfour.com
We said: "What better way to celebrate the end of your exams than two days dancing till the sun goes down (or comes up) to the world's best house and techno DJs?"

Field Day

Dates: 6th August 2011
Location: Victoria Park, London E3
Price: £39.50
Website: www.fielddayfestivals.com
We said: "A whole day packed with amazing artists and I don't have to stand knee-deep in mud to brush my teeth in the morning; sounds perfect to me."



MUSIC

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

Famous last words

Gregory Power wishes you a fond farewell

Dear Friend: it would appear that we are approaching the end. We've had some laughs, we've shed some tears. I think overall we had a pretty damn good time, wouldn't you say?

I've very much enjoyed being one of the Music Editors for Felix this year. It's one of those things that got me through the tougher times of life at Imperial. Being a student at one of the UK's leading institutions is rewarding more often than not, but let's just say there's a dark and demanding side too. And you don't want that stuff to bring you down. This is why it is so important to have extracurricular funtimes to latch onto, balancing out the good and the bad vibes: the yin and the yang of the student struggle, if you will. Perhaps this sort of activity is even more important in a place like Imperial, where I am convinced people at times believe there is nothing more to the student than his/her subject matter. This makes me sad.

I remember Fresher's Week like it was yesterday. Okay, not really. But anyway I remember arriving at Imperial and people guaranteeing that I would be bored of the Union by the end of the first term. The naysayers had a point: it was nice to get out of the Imperial bubble and explore all the wonders London has to offer, be it musical or

otherwise. I've had the opportunity to see most of my favourite bands of all time during my time at Imperial (here's to you **Mars Volta**, **Nine Inch Nails**, **Health**, **Dillinger Escape Plan** and **Flight of the Conchords** to name but a few of you fucking legends) leaving me with many fond memories of unforgettable performances, shared with my best friends. I've also discovered so much great new music just by staying open and receptive to all opportunities of seeing and hearing brilliant up-and-comers with bright futures ahead of them (I love you **Factory Floor**).

I guess I've always had - and needed - music. I'm grateful that I found so many other people who think the same way despite the pressures of Imperial. Even though we might not be renowned for our talent for Arts here at ol' Gimperial, some of the most talented musicians I have met in my life walk amongst us nerds incognito. If you've ever seen **Will Jones** shred on the guitar or **Aaron Berk** punishing the drums, then you'll know exactly what I'm talking about. **Jazz & Rock Soc** is a haven for Imperial musicians, and I tip my tophat to the gents that run that beautifully-oiled machine. Long live J&R. I also want to take this opportunity to publicize that **Nick Read** is an all-around badass.

I am also forever indebted to the Sexiest Editor Alive (not an actual award,

though it totally should be): **Kadhim Motherhugging Shubber**. Not only for letting me spread my dribble on these pages, tainting the holy institution that is Felix, but also for believing in my ridiculous plans. Seriously, I spent a lot of time at the Union complaining about the quality of the acts. And most of the time under the influence of beer and whiskey. So when I set out to throw together a "punk", cheap-as-chips DIY music night at Imperial, only a madman would have actually backed my fantasies with cold hard cash. Luckily my good friend Kadhim is a poet, which is close enough to mad for me, and so my dream of a united Imperial music scene materialised not once - but twice.

Through these activities I met a whole new cast of awesome peeps from **Music Tech**. First and foremost, my homeboy **Iñigo Martinez de Rituerto**, who introduced me to a load of talented electronic maestros. **David Trevelyan (Phrij)**, **Will Berg (Niceberg)**, **Adam Chainz** and the rest of y'all - you rock my world. Long after I'm done at Imperial I'll still be looking for new material by these guys, along with soon-to-be BBC Sound of 2012 winners **Monks**, **Vetoes** and **The Tin Can 44s**. I'm kidding of course, I would never wish that sort of horror upon them. I know that they will however move onto bigger and greater things.

As for the Union itself, looking back I



Kensington Gore, styling back in '08, when the world was a simpler place

now realize I may have been a bit harsh in my inebriated judgement: the **Stop That Urban Noise** nights were actually kind of awesome: great line-ups, (**Rusko**, **Chase & Status**) plagued by Imperial's general apathy and poor turnouts. I applaud **Malcolm Macpherson** and **Ravi Pall** for this, as well as for some great Summer Ball performances - especially that insane **Scratch Perverts** set last year.

One last shout-out and then I'll get out of your hair and become just another nameless face you might or might not remember ten years from now. Selective memory is funny like that. I want to thank the boys from **Kensington Gore** (get low, bitches) and **Operation Mid-**

night Complex (or A Badger Cadaver, Malarkey, T Minus, and whatever we're called next year): you guys are seriously bad mofos.

And so my job here is done. I'm pleased to hand over the music section to **Stephen** and **Iñigo**. They're more than qualified for the role and I'm sure they'll do an awesome job.

In retrospect, Imperial isn't half as bad as people initially made it out to be. There's good people, good parties and damn good music. If you have any interest in music (and I don't trust anyone who says they don't) then I urge you to get involved. As a performer, as a fan, as a Felix contributor; whatever floats your boat. Just keep on rocking, baby.

Music to make you question reality

Iñigo Martinez de Rituerto de Troya walks you through the influences of the weirdest band ever

1979 holds the key to the farthest reaches of musical conception. That year, **Nurse With Wound** released their debut album *Chance Meeting on a Dissecting Table of a Sewing Machine and an Umbrella*. Their music is the aural equivalent to the paintings of Salvador Dalí, stretching the mind and questioning reality. The surrealistic instrumentation and Dadaist approach are an amalgam of some of the strangest music of modern times. Tucked into the vinyl gatefold, the revered *NWW List* paid homage to their influences and bore the wonder for others to discover.

From **Henri Chopin** to **Karlheinz Stockhausen**, through the **Velvet Underground** and into **Tangerine Dream**, the list spans and pulls together the most unlikely of artists. Dabbling in psychedelics and staggering with no-wave drawl, rolling the rocks in one ear and

out the other.

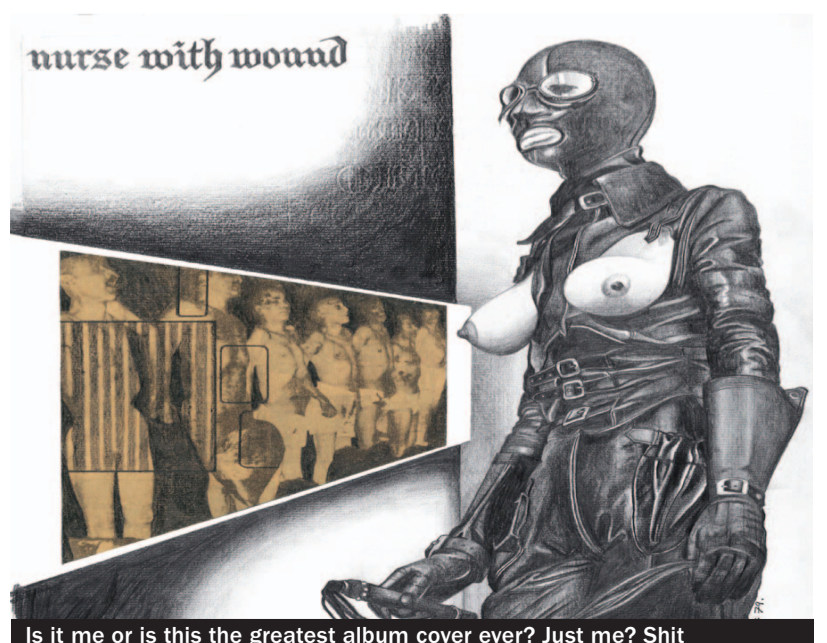
The list pays its respects to a horde of homegrown freethinkers and experimentalists such as industrial outfit **Throbbing Gristle** and freakfolk gem **Comus**. Among other London-based groups appear **AMM**, pioneers of free-improvisation, whose founding member Eddie Prévoist can be found on Sunday nights holding improvisation workshops in the basement of a chapel in Borough.

One of the most influential bands on the list is Essex-based anarcho-punks **Crass**, who cemented the conscientious and passionate cornerstones of the punk mind, burning in the grasp of Thatcherism. Taking up camp in the Dial House commune in the Essex countryside, they nurtured a creative environment for free expression, which still exists today and is documented in the film *There is No Authority but Yourself*.

Strongly represented is the psychedelic krautrock movement which sprouted in Germany at the end of the 60's in response to the summer of love. Noting the seminal meanderings of **Can**, commune jam band **Amon Düül** and of course one of the biggest influences on modern electronic music, **Kraftwerk**.

John Cage makes an appearance as well as Greek architect-turned-composer **Iannis Xenakis**, who used the mathematics of chance and architecture in many of his works. Avant garde guitarist **Fred Frith** is also mentioned alongside **Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention**.

The list is a colourful display of originality and with bands such as **The Deep Freeze Mice** or **Lemon Kittens**, sometimes it's worth reading for the names alone. For the curious ear, it is a mere chip of the cookie and a musical map towards deeper horizons.



Is it me or is this the greatest album cover ever? Just me? Shit

Food Editors: **Dana Li**
Vicky Jeyaprakash

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FOOD

So hungry I could eat a horse

Samuel Furse

Hunger has taken me to many weird places – Zone 6, meat free foods and even Ginster's pasties. What I have not done is eat a donkey's cock as Paul Merton almost did on his documentary series about China. But if I were really hungry, would I?

Having ridden horses for a while, including a few stallions, I am confident that the equine penis is pretty impossible to avoid noticing. Despite the donkey's reputation for pork swordsmanship, equine vets inform me that that it is trumped by the tackle of your average Grand National winner. I cannot say that that particular factoid makes me any keener to go near either genital, let alone imbibe one should it rock up on my dinner plate—however much protein it might provide. But what about the rest of the horse?

It is well known, if not well documented, that the number of Exmoor ponies in South Devon was considerably smaller after WWII than before it. As every GCSE history student knows, rationing hit every food source hard, with meat as no exception. But people were still hungry and wanted to eat. And there is a lot of meat on a horse. Even a modestly-sized but properly-fed Exmoor pony will net over 100kg of meat. As a large steak weighs about 0.5kg, this represents a considerable supply of the red stuff. My father's family are from North Devon and so in order to survive the war healthily they probably ate horsemeat. Even despite that, I am not that keen. Sitting in a nice warm office writing this, with a freezer of venison, duck, beef, chicken and fish at home I am not much being tested though.

However there is an intellectual line

flickr/publicenergy



that I make. Horses are working animals. I do not use them as such, but I do not use cats or dogs in their working capacity either: and neither do I eat them. And it is clear that those animals are not stock animals anywhere in the western world. What is equally clear is that cows, chickens and duck are not working animals anywhere in the western world either. They are stock animals that are bred (or shot) for meat. At no point are they working animals. This makes a nice distinction between the two types – animals bred and reared for meat, and animals that are not.

But there was one I could not put in the list – pigs. Although they are not thought of as working animals, ethically I know they are not only used as stock animals in western Europe so I could not put them in the list above. One reason is that they are used to find truffles on the continent. More recently, heart valves from pigs have been used to treat heart disease in humans. If you had had a replacement heart valve from a pig, would you feel the same about eating a Cumberland sausage afterwards? It might be a bit close to the bone for me.

So unless I make a subtle and rather

lame extension to the differentiation between the sort of meat I do and do not eat, that means it is alright for me to eat pigs (or not), I am cut off from any sort of moral imperative behind my choice of foodstuff. I now wonder why I or anyone else makes a distinction between which meats to eat and which not on intellectual or moral grounds at all. What could that possibly achieve? All it does it lend a certain lofty high ground to a combination of personal preference, practicality, dated hygiene considerations and availability. And what is wrong with those as reasons anyway?

Confessions of a Food Editor

By **Dana Li**

Reviews. I hate writing reviews for places that I've eaten 'on the house'. There's something about dining for free, and the awkward moment when you don't call for the bill. Do you just thank the waiter and bid him "Adieu!"? And when the restaurant gets my review in the post, I always wonder whether they admire and put it amongst their other shiny reviews; or do they put your name in the black book if you fouthmouthed the taste of their tap water; or do they simply throw it in the trash. The latter does seem far more likely. (Especially when they see the last sentence isn't even finished with a full stop.)

I'm not a fan of artistic blobs on the plate to emulate fine dining. Just because three meagre drops of red berry jus are served on the side of a melon starter does not make it look or taste any better. It's still 99p Galia melon.

I am a savoury person. Allow deserts, sugar and sweets. It's a matter of variety more than anything: think of the wonderful world of cheese, the oh-so-tasty steaks, the freshly baked pastries and breads; pasta, fish 'n' chips, fried artichokes! Although, saying that, I don't settle for anything less than a Pierre Hermé macaron. Paul, Ladurée, nada. Making these almond delights at home have always resulted in baking paper studded with sticky, sugar blobs, so I ask, why waste time when I can taste perfection from the artisan of Le Macaron himself. People who think Ladurée is some kind of luxury... man, are you oblivious. (And it's not two "o"s, but one. If you were a true macaronic, you would know the difference.)

I can't cook as well as people would expect. I am a self-confessed foodie, which means I have an affinity to good food. It doesn't mean I can cook (well). What were restaurants made for, eh?

And yes you hate me because I'm the person that makes you wait until the food goes cold, whilst I take a gazillion photos on my dSLR. And? And finally, being food editor this year, boy was that hard. Having free meals to distribute, being sent a cookery book here and there, maybe just get a free ticket occasionally. But no, seriously, with students' meal habits ranging from a baguette from The Sandwich Shop to a meal in Heston Blumenthal's 'Dinner' - the middle ground sure is No Man's Land. Adieu!

Ai Chihuahua!

Anastasia Eleftheriou pays a visit to Los Locos

Drinking, Dancing and Dining is the motto of this place - a place where you can drop in after a walk at Covent Garden market and have a tasty and relatively cheap Mexican meal. There are fantastically named cocktails, like "Orgasm please!" and "Blow work", and tunes blasting from 11pm until 3am.

This is a place to have a drink to get some rest after the endless hours of revision or just celebrate the end of exams. During the 'Happy Hours' there are offers for house spirits from £2.95, selected cocktail jugs from £9.95 and

bottles of wine at 20% off. Food is also provided with reasonable prices and offers are available most of the times.

Los Locos is one of the best venues in the area for seasonal and special occasions, for example Hen parties and Stag nights, private hire, great meal deals and party menus. The atmosphere cheers you up, especially if you like the Club and Party Classics that are being played a lot. If you visit the place on Tuesday or Wednesday you'll find yourself in a 'Wicked Student Night' with student drinks deals all night, but there's also free entry for girls on Thursday.

The bar is open Tuesday-Saturday,



5pm-3am, and the restaurant is open Tuesday-Saturday, 5-11pm. The club nights are Tuesday-Saturday, 11pm-3am.

Los Locos 24 - 26 Russell street, Covent Garden, WC2B 5HF. www.loslocos.co.uk

GAMES

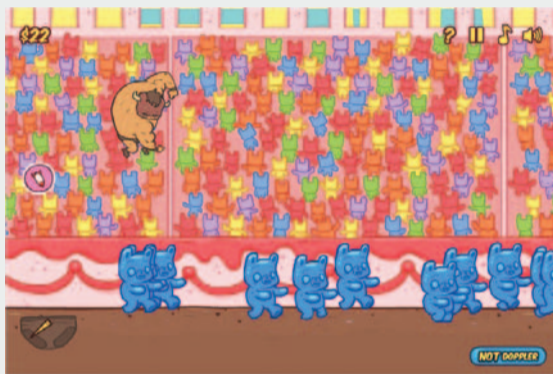
games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Web Games

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

Burrito Bison

notdoppler.com/burritobison.php

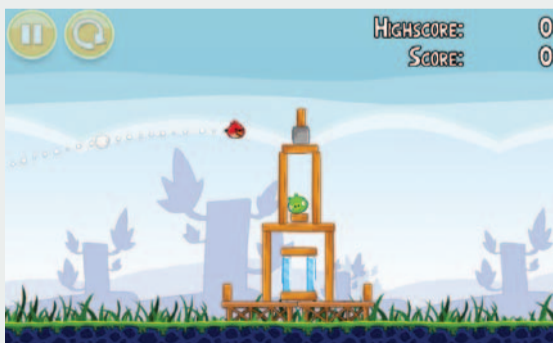


This charming 'catapult-plus' game features our titular character trapped in Candyland, home of the gummy bears, trying to escape his captors by bouncing, gliding and pogo-ing his way to freedom. The aim is simple: bounce on as many gummies as possible, eventually blasting through the exit doors and out into the real world.

Although the repetitive launches get a bit tiresome later on, things are kept fresh by plenty of 'special power' gummies and upgrades. There's a genuine challenge in breaking through each zone's door, and a sense of satisfaction when it's done for the first time. Visuals are a real treat: the characters and environments look rich and colourful, and it's obvious there's been plenty of attention to detail.

Angry Birds

chrome.angrybirds.com



I played it once. Just once, on a friend's phone, but I was hooked. But then I was stuck - I didn't own a smartphone. So, naturally, I had to buy a new Samsung Nebula S or something just so I could play it!

Do you know what I found out when I got home? The motherfriggers had gone and released a browser version. As long as I had an up-to-date copy of Chrome or Firefox, I could play it in my browser. What am I supposed to do with my useless Galaxy S II now, huh? Hot damn.

Love video games? Then you're a perfect scientist

David Robertson explains how gamers explore and learn just like scientists

What if all the world's not a stage, but a game? The men and women would still be players, but of a very different kind. And scientists would be the biggest gamers of all.

When it comes to comparing gamers to scientists, the case is a compelling one. To do well in a game, the player must test out how the game works using the tools at their disposal. There's no way to win in a game world if you don't understand its rules (Tekken, perhaps, aside). "What works and what doesn't? Is gravity the same as in real life? How much damage does an alien take before it bleeds out?" A scientist has to deal with a much more expansive set of rules and environments, but their fundamental goal is the same: to understand how the world works, and then, potentially, exploit it for benefit.

As children, we play to learn the rules of the world. "What happens if I jump off this step? Do worms taste good? How long can I badger my mum for a biscuit until she gives me one or yells at me?" This is a simple form of experimentation, and our emerging view of reality is shaped by the results we get.

An extra level of sophistication can be added to turn play into a game: a system of rules. Hide and seek would be a fairly pointless exercise if no-one was seeking. Games have been around for millennia, and their rules range in detail enormously. Past a threshold of complexity, a game can offer space for a player to be engaged, to experiment and to learn, both about the game but potentially also about the world. The board game Risk can teach basic geography, statistics and backstabbing skills; the flash game Kitten Cannon is all about vectors and momentum. Plus - it almost goes



So if *Braid's* time travel is the rocket science or brain surgery of the gaming world...

without saying - games are more fun than the classroom.

As in game design, there are different approaches taken by the architects of a scientific investigation. Some define their research tightly, aiming for specific, applied outcomes - like breaking down a building to knock out a pig in *Angry Birds*. Other scientists take a more open-ended, basic approach, following interesting leads as they pop up - more like the shaping of a species in *Spore*.

Then there's the metagame. Scientists can't just buy a lab off the shelf, stick it in a slot in their house and start doing science. They go

through years of being newbies, rarely entrusted with difficult quests, shepherded by veteran gamers who coax them along with the promise of experience points but take the publication gold. As they go up through the levels of tertiary education, they start to build their own team, their own stores of gold and items with which they can tackle bigger and harder problems. If they solve something tough, they gain esteem in their peer community.

Let's be realistic, though. In science, the rewards can be fewer and less intense than games. That's because games are designed to captivate and entertain right from the start. Sure, there might be hours of side games to get coins or XP or the knack of the special move, but at least there's still nice noises and colours to keep the brain occupied. Staring at Excel spreadsheets just doesn't have the same zing. Not only that, but if you complete a track on *Guitar Hero* on hard, you don't need to write it up in 3000 words only to have three or more stern peers criticise your performance before deciding not to accept it, two months later. Science games, like protein-folding challenge *Foldit*, seek to tap into the fun of playing a game, but are actually collecting real data and developing real scientific skills.

So, next time you walk into the lab, try superimposing your favourite game world over it. It takes imagination, but it'll spice up your day. Just don't call your supervisor Illidan Stormrage to his face, or accuse her of being Medusa and avoid her gaze. And if you change your computer's settings to give you the Mario powerup noise every time you enter a cell of data, you'll be a lot happier. After all, your job is to play the biggest and most immersive game in the world!



...then *Tekken* must be like data entry: pointless, boring and a lot of button-mashing

HOW HAS THE INTERNET CHANGED THE GAMES INDUSTRY?

Chris Bowers

The internet and games. They were always going to go hand-in-hand, and I'm sure the gaming industry would look very different today if not for the advent of personal broadband. Of course, there are the obvious benefits such as online multiplayer and downloadable content, but there are also slightly more subtle ways the internet has changed the industry. Things that are not so immediately apparent.

But, however known to everyone they may be, it would be wrong not to talk about those internet-enabled elements that have the most impact. Online multiplayer is huge. Whether you like to run around killing people in Call of Duty or quest with friends in World of Warcraft, it's almost certainly going to be online. There are many, many games out there which are far more fun to play with people you know, and the internet makes that far easier. It removes the barriers of you and your friends having to be in the same place on the same network – hugely reducing the hassle of playing together. For most people it

also probably increases the number of friends they can play with on a regular basis, with location no longer an issue. A good thing then, certainly.

Then there's downloadable content. There are possibly mixed opinions on this one. Some may see it as a nice way for developers to provide more content for your game, while others might think it's a way to pay more for the content that would have been included in days gone by. Indeed, there was general outrage when 2K Games released a downloadable expansion for Bioshock 2, and it was proved that the content was already on the disc.

Also, sometimes the prices are (or at least seem) ridiculous. For example, the Call of Duty: Black Ops map packs retail for £11.49 each – just under a third of what you pay for the game in the first place, and only for five additional maps! But at the other end of the spectrum, where the prices are lower, you may still end up paying more. It's a classic technique – consumers are less likely to bother to keep track of micro-payments, and hence will actually spend more of their cash. Let's look at buying addi-



“Indie games wouldn't be able to create any sort of presence without driving forces such as social media”

tional songs in Rock Band/Guitar Hero as an example. A single song download will knock you back around £1.50. It doesn't seem much at first glance, but it will soon rack up. Without this however, you'd have to rely on the developer releasing a disc with extra songs on – pre-chosen and at a specific price. At least with downloads you get the choice.

Patches are in a similar vein. It's almost impossible for a developer to release an entirely bug-free game. Even though games studios pour hours upon hours into testing, quality assurance and fixes, it is as Josh Olin of Treyarch said: “If you look at the population size of the Call of Duty franchise, just a single hour of gameplay collectively after the game's been out - you add up all the man-hours that all the fans put into it - that's more time than you could put into Quality Assurance in a lifetime.” So – even for an offline game – the internet makes it very simple for games developers to distribute patches for inevitable issues. On the flip-side however, it could be said that this makes said developers lazier. Armed with the knowledge that fixes for any arising problems can easily be provided to the users, it's certainly conceivable that games could be pushed out sooner with less testing. It would probably save the developers money if the early adopters become testers of sorts, but it's something we definitely don't want to see.

However, there are ways when early adopters being testers can be very beneficial, and that's for indie games. Games like Minecraft get a lot out of those people who buy early versions of the game. Those who are playing it in such early stages are likely to want to help out with aiding development, so they'll submit any bugs they find. On top of that, the testing is free(!) but it is probably going to be more sporadic than proper user testing. Also, without the internet, games like Minecraft wouldn't even be on the map. Indie games wouldn't be able to create any sort of presence without driving forces such as social media.

So what else has the internet changed about the gaming industry? In the same way that the internet has changed almost everything, it is so much easier

to find information about games. In many cases, there is a plethora of information available about a title even before it is out. Take Super Smash Bros. Brawl as an example: before its release you could find out every character, stage and item. On top of that, every gamer has a dozen different reviews for a game at his or her disposal at the click of a button. Long gone are the days when you need to buy a gaming magazine to find out about upcoming games, or just guess as to whether or not a game will be good. Nor do we need to ring a premium rate number or buy a guide to complete a game, with online walkthroughs available for almost every game.

Those gaming magazines also used to give access to new games via demo discs. For a few years, due to rising costs and lack of demand, demo discs went into decline. However, thanks to the ease of distribution thanks to the internet, there are many more demos being produced today. These are mainly on the consoles though, with the manufacturers offering a fairly easy way for developers to push out their games.

What PC gamers sometimes do, though, is adopt a bit of a try-before-you-buy mentality. Some gamers will illegally download a copy of the game first to try it out and see if they like it. Of course, this ties into the big problem of pirating games in general, but it's an interesting use-case of sorts. Other people sometimes illegally download games for emulators of their favourite consoles. This though is usually not for current generation consoles, as emulators are inherently inefficient.

There are many more ways that the internet has altered the gaming sector, more than it is possible to detail in this article. For example, services like Steam for digital content distribution, the rise of global leaderboards and rankings, and the possibilities of game-streaming services such as OnLive. Nevertheless, I think it's safe to say the internet has definitely affected the gaming industry, and mostly in positive ways. And I'm sure it will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.



Oblivion's useless 'horse armour' is widely regarded as the 'worst downloadable content of all time'

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TELEVISION

Two Girls One Cup. It's shit...

James Simpson

Two Girls One Cup is a scatological fantasy drama centered around a solitary cup, which is shared by the two girls named in the title. Produced by Brazilian company MFX Media in 2007, it is the notorious work of the self-described "compulsive fetishist" Marco Fiorito. What a dirty bastard he is.

Originally intended as a trailer for the (now apparently banned) film "Hungry Bitches", Two Girls One Cup is at its most efficacious when viewed immediately after a meal. Particularly if that meal consisted of chocolate ice cream.

The opening scene manifests itself to the viewer much like the average lesbian pornographic movie would (I assume...). The two main characters are kissing to the soundtrack of "Lovers" Theme" from Gerard Oury's 1971 film "Delusions of Grandeur". The audience are then transported via the medium of a rapid crossfade to the

debut appearance of The Cup. The Cup is proffered unwillingly to the anus, as if blissfully unaware of what it is about to receive, and then, in a fleeting moment of cataclysmic defecation, its purpose becomes apparent.

In the now infamous words of the Ugandan Pastor Doctor Martin Ssempe, the two girls then proceed to eat da poo poo, like ice cream, like ice cream. Rather than summarily vomiting, the Two Girls find the need to induce physical sickness by means of the pharyngeal reflex. This, I surmise, is rather strange given that they have both just engaged in an act of mutual fecal consumption.

Logic, it seems, is precluded here.

"a fleeting moment of cataclysmic defecation"

One might suspect that the motive behind the vomiting may be to expel the ingested detritus, but the disgorged filth is poured unceremoniously into the mouths of the Girls and onto The Cup, which is still brimming with recently excreted fecal matter. The Cup is then utilised without delay as the source of this egregious, bilious mixture, which becomes the catalyst for an intense sequence of lustful undertakings.

The screen fades to black and I can stop peeking through my cardigan. The sixty-second clip is probably the most coprophagia I have witnessed since Nick Clegg had to eat his own words over tuition fees. There is (I am told) a conspiracy surrounding the origin of the brown substance which is so voraciously gorged upon by the Two Girls - apparently it's ice cream. Fiorito allegedly uses chocolate ice cream in some of his movies, to "appease some of his actors who [are] willing to appear in scat films but not actually eat fecal matter". I hope so. Don't watch it.



Two girls in one cup, not quite the same thing.

What We Watched

James Simpson tries to forget the horrors of lolshock.com

Given that we have months of freedom in which one could watch anything one wanted to on TV, I thought that I might bring back a brilliant and unique series from the depths of Dave and Dave-ja-vu.

Blackadder - which stars the hilarious Rowan Atkinson in its title role - is a fantastic sitcom based around Edmund Blackadder (a butler) and his Dogsboddy, Baldrick - played by Time Team's very own Tony Robinson. Considering the abundance of rarely-bettered one-liners such as "AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU OR DID SOMEONE JUST PUT A CANOE IN MY POCKET?" I'd be surprised if you hadn't heard of it before now.

Throughout the latter three series (I'm discounting the first one because it's generally accepted that it isn't very good) Edmund and Baldrick are surrounded by a variety of other characters, played by such big names as Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie and Rik Mayall (right) as Lord Flashheart (Series 2, Episode 1). My mother fancies him.

I don't think I could possibly ever recommend any series more. Seriously, watch it!

Currently on BBC1 is the second series of the award-winning detective drama Luther. Starring Idris Elba of The Wire fame and written by Neil



"She's got a tongue like an electric eel and she likes the taste of a man's tonsils"

"My mother fancies him"

Cross of Spooks, Luther is one of the coolest and slickest cop dramas around.

The plot is aligned around the fact that the viewer knows the guilty party from the beginning, which can be quite frustrating at times, especially when I don't have any fingernails left afterwards. John Luther is an angry and aggressive man, and it seems that he is only kept on by the Force because of his brilliant intuition.

This quite typical layout would with an average cast become rather banal, but Elba is exceptional and this is what makes this series stand out from the crowd.

Finally, don't get me started on the bloody Apprentice. Sixteen twatty people vie for the role of Lord Sugar's 'Apprentice' which, he says, carries a six-figure salary (he probably includes a couple of decimal places, the stingy bastard). Most of the candidates claim to be good at 'business', whatever that is, and all of them seem to have egos to match Sugar's ill-deserved self-love. Watching it makes me angry.

On the Box

What to look out for on TV in the next week

Friday | All Night | Nothing's On. No, Really...

Go to a party or something.

Saturday | 2205 - 0015 | Channel 4 | Brassed Off

Film set in the mining town of Grimley, Yorkshire, during the 1980s pit closures. Follows the Colliery Band on their way to the national finals. Stars Pete Postlethwaite and Ewan McGregor. Unmissable.

Sunday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC1 | Silent Witness

Two-part pathological crime drama. A suicide is not all it seems. The second part follows on Monday at 2100.

Monday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC2 | Embarrassing Fat Bodies

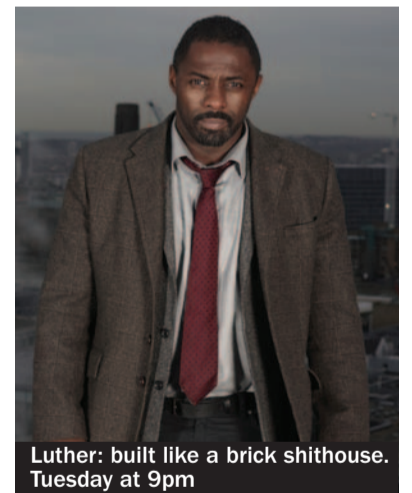
Doctors address the impact that obesity can have on fertility. That's what I call natural selection. A man seeks help with his moobs.

Tuesday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC1 | Luther

Award-winning crime drama. DCI John Luther takes a long-overdue holiday which is punctuated by violent crime and blackmail. Thrilling and a bit scary.

Wednesday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC1 | The Apprentice

A group of people sit in a shiny room



Luther: built like a brick shithouse. Tuesday at 9pm

with a big table and make dicks of themselves to a soundtrack of suspense music. Sugar challenges the candidates to design a new brand of biscuit, paving the way for plenty of twee biscuit-related puns.

Thursday | 2220 - 2320 | Channel 4 | The Sex Researchers

An examination of bizarre claims made by researchers. The idea that the man's penis has evolved for cheating, the existence of a cheating gene, and the suggestion that that it is possible to pick out gay men in a crowd are investigated. I guess the researchers must be women then.

Books Editor: **Guo Heng Chin**books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

BOOKS

Master of epic fantasy

Guo Heng Chin

The landscape of modern fantasy writing would have been quite different had it not been for George R. R. Martin. A Song of Ice and Fire redefined the fantasy genre from the classic Lord of the Rings-esque adventure quest cum bildungsroman story of good versus evil into a darker, more adult and ultimately more realistic domain. There is no clear boundary between good and evil in his stories. No subject is taboo and he does not gloss over vices like sex, violence and incest. More importantly, main characters do die in his stories (Read an in-depth review of his series on the adjacent page).

Although Martin or GRRM as he is known to his fans, is now eponymous with fantasy, he started his writing career in science fiction and horror short stories. A big fan of comic books and science fiction novels from a young age, Martin started out writing for comic fan-zines but soon graduated into science fiction magazines like Locus. He attempted writing professionally after completing a journalism M.S. in 1971. It was not a straightforward path, and Martin recalls having one of his story being rejected for 42 times by different magazines. After losing the Hugo awards (the science fiction and fantasy equivalent of Oscars) on numerous occasions, he finally clinched the rocket-shaped trophy in 1975 with his science fiction short story A Song for Lya. The novella follows a young protagonist and his lover, both whom are telepaths, (called 'Talents') sent to an alien world in which a human colony is present, to assist with unravelling the mysterious humanoid alien's religion. As the two telepaths delve deeper into the alien culture, they discover a shocking truth about the sacrificial ritual of the religion and they began to question the boundaries of emotional intimacy.

Five years later, Martin would win the coveted double crown of both the Hugo and Nebula award for his sci-fi horror novelette, Sandkings. Highly imaginative science fiction backdrop with a strong theme to accompany it, the story is about a wealthy playboy who buys colonies of intelligent alien insects to pit them in a gladiator-style war against each other.

In the 80s Martin got into screenwriting, writing for Hollywood serials. However, in the early 90s, he got back into writing novels, a medium in which he could pull off all the grand scene he always envisioned, for there is no budget or logistical restriction when it comes to writing. In 1996, the first book of A Song of Ice and Fire series, A Game of Thrones was published. Inspired by the War of the Roses in medieval England, the story deals with the conflict between major Houses in a struggle for the throne of the Seven Kingdoms. Initially

planned to be a trilogy, the story grew as GRRM wrote it and it is now seven-book saga. GRRM has a penchant for growing stories, as demonstrated in the fourth and the upcoming fifth volume which are actually two halves of one book.

Martin is one of those authors with a large following who actually makes himself accessible to fans. He maintains a friendly relationship with the Song of Ice and Fire fan club Brotherhood Without Banners. He also blogs once every few days or so at his grm.livejournal.com. However, such strong fan following has it irks. The initial anticipation abuzz the upcoming fifth book soon turned to irritation and restlessness amongst the fans as the publication date keep on getting pushed further. Some of them even took it upon themselves to taunt Martin into completing the book. "Pull your fucking typewriter out of your ass and start fucking typing" complained a fan on a forum. Some fans are worried as well that Martin might just kick the bucket before he concludes the series. The rising tide of disaffected fans has got to the point where Martin himself had to retort against it in one of his blog post: "As some of you like to point out in your e-mails, I am sixty years old and fat, and you don't want me to 'pull a Robert Jordan' on you and deny you your book. Okay, I've got the message. You don't want me doing anything except 'A Song of Ice and Fire.' Ever. (Well, maybe it's okay if I take a leak once in a while?)" Robert Jordan, the author of the bestselling fantasy series, The Wheel of Time, died of heart disease before he is able to conclude the last 3 novels of his 14-novel saga.

This March, Martin announced on his blog that the book is set to be published on July 12 this year. He writes on his blog "Yes, I know. You've all seen publication dates before: dates in 2007, 2008, 2009. None of those were ever hard dates, however. Most of them... well, call it wishful thinking, boundless optimism, cockeyed dreams, honest mistakes, whatever you like. This date is different. This date is real. Barring tsunamis, general strikes, world wars, or asteroid strikes, you will have the novel in your hands on July 12. I hope you like it."

Guo Heng Chin

A Song of Ice and Fire starts out with the Seven Kingdoms under one rule – the Iron Throne at the capital, conveniently called King's Landing. The ruling House is the Baratheons, who deposed of the Mad King Targayen. Troubles stir as rumours arise that the wealthy and ambitious House Lannister are plotting to take over the throne. After the mysterious death of the King's Hand (prime minister), Lord Eddard Stark of House Stark, a close friend and confidante of King Robert is summoned to King's Landing to take over the job of the King's Hand. So begins a series of events which would lead you through a murder mystery, an incestuous secret, lots of Machiavellian political play and backstabbing as everyone wants the Iron Throne for him/herself.

For such a complex backdrop, it takes a while for the characters and the world to be introduced, which makes the first fifty pages or so of the first book seem a little dull. But bear with it and you will be rewarded, as when the conspiracies and drama takes off, you are in for a roller coaster ride as Martin drives you through cliffhangers and hair-raising thrills.

The story is told from first person POV of different characters from both Starks and Lannisters. Every character has their own narrative arc, and the breath and variety keeps the story fresh. Join the honourable Lord Eddard Stark as he navigates the treacherous political landscape in King's Landing; follow the exiled young princess Daenerys Targaryen as she seeks to reclaim the throne that was rightfully hers and loses her innocence on the way; partake with the witty dwarf Tyrion Lannister in his decadent indulgences, misadventures or just revel in his razor-sharp wit and equally sharp tongue. Those are but a



"People die in his story [...] this fragility makes you more sympathetic"

slice from the large pie of characters. And as you progress from book to book, more new characters are introduced. But fear not, you wouldn't end up with having to read and memorize 20 character's worth of story – for when you play the game of thrones, you either win or you die. That brings me to another aspect of Martin's writing: people die in his story.

Going against conventions of popular entertainment, Martin does not stay the guillotine with some conceived dues ex machina just because the character in deep shit is a main character. In a recent interview with the New Yorker, Martin stated that he wanted the readers to feel that "they love the characters and they're afraid for the characters." The fragility of the character's fate makes you more sympathetic to the characters' lives and you gasp when the characters gasp.

Adventures and all, the heart of the story is the drama between the characters. The complex interplay between the relationships and motivations of the characters is one of the books' strength. In some way, the books feel like a narrative in Machiavellian politics, with each party conniving in their own plot to get into power and trying to call the bluff of their enemies. It is a smart thriller and if you are one of those who enjoyed the intricacy of Inception, you would probably enjoy the intricate web of politics in A Song of Ice and Fire.

George R. R. Martin may be called the American Tolkien, but his writing is certainly not Tolkien-esque at all. The subjects Martin deals with in his book would probably rile Tolkien's sensibility. He shows medieval life the way they are – sometimes romantic, but most of the time harsh and cruel. There is a lot of sex in the story too. It makes you wonder sometimes, when reading Tolkien, where are the whorehouses in Gondor? How do hobbits do it? How about the elves, what does being immortal do to your sexual urges? Well, Martin does not answer those in his books, but his characters are like you and I, and they do think of sex quite a lot.

There is also a characteristic lack of magic in Martin's books. Unlike archetypal fantasy books, magic is very sparse in Westeros. It is like our world, where magic is a thing of legend and superstition. That is why when magic is mentioned; a sort of awe accompanies it, as if it is a miracle.

Every once in a while, there comes an author with an imagination so verdant, and the skills to bring the story alive and inhabit it with an intriguing cast of characters as rich and complex as a rainforest. George R. R. Martin is one such. A Song of Ice and Fire was the herald of an age of fantasy writing that is darker and feels more 'real'.



2011 Outi

HANGMAN



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Twitter



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

cleggman how's it going with the Ukranian primary school teacher?



The_Cleggmatortrontown <3

Awesome! She's amazing in bed. Way better than Miriam. Don't tell Miriam.



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

woah what the fuck? You had sex with her?



Barack_attack_I33thaxor

please tell me you're joking



The_Cleggmatortrontown <3

no...why?



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

because Olechka is actually Osama! Hahahaha. Actually rofling here



The_Cleggmatortrontown <3

what!? That's impossible. She didn't have a beard. And she had breasts.



SexyOlechka69

well if I'm going to change my identity and fake my death I might as well get some tits. Lol. I still have my beard though



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

haha. It was an expensive prank. Navy seals, fake burial and osie's sex change. Just to get you fuck him in the ass.



willyoujoinmymiliband?

how come you never fuck me in the ass cleggman? :(

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk. Try not to tweet them by accident...

What you will do during summer...

Go to festivals

You will tell everyone about it before. Start calling it "Glasto" despite the fact that you've never been. Then after will constantly not shut up about how amazing it was and how you were constantly off your face. You lad. Just try be one of those pricks that refuse to take the fucking armband off because it's a "conversation starter." It's pretty dirty to keep something on for a whole year, and it gets in the way when you're trying to knock one out feverishly hoping to remember that girl that you saw during Arcade Fire. If it does start a conversation it will go like this:

Them: "Oh you went to Glastonbury?"

You: "Yeah I went to Glasto. We call it Glasto, as I've been you know."

Them: "Okay."

That's it. Guys wont suddenly think you're some kind of super badman. Girls will not instantly fall out of their clothes just because you have heard a semi successful band in a muddy tent.

See everyone else

Going back home and seeing everyone you used to know before university is fun. Mainly because you get to try to prove to everyone how much you've changed since going to university. You are now cool as, let's face it, you

were fairly low down the social pecking order in school. You drink (WAHAY DOWN IT), you smoke rollies (you edgy motherfucker), and to top it all off you write for the student newspaper (you'll be batting them away with a stick if you mention that one). Oh and you now have an impressive addition of Facebook friends bringing your total up to an even larger over-estimation of your popularity.

Of course, for most universities, once you hear what their workload is like you will instantly consider dropping out and doing an arts course. What the fuck is this reading week that they speak off? What do they mean less than 25 hours of labs each day? Wait 6 contact hours are spread out over an entire week? A 50:50 ratio? Shit is that how university is supposed to be...?

Internships

That's right you're an adult now, sort of. You're wearing a suit and tie. You're drinking coffee. This is just like Wall Street – the original not the remake. Okay you're supposed to be giving that coffee to your boss but whatever. This is rewarding, right? I mean, okay, maybe your not contributing to anything directly, but if that guy didn't have coffee and a doughnut on his desk his work may deteriorate a bit. Although 9am start is not like a 9am lecture – it's actually compulsory not optional.



What you doing this summer, Gaddafi? What? Don't get mad... Just asking...

Revise for retakes

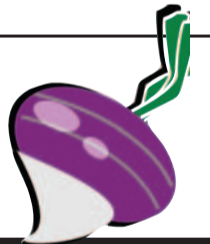
It's summer so way too nice to not go out with people and show off how cool you now are (see above). Week before - cramming once more.

Look for a house for next year

Landlords are bastards. Estate agents are Lucifer in human form. Rats are preferable to cockroaches. All things this process teaches you. Or you could just stay a hall senior for that sweet fresher ass.

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



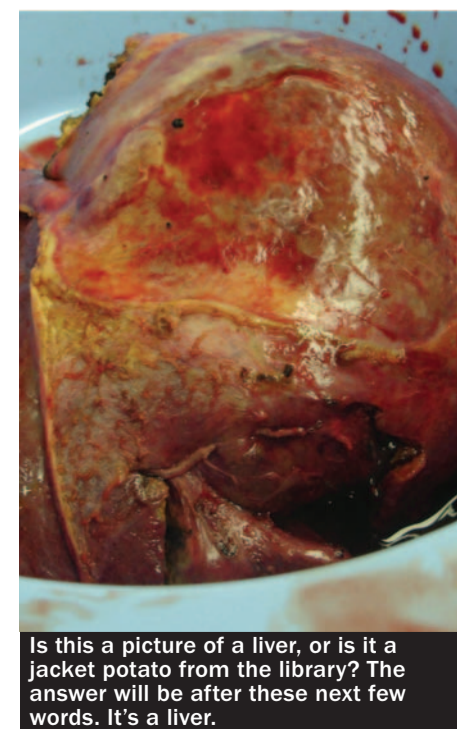
Student to receive experimental transplant

A student whose identity will be kept secret for reasons pertaining to long-winded privacy laws (if confused ask Ryan Giggs) is to undergo the world's first full body-and-head transplant, after simultaneously contracting cancer of the brain, liver, kidney and pancreas following a completely unrelated incident involving drinking water on campus.

The doctor's official diagnosis was that he had a bad case of "the unluckiest cunt alive-itis". After checking the black market price for internal organs, Charing Cross Hospital realised a multiple transplant was out of the question, opting instead for the radical treatment. According to surgeon Dr. Robert Polington, "the patient had more bad bits than good so we decided we may as well swap it out entirely. Besides, have you SEEN the prices for kidneys these days? Increasing demand from China has made them unaffordable." It is hoped that by transplanting the entire body the risk of the cancer spreading will be minimised. Doctors reportedly briefly considered playing a practical joke on the patient by picking a donor that is a known paedophile.

Some say the procedure is insane in the membrane. Others say it is merely insane in the brain

The procedure itself is fairly straightforward and safe: no incisions are required and the patient remains fully awake without an anaesthetic throughout, as it is completely painless. Additionally unlike most transplant operations chance of rejection is low. It is not without side effects, however, which may include a sudden change in height, hair length and eye colour (among other physical features), as well as acquisition of memories of the donor, even assuming their name and identity. The patient should also prepare for the possibility of being nicknamed "Frankenstein", or "Frankenstein's Monster" depending on how well-read and/or pedantic the patient's peer group is.



Is this a picture of a liver, or is it a jacket potato from the library? The answer will be after these next few words. It's a liver.

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



Twat takes whee-lie-suitcase to festival...



**DRUNKEN
MATE OF
THE WEEK**

Don't just stand there taking a picture, man! THE BAG!!! Take the bag! Ah too late, she's conscious again...

Horoscopes

Aries

This week is your swansong entry in a publication that has consumed your thoughts for more than half a decade. Your cygnets are all grown-up now, about to fly the nest, making you feel one webbed-foot in the grave. All of a sudden you are completely irrelevant.

Taurus

This week you join the cast of *The Borrowers*, but you're 6ft taller than your fellow actors. The producers have to round up as many Yellow Pages as possible to accommodate the little cretins' verticality issues. You accidentally squish one under your boot and get fired. Sad panda face :(

Gemini

This week you accidentally woodwind during an exam. The fart is unfortunate, but the stiffy is a natural consequence of studying forensic science. The girl beside you gives a knowing glance. She pretends to tie a noose round her neck while whopping out a single boob. Score.

Cancer

This week some jumped-up cunt with a shit hat – and I mean an AIDS RAPE shit hat – throws you off stage while you're trying to get a snap of Lauren Starling's filthy clunge. You hunt him down and gouge his eyes out with a 3.5mm headphone jack. FEEL THE BASS.

Leo

This week you are walking down High Street Ken, the sun is shining, the sky is blue, a daffodil scent rushes up your nose. You're actually having a stroke. Those adverts about smelling toast, complete bollocks mate. The latest strokes come in all flavours. Smell bacon: I give you about 4 minutes to thank God for your grovelling existence.

Virgo

One evening you're doing your thing, gently caressing the nozzle of your Dyson's hard-to-reach-areas extension tube when a Chinese leprechaun materialises in front of you. He tells you you are doing it all wrong, grabs the tube and sucks your eyeballs out through your sphincter. Your corpse wobbles.

Libra

Yo, yo, yo. Hizzzzzle. You looking at me cunt? I will shit you right up. I'll fist you so hard, your kids' kids'll have bruises. Mazda. Yeah, bet those apples taste good with the egg on your face.

Scorpio

This week you congratulate the Felix editor for finishing the year. Except, he tells you he forgot he had one more issue left. You despair for humanity and wonder how godawful the next editor will be if this is what passes for one these days.

Sagittarius

This week David Dickinson finds you in an attic and one of the teams on his daytime antiques show attempts to sell you at auction. An old lady buys you for £80. You're a bit miffed not to make 100 quid at least. She takes you back to her place where the wallpaper is thick...

Capricorn

...and mint green, and the carpets a mix of burnt yellows, tans and browns. The colostomy smell permeating the house is overwhelming. You try to escape but her legion of midget-zebras gnaw off your toes. Monkeys riding tarantulas with trowels eviscerate your intestines.

Aquarius

This week you play a practical joke on some shaft who keeps stealing your Flora from the fridge. You remove the marg and squatting over the tub, curl one of your finest yuletide logs into it. You replace the marg and pop the tub in the fridge. Mmm, ripe.

Pisces

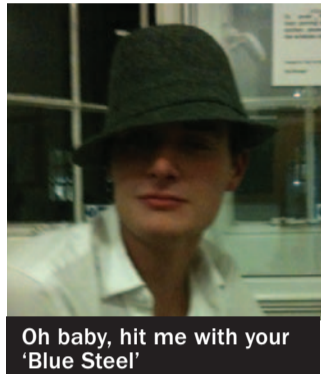
This week the hairs on your head fall out. You go batshit mental and after brutally maiming the nearest 58 people with a gonorrhoea chainsaw, you head to Fresh Hairdressers to scoop up the cuttings. The manager charges you £200, so you rip the legs off each of his family members.

HANGMAN

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Obituaries

The Sabbs have been “working hard” all year, and were only days away from retirement when they met their sticky ends. Hangman remembers them, and examines their legacies...



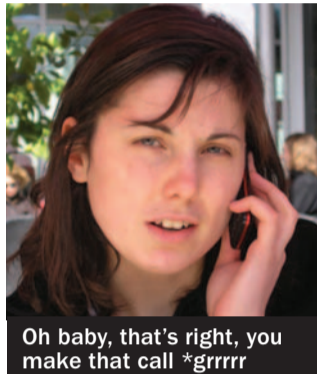
Oh baby, hit me with your 'Blue Steel'

Alexander Asquith
Khomeini Kendall
President



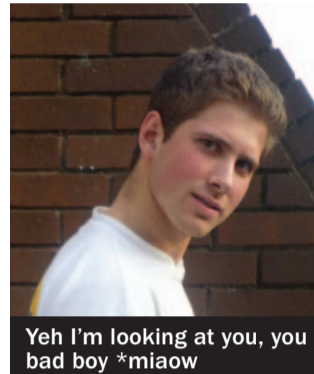
David always dressed well at the office...

David Dearing
Scoobabado Smith
Medic President



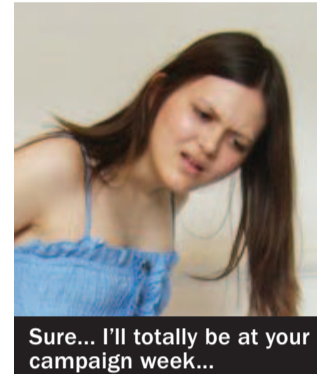
Oh baby, that's right, you make that call *grrrrr

Heather Hereford
Jobsworth Jones
Clubs & Societies



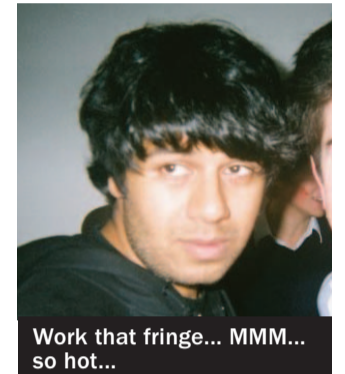
Yeh I'm looking at you, you bad boy *miaow

Alexander Amanany
Dedalus Dahinten
Education



Sure... I'll totally be at your campaign week...

Charlotte Creighton
Ivanka Ivison
Welfare



Work that fringe... MMM... so hot...

Ravi Ricochet
Papadopoulous Pall
Finances & Services

Fortunately for his family, Kendall's face and body was completely unrecognizable. They could have the open-casket funeral they had always wanted. The cause of death is known: a furious attack by a swarm of blue tits; the reason for his death is still a mystery.

He was last seen alive in the Hoop and Toy in South Kensington, where he was reportedly telling an old lady that he was willing to “cross her crevasse” and show her his “balls” – his ability with puns and innuendo was, sadly, limited.

One punter recalls him leaving the pub: “Well he just suddenly picked up this massive rucksack, grabbed what looked like a pickaxe, and ran out screaming ‘I’m going for a walk, I’ll be back in three months!’”

His body was found outside the Natural History Museum, with no clues to why a swarm of blue tits decided to tear his skin apart. All that was found at the scene was a note that said, “Where are your precious plants now! Eh? See what I did there...”

Kendall is survived by his mail-order wife and their two children. His wife was said to be relieved by his passing, telling a Hangman Reporter: “He never paid his bills, never paid his telephone bills, never paid his automo-bills.”

Ultimately, it was a dildo that did for David Smith. He had been on a downward spiral of back-alley encounters and petty crime as his addiction grew worse and worse during his time as President. What began as a hilarious prank during Medic Fresher Week, ended with a “dildo too far” for the Medic President.

He was found in a cubicle in the girls’ bathroom of Reynold’s Bar. The poor girl who found his body said that his face was “contorted in ecstasy” and that the dildo hanging out between his legs was “easily as thick as my arm, no joke.”

His friends, sorry, acquaintances... Ok the stranger he had been begging to hang out with him, told Hangman that he seemed agitated throughout the evening. “I just thought he was some kind of crack addict or something. I was wondering why he had an Ann Summers bag full of dildos, but its Reynolds Bar, you get used to random shit like that.”

An inquest into his death ruled that he died “hilariously” and advised that his body be left where it was found for amusement. However, the manager of Reynolds was having none of it, telling a Hangman reporter, “I can’t just leave a cubicle occupied forever, where will people throw up?” before adding, “You’re not from the Daily Mail, are you?”

Clubs and societies at Imperial rejoiced last week as Heather Jones finally succumbed to the world’s first DDOS attack aimed at a human being. After months of flooding her email inbox with thousands of inane and ridiculous questions, Jones finally gave up the ghost; champagne corks were heard popping across campus as a doctor confirmed that she had died of “sheer tedious administration.”

The email that is said to have ‘broken the camel’s back’ was a request for advice after a club officer realised that he had missed the last tube home and wanted to know if there was a bus that could take him from Notting Hill to Clapham. Heather’s response was unfinished, but she appeared to have been telling him to go fuck himself in the politest way possible.

One club chair told a Hangman reporter that all their emails asking for help with just about everything under the sun were part of a plan to slowly grind Jones down. “When you want to bring a server down, you send loads of requests to it and eventually it can’t cope. Now imagine that Heather was a server, well... you know what I’m getting at.”

Heather is survived by her desktop computer, toothbrush, and thousands of unreplied emails...

Kevin Costner spoke of his pain yesterday, on learning that his life-long friend and colleague Alex Dahinten had finally succumbed to the flesh-eating virus that he had been battling for years. Many of his close friends were taken aback by the news, having been completely unaware of his affliction. When it was explained that no-one had known because it had mainly affected his groin, they responded, “Duuuuuuude.”

Dahinten had been a tireless campaigner on behalf of Imperial students, and received a great deal of attention from girls on campus. One former admirer told a Hangman reporter, “Ohhhh, that’s why he wouldn’t let me go any further...” When shown a picture she threw up on the spot, ran away screaming and hurled herself off the nearest rooftop. Her last words were believed to be, “THERE IS NO GOD!”

It is not known where Dahinten picked up the terrible virus, but he managed to hide his affliction from all of those around him. “I once heard him screaming in pain in the bathroom,” said Alex Kendall, “but I just thought he was having an almighty wank. Actually, come to think of it, he probably was...”

Dahinten is survived by tubs and tubs of soothing cream.

Even though she had created a Facebook group, and put posters around campus, it took three weeks for anybody to notice Charlotte’s campaign stall outside the JCR, and sadly, a further four months for anyone to notice that she had passed away while manning the stall. When informed of her death, one student said, “I literally have no idea what the fuck you’re talking about.”

A enthusiastic spokesperson on welfare issues, Charlotte had increased awareness about sexual health, drug safety, and alcohol issues among literally tens of Imperial students.

The cause of death is still being investigated but a preliminary coroner’s report recorded “stomach-churning” levels of amphetamines, alcohol, and crack cocaine. Charlotte was said to be a big proponent of the ‘method-acting’ approach to welfare issues.

The Union is launching an inquiry into how nobody noticed that Charlotte had been missing for so long. Further controversy has been ignited as it has emerged that Heather Jones actually took back the table being used for the stall, but failed to notice Charlotte’s cold corpse. When asked how she didn’t notice, Heather Jones responded, “what email?” before shaking her head angrily.

Reports from the Caribbean island of Barbados suggest that Ravi Pall has been killed by a falling coconut that landed on his head. The Deputy President had been holidaying there before the Summer Ball but had not been heard from for a couple of weeks. One member of Council asked if this meant that they didn’t have to give him Honorary Life Membership, but when informed that constitutionally there was no reason why death should be a barrier to Honorary Life Membership the Council member was reported to have said, “Ah fuck.”

Ravi Pall was a dedicated servant of the Union, and was believed to have spent literally tens of hours in his office in the past year. His holiday to Barbados had aroused some controversy, with one Trinidadian student complaining, “Oh Barbados? Are you saying there’s something wrong with Trinidad? Fuck Imperial.”

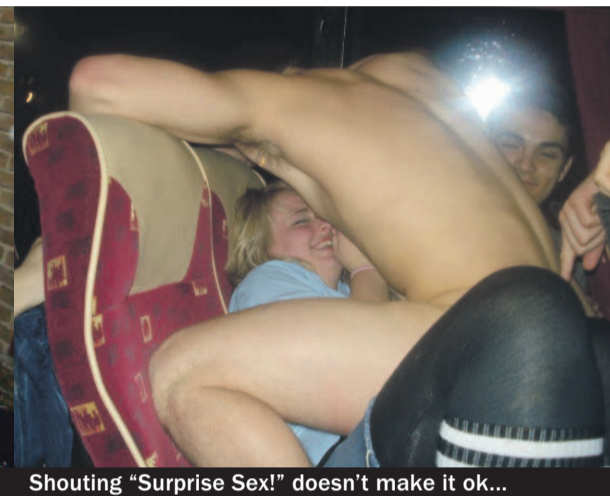
The Union have denied that there is any policy of discrimination against Trinidadians but reassured Hangman that Ravi’s death would not affect the running of the Union in any way.

Pall’s family have decided to have him buried in Barbados instead of shipping him back to the UK. Explaining their decision, his mother said: “You know when you’re happy, but you shouldn’t be? yeeeeeah...”

To commemorate their passing, Alex Kendall, David Smith, Heather Jones, Alex Dahinten, and Charlotte Ivison have been awarded Hangman Honorary Life Membership

The Annual Hangman Awards

Centrefold of the Year **Leonardo Society** Drunken Mates of the Year



We still have no idea what's going on here...

Shouting "Surprise Sex!" doesn't make it ok...

Top Five Fails

5. Old cars cut in computing error

Computer said "no". Some said "NOOOO not the old cars!!". Most said "I don't give a fucking shit I have a lab report to finish, and then plan on getting drunk". The error was fixed. Thankfully, or there would have been a riot...

4. Aeronautical Engineering Flood

I know water cooling is good for computers, but I don't think it works for entire labs. Maybe they just wanted to do some swimming while conducting experiments. Treading water while making notes is a bit annoying though.

3. Felix Sex Survey

I know how to get the most accurate reflection of sex. Let's ask men to tell us how often they have it. They will definitely all be completely truthful. Resulting in Materials being the biggest wankers. Has nobody ever met any medics?

2. Mechanical Engineering Steel

Did you not say galvanised steel? Sorry I must have had that Beastie Boys song Galvanise in my head when I placed the order. Those kind of blunders would get you a big fat fail and a kick in the balls if you're a Mech Eng undergrad.

1. Life Sciences Restructure

Numerous biology lecturers were cut. This means that there are biologists who STILL have jobs. This is a travesty, who needs biologists? Don't even get me started about bio-I wasn't good enough to be a medic-al sciences.

Least Likely to be Bought a Beer in the Union



Professor Ian Owens

Even if he was drinking to his new role at the Natural History Museum it's unlikely he'd be draped in people wanting to help him celebrate. In fact, I feel sorry for the guy. Maybe we should all send him flowers as a goodbye present. Actually, he would probably just throw them in the bin... crafty so and so...

Most Likely to be Bought a Beer in the Union



Jonathan Adams

Has someone stolen your laptop? If yes then more than likely he is in hot pursuit of them. Chavs fear him the world over. Their fingers shake as they put their cigarettes and Lambrini to their mouths. He'll chase them down like Ryan Giggs chases Imogen Thomas. Except when caught they're only fucked metaphorically.

Worst Scuba Diver of the Year



Osama Bin Laden

The much loved Twitter user just didn't get the hang of scuba diving. It was his first, and last, attempt at the sport after a Seal botched his eyebrow piercing. They don't even have opposable thumbs, of course they couldn't do it right. Why would you want a stud there. I know he was upset about shit but seriously what a emo.

Least sleep expected next year



Matt Colvin

The trouble with running for Felix Editor is that if you win you are expected to actually do it. Turns out this requires a lot of work and isn't all like the life of Tiger Woods (sinking putts and slamming sluts). If you want to write next year you will be required to do some pretty disgusting things (clean the Felix office).

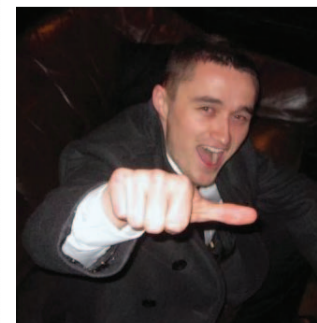
Worst ever Twitter replacement



Unintentionally Homoerotic Rap Lyrics

Oh HAHahaha someone that I've barely ever heard of said something that, out of context, could sound a bit gay. How incredibly witty and insightful. Some top notch comedy work there. Good to see the standard of writing isn't deteriorating at all at Felix. Seriously who the fuck thought that shit could replace Twitter?

Biggest Badass



James Fletcher

This plucky postgrad (alliteration award?) drunkenly stole author Jonathon Frazen's glasses from his face. How? By shouting "Channel 4!" snatching the glasses, jumping over a fence, and running away. He even had a fucking helicopter looking for him. He was so badass the police had to drop the charges.

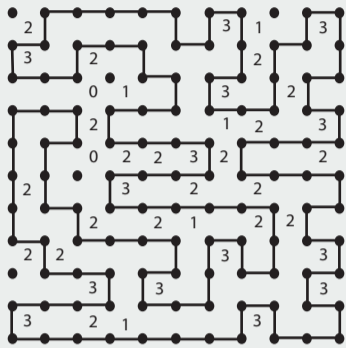
Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**
James Hook
Aman Nahar

puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

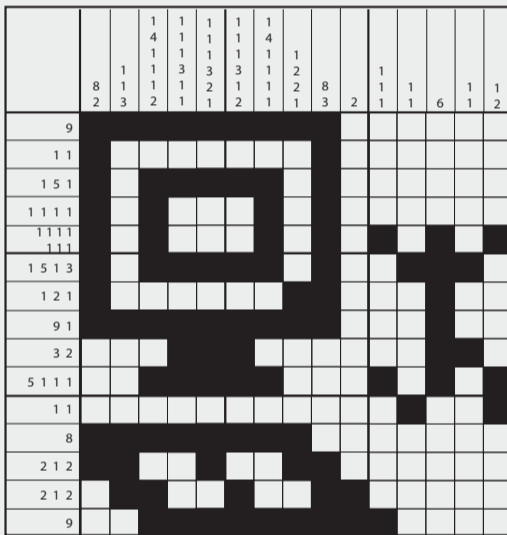
PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions

Slitherlink



Nonogram



Crossword

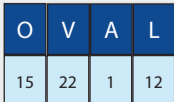
QUICK



CRYPTIC



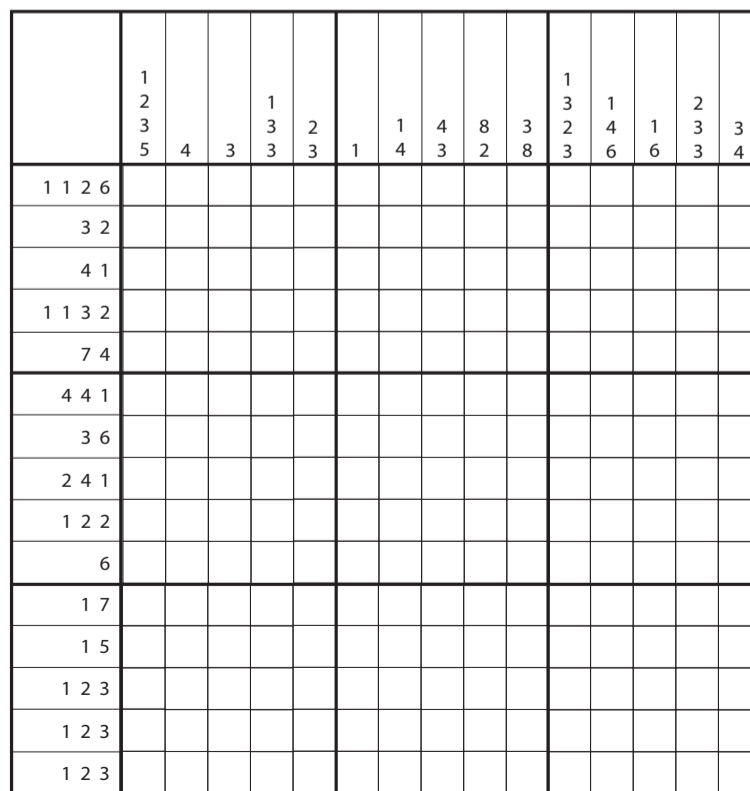
GOING UNDERGROUND



The Biggest Wordsearch You've EVER Seen

T S O E E T L I O P S B X E Q S E D G E
I K Y X K E O I O L O W T V D U L W X P
E W A T N R C I M U G A M G L N N W Y H
Q Y P R V M N Z N I M M E P C I I V M P
A I Z E T T F D Y I T X F X R M H W S I
G V N M Z S A N T Q K A P O T R K U J Y
E E E I R R P L P W W K T N J E C A E O
M R G T Y C U F P X S J L I V T N L J F
A C I Y C O N F I N E T Z A O U D T G I
W F R P N D X B C L P A U Z N N X R W E
E F G D S F S M T V M T R B O I I P E M
Z U K R B Y B K W Q U X N I V G M Y A O
I V B P B N W Z U B T E T I E Y U R D G
B O R D E R L I N E S A H G I Y P H E W
V O R Y Z I F D E S N I Z K C F Q P B T
Z E C O L E G A J I Q N K B Q P D F O D
K A A P L B R S M H D S R H T H H S U S
Z U W P J K S R E N I L D A E D E R N R
P Y P P F G E G N O R P K H A K L V D P
F S I M O T S F F N T V N J C H X F U N

Nonogram – And So...Goodnight!



BORDERLINE
CONFINE
EDGE
LIMITATION
SPIRE
TERM
TERMINUS
BOUND
CUSP
EXTENT

POINT
STUB
TERMINAL
ULTIMATE
BOUNDARY
DEADLINE
EXTREMITY
PRONG
STUMP
TERMINATION



FUCWIT League Leader Board

This year's winners are:

INDIVIDUAL - Sahil Chugani
TEAM - I "Am" Squidhead

Thanks to all who have had a go at solving our puzzles.
Have a good summer. Puzzle love!

The Puzzles Team

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Apologies: In last week's issue (1493 -17/06/2011) we incorrectly captioned a photo of ARCS Sports Writer of the Year David Wilson. We are sorry for the mistake. **Editor**

SPORT

Murray mania makes annual trip to SW19

ICU Snooker

... Continued from Back Page played out a largely scrappy affair, a surprise considering the players' calibre. Bogdan started nervously, perhaps a reflection of the importance of the occasion with the match being recorded and, for the first time, scored live on the club's web site, and eventually lost the opening frame. Tim led marginally throughout the next but a fluked pink drew Bogdan level. A neatly composed 18 clearance—the highest break of the match—saw Bogdan pinch frame four and an early 30-point advantage in the fifth soon resulted in the Freshers' Tournament 2010 champion advancing to his second final this season.

By contrast, the second semi-final was more entertaining, although the 55-minute first frame was full of safety play, where Richard slowly built up a 22-point lead that Bilal nudged to zero before stealing the frame with a 15 break to the pink. The story was much the same in frame two, however Bilal turned on the style in the third to record the second-highest break of the tournament, a well-crafted 46 in a brilliant display of break-building. He might have cleared up in a subsequent break but, unaware of the rule preventing the use of a ball off the table to determine whether a colour would spot after being potted, he was stopped prematurely for this unusual foul.

It made no material difference to that frame nor the next as two 16 breaks allowed Bilal to open up a 40-point gap before Richard could pot a ball. Yet, in a reversal of the first two frames, Richard played his best snooker of the match in scoring breaks of 25 and, with a fluke-assisted blue, 21, but a couple of loose safeties quickly enabled Bilal to take the frame to a re-spotted black. After a long pot attempt, Richard was unfortunate to double-kiss the black when he tried to play safe, leaving Bilal a straightforward pot into the top-left corner pocket to conclude the game.

So the two best players are five frames away from becoming Imperial's top cueist. They share the highest 11 breaks of the Internal League, headed by a 53 from Bogdan in the first group stage, and have only lost three of the 43 frames they have played between them. If the players reproduce the quality of snooker they have demonstrated this season, we will be treated to an enthralling match worthy of any final.

You can join us for live scoring, statistics and text commentary of the final tomorrow evening from 5pm.



David Wilson

The cries that ring differ only by the forename. The shouts of 'come on Tim' have been replaced by 'come on Andy'. The weight, expectation and hope placed on these three words weigh just as heavily as they have ever done. The annual frenzy surrounding Wimbledon every year has begun. The nation follows with baited breath to see if we will finally have a British Wimbledon champion after so many years of waiting. I shall not be among them.

Firstly, let's start with the 'British' Champion. Murray is Scottish and when, in the 2006 football World Cup England faced off against Trinidad and Tobago (Scotland didn't qualify), Murray publically stated his support for T&T. Okay, support who you want but remember Andy, the majority of those supporters who turn up at SW19 willing you to win are English. In fact most of your fan base are likely to be English. It's best not to alienate them.

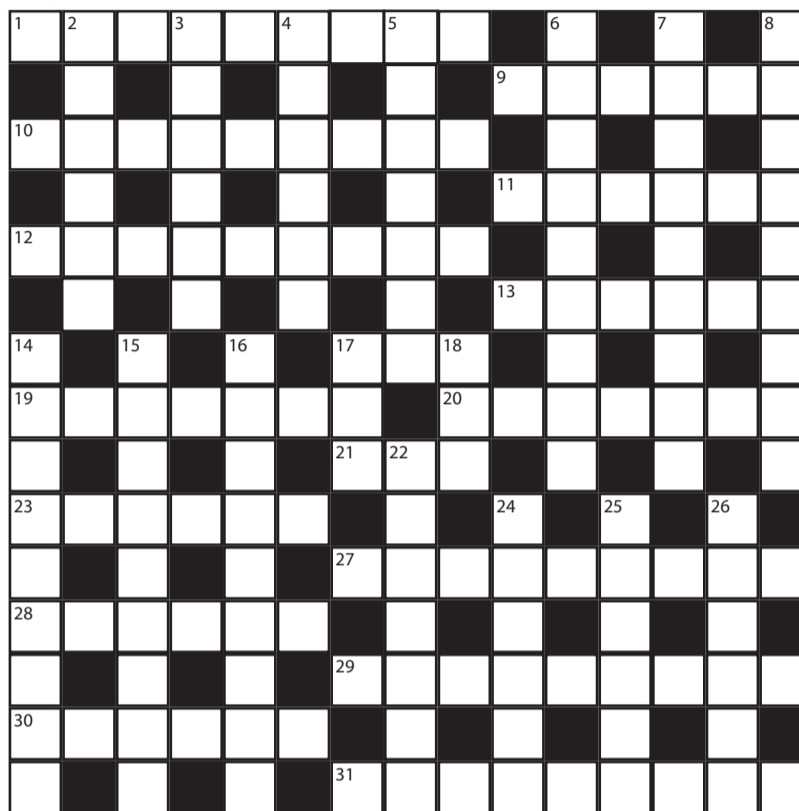
We can then seamlessly link to Murray's public persona, anyone who has every seen a television interview by Murray is unlikely to remember it. In fact, they are more likely to have had a snooze. Win or lose Murray shows no emotion. His interviews drone on in a monotonous bored moan, in stark contrast to the eloquent and charming Roger Federer. Rafa Nadal is not the most eloquent of individuals, lest us forget English is not his first language, yet some argue that could be the case with Murray too. It's not true that Murray is

devoid of emotion; he got rather quite upset following his loss in the US Open Final. Much like that malignant growth John Terry did following Chelsea's failure to capture the Champions League in Moscow.

Returning to Murray's petulance on court. He's already shown his child-like behavior in his first game of this year's tournament. Shouting in exasperation, swinging his racquet at the ground in faux McEnroe anger, never capturing the charm and charisma of the original rebel of the tennis world. It's embarrassing to watch Murray behave in such a way. Murray showed his weak temperament in the French Open this year when up against the clay court specialist; Nadal. Whilst Murray wound himself up more and more, Nadal stared at him from across the court and physically wore Murray into the ground. It was a joy to watch. Playing against Nadal is said to be like hitting a ball against a brick wall; it will always come back. Nadal's style of play, his unwillingness to compromise his superstitious routines make him a popular, charismatic player. Murray and charismatic will never be used together unless the prefix of 'un' makes an unusual Ménage à trois.

Murray probably will win a Grand Slam title; the once invincible Federer's power's are in decline, Nadal has had some lengthy injuries, whilst Djokovic could succumb to Murray's game. Until that time comes, I shall revel in semi-final disappointments and heartbreaks whilst fist pumping and shouting 'vamos'.

Cryptic Crossword 1,494



Across

- 1 Gradually getting better at walking after elf (9)
- 9 Forgotten heartland collapses to form cave (6)
- 10 Pretty good in demonstrating irritating others (9)
- 11 Ban a natural container of fruit(6)
- 12 To mix with Communist centre of England(9)
- 13 Lost a South African Ford(6)
- 17 Same Greek prefix is only at the beginning (3)
- 19 Επθ - A. What a description! (7)
- 20 Force units to be shown a newt on standby (7)
- 21 The bulrushes revealed her (3)
- 23 Play a half-note backwards to really hit the low points (6)
- 27 Mature stutterings about a philanderer (9)
- 28 Piss off a plant (6)
- 29 Spoil small simulations, in a way, by a refusal to believe anything else exists (9)
- 30 Little Ronald sat in the golden chair (6)
- 31 Thin curve to bathe naked (9)

Down

- 2 Leave Burgundy (6)
- 3 Dracula's gymnastics make him lose an eye - an improvement?(6)
- 4 Our sixth king was a Scandinavian warrior (6)
- 5 Heading northwards on more doesn't impress (7)
- 6 A total collapse provides analysis (9)
- 7 Maine senator flattened by appliance (5,4)
- 8 Grifter manages to fool painter (3,6)
- 14 Emigrate North, somehow, to sprout buds (9)
- 15 Hire a Conservative petitioner (9)
- 16 Shuffling about with fake jewellery (9)
- 17 It is often written wrongly (3)
- 18 A number (3)
- 22 Calculate in Rome, now kindly start to fish (7)
- 24 Bilingual bionic man reveals poetic England (6)
- 25 Island shirt (6)
- 26 Teacher sounds like he makes sense, eh?(6)

...Continued on from Back Page upwards of 50 now, not to mention the obvious relief from the stresses of academic life they provide.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Alissa Ayling in the early part of the year. Her role was key in facilitating the partnership of the Union and Sport Imperial, and has helped our clubs to climb ever greater heights. Fortunately, Hannah Blandford has filled the role with great skill, and we look forward to working closely with her in the coming years.

The ACC is set to have an all new committee next year, with Henry Abbot and Phil Sandwell taking the reins as

Chair and Treasurer. The current committee is moving on, with some graduating, and some moving on to Sabbatical positions in the Union. So if anything does go wrong, we'll be watching.

A final note of thanks has to go to the members of all our ACC clubs. It seems facetious to say, but without them, the ACC would not be where it is now. Special thanks go to all the club committee members for their continual dedication to their clubs throughout the year, allowing their players to be able to do what they do best: play and win. We hope all our members have a fantastic summer, and wish them all the best.

Internal tussle sees Imperial's top two progress

James Carver

Snooker

Internal League

ICU Snooker's biggest annual tournament, the Internal League, reaches its conclusion tomorrow with a stellar line-up in the showpiece final.

Last Thursday, number two seed Bilal Nasim produced a fine display of talent in his 4-0 victory over Richard Stroud, while top seed Bogdan Cozmaciu overcame two-time finalist Tim Ma four frames to one in the first semi-final.

The competition started with 38 players in nine groups before it split into two events where players were drawn into groups of similar ability. The best players in each event qualified for their respective knockout stage.

The seeded draw for the main Championship knockout resulted in some fascinating fixtures. Hari Arora, hero again

in leading Imperial to win the Team Trophy at the BUCS Snooker Championships last term, ended Bogdan's run of 24 consecutive frames won in internal competitions but still could not avoid a 3-1 quarter-final defeat, with the Romanian scoring breaks of 37 and 28.

Two quarter-finals went the distance, with defending champion Sam Dennis missing two match balls in his epic game against Richard, in which four frames were settled on the final black. Sam misjudged the pink to give away the fourth frame. Then, having come back from needing three snookers to tie the decider, he attempted a long black that bounced out of the jaws and rested near the opposite corner pocket to leave Richard a straight pot using the rest, causing arguably the biggest upset of the tournament.

In the semi-finals, Bogdan and Tim
...Continued on Page 35



ACC announce awards

Michael Foster

As we reflect on the year gone by, the ACC has a lot it can be proud of. In terms of sporting achievement, this looks set to be a record year for our performance in BUCS, not to mention the successes of clubs competing outside of BUCS.

The Judo Club brought four bronze medals and a gold back from their championships. Baseball won the Southern Championship and the Fall Cup, establishing themselves as a formidable team in the region. Football came second in the ULU League and won the ULU Cup, and the water polo teams have variously won their leagues, reached their finals and gained promotion, including the mixed team being crowned champi-

ons of the London League.

Dance have also been very successful. Special mention goes to Arman Sahovic, who came first and second in the National University Latin and Ballroom competitions respectively, the first dancer in the university circuit ever to do so. Boat have brought record numbers of medals home, with victories in all classes. At the BUCS 4s and 8s Heads, they won four golds, two silvers and four bronzes, earning second place overall and more than 100 BUCS points.

The greatest success this year has come from Imperial's Fencers. Both the men's and women's teams were undefeated throughout the season, winning the league and having their best season so far. Furthermore, having won silver

at last year's BUCS Championships, they went one better and won double gold, finding themselves crowned as the best fencing team in the country. Their star players, Hannah Bryars and Maiyuran Ratneswaran (Sportsperson of the Year) are both members of the GB Olympic team, and Maiyuran is a gold- and silver-medal winner at the Commonwealth Games. In addition, Alice Mitchell, who lead the women's team to victory, also won a bronze medal in Judo on the same weekend.

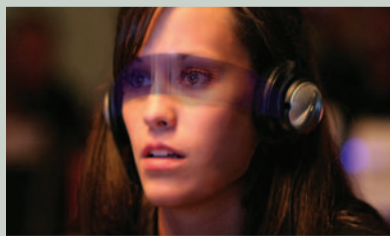
The ACC has also had a great year off the pitch. We have run four very successful ACC Bar Nights. These have raised money that goes straight back to the ACC so that it can help support the activities of its many clubs, which are
...Continued on Page 35

SCIENCE



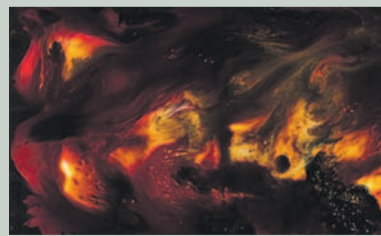
Spaceplane technology takes off:
Page 10

TECHNOLOGY



An clearer future for augmented reality:
Page 15

ARTS



Extravaganza at the Royal Academy:
Page 20

FOOD



Debating the merits of eating horses:
Page 25

GAMES



Gamers make better scientists:
Page 26