

“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1497

FELIX



14.10.11

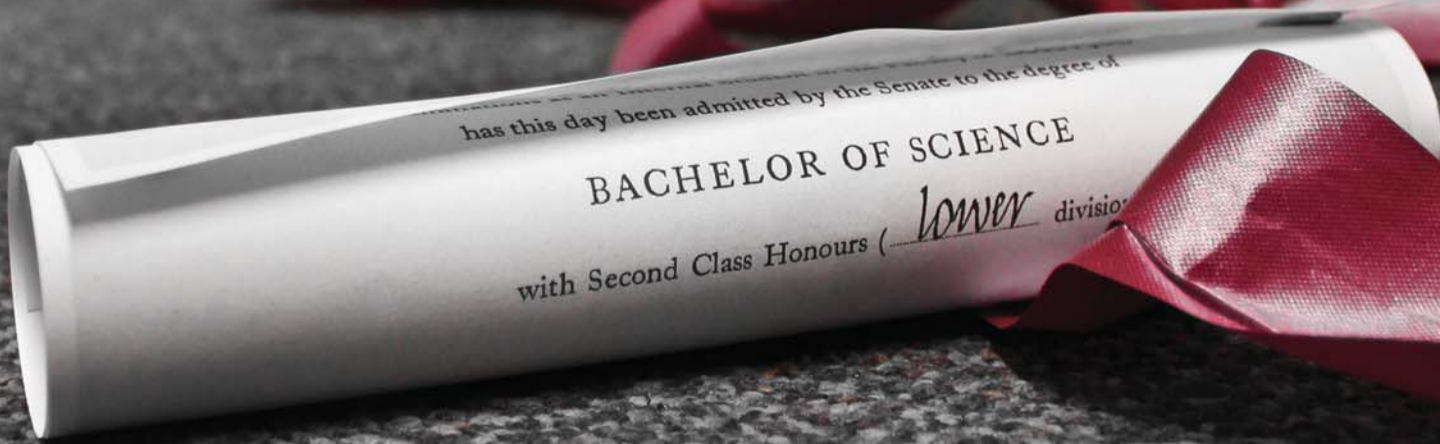
The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

Eliza Manningham-Buller

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THE FIRST TO GO?



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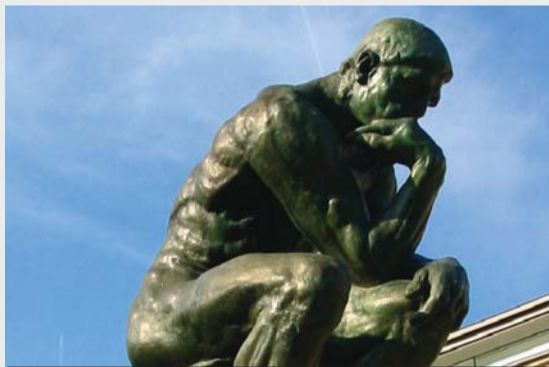
What's on

Proof of God Debate: Round 2

The Philosophy Society is putting together another intellectual debate on campus. Like last year we have invited Dr Muhammad Omer and Hassan Choudhury, but this time, we have more opinionated atheists: Dr John Marenbon and Dr Derek Matravers, so it should be a more animated show!

If you have a strong opinion regarding the debate, we'd really like to hear from you. Why don't you email your response to us and we can read them out before the debate on the day. If you feel there is/isn't rational proof, or it's not a debate that can be had rationally, please visit our Facebook page or email us at philosophy@ic.ac.uk. See you on the day!

Lecture Theatre 1, Blakett 18 October 18:30



Thought for the day: Can you truly be a hipster when you have no clothes on?

Last week's Foldi winner

As the man says, there can be only one, and that one just happens to be Yao Du, who wins last week's super prize of a Foldi LED Lamp. Congrats! I'll be in touch.

Classifieds: the return

Send us your serious business



Awwwww yeah, I've been looking all over for a two storey house!

Last week it was competitions (more coming soon!) – this week the Classifieds section makes a bite-sized return. If you have something to sell, whether it's a laptop, a pile of untouched books or some incredible Python programming skills, let us know and we'll advertise it right here in the paper. Nothing dodgy please, we're distribution bins, not top shelf. We'd also better say that Felix accepts no responsibility for services bought or sold. While we're on this topic of shameless advertising, does someone want to paint a local garage door? I'm not even joking.

Editor

CLASSIFIEDS

Just when you thought it was safe to go outside – they're back

The **Arensky Chamber Orchestra** is looking for **fliers** to help promote its upcoming concert on November 10. The job involves handing out fliers in the evenings for an hour or two outside classical music concerts around London, principally Wigmore Hall or Cadogan Hall. £20 per evening.

To apply or for more details, email **Will Kunhardt** at will@theaco.co.uk

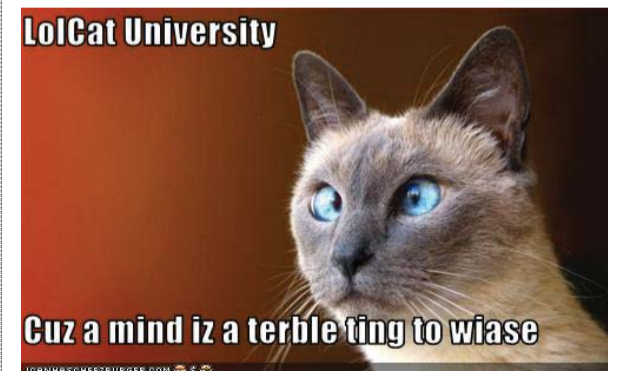
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Lolcat of teh week



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

RCSU Autumn Ball a hit for freshers

Organisers praised as students are drawn to Embankment by ‘fantastic’ drinks deal

Alexander Karapetian

A barrage of freshers descended on Opal Bar in Embankment on Wednesday for the Royal College of Science Union’s (RCSU) Autumn Ball, where the faculty hosted their first major event of the year. Promising three free drinks, student prices throughout the night and rides across London on a vintage fire engine, the RCSU saw the event quickly become busy from 9pm and maintain unwavering party spirit to the touted end at 3am.

The RCSU sold out with many students still trying to get tickets after the four hundred and fifty-strong guest list had been sent off. Of those who attended, general opinion has been very high and the organisers have been met with praise.

RCSU President Luke Kanczes commented that “it was good to see so many people turn up for the Ball, not just Scientists but also Engineers and even Medics, drawn by such a fantastic drinks deal.” The event turned over approximately four thousand pounds, the profit of which will be donated to RAG.

The RCSU mascot vehicle, Jezebel, was used to transport students around Whitehall during the night. James Hallam of the City & Guilds College

Union (CGCU), commented “it was pretty cool, I guess,” while Craig Glastonbury, a third year biologist said, “it was probably one of the best RCSU events [he’d] ever been to”, adding “it was busy, but not so busy that you had to queue for drinks”. Felix covered the event with photography which can be seen on the RCSU Facebook page.

The event attracted many students across all faculties, seeing even members of the ICSM committee attend. The ICSM medics had reclaimed their mascot from the RCSU office late last week during a Hummingbird charity cake sale. Luke Kanczes said that “they entered the office in a gang of ten and stole back the mascot” and that the office was “left in a mess”, condemning their behaviour as “morally wrong”.

The Autumn Ball is another example of the array of well-organised events hosted by RCSU throughout the year, with compliments to the committee for their efforts in planning and execution. After minor criticisms for their successful silent disco event last year, regarding an increased focus on freshers, the event was advertised as an Autumn Ball instead which saw both an increase in familiar crowds and first years alike.

Alexander Karapetian



There were way more girls there, honestly

Union Council kicks off year with Bar Night questions

Matt Colvin

Monday 10 October saw the first Imperial College Union Council meeting of the academic year. Held in the Union Dining Hall and open to all students, the meeting saw this year’s sabbatical officers provide updates of their progress over the summer, presided over by this year’s Council Chair, David Smith.

The most contentious issue of the evening was raised as a result of Deputy President (Finance & Services) Michael Foster’s update, and concerned the Union’s new guidelines regarding how clubs and societies are able to run bar nights. In order to ensure bar nights are ‘sustainable’ and to comply with licensing law, the Union is no longer able to sell kegs of beer at cost price to clubs and societies. Instead, the Union now offers a 10% discount on bar tabs for bar nights.

Matt Colvin



David Smith takes the chair this year

Representatives from groups such as the Royal School of Mines Union and Arts & Entertainments Board questioned the new policies, considering issues such as the feasibility of making money from the new format of events.

Foster also announced the existence of a post-Summer Ball report and survey, due to be provided at the next Council meeting Monday 31 October, citing that the figures were “not ready” in time for this meeting.

Sponsored Editorial

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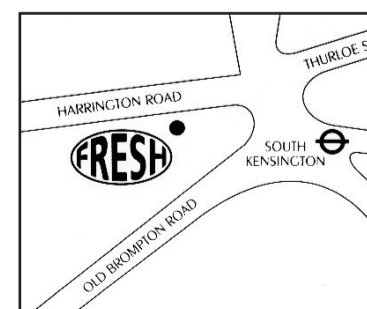
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News Editors: **Sophia David**
Alex Nowbar

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

NEWS

UCL to introduce 'grade point average'

As the honours system is scrapped, Felix asks whether Imperial could follow suit

Maciej Matuszewski

University College London is to scrap the widely used honours system, where students are awarded a first, 2:1, 2:2 or third at the end of their degrees, and move towards US style Grade Point Averages (GPA). UCL Provost Professor Malcolm Grant last week told *The Telegraph* that "award inflation over the past three decades has led to student performance being essentially recognised by classification into only two main groups: first class and upper second class honours." He called the system "crude and undistinguished" and said that the changes would "ensure that our students' mode of study is internationally recognised".

In the US, GPA system students receive letter grades, each with associated numerical values. The final grade for their degree is the average of the numerical values of the grades that they received over the course of their studies. It is

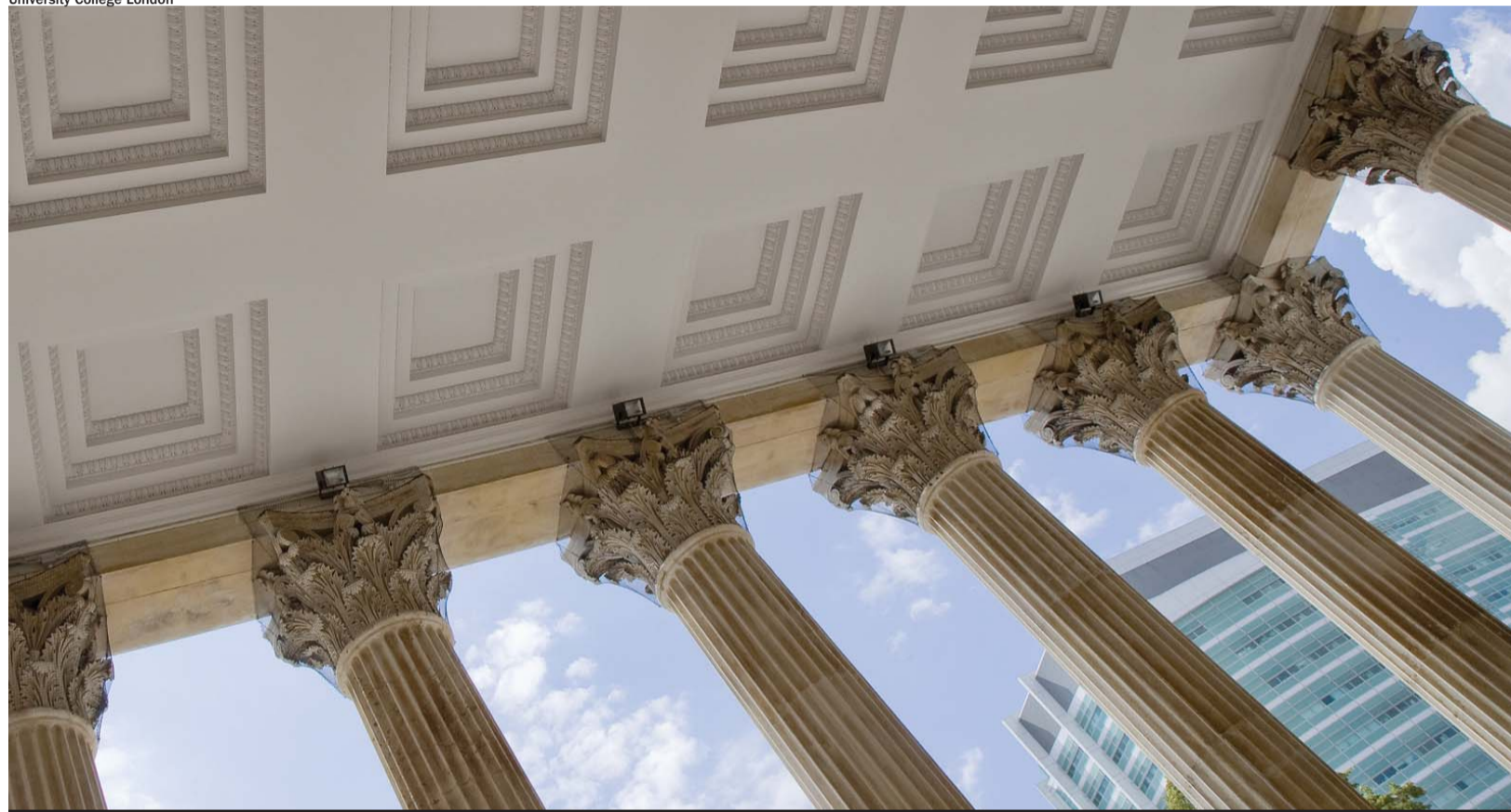
"An employer cannot know which first is a good first"

common that, in addition to this, a fixed percentage of highest scoring students receive honours such as *summa cum laude*. The exact form of UCL's new degree classification is as of yet unknown but the UCL Council's 'White Paper 2011-2021', which "outlines a vision and strategy for UCL for the coming 10 years", states it "will be distinctive, and will be developed in such a way as to enable the GPA score for each student to be generated automatically from existing percentage-based assessment scores."

The idea of following in UCL's footsteps, however, is not popular with the College's students, according to a recent survey. Imperial College Union's 'Response to the 2011 [Government] Higher Education White Paper', written by Union President Scott Heath, Deputy President (Education) Jason Parmar and Representation Coordinator Andrew Keenan, notes that a student survey conducted by the Union this August indicates that the current honours system is generally supported by students. The survey, however, also indicates that the system "was of decreasing popularity as cohorts progressed, with final year, masters and PhD students being least supportive." A third year UK student is quoted as saying that "all firsts were not created equal; an employer cannot know which first is a good first and which is not."

Asked whether a Grade Point Average system might improve graduates' com-

University College London



University College London's new proposals have seen support from some academics at Imperial

petitiveness on the international arena, which is unfamiliar with the British system, Heath responded that he feared this effect might be outweighed by an increase in competitiveness between students on a course, resulting in a corresponding decrease in cooperation. The August survey indicated that students were opposed to any system that ranks graduates within their class for the same reason. The 'White Paper Response' quotes a student as saying that they think that "a ranking would be a bad idea as people would no longer work together, but against each other."

"Very few academics believe the current system makes much sense"

Imperial academics, however, are more open to changes in the system. Speaking in a personal capacity, the Chemical Engineering Senior Tutor, Dr. Andreas Kogelbauer, agreed with UCL's Professor Grant, claiming that the current system is crude. He pointed to the massive difference between a 2:1 degree where a student achieved 61% and one where the student achieved 69%. He also highlight-

ed that introducing a GPA system would remove the need to make difficult decisions about what degree to award students who are on the boundary between two honours - a "process that is not [entirely] objective".

He dismissed fears about increased competitiveness by pointing out that Imperial degree programs are already very competitive and that the effect of this is offset by labs and projects that emphasise teamwork. He also rejected Jason Parmar's concerns that unless most of the Universities in the UK adopted the new system at once those who abandoned honours would be at a disadvantage as a result of confused employers. Dr Kogelbauer said that he believed that Imperial's "brand" was strong enough for people to appreciate its degrees regardless of the system. He believes that the College "could go it alone" as long as it published data on how many graduates got what percentages. This would be to compensate for Imperial's courses often being more difficult than other institutions', which often results in lower marks.

Professor Jonathan Mestel, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Mathematics, agrees with many of Dr Kogelbauer's points. He says that "for a scientific institution in particular, the degree classification system, with its deliberate reduction of experimental accuracy, is very strange." He expressed a personal "sympathy with any drive for

the publication of either a percentage or a year-position, either along with, or instead of a degree class", especially in Mathematics where "due to the precision of the discipline, [one is] able to rely heavily on the accuracy of ... individual marks". He conveyed his view that while "very few academics believe the current scheme of degree classification makes much sense ... many are reluctant to tinker with a system which works tolerably

"Such matters are usually decided at College level"

well, and which employers understand."

All parties, however, agree that grade inflation, one of UCL's main reasons for the change, is not a problem at Imperial. Scott Heath has said that he firmly believes that Imperial is greatly concerned with its academic reputation and as a result strives to ensure that the requirements for achieving a particular degree class are the same each year. He also pointed out that *The Telegraph* article about the UCL change was not entirely correct regarding its statement that 80% of Imperial College degrees awarded last year were firsts and 2:1s. Heath claims instead that the actual figure is approxi-

mately 67% when taking into account the unique classification of medics, a figure that is average for the Russell Group.

Dr Kogelbauer has explained that 92% of Chemical Engineering's graduates receiving a first or 2:1 is a result of improvements in the quality of student intake and teaching. This was supported by Heath and Parmar, who praised the quality of communication between students and staff in the department. Dr Luc Vandepierre, Materials Senior Tutor, has attributed the five year-on-year increases in the proportion of firsts and 2:1s awarded by his Department (it went up from 69% in 2010 to 72% in 2011) to hard work by students and admissions tutors who "have been attracting increasingly better prepared students".

Dr Vandepierre is also sceptical about "how a grade point average would be better at combating grade inflation". This is a sentiment shared by Professor Mestel who says that "the key question is does 75% this year correspond to 75% next year?"

Opinion about Grade Point Average system is clearly divided. However, as Professor Mestel reminds us, "such matters are usually decided at College level" and there are no indications that the College is likely to abandon the honours system any time soon. It is also worth remembering Dr Kogelbauer's belief that "by rushing things students would be disadvantaged".

In Brief**RCSU President kidnapped**

Jack Hewitt



At 11:45 on Wednesday morning Luke Kanczes (above), the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) president, mysteriously went missing. He was seen locked in a hockey storeroom and being paraded around the quad before disappearing into the dungeons of the East Basement. It is believed that a crack team of Raising and Giving (RAG) members, or 'RAG-gers', carried this out, bagging and tying him up and quickly removing him from the premises before security could do anything about it.

RAG subsequently released a statement, reading: "Luke Kanczes, the RCSU president went missing at some point on Wednesday October 12. A ransom demand was made and RCSU, unlike the medics, won't try and steal him back at a later charity event."

RCSU donated the profits from their Autumn Ball, – in excess of £200 – and the RCSU exec will put a team forward for LOST, an event where students are left in mysterious locations and have to hitchhike back to college, which will be held on November 5.

It is as yet unknown if Kanczes has been freed from his predicament.

Jack Hewitt

Fire engine Jezebel clocks up 50,000 miles

Jezebel, fire engine and mascot of the Royal College of Science Union, has now reached 50,000 miles on the clock.

Jezebel is a 1916 Dennis N type fire engine with a 1926 pump. The Royal College of Science Motor Club (RCS Motor Club), consisting of past and current students, have been undertaking maintenance and repair of Jezebel since 1955 including an engine rebuild in 2000 and repainting in 2004. She is used on various college occasions including balls, charity events and even a former Union President's wedding.

According to RCS Motor Club, Jezebel is "designed to do one thousand miles a year" with the oil requiring changing every 500 miles. She is thought to have exceeded 50,000 miles whilst in Imperial's hands alone, despite the mileage reading on the clock. Despite this, the figures mark a symbolic moment in Jezebel's history.

Alex Nowbar

Babar Ahmad 'should face trial in the UK', says sister

Online petition aims to bring matter to Parliament debate

Navid Nabijou
Aemun Reza

With less than a month before the online petition concerning Babar Ahmad closes, his sister Amna spoke to Felix about her brother's experience. For the past seven years, Babar Ahmad has been in prison fighting extradition to the United States. The current petition, launched two months ago, calls on the UK Government to put him on trial in the UK.

Babar Ahmad, a British citizen, studied engineering as an undergraduate at Imperial, before moving on to an IT support role at the college. In 2003, he was arrested under UK anti-terror legislation, but released after six days without charge. During his brief time in prison he sustained multiple injuries from the officers who held him in custody. A year later, the United States filed a request for his extradition (under the controversial Extradition Act 2003) and he was re-arrested. Since then, he has remained in prison, challenging his impending extradition to the US.

Babar Ahmad's sister Amna fears that if he is extradited to the US, he will face a life in solitary confinement in a maximum-security prison. She says he wants to be tried in Britain as a British citizen and "does not understand why he needs to go to the US". Amna believes that once the UK authorities realized they could not prosecute Babar, they asked the US to initiate proceedings against him instead. She claims the reason for this is that if Babar was tried in the UK, "it would expose embarrassing details of the way the Police treated him ... and collusion between UK and US authorities in relation to his case".

"He should face trial in front of his peers"

Babar Ahmad's case is just one episode in a tale that has lasted over a decade. In the years since the 9/11 attacks, a slew of anti-terror legislation has been passed into law, by Governments both here and in the US. Particularly controversial elements of this legislation include the authorisation to make arrests without evidence, to detain people indefinitely without charge and to use extreme methods of torture to obtain information.

Many argue that resorting to such illiberal measures undermines the fundamental values of our free society. One of these is the principle of sovereignty: that a country cannot charge a foreign national with an offence committed on foreign soil, and it is in this respect that Babar Ahmad's case is unusual. The Extradition Act 2003 allows the US to extradite British citizens for crimes committed in Britain, without hav-

flickr/s_falkow



Amna Ahmad claims that a UK based trial would 'expose' details of police treatment

ing to provide evidence (there is no reciprocal arrangement for the UK to extradite American citizens).

Amna Ahmad argues that "extradition is for fugitives who commit a crime in one country and run away to another country. [Babar Ahmad] has never lived or worked in the US, and even the US acknowledges that all the allegations against him took place whilst he was living and working in the UK. If the material was collected from the UK and the alleged offences are said to have occurred in the UK then he should face trial in the UK, in front of a jury of his peers."

Babar Ahmad's supporters have launched a petition, urging the Government to allow him to stand trial in the UK. So far, the petition has received 23,000 signatures. If this number reaches 100,000, the Government is required to debate it in Parliament. Amna says "it will send a strong signal to the British Government ... that there is sufficient public support behind our quest." However, given the Government's reluctance so far to compromise on the issue, the outcome of such a debate remains doubtful.

Nevertheless, Amna is closely involved with the Free Babar Ahmad Campaign and is actively engaged in promoting the online petition. She believes it is "shocking that our Government can hold a man without trial for over 7 years" and that "uncertainty of fate is a very difficult thing for any human being to deal with".

Links to the petition and more information on Babar Ahmad's case can be found at <http://www.freebabarahmad.com/>

Babar Ahmad: The story so far**December 2003**

Babar Ahmad arrested on UK terrorism charges. He is released six days later.

August 2004

Re-arrested to be extradited to the US.

January 2007

European Court of Human Rights intervenes at last moment to freeze extradition proceedings.

August 2011

Online petition started.

10 November 2011

Petition due to close.



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FEATURE

Interview: Eliza Manningham-Buller

Matt Colvin talks to the former MI5 Director General and current College Chairman about her role and the future of Imperial College

Late September – it's the week before the beginning of a new academic year. As a new intake of students prepare to acclimatise to their new surroundings, a more experienced senior member of staff is also preparing for the hardships of the year ahead, as one should expect from someone in charge of the long and arduous process of appointing the Rector. Sitting across a table from someone with such a varied career (teacher, Director General of MI5, attendee to the House of Lords) is at least a little intimidating to begin with, especially since I have no idea of the manner in which to address a Baroness. Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller is keen to do away with any such preconceptions almost instantly. "It's just Eliza," she tells me as we are introduced.

Eliza chairs the Council of Imperial College London, following on from her predecessor Lord Kerr. She took up the post on July 16 and is the first woman to hold the position of College Chairman. She is not entirely new to Imperial, having been Deputy Chairman since 2009. Sitting in her office in the Faculty Building, I aim to discover what her role, and that of the College Council itself, entails.

"Most students probably don't know that it exists," Eliza begins; a perceived wrong that she is without a doubt keen to right. With responsibilities extending far beyond the appointment of the Rector, including advising on College strategy, finance and property, the Council is not the sole responsibility of one, but many.

"The Council is made up of several individuals from different walks of life, including business, investment, the Civil Service and management," explains Eliza – it's a list that includes key figures from institutions such as the Bank of England and companies such as BP.

It is also a list that ultimately decides upon who will take charge of the Council, a process that Eliza doesn't hesitate to explain when asked about the path she took to the position of Council Chairman: "I applied through a formal

"I never understood that science was about discovery – now, it excites me to no end!"

process after replying to an advertisement in *The Economist*, so in addition, there were external applicants. I was interviewed by a subset of Council members, and then a recommendation followed." Despite her current position, she also mentions that it wasn't something that she actively sought once she originally joined the College, explaining, "I never expected to seek [the position] when I joined."

Despite the already substantial credentials of the Council in its entirety, Eliza is keen to appoint some new people to be more representative of society in its diversity: individuals "with international experience and cultural understanding." Such experience is naturally crucial towards the appointment of the Rector, a process involving "drawing up a job specification and headhunting through an open process," advising that for an ideal candidate, "it's central to be approachable to students."

"There should be no complacency; we must continually seek to improve everything"

At the Council's heart, Eliza explains that it is their role to "help Imperial be even better". "Universities can't be static. The global world is changing, so students are going to go, if they can afford it. There should be no complacency; we must continually seek to improve everything, as it's a competitive world and people should be getting their money's worth. Complacency will mean our downfall."

It comes as no surprise that Eliza is still very much in demand by various institutions, and not only Imperial. Intrigued as to how she simply finds the time to fulfil all of her responsibilities, including sitting in the House of Lords and acting as a governor with the Wellcome Trust charity, she proceeds to lift the veil on what was increasingly looking like a professional juggling act: "The Wellcome Trust takes about 60 days of the year. At Imperial, I found the exposure to high-grade sciences and research fascinating, so I had no hesitation in joining the Council. In the House of Lords I chair one committee while sitting on two, and yet I still get time to see my sheep!"

Imperial College London



Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller

While others may still seek her advice, Eliza hopes to reaffirm new bonds with Imperial College Union, "I hope to keep in touch with the [Union] President outside of Council meetings – without a doubt there are voices to be heard." When I ask about Imperial's latest rankings in university league tables, with the Sunday Times dropping Imperial 11 places last month, she is quick to assure me that "[league tables] can be quite misleading. The real question we have to ask ourselves is: are we as good as we want to be? The answer will almost always be no, therefore we will almost always want to be better."

It's a question that must be consid-

ered against the impending rise in fees – something that Eliza assures will be considered with due attention. "We need to monitor the situation carefully and collect statistics on it. There's no point asserting that it's all fine." In a similar vein, she is particularly keen to highlight the benefits of Imperial's new bursary scheme, with up to a significant £60,000 worth of support propelling the university to the top of the Russell Group in terms of financial aid available to students. "Financial support and alumni contribution is a keen area as it can help the students, strengthen finances and aid ailing infrastructure," she explains, "It's a big, long term job."

"There are lots of external challenges,

but equally we're constantly seeking to be better – it's a competitive world. We're going to become pretty vociferous, after all, we're educating the next generation of doctors, scientists, engineers and business leaders."

Reaching the end of our discussion, we move to Eliza's background as an Oxford arts student, in particular asking whether she has any regrets not reading science. "I loved Biology at school," she admits, "though my experience of science teaching was that it was designed to put off all but the most passionate – it was all petri dishes and Bunsen burners; I never understood that science was about discovery – now, it excites me to no end!"

Do you love to write?

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Genetic link for 'heavy heart' condition identified

Folk remedies for a heavy heart have ranged from white wine heated with red-hot steel to the flesh of a screech owl. But an Imperial-led international team of scientists from Europe, the US, and Japan have eschewed such treatments in tracking down the gene that causes cardiac hypertrophy – literally, a heavy heart, caused by a thickening of the walls of the left ventricle. This condition often leads to heart failure as the thick and stiffened heart muscles struggle to pump blood around the body.

Though cardiac hypertrophy was known to be a heritable trait, previous studies failed to pinpoint the relevant gene associated with left ventricle mass. However, by taking advantage of recent advances in approaches to rat genetics, the team were able to identify the gene in question as endonuclease G, or Endog, a gene also known to be connected to apoptosis, a form of generally benign cell death that plays a part in processes such as the differentiation of fingers and toes in embryos. As the authors put it, in a paper published this month in *Nature*, the study “has further established the link between mitochondrial dysfunction, reactive oxygen species and heart disease and has uncovered a role for Endog in maladaptive cardiac hypertrophy”.

“We found that a faulty copy of this gene causes the heart to become thick and fatty, making it ‘heavy’ with poor function”, says Professor Stuart Cook from the Medical Research (MRC) Council Clinical Sciences Centre at Imperial, who led the research. “It does this by interfering with the heart cells’ energy source – the mitochondria. Like any other muscle in our body, the heart needs energy to keep it pumping. If the mitochondria don’t work properly, the heart struggles to make enough energy and the cells produce toxic by-products, called reactive oxidative species, which increase thickening of the heart wall.”

The importance in knowing the gene behind the condition is, of course, in the new potential this gives for tackling the cause rather than just the symptom. “We can now start to investigate new ways to develop treatments which target the mitochondria and toxic oxidative molecules.” says Cook. There’s also an important wider lesson in the fact that Endog was originally an unsuspected culprit — so much of the genetic code remains uncharted territory. As Professor Amanda Fisher, Director of the MRC Clinical Sciences Centre, says “This discovery emphasises the importance of deciphering the genetic code of a broad range of mammals alongside that of humans eventually to allow us explore new avenues for better targeted drugs”.

Douglas Heaven

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Measuring solar neutrinos

Maciej Matuszewski

Every second each centimetre of the surface of the Earth is bombarded by 6×10^{10} solar neutrinos — produced by nuclear fusion and the decay of isotopes such as beryllium-7. Writing in *Physical Review Letters*, an international collaboration of scientists has announced the unprecedented accuracy of new solar neutrino data from the BOREXINO experiment at the Laboratori Nazionale del Gran Sasso, in central Italy.

The BOREXINO neutrino detector consists of a special organic liquid called a scintillator. When neutrinos collide with electrons in the liquid at high velocity the electrons start moving faster. These fast moving electrons cause the scintillator to emit light, which is detected by the surrounding array of 2200 photomultiplier tubes. Since neutrinos are so weakly interacting — being only affected by gravity, which is insignificant at subatomic scales, and the weak nuclear force — they are very difficult to detect and so a large mass of scintillator, approximately 278 metric tons, is required.

A major problem with detecting neutrinos is background radiation. The BOREXINO team solved this by building the detector 1.4km beneath the Apennine Mountains. A thick layer of ultra-pure water surrounding the scintillator blocks any radiation that



A scintillating view of the BOREXINO neutrino detector in Italy – top lads

makes it through the mountains.

This shielding has allowed the number of solar neutrinos from beryllium-7 decay reaching the detector to be measured with an unprecedented 5% uncertainty and has made it possible for the first time to detect neutrinos with energies of under 1MeV.

The data collected has already provided evidence for the theory that neutrinos can oscillate between their three ‘flavours’ — electron, muon and tau. This suggests that neutrinos have mass, which goes against the Standard Model — the leading theory explaining the subatomic world. The detector will also be used to explore the composition of the sun. Laura Cadonati, part of the collaboration and based at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, said: “BOREXINO is the only detector capable

of observing the entire spectrum of solar neutrinos at once.

Our results, the culmination of 20 years of research, greatly narrow the observation precision. The data confirm the neutrino oscillations, flavour changes and flow predicted by models of the sun and particle physics.”

There also exists hope that the experiment may yield some more unusual results, such as the discovery of a new flavour of neutrino. Another University of Massachusetts member of team, Andrea Pocar, has commented on this, saying, “You always have the hope of seeing surprises, some small deviation from the expectations. And this you can only have if your accuracy and precision are good enough to see very small variations.”

Blood sugar measured by lasers

Nicola Guttridge

The search for a non-invasive, effective technique with which to measure the blood sugar levels of diabetes sufferers has long occupied researchers in the medicine and applied biophysics communities. For the last 20 years, research has centred on the potential use of wavelength-modulated laser radiometry — that is, shining lasers tuned to specific wavelengths at human blood samples and measuring the response.

New research by Andreas Mandelis of the University of Toronto has followed this blueprint but made some changes that may prove to be an innovative leap forward. The wavelength often used in past studies is in the near-infrared, but Mandelis and team focussed instead on differing wavelengths of mid-infrared light, utilised in two laser beams simultaneously.

The method involved relies on the chemical bonds present in the glucose molecule. Laser light can pass harmlessly through layers of human skin and interact with molecules present within human blood plasma. As glucose molecular bonds are hit by laser light at certain frequencies they absorb energy and vibrate, thus creating a measurable response. This glucose fingerprint is,

however, quite tricky to isolate due to the very nature of human blood; water is an overwhelmingly strong absorber of mid- to near-infrared light, and blood is composed of approximately 92% water by volume.

However, this did not stump Mandelis and colleagues, who instead made use of this strong wavelength dependency by tuning two laser beams to very slightly different wavelengths — one that is prone to absorption by both water and glucose, and one just by water. When both of these beams are focussed on the jumble of molecules that make up human blood, the water absorptions effectively cancel out and the returned signal is solely due to glucose absorption. This highlights the glucose levels within the blood and minimises the interference caused by water molecules.

This non-invasive and pain-free method has shown great promise in being highly sensitive to even trace amounts of glucose present in the test substance. However, there is a long way to go before the method can be considered as tried and tested; so far the procedure has only been trialled on samples of blood serum and sugar dissolved in water. Mandelis is currently working with colleagues at Toronto hospital to enable a testing programme involving human patients.

The team hope that their work may eventually lead to mass commercialisation of the technique for use in hospitals to continuously monitor diabetic patients, with the added potential for miniaturisation for use in the home.

This may be very difficult to achieve; the nature of the work involved brings many inherent restrictions such as the size and sophistication of the lasers involved, the need for personalisation to each patient before use, and inevitable price limitations.

If, however, this were possible, it may lead to a greater in-depth understanding of diabetes itself. The ability of lasers to continuously measure blood sugar levels is hugely contrasting with the current method, which can only analyse samples of blood taken at discrete time intervals.

Despite the fact that such research is as yet unproven on human patients, the method shows greater promise than comparable past studies. The frequency of research in this area reflects the importance of pioneering a successful technique in order to fully understand the disease and aid its sufferers in the future.

Mandelis and colleagues describe their research in full in an upcoming issue of *Physical Review E*.

Are particles self aware?

Pavitar Devgon

We all think we know what Brownian motion is. It is the way physicists describe the motion of fluids like air and smoke in which the particles moves about, seemingly at random, and diffuse throughout a volume. However, by looking at the microscopic scale where the particles interact, scientists have found a new phenomenon.

Firstly there are two governing forces used to explain Brownian motion, which are ever competing for control. The collisions with surrounding molecules transfer momentum and this is known as 'thermal noise'. Assumed to be random, it is characterized by a white noise spectrum, which really means that the power (or in this case collisions) contain equal strength within a fixed bandwidth about a centre frequency. In the white noise spectrum (shown right), there are random peaks over all frequencies without clear correlation.

The second force is the viscous friction between the particles and the solvent. In the case of smoke, as the smoke particles diffuse in the air, the higher the viscosity of air the slower the smoke particles diffuse. The effect is one of damping the motion, trying to slow down the particles to rest. An experiment set up by Thomas Franosch, at the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany, and his colleagues shows that it is possible to measure the self-interaction of the particles

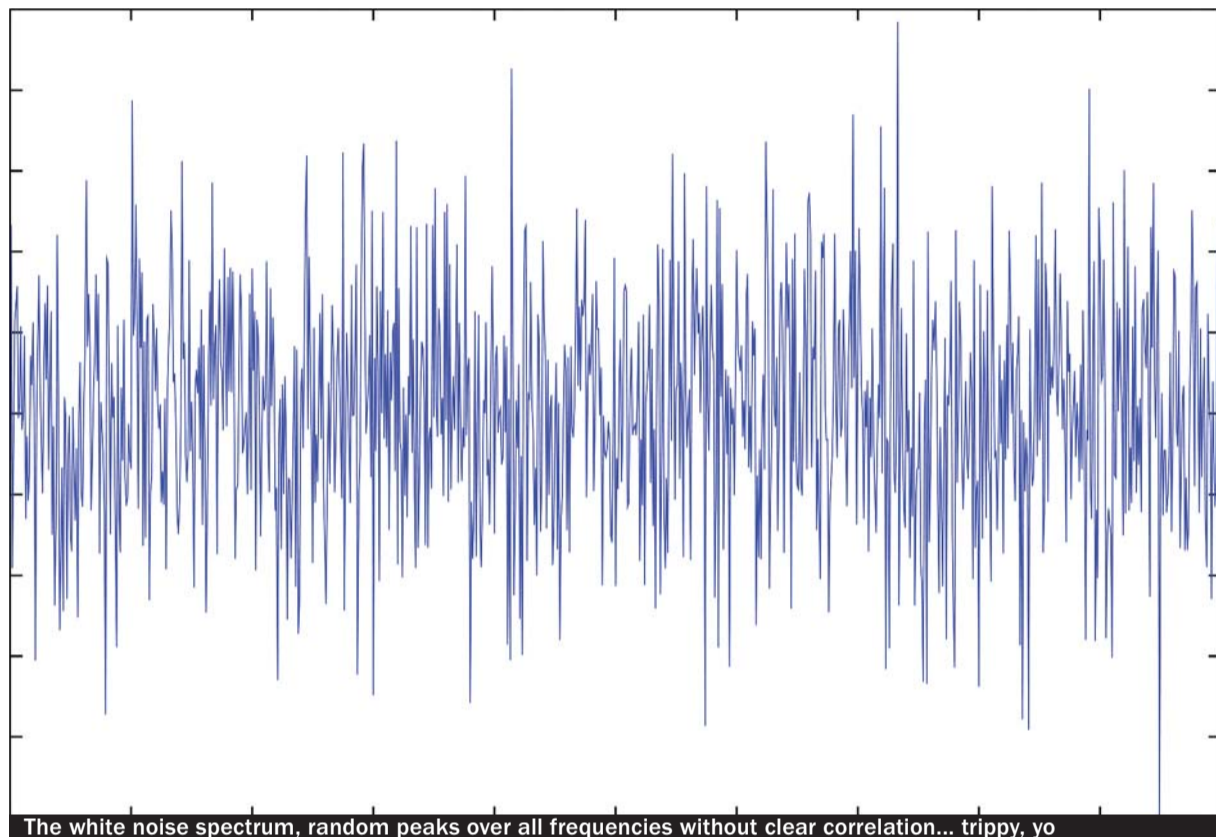
— how they can interact to change their own motion.

The team trapped a colloid in liquid suspension held in a laser trap to observe the effect of Brownian motion. The sphere of solution was of the order of nanometres in size and when held by the laser, can be modelled as a harmonic oscillator. It was previously considered that the viscous force over-dampens the system and the fluctuating motions are uncorrelated and constant at small frequencies. However, when you bring in the idea of self-interaction, the fluctuations should change and correlate with time.

In order to make the principle of self-interaction apparent, Franosch and his colleagues tune the harmonic oscillator to its relaxation time. In a colloid, the immersed particles will eventually settle and the time it takes to reach this equilibrium position is the relaxation time. As a laser was used to hold the trap, by varying the power of the laser, they could alter the stiffness of the trap and effectively 'tune' the relaxation time.

Additionally, using the particle's diameter and fluid's viscosity as parameters, the diffusion time (the time to diffuse over the diameter) could be tuned also. Franosch and his colleagues found that the optimum results were obtained from a melamine resin colloid, 3 micrometres in diameter, when immersed in acetone.

The result was a correlation between the fluctuations due to self-interaction and times. It soon became apparent of a hydrodynamic



The white noise spectrum, random peaks over all frequencies without clear correlation... trippy, yo

“Evidence has been found to support the theory of self interaction on these scales”

'resonance' occurring close to the relaxation frequency. The power spectral density increased and the 'white' noise became 'coloured' as the peaks were not constant for all frequencies.

The ramifications of this are remarkable; this is the first time experimental evidence has been found to support the theory of self-interaction on these scales.

It has become clear that particles in solutions are able to affect the result by their presence and hydrodynamic resonance can occur, changing the power spectrum.

One possible move for the future is to create more sensitive equipment, able to work at the micro- and nanometre levels, to measure the shapes, surfaces and distribution of small particles, right down to biological cells.

Decade old Hubble data reveals planets

Arianna Sorba

In 2008, astronomers obtained the first direct visual evidence for a 'multiple exoplanetary system' — a system of planets orbiting one central star that isn't our sun — using near-infrared ground-based images taken with the W.M. Keck Observatory and the Gemini North telescope. A fourth planet orbiting the same star was revealed in 2010.

Extrasolar planets, or exoplanets, can be difficult for astronomers to detect, partly because they are often so overwhelmed by the brightness of the star they orbit. The 2008 discovery of three exoplanets orbiting a young star, HR8799 was made by Christian Marois of the National Research Council in Canada. However,

it wasn't until a year later, when David Lafreniere of the University of Montreal reanalysed data originally recorded back in 1998 by Hubble's 'Near Infrared Camera and Multi-Object Spectrometer' (NICMOS), that the actual position of one of these exoplanets was identified. Where previously the central star had outshone the planets surrounding it, Lafreniere used a library of images of reference stars to accurately strip away some of this obscuring glow, confirming the existence of the outermost one.

Now, Remi Soummer of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore has taken this method one step further. By reanalysing the same Hubble data as Lafreniere with even more sophisticated software, and using over 460 images of reference

stars taken from NICMOS's extensive decade-spanning library, Soummer's team have completely removed the diffraction spikes from the image (an issue common for telescope-based image systems), boosted the contrast, and dramatically reduced the surrounding starlight, thus drawing the positions of the three previously elusive exoplanets out from the haze.

In Marois' ground-based data, meanwhile, the fourth orbiting exoplanet has been detected, which, at 2.4 billion kilometres away from the central star, is too close for NICMOS to directly observe — it lies on the very border of NICMOS's 'coronagraphic spot', a disc that aims to obscure most of the light from the central star to aid in observations of its

surroundings.

The combination of recent ground-based observations, such as those of Marois, and the much older Hubble data from NICMOS, has proved extremely helpful to astronomers, as the passage of time across the images means that the shape of the planets' orbits can be tracked. This in turn can provide other valuable information that is usually impossible to deduce from single images alone, such as the planets' masses, eccentricities, and how they interact with each other. The three outer exoplanets have approximate orbit periods of between 100 and 400 years, so observation over much longer timescales is needed to map and fully comprehend their movements. However, a decade-sized 'head start' is still a great gift

to astronomers studying this system, especially as regards the innermost planet, where a substantial amount of motion can already be detected. 'It's 10 years of science for free,' says Soummer.

The success of this new analysis, which is to be published in the *Astrophysical Journal*, has prompted Soummer's latest plan to reanalyse images of approximately 400 other stars from the old NICMOS archive.

From this his team will compile a list of 'planetary candidates', which in turn will be verified by ground-based telescope observations, much the same as how has occurred with the planets orbiting HR8799. Thus the re-examination of archive data could produce a wealth of new discoveries of these elusive exoplanets.

TECHNOLOGY

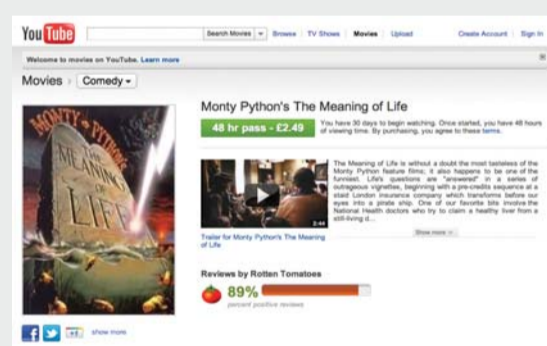
Tips and hacks

Facebook chat for the soul



Facebook's entrenched as the most effective time sink in university life, but if you're bored and looking for something slightly more worthy to spend your time on, give CompassionPit a shot. If you have ever spent any time on Chatroulette, you might be familiar with the format - you're paired with a stranger to talk to. The twist lies in how CompassionPit pairs you with a partner, however. On loading the website you get to choose whether you want to be a 'venter' or a 'listener'. If you have something on your mind - pick 'venter' and you'll be paired with a 'listener' who will listen, give you advice or simply distract you from your troubles. Pick 'listener' and the roles reverse. It's an excellent way to get something off your mind to a complete stranger, or pass an otherwise idle hour or two. As with anything on the internet however, there's an occasional troll, so make sure you're not easily offended.

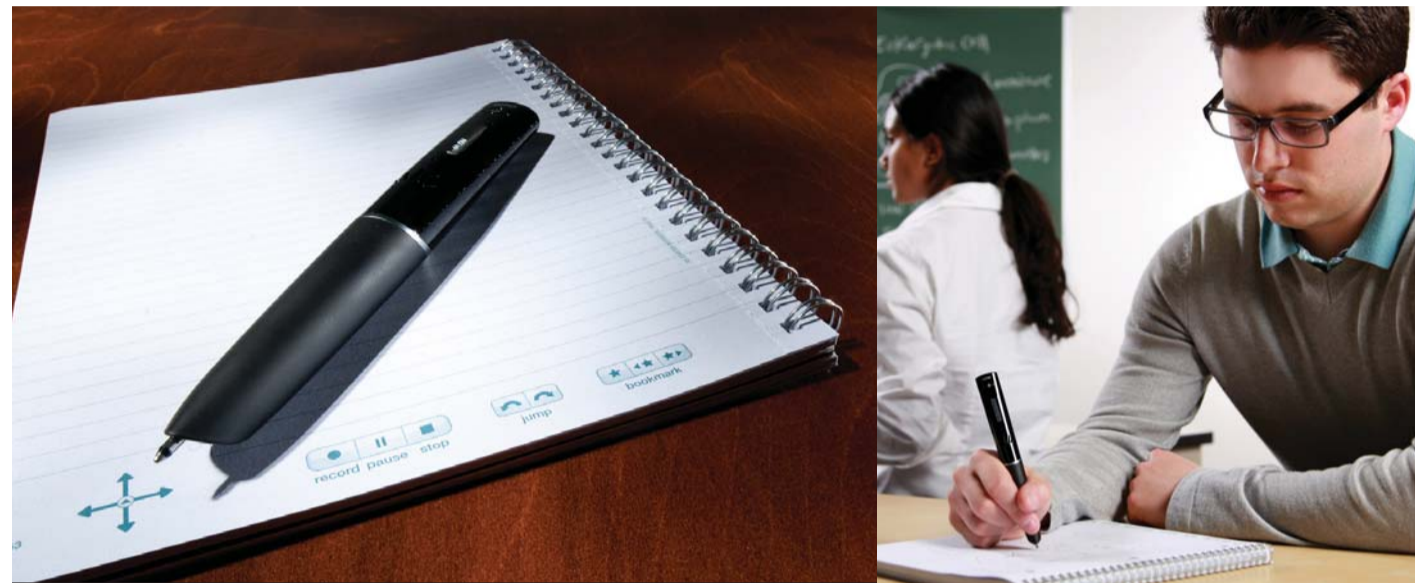
Rent films from YouTube



Fed up of watching keyboard cat? You're in luck - YouTube this week announced that they have rolled out their film rental service to the UK. It's an interesting choice, with LoveFilm so established over here, but the newcomer is off to a good start with almost identical pricing. You'll pay between £2.49 and £3.49 to rent a film, with an obvious correlation between price and how long it's been out for. With that, you get 30 days in which to watch your movie. But once you've started watching it, you only have 48 hours to finish. Currently about 1000 titles are available to rent, but - being Google - you can be sure that number will grow. With many of those movies you also get extras such as interviews and documentaries. You also get access to your loaned film from pretty much anywhere, as it will be available on any computer you log on to YouTube with. The service will additionally be working with many Android devices, giving the option of entertainment on the move.

A smart choice for lectures

Feroz Salam reviews Livescribe's new infrared superpen



Console yourself about your lack of human interaction with a shiny new pen. Who needs friends when you have a pen that talks?

I have to admit that when I first picked up Livescribe's Echo Smartpen I was more than a little skeptical, for good reason. I've seen electronic note-taking aids from my first year at Imperial, and there's a good reason why the Union Shop does such good business at the start of term: it will take a lot to beat the simplicity of pen and paper.

The Smartpen doesn't try to replace the physical writing process, but instead captures an image of the page as you write on it, which you can then transfer to your desktop. Despite finding it a bit gimmicky at first, using the device did a lot to convince me that there is a niche for this sort of product; whether the average student fits this niche is another matter entirely.

Getting Started

The Smartpen is a sleek but supersized version of your standard biro, looking something like a space-age marker. It's ready to use as soon as you pull it out of the box. Getting started really is as simple as opening the sample notebook provided in the box and starting to write. With a standard ballpoint tip, it's a feeling most of us are used to, and apart from the weight of all the electronics, it's no different to using any other pen, if you can get used to the extra heft of the electronics inside.

At the bottom of every page there's a 'record' button. Pressing it will use the pen's inbuilt microphone to record sound while you write, a sort of stream-of-consciousness dictaphone that might be very useful in lectures. The microphone is surprisingly clear and doesn't suffer from the cheap tinniness that is all too common on this type of device. Recordings, like the images of pages, can be uploaded to your computer, but you can also tap on the start of a piece of text to listen to what you were recording while you wrote it - a brilliant feature that worked surprisingly well.

On your desktop

Once I had written a few pages, I decided to take a look at the notes on my laptop. This proved to be a slightly more complicated process than I would have liked. I first had to download an installation bundle from the Livescribe website (they don't offer a disk), but even after doing that I wasn't able to synchronise the files on my pen with the desktop - I had to download a 200MB update for the pen and then install it on the device before I could view my writing. While only a one-time annoyance, I can't see why Livescribe released the device lacking its most basic functionality.

The pages, once loaded, are of surprisingly high quality, capturing the curves of natural writing with no pixelation or clarity loss whatsoever. Livescribe also claims that you can search your handwritten notes through their software, but I only managed to hit one word in five tries on some fairly neat handwriting, so you're not very much better off than with a paper notebook. Despite this, the realistic nature of the notes means they might be very useful for those courses that need a fair few diagrams, such as chemistry or physics. You can read them on Livescribe's own software, export them to PDF, or share them on a variety of sites from Facebook to Google Docs. The best part about all of this is that it really does 'just work'. There is no fiddling around with settings before you get started, and barring the minor annoyance of the desktop software installation, you're ready to go the minute you open the box.

Lifetime Lock-in

Niggles aside, the Smartpen would be a truly outstanding product if it wasn't for the sheer cost of using it on a regular basis. Amazon is offering the cheapest version of the pen for 100 pounds a pop, and you'll be needing regular purchases of their dot-paper notebooks to make it worth your while. With four 100-page

notebooks setting you back another 20 pounds, you're looking at organising your notes at the cost of a new touchscreen Kindle. Livescribe are the only people who make the required notebooks for their pens, which means that if you want your pen to be anything more than a pricey ballpoint, you're locked into their 'ecosystem'.

In Review

Livescribe's digital pen mostly delivers what it promises - neat images of your notes with little hassle. The microphone is a strong addition as well and gives the feeling of being a well planned feature rather than a hasty afterthought. In terms of digital note taking solutions, this is one of the nicer ones I have seen, combining the familiar feeling of writing on paper with an electronic interface that's a lot more than flashy lights and noises.

Yet I have mixed feelings about how relevant such a device would be to students. Most people I know make do with a refill pad and a cheap pen for everyday note taking, and I doubt my spending on stationery has hit more than 100 pounds over my four years at Imperial.

Despite this, whether you find the Smartpen worth your money will depend on the type of student you are. If you've ever found yourself arguing that 'I know where everything is, it's my mess!', you probably won't want the Smartpen.

Those who like their notes meticulous and tidy, however, might find value in a device that can pull together an entire lecture, from the lecturer's voice to diagrams on paper, into one easily browsable interface. With solid build quality and an easy interface, I can see this device lasting a long time without needing repairs. The Smartpen is well worth the purchase if you can justify the price.

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POLITICS

One little piggy went to market

Rory Fenton talks about his struggles with free market and government interaction

I have a confession to make. Over the last year or so, I've been really quite evil. I really never meant to be, but there it is. Evil as a doorknob. Like many of my ilk, I can pin point the exact day the evil started, it was in November 2009 and I was in the Felix office, chatting to the Business Editor. The chat went something like this:

Moi: *The government should really pay for education/ health/ hash brownies for the poor.*

Satan: *Well, if it's such a good thing, why don't richer people just pay for it for them anyway? Can't people just be charitable, or are you saying the government is more moral than everyone else?*

And there the bastard had me. Wouldn't it be a whole lot better if people just came together themselves and sorted out each other's difficulties? What was it that made government intervention so much better than private action? This got around a WHOLE load of issues too. Want your child to learn evolution? Set up a school that does it. Want poor kids to learn about evolution? Set up a school for them too. Is it really that different from the government doing it? In fact, it should be better - being controlled from near, not Whitehall, means better efficiency and accountability. On top of that, surely the freedom to teach as you wish has a moral value to it? It's not like current state schools are anything to write home about. Assuming you can write, that is.

I started to see the benefits of privatisation everywhere. I didn't believe that cuddly services such as health and education should be run purely in pursuit of profit, rather that the freedom should be given to professionals, patients and parents to make their own decisions about services and this freedom comes from privatisation. Every time someone complained that the government should do more for such and such I'd think,

"Why don't you just go ahead and do it, or convince professionals to?" At every stage this was my outlook. How on earth could the government do something better than its citizens, I thought. Yes, most of us don't have the expertise to set up a school, but neither do most politicians. They hire professionals with our money, why not cut out the middleman and hire them ourselves?

But I wasn't an evil voice in the wilderness, I had my Gospel and I read it religiously; The Economist magazine. You really have to read the thing to understand its allure, but basically it kept me in market-loving, unions-hating rapture for hours on end every week. And when my sister got me a Kindle subscription for Christmas? In the Holy Name of Friedman, I just didn't stand a chance.

It all reached its zenith when, one fateful May morning, I put an x beside the name of Sir Malcolm Rifkind, Conservative MP for Kensington. Yes, that's right. I'm Rory the Tory. Rory the Milk Snatcher. The Sheriff of Ror-ingham.

But things have since changed. Let me be clear, I really didn't mean to be evil. I honestly believed in the freedom, efficiency and accountability that letting the market into public goods would bring. I now realise I was mistaken. The purpose of this article is to explain just why I was mistaken: why markets really aren't as wonderful as free marketers such as my younger self might hope. Perhaps in the process some other poor devils might realise the errors of their market-orientated ways, too.

Market Failure

Even in theory, markets can't always work properly. A year ago, I'd have said that if there were a more efficient way of doing something, the market would always find it and adopt it, because otherwise businesses wouldn't survive. Unfortunately, this isn't the case and market failures can appear in two fundamental ways:

The Problem of Lemons

Firstly, I have no problem with fruit and neither do markets. We're talking about Lemons with a capital 'L'; crap cars. It's a well known fact that the very second you drive a new car out of the car shop, it drops fabulously in price in a way that doesn't make perfect sense. It's true that everyone likes the idea of being the first owner of a car, but not so much that they would insist on paying many thousands of pounds less just because someone had 'her' for a week. Instead, there's a classic market failure operating.

Imagine you see an ad for a car. It's almost new and so going for a price not too far off what it would have been hot off the shelves (that's how a car shop works, right? Shelves and massive industrial trolleys?). It seems like a good deal, but something's bugging you. If the car's really so good, why is the guy trying to sell it? Sure you can give it a test drive and check out the MOT, but all that already takes up time and time is money, already making the car more expensive. And even if the MOT etc. checks out you'll still be left wondering why this car's on sale - unless it's faulty? Because you don't know everything there is to know about the car, there'll always be that

doubt. Coupled with the extra money and time it takes to check the car out, this means that inevitably you're going to offer a lower price than the seller should really get for the car, to compensate for the uncertainty.

But now look at it from the car owner's perspective; he realises that if he tries to sell the car, the above reasons will mean he gets a poor price. Which means that unless there is an emergency (a new baby, unemployment) he has little incentive to sell a perfectly good car. Unless, of course, it's faulty. Then he still has every incentive to get rid of the thing.

And now we can see that both buyer and seller will create a spiral; the buyer is scared of Lemons so he offers a low price, the seller doesn't like the low price so he only sells if he has a Lemon which means even more used cars are Lemons which means the buyer will offer even less to compensate for the risk and so on. This isn't so bad if it only affects cars and manufactures now offer guarantees on used cars to alleviate this, though it's still an issue. The big problem is the exact same market failure exists in healthcare - just as Lemons are more likely to be put up for sale, sick people are more likely to take out health insurance; pushing up its price and driving healthy people out, further pushing up the price. People getting lower prices than they would like for their cars is OK, but sick people finding themselves priced out of insurance really isn't. There is a clear case for government intervention here. This leads us to the next market failure:

The Prisoners' Dilemma

This one's a nice economics parable. There are two recently arrested prisoners being interrogated separately by police. Whatever evidence the police have, it's not enough for a conviction. The prisoners are each given a choice; either own up to what you and your friend did, in which case you get 2 years in prison and the other guy 10, or you can keep quiet

but if the other guy 'fesses up things are reversed, he gets 2 years you get ten. If you both confess, you get 5 years each. A confusing state of affairs, but it's clear that the best result for both is to keep quiet. The problem is, since neither of them can be sure the other won't say anything, the most rational move for each is to confess, rather than run the risk of being the only silent one. All things being equal, keeping quiet gets you an average of 5 years locked, speaking out gets you just 3.5. Two rational prisoners will always tell on each other, leaving both unnecessarily in prison.

There are many real world examples of this, an obvious one being hygiene. Sandwich shops, for example, would have no incentive to spend a small sum on making clean sandwiches if it means making them slightly less competitive than rivals, despite the fact that sandwich shops making people ill is bad for the industry as a whole. Clearly businesses need educated workers and yet it makes no sense for any individual business to invest in schools if those guys are just going to work for someone else. Again, there's a clear case for government intervention here.

Halfway to Damascus

I was gradually convinced that markets, however rational, could never fully create the optimal outcome for everyone and, sadly, it's the poorest who would lose out the most. I'm no commie, mind, but these are sensible reasons for a well regulated market system with social welfare and public goods. I haven't changed altogether. In an election tomorrow, I would still vote Tory (they're hardly full on free marketers these days) and I don't necessarily support every last penny spent in the name of welfare. So I'm a long way from skipping down a small country lane with pretty petals in my hair nursing an injured baby rabbit, but the evil has rescinded, somewhat. Unlike, alas, that tattoo of Thatcher on my shoulder...

“
Can't people just be charitable, or are you saying the government is more moral than everyone else?
”



Poles at the Polls

Radical Liberals look set to be incumbent's kingmaker

Piotr Faba
Rajat Jain

A radical libertarian party could hold the key to power in Poland after Sunday, when the EU's sixth largest economy and only country not to contract in 2009 held parliamentary elections. Unsurprisingly, the incumbent centrist PM came out on top; Donald Tusk's Civic Platform won 39.2% – a slight decline from the 41.5% gained in 2007. The main opposition, the right wing Law and Justice, gained 29.9% – also a small reduction from 32.1% in 2007. However, the newly formed breakaway from Tusk's party, Palikot's Movement, gained support from 10.2% of Poland (including myself), making it the third most popular party.

The party is now one of the most

“The Catholic Church, until very recently, had a great deal of influence in Poland”

radical liberal parliamentary parties in the EU – supporting full separation of church and state, legalisation of abortion and marijuana, and removal of the Senate (upper house). The result is a surprise; particularly in strongly Catholic Poland. And with no majority party, Janusz Palikot may now have the influence of a kingmaker.

With the economy doing well compared with other EU countries and a sense of progress in Poland, voters did not make this decision as an act of rebellion against an unpopular administration. I was also surprised to find their main voter base was not just students. Exit polls showed 18.6% were students, while 37.5% were over 40. The bias towards the young, urban and educated is not as great as one might imagine.

This reflects a changing attitude throughout Polish society. The Roman Catholic Church, until very recently, had a great deal of influence in the newly democratic Poland; they are credited, under Polish Pope John Paul II, with helping bring about the fall of communism. However, in recent years there has been a sense that this is no longer appropriate. The importance of the church has

made it rather taboo to openly support anti-clerical policies. However, with a closed box election and a radical party on the vote slip, many Poles showed their true beliefs.

It should not necessarily be assumed that this is a growing atheist movement. For instance, I still attend Church because the spiritual experience is still important to me in my everyday life. However, I do not feel that the church as an institution should be interfering with any aspect of how the country is run.

Recently, many Poles had been looking at models followed by other Catholic, but more liberal, European countries, such as France, Italy and Spain. Now, with Palikot's increasing popularity, Poland could soon be the leader for other European liberals to follow.

If you're looking at this page and thinking that writing about the latest political developments from across the globe is right up your street, then you might just want to be a **Politics Reporter**. If you're interested, get in touch with the Politics Editors at politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk.



10.2%! It brings a tear to my eye. Where's my hanky?

The media's inevitable right wing slant

Jakov Marelic provides his view on media politics in the modern world

We live in democracies where we hold those in power to account using elections. To help us make informed choices about our society there are many kinds of media on the market whose job it is to tell us all the bad stuff and to suggest solutions to them. The idea is that this will build a public support base, which will propel a good representative to electoral victory and kick out bad representatives.

Now then, media channels (newspapers, magazines, radio, television, journals, etc.) compete with each other for customers; media that does well (at keeping us informed) will be rewarded with money and can expand. Media providers who do badly will decline in favour and be punished by bankruptcy. This competition keeps quality high, costs low and incompetent providers out of the system. This is how it works, right? Wrong.

What I've just described is the free market of media companies and a good rule of thumb for free markets is that

people are not equal but those with the most money have the most power. Because of this, media operating in a free market will always bias against the interests of the political left and the lower classes. Let me explain why.

The argument commonly goes, “If people didn't like this or that media they would stop buying it”. Apart from the fact that this could be used to justify the USSR totalitarian-controlled media (since back then Russians also bought and consumed it) it actually turns out the public have very little say in what the press offers to them because newspapers do not get most of their income from sales.

You may notice that the price you pay for each newspaper is minuscule. The cost of The Sun newspaper is 20 pence. This doesn't even cover the ink! Same holds for television and radio where there is zero income from the consumer. Newspapers and other media actually get their money from corporate advertisers.

The media generally cannot run stories that offend corporations because spon-

sors will threaten to pull their advertising money. In 1980, the liberal staff at the Mother Jones magazine debated over whether or not to publish a series of articles linking cigarettes to cancer. The editors knew that the tobacco industry would punish them by canceling their lucrative advertising contracts, which the young, struggling magazine desperately needed. Mother Jones stuck to its principles and printed the articles anyway; and, just as expected, the tobacco companies angrily pulled their ads.

A few months ago we saw anti-tax evading protests in Britain and America. The US Uncut group, for example, protested against the American company General Electric which hasn't paid a single cent in taxes to the US government

“The public has very little say in what the press offers them”

since 2006, despite making over \$26 billion in profits. The same General Electric also owns MSNBC, usually a centre-left channel that would oppose corporate welfare, yet on this instance they were critical of US Uncut.

Advertisers also want their adverts to be viewed by people who have money to spend buying their products. This automatically discriminates against any media with a predominantly working class readership.

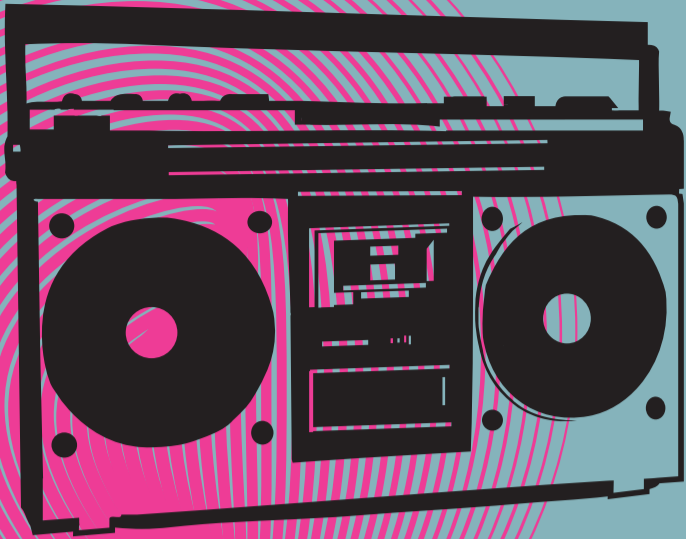
Between 1912 and 1964 there existed a British newspaper called the Daily Herald. At one point its politics were broadly syndicalist: it gave unconditional support to strikers and argued for a social-ist revolution based on worker's self-organisation in trade unions. It also gave strong support to suffragettes and to anti-colonial struggles, especially in Ireland. Early issues dealt with the loss of the RMS Titanic, emphasizing the disproportionate loss of life among crew members and poor third-class passengers. In 1933 the Herald became the world's best-selling daily newspaper, with cer-

tified net sales of 2 million. Even when it closed down in 1964 it was probably among the 20 largest circulation dailies in the world, this meant it was selling far more than The Times, the Guardian and the Financial Times put together. It didn't die because there wasn't enough demand for it, it died because the paper's predominantly poor readership was not a worthwhile target for advertisers.

This system explains why in our time, the centre-left Guardian and Independent are struggling financially and the centre-right Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail, and The Times are in rude health.

It should not be surprising that these advertising and media companies, like most big businesses, are extremely conservative. They have certain agendas: they desire lower taxes, fewer lawsuits from the public, fewer environmental restraints, better public relations (a euphemism for less public exposure to scandals), higher profits and more effective lobbying power in government. Controlling public opinion would give them all these things.

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Comment Editors: **Sam Horti**
Tim Arbabzadah

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COMMENT

FELIX

We must continue to honour the past

University College London (UCL) this week announced their planned adoption of the American-style grade point average system in lieu of traditional degree classifications. Naturally, this raises the question as to whether UCL are leading the charge against a “crude and undistinguished” system in an attempt to improve the value of a degree, or whether they are simply hoping to ensure easier comparison with American institutions.

A prime issue with the new system that should be considered is the effect that it could potentially have on students themselves. The grade point average system, existing as an average of the numerical grades received across all exams, allows for an even greater comparison and ranking between students.

While there is truth in the sentiment that competition encourages subsequent determination, such competition may also generate additional pressure on students already striving to be the best in one of the most academically tough and rigorous institutions that the country has to offer.

The current system of degree classifications allows some room for manoeuvre in terms of students who may inadvertently perform less well than expected during an exam. Indeed, all it takes in some cases is one ‘bad exam’ for an overall average to significantly drop. Cases like this are not rare, and an encouragement of a more detailed ranking of students may heighten the tensions that the end of year inevitably brings with it.

In many cases the current classifications allow employers to see where a student roughly stands academically, without becoming entangled in comparing individual marks. A move to the new system could easily remove the meaning of interviews – to demonstrate capabilities besides academic prowess.

Grade inflation must be tackled, of course. Even so, it is not a problem wholly unique to higher education. It is instead an issue that affects all levels of education, including GCSE and A-Level. With the International Baccalaureate being adopted by an increasing selection of UK institutions as a possible counter measure, those with the power to make changes to degree systems may do well to follow such an example.

Ultimately, any radical venture towards the adoption of a new system must be carefully considered by academics and students alike – a numerical mark can never be entirely demonstrative of a student’s capabilities. It would not be a surprise should the scheme be implemented for dissatisfaction to be voiced, not only among employers who must adapt to the change in order to accommodate UCL’s plan, but also among students who primarily come here to best themselves, and not prove their own ability over others.

The unhelpfulness of self-help



Angry Geek

A guy got on the tube and sat down next to me last week, which is a momentous enough event for me to open the column with because being that close to another human is a sure-fire way to ruin my week in spectacular style. Fortunately for me, the chap in question pulled out an iPhone and opened the notes app, where he began adding to a list – a list which would turn out to be the highlight of the day.

The list was topped with the words “BE DO HAVE”, like the half-finished lyrics to a jazz freestyle session, and underneath was all manner of seemingly disconnected phrases. “Live In France”. “Sing At A Club”. “Learn To Tango”. At first I assumed he was making a list of things that he couldn’t possibly do when dressed like he was. However as my eyes progressed down the list the items started growing considerably stranger and shed more and more light on what the list’s real purpose was, until I had to stifle a chuckle as I came across the entry “Travel to a pacific island and take those strong hallucinogenic drugs they have”.

Google later confirmed that “Be, Do, Have” was some self-motivational system for something called - among other things - The Law Of Attraction. The idea being that by writing down the person you want to be, and the things that person would do or have, you mentally bring yourself closer to being that way. Or, as I like to think of it, by writing down the person you want to be, and the things that person would do or have, you allow yourself to avoid actually doing any of those things and just think about them instead. Hooray for self-help.

There are good intentions behind some of this stuff, if you look for it hard enough. It suggests that by adopting the mentality of a person who is fit and healthy, for instance, that you’ll avoid

eating things that are bad for you because a fit and healthy person wouldn’t do that. Right? That’s fine. That’s a logical thing to do. At some point the logic breaks down though, usually around the time that they start talking about millionaires.

“You must BE the millionaire first, long before you actually have the money in your bank account!” the website proclaims unhelpfully. “How would a millionaire think? How would they make decisions?” to which the logical response seems to be, “They would throw money at the decision, because they are a millionaire.” And if it’s not that response, then I don’t know what they’re getting at. Most millionaires I know of have pretty poor decision-making skills.

The guy’s list went on: “Live in silence for a week”. “Spend a night sleeping alone on a deserted island”. I don’t know what kind of person he was trying to visualise but it seemed to be the lead character in a Danny Boyle movie. There was nothing on the list about eating your own weight in ice cream, or painting a gigantic wang on the side of an Olympic billboard. What kind of aspirations were these anyway?

This is why I stray away from making long-term dreams too specific. Once you start to write them down and focus “positive energies” on them, or whatever schlock you’ve been told to do, you start setting yourself timers. Little, insignificant reminders like the ones on your phone that don’t work very well and just irritate you with their whining. Every day that goes by with you “visualising” these dreams rather than actually achieving them will be another contribution to your inevitable, crippling sense of worthlessness. Which will probably lead you to making more lists, and feeling more useless when they don’t get you anywhere.

It’s far easier to just stick to doing what you enjoy, right now, and leave the worrying about where it leads for later, particularly if you’re young enough to be at Imperial. Learning to tango while your head’s being rammed with peyote isn’t going to make you any more whole as a person than buying the new Elder Scrolls game and going to a half-decent fireworks display.

So there. Watch out this week for my £15 pamphlet series: “Giving A Fuck And You: Self-Empowerment Through Not Caring”.

Read online at felixonline.co.uk

WHAT MATTERS MOST
IS HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF.



The box was opened. It turned out Schrödinger's cat was alive and a fuck of a lot more hostile than before

... insignificant reminders like the ones on your phone that don’t work very well and just irritate you with their whining

So, all I need to do is write something and send it in and I get a picture of myself splashed around in Felix?

Yes, but saying splashed around makes it sound dodgy.

Hmmm, yeah, it does a bit. Where do I send it?

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COMMENT

Frankenscience versus the world



Samuel Cavenagh

Does Science Fiction stand in the way of progress?

Science fiction often paints a scary picture of the future where science and technology have run amok with devastating consequences. Titles such as *Brave New World*, *The Day After Tomorrow* and *Frankenstein* conjure up fearful images in our minds. Many scientists feel that such works have hindered progress by creating a public that is scared of new and potentially beneficial technologies such as GM and cloning. I think they're wrong.

Firstly, I do not believe that the vast majority of "the public" (whoever the hell that means) are as gullible as they're made out to be. To my knowl-

edge people did not develop a sudden fear of monkeys after watching *Planet of the Apes*. In fact people often have positive reactions to emerging technologies even after viewing "scary" sci-fi. A study found that after reading the novel *Prey*, where a swarm of nanoparticles runs riot, people had a more positive view of nanotechnology compared to those who had not read the novel. Rather than causing concern, I think that science fiction reflects a fear of technology that many people innately hold.

Secondly, to assume that science fiction "harms" science forgets about its many benefits; who as a kid was not inspired to get into science because of

the space ships on *Star Trek* or the massive dinosaurs on *Jurassic Park*? I would hasten a guess that many of you would not be in science today if it weren't for such films. Even professional scientists are inspired to push the boundaries of their subjects by sci-fi. The creator of the mobile phone, Martin Cooper, credits Captain Kirk's smart gadget as the inspiration behind the whole idea of a portable phone.

Positive portrayals of science in sci-fi are not in short supply. In fact, in a vast number of films such as *Outbreak*, *Deep Impact* and *Independence Day*, science is portrayed as the world's saviour. To say that sci-fi in some way hinders

Science fiction reflects a fear of technology that many people innately hold

progress is certainly not true – its benefits surely outweigh its disadvantages. Besides... it doesn't really matter: science fiction is a part of life and nothing's going to change that. At the end of the day it's just a bit of fun – so don't get yourselves worried, as I'm sure you were...

I'm a girl with opinions, just deal with it!



Gurl with Opinions

So I was told that my pseudonym was not particularly inventive, but that's simply what I am: a girl with opinions. Got a problem with that!?! Then go away and read something else. I'm here to get nitty and gritty and talk about the things that others are too afraid to even think about. In such a male-dominated university, it is imperative for us girls to stick together and fight for our rights as equals. I'm not saying that all men are sexist, but some of them don't even realise they are. Like the other day this guy held a door open for me and I was like, "I can open doors, you know! What, you think my arms aren't strong enough?"

Boys at Imperial are like children in a sandpit - everyone wants to play with the digger, and I'm the digger. Sure, I keep my hair nice and wear clothes that accentuate my curves, but I'm not an object. I don't dress to impress, I dress to be the best. I pride myself on looking good, and although I don't consider myself to be the most attractive girl at Imperial, I think boys are magnetized by my confidence. Girls, if there is one tip I can give you, it's be happy in yourself and your happiness will shine. I normally find that depressed girls just give up on themselves and let their hair go all frizzy and start wearing baggy jeans. You're not doing yourselves any favours by giving up on yourselves. Don't give up on yourselves!

When I was a fresher last year, I was naive and optimistic. I had too much faith in chivalry and I let myself believe that I would be surrounded by Prince Charmings. Err... wrong!! If you think telling me that 'my tits would make a good addition to your mantlepiece' is going to succeed in getting me into your bed, then you're very much mistaken. I can take misogynistic comments on the chin because I'm thick-skinned, but there are some more vulnerable girls starting at Imperial who wouldn't know how to handle a comment like that. Chat-up lines are a form of sexual harassment and degradation. It's not funny and it's definitely not clever.

Not all the boys are pestilent rats.

Some of them are actually quite nice, and I would recommend you take your time to find the right one. That's if you're looking for anyone at all. If you're like me, a free spirit, then you might just enjoy the company of intelligent guys that don't see you as 'walking pussy'. I've got lots of guy friends that treat me as a lady and an equal and I'm glad I've found them. When we have our chats, they always listen to what I have to say and let me say my piece. Like I say, I'm not afraid to speak my mind and these guys respect me for that. If I have one piece of advice for you girls, it's take your time and find the correct social groups for your needs. I hope you enjoyed reading my article :)

Needle in an environmental haystack



Eoghan J. Totten

London. A seething, writhing cacophony of activity by day and a place where simmering pulses of energy remain by night. If there's one thing you can count on, it's that in London, a light is always turned on somewhere.

Of course, this stands true for the monopoly of megacities pinned over the globe, each one raw and exciting in its own way. However, one residing

within these cities often forgets where the vast magnitude of energy needed to run them will come from when our current reserves of oil and gas drip their last drop.

In fact, many are energy sceptics – succumbing to the wave of hysteria induced by many media outlets. Sure, two hundred trillion cubic feet of gas has been found off the coast of Lancashire. Sure, the North Sea remains an eternal, bottomless vat, but the fact

that numbers can be assigned to these sources means that we should not rely on short-term stimuli, and invest our time in searching for real, groundbreaking solutions.

Hence I am honoured to be starting my time at Imperial College as an engineer. There is no hysteria (minus the abundance of Freshers partying), no vacuity, but instead an academic and cultural kaleidoscope. There is a subtle, all-encompassing allegory

to be derived from it all; by being in an environment where nothing is the same as it was before we abandon convention and conformism, we discover truth from a base starting point.

In the midst of this intellectual clarity, my loan never arrived, some of us have been to multi-storey nightclubs, ran all the way home from Piccadilly using our internal compasses, and some have even drunk Jägermeister from the bottle. Or a bowl ;).

Comment Editors: **Sam Horti**
Tim Arbabzadah

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COMMENT

What does it matter what I learnt here?



Omar Hafeez-Bore

It's my 6th year here and my brain has been permanently disfigured, forever transformed by all that Science. It's my 6th year of student discounts. My 6th year of Tuna-pasta dinners. My 6th year of pretending that I know stuff, and my 6th year of exam-period all-nighters because I don't.

It'll also be my last year in post-kid-pre-man limbo, before I can finally show the world just how much I've learnt. LOADS, obviously – emotional growth and all that. My emotions are so big now. Along the way I've even learnt some medicine and, in a year, will be a doctor. But I've been wondering, what if I just ditched this science lark and did something else? Like banking, as seems to be the craze.

After just a few years of being a wolf in a sheepish-scientist's clothing, should I cash in my degree for a fabled Graduate Career? Would all that science-y learning have been a waste? No chance – not when it's left such a mark. All that thinking has been too tricky to leave my mind unscarred. Like I said, my brain has been permanently transformed by all the concepts I've had to curl it around.

Heck, even the everyday tools I've learnt to use in medicine have blown my mind. Like a Cannula; a needle in a plastic tube, which you ease into a patient's vein before, listen to this, you REMOVE THE NEEDLE AND LEAVE JUST THE PLASTIC TUBE INSIDE. Mind. Blown. I mean literally blown by a BREEZE OF AWESOME. And with ECGs, balloon catheters and stethoscopes as my toys, it just keeps on getting better.

I've felt spoilt. Spoilt to be using so casually these tools, which are probably thousands of years of human know-how

distilled into practical instruments. I've often thought: "I couldn't think this stuff up if I tried!" I can't actually try now, though, because I already know. But I'm pretty sure I couldn't.

What I could do, however, is apply these principles that I've learnt elsewhere. When the plumber comes round I could casually discuss the fluid dynamics of the house piping system, using my knowledge of cardiovascular physics. Then, having proved myself the Alpha-Male of Intellect, I'd also drop in details of the fluid dynamics OF MY URINE, which I spray round the house to mark my territory because I'm so alpha-male now! Raaaaaar! I put Extra 'A's in that word, because I'm so full of alpha.

But the feeling doesn't last long. Just when I feel like a genius, on top of The Learning, new lectures will add a new consideration, requiring a new kink in the ol' cortex. Tougher still is the more abstract stuff, the models and theories that try to describe the unseen workings of the body. Ones that try to reverse-engineer the filigree clockwork of human physiology, but are often left only able to observe and describe what we're unable to explain.

Like a real scientists, as a student I've just been trying to fit all sorts of disparate principles and observations into a one-size-fits-all model that I can call maybe-possibly true. Good enough to work with for now. Sure, I've tried to understand the incestuous web of interactions of our chemical messengers, or extrapolate chemical results to predict invisible mechanics. But mainly, I've become familiar with the actual concepts, besting them with study until they can be used easily as tools of understanding. What was a barrage of nonsense and unsatisfying mess in 1st year is (sometimes) par-for-the-course by the



Okay, one thing's for sure, - that's not what the brain looks like. Pfft, artists

5th year, sheathed and ready to use.

I may not be able to discuss it casually over a Tetley with the plumber, but having once troublesomely navigated down these twists of logic, I can now zoom round them with ease, perhaps driving a new idea through and seeing how it comes out. It's like the mental version of muscle-memory. I could approach businesses with revolutionary applications of the coagulation cascade to their management hierarchy, or use the practised clarity required in taking a patient's history to write Oscar-winning dialogue. I could describe a friend's need for a new relationship as like a cannula, a necessarily awkward time of pain and discomfort that will later be eased out leaving access once again to

I'd also drop in details of the fluid dynamics OF MY URINE

his veins. As in his heart. As in romance and all that.

Anyway, you get my point. The imprint of my learning will not just be in my recollection of specific details or facts, but in an appreciation of the subtleties of our reality, and the hard-earned tools of thought, swords of the psyche and... um, mallets of the mind that I've crafted to understand them.

NHS Reforms? What NHS Reforms?



Stephen Smith

You'd think that when Parliament was on the verge of passing a bill to effectively abolish the NHS it would be front page news, but apparently not. By the time you're reading this, the House of Lords will have decided whether or not to pass the 2011 Health and Social Care Bill. For both your sake and mine I hope they have not; here's why.

Firstly, the bill will eliminate the duty of the Secretary of State to provide free and comprehensive healthcare for British residents. That is to say, the Government could, whenever

it felt like it, stop giving money to the NHS, and they could either sell it or abolish it completely.

Secondly, the Government would no longer be able to intervene if the NHS were to provide poor healthcare in a particular constituency. All this responsibility would be shifted to an unelected combination of GPs and private companies. The NHS itself would effectively become a private company with arbitrary Government subsidies.

Thirdly, any behaviour in the NHS that is deemed anti-competitive (that is, unprofitable) must legally be stopped. This is all the more heinous since the NHS was never intended to

make a profit, and it certainly doesn't make a profit today. The entire NHS could be abolished under this rule.

Fourthly, there would no longer be a limit on the amount of profit a hospital can make from providing private healthcare alongside free healthcare. That is, there would be nothing to stop an NHS hospital charging money for everything and anything.

Hopefully these four issues are self-evidently problematic. Possibly more problematic, however, has been the public reaction to this bill. On Saturday and Sunday, I read from front to back my Dad's copies of The Times, and not once were the impending NHS

reforms mentioned. In fact, I only became aware of the existence of this Bill by trawling through the lesser-viewed sections of The Guardian's website.

Why this appalling piece of legislation hasn't received more media attention in the week building up to the House of Lords debate is beyond me, and all we can hope for is that they stop the bill before it can become law. If they don't, then the only thing standing between us and a future of US-style private healthcare is the Queen; and since taxpayers already pay for her spa treatments, I don't think she'll give the bill so much as a second glance as she descends into the bubbles.

COMMENT



Whenever I'm down, I think about the 72 virgins awaiting ... I'm studying computer science next year

IC Debating Society asks ...

Should Osama bin Laden have been brought to trial?



Who said terrorists couldn't blue steel?



Yes - James Clough

If America really believes it is fighting the good fight, it cannot act in the same way as its enemy

Osama bin Laden was, for the past decade, the human face the Western World gave to al-Qaeda. He was the living embodiment of Islamic Terror. His ability to elude the most powerful militaries and intelligence agencies for years gave him an untouchable aura. As such, removing bin Laden from al-Qaeda's chain of command and destroying him as a figurehead was an important act. It was a symbol of victory in the War on Terror.

But the secretive manner of his death means that he, and al-Qaeda, retain their air of mystery. Bin Laden is now a martyr for the cause. Imagine if America had captured bin Laden. They could have demonstrated their victory publicly, humiliating him without having to kill him. They would still have seen all the benefits of killing him: removing his capacity to assist and direct al-Qaeda, emasculating a former inspiration for prospective suicide bombers, and proving that al-Qaeda could not outsmart the West, but there would have been further benefits to capturing bin Laden and giving him a trial.

He could have been questioned, and there is a possibility that he could have provided invaluable information. Demonstrating the capability to capture such a prized target would have provided a much greater deterrent to potential terrorists than killing him; most of them are happy to be killed for their cause, whereas decades in a foreign prison is a much less appealing prospect. Imprisonment would have provided a greater punishment for bin Laden than death, and seeing him suffer this punishment would have given families of his victims a greater sense of closure.

We must also consider the justice of bin Laden's assassination. Though it is easy to say that he deserved to be killed for the murders he committed,

by retaliating in kind America only reinforced the narrative spread by militant Islamists: the West are unjust oppressors. If America really believes it is fighting the good fight, it cannot act in the same way as its enemy. It must openly and publicly behave in a more just, legal and measured way than the people it is trying to tell us are the bad guys. In a war of ideas, it cannot afford to compromise on the liberal Western values it claims to fight for, else it will lose legitimacy at home and abroad. Even if we believe that America was morally justified in its killing of bin Laden, we must admit that if this conflict is to end it will not be because we kill every single terrorist; it will be because they won't have a reason to be terrorists any more.

Perhaps it would have been more difficult to capture bin Laden than to kill him, but it is reasonable to believe that it would have been possible to arrest him and bring him to trial; and in any case, given that bin Laden was unarmed when he was shot, it seems that capturing bin Laden was never an option America were willing to consider.

Bringing bin Laden to trial would have been more just, legal and impressive. It would have humiliated al-Qaeda with a public defeat. It would've shown the whole world the difference between the West and al-Qaeda, it would've been a more effective way to help win the War on Terror, and it would've sent the strongest possible message that the West are the good guys. If America had captured bin Laden, they could have given him the death sentence, giving us the same end result. But because they killed him there and then, the opportunity to do the right thing has been lost. Bin Laden would surely have preferred death to capture. This, as much as anything, tells us that America made the wrong choice, and that bin Laden was able to have the last laugh after all.



No - Ed Middleton

... the War on Terror IS a war and one that is on-going. Osama bin Laden was killed as a soldier in that war

We have the wolf by the ears; and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go. Justice is in one scale, and self-preservation in the other." These words spoken by Thomas Jefferson fittingly describe the quandary faced by the Western world when fighting the War on Terror; and let us be clear about this, we are indeed fighting a war. The nature of warfare has changed since the days of soldiers standing in an open field wearing their nation's banner. In the age of globalisation, war is fought over great distances by splinter cells comprised of anonymous soldiers. In 1998, Osama bin Laden declared war on the Western world and in 2001 George Bush reciprocated. Osama bin Laden was a soldier in that war and his death was one of the many casualties. Here I will show you why the death of Osama bin Laden was justified as an act of war, and why the alternatives made this the only viable option.

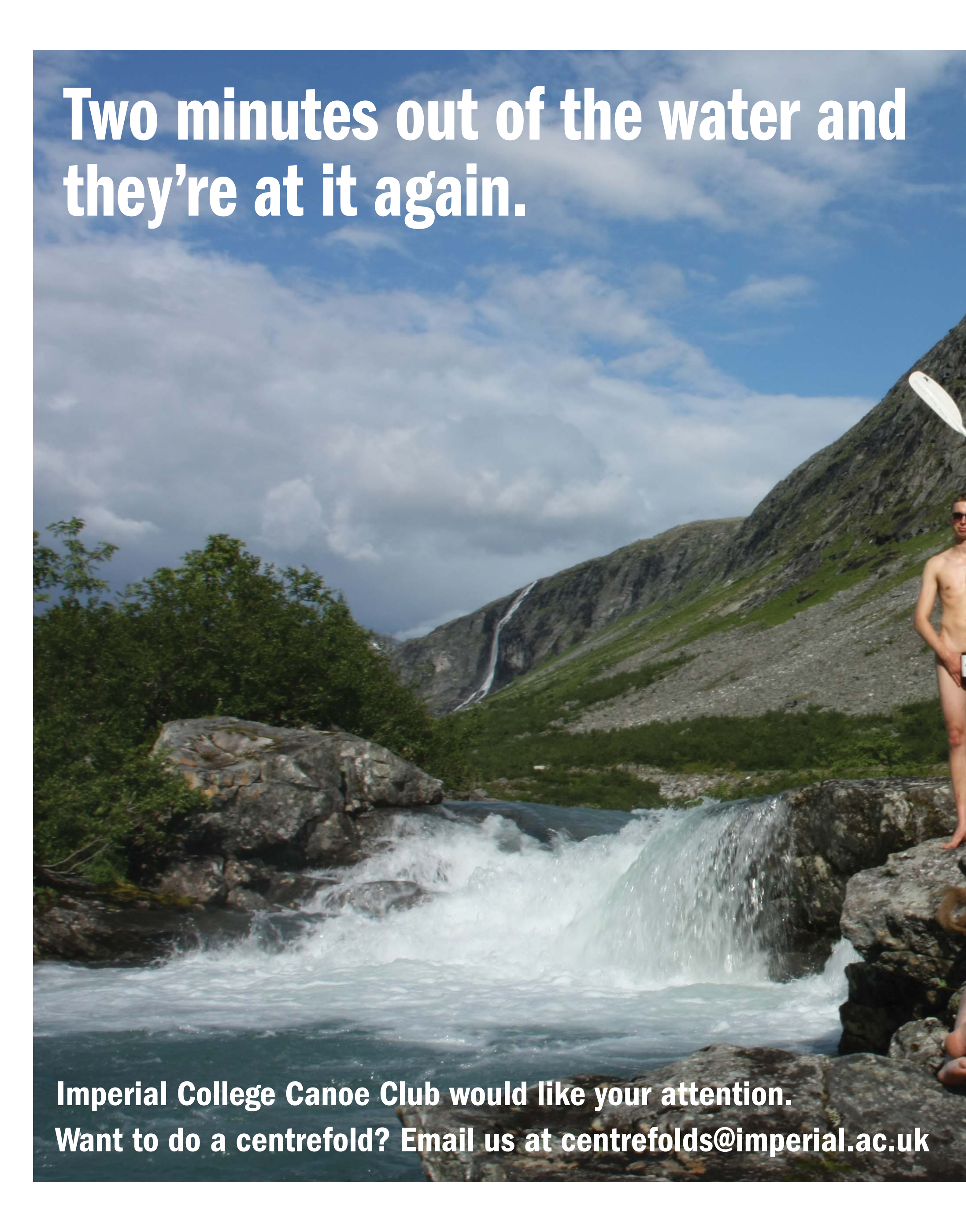
When fighting against an opposition comprised of splinter groups and isolated cells, the chain of command that links and organises these cells becomes a very significant strategic target. Osama bin Laden was also pivotal in uniting al-Qaeda, recruiting new soldiers and funding a number of their operations. It was for these reasons that he was killed. The United States discovered the location of a high-value target (HVT), crucial in the running of al-Qaeda and had it removed, as you would any other military target. There have been no calls to bring the countless al-Qaeda soldiers fighting in Afghanistan to trial, so why should Osama bin Laden be different? People often cite examples such as Adolf Eichmann and Charles Taylor, where those implicated in war crimes were tried in an international court. However, in both

these instances the conflict had ended and the individuals provided no strategic advantage in an on-going war. As such, they were not counted as valid military targets.

Now we will look at the alternative to killing Osama bin Laden: trial. This already assumes that an alternative was possible – that he could and would allow himself to be taken alive. Resistance was encountered by the US SEALs who sought to capture or kill Osama bin Laden and it may not have been possible to capture him without giving him ample opportunity to escape or take his own life.

Many people claim a trial would have been a far better outcome than killing him. The purpose of a trial is to identify the level of involvement and guilt of a party in a crime and provide an opportunity for the event to be analysed and investigated publicly. A trial of Osama bin Laden would be redundant on both these counts. Firstly, not only is there irrefutable evidence condemning Osama bin Laden, but he has also confessed to the atrocities listed against him. Secondly, the chain of events surrounding Osama bin Laden's crimes is already well documented. If this has not been done to a satisfactory level then there is still an opportunity to lead a public investigation or put him to trial 'post-mortem'.

Any case that opposes the killing of Osama bin Laden on the grounds that he should have been put to trial does not appreciate the fact that the War on Terror IS a war and one that is on-going. Osama bin Laden was killed as a soldier in that war. Bringing the War on Terror to a conclusion as swiftly and bloodlessly as possible is a greater priority than acting out a trial for mere show purposes, while endangering the lives of more innocent civilians the world over.



**Two minutes out of the water and
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ARTS

Arts Editors: **Will Prince**
Eva Rosenthal

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Poem for the Week

Us
by **Kadhim Shubber**

We're the ones who were left.
Stunned, confused as hard rays
Of lamplight rebound off textbooks,
Through windows bound for the dark
Abys. Unsure. Dazed.

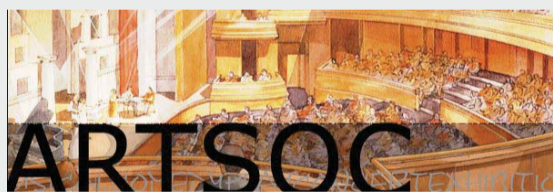
We're the ones arms stretched,
Fingers touching, warmth, meaning.
Surrounded by giggles, laughs.
The hope of fresher minds.
Patience tested. Yearning. Feeling.

We're the ones left barren, hopeless.
Small smiles, bursts of happiness.
Tender hearts, senses. The song
In the pub, where am I, where are they?
Fences invisible but real, divisive.

We're the ones lonely and uncertain
surrounded by ghosts and everyone who isn't here,
who is now someone else.
Who is now another.
No longer my brother.

We're the ones.
We're the ones.
We're the ones.

Felix Arts is constantly looking for new poets. If you want to see your work appearing here, do get in touch. Additionally, those interested in joining Poetry Society, contact Osas, at osamudiamen.omoiglade09@imperial.ac.uk



A warm welcome back from ARTSOCIETY! We have the pleasure to present you all with very special offers of discounted musical tickets!

Date	Musical	Price	Value	Save!
20 Oct	Legally Blonde	£20	£66	70%
24 Oct	39 Steps	£10	£47.5	79%
31 Oct	Les Miserables	£30	£65	54%
3 Nov	Dreamboats	£15	£52.5	71%

Tickets of the shows above will be sold in the first ARTSOCIETY meeting.

Date: 20 October 2011 (Wednesday)

Time: 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Venue: Physics Room 741

From screen to stage, Miss Daisy hits the Wyndhams

Film classic returns to its roots, with Jones in driving seat



This is actually how Darth Vader steered the Death Star. Probably

John Park

Vanessa Redgrave and James Earl Jones are acting royalty, both on stage and screen, whose careers have spanned decades and yet show no sign of slowing down. Standing tall in both stature and talent even at their admirable ages of 78 (Redgrave) and 80 (Jones), the two veterans still command the stage like never before, and it is precisely their excellent performances that make this production of “Driving Miss Daisy” worth every penny, which is why this very limited 12-week engagement in Wyndhams Theatre, Leicester Square is an experience you cannot afford to miss.

It would be hard not to compare any adaption of “Driving Miss Daisy” to the Oscar-winning hit film which starred the sublime Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman in the lead roles, which Redgrave and Jones take over respectively. In the role of Miss Daisy Werthan, a frail, old yet proud and tough Southern Jewish woman, Tandy obviously has the upper hand with her more delicate features. Redgrave on the other hand, towers at an astonishing 5’11” somehow not immediately convincing as a woman nearing death and someone who will have to deal with the effects of Alzheimer’s.

But fear not, for Redgrave’s subtle yet hugely effective changes in both her posture and speaking voice throughout the play make it obvious of Miss Daisy’s deteriorating condition. She starts off as a proud woman in a comfortable position who hates the idea of having to hire a chauffeur. After a bad crash for which Miss Daisy will forever blame her car rather than her weakening driving skills, her concerned son, Boolie (the equally fantastic Boyd Gaines in a crucial supporting role), eventually manages to employ a willing African-American driver, Hoke Colburn (Jones). And so begins an unlikely yet touching story of

“Redgrave adds so much detail, depth and it is obvious she has given a lot of careful attention to her performance”

friendship that spans an era, having profound influence on both characters.

This is a play that thrives on subtleties. For those familiar with the film, you will remember that racism, prejudice and civil rights movements are what it focuses heavily on. For a play on a stage and a budget with limitations, the scope cannot be too broad, and even the cast only consists of the modest yet always-reliable three. We do see numerous brief projection-reels that show the political changes in hate-filled America that are slowly moving towards racial equality, but much is left out. The social commentary underlying the script is merely hinted at, although never quite fully addressed. This is neither a compliment nor a criticism of the play – it’s a modest production more interested in the spot-on actors.

So does it really matter that Redgrave doesn’t quite hit all the unique distinctions of a Southern accent? Not at all. She adds so much detail, depth and it is obvious she has given a lot of careful attention to her performance. It is Miss Daisy’s gradual decline that she portrays so well on stage that there is no need for cheesy music (of which there is some, to fill the gaps of scene changes) to have that heart-wrenching finale. Her head gradually sinks into her shoulders, her walks become slower and more uneven, and she has difficulty walking down a flight of stairs. As the play begins, Redgrave shows Miss Daisy’s feisty side by fighting

off her son’s insistence to hiring a chauffeur whilst making a pie, both tasks Redgrave marvellously masters in one clean swoop.

Miss Daisy is initially sceptical of having a stranger in her home; she even accuses Hoke of stealing a can of salmon, in a scene of genuine comedy in which Redgrave shines yet again, standing so upright and self-confident, holding the empty can and pointing it at Hoke as if she’s about to stab him with it. But the wise and warm Hoke turns out to be invaluable company as time goes by, whilst of course being an excellent, reliable driver. Jones gives a firmer, more reserved performance, something that plays off perfectly with Redgrave’s more frantic, wordy one. Despite the abuse and humiliation he must have faced over the years because of his colour, Hoke is an unquestionably dignified man, a perfect gentleman who stands beside a woman who is somewhat oblivious to what is going on in the outside world, without wanting to admit that she is not perfect.

In a short period of time (the play wraps up neatly at around 90 minutes), director David Esbjorson has a lot to cover, and he chooses to go about the material with many time jumps, occasionally reminding the audience of what year we’re in with clumsy captions that are projected in the background. The result is many narrative breaks; patchy work and a disjointed structure that make many scenes feel episodic. But the each scene has merit of its own, thanks largely to the unquestionably good duo. The final scene has impact, perhaps not as powerful as what the film managed to capture, but it’s quiet and potent in its own way and certainly puts a beautiful end to a low-key, memorable production.

Driving Miss Daisy runs at the Wyndhams Theatre until December 17

The Royal Ballet Is Alive And Well

A ballet from the wings and a strong triple bill made for two very special evenings at Covent Garden. Dance in Britain is going strong

Eva Rosenthal

Watching a ballet from the wings is an experience akin to glancing through an open window into the life of a stranger. A voyeuristic experience perhaps. Dancers on a stage appear as magical and ethereal creatures, even in the most human of roles. They are perfectly poised, every movement apparently effortless. However, in ballet there is little that can be done without effort.

'Jewels', choreographed by George Balanchine and danced by the Royal Ballet, was a joy to behold from the wings of the Royal Opera House stage. The corps dancers wandered around in leg warmers, joking with friends and trying the more complicated steps one

"The real gem of the evening was undoubtedly Marguerite and Armand"

last time before the performance. Tension and concentration was far more palpable in the faces of the principals. As soon as the curtain rose however, intense professionalism took over the entire company. Ballerinas wore smiles on stage, but these disappeared in an instant in the darkness of the wings, and were usually replaced by grimaces or cursing. The final curtain calls brought relief to the corps and ecstatic joy to the principals, who went home with arms full of flowers. Ballet is tough, especially for those lowest in the hierarchy, but this company showed that it does not necessarily have to be tragic.

A second ballet event took place last week. A triple bill is currently playing at Covent Garden, showcasing the work of three British choreographers. The evening begins with 'Limen', a visually stunning piece devised by resident choreographer Wayne McGregor. The dancers move with virtuosity upon a stage lit by the digital artist Tatsuo Miyajima's LED projections, with an elegance that has become McGregor's signature.

Ending the evening was Kenneth Mc-

Millan's 'Requiem'. It is a somewhat stilted ballet, with never-ending lifts and little in the way of dancing. Set to Fauré's Requiem, it is inevitably funereal in tone. However, Leanne Benjamin was soft and precise in her solos and Carlos Acosta, although minimally involved, lent some of his star quality to the performance.

The real gem of the evening was undoubtedly 'Marguerite and Armand', a Romantic ballet originally choreographed for Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev by Fredrick Ashton. The ballet itself is a captivating piece, Ashton's choreography at its best to the Liszt piano sonata. It manages to compress Dumas' *La Dame aux Camélias* into half an hour without losing the essence. The designs and costumes are by the legendary Cecil Beaton, famous amongst other things, for 'My Fair Lady'.

The piece has been danced few times since Fonteyn and Nureyev, but Tamara Rojo and Sergei Polunin can compete with the greats. With Polunin, the Royal Ballet finally has a male dancer they can be proud of. He not only has a phenom-



Rojo and Polunin: a lesson in passion

enal jump and a forceful technique, but also a raw talent for acting. As Armand, Polunin displays both these qualities and combines them to give a passionate performance. Rojo is the ultimate tragic actress in ballet; and it is impossible not to be moved by her Marguerite. Moreover, her technique is impeccably light and she moves on the stage with a rare security. Marguerite and Armand

provides the opportunity to see a ballet partnership with chemistry, something unfortunately too often missing in the dance world. One can only hope Rojo and Polunin will be partnered again soon.

Limen, Marguerite and Armand, Requiem: until 20th October at Covent Garden. Tickets from £4

Frieze: A Preview of the Madness

There is a whole lot of STUFF worth seeing at the Art Fair. Not all of it is Art

Eva Rosenthal

The talk of the day at Frieze Art Fair, from some grasped snippets of conversation, was a Yacht. It was, quite literally just a yacht that the artist Christian Jankowski was going to sign. Apparently this sort of thing is called "ready made art" and "the viewer gets to decide on whether or not to consider it art". How lucky for "the viewer" right? It is necessary to have a vast amount of cheek in order to get away with it. I was not convinced although, as someone very kindly put it, "Yeah.... But you get the signature!".

In spite of all the rubbish that makes it into Frieze in the sacred name of Art, there were many beautiful objects worth looking at. The following comments are simply on a few personal favourites.

At the Gagosian stand was a banana suspended by two strings and projected onto the wall to look like a wine bottle. This sounds rather silly; in person it is captivating. Work by Carsten Nicolai at Galleries Pace, Ei-

gen and Lorcan O'Neill, is as elegant as it is complex. He brings together the seemingly opposing worlds of art

"Yeah... But you get the signature!"

and mathematics with mesmerizing designs. Finally, some striking collaged books by young Czech artist Eva Kotatkova, also caught my eye.

By seven in the evening, after 6 solid hours, there has been a torrent of art shoved down your eyes, your throat, your ears, and they can take little else. You are in an arty stupor and wandering through the ether, drinking in only the atmosphere, the characters, and hopefully the champagne. Because Frieze Art Fair is just as much about the people traipsing through it as it is about Art. There are some wonderfully mad ones, in the best sense of the word.

Frieze Art Fair, 13 October – 16th October. Tickets from £27



"Who runs this mother?" I think yacht-buying millionaires might...

ARTS

Arts Editors: **Will Prince**
Eva Rosenthal

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Why pay for tickets, when you can get them for free??

Theatre

Cool Hand Luke

Mark Warren (*Hustle, Mad Dogs*) is the charismatic rebel in this production at the Aldwych Theatre. Until November 21st.

Something About You (makes me want to hurt you)

Time Out Fringe Show of the Year winner Dirty Market return with a new site-specific piece. A fusion of theatre, dance art inspired by Electra at Asylum Chapel. www.dirtymarket.co.uk

Spoken Word/Poetry

Old Me (Camden Roundhouse)

Wednesday 23rd November PRESS NIGHT

"His minimal style and unsettlingly straightforward and blunt lyricism make him shine out" *Dazed & Confused*

"You must go and listen to this man's work" XFM

<http://www.roundhouse.org.uk/whats-on/productions/old-me>

Exhibitions

Folio (RCA)

Thursday 20 October

An exhibition of prints from the RCA Printmaking programme, with a chance to interview artists involved.

The Unilever Series 2011: Tacita Dean

Tate Modern, Turbine Hall

11 October 2011 – 11 March 2012

Miracles & Charms (Wellcome Collection)

Until 26 FEBRUARY 2012

Felicity Powell combines her own work with Mexican miracle paintings from the Wellcome Collection,

Comedy

Laugh or the Polar Bear Gets It (Hammersmith Apollo)

Friday 18th November.

The line up includes: Tim Minchin, Greg Davies, Francesca Martinez, Dan Antopolski, Simon Day, Richard Herring, Lucy Porter and music from special guest Badly Drawn.

East End humour

Thursday, 24 November

The best of new comedy in London at the Museum of London Docklands

Late & Live

Friday 28 October

Leicester Square Theatre and Avalon Promotions present late night comedy and cabaret in the heart of the West End. This month featuring Fergus Craig, Jimmy McGhie, Roisin Conaty and Alun Cochrane.

Felix Arts has free tickets for these and much, much more. If you want to review (and get in on the freebs) get in touch and you could be hobnobbing with the best of them before you know it.

Armitage Here?

As *Watteau Duets* comes to Imperial, we speak to its choreographer, original punk ballerina Karole Armitage

Meredith Thomas

Karole Armitage's limited run of performances at the Southbank Center were billed as science inspired punk-ballet. On the basis of that description alone I realised that my attendance was inevitable. Nothing however could have prepared me for the breathtakingly energetic, shockingly beautiful dance I witnessed. The show featured extracts from *Two Theories* and *Drastic-Classicism* both groundbreaking, iconoclastic works from the Director. Armitage's choreography subverts classical ballet through modern and street influences to create some of the most visceral, thrilling, yet technically immaculate dance I have ever seen.

When I discovered that an Armitage production was scheduled at Imperial College later in the week I grabbed my chance and was kindly offered an impromptu interview after the show.

Meredith Thomas: I understand you have been in this game for a while.

Karole Armitage: I have. I actually I started dancing when I was four. I was first a ballet dancer. I danced with George Balanchine who is kind of the Shakespeare of ballet and with Merce Cunningham who was a very important force in modern dance. During the time I was with Merce Cunningham in the late 70s punk hit and I became very interested in combining punk and raw influences with my masters. I did a piece that became very famous called *Drastic-Classicism* for guitars and drums with music by Rhys Chatham. It was the first time a real rock, raw-spirit was combined with Ballet refinement and it created a revolution. I think that's the perfect title for my work to this day... *Drastic-Classicism*.

MT: Was that an idea that came to you immediately?

"Armitage's choreography subverts classical ballet through modern and street influences"

KA: It just came. These two kinds of dance were enemies. They were absolute enemies and even to this day there is still a lot of animosity... when I say those two kinds of dance I mean ballet and modern... let alone punk. Ballet and Modern had different philosophies and they did not like each other. But I liked both and I put them together to create a new language of dance and then added in this kind of rock... the raw rock emotional side and that launched my career as a choreographer. Then I worked for people like Madonna and Michael Jackson and I choreographed *Hair*. But my heart really lies in innovative stage dance.

MT: I got the feeling from the second half of



Karole Armitage - so active that we couldn't find a photo of her without motion blur

the performance that you were someone who had been to a lot of punk gigs and knew how tiring and energetic that was.

KA: I did in the late 70s. I was living in New York though I was in London quite frequently at that time. Micheal Clarke was a great friend; actually he was in *Drastic-Classicism*. We met, we hit it off... he became my partner and we performed together. I was in London a lot and so I went to a lot of Punk gigs here. In New York I went almost every night, although I was dancing all day. I didn't need sleep I don't know how really but the energy was just so exciting. I wasn't trying to imitate punk I was just using it as spice... a flavour.

MT: And that's the punk side. What about the science...

KA: I have always been interested in science. I think that art always has a kind of scientific discipline to it. For a great painter, the geometry, the way colours work together, the sense of architecture all work together. Those structural things really make the kind of art I like. Because I don't really like people who just come out and it's pure self expression; just vomiting their emotions. Who cares what someone feels? What you really want is to see feelings through the prism of some universal sense of pattern, some way of things unfolding so it's, in some way outside the person.

MT: So you would say that this kind of physics is something that inspired your work or is it something that you read about and then you want to communicate it to other people?

KA: I would say that the spirit of innovation is something I would like to use and communicate to other people. The physics itself is more of an existential meditation. Einstein though the world was so predictable. It's very interesting that the people who came after him thought

it was chaotic and completely unpredictable. The latest innovations in physics are say that you have to have both in. To me it's a way of questioning what is reality? What is our experience in life? What is it that makes us tick?

MT: Can you give an example how that has inspired your choreography?

KA: I'm very interested in fractals; the geometry of clouds and mountains and seashores. Dance used to be all Euclidean. Vertical and horizontal lines only; all about stability. It was the sovereign image of incredible pomp and prestige. That is ballet's roots. The new democratic idea is about using things like fractals to make all kinds of curves and final tenacity. You have great individuality and yet there is a common purpose so it's still legible. I'm interested in the way that dance can become as funky and democratic and multidimensional as our way of living and as our knowledge of the universe is now.

MT: The troop you are working with at the moment, are they people you have worked with before?

KA: We are based in New York. We work more than half the year together. I takes a great deal of rehearsal to do this kind of extremely virtuosic, high powered dance and also to allow that much individuality and yet to keep it very articulate.

MT: That idea of characterisations seems quite important. I really felt that you knew the dancers well enough that you could bring out their own character.

KA: That absolutely right. I love that. But behind that there is a very rigorous disciplined structure. Once that is achieved then lots of personality and complete individual personality is allowed to emerge. Every dancer is different and I am not ever trying to create a bunch of



Whoa! Stand still!

“Dance can become as funky and democratic and multidimensional as our way of living and as our knowledge of the universe is now”

“Its very interesting that this performance ties in with art, music and dance”

robots. Dance used to be everyone in perfect unison. It's as if you would see birds all flying with their wings going up and down together. It just doesn't make sense to me.

MT: So the two shows that you had... this is the last one?

KA: This is the last of these two productions. The one we are doing on Friday is called the 'Watteau Duets'. What we are doing at Imperial College is actually a double duet. It has these two fantastic musicians and these two incredible dancers. It has this riotous portrait of love and destiny. The dancers start out being very interested in each other. It gradually gets very erotic; interest, romance, eroticism, neurosis. In the mean time the musicians are just getting crazier and crazier. They start climbing over their drums and all kind of things are getting out of control. It's like this force of destiny, the fact that we don't control our lives and love is unpredictable. It's a kind of comedy of desires versus reality. It is tied into the V&A museum show *Postmodernism: Style and Subversion* about the 80s. So I think that's a really interesting parallel. I work a lot with visual artists, like Jeff Koon and Brice Marten, people who are quite famous. It's very interesting that this performance ties in with art, music and dance. Then we are going to be at your university. That's a really nice panorama.

MT: As you going back to the states after that?

KA: We have been in Moulon for two weeks doing even more productions. We go to Ger-



Parents were less impressed with her take on the nativity play

many next, so we see a little bit more of Europe before we go back to New York.

MT: What is next on the Horizon for you?

I have been asked to work on a Cirque du Soleil project, choreographing acrobats. I am working on a Chinese language rock musical film in Beijing. Then of course things with my company where I am doing quite a few different ideas. I am doing a piece that is hopefully an entertaining look at global warming

through ancient fables from around the world. It's all these animals speaking about power. It's a thrill to be in London.

Armitage Gone! Dance - The Watteau Duets take place today, Friday October 14 at 7pm, in The Great Hall, Sherfield, Imperial College. Tickets: £12 (£9 concs). See <http://www.vam.ac.uk> for more information.

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FELIX

MUSIC

Kadhim's totally hot album of the week



Girls
Father, Son, Holy Ghost
2011

Girls' frontman Christopher Owen is an opiate-addicted former cult-member: have I got your attention? Good. *Father, Son, Holy Ghost* is the richest indie-rock album that anyone has made in a long time. It's as rich as a warm chocolate brownie with artery-clogging chocolate sauce on top and a dollop of triple cream on top of that for good coronary measure.

Their first album was enjoyable enough; it pushed a somewhat immature sense of angst about girls, being crazy, and wishing you had a "pizza and a bottle of wine". It tugged at the heartstrings with the intellectual rigour of a stupid, slobbering puppy.

Their second album, on the other hand, touches parts of me that have never been touched before (cue 'hilarious' joke about Imperial virgins). But seriously, this album croons, shakes it hair out, beams a smile across the room at you, cuts its arms, headbangs like a crazy muthafucker, and bares a soul so sad, so lonely, so yearning for redemption that you can barely keep listening. But, crucially, it rewards repeat listeners. These are emotions to be understood with care, not simply gawped at for disposable amusement.

I'll end with a slightly trivial point. Around half-way through the album, near the end of the song 'Vomit', you're suddenly surprised by gospel singers belting out harmonies; I haven't had the words "so fucking good" explode out of my head so powerfully than at that moment.

Tell me the last song that made you think "so fucking good" by tweeting me @kadhimshubber. If, by some coincidence, it happens to be 'Vomit', tell Christopher Owens direct by tweeting him @Chri55yBaby.

Tonight in Dalston

Mark McGuire (of Emeralds)

The Shacklewell Arms, Dalston
Friday 14 October

Somewhere between talking to a rolling meadow and hugging a star, Mark McGuire's solo adventures all but mirror the chromophilic swells of electronic trio Emeralds. A cursory listen of their last full length *Does It Look Like I'm Here* reveals the strange but familiar space their sound inhabits, somewhere between the psychoelectronic explosions of 1970's synthetic Germany and the most intimate musical encounters of recent years. His second solo album on Editions Mego, *Get Lost* feels like a suspension of a summer day and night in parallel.

The Shacklewell Arms is a unique pub, straddling the line between a recovered shipwreck, a hazy New Mexico adobe abode and a secret alley deep in the tunnels of the London Underground. The nondescript tropical murals adorning the walls will certainly help to set the scene in what is sure to be an unforgettable night. **Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto**

IC Radio wants you!

Aislinn Hayes tunes in as new Station Manager

When I got elected as station manager of IC Radio for the coming year, many people were surprised... including myself! I stood a clueless (albeit enthusiastic) fresher whose first suggestion to get the station on FM airwaves was very swiftly shot down (An on-air radio license in the middle of London? Good one, fresher!). Honestly, I don't know how I got elected – I remember saying the phrase "I'm charming, so vote for me". Must be the Irish accent that made that statement seem endearing rather than obscenely obnoxious. Anyway, I can tell you now, that despite being barraged with hundreds of emails, being station manager of a student radio station really is as awesome as it sounds.

But enough about me. What does the radio society actually do? Who are we? What on earth are these programmes broadcasted so shamelessly for the entire world to hear? Why do you care? Why are you reading this? Shouldn't you be studying? Where am I?

IC Radio is the official sound of Imperial College London. We're an internet-broadcasted station playing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, alternating between live broadcasts and a play-out of our enormous library. Our music team is working hard on reviewing new music that we're sent every day from labels, independent artists and flat out gangstas to ensure that our play-out system only contains quality tunes. Our presenters are students just like you – hard working (ish) nerds who sincerely love a laugh.

"Our recording studio is unrivaled by other student radio stations here in the UK"

Radio is fun. Even for people who get a little bit nervous speaking in front of people, you can still tell yourself that you're really only speaking to the wall when you're in the studio. Listen to any decent station and the presenters are generally having a good laugh (unless they're reading the news, in which case that's incredibly unprofessional and I highly disapprove). Societies are meant to be fun and rewarding – otherwise what's the point?

Here at IC Radio, we will give you a show which you can make your own. We only ask that you undergo a 20 minute training session on how to use the equipment and obey the usual don't-be-racist, etc. From then on, you're basically given free rein to do whatever genre of programming you like – talk, pop, rock, electronica, psychedelic funk, Australian folk, whatever. Once you have joined the society the door is pretty much open for you to use our gear. If there isn't a show on you can come in and practice on the decks in the studio - much



Now in Technicolour! IC Radio keeping current in 1986.

cheaper and convenient than buying your own stuff and carting it to uni every time you want to jam. And all for a very reasonable 8 pound membership fee? Simply fabulous, dahling.

24 hour music and programming isn't all we do. We are blessed with a fully equipped recording studio as well as our production studio, meaning we get plenty of bands and artists in to do live sessions and recordings. We are pretty unique to have such a facility as a student radio and we're planning on holding lots of live sessions this year. They are open for anyone to turn up to and watch, and are held in our "shared studio" (completely separate to our production and recording studios, and shared with Music Tech, Photosoc and Stoic). Some names we have lined up for this year include Tay Mos, Sam Gray, The King Blues, and Missing Andy. I was told by the previous station manager that our recording studio is unrivaled by other student radio stations here in the UK – in fact, he compared our studios to the professionals at XFM. Not to be tooting our own horn or anything, but I think that's pretty impressive – even if the man I'm quoting basically founded IC Radio Recordings himself and is therefore fairly biased.

We also make a point of hiring out our equipment to parties and events to make some extra cash so we can buy new toys (and pay our license fees, etc.) and there are always opportunities for budding DJs to play some gigs, which our members do take advantage of whenever they can.

As a London-based station, we have the advantage/disadvantage of getting lots of emails from those in the media industry and upcoming artists. True, we get a lot of spam, but sometimes a golden ticket flies our way. Just last month we were contacted by the presenting company for the Olympics with an opportunity for budding presenters to audition for 2012 events. [Insert scream here.] And just last week, a representative from the Student Radio Association contacted us about some radio work with BBC

1 extra. [Insert further cheers here.] For anyone who's even vaguely thinking about a career in the music or media industry, we have some really incredible opportunities coming our way all the time where you can gain invaluable experience.

Honestly, I can't imagine the week without my one-hour slot (entitled "Mad Craic") in our modest Beit West Wing Basement studio. I wouldn't be at Imperial if I wasn't at least vaguely technical and all the buttons and slides down there make me positively gleeful. Music, technology, and the sound of my own voice – I mean, banter with my co-host, notorious biologist Craig Woods. What else does a girl need? It's an absolutely brilliant society to get involved in - whether it's music, production, presenting, technical, DJing, or even marketing that you're into, we've got an enthusiastic committee member who can help you out!

Check us out on www.icradio.com, where you can listen live or listen back to previous shows, and hear some of our best sessions and recordings!

To get involved in our music team, contact music@icradio.com

To get involved in our live sessions and recordings, contact production@icradio.com

To hire equipment or get some DJing gigs, contact discos@icradio.com

To get your own show, contact programming@icradio.com

To complain about the length of this article, contact manager@icradio.com. Cheers!

BREAKING NEWS

Aislinn has just been nominated for **Best Newcomer** at the **Student Radio Awards!**

MUSIC

Outlook Festival returns

Daniel Oppenheimer reports from sunny Croatia

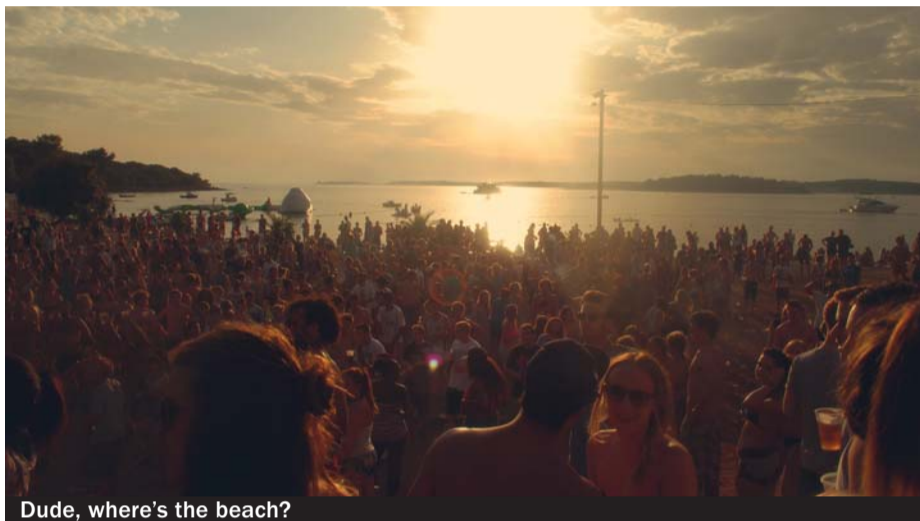
Accounts of the first instalment of *Outlook Festival* four years back (held in a Croatian night club with relatively low attendance and a lot of rain) sound like Phoenix Nights on the Adriatic. Since then the event has come a long way.

This year saw close to 12,000 festival-goers; some of the biggest names in bass-heavy music performing and an arena re-vamped so fittingly one can't help but imagine that when they built Fort Punta Christo however many centuries ago they must have had the festival in mind. Couple that with the mellowed beauty of the location (at least on day one), some darn fine weather and a young energetic crowd and you get a feeling for why Outlook is in a league of its own.

The festival is split between the campsite and the main arena. The campsite is located around a bay on the Adriatic and contains a super market and a number of bars and pop-up restaurants. Daytime sees mass migration to the various beaches where the two or three sound systems play out until the evening.

The arena is split between the main stage—a large open space by the waterfront—and the fort which itself contains a number of smaller stages, all equally impressive.

Despite **Barrington Levy's** last minute withdrawal, the quality of performances was never going to be an issue. **David Rodigan** opened the main stage with his trademark feel-good



Dude, where's the beach?

history lesson. The reggae-dub theme was followed up by **The Gentleman's Dub Club**, **Iration Steppahs** and, elsewhere in the fort, **The Heatwave**.

Grime was well represented by **Newham Generals**, **Logan Sama** and a mammoth set from **P Money** that seemed to straddle at least 4 or 5 DJ sets. The second and third nights were dominated by **El-B**, **Rustie**, **Hudson Mohawke** and the **Hessle Audio** bunch while the final night saw **Marcus Nasty** tearing it up followed by **Night Slugs DJs**, **Mosca**, **Bok Bok**, **L-Vis 1990** and **Girl Unit**.

It's very difficult to fault Outlook - in fact, it requires resorting to geriatric-style complaints regarding things like organisation (there was a lot of queuing where it felt like there shouldn't have been). Having said that, there was a clear sense of nostalgia from many of last year's returnees who felt the festival had grown excessively and in doing so lost its former intimacy and relaxedness. Organisers should be mindful of not spawning another Reading or Leeds in Pula. For the moment, suffice it to say this: Carlsberg don't make festivals but if they did they'd probably be something like Outlook.

Beautiful Benicàssim

Spanish Rototom Sunsplash impresses over ten days

Daniel Oppenheimer

Rototom Sunsplash is one of the largest and longest running Reggae, Dance Hall and Dub festivals in Europe. In fitting with the music it endorses, its appeal spans a cross-section of festival goers from the ignorant non-connoisseur to the dub-geek-stoner. The recipe is very simple: an entirely laid back dynamic, a hot climate and enough people to make you feel it was worth coming but leave you with space to move.

The festival is set outside the Spanish town of Benicàssim on the same site as the *Festival Internacional de Benicàssim*. With music beginning in the early evening the daytime sees a mass migration from the shanty-townesque campsite to the beach. However, for those who stick around the arena offers a mellowed atmosphere, hammocks and shade as well as lectures and presentations on topics ranging from The Life of Bob Marley to Man Vibes: Masculinities in the Dancehall.

Spanning ten days the festival manages to cram in a large number of musicians. The main acts finish at around 1 am but DJs continue playing on the Dance Hall Stage and Dub Station until much later. This year some of the best per-



"Terribly sorry, I can't quite hear you!"

formances came from the charged and energetic **Capleton**; the evocative Marley clan (Stephen, Ziggy, Ky-Mani and Rita Marley) and the charismatic **Luciano**, who was kind enough to lend me a lift from the airport to the festival site. Both **Jimmy Cliff** and **Toots and the Maytals** were also reportedly very good.

The character of the festival draws more from hippy themes than Jamaican ones, indeed this year actual Jamaican people were for the most

part conspicuously absent creating, at times, a distinct sense that some heavy cultural tourism was being indulged. This was underpinned by an ostentatious, pseudo-pagan inclusion of **Bob Marley's** memory in nearly all aspects of the festival. For the relentless neurotic this might be a turn off, but if you want sun, don't mind slowing down the pace for a week or so and like reggae music, even just a little bit, then Rototom Sunsplash comes highly recommended.

Punk planet by Douglas Heaven

This week: **Uzeda**



Sicily: land of citrus fruit, olive oil, Cosa Nostra, and **Uzeda**, a band hailing from the foothills of smoking Mt. Etna. Three of their five albums were recorded by Steve Albini, the pixie of punk rock himself, and released on the *Touch & Go* label. Albini's instantly recognizable sound on *4* (1995), *Different Section Wires* (1998), and *Stella* (2006) encouraged online music magazine Pitchfork to call **Uzeda** "a T&G cover band with **Kim Deal** on vocals". But that's no bad thing. They share a soundscape with *Touch & Go* labelmates **Shellac** (Albini's own band) and the David Yow-fronted **Jesus Lizard**. "Tighter than a supermodel's stomach" is one way I've heard the **Jesus Lizard** described and that'll do just as nicely for **Uzeda**. And never mind the **Pixies'** Kim Deal; **Uzeda's** vocalist Giovanna Cacciola is a female Yow, cooing and moaning and pleading in a monologue that tugs at the engine of the band. And what an engine: "a tribal-jazzy rhythm section that indulges in time changes worthy of prog-rock but coupled with shrieking guitar that makes **Sonic Youth** sound mainstream", says Piero Scaruffi in his online *History of Rock Music*. There's a wildness here, the bass growling like a feral dog, the guitars spiking like the tongue of a snake, unpredictable and languid. But the tightness makes it more machine than animal: a well-tuned engine bolted together by the piston snap of the snare.

Check out www.uzedatband.com for audio and video streams of all the band's recorded material.

Make sure not to miss

Keith Fullerton Whitman

CAMP (City Arts & Music Project), Old Street
Tuesday 18 October
www.upsettherhythm.co.uk

Electric wizard and founder of avant-garde music distributor Mimaroglu Music Sales, KFW crosses the ocean for a rare appearance in London next week. Bending ear drums as he ignites the air, sending unprecedented patterns across the room and exposing the infinite space held inside a momentary burst of sound, KFW has become one of the most striking figures in modern electronic music. His music spans a colourful spectrum from ambient guitar to decimated synthesis, opening our ears to open our minds. Likenesses can be drawn to a melodramatic R2D2 stuck in rehab or an internet chat between an excitable bird and stuporous orca, after throwing a modem into the sea. **Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto**

Television Editors: **James Simpson**
Matt Allinson

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TELEVISION

Pick of the week

Like these shows? How about a review then, bitch?!



Friday | 2100 - 2130 | BBC1

Have I Got News for You

Jo Brand hosts the nation's favourite satirical news quiz.

Saturday | 2145 - 0000 | Channel 4

Die Hard II

Bruce Willis stars in this second part of the legendary action movie series. Lots of guns and Bruce Willis.

Sunday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC2

Fry's Planet Word

Something about Stephen Fry's voice implies erudition, so why not listen to him talk about language for an hour. Pity he used Comic Sans for the subtitles. Eurghhh.

Monday | 2100 - 2200 | Channel 4

Embarassing Bodies

The team deal with a cornucopia of genital problems. If you're feeling down, have a look at some other people's problems.



Tuesday | 2305 - 0010 | Channel 4

Shameless

Funny not only because it's funny, but also because people this feral do actually exist. Go and get yourself an 'E'.

Wednesday | 2100 - 2200 | Channel 5

Paul Merton's Adventures

He's back for a new series don't you know.

Thursday | 2000 - 2100 | BBC2

The Great British Bake-Off

Highlights of the first series. Excellent viewing if you are hungry and/or want some cooking ideas. Mmm yummy mummies.

Fresh Meat deserves a roasting

New comedy series has more sex than Imperial, dammit

Maciej Matuszewski

I had pretty high expectations of *Fresh Meat*, the new comedy drama about seven students at a Manchester University sharing a house. The show (or at least its first episode) received rave reviews and is from the creators of *Peep Show*, a programme which can generally guarantee a good laugh.

Of course the biggest draw was the University setting: I generally find comedy dealing with things that I am familiar with far more engaging. Here I found my first disappointment. A good comedy can often make fun of a mundane situation by taking it to extremes but I feel *Fresh Meat* takes it too far. It feels nothing at all like my student experience, there's nothing recognisable that could make the show a personally poignant experience. Take, for example, Josie - a kind and innocent dentistry student who sleeps with the

"Switch from Geology to Drama after three days to get more girls"

thoroughly obnoxious JP as soon as she arrives because she is convinced by her new housemates that this is the sort of thing one does during the first week at University. Or Oregon, who is so at pains to conceal her studious, middle class background - despite none of her friends really caring about it - that she lies about having a car and having done well at school. Or Kingsley, who decides to switch from geology to drama after only a few days to try to get girls and avoid one somewhat annoying lecturer.

Of course not everybody will care about this and I guess that some might even find the situ-

ations presented somewhat familiar. I'd be the first to admit that I'm hardly the typical student, more like the unsociable and never seen Paul than any of the other characters. As such its only to be expected that I don't find their problems familiar. Perhaps this makes me unqualified to comment on the show, but I daresay that there are more than a couple people like me at Imperial.

None of this would really matter if the show was at least funny, but it simply isn't. I can't really explain it - I just didn't laugh a lot while watching it. When I did it was mainly from embarrassment at the often puerile jokes. In fact, I found the more 'dramatic' elements of the show - like awkward Howard's attempts to get a date with outgoing Voz - far more interesting.

This is by no means a horrible show and you should probably check out at least one episode to see if it's your sort of thing - just don't expect anything brilliant.

Could you write a review of Hidden, DCI Banks, The Great British Bake-Off, Educating Essex, One Man One Jar, Blue Bloods, House, or ANYTHING? We need you! Email us.

Sometimes answers just lead to more questions

Lucia Podhorska takes a retrospective look at *LOST*

Writing reviews on shows I love is something I have found to be quite difficult. When I try to persuade someone to watch something I like, it generally ends with me saying "Erm, yeah, you just need to watch it, cos it's amazing." And reviewing a show like *LOST* is even harder, because I never want to give away too much, because it's the secrets and surprises that make it so enjoyable.

I'll be honest with you. I was quite a late-comer to *LOST*, mostly due to my own skepticism. I mean, it's just a bunch of people who crash on an island and try to survive, right? That's been done so many times; it's hard to keep count. Oh, how very wrong I was...

The pilot episode, which incidentally was the most expensive pilot ever made costing between \$10-14 million, introduces the viewers to the survivors of Oceanic Flight 815, flying from Sydney to Los Angeles, which crashes on an island somewhere in the South Pacific. For you avid readers out there you will quickly draw parallels with *Treasure Island* and *Lord of the Flies* as the first couple of episodes explore the makings of a hierarchical society. That's pretty much where most similarities to other island survival shows end. The first night on the island is spent building a fire and trying to understand why

the jungle makes strange metallic noises whilst trees topple left, right and center. The next day, a brave group goes into the jungle to try and send a distress call from the cockpit. They manage to find a transceiver and even the pilot is alive, but he is soon killed by the unseen monster. Crazy-ness ensues as other survivors encounter a polar bear, build a golf course and hear a mayday, in French, that has been repeating on a loop from somewhere on the island for 16 years. Weird stuff...

Why did they crash? Where did they crash? Why did these specific people survive? Those are just a few of the questions that audiences ask themselves when they

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watch this show. That's the wonderful - and infuriating - thing about *LOST*: every answer just leads to more questions. This can get a bit annoying and I do know a few people who simply gave up after a few seasons of increasingly complicated plotlines. If you are such a person, I recommend you go back to the beginning and watch the whole thing all over again, because this really is the kind of show one needs to watch back-to-back in order to fully appreciate it. And the majority of the questions do get answered by the end of season six.

And what is there to appreciate, you ask? Well, let's start with the location: Hawaii! The beautiful scenery and sudden day-turning-into-night-end-of-the-world-type-weather makes it the perfect setting. Then there's the music, as composed by Michael Giacchino, which in a way, has come to define the show. In fact, I'm pretty sure it was when I started watching *Lost* that I came to fully appreciate just how important the music in a television show can be. Just the main tune 'There's No Place Like Home' manages to be heart-wrenching, yet oddly uplifting at the same time. Genius.

As I already mentioned in previous reviews, the thing that's most important to me in a series are the characters. If they're not interesting or don't develop, I just tune out. Thankfully, *LOST* is jam-packed with character development and intrigu-



This style of poster is compulsory for every American TV show

TELEVISION

Jeremy Kyle 'guests' should cease breeding

Victims of reduced gene pool descend dignity ladder

George Barnett

The Jeremy Kyle Show... wow. Where to start? I suppose I could start by telling you that the comedian Jim Davidson once suggested that the producers of the show catch the vermin who appear on it outside Lidl with a large net. Or I could tell you that a judge called it "human bear-bating". Or perhaps that it's also been described by a Labour MP as a "modern day freak show".

Episodes usually fall into four categories; 'heartwarmers' (where someone has a genuine disability or issue that the show helps them out with by funding treatment or some other form of help) - meh, boring. Rehab episodes, still boring. The final two involve either DNA or lie detector tests; this is where the real shit goes down. In case you aren't familiar with the show, here are a few example episode titles: "I'm A Binge Drinker And A Drug Dealer, But I'll Be A Great Dad!", "My Kids Are Black and Angry!", "Why Do You Nag Us About the Heating Costing So Much and Then Leave Windows Wide Open?" (could be a reference to my housemate...), "Who's Father To Your Baby? Me Or My Dad?" and my personal favourite "Why Deny Paternity Just Because the Baby Is Ginger?". I think we all know the answer to that one.

I don't know what annoys me most about the Jezza K show. The fact that these people exist, the fact that most of them are unemployed and are leeching off the government because they're too damn lazy to get a job, or the fact that they are just incredibly rude. How can they be



His Majesty the King of Ink-Land - he looks like something out of fucking Avatar

willing to go on national television in front of a reported 1.8 million viewers to sort out their problems if they can't even listen to Jeremy without interrupting him every 4 seconds. But then again that's what you expect from these people, they need educating; in life, manners, decency, English (I doubt the participants even know what grammar is) and arguably

"Why deny paternity just because the baby is ginger?"

most importantly - how to use a condom (we don't want to breed a generation of retards now, do we?).

On a somewhat more political note, it shocks me that these people are allowed to vote. Most seem to be less intelligent than the average three-year-old. These are the sort of people who are quite happy to shag their partner's parents, they think being a good father is buying an Xbox 360 and a 32" TV instead of spending time with their children, they think being a grandmother and having a swingers party is normal. That's just disgusting, there are things you just shouldn't do at certain ages. Just imagine it, a granny who looks

and probably smells worse than a bulldog's dirty arsehole having an orgy. Eugh.

It probably sounds like I detest the Jeremy Kyle Show. But you'd be wrong to jump to conclusions - it's quality; daytime television at its best. It may well be "human bear-bating", but to be honest it's funnier than a penguin playing a banjo. In one show, a woman who had slept with two men in as many days (one of them being her ex with whom she already has a child with) ran on stage and punched aforementioned ex in the face before running off stage again. She was then restrained by a vast amount of hired muscle whilst Jeremy explained to her why what she did was wrong. Her response? "Nah mate. Naaah mate. Naaaaah". Fucking chav. She then decided that the best course of action would be to run off and smash a window. Clever girl.

I do wonder whether it's wrong to laugh at these people though; because they clearly do have some serious issues, and I do genuinely feel sorry for the people who get caught up in it all - those who get abused by some prick on drugs, or the children who are born into already broken and dysfunctional families. I even feel sorry for the guy who was stabbed just because he was covered in tattoos - although he did look like a bit of a knob (and has legally changed his name to King Of Ink Land King Body Art The Extreme Ink-Itte). However, I always come to the same conclusion: no, it's not wrong. It's just too bloody funny to not laugh. Besides, it does wonders for your ego to know that you will never be as shit a person as they are.



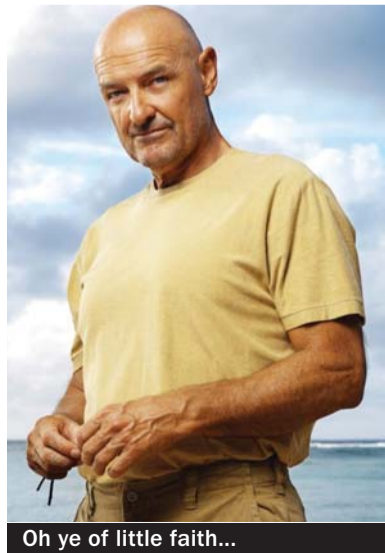
"Most importantly - how to use a condom"



Email tv.felix@ic.ac.uk to write for us!

ing characters, whom we get to know both on and off the island, thanks to the brilliant use of flashbacks, flash-forwards and flash-sideways. There's not really any actor who doesn't deliver, but there are a few that need mentioning for their outstanding performances: Matthew Fox as Dr. Jack Shepherd; Terry O'Quinn as John Locke and Michael Emerson as the creepy Ben Linus, both of whom received an Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actor In A Drama Series.

Created by J.J. Abrams - the man behind Alias, Fringe and the new Star Trek movie - and Damon Lindelof, LOST ran for six seasons and explored a larger panoply of themes than other Hollywood shows have. Mortality, religion, relationships and the human condition are all investigated. Part



of the success of the show is its ability to transparently approach these without making them too apparent to the viewer which allows both the 'couch potato' and the critical mind to enjoy themselves. A detailed analysis that satirizes modern society can be derived with little effort as well which generates great conversation if you find yourself with similarly minded people.

The brilliance of the show comes from its innate ability to appeal to all audiences. Dog lovers, science fiction fans, scientist and adventurous shoot-em'-up junkies all have their slice of pizza to enjoy. This is a top of the list recommendation for everyone out there. You just need to watch it, cos it's amazing.

FADE TO BLACK.



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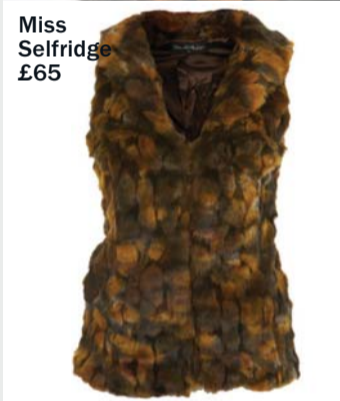
FASHION

Winter is coming, time to go coat crazy

A statement coat is essential this season. Embrace the cold and define your style with **Alice Yang's** pick of the best



Fendi
£14,960



Miss Selfridge
£65

Fur

What better way to combat the winter chills than to wrap up warm in a fluffy fur coat? From Paris to Milan, fur was seen in a rainbow of colours, lengths and cuts leaving us spoilt for choice. Sleek glamour shone through with a seventies vibe at Gucci in the form of rich, gem coloured, bulging furs matched with statement sunglasses. Cute baby doll dresses layered under pale fox furs made Anna Sui's show a winter wonderland.

Whether you prefer the long shaggy furs seen at Isabel Marant, or the sleeker more classic pieces at Valentino, fur is this seasons must have with the one big rule – if your coat is going to bulge on top, ensure fluid lines flow beneath.

THE PICK:

Karl Lagerfeld brought a plethora of thick woollen pieces wrapped in rusty shades perfect for frosty walks to his show at Fendi this season. But among those, it was the fluffy coats that stole the show. They appeared as lustrous tufts of auburn orange, chocolate brown and silver greys all mixed into one. For a similar, but more toned down take, try Miss Selfridge's silky tribute to the coming shades of nature.



Celine



Topshop
£100

Full Length

There was a great sense of drama and mystery this season as designers sent floor sweeping coats down the catwalks. The great coat was seen at Hermes, Jaeger London and Rodarte – all simple and perfectly tailored, with just the right amount of flow. Chanel's burnt forest catwalk too featured ankle length knitted numbers with thick defined collars, and DSquared2's Western rebel girls matched tough billowing cloaks to their aggressively shaped hats and distressed denim.

Giorgio Armani's overcoats were only zipped down to the waist, allowing the smooth silk dresses that shimmered beneath to peak through contrasting the texturised detailing on the coats. Haider Ackermann upped the drama – black leather gloves and powerfully layered jackets building sharp silhouettes topped off with sky high quiffs.

Long, sleek and filled with authority, this is definitely a statement making addition to your wardrobe.

THE PICK:

In shades of slate grey with fur trimmed lapels and rough edges, Pheobe Philo's overcoats at Celine were modern authenticity at its best. Topshop's alternative also features a thick fluffy neckline, adding extra warmth to its moulded classic shape and tucked in waist.



Jason Wu
£1,510



Mango
£55

Blazer

Fitting in perfectly with this season's trend of androgyny came a sea of sharp cut suit jackets worn with a sense of purpose and power. Dolce and Gabbana pioneered the strong girl-boy look this season, striking a perfect mix between masculine toughness and feminine delicacy. Perfect white shirts fastened to the neck sat under double-breasted jackets with wide collars and velvet lapels, topped with boyish quiffs under smart trilbies. Stella McCartney's jackets gave a new definition to power dressing - midnight black knee length blazers with rounded shoulders adding a feminine touch. Acne's jackets were traditionally sleek - military greens and candyfloss pinks adding a twist to the classic two-piece suit.

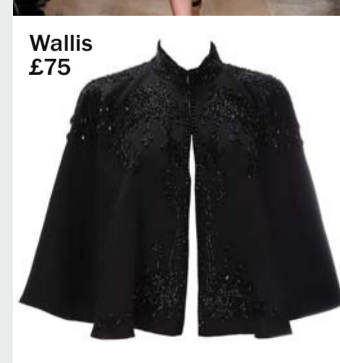
It's as much about the jacket this season as how it's worn. The models at Jason Wu, Michael Kors and Paul Smith all casually tossed over their shoulders. Result? Simple and sexy. The trick? Steal your boyfriend's blazer, sling over your shoulders, slip on a pair of heels and stride with confidence.

THE PICK:

Jason Wu's blazers were immaculately tailored this season. His contrasting lapels and defined shoulders were copied at Mango, for only a sliver of the price.



Emilio Pucci
£6,695



Wallis
£75

Cape

Capes and ponchos have been a long time coming, but no one expected the masterpieces Alexander Wang created this season. Luxuriously soft cashmeres mixed with tough leathers, draped shimmering silks and quilted interiors left editors piling over themselves after his show for pieces that so cleverly combined feminine casual wear with tough outerwear. Chloe presented show stoppingly beautiful snow queen-esque pieces flung over white chiffon dresses. Marc Jacob's cloaks were short and velvet in shimmering jewel tones, and Alber Elbaz made his longer and sleeker for a touch of sixties mystery at Lanvin. John Galliano's last show at Christian Dior lacked no drama either as Karlie Kloss strutted down the catwalk in knee high boots, a floppy wide brimmed hat and billowing black cape swirling behind her.

Full of drama yet elegantly draped, it's hard to go wrong with a cape.

THE PICK:

Emilio Pucci's girls strutted dark mysterious pieces embellished with baroque swirls this season, calling into mind the misty forests of a fairy tale adventure. Perhaps a little less heavy, yet with just enough detail to carry you from day to night, Wallis' version too will wrap you up perfectly for a midnight stroll.

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GAMES

Gaming in reverse - Quake

Omar Hafeez-Bore on why old games get better when you pretend they're new

So here's my plan, to get my own back on the remakes. By actually going back. As in, back-WARDS in time! Yes, I'm going to use the power of artistic licence to reverse time, and see what pixelated gems of gaming goodness have been lost along the way. What has pushed me to this drastic plan of action? I mean who could argue with taking those hazy childhood memories of gaming, and sprucing them up to preen and perform for modern gamers?

Who could argue with dispatching a new group of gamers to fell Shadow of the Colossus' titular titans, and feel the guilt afterwards? Or with recruiting new thumbs to pilot an Arwing in Starfox 64 3D, listening to the radio-chatter hubbub of gaming's most iconic sound bites?

"I guess I should be thankful!"

And I guess I should be especially thankful for the super-effective, special attack justification for this remake craze: who could argue with a new set of men becoming boys again, and taking those daunting baby-steps into the expanse of Hyrule field in Ocarina of Time 3D?



Extra polygons are always good - or are they?

Well at first, I did. I wasn't arguing against the rushed attempts of some publishers to milk whatever cash cow franchise they owned. After seeing the trailers, I actually had a specific, personal gripe with Ocarina of Time and its much touted visual spit-and-polish.

I mean, did you see the new trees in Kokiri Forest?! All individually rendered in loving detail? What the hell had happened to the low-res, is-that-seriously-meant-to-be-a-tree texture that used to surround the forest? Their endlessly repeating texture of vaguely wood-y colours suggested deep forest more than any amount of crafted polygons ever could. And don't get me started on the hyper-warm colours in the trailers.

Too late! You just did with your revolting look of confusion.

Seriously, what were those new Hyper-warm colours? Was this Hyrule-Del-Sol or something? Where was my earthy-toned, muddy Hyrule, and what was this flashy imposter with its cheap greens and golden hues?!

So the trailers got me worked up. And thinking. And what I thought was: By Golly! (because that is how thoughts think) there are a lot of types of remake, and most are very good, but maybe some of them lose something in translation. Even more interesting (By Golly Gosh!) was the idea that maybe, sometimes, there were some stylistic advantages to the old limitations on graphic and sound.

Think about it (What ho!): What was originally a necessity, of using pixelated graphics and 8-bit chip-tunes, has now been embraced as part of the gaming aesthetic. Many games, from Minecraft to Megaman 9, relish the unique power of using pixels as their brush strokes or blips and bleeps as their soundtrack.

So is shinier and spanglier always better? This being Imperial, we must experiment. As I mentioned earlier, I will use the power of writing to REVERSE TIME ITSELF.

By doing this I will (single-handedly) transform the gaming landscape from one endlessly striving towards realism and simulation, to one that starts off realistic and suddenly embraces the abstract. The slowdown, the short draw-distances and square polygons. We'll pretend it's like fine art, starting off all obsessed with fabrics and shadows and portraits and landscapes, before being forced by photography into

a kaleidoscope of creativity. Surrealism, impressionism, and all those other-isms.

We'll pretend, just as a null hypothesis type thing, that even if Miyamoto had the choice of 3D-high-resolution, bump-mapped, bloom-lit powers when he invented Mario, or Toby Gard had the access to performance-capture, anti-aliasing, motion-controlled know-how when he made Tomb Raider, that they'd still choose to make them just as they did.

I hope to choose a game or two every week, often ones that've since been remade or refined, and see if any of its retro chic can beat any of our modern shine.

Let's reverse time and see what we find!

Quake: Playing them in reverse

Since id's success with Quake 4, it has produced 3 sequels including the trigger-happy Quake 3, and a true strogg-and-sci-fi sequel Quake 2. But it's in its latest incarnation (trendily called just 'Quake') that the series has found the eeriness and atmosphere it has always strived for. id has eschewed the steel walls and electric doors of Quake 4 and its sequel too, instead opting for a uniquely baroque hybrid of



gothic architecture, thunderous guns and grotesque fantasy monstrosities.



Quality reduction - id's design masterstroke

Its masterstroke of horror however is in reducing the amount of frames of animation used. Instead of the fluid and familiar advances of Quake 4's enemies, the ones in Quake are rendered with a jerky, staccato energy, as if fighting in strobe lighting. Funny as it may sound, it actually gives the gunplay a brutal immediacy of impact, and the already ghoulish designs the unnerving, alien rhythm of a Ray Harryhausen stop motion effect.

"The enemies in Quake are rendered with a jerky, staccato energy, as if fighting in strobe lighting"

There is nothing as tense as seeing one of Quake's huge Shamblers crashing across a hallway in judered strides, nothing as vicious as a possessed knight swinging his sword in the few frames of his frenzied swing, and nothing better as message from id to the rest of the FPS competition; that in this day of motion-capture and self-indulgent animations, less can still be more.

Minecraft: so much more than just Lego for nerds

Laurence Pope

Yesterday one of my friends asked me – what's the deal with Minecraft? I tried to explain it to them, but to no avail. So here's try two – in print form. Maybe I'll enlighten this time around...

It's easy to say what Minecraft (by developers Mojang) is – an open-world sandbox game with no goal in mind other than what you set yourself. You're dumped into the middle of the cube-based world most people are familiar with and bam, that's it, do what you want.

What's the fun in that I hear you ask? The problem is, most people don't realise just how complicated the world presented to you is. Yes, the graphics are what you'd call retro, but in keeping with what

Omar said above me retro isn't always a bad thing. A world of true complexity lies hidden beneath the simplicity of the blocky textures presented to you. The thrill (seriously) is in creation and development. You start from the bare basics, a small



Note: not in-game footage

wooden hut or a hollowed-out rock face in order to survive the first night, when all manner of zombies and skeletons come out to attack. From there you can gather more and more exotic materials – coal, iron, gold and diamonds to name a few – by delving into the virtual earth, all the while avoiding the perils of lava flows and dungeon-dwelling beasts. As your building grows in grandeur you can start to utilize the more complicated and subtle aspects behind the game, including power switches, pistons and automatic minecart tracks. This is the wealth of complexity concealed beneath the simple design, and it's discovering that immense untapped potential that keeps me, at least, playing on to find them.

You only have to look on YouTube to find a wealth

of inventive creations – pinball machines, elaborate traps, timed explosives, waterfall lifts, music devices that play *Bohemian Rhapsody*...the list is effectively endless. With regular updates come more tools to create and more inventive ways to muck about in your own private universe.

So what are you waiting for? Get playing, and watch out for my most probably ill-fated Minecraft how-to in future issues.

Or, you know, just go back to Lego.



@FelixGames on
Twitter

FOOD

Food Editors: **Anastasia Eleftheriou**
Michael Krestas

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Food Battle

by Michael Krestas

Felix Food introduces a new column: the "Food Battle"! Two beloved dishes are "stripped down" until we find which is the healthiest for you.

One of the guiltiest pleasures around is fast food. Although many people have decided to put an embargo on it, some of us just can't live without it. What we can do is make smart choices, which are healthier without depriving us of junk food's delightful taste!

This issue's contestants: the chicken nuggets and the chicken fillet burger. Who will be the winner?

Chicken Nuggets (6 pieces)

288 calories
19g fat
15g carbs
15g proteins

VERSUS

Grilled Chicken Fillet

140 calories
8g fat
0g carbs
17g proteins

+ Hamburger Roll

120 calories
2g fat
22g carbs
4g proteins

+ slice of tomato, lettuce leaf, slice of onion

<10 calories

Add

French fries: 370 calories
Coleslaw: 150 calories
Ketchup: 30 calories
Mustard: 3 calories
Mayonnaise: 50 calories

Editor's Opinion:

I'd go with the chicken burger, have a coleslaw salad instead of fries and as a dipping sauce I'd choose mustard. A total of 470 calories.

Winner:

Chicken Fillet Burger

Imperial Food Awards

Who is going to be the next Imperial MasterChef?

Anastasia Eleftheriou

It's our pleasure to announce the first Imperial Food Awards competition! Organised and judged by the Food Editors of Felix, this is your chance to prove your talent and creativity in cooking. In short, you shouldn't miss it. The reason? Loads of fantastic prizes will be awarded to the winner, who will be announced on October 28.

In order to enter the competition you simply need to prepare your speciality, write its recipe in detail, take a few photos of it (at least two), attach them to an email with the subject COMPETITION – YOUR FULL NAME and send it to food.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Simply, the most creative and well presented submission wins! For more details, read the terms and conditions of the competition and have a look at the prizes that were kindly offered by our sponsors. We're looking forward to receiving your submissions and wish you the best of luck!

Prizes

- Free Breakfast Voucher for 2 people by Dishoom, Bombay Café.
- £30 Amazon gift voucher offered by the Cypriot society.
- Riverford Farm Cook Book (Best First Book & Work on British Food) by Riverford Organic Farm.
- 5 **Good Food: 101 Easy Student Dinners** recipe books by Ebury Press awarded to the **best five submissions**.
- Kitchenware by Lakeland: "The home of creative kitchenware".

Terms and Conditions

- The deadline for the submissions is on **Friday October 21 at 00:00**.
- The recipe can be influenced by other existing recipes but the preparation of the dish, the way you are going to write it up and present it and the photographs taken must be your own unaided work.
- You need to include at least 2 pictures of your dish and no more than 5.
- Any submission found to violate any of these rules will be eliminated.

Imperial Food Awards are brought to you by Felix Food and our generous sponsors:



Margaritas @ home: it's cocktail time

Anastasia Eleftheriou

What you are going to need:

- 35 ml Tequila
- 20 ml Triple Sec
- 15 ml strawberry juice (or any other juice you prefer)
- Ice cubes

Margarita is the most common tequila-based cocktail and was most probably invented in Mexico, although there is no solid proof of

its origin. We like it in its classic form or with strawberry, pineapple, peach, mango or papaya flavours.

You can enjoy your favourite margarita with a Mexican meal or as a dessert on its own and the good news is that it is very easy to make it at home.

To make one put everything in the blender until the texture of your cocktail becomes creamy. Rub the rim of the glass with a lime slice, add some salt on it, and carefully pour the mix into the glass.

Now sit back and enjoy. Viva Mexico!



The thinking man's Slush Puppie

Wafflemeisters: gather 'round!

Michael Krestas

Wafflemeister is preparing for the waffliest competition ever! Eat your way through the full range of Wafflemeister favourites and an unlimited supply of classic waffles in 3 minutes! Only rule: no drinking of any kind allowed.

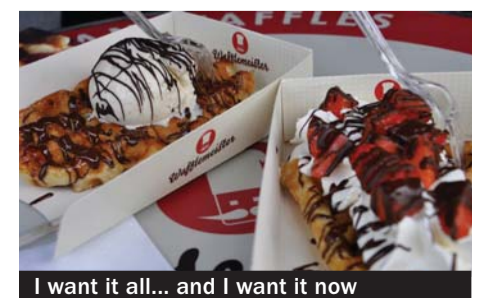
Whoever eats the most waffles wins. Register before Wednesday October 19 by sending an

email to wafflecomp@wafflemeister.com and by joining "Wafflemeister" on Facebook.

Dates:

South Ken Station 17.00-19.00 on 19th Oct
Portobello Road 13.00 -15.00 on 23rd Oct
<http://www.wafflemeister.com/>

Let the Waffle battle begin!



I want it all... and I want it now

Dishoom, one of the best Bombay Cafés that London has to offer?

Anastasia Eleftheriou
Michael Krestas

One minute away from Leicester Square Station, Dishoom offers great Indian food at great prices in an extraordinary yet cosy atmosphere.



A: I literally can't move at the moment. I'm full. You should have stopped me after the fifth dish!

M: What could I have done? Everything was great! However, there's always space for some extra Dishoom calamari.

A: Oh yeah, all the dishes were fantastic. Although I am not a big fan of In-

dian food, as I don't like spicy dishes, I found out that there are many interesting ones. I really loved the fish fingers with the sweet sauce.

M: Well, Dishoom is a traditional Indian restaurant but at the same time its menu offers a broad choice of both spicy, non-spicy and also vegetarian dishes.

A: Yes, this is absolutely true. I am wondering why you chose that spicy cocktail drink. I mean, we tried many spicy dishes like the house black daal - you should have got a sweet cocktail like the Bombay Colada.

M: A spicy cocktail like Chilli Martini may sound weird but it matches perfectly with most of the dishes and surely completes their taste. What did you think of the "Fish Ruby"? I have to admit I'm used to curry combined with chicken but that was a blast!

A: That's why it was the speciality of the day, it was special indeed! One of the best dishes that should be included in the menu. You know what? You may find it silly, but what I enjoyed the most was Raita. Mouthwatering and refreshing! Together with the garlic bread it was the best side dish.

M: I totally understand. Even if you are not into spicy foods, just combin-



Makes a change from KFC

ing them with a yoghurt dip - like Raita - can just make you think about the flavours spices trigger. I particularly like the fact that you have so many choices. No need to limit your selection to 1 dish; Just order three, four maybe five plates and share them among the table!

A: Yes indeed, it gives you the opportunity to enjoy many different dishes. Have you noticed that we have finished our three course meal in just one hour?

M: That was very impressive, the service is splendid. Dishes are properly cooked and presented, the waiters and waitresses look very keen to assist you and that really contributes to the overall experience.

A: I totally agree. Dishoom has a very warm atmosphere and it was packed, even though it was a Wednesday. Fortunately, we made a reservation.

M: That's just more proof of how pop-

ular Dishoom is.

A: Oh come on! Tell me about the desserts! Personally I couldn't resist taking my usual; chocolate fondant, yummy!

M: Ok, I'm gonna admit it: I did try some of your fondant while you were away from the table! There, I said it! But you stole some of my delicious pineapple & black pepper crumble ... and not just once!

A: I just wanted to try the combination of pineapple, honey, oats and ice-cream...

M: I forgot to ask you, why did I have to carry my camera with me?

A: Oh lord... we were supposed to take some photos! But as soon as the food arrived, I couldn't think of anything but eating!

M: So, when are we visiting Dishoom again?

A: Are you free next week?

M: Sure!

A: So you'd recommend it huh?

M: Totally!

www.dishoom.com

12 Upper St. Martin's Lane,
London WC2H 9FB
Tel: 020 7420 9320

The Cheese & Wine Festival returns

Get ready Imperial – It's going to be a cheesy weekend!

Michael Krestas

Last issue, Felix Food made mention of the Chocolate Week, the London Restaurant Festival and the Diwali Festival. It's likely some of you dislike chocolate, hate restaurant festivals or think Indian food is just another thing that drags you to the toilet! So, let's talk about cheese... and wine!

The Cheese & Wine Festival is taking place on 14 – 16 Oct at the Southbank Centre Square in London. A wide range of stalls will be showcasing the highest quality cheeses and wines from the UK and around the world. As with any self-respecting festival, it will also offer many exciting activities. There are going to be many cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs such as Valentina Harris and Tim Atkin! However, if you think that watching someone

cook is boring, you may join me in an Australian wine tasting session with Brian Oakwell - or a cheese and beer pairing of La Cave à Fromage & Meantime Brewery, who said just brilliantly: "What two foods are made for each other more than beer and cheese... Cheese is beer backwards, or beer is cheese backwards."

Finally and most importantly, all of us are either students or (very) hard-working employees and are aware that fine cheese and wine can

"... the highest quality cheeses and wines from the UK"

be a bit...expensive. Admission to the Cheese & Wine festival is FREE*. It's as if it was organized especially for us! So remember: do not have lunch at Queen's Tower or the Library Café. Brace yourself for a cheesy evening and quench your thirst with plenty of wine! Doctor's instructions: Repeat on Saturday and Sunday.

* A ticket is required for tutored tasting with Tim Atkin and seating is limited.

Go to **www.cheesewinefestival.com** to get the full list of events, participants and book tickets.

Friday 14 October – Sunday 16 October
11am – 8pm daily (6pm Sunday)

Southbank Centre Square

wordpress.com



A whole festival based around cheese and wine? Better brie-lieve it

TRAVEL

Wishing You Were Here



'Illuminated Berlin Dome' by Michael Sohn

Travel tales wanted!

Calling all pretentious gap yahs and casual backpackers! Been travelling this summer? Felix Travel wants the lowdown on all your adventures. If you have anything – whether it's a hilarious anecdote or helpful destination guide – send it to us now at travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

What's in it for you?

This year the Felix Travel team are going to work with writers to get you more freebies on the road: gain some writing experience over the year and we'll show you how to go about approaching companies with writing proposals that'll heighten your backpacking experience. We've been reaping the rewards for a while, and are now we're ready to share the secrets. So go on, get writing!

Bustling in vibrant Berlin

A long weekend of artistic pleasures and historical delights: the perfect European city getaway

Dushi Arumuganesan

Having been bitten by the travel bug severely this summer, and with just enough time and money (for once!), I wanted to book a holiday somewhere remote and unexplored. I wanted to discover the sights, sounds and smells of a foreign land for myself without feeling obligated to visit all the suggested attractions in a travel guide. However, after realising a return flight to anywhere “remote and unexplored” would involve spending at least a month's rent, I felt that ignoring Ryanair's mid-season sale would just be cutting off my nose to spite my face – a city break in Berlin it was.

Consulting my Berlin RoughGuide mere minutes after landing at Schönefeld airport (a good ten miles or so away from the actual terminal, but who cares about that when you've landed on “yet another on-time flight” as I was informed by the spectacularly cringe worthy Ryanair jingle), I was struck by how much like hard work this holiday was going to be, if we were going to fit in all the must-sees/eats/dos – and at times it was. Yes, I had a great time, but were there sights I wish I hadn't wasted time on? Definitely. So here is what I would limit my efforts on were I to re-do my time in Berlin, in

“A perfect place to relax in the summer”

order to have a perfect (but probably culturally ignorant) three days.

Berlin is famed for its many (read: over 150) museums. Even after having narrowed that list down to about ten, we struggled. My feet almost died and I developed a temporary distaste for any form of culture put on show. In hindsight, if I could only visit one museum, I'd make it the Hamburger Bahnhof. This is an especially good tip for any museum-phobe out there. It's a converted railway station now used to exhibit contemporary art, but you really do forget that you're in a museum and not the old station as it was. I found myself spending as much time studying the infrastructure of the building as I did the art itself. The massive steel arches that hail you at the entrance, the cavernous rooms, and the underground passages – all of these lend an uncanny eeriness to some already eccentric and extraordinary displays of art, many of which are in video or audio form.

Making your way around this entire building would make for an agreeable half day at least, if not longer for the keener art fan. In a creative mindset upon exit, I then headed to the Tacheles, an ex-Nazi prison. The building has been taken over by a group of artists since the fall of the Berlin wall and has been painted over on all possible surfaces with an impressive array of artwork. Within the building, artists hold workshops and sales of their work which include



The only guy in town to show up to Holocaust memorial day in fancy dress...

sculptures, posters and jewellery. Finally, the East Side Gallery – a long stretch of what is left of the Berlin wall that has been painted with politically themed murals – is categorically worth a small detour to East Berlin.

Now, the way I've tailored my second day may not appeal to everyone – but as a huge history buff, I couldn't help but dedicate a serious amount of time to the remnants of World War II in the city where it all began. The best way to see historical Berlin is a walking tour, and I would recommend the Original Berlin Walks Third Reich Sites Tour (www.berlinwalks.de). The English-speaking tour guide knew every detail of every story of every site we visited so well that not only did I barely notice three hours go by, but I felt like I'd absorbed as much information in that space of time as I had all year at university. Following up this walking tour with an afternoon at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp just outside of Berlin completed an enlightening and exceptionally poignant day.

The final day of any holiday always ought to be the most relaxed. The beautiful Schloss Charlottenburg, the largest palace in Berlin, is set in absolutely stunning grounds and backs onto the Schlosspark: “a perfect place to relax in the summer”. Within the palace itself, you can take an audio-guided tour through the rooms. If you find you still have time left after exploring this magnificently restored 17th

century structure, or even if you'd rather spend your last day engaging in less intellectually demanding activities (i.e. you save the last day to shop like me) and it happens to be a Sunday then make time to pay a visit to the Mauerpakt flea market in Prenzlauer Berg. It's a market you could spend hours meandering around, with amazing finds in almost every stall – an excellent place to spend your last euros. Lastly, if you are able to jump through the necessary hoops to land yourself on the list of permitted visitors to the Reichstag then certainly do so – but don't sweat it if you can't.

I've saved the “eats” for last. While in Berlin, we discovered possibly the best frozen yoghurt in the world. If you do not visit Berlin for any other reason, then stop there just for Wonderpots, please. I could have spent hours sampling the many flavours and toppings available at this kitsch frozen-yoghurt café situated on Friedrichstrasse, the metropolitan hub of the city. There was one aspect of Berlin that all the planning in the world could not have made up for though – the currywurst. Even before I tried it, I had trouble understanding the appeal of the concept itself (seriously: frankfurters, curry powder and ketchup?) and perhaps my culinary-inclined mind had raised my hopes too high for this German delicacy; excellent post-night-out kebab substitute maybe, but nothing much else.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Matrices and monkeys

David Clarke reports on the Kenyan Orphan Project



Have you ever had the chance to stand in front of a class of 40 wide-eyed Kenyan children and attempted to teach them about matrices? Have you ever rocked out with a group of Luo tribeswoman, or been mauled by a velvet monkey? If you had told me a year ago by now I would have experienced all these events I would honestly have called you insane. Yet last July, I somehow found myself on a plane to Nairobi with 10 other students, ready to take part in the Kenyan Orphan Project (KOP) summer programme.

I first heard about KOP at the Fresher's Fair last October and to be honest I was slightly sceptical to begin with. Remnants of conversations with friends about their time spent on a "spiritual, cultural, political exchange thing" during their Gap-Yah had made me question the effectiveness of projects like this one but I thought "Why not?" and so signed up to attend the first meeting. If I liked what I heard, then great and if not, well, at least there were free Hummingbird Cakes.

Throughout the following year I found myself in the middle of a mad fundraising effort to achieve our group target of over £8000. After a year we eventually gathered together the required amount and so the KOP summer team were ready to pack their bags (full of Kit-Kats and Pringles in some cases) and head out to Kisumu, eager to find out what lay in store. By the time we had touched down in Nairobi, I think it's fair to say we were all exhausted from travelling. Luckily for us it was only an 8 hour journey to Kisumu... by coach...

Upon arrival at the Duke of Breeze hotel in Kisumu we were introduced to the project leaders: Marti, with a love of jokes about cheese; and Shona, who had managed to find the only shop in Kisumu which sold Irn-Bru. After a warm introduction and a brief on each of the projects it was time for a nice cold Tusker (or three) on the amazing rooftop bar.

An early start followed by a cold shower set us up for our first day at Ombeyi Feeding Centre, a joint project between KOP and local NGO – the Ogra Foundation. We arrived at the project and were immediately introduced to the lively manager Ada who quickly filled us in on the day's activities. Our time at Ombeyi was mainly spent carrying out daily chores - such as watering the

numerous papaya trees or helping to prepare food for the children - but we also got to interact with the kids: playing with them and learning about the circumstances they live in and how Ombeyi is trying to better their lives by improving nutrition.

Special mention **MUST** be given to our transport, which can only be described as the most pimped out matatu (mini-bus) Kenya has ever seen. Clad in black and purple leather and featuring UV lighting to set off the neon interior, it's fair to say we travelled in style.

"I have every intention of returning to Kenya"

HOVIC (Hope for Victoria's Children) is a drop in centre for teenage boys who, for one reason or another, have found themselves living on the street. This project certainly proved to be hard-hitting and many of the KOP volunteers (myself included) were taken aback by the level of poverty which these young boys were facing. It was clear that the work going on at HOVIC was both effective and critical, giving teenage boys a roof over their heads, but more importantly trying to get them back to their families and back to school. The boys also received lessons in maths, English, Swahili and life-skills during their time spent at HOVIC, making the transition to school significantly easier.

Having chatted to the guys at HOVIC (whose ages range from 8-16) we were able to hear about the reasons which led them to live on the streets, and also their plans for when they left HOVIC. The experience of HOVIC was inspiring, but also somewhat saddening; the genuine enthusiasm and kindness of these boys made it easy to forget the fact that many of them came from backgrounds of drug addiction, glue sniffing (which is very common in Kisumu) and domestic abuse and that many of them were suffering from diseases such as malaria and even HIV. As clichéd as it may sound, HOVIC has remained a key reminder of why KOP exists, to tackle the issues of education, nutrition and healthcare for some of Kenya's poorest children. Of course it wasn't all doom and gloom at HOVIC. We were kept busy

by the guys and I would no sooner have finished one conversation when I would find myself being forced into another game of checkers...or having my shoes stolen! After three days it was time to leave for the final project, Oasis of Hope.

This project is one which KOP has been involved in right from the beginning and it is amazing to see how the school has been transformed. One of the issues at the school is the fact that they are unable to provide free meals for the students (most of the pupils are unable to afford 20p for lunch) and this is something which KOP is planning to address in the future.

I don't want to say that this was a once in a lifetime experience because I have every intention of returning to Kenya with KOP again next summer. Instead I would say the experience was life altering. People have since asked me so many questions about my trip: "Did you go out and save the world?" Well, no, but that was never our intention. There were no empty promises of building a town, or curing world hunger in a fortnight. These things take time, I was just glad to have the opportunity to be involved in the slow process of improving the quality of life for the people of Kisumu. With KOP I managed to make a real contribution to the development of many children's and at the same time I got to meet new people who have now become close friends, both in Kenya and from the other university students.

So whether you feel like you want to experience a new culture, just do something different with your summer, or if you're still sceptical about this sort of charity I would say one thing - just try it and see. It's a chance to make a difference to the lives of people who really need it the most. All in all, I really couldn't have asked for much more from a two week trip. But why would you take my word for it? The only way to really get what I'm talking about is to experience it for yourself... and you can always thank me later!

KOP will be holding a Meet and Greet in room 119 in SAF (up the main stairs) on Thursday 20th Oct at 7pm. There will be a chance to meet the committee and other KOP members, find out what's planned for the year ahead and ask any questions. There will also be free pizza and wine! A more formal presentation on the Student Summer Programme will follow in the coming weeks. Email cag-kop@imperial.ac.uk for more info.

Fellwanderers Freshers

Nathaniel Bottrell



Early on Sunday morning, more than 70 sleepy freshers made their way to Victoria and began to congregate around the Fellwanderers banner which was proudly flying between two poles. Once everyone had purchased their tickets and handed them to Heather, our responsible adult, we made our way to the platform. The group's size quickly became evident, much to the dismay of the ticket collectors - who promptly opened the gates and waved us through without much question.

We settled on the train and prepared ourselves for the journey ahead with (hopefully) everyone informed of which station we would need to change at. Typical train journey conversations began with quick introductions and the standard "Name/Course/Halls" questions, followed shortly by a comparison of hangovers amongst some of the committee members. We had a short wait at Lewes where much coffee was consumed after reports of "delicious coffee and hideously good service". It was indeed hideously good.

We arrived in Seaford and while the few who had forgotten to bring packed lunches got things from the highly convenient Morrisons, the first Fail of the year was had by James and I who went to look at the sea and were lured in by deceptively small waves and then caught out by a big one. We should have known better, and suffered the consequences of soggy feet for the rest of the day.

We then made a start on the walk itself which largely uneventful before lunch. The educated amongst you will know that preparing pasta in advance of a trip is always better than squished sandwiches and is best served with beer and preferably on a cliff looking out to the sea and blue-ish skies. Some of us had all 3.

After lunch, we continued our walk across the sisters, and most of us stopped at the pub conveniently located in the middle, where we able to witness a frantic phone conversation between a table in the pub and the top of the next hill (ooops).

Finally, about an hour ahead of usual schedule we arrived in Eastbourne and regrouped again to organise fish & chips. We were led to the "best fish & chips in Eastbourne" by Nathaniel. It was also the only one open - coincidence? It took rather a long time for everybody to be served, but we were soon all munching on our well earned dinners.

Unlike many previous years, trains were actually running from Eastbourne and this Sunday walk was devoid of dreaded bus replacement services. The journey home was much quieter, and while many took the chance for a quick nap, there were some evaluations made of the trip too. The general consensus amongst the new members was that the trip was a "success" and "good", however one not-so-satisfied newbie did state "Beachy Head wasn't all it was cracked up to be".

If you want to join us on a trip, either just for the day or for one of our weekend trips then come and meet us in Beit Quad where we meet every Tuesday at lunchtime. Always feel free to email fellwa@imperial.ac.uk to find out more! **Simon Evans**

HANGMAN



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Hangman Notice Board

Dear Library,

Those computers with the really high chairs are weird to sit at. Your knees hit the wall, the keyboards are too low, the chairs are odd, and this sentence has an Oxford comma on it. What? I don't just swear you know. I fucking know shit too.

P.S. The tables in the Group Study space are absurdly low. We tall, beautiful Caucasians are finding that our rounded, beautiful Caucasian knees barely fit underneath them! It's ok, I'll just put the seat down... For fuck's sake, the seats don't go down! That's it, I'm moving to your mum's house. Let's see what she thinks. Oh wait she's here, she doesn't mind. Then again, her knees are fucked anyway. BOOM!



Cheers Nick, now go back to Dave

Dear whoever locks Queen's Gate,

Stop fucking locking Queen's Gate at night. Why are you doing this anyway? Is this supposed to keep out would-be burglars? Guess what shit-face, the other side is like the arse of a woman who only does anal: it's a massive gaping hole. Do you honestly think that nobody can possibly come up with the brilliant plan of walking to the other side? If you do, you are a moron. All you're doing is pissing me off by mildly inconveniencing me for no particular reason.

Dear Library,

Why the fuck have you started giving out receipts at the library café again? Nobody wants or needs them; they just piss us off and make it slightly more awkward to get change. Oh, and they also hold up the queue slightly, my luke-warm jacket potato just gets colder. If someone wants a receipt, they shouldn't get one on the grounds of them being a massive cunt.

Dear smug guy who says he 'understood that lecture',

Hey, we don't give a fuck. Oh, I guess you wrote that textbook in the library too huh? Newsflash dickcheese, I bet you don't understand how to not be a prick, or how to get laid.

Dear Union,

Either put a new cash machine in the union or take away the minimum spend to pay on your card. I can't be arsed to go to the Sheffield building to get money out. I heard that apparently the Union are working with banks to try to get one that is free of charge. Wait, so they want to put in one that charges me to withdraw my own money? What the fuck? That's just absurd. Getting a free of charge cash machine, you know, just like pretty much every single other cash machine in the entire London area is not an impressive feat. It's barely even a feat.

Dear whoever invented minimum spends,

I just want a pint (cos I'm a FUCKING LAD OI OI TITS); I don't want to have to buy a bunch of crisps just to get the total cost up to £5. 'Oh, but it costs us money to process your card blah blah fuck off I'm trying to re-write my CV and pretend I'm a politician in Parliament.' That's probably what the Union will say. Well, yeah, good point, but I'm fairly sure that overall the profit you are making on the alcohol will offset the cost of the card processing – which, by the way, I still think is either non-existent or is not much.

To Do List ...

- 1) Fuck Bitches
- 2) Get Money. Not necessarily in that order.
- 3) Stop listening to rap music
- 4) Stop having danger wanks in labs, the added risk of chemical burns in unsavoury areas doesn't add much danger.
- 5) Start having danger wanks in lectures.
- 6) Start writing less misogynistic pieces

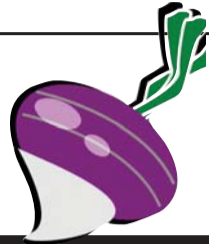
Drunken mate of the week

It's made a glorious return. Keep sending them in. If you don't we will go through ALL of your Facebook pictures, and then send the worst to your mum.

HANGMAN

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



Student stuck in hypothetical situation

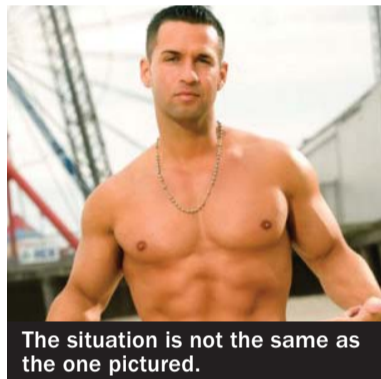
Doctors describe his condition as "possible"

A second-year studying EEE has been in a comatose state since last Friday after thinking about a situation involving himself with a box of matches, two bottles of overproof rum and a particularly awful lecturer. Complications only arose when his hypothetical self began fantasising about being at the Fresher's Ball wearing a silly hat loitering outside the toilets, at which point a deafening Inception-style "BWOOOOONG" was heard throughout Beit Quad, briefly interrupting the consumption of terrible

beer and snakebites. Partygoers shortly resumed festivities but for the EEE student the clock struck twelve rather too early at the Ball as his brain said "kthx-bye" and collapsed.

His position will, like Schrodinger's cat, undoubtable spawn many thought experiments. Much like the aforementioned cat, they will mainly be used by pricks in Shoreditch in a misguided attempt to look clever.

Leonardo DiCaprio denies any involvement in the incident, the slimy git.



The situation is not the same as the one pictured.

Horoscopes

Aries

You have a **danger** wank in halls: as you're about to reach climax, you unlock your bedroom door and scream "HELP!!" You furiously try and finish off before anyone arrives, full-screening YouPorn... only for your sub-warden to get there in record time. Whoops?

Taurus

After a tiring Fresher's Week, you've enjoyed winding down these last few days. You're having some macarons and tea, reading Hello magazine. It's bliss, pure heaven. You hear a cry. You run. You get covered in white, gooey cum. FUCKING FRESHERS!!!!!!

Gemini

Go fuck yourself. That's right. Go fuck yourself. I may have serious anger management issues, I may be fucked up. These horoscopes might just be a form of therapy, I dunno. But just go fuck yourself. I JUST WANT ALL YOU PRAT-FACED CUNTS TO FUCK OFF.

Cancer

You actually gave a public BJ in Reynolds bar on Friday. I'm **not** making this shit up. If only we'd got hold of the goddam pics we'd have had a better front page. Please, please, please send us the evidence!!!! Or come to Felix and give us all BJs. Whatever works.

Leo

You get a nosejob this week. You stupid, stupid dunderheaded prat. Err, hello?? That should have been a BOOB JOB!!!! It didn't work out for Wacko Jacko, it hasn't worked out for you. I'm still not going to be able to motorboat you or get that tit wank. Fuck, fuck, fuck.

Virgo

You're like a vuvuzela: loud, obnoxious, and unwelcome in open public spaces... ..yeh, that's right. Horoscopes just went highbrow bitches... what? ...Not happy? See Gemini for response.

Libra

You just spent £4000 on a spanking new, super-duper HD amazing 2 million pixel TV. Ahhhh, the satisfaction of knowing your evening will be spent watching Avatar and drinking Belvedere. But what's this? There's a white dot on the screen... noo! Rot in hell, broken pixel.

Scorpio

You spend your week peeving off your tutorial group, again. Fine, you might be on the blob, but this has been going on waaaaaay too long. Never trust something that bleeds for 7 days and doesn't die. If you've got issues, fuck off home. You're not welcome here.

Sagittarius

The Freshers have settled in. You've assessed their merits – tit size, smuttiness, lips. It's time to act. You invite some luscious virgins to yours. You tie them up and make them watch as you furiously masturbate to Schindler's List, using whisky as a lubricant. It stings visciously.

Capricorn

Alas, girls tits are still overwhelmingly under-sized. What to do? Ah, yes. A good old solo sex game. There's nothing quite like the thrill of starving yourself of oxygen, is there? Auto-erotic asphyxiation, you LOVE it. You're found dead in your room Monday.

Aquarius

As if Business School students weren't cuntish enough, you've been given an iPad to improve your "synergy and work flow through appropriate channels." What total bollocks. All it means is you're gonna be playing Angry Birds 24/7. You sad prick.

Pisces

Your Blackberry didn't work this week. That's what you get for having a phone owned mostly by weed-smoking chavs and coke-snorting bankers. The total arse-crap being shared over BBM sent the whole thing into overdrive. Turn it off, go outside, see some people. Pint?

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



Racism makes your penis thiiii big, hello ladies says repressed homosexual

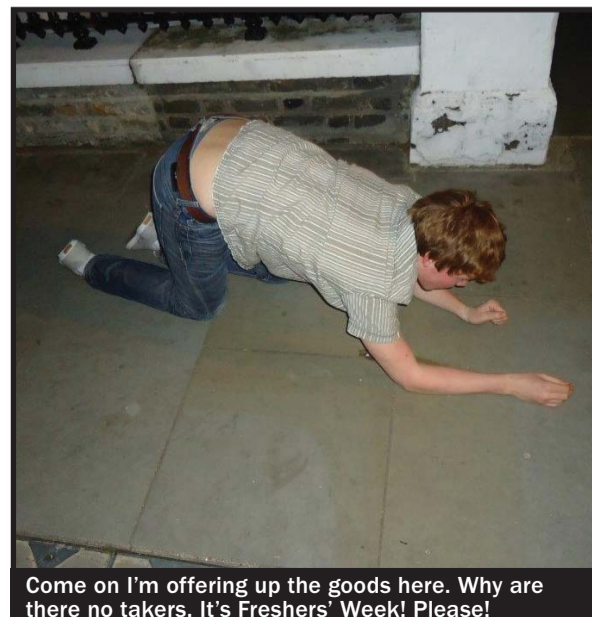


This was suggested for drunken mate of the week. Yes, that is an ethernet cable. Yes, this is proof that we go to Imperial. Better next time please.

DRUNKEN MATES OF THE WEEK



You call THAT deep-throating? I'll show you ...



Come on I'm offering up the goods here. Why are there no takers. It's Freshers' Week! Please!



GUITAR SOCIETY PRESENTS

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT METRIC

THURSDAY 27/10/11 AT 1900

DO YOU WANT
TO PLAY?

EMAIL GS.OPENMIC@GMAIL.COM

Sports Editors: **Indy Leclercq**
David Wilson

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

SPORT

Play sport.
Tell us.
Cheers.

Afternoon, all. How's your Friday going? I'll be honest with you, at the time you're reading this you can probably find me enjoying a well-deserved pint at the union. It's all been a bit panicky for us sports editors this week, mainly due to the fact that the sports fixtures only started this Wednesday and that we had absolutely nothing to put into our beloved dark-green-themed section.

Having spent far too long deciphering the new-format BUCS website, we are

proud to bring back the Fixtures and Results list, which (despite its name) only contains fixtures this week. Never fear, you'll be able to find out how all of Imperial's sporting clubs get on from next week onwards, which will also mark the beginning of this year's Felix Sport league table. The concept is simple: we tally the wins, losses and draws of all the sports clubs and see who is the most successful - this should really be your only point of reference for drunken

bragging -and banter - at the union on a Wednesday night.

Other than that, the opposite page sees the introduction of our Club Captain interview series. We plan to do one every two weeks, so if you want to show the whole university the faces behind your club's teams, get in touch with us at the usual address: sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk. This is actually a good place for me to remind you guys (as I will do all year) that WE NEED YOU lovely

sporty people to send us your reports in, otherwise we have nothing to print! It's a win-win situation: you get to see your heroic exploits in the paper on Friday, and we don't have a panic attack when the Sport inbox is empty on a Thursday morning.

All that's left to me is to wish you luck for the rest of the year. That, and savour the English defeat last weekend in the Rugby World Cup. Being French has its perks sometimes - commiserations, guys.

Fixtures

in association with
Sports Partnership



Wednesday 19th October

BADMINTON	Women's 1st vs St Mary's 1st	Men's 3rd vs University of Westminster 3rd	GOLF	Men's 3rd vs University of Surrey 2nd	RUGBY UNION	Men's 2nd vs LSE 1st	University of Essex 1st	Women's 1st vs Oxford University 1st
	FENCING	Mixed 1st vs Portsmouth University 2nd		Men's 4th vs Royal Holloway 2nd		Men's 3rd vs King's College 1st		Women's 1st vs UCL 1st
	FOOTBALL		HOCKEY		LACROSSE	Men's 4th vs King's College 2nd	VOLLEYBALL	Women's 1st vs Queen Mary 1st
		Men's 1st vs Portsmouth University 1st		Men's 3rd vs St George's, ULU 2nd		Men's 1st vs University of Sussex 1st		Sunday 23rd October
BASKETBALL	Women's 1st vs King's College 1st	Women's 1st vs St Mary's 1st	NETBALL	Women's 1st vs LSE 1st	SQUASH	Women's 1st vs UCL 1st		FUTSAL
	Men's 1st vs University of Kent 1st	Men's 2nd vs Roehampton University 2nd		Women's 1st vs King's College Medics 3rd		Men's 1st vs Reading University 1st	Saturday 22nd October	Women's 1st vs University of Hertfordshire 1st
		Women's 2nd vs King's College Medics 3rd		Women's 1st vs University of Sussex 1st		Men's 2nd vs University of Kent 1st	FENCING	Women's 1st vs University of Essex
						Women's 1st vs University of Cambridge 1st		

We are looking for *NORMAL VOLUNTEERS* and *HAYFEVER* sufferers to help with allergy research

If you are interested in taking part in research to help us understand the causes of nasal allergies and develop new forms of treatment, and if you are between 18 and 55 years old please contact us for more information:

s.quli-khan@imperial.ac.uk or a.goldstone@imperial.ac.uk

Shireen Quli Khan – Clinical Research Assistant

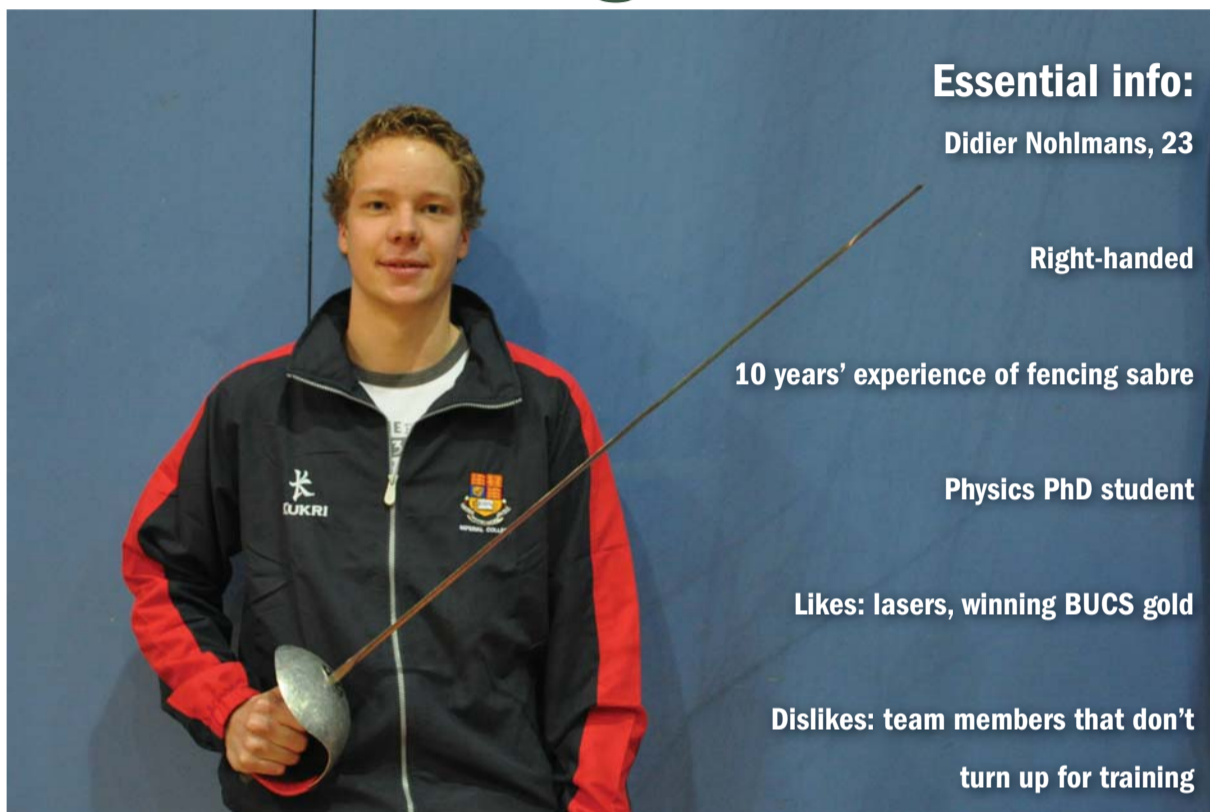
Andrea Goldstone – Clinical Research Nurse

Department of Allergy
Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust
and NHLI Ethics' Committees
Fulham Road, London SW3 6HP

The research has been approved by the Brompton Harefield & NHLI Research Ethics Committee

SPORT

Club Captain Interview: Men's Fencing



Essential info:

Didier Nohlmans, 23

Right-handed

10 years' experience of fencing sabre

Physics PhD student

Likes: lasers, winning BUCS gold

Dislikes: team members that don't
turn up for training

Indy Leclercq Sports Editor

IC Fencing are sponsored by:



Well, it's two weeks into the year, and those of you who are part of sports clubs will know that the season's first fixtures are fast approaching - and how important it is to start off on the winning foot. This week, Fencing Men's 1st team captain Didier Nohlmans inaugurates our Club Captains interview series. A member of the team that swept to BUCS championship gold last season, he acknowledges that he has pretty big shoes to fill:

"Last year was indeed a very successful year for Imperial fencing, with both the men's and women's team becoming BUCS champions, so I have a lot to live up to. The start of the year has been hectic as usual with lots of new fencers - both beginners and more experienced ones."

The club is indeed a big one, attracting a lot of interest from freshers (over 200 signed up for taster sessions at freshers' fair), and while everyone helps out, the captain does have the time to focus on the competitive side of things: "most of the organisational work is done by our president, Ed Collier, so my main responsibility so far has been picking this year's first team."

In order to do this, tryouts were organized last Wednesday. What is the verdict? Can this year's team emulate its

predecessors and become BUCS champions?

"Several key first team members from last year have sadly graduated, so we were in desperate need of some new fencers. Luckily, there was plenty of talent at the trials so I'm confident that we'll have a great team and a good year. Whether we can reproduce last year's success remains to be seen, as it also depends on whether our opposition have improved - but for now I'm going to say that we definitely have the potential to become champions again."

In any case, he still has time to fine-tune his team and get them fully prepared for the matches: "The fencing season for the first team starts in Oxford in November with a round-robin tournament in the southern premier league

...for now, I'm going to say that we definitely have the potential to become champions again

(Cambridge, Oxford, Bristol and ULU). Another round-robin tournament is held in January here at Imperial against the same opposition."

"After this, all teams progress through to the national knockout stages where we could come up against anyone as far

away as St Andrews."

I ask him what he hopes to achieve, and the answer is pretty clear: "All of this culminates in the national BUCS finals, which we are certainly hoping to be at!"

In order to get that far, the team is going to have to train hard, on top of the twice-weekly sessions organized by the Fencing club. According to Didier, "a lot of our team members also train at clubs outside Imperial to build up more experience against different opponents."

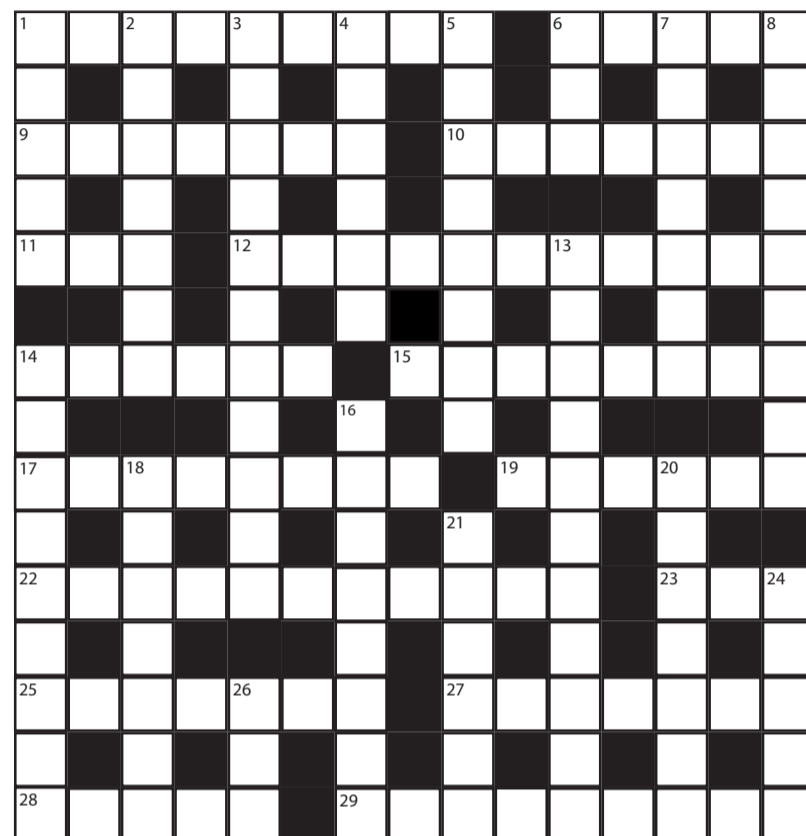
So the objective is fixed, and the date of the BUCS finals firmly penciled into this captain's calendar. But come on - we want to find out a bit about the people behind the trophies, don't we?

"I'm a physics PhD student, working in the labs down in the depths of the physics building. I came here a year ago and before that I was at Durham for my undergrad."

All right, sounds fair, anything else? I ask him how he got into fencing, and it turns out there is a bit of a story in there: "I used to play football at school, but when I was 13 I had an operation on my toe and couldn't play for a few weeks, so I thought I'd give fencing a go instead. I've never looked back since!"

Didier is a sabreur, which means he fences with a sabre, one of three different fencing weapons. While they each have their own characteristics, and none is truly "stronger" than the other two, there is a fair bit of banter between practitioners of the different weapons [Edi-

Cryptic Crossword 1,497



Across

1. Sugar daddy's brother a spotty thing! (9)
6. Water patch of flowers we sent back (5)
9. Herb from South Africa two fellows to re-elect (7)
10. Englishman repeating the same thing over and over with miserable person around - found commonly at Butlins (7)
11. Go down slope and endlessly slide (3)
12. Hard worker reveals bottom to be less obscured (11)
14. US decision makers, half chosen, not extremely hated (6)
15. Distress - give rage, after a fashion (8)
17. Soldier with alias from the East if being flanked right to left beforehand (8)
19. One person who's diseased wearing jumper (6)
22. Quick tour - blow to halt! (11)
23. Something inside narcotic absorbed - it takes you on a journey (3)
25. Person rejected from group of gay actors? (7)
27. Hit vigorously for each swear word (7)
28. Massive and regal, after a fashion (5)
29. Part of Big Brother House becomes

airy Mordor? Not right! (5,4)

Down

1. Finance Society has turned up extreme traitors! (5)
2. Bully to bark at man (7)
3. Continued run-time, Doctor House (11)
4. Each taken in by bluff? Quite the contrary (6)
5. With these, I cannot take in or sup lager carelessly (8)
6. To touch up is sinful (3)
7. Take in terrible amount of power (7)
8. Tardigrade - as Aquarius may do? (5,4)
13. Good, almost passionate political group at social gathering (6,5)
14. Survey from the South to look for hiding Polish (5,4)
16. "Deformed! No!" Edward cried (8)
18. Throw away battered fruit (7)
20. Mexican gang member messed coach up (7)
21. Upper class, the best - I! One to be found here? (6)
24. Embrace Higgs, for instance, when changing finally (5)
26. Top man in cardiac event (3)

tor's note - as a foilist, sabre just seems to me like two people crashing into each other with their swords - totally unrefined] I ask him why he got into sabre rather than épée or foil, the other two weapons.

"Quite simple...all my friends were doing it. I was lucky enough to be at a school where the training for sabre was particularly good so it was a natural choice for me."

Ah, good old peer pressure. Well, it

means ICFC have a great sabreur and competent captain amongst them this season, so it's not all bad.

Any last thoughts before letting the good students carry on with their Friday pint?

"Actually, when I was captain of the Durham fencing team, we came down to fence Imperial for the BUCS quarter finals and got thoroughly destroyed. Luckily I've now changed allegiances!"

Rightly so. Come on Imperial!

SPORT

Men's Rugby 1s get off to a winning start over Portsmouth

David Wilson

Rugby
Imperial 22 - 20 Portsmouth

IC Rugby Union are sponsored by:



Imperial's 1st XV got their season off to a positive start with a narrow win over Portsmouth at Harlington. On a day where the weather conditions were unusually favorable, Imperial made it difficult to overcome their stubborn opposition.

Despite the close full time score, Imperial started the much stronger of the two sides. It appeared as though the three weeks of intense pre season which Imperial had undergone was going to pay off.

For the first twenty minutes Imperial played their pattern to perfection, using forwards through the midfield to great effect whilst the backs looked comfortable with ball in hand. Imperial's dominance was so telling that Portsmouth struggled to leave their 22 for the first ten minutes of the match. Such intense pressure was sure to

result in a score sooner, rather than later and the first points were scored by Sean Baker. Good ball at the line-out just inside the Portsmouth 22 meter line was driven on by the forwards with Baker controlling well at the back and slumping over once the necessary yards were made.

Imperial should have pushed on from such a positive position, but it was not to be. Switching off at the restart allowed Portsmouth to turn the ball over and spread it out wide to touch down in the corner and level the scores.

Encouragingly though, Imperial hit back and after good play within Portsmouth's half, soft hands from Chris McGeough and James Cox allowed Flannan Mahony to go over in the right corner.

Worryingly for Imperial, Mike Floyd suffered a stinger on his shoulder towards the end of the first half which lead to a reshuffle in the backs; Ollie Cox took up position at 10, a position in which again, he did not look entirely comfortable; kicking the ball



out on the full on more than one occasion. Imperial went into the break with a comfortable 17-5 lead thanks to a third try of the match from George Lane.

Imperial really should have capitalised on their lead and used their fitness to overcome their opponents in the second half yet they got caught up in a messy struggle. Floyd had recovered from his previous knock and returned to the fray allowing Cox to move back to his usual position of scrum half where he looked more assured. Despite the balance of the team appear-

ing to be restored, Imperial made hard work of overcoming their opposition.

Portsmouth ran in two tries, both of which can be attributed to poor defence; firstly missed tackles in the midfield and secondly a mismatch in numbers out wide. It became apparent that Imperial were involved in a real contest and whilst being in control of the match, Portsmouth were only two points behind.

Imperial's fourth try came courtesy of captain Charlie Esberger, making up for squandering a scoring opportunity from a metre out previously in

the match.

Portsmouth were not about to give up without a fight however, and scored their fourth try of the match in the final play. Their kicker was not able to convert the extras however, which would have drawn the match.

Despite appearing to have suffered a let off for their inconsistent play, Imperial were able to come away with an important win in their opening fixture of the year. There were positives to take from the match and build upon as the season progresses during a year when the team looks to be promoted.

TECHNOLOGY



Smarter than the average pen: **Page 12**

ARTS



At the Wyndhams for Driving Miss Daisy: **Page 24**

MUSIC



IC Radio share their secrets: **Page 28**

FOOD



The Imperial Food Challenge is launched: **Page 34**

TRAVEL



Getting away to Europe in Berlin: **Page 36**