

“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1498

# FELIX



21.10.11

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

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# HIGHLIGHTS

## What's on

### Charity Week

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To join in the fun and find out more, check out the 'Imperial College Charity Week 2011' page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter on @ImperialCW or simply pick up a bucket from one of our stalls around campus and go collecting-wild!

The Charity Week buzz is just getting started, are you ready?



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SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY!

## PICK OF THE WEEK

Arts and Comment bring out the big guns in an epic struggle



Looking for an accurate representation of the Felix office? Think again

Our Arts Editors, not content with bringing you a whole four pages last week, have upped the ante to an unholy degree and have produced a frankly massive five. They're pretty mad. In other news, a handful of individuals have sent in their opinions on a variety of issues. While this might not sound too thrilling, there are six whole pages of rants and reflections awaiting your perusal. There'll be something to suit your tastes, however outlandish. Big applause all round, you dedicated lunatics.

Editor

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## Lolcats 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

## CGCU President suspended from post

### Communications were in 'potential violation' of Staff/Student Protocol

**Alexander Karapetian**  
**Aemun Reza**

Jacky Kwan, President of the City & Guilds College Union (CGCU) was suspended from his position for two days last week following a complaint lodged by a member of staff regarding comments made by Mr Kwan about the handling of Union finances. Imperial College Union President Scott Heath launched an investigation into the offending communications on Wednesday 12 October, causing Kwan to be removed from his role temporarily pending the investigation.

The communications in question were claimed to violate the Staff/Student Protocol, for which an investigation can take up to fourteen days. In this case, Kwan returned to his duties after just two days after Heath closed the investigation with a punishment as per the Union's Disciplinary Policy. Commenting on the situation, Heath mentioned that there was a "potential violation" of the aforementioned protocol and that it was his "job to establish the facts and work out a solution", citing the reason for suspension as to "prevent contact between [Kwan] and the aggrieved whilst [I] looked at the communications".

Regulation Seven of the Constitution, Section D, Point 28, the policy in called into play, relates to investigations on misconduct between staff and students. Heath

believed that Kwan had violated the Protocol, assuming Point 29, which states the purpose of the investigation to be "to establish facts". Point 34 from Section E grants the Union President permission to suspend "any defendant officer in relation to whom [he] is the relevant authority".

The Staff/Student Protocol is a document which governs the relationship between the Union, its officers and staff. It is designed to protect the democratic structure of the Union from staff interference and, in this case, protect staff from public criticism by officers. As a result, meetings discussing staff matters are held in closed forums and student media cannot directly comment on the performance of a member of staff. Controversy arose due to ambiguities regarding the interpretation of the regulations. Kwan had referred to the member of staff in question directly but in a private forum, specifically by email.

The policy also prohibits direct interaction between students and staff where it would involve criticism of work performance, as this may be considered a form of harassment. A case of constructive dismissal could ensue if a member of staff feels the need to resign after they believe the Union or any of its officers has harassed them. If the media were to attack a member of staff explicitly about their performance, the Union could have to face the costly repercussions, namely an em-

ployment tribunal.

The protocol does indicate that commenting against the performance of a Union department or division itself is permitted. However, Jacky expressed his concerns about Union finance to a member of staff directly. It is up to interpretation whether his frustrated tone could be construed as directed to the individual.

### "Kwan received messages of support from his committee"

The CGCU President received messages of support from his committee and faculty students when his suspension became known, many of whom believe the actions were unwarranted. Jacky is known to have commented on the speed of the payment system, having previously taken a position as Vice President of Finance and Activities for the CGCU. In dispute was whether the comments, maintained as constructive criticism, were inappropriate when directed towards a member of staff.

The frustration appears to stem from payments requested 6 weeks ago with alleged little indication for reasons for delay. The faculty obtained approval for



CGCU President Jacky Kwan was suspended from his post for two days

their grant in August last year with the funds being transferred this week. The CGCU President was particularly focused towards the arrival of a shipment of year-books required for Commemoration Day, which occurred on Wednesday 19 October. Jacky personally ensured the arrival of the books, paying for them himself.

Kwan said "despite my suspension being lifted on Friday afternoon, I am pursuing the matter with the Union Court", pointing out his main motivation being

to "serve the engineering students as fully as possible". "I would like to thank the CGCU committee and officers under my management group for being so kind and supportive", he added. "I am grateful for their trust in me as leader of the CGCU".

Patrick Pang (CGCU Vice President of Finance and Activities) stood in temporarily during Kwan's brief suspension. Kwan returned to his duties on Friday 14 October and is free to continue executing his representative rights as CGCU President.

## 'Largest ever' Graduation

**Sophia David**

Imperial's largest ever Commemoration Day took place on Wednesday as 2,200 undergraduates received their degrees in science, engineering and medicine. The ceremonies, watched by around 6,000 friends and family members at the Royal Albert Hall, also marked the first time on stage for the new Chair of the College's Court and Council, Eliza Manningham-Buller, who congratulated each new graduate.

The former Director-General of the Security Service, Baroness Manningham-Buller, said, "Commemoration Day is a fantastic event, as it marks the achievements of so many people at Imperial. It will be a particular pleasure for me to see the pride on the faces of the students' family and friends, and to be involved in a day which the new graduates will remember for a long time."

Three members of former staff also

received Imperial College Medals for their longstanding contributions to the College. Mrs Susan Hartman, former Assistant Secretary to the Faculty of Medicine, was honoured for long standing support of one of the medical schools that merged with Imperial, Professor Bob Schroter for his contributions to student activities, notably the Imperial College Boat Club, as well as his academic research, and lastly, Dr Anna Thomas-Betts for her work in academic and student welfare over 45 years.

Rector's medals were also awarded, which acknowledge excellence in teaching and pastoral care. This year's recipients are Dr Martyn Boutelle for excellence in pastoral care; Dr Lorraine Craig and Dr Emma Watson for supporting the student experience; Professor Sandra Shefelbine and Mr Zen Makuch for outstanding contributions to teaching excellence; and Dr Jane Saffell for outstanding innovation in teaching.

Jonathan Peck



Graduates gather outside the Royal Albert Hall

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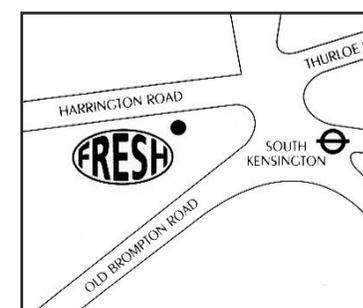
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**Alex Nowbar**

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# NEWS

# Hats off to the Class of 2011

Tommy Allieri



Jonathan Peek



Jonathan Peek



Rector Keith O'Nions (second from right) arrives at the Royal Albert Hall in the only way he knows how

Tommy Allieri



Tommy Allieri



Jonathan Peek



Jonathan Peek



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**Alex Nowbar**

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# NEWS

# Club chairs lukewarm over bar nights

## Boards give an underwhelming response to new rulings on how to run events

**Matthew Colvin**

Members of the Arts and Entertainments Board (AEB) voiced overwhelming discontent with the Union's new rules on holding bar nights for clubs and societies.

Under new rules set out by Deputy President (Finance & Services) (DPFS) Michael Foster, clubs are no longer allowed to purchase kegs from the Union for their bar nights. Instead clubs can either sell drinks with a 10% discount, or sell drinks for full price with 10% of the bar spend going to the club. Clubs can also pre-order a bar tab and distribute it as 'tokens', but in order to comply with the Union's newly introduced Responsible Retailing of Alcohol Code of Practice, clubs cannot provide more than 8 units (or an average of 4 pints) of alcohol for free per person.

The AEB, discussing the situation in a

meeting on Monday, was unanimous in their disapproval of the new rules. One AEB member, wishing to remain anonymous, told Felix that, 'the whole tokens system is fundamentally flawed. Unless you have stewards with hawk-eyes watching everyone at every moment, there's no way that you can stop people moving tokens around amongst themselves. We're being told that we aren't responsible enough to decide how much is our limit – frankly it's just insulting.'

The AEB follow in the footsteps of comments made by senior members of the Athletics Club Committee, whose members organised an online protest, and the Royal School of Mines.

Chair of the AEB, Chandana Shankar, cited the system as "unworkable", focusing on the financial background of the situation: "Currently the legal and financial

justifications for the new bar night system are vague. Michael Foster needs to back up his decision with figures and facts because currently the students feel that he is using them to claw back money lost through bad decisions made in previous years. I feel that the Union's bars should not be making money on bar nights and the only way to prove that they do this is by being up front and transparent about costings."

Posting on his online blog on October 6, Foster stated the reasoning behind the introduction of the new rules, explaining that the Union was "losing money every time a bar night was run, as the keg price did not account for various staffing costs, including the (often quite significant) cleaning costs."

The AEB has pledged to express the board's concerns at the next meeting of Union Council on Monday 31 October.

### Deputy President (Finance & Services) Michael Foster's response to Felix:

"It is very easy to see why the AEB would not like this new procedure – I can imagine no Management Group will. It represents the loss of a very good deal for clubs. However, this deal was both irresponsible and unsustainable, and, as DPFS, it is my responsibility to ensure the future stability and sustainability of the Union's activities. I would hope that Management Groups take their wider responsibilities into account, and instead of mourning the loss of a ridiculously good deal for clubs, appreciate that we all need to act sustainably to keep this Union as it is for many years to come.

"As an aside, despite all the reported unhappiness with the new bar nights procedure, the Royal School of Mines will soon be hosting their second one this month, and the German Society were thrilled with their night. They have, as a result, got more members than ever before, and were able to enjoy a great social event at the Union Bar for their whole society."

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# FEATURE

Matthew Colvin

## WHY SHOULD YOU GO INTO TEACHING?

**Katy Bettany, Matt Colvin, Navid Nabijou and Deepka Rana** investigate Imperial's preconceptions with a profession keen to take on some of the country's top science graduates



The unused green chalk looks on enviously at his academically superior comrade

**C**an you think of any reason why an Imperial student might want to become a teacher?" "They got a third class, maybe?" This response from a second year mathematician may well sum up the opinions of some Imperial students, and indeed a section of society's wider opinion of the profession. We've all heard the age-old adage, "if you can't do; teach". And, with the starting salary for teaching being significantly lower than the average starting salary for Imperial graduates, not to mention challenging classroom conditions, it isn't hard to imagine why the UK faces its largest shortage of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) teachers. "You'd be at the bottom of society. You'd be in your crappy Smart car and everyone would be looking at you", the mathematician continues. This week we challenge some of the misconceptions surrounding teaching, and ask why more Imperial graduates don't generally consider teaching as an acceptable career option.

Firstly, why is Britain's lack of STEM teachers such a problem? According to Teach First, a charity that directs high calibre graduates towards teaching disadvantaged children, "46% of employers are concerned that they will not be able to fill posts in their organisations that require graduate or higher level STEM qualifications". In order to tackle the STEM professional shortage, one needs to understand just why there is such a low uptake of STEM graduates into teaching or STEM careers generally. And with the UK's international ranking in Science and Maths compulsory education steadily declining in recent years, it has never been more important to address the issue.

**"You'd be at the bottom of society. Everyone would be looking at you"**

Perhaps the most worrying fact is that it is children from disadvantaged backgrounds who are least likely to end up in a STEM-related profession. And with only 10% of teachers even prepared to consider teaching in a disadvantaged school, it isn't hard to see why. Student experiences of their own schools only accentuate the problem, with our second year recounting the many times he saw teachers "get torn to shreds by the ... the mob."

But all of this has a knock-on effect as, according to the Department for Education (DfE), 2009 saw around half of all schools enter no pupils at all for any separate sciences at GCSE level. Deprived areas are most affected by this trend, because these are the schools that fail to attract good teachers of STEM subjects, and are consequently more likely to stop teaching those subjects altogether. This has a direct effect on the type of students who end up studying STEM subjects at university, with Imperial in particular attracting fewer and fewer students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

### Teach First

Teach First is an independent charity focused on delivering far-reaching so-

cial change by addressing educational disadvantage – driving up standards and raising aspirations in schools facing challenging circumstances. They have their sights set on Imperial College to help combat the so-called "STEM challenge".

Over the last nine years, Teach First has been strengthening their connections with Imperial, and has taken on 89 Imperial graduates into the Teach First Leadership Development Programme (LDP). This year Teach First aims to recruit around 1000 graduates and experienced professionals to the LDP, with just under half of all recruits coming from a STEM background. Teach First currently have three student brand managers at Imperial: students who promote awareness of Teach First across campus, whether through promoting events, shout-outs in lectures or working with staff.

Felix got in touch with these brand managers, and asked them about their experiences.

Douglas Hunt, a fourth year chemist, was drawn into what he describes as an "innovative graduate programme" after getting involved in teaching with the Student Associates Scheme (a now-terminated scheme in which students spent fifteen days in schools as teaching assistants). He acknowledges that many students might not think of teaching as a lifelong career, but Teach First provides

**"Teach First is trying to create a movement for change and innovation"**

a good middle ground, since there is no obligation to stay in teaching after the two year programme, thus keeping your options wide open. As third year physicist Elwin Carlos points out, "Teach First is creating a movement for change, innovation and inspiration, not just in the classroom, but in the boardroom, the government and across society".

Salary is undeniably a leading reason why graduates tend to stay away from teaching, and to students for whom salary is the biggest consideration, careers in banking or consultancy might look more attractive. However, as Hunt points out, "are those jobs going to give you a chance to change people's lives,

better job satisfaction, security, lifestyle or long holidays?" And, whilst the average starting salary of a teacher is below Imperial's graduate average, it is still possible to progress rapidly in to positions of leadership within schools, with salary scales for head teachers in inner London schools reaching upwards of £100,000. Additionally, Britain isn't the only country struggling with a lack of STEM teachers – lots of British STEM graduates end up immigrating to Australia or New Zealand to teach. But the most important thing, according to Carlos, is that "teaching is a vocational thing, and if you love what you do then money shouldn't really come into it".

### Academia: over on the other side

Of course, there is one group of Imperial students who will certainly end up teaching, though they might consider it a mere aside to their primary vocation. Academics, whether they love it or hate it, spend large amounts of their time teaching. Some might regard this as a drop in the ocean when compared to the demands of research work, but such a view is misguided; aspirant lecturers should be careful not to underestimate the primacy teaching will assume in their work.

Certainly there are big differences between the classroom and the lecture theatre. The material is more advanced, while students are (for the most part) easier to handle. Putting ideas across is a lot more straightforward when your audience is actually interested.

In some respects, then, teaching at university level is a more detached affair. Students are largely expected to be self-motivated and to take responsibility for their own work. Because of this, the necessary skills differ from school teaching, with a greater emphasis on command of the subject, as opposed to engagement with pupils.

Many academics rate teaching very highly. One anonymous lecturer told Felix: "teaching is one of the main perks of the job." Another interestingly noted that "it is a commonly observed fact in the academic community that engaging in teaching while doing research ... often enhances that research." So the two certainly are not mutually opposing interests.

## FEATURE

“The great thing about Teach First is that over half of those who do it enjoy it so much that they continue teaching full-time, and if you are, indeed, concerned about pay, the LDP is an amazing opportunity for what is essentially paid work experience. The skills you pick up and lessons you learn whilst being on the Teach First scheme really do make you vastly more employable. Put simply, graduates who can engage, manage and inspire a class of young people can handle pretty well any situation in any industry.”

Teach First will be holding a Milk-round Presentation on Monday 24 October in the Reed Lecture Theatre in the Sherfield Building.

### Other Schemes

Teach First is by no means the only pathway for Imperial graduates into teaching. YELP is an organisation aimed at reducing inequality in primary and secondary education, with the stated aim to remove the (currently strong) correlation between affluence and academic achievement. Formed in 2007, the organisation already has links to Oxford, LSE, King’s and Queen Mary.

This year, it has set up connections with Imperial, with Teach First providing the preliminary training. Its

activities centre mainly around one-to-one tutoring with struggling students, commitment typically being an hour a week.

So, all things considered, why should you go into teaching? Maybe you genuinely do want to help others. Maybe you enjoy the thrill of conveying understanding. Maybe you want to keep your knowledge fresh; nothing sharpens your skills more than an interrogative student.

Probably, you won’t be appreciated as much or as often as you might like, but as long as you’re not too thin-skinned, that shouldn’t be a problem. So even if you didn’t get a third, it might be worth a think.



(Left to right) Teach First Brand Managers Emma Gould, Elwin Carlos and Douglas Hunt

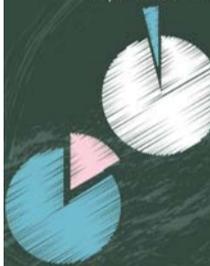
## The figures

By Veronika McQuadeova

Number crunching isn't just for the classroom as these teaching related statistics reveal

Just 16% of young people who are eligible for free school meals progress to university, compared to 96% who are educated in independent schools.

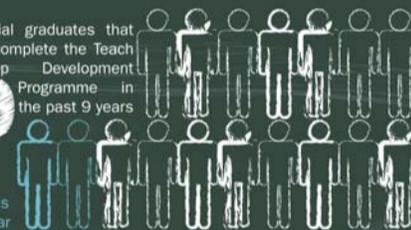
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Number of Imperial graduates that have gone on to complete the Teach First Leadership Development Programme in the past 9 years

89

12  
Imperial graduates were hired last year



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# SCIENCE

## Sleep deprived doctors find potential cure

A preliminary study published in *Annals of Surgery* recently suggests that modafinil, an analeptic drug, can help sleep-deprived doctors to improve their cognitive process, but not their clinical psychomotor performance.

Cognitive processes — mental tasks — are critical for various aspects of the medical profession, such as making the right decision under time pressure. Clinical psychomotor skills are involved with the surgical skills and other procedural tasks.

The nature of the medical profession is inherently unpredictable, demanding and inflexible; doctors often find themselves deprived of sleep because of the extended working hours demanded of them.

The link between fatigue and impaired working performance is well established. Therefore, doctors who have been working for long periods without sleep pose a safety risk to both themselves and their patients because they are more likely to commit medical errors and make poor judgments than if they were well rested.

Hence, this study was designed to find out whether certain drugs can be used to resolve the problems of fatigued and sleep-deprived doctors.

The study, carried out as a randomised controlled trial, looked at the effects of Modafinil on the performance of 39 healthy male doctors who have been deprived of sleep for one night. 20 of the doctors were given Modafinil while the other 19 were given a placebo.

A series of tests were then carried out to assess the cognitive processes of the doctors and their clinical psychomotor skills. Interestingly, those that were given the modafinil drugs performed better in the psychological tests than the placebo group. The modafinil group also behaved less-impulsively in the decision-making tests; showed a better result in the working memory and planning tests; and were more responsive to changing demands. This indicates that they had greater mental flexibility.

On the other hand, the placebo group was expected to perform sub-optimally in the surgical motor skill tasks under conditions of fatigue as a previous study found that these tasks are susceptible to the effects of fatigue. It is worth noting, however, that the modafinil group performed the same as the placebo group in this task showing that modafinil administration did not improve psychomotor performance. It is thought that little demand is placed on higher-cognitive centres to carry out the surgical skills. Therefore an improved cognitive process has no advantage for doctors performing surgical tasks.

The researchers stress that until further investigations are done that the use of pharmacological enhancement in the workplace cannot be recommended. A larger sample size, long term study and different characteristics of the sample have yet to be done to confirm the findings of the study.

The investigation only involves the effects of one dose of modafinil over a short period of time. In addition, the participants were only young doctors and no older participants were included. Therefore, before a sound conclusion about the benefits of modafinil to the sleep-deprived doctors can be drawn, further researches are needed. There are also challenging ethical considerations that have to be taken into account very carefully.

Until then, perhaps, a good-quality sleep is the best solution. **Farhan Abdullah**

# Frogs' habitats affected

## Survival guidelines as frogs migrate due to climate change

**Antonio Torrisi**

Climate change and global warming caused by greenhouse gas emissions have important implications on re-shaping Earth's landscape. Animal species can suffer dramatic consequences, possibly even extinction, from these changes.

Scientists have been studying how climate change affects the habitat of frogs, and in what ways changes to their habitat conditions could lead to the risk of extinction of some species and the consequent loss of biodiversity amongst the amphibians.

In the study, scientists from the University of Evora in Portugal and the Brown University in Rhode Island, US, used a model that attempts to predict the geographical movements of 15 different species of amphibians in the western coast of US up to the year 2100, under two different greenhouse gas emission scenarios — one moderate and one more extreme. The models, based on weather data of the same region between 1961 and 1990, analysed the geographical distribution of the different species and predicted for each of them the possible range of movements (technically defined as "shifts") that the species could undergo because of the modifications to climate conditions.

In their work, published this year in the international journal *Ecology Letters*, Regan Early and Dov F. Sax observed that there can be discontinuities in the path of frogs' movements. These discontinuities are called gaps and consist of particularly hostile geographical regions that block the migration from one place, whose climate becomes hostile for the survival of the species, to another place where a more suitable climate exists. These regions could be physical barriers such as mountains. "For example, [one frog species] may be unable to shift into its full potential future range because climate variability after 2050 causes the landscape



This frog is WELL DENCHHHHHH... They should name it Judi

connecting northern California and Southern Oregon to become climatically suitable only transiently", explain the scientists. In simple words, if the species wants to move it should do it very quickly, otherwise the region will be not accessible anymore and a gap will block future movements. Scientists claimed that gaps in the climate-path or range shifts of a species could seriously endanger its survival in the long term up to 2100.

But not all hope is lost for the frogs. The scientists discovered two factors that can determine the ability of the frogs to emigrate to places with more suitable climatic conditions, in either greenhouse emission scenario: spreading the population in a certain territory (defined as dispersal), and the frog's ability to persist in a certain geographic area for a short time, even in non favourable climatic conditions (called persistence). The better the species is at these two things, the better their chances of survival will be. The most surprising discovery was that particularly persistence ability up to one decade would be the most favourable factor to expand the range shift of a species in a scenario where local climate fluctuations and variability occur.

Other scientists have argued some limitations of the study, in particular regarding the assumption that the species' distribution is in equilibrium with its environment, and the assumption

that species cannot live in the future in climatic conditions which are different from those they are used to live. For instance scientists suggested that in the Pleistocene (from 2,588,000 to 11,700 years ago) some amphibians could live under climatic conditions that were very different from those in which they live nowadays.

Although adaptation of the species is a further important factor to be investigated, the present study gives some guidelines which may be useful in order to conserve the biodiversity of species. For example, we could promote movements along certain territories by assisting or increasing populations that naturally establish themselves in the territories or mitigating the impacts of climate changes using irrigations to improve habitat quality. In the case when gaps are present in the climate-path, we could even consider whether to use or not the controversial strategy of "managed relocation" or assisted migration of some species into more suitable habitats.

"Further refinement and application of climate-path analysis [...] would improve our ability to forecast species' responses to climate change and inform our use of alternative conservation strategies", comment the two scientists in their work. In other words, if we can understand where they would like to move, we could help them do it.

# Graphene based electronics

**Maciej Matuszewski**

Graphene is a unique material that promises to revolutionise electronics. Consisting of a two dimensional hexagonal lattice of carbon molecules (effectively a single layer of graphite) it is the thinnest, strongest and most conductive material ever discovered. As such it could lead to the development of flexible computer displays, lighter airplanes and faster Internet connections. The government has recently recognised the promise of this material, with Chancellor George Osborne promising £50m for graphene research.

Now a team of scientists from the University of Manchester, including Professor Andre Geim and Professor Kostya Novoselov, who were awarded

last year's Nobel Prize in Physics for their work in developing a method to produce the material, have announced that they are one step closer to fulfilling graphene's full potential. Writing in *Nature Physics* earlier this month the team has described how graphene had previously not exhibited Anderson localization, an effect common to many conductors in which they act as insulators at low temperatures. However, by creating a structure of alternating layers of graphene and boron nitrate, nicknamed the "graphene 'Big Mac' ", the team was able to cut down on external potentials affecting the graphene and observe the effect.

The lead author of the *Nature* article, Dr Leonid Ponomarenko, has said "creating the multilayer structure has allowed us to isolate graphene from

any negative influences of the environment and control graphene's electronic properties in a way it was impossible before."

Professor Geim added that "Leaving the new physics we report aside, technologically important is our demonstration that graphene encapsulated within boron nitride offers the best and most advanced platform for future graphene electronics. It solves several nasty issues about graphene's stability and quality that were hanging for long time as dark clouds over the future road for graphene electronics. We did this on a small scale but the experience shows that everything with graphene can be scaled up." He hopes that in the coming months scientists will be able to use this research to create new and improved models of graphene transistors.

# Cloaking with carbon nanotubes

**Douglas Heaven**

By recreating the naturally occurring mirage effect in the lab, researchers have hit upon a way to create cloaking devices that work for visible light, effectively making objects invisible when viewed from certain angles. Now, let's just try to get through this without mentioning Harry Potter.

A mirage – like you often see on the surface of roads in the heat – occurs because light moves slightly faster through a medium when it's hotter and, therefore, less dense. The difference in temperature between the air near a hot road surface and the air higher up makes light bend on its way to your eyes. When deflected in this way, light travelling from something above the road – the sky, in a typical desert mirage – can reach you from the angle of the road surface, creating an odd visual effect.

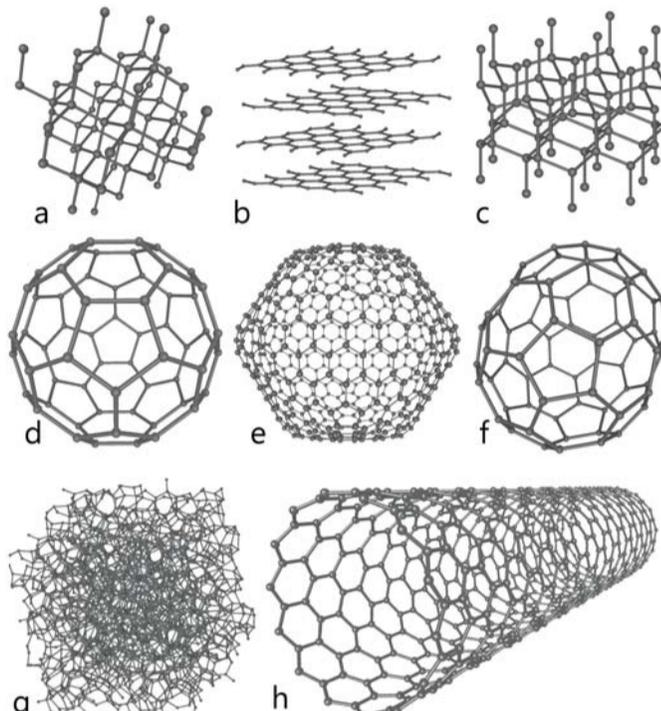
Dr. Ali Aliev and colleagues at the Nanotech Institute at the University of Dallas, Texas, have recreated this effect by using electrically heated sheets of carbon nanotubes. These wafer-thin sheets – around 20 micrometers thick – prove to be very effective at heating a surrounding medium, creating steep mirage-inducing temperature gradients near their surface. Due to the temperature inertia of the nanotube sheets, the temperature gradient can also be easily modulated resulting in different degrees of deflection for the light hitting the gra-

dient.

The researchers explored the mirage effect by measuring the angular deflection of a laser beam directed parallel to the sheet's surface. They found that deflection works for light in the UV to infrared range, a significantly greater range than for previous cloaking techniques. Carbon nanotube sheets are particularly good at producing light deflection because of their exceptionally high thermal interaction with surrounding media, caused in turn by the high internal surface area and high thermal conductivity of the individual nanotubes.

Aliev and colleagues also compared the deflection of light across different media, finding, for example, that the deflection angle in helium is much smaller than in air or argon, which is consistent with the low refractive index and high thermal diffusivity of helium. Overall, however, larger angles of deflection are produced in the higher density of a liquid than a gas, making the cloaking effect more pronounced in water than air, for instance. On the other hand, the higher density of a liquid increases the heat capacity of system and correspondingly reduces the obtainable rate for temperature modulation and, thus, angle of deflection.

The most obvious application of this kind of technology is in cloaking devices for submarines and other stealth vehicles. Unsurprisingly, the work was partly funded by an Office of Na-



The prize for identifying Diamond is a smug sense of satisfaction

val Research MURI grant and an Air Force Office of Scientific Research grant. But Aliev has also shown, in a paper published last year in *Nano Letters*, that modulating the temperature of the same carbon nanotube sheets produces sound waves. He has suggested this aspect could have useful applications in sonar technology for deep-sea exploration – and, of course, for finding those invisible subma-

rines. On the other hand, it might also be possible to make these sheets into loudspeakers, as Chinese researchers demonstrated two years ago by making a speaker out of a flag (look for “carbon nanotube speaker” on YouTube). It appears we now have a whole new potential for loud clothing.

Aliev and colleagues published their latest results last week in the journal *Nanotechnology*.

# On the oxidation of Earth's atmosphere...

**Pavitar Devgon**

Making up roughly 20% of the air we breathe in, oxygen is one of the most abundant elements on Earth. It is used by all forms of life for respiration, which provides the energy organisms use to grow, repair and live. However, it has not always been in such plentiful supply.

Initially, when the Earth finished forming (I say finished, it is actually constantly changing and adapting) 3.5 billion years ago, the surface was a blistered mass of volcanoes spewing magma and gas out into the open. There occurred an event, named the Great Oxidation Event which resulted in oxygen of the atmosphere and the beginning of air as we know it now. Most figures indicated this to have occurred c.2.5 billion years ago and there has been much speculation as to what caused this event, which eventually lead to the development of life on Earth.

Most commonly, the starting point for oxygen generation is sulphur from volcanoes. At the time, most submarine volcanoes produced gas with low sulphur content, but as the global sea level began to drop, more of the Earth's was exposed to the surface and the exposed volcanoes produced gas with a much higher sulphur content, particularly sulphur dioxide. The gases eventually dissolved in seawater and broke down forming bubbles of oxygen in the water, which we know can be used to sustain life – most fish and marine wildlife uses the oxygen dissolved in water in order to respire.

By analysing rock strata from around this era, paleochemists found that a certain isotope of sulphur ( $\Delta 33S$ ) indicated a lack of oxygen in the atmosphere. This isotope disappeared around the time of the Great Oxidation Event and the emergence of the  $O_2$  molecule radically altered the redox-based biochemical processes beforehand. Further analysis of

the data showed that the trigger for this isotope may have been the redox ratio between the two sulphur-based gases released by volcanoes – sulphur dioxide ( $SO_2$ ) and hydrogen sulphide ( $H_2S$ ). A higher ratio of  $SO_2/H_2S$  produces significantly more of the MIF isotope. As the composition of volcanic gases changed, there led to more oxidized gases and so lower  $\Delta 33S$ .

Kump and Barley, two geoscientists from Pennsylvania State University and the University of Western Australia in Crawley, respectively, have been analysing data for some time in this field – specifically using carbon dating techniques. They argued that subaerial volcanic gases are more oxidized than submarine ones and proposed an increasing impact from subaerial volcanoes would have resulted in increasingly oxidizing volcanic emissions. However, some question their results, saying that the fluids from the seafloor that Kump and Barely

used to define the redox at the time of the Great Oxidation Event was “poorly constrained”. Other also argue that it is not redox conditions altering the  $SO_2/H_2S$  ratio, but gas pressure.

Further analysis into this phenomenon requires us to consider various gas equations in competition, each struggling to become dominant as the global temperature and pressure changed. Rather than bore you with too many more figures and equations, it is easier to describe that during the period 2-3 billion years ago, global sea levels did fall and a combination of the changing degassing pressure and higher proportion of subaerial volcanoes led to a higher proportion of both sulphur dioxide and hydrogen in the air, as well as amounts of carbon dioxide. Competing processes of thermochemical reactions led eventually to dominance of water vapour and ultimately the fall of sulphur altogether. And with more oxygen, breeds life.

## Mini ‘little ice age’ periods explained

**Luke Sheldon**

During the 17th and 18th centuries, Europe and North America experienced much severer winters than we do now – people could frequently walk or even skate across a frozen Thames. This period is called the Little Ice Age, though unlike true ice ages, it had its origins in the waning strength of our sun and it was only experienced in isolated regions with a minor global temperature change. Whereas the millennial changes in the sun were responsible for this period, a team of scientists from the Met Office, Oxford and Imperial have attributed current cool winters to the smaller 11 year solar cycle.

Visible and infra-red light do not vary much during solar cycles, meaning the direct temperature change is small. However the fluctuation of the UV light is much greater. UV radiation is both absorbed by ozone and helps to create it; this process is what warms the middle of the atmosphere where the ozone is concentrated. The team of scientists used recent measurements of the UV radiation, which showed an even larger UV change than previously expected, to drive a climate model. They found that the recent decrease in solar UV caused cooling in Northern Europe and southern North America during winter, whilst northern North America and southern Europe warmed in the model, which agreed with real life.

The model showed that these surface changes were linked to the direct cooling of the middle atmosphere by a network of dynamical adjustments that weakened the Northern Hemisphere westerly winds at the bottom of the atmosphere. This causes the observed temperature changes, for example: by blowing less warm oceanic air from the Atlantic onto Northern Europe the climate to cool.

This work demonstrates that the 11 year cycle in the sun's strength can have noticeable effects on our winters and could have considerably contributed to the last two severe winters here. However, one of the research's authors, Adam Scaife, highlights how “This isn't the sole driver of winter climate over our region, but it is a significant factor and understanding it is important for seasonal to decadal forecasting”. It should also be noted, that like the Little Ice Age, the overall global temperature change during the cycle was small, as the regional changes mentioned cancel each other out – meaning it has no effect on global climate change.

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# TECHNOLOGY

## Tips and hacks

### Mmm... Ice Cream Sandwich



Earlier this week, Android and Samsung held a joint event to announce some news we've been waiting on for a while. Why the joint event? Samsung's Galaxy Nexus will be the first phone to ship with Android 4.0 – Ice Cream Sandwich. The Galaxy Nexus is a behemoth of a device, with a 4.65" HD display. But other than that, it's pretty much what you'd expect from a top end smartphone. The main selling point, as seems to be increasingly the case with flagship phones, is the new operating system at its heart. Ice Cream Sandwich brings with it a slew of new features, including a lot of UI overhaul. Much of it we've seen elsewhere, but some things do stand out. Android Beam for example, which uses NFC to allow you to tap your phone with another to share anything from contacts to directions. Together, I'm sure this combination will do nothing to hurt Android's popularity.

### Bitcoin suffers devaluation

Bitcoin, the decentralized 'cryptocurrency' favoured by anarchists and drug dealers for its privacy, has suffered a minor crash in value that has taken it from a value of \$30 per coin to parity with the USD. Some commentators expect the value to slide further, reflecting a return to reality after a heady year of press attention. Each coin represents an extremely large number and is calculated in a computationally intensive process that limits the chance of the market being flooded; with the power required to produce more coins increasing regularly and their value at current levels, it is becoming uneconomic to make more. All of this isn't a death knell for the currency, yet the massive rate fluctuation is probably going to cause new investors to steer clear of the coins. Indeed, it is hard to see major investors going after Bitcoins as a serious investment - with no clear 'issuing bank' or fiscal policy and less purchasing power than the US dollar, traditional investors are likely to see Bitcoins as a no-go zone for now. Where the Bitcoin goes from here isn't very clear, with some seeing this crash as a mere phase in the longer process of establishing the legitimacy of the currency. One thing remains certain, unless the Bitcoin world builds more of a connection to the physical world of goods and services, it's unlikely to become more than a niche currency for the mildly paranoid or the tad criminal.

# The BlackBerry Crumble

Chris Bowers

As I'm sure many of you know, Research In Motion last week suffered its biggest ever service disruption, with millions of customers across the globe affected. Users lost access to push email, BlackBerry Messenger, Facebook and Twitter applications, and even in some cases their internet access. For a company that built its reputation on many of those features, and indeed, the stability and reliability of those services, I'm sure it's a week the executives would rather forget.

While over here there were probably many people rejoicing that the "riot-inducing" messaging service was down, the consumers were left wondering why. Even now, BlackBerry have not exactly been forthcoming on the details, saying only that their failover, well, failed. That is, for some reason their main server network was down and their backup infrastructure didn't manage to take over properly. Along with that, all we do know is that the problem occurred at their datacentre in Slough.

There is speculation abound on the internet, as always, as to why this happened in the first place. Some say the cause was an update to the original server (in which case a manual switchover should have taken place), some say it was a bug in one server. Whatever the cause, Research In Motion claim the failover switch had been tested, but it seems not rigorously enough. Regardless, the issue here is clearly that of not enough redundancy.

While this is speculation, it doesn't seem



unreasonable to assume that this failover switch and this network of servers in Slough are of utmost importance given the number of BlackBerry users that were affected in the first instance. Hence, it would make sense to have not just one set of backup servers, but two or more. Indeed, it has been said in the past that maintaining scalability of their infrastructure has not been Research In Motion's top priority. This would be fine if their customer base was sticking around a fairly stable figure, but that's not the case. While their share prices may have been dropping recently, their market share in UK mobile handsets has been on the rise, and last year they had a massive increase in year-on-year sales. The fact that they've just released a new fleet of devices is unlikely to reverse that either.

But let's say that this was unavoidable, that no matter what, the datacentre was always going to fail. Then we still have the issue of why the problems spread across the world and lasted for a few days. At the time of the failure, emails weren't being pushed to devices, BlackBerry Messenger wasn't working, etc. So it seems, with nothing to lose, they may as well have 'disconnected' the centre, whatever that involved, wired up the backup server as

the active one, and started again.

Perhaps the problem could be pinpointed to the backlog. Considering that these servers apparently serve Europe, the Middle East and Africa, even a few minutes of downtime would cause a massive backlog, which may have been too much for the secondary servers to cope with. Maybe that server then crashed, and all traffic was rerouted to another datacentre. Which then crashed. And so on. But again, this seems unlikely, considering the time delays between each affected region. Whatever the cause, it's clear the company needs to re-evaluate its infrastructure. If this were to happen globally on the BlackBerry Enterprise Servers, I think the company would struggle to recover.

However, I don't want this to seem like an attack on BlackBerry. I love the devices, and actually wasn't that angry during the outage. But many were, and just because I wasn't enraged doesn't mean I don't believe it should've happened. At least, on a positive note, they were slightly better at keeping customers informed than they were at working on the problem. Also, they are offering reimbursements in the guise of free apps to everyone, which is better than nothing.

# Dennis Ritchie - An Unsung Hero

Douglas Heaven

The world has lost two giants of technology in as many weeks. The news that Dennis Ritchie died on 12 October, aged 70, after enduring cancer and heart disease for several years, elicited a quieter response than that for Steve Jobs. Ritchie was the creator of the C programming language and one of the co-inventors of the UNIX operating system, which means we're living in a world Ritchie helped to invent.

"When Steve Jobs died last week, there was a huge outcry, and that was very moving and justified", said Rob Pike, a colleague of Ritchie's, speaking to Wired. "But Dennis had a bigger effect, and the public doesn't even know who he is."

Pretty much all of the daily interactions we have with technology owe something to Ritchie's creations 40 years ago. The internet is built on UNIX, from the server farms behind Google and Amazon to the router through which you're locally connected. Your TV probably runs an operating system based on UNIX. As does your Mac, your iPhone, your iPad - OS X and iOS are built on a UNIX vari-

ant - and of course any Linux machine.

Then there's C, the language in which UNIX - and a vast amount of other software from the core of Windows to MATLAB - is written. And when software isn't written in C there's a very good chance it's written in a language descended from, or heavily influenced by, Ritchie's creation, whether C++, Java, or C#.

UNIX was developed by Ritchie and Ken Thompson at AT&T's Bell Labs in the 60s after the project they had been working on - an ambitious multi-user operating system known as Multics - was dropped by the company for being too complex. Young, idealistic, and stubborn, Ritchie and Thompson decided to build a simpler, streamlined version of the operating system by themselves: Unics - or UNIX - a pun on Multics, was soon born.

C was designed by Ritchie initially as a means to an end in developing his new operating system, but its versatility and ability to be compiled to different computer architectures quickly made it an enormously useful tool. The C Programming Language, the book Ritchie wrote with Brian Kernighan, setting out the standard definition of the C language, has be-

come a classic.

Due to its official status as a telecoms monopoly, AT&T was at first unable to enter the computer industry and thus unable to market this new operating system it suddenly had its hands on. So Ritchie and Thompson simply gave their creations away to friends and colleagues in universities, who used them to teach a generation of programmers, engineers, and computer scientists.

Even more crucially, Ritchie's initial free dissemination of UNIX and C led to the free software movement. When AT&T eventually wriggled itself into a position where it could make money from UNIX, MIT researcher Richard Stallman started making a free version of UNIX under the GNU (Gnu's Not UNIX) umbrella. GNU - along with its Linux kernel and myriad satellite utilities - is at the core of everything open source.

It's so easy to forget about the countless, un-sleeping machines behind the slickness of today's interactions with technology, but Ritchie lives on in the hearts of most of them. Now's a good time to spare a thought both for them and him.

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## POLITICS

# Gazing into the soul of the 99%



**Luke Seldon**

Saturday saw a global day of occupation and protest in 951 cities across 82 countries, making this day one of the most widespread days of resistance ever seen. Apart from Rome, they were also entirely peaceful. This was no random event but part of a global tide of uprising that began in the Arab spring and has swept across Europe and America. Although you may question the link between the protests in the Middle East and apparent Western democracies two common features have ran through them all: high unemployment combined with increasing difficulty to live on low wages and a feeling that the general public have no control over their governance.

These two themes were the main constituents of a manifesto published ahead of the actions on Saturday that aimed to voice the reasons behind these protests. In a style true to the movement the manifesto was produced over four months in

consultation with the people involved in the movements in Britain, Egypt, Tunisia, Germany, Spain, the USA, Israel & The Palestinian Territories, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina, India and Australia. It highlighted how, whether it be Mubarak, the IMF, multinational banks or the G8/20, we are all dictated by a few people to whom we never gave permission. In the words of the Indian eco-feminist Vandana Shiva, we demand replacing the G8 with the whole of humanity – the G7 billion. The manifesto states that more than ever before our lives – including jobs, education, health and environment – are shaped by corporations, banks, markets and financial crises.

Although the manifesto attempts to accurately portray the global movement each country and region has taken particular emphasis on parts that are important to them. The Middle East is obviously focussed on dictatorships whilst Japan had a Fukushima element to the Tokyo

occupation. Italy and Spain have emphasised political corruption and America and the UK tend to have centred on inequality. The most common of threads though is that we are born equal, and

## “Everyone has a say in small groups”

should be treated so.

In the largest UK demonstration – Occupy London Stock Exchange (still ongoing at time of writing) – has occupied the space outside St. Paul’s Cathedral with up to 5000 people, after a high court injunction was imposed on the original target of the neighbouring and privately owned Paternoster Square. And not surprisingly inequality is a strong theme as inequality in the UK is only second to the US out of Western states. A banner displaying the slogan of Occupy Wall

Street – we are the 99% - highlights how in the UK 1% of the population have accrued a third of the wealth.

Placards and conversations echoed this sentiment. A placard stated ‘I have no job but now I have an occupation’ which agreed with the feelings of a surprising number of young unemployed graduates I spoke to who feel they were sold a lie about education. After all that time and money they are left as part of the ever rising youth unemployment. One particular protester, educated to masters’ level, questioned our state’s derision of the poor and acceptance of the rich. “Currently I am living on £53 a week job seeker’s allowance to pay food, bills and other costs in London. This is barely enough to even survive but yet the law says this is how much you need to live on. However they have decided no maximum to live on, people receive million pound bonuses, where is the equality?”

This feeling of injustice is now evolving into an attempt to create a new de-

mocracy, one where everyone participates and decisions made at least have a chance of representing the majority of people. The whole protest in St Paul’s works as horizontally as possible. Everyone has a say in small groups with a spokesperson sent to give feedback to the whole occupation in what is called a general assembly. The common feeling is that this protest is there to stay; people are planning to camp or make return visits. The persistence and growth of this movement across the world is giving constant strength and support. Normally protests are dismissed in the few hours afterwards, the people ignored. However, by staging a permanent protest this becomes increasingly difficult and there’s a chance our voices may finally break through.

As one middle aged occupier described how the current way our society functions “constantly degrades” him, others mimicked the Zapatista’s of Mexico in declaring “Ya basta! (Enough!)”

# The cunning of Dr Fox

## Reporting on the last calamitous cabinet days of the Defence Secretary

**Philip Kent**

Last Friday, after a week of revelations over wrongdoing in his affairs, the Defence Secretary, Dr Liam Fox, announced his resignation to the Prime Minister. The first Tory cabinet minister to resign has been replaced by Philip Hammond, whose Transport brief is now to be fulfilled by Treasury minister Justine Greening.

Dr Fox has been under a great deal of pressure to resign after it was discovered he had been granting inappropriate access to both himself and the Ministry of Defence to Adam Werritty, a friend and lobbyist. Mr Werritty accompanied the defence minister on a number of official trips, including visits to foreign diplomats and military figures. He also styled himself as an ‘Advisor to Rt. Hon. Dr. Liam Fox MP’ on business cards, despite having no official role in the Government.

Dr Fox apologised to the House of

Commons on the 10th of October for his actions, but this was not enough to quench the controversy over his position, and he ultimately resigned on the 14th. The Prime Minister expressed his regret in seeing Dr Fox leave the Cabinet, while Labour’s shadow defence secretary, Jim Murphy stated, ‘It was inconceivable that once a minister had been seen to break their own code of conduct on so many occasions that he could survive’.

At the time of writing, the Cabinet Office report on the extent of the relationship between Dr Fox and Mr Werritty in Government is yet to be fully released. Mr Werritty has been interviewed by civil servants as part of a Cabinet Office Enquiry, with Whitehall officials said to be alarmed with the details uncovered. The Enquiry has already confirmed that Liam Fox did indeed breach the ministerial code. However, the final report is expected to find that he did not benefit financially.



A whirlwind of business cards and political bust ups for Dr Liam Fox

# BUSINESS

## Letter from the Editors



The news in finance and the economy does not endear itself to an 'everyman' readership. Obtuse language, subtle argument and the inescapable requirement to resort to mathematics and statistics define a small subset of Business readers from the many that filter through the headline pages of our broadsheets and other newspapers. But whether understood or not, the financial situation of the UK, the Eurozone and overseas (albeit mostly in a westerly direction), has begun to impact on readers of Arts and Business alike. Inflation and interest rates are tangible, and now, more than being felt, they will hurt: inflation in the UK rose above 5% this September, spurred mainly by increasing energy prices, while interest is flatlining at a tenth of that, and rumours it could be cut to as little as 0.25%.

With the pragmatism of scientists we may look to solve these economic woes. More than their solution however, it is the mechanism by which these issues are tackled that we should consider. We have to create the conditions in which a solution can be achieved: namely, by fostering debate. And as debate begins with information, we are here to inform. Read our section, tell us what you like and what you don't; tell us what you agree with, disagree with, and why. We've an advantage in knowing our readers to be smart and mathematically adept. We know you can understand; all we really need is your interest.

– The Business Editors

# SPECIAL REPORT: Quantitative Easing

Your new BUSINESS editors bring you a special report into Quantitative Easing

Two of our top contributors summarise the situation and pass comment. **Rajvinder Virdee** introduces us to the policy in the context of the worsening global financial situation and explains its effects on the man-on-the-street. Then, in the second part of our special, **Shiang-Jin Chin** delves into the reasoning behind this measure, and discusses some of the broader implications in terms of British economic policy.

## QE, or not QE, that is the question

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,  
And by opposing end them?

### Rajvinder Virdee

There was a global economic meltdown in 2008. World governments have since spent their time running through plans A-Z to try and reboot economies, but so far any recovery has been wiped out by other problems such as the crisis in the Eurozone. The problem of what to do with the levels of debt has been puzzling politicians all over the world. Big players, including Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, and Sir Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England, seem to think Quantitative Easing (QE) is the solution.

In buying government bonds, the central bank raises the price of the assets bought and reduces their yield. The aim of QE is to increase the excess reserves of banks so if everything goes belly up and debt is defaulted, the bank has enough cash (or liquid assets) to cover their back. So although the process increases the rate of inflation, the normal citizen does not get any access to the new money; it's used to save the same people who caused the mess in the first place. Prices go up but with pay packets frozen debts are no easier to deal with.

The problem is deciding when to stop. How much money can be printed before the situation spirals out of control? Because it's not just inflation QE will affect, it will also lead the weakening of a nation's currency, which is especially problematic in an export based economy (it becomes more expensive for you to buy goods from outside, and cheaper for others to buy yours). As soon as the "good times" return QE needs to be reversed and banks will need to buy back the assets otherwise the problems could very quickly get out of control.

The recent party conferences produced some interesting alternatives, such as that proposed by the current chancellor George Osborne. Although the now famous Plan-G (G for graphene) stole the headlines, a £50m investment into R&D is unlikely to save the

economy. More interesting was the mention of Credit Easing. The real difference with this alternate kind of Easing is that the Average Joe may actually see some benefit of the process. Instead of a central bank, e.g. the BoE, buying bonds in banks, the aim is to buy corporate bonds. Whilst no one has quite yet decided what an English version of Credit Easing might be, it would seem that banks will be encouraged to bundle together the loans and overdrafts of small companies which would then be bought by the BoE. This should in theory ease cash flow for small companies and help them stay liquid through the recovery.

Another problem with QE that has recently been uncovered is the pension 'black hole'. Pension fund liabilities stretch long into the future, usually linked to long-term bond yields. QE lowers bond yields and so this would seem a problem, and it is. In fact it's a big problem. When the BoE's first round of QE was finished, resulting in £200bn worth of bonds bought, it was estimated that the pen-

sion deficit of FTSE 350 companies increased by £70bn. Now the BoE has committed to yet more QE, it has estimated another increase of £25bn in the deficit will occur. And these are conservative estimates. To cover the deficit, employers will have to use more of their own money to pay off pensions resulting in lower capital expenditure being pumped into the economy. These new facts seem to make QE seem less and less attractive.

It's hard to say if QE is working or not with so many problems going on at the same time in world economies. In light of the pensions issue it seems we are seeing the bad effects of £200 billion, but the benefits of just £130bn. Most of the central banks love the idea of QE, but it's not completely apparent why. Instead perhaps George Osborne should be praised for having the guts to say he is going to try something else. Credit Easing seems fairer, and will inject money into the economy where it is hurting the most: on the High Streets, in shopping centres, and in people's pockets, not just the bonus packets of bankers as QE does.

So, to QE or not QE? It would seem that perhaps QE should not be the way forward. It's been tried for three years, and although it may have helped prevent a double-dip recession, it is no way to promote economic growth. If the question were reduced down to picking teams as in the school playground - sorry Ben, but let's go with George.



Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, and Sir Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England, ponder possible solutions to the worsening financial situation.

# The launch of the QE2

Shiang-Jin Chin

If central banks could instigate growth by simply printing more money, they would have done so a long time ago. A recent Bank of England (BoE) research report attests to the theory that cash injections are inflationary: while the Quantitative Easing (QE) package of £200bn had an initial macroeconomic impact of 1.5-2%, it was quickly followed by an increase in Consumer Price Index (CPI, the key index for inflation) of about 1.5%. Inflation may help reduce unemployment according to Keynesian doctrine, but it will not benefit the underlying economy in the long term.

So why would the BoE, with the benefit of hindsight in these statistics on the first QE program, still press forward with a second round of Quantita-

tive Easing "QE2", creating £75bn of electronic money with which to buy gilt (UK government bonds)?

For one thing, the negative effect of the first QE package - inflation - appears to be far smaller than what would be expected: although the BoE had injected the capital equivalent of 14% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) into the economy, inflation accounted for by the QE so far has maxed at 1.5% - small in comparison to the money injected.

Besides, since reaching its peak in January 2010, the growth of the broad money aggregate M4 (an estimate of the entire supply of money within an economy) has been stagnant; it has even declined. Given the velocity of circulation of money went unchanged, this suggests that the country may soon be facing deflationary pressures instead of an inflationary ones. In the face of deflation QE

might not be so bad an idea after all.

Secondly, whether originally intended or not, QE2 will buy more time for the coalition government - for George Osborne's fiscal consolidation plan and austerity measures to begin to work. Despite the coalition government's freezing of spending, cutting of civil servant jobs, and reducing of social welfare payments, the UK economy, as measured by GDP, has grown slower than expected. This will hurt the growth of tax revenue, and delay Osborne's timetable for deficit reduction. QE2 can help here in two ways: by creating a positive impact on GDP growth in short time horizon, and by helping to inflate the economy, thus reducing the cost of any tax reductions implemented. Additionally, by lowering the yield on 10-year government bonds through QE2, the BoE will manage to reduce the



Whilst QE2 is being launched, Cameron happily counts how many more are going to be needed. This is cagely received by an ageing Osborne and King.

borrowing cost for the coalition government, at a time when interest payment for government debt already accounts for 7% of the budget expenditure.

Whatever the problems with QE it would therefore seem that unless more public sector jobs are to be shed, sig-

nificant reductions to the funding for schools and hospitals are made, or support cut off for those reliant on public pension schemes and social benefits, the burden caused by repayments must be shared. In launching the QE2 the BoE is simply making this decision for us.

## The Economy in History

### The Cautionary Tale of *Mansa* Musa of Mali

Beñat Gurrutxaga-Lerma  
Nina Kearsley

Legend has it that, as for all faithful Muslims, the day came when the good King Musa of Mali announced to his people that he would be leaving Mali for the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca. The announcement, though praised by the wise and respected by all his subjects, came with fear, as the trip from Niani to Mecca was long and perilous.

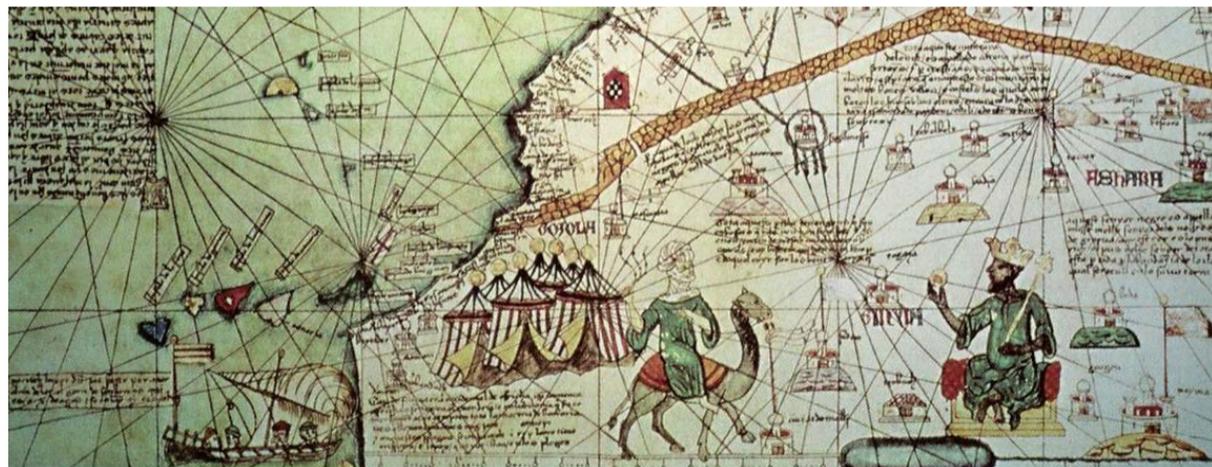
Wishing to ease their king's trip, the people of Mali helped with the arrangements of the royal caravan. When it finally departed, the royal party was something to be seen: more than a thou-

sand courtiers attended King Musa, accompanied by their servants and belongings and carried on myriads of camels in a procession so long it was said to take more than two days to see it pass by. Among their effects, King Musa had taken with him the royal treasury of Mali, which, according to the legend, consisted in such a wealth in gold that it required no less than a hundred elephants to be carried.

After a peaceful journey through the Sahara, the royal party reached Egypt, where caliph Al-Nasir received King Musa warily in Cairo; his spies had told him that the king's wealth was so fabulous he could have bought the whole of Egypt. However, the Caliph needn't have feared, as Cairo's most capable merchants were on his side.

According to the legend, whilst Al-Nasir and Musa entertained themselves in staring contests to determine who should vow to whom first, Musa's royal household visited Cairo's bazaar to buy for their master all the luxuries on offer. Upon realizing that the fabled wealth of King Musa was no tale, the merchants promptly discovered that what no Egyptian would have paid more than 3 dinar for, Musa's subjects would buy for 30. They increased their prices by so much for the Malians that upon leaving Cairo towards Mecca the king's wealth had all but vanished, left in hands of the happy few bazaar merchants.

These merchants, suddenly rich and lacking of any good incentive to save



*Mansa* - Emperor - Musa of Mali (1312-1337, bottom right), holding one of the golden nuggets Mali was so famous for during the Middle Ages

or bury their new fortunes, simply increased their consumption proportionally. But their interests clashed: they all wanted to buy then same fine things and the market became saturated with demand. They discovered that they could not get all they wanted without bidding up the prices and soon Cairo's real estate, food and commodity market prices had doubled, reaching levels hitherto unknown. Such are the risks of QE.

#### Panta rei; money too

In 1752 the Scottish Philosopher David Hume came up with an explanation for the mechanism by which the Egypt-

tian economy could have equilibrated following this cash injection: Hume's *price-specie-flow mechanism*.

Crucially, medieval Egypt was not an isolated community, but traded actively with countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. After King Musa left, it found itself flooded with gold, and this led to internal inflation. However, foreign goods were still as cheap as before, and having more gold, Egypt could steeply increase its imports. Concurrently, Egyptian goods being so expensive, exports would have ceased. This would then lead to a decrease in the gold income due to exports, and, imports being paid in gold, to an effective export of Egypt's gold; the balance of payments would

thus become (very) negative.

Then, as more and more gold was taken abroad, Egyptian inflation would have to come to an end and bazaar merchants would begin to feel their pockets empty. Unable to bid up their prices internally, price deflation would follow. However, Hume continued, since Egyptian prices were then set to deflate, at some point their goods would again become attractive exports that foreigners would pay for in gold. So, after a time, an equilibrium would be reached, and the balance of payments be restored.

Incidentally, a great deal of King Musa's gold ended up in Italian merchants' hands, where it helped finance the early Italian Renaissance.



David Hume (1711-1776), Scottish Philosopher and Economist

# BUSINESS

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## Founder Stories: Storify and MinuteBox

The Imperial Entrepreneurs report on talks from two new companies looking to harness the power of the social network

By  **Imperial Entrepreneurs**

**Jamal Khan & Rafal Szymanski**

Last Friday, as part of the Imperial Entrepreneurs speaker series programme, the founders of Storify ([storify.com](http://storify.com)), Xavier Damman, and MinuteBox ([minutebox.com](http://minutebox.com)), Josh Liu, came to the Imperial Business School.

The evening kicked off with a presentation from Imperial Entrepreneurs about what they do and the set of events planned out for the year. Both speakers had fascinating stories of entrepreneurship and how they

**“Storify allows people to create stories around posts”**

grew their businesses from scratch in uncertain times.

Xavier, who has a background in Computer Science, joined the City for one year before swiftly moving on to starting his own business. His first concept was to develop a product to help people publish stories around social media, in particular Twitter. He was bold, and moved from Brussels to Silicon Valley with his girlfriend without knowing what to expect and with only a few contacts. After six months of hard work and networking, his business, Storify, got \$2 million funding from Khosla Ventures and also managed to secure a co-founder in the media industry. Xavier was juggling his time between meetings with venture capitalists and coding the product by himself.

His start-up, Storify, allows people and companies to create stories around posts on social media sites including Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. He is passionate about the concept of sharing and how his product allows people to capture individual posts, photos and links that would otherwise have been lost in the web, and create stories around them. According to Xavier “Everybody is a reporter, but thanks to journalists, those

voices can impact wide audiences, be remembered, change the world”. His aim is to reinvent storytelling with social media; to make everyone a ‘journalist’.

One tip he gives to aspiring entrepreneurs: “Don’t ask for permission; ask for forgiveness.” It is, after all, in the words of Steve Jobs, those of us who “think different ... have no respect for the status quo”, that will make a noticeable difference in this world.

The second visiting entrepreneur was Josh Liu from Minutebox. Josh is an alumni of Imperial College, and his product focuses on getting people forming contacts between specialists in certain areas of expertise. Though the first iteration of his product got some negative publicity on TechCrunch (a leading technology/startup blog), Minutebox went on to become a successful startup, enabling individuals to take part in live chats with professionals in various fields through looking at their LinkedIn profiles. Josh came from a working class family and fought hard to break out of it and build his own business. His biggest piece of advice from the evening was to make sure you have a great team when starting out, as these are the people who you will be spending most of your time with. Even though Josh was not a technical cofounder, it was his successful collaboration with the team he formed that ensured the eventual success of



Xavier Damman, founder of Storify, discusses his move to Silicon Valley



Josh Liu, founder of MinuteBox

Minutebox.

The visit from Xavier and Josh is just the first of many inspiring talks Imperial Entrepreneurs has planned. The focus of the society is to promote entrepreneurship and the idea that there are other prospects for Imperial graduates than the very tempt-

ing route toward investment banking. Imperial College represents some of the top intellect around the world, and it is just this kind of people that are able to create innovative companies of their own which generate value for society.

If you are interested in entrepreneurship, starting your own company, the technology sector, or just want to listen to some very inspiring speakers, come to the talks organised by Imperial Entrepreneurs! Sign up for the mailing list at:

[www.imperialentrepreneurs.com](http://www.imperialentrepreneurs.com)

**“... to reinvent storytelling with social media; to make everyone a journalist”**

### In Profile Storify



- Launched 2010 with \$2M investment from Khosla Ventures
- Won SxSW startup competition 2011 before public launch
- Recently profiled in Forbes, the NY Times and on Al Jazeera talkshow “The Stream”
- Named as one of TIME Magazine’s 50 Best Websites of 2011

### In Profile MinuteBox



- First appearing in 2008, MinuteBox Direct (v.2) launched 2011
- Named by TNW as the ‘standout’ start-up at the incubator program Seedcamp, London
- Recently expanded advisory board includes ex-Google analyst, two H4 partners and a representative from the Opportunity through Entrepreneurship Foundation

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# COMMENT

## FELIX

### The path to graduation: not all about internships

As this year's cohort of new graduates eases itself away from university life, many will either be beginning or continuing in their new careers. However, it is important to realise that unemployment remains an ever present issue for graduates. Unemployment finds itself at its highest total since 1994, with just over two and a half million people finding themselves out of work – a significant proportion being newly graduated students. Despite these solemn figures, it is good to take a step back and realise that Imperial degrees remain highly sought after, and that we must not lose focus on what this university has to offer other than study.

The university experience has become internship-focused as of late, with undergraduates – from first year onwards – relentlessly applying for summer placements. The tenacity and drive of said students towards securing a career must be admired, but at what cost does it come? There are those who can balance the hunt for a suitable internship alongside academic work, social and sporting activities. However, there are also those who will struggle with the balance that such a schedule demands. It is necessary for these individuals to realise that not all aspects of the university experience need to be juggled at once.

Internships provide a good deal of experience in the 'real world', with the promise of a salary providing students with a significant incentive (especially with the spectre of student loans awaiting graduates). However, they are by no means the be all and end all. Despite the latest unemployment figures leading to the perception that internships will give you a head start, employers will also be impressed by a dedication to college life, or relevant experience towards the line of work you take interest in – not necessarily the first class honours you achieved.

It is important to remember that not every aspect of university leads towards your future after graduation. This is why the comments such as those made this week by the Arts & Entertainment Board on the issue of bar night policy must be admired. The fact that club chairs have a common goal towards the improvement of social events is a testament to the thriving extra-curricular side of Imperial that is often overlooked by many. Gain relevant experience for the future if you are able, but make sure to find this not only in the workplace, but elsewhere too.

# The Heaven of Hell

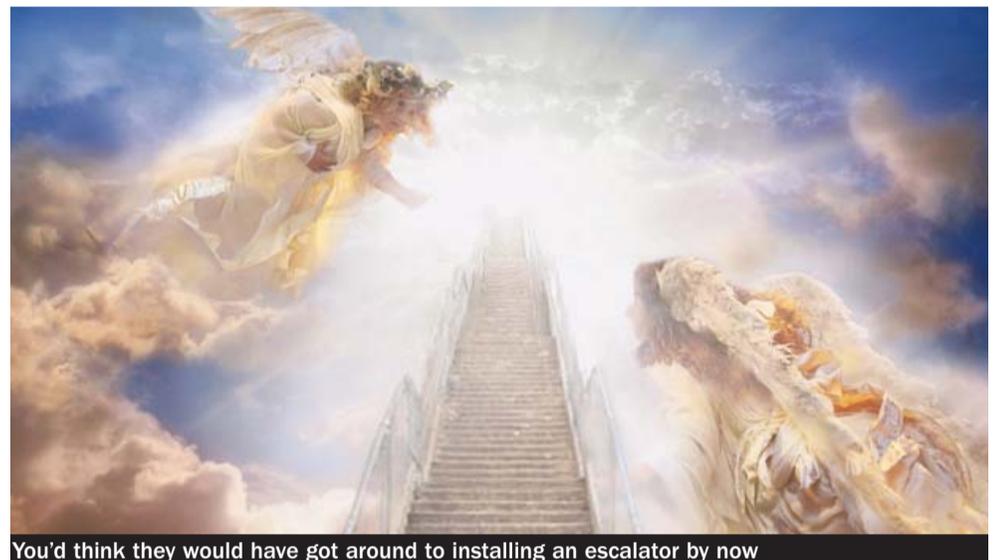


**Sam Horti**

**T**he question of what happens to us after we die is one that has troubled us as a species for thousands of years, and to this day many among us still wrestle daily with our own doubt and confusion over the matter. The posthumously themed wonderings of religious movements and philosophers alike have produced many weird and wonderful ideas filled with fantasy and creativity. The conspicuously man-made nature of the afterlife as displayed in modern religions isn't something that I feel it would be worthwhile to investigate at great length, mainly because of the fact that it is so palpable that the term "flogging a dead horse" comes to mind. The grubby fingerprints of mankind are present wherever you look.

To give a brief example, I would invite you to call to mind a fundamental belief that many religious people will espouse; specifically the idea that your own immaterial soul (whatever that means) leaves your body to travel onto the afterlife after your body has expired. The religions of our time do not seem to have quite the required imagination to free their minds of the earthly shackles that bind them, and therefore we are left with a post mortem experience which may evoke fear or joy in highly developed primates, but would have no effect on an immaterial soul. The eternal fires of hell proclaimed in the gospels can be extinguished when you realise that a soul has no skin to feel the pain of a burn, and I'm afraid the promised virgins in the Islamic Jannah (paradise) are going to have to remain distinctly unsatisfied for obvious reasons.

What the concept of an eternal heaven gives many people is hope of a better existence. By simply doing good on the earth and acting in accordance with the teachings of your chosen celestial leader, you can achieve perfection after you pass away. Leaving aside the implications this has for morality (what would happen without the promise of heaven?), I would like to ask those of you who hope for an afterlife a simple question. Would you enjoy heaven? Whenever I have asked myself this question, the answer is always a resounding no.



You'd think they would have got around to installing an escalator by now

Heaven would quite simply be hell to me.

What heaven gives us is the offer of a never-ending existence, and personally, I do not wish to exist for eternity. The thought of being trapped behind the bars of being is to me a horrifying one, however great my existence might turn out to be. After all, after my "soul" has spent 20 million years inside the pearly gates, I think it may struggle to find something to do for fun. As if anyone tells you that they wish to exist forever then it is safe to say that infinity is not a concept they have firmly grasped. Otherwise, it must be accepted that they wish to inhabit a realm from which there is no escape, a realm which they desire so strongly that they are willing to pay the measly entry fee of their freedom, surely one of the most important things a "soul" possesses.

Of course this offer that heaven gives you, and that God gives you, is not an offer at all. It is an insistence. An insistence that you must spend your timeless stay endlessly praising and worshiping the ever-watching big brother. Worst of all, alongside the limitless grovelling comes a further requirement – that you must enjoy yourself in the process. This idea, that you have no choice but to have fun whilst you submit completely and selflessly to an unelected dictator, is something that I find indescribably nauseating and very creepy. As Christopher Hitchens so wonderfully puts it, it would be akin to living in a "celestial North Korea". The difference being of course, as Hitchens himself points out is that "at least you can fucking die and leave North Korea". Taking part in this everlasting horror show isn't something that I could possibly wish on my worst enemy, let alone myself.

As I see it, not having an afterlife is by far and away the most attractive option. Living life as if there is nothing more to come is surely the most ful-

**Taking part in this everlasting horror show isn't something that I could possibly wish on my worst enemy, let alone myself.**

filling and productive way to live, and even the religious pay attention to this fact. I do not know a religious person that honestly conducts themselves as if this earth is some sort of trial, one big cosmic joke to which the punch line comes in the form of slavery to the almighty God who so graciously gave us life in the first place. Only once you fully realise that this life is the only one that you're going to get are you able to look upon the face of true freedom and embrace your ultimate independence.

**Want to stop obnoxiously titled comment pieces like the one opposite going in?**

**Why not write for us then!**

**Send your submissions in to:**

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



## COMMENT

## Postmodernism... wait, don't run away!



Indy Leclercq

I don't know if you've heard, but there's an exhibition on at the V&A at the moment. You know, that nice building on the other side of Exhibition road – the one that has “art” and “design” in it. If you're a fresher, and you haven't paid it a visit yet, that's fair enough. I do suggest you go at some point in your next three (or four) years – it's just across the street, and you'd be surprised at how refreshing a bit of “something that isn't science” can be. If you're not a fresher, and you haven't been yet, go – if only to ogle at/try and chat up one of the fit art students taking notes at the latest exhibition (also it's a refreshing change from Imperial).

I was at the V&A at the weekend – not for the above reasons – for their new exhibition on postmodernism. Before you stop reading this in disgust, let me just say two things: this is not a review of the exhibition, because I know next to nothing about art, and what the fuck is postmodernism? Your guess is as good as mine, mate.

Maybe the exhibition could provide an answer? The main thing I got out of wandering through weirdly lit, high-ceilinged rooms for an hour and a half was this: No-one effing knows what postmodernism is. Apparently, you can ask fifty different people who

are knowledgeable about this kind of thing and you'll get fifty different answers. Fifty different “valid” answers. It makes my physicist brain start twitching nervously; which is, apparently, the whole point. So, there's a word describing something that everyone (read: art boffins) can relate to but that no-one can really define. Honestly, as far as intellectual abstraction and weird concepts go, quantum mechanics has nothing on postmodernism.

One way of approaching it, I'm told, is by using modernism as a starting point. Everything that modernism stands for, postmodernism wants to subvert, destroy, and turn on its head.

This was pretty evident at the exhibition, with posters, paintings, clothes and various household items that most people would call “weird” but are apparently just “postmodern”. You can make a prefab garage with elements of classical Greek architecture, encase a turntable and some speakers in industrial concrete, or make a chair that only a one-legged dwarf would be able to fit into and call all of it postmodern.

You can also make Blade Runner, or form Kraftwerk: yep, that's postmodern too. All the weird fashion trends in the eighties? Bizarre buildings? About five hundred weird teapots? The word you're looking for starts with a ‘p’ and



It was either this, or use a picture of Kraftwerk. We figured this wasn't as scary

ends with an ‘n’.

I'm going to attract the ire of many artistically-inclined people here but to be honest, it seems to me that while there may be some justification for it, most artists and designers just ran out of conventional ideas, took a lot of drugs and made a bunch of weird “subversive” shit and sold it for a lot of money. Fair play to them – even though the whole thing collapsed under its own weight when people realised they were paying \$50,000 for a weirdly-shaped coffee maker.

I do think some postmodernist con-

cepts are relevant to today's society, though. Modernism is definitely dead; there are no more ideals of machine-like perfection, no more utopias, and fast-paced art (and society) isn't based on reason and scientific thought any more. Now, superficial style is everything, art is more about meaning than artistic skill and the things you see in galleries, like everything else, are all meant to be “consumed”.

In conclusi- wait a minute. It makes sense now: postmodernism is basically The X Factor.

## Would I be THIS hot with glasses? Meh.



Tim Arbabzadah

Do you wear glasses? It seems like a decent proportion of the population do. If my unscientific, empirical study of looking around sometimes (leave the hardcore, well researched science for lectures) and thinking, “shit, a lot of people wear glasses” (I'm all eloquent like that, my parents are very proud) counts for anything then I have definitive evidence that a non negligible number of the population wear glasses. It seems that a lot of people don't have 20/20 vision. As a side note, that's a phrase that I find odd. Anyone who has good eyes says they have that; but I thought it was only those with perfect vision. I guess it's like the way everyone over 5ft10 tells you that they're 6ft.

I think a guy I used to get the train to school with put it elegantly one cold, rainy morning when he said: “Having crap eyes would be well annoying”. At the time, my eyes weren't yet “crap”, so I smirked along with him, laughing

at those inferior specimens of humanity. Then, when I was about 17, it turned out I needed glasses. Karma's a bitch.

Now I move on to my dilemma and why I turned to contact lenses. My eyesight is not great, but it's just about good enough to be able to function without glasses from a visual standpoint, although perhaps socially it's another story. For example, I know that things that are blurry shouldn't be blurry. I can see that the sign has writing on it, but I can't read the writing. My eyes are such a tease.

Sometimes, I think I'd prefer it if there was no hope of seeing someone's face clearly from a short distance, rather than sharp focus being just about out of my reach. So, my eyes exist in an irritating in-between zone. If they were a bit worse I would resign myself to the fact that I just don't have great eyesight, and if they were slightly better I wouldn't even notice. It's basically the optical equivalent of being in the Friend Zone with that girl/guy you really like. Thinking about it, the

ultimate all or nothing, win or lose, glory or failure solution to both problems probably involves copious consumption of alcohol. I've heard horror stories about LASER eye surgery. If I ever have that then I'm going medieval in terms of anesthetic – just in case.

Putting contrived analogies aside for a second, there is another solution to the bad eyes that doesn't involve glasses. During the summer, I actually managed to achieve one of the things I had planned: I tried contact lenses. Saying that, I did do it right at the end of the summer, so it's only a partial victory for pro-activeness.

Why would I do such a thing when my current glasses work fine and are hipsterlicious? I can feel my bespectacled brothers and sisters reading in disgust, thinking I'm a vain sell out. Partially true, but also it's just nice to not have to carry around glasses and feel lost if you don't have them.

I'm not going to say that they have immediately revolutionized my life. Mainly because, at the minute, it takes

an extended period of humming the Rocky theme tune for me to pluck up the courage to put them in. Also, I don't trust myself to be able to remove them while drunk; wearing them on a night out is therefore not yet an option. Hopefully, practice makes perfect. They do, however, have one trump card: at first, every time you are wearing them, you think about how awesome it is that everything is now essentially in HD without the aid of glasses. My contact lenses do seem to want to remind me of this fact, by starting to go intermittently blurry after I've worn them for a few consecutive hours.

The take home message is this: book an appointment and try contact lenses. If you're squeamish about touching your eye, don't worry, a lot of people are, you'll get over it. Once you do you will feel like an absolute boss. Besides, during the start of term, when work is at a relative minimum, it is the best time to take the plunge.

Wait, that last sentence was transferable advice.

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**Tim Arbabzadah**

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# COMMENT

## Low Class versus No Class - Jeremy Kyle and Felix TV



**Angry Geek**

**Y**ou know, it amazes me sometimes, the levels of objectionable shit I see every day without feeling the need to write about it here. The Christian Union's latest poster, for instance, which advertised with glee a speaker who is said to "put the fear of God up atheists", using the same reassuring tones that Crusades-era religious believers were so good at employing. And yet – no column on it. I just couldn't summon the will to invent new defecation-based swears that adequately captured the barrel-scraping depths to which those shit-gargling evangelists had stooped. Maybe, I thought, I was getting old. I was mellowing.

Then a friend of mine forwarded a link to a Felix article. And after I'd blacked out with incandescent rage and laid waste to a small segment of West Kensington, I found myself with a desire to write. The article in question features in last week's Felix, discussing the merits of the Jeremy Kyle show with all the thoughtfulness and understanding of a Tory social policy.

As a piece of writing, it makes about as much sense as the opinions it clumsily attempts to shit out onto the page. Starting off appearing to criticise the much-maligned talk show for the way it treats its guests and so on, by the end of the article the author is praising it for being such. "It may well be 'human bear-baiting'", he writes, barely visible on top of his stack of high horses, "but to be honest it's funnier than a penguin

playing a banjo." Well, as long as it's funny.

It's probably worth mentioning that the Jeremy Kyle show is not the best television show around. Remember, though, that the production team heavily cherrypick their guests to maximise whatever effect they're going for that week. The one solitary piece of factual information in the Felix article explained how some episodes focus on sob stories, others attempting to 'resolve' conflict - generally through poking the guests until one of them snaps on camera. Once you've got the right guests, the rest is left up to Jeremy himself, a man with slightly less charisma than a dead monitor lizard, and equally cold-blooded.

Don't be fooled by the fact that the show appears to appeal to people 'below you', though. The entire show is designed to make you think it's targeting someone less classy than you. That's the show's selling point: that when you watch it, you get to feel superior. Even the Felix article manages to deduce this with the limited number of brain cells seemingly available to the author, noting in conclusion that "it does wonders for your ego to know that you will never be as shit a person as they are", although this fact is noted without the appropriate level of irony.

It's no surprise though. Most of this article was written on autopilot, spewing out lines repeated so often they've lost all meaning. It's like Racist Fuckwit Bingo. "Leeching off the government." Tick. "Too damn lazy to get a



Apparently he likes to lick things clean. This is an innuendo-free caption

job." Tick. "They need educating". House! What do I win, George? Oh, it's a fundamental misunderstanding of the foundation of equality that modern society is built on. Hooray!

I'm tired. I'm tired of bullshit like this, and having to excuse my own fucking institution when talking to other people. That friend that sent me the article? He goes to Aberdeen University. The only reason he saw this article was because it got linked to on a major Internet forum that decried it as horrific and insulting - which it is. While it thrills me to have something to be so riled by, and it pleases me that Felix can still print student opinion no matter how moronic, I think it's time for some of us to take a step back and actually re-

examine the world we're living in.

I don't expect people who are educated enough to study at Imperial, and interested enough to sign up for a course based on science, reason and intellect, to be writing in their student paper espousing the merits of inequality and holier-than-thou fuckwittery. I know I detest almost every single one of you fuckers, but I do that anyway. That's a baseline. You don't have to aspire towards that goal by being the biggest horse cock you can possibly be. So maybe next week we could have a TV section about actual television, and I'll try and have a comment column about how funny it is when geologists pretend they're actually doing science. That way, no-one has to be sterilised.

## Your meat offends me, deal with it



**Gurl With Opinions**

**I** was eating my lunch in the JCR (two-bean goulash YUM! :D) and this random guy just comes and sits down next to me and starts devouring a greasy stinky burger. I asked him if he minded moving because I find the stench of cooked meat to be nauseating. As you may have guessed, I'm a vegan. When I see people eating meat, cheese, cake or any other food that has come from animals, I just feel sick. I'm not one of those in-your-face vegans, but I have my right to ask someone to move if they're going to offend my beliefs. The guy rudely told me to f\*\*k off, so I just moved to another table. I wasn't

going to stoop to his level so I just walked away. Always ignore a bully ;)

Anyway, I'm not here to preach, I just want to explain my views. If you eat stuff that comes from animals, you are wrong. I'm sorry, but you are. You can defend your actions as much as you like by saying that animals don't have emotions or can't feel pain, but they have rights and you are abusing them. Don't worry, I'm not saying that you can't eat meat because everyone has freedom, but you have to know deep-down that what you are doing is immoral.

No-one has asked animals if they can eat their meat or drink their milk.

I don't go around eating people's babies because that would be frowned on and I would go to prison, but it's no different to eating animals. The other day I was on my uncle's farm when some chicks were hatching and I just couldn't understand why anyone would want to murder those little cuties. When you look in their eyes there is something there, like an unexplainable connection. I think the baby chickens have just as much a soul as we do - along with loads of other animals.

Some people argue that eating the eggs of chickens (or ducks, or other birds) doesn't harm them in anyway,

but if you think about it, it's sort of stealing. No-one has asked the chicken if you can take her eggs and I read this article once that said that they have tested chicken's stress levels after stealing their eggs and it goes up! I don't think I could eat an omelette knowing that there is a stressed chicken on my hands.

Anyway, that's my little piece over. Like I say, I have opinions and I'm not expecting you to read my articles if you don't like them, so there is no need to post nasty comments about my articles on the Felix website. I don't mind constructive criticism, but I won't read your abusive comments :)

## COMMENT

# Could the American university system work here?



**Yes – Alexander Karapetian**

“... the American style system has its merits and could be the key to a progressive, internationally unified university system”

**W**e shouldn't be so quick to react negatively towards the recent intention to change towards the American style system of having a Grade Point Average (GPA) by UCL. Students under the UK classification system are often under great pressures to attain a degree with 2:1 or above, with those not doing so risking slipping completely under the radar of potential employers.

The American system awards degrees with grades worked out from the average of the results of all courses taken. The grades are numerically representative of performance, more so than simply "2:1", where one could be within the range of 60% to 69%, a large difference in academic performance. The system also allows for ranking within a cohort, offering honours such as Salutatorian and Valedictorian for the second highest and highest respectively. I disagree with such rankings, however, since this would discourage student cooperation and would increase competition, adding another pressure to the myriad already present in typical university life.

Aspects such as a numerical GPA can be used to the student's advantage when looking for a job. Under the American system, since students associate their degree modules with majors and minors, one could recalculate their GPA using only classes within the major (e.g. for very specific job applications relevant to the major or to look more attractive by eliminating minors which may bring the average down). Applying this kind of system in the UK would provide pros and cons in a threefold manner.

Firstly, it would allow for employers to get a better feel for how well a student performed over their degree course on average. They would be able to distinguish between a borderline and comfortable first, useful in pruning the 70 from the 90 per cents. The disadvantage to this is that an average student who endeavoured tirelessly to bag a first with 70% or so will not be able to consider themselves safely in the same league as those in the 90s. Perhaps this is the right way forward though.

The second element to consider if this system were widely implemented in the UK is that employers would then be compelled to consider a GPA as criteria for selection, rather than simply the top two degree classifications. By setting the bar reasonably, one would hope this could prevent the unlucky

students who narrowly miss a 2:1 from feeling like their degree was a waste of time. Also, those who would normally obtain third class honours could still be taken into consideration, since reshuffling modules in the calculation could allow the blow of a low GPA score to be somewhat softened.

Lastly, one factor pushing UCL to consider the switch to GPA style scoring is grade inflation. Does a first from 2010 carry the same weight as one from 1994? Are students getting better/exams getting easier? That's another discussion in itself, but it should be noted that with a GPA system using class ranking, grade inflation is eliminated. It is particularly evident that an increasing amount of British students are leaving for American universities. In the US, students can keep their options open by way of choosing minor courses alongside their majors. Although this can be said to exist in the UK, the choices are severely limited in comparison. A student would not have to choose their major until the end of the second year in the US.

One could argue that costs remain a significant factor deterring students from the American universities. However, it remains a little known fact that many British students will qualify for help as the British are relatively less well off than the Americans. A student with family income of £32,000 (\$60,000) or below will have zero to pay towards fees, accommodation and even an annual flight back home. Students with a family income at the UK threshold for aid from grants (£37,425) will still only have to pay a few hundred pounds, and those with incomes up to £64,000 still receive aid from US universities. While the US certainly has more elite universities in the world's top 20, the UK's strong position for such a smaller country and population in world rankings must not be overlooked. The US degrees last longer, and UK students can be said to study a more focused curriculum with the added intensity of a shorter space of time.

Although my personal opinion remains against implementing the GPA system in the UK since I appreciate the prestige associated with first class degrees and feel many benefit from the masked percentages and employment securities attached to the current system, I do believe the American style system has its merits and could be the key to a progressive, internationally unified university system.



**No – Alexandra Nowbar**

“The well-defined pathways in the British higher education system help students maintain focus”

**I**'m here to advocate the British university system. It should be a walk in the park – Hyde, not Central. And yes, that was about as hilarious as Gurl With Opinion's article from last week was profound. She (or the troll) informs us that boys are magnetized by their confidence. I imagine boys reading her pearls of wisdom will be sceptical about this presumption and perhaps wonder why a girl so confident would not reveal her identity. But that aside (wouldn't want to make too much of a fuss in case it was a troll), I expect my side of the argument to be easy to the point of thinking I could get away with any old ramble. However, there's been too much daft writing of late so I will make an effort to present a strong case that focuses on undergraduate study.

The first hurdle to consider is the obvious financial burden of studying in the US: a minimum of 4 years' study for an undergraduate degree at around £30,000 per year. That's a lot to fork out without the help of a loan. That's not to say a student wouldn't get a government loan, it's just that the US Department of Education want the money back at a rate of 3.4%. Yes, that's a preferential rate when compared to ordinary loans but back in Blighty the rate, which used to be 0%, is currently a meagre 1.5%. These British handouts may not be sustainable, especially with our current level of graduate unemployment, but in the current economic climate I might venture that student loans are water under the bridge. For the sake of the issue in hand (and my mental health) we won't worry about any of that.

In my naivety, I'd expect the next hurdle for a high school graduate to be what subject to do but not on your nanny. We may not be fond of our obligation to choose a subject of undergraduate study in sixth form, but far better to decide then than to float around university aimlessly taking random classes. In the US a student commonly would not have to declare their "major" until the end of their third "semester" and even then a large proportion of students change their minds! At Harvard University, for example, a third of undergraduates change their fields after this declaration. Think how much time these students must be wasting. The well-defined pathways in the British higher education system help students maintain focus. And undergraduate students are known to be sus-

ceptible to indecision and easy distraction; more choice is not necessarily a good thing. At Imperial, people can, and do, change courses, but only very occasionally. Perhaps this is because we aren't being bombarded with temptation from a wide range of classes.

I hope no one gives me nonsense about the Americans thus becoming more cultured and well-rounded because ultimately a student can't really be a jack of all trades; whether it's before or after university, we will all have to settle down and pick a career path. In theory there is nothing wrong with doing a minor but I feel that our system of having some optional modules within a course is more logical; there, a science student could take an English minor or an art class and because these would still be worth credits (i.e. doing well matters) they would take equal priority to studying for the major. I believe other interests really ought to be pursued externally.

Speaking of other interests, I imagine the sportier British student might envy Americans because of their college level sports. Americans have definitely tilted the balance in favour of promoting sport but I suspect they have gone too far. It is sometimes said that achievements on the field can outweigh academic achievements on admission to some American universities. There is a great deal of pressure on universities in the US for their sport teams to do well, so one can understand why they recruit in this way. But that's not all. The real scandal is the escalation of sponsorship of in college football (American football) and the reported corruption. So let's not be too jealous, I'm convinced that us 'Brits' don't adopt the same obsession with winning and thus cheat or break the rules.

UCL deciding to offer GPAs as an alternative to the degree classification disappointed me, initially because I'm a patriot so I'd rather fix any purported issues within the current system than adopt the American way, but also in part because the continual monitoring reeks of primary and secondary education. So-called grade inflation can be countered by simply relaying one's actual marks and this is not unheard of in the job market.

If Gurl With Opinions is speaking her ridiculous mind, I figured I'd better speak my slightly more sensible one, lest people lose faith in womankind altogether. Sadly, I'm not sure much can be done to redeem her.

Comment Editors: **Sam Horti**  
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# COMMENT

## When Equality is Unfair



**Mahfooz Hasan**

Equality is based on the mathematical equation.  $x = x$ ,  $y = y$ , there's no 2 ways about it. It has to be the same quantity, size, value etc. When applied to people, it refers to the state of being equal, especially in status, rights and opportunities. What it does not take into consideration is the difference between people, their role in the world, their characteristics – their individuality. It turns human beings into numbers and equations, in order to suit the logistics, to make it easy for lawmakers. On the other hand, fairness involves taking into consideration a person's needs, his/her background – his/her individuality. It treats human beings as more than just numbers and equations, it treats them as individuals with emotions, beliefs and morals.

Take the famous battle of the sexes. Men and women are not the same, they are different: they have different emotional and physical needs, different

ways of thinking, different way of doing things etc. Providing them with equal resources and treating them as equals is at times unfair. For example, giving both men and women one month parental leave is unfair. A woman needs to go through a great deal more during pregnancy, child-birth, and after the child is born. Egalitarianism would suggest an equal time off for both parents, but anyone with any sort of logical thinking would agree that women should be given a longer maternal leave than men get for paternal leave. Equality can at times be unfair, and to exercise a fair system one must look at the individuality of a person, rather than just looking at people as numbers and equations.

Let's look at a more controversial example: wages. Almost everywhere you will see that employees of the same grade are paid equal salary. For example, all sales assistants in a supermarket will be paid  $x$  amount of money, so as to comply with equality laws, and at

first glance this appears to be fair and just. But if we consider the individuality of the persons working in that post, we see that the output varies from person to person. Not everyone is equally motivated, equally skilled or equally honest – not everyone has the same characteristics. An employee who puts forth double the effort, and sells double the quantity of stock is paid the same as an employee who puts in a luck-lustre effort and couldn't care less about how many products the shop is selling. In hindsight, surely, that looks like a poor deal for the employee who actually wants to work.

Conventional wisdom suggests that unequal salary would cause friction and jealousy in workplace, but in truth an equal salary system is worse. It infuriates the hard-working employees, who feel aggrieved that colleagues that are putting in less effort are paid the same salary. It can bother them so much that they eventually slack off themselves.

Research shows that this breeds more envy, and produces lower morale amongst employees than there would be in an unequal wage environment. Furthermore, an equal salary means there is no longer a monetary incentive to exceed in your job. Employees also perceive the equal wage system as less fair, and this perception will lead to decreased efficiency in the workplace.

Of course, there are times when equality is fair. For example, men and women should be given equal opportunities to pursue a good education and a career of their choice. But perhaps we should not be so fixated on the ideology that equality solves discriminatory problems. Perhaps discrimination at certain times provides the solution for some of the problems; discrimination based on people's work ethic, their effort and their honesty. Equality at times is unfair, and we should seek to be a society that aspires to be fair, not to be equal.

## Did you know I once saw John Cleese in a curry house?



**Rhys Davies**

*I would like to make it clear that this article is not a vent for my disappointment at being the one person in the UK not to have their phone hacked by The News of the World. Although, I am quite insulted at not being hacked. Don't you know who I am?*

This one sentence can kick-off a near-endless conversation of who saw who, where and doing what. Like them or loathe them, celebrities do get people talking. Off the top of my head, I can't think of any other use they might have. Every day it gets easier to gossip – not just because of The News of the World's standard journalistic practices – but also because of the sheer abundance of celebrities in our society today.

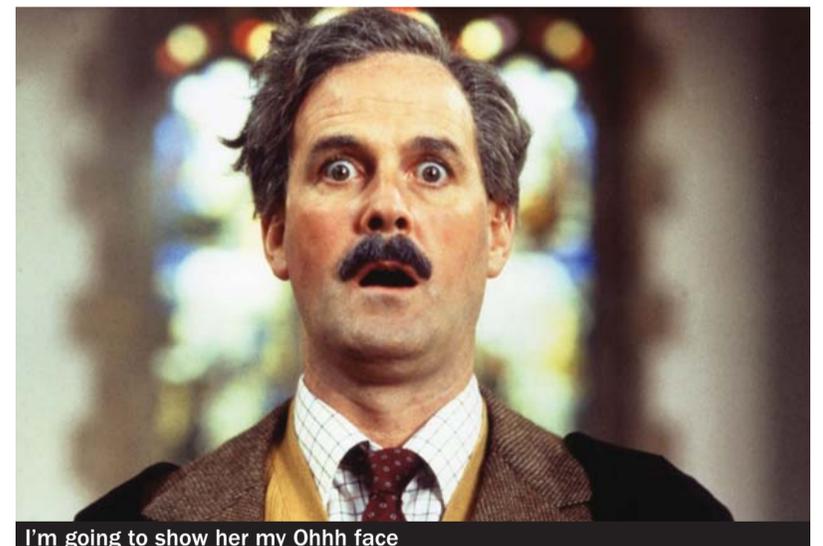
The only celebrities I had when I was growing were Eric Cantona, Konnie Huq and Leonardo from the Superhero Mutant Ninja Turtles. Now there are more celebrities than there are particles in the universe. Part of the reason for this is that the entry requirements for becoming a celebrity have been severely lowered. Instead of being a great athlete; successful musician or actor; or a superhero role-model, celebrity status is endowed on anyone who has been on half an episode of X-Factor or Big Brother. Honorary celebrity status is even granted to the siblings of celebrities, regardless of their talent, or lack thereof.

While I do worry that this is raising a culture of entitlement and that fame is an ends unto itself, I can go

about my daily life more or less normally. Celebrities are other people. What really concerns me is where this trend is heading. Another reason why we have so many celebrities today is that yesterday's celebrities (providing they haven't slipped into the limbo of obscurity) are still around, mixing with the celebrities of today. The celebrities of tomorrow will have to mingle with both of these earlier species, while more continue to be made. The Earth can only support so many people: it will positively groan under so many egos.

If the cult of celebrity continues to grow at this rate, I predict that there will come a point where everything flips. It'll happen when there are more celebrities than "normal" people. By virtue of their rarity, the normal people will be the new celebrities. For a while, more traditional celebrities will continue to be pumped out, elevating the status of the "normals" who are left. Suddenly, celebrity magazines will begin pandering to them, so that the celebrities can find out how dress, eat and exercise like a 'normal' person.

That's only the tip of the pendulum though. Once TV producers cotton on to the reversed social order, they'll



I'm going to show her my Ohhh face

start making shows where celebrities are turned into ordinary people. The prizes would be grandiose: one million pounds! – removed from your estate. Then the biographies and tabloid confessionals would come out, the truth in first edition. Celebrities will admit to all the drugs they haven't taken, all the people they haven't slept with, all the outrageous behaviour that they might have exaggerated a teeny bit. The greatest revelation will be that

Charlie Sheen is actually a practicing Methodist.

I can't imagine what will happen after this great reversal, nor can I think of a way that it can be avoided. Celebrity begets more celebrity. They feed on the fuel of interest, and can only die when that fuel is exhausted. But we'll never stop talking about celebrities. How do I know? I don't even care for them and I've spent the whole of this article talking about them!

## COMMENT

# My life after graduation



**Anum Farooq**

This is an irrelevant time of the year for this article. As usual, my timing is wrong (must set a reminder to be in sync with the rest of the herd). Thoughts and hopes of graduation begin to emanate at about early May to late June, sparkly spring seems to set in motion a chain of celebration. Then, reality hits: you still have to get through those exams.

Without much smugness (but a bit of an irritating smirk), the exams have been completed. A flurry of revision tape recordings completed, trying out every accent possible to make enzymes' mechanisms and odd bits of biochemistry sound as exciting as possible, hoping the subconscious would absorb facts. To say I hate my squeaky voice would be an understatement. I've had enough of listening to myself, and so will you by the end of this article.

Reminiscing about revision and exams is fun: in hindsight you can laugh off the laws of thermodynamics on the bathroom door, and the diagrams of molecules and mechanisms on the ceiling so that every morning DNA helix was staring at you. Biochemistry was, for me, basically two years spent studying proteins, and one year in the Management School, to deal with the trauma.

I graduated in 2010. Let it be simplified ... graduation is an anti-climax.

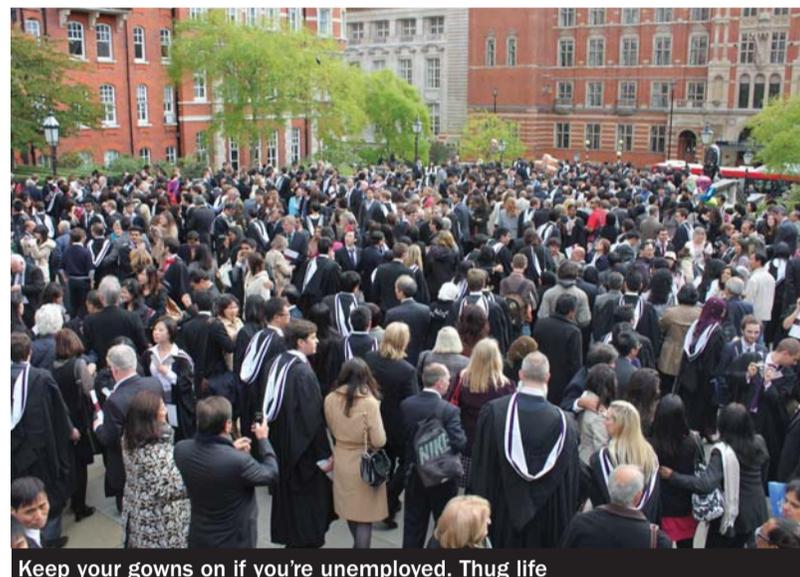
Suddenly, you venture out in the big, wide world to try and figure out life, not unlike Bambi. Yet, there are no more hoops to jump through, no more do this coursework or pass that exam; no more levels of this academic adventure, or that fluorescent light bulb moment. The chains that reined in the horse are removed, and suddenly ... whoosh. The horse doesn't know where to go. Why isn't there someone telling you what to do!?

After Imperial, everything is easy - working, mastering, projecting. That's why being an alumnus and being involved in gazillion different projects is the norm. Or perhaps, some of us are those strange species of workaholics who are actually addicted to (and might I add in confession, get an adrenaline rush out of) working, projecting, and hobbying (as well as opinionating).

With your shiny degree, you would think you know a lot, have seen a lot, and damn the world - you're going to make it through. Eventually, you mature and actually grow up. For real this time.

As you realise, there is so much to learn, and not enough hours in the day to get everything done, but despite everything you still make time for the important stuff. You also learn to handle ironing: smooth and without creases.

In retrospect, if I had to do my degree all over again, I would be fearless, take part in a lot more activities, branch out



Keep your gowns on if you're unemployed. Thug life

and actually enjoy my time at Imperial. In fact, I should've regularly gone to Mindy Lee's art workshops in Blythe, and been more proactive on the History of Art humanities course in the twentieth century liaison at UCL, as well as communicating with fellow humans a LOT more. Shyness gets you nowhere, neither does awkwardness, neither does geekiness for that matter.

When you start your degree, and throughout it, just remember a little fact: you're still a baby. Focus on your studies and appreciate that your parents

and lecturers care about you. In the real world, you'll grow up fast enough.

In a bittersweet way, graduating is a process in the coming of age ceremonies. Welcome to the real world, independence, toughness, explorations and the make-a-difference-to-the-world-especially-now-Mother-Teresa-is-no-longer-with-us feeling. Don't forget you're a citizen of our society - define it and make positive ripples in the pond, before you explore the ocean as a grown up. Even if you still sleep with the light on.

# Is the Imperial stereotype true?



**Faye Hemsley**

So it's two weeks in, and things aren't going as you planned. It isn't exactly how it was sold to you. Sure, you've been out most nights, met a million people you can't remember, been a bit of a tourist and burnt a few meals. But you've also missed more 9am lectures than you made it to, piled up a mountain of work, and have come to realise that you are no longer one of the elite. Yes, you, the geek extraordinaire with a billion A levels, are average. You've finally met a group of like-minded people, and all it's done is deflate your ego. You're just a fish in a very large pond, more like a lake actually, maybe the Serpentine in Hyde Park now you mention it.

You've walked past the library (to find something to eat after you've somehow burnt your spag bol), and noticed the pale, hopeless faces of the masses already stacked inside. Why are

they all still working at 1am? Do they know something you don't? Why didn't they tell you it would be so hard? Suddenly, you miss your mum, the dog and even the batty old neighbour next door.

Relax. In two more weeks you won't remember this freak out. You'll feel like you've known your new friends your whole life, and won't know how you ever lived without them. The library will become your new haunting ground - so many floors to socialise on, it's a good job it's open twenty-four hours. Right now, everything is new. You're settling in. Hold off on that tuition fee refund request. Look just a little closer, and you'll see things differently. Those people stacked in there? They're on Facebook; their flat-mate forgot to call for Sky Broadband. Their faces are hopeless because they're more hung-over than they ever imagined possible. It was their society social last night, and the

night before that it was a house party of an acquaintance. Everyone eats in the library café, not because they're chained to the library, but because in the middle of South Ken, it's a pretty cheap option. See how easily that dreary image dissolves? Now it seems Imperial really is just like any other Uni.

Sure I probably shouldn't write anything disparaging about Imperial; you've only just started and it's intimidating enough without listening to a disillusioned third year. But I decided, as with most things in life, that honesty is the best policy. University is overwhelming, but it's also the best thing you will ever do in your life. Yes we've all heard the myths about Imperial. We all know the stereotype. Let's take a moment to look at it anyway. Imagine him:

1. He's painfully introverted. Then why is everyone walking around in

groups? Surely they'd all be friendless? Why is Queen's Lawn always humming with chatter? Even in summer term when exam timetables demand we are our most anti-social?

2. He's Einstein bright. That Keeno from the front row of your lectures won't get grades any higher than yours. Promise. It's just how he rolls.

3. He's definitely male. You're not really reading this article then, because I can't be from Imperial if I'm a girl, and I can't be a girl if I'm from Imperial. Obviously.

Imperial-schmerial. The stereotype is largely myth, but that won't stop us all from propagating it. The truth though, is that Imperial is up there with the best. It's going to work as hard for you over your lifetime as you do for it in those four short undergraduate years. It's worth working hard at having fun here.

Congratulations on arriving/returning for 2011/2012. Make it count!



**Women in Science, Engineering and Technology** are holding a 'Breast  
Come to Queen's Lawn at 12:30 for a little (or not so little) surprise  
If you're interested in doing a centrefold (clubs, groups or individuals)



st Cancer Fundraiser and Krispy Kreme Sale' on October 28

e!

ls!), email [centrefolds@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:centrefolds@imperial.ac.uk)

## ARTS

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**Eva Rosenthal Mena**

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# Artists descend as Regent's Park

## A Saturday afternoon in the park

### Frieze Art Fair 101: A novice's impressions

#### Indy Leclercq

Picture the scene: Regent's Park on a sunny Saturday afternoon. Families are out, the squirrels are being pretty inquisitive and the pedal boats on the lake are politely bumping into each other. In the middle of it all, a sprawling white structure with a pretty weird wooden entrance, out of which snakes a long queue. Next to it sits the entrance for people who already have tickets - little groups of stylishly dressed (to not use the word arty) people filter into the airy white tent in pretty excited fashion.

Welcome to Frieze art fair.

I have slowly been discovering the world of contemporary art over the past couple of years, and trying (but generally failing) to "get" it. I thought that going to Frieze, and seeing how the art world works for myself, might help the process somewhat - it would also be a chance to see the very bleeding edge in contemporary art and see what artists are up to at the moment. If you're still wondering what it is, Frieze art fair is an annual event that brings together the biggest galleries and collectors in the world to showcase (and sell) the latest contemporary art.

Why is it such a big deal?

For starters, it's pretty big. Walking in, you get an impression of bustle, and a sort of unfocused

purpose - everyone is walking around, observing the artworks (and each other), emitting an opinion, taking pictures. In fact, to the layman, that is what sets it apart from any old museum exhibition at first glance: people are snapping away at the things they like, and the interest in some pieces is tangible.

The sheer size of the place gets to you after a

**"I'm still not sure I 'get' contemporary art - but Frieze has made me eager to see more"**

while. Picking up a map at the entrance, it doesn't seem that big; when you realize that in an hour you've only seen 5 galleries out of the 173 presenting work, the fact that it's set over four days makes sense. The fair is laid out as a series of stands (which cover about 20 square meters on average), all numbered and set up in neat rows. Despite the orderliness, it's all a bit daunting to the neophyte. Armed with recommendations from your ever-dependable

arts editors, I began wandering around.

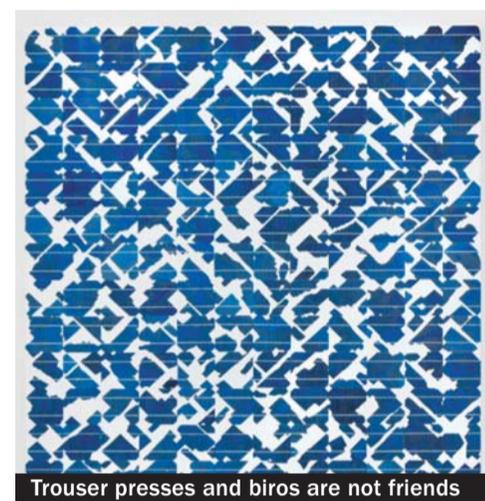
Describing what I saw would take a catalogue, or rather more simply, a camera. There was so much on display, spanning so many artistic influences, sub-genres and mediums of expression, that it would be impossible to sum it up.

Posters, sculptures, videos, collages...the (in) famous boat (exemplifying "ready-made art", apparently), the shadow-of-a-banana-that-is-supposed-to-look-like-a-wine-bottle or even a pair of turntables playing random static in a loop were all "art", and it was all for sale.

I enjoyed it a lot, though. Stepping through the entrance was like entering a parallel world, where the usual rules don't apply. For contemporary artists, it's all about capturing an idea, drawing attention to something that is usually overlooked, or seeing something from a different angle. This can lead to the creation of pieces that can either strike a strong chord with the viewer or that just seem very silly. The beauty of an event on the scale of Frieze is that there will almost always be a piece for everyone (check out our favourites on these pages).

I'm still not sure I "get" contemporary art - but Frieze has made me eager to see more.

Personally, one of my favourite pieces was 'So-



Trouser presses and bios are not friends

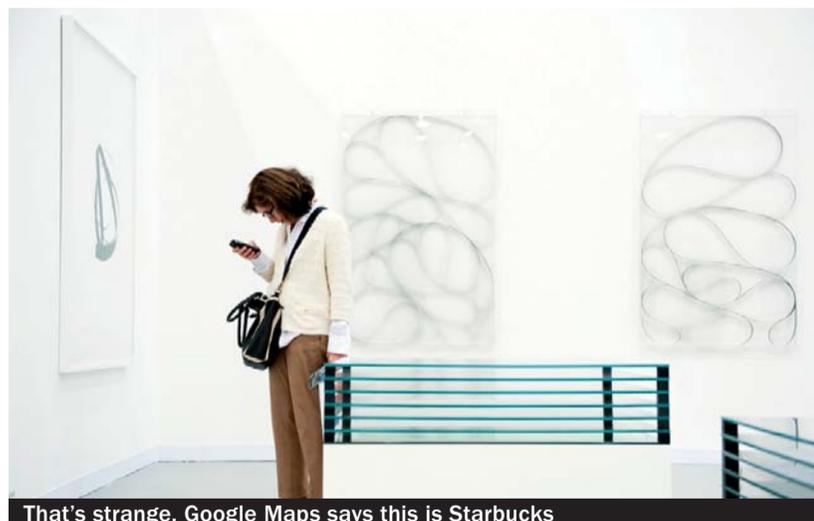
lar Catastrophe' by Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla a collaborative duo who represented the USA at this year's Venice biennale. A collage of broken solar cells on canvas, arranged to form a geometric pattern, it was very striking visually but also served as a reminder that while progress has been made, solar panels have been touted as a big source of renewable energy for a while without there having been that much concrete progress.

#### Carsten Nikolai

Carsten Nikolai's work deals with the underlying randomness of life, and the beauty that it can occasionally give rise to. His work on grids, published in a book that can only be described as art, is fascinating and beautiful. Grid Index is the product of long research into the codes that rule over the production of grids and patterns. The unpredictability is what I find most appealing - a grid with a regular pattern develops areas of absolute but wonderful madness.

Also at Frieze was a series of works called 'batterie random dot', made in 2011. Glass plates with positive and negative transparent prints of entirely random dots were placed on top of each other. Only some dots are visible from the top and therefore, the rest of the work remains an unsolvable mystery.

I am not entirely sure why the works of Carsten Nikolai appeal so to my aesthetic tastes. Perhaps because their simplicity is deceptive - one is first drawn in by the elegance and perfection, and only later begins to understand the concealed meaning.



That's strange, Google Maps says this is Starbucks

#### Idris Khan at Victoria Miro Gallery

I really loved the piece by Khan at Victoria Miro. It consisted of photographs of musical scores, which had then been layered over one another to create a blurred effect. Khan simulates the lives of musicians using their musical scores. For example, he created a piece in 2005, using Beethoven's sonatas, in which their layered photographs eventually created a wall of almost total blackness, symbolising Beethoven's deafness. Khan also borrows from books, as well as using his own words, to create works that perhaps bring different aspects of the original work to light. Unfortunately, there were few pieces by him at Frieze, but what was exhibited certainly made the cut.

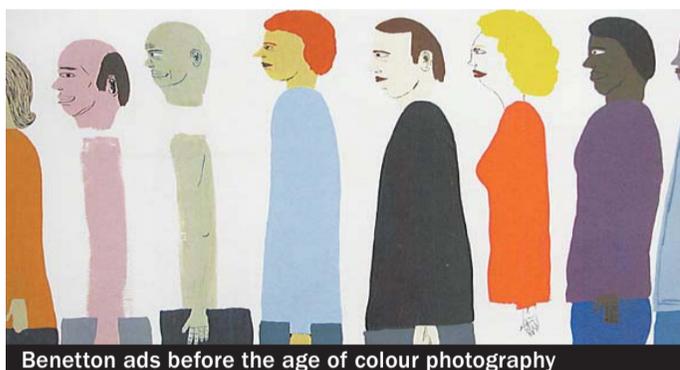
#### Elena Bajo at D + T Project

Commissioned specially for Frieze Art Fair, Elena Bajo's piece 'The Pervasive Element' was carefully planned and executed to engaging result. A long piece of cardboard, which was placed on the grounds of Regent's Park during the construction of the massive tent that was to house Frieze, was picked up by the artist and rolled up. It contained the imprinted footsteps of the workers who had walked over it in that period. In a way, 'The Pervasive Element' was a time capsule; it captured not only a moment in time, but also a sentiment that was certainly no longer present at Frieze by the time the VIPs rolled around. A beautifully edited and collaged newspaper detailing the installation was handed out to the public - a free and very special souvenir (you even had to pay for water at Frieze).

# ark Friezes over

## James Richards at Rodep Gallery

Amongst the influx of Middle Eastern and Turkish galleries to Frieze Art Fair, Rodeo Gallery (Istanbul) stood out with a beautiful stand. James Richards' work, which consisted of two wall hangings made from little rubber badges, each carrying the words 'The Best Of – The Worst Of' simultaneously and interchangeably. One of the beauties of modern art, of all art really, is that you can ascribe whatever meaning you want to it. I took this piece to be about the interchangeable nature of most things in life – gathered up neatly into two blue and yellow wall hangings.



Benetton ads before the age of colour photography



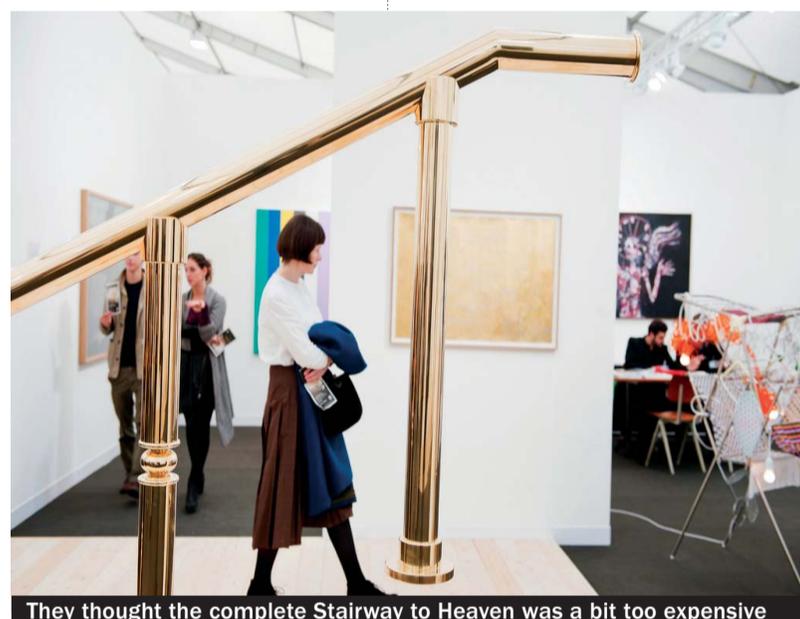
Time flies like an arrow; fruit floats like a Turner Prize winner



Being Earl's body double was tiring work



Ryaaaaaaaaaan, that's the last time I lend you my glue



They thought the complete Stairway to Heaven was a bit too expensive

## Cartoony drawings? Are they Art? In any case, why the hell were there so many of them?

So, I was rather surprised at the incredible abundance of what can only be described as cartoony drawings. Some are quite pretty, but most of them look identical and are thus ultimately forgettable. At Jack Hanley gallery NY for example, everything was a cartoon. There were some nice things – Chris Johansson's line of colourfully dressed people, Simon Evans' interpretation of the constellations...

There were even small books on offer, containing the illustrations of various artists. I wanted one – they were kind of sweet – but I did not spend three pounds on them which may or may not mean something. In spite of their undeniable appeal, they only served to further the notion that those drawings were more like illustrations, which I would be happy to encounter in any novel, but which have to be truly wonderful if they are to be classed as Art.

## Will Prince

Frieze Art Fair - the 21st century's answer to the Field of the Cloth of Gold – pitched up in Regent's Park last week for its ninth year. Drawing galleries from not just the major art hubs but from the world over, they come to present the best of their wares – a shopping opportunity for a (predominantly Russian) few, for the rest of us, a chance to bask in an abundance of the foremost in contemporary art.

It's the meeting of diverse minds that makes Frieze unique. Individual galleries bring their own eclectic collections, adding to the broader tapestry of the occasion. From the irreverent humour of Elmgreen & Dragset's life-like baby asleep in its cot outside a hotel room door (complete with "do

not disturb" sign hanging from the handle) to the more cynical humour of Michael St John's Bathroom Wall Stall, a collage of corporate distaste and pop culture (scrawled with an unintentionally Frankie Boyle-esque 'haunted pussy'), Frieze touches every shade in the spectrum. And even beyond into the darker extreme, the pure cynicism of Andra Ursuta's deflated, semen-spattered, Crush, cripplingly detailed complete with wispy pubes has a fascinating gloom that makes it hard to look away from.

If that could be described as sublime, then Takeshi Murata's psychedelic Popeye Zoetrope was certainly ridiculous. His acid-trip trompe l'oeil of tens of Day-Glo Popeye figurines spinning in a box of dimensions that shift as you view it from differ-

ent angles was about as close as the art world gets to legal LSD. Slightly less colourful was Rashid Rana's mosaic of a busy South Asian junction made up entirely of postage stamp-sized monochrome pictures of itself at different times of day. The notion of small snapshots, moments in time, building to create a deeper, inherent story indulged the latent physicist in me.

Taking a step back from the works themselves, it's intriguing to observe the personalities of the different pop-up galleries, and more so the trends in taste between nationalities. Contributors from London and New York dominate and collectively illustrate the differences in artistic palate either side of the pond.

The Modern Institute of Glasgow presented a selection of Jeremy Del-

ler's reverential posters that combined punchy Carmen Miranda colours with a clean-cut, quintessentially British design, in homage to Keith Moon, Paul Gascoigne and the Happy Mondays, amongst others.

The whole affair is something for the eyes to savour, much sweeter than the sum of its parts, that stretches well beyond just the installations. For the moments when bouts of Stendahl's kick in, the array of edible treats that awaits is sure to bring even the most weary of gallery-trawler round (Curator Sarah McCrory on the topic of whether she had her eye on anything: "a nice lunch at Hix") and in the unlikely event you find nothing to your tastes, the people-watching justifies the entry fee alone.

For the few hours I pounded the

Frieze floor, I wouldn't have guessed that we were waist-deep in a recession, except possibly for Michael Landy's contraption that shreds your credit cards and gives you a felt-pen spiograph in return. It's a lavish spectacle that offers the chance to bathe in the works of those who will no doubt fill the art history textbooks of the near future. Regrettably, if you're reading this, the Frieze tent will have been packed up for this year and the gallerists will back flown off back to their respective corners of the globe. I realize it's all very well saying this now, but do bear Frieze in mind this time next year. Whether an art-fan, anthropologist or occasional celeb-spotter, Frieze, like hijacking a supermarket trolley, is just one of those things that all of us should do at least once.

## ARTS

Arts Editors: **Will Prince**  
**Eva Rosenthal Mena**

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## Poem for the Week

29/09/11

by **Osas Omoigade**

Ohh Facebook why did you change

Why couldn't you remain the same

It seems you're always trying to alter your face

Though it ends with things being out of place?

I remember your first facial just last fall

Left us feeling cheated, exposed, not pleased at all

And now you do it again – we're not sure who to trust

If things keep on this way, we may just turn to  
..... +

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.omoigade09@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:osamudiamen.omoigade09@imperial.ac.uk)

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

### Comedy night at the Hoop & Troy, South Kensington

This month Henning Wehn (radio 4 & 5live, Stewart Lee's comedy vehicle, Edinburgh above and beyond) and Tez Ilyas (BBC New Act of the year finalist, comedy store king gong winner) headline a comedy night just around the corner from your beloved Imperial College!

### Next Time I'll Sing To You

The play that launched Michael Caine's career in 1963 is revived for the 40th birthday season. Press night Friday 11th November.

**There are many more shows, events, concerts etc that you can go to for FREEEEEEEE! You just have to write a short review for them after you go. Email us to contribute!**

# Fabulous Fusion Arrives in London

Following huge success at the University of York, the fashion and dance project hits the London Universities

## Will Prince

Imperial is no stranger to big events; you'd have to have had your head in the sand to not know what East Meets West is. Now an Imperial postgraduate hopes to bring her experiences from her previous university to break the mould with a spectacle that goes above and beyond anything that has come before.

Led by Angela Udemba, Fusion@London hopes to bring together the best creative talent in dance, music and fashion from universities across London. Calling on students from Imperial, Kings and UCL, it plans to combine the different forms of culture to developing a novel, holistic experience, all in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Fusion originally came into being seven years ago at the University of York and has since gone from success to success. It was whilst studying here that Angela first came across the concept and she admits that she was surprised to find nothing comparable on her arrival to London. "When I came to Imperial and I looked to join societies I assumed there must be something like Fusion because it's London. I looked around and there was nothing. A lot of societies have their own smaller events but nothing really infuses loads of other societies and especially nothing integrates other universities"

And so with a spark in her eye, a little determination and a desire to give something back to the charity that sponsors her own doctoral studies, Angela conceived Fusion@London. Whilst related to its Northern cousin, Angela promises something leaner, meaner and more

metropolitan. "London Fusion fuses three different universities, that's the one major difference, whereas York was just York. London's a lot bigger. We're looking to book headline acts, celebrity artists and comperes."

Coinciding with London Fashion Week 2012, Fusion intends to serve a little slice of the catwalk in its own unique serving style, "In York they showcase mostly High Street fashion stores, like Hugo Boss, Mango, River Island, places like that. We're still focused on showcasing student talent; most of our designers come from London College of Fashion, Central Saint Martin's so in that sense we've also involved those two universities."

The grand scale of Fusion gives the performers the opportunity to work with world-class artists and designers, something that filters down to create a world-class show for the rest of us. "The unique structure of Fusion gives a more enriching experience than university societies could provide on their own, stretching beyond the boundaries of their own institution," Fusion committee member and UCL student Charlotte told Felix. "It's a great opportunity to expand your horizons."

With hip hop, belly, ballet, contemporary, lyrical dance, burlesque and much more, Fusion hopes to choreograph a spectacle that leads the audience with it, keeping them in its thrall at every turn. Angela hopes that Fusion can have a unity and continuity that has been lacking in similar events, where individual clubs and societies tended to contribute scenes in a piecemeal, disjointed manner.

Felix paid a visit to the auditions earlier this week, to test the air amongst the potential con-



The farmer wants his chickens back



In the face of stricter drinking rules, the Medics had to think of alternative initiations

tributors. The atmosphere was dense with tingling excitement (possibly heightened by the stress of auditioning) and a buoyant optimism hung in the air that this was something only possible in London.

We spoke to Azel, a student who'd recently joined UCL from Leicester, who told us that she doubted a similar project could take place anywhere else. "It definitely wouldn't have happened in other cities. In smaller towns universities are more insular and there's less conflict in London between unis."

All this however does come with risks. Historically intercollegiate events have tended to miss the bar; one needn't think too far back to recall the phenomenal success of the ICL-KCL-Goldsmith's joint Summer Ball last year and the black hole it created in Union finances. But the human investment that has gone into Fusion suggests this could be amongst the first to buck the trend. Never before have students been invited to collectively create the event rather than pay their entry fee and prop up the bar.

Fusion launches later this month with their Halloween Masquerade Ball at the Café de Paris, Piccadilly, on the October 31. £9 tickets (£12 for non-students). Go to [fusionatlondon.com](http://fusionatlondon.com) for more details.

# Felix hits the Union floor to explore the Fusion auditions...



Fusion President, Angela Udemba

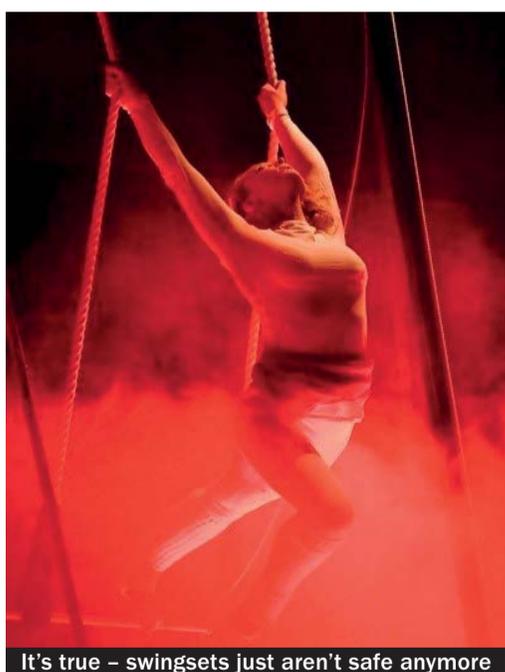
The Halloween Masquerade Ball will be so much better than your usual night out, and at that price, it's an unmissable offer  
 - Hannah, Fashion Journalism, LCF



Equality in action on the Death Star



One of the few photos ever taken of the Rector's downstairs toilet



It's true - swingsets just aren't safe anymore

No one is taking the fashion thing too seriously. So it's more, everybody trying to give it a go - it's not just explicitly for people that are fashion conscious - Jen, Law, KCL

I love dancing - especially Hip Hop. It's an opportunity to meet fantastic people. It will definitely succeed - everyone is really friendly so far  
 - Ken, Civil Engineering, UCL

This wouldn't happen at Sussex. It takes a major city - otherwise people would be nowhere near as enthusiastic - Joe, Chemistry, Imperial



Just what you wanted - a montage! If this doesn't satisfy you, I don't know what will

## ARTS

Arts Editors: **Will Prince**  
**Eva Rosenthal Mena**

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## Poetry for the Week

**Some T. S. Eliot for your dreary Friday morning. You know it makes sense...**

### Cousin Nancy

Miss Nancy Ellicott  
Strode across the hills and broke them,  
Rode across the hills and broke them—  
The barren New England hills—  
Riding to hounds  
Over the cow-pasture.

Miss Nancy Ellicott smoked  
And danced all the modern dances;  
And her aunts were not quite sure how they felt  
about it,  
But they knew that it was modern.

Upon the glazen shelves kept watch  
Matthew and Waldo, guardians of the faith,  
The army of unalterable law.

### Hysteria

As she laughed I was aware of becoming involved in her laughter and being part of it, until her teeth were only accidental stars with a talent for squad-drill. I was drawn in by short gasps, inhaled at each momentary recovery, lost finally in the dark caverns of her throat, bruised by the ripple of unseen muscles. An elderly waiter with trembling hands was hurriedly spreading a pink and white checked cloth over the rusty green iron table, saying: "If the lady and gentleman wish to take their tea in the garden, if the lady and gentleman wish to take their tea in the garden..." I decided that if the shaking of her breasts could be stopped, some of the fragments of the afternoon might be collected, and I concentrated my attention with careful subtlety to this end.

### Morning at the Window

They are rattling breakfast plates in basement kitchens,  
And along the trampled edges of the street  
I am aware of the damp souls of house-  
maids  
Sprouting despondently at area gates.

The brown waves of fog toss up to me  
Twisted faces from the bottom of the street,  
And tear from a passer-by with muddy skirts  
An aimless smile that hovers in the air  
And vanishes along the level of the roofs.

# Shots of Art

The National Gallery in a way you've never seen before

Eva Rosenthal

The National Gallery opens late on Friday evenings. It is the perfect moment to visit, the rooms being relatively empty and peaceful. This is very conducive to a careful, and thus more interesting viewing of the National Gallery's splendid collection. However there are few students, excepting those who focus solely on Art of course, who know how to look at a painting in order to get the most out of it. We understand little about the myths and fables that are the subject of many paintings, less about technique, and even less about symbolism. Without basic knowledge, going to a gallery can become a torturous journey into a land of boredom.

Luckily, Art Shots is here to help. On the second Friday of every month, Rose Balston leads a group of approximately fifteen people around one section of the National Gallery's collection. Having lived and studied in Italy for four years, Rose wanted to share her knowledge of Italian art with the general public. The National Gallery, with its enviable collection, was the perfect place to start. She runs many art tours, catering to different levels of interest and expertise. Art Shots in particular is a tour aimed exclusively at young students and professionals who perhaps do not have the time to visit museums on a regular basis, but still want a deeper understanding of art.

Rose concentrates on four or five works from a particular period, allotting time to each, which, on our own we probably would not. Approximately twenty minutes were dedicated to each painting on the tour of the Florentine Renaissance that took place last Friday. The tour itself commenced with a short history of Florence, as it stood just before, as well as during the Renaissance. Not only did this place the



What do you think Venus and Mars have just finished? Rose can tell you.

works of art into historical context, it was also rife with compelling, little known details. Then, the tour commenced in earnest, with the group huddled around a painting about which Rose gave an enthralling lecture. At first, everyone was shy about answering the questions posed but by the second painting, Rose had succeeded in drawing answers from us all.

The symbolism in each work of art was heavily drawn upon, and in most cases, the individual was compelled to find an answer before Rose finally explained in detail. This was remarkably useful, because it taught us to find the symbols on our own, a skill which can then be practiced on any normal visit to a museum. Symbolism is intricately related to the myths and legends upon which most paintings from the Renaissance are based on. The group thus became acquainted with Ancient Roman, Greek and religious stories, some of which are commonly known, but many of which we only have a vague idea about. There was also discussion on the innovative techniques, which started and developed during the Renaissance. It was fascinating to find out for example, that most painters of that period were also amateur mathematicians, who used mathematics to

achieve perfection of form and composition.

Art Shots is not just a cultural activity. There is an important social component to the evening. Drinks beforehand are at six, in the National Gallery café, where one can chat to Rose and her collaborators. Then, the tour of the galleries is followed by dinner in either a Soho pub, or one of two private members clubs. Discussions that began during the tour are continued throughout the meal. As the whole affair begins quite early, it is perfectly possible to continue on to bars and clubs afterwards and not miss a Friday night if one is worried by that prospect. Furthermore, the price of dinner is not included in the tour price, so one can leave directly after the tour, at a very reasonable hour, boasting about their newly acquired, slightly obscure, knowledge.

Although the price of the tours is possibly a bit steep, at £20 for an hour and fifteen minutes, they are well worth it. In order to learn quite simply, how to look at art, it is only necessary to attend once. If I returned to the National Gallery today, to the Florentine Renaissance section in particular, I would without a doubt find myself understanding far more than before last Friday.

# Want to get your Horne on?

Eva Rosenthal

Alex Horne is something of a mystery to me. He's little known except by regular explorers of the comedy circuit and yet seems to have the phone-book of an A-list celebrity comedian. Here's a man whose shows pull in the likes of Tim Minchin, Harry Hill and Jimmy Carr to name but a few, and yet who himself is rarely seen on TV or heard on radio. But if there were any question marks hanging over his comic credentials, his Section does more than answer them.

The Horne Section is a musical mash-up cabaret extraordinaire, where maestro Alex Horne invites comedians and other entertainers alike to work their art with the able, and optional, assistance of his several-piece band. Never flustered by the spontaneous suggestions of the audience, they flex their embrasures and plectrum-fingers



Most people come for the ginger beard

in the opening moments, asking for a rhythm, key and two well known tunes, before seamlessly melding it all together in a flurry of musical talent.

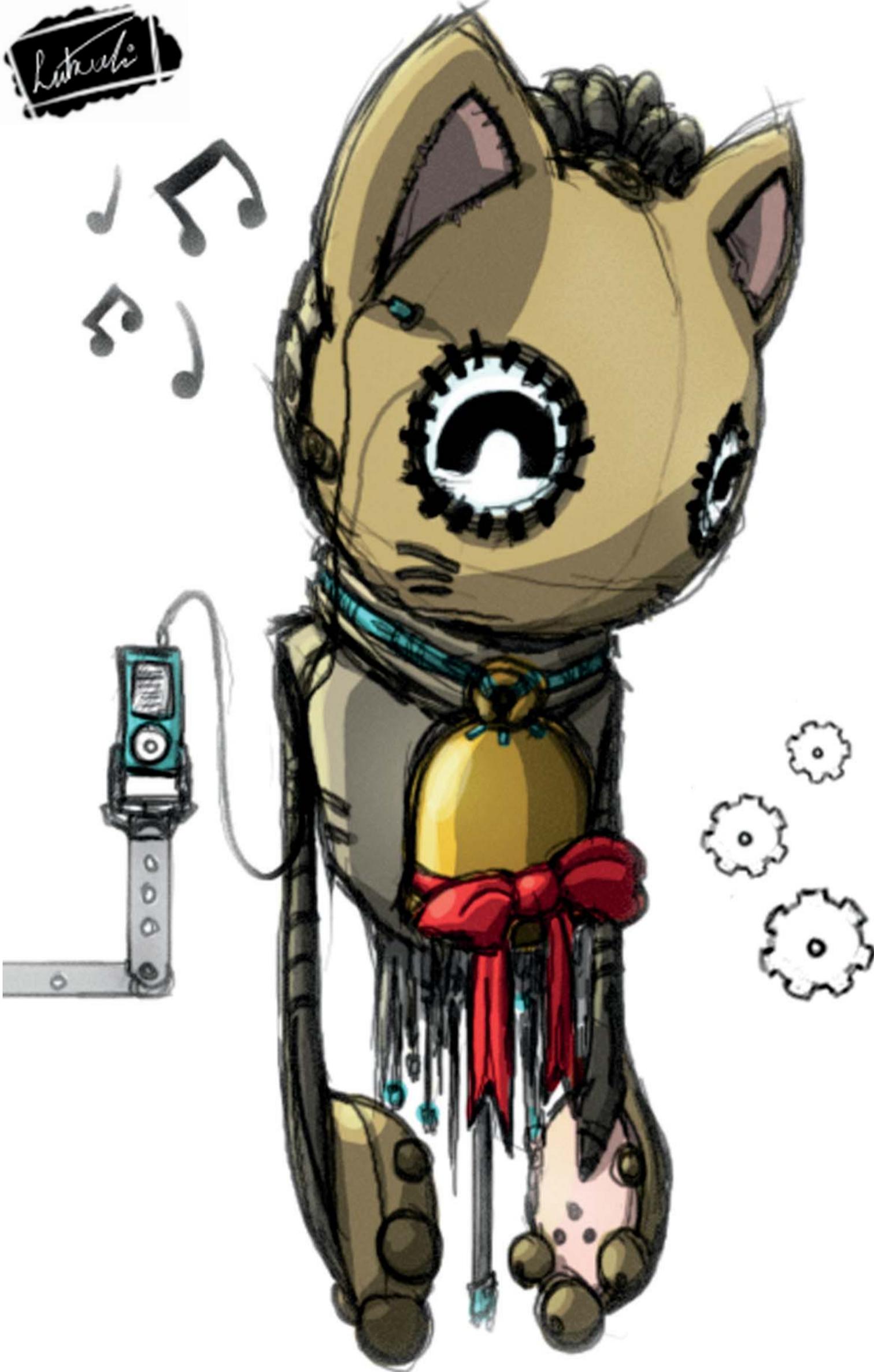
With a loose structure around proceedings, the Horne Section guarantees to throw up something unique, in the main due to its invitational bill. Fresh from a stint on the Edinburgh Fringe, where the show was one of the most lauded, the

Criterion Theatre is a slightly more restrictive setting than that of the Spiegeltent, which had the much more relaxed and comfortable feel of a comedy-club-cum-garden-party. The product is nevertheless of the same high quality, most of the acts are worth seeing on their own merits - Tim Minchin, Josie Long and Beardyman are all appearing in tomorrow's show alone.

Starting late in central London, the Horne Section puts a nice icing on the cake of a Saturday night, allowing punters to grease their own funny bones before they get tickled at the Criterion, and how. Little compares to the Horne Section and anything that does falls a long way short of this paradoxically polished yet spontaneous production.

The Horne Section runs every Saturday at the Criterion on Piccadilly until November 26

Luttrell



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## MUSIC

Music Editors: **Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto**  
**Stephen Smith**

music.felix@gmail.com

## Kadhim's totally hot album of the week



**Slow Club**  
*Paradise*  
2011

When it comes to Twitter, musicians usually have one of two personalities:

- 1) No personality – SINGLE OUT NOW!!! \*yawn\*
- 2) Uber-kick-ass insight into their awesome psyche – “DEAR LORD RYAN GOSLING GET ON MY FACE”.

**Slow Club's** Rebecca Taylor falls into the later category (indeed, the second example is one of her tweets). Her Twitter account is a massive middle finger to the twee image that their first album constructed. Without turning this review into a convoluted love letter to her, there is a girl you'd want to hang out with more than one who tweets: “Why isn't my bbm working I'm trying to send a picture of my dick (shaped bruise) to my friend Stacey this is an OUTRAGE”

Slow Club's second album, *Paradise*, is less a ‘middle finger’ and more a ‘slightly cheeky two-fingered salute’ to their aforementioned twee image. Bandmate Charles Watson has been relegated to guitar and backing vocals, and while they still write upbeat indie-folk love songs, there's more texture, complexity, and humanity. If their first album is a sweet stickman drawing, their second is more like the dense palette that adorns its album cover.

Underpinning all of this is Rebecca Taylor. The same girl who tweets, “100 PINTS OF WINE PLEASE BAR KEEP”, also writes beautiful phrases like “A chauffeur-driven dream” and sings them with the sensitivity of a neutrino detector (Zing!) . Which makes her pretty awesome in my books. Oh dear, I've turned this review into a convoluted love letter after all.

*If you get bored this weekend, drink 100 pints of wine and tweet me from the hospital @kadhimshubber. Better still, photoshop a picture of Ryan Gosling sitting on Taylor's face and tweet her @SLOWCLUBREBECCA.*

## Be sure not to miss...

### Flying Lotus & AntiVJ

**The Roundhouse, Chalk Farm**  
Saturday 22, October

Coltrane nephew, Brainfeeder honcho and seasoned beatsmith Flying Lotus has been conspiring with audiovisual masterminds AntiVJ for a special three-of-a-kind spectacular to be performed exclusively in Los Angeles, Paris and London town. Following his tour for astral jazz masterpiece, *Cosmogramma*, last year – the envelope can now only fall off the cliff. Blending the mind bending beats of hip-hop so severely extrapolated with the retinal manipulations of the most innovative live visual collective around, Saturday's show is bound to rearrange more than a few synaptic connections in the audience. Imagine what the Amazon would sound like in the dead of night after our planet's orbit had fallen into a strange attractor and try asking the birds for their opinion. Kutmah and Martyn to blow out the after party.

**Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto**

# They have the gall

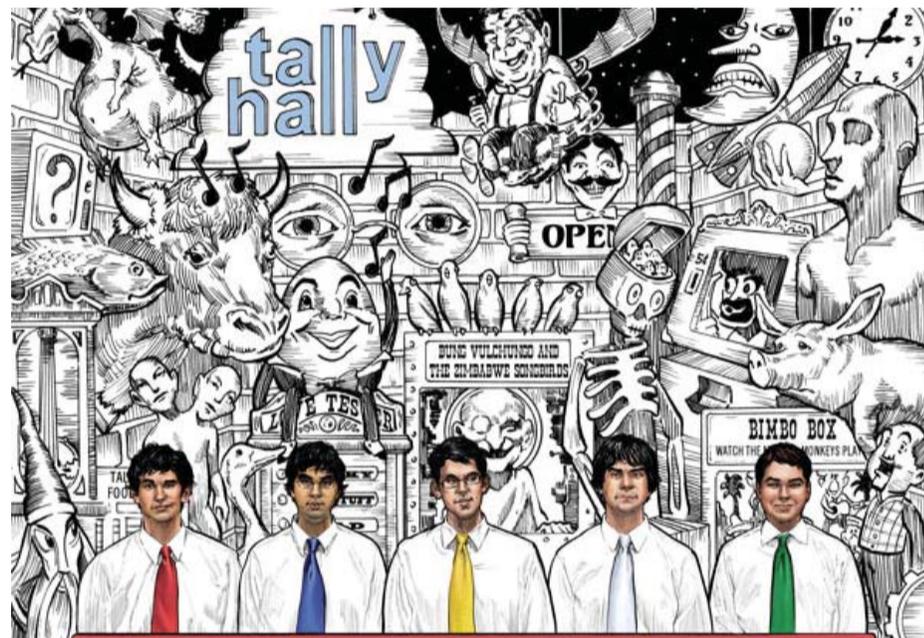
Tim Arbabzadah welcomes you to Tally Hall...

**T**ally Hall is a slightly quirky five-piece band, named after a shopping arcade in Michigan, with the final line-up was completed while they were studying at the University of Michigan. It consists of Rob Cantor (guitar, yellow tie), Joe Hawley (guitar, red tie), Zubin Sedghi (bass, blue tie), Andrew Horowitz (keys, green tie) and Ross Federman (drums, grey tie) with them swapping around vocal duties, and occasionally doing some excellent vocal harmonies. About the whole tie colour thing, basically, when on stage, they always wear matching shirts and trousers (recently with a dapper waistcoat) and a tie of the colour listed.

Their debut album *Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum*, named after a museum in the real life Tally Hall, was an incredibly solid offering – if you ask me, every song is good. There really aren't any duds or, even worse, the dreaded “album filler tracks”. You know the ones I mean, the songs that couldn't be blander if they tried; usually, the name is even something dull and instantly forgettable. Thankfully, there's none of that irritation on *Marvin's*. This is possibly because they are songs that have been honed, perfected, recorded and re-recorded over a number of years. It may sound obvious, but to me the difference between the demo versions and the album versions shows what an expensive, professional studio does to the sound.

In terms of genre, the songs on *Marvin's* are really a mixed bag. The band themselves described the sound as “wonky rock”, due to the often comical, upbeat lyrical style and music. They manage to write light-hearted songs that are both enjoyable musically and lyrically, while maintaining enough credibility for you to take the heavier songs seriously. It's difficult for me to pick out favourites, as I love them all, so I'll try to choose a range of styles.

‘Just Apathy’, a prize-winning song (literally), is brilliantly arranged: starting off as a quiet piano ballad and building up, before returning to the piano at the very end. ‘Two Wuv’, the catchy song about their love for the Olsen twins, includes some lovely harmonies at the end. Staying with the theme of more recognizable



Someone put the crayons in the wash with the ties

‘indy’ style, ‘Greener’ is a song about a failing relationship and envy. Okay, I know, but it's not as emo as that sounds; and even if it is, the lyrics are good enough to not be lame or cringey.

On the more off-the-wall side there is ‘Welcome to Tally Hall’, a song introducing the band. It's not just an oddity that's only good once, it's a legitimately great song in its own right. The part where they introduce each member, his instrument and tie colour is a classic verse. Then there's the line “I might rap like an English chap” rapped, in an attempted upper-class English accent.

The band's second studio album is *Good and Evil* and was released earlier this year on Quack! Media. First off, it's definitely a more mature album. There's much less wackiness in the songs, which I guess has its merits. It definitely feels like they set out to make an album with an underlying theme, rather than just a collection of songs.

It's a great album, but there is something missing that was present on *Marvin's*: the sense of fun; the mix of serious songs and light-heart-

ed songs; the enjoyment and personalities just don't quite ooze out in the sound. Perhaps, because I had looked up videos of them performing the songs live before the release, the album felt dated by the time I heard it. *Good and Evil* is still littered with top-notch songs, right from the start in fact. ‘Never Meant To Know’ is a dreamy song that's also my mantra around revision time. ‘Cannibal’, ‘Misery Fell’ and ‘You’ all deserve a mention. The later being the almost solo piano offering from Andrew, a great geeky love song – something we can all relate to. Pushed to choose a favourite track from the album, I'd say ‘Turn the Lights Off’.

To sum up, Tally Hall is an amazing band with two great albums. If you poke about on YouTube you can also find some great hidden gems, including their comedy skits. ‘Just A Friend’, a cover of the Biz Markie song, is a fan favourite. Joe shows off his beatboxing skills, while Zubin practices his soul singing voice – that he later uses for ‘To Be With You’. Check them out, and thank me later, as I have had to miss out a lot.

## Piano drops in Iceland

**Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto**

**Tim Hecker's** latest outpouring, *Ravedeath, 1972*, wraps around the billows of an organ in a church in Reykjavik. Sampled and reconfigured, casting a brume of disbelief, its song is suspended like a gasp in deep sleep. The sounds disintegrate like a snowball melting in your hand. Each remaining echo slipping down a liquefied trace collecting on the underside.

The organ huffing a mounting pressure like auroral emissions dispersing into the firmament.

Crackles seep through the aural blanket, dust piercing the atmosphere (“In the Fog II”). You hear pipes shedding particles of oxidised metal, bellowing upwards with a gust of sound. The room can't fit it all. It begs to come out (“The Piano Drop”). It wouldn't be hard to imagine the stained glass of the church bending to accommodate the volume, the space beckoned for increasingly insufficient. Perhaps a hairline crack appearing here and there, but careful to maintain the splendour of the coloured salts; bending slivers of light like an eel in water, the

threat of electrocution a constant haunt.

Dust rises from the floor, unable to rest, vibrating to the tune the pipes. Floating back down as the singing subdues (“No Drums”), a firm hand, exhausted, releasing its grip. A neurotic memory surfaces from the id (“Hatred of Music I”). The abrasive recollection unleashing a flurry of mistaken opinions and failed approaches. An ominous perspective of introversion takes hold, ruminant (“In the Air I”).

The air halts. A cloud drops.

# Can you keep a Secret?

Daniel Oppeheimer is critical of the *Secret Garden Party*

**S**ecret Garden Party is an unconventional festival, slicker or slacker than your average depending on preference. While the music policy is slightly questionable, it's difficult to not be drawn in by the festival's Wonderland-like aesthetic.

Set around a lake in the Cambridgeshire countryside, the festival area is decorated with enchanting lights and quirky sculptures. There are a lot of spots that lend themselves to simply lying down and chilling out. There's also an impressive selection of "stuff" to wander in and out of, ranging from theatrical performances to mud wrestling to mini science fairs.

The festival harbours an ambiance of mellowed permissiveness, not quite as all-consuming as the organisers' crackpot ramblings would have you imagine, but certainly more so than other festivals. Seemingly insignificant additions like being able to swim in the lake without the bother of some abrasive safety warning make this all the more noticeable.

Fittingly, for the unrushed dynamic, the musical acts this year weren't the type to get you frantically arranging meeting times. Of course



Been spending Friday nights, living in a hipster's paradise

this itself wasn't an issue; in fact it's very refreshing to go to a festival where there's no pressure to see a performance. However, rather than 'up and coming' many of the artists were more 'down and going'. The 'big' names that did perform – **Blondie** and **Alabama 3** – managed decent sets despite poor sound quality on the main stage. A few favourites put on a great show: **XXXY**, **Mosca**, **Dark Sky** and **Mar-**

**cus Nasty**. Besides this, the general trend was middle-of-the-road indie-folk by day, distinctly inaccessible techno by night.

In short, going to *Secret Garden Party* is like ordering a Sunday roast and only being served the trimmings. It's good fun - but come next year if you can find a picturesque lake that doesn't cost £160 to hang around for a weekend, go with that.

# Kina Grannis in London

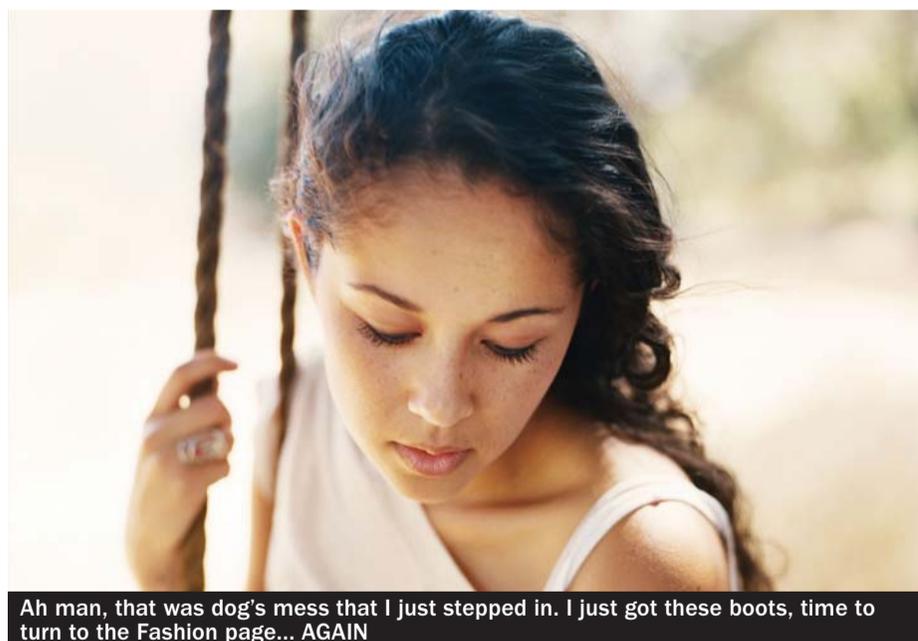
Mimi Li

**Kina Grannis** is a California-based American singer-songwriter and YouTube sensation. She began performing to her stuffed animals from the age of four, before progressing to her video camera, and finally to people. This month, she is on the European leg of her world tour. She also plans on touring Southeast Asia and Australia later in the year.

In 2008, she won the 'Doritos Crash the Super Bowl' contest, and signed onto Interscope Records. A year later, she left the record label in order to pursue her musical vision as an independent artist. Her new album, *Stairwells*, was released in April of this year. The album name is a reference to her college days, when she often sat in secluded stairwells to make music. Kina describes her style as a happy medium between pop, folk and indie. Her elegant vocals and the unique charm she brings to her music set her apart from other guitar-playing singer-songwriters.

She recently played her first London show to a sold-out audience at the Monto Water Rats. The venue was small and intimate – perfect for her solo acoustic guitar set. The opening act was fellow YouTuber Imaginary Friend, whose haunting vocals and simple guitar accompaniment were well-received.

Kina's performance began with her walking barefoot onstage to cheers and applause from her fans (or, as she affectionately calls them, her 'kinerds'). She opened with 'World in Front of



Ah man, that was dog's mess that I just stepped in. I just got these boots, time to turn to the Fashion page... AGAIN

*Me*', the first track on *Stairwells*, and a fitting first song to play on her London debut. In between jokes, anecdotes and guitar-tuning, she played fan favourites, such as 'Valentine', 'The One You Say Goodnight To' and 'Cambridge'. The audience was also treated to interesting renditions of 'Oops I Did it Again' and **Coolio's** 'Gangsta's Paradise', the latter of which involved certain amounts of rapping (a slightly surreal experience).

Kina finished the show with her audience singing along to the excellent 'Message From Your Heart', the song that won her the Super Bowl contest. She ended the evening with a meet and greet for her kinerds, many of them walking away clutching several signed copies of *Stairwells*.

Kina Grannis returns to London later this month to play the last show on her European tour before flying back to America.

## Punk Planet by Douglas Heaven

This week: **Refused**



There's nothing more hardcore punk than having a creed to live by. The straight-edge subculture – an abstention from drugs, promiscuous sex, and often hair – was a creed of sorts, inspired by the anti-hedonistic stance of 1980s bands such as **Minor Threat**, and many bands have adopted the stance of political revolutionaries.

But **Refused** (1991-1998), a hardcore punk band from Sweden, wrote manifestos. A typical liner note proclaims "the art produced by Refused is a weapon in the service of the struggle and an inseparable part of it".

Their final press release, announcing their split, begins: "Just like the political theorists and philosophers...we also managed with a sort of self-fulfilling prophecy. A manifestation of an idea to a concrete action". But they believed in their own pretensions, they backed every word of their cod-theoretical cant with an intensity of songwriting and performance that made you believe it too.

Refused started out on *This Just Might Be The Truth* (1994) as a good European version of **The Nation of Ulysses**. Like their American counterparts, theirs was a punk that had roots in the protest song: *Songs to Fan the Flames of Discontent* (1996) which took its name from a 1909 songbook from the Industrial Workers of the World.

But it is for *The Shape of Punk to Come* (1998) that they truly matter. A few years ago *Kerrang!* ranked this album at #13 on their "50 Most Influential Albums of All Time". Yeah, who cares about *Kerrang!* and who cares about lists? Few people noticed *The Shape of Punk to Come* when it came out – it lives instead, as its title proclaimed it would, in the hardcore scene of today.

Refused songs are full of complex rhythms and stomach-lurching dynamics. In *The Shape of Punk to Come* they also play around with electronica and jazz and the kind of studio production that normally kills a band of this persuasion. Here it's done so artfully, fitted so well to the songs, and without loss of intensity, that it lifts this record atmospheres above the angry, shouty street-punk kids they'd grown from.

But most importantly, Refused could write pop hooks worthy of **ABBA**. Take 'Summer Holidays vs Punk Routine' from their last album: sandwiched between churning guitars, you're hit by a euphoric rush more uplifting than anything you'll find in Ibiza.

Refused broke up in 1998, bitter, disenchanted, and tired. True to their grounded roots, they played their last show in the basement of a friend's house. When the police raided the party and shut the band down, they saw it as a liberation.

A few mp3s can be downloaded from [www.burningheart.com/refused/index.html](http://www.burningheart.com/refused/index.html) but you should buy *The Shape of Punk to Come* immediately.

Television Editors: **Matt Allinson**  
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# TELEVISION

## Pick of the week



Cannye geet me a wee drinkeh laad? – Rab C

**Friday | 1945 - 2030 | BBC3**  
**Merlin**

Magical drama. Get high before watching (look, we don't actually condone this, alright? – Ed).

**Saturday | 2100 - 2330 | Channel 4**  
**The Hurt Locker**

Oscar-winning thriller following a bomb disposal team in Iraq.

**Sunday | 2100 - 2200 | Channel 4**  
**The Secret Millionaire**

A millionaire entrepreneur spends a week living undercover in one of Edinburgh's shitholes looking for charities worthy of his donations.

**Monday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC1**  
**Young Apprentice**

Britain's most obnoxious sixteen-year-olds make mummy and daddy proud whilst making the rest of us feel physically sick.

**Tuesday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC2**  
**Code Breakers: Bletchley Park's Lost Heroes**

Keeley Hawes (phwoaar, I would) narrates the story of two forgotten codebreakers who work led to several major breakthroughs during WWII.

**Wednesday | 2200 - 2230 | BBC2**  
**Rab C. Nesbitt**

Outrageous Scottish sitcom that will make you laugh, laugh more, and then recoil in disgust.

**Thursday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC1**  
**Hidden**

The last in the series. Philip Glenister is a MASSIVE LAD.

## Jeremy of the week



(Nice try, give it another month or so – Ed.)

## Educating Essex 'not as bad as it sounds'

Fly-on-the-wall documentary shows true colours of the state system

**Maciej Matuszewski**

It being less than four years since I left secondary education, I was very interested in watching 'Educating Essex' – Channel 4's documentary set in Passmore School, an ordinary secondary in Essex. I am happy to say that I was hooked as soon as I tuned in.

The fly-on-the-wall nature of the programme means that you really get a feel for what the school is like. The show stays impartial at all times: you see both the good and the bad and you aren't distracted by hasty conclusions or incessant moralising by the producers. There is a real sense that we are seeing what Passmore is really like.

Each episode focuses on only one or two groups of pupils which allows their stories to be examined in full. Difficult issues aren't shied away from – with, amongst other problems, teenage pregnancy and bullying being explored. Even the most troublesome and disruptive pupils aren't demonised. Care is taken to show both sides of the story and commentary from both pupils and staff shows how the current situation developed. Particularly poignant is the case of Vinnie, whose

**“The perfect antidote to newspaper scare stories about the collapse of the education system”**



Essex girls - can't beat 'em can you? Pity. (Thin ice, right there – Ed.)

behaviour and quality of schoolwork has dramatically deteriorated since his parents separated. His heartfelt conversations with his favourite teacher, Miss Conway, were a particular highlight.

The stars of 'Educating Essex', however, are clearly the teachers. The programme's masterstroke is not just restricting their screentime to interactions with pupils. You get to see banter in the school office; senior staff messing around at their regular meetings and the head teacher, Mr Goddard, jumping out from behind a door to scare his deputy, Mr Drew. You get to see that these are real people and this leads you to care for them. This is certainly helped by their clear desire to help their pupils. As Mr Goddard says, the school's aim is that "nobody leaves without enough qualifications for the next step in their lives". It's clear that

the staff do everything they can to achieve this and it's uplifting to see when they succeed.

In the first episode Mr Drew tells a pupil that she "will never, ever come up against people who are as calm and patient as we are, for the rest of your life". With all that he has to put up with, all the while remaining calm and focused on his duty of care, you can certainly believe him. This programme is the perfect antidote to all the newspaper scare stories about the collapse of the education system. If even a few schools work as hard as this for their pupils I think that we're going to be alright.

This is inspiring, well above average television. I strongly urge you all to watch the remaining episodes and catch up on what you might have missed online.

## Dexter is my 'favourite' psychotic serial killer

George Barnett turns his pen to a less provocative subject

Jeff Lindsay's book 'Darkly Dreaming Dexter' (which I'm told is very good) is the basis for Showtime's multi award winning program Dexter. The protagonist, who gives the show its name, is cunning, brutal and funny. By day he's a blood spatter analyst for Miami Metro Police Department. By night, a serial killer. What sets Dexter apart from other protagonists is that he's a normal human - he makes mistakes: he's no Jack Bauer or Michael Schofield (24 and Prison Break, respectively).

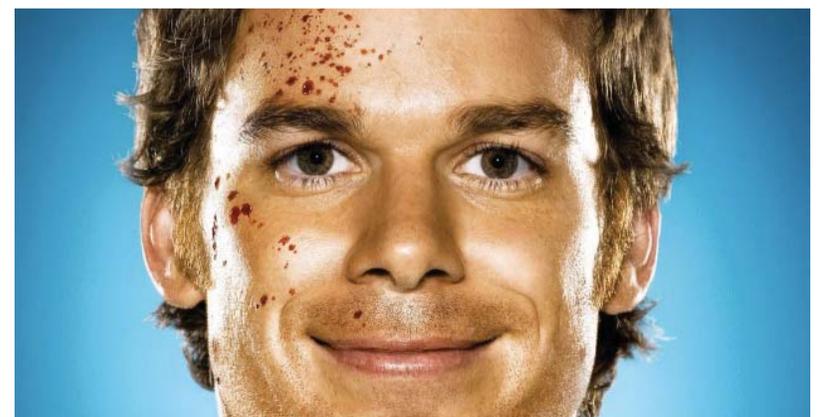
We are first introduced to our lead as he gives a sinister sounding monologue backed by equally chilling music (written by Daniel Licht) whilst driving through the night towards his first victim. The viewers are immediately informed that Dexter is a killer first and foremost; demonstrated only a few minutes later where we see him beginning to clinically cut up his prey.

As the first season develops we learn more about Dexter and the writers be-

gin to reveal why he is as he is; why he carries his so called "dark passenger"; his homicidal inner voice, if you like. This alter ego is put to good use when challenged by the "ice-truck killer" - an unknown assailant who captures his victims (all prostitutes), mutilates them and then leaves them literally bloodless for the police to find. As the plot thick-

ens, the killer leaves clues for Dexter, to lure him in and to 'play' with him. The challenge is unduly accepted by our favourite serial killer with some gripping consequences.

Dexter manages to be captivating, mysterious, sad and brutally dark at the same time. It's definitely worth watching.



Dexter, smug and blood-splattered - we've all been there

**We're still looking for new writers - email tv.felix@ic.ac.uk**

Film Editors: **John Park**  
**Lucy Wiles**

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FILM

# “Who can spy on the spies?”

## Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

**Director** Tomas Alfredson  
**Screenwriters** Bridget O'Connor,  
Peter Straughan  
**Cast** Gary Oldman, John Hurt, Colin Firth

### Lucy Wiles

After a summer of upbeat comedy in the cinemas (with films like *The Inbetweeners Movie* and *The Hangover Part II*), this wonderfully stark adaptation of John le Carré's best-selling novel gives a glimpse into the murky spy game of the 1970s, portrayed by an outstanding cast.

Gary Oldman falls beautifully into the role of inappropriately named ex-MI6 agent George Smiley, a man of high morals and patriotism, who, after a fall from grace, has been reinstated to identify a Soviet mole hidden in the upper echelons of the British Secret Service. MI6 chief 'Control' (John Hurt) managed to narrow the search for the infiltrator down to a shortlist of suspects before his own untimely sacking: Percy Alleline (Toby Jones), who takes over the top job after the dismissal of Control; Bill Haydon (Colin Firth), a player who slept with Smiley's wife; Director of Operations Roy Bland (Ciarán Hinds); and skillful double-bluffer Toby Esterhase (David Dencik). One is guilty of passing secrets to the Russians – Smiley must root out the spy to save the reputation of the Service before too many vital secrets are leaked. He is assisted in his search for the mole by junior MI6 official Peter Guillam (Benedict Cumberbatch), former Head of Personnel Connie Sachs (Kathy Burke), and Ricky Tarr (Tom Hardy), a fellow agent with his own agenda.



Where the hell's Johnny English when you need him?

The plot twists slyly as we follow Smiley's investigation, and catch fleeting glimpses of the shadowy past through his flashbacks.

Director Tomas Alfredson (best known internationally for directing the 2008 vampire film *Let The Right One In*) carefully extracts his adaptation from the intricately detailed original novel to produce a bleak, beige, suffocatingly male-dominated world into which the viewer is drawn – a far cry from the usual glamour of our James Bond-esque spies. The superficial, back-stabbing nature of office politics

is captured effectively which, along with the conversations being filmed as though the viewer is eavesdropping, adds to the uncomfortable air of secrecy and lies felt throughout the film. Hats off to Casting Director Jina Jay – the outstanding cast were chosen perfectly, and the list alone gives some idea as to the quality of the acting. Oldman portrays the taciturn Smiley brilliantly, bringing danger and anger to the character that wasn't seen in the original adaptation when Alec Guinness played the role. He is backed up, of course, by a fantastic supporting cast including

some of the best of British actors, who all seem to be at the peak of their game.

The only flaw in this film is that the whistle is blown too soon. For a few quick-witted, spy-minded types, the guilty party can be sussed out well before Smiley catches up; however this doesn't really seem to matter – this film is more about the journey than the destination. The story is teeming with tension, secrecy and twists, but while there's not a lot of laughing to be done, and its pace and tricky plot will not be for everyone, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* still comes highly recommended.

Love a good sci-fi (who doesn't)?  
Want to put the fan back in fantasy?  
Thrilled by thrillers?

We want to hear from you!  
Send us your articles to:  
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## Paris, Je T'Aime – Woody Allen style

### Midnight in Paris

**Director** Woody Allen  
**Screenwriter** Woody Allen  
**Cast** Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams

### John Park

Another year means another Woody Allen film – this time shot in Paris.

*Midnight in Paris* is a warm, nostalgic trip around the beautiful city, with Allen taking a more casual approach to telling his original story.

Wilson plays Gil, a Hollywood scriptwriter whose true passion lies in writing a novel. Whilst constantly mocked by his fiancée (McAdams), he finds true happiness by wandering around the French city. He stumbles on a mysteri-

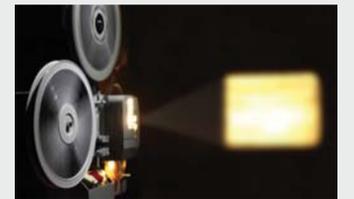
ous car one night, with its passengers urging Gil to come and join them. Deciding to go along for the ride, he finds himself socialising with the literary legends of the 1920s Lost Generation (Hemingway, Stein) who he has admired throughout his entire life.

The illusion the past creates, how we are never wholly satisfied with where we are at the moment, and our constant

desire for a better life, are the challenges Gil faces when he sees something so glamorous. But Allen is here to assure us that it's not really all that bad; if we stick with it and have patience.

Allen has his ups and downs, but this is one of his more moving pieces of work in recent years. It is a humble offering, yet remains just as effective and touching.

## Top 15 UK Box Office



- 1) **Johnny English Reborn** (PG – Rowan Atkinson, Rosamund Pike, Dominic West)
- 2) **The Lion King 3D** (U – Jeremy Irons, Matthew Broderick)
- 3) **The Three Musketeers** (12A – Matthew Macfadyen, Milla Jovovich, Luke Evans)
- 4) **Real Steel** (12A – Hugh Jackman, Evangeline Lilly)
- 5) **Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy** (15 – Gary Oldman, John Hurt, Colin Firth)
- 6) **Footloose** (12A – Kerry Wormald, Julianne Hough)
- 7) **Dolphin Tale** (U – Harry Connick Jr., Ashley Judd)
- 8) **Midnight in Paris** (12A – Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams)
- 9) **Don't Be Afraid of the Dark** (15 – Bailee Madison, Katie Holmes)
- 10) **Drive** (18 – Ryan Gosling, Carey Mulligan)
- 11) **Crazy, Stupid, Love** (12A – Steve Carell, Julianne Moore)
- 12) **Abduction** (12A – Taylor Lautner, Lily Collins)
- 13) **The Inbetweeners Movie** (15 – James Buckley, Blake Harrison)
- 14) **The Debt** (15 – Sam Worthington, Helen Mirren)
- 15) **The Smurfs** (U – Hank Azaria, Neil Patrick Harris)

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# GAMES

## DLC – To pay, or not to pay?

### Microtransactions and DLC: a bright idea or a big mistake? Laurence Pope decides

So, a little over a week ago Valve brought out a fairly large update for their flagship game Team Fortress 2. So what? Ignoring the fact that TF2 is now over four years old and still receiving content updates which it celebrated this time last year when microtransactions were first introduced into the game - the MANN-conomy Update (I'm not making this up). Amongst other things the update allowed players to purchase in-game weapons and purely cosmetic add-ons for the nine classes with real-world cash. The update was initially received with mixed reviews - 'buying your way to victory' and 'Valve's sold us out' were two of the many complaints angry fans put forward, whilst others maintained that nothing was on sale (at least, game-changing wise) that couldn't be found by penniless schmucks. One year on, and everything's (mostly) settled down.



Four years old and still going strong

For me, this raised a question - are microtransactions and, alongside them, DLC (Downloadable Content) a good or a bad thing for gaming as a whole? The answer is far from a simple 'Yes, it's the perfect next step' or 'No, I'd rather jump

in a pool full of broken glass'. It almost fully depends upon how it's implemented. Not fully? No. Quite possibly I'm nostalgic about the times when you bought a game and you got everything in one go, and now, paying extra for content that should have come with the product in the first darn place?

**"The answer is far from a simple yes or no - it almost fully depends on how it's implemented"**

Hmm.

In all fairness Valve has managed to implement microtransactions and distribute DLC in the best way possible. Most of their products (TF2, L4D1 and 2, Portal 2) have and continue to receive free large updates that throw in a lot of extra content: extra maps and campaigns for the L4D series; new challenges for Portal 2; and new weapons for TF2 - the sort of stuff most other game companies would charge for. To date, only TF2 and Portal 2 feature microtransactions, though the Portal 2 'store' flopped rather miserably.

The TF2 'store' was implemented remarkably well, however. All weapons and most cosmetic items are findable in-game through a random drop system, craftable through another menu, and there's even an in-game trading/ bartering system so technically one doesn't have to use the store to gain an advantage. In practice though weapons are a little harder to come by, but the point still stands - no money has to be spent in order to find everything that has any signifi-

cant impact in battles. It's by no means perfect, but Gabe Newell and the TF2 team have yet to go down the Bobby Kotick route.

To give Valve extra credit, not all the money they earn stays with them. Valve introduced a scheme allowing modellers and mappers to submit their weapons, cosmetic items and maps to them. The best ones get implemented into the game, and 25% of the proceeds go to their creators. Big bucks can and have been made - after one update, one creator received a cheque for - wait for it - \$47,000. If that's not rewarding one's fans, I don't know what is.

Now that's enough about a half-decent way to implement DLC and micro transactions. The immediate case that springs to mind regarding a poor (read: disgusting) way to do DLC is neatly illustrated by Bioshock 2. The problem? After the first 'DLC download' was released, it was discovered that the content delivered had actually been on the disc the

purchase the DLC or not.' This paper thin rationale/dirty lie cut little ice with the rightly put-out gaming community. You do not do DLC like this.

But, for this to be a marginally balanced argument one has to look on the other side of the fence. You need to worm into the heads of the game developers and see it from their point of view. DLC and microtransactions allow developers to create new maps, weapons, campaigns, or what have you, without needing to initiate a long and expensive game development cycle. It's cheaper to make compared to a full game, and they make a fair amount of money from it. TF2's store does so well that Valve was able to make TF2 free to play and still pump out profitable updates.

One does need to remember that game companies are, at the end of the day, businesses out to make money. That's what a business does, and from this point of view DLC and microtransactions are simply a logical step forward. Fans will buy new content, helping to fill the coffers of the aforementioned companies.

But is it the best way forward? To commit the argument of moderation, everything needs to be balanced. DLC and microtransactions can enrich a game, provided they're fairly priced and offer sufficient content. On the other hand, it's no substitute for new games; too much DLC stifles creativity. Overuse has the potential to make companies lazy, wallowing in old products to earn them money. Like technology, games need to keep innovating and testing new things out.

Valve has shown that innovation, DLC and microtransactions can walk hand in hand. They are able to offer huge content packs for free, which in turn endears them to their customers, keeping them loyal - and keeping them buying. But I'll be honest here; as I said at the start, I'll never fully come round to the idea of paying extra for something that really should have come with the initial product.



whole time. The DLC download was not content - it was a key. You had already bought the extra content 2K were charging you for.

Later, 2K Games commented on the locked content, claiming it was 'necessary to maintain consistency between all players regardless of whether they

## Gaming in Reverse – Because old gold is the best gold

**Omar Hafeez-Bore**

Welcome to Gaming in Reverse, where every week we use The Power of Writing to reverse time on a game series or remake. We're flipping history to pretend the newest games are the oldest games! Can we prove that older is actually sometimes better?

### Final Fantasy: Because IX is obviously the best one

We thought it was crazy when Square Enix swaggered into the crowded ring of Japanese RPGs with its debut entry Final Fantasy XIII. With one beautiful but flawed game it had thrown the gauntlet down at its own feet, challenging itself to make 12 semi-sequels, through commercial success or fail-



ure, to reach an ultimate Final Fantasy that would live up to the name.

If its fourth sequel Final Fantasy IX is anything to go by, then it will be an easy triumph. By taking daring risks with the stagnant JRPG formula, the creators have proved themselves to be heroes worthy of their self-imposed quest.

Fans will remember that where Final Fantasy XIII had a glossy sheen of High-Definition polish, Final Fantasy XII instead revelled in its matte textures and an earthy look that suited its world so well.

But we hadn't seen anything yet. Sure, Final Fan-

tasy XII was richly drawn with subtle texture work, gaming's equivalent of painterly brush strokes, Final Fantasy IX instead celebrates fine art itself with gorgeous, hand-painted backdrops. It simply boycotts the loss that comes when concept art is translated into polygons.

And yet they've lost none of the drama. Despite fears that the rigid hand-drawn backdrops would take away from the trademark flamboyance of Final Fantasy's story scenes, the whole adventure is instead given the air of a performance. Plot now unfolds on fixed sets, and without the luxury of dynamic angles and motion-blur zooms, the burden of entertainment is left to well-written dialogue and charmingly theatrical movements. Final Fantasy X's blunders, voice-acting as a whole having been completely excised, deemed unfit for the job of carrying this magical adventure is completely scrapped. In its place is witty, and sometimes touching, on-screen dialogue that is a simple delight for

being written in pixels and read in the mind - and it's all the better for it.

In fact, pretty much all of it is. For all these theatrical, literary, and visual delights FF IX is still a great game with secret items to be discovered and tense battles to be fought. By stripping away the modern gleam and glitz Squaresoft (as it is now called) has made a world that feels lived-in, a story that feels crafted and characters that feel cared for. It is a wonderful tale, one that, if something cataclysmic should happen, we'd even be content to call our last taste of the series.

This would be a worthy Final Fantasy.

**If you have an idea for a Gaming in Reverse or any games article for that matter, then get in touch! We don't bite!**

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# FASHION

## A Designer Horcrux

Federica Amato and Saskia Verhagen discuss the curse of the designer handbag

Which girl, provided she has already satisfied all primary concerns (food, water, shelter etc.) doesn't dream of a clothing collection on the scale of, say, Blair Waldorf or Carrie Bradshaw? And within those ladies' swoon-inducing wardrobes, which does not contain their essential Louis Vuitton Neverfull (or equivalent – Chanel 2.55, Céline Luggage, Fendi Baguette... The list goes on) in which they tote the latest issue of Vogue, make-up, BlackBerry, Smythson diary and discreetly packed sanitary products and prophylactics? In other words, a girl's bag is never simply a practical object; a mere container. It's like the greatest personal assistant you could imagine, an ever-present silent character in a girl's life that knows you and your habits so reliably that it is impossible to live without. It's your best friend, a scandalous lover, your secret accomplice.

And yet, when pitted against a lowly Primark pleather atrocity, a girl's pref-

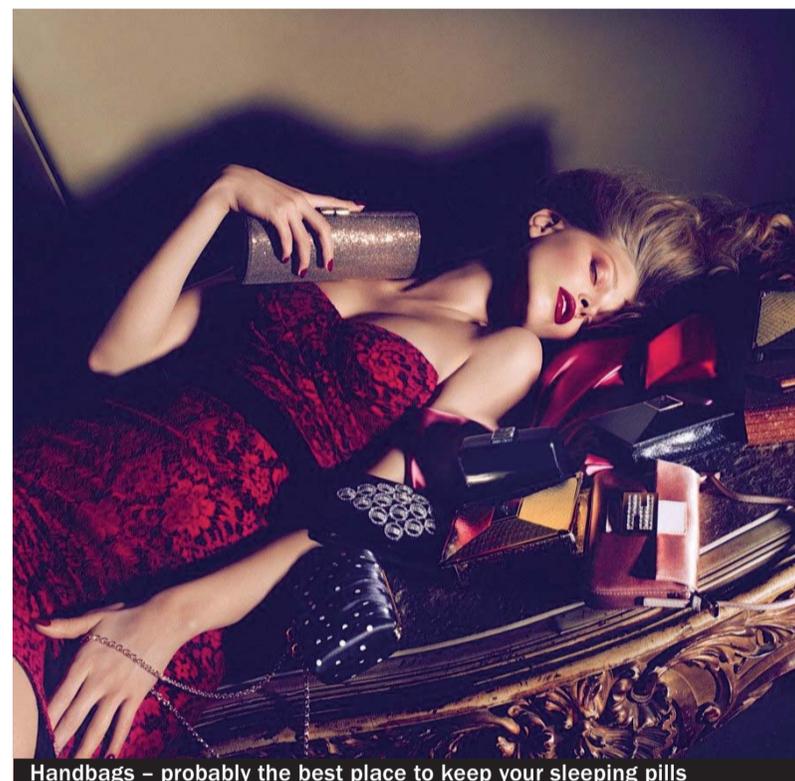
erence to the latest overdraft-busting Prada Saffiano tote still yields the inevitable questions from parents, boyfriends and most unfortunately, jealous friends. Do they not serve an equal purpose? No, alas, the answer delves much deeper than the mere fabric from which our bags are made.

The bags we carry are a sign of status, and a great bag is a marker of fashion kudos and respect. "Respect for what?" I hear all you doubters cry. And here's the ugly truth, ladies: respect for yourself. Was J.K. Rowling right about Horcruxes, the vessels Voldemort chose as meaningful objects in his life in which to keep fragments of his soul? Is the designer handbag a modern-day woman's equivalent to a Horcrux – a lifeless object which we (unknowingly) perfuse with the very essence of ourselves? And, having chosen as our vessel a bag whose assault on our Visa/Mastercard bill is somewhere on par with a Cruciatu curse, have we not sold a fragment of our soul to the fashion industry?

Deprived of the logo-embossed leather

handbag, do we lose some sense of ourselves? If so, something's going wrong. I realised my demise when, strolling down the fashionable Boulevard de la Croisette in Cannes, rather than checking out some bronzed Adonis sunning himself on his yacht, I found myself eyeing up the arm-candy the most stylish women of Cannes were toting. The thought of the fabulously assured way one woman carried herself would never leave me until I might be able to buy that kind of fabulousity in the form of her gorgeous vintage Louis Vuitton Epi Saint Jacques. And the fashion merry-go-round turns around again. And it will carry on turning for all you fashion freaks like me, unless we set ourselves a drastic (but affordable) quota, for we must not let our plastic/leather/pleather 'frenemies' eat away at what remains of our fashion-infested souls.

Maybe remind me again of this resolution the next time Phoebe Philo creates another drool-worthy Céline tote. At least my soul will have somewhere pretty to live...



Handbags – probably the best place to keep your sleeping pills

## A Man's Shoe Haven

Matthew Allinson tackles the hell of the High Street and finds heaven at Offspring

Rather like shoes, which is a problem because buying shoes is usually the low point of any shopping trip, especially for men. I guess we buy fewer shoes and don't spend as much money on them, and thus as inferior customers get massively inferior treatment in shoe shops.

Your average 'Office' will stash the men away into one corner to be buffeted left and right while we look at our meagre, drab footwear selection by staff members carrying myriad boxes back to the exquisitely more profitable and fairer sex. Worse still are shoe shops that coldly point gentlemen up a flight of hidden stairs to, what is at first sight an abandoned attic. The music – which provides a youthful, fresh and lively party atmosphere to the ladies section downstairs – imbues the men's section with the ambience of a nightclub too early in the evening: the punters, semi-embarrassed at turning up to such a deserted establishment, awkwardly stake out their spot and trying not to make eye-contact.

So far thus had been my shoe shopping experience two weekends back, I

was out looking for a pair of weather proof hi-top trainers for day to day casual wear in the lab and out to the pub and gigs. Budget: up to £80. Not a tough ask by any stretch of the imagination, but after several big-chain shoe stores I was so un-inspired that I was beginning to wonder if I even needed to replace my hole riddled, rapidly decaying Reeboks.

This was a sorry state of affairs, my last shoe shopping attempt had been with my girlfriend and I'd wound up in such a terrible mood we nearly broke up (happily to say we're still together and, after a veritably geological time period, the woman in Schuh eventually brought out the correct size pair of vans that I now own); if I had another awful shoe shopping trip I may have had to give up entirely on shoes and fashion footwear out of rags.

Luckily I found Offspring on 60 Neal Street (although if it's more convenient for you, they have one on Camden high street). I had never heard of it before but the window looked promising. In front of my weary eyes was shop full of nothing but beautiful trainers of all varieties.

I went in, it was full of people and the music was up, but somehow I wasn't beaten back by the sensation of anarchic violence that had been present in every other busy shoe shop I'd been in that day. A staff member said "Hello," with a merciful absence of that "Can I help you?" bullshit. I found a pair of trainers that I quite liked. They brought me a pair that fit. I liked them. They gave me a 10% student discount (non-NUS, massively, massively lacking from other retailers) and... brace yourselves... a canvas bag to take them home in.

**"They brought me a pair that fit. I liked them"**

Like seriously you know how Office and Topman give you those paper bags that fall apart and kill your hands and generally make your life hell by the time you've gotten two tube trains home on a Saturday early evening. Not so with these guys, despite being

cheaper than competitors they gave me a proper bag I can use again.

I know the quality of the bag is a weird point to get all excited about but I mean, trainers are all pretty much the same wherever you buy them from but I have so much time for seriously good customer service at no extra cost, and the proper bag is a tangible example of

how these guys provided it.

Offspring made me realise I don't hate shoe shopping – I just hate most shoe shops. All I ever wanted was a wide selection of trainers to choose from and to be treated like a human being while I made my choice. If, like me, you share these modest demands, I highly recommend you try these guys out.



Who needs shoes? I use reinforced bin bags – deal with it

# FOOD

## Food Bites

### He's a Macaron Lover



Different to the coconut-based macaroons from America, the French version 'Macarons' have a smoother surface and are of a sandwich design.

These tasty treats have been bringing delight to foodies in London and Betty Blythe looks forward to welcoming you to try them for yourself.

Go and soak up some French glamour as well as the new range of Ganache Macarons which come in a range of flavours; from Bramley Apple to Ginger Bread to Peanut Butter & Jam flavour and many more! I am addicted. **Michael Krestas**

### Cluster Bombs



I have recently tried the new Kellogg's Special K Honey Clusters and although I did not have many expectations (I usually expect low fat cereals to be plain and boring), they have become my first choice for breakfast. This is because they are crunchy, sweet, and healthy. For sure, they are much better than any other variations of Kellogg's Special K, but the downside is that they are expensive when not on offer. **George Trigeorgis**

**There is always space for you to review any new products you have tried. Simply, send us an email at [food.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:food.felix@imperial.ac.uk)**

# Vintage and glamorous Betty

**Michael Krestas**

London is filled with loads of cafés, which, let's face it, look almost the same and offer very similar products. That's why it's completely OK to feel sick of them. There is, however, a place in London where you can have your coffee or tea like you've never have before. It's small, it's cozy, it's friendly, it's "Betty Blythe". Named after the Hollywood starlet, "Betty Blythe" is a beautiful, vintage teashop and fine food pantry in west London – just 10 minutes walking from Hammersmith Station.

Betty Blythe offers a complete selection of coffees and teas, as well as a wide range of fresh pastries, muffins and cakes. The highlight of a visitor's experience in my opinion is the macarons. They look fresh and they taste fresh; having just the right size they match incredibly with a morning or afternoon tea without being too sweet. The counter is full with beautifully made cakes and colourful treats and the staff look very keen to help you choose!

Betty Blythe is also a wonderful spot for an elegant hen-do or a birthday party offering pretty decor and delicious food. You can choose be-



I suddenly have an incredible urge to travel back in time...

tween the main café and the downstairs tearoom – for a more private space.

Betty Blythe is the absolute vintage and glamorous get-together place for you girls to meet, chit-chat, have your party and gossip (now I'm being rude!). For you guys I have one thing to say: the food there is too good to get stopped by the girlie tone of the café. Take your girlfriend,

sister or mother – although that's just sad – and have a try; you won't regret it!

73 Blythe Rd. Brook Green, London W14 0HP

Tel: 0207 602 1177

Email: [darling@bettyblythe.co.uk](mailto:darling@bettyblythe.co.uk)

Open 8am till 6pm ish

**Don't forget to send your speciality to [food.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:food.felix@imperial.ac.uk) for the Imperial Food Awards. Deadline is on Friday 21 October at 00:00.**

# Byron means Burger

**Laurence Pope**

"I want to keep fighting because it is the only thing that keeps me out of the hamburger joints. If I don't fight, I'll eat this planet." Take this George Foreman quote, replace 'fight' with 'study' and 'hamburger joints' with 'Byron' and it's instantly applicable to me. Well, sort of. OK, not really, but I still really like Byron.

For the unenlightened, Byron is a hamburger restaurant chain that was set up in 2007, with seventeen restaurants currently scattered about central and greater London, two of which are almost on Imperial's doorstep (one opposite Gloucester Road station, the other a few minutes walk from South Kensington station).

They all sport a clean, minimalistic look, but at the same time none of their restaurants have never felt cold, simply because they're always bustling with life. Or maybe I've always been far too focused on the delicious food to ever take notice.

Byron's menu isn't exhaustive by any means, but by GOD do they focus their attention well. If you've never been a fan of hamburgers simply because no place seems to get them right, try here. No soggy salad, no overload of cheese, buns that actually complement the meal rather than exist as a source of carbohydrates...

Am I getting the message across that I really



I'm not a vegetarian, I swear!

rather like this place? The classic cheese is the crowning jewel; six ounces of freshly ground beef (cooked, obviously) with a slice of cheddar (or the cheese of your choice) and just the right amount of veggies to keep me sufficient-

ly hooked and drooling all over my keyboard.

Outside of the Heaven-sent hamburgers are a modest number of main and side salads, which, whilst crunchy and better than most, pale in comparison to their meatier main course brethren. The choice for vegetarians is somewhat limited however – there's a veggie burger (made with grilled Portobello mushroom), and one of the salads is meat-free (the buffalo mozzarella and lentil), but beyond that you're rather limited in choice.

If you like either of those then you're in for a treat, but slightly pickier vegetarians may very well want to give Byron a miss. Obligate carnivores on the other hand will not be disappointed.

The dessert menu is small as well, but does contain some very nice after-dinner treats to indulge yourself with. Unfortunately light sorbets or fruit salads are missing from the menu; often after a large meal the last thing you want to eat is a rich chocolate brownie or cream-laden banana split.

Something small and sweet to end the meal with would round it off nicely, possibly accompanied by a glass of wine – of which there is a respectable selection.

I could try and go on about meat texture, subtle flavours and whatnot, but at the end of the day I'm no food buff. Let me put it simply – I know what I like, and I like Byron. So will you.

# National Student Survey 2011 Response

This week the Union published its official "National Student Survey (NSS) 2011 Response". We are led to believe that we are the only Students' Union in the UK to have published such a document.

### So what is it?

The NSS Response is a booklet we have written that summarises our analysis of the NSS data, addresses concerning (as well as positive) issues in college and provides 35 "Union Recommendations" to help improve the Student Experience at Imperial College.

It was written by myself, Scott Heath (Union President) and Andrew Keenan (Representation Coordinator) over the last month. Whilst putting it together we made sure it was student focused and we used numerous direct student quotes from the NSS 2011. We also felt it was important that it was as student-friendly as possible to read. So, as you

can see, we have including several useful info-graphics, began with a "Top 10 recommendations" and kept the main messages from the response as concise as possible.

### Why?

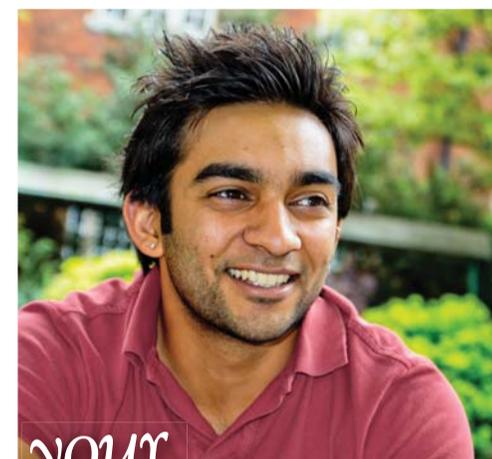
As I'm sure you've all read previously in Felix, Imperial College dropped 11 places in the 2012 Sunday Times League Table, the first time Imperial has scored outside the top 4 in fourteen years.

University League ranking tables have, over the last few years, given more weighting student satisfaction and teaching over categories such as "Learning Resources" and "Staff-Student Ratios". However, the NSS response isn't only about trying to get Imperial back up the league tables. The low results in the NSS reveal a genuine problem with the quality of teaching at Imperial. If college takes on board and effectively

implements what this response from the Union and student body recommends then we should see a dramatic increase in the quality of teaching and student satisfaction at Imperial College.

This is our best opportunity to change the student experience at Imperial College to make it better for all of us. We need to make sure your year/dep reps, while on Student-Staff Committees, raise the concerns you are having in your department and work together to provide solutions. Instead of solely making complaints, we should be proactive and work together with staff in our departments to address the issues that affect the Student Experience.

I hope you enjoy reading the NSS response, and if you have any questions please e-mail us or, even better, come by the Union Offices (2nd Floor of the Union Building) to have a chat about it!



## your SABBATICALS

**Jason Pamar**  
Deputy President (Education)  
deducation@imperial.ac.uk

Keep up-to-date with your Sabbaticals at:  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/sabbs](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/sabbs)

[imperialcollegeunion.org/nssreport](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/nssreport)

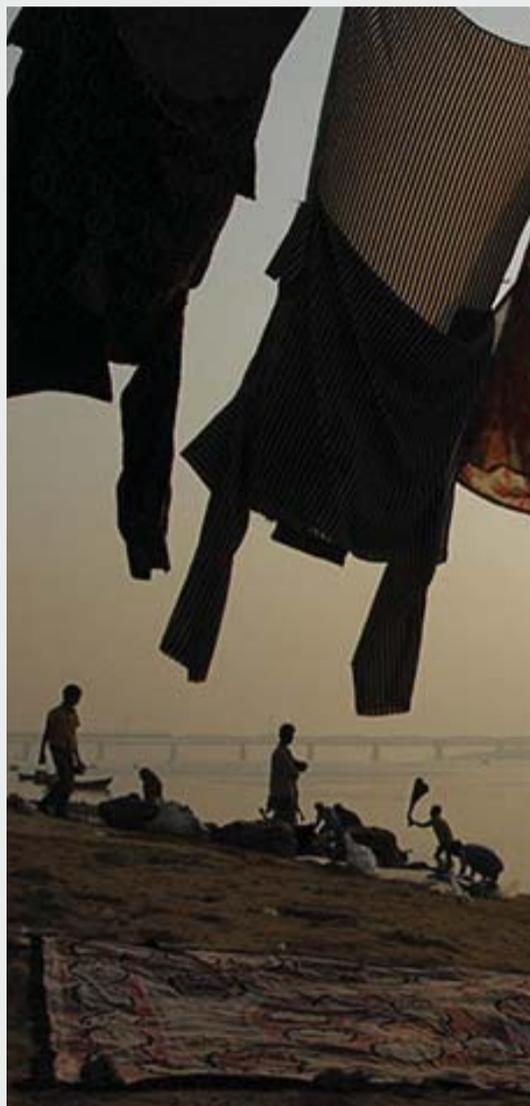


## TRAVEL

Travel Editors: **Dushi Arumuganesan**  
**Chris Richardson**

travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Wishing you were here



'Banks of the Yamuna' by Rajesh Kuman Singh

## Travel on your doorstep



Stunning skylines from Parliament Hill

**Get there:** Gospel Oak/Hampstead (Overground), or Kentish Town (Northern line)

**See:** One of the best skyline views of London

**Eat:** Amazing gastropub fare at The Bull and Last

**Cost:** £10-20 for a meal, or £2-7 for nibbles

Visit Parliament Hill **this Saturday** to browse one of the most picturesque weekly farmers' markets in London and for stunning views of the capital's landmarks. Situated on a corner of Hampstead Heath, which covers 800 acres of grassland, this is the perfect place for a chilled evening out in one of the most beautiful parts of North London.

# Munnar: your cup of chai

Escaping India's dusty north for some much needed rest and recovery in the plush green scenery of Kerala

**Chris Richardson**

India is certainly famous for its delicious tea, so it's surprising that when most people 'do India' they're usually referring to the dusty north as opposed to the plusher south. Munnar is a gem in the heart of Kerala, nestled in the Western Ghats, and is home to some of the most breath-taking mountain and plantation scenery the country has to offer. After surviving a treacherous bus ride up windy hills I was lucky enough to catch some of the sights on offer.

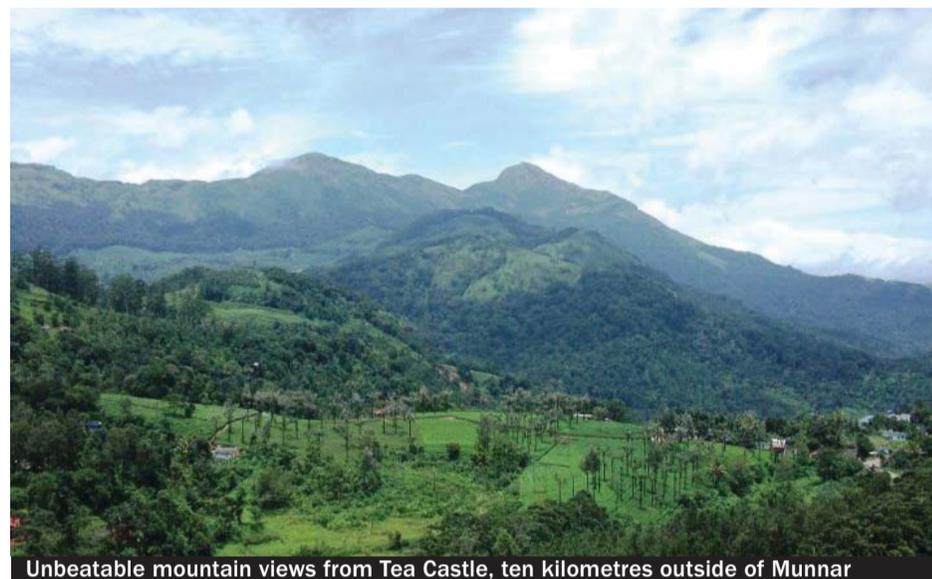
**"...afternoon swims in waterfalls, friendly waves from tea pickers and freedom of the road"**

The town itself is a little scruffy, offering the usual array of delicious Indian cuisine and cocktail of tablets to keep the runs at bay. While it serves as the perfect hub for necessities, the true beauties of Munnar lie in the outskirts. Instead of succumbing to the dreaded *tuk-tuk* drivers, I decided to rent myself a motorbike and head for the scenery.

The sights on show were nothing less than fantastic: I spent the day venturing further and further afield, zipping by luscious lakes, plush plantations and wild elephants, occasionally stopping to take a snap or two. Highly recommended is the ride to Top Station, about thirty kilometres out of town, where you can pick up a tasty *thali* and admire the Ghats and gaze into the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu.

Motorbiking might evoke images of cruising in the sun, but be warned – the ride is not for the faint hearted. Blissfully forgetting about the altitude and the monsoon I opted to wear beach gear, only to be caught by torrential downpour. The slippery roads would have been tolerable had I not also neglected the setting sun; needless to say, the ride home in the dark was a slow one. To add to the thrills I tried to convince myself that I was a main character from a zombie movie.

But as long as you're not a complete span-



Unbeatable mountain views from Tea Castle, ten kilometres outside of Munnar

ner you'll be just fine. And even in my case, the afternoon swims in waterfalls, friendly waves from tea pickers and the freedom of

**"See it all by serendipity"**

the road made it totally worthwhile. I could go on about every little site to see, but the best way to see it all is by serendipity, the backpacker's best friend. But motorbiking is

an absolute must, and the daily rental fee is as low as a standard tuk-tuk ride anyway. And of course, don't skip on the freshly brewed *chai*.

All in all Munnar turned out to be one of my favourite destinations in India, especially after the hustle and bustle of the dusty, temple north. It's a brilliant place to unwind, and a great portal to the rest of 'God's own country'; it's a place where not even the torrential downpour of the thick monsoon can bring down your spirits.



Endless seas of emerald green will entertain you for eons

## Planning a trip? Here's some useful India travel tips from the Felix Travel team!

**Planning a trip to Munnar?** I stayed at a wonderful hotel called **Tea Castle**, nestled ten kilometres out of town. The hotel offers peaceful serenity and unbeatable views of the surrounding mountains and tea fields from its brilliant bedroom balconies. The staff were very helpful when it came to organising day trips, and the top-notch Kerala cuisine dished up at the classy rooftop restaurant always went down a treat. To find out more visit [TeaCastle.in](http://TeaCastle.in) or contact the Editor.

**Planning a trip to Kerala (or anywhere in India)?** Contact **Kerala Holidays**, who offer tailor-made custom packages for groups of any size, that start and end at the airport and include everything in between. Awarded as the **Best In-Bound Tour Operator** by the Kerala Government, and with a friendly staff who know the ins and outs of the country, it's no wonder they're attracting holidaymakers and celebrities alike. Visit [KeralaHolidays.com](http://KeralaHolidays.com) to find out more.

# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## Imperial College in the Succah!

Interfaith make history after celebrating Jewish festival on campus

**Andrea Levy**  
**Sayinthen Vivekanantham**

On Tuesday 18 October, Interfaith and the IC Jewish Society set up a Succah on campus, for the first time ever in the university's history. It was undoubtedly a great success.

The week-long Jewish festival of Succot, (singular: "Succah"), is named after the symbolic wilderness shelters or temporary huts dwelt in by the Israelites whilst in the wilderness of the Sinai Desert, after they were freed from slavery in Egypt and before entering the Promised Land, forty years later.

These temporary shelters are dwelt in again, every year, from the 15th to the 21st day of the Jewish year. The commandment "to dwell" in the succah is fulfilled by spending as much time as possible inside, including eating one's meals, as well as sleeping in the succah, if possible and weather and health permitting.

The Succah must have at least three walls and a rooftop made of thatch or branches that provide shade, but also allow you to see the stars. It is traditionally decorated with autumnal fruits as a reference to the end of the harvesting season and with Judaic themes, as well as the four key species - a palm branch, three branches of myrtle, two willow branches (the lulav) and a citron (the etrog). Although each represents a different type of person, all four species are taken and bound together to symbolize that the mitzvah, or "good deed", of Sukkot unites us all.

Though on the one hand, dwelling in the simplicity of the Succah reminds us of the frailty and transience of life, it reminds us of God's



Interfaith Committee 2011-2012, left to right: Cornelius Ng (Cath Soc Rep), Mustafa Khan (AB Soc Rep), Sayinthen Vivekanantham (President), Sukhraj Takhar (Sikh Soc Rep), Dodie Levene (Jewish Soc Rep)

protection of the Israelites in the Sinai desert and is referred to as "Z'man Simchateinu", the time of our rejoicing. It is indeed amongst the most joyous festivals in the Jewish calendar.

Today, it was a joy and a privilege to be able to celebrate Succot at Imperial. To be given the opportunity to celebrate at our university, throughout the day and to share it with the rest of the student body was unprecedented and superb.

On top of it all, the joy of the penultimate day of Succot couldn't have been greater, with the return home of Israeli Defense Forces soldier, Gilad Shalit, with whom our thoughts were throughout the day.

This is the first event that Interfaith has co-hosted this year and it hopes to be the first of many to come. Imperial Interfaith and Chaplaincy are hosting a workshop on Wednesday 26 October at 14:30 entitled 'How to do Dia-

logue'. This is a chance to learn simple and transferable skills to engage in dialogue with people holding different views. The workshop will be led by staff from Interact and Three Faiths Forum. The following two weeks (November 2 and November 9) will give a chance to engage in dialogue on topics chosen by the group. On November 18 there will be an open dialogue session at the Victoria and Albert Museum on burial customs too. For more information and to book a place visit [www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy).

Throughout the whole day, there was a tremendous effort by all the Interfaith and Jewish committee members, a massive thank you to everyone who helped organise the event and came down to celebrate their own customs or to learn about other religions. However, we would like to say a very special thanks to the Jewish Society Interfaith Representative.

## PortSoc arrive at Imperial College

**Ines Vaz**

*Estamos de volta!*

Who hasn't heard of the amazing Portuguese cuisine? Of the famous Brazilian carnival? Of the fast-growing Angolan economy? Yes, between footballers, hot weather and welcoming, fun people, Portuguese speaking countries have had their fair share in leaving cultural marks around the world - and now, we're ready to do the same at Imperial.

Starting small but enthusiastic, we're not only looking out for those who see this society as a reminder of home, but for anyone wishing to learn more about our cultures and love for mingling. With an events calendar already established for this term, don't be fooled by quantity, because we are best at making up for it in quality time spent between friends!

The first event of the year has already been a success! Teaming up with the King's College

Portuguese & Brazilian society, members of the IC Portuguese Speaking Society went on a pubcrawl between Vauxhall and Stockwell. The pubcrawl was a great success, highlighted by the break in social drinking to watch the Portugal-Iceland match, an important qualification for the 2012 UEFA cup. Rest assured, Portugal won by a stunning 5-3, and at the time of writing currently sits atop the Group H qualifications, although tied point-wise with Denmark. But enough of the football.

Anyone is welcome to join our first dinner in Stockwell on October 28, where a growing Portuguese community brings to us dishes that will make anyone fall in love and ask for more. Meeting point will be Vauxhall tube station at 20:00, where we will then head over to O Campino, where we'll enjoy a menu that includes starters, a main course, a drink and coffee for £8.

If you prefer a proper night out, we propose

you to join us at club Heaven on November 22, where the contagious energy of the famed Buraka Som Sistema will play live in what promises to be a great night of high temperature, strong beats and the hip breaking kuduro dancing. Tickets are £15 online (with extra booking fee cost), show starts at 19:00.

After receiving a positive response from interested members, every Monday and Thursday from 13:00-14:00, there will be Portuguese group classes given by native speaking committee members. If interested in knowing more details, please email [portugue@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:portugue@imperial.ac.uk). Locations will vary, so make sure you join the mailing list for updates.

Join us on Facebook for updates (Portuguese Speaking Society - Imperial College London) or send us an email if interested to join our mailing list, a specific event or just to say hi. Spread the word, because PortSoc is ready to be launched and you might just be the fun spirit we are waiting to meet!

*Até breve!*

## Fellwanderers Intelligence Report

**Date: 14/10/11 - 16/10/11**

**Destination: Snowdonia, Cymru**

**Day 1: Friday**

18:17 - Mobile Command Unit (MCU) departs from Secret Headquarters near Chiswick  
18:20 - MCU refuels  
18:30 - MCU attempts to collect agents Evans & Harris and fails to make contact  
20:20 - MCU drives past standard Imperial 15 seater of unknown allegiance, commences hand waving operations regardless  
21:00 - Checkpoint 2: purchasing and consumption of fish and chips, naan bread and cat curry  
22:00 - MCU passes by "Star City" near Birmingham; driver was distracted during process by description of "really cool colourful shiny spinny thing"  
23:10 - MCU enters hostile territory AKA Wales, signs now twice as big as they need to be  
00:17 - MCU experienced a near miss with an unprecedented threat disguised as a sheep  
00:37 - MCU arrives at Imperial hut, before both minibuses  
00:45 - Fire successfully lit to warm hut for freshers  
00:56 - Crew of MCU are smug with beer next to fire, while freshers languish in minibuses

**Day 2: Saturday**

07:52 - Quartermaster MacAuley gets up to prepare breakfast and lunch for assault on Snowdon summit  
09:15 - Minibus arrives at Pen y Pass, assault on Snowdon begins  
10:10 - Fellwanderers split into 2 companies: first, larger group scrambling up Crib Goch and the second, smaller group going via the Pyg Track. MCU supervises the Crib Goch company  
11:28 - Crib Goch company (CGC) spots mountain rescue helicopter, hopes it is not waiting for one of the CGC members to fall off  
12:00 - Helicopter air lifts somebody, not in CGC, to safety  
14:08 - CGC reaches summit of Snowdon  
18:00 - All Fellwanderers back in hut, including groups who travelled back via Pen y Pass  
18:05 - Evening provisions served: "pasta & red wine sauce"  
21:30 - Cmdr Rumer blames new recruits for drinking his litre of spiced rum, which he achieved alone  
21:45 - Cmdr Rumer spills crisps over floor  
21:45 - Cmdr Rumer doesn't want to sleep in a different room in case someone wears his clothes

**Day 3: Sunday**

07:55 - All rise, cleaning of the hut commences  
09:08 - All transports depart from hut  
09:31 - Bus arrives near bottom of Tryfan, consumption of sausage rolls  
09:42 - Entire group begins up the Devil's Kitchen  
12:27 - Lunch on top of glyder fawr  
14:02 - Reach second summit  
16:46 - Return to transports, depart for London  
20:17 - Minibus 2 stops for dinner in Rugby  
00:10 - Minibus 2 arrives at Beit Quad

# HANGMAN



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## The Hangman Blackboard

After the amazing success of the Hangman Notice Board last week (errr Library have stopped giving out receipts... you're fucking welcome). Hangman has decided, apart from referring to Hangman in the third person like a despot, to show you his blackboard. What? How could that possibly be an innuendo? Why would your mind go there? Anyway, let me whip out my chalk stick and spread my dust over you. Here it is, under this filler text. Why a blackboard? We're old school.

**Hello Union,**  
**Could you do me a favour? Train your bar staff to recognise who was there first. You know, like all other bars do. While you're at it, stop going to the very edge of the bar to serve the dicks who just walk there. How about they walk up choose an order and tell people okay 1,2,3,4 - then people at least know they aren't in bar limbo.**

**Hey people at the Union,**  
**'Can I pay on my card?' No, you CAN fuck off and die though.**  
**P.S. Those 4 people you vaguely knew, who asked you to get one for them 'while you're being served' don't actually like you. It's nothing personal, it's just you're a cunt. Oh, wait, it is personal. Sucks to be you.**

Drunken mate  
of the week sub-  
missions please

Send them to:  
felix@imperial.ac.uk

Make sure they  
don't mind, too  
much. We're seri-  
ously about to go  
through Facebook

**Dear Union,**  
**Guess what? At big events like Graduation, loads of people are going to be around. Therefore, loads of people will be trying to get drinks. It's almost like that might mean more bar staff would be a good idea for these, fucking obviously, special occasions. Probably also worth mentioning that serving people is task 1, task 2 is stacking cups/tying receipts with a rubber band.**

**Dear people standing at the bar,**  
**I know it's an exciting moment when a hot girl/guy/Colonel Gaddafi stands next to you, but stop trying to subtly look at them out of the corner of your eye. All that happens is you end up tilting your head and spilling your pint, you pervert.**

# HANGMAN

## THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



**'Shit, turns out it was Gene Simmons, oh my Gawwwd' says camp NTC spokesman.**

Every Second, Third and Fourth Year is currently applying for a job. Use this cover letter like I use your mother – shamelessly:

*Send this shit off to anyone who will hire me*

Dear Sir/Madam,

*I am perfectly suited to this job in every way possible. In fact, scratch that, I'm perfectly suited to EVERY job in the world EVER. Have you seen that I go to Imperial? Oh yeah, also have you seen my predicted grade. 2-motherfucking-1. Yeah, there is no way in hell I could ever have just predicted myself that grade with no basing.*

*I have leadership skills. As we know, everyone in a company must have leadership skills. No, these aren't gained by being good at a certain role and over time becoming more confident because of increase proficiency. They are gained by being the TEAM LEADER in a group exercise for my degree. Okay, so we basically just sat around and all contributed but I lead that contribution. This is definitely true by the way. There is no way that I could exaggerate my role in the task, even though I know that, barring finding out what group I was in and checking, there is no way for you to check if I am lying.*

*I also have excellent comunikation scills. I am basically an orator of Pliny the Younger levels (Note - obscure references are good. It's best to make the interviewer feel like an idiot. For bonus points slip in a cheeky 'have you read his letters'). I think it is best for me to just tell you how good I am at communicating. As we both know, it is better for me to tell you what I am like, as opposed to show you what I am like. Why would I do that?*

*Biggest weakness? Well, I think I am sometimes just too much of a perfectionist, you know. I bet that's a response you never hear. Wait, that's actually a positive isn't it. Turns out, even my worst qualities are straight up awesome. Pushed to say another weakness, it's definitely dreamy guys/the pussyting.*

*Teamworking? I already told you I am a great, natural-born leader. I'm basically the modern day Julius Caesar. This may imply that I would be bad at working in a team, as I will be a massive dickhead and start bossing people about like I'm trying out for The Apprentice. Please do not point this out.*

*Yours sincerely/Yours faithfully - What? You don't know which one is supposed to go here do you. Figure it out. I'm not doing all the work for you.*

*'Insert name here'*

## Horoscopes\*

\*Think swearing is vulgar? Well it's not, you cunt.

### Aries

Do you really have to recline your seat for a 2 hr flight? Like those extra 10° of horizontalness improve your comfort more than they reduce mine. You anti-social bastard. You probably masturbate in front of your children while playing The Sims. You sick, anally retented fuck.

### Taurus

In a moment of charitable goodwill, you adopt a pet from the Battersea Dog's Home. You rush home and spread some peanut butter over your balls. Woofy starts to lick them... it's nice, it tickles. It pinches. Hard. Harder. Harder still. Argh! Just like Hitler, you've lost a ball.

### Gemini

You're about to transfer from MPhil to PhD. You still need to do those GSEPS courses. Where would you be without that Myers Personality Test? How did you manage to get your UG degree without it? You jammy sod. Thanks GSEPS, you really saved me there. Not.

### Cancer

Camping outside St Paul's for three days, yeh, that's gonna change the system. You anarchistic dickfucks. You want an equal distribution of wealth? Then stop being a bunch of precious hippies, put things into perspective. Get a decent job. There's AIDS in Africa FFS.

### Leo

Don't you just love it when your flat-mate cooks a delicious roast chicken? Ah, the way the grease from the bird makes a lubricant for your Cock (geddit?), your chicken cock. Lovely. Actually, chickens don't have dicks, but still, it kinda works. Right? Well, since when were you the foreskin master?

### Virgo

You receive a remote controlled helicopter. After an unfortunate penis-related incident, you take your new toy to the stats lecture. You attempt to land the machine on the lecturer's combover, only for the fucker in the back row to fly his one over and missile you. Bollocks.

### Libra

Not happy with this week's articles? Ooooh, well why not write a comment on the Felix website that no one will read or give a shit about. You Guardian reading retard. Some articles are meant to provoke, stir debate. Don't get offended so easily, you sensitive ponce.

### Scorpio

Not happy with this week's horoscopes? You twisted fuck. How hard is it to offend you? If you think you've got what it takes, come down to the Felix office and have a go. Sucking Hangman's cock is an obligatory part of the initiation ceremony. Unless you're not a medic. Then you're just a time waster.

### Sagittarius

I want to ram bamboo strips under your fingernails and then rip them out. I want to tear off your toes one by one. And then I want to lick your testicles...  
... I think I might have Daddy issues... perhaps I should go on some sort of TV show... ideas?

### Capricorn

You develop a new laugh where you can't stop snorting. It's bloody unattractive. It's enough that you already look like a pig, do you really have to sound like one as well? What next, you're gonna grow a goatee? I mean, you already sound like a cunt...

### Aquarius

What's long, pink and hard in the morning? No, it isn't the FT crossword. It's your erect cock getting excited over the financial deprivation of those smelly Cancer people that hypocritically go to Starbucks mid-protest. Those fucking double-skinny-latte drinking socialists.

### Pisces

You end up listening to the "award winning" IC Radio. With 5 listeners, they were hitting record numbers. But the music was shit. Really shit. They went back to 4 listeners: the Felix editor, their 1 friend, the rector, and the generally grumpy security guy in Beit quad.

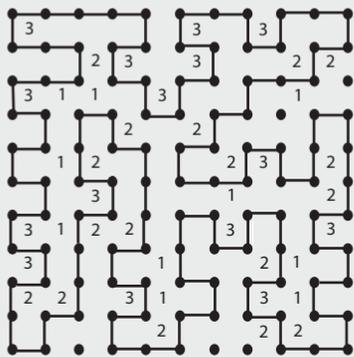
Puzzles Editor: James Hook

# PUZZLES

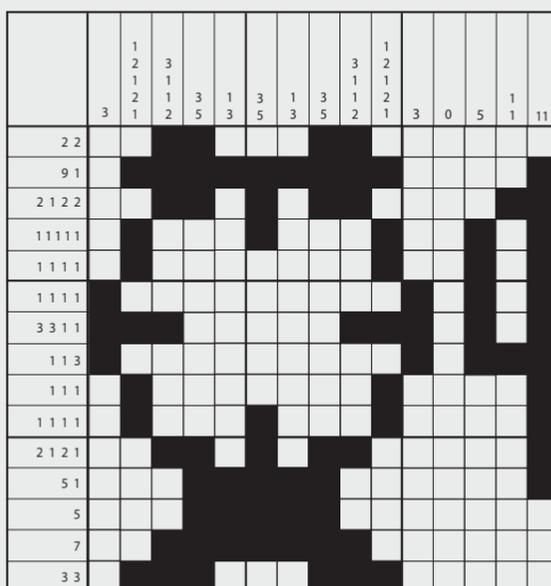
puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Last Week's Solutions

### Slitherlink



### Nonogram



### Crosswords

**QUICK(ish) - Across** 1. Magic spell 6. Abed 9. Reverts 10. Secrete 12. Hello 13. Estimated 14. Stand-up comedian 17. School of thought 20. Merciless 21. Actor 23. Pretend 24. Private 25. Data 26. Pertinency **Down:** 1. Morphosis 2. Gavel 3. Carbon dioxide 4. Paste-up 5. Lesotho 7. Breathing 8. Dread 11. Commemoration 15. Abhorrent 16. Notoriety 18. Overdue 19. Tossplot 20. Moped 22. Twain

**CRYPTIC - Across** 1. Carbuncle 6. Bedew 9. Saffron 10. Redcoat 11. Ski 12. Moonlighter 14. Senate 15. Aggrieve 17. Rifleman 19. Leaper 22. Whistlestop 23. Cab 25. Outcast 27. Percuss 28. Large 29. Diary Room **Down** 1. Costs 2. Ruffian 3. Unremittent 4. Canyon 5. Earplugs 6. Bad 7. Dioptre 8. Water Bear 13. Garden Party 14. Straw Poll 16. Lamented 18. Fritter 20. Pachuco 21. Utopia 24. Bosom 26. Ace

### Chess

Hold your horses – solutions will appear next week in an answer bonanza!

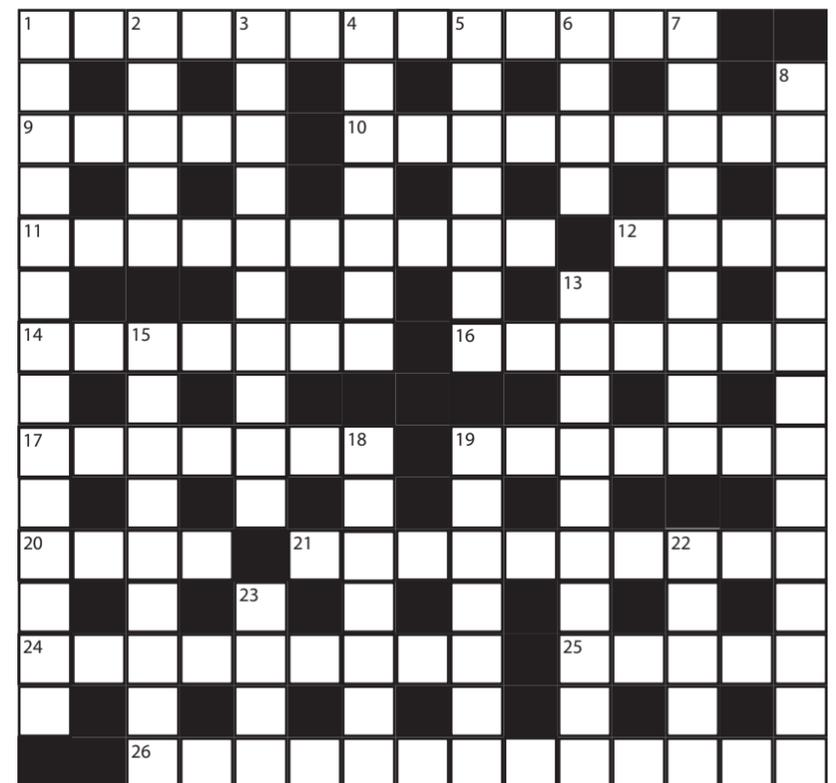
## Crossword

### Across

- Stag (8,5)
- A set of principles (5)
- Pay back (9)
- Non-conductor (10)
- Monarch of Russia (4)
- Became aware of (7)
- Authentic (7)
- Large woolen cover (7)
- Monster with a lion's head, a goat's body and a serpent's tail (7)
- Co-operative unit (4)
- French medieval lyric poet (10)
- A positive feeling of wanting to push ahead with something (9)
- Egg shapes (5)
- Process of deteriorating or declining (13)

### Down

- Ordinary or routine (5,3,6)
- North Pacific salmon with black spots (5)
- Flat, round pastry filled with dried fruit (6,4)
- Unit of magnetic field strength; *rode set* (anag.) (7)
- Twinning (7)
- Steals (4)
- English county; lends its name to a pudding (9)
- Guitarist - compositions include *While My Guitar Gently Weeps* (6,8)
- Pointers providing specific information on e.g. temperature, pressure (10)
- 1805 naval battle (9)
- Underwater missile (7)
- Warship of medium tonnage (7)
- Congo mammal of the giraffe family (5)
- Be anxious; guitar ridge (4)



## Wordoku

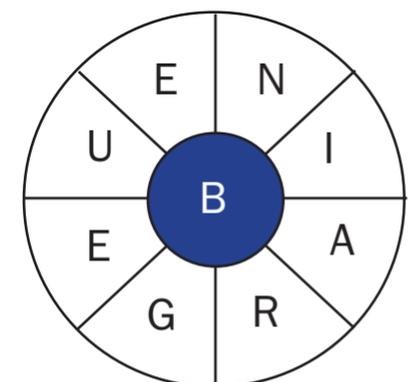
	E			T	A	R
	A		H		F	G
		S				T
			S			F
		H	T		E	A
A			U			
	H				U	
T	F			A		S
S	G		H			R

This week's wordoku contains a very highbrow phrase that most of you won't understand. Once again, every row, column and 3x3 box contains each symbol.

## Word Wheel

TARGET: 25

Make as many words of at least 4 letters as you can, always using the central one. **NO** plurals, conjugated verbs, comparatives or superlatives, because I said so. There is always at least one 9 letter word.



## FUCWIT League Leader Board

### Teams:

Elbowfart	12
Paddy Got Bummed	5
Cum Puzzling Sluts	4

### Individuals:

Jeremy Neale	14
Wael Aljeshi	10
Juliette Chupin	8

The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is new and improved, with prizes for both the winning team and the winning individual.

Points will be awarded per individual puzzles solved. The first person/team to send in a correct answer for a puzzle will receive 2 points per puzzle. After that people who send in correct answers will be awarded 1 point per puzzle. Double points are awarded for cryptic crosswords.

Send your solutions to:  
[puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk)  
for points galore!

## Cryptic Crosswords? No Thanks!

Having trouble with the cryptic crosswords in the sports section? No idea what it all means or would like to know why some answers are as they are? Contact [puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk) with the subject line "Cryptic Help". You'll be sent an introduction to how cryptic crosswords work and what to look out for. Each week you'll also receive complete explanations to the answers in the previous week's Felix cryptic crossword.

## Contributions wanted!

If you'd like to contribute by sending in puzzles, comics or even some editing, e-mail [puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk)



Sports Editors: **Indy Leclercq**  
**David Wilson**

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

# SPORT

## Fencing Men's 2nd team start off season with a win

**Jack Patten**  
Fencing

Men's 2nd 135-90

The fencing season opened this year at Ethos, with the men's second team fencing against Surrey University's first team. After a delayed start, the foilists got things going. Matthew Carney drew first blood with a neat parry-riposte, and continued on to win the bout against the opposition's left-handed foilist.

Jamie Fairclough, team captain for Imperial, followed suit, reminding the opposition that epeeists can indeed counterattack. Joey, a new acquisition from Sussex, rounded out the team using accuracy and an impressively long lunge to score points.

The Imperial fencers didn't relinquish their lead for the remainder of the foil, finishing with an impressive lead of 45-15.

Sabre started with a bang and a cool 5-0 victory courtesy of new team member Chris Lawrence. Thomas Martino then faced off against the opposition's best fencer, who managed to restore par-

ity between the two teams. It then fell to Matt to re-establish the lead, which he managed to do – Thomas and Chris then worked to extend that lead even further. Faii Ong turned up to replace Matt for the next bout against the anchor, doing well to maintain the lead. The sabreurs then managed to consolidate and extend this over the next few bouts to finish with a 45-40 victory.

Team captain Jamie then started the epee off on the right foot, taking an early lead. Neal Wannell, returning to the club after a year of fencing for an American university, maintained that lead against stiff opposition in the form of a "lefty" – even scoring the hit that mathematically put the match out of Surrey's reach. James Loryman, also in his debut for the club, put on a good display, making some incredibly light hits somehow connect.

Jamie was given the honour of closing the fencing out for the day, winning the epee 45-35, with the match ending on an ICFC victory of 135-90.

The hard-fought match was followed by some well-deserved socializing over a few drinks at Eastside.



Cut, thrust, parry, riposte...oh wait, there's two lights. Referee needed

### Selected fixtures & results

in association with  
Sports Partnership



#### Wednesday 19th October

<b>BADMINTON</b>	Men's 2nd Roehampton Uni. 2nd	3 Medicals Women's 1st 3 St George's 1st	2 Medicals Women's 5th 6 Surrey 3rd	8 Men's 2nd 60 University of Kent 1st	9 Women's 1st 8 Roehampton University 1st	vs Medicals Men's 1st London South Bank 1st	vs Medicals Men's 2nd Buckinghamshire 1st	vs
	Men's 1st Queen Mary 1st	6 Men's 3rd 2 University of Westminster	1 Medicals Men's 2nd 3 UCL 2nd	<b>TENNIS</b>	Medicals Men's 1st 3 University of Greenwich 1st	vs Medicals Men's 1st University of Westminster 3rd	vs Medicals Women's 2nd King's Medicals 4th	vs
	Women's 1st University of Kent 1st	7 Medicals Men's 1st 1 LSE 1st	2 Medicals Men's 3rd 5 UCL 2nd	10 King's College 1st 15	<b>FENCING</b>	<b>HOCKEY</b>	Medicals Women's 3rd University of Kent 3rd	vs
	Medicals Women's 1st Kingston Uni. 1st	3 Medicals Men's 2nd 2 London South Bank 1st	4 <b>LACROSSE</b>	<b>Wednesday 26th October</b>	Men's 2nd Reading University 1st	vs Men's 1st St Mary's 1st	vs <b>LACROSSE</b>	vs
	Medicals Men's 2nd Medway 1st	6 <b>HOCKEY</b>	Women's 1st Royal Holloway 1st	7	Men's 1st 0 University of Kent 2nd	vs Women's 2nd ULU 1st	vs Women's 1st Royal Holloway 1st	vs Men's 1st University of Essex 1st
<b>BASKETBALL</b>	Men's 1st Portsmouth University 1st	0 <b>NETBALL</b>	7	7	Women's 1st UCL 1st	vs Men's 3rd ULU 2nd	vs Women's 2nd University of Surrey 2nd	vs Women's 1st University of Portsmouth 1st
	Women's 1st St Mary's 1st	Women's 1st 2 LSE 1st	35 <b>SQUASH</b>	Men's 2nd 4 Royal Holloway 1st	0	vs <b>FOOTBALL</b>	Men's 3rd Reading 4th	vs <b>NETBALL</b>
<b>FENCING</b>	Men's 2nd Roehampton Uni. 1st	4 Brunel 3rd	14	0	Medicals Men's 1st 0 UCL 1st	vs University of Westminster 1st	Men's 4th Middlesex 1st	vs Women's 1st University of Kent 2nd
	Men's 2nd University of Surrey 1st	1	48 University of Sussex 1st	5	Medicals Women's 1st King's Medicals 1st	vs University of Westminster 1st	Medicals Men's 1st LSE 1st	vs Women's 2nd UCL 3rd
<b>FOOTBALL</b>	Men's 3rd University of Surrey 2nd	4 Portsmouth 2nd 3	25	3 <b>BASKETBALL</b>	Men's 2nd Kingston University 2nd	vs Medicals Women's 1st Royal Vet College 1st	vs	vs Women's 3rd University of West London 1st
	Women's 1st King's College 1st	1	Men's 3rd 25 King's College 1st	2	Men's 1st Queen Mary 1st	vs Men's 3rd London South Bank 2nd	vs	
	Men's 4th Royal Holloway 2nd	4	30					
		Medicals Women's 3rd 1 St Bart's	9 <b>TABLE TENNIS</b>					
		2	46					
		Medicals Women's 4th 0 St George's 4th	13 UCL 1st					
		4	25					

# SPORT

## Hockey: varying results for pre-season games



Women's 2s looking happy despite the loss...any chance of a centrefold, girls?

...Continued from back page the 2s will hopefully be back to their brilliant best soon.

After a draw and a loss, all the pressure was put on the Men's 4s to ensure IC would not leave Harlington empty handed. The game began well for the 4s with the defence standing strong, but then the RSM strikers became too much and they scored two well-taken goals in quick succession. Shortly after, however, veteran 4th team member, Luke Reynolds, managed to score one of his trademark reverse stick shots. IC pressed, but unsuccessfully, and these attacks left gaps behind for the RSM to exploit. The RSM managed to hit a few more goals, but the efforts from James Peck and Luke meant that the final score of 7-3 was a respectable one, considering the RSM team do have some very good players. Despite losing the match, the performance was strong and there is plenty of hope for the Men's 4s for the next season.

In the first game away to UCL, IC Ladies' 1s took on their UCL counterparts. IC started in a panicked fashion and

squandered much of their opening possession. However, it wasn't long before IC hit their stride. Some quick passes saw Harry Stevenson open the scoring, before Teddy Middlebrook doubled the advantage. With a two goal cushion IC hit cruise control. Anytime the UCL players collected the ball, player of the match Celia Hayes broke down the attack and linked up with the midfield beautifully. The icing on the cake was a brilliant breakaway goal that Harry scored with a sweet strike. 3-0 the final score was well deserved.

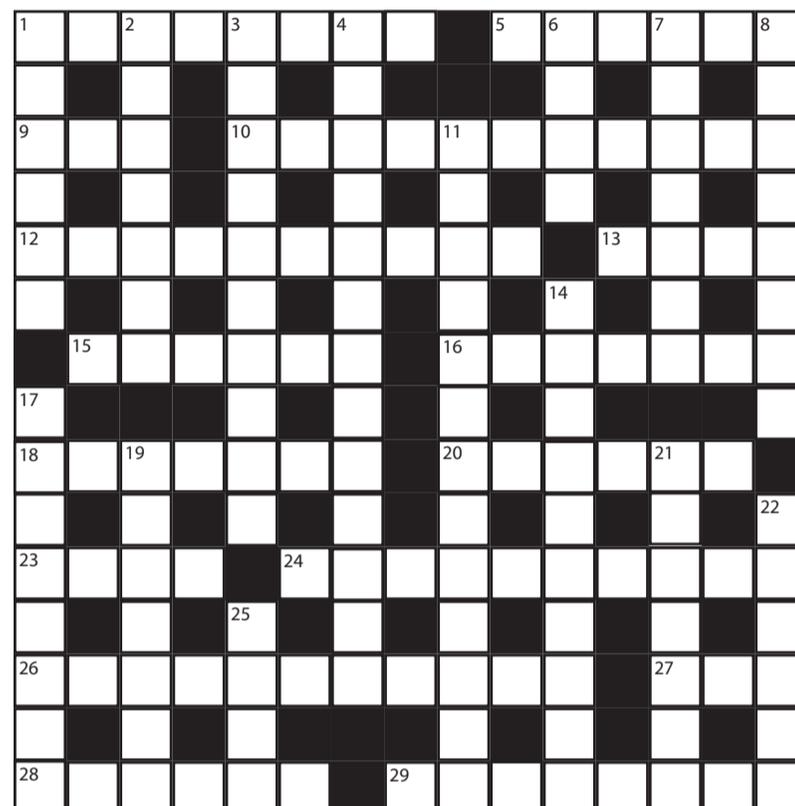
The Ladies' 2s were next up and keen to show what they could do. IC started well, but the difference in benches (UCL had 8 more subs) proved to be the biggest factor, and eventually, UCL broke down a tired IC. The final score line of 5-0 definitely flattered UCL. There were many positives to take away from the loss, with many players in the team actually playing for the first time. All the freshers performed very well, with Leslie impressing the most. Despite being a novice, she played a great game, defending fearlessly and played some fantastic

balls.

The last game of the day saw the Men's 3s take on UCL Men's 3s in what would be the biggest IC victory of the day. UCL were on the back foot straight from the push back with IC pressing hard. IC found themselves 2-0 in 10 minutes, with Kenneth Chau and Alex Kirby both getting early goals. The defence also proved that anything the attack could do, they could do better, with Jack Tremlett and Alex Jones shutting down any UCL play. Another goal from Kenneth and a double from James Gok-saran put IC 5-0 up early on in the second half, which was also how the game ended. A good result, but the team will face much sterner tests.

Imperial College Hockey Club is the most successful university hockey club in London, boasting 7 teams. We have a vibrant social life and are always looking for new players. Whether you have never picked up a stick before, or been playing since you were in nappies, come along and give us a game. We meet for training on Monday nights at 6pm in the Union. See you then!

## Cryptic Crossword 1,498



### Across

1. Hit ball too hard, perhaps, onto bridge (8)
5. Shouted beat (6)
9. French stocks identical whichever way you look at them (3)
10. I write books adapted as a mosaic with four covers (5,6)
12. Quiet chick has no blokes, none. A rare occurrence (10)
13. Accommodation a little underwhelming (4)
15. Excuse the French fop (3,3)
16. Maria and us got mixed up with swordsman (7)
18. Tragedy consumes Swiss, wealth no longer valid (7)
20. Axe Roman losing extremities with condition of dry eyes (6)
23. More contained in Pascal's opera (4)
24. Whips bails off, surrounding current batsman with two points and having short leg (10)
26. Heir to strut with nothing at first, then impresses, say (5,6)
27. Be neck and neck, perhaps? (3)
28. Make day with brilliant bumper car (6)
29. Creepy-crawly wriggling about, worry mam! (4,4)

### Down

1. Keep busy and alternately concoct up final ploy (6)
2. Discharge, no longer living in Greece? (7)
3. Profound thoughts about holy hippos (10)
4. Washington, for instance, having significance and looking solid, for example (5,2,6)
6. Light echo being unknown (4)
7. Acrobat that can hold his drink? (7)
8. Saw peace-bringer at the end (8)
11. One annoyed with your marks perhaps may start to ask questions (5,8)
14. Stitch up brother's identification in material used for files (10)
17. Credited expert (8)
19. Secretly depart after positive scam on Democrat (7)
21. Endlessly violent situation missing primary lightning conductor (7)
22. Honour Spanish and meet up (6)
25. Banter extremely lacking after forced bet (4)

Interested in sport?

Drop by the office or email us:

We need contributors!

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

# SPORT

## IC Hockey friendlies yield mixed results

Two wins, three losses and a draw: pre-season matches offer some insight into the teams ahead of a new season

**Jason Ye**  
Hockey

Men's 1s 2-2 UCL 1s  
Men's 2s 0-2 UCL 2s  
Men's 3s 5-0 UCL 3s  
Men's 4s 3-7 RSM 1s  
Women's 1s 3-0 UCL 1s  
Women's 2s 0-5 UCL 2s

Wednesday 12 October was a mixed day for ICHC, with the 6 teams recording 2 wins, 3 losses and a draw. The series of

friendlies played against a combination of UCL and the RSM provided valuable experience for ICHC and an opportunity for the freshers to impress and show what they were capable of.

The matches at home did not end well for Imperial as Fortress Harlington failed to live up to its name. The day saw the Men's 1s take on their UCL counterparts and record a 2-2 draw, the Men's 2s lose 2-0 to UCL's M2, and the Men's 4s falter to a 7-3 defeat by the RSM.

The away matches at UCL's pitches ended a lot better. The Ladies' 1s re-

corded a solid 3-0 victory before the Ladies' 2s were humbled 5-0. The day ended with the Men's 3s avenging that loss with their own 5-0 victory.

There is a lot expected of the Men's 1s this year, but with the recent promotion and a large release of players, they are fully aware of how tough this year will be. The contest against UCL Men's 1s therefore provided an opportunity to try out a host of new tactics revolving around a new system of play. These new tactics, despite being physically demanding, saw IC take a slender 1-0 lead into half time, with

Ewan Quince scuttling a ball under the keeper's pads off a short corner. The workload required by the new system did have its drawbacks, with UCL hitting back at the start of the second half to bring themselves level. A moment of brilliance from Ewan got IC back into the lead with a well taken one-on-one. Sadly, this moment of brilliance was followed by a moment of madness from goalkeeper Vishal Dhutia, who let a simple shot straight in. The final score of 2-2 was a good result for both teams.

Seeing their first team draw left the

Men's 2s hoping they could go one better. With a squad of 14, including 6 freshers, IC started the game brightly. A host of surging attacks from the right piled on the pressure and IC forced a short corner. Unfortunately, a fumble with the stop led to UCL winning the ball and scoring a breakaway goal. IC tried to get back on level terms and played very good hockey, however, they could not stop a second UCL goal; 2-0 being the final score. It was poor fitness and inaccurate passes that let the team down, and

...Continued on Page 47



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Climate change, habitats and frogs  
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