

“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1499

FELIX



28.10.11

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949



FROM ENGINEERING TO F1

Felix interviews Formula 1 engineer Dirk DeBeer: [Page 6](#)

WHERE DID THEY ALL GO?

University applications fall by 9% across the UK – [Page 4](#)



TECHNOLOGY



At the International Technology Show
[Page 10](#)

MUSIC



KABLAAM: the Felix Music Nights return
[Page 24](#)

FOOD



Imperial Food Awards winners announced
[Page 34](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

What's on

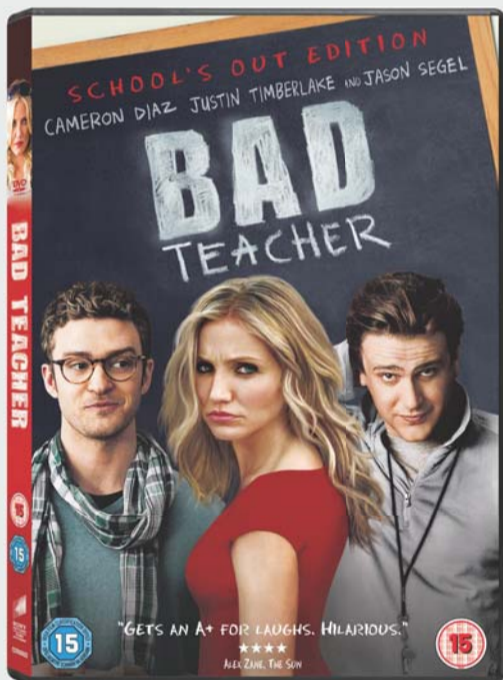
Special Evening Concert

The Coull Quartet will perform Shostakovich's Quartet No. 13 and Dvorak's Quartet in F Op 96 "The American". Admission is free – a free glass of wine will be available before the concert from 17:20 onwards.

Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road

Tuesday 1 November 17:45–18:30

Competition



Well lookie here, we've only gone and gotten ourselves two copies of *Bad Teacher* to give away on DVD. To be in with a chance of bagging yourself a copy, simply email felix@imperial.ac.uk, with the subject 'DVD PLS'. The winners will be randomly selected from all valid entries after 23:59 on November 1. The Editor's decision is final. *Bad Teacher* is out on Blu-ray and DVD October 31 courtesy of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment. While you're at it, head over to www.facebook.com/BadTeacher.UK.IRE for your chance to win a massive TV, just sayin'.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Felix Sports, trawling through the latest Wednesday results so you don't have to



This prized office trinket is pretty representative of the Sports Editors on a Wednesday evening – keep on trucking!

In recognition of Wednesday's Athletics Club Committee Bar Night, why not check out this week's Sports section? Four pages of reports, interviews and league tables. It's a hard, impoverished life down here in the office, and our Sports Editors and contributors have to keep pushing right up to the deadline to bring you the latest results and listings. Anyway, if Sports isn't your thing, there's always the Cryptic Crossword. And if that isn't your thing, well, I'm beat.

Editor

CLASSIFIEDS

Looking for Stroud Advanced Engineering Mathematics, Good Condition, Fourth Edition. Will offer £20. Reply to book@brkt.me

Garage in South Kensington requires painting, call **02078351710** for further information

Gorgeous fixed gear bike. Shiny black with metallic blue fittings. Offers in excess of £350. Email ac1507@ic.ac.uk

Jakobs Café (20 Gloucester Road) are currently looking for enthusiastic students with good English and presentation skills to serve their customers on a part time basis. Shifts: 12pm to 3pm or 6pm to 9pm (Monday to Sunday) Salary: £7/hour + food. To apply, send your CV to vidhulvinodh@gmail.com, or phone **07466632915**

Just so we're clear, Felix accepts no responsibility for services bought or sold, capiche? Good.

Lolcat of teh week



FELIX

Felix, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB.
Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk. Tel: 020 7594 8072. Fax: 020 7594 8065.
Printed by The Harmsworth Printing Ltd, Northcliffe House, Meadow Road, Derby. Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711.
Copyright © Felix 2011.



Editor-in-Chief Matthew Colvin **Deputy Editor** Charles Betts **News Editors** Sophia David Alex Nowbar **Reporters** Maciej Matuszewski **Features Editors** Katy Bettany Stephen Smith **Sports Editors** Indy Leclercq David Wilson **Sports Rookies** Gabriel Oppetit Johnny Wong **Science Editors** Kelly Oakes Alexander Karapetian **Politics Editors** Rajat Jain Joseph Letts **Business Editors** Beñat Gurrutxaga Lerma Nina Kearsay **Technology Editors** Chris Bowers Feroz Salam **Comment Editors** Tim Arbabzadah Samuel Horti **Arts Editors** Will Prince Eva Rosenthal **Music Editors** Iñigo Martinez de Rituerto Stephen Smith **Fashion Editors** Saskia Verhagen Alice Yang **Television Editors** Matt Allinson James Simpson **Film Editors** John Park Lucy Wiles **Games Editor** Laurence Pope **Food Editors** Anastasia Eleftheriou Michael Krestas **Travel Editors** Dushi Arumuganesan Chris Richardson **Online Editors** Chris Birkett Jonathan Kim Kadhim Shubber **Puzzles Captain** James Hook **Photo Editor** Miles Robertson **Copy Editors** Afonso Campos Carol Ann Cheah Philip Kent Jonathan Peek Deepka Rana Eva Rosenthal Annina Sartor

News Editors: **Sophia David**
Alex Nowbar

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

NEWS

Union first to provide response to NSS

Report unveils move towards better teaching and automated feedback

Maciej Matsuzewski

Imperial College Union has become the only student union in the UK to publish an official response to the National Student Survey (NSS). A poor performance in this year's NSS has been widely blamed for the College slipping 11 places in the Sunday Times League Table for 2012 entry. This was the first year of a new methodology, which places greater weight on the survey, being used to compile the table.

The report – written by Union President Scott Heath, Deputy President (Education) Jason Parmar and Representation Coordinator Andrew Keenan – summarises the NSS data in an easy to understand format and, in the words of Parmar, “provides 35 Union Recommendations to help

“... [there is] a genuine problem with the quality of teaching at Imperial”

improve the Student Experience at Imperial”. Parmar has written in his official blog that “the low results in the NSS reveal a genuine problem with the quality of teaching at Imperial” and added that he believes that “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.”

The NSS Response reveals that while student satisfaction with teaching is 83%, comparable with previous years, a large number of students believe that staff have not “made the subject interesting”. This is attributed to “lack of variety in teaching methods, as well as our institutional stubbornness to embrace new technologies”. To combat this, the Union recommends “transparent and formal training for lecturers with biennial review” and “solidifying the claimed link between teaching ability and promotion”. Parmar has told Felix that it is widely accepted that “the route to professorship is that you have to teach”.

Further improvements could be achieved through “visible, prominent and prestigious” student-led teaching awards being extended to every department to incentivise high quality teaching. Additionally, implementing a “You Say, We Did” campaign within each department to promote changes in teaching as a direct result of Student On-Line Evaluation” would create “a powerful tool for spotting individual problems and successes” and would make students “feel that they can influence their course design”.

The Response also emphasises the need for blended learning and technological innovations. Heath has pointed out that while “part of the University’s [full] name is technology” it has “too often followed” others in this area. He gives Imperial being one of “the last to have a mobile app” as an example of this. He believes that “you can’t be number one if you follow” and that it is therefore “time to lead”.

As such the Union has recommended that the “College actively encourage and reward innovations in teaching methods”, pointing to MSc in Strategic Marketing as a prime example. An appendix to the report, which is available on Parmar’s blog, outlines how handing out iPads to students on the course has improved communications between them and staff. It explains that “apps such as Goodreader allow students to make notes on the lecture slides during teaching (and) let them send annotations directly to lecturer so they can expand or explain points and send them after a lecture as a point for discussion in tutorials”. Coursework elements which incorporate “creating Wordpress blogs, making applications, building websites and filming videos” were also praised.

The report’s authors also believe that technological innovations may help the College in the area of Assessment and Feedback, in which it is currently ranked 163rd out of 168 by the NSS, with satisfaction at 54%. The Union recommends that “College and the Union work [together] on a major project: the creation of a feedback and assessment programme that simplifies and automates the process for staff and students”. The software would allow “a marker to instantly type or transcribe feedback for each student as they mark”. The report points out that this “would prevent administrative delay”, solve “issues of legibility of marker’s handwriting” and provide a “method of gathering reliable cohort-wide information”. Further suggested improvements in Assessment and Feedback include making “marker’s deadlines as compulsory as students’ submission deadlines” and regularly reviewing coursework to “ensure relevance ... and to seek improvement”.

“... transparent training for lecturers”

The report also supports students building up soft and transferrable skills to aid with their Personal Development, with Heath saying he would like to see the implementation of a “transferable skills course” and “more group work and presentations” as part of students’ degrees. Academic Support could be improved by departments allocating

Matthew Colvin



Imperial College Union aim to combat Imperial's low ranking for assessment and feedback in the NSS

“time and funding in Welcome Week to bring [academic] buddies together” and reforming the Personal Tutor system so that Tutors have regular meetings with their tutees and are “given access to information about their ... academic progression”. The report points out that the suggested feedback software might again be of use here.

To allow the Union to oversee the implementation of these suggestions it has been recommended that “the Deputy President (Education) and the Union President ... sit as full members of the Strategic Education Committee”. Queen’s University Belfast is currently the only other Russell Group University without student representatives on all academic committees. Heath has said that he believes that this change would be “very beneficial” and that student representatives are required “at every level” of the College educational structure.

Heath has said that the Response has, in general, “received the approval of senior College management”, though Parmar added that the issue of getting representation on the Strategic Education Committee was not looking “as promising as had been initially thought”. The Union is now in the process of meeting with senior staff in each department to discuss the proposals.

Sponsored Editorial

More student cuts Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers

More student cuts for Imperial students at South Kensington’s FRESH Hairdressers.

Men’s cuts £22

Women’s shampoo and cut and shake dry £28

Women’s shampoo, cut and blow-dry £38

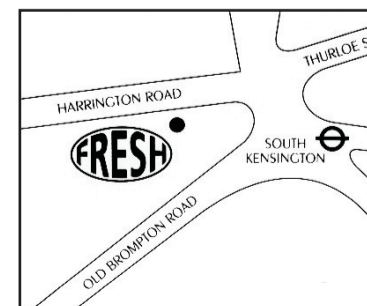
All of our cuts are done by highly experienced stylists.

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

We are only 70 metres from South Kensington tube station

To book an appointment, call

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



NEWS

News Editors: **Sophia David**
Alex Nowbar

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

In Brief

Pembridge Annexe to be demolished

Plans to demolish a disused annexe from behind Pembridge Gardens hall of residence in favour of a residential development have been clarified by the College Fund.

Pembridge Gardens, located in Notting Hall, has been operating at approximately 105 bedspaces since 2009, when it handed over its annexe to the College Fund. The annexe, deemed 'non-core and not required for undergraduate accommodation', has the capability of housing 32 bed spaces out of 24 bedrooms. Following its handover, the annexe remains empty and sealed off.

The College Fund aims to stabilise College finances by managing investments assets, such as the annexe and maximising their return.

John Anderson, CEO of the College Fund, says that, "it was handed over to the College Fund in 2009. This is a 1970s block which has had no refurbishment and is not fit for appropriate habitations so if it were to be continued then it would have been refurbished for that purpose."

"We have been working with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on a planning scheme. The idea is that we knock [the annexe] down and replace it with a townhouse and 13 residential apartments.

Anderson envisages that the development, which has been going through the planning process for two and a half years, will be completed in 2014 due to a 24 month construction period.

Dr Marko Krznaric, warden of Pembridge Gardens and Parsons House has stated that his main aim in terms of the development "is to ensure that the new development, whenever it happens, has no major impact of the living conditions to the students in Pembridge." "I have to say that the College and the Fund responded pretty well and it seems that all, or most of my concerns were addressed."

Matthew Colvin

PhD coffee row in Mech Eng

An experiment in the Mechanical Engineering department whereby PhD students have been allowed to share the academic common room (701) with staff members has ended after six months – with the eviction of students. In an email sent to the students involved, Mike Lowe, Chair of the Space Committee, listed a combination of contributing reasons why "the facility is no longer working out to be convenient."

Lowe accuses students of "taking coffee sachets and milk away from the room – presumably to make coffee elsewhere", and abusing the facility "simply to get free take-away cups of coffee." He adds that "this misses the intention of it being an informal place for people to meet colleagues." Lowe also argues that there are now too many people using the common room and that it has become too popular for formal small meetings, which limits access for others. One PhD student, who wished to remain anonymous, told Felix that "the reasons for the space being closed off to PhD students are ridiculous. The room is always mostly empty. The perception is that the decision was made by a couple of grumpy lecturers with no respect for PhD satisfaction."

Sophia David

University applications fall

Demand for science study steady in comparison

Sophia David
Alex Nowbar

After years of steady increases, university applications are currently 9% lower than last year's level at this time with 7000 fewer applications so far. Although the deadline for most courses is January, these figures from UCAS (University and College Admissions Service) are the first official application figures for students who will be paying higher tuition fees of up to £9000 per year.

However, since these figures only show applications up to October 19, Universities UK has warned that they remain "unreliable indicators" and do not yet tell the full story. A better indicator of the change in application numbers may be the fact that, despite the large decline in total applications so far, applications with an October 15 deadline (Oxbridge, and all medicine and veterinary applications) are only down 0.8%. On the other hand, the majority of these applications will be from high

"There is still uncertainty as to whether there will be a late soar in applications"

academic achievers who are most likely to attend university anyway despite the rising fees. Therefore, there is still uncertainty as to whether there will be a late soar in applications to match this small decline of early applications, or whether the rise in tuition fees has taken a greater toll on those students that would apply to courses with the later January deadline.

Toni Pearce, vice-president of the National Union of Students, has suggested that the current figures are a reflection of "the confusion caused by the government's botched reforms" which are "causing young people to at the very least hesitate before applying to university."

A survey commissioned by the BBC has also suggested that the higher fees will put off 10% of potential students in England. However, Universities Minister, David Willetts insists that, "it is important that no one is put off applying to university because they do not have information about how the new student finance system works."

However, whilst the figures show an 11.9% reduction in applications from

UK students, and a 9.3% reduction from other-EU students, applications from students outside the EU have risen significantly by 8.8%. Although the near trebling of tuition fees in 2012 does not apply to international students, their fees are already exceptionally high, often over £20,000. These latest figures reflect the consistently high reputation of UK universities worldwide and their strong appeal to international students.

Interestingly, whilst applications from male students saw a decline of only 7%, applications from females have dropped by 10.7%. This can also be linked to a higher decline in applications for arts subjects and public services, such as education and nursing, which typically have more female applicants.

Applications for science subjects, on the other hand, have generally not changed hugely with applications for both physical sciences and mathematical and computer sciences only down 1.6%, for example. On the surface, it certainly seems that students are now addressing the suitability, value-for-money and career prospects of university courses to a greater extent that will hopefully lead to wiser choices being made. These changes could mark the end of an era whereby simply obtaining a degree was regarded by many students as the important aspect of university, regardless of the institution's status and the course they are studying.

The UCAS figures also show that applications from people over the age of 25 have fallen by a staggering 20% and over the age of 40, by 28%. Meanwhile, there has been only a 2.4% reduction in the number of 18 year olds applying, suggesting that the rising tuition fees are not deterring young people from further study as significantly

"Applications for science subjects ... have generally not changed hugely"

as was expected.

Pro-Rector Professor Julia Buckingham told Felix that, "it is still early days in the admissions cycle for 2012 and we will want to hold off drawing any conclusions at this stage. Data from UCAS suggests the number of applications for Imperial received by October 15 were down by around 0.3% for 2012 entry compared to the same point the previous year. However the rate appears broadly in line with the level of applications received for 2010 entry, indicating that more information is needed for us to properly understand any trends in application rates."

Comedy Hoopla
at the hoop & toy
Wed 2nd 37 thurloe place, SW7 2HQ
November 7:30pm
The best comedians alongside the most exciting upcoming acts
just £3 Tickets available on WeGotTickets.com £5 on the door
This month's headliner... **Henning Wehn**
Germany's Comedy Ambassador

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

NEWS

CGCU Dinner brings in the engineers

Students turn out in force to celebrate start of term at Café de Paris

Alexander Karapetian

The City & Guilds College Union (CGCU) held their Welcome Dinner event along with an afterparty, on Tuesday 25 October at Café De Paris, marking their flagship event. The party attracted over 600 students, testing the 700 capacity of Café De Paris, with a three course dinner starting from 7:30pm.

Dinner tickets sold out before term began but afterparty tickets continued to be sold on the door. The CGCU President, Jacky Kwan, gave a traditional “Boomalaka” rally along with a short speech. The event lasted until 3am, seeing attendees from various disciplines within the Engineering faculty and beyond. Felix covered the event’s photography, which can be seen on the CGCU’s recently created Facebook page.

Attendees included former CGCU president He-in Cheong, various engineering

Alexander Karapetian



CGCU President Jacky Kwan (centre) takes to the stage to engineer the night’s proceedings

alumni and head of the Faculty of Engineering Jeff Magee, who gave a speech which included comments on Imperial’s decline in the National Student Survey due to student satisfaction levels. The event’s substantial success was largely set in motion by Jacky Kwan and his committee, being important for the CGCU as it begins

to report a long-anticipated upward trend in activity, interest and organisation following the various instabilities seen over the last two years.

The event carried an overall sense of elation for freshers giving an opportunity to mingle in the context of a formal dinner with traditions such as the “Queen’s Rules”

being applied. One first year Aeronautics student commented to Felix on the event noting, “it was great fun and I met some amazing people”. Others noted that the drinks prices were rather steep.

CGCU Chair James Fan was pleased with the turnout, mentioning “the faculty grant was well spent” and that a “substan-

tial amount of students benefitted from it”. Jacky Kwan said on behalf of his committee that they are “extremely pleased with the tremendous turnout”, thanking them for putting in “so much hard work in organising this spectacular event”, adding that he is “proud to lead the CGCU in this success”.



Some people know precisely where they want to go. Others seek the adventure of discovering uncharted territory. Whatever you want your professional journey to be, you’ll find what you’re looking for at Oliver Wyman.

Application Deadlines

- 2nd November for November 2011 offers
- 18th December for January 2012 offers
- 22nd January 2012 for summer internships

Discover the world of Oliver Wyman at oliverwyman.com/careers



Get there faster.

Oliver Wyman is a leading global management consulting firm that combines deep industry knowledge with specialised expertise in strategy, operations, risk management, organisational transformation, and leadership development. With offices in 50+ cities across 25 countries, Oliver Wyman works with the CEOs and executive teams of Global 1000 companies. An equal opportunity employer.



Features Editors: **Katy Bettany**
Stephen Smith

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FEATURE

Driven enough for F1?

James Cronshaw talks to Formula 1 engineer Dirk DeBeer about all things motorsport

I'm standing on a windswept airfield somewhere in Cambridgeshire. In the distance there's the scream of a V8. A black silhouette of a car is racing at great speed down the runway. Behind me a radio crackles and the car turns off the runway, heading to where I'm standing, engine warbling at each downshift.

Now the noise is even louder, people around me have fingers in their ears. Ear-plugs are a must here. The driver pulls up and kills the engine. Immediately a half dozen men rush over with modified leaf blowers to stop the brakes catching fire. They push the car back into a large gazebo they've erected for the test as a temporary garage.

Inside there are more men with laptops, a myriad of cables, a heap of tyres and an array of bodywork. There's even a spare engine tucked away in the corner. Geoff, the race team coordinator who is showing me around, explains that on test days like today they only bring the bare minimum required. Just behind me are two motor homes, filled with more equipment, and a small fleet of cars. Welcome to the world of Formula 1.

Today Lotus Renault GP are testing their 2011 car. The driver climbs out of the cockpit: it's Roman Grosjean. I smile politely at him. He doesn't notice me. Never mind, because today I'm here to get to know another part of the team that receives much less media coverage: the engineers. These are the people that make a team as fast as they are. Engineers for any team are expected to work evenings, weekends and are away from home most of the year, and yet the jobs are amongst

some of the most competitive in the business. So how do you become a Formula 1 engineer, and what's it like?

To find out the answers I've got an interview with an engineer. The test today is an aerodynamic one so it only makes sense to chat to someone from aerodynamics, preferably with an Imperial connection. Dirk DeBeer is head of aerodynamics at Lotus Renault GP and Imperial Aeronautics alumni. That should suffice. Here's what he had to say...

How did you get into engineering and Formula 1?

I was always interested in motor racing – my father was keen on it and took me to Grand Prix. That's how I got a love for Formula 1. I've always been interested in aerodynamics, so the two go together. I was always very keen – I did my homework and found out what the possibilities

"It's essentially a war between us and the other teams."

were and results said Imperial College. At that stage IC was very involved in Formula 1 aerodynamics, so I decided to go to Imperial and got involved with the motor racing society there, which was with Prof. John Harvey and Peter Beerman.

What advice would you give to an Im-

James Cronshaw



It's just like that film where Sylvester Stallone is a racing driver, except it's really, really not

perial student interested in getting into F1 engineering?

When I joined, the motor racing was a lot smaller, it was more basic, it was only individuals that were very keen. At that stage we even had F1 teams testing at Imperial College. You could get involved with that sort of thing. That has now changed obviously. To get into Formula 1 you have to excel in your degree; in fact, nowadays most people have PhDs for aerodynamics in Formula 1. Other areas don't require

PhDs as much.

What was your career path?

Mine was rather tortuous and probably not a typical one. While I was at Imperial I was the research assistant for the Honda team's tunnel and got a lot of contacts in Formula 1 and motor racing. I'm originally South African, I left South Africa because of the Apartheid. At the end of Apartheid I went back to South Africa, spent a while there and eventually decided I'd had enough there and wanted to get back into motor racing. I joined a team in America where I had some contacts. Swift Engineering - they did Indy racing.

Then there was a fall out between the car manufacturer and the team running the car. The manufacturer (who was head of aero while I was there) left and I ended up being the Head of Aerodynamics. So I was thrown in at the deep end really, and it was an unusual situation to be in.

I stayed there until Swift decided to pull out of Indy racing and make Formula Atlantic cars, which I wasn't really into. I was approached by Sauber in Switzerland who were busy building a new wind tunnel. They asked if I was prepared to come over and oversee the wind tunnel project, so I became the principal aerodynamicist at Sauber. I did that, but then BMW took over and I didn't really like that so I decided to see what other possibilities there were. I moved to Renault in 2008, but not as Head as Aero, I become Head after the then Head got very ill.

What is your role within Lotus Renault

GP as Head of Aerodynamics? As the Head of Department is the work more managerial?

I generally don't go to race weekends; there is an aerodynamic presence at the track of course, but I have to make decisions on which direction to take the team. There is obviously the reality as you get to certain levels there are more and more managerial aspects which you can't escape. The reality of being in charge of a group of people is that there's quite a lot of management to be done.

Is there a normal day in the office as Head of Aerodynamics?

Not really, there are certain meetings and discussions, for example, the strategic direction and stuff like that. These are things that are ongoing. There are discussions that are important: like the results from the previous day's test. There's certain standard events. We have tunnels running 24/7, gathering an enormous amount of data so quite a lot of time is spent actually trying to get the best conclusions out of the data.

Lotus Renault GP had a superb start to the season, but it's not been going so well of late. How does the team's performance affect you? Is that part of the job?

That is the reality of it. You're competing with a lot of other teams that have extremely smart people as well. Things don't always go into place quite as you

James Cronshaw



Six men. One car. No mercy. Or something.

FEATURE

hoped they would. We made a decision to go for an unusual configuration exhaust. You can't copy what other people are doing and therefore development is a bit more difficult, but when it works it is very rewarding.

What's it like working for Lotus Renault GP?

It's obviously not the biggest team, and therefore there is a slight frustration in that you feel you can't compete on a level playing field. It is a very friendly company – that's definitely a positive. It is a team where there's not a lot of politics – it's actually very friendly and people don't have chips on their shoulders.

So you would say it's not an overly competitive atmosphere?



Dirk DeBeer surveys the action

No, not really – all Formula 1 teams are competitive but that's just the nature of it.

Is there any internal competitiveness to get positions?

There is a bit of that. I think that anywhere you go in motor racing there is competition. Ultimately the people you are working with are driven; if they weren't driven they wouldn't be there. The reality is people are competitive.

What's the best and worst part of the job?

“The reality is, people are competitive.”

I think the best part of the job is that it's incredibly creative and you have the opportunity very quickly to see your creativity on the race track.

In contrast working in aerospace, I've spent some time in aerospace, you spend years working on a project, you spend months and months looking at the data and years waiting for it to make it into production. In F1 if we find something which is relatively easy to make on Monday, it can be on the car for the race weekend.

You see very quickly if it works. It's essentially a war between us and the other teams trying to come up with the cleverest idea. You have to be innovative. To get ahead you have to have a good idea like the forward exhausts. The down side of the job is that you see every weekend if it doesn't work. So the pressure's enormous.

I thank Dirk for his time and we head out of the motorhome and back to the car. During the interview a couple more runs had been done and the mechanics were scurrying around the car changing bodywork. Engineers are poring over the latest set of data. I stick around with Geoff's consent and watch the rest of the day unfold.

Nothing seems too rushed or panicked. This is a stark contrast to race weekends, maybe it's because they've spent weeks planning this day in every detail. I have remind myself that unlike the driver, the engineers and mechanics I'm seeing working on the car here are the very same that are seen on the television every other Sunday. It's getting late so I start to head home, in the distance I can hear that V8 scream again. The sound of three hundred brake horsepower per litre of displacement. The sound of Formula 1.

With thanks to Geoff Simmonds, Dirk DeBeer and Lotus Renault GP.

James Cronshaw



Roman Grosjean shows off his exceptional helmet hair

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

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

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

Dr. Shireen Quli Khan

Andrea Goldstone – Clinical Research Nurse

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

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

In brief**Secondary forests not as good as the original**

When it comes to biodiversity, there is no substitute for ancient tropical forests, scientists have found. Forests that are regenerated following a severe devastation such as fire or harvesting, known as secondary forests, are no match for their ancient counterparts. As a consequence of their great age, ancient/primary tropical forests have unique ecological features that secondary forests simply cannot replicate in a shorter space of time.

A meta-analysis of biodiversity in forests where changes in land use had taken place showed biodiversity dropped in all situations except for selective logging. The results were published in *Nature* last week. DOI:10.1038/nature10425



Ancient forests preserve biodiversity

Bio-logic gates

Scientists at Imperial have made bacteria and DNA into logic gates. They are the most advanced biological logic gates ever made. Logic gates are used for processing information in digital devices and are a fundamental part of silicon circuitry. Without them, the digital devices we rely on today would not exist. The scientists made an “AND” gate out of the gut bacteria *E. coli* and were able to combine it with a “NOT” gate to make a more complex “NAND” gate. They published their results in *Nature Communications* last week. DOI:10.1038/ncomms1516



E.Coli — not just for food poisoning

Correction

Last week **Farhan Abdullah** should have been credited as the author of the article “Sleep deprived doctors find potential cure”. I unreservedly apologise for this error – **The Editor**

Doggone drunks

Douglas Heaven investigates claims that alcohol does not affect behaviour

Despite the millions it spends on cultivating an image of arch sophistication, Stella isn't likely to shrug off its “wife-beater” epithet anytime soon — and especially not now it's become the tipple of choice for tosspot terriers. But the story of a Staffordshire Bull Terrier attacking a child after someone poured Stella down its throat isn't the only piece about alcohol abuse that stood out recently.

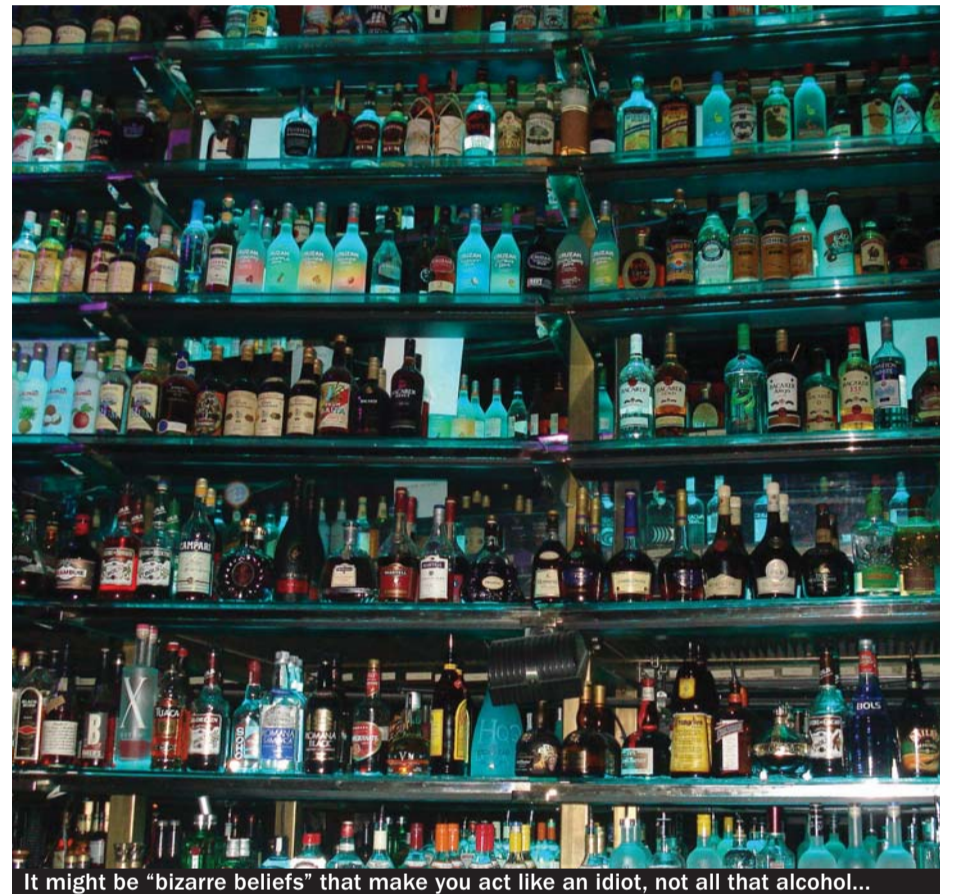
A couple of weeks ago, the online BBC News Magazine ran an opinion piece: “Is the alcohol message all wrong?” written by Kate Fox, co-director of the Social Issues Research Centre (SIRC), a not-for-profit organisation based in Oxford that researches and monitors social and cultural trends. SIRC conducts most of its research by reviewing social-anthropological studies. In the BBC article, Fox seeks to put paid to “bizarre beliefs and weird customs” such as the notion that “heavy drinking causes promiscuity, violence and anti-social behaviour”. A key claim is that “[t]he effects of alcohol on behaviour are determined by cultural rules and norms, not by the chemical actions of ethanol”.

Now, I'm no expert on alcohol — not scientifically speaking — but that sounds a bit odd to me. Having only just escaped the death penalty with a plea of diminished responsibility, I'm not sure that the dog would be not too pleased with the suggestion either. Looking for a second opinion, I contacted Dr. Robert Patton of King's College London, who is the Health Services Research Coordinator for the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust Addictions Division, and who worked for the Home Office Drugs Prevention Initiative as a consultant in the 1990s.

“I had seen that article and did raise an eyebrow at those comments”, Patton said. I asked him about the idea that changes in behaviour were caused by cultural norms rather than chemicals. “While it is true to say that there is an expectation of the effect of alcohol that does to an extent modify behaviour”, he said, “the fact is that alcohol is a drug that does influence behavior in many ways, particularly those concerned with impulsivity (and restraint), aggression and coordination”.

Even judging by the comments Fox's article received — over 1000 in half a day, many of them removed by moderators — SIRC's position seems to be somewhat controversial. Helpfully, one of the commenters linked to a British Medical Journal editorial from way back in 1999 that expressed concern about SIRC's close connections with MCM Research, a “commercial market research company” with several drinks companies as clients, including The Amsterdam Group, which numbers Bacardi-Martini, Bass Brewers, Carlsberg, Guinness, and Heineken among its members.

The BMJ also discussed SIRC's criticism at the time of the media's role in health scares (SIRC also apparently coined the word “risk-factorphobia” back then, but we'll let that



It might be “bizarre beliefs” that make you act like an idiot, not all that alcohol...

slide) and presciently asked, “how seriously should journalists take an attack from an organisation that is so closely linked to the drinks industry? If, for example, the centre attacked newspapers for exaggerating the effects of alcohol and thereby causing an unnecessary scare, could the centre put its hand on its heart and claim that it was totally neutral on the issue?”

“While an expectation of the effect of alcohol does to an extent modify behavior, the fact is that alcohol is a drug that does influence behaviour in many ways”

Keen to get a clearer idea of where the organisation was coming from, and whether the BMJ's concerns were still appropriate today, I spoke to Peter Marsh, SIRC's other co-director. Marsh told me that MCM Research was “not actually trading in its own right very much these days” but that the work now goes through SIRC. SIRC's website states that it is now the host for reports and materials of both groups.

But on the question of how SIRC maintained independence in its research, Marsh was very keen to establish that the centre hasn't done work for the drinks industry for several years, and that the last commission in this area “in a 5 year timeframe” was for Greene King on the role of the pub in the local community. That said, he also told me that Fox's recent opinion piece is based on work begun 15 years ago.

But what of Fox's assertion about the chemical effects of ethanol — or lack of them? Isn't it dangerously misleading to suggest that drunken behaviour is simply a cultural norm that people conform to? “Except it happens to be true”, Marsh said, reiterating Fox's observations, “in this country we expect [alcohol] to make us aggressive ... You don't get that in many other countries”. According to Marsh, “The only common chemical action is to make people go to sleep ... the idea somehow that just consuming alcohol compels people to go and beat people up is not supported, certainly by our reading of the cross-cultural evidence”.

Whether or not SIRC have conflicts of interest, it seems irresponsibly unscientific to draw such stark conclusions about the chemical effects of alcohol solely from anthropological evidence. SIRC's overall position — that cultural aspects of alcohol abuse need addressing — is uncontroversial. The UK certainly has a problem with alcohol and fresh ideas are needed, but a debate that begins with an equivocation over what it is to be drunk in the first place is not the way to go.

SCIENCE

Through the language glass

Rory Fenton

Could the language you speak affect how you think? The idea has long been shunned by academics as a relic of an imperialist, racist past when non-Europeans were deemed damned to low level thought by their “unsophisticated” languages. But not all who have held this view have been racist — haven’t we all at times thought something along these lines? Perhaps the strict order of German has something to do the country’s many famous philosophers and scientists? And surely the lack of a future tense, as in some languages, must affect their view of the time?

In his 2011 book *‘Through the Language Glass’*, linguist Guy Deutscher addresses these issues head on. And while he dismisses dinner table generalisations about German (really quite an erratic language) and future tenses (“I am going to leave next week” makes perfect sense and yet has no future tense), he points to convincing evidence that yes, the language you speak does change how you view the world, although perhaps more subtly than we might think. The influence has been shown in three areas- our perception of colour, space and gender.

Russian eyes and British eyes can see just as well as each other — so how on earth could they perceive colour differently? The question of colour and language was started by the 19th Century British Prime Minister William Glad-

stone who noticed something peculiar about ancient Greek poems — they always called the sea “black”. That this happened without fail made it much more than poetic imagery — there simply wasn’t a word in ancient Greek for the colour blue. It was later discovered that many tribal languages still don’t have words for certain colours, the reason being that, as with the Greeks, without artificial dyes there simply wasn’t any need for these words.

While it may seem strange to us that someone might see blue as just another shade of green, say, the English word “blue” seems equally strange to a Russian, who uses separate words to describe light, sky blue and dark navy blue. But surely we still see the same colours? Incredibly, no.

It turns out that when your language provides a separate word for a colour, it seems further away from other colours than if the two were linguistically on the same spectrum. So Russians don’t just see the different shades of blue, they really do seem like fundamentally different colours, unlike to a native English speaker, and they exaggerate the difference between them when shown a colour chart. This is entirely psychological, of course, but entirely measurable too.

Language also effects how you orientate yourself. While most languages use ego centric coordinates (in front of, behind, left, right), some use the cardinal coordinates of North, South East and West in everyday language. In English



Ancient Greeks called the sea “black” because they had no word for blue

your right shoe will always be on your right foot, but to some Australian Aborigines you could wear a shoe on your North foot and turn around to find it on your South foot. The fact that their language sees these as different setups means that their concept of which two situations are the same is quite different to those of us with ego-centric languages. A mirror image may not feel like a mirror image.

The effect of language on how we perceive gender is especially interesting to us Anglophones who aren’t used to inanimate objects having a gender, as they do in French and Spanish. It turns out that although the allocation of gender to a particular noun is random and varies between languages (“bed” is feminine in Spanish — *la cama* — and masculine in French — *le lit*); speakers actually as-

sociate human gender stereotypes with those words. So when French speakers are asked to choose from a list of words to describe a bed, they choose masculine stereotypes like “strong” whereas Spaniards will choose feminine stereotypes such as “delicate”. Incredibly, they make these associations even when speaking in English — their mother tongue has “tainted” them.

In this short, entertaining and highly readable book, Deutscher delves into all of these areas, concluding that people who speak different languages really do have a different perspective on the world, albeit subtly different. But most exciting is that so many of these revelations have been made in recent decades with advances in brain scanning techniques — the real treasures of linguistics may be just on the horizon.

Study links Facebook friends with brain regions

Alex Karapetian

A study by UCL researchers suggests that the size of certain brain regions in an individual may be linked to their number of Facebook friends. The researchers found a strong correlation between the number of friends and the amount of grey matter in regions including the amygdala, the right superior temporal sulcus, left middle temporal gyrus and the right entorhinal cortex. The three latter regions were not, however, correlated to real-world friend networks.

These regions of the brain are associated with memory processing, emotional responses and perception, notably in identifying objects as biological. A previous study suggested that the volume of grey matter in the amygdala is larger in people with greater real-world friend networks. This study suggests the same is true when referring to online friends.

Professor Geraint Rees, a Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Research Fellow at UCL looked at MRI scans of the brains of 125 university students who

actively used Facebook and performed the study taking into account the size of their real-world and online friend networks. A strong link was found between the number of Facebook friends an individual had and the amount of grey matter in the aforementioned parts of their brain. The findings were replicated in a group of another 40 students and were later published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

The researchers emphasise that this does not represent a causal link and it is not possible to determine from the study whether maintaining more Facebook friends results in greater volumes of grey matter or individuals that have larger brain regions are hard-wired to have more friends. Professor Rees said that “online social networks are massively influential, yet we understand very little about the impact they have on our brains”. Dr Ryota Kanai, the first author of the study added “the exciting question now is whether these structures change over time. This will help us answer the question of whether the inter-

net is changing our brains”.

Facebook is the world’s most popular social networking site with over 800 million global active users. The study also looked at how many real-world friends an individual had compared to their Facebook friends, and showed a positive correlation in that respect. It involved asking participants questions such as “how many friends are in your phonebook?”, “how many people would you invite to a party?”, “how many friends have you kept from school and university?” and “how many friends do you have on Facebook?”, allowing for an estimation of social network sizes.

The findings support the idea that “most Facebook users use the site to support their existing social relationships, maintaining or reinforcing these friendships, rather than just creating networks of entirely new, virtual friends”, Professor Rees added. Students on average had around 300 Facebook friends, ranging from 150 to 1,000.

Dr Heidi Johansen-Berg from the

University of Oxford noted the findings were intriguing but emphasised that adding a large amount of Facebook friends would not constitute a short cut to making people brainier. She added the critique that “the number of Facebook friends you have [may be] more strongly related to how much time you spend on the internet, how old you are, or what mobile phone you have”, concluding that “the study cannot tell us whether using the internet is good or bad for our brains”.

The Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging seeks to understand the brain in greater detail, with scientists studying higher cognitive function in order to identify how thought and perception arise from brain activity. Dr John Williams, head of Neuroscience and Mental Health at the Wellcome Trust said “we cannot escape the ubiquity of the internet and its impact on our lives, yet we understand little of its impact on the brain, which we know is plastic and can change over time”.

DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2011.1959

The Life Scientific

‘The Life Scientific’ is a new radio series currently being broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Each week Jim Al-Khalili, physicist and science communicator, interviews a different leading scientist, asking about their work, their life, and what motivates and inspires them.

The first scientist in the hot-seat was Paul Nurse, a Nobel Prize-winning geneticist and current President of the Royal Society. Nurse has had a rather extraordinary life for a scientist, from his initial failure to gain a place at university, to his revelation only a few years ago that his sister was in fact his mother, and Al-Khalili adeptly makes use of these events in the interview. However, it’s the detail with which Nurse describes his own research, including a rather poignant story of him completely botching his third year degree project because of the thermostat in the water bath, where I think the show comes into its own. For Nurse, and Al-Khalili too in fact, for once don’t seem frightened at the prospect of the show becoming, too scientific, too technical, too niche, and instead talk in real terms about things that are actually interesting. To some of us, anyway.

Next up was Steven Pinker, a science writer and Professor of Psychology at Harvard University. Here, Al-Khalili takes the listener similarly deeply into his interviewee’s area of research, and this time the show benefits from it even more. Together they discuss matters as important and controversial as human capacity for violence, and the meaning of life without a ‘soul’, and Pinker is characteristically unafraid to say what he thinks. Yet despite even being played audio footage of a rival openly criticising him, as well as Al-Khalili’s own gently probing questions, Pinker remains unprovoked, and this lack of tension makes for a much better interview.

Pinker also comes across as genuinely passionate about the fundamental concepts of science. He’s keen to emphasize the importance of a good experiment, and of removing the bias that society inevitably stamps on any results, and he’s obviously inherently a scientific thinker. Often he discusses aspects of his work, or science in general, unprovoked by Al-Khalili, and it’s refreshing to hear someone talk so eloquently and warmly about ideas that few people outside the scientific community recognise as important.

There are more great names on the way for the series, including astronomer Jocelyn Bell-Burnell, who discovered pulsars yet famously didn’t win the Nobel Prize, and Michael Marmot, a doctor who conducted some ground-breaking research on the relationship between life expectancy and social status. So why not have a listen? BBC Radio 4, 9am on Tuesdays, and you can iPlayer the previous ones too. Great stuff to knit to, if you’re so inclined...

Arianna Sorba

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Editors: **Chris Bowers**
Feroz Salam

technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Competition Corner

Bought a shiny new smartphone but forgot to budget for any credit? Never fear, as Vizz Africa have promised to give some lucky people pre-paid SIM cards, so you can make good use of your new gadget. While the new network may have a focus on very reasonable rates to call Africa (1p per minute to a landline in South Africa!), the costs for calling within the UK are pretty good too, costing only 4p per minute for a landline call, or 9p per minute to another mobile. So that credit is going to last you a while.

But enough figures, here's how you can win:



of calls, texts and internet
access for your phone

For your chance to win a SIM card with £100 worth of credit, simply email competition@vizzafrica.co.uk with the answer to the following question:

What was the title of Dappy's recent Number One hit?

- A. No Return
- B. No Regrets
- C. No Reply

The first 25 runners up will also receive a SIM card with £20 worth of credit.

The winner drawn out of the hat will be announced in the next issue of Felix and online at www.vizzafrica.co.uk/result.

Competition closes Wednesday 2nd November 2011

For full terms and conditions see http://vizzafrica.co.uk/about_termandCondition.php

VIZZ AFRICA
MOBILE

Pay As You Go SIM
Low cost international & UK calls

@ www.vizzafrica.co.uk

☎ 0207 177 3000

A Tech Show comes to town

Chris Bowers

Last weekend, the first annual London International Technology Show came to ExCeL London. With some big names in the line-up and bargain-price tickets, we decided to take a look at what the latest technology exhibitors had to offer.

The spread of companies represented was quite wide, ranging from online systems builders and sellers such as Scan Computers and Overclockers UK to software companies including Parallels, and even some magazines came along, for example Micro Mart welcoming visitors into a shed built for the occasion... All-in-all, it was set to be an interesting day.

First impressions however, were not quite what was expected. To one side was a Rock Band 3 playing area, and the other side hosted a driving simulator running on three 3D monitors which you had to sit in a hydraulic chair to see. In front there were a few machines playing the Battlefield 3 campaign. As it turns out, this was not just bad planning, and was quite representative of the exhibition as a whole. Gaming featured fairly heavily, as did 3D displays, and it was rare to come across demonstration computers set up with only a single monitor.

Slightly further in though, things started to align more with our expectations, with the Asus stand showing off some powerful machines in interesting builds. The centrepiece here was an Intel hex-core i7 based setup in a custom transparent case, with two side compartments for water-cooling. This was definitely the most interesting cooling setup I have ever seen, with each compartment hav-



Finally, the perfect place to hide my cans of Strongbow

ing its own waterfall of cooled water cascading into a pool at the bottom. If cooling is your thing though, the liquid-nitrogen overclocking session later in the day would have been right up your street.

At the other end of the spectrum, if high-end PCs don't float your boat, there were old arcade games available to play for free in authentic cases, and even demonstrations of a tiny remote control helicopter that seemed to be indestructible. At least, it suffered no damage from its several impacts with the ground from near the high ceilings of the room.

Other things to see and try included full 3D home cinema setups from Samsung, high quality headphones and a Top Gear simulator, in which you would be taken in a lap

round the Top Gear Test Track with The Stig driving.

Overall, as an "International Technology Show", I have to say it was quite disappointing, and did not meet with expectations. On the other hand, as an event at which to play some new games – including some on PCs you probably cannot afford – and see smatterings of new-ish technologies, it was not a bad day out. There could have been more exhibitors, and it could have been more focused on new technologies, but it was their first year, and I reckon it will definitely be worth a look when it returns next October. And hey, with free pens and a free copy of a magazine that would normally cost more than the ticket, where can you go wrong?

Snacks now, world domination later

Feroz Salam

Over the last two decades, we have more or less come to accept the presence of robots in our lives. They make our cars and process our foods - our manufacturing industry would not be anywhere near the same without them.

The robots of today, however, are a far cry from the imagined robots of science fiction – the problem is how to integrate an artificial intelligence into a robust humanoid shape that can process and interact with the world around them. Scientists from Munich and Tokyo have been working together to solve this problem, and recently released a video of their test prototype, PR2, fetching them a sandwich.

What is remarkable about this is that PR2 did not know very much about sandwiches when he went on his quest – he started off by looking in the kitchen fridge, and not finding anything matching the description there, he decided that Subway would be the best place to find one. Ordering the sandwich, picking it up and heading back home, he proves more than a little versatile at navigating the treacherous



Behold - WALL-E's demented and less animated cousin, PR2

corridors of a university campus.

There is unfortunately little detail on how much PR2 was figuring out for himself and how much was preprogrammed. The core of his abilities is built around a 'semantic search' engine, which allows him to build

relations between the things he sees in the world. For example, seeing cups in the kitchen would cause him to look in the kitchen if asked for one. To watch PR2's jaunt into the great unknown, take a look at <http://bit.ly/nIBDyY>.

Politics Editors: **Rajat Jain**
Joseph Letts

politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk

POLITICS

7 Billion? That's Numberwang!

Rory Fenton argues that population growth isn't a priority

This Tuesday, the UN is expected to name a child, somewhere in the world, as the planet's seven billionth living resident. The news has been greeted with alacrity by much of the same planet's media, most notably The Guardian, which ran articles such as "Why current population growth is costing the Earth". The idea that population growth is spelling doom for us all is as popular as it is old. It is just as wrong.

The obsession with population found its most popular spokesperson in the form of Rev. Thomas Robert Malthus who, in the late 18th Century, argued that if the poor of the world kept reproducing at a high rate (the poorest tend to have the highest birth rates) then the only possible result in a world of limited resources will be mass starvation. It was in part due to such ideas that the Irish famine was allowed to run its terrible course. There is some evidence to suggest that nature provides mass population reduction as a way of benefiting those left behind: incomes rose significantly in Britain following the devastation of the Black Death, which left one person in three dead.

World population has skyrocketed since the days of the Plague and Famine, leading academics to postulate that the next Big Disaster could well eclipse all those that went before it. The 20th

Century anti population movement reached its zenith in 1968 with the publication of Paul Ehrlich's 'The Population Bomb'. The book brought home to non-academic readers the potential horrors of overpopulation with the prediction that hundreds of millions of people in developing countries would perish to hunger in the coming decades. Its front cover proclaimed, "While you are reading these words four people will have died from hunger".

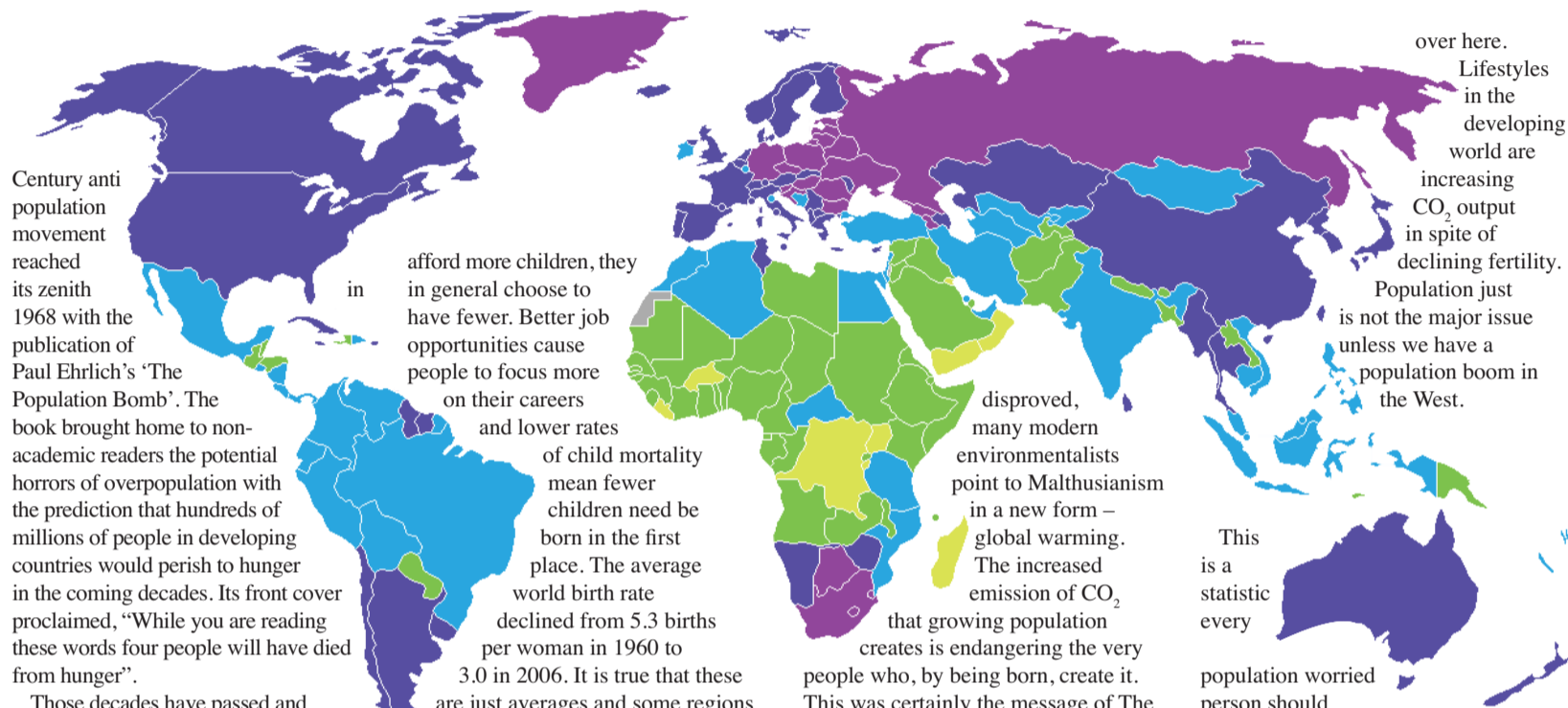
Those decades have passed and 2.8 billion extra people now walk this Earth, an increase greater than that anticipated by Ehrlich. The result? In the last 50 years, world population may have doubled but agricultural production tripled. Daily food supply per person has increased by around 25%. But the news is even more positive: population growth is beginning to tail off. As people get richer, despite being more able to

afford more children, they in general choose to have fewer. Better job opportunities cause people to focus more on their careers and lower rates of child mortality mean fewer children need be born in the first place. The average world birth rate declined from 5.3 births per woman in 1960 to 3.0 in 2006. It is true that these are just averages and some regions have gotten significantly worse. But, these are countries such as North Korea, Somalia and Zimbabwe where it is clearly due to political circumstances, not population. The data paints a clear picture – increasing global population is not leaving people worse off and is anyway reaching equilibrium, not exploding. But while Ehrlich's theory seems

disproved, many modern environmentalists point to Malthusianism in a new form – global warming. The increased emission of CO₂ that growing population creates is endangering the very people who, by being born, create it. This was certainly the message of The Guardian's articles: more people = more warming. Nonsense. More consumption = more warming, regardless of the number of people. I fail to see how a moral person can worry about the existence of a child in a large family in rural Africa who burns a little wood for cooking while we enjoy CO₂ intensive Western lifestyles

over here. Lifestyles in the developing world are increasing CO₂ output in spite of declining fertility. Population just is not the major issue unless we have a population boom in the West.

This is a statistic every population worried person should be made aware of: doubling the incomes of the world's poorest 650 million people would take the same resources as less than 1% of the incomes of the world's richest 650 million. Resources mean carbon. Concerned about global warming? Great, hand out condoms to bankers, not Bangladeshis. It's time to put the population myth to rest.



Is Democracy the best policy?

Jakov Marelic

Many people have argued that democracy is actually one of the most radical ideas in political history. To treat people as equals with equal votes sits well with most people today. We can also see the effects of ideas like these in the West in the last 300 years or so with mass education, rising standards of living, and the abolition of slavery, infanticide, child labour, serfdom and feudalism. There has also been greatly reduced infant mortality, religious persecution, racism, misogyny, superstition and war. The few wars that do occur tend to be tremendously more violent, but it is also a long-term trend that they are getting rarer.

Of course, the human race is not out of the woods yet. Over-population, climate change, epidemics and nuclear war are serious threats to civilisation which may 'do us in' yet. Starvation

and disease still kill millions every year.

Now, all this is surely uncontroversial and few people today would argue democracy is a bad thing. But it is interesting to see which groups oppose it and what their motives are.

Libertarians, anarcho-capitalists and others from the extreme political right are some of the most powerful and well-funded opponents.

This is unsurprising. These groups often argue that poor people are to blame for their own poverty. So the values of democracy which say all people, rich or poor, are equal are abhorrent to them.

The socialist Tony Benn summarises it as, "Before we had the vote, all the power was in the hands of rich people, if you had money you could get health-care, education and look after yourself when you were old. What democracy did was to give the poor the vote and it moved power from the marketplace to the polling station, from the wallet to

the ballot."

The danger democracy poses has been expressed by the right-wing economist Milton Friedman when talking about the relations between political freedom of voting and economic freedom of the market. He writes: "while economic freedom facilitates political freedom, political freedom, once established, has a tendency to destroy economic freedom."

"...the human race is not out of the woods yet"

Unsurprisingly, people tend to vote for things that will benefit them i.e. not unfettered markets.

It is interesting to see many of the institutions that conservatives favour are

usually dictatorial not democratic: the army, the navy, the church, the business firm and the patriarchal family.

Religious groups have also been known to oppose democracy. In their worldview, just as there are laws of nature like gravity which are true throughout the entire universe, there are universal moral laws. These absolute moral laws have been passed to us by the supernatural creator of the universe. Democracy is thus absurd because we do not need to make laws by finding a consensus of the people, we just need to read holy scripture.

Abdur-Raheem Green, a fundamentalist Islamic preacher, is worth quoting at length on this. "One of the major problems [with democracy] was that the leader would always have to pander to the desires and whims of the people in order to gain their support, thus a leader would not be able to take the morally sound decisions that a leader

should". It is not hard to imagine what kind of morally-sound decisions Abdur-Raheem is thinking of.

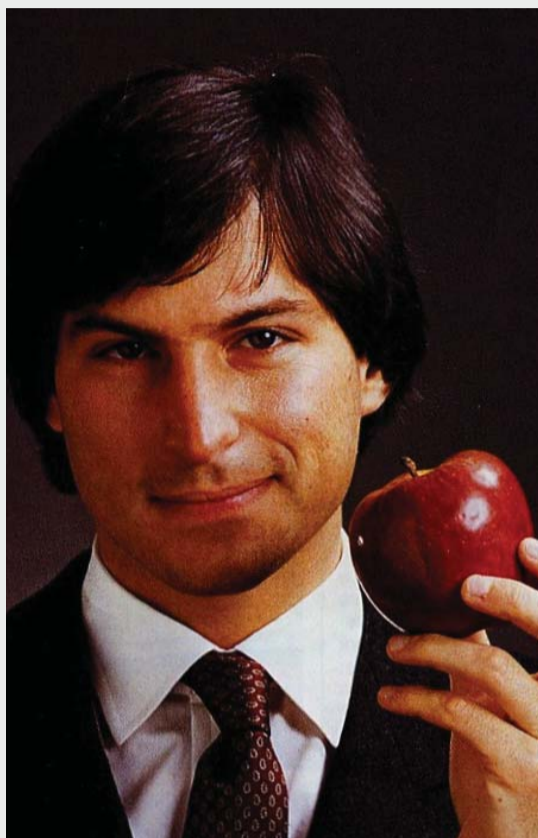
A (thankfully anonymous) Catholic author wrote on a recent Felixonline comment about their church's position on various moral issues: "These things aren't like government policy, open for debate and consultation to be brought into line with popular public opinion. [sic] These are tennets that have been handed down and safeguarded for over two millenia [sic] and frankly that isn't going to change any time soon."

Although having said this, many religious people support democracy and in fact Christian socialists in the UK were part of the popular front winning these rights in the first place. We must not forget that followers of religion are people too; they also want a happy, healthy, prosperous life and to be masters of their own destiny just like everyone else.

BUSINESS

Business Editors: **Nina Kearsey**
Beñat Gurrutxaga-Lerma

business.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Letter from the Editors

The death of Steve Jobs on October 5th prompted a tide of eulogies and dyslogies from journalists, commentators and techies alike, not least from the pages of Felix. Rather than continue in this vein, and pass comment on the debates around ethics and personal drive that took Jobs from orphaned boy to CEO of one of the largest companies in the world, in this edition we look objectively at Jobs' managerial style, and prompt questions about the future of his company, focussing specifically on the iPhone and its place in the smartphone market following the recent BlackBerry outage and dip in RIM shares.

As companies such as Apple take to outsourcing their manufacturing, a jobs and industry void is being created in the US. While Apple practises outsourcing – even endorses it with the slogan: “Designed by Apple in California – Assembled in China” – its strength as an American innovator, as exemplified by Jobs, may well prove to be a saving industry in its own right.

Though the US has seen off its recession it still suffers from a lack of growth. Still, the power of innovation and technology has been recognised historically as a large contributor to productivity growth in the US. It was American economist and Nobel Laureate Robert Solow who first drew the distinction between economic growth by increased labour and capital from that built on technical progress. However, despite demonstrating the importance of innovation, a common criticism of Solow's work is its failure to account for the reasons behind technological growth, i.e. the role of entrepreneurs. Making such an acknowledgement forms a link between investment and innovation and offers routes towards promoting such growth. So perhaps a better gift to his country than Apple and the ‘iDevices’ was Jobs' own embodiment of this link, as the entrepreneurial, innovating, “hardware-software Elvis”.

– The Business Editors

How Apple's iPhone stands in the current market, or: ‘How we Apples swim’

Shiang-Jin Chin

Just before the BlackBerry service collapse on October 10, the analyst firm Enterprise Management Associates conducted extensive research regarding the trend in enterprise mobile device management. This research concluded that more than 30% of BlackBerry users from within large enterprises are expected to move to different platforms within a year as a result of poor user satisfaction. Despite the growing popularity of the device in UK teenage market (largely due to the success of the BlackBerry Messenger application, BBM, which allows users to avoid instant messaging costs), the recent BlackBerry “black out” will likely accelerate the decline of Research in Motion's (RIM, the maker of the BlackBerry device) market share at enterprise level. The question is, can Apple's iPhone and iOS platform can now take over BlackBerry's piece of the marketplace following the death of its founder Steve Jobs, or will it instead follow BlackBerry's footsteps towards decline?

Recent statistics from Kantar Worldpanel ComTech news on smartphone operating systems' market share has shown that while Nokia's Symbian platform and RIM's market share in major countries are declining, Apple's iOS has failed to grasp the opportunity to expand. In fact, iOS have only made significant gains in US market share, while their market share in UK, Japan, Germany and France has dropped drastically. Conversely, the competing Android operating system has outperformed Apple iOS in every market, with Samsung, HTC, Nokia and Motorola as key players competing with iPhone for the smartphone market.

“Apple still manages to rake in a high profit margin from their products”

Still, Apple maintains its dominance in the mobile application store market. Figures from 2010 show the Apple App Store generated \$1.8bn in revenue that year - 82.7% of the total market. Though the competing Android operating system is more popular than iOS, application developers are more satisfied with the Apple market's ecosystem. A recent survey from US Yankee group and Skyhook shows that developers were dissatisfied with the lack of regulation in Android application market, bemoaning the piracy that eats away from their profit. Another survey from research firm IDC and mobile software company Appcelertor

flickr/Anthony Dunn Photography



Sized apples move through an apple packing plant at one of the California Apple Commission's factories during the annual Gala and Fuji apple harvest

showed that developers are shying away from Android, viewing the platform as still too fragmented, and seeking more reliable profits in the Apple market place. Statistics from Furry confirmed the view, in which out of 10,200 application projects developed in the 2nd quarter (Q2) of 2011, 72% were for Apple iOS while only 28% were for Android, indicating more development will take place on the iOS platform.

Apple dominates, too, in user satisfaction. A recent survey by J.D. Power and Associates ranked Apple above every other smartphone manufacturer in customer satisfaction, scoring highly in key areas of performance, ease of operation, features and physical design. A loyal fanbase is critical to Apple's continuing success – as suggested by the Worldpanel report, both Apple and Android's users are loyal when choosing upgrades, due partly to their investments in mobile applications.

With an increasing number of companies coming out with competitive smartphone devices, what differentiates iPhone from the rest of the pack will be its operating system. Here, Apple's weakness in terms of flexibility is actually what contributes to their strength. While new customers might be moving away for lack of product variability, little integration with the Windows OS, and expensive application costs compared to Android, Apple still manages to rake in a high profit margin from their prod-

ucts. Their rigid combination of the iPhone hardware and iOS software ensures those qualities of performance, ease of use, and physical design, that result in such high approval ratings with their users. These features, complemented by a dominating and domineering App Store, which necessitates that all applications gain Apple approval before they are listed to buy, are the reasons behind why, according to Horace Dediu from Asymco, though Apple shipped only 5.6% of mobile phone units in the Q2 of 2011 that their share of Global Mobile market profit was about 66%.

Apple's lost ground is therefore likely to be a result of their failure to attract new customers. Their much anticipated iPhone 5 release earlier this month is a prime example of the kind of failure that could see Apple fall lower in this area of the market: the presentation of a merely upgraded iPhone 4S did nothing to excite the non-initiate. The ultimate fate of iPhone and iOS depends on Apple's ability to entice new customers, as well as retain its present ones. The increasing power of applications to sell devices, shown for one by BlackBerry Messenger's securing of the teenage market for its host device, suggests a continuing need for the kind of innovation shown by Jobs. In the tug of war between the developer and consumer, whereby developer innovation to lead consumers fights consumer interest to prompt developers, the winner will be determined by its applications.

Business in History

The Cautionary Tale of King Phillip II, the 'Paper King' of Spain

Beñat Gurrutxaga-Lerma

Be it for ignorance, insecurity or psychological compulsion, micromanagement is an ancient curse no business or institution is safe from, and whose risks and consequences can only increase the higher the micromanager's influence reaches. Though a well-known managerial style – at least known well enough to have its own (and pejorative) name – no reliable statistical study on its occurrence appears to exist; nor does there seem to be any thorough study, psychological or sociological, of the phenomenon beyond, namely the economic consequences when it affects business managers.

This is indeed a surprising fact, especially since micromanagement has afflicted so many historical figures that this article could be filled by a list of their names. But, instead of boring the reader with such a dull curiosity, it is our intention to expose the dire consequences micromanagement can have by considering the best known example of such: King Phillip II of Spain.

Phillip II (1527-1598) is perhaps best known in the United Kingdom for being the husband of Queen Mary I, and for trying to conquer England with the ill-fated Spanish Armada. Perhaps less known are his working habits, constituting the most extreme case of micromanagement in history.

Phillip II inherited from his father, Emperor Charles V, the Crowns of Castile and Aragon, which included, respectively, the Americas and the Kingdom of Naples, as well as the Netherlands, Flanders and other former territories of the Duchy of Burgundy. Later on, he would become King of Portugal (1582). Each of these territories were subject to their own legal systems, inherited from the Middle Ages, and had little in common except their monarch.

Hence, to no surprise the Spanish monarchy had promptly divided its affairs into different councils, each of which was in charge of part of them – e.g. the Council of the Indies would take care of America; the infamous Council of the Holy Inquisition, of religious affairs, etc. Any affair had to be referred to one of 14 such councils. For instance, if the viceroy of Naples had something to report, he would have to send his letter to the Council of Italy, rather than to the King himself, and wait instruction from that Council.

Albeit somewhat an archaic managerial system, in theory it allowed the King to oversee the general policies of his empire, and leave all the minor details to the Councils.

However, Phillip was terribly meticu-

lous and demanding. Each Council was thus required to forward to the King, in written format, all the decisions that had to be made along with their recommendation, for them to be personally reviewed by Phillip. These decisions ranged from the most important policies, such as peace treaties or military decisions, to the pettiest issues, including any grant, patent, request, building licence ... even to the awarding of a university degree! In short, he centralised in his person all the bureaucracy of his kingdom; his desk was the final destination of all the paperwork of the Spanish monarchy: no wonder he was sometimes called the Paper King!

The amount of paperwork was so overwhelming he would devote to it most of his time. He woke up very early in the morning (around 5-6am), and almost immediately start to review the first set of documents of the day, carefully reading them and replying by hand. Sometimes his answers would be brief: "Indeed", "That is fine", "This pleases me a lot"; but sometimes he would unburden himself in long and pointless paragraphs in which he would correct, and even tell off and complaint about whatever he thought was not right.

For example, upon receiving a request from the University of Alcalá to grant a degree to some "Maximilian of Austria, natural son of bishop Leopold of Austria, in turn natural son of emperor Maximilian I and one of his sisters-in-law, a daughter of the King of Portugal", he promptly corrected the University by pointing out, in a long letter, that "that cannot be, for the wife of emperor Maximilian was not Portuguese but the only daughter of the Duke Charles of Burgundy, who was left in charge of some king of France who tried to take over her state. And look how good a tutor he was, that being the cause of so many of the wars that have happened since!"

"If I had to wait for death, I wish it came from Spain, for then it would never arrive!" – viceroy of Naples, c. 1570

Sometimes he would even complain about his own administrative system in those replies: "it is necessary for some things to wait, for I cannot take care



Phillip II of Spain (1527-1598), the 'Paper King' of Spain: an extreme example of a micromanager, and another with a penchant for black polonecks

of all of them at the same time. Today there came two men, whose affairs held me for two hours, and the amount of documents they left behind will take me more time than I have. I am exhausted."

His attention to detail was such that, on the commissioning and building of a palace, he wrote to his architects ordering them to place the kitchen assistant's quarters far away from the service latrines, as the smell could be unbearable.

The consequences of this obsessive attention to detail were ample. As Phillip himself complained, the amount of affairs he had to take care of usually meant huge delays in his decisions. For instance, in the 1570s, fearing a Turkish invasion of southern Italy, the viceroy of Naples asked the Council of Italy for permission to levy troops. Ten disquieting months passed before a decision was made – to call troops from northern Italy. In the meantime,

the viceroy is said to have bitterly complained: "if I had to wait for death, I wish it came from Spain, for then it would never arrive!"

Having so many affairs to take care of made most of his decisions incredibly short sighted; his lack of time to ponder an adequate economic and military policy (he would simply order more levies if his possessions were to be attacked) made him spend far more money than he had in such a way that, even though Spain was by far the richest country in Europe, it faced three sovereign defaults during his reign. A French ambassador would summarise this all by pointing out that Phillip's decision of being "king, minister and secretary at the same time is virtuous, but it leads to so many delays and confusion that all those who have to deal with the Crown despair."

The story of king Phillip II has many lessons to be learnt about the dangers

of micromanagement. For indeed, as it happened to Phillip, all micromanagers end up enslaved by their own obsessions; the bigger the responsibility, the less free time they will have; and taken to the extreme, the micromanager will lack the time to clearly and carefully think about his decisions – many of them will have to be delayed, and many more taken in a rush.

Furthermore, all micromanagers can end up being victims of their own systems. Phillip, for instance, managed to isolate himself from his own advisors: any request had to be forwarded in written format, and since the ones in charge of filtering them were his secretaries, they could safely dismiss affairs against their own interests, or bury them among the ample paperwork. In short, they became the most influential men in Spain and Phillip often appeared to be no more than an additional element of his own bureaucracy.



YOU HAVE TALENTS WE HAVE OPTIONS

FULL-TIME ANALYST

Deadline for application: 6 November 2011

SUMMER ANALYST

Deadline for application: 12 December 2011

SPRING INSIGHT

Deadline for application: 12 December 2011

YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE. At Morgan Stanley, solving complex challenges and fueling economic growth across continents is what we do. We offer you a structured path to success, providing you with the training, mobility and responsibility to make a real difference.

We currently have a number of exciting Full-Time and Summer Analyst Opportunities in our Sales & Trading, Investment Banking, Global Capital Markets, Private Wealth and Asset Management divisions. We also offer an Institutional Securities Spring Insight program.

To find out more about career opportunities, please visit www.morganstanley.com/careers.

Morgan Stanley

Morgan Stanley is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer committed to workforce diversity.
(M/F/D/V) © 2011 Morgan Stanley

Business Editors: **Nina Kearsey**
Beñat Gurrutxaga-Lerma

business.felix@imperial.ac.uk

BUSINESS

BlackBerry's Outage and its Aftermath

The Imperial Entrepreneurs report on the service failure that failed BlackBerry users, and its impact on both companies and the markets

By  **Imperial Entrepreneurs**
Máximo Sanz Hernández

During the evening of Monday October 10 you were possibly one of the frustrated Imperial students that couldn't get their BBM working. That was the day on which all BlackBerry devices lost their email and BlackBerry Messenger services. Some devices lost internet access as well, leaving many bewildered students unable to update their Facebook statuses or tweet any random thoughts. The situation stretched on, and became much more irritating when on early Tuesday morning these student BlackBerry users had no means to entertain themselves during lectures. Later that day there was an announcement by RIM stating that the issue had been resolved. This probably brought hope to those who had been yearning to have their fully functional smartphones back, however, right after that announcement the delays and outages spread worldwide. These outages would end one day later with all services being restored, but leaving many displeased users all across the world.

While the outage may have been annoying for students, it has had a large and relevant impact in many businesses, considering the large number of companies that rely on these phones to enable communication and email management amongst their employees. As much as this outage has negatively affected many people, right now there is probably no one as worried than Jim Balsillie and Mike Lazaridis, co-CEOs of RIM.

These two probably lost a lot of sleep

during the past few weeks, worried with thoughts that their company is going continuously downhill, making it easier for their primary competitors (i.e. Apple and Android smartphones) to take over their niche. The year 2011 has certainly not been a good one for RIM, but BlackBerry's decline had started much earlier. At one time, BlackBerry devices were the clear industry leaders, but ever since Apple launched the iPhone in 2007 the company has struggled to retain its market share, something that became even more evident with the release of the iPhone 4 last year. Everyone at RIM headquarters was probably hoping for 2011 to be the year they bounced back, with some new ideas in mind that could help turn the situation around. However they now find themselves in an even worse situation, caused by a combination of bad decisions and even worse luck.

Their first and biggest hope, the launch of their new tablet device, turned out to be a great failure. The PlayBook lacked the software and the functionality that most people expected, and was certainly not enough to compete against the iPad. RIM has already admitted that prices for the tablet will have to be slashed as an attempt to save the situation, since right now the device is barely selling at all.

This was the first piece of bad news that RIM got in 2011. The company was surrounded by bad publicity after the London riots that took place during the summer, in which the BBM service was used by the rioters as one of the main means to communicate. On top of this, a sharp reduction in profit and sales was announced about a month ago, which had a significant impact on the value



Mike Lazaridis, founder and co-CEO of RIM, the creators and manufacturers of the BlackBerry, at a developers' conference in San Francisco

of RIM shares. And now comes the outage, questioning the reliability of BlackBerry devices, something that had helped them build their reputation in the past few years.

Even though this hasn't been the first

“Since Apple launched the iPhone in 2007 [BlackBerry] has struggled to retain its market share”

BlackBerry outage, it will probably have greater consequences than any of the previous ones, and this is because of its timing. Regarding the interests of the company, there could have not been a worse moment for BlackBerry services to go down. The recently released iPhone 4S and the new Apple operative system iOS 5 present themselves as an alternative for all BlackBerry users affected by the outage.

There have already been direct revenue consequences due to compensations. RIM charges wireless carriers a monthly fee based on the number of BlackBerry users. Many analysts agree that some of those fees will have to be given back, and losses in the value of RIM shares are predicted. These short-term problems should not be the main concern around the company headquarters however; the outage has irritated many users, who are particularly displeased with how RIM has handled the situation. There was a continuous lack of information throughout the outage, and when RIM finally released an announcement saying that the problem had been fixed the situation only became worse. This has undermined BlackBerry's reliability and the company's credibility, and will make users are more and more tempted to switch to competing devices.

One of the main niche markets that BlackBerry could lose is large companies using BlackBerry Enterprise Service (BES), a feature that allows easy management of large fleets of smartphones. Some companies are no longer satisfied with BlackBerry and are starting to consider the advantages that

other companies provide. An example of this is DLA Piper, a law firm that is accelerating discussions about switching to iPhones and Android devices. As for the rest of the users, BlackBerry no longer presents the unique features that once made them so popular. The new iOS now includes iMessage, a service that allows all Apple devices to communicate. In other words, a clear and direct competitor for BBM.

There is only one hope left for RIM. They now rely on the shift to a new operating system (QNX), first used in their PlayBook. Right now, a successful transition is the only thing that can help them close the gap on Android and Apple OS. Let us hope that the company starts experiencing better luck in the future, otherwise we could be witnessing the fall of what once was an empire.

Remember! 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 organized by Imperial Entrepreneurs! Sign up for the mailing list at:

www.imperialentrepreneurs.com

Timeline BlackBerry Outage

- **11:00, Monday 10 Oct.** RIM admit service outage in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) following a switch failure at their datacenter in Slough
- **9:00, Tuesday 11 Oct.** RIM apologise for downtime and announce their servers are functioning again
- **Eve., Tuesday 11 Oct.** RIM confirm disruption to the BIS service spreads from EMEA region to India and South America
- **Wednesday 12 Oct.** RIM tell customers they are working on the problem, as outage spreads to North America
- **15:00, Thursday 13 Oct.** RIM resume BlackBerry services, but warn of continuing disruption. Co-CEO Mike Lazaridis apologises for were longest outages in history

Comment Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**
Sam Horti

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COMMENT

FELIX

Imperial versus university applications

As reported extensively by the media this week, university applications have seen an approximate drop of 9% from last year. In the wake of such a startling figure (especially in comparison to the year-on-year rise that the sector has recently enjoyed), questions must be asked regarding the potential implications that this may have on Imperial College.

The answer to such questions is relatively simple however. The decrease in applications that we have seen will have primarily little effect on the College – as long as Imperial continues to publicise how exactly it can help (primarily UK-based) students from deterring.

Schemes are already being implemented to ensure that students will continue to apply to Imperial, such as the new and more extensive bursary scheme.

However, an overwhelmingly negative perception still exists for many across the country with regards to tuition fees in general. Despite widespread advice from governmental bodies urging prospective students not to be dissuaded from applying to university by the rise in tuition fees, there still exists a distinct thought in the minds of those considering higher education as a real option.

This thought, whether held by friends or family, is that students will be loaded with a staggeringly large student loan to pay back following graduation. This negativity follows from a generation that received higher education for next to no cost.

It is this perception that Imperial must tackle if it is to retain its impressive application rates. The bursary scheme must be publicised in the coming weeks as prospective students continue to consider their path for the future. Focus need not be primarily focused on bursaries, however. The fact that contributions from alumni continue to enable students to embark on their studies here is a fact that should be promoted as widely as possible.

Nevertheless, it is also worth remembering the rise in applications from overseas. Imperial is sure to continue encouraging international students to apply, ensuring no real danger from reduced demand. We must also consider the fact that applications for science based courses has seen a lower percentage drop in comparison with other subjects.

Including international students, Imperial is probably one of the safest universities in light of the announcements. We should not expect campus to become a ghost town overnight. We should only start getting worried once the Union is empty on a Wednesday night.

A Traveller's Tale



Luke Sheldon

Last week, the decade of legal battles over half of the traveller site at Dale Farm culminated into a physical one. Tony Balls, the Tory leader of Basildon council, has defied this eviction on the grounds of “fairness” – that the law must apply to everyone – which has been backed by his party’s leaders. However, this neglects the different starting positions: travellers are not treated like everyone to begin with. It’s like making someone start a game of monopoly with half the money of everyone else and then complaining that it’s not fair when they start nicking money from the bank when people aren’t paying attention.

Travellers are persecuted in this country; no one wants them as neighbours. This has led to the UK being short of thirty thousand traveller pitches. Councils have a set quota of traveller sites that they must provide; one which they tend to ignore. The government, instead of strengthening this quota, to make sure enough sites are available, are looking at abolishing it. This will stop the creation of new sites. Travellers repeatedly try to establish their own sites, but whereas the settler community (us) have around 20% of our planning proposals rejected, travellers have 90% of theirs rejected. The lack of planning permission granted forces travellers to build their site and ask for permission later.

Retrospective planning permission is not unusual. It is regularly given, and it is only through our institutional racism that travellers rely solely on it. Furthermore, the details of this case highlight the hypocrisy of Basildon council. The reason planning permission is not being granted is because it is apparently greenbelt. However, before the traveller’s arrival, this site was a scrap yard – not exactly green pasture. In fact, the council laid the hard ground, so the travellers did not carry out the original development. Also, currently, Basildon council are granting planning permission for development on agricultural land nearby, highlighting the double standards of their greenbelt argument. Adding



Is nobody going to comment on the great tiling of the street? Puts Coronation Street's cobbling to shame

insult to injury, the Tories are currently undermining the preservation of greenbelt land through changes in the planning laws, whilst so violently protecting the “greenbelt” of Dale Farm.

Even with the obvious double standards of this eviction the travellers were prepared to move if the council found them a local site. Even though local MEP Richard Howitt found a paid for site from the Homes and Communities Agency, the council have refused permission. They will not allow the travellers to stay in Basildon. This goes far beyond planning laws; it is pure racism. Currently, neighbouring councils are digging up roadsides to prevent the travellers stopping there. All the council has done is offer them housing, an insult to their culture and way of life. This has caused both the UN and Amnesty International to condemn this eviction with comparisons to Zimbabwe, as no culturally appropriate alternative is given. They cannot legally stay and they cannot legally travel.

Although this is the largest traveller site in Europe, I have been there and it’s tiny. The illegal part is two or three football pitches in size. The fact that it’s the largest shows only how little Europe accommodates its traveller community. Also, at a time of austerity the cost of eviction is thought to be approximately £20million, making this a very expensive scrap yard.

This may be shocking in its persecution of a minority, but it is also inspiring. For the first time large contingents of the settler community have supported the travellers. Ordinary people were locked to the caravans, including Ann and Myra, both in their late 70s, who are completely repulsed by this racist act.

The day of action resulted in physical violence between the supporters and police (though I think Ann and

Myra had little involvement in that side of resistance!), but if you condemn this response then try and imagine whether you would not want physical support when being removed from your home. All action was done with the knowledge and support of the travellers and the support was commendable. Two people ended up spending Wednesday night with their arms in concrete barrels as the temperature nearly reached freezing, with imminent arrest once removed from the concrete. However, it didn’t have to be this way. Even if it was felt vital to remove them from Dale Farm, a traveller site could easily have been built in the vicinity. With this the travellers would have left peacefully and quickly. The violence seen on the TV could have been prevented. Instead, our hatred of travellers causes councillors to chase them out of town at high human and financial expense to preserve the votes they would have lost if travellers stayed.

When I discuss Dale Farm with people, upholding planning law is always given as the first reason for evicting them. However, quickly the discussions degenerate into false assumptions on the welfare dependency of travellers (not an issue I’ve ever heard outside of ill-informed debate), how they live and how they would not want travellers in their own back yard. When discussing this issue, please replace the word traveller with African, Polish or Chinese and see whether you think these arguments are appropriate and not utterly racist. Whatever arguments you hear on planning permission, please remember that when it comes to travellers, it is never truly about planning permission. It is because they do not live like us and we do not like that. If we cannot accept them as part of our society then they will be forced to live outside of it, breaking the law as a necessity.

Want to write an anonymous comment about how much Felix sucks? Then go to: felixonline.co.uk

Just to let you in on a secret, the views expressed here are the opinions of the authors, not Felix

COMMENT

There are more things in heaven...



John Raftery

I'm talking about deep intimacy, beauty that stops you in your tracks, and pints with a good mate

In last week's edition of Felix, the comment piece 'The Hell of Heaven' asked this question to those who hope for an afterlife: "Would you enjoy heaven?" In this article, I'm aiming to clear up two common misconceptions about what Christians believe by offering a picture of what the Bible actually says about our eternal future. By the end of it, I hope that you'll have a good impression of whether or not I think I'll enjoy heaven, and why. NB: I'm not addressing the question of whether there is life after death, because that wasn't the question asked by last week's article. However, that could be the subject of some fruitful debate in the future.

Many people brought up in the UK will be at least vaguely familiar with the Christian perspective on the afterlife. When asked what heaven is like, many people talk of a soul leaving the body and floating away like a balloon to an ethereal, static and mind-numbingly boring existence. By contrast, the Bible's picture of eternity is much more real and concrete than the Platonic view we're often presented with. The Bible asserts that God will bring about what Christians call the New Creation: a physical place that is similar to the old universe, but better. Similarly, we won't

spend all eternity as body-less entities; in the New Creation we're given new bodies that are similar to the old ones, but better:

The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

(1 Corinthians 15:52-55, The Bible)

Secondly, we won't spend our time endlessly prostrating and grovelling. In this life we go about our work, build friendships, have adventures and experiments. These good things continue in the New Creation, except that all the drudgery and frustration of work will be banished. The phrase "all good things come to an end" is turned on its head: no good thing comes to an end. Think of the very best that this world has to offer; that which makes life worth living. I'm talking about deep intimacy, beauty that stops you in your tracks, and pints with

a good mate. If there is a God, all these things were his idea! So if God has gone to the trouble of giving us such good things to enjoy, why would he then take them away when we get to heaven?

I could never express it as well as C.S. Lewis, so I'll finish this article by quoting the final paragraphs of the last book in *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

"There was a real railway accident," said Aslan softly. "Your father and mother and all of you are – as you called it in the Shadowlands – dead. The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning."

And as he spoke he no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page; now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the great story which no one on earth has read, which goes on forever, in which every chapter is better than the one before.

The real effects of the new Bar Nights policy

In response to the comments made by Michael Foster last week, on the new responsible retailing of alcohol policies and how they have affected the way in which bar nights are run, I would like to clear a few things up.

Yes, the RSMU did run a bar night during Freshers' week, though to say that this event was so successful and highly attended that it made us want to hold another is misleading, and only forms half of the story. The RSMU Halloween Bar Night (27.10.11) is an annual event, and was planned before the start of term. The high involvement that we have seen this year is a culmination of several efforts, and cannot solely be attributed to one of our Freshers' events.

The new system introduces a shift in the way that clubs use bar nights since they do not allow clubs, and their students, to reap the previous benefits of cheap drinks alongside profitability. Having run a capacity event under the new system, I can tell you that, even with the highest ticket prices ever charged for this particular event, subsidies were still required in order to break even.

To say that our event was a success is true, since it provided a great night out for those attending, but to say that this is a result of the new system is false. There is no way for clubs to take any profit from a bar night without charging more than the standard price for drinks, and in total the takings from the event did not match its expenditure.

The sad fact is that these regulations also seem to be set in stone from here on out. Having spoken to Michael (DPFS) and Monya (DPCS) on several occasions about this issue, we eventually saw the financial basis behind these decisions. In short, the previous system cannot be maintained into the coming year without the Union taking on a loss, which it cannot sustain. Changes had to be made.

RIP bar nights; you will be sorely missed.

Richard Simons
RSMU President

Abandon the old grade system



Richard Oberdieck

You think that you are too mediocre to stand out from the crowd in the new system

Last week, it was announced that UCL is going to change their grade system towards the American model. They are abandoning the first, 2:1 etc. leading Imperial students to ask: is this also going to happen to us? The Union immediately said: We won't allow that to happen because then this will become a (more) competitive university. Wow, what an argument. I mean, seriously, we aren't in Kindergarten here, we are at a university with a widely known and appreciated reputation. We are at the forefront of research and all the companies in the world are standing in line to get a hold of our graduates. You think this isn't competitive? Ask yourself: why am I studying here? It is not (entirely) because you love engineering, science, or medicine. It is because you want to be the best and therefore you study at a university which can give you a degree that states that you are the best. One that shows that you went through 4 years (or in medicine even more) of hell, of sweat and tears, of the problem

sheets and course works, only to get a degree on which it says "Imperial College London". That is why you study here.

Don't tell me that employers will be confused and won't appreciate your degree. Because a) you still come from Imperial College and that doesn't change a bit, and b) in the new system, employers can more easily determine your worth. Let me put it like this, how do employers differentiate between a "good" and a "bad" first? A first is the highest degree you can get here. It states that you are one of the best in your subject. But if over 60% of graduates get a grade that high (or almost that high), how can you tell who really is the best? These are things that employers want to know. I think that if you ask Shell, McKinsey, or BCG what they think of the idea of making the university more competitive, whilst introducing a grade systems that allows them to differentiate between students, they would be all for it. Don't insult the intelligence of these companies by saying they wouldn't understand another

grade system (which, by the way, is already used in the US, a country not unimportant in the job market).

Be honest, you don't want the grade system changed because you think it will mean that your grades will go down. You think that you are too mediocre to stand out from the crowd in the new system. If you admit that there is a discrepancy between the grades that you get and your actual "quality", then yes, you can complain about this being fixed, but you can't seriously blame the university for fixing it. The only person that is to blame is you, because you don't study hard enough to merit a "real" first.

So please, let's face reality: there is no real point in arguing for the old system, because we are already a very competitive university and companies will appreciate this move. It introduces better differentiation and more honesty, and if we are objective and rational, that's what all of us want. The new system won't be perfect, but the fact that it will improve matters should be a good enough reason for introducing it.

Comment Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**
Sam Horti

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COMMENT

Good riddance Gaddafi



Laurence Pope

Unless you've been living under a rock, or hiding out in a sewer for the last week, you'll know that everyone's favourite Northern African whack job Muammar Gaddafi is dead. To this I say – good riddance. I shall miss you about as much as I do my ingrown toenail.

Now, unless you're a Libyan rebel, you might find this viewpoint somewhat offensive. 'Surely', I see you write in the Comments section, 'this man should have been put on trial? Does this not mark the beginning of a doomed, blood-thirsty Libyan government?' Well, no, it doesn't.

'But surely an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind?' I'll come to this point later, but Gandhi's argument isn't going to sway me on this issue. Gaddafi's dead; and I, for one, will not be shedding any tears or laying down criticism against either the National Transitional Council or the rebels that captured Sirte.

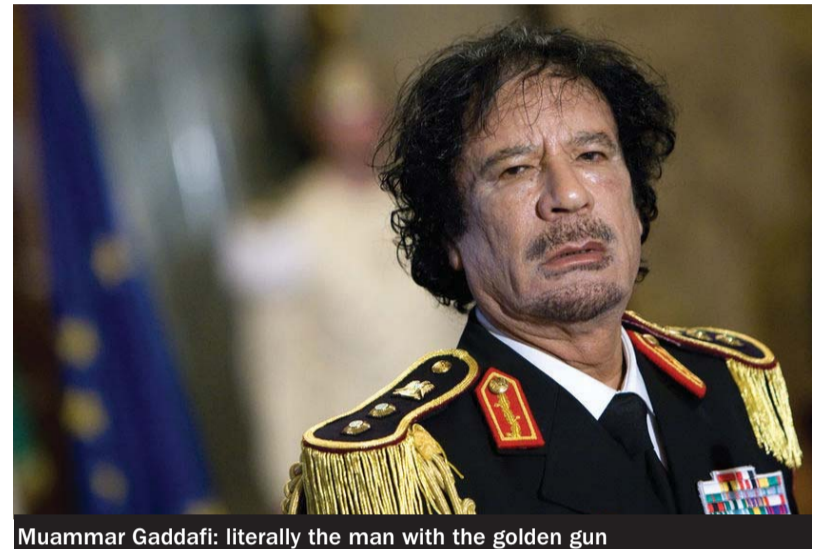
This man was one of the monsters who ruled over Libya for over four decades. One should appreciate that he was not alone; no one human can run a country without advisors, and Gaddafi had a lot of them. At the end of the day though, the buck stopped with him. He was, in effect, the system, and all the atrocities committed both in Libya and throughout the world via Libya-sponsored terrorism lead back to him.

With a pained expression I read the comments on the BBC page when it

was announced that Gaddafi had died in crossfire: 'So this is how Libya wishes to start its new era of freedom.....with a murder and a lie. Interesting', 'So we liberate Libya for a Government which is blatantly lying despite all the evidence on the Internet? This is not a good start to a free Libya.' Oh God, stop being so white and middle class, it's hurting my brain. I will say that it's blatantly obvious that Gaddafi was deliberately shot by rebels and not caught in crossfire; his autopsy revealed he was killed by a bullet to the head, and this would have occurred whilst in the midst of some rather angry Libyans. The NTC should have just gone ahead and admitted that passions had run wild – no one with a shred of intelligence would begrudge them.

This was not the killing of a tyrant by a truly organised fighting force. This was the killing of a tyrant by the very people he'd oppressed and beaten down, people whose emotions were running sky-high when they found him hiding like a rat in a sewer (oh the irony). Many of these rebels would have lost family and friends to the man now begging for mercy at their feet. If I'd have been in their shoes, I can't say I'd have been prepared to argue for his life.

An eye for an eye does make the whole world blind, it's true. But in this case, I firmly believe that a bullet to the head was the correct medicine to prescribe. No court he could have been tried in would have been fair. You are a fool to think anyone would pass a completely



Muammar Gaddafi: literally the man with the golden gun

impartial, unbiased judgement on him if he remained in Libya. Guilty was the only judgement that could ever have been passed, and the whole thing would have been a complete and utter farce – one only has to look at Mubarak's trial to see what would happen. A protracted trial would have only delayed progress; a clean kill immediately cleared the way. No Gaddafi, no old system, simple as. He died before he could leave another impression; he did not die a martyr. The whole world, including his old supporters, saw him hide like a rat and killed like a dog – so much for fighting to the last. On 20 October 2011 his former government was completely and utterly annihi-

lated.

Am I trying to promote violence and capital punishment? No. In general, I oppose any unnecessary wars and fighting, and I waver when it comes to execution by the state. But I am not so morally inflexible that I can't see that sometimes war is a painful necessity, as it has been throughout the Arab Spring. Change for the good would have never occurred otherwise. And whilst many might see Gaddafi's death as something that ought to have been avoided, I can't. His death marked a clear-cut end to the war, and now Libya can rise up with a clean slate and begin anew. Our hopes will be with them.

This was the killing of a tyrant by the very people he'd oppressed and beaten down

Offended? I really don't care...



George Howard

In just over a year at this great institution, I have never felt driven to write to Felix to express my views in response to any article. But I was genuinely riled this week by the comments and general sentiment towards a critique of the show that encapsulates all that is wrong with British Society: The Jeremy Kyle Show.

Now it was the pure and unadulterated hypocrisy of a number of people who commented online that perturbed me. From comments such as 'you classless moron, you' (I suggest a lesson in English grammar before you publish your next column...) and '[makes me] ashamed to be at Imperial', it appeared that a handful of self-righteous liberals had come out in force to oppose an article that made some bloody good points.

It is this armchair socialism that really drives me up the wall. Here we have people, enrolled at an elite University, and probably typing on their brand new

Macintosh computer whilst sitting in their west London house, who feel they need to be offended by proxy for the guests that feature in this show.

If you have such qualms with the class system of the UK, why are you still enrolled at a university that has as its modus operandi "Scientia imperii decus et tutamen." (This, for those of you not fortunate enough to have had a classical education bestowed upon them, means: "Knowledge is the adornment and protection of the Empire".) Enough said.

Just watching one episode of the aforementioned show will highlight the appalling situation that ten abysmal years of serially incompetent socialist Labour government has created. People in a cycle of poverty, living drug and alcohol addled lives whilst fuelling reckless and unsustainable consumerism funded by the honest, hardworking taxpayer. You only need to drive through a

council estate (yes, I did do this once) to notice that they have the highest density of satellite dishes per street and the highest number of new cars (with blacked-out windows of course) than any other residential area; I wonder where all the money comes from?

The crux of this problem is in attitude. What we have here is a generation of people who feel they have some God-given entitlement to a roof over their heads, filled with all the trappings of modern consumerist culture, whilst they need not lift a finger to contribute to a society that is subsidising their excesses.

So yes, indeed, I do 'blame the individual'. It is their life to live, and their life that they have royally screwed up. I wonder how many of them would be proclaiming the greatness of the government if they ever made it anywhere in life.

And finally, to those who try to palm

off the blame to the parents of these people. Can you seriously be advocating that parents are the sole influence on their children? There must come a point when the child develops sufficient sentient faculties to make the connection between their parents' mistakes and their own situation. What we need here is a society that, rather than encouraging this spiral of poverty, inspires a generation to better things. And I can tell you that benefits definitely won't achieve this.

Anyway, returning to the article. Yes, it may have been a tad offensive. I might even concede that there may be some at Imperial who were affected by the issues raised in the show. However, the majority of normal people read the article, formed an opinion on it, and got on with their lives. So, to those out there who were 'fuming' and 'apoplectic with rage', get over yourself and go and do something worthwhile with your life.

Can you seriously be advocating that parents are the sole influence on their children?

COMMENT

IC Debating Society asks ...

“Should public sector strikes and mass action be stopped?”



Yes - James Clough

“It is unfair and unethical for the public sector to hold the country to ransom”

Public sector workers do the jobs that we deem to be so important that taxpayers cannot exempt themselves from paying for them. We rely upon the NHS, police force and public transport every day; they are essential parts of our lives and without them society would be completely different.

Public sector jobs are fundamentally different to private sector jobs because the customer – the taxpayer – cannot decide to stop paying if they get service they do not like. If all the firemen go on strike, you cannot stop paying the part of your taxes that pay for the fire department just because you are no longer receiving their service.

There are benefits to working in the public sector in the UK. Your employer is very unlikely to go bankrupt and stop paying you. Many believe that public sector workers will, on balance, receive a better pay and pension package than they would get in a similar private sector job. For example, Tube drivers will soon earn over £50,000 per year. Performing work that does a social good is another reason many people desire public sector jobs – they feel like they are making a difference. But is it reasonable to expect a secure, well-paid and fulfilling job while still retaining all of the benefits workers in the private sector receive?

Because the customer cannot stop paying, and instead use a competitor like they can in the private sector, the public sector workers are capable of holding the general public to ransom. If they strike, there is nothing that the public can do about it. Large public sector unions mean that the public sector workers wield an immense amount of power. They can bring down the government; the government that everyone else has freely and fairly elected.

More worryingly, the leverage that the public sector holds is that the people who are hurt when they withdraw from their duties are not the rich

and powerful, but children, hospital patients, and the poorest in society. When they strike, they are telling the government, and by extension the entire electorate, that unless they get what they want, they will let the most vulnerable people in society get hurt. It is unacceptable for the people who are entrusted with, and rewarded for, protecting those in need to neglect their duties and just walk away.

It also hurts the workers themselves: the public grow resentful of them, and lose their faith in the idea that the public sector exists to help them. Increasingly, people support cracking down on the unions and in the long run this can hurt everyone involved. Without the trust of the population the public sector cannot function. Policemen who are respected and trusted are far more effective than policemen who are seen as interested purely in their own pay.

You might say that the right to strike is an important way of keeping the government in check, of protecting workers' rights or of maintaining high standards – but this is wrong. The public sector already has a mechanism to do all of these things: they are decided by the electorate. It is the voters who ought to decide how much teachers get paid, what police pensions should be, or how long nurses should work. The voters are the ones who pay for it and the entire legitimacy of the public sector stems from the fact that they are working for a democratically elected government; the public sector workers do not have the right to overrule the rest of the people in the country.

When they strike they hurt the public sector as a whole. They hurt the taxpayer. They hurt the people in society who most need their help. It is unfair and unethical for the public sector to hold the country to ransom; if you want to work for the state then you must accept that the voters are in charge and to try and go against their wishes is just unacceptable.



No - Ed Middleton

“True, public sector striking is inconvenient to many; but it is not unmanageable”

It is important to make the distinction between whether public sector workers are making the right decision to strike at a certain time and whether they should be able to strike. Clearly no right-minded individual would advocate unnecessary or unreasonable striking, but I will aim to show you why it is important that striking is an option for those in the public sector.

Public sector workers are in the unique position of having the same body paying their wages as ensuring they are paid fairly. The government, employing public sector workers, has an incentive to keep costs down: if costs were driven too high, anger from the general public (comprising predominantly private sector workers) would be expressed at the ballot box and lead to the election of parties with more thrifty attitudes towards pay. Unfortunately, due to the nature of public sector work, the options left for workers to express their discontentment are very limited.

The public sector tends to consist of large, national organisations with extensive power structures. Because of this, individuals working on the lower rungs of the employment ladder become one of many voiceless worker bees with little or no access to the Queen Bee. It is very difficult for the majority of public sector workers to engage in a meaningful discussion with those responsible for determining their salaries and working environment. In the private sector, though workers may be in a large industry, there is a much higher exposure to the managers that determine their pay. Private sector industries are also held accountable to government bodies that are entirely independent, and can act as third party arbiters in any employment negotiations. For this reason, it is much more important for public sector workers to have clear and visible forms of mass protest against unacceptable working conditions.

Another feature of public sector work that makes striking so important is its vocational na-

ture. A lot of the workers have picked careers that involve varying degrees of specialist training, and have dedicated their lives to using these skills to earn a living. However, unlike private sector workers in similar lines of work, there are no alternative providers. This means that skilled workers with specialised talents are forced to work for a single provider; one that is not accountable to an independent body and is incentivised towards lower pay. Also, because of this, public sector workers tend to work long careers with the same employer. As such, any changes to their contract will have lasting effects for the worker's entire career.

Finally, the concern that the vital nature of public sector work would give them unjustified power in striking is an assertion that does not hold up to scrutiny. Public sector jobs are important, but society can survive without them. Most public sector jobs exist in industries where national co-ordination makes for a better service: a nationalised health service, for instance, is many times more efficient than a private one; or in sectors where it is advantageous to have organizations working for quality not profit. They do not solely consist of “vital” industries. True, public sector striking is inconvenient to many; but it is not unmanageable, and this is not a reason to disallow workers from striking. Furthermore, as discussed above, many public sector employees have chosen their job as a vocation; it is something they care about. This non-financial incentive for work means that many public sector workers already accept longer working hours and less pay for the work they do, and would be inclined to strike only when their situation became very severe.

As stated above, while there may be situations where it is inappropriate for public sector workers to strike, it is essential that they have the option to do so. It should be used as a last resort, but one that can be deployed to ensure the fair treatment and employment status of everyone in Britain.

ARTS

Arts Editors: **Will Prince**
Eva Rosenthal

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Poem for the Week

Good Morning Autumn

by Osas Omoigade

Trees crane over like almost naked men-
Whose shame is barely covered by the red and
gold flannels
Although these too fall
And these men will soon stand stripped

The fruits of the trees are confused
While some die, conkers ripen
The Sun is not sure how high to rise
Little humans shiver in their t-shirts; given into the
lies of a bright heatless sun

Good Morning Autumn

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

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



Michael missed out on last week's offers

A Walk on Part at the Soho Theatre

A dramatisation of MP Chris Mullin's diaries, giving new insight into the Blair/Brown years. With the increasing political awareness of students all over the country, this play should be rife with material for discussion. Press night Friday 18 November.

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 11 November.

We have many more FREE plays, exhibitions and concerts (drinks included sometimes) all in exchange for a short review. Get in touch!

Not exactly a Booker novel

David Carr on the shortcomings of this year's Man Booker prize winner

Last week saw Julian Barnes claim the Man Booker for his short novel 'The Sense of an Ending' in what has been derided as the worst shortlist in the prize's 43 year history. No doubt this was caused in part by the judges' reward for readability; a strange requirement for the pre-eminent award for literary fiction in the UK.

'Sense' treads familiar territory – middle-aged, middle-class pondering on memory and death – such is the scope of modern British literature. Tony Webster is a retired divorcee contemplating the passivity of his life when a letter from the past resurfaces, causing him to re-evaluate his actions, or rather his memories of them. What comes next is a psychologically acute but oddly unbelievable retrospective of his rememberings; of what he has forgotten, and what he has chosen to forget.

Barnes' story touches thematically on Kazuo Ishiguro's 'The Remains of the Day' and 'On Chesil Beach' by Ian McEwan (both Booker winning writers – though McEwan



What do you mean you asked for Jeff Bridges?

won for a different book). However, 'Sense' lacks the pathos of Ishiguro's unreliable narrator and the subtlety of McEwan's interweaved narrative.

Andrew Motion, the former Poet Laureate and last year's Booker head judge, said that amongst the dire shortlist, Barnes' novel was the clear winner, though his panel did select Howard Jacobson's similarly middle-of-the-road 'The Finkler Question'. It makes you wonder if perhaps the list was compiled only

to give Barnes his just desserts; after all, this was his fourth nomination for the prize and his first win.

'The Sense of an Ending' is not a bad book. It is faultlessly written, and at times beautifully so, but in its constant exposition it often feels more like an extended essay than a full-blooded work of fiction. Surely to win a prize this big a novel must have a good chance of making it into the English Canon, and this one just does not fit the bill.

“ ‘Sense of an Ending’ treads familiar territory... such is the scope of modern British literature”

Let's do the Vime warp again

Ian Green

In his thirty-ninth "Discworld" novel, 'Snuff', Terry Pratchett takes his beleaguered officer of the law Sam Vimes on a well-deserved holiday (the relaxation bit does not last long, of course) to the countryside. Pratchett has built, over the course of the novels, an entire self-contained universe set on the disc of a world on the back of four elephants standing on the back of a giant turtle, with a cast numbering in the hundreds.

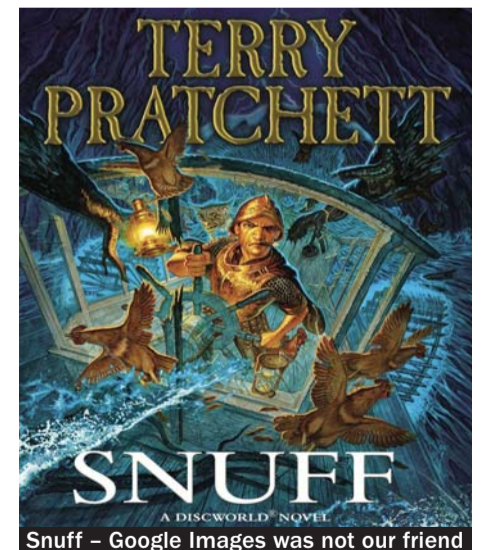
As the series has progressed, it has grown funnier and smarter. The writing has developed into sharp prose; the books have matured from being broader satires of the fantasy genre into wonderful pieces in their own right. It is their consistent humour that has ensured Pratchett's success. Every page is imbued with comedy, but Pratchett revels as much in plot and description as in one-liners and satire. For a fantasy crime novel, 'Snuff' contains enough asides on slavery, class, the countryside and literature to stagger the newcomer expecting some light fluff. The marvellous thing about this book is that these little moments never feel forced and are deftly woven into the narrative.

By 'Discworld', Sam Vimes has gone from

being the drunken shambles of a man seen in 'Guards! Guards!' to a renowned figure of justice; head of the city watch and Duke of Ankh. Along with his fantastic savage-yet-suave butler Willikins, Vimes must decipher a countryside full of chickens, goblins, villagers, and rich lords; all whilst attempting to bring justice to those who deserve it, avoiding the disapproval of his wife, and still finding the time to show his son the wonders of the countryside.

'Snuff' contains all the usual Pratchett magic but in many ways the humour seems more natural and frequent than in earlier works, relying more on observation and action rather than on jokes. This evolution in style allows the plot to move forward at full speed, and certainly there is enough going on to keep the reader turning pages. By removing protagonist Vimes to the countryside, Pratchett has taken him out of his element. This is certainly not a new formula, but it is pulled off with such élan it is impossible to begrudge.

Readers new to Pratchett can find the book enjoyable and accessible, but certainly the many references to his past work make it a treat for his long term fans. Within a week of its release 'Snuff' had sold more copies than the entire combined sales of every book on the Man Booker Prize long list.



Snuff – Google Images was not our friend

Whilst some literary snobs may doubt the contribution of his genre, Pratchett's legions of fans and phenomenal sales record leave no doubt that he is still on an upward trajectory.

Snuff is out now

FELIX
MUSIC
NIGHTS
PRESENT

K
ABLAAM



musictech



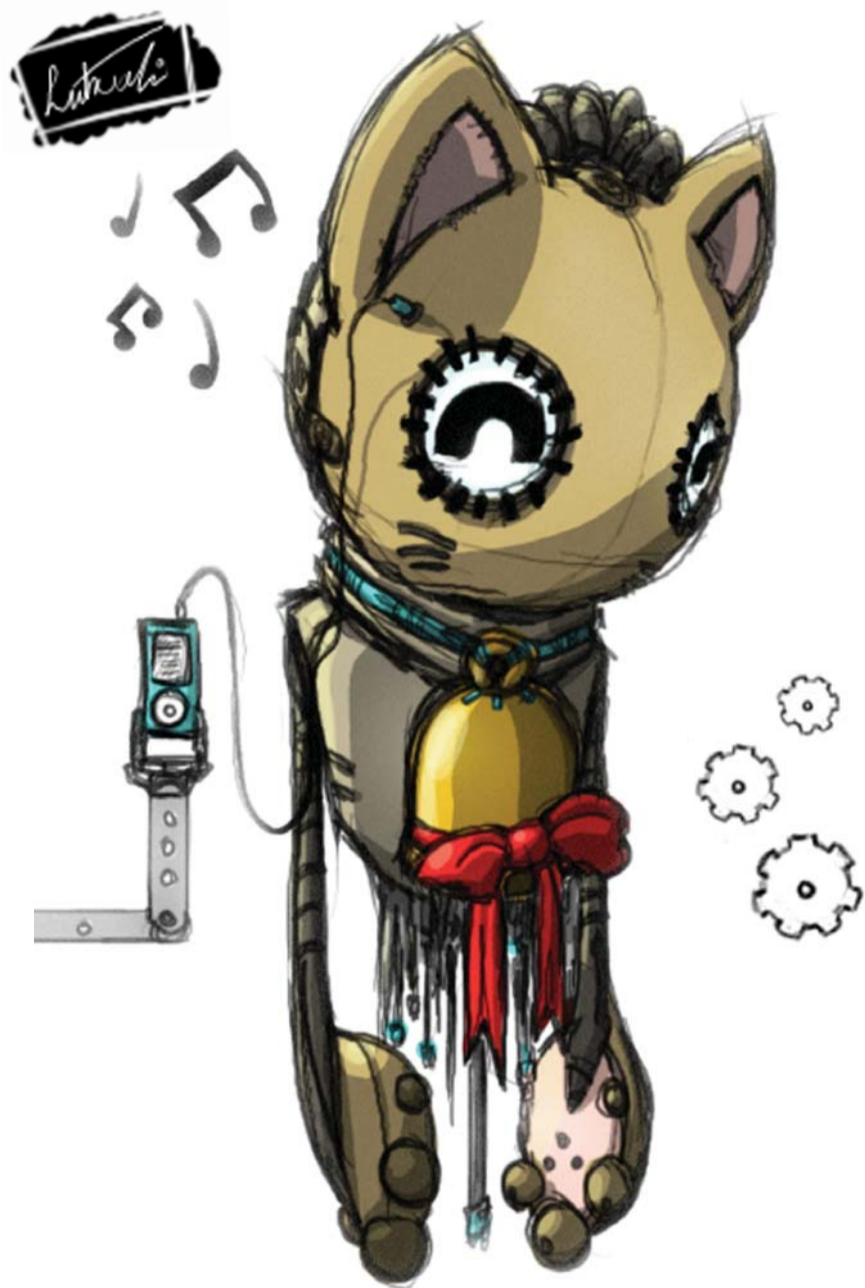
imperial
college
union

FELIX, JAZZ&ROCK, AND MUSICTECH
BRING YOU IMPERIAL'S
HOTTEST
BANDS & DJs

SATURDAY 12TH
NOVEMBER

ENTRY
ONLY £3

FROM 7PM AT METRIC



WITH SPECIAL GUEST

MIKILL
PANE



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEARCH "KABLAAM - FELIX MUSIC NIGHT" ON FACEBOOK



NO ORDINARY MEDLEY

All male vocal group **The Techtonics** send their greetings from Croatia

If you're interested in doing a centrefold (clubs, groups or individuals!), email centrefolds@imperial.ac.uk



MUSIC

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

music.felix@gmail.com

Kadhim's totally hot album of the week



Blue Sky Black Death
Noir
2011

Of all the shit stage-names artists have given themselves in the history of music, 'Bono' has got to be the worst. But 'Young God', one-half of Seattle-based **Blue Sky Black Death** (BSBD), is definitely a close second. In fact, if BSBD weren't so damn fantastic, I'd say he was an arrogant so-and-so (thankfully **U2**'s songs afford them no such protection).

BSBD's latest album, *Noir*, is an education in how to make epic electronic/instrumental music properly. What I mean by this is that instead of brazenly shouting, "THIS MUSIC IS FOR STADIUMS" (*ahem, **M83**...) their music takes you on an expressive emotional journey that just so happens to include the feeling of staring deep into an eternal sky.

Flowery language aside, it's the logical conclusion of moving instrumental hip-hop away from the dancefloor. Songs like "Sleeping Children Are Still Flying" may have a wicked country-infused drop, but it doesn't rest on its laurels; the remaining five and a half minutes are varied and diverse, with nary a hint of a repetitive chorus.

So my advice, no, my plea to you this week, is sit yourself on your bed, hook up the speakers, and enjoy the sensation of falling through the abyss.

Blue Sky Black Death sample Brobama's inauguration speech on their track "And Stars, Ringed". Tweet me your favourite sample @kadhimshubber. Better still, tweet Brobama @PresidentObama and lobby him to start a career as a DJ...

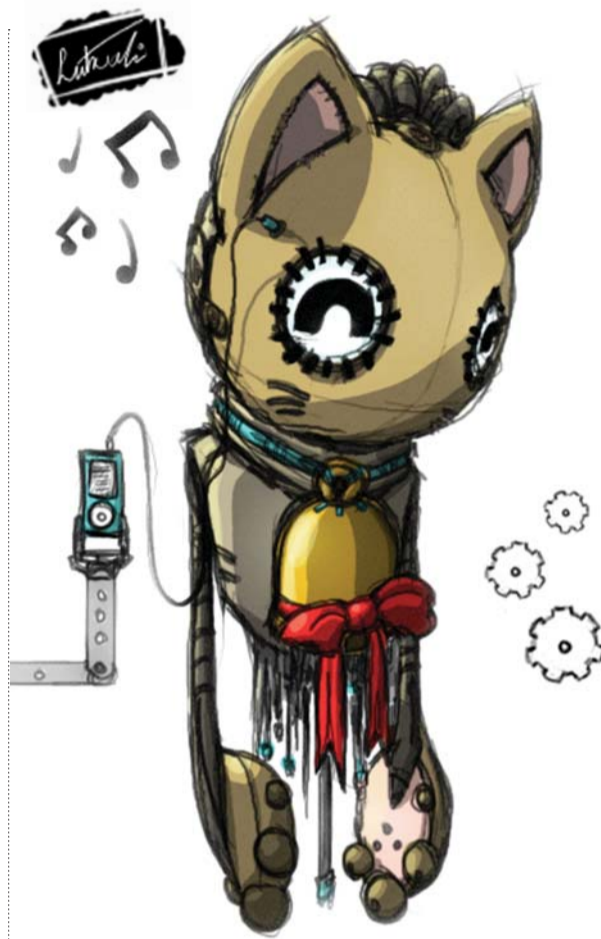
Make sure not to miss

LIFEM: LONDON International Festival of Exploratory Music

October 29th - November 7th

The third edition of LIFEM brings a Babelian variety of musical discoveries to some of London's most underrated venues. The inimitable repertoire brings together some of the finest creative minds from all across the globe, including the mesmerising Vietnamese voicings of **Huong Thanh**; **Soname Yangchen**'s contemporary Tibetan mountain songs; shamanic Siberian outfit **Namgar** (Tibetan for "white cloud"); the beautiful bossa-nova stylings of Angolan **Aline Frazão**; a special evening dedicated to new Estonian music mixing the contemporary cello of **Taavo Rimmel** and the avant garde excursions of the **Free Tallinn Trio**; and of course an ambassador to the fervent scene of Japanese experimental music, tape artist **Aki Onda**.

Take the opportunity to explore new music and new corners of London, visiting Cafe Oto (Dalston), Lost Theatre (Stockwell), Rich Mix (Shoreditch), Kings Place, and St. Pancras Old Church (both near King's Cross). **Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto**



KABLAAM

KABLAAM is on Saturday 12th of November in Metric. Entry is only £3 and it starts at 7pm.

Search "KABLAAM - Felix Music Night" on Facebook for tickets and more information.

Felix Music Night

Kadhim Shubber and Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto on KABLAAM, Felix's bad-ass Autumn party

Imperial's music scene is certainly underground. The bright morning sunshine rarely reaches its dark recesses and its artists receive little attention. The *Felix Music Nights* are our way of celebrating this under-appreciated scene and also fostering it; bringing more students into the tent and saying, "Hey, there's a good thing going on here." The formula hasn't changed since last year's successes: scout the finest DJs from Music Tech, sniff out some red-hot bands from Jazz & Rock, and grab London's most hyped up-and-coming artists to headline.

Our headliner this time is rapper **Mikill Pane**. With some of the wittiest and weirdest lyrics around, he's similar to **Das Racist**. He shot to attention with his heart-wrenching rhymes on **Ed Sheeran**'s track "Little Lady" and has been overloading music blogs since, receiving praise from none-other than **Dj SEXTEX**.

Below, Iñigo gives you a sneak-peek at the DJ lineup and how Felix and Music Tech started collaborating:

Felix approached Music Tech Society in January of last year, about doing a WiiJ performance for their new student music night. WiiJing is, essentially, hack-

ing a Nintendo Wii remote to use for live music manipulation or, as the name suggests, DJing. Unfortunately, no hacking was in the works at the time. The suggestion did, however, inspire a new live element to the society. A live electronic improvisation group was banded, though it remained untitled by the time the night came along. Sadly, **No More Reality**, as it came to be dubbed, is no more, on the count of the academic dissidence of the local synth wizard. Such is life.

This time around, *KABLAAM* will see Music Tech behind the turntables for a tetrapak of electronic stimulation. Opening the evening, **Not Indigo** will warm up the sound system with an unorthodox amalgam of groovy head hop, chilled psychotropics and dubby rhythms. Keeping it slow and low, **SMB** will provide some fine deep cuts from the frontiers of house and techno. Before the headliner hits the stage, **Monsk** will warm the floor with his sensual blend of soulful polyrhythmia and throbbing low end. To close the evening, **Niceberg**, a veteran of the Nintendisco retrogaming club night, will rip the speakers apart with an outburst of frantic bass music, cracking the cones into submission and eventual paralysis.

We all yell for Yelle!

Yelle
Ninkasi Salle du Kao, Lyon
October 22, 2011

Lily Le

For those of you who don't know who **Yelle** is, I am not going to bother explaining; maybe because I don't know who she is either, or maybe because if you like the sound of what she does from reading this review you are perfectly capable of finding it out for yourself.

After vaguely remembering some kind of remix of her song 'A cause des garçons' on an early *Kitsune* compilation, I thought it would be worth checking her out. I'm glad I did. Ouais, she is just another electro-pop act that we all are capable of living without, but if you actually are incapable of living without French, female electro-pop then you're probably dead right now if you have not heard of Yelle.

Opening her set with two identically dressed male drummers complete with green sports visors, the flamboyant Frenchie ran on stage engulfed from head to foot in a coat which seemed to

be made of shredded newspaper. Well, kudos to her for the recycling ethic and the ability to sing (very well, in fact) under that thing.

Despite an absence of live instruments except for the drums and her voice, the use of just a backing track was not at all detrimental to the performance. The beats were heavy enough to keep everyone dancing and Yelle was boisterous enough to keep everyone's eyes glued on her. Plus, she was pumpin' those moves to no end, you couldn't not join in.

With two costume changes; first into a tiny leopard print dress and then into a skin-tight, full-bodied red playsuit; her set was gimmicky enough to fit in with the air of Perry-Gaga-Rihanna-esque plastic whilst maintaining a sharp edge of **Major Lazer** cool.

It is a shame that all of the songs were in French (or that the English culture includes a complacency of being ignorant of foreign languages) otherwise she'd surely take the English charts by storm. However if Yelle's style sounds like your kind of thing, don't let it put you off having a listen as the music is definitely strong enough to hold itself up.



Think she's colourful? Wait until you see the lemon!

Do you have a bassface?

Chandra Chadawada investigates the phenomenon

I don't know how many of you are into Dubstep, Drum & Bass, House or any other genre with a bassline. But let me ask the people who are: what happens to you when you hear a fat tune?

I know that, whatever the genre, a good song always elicits some kind of emotional response. For some reason a huge bassline just does something different, something more physical.

I think it's most obvious in Fabric or Cable at around 4am on a Friday night. Legions of club-goers all have that classic I've-just-heard-about-my-mum-having-sex-with-my-brother look scrawled across their face.

The last time I went there, I noticed a man whose jaw was actually on the wrong side of his face. I wasn't really sure what to do, or what to say. Was it a medical emergency? Was he even aware of it? God only knows.

"I noticed a man whose jaw was actually on the wrong side of his face."

I always thought it was one of those things, a weird kind of mass response. But then, while trying to waste some time during revision period (you're gonna love it freshers!) I stumbled across the Fred the Raver videos on YouTube. The kid in the videos is about 3 years old: his parents play him Drum & Bass tracks and, strangely, he does exactly the same thing i.e.



Man is pained at sight of giant lemon

he pulls a bassface (it's hilarious, give them a watch).

The child certainly hasn't been to Fabric (unless he's got a great fake ID) and he probably has never seen anyone pull a bassface before. So why did he do it? He clearly loves it, why not just smile?

Thinking about it, it didn't really make any sense, so the Imperial reflex kicked in and I started researching. The number of papers on Science Direct under "bassface" being zero, I ventured into the slightly less reputable corners

of the Internet.

There I found a "scientist" who wrote about how, in nature, the only sounds with a major bass component are things like the roar of a lion, a volcano erupting or a tree falling i.e. scary shit.

His hypothesis was, therefore, that basslines "remind" humans of things our caveman friends got scared by. It is genuinely ridiculous (and is probably a crock of shit) but it just might be crazy enough to be true.

Just think about that next time you're out...

Noel Gallagher: a real high-flyer

Alex Roocroft is impressed by the Oasis guitarist's solo debut

With universal song lyrics, occasional falsetto vocals and a collection of sing-along anthemic choruses, to an extent Noel Gallagher's *High Flying Birds* contains all the ingredients that have characterised his later Oasis contributions.

Coming in at ten songs it gives a nod to all the familiar influences, from the Kinks-style staccato pulse employed in 'Dream On' to the psychedelic reverb swirl at the end of 'Stop The Clocks' reminiscent of The La's 'Looking Glass'.

The inclusion of dance-inspired 'What A Life', which although some might see as a forced attempt to distinguish from his old band, does add an increased variety to the record; showcasing a different,

but still catchy, aspect of his writing.

Some of the strongest moments on the album are on tracks 'If I had a Gun' and '(Stranded On) The Wrong Beach'. 'If I Had A Gun', which is a personal favourite was like 'Stop The Clocks' and 'Record Machine', originally intended for Oasis.

The casually-overdriven rhythm guitar slowly burning below a ghostly vocal blends some of the darker moments of The Beatles' later studio albums with 'After The Gold Rush' era Neil Young to impressive effect.

All in all, the album is full of great songs which would easily appeal to any fan of Oasis. Whether it is better than Beady Eye is a tough one to call, in many ways it could be seen as the second disc of the eighth Oasis album with 'Different Gear' as the first.



Sunglasses are necessary when near giant lemons

Punk Planet by Douglas Heaven

This week: Chevreuil



There's more to French rock than Serge Gainsbourg. For a time there was Sloy (1991–2000) who looked like they were going places after playing shows with Shellac and being invited on tour by P J Harvey. John Peel took a shine to them too, back in the day. But despite sexing up their sleazy punk sound with a bugle solo on their third album *Electrelite* (1998) it still ended up being their last. Carrying the Tricolore today are Chevreuil. Chevreuil are so French they don't even bother translating their band profile. But no matter, the gist is clear:

"Tony C. (guitare) et Julien F. (batterie) commencent le groupe CHEVREUIL en 1998 ... 3 albums ("SPORT" – 2000, "GHETTO BLASTER" – 2001, "CHATEAUVALLON" – 2003) ... mentor STEVE ALBINI ... batterie mécanique/métronome ... le groupe inaugure la guitare magnétique, instrument hybride qui a un pied dans l'univers du rock et l'autre dans l'atmosphère de la musique électronique".

Roughly speaking, Chevreuil tread the same territory as Battles, but they're scuzzier and do without the squeaky vocals. There are also only two of them, augmented by multiple amps and, in case you missed it back there, a "magnetic guitar".

All punk has roots in its fanbase, with many bands doing as much as possible to blur the line between band and audience. Lightning Bolt famously set up on the floor in front of the stage when they play, with the crowd usually bouncing into the drumkit. Chevreuil take a more academic stance towards inclusiveness.

Last year they collaborated with Professor Rodolphe Durand, chair of the Strategy department at the HEC Paris business school, on his latest book *The Pirate Organization: an essay on the evolution of capitalism*, which seeks answers to the questions "what connects sea pirates of the 17th century to the pirate radios, cyber hackers, and bi-pirates of our times" and "how does piracy relate to the evolution of capitalism". True to the spirit of the project, Chevreuil wrote a song to accompany the book and released it under a Creative Commons license. For their part in the enterprise the band were profiled in the *Financial Times*, an outlet not well known for its coverage of punk rock.

Since we're in France this week anyway, it's also worth checking out *Sincabeza* and *Pneum*, especially if Chevreuil are your cup of chocolat chaud. All three have song samples streamed from their last.fm pages and Chevreuil's song about pirating can be downloaded from www.organisationpirate.com/p/la-musique.html

Television Editors: **Matt Allinson**
James Simpson

tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TELEVISION

Pick of the week

They're definitely not the same as last week. OK?



Friday | 2100 - 2210 | Channel 4

The Experiments

Derren Brown plays mind games and tests on the 'capacity for evil'.

Saturday | 2045 - 2145 | Channel 4

Jamie's Great Britain

Jamie Oliver travels the length and breadth of Great Britain in search of food.

Sunday | 2100 - 2200 | ITV1

Downton Abbey

The residents of Downton try to return to normal life following the armistice.

Monday | 2100 - 2200 | Channel 4

Young Apprentice

The 11 remaining candidates are challenged to design a product for the parent and baby market. After a quick lesson in bringing up children, the teams have two days to produce their prototype, before pitching their idea to three of the country's leading retailers.

Tuesday | 2000 - 2100 | BBC2

James May's Man Lab

Top Gear's James May goes on a ghost hunt in one of Britain's most haunted castles.

Wednesday | 2030 - 2100 | BBC1

Paul Merton's Adventures

John Culshaw and Debra Stephenson impersonate celebrities including Fabio Capello and Gok Wan. Prince Charles decides that it's time to get a job.

Thursday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC1

Crimewatch

Not as good as it used to be.



One of the many stars of Crimewatch

Childrens' Sugar intake boosts ego

Maciej Matuszewski is drawn back into the boardroom

I have been a huge fan of *The Apprentice* since the UK version debuted back in 2004. I'm certainly not the only one, with the finale of the last season having more than ten million viewers. I suspect that for most people the main draw has been the consistent incompetence of the candidates and the resulting boardroom meetings with a furious Lord Sugar. While the tasks in last year's *Junior Apprentice* were generally of the smaller scale and Sugar was far more restrained than usual, there was no shortage of what made the original great. The second series of the show, which began this Monday and has now been wisely re-named *Young Apprentice*, looks set to continue in the first's fine tradition.

As always the show opens with a montage of generic shots of the candidates walking away from home, luggage in hand, culminating in a group shot of everyone marching down a deserted Millennium Footbridge. I wonder how many commuters and tourists were inconvenienced by closing the bridge to film a scene that lasts no longer than five seconds? This is all intercut with the candidates' over-confident and pretentious quotes about themselves. Highlights include: "I'm not focused on making friends. I'm focused on getting to my goals", "I'm a risky person. You like it or you don't. I'm like marmite." and "I got eight A stars, two A's. No one intimidates me because I know I'm better than them.". This is becomes doubly hilarious when we move to the boardroom and see Sugar telling them not to "pretend [they] know it all because it will be embarrassing".

Here we first get to the return of another *Apprentice* staple, Lord Sugar's atrocious jokes, as he continues on to say that it would be "as embarrassing as if Nick and I put on a cap and started to rap". Of course, all of the terrified sixteen and seventeen year olds laugh. Eventually Sugar reveals the challenge, which is, as the episodes title suggests, to make and sell "frozen treats". We soon learn that bad comedy isn't the sole preserve of Lord Sugar as the voiceover informs us that "ice cream [is] a market worth a cool one billion [and] to scoop some of that up they'll have to think up something special".

With the teams chosen, as always in the first challenge it is girls against boys, they then go



The Young Apprentices and Lord Sugardaddy

to their new house to plan their strategies. Here we get to feel the editor's hand when the only things the boys ask each other on their car journey is where they live, what business experience they have and what skills they possess — unless they really are that boring.

The teams' first decision is what to call themselves. The boys quickly settle on the name 'Atomic', an interesting choice for a company that is going to be selling food. Apparently one of reasons for the choice was because it sounds "mysterious" and "dangerous". The girls consider 'Sixth Sense' and 'Core', one of them suggesting that the latter is a good idea since "the Earth and the Sun have a core and for you to have the Sun you need a core". Eventually though, they settle on the more generic name 'Kinetic'. The girls then manage to convince Hayley to project manage since she "really enjoys cooking". The boys have less luck with Lewis who, despite impressive sales experience, decides that he doesn't want to lead the team. The job is taken by Harry instead.

"I got eight A stars, two A's. No one intimidates me because I know I'm better than them."



Making up for something?

When it comes down to making ice cream the girls came up with the interesting idea of mixing something "healthy with chocolate". This resulted in, amongst others, a chocolate-banana flavour and an eye catching, if not entirely accurate, slogan of "treat the lips – trim the hips". They decide to make as much ice-cream as they can manage in the time that they've got but a miscalculation means that they don't buy enough fruit and have to bin thirty litres of their mix. They make up for this however with exorbitant prices, including charging extra for a cone, and other rather unethical business practice such. These include adding expensive toppings to ice cream even if the customer doesn't ask for them and letting small children pick out the most expensive options while their parents aren't looking.

Despite some early problems with the cream machines and a rather unusual apple-watermelon frozen yogurt flavour, the boys do manage to come up with a quite effective pirate theme, complete with a mobile kiosk painted to look like a treasure chest – all quite appropriate for their seaside selling location. I do, however, have to admit that their "Shiverrr me timbers" (misspelling apparently intentional) slogan was quite cringeworthy. They go for the opposite strategy to the girls, undercutting competition on the beachfront with £1.50 for one scoop and £2 for two.

Back in the boardroom it is revealed that, despite the boys selling out of stock, the girls' profits exceeded theirs by almost £150. Perhaps they should have tried exploiting their customers too. Harry decides to bring James and Mahamed back into the boardroom with him to face being fired by Sugar. Of the two, James managed to prove that being joint first in Ireland in Economics doesn't make you a good businessman by having suggested at the start of the day that prices should be slashed to £1 while Mahamed was the worst salesperson despite claiming to have been the best. It's a shame that somebody had to be fired as I'm sure that both would have been very entertaining in future episodes but, unfortunately, we did have to see Mahamed go.

All in all, this was a typically brilliant episode. You won't normally learn how to run a successful business by watching the *Apprentice* or its spin off but you'll certainly learn what not to do and have a good laugh.

TELEVISION

Arrest yourself for not developing a love for this show

Any more punny headlines and I'll be forced to hand myself in...



A bunch of typical Imperial students

Tim Arbabzadah

It was recently announced that a new series of Arrested Development is in the works and will be aired at some point in the future. The plan is to then make a film. If you are anywhere near as big an AD fan (as those in the know call it – although it does make it sound a bit like a disorder) as I am you will have flipped your shit, I believe that is the technical term. Don't worry, that is purely metaphorical shit-flipping going on.

The show centres on a family called the Bluths. Michael Bluth (Jason Bateman) is very much the most normal member of the family. He has to become the President of the Bluth Company, a property developer, after his father George Bluth Sr. (Jeffrey Tambor) is arrested. The general trials and tribulations of the eccentric Bluth family become the centre of the show. The show also has a narrator (Ron Howard – also the show's creator) who really is almost a character in his own right and is used astutely to create hilarity.

Why the big fuss about this? That's a very good question, I'm glad I wrote it (I'm in a smug mood). Well, basically, AD is an awesome show that's absolutely hilarious. It's immensely quotable in a truly unique way. It has all of these great catchphrases, in-jokes and call-backs that are impeccably put together, whilst at the same time not feeling forced. It's those three things that really gave (dare I say gives) the show its strength. For example, in one episode they set a couple of scenes at Burger King, repeatedly say the name "Burger King" and even have a character call it a "wonderful restaurant". The reason for this was that they were asked to set a scene in Burger King as part of a promotional deal that the network had with them. So, they sarcastically over-emphasised the advertising. It's these Easter egg moments like that, and spotting some subtle joke or call-back

that make it so re-watchable.

There is however one slight problem that I have with the show returning for another series: the current 3 series are so good that I don't want the show to be tainted by a bad 4th series. I'm not saying it will be bad, but I can't help having this worry that it will somehow ruin the show for me. It's stupid for me to think it, absurd even, but it does, for some reason that is difficult to explain: it will make rewatching the earlier episodes less enjoyable knowing that it show declines later on. I'd say that my feeling about the return are a mix between cautious optimism and mild worry – a bit like the constant feeling during exam period. I voice this mix of emotions here because a) I'm a pretentious twat and b) I think that this view is not too uncommon amongst AD fans (finally, for once, I'm normal – ah man, now this view is mainstream, I must immediately reverse my opinion).

Way too many TV shows have made the mistake of dragging on for too long, or doing one too many "specials", that turn out to only be special in the more derogatory sense of the word. In fact, in terms of the absolutely classic example of this phenomenon, The Simpsons is still making this mistake and will be for another 2 series of legacy destruction. Family Guy is another possible on going example. Basically, most sitcoms make this mistake: they overstep the line; they keep doing the same thing a few too many times; and give the audience more of the thing that everyone proclaims they wish they did more of. The trouble is, people like the idea of more of the same and usually don't actually like the reality of it. It's a bit like when you go out: the

"...special in the derogatory sense of the word."

idea of drinking another double vodka coke (I know, I exude masculinity) is fantastic, but when you grant yourself the wish you end up regretting it the next morning. Although, the analogy doesn't extend that much, I don't think I have ever regretted sending a TV show a text that felt like a fantastic idea at the time.

It seems like that paragraph went off on a bit of a 'y = sin(x)/cos(x)' yes, I made that joke. No, I promise to never do something as horrific again, you can keep reading in safety. The next paragraph will have returned to normality.

The thing that attracts people to the idea of something being done more is exactly why it shouldn't be done. The thing they like loses its mystique. It's no longer special and rare, it's lost a large part of the appeal. How many expensive collectors' items are commonplace? To use Family Guy as an example, everyone loves the original couple of Brian and Stewey episodes. If every episode were to be like that, then it would no longer be a rare treat that you occasionally get given and gratefully receive.

4th wall breaking paragraphs including terrible jokes and amateur TV watching psychologist impressions aside – let's get back to AD. All of the characters are funny, and picking a favourite is almost impossible. I'm personally a big fan of G.O.B (Will Arnett), Michael's older brother, an amateur magician who prefers to travel around on a Segway. Although I always find Tobias (David Cross) is guaranteed to make you laugh.

It seems that AD is fairly popular amongst the acting community, if the cameo appearances are used as a judging mechanism. Ben Stiller plays Tony Wonder, GOB's arrogant rival, another magician. Charlize Theron has a story arc in the 3rd season as a love interest for Michael. For reasons that will become clear after you watch the show (because you are going to watch it aren't you? I will not reveal anything else about her

character).

Talking about Charlize Theron's character has reminded me of yet another reason why the writing is so clever. When you re-watch the show, you see things you didn't notice before that you kick yourself for not realising. It's like being at a live Derren Brown show when he does one of the big reveals at the end and shows you a video where he winks at a camera. For instance, Buster has a plot line (again no spoilers) that is very cleverly foreshadowed in some scenes.

What more can I say? Quite a lot actu-

"It seems like that paragraph went off on a bit of a $y = \sin(x)/\cos(x)$. Yes, I made that joke."

ally, but I don't really have space. I think I must give a quick, honourable mention for Henry "The Fonz" Winkler who plays the family's hilarious, inept lawyer. That's the thing, it's an ensemble cast, but all the characters are well developed, interesting and expertly portrayed.

To sum up: it may be returning soon, the first 3 series are amazing in all ways and you will be hooked once you get into it. The only down side is your conversations with friends will involve more quotes/references than they should, as will your Felix articles. Try and avoid this, it's a HUUUUUGE mistake.

Think you could write a review?

It doesn't matter if you think you couldn't! We're getting pretty desperate now. Seriously, email tv.felix@ic.ac.uk!

(You may now return your head to its normal position.)



Eccentric isn't the word...

FILM

In brief

The BFI London Film Festival



Leicester Square, a sunny Saturday afternoon, the usual mayhem caused by tourists and the fact that most of the square is actually shut for construction works, but something else is different. Names are being whispered in the chaos; some say Keira Knightley is about to appear, others Madonna or Jack Black (actually none of them did that day). Someone (I assume) famous strolls down the red carpet in a flurry of camera flashes. All the cinemas advertise the intriguing “BFI London Film Festival”. The red carpets are out, photographers and passers-by crowd around them. The film festival is on! Sat in a dark room, the curtains open and Jack Black begins demonstrating how to groom a corpse.

Opening on October 12 with Fernando Meirelles’ 360, the BFI London Film Festival brings to London a fabulous selection of 204 features and 110 shorts from 55 countries. 360, written by Peter Morgan (*The Queen*), set the trend for this year’s festival. It is a story of relationships and connections in the globalised 21st Century taking place in Vienna, London, Paris, Rio, Denver, Phoenix and Bratislava and showcasing some of Britain’s finest talent with a sizzling Jude Law, sexy Rachel Weisz and seasoned Anthony Hopkins as the lead actors.

This event is more than just glitz and glamour in central London. Some of the most awaited films of the season were screened in Leicester Square with the critically acclaimed *We Need to Talk about Kevin* (out now in cinemas), *The Ides of March* (or when George Clooney multi-tasks), *A Dangerous Method* and *The Descendants*. In addition, a number of restored classics were screened at the BFI Southbank centre as well as foreign films that would probably never hit a screen in Britain. A samurai film, a documentary following Sarah Palin, or dark cancer-related humour, there was something for every taste and mood.

Last night the festival closed, on a British note with *The Deep Blue Sea* directed by Terence Davies, at least until next year for more intriguing features and discoveries. Also, we now have the certainty that Clooney won’t do a Schwarzie and run for election, or so the *Evening Standard* says.

Marie-Laure Hicks

Only 3 mins of Gwyneth... the rest’s OK

Contagion

Director Steven Soderbergh
Screenwriter Scott Z. Burns
Cast Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Marion Cotillard, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Laurence Fishburne

Henry Turner-Chambers

It’s rare for a disaster scenario to make for a decent film let alone a great one, so it is with a sense of relief that I report that *Contagion* rises above the majority of its siblings to provide an unusually subtle 106 minutes of entertainment.

Director Stephen Soderbergh adopts an almost documentary-style structure to his story of a new global pandemic of flu-like virus. The viewer follows the parallel stories of the husband (Matt Damon) of Patient Zero (Gwyneth Paltrow), an epidemiologist searching for the source of the outbreak in China (Marion Cotillard), a walking Julian Assange reference (Jude Law), and the team of scientists at the American Centre for Disease Control (Laurence Fishburne, Kate Winslet) trying to develop a vaccine. As these characters go about their struggles, society starts to buckle under the strain of the high death toll.

Paranoia is the theme and motif here – with a lot of lingering shots of door handles and drinking glasses that have been smeared with traces of infected bodily fluids. This is mildly unsettling, if a little obvious. More impressive is the handling of scenes of public disorder, which are given a lighter touch than in many a comparable apocalypse. The direction maintains pace well and the script, while not crackling with wit, is far from abysmal and creates a sense that



Gwyneth wasn’t too pleased with her hubby’s new album: myloawef xylotosoiwlek

these are real people.

These slick touches aside, the film has a number of flaws. This is not an actors’ movie in spite of its star-studded cast. Fishburne, Damon, Cotillard et al all sacrifice depth of character to the overall structure and tone of the film. In particular, Soderbergh has no problem killing off big names. Paltrow dies within the first few minutes and the repeated video-tape flashbacks of the events leading up to her death seem to do nothing more than justify her wage for such a small role.

While all the major players are disciplined enough not to be bombastic or over-emphasise their presence, the lack of examination of their motivations and emotional response to the crisis is frustrating, particularly towards the end. We are not invited to sympathise with anyone to a significant degree, and are not expected to care overly when some of the plot-strands are left hanging because they no longer provided a platform for commentary on the wider scope of events. Soderbergh has not quite achieved his

aim of making us forget that these characters are vehicles for the story, as opposed to the focus of it. But he does a significantly better job than the directors of similar films like *The Day After Tomorrow* or *2012*.

Of course, there are only two possible outcomes: the world ends, or everything goes back to normal. In either case it can be tempting to ask the question “Well what was the point of that?” and *Contagion* is no exception. Ironically for what was intended to be a sort-of cautionary tale about disease and, to an extent, globalisation, I came away feeling distinctly reassured. The CDC react to the outbreak in a professional and efficient manner, without being so perfect as to make it appear a propaganda piece. It looks like this is about the worst such a situation could get, and I could imagine a lot worse.

In summary, *Contagion* is not going to move you to tears, nor yelps of laughter or fear. But for an afternoon of sharp and smart entertainment with a healthy respect for realism, you could do a lot worse.

A disgraceful portrayal of the Battle of Warsaw

Battle of Warsaw 1920

Director Jerzy Hoffman
Screenwriters Jerzy Hoffman, Jaroslaw Sokol
Cast Viktor Balabanov, Adam Ferency

Maciej Matuszewski

Jerzy Hoffman might not be the most famous of Polish film directors but he has certainly shown himself to be competent in the past, most notably in his adaptations of Henryk Sienkiewicz’s epic *Trilogy* (*With Fire and Sword*, *The Deluge* and *Colonel Wołodyjowski*). Therefore, despite its relatively poor critical reception, I was quite hopeful for his latest work *Battle of Warsaw 1920 3D*, which has received a surprisingly wide UK release. Unfortunately, I was to be disappointed.

The Battle of Warsaw is considered by many to have been the decisive battle in the Polish-Soviet war of 1919-1921, in which the Polish army managed to rout the Bolshevik forces, who previously been considered unstoppable. This could have made an interesting film and, while Hoffman’s effort is not entirely without merit, a combination of heavy handedness

and overacting make what was supposed to be a serious war movie feel like a cross between a propaganda film and a comedy.

Take, for example, one of the first scenes in the film, when we see Lenin discussing the War with the Politburo. He makes the clichéd “first Poland, then Europe, then World” speech, after which there is literally the sound of thunder and a flash of red before we move on to the title screen. Hoffman did the same trick when introducing the main antagonist, Chmielnicki, in *With Fire and Sword* but at least Chmielnicki had some depth, rather than being nothing more than a cheap comic book villain, like Lenin is here.

Some would argue that we should not have expected objectivity from a Polish made film about this topic but that’s not really the problem here. The *Trilogy* films weren’t at all objective but, unlike this movie, they were at least competently made. *The Deluge* even received an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film.

Battle of Warsaw doesn’t even seem to have a proper antagonist. Lenin is far too distant a figure for him to directly affect the protagonists – a cavalry officer and his new wife – and while Cheka agent Bykowski looks set to

take the role he is killed off about half way through. Arguably a war movie doesn’t need a direct antagonist but the absence of one is only a sign of deeper structural and pacing flaws. A lot of the film just doesn’t flow well and, most damningly of all, the battle itself is pushed right to the very end. We get to witness both sides planning but when the time comes we only see some soldiers defending a trench and a cavalry charge – and then it’s over. We really get no feel for the battle, no real idea of how it progressed and what happened. The titular battle is almost an afterthought.

On the technical side the film certainly looks good. The 3D is mostly competently done, though it does get very distracting during the faster paced sequences. Hoffman also included far too many slow motion shots, which, together with soundtrack, really add to the ridiculously over-dramatic feel of the scenes in which they are used.

In short, the film has very little to say about the overarching war plot and while several scenes almost make you feel for the smaller scale story of our protagonists, these moments are ruined by the director’s inability to show restraint. This is one of the most hilariously awful films that I’ve seen this year.

“Change begins with a whisper”

The Help

Director Tate Taylor
Screenwriters Tate Taylor, Kathryn Stockett (novel)
Cast Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer, Emma Stone

John Park

Here is this year’s answer to *The Blind Side*. A feel-good movie that looks at controversial issues involving white guilt and somehow ends up being the year’s most watchable, straightforward films. The only difference is that if any of the cast for *The Help* do score some awards for their performances, similar to what Sandra Bullock managed to swing in 2010, the women of “The Help” would actually deserve the shiny statuettes.

The complex issue *The Help* deals with is racism, and the idea of hired help in 1960s America – or more specifically, the use and treatment of black maids with the shockingly popular term “separate but equal” being used to segregate black Americans. The help, required to cook, clean, shop and raise children for their white, superior bosses, do so to make ends meet. Condescending tone, demeaning gestures and verbal abuse are commonplace, but to earn 95 cents per hour, these women work morning, noon and night, in a society that refuses to fully embrace them.

Aibileen Clark (Viola Davis) has raised and parted with more than a dozen children. Having lost her own child not too long ago, she finds it ever more painful, and the discrimination she faces from a household she dedi-



Come on UCAS – did I get into Cambridge Imperial College, or not?!

cates herself to (she even has a separate toilet because the owners fear they will catch some unknown disease) is unconscionable in our eyes, but she accepts it since she has faced this kind of behaviour every day. Minny Jackson (Octavia Spencer) is a maid whose frank words and bold attitude have garnered her a reputation for being difficult. Minny’s boss, the evil Hilly Holbrook (Bryce Dallas Howard), is a nasty piece of work who poisons her suburban neighbourhood with her snobbish, arrogant words. Seeing the maids’ everyday struggle and deciding to do something about this is Eugenia “Skeeter” Phelan (Emma Stone), a brave young graduate who wishes to write a book chronicling the daily hardship faced by the hired help. A lot of people around her seem to be ignoring the racial inequality she so clearly sees, including her own mother, Charlotte (Allison Janney).

Are white people evil for employing black maids? The film is correct in showing us that not everything can be summed up that simply. Sure the character of Hilly Holbrook, the film’s main antagonist, is drawn with a hint of comical caricature, but the rest of the cast represents something more complicated, and the white employers are far from hateful.

There is a cloud of mystery created as Skeeter discovers her beloved childhood maid, Constantine (the invaluable Cicely Tyson), has simply disappeared. Her mother refuses to give her a straight answer. When we finally do see what really happened, it turns into one of the most heart-breaking scenes in the film, with unforgettable performances from Janney, Stone and Tyson, especially.

Davis, who in supporting roles has been consistently excellent no matter

what genre, gives an even more stirring performance as she is given a bigger part. She is always so full of love and is more than committed – she is good at her job, too, as she takes care of those around her with much warmth and compassion. Minny is someone who will generate more laughs, with Spencer delivering that right mix of tough, no-nonsense woman whilst showing empathy to those she deems deserving.

Minnie ends up with a new boss, and it turns out that Celia Foote (Jessica Chastain) is the polar opposite of Hilly. Celia is a cheerful but clueless and insecure housewife who is desperate to please her well-off husband. She and Minny bond, and as that unlikely friendship develops, the audience also learns that white people have difficulties of their own, and seeing Spencer lower her defense to someone she never thought would be her “equal” is a change grasped well by the otherwise straight-talking, hilarious Spencer. And Chastain, who is having one heck of a year with a long line of impressive performances stacking up to her glowing resume, can count this one in too.

Sure, it is undeniably too neat; but this is a feel-good movie, which is why everything is so tidy and the director (Tate Taylor) refuses to get his hands dirty. The script is somewhat restricted in its portrayal of a wider community, and rushes into tying up the loose ends with a convenient, feel-good set of answers. But the important thing is we care about the characters – black or white, discrimination is wrong, and many heart-felt, uplifting scenes show us this and its message could not be clearer.

10 Films to Watch from this year’s BFI London Film Festival

Coriolanus – Ralph Fiennes’ directorial debut based on Shakespeare’s play and transposed to the modern day Balkans

The Ides of March – A smart, well-acted political drama directed by George Clooney

The Artist – A silent film about cinema starring this year’s Cannes Best Actor Award Jean Dujardin

The Kid with a Bike – The Dardenne Brothers’ new heartbreaking roller-coaster ride of emotions

Tales of the Night – A magic world of fairytales in silhouette animation brought to you by the creators of *Li and the Poet*, and *Kirikou*

Medianeras – Gustavo Taretto’s full-length debut feature, looking at a modern day romantic-comedy taking place in Buenos Aires

Dreams of a Life – A mysterious film where a young woman is discovered in a London flat three years after her death

This Must be the Place – Sean Penn becomes an eccentric rock star in search of his father’s enemy

Bernie – Hilarious comedy based on a true story, an assistant funeral director (Jack Black), Texas, a rich widow (Shirley MacLaine), a district attorney (Matthew McConaughey) and a murder

Marie-Laure Hicks

5 Films to watch on Halloween (if you’re a MASSIVE WUSS...)

Fiona Calcutt

So, it’s Halloween and your friends suggest you have a group trip to the cinema to watch *Paranormal Activity 3*. There’s just one problem: last time you watched a scary film, it was *The Ring* when it came out on DVD ten years ago, and despite watching it in the middle of the day you still shat yourself. Have no fear! Here’s a list of ‘safe films’ for utter wimps like you.

Shaun of the Dead

If you haven’t seen this film yet, where have you been? Quite possibly one of the most successful British films in recent years, this zombie-smashing film will have you laughing like nobody’s business. The cast comprises pretty

much every single British comedian that exists (there are cameos from Rob Brydon, Tasmin Greig and David Walliams along with many others) and it’s only a teeny bit gory, so avoid eating anything that looks like someone’s innards whilst you watch it and you should be alright.

Young Frankenstein

The fact that Gene Wilder is the star of the film should surely give it some scare factor. This parody remake of Mary Shelley’s novel makes plenty of nods to classic black and white horror films, complete with old-school scene transitions. Apparently, Aerosmith got the idea for the title of their song ‘Walk this way’ from a gag at the beginning of the film, so if that’s not got you watching it I don’t know what will.

Coraline

Admittedly a little sinister considering it’s meant for kids, this is the perfect film for a wussy Halloween. The film about venturing off into secret worlds is magical, mysterious and beautifully made, and there’s a stunning scene where the garden literally comes alive with glowing flowers (although look out for the plants that look suspiciously like femidoms). One of those few films that actually makes sense for it to be in 3D.

The Orphanage (El Orfanato)

This English-subtitled Spanish film has a few scary faces and involves the traditionally creepy premise of being haun-

ed by dead children, but you’re not exactly going to be pissing your pants. Turns out to be more of a sad, yet heart-warming story than scary. Maybe don’t go for any midnight visits to abandoned orphanages, though.

Ghost

The only part of this film that’ll give you nightmares is Patrick Swayze’s acting, or the equally horrifying fact that his character only ever replies to “I love you” with “Ditto”. However, Whoopi Goldberg certainly manages to make up for it with her sassy one-liners and outrageous 80s get up. Yes, the whole ghost thing is a very tenuous link to Halloween but who says you can’t celebrate with a soppy 80s chick flick?

Fashion Editors: **Saskia Verhagen**
Alice Yang

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FASHION

2012 Spring/Summer highlight

Winter may have just begun, but the Fashion World already cannot wait for sunnier days

Alexander McQueen

Surely those most critical of critics in the fashion industry must get tired of singing the praises of a woman who has slipped so perfectly into the 8-inch sculpted platforms of a designer whose shoes they claimed could ne'er be filled. Alas, no dice. Sarah Burton's latest aquatic imagining for McQueen's line interweaved such diverse themes as oceanic life, modernist architecture and the

draping techniques of the traditional haute couture. The colour palette came straight from the pearly inside of an oyster: palest pinks and silvery grey-blue were shot between ivory, gold and brightest coral.

But it wouldn't be McQueen without the shadow of a sinister presence: laser-cut black patent leather quite literally set a shark amongst the fishes, or more likely, the jellyfish, such was the lightness of the ruffles cut in undulating, fluttering layers down skirts both long and short. A thoroughly feminine line, though with distinct ele-

ments of darkness, no look was complete without a lace, veil-like headpiece by Philip Treacy, creator of similar pieces for the hugely acclaimed McQueen retrospective, *Savage Beauty*. The sculpted, architectural figure, complete with defined waist, exaggerated hips and shoulders typical of the line was executed to distinction.

The ever-haunting echo of Lee McQueen, a presence both restrictive and guiding, certainly reverberated and rippled through Ms. Burton's idyllic seascape. – SV



Louis Vuitton

Paris is no stranger to glittering displays of luxury, but no one expected the angelic dream that Marc Jacobs showcased at Louis Vuitton this season. Amidst the rumours of 'Will He/Won't He?' regarding the Dior job, the curtains rose on the LV catwalk to reveal models sprinkled elegantly over an exquisite, pure white carousel.

The dreamy innocence of the show was accentuated with fairy lights, sparkling mirrors and tinkling jewellery box mu-

sic. The clothes were delicate; soft sugary colours featuring elaborately laser cut pieces, sheer organza layers and smooth sweaters. Dropped waists gave a new, relaxed shape as oversized buttons elaborated the ladylike feel of the jackets and coats. Textures were central once again, but this time it was floating ostrich feathers and crystal encrusted daisies that clung to the princesses' dresses, a complete turn around from the dark fetish leathers of last season.

As always with Marc, detail was key. The girls balanced

shining tiaras in their loosely chignon hair; candy coloured shoes were pointy with sparkling silver straps; and bags came as a choice between sweet elegant snake skins or weaved metallic baskets, whilst diamond wishbone pendants hung daintily under large icing white collars.

Fluttering by in a puffed pale pearl dress, Kate Moss' turn on the catwalk was the perfect end to this season's Louis Vuitton wonderland, and arguably the fairy tale ending to what may be Marc Jacobs' last chapter there. – AY



Ralph Lauren

An unexpected highlight of the New York shows this season came from Ralph Lauren, whose *Great Gatsby*-themed sugary-sweet collection stole the heart of more than one hardened fashionista.

With the most delicious palette of Ladurée pastels, the reprise of the roaring twenties would not be complete without cloche hats, drop-waist flapper dresses, and, of course, lashings of feathers and fringing.

Showing ahead of the Baz Luhrmann remake starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Carey Mulligan, Ralph has created a wardrobe that is more than fit enough for the new Miss Buchanan.

For the day, a floral print bias-cut dress paired with a straw picnic basket, silk cloche and raffia espadrilles. Or perhaps an androgynous three-piece chauffeur suit, either with relaxed, flat-front trousers or boyish shorts.

And for the evening, Daisy's choices are endless: from a drop-waist silk shift in bright

swan white, pistachio green or shell pink to a glittering silver evening gown with her choice of cascading ostrich feathers down the skirt, or sparkling beaded fringing – or perhaps both, should the mood strike her.

Accessories were kept simple, a diamond drop earring here, a long single strand pearl necklace there, and a feather boa for the Charleston.

It seems superfluous to say that the *Great Gatsby* has never looked so, well err, great. – SV



FASHION

Hot from the catwalks

Saskia Verhagen and Alice Yang bring you the best from September's catwalks



Dolce & Gabbana

The scorching days of a traditional Italian summer were the roots of Dolce and Gabbana's catwalk inspiration this season. It was a show filled to the brim with flirtatious, fun, light-hearted pieces with a dash of glamour stirred into one giant salad – definitely the recipe to follow next whenever the sun comes out again.

Painted aubergine prints

floated down the catwalks on long flowing dresses, yellows and greens clashed on shorts as blooming courgettes, glowing orange tomatoes were scattered over suit jackets, and siren red chillies added a second layer of hot to tiny bra tops. Dolce & Gabbana let nothing escape their Taste of Italia this season as far-falle bows dangled from ears, peppers hung from wrists and even their sweet wicker baskets featured onion pendants.

Eveningwear took a darker turn, yet frivolous femininity

continued as a main theme. Appliquéd flowers covered delicate black crochet as embellishments scattered over dark sleek dresses. Rainbow gems lined collars and waists, scattered over transparent rain macs and shone over lace before finally taking over the entire runway. Dolce & Gabbana's finale this season was a sea of beautiful models in sparkling corsets strutting under the arches of glowing festival street lights. Mambo Italiano is definitely the way to go this summer. – AY



DSquared²

'An American girl goes to Glastonbury,' was the vision, according to Dean and Dan, the dynamic duo behind the oh-so Italian brand, DSquared². And an ultra-fabulous girl she is too, stomping her high-heeled wellington boots (only the Italians...) down the muddy Milanese runway.

Their American girl had a distinctly cooler edge than the British girl at Glasto – ditsy florals and lazy track-

ies were replaced by studs, ripped denim, bright parkas, sequins, plaid, flannel, fur, feathers and fedoras, all piled on in glorious festival form. And, of course, the not unsubtle repeating motif of the American flag, manifested separately as top, skirt and scarf.

The girls accessorised in the standard festival manner, with wristbands piled high, VIP passes swinging free, foot-long fringed bags on their arm and, naturally, a brew in hand.

Though by no means a fash-

ion revelation, the DSquared² boys' show was high in broad appeal and wearability, and was styled to absolute perfection.

Production-wise, aside from the thumping soundtrack (heavy on the Lenny Kravitz please), it would be an injustice and a crime not to mention the mud-caked male models frolicking by the backdrop. If only one could find a real festival that exhibited such fine models of male anatomy, oh, and of course, such cool, sexy, rock-chic style. – SV



Prada

There's no doubt that Miuccia Prada knows how to please women with her easy to wear and elegantly chic designs, but this season she took it upon herself to please the male population too. 'How so?' I hear you ask, not with an extensive show of scantily clad models (although there were bare midriffs a-plenty), but rather by combining two of the things men love best – women and cars.

Spring/Summer 2012 at Prada was an artistic show-

case of motoring. 1950s cars featured in cartoon form on leather skirts and clutch bags, as well as tantalizing prints. Defined colour combinations added a sense of power and strength to otherwise innocent looking pastel pleats, with hemlines strictly down to the knee. There was an all-together Marilyn Monroe feel to the show as models strutted over a subway grate, yet there was also Grease-like sense of fun, with plenty of leathers and tiny bandeau tops.

Sparkling jewels studded shimmering satin coats and

made up the majority of accessories in the form of necklaces, large earrings and delicate belts. Thin felt jackets featured sharp lapels, contrasting the relaxed, rounded shoulders and appliqué flowers in bright colours scattered over the front.

Flames too were a Prada favourite this season, rising up from pale chiffon dresses as fire protruded from the back of wedges, and stilettos were topped with burning exhausts. Undoubtedly, this summer's Prada girls will have a strong sense of Va Va Voom. – AY

GAMES

The Golden Joystick Award Winners



Any red-blooded gamer should have already memorized this list. For the unenlightened...

Best Action/Adventure Game:
Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood

Best Mobile Game:
Angry Birds Rio

Best RPG:
Fallout New Vegas

Best MMO (subscription):
World of Warcraft (obviously)

Best Fighting Game:
Mortal Kombat

Best Racing Game:
Gran Turismo 5

Best Sports Game:
FIFA 11

Best Strategy Game:
Starcraft II: Wings of Liberty

Best Music Game:
Guitar Hero: Warriors of Rock

Best Free-to-Play Game:
League of Legends

Best Downloadable Game:
Minecraft (also Most Addictive)

Best Shooter:
Call of Duty: Black Ops

One to Watch Winner:
The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim

Innovation of the Year:
Nintendo 3DS

Outstanding Contribution:
Sonic The Hedgehog (seriously?)

Ultimate Game of the Year:
Portal 2 (my personal favourite)

Free-to-Play? Watch your language

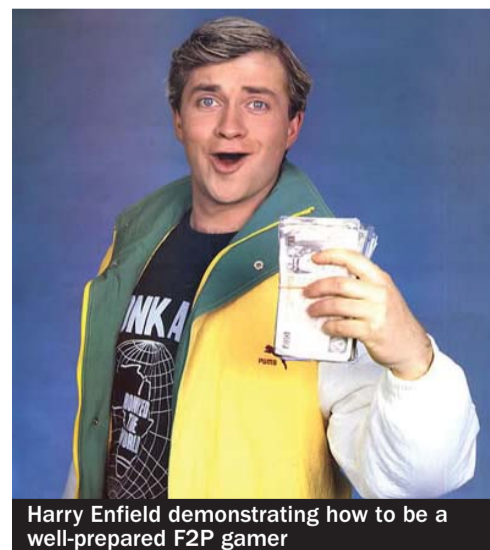
Free-to-Play is often anything but. Laurence Pope debunks the idea that F2P games are a poor gamer's wet dream

Free-to-play games are exactly what they say on the tin – video games that don't cost money to play. If this is what they truly were then I could wrap this article up right now, but unfortunately the rule 'there's no such thing as a free lunch' still remains unbroken. Here's why.

I picked up on this issue whilst desperately scouring the internet at 11.45pm on Wednesday evening, on the lookout for some mildly interesting gaming news. Mojang, creators of Minecraft, are currently developing a new game, Scrolls, and like many games now-a-days will offer the player the ability to use real-world cash to purchase in-game items. In this case it's new scrolls, i.e. spells. However, it will not even be a F2P, as it will have an as-of-yet unannounced initial cost.

By paying for the game players will get access to a large amount of starting scroll/spells, as well as an earnable in-game currency and an 'auction house', enabling players to bid for the scrolls of others. Of course, if you have a few pounds jingling about in the bank you can cut through all of this and simply pick out what you want.

This decision was mostly down to Notch (real name Markus Persson), Mojang's founder, who has claimed that 'Free-to-Play' games really ought to be called 'As expensive as you want [them] to be' games. Granted, AEAYWT2B isn't quite as snappy as F2P, but it's certainly far more accurate.



Of course, there's always the argument that if a person spends a colossal amount of money on a free game then it's their fault, not the game's developers. After all, the designers didn't press a gun against my head and demand that I spend X



amount of cash on a new spell or cosmetic item.

Or did they? They didn't of course - at least, not literally. Game developers can be very sneaky in this regard, and as Notch said, "The reason anyone switches to 'free-to-play' is to make more money." This seems counter-intuitive but it does make sense; a game that costs nothing at all can be downloaded by anyone, this produces three types of player – people who play it but only for a short while, people who play it for longer but don't spend anything on it, and another group who continue to play and spend money on it. It's the final group (obviously) who earn the company their profit.

It's also the same group who suffer from the game developer's psychological tricks to monetize the player. Little things that end up nickeling and diming you – the illusion that you can earn in-game credits when they're nowhere near enough to support your scroll/weapon/cosmetics buying; low costs lull you into buying again and again, reasoning that 'it's only a few pence', when in fact your coffers are being drained little by little; TF2 pulls a dirty little trick by effectively charging £2 a pop for a 1 in a 100 chance to get an elusive 'sparkly' cosmetic addition. I've experienced this latter trick first hand, getting shamefully sucked into it for a few months before I came out feeling very poor, very foolish, but a hell of a lot wiser. By not putting a cap on spending F2P games can rake in much more cash than traditional games that charge just for the initial purchase. In effect, you end up play-

ing a slot machine. It's a slot machine that always pays out, but it's a slot machine all the same.

"In effect, you end up playing with a slot machine. A slot machine that always pays out, but a slot machine all the same."

Scrolls is attempting to buck this trend by being a paid game with the ability to buy stuff, but I'm still going to be wary. To the inexperienced, the F2P model does appear at first glance to be an ideal prospect, but always jump into them with due diligence. As I said last week, keep in mind that game companies are businesses, and need to make money one way or other. If a game appears to be free, watch out for hidden motives – those sneaky chaps in game R&D will grab you by the short and curlies and never let go.

Enraptured and enthralled by this article? Didn't think so, so show us what you can do instead! Contact us at: games.felix@imperial.ac.uk



@FelixGames on
Twitter

It's actually being used properly now I swear.

Stay Safe In Your Student House

Better Gas Safe Than Sorry

Gas safety may not be your top priority when you move into your student house, but knowing your rights when you rent could save your life.

Gas appliances that are badly fitted or poorly serviced can put you at risk from gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas. You can't see, taste it or smell it but it can kill quickly with no warning.

Gas Safe Register is the UK's official list of legal and qualified gas engineers. Only a Gas Safe registered engineer should fit, fix or service gas appliances.

Before You Move In

Your landlord has a legal responsibility

for your safety. All gas appliances your landlord provides e.g. boilers, cookers, hobs and fires must be correctly maintained and a gas safety check carried out every 12 months by a Gas Safe registered engineer. By law your landlord must give you a copy of the Landlord's Gas Safety Record (also referred to as the Landlord's Gas Safety Certificate).

During Your Stay

- Cooperate with your landlord and let a Gas Safe registered engineer in whenever a gas safety check or maintenance is required.
- Check the Gas Safe ID card of any gas engineer that comes to do work in your student accommodation. You can also check they are registered and view a photo of them on our website. Alternatively call us to check.

- Look out for warning signs that your gas appliances are not working correctly e.g. lazy yellow flames instead of crisp blue ones or black marks or stains on or around the appliance.
- Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm. Get one marked with British Standard EN 50291.
- Remember the six main signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness. These can easily be confused with the flu or a hangover! Seek medical help immediately.
- In an emergency call the gas emergency helpline on 0800 111 999.
- If your landlord refuses to properly service and safety check the appliances they have provided, ring the Health and Safety Executive on 0845 345 0055.



your SABBATICALS

Nicolas Massie

Deputy President (Welfare)
dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk

Keep up-to-date with your Sabbaticals at:
imperialcollegeunion.org/sabbs

Bike Auction

31 October 2011/12:00pm



Dr Bike there from 12:00-17:00 Monday 12:00-15:00 Tuesday
Cycle safety talks 12:15, 14:15 Monday 13:00 Tuesday
Police Marking 12:00-16:00

Do you cycle? Join the ic-bug mailing list
mailman.ic.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/bike-users

Proceeds go to charity and to support cycling at Imperial



FOOD

Imperial Food Awards

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the first Imperial Food Awards and proved how important food is in our lives.

Surely, nothing could have happened without the support of our generous sponsors. Let us thank once again the Cypriot Society, Dishoom Bombay Café, Riverford Organic Farm, Lakeland, Ebury Publications and Relish.

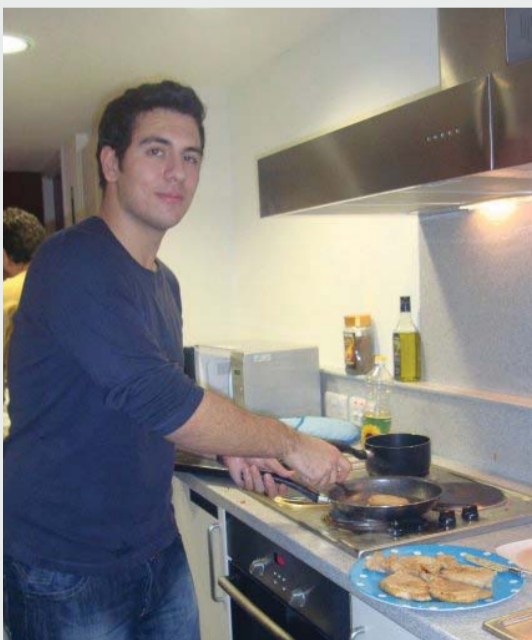
A big thank you to all contestants, who did their best to prepare delicious and creative dishes. Your positive energy and enthusiasm makes us believe that even more students will take part in the next Imperial Food Awards.



"We hope you enjoy our rather tongue-in-cheek take on cookery!" – Sam Gonshaw and Navid Nabijou, forever loyal to the Sainsbury's basics range

"I would like to thank you for creating a food competition because I believe it is very important for people to appreciate good food!"

Yiango Mavrocostanti



"Am I the Master? Hell yeah!" – George Trigeorgis is known for his modesty...

IFA 2011: The Results

**Congratulations to *Olivia Tillbert*, Imperial's Golden Master Chef!
Enjoy your **£30 Amazon voucher**, sponsored by The Cypriot Society**

Braised Lamb Shanks, served with baby potatoes and cherry tomatoes



Recipe

Slice the onions into medium sized chunks. (Try your best not to cry – mission impossible!)

Take off the carrots skin and chop them into medium chunks.

Measure out the flour in a bowl.

Season the flour with some sea salt and pepper.

Take the lamb shanks and turn them in the seasoned flour. The shanks should become dusted but not have excess flour on them.

Take the flour coated shanks and fry in a frying pan on medium to high heat in a dollop of olive oil. Turn them so they have a golden colour on all sides.

Put the golden shanks into a casserole dish/big pot.

Start to fry the onion pieces on medium heat. Add extra oil if necessary.

Add as soon as possible the crushed garlic to the frying pan.

Once the onion and garlic mixture is soft and translucent, add them to the casserole dish/pot where the shanks are sitting.

Put the stock into the used ('dirty') frying pan and scrape off the residues from the sides to dissolve the left over tastes into the stock. Do this at medium heat.

Add the "seasoned" stock into the casserole dish/pot with the shanks.

Add the chopped carrots into the casserole dish/pot with the shanks.

Add the mustard into the casserole dish/pot.

Bring the casserole dish/pot to a boil on the

hob and then reduce it to a simmer.

Leave the casserole dish/pot on gentle enough heat to keep it at a simmer for 2 hours with a lid. Stir occasionally. Add some water (e.g. 100 ml at a time) if it looks a little dry.

Serve one shank per person on plates.

When the shanks are removed from the casserole dish/pot, add the spinach and basil leaves and stir until they have wilted. (Don't worry: the spinach will fit!) Do this at the same gentle heat.

Serve beautifully with the potatoes and tomatoes! Salt and pepper to taste.



Ingredients

- 2 tsp Plain Flour
- 4 lamb shanks
- Olive oil
- 2 onions
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 750 ml chicken/lamb stock*
- 3 large carrots
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 500g spinach (trimmed if you aren't lazy like me)
- Handful of fresh basil
- A few pinches sea salt
- A few turns of fresh pepper

* You can buy ready stock however I usually add 1 chicken and 1 beef cube into 750 ml of boiling water and mix to dissolve the cubes.

Runners-up

Jens Wilting wins a copy of Riverford Farm Cook Book and the "Good Food: 101 Easy Student Dinners" book

Yiango Mavrocostanti wins a Hawkshead Relish Caramel Sauce and a copy of "Good Food: 101 Easy Student Dinners"

George Trigeorgis, Stephen Gallagher and **Yap Chinhua** each win a copy of "Good Food: 101 Easy Student Dinners"

Their recipes will be published in one of the following issues



Yap Chinhua



Stephen Gallagher



Jens Wilting



Yiango Mavrocostanti



George Trigeorgis

Congratulations to Sam Gonshaw and Navid Nabijou, Imperial's Silver Master Chefs!
Enjoy your free breakfast at Dishoom in Covent Garden, London's first Bombay Café

Congratulations to Chew Jermaine, Imperial's Bronze Master Chef!
Keep on cooking with your brand new set of kitchenware, by Lakeland

The Which Came First

Crispy Pork Belly



Ingredients

- 2 poussins
- 8 eggs
- 100g minced chicken breast
- ¼ lettuce
- 1 sprig spring onion
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 lemon
- 3 tbsp mayonnaise
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 3 tbsp white wine
- 3 tbsp red chilli powder
- 2 tsp dried basil

Recipe

First, hard boil the eggs. We shall re-

turn to these later.

To prepare the marinade, first crush the garlic. Mix the basil in a bowl with the garlic. Squeeze half a lemon into the bowl. Add the white wine and the olive oil.

Now unwrap and untie the poussins and clean them with boiling water. Apply the marinade over the poussins and inside the cavity. Optionally, the poussins may be left to marinate for a few hours.

Now, peel the eggs. Insert one into each poussin. Put the poussins in the oven in a roasting dish, uncovered, at 190°C and cook for 40-45 minutes. Be sure to baste regularly with their own juices, so that they don't

dry out.

Halve the remaining eggs and carefully remove the yolks, placing them in a bowl. Add to the bowl the minced chicken breast, spring onions, mayonnaise, chilli powder. Mash together to form a paste. Spoon the paste back into the egg whites, into the space left by removing the yolks.

Prepare the plates by covering them with a bed of lettuce. Once the poussins are done, place one on each plate and surround with the finished eggs.

Enjoy served immediately with a chilled bottle of sauvignon blanc and an open mind.

Ingredients

- A slab of pork belly
- Salt
- Ground white pepper
- Sesame oil
- Herbes de Provence
- Rosemary herbs

Recipe

Preheat the oven at 200°C for 15min. Rinse the pork belly, dab dry the pork belly, especially the skin.

Mix the salt, pepper, and sesame oil

in a bowl. Coat the skin evenly with the mixture.

Take the time to sprinkle some Herbes de Provence and Rosemary herbs onto the skin.

Place the pork belly on an Al foil with skin faced up. After 20min, nudge the pork belly to ensure it doesn't stick to the Al foil.

Put the pork belly in again and heat for another 15-20min. The pork belly is ready when the skin has turned golden brown and looks crispy.

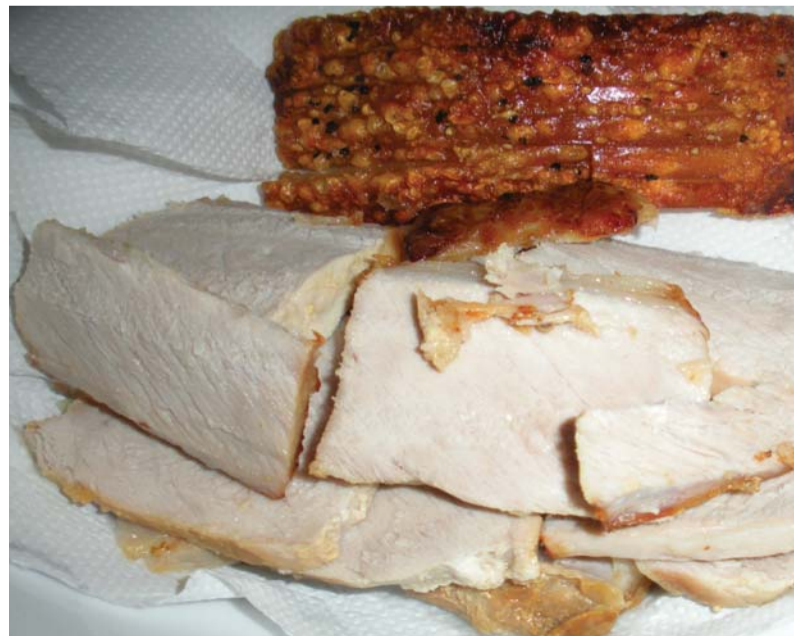
Carve up the meat and the crispy skin separately to be served.

“Man has for millennia strived to answer the age-old philosophical question: **which came first, the chicken or the egg?**

Now, at the peak of our civilisation, with the tools of science and technology at our hands, we no longer need ask this question.

Our brutal taming of nature has rendered the question irrelevant. For here, we lay before you an allegorical spectacle, a feast for the senses, in whose shadow all philosophical trifles are moot. We present to you The Which Came First.”

An ideological discussion between Sam and Navid



TRAVEL

Travel Editors: **Dushi Arumuganesan**
Chris Richardson

travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Wish You Were Here



'Athens Diving World Series' by Aris Messinis

Travel on your doorstep

FirstThursdays.co.uk



First Thursdays in East London

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

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

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

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

Volunteering on top of the world

Canoeing with crocodiles, bamboo bungee-jumping and mad motorists – an exhilarating Nepalese adventure

Luke Sanders

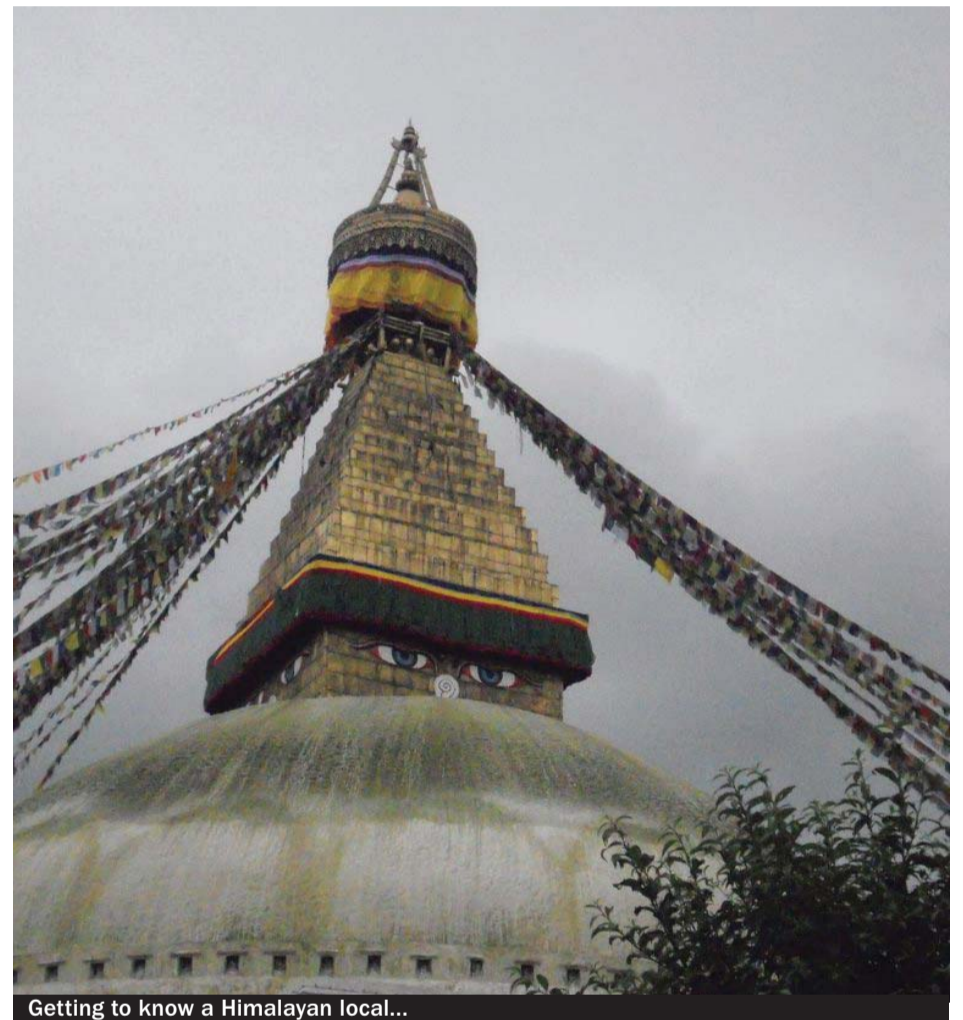
Nepal provided me with one of the most surreal experiences of my life; from the touchy landing on the pothole-ridden runway, to the 'seductive' dancing policeman in one of the local bars. Looking for an experience of a lifetime, I wasn't disappointed.

After stepping out into the oppressive humidity, the first thing that struck me about the capital, Kathmandu, was the chaos that consumed everything; the traffic, the pedestrians, and even the electricity cabling. As a pedestrian, it would be quite possible to make a sport of traffic dodging. The only practical way of getting across a main road was to tuck in behind a local and hope that luck was with you. Once I had grasped the concept of crossing a road, Kathmandu, and particularly the small district of Themal, really opened up. It is littered with hundreds of shops and market stalls, all trying to sell the same things. I could easily have spent days meandering through the streets bartering for the best prices on jewellery, trinkets and clothing. The locals are delightful and always keen to chat, whether they're telling you stories of their own lives or just quizzing you on England and the mystical nature that seems to surround it over there.

"...twisting and turning as the world flies past..."

One of the friendliest Nepali locals, Suresh, organised a trip to the Chitwan, a national park that resides southwest of Kathmandu. Tourists endure six hours on a bus through the mountains to travel to Chitwan, where it's possible to experience an elephant jungle safari. The option of washing the elephants was also on offer, as well as a ride in a canoe that skims the surface of the river by mere inches, beneath which crocodiles swim. Perhaps more exhilarating than this was the actual journey from Kathmandu to Chitwan. The road that took me there balanced precariously on the edge of the mountains that occupy Nepal. Motorists seem to have an unnatural desire to end their own lives and those of people around them by consistently attempting overtaking manoeuvres on blind corners whilst going uphill in a lorry. The only compensation for the sheer terror that was inflicted on me was the majesty of the surrounding scenery. The river that ran adjacent to the road carved a path through the mountains with ease, offering an insight into the power of nature. A veil of mist fell upon it in the early hours and appeared to shroud everything in mystery and serenity; a complete contrast to Kathmandu.

Sanctuary from the fast pace of the capital could also be found towards the Tibetan border.



Getting to know a Himalayan local...

Here, hidden in the mountains, a relaxing lodge can be found. It just so happens that the world's second largest bungee jump is also there. Standing 165m high over raging torrents, I found myself being strapped to a piece of 'string' by complete strangers, approaching a platform and asking myself why I was about to throw myself off a bridge. Then I jumped and I realised why – an adrenaline rush that can't be matched. You accelerate towards the ground, the air flying past you, the blood rushing to your head, caught in a daze of excitement and horror as you expect the worst. Then the bungee tightens and you're sprung back towards the sky, twisting and turning as the world flies past, the sky indistinguishable from the mountains and the river. Before you know it, you're being pulled from just above the river to the safety of land with some very high tech equipment – a piece of bamboo. After being unstrapped I laughed out loud, amazed that I was still alive.

It wasn't the need to jump off a bridge that attracted me to Nepal. The main reason for my trip was to volunteer in a Buddhist monastery. Each weekday I would walk about forty minutes to the monastery on the outskirts of Kathmandu, where I would be greeted by a cup of Nepali tea and a 'good morning sir' from practically every monk that I taught. There were

three classes of mixed ages ranging between three and sixteen. The monks were really quite cheeky and much preferred playing games over learning English and maths, so it is fair to say that they can confidently play Thumb Wars, Simon Says and Bingo. They were brilliant at being blunt, pointing out the fattest one of the group when asked what fat meant, or nicknaming one of the younger ones 'monkey' because he had ragged teeth and ate paper. Apart from the occasional Gameboy or knife that had to be confiscated, they were fantastically well behaved and I believe that they truly appreciated my time there as much as I did. It was on my last day at the monastery that the monks were treated to the use of a digital camera, and they absolutely loved it. They managed to take over 250 photos where they posed in unbelievably 'G' fashion, rounding off a brilliant experience for me.

Volunteering was without doubt the most rewarding thing that I have ever done and I would highly recommend it, especially in Nepal. The country is so different from England; it felt like such a breath of fresh air and gave me memories that I will never forget. I only hope that other people would be willing to immerse themselves into the chaotic country that sits on top of the world.

Bonkers

UNRAVE

4 November 2011
20:00 - 02:00

metric

Only

£3.00

**Drinks Offer
from 8pm
in Metric**

House spirit

& mixer – £2.20

Vodka Redbull – £3.00

Jägerbomb – £3.30

imperialcollegeunion.org/metric

LIMITS
yourlimits.co.uk

imperial
college
union

HANGMAN



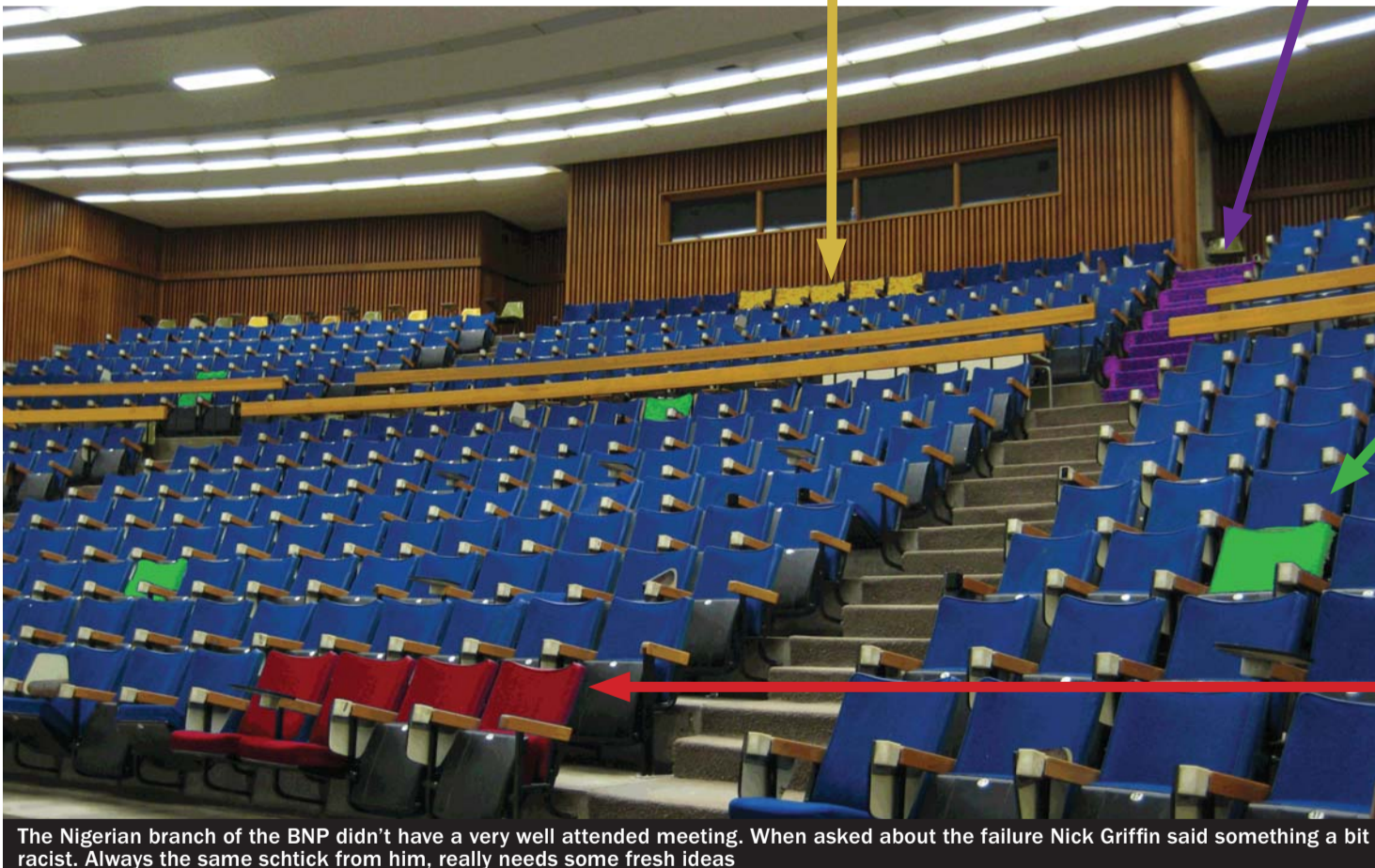
hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Hangman Seating Guide

What your seating choice says about you. **If you're colour blind, this article isn't for you.** See, even the byline is going to mess with your head

The back row – refuge for those still worried about being considered a nerd despite going to Imperial. To be fair, there are many reasons for wanting to stay at the back – and none of them are honourable. It's a great launch pad for various paper-based onslaughts, because you have everyone in your sight. Plus, let's face it, all that 'alone time' in the bathroom has caused your arm to be quite powerful. You can even hit Captain Questions in the front. You can even see just enough down the well-endowed girl's top in front for you to make a potentially overused, slightly guilty feeling (when you pluck up the courage to talk to her) wank bank deposit. You might be there because you can't keep your gob shut for more than five minutes and sitting any closer brings you within earshot of the lecturer. Perhaps, you're just incredibly paranoid about people seeing that bald spot on your crown, which might also explain why you walk backwards when leaving the lecture. Here's a tip: you're not going bald, Asians just have really thin hair. Women don't even get male pattern baldness, you cretin. Although, your moonwalking out of lectures is sublime.

On the stairs – it's the beginning of term so the theatre is packed but you were too fucking lazy to get out of bed on time, so it's neither the front nor the back seat for you. You prefer the cold, hard steps, anyway: sitting on comfy seats is so 2010. Plus, you look so cool and hipster rolling up a cigarette on the step while you're hungover. I bet you're the edgy guy from the Mingle. I bet you're so popular that you just sit there texting all your friends for the entire lecture. Hopefully, there's a fire that you die slowly in, struggling to move in your spray-on jeans. While you're at it, shave off the ironic moustache.



The Nigerian branch of the BNP didn't have a very well attended meeting. When asked about the failure Nick Griffin said something a bit racist. Always the same schtick from him, really needs some fresh ideas

Anywhere – with no such things as friends to anchor you to any particular zone, the lecture theatre is your oyster! Shame you also smell like one, which not only explains your loneliness, but also your refusal to stay put – only so many lectures can pass before people begin to anticipate your location and hence avoid it all costs. Perhaps lay off the garlic cheese for breakfast and invest in a bar of soap? Don't worry, in a way, it's a good thing. You see, University is just like school... nobody wanted to sit next to you then, either.

The front row – you're one of those freaks who actually enjoys the subject, so sitting at the very front means you get first shot at asking the lecturer pedantic questions before he gets tired and tells all the students to fuck off and take the course book out of the library. It also means you don't have to shout too loudly when you inevitably have to correct the lecturer when he forgets to close a bracket because your OCD will simply not let that shit fly. You're also as far away as you can get from the rest of the students, which is a good thing when they inevitably get annoyed by your pedantry and paper planes start coming your way. 'Excuse me, I would just like to ask on behalf of the class', and 'What would happen if...' are your catchphrases. Just so you know, your inputs are about as helpful and wanted as the barrage of careers advice emails from *that* guy.

In bed – similar to the stairs but you were smart enough to anticipate the lack of derriere room. Besides, the notes are online and the lecturer's voice is the audiological equivalent of watching paint dry on an overcast Sunday afternoon. Who cares if you fail your degree? Studying is for nerds. Hey, there's always the dole, mooching off parents, or heroin. Applicants need pick only one option.



MY YOUNG APPRENTICE



HANGMAN

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



The fetal position isn't going to help you now you know. What would your parents say? Find out next week when they see the copies we sent them. It could be worse, guy-on-the-right, at least you're wearing FCUK boxers - nice

Horoscopes*

*Believe them and your arse is mine. Louise Mensch, I hope you're reading.

Aries

You've slept badly. You should really have had that shit before going to bed. You get up at 7am and drop the kids off at the pool. Ah, the satisfaction, the weightlessness. And then... *Whiiiiirrrrrr...* fucking fire alarm!! You'll get a £100 fine. Thankfully the shit was worth it.

Taurus

So, it's Issue 1499! The big 1499. That's right! Oh, wait, the Editor wants to keep the build-up going until issue 1500. Wtf. Just because a number is suitably rounded, doesn't make that issue any different. Why not just wait until 1501? What a fucking dickwad.

Gemini

What sort of person would hide behind an anonymous veil to write hatred drivel about other columnists? What a pathetic, sad person you must be. You vagina. I fucking hate cowards. I also fucking hate Ken Livingstone, Lewis Hamilton, and Diane Abbott. Go jump off a cliff.

Cancer

Born on the 28 June? Blonde? Tory? Well, this week, all will go badly for you unless you come to the Felix office and suck Hangman's Cock (yes, it is capitalised, cos it's so huge). You do. While saying something about hating Dale Farm; it makes it more arousing.

Leo

So, you walked out of the RSC's production of Marat/Sade. You couldn't take the nudity or torture. Come to the Felix office at 1am this Saturday and I'll show you a proper bit of Shakespeare. I'll shake my spear at you, sir!

[1] Line 42, Hamlet. Also, spear = cock?
[2] Page 32, York Notes Guide to Hamlet

Virgo

Just when I was running out of wank material, not only does Louise appear on TV, Gaddafi goes and gets shot. And there's footage of it! Nothing beats a dead dictator wank. Recall Saddam's death erection? Nothing quite like a post-mortem erection. Sexy.

Libya

To the powers that be: we want a tour to Libya. We need a translator, bullet proof vests, helmets, a crazy taxi driver, and a phrase book. And Gaddafi's gold plated balls. Imagine the Features we could do. We fucking dedicated a horoscope to you. Go on.

Scorpio

This is made up. Don't tell Mystic Meg, she'll have to go back to sucking cock for heroin. I have a particular hate against you this week. You fucking, arse wipe disgrace of an excuse for a human being. I want to pluck your pubic region hair by hair. And sterilise it with whisky.

Sagittarius

I never found Have I Got News for You any good. And then I saw Louise Mensch on it. Google her, she's fit. She could mensch my cock. Nothing beats a fit, obnoxious Tory. Except for my cock. Who'd have guessed BBC 1 9pm on a Friday was perfect wank bank material?

Capricorn

Apparently the Student Union President at Liverpool University didn't appreciate our Cancer horoscope last week. He thinks he represents the views of all students. Well, we think he should go fuck himself.

Aquarius

Last week we cracked a joke about latte drinking socialists in this space. Louise Mensch must have seen it. She used the joke on HIGNFY. It bombed like an enthusiastic NATO 'peacekeeper'. We're sorry. Our jokes aren't that well thought out. Can we make it up to you :)

Pisces

THIS IS FUCKING ATROCIOUS. USING EMOTICONS IN THE HOROSCOPES!!! While I'm at it, can we please STOP having fucking religious pieces in the comment section. NO ONE GIVES A FUCK. Let's just all be friends. Now, suck my balls.

HANGMAN DICTIONARY

MISINFORMING IMPERIAL SINCE 1984



careers advisor (n.)

1. Person who is unable to get a proper job and whose prime role is to ironically suggest career paths to spotty-faced undergraduates.
2. Proof that people who can't take advice always seem to be the best at dishing it out - see also **Your Mum** (n.)
3. Person you should never ask for careers advice. They will stop you seeking your dreams or doing anything unrelated to your degree or banking. This is because they lack all imagination.
4. One level above unemployed on the career ladder. With added pity.

titanic (n.)

1. What your penis definitely isn't, as evidenced by your ability to wear skinny jeans that belong on a girl. Jeans are too tight when they begin castrating you, just FYI.
2. Your mate, who gets told by her friends that her lovely blue eyes are her best asset. Should do some sport. Will swallow, if only for the calories.
3. "Doing a Titanic" - getting 2,223 people to go down on you. Getting hit by an iceberg is optional, not recommended but bloody spiffing banter.

beard (n.)

1. The ultimate sign of either manliness or laziness. Go ahead, shave the moustache to convince yourself that it's the former. Now you look like a member of System of a Down.
2. "Bear'd": a popular Russian Punk'd spin-off where an Ashton Kutcher look-alike sets a bear on unwitting Russian celebrities, with hilarious and fatal consequences. Why do you think nobody's heard from the t.A.T.u. twins recently?
3. The one thing you should never see on a girl. Seriously, I once saw a girl who apparently neglected her face during exams and looked like a yeti by the end of the term.

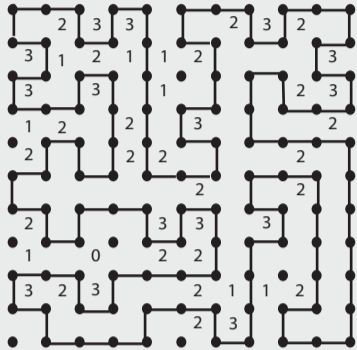
Puzzles Editors: James Hook

puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions

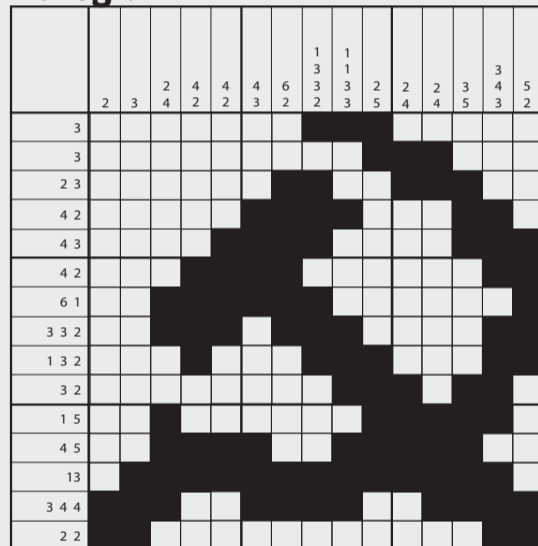
Slitherlink



Film Strip

1. The Green Mile 2. Black Swan 3. The Blues Brothers 4. The Colour Purple 5. A Clockwork Orange Theme: Colours

Nonogram



Crosswords

QUICK(ish) - Across 1. Bachelor Party 9. Ethic 10. Reimburse 11. Dielectric 12. Tsar 14. Noticed 16. Genuine 17. Blanket 19. Chimera 20. Team 21. Troubadour 24. Eagerness 25. Ovals 26. Retrogression **Down** 1. Bread and Butter 2. Coho 3. Eccles Cake 4. Oersted 5. Pairing 6. Robs 7. Yorkshire 8. George Harrison 13. Indicators 15. Trafalgar 18. Torpedo 19. Cruiser 22. Okapi 23. Fret
CRYPTIC - Across 1. Overpass 5. Belted 9. Cac 10. Isaac Asimov 12. Phenomenon 13. Flat 15. Let Off 16. Samurai 18. Drachma 20. Xeroma 23. Also 24. Stumpiness 26. Crown Prince 27. Tie 28. Dodgem 29. Army Worm **Down** 1. Occupy 2. Excrete 3. Philosophy 4. State of Matter 6. Easy 7. Tumbler 8. Dovetail 11. Cross Examiner 14. Embroidery 17. Advanced 19. Abscond 21. Maestro 22. Esteem 25. Ante

Cryptogram

"Many people want the government to protect the consumer. A much more urgent problem is to protect the consumer from the government" - Milton Friedman

Chess

Solution from 2 weeks ago: White wins the black queen with the following combination: 1. Bxf7+!! Nxf7 2. Qh7+ Kf8 3. Ne6+ Bg6+ Kg8 4. Qh7# 2. Qh5+ Kg8 3. Bxg7! Kxg7 (... f5 4. Qg6! Rf7 5. Bf6+ Kf8 6. Qh6+ Kg8 7. Qh8#) 4. Qg4+ Kh8 (...Kf6 5. Qg5#) 5. Rh3+ Bh4 6. Rxh4# 1-0

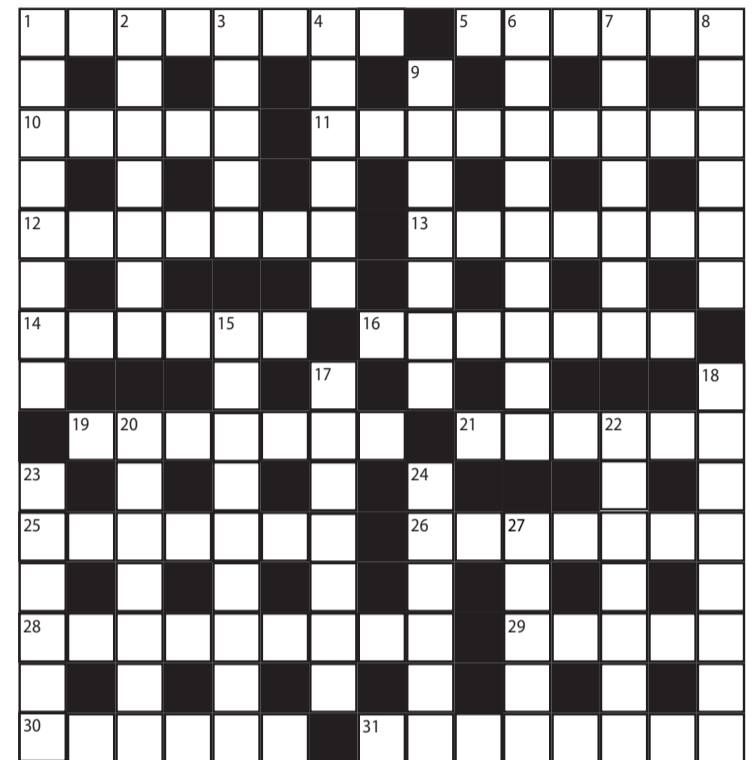
Quick(ish) Crossword

Across

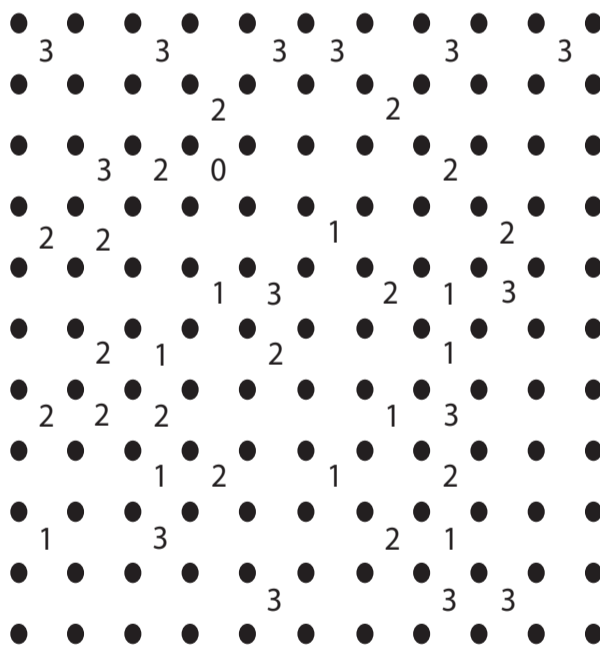
1. Inquiry inviting a reply (8)
5. Batter cake; ramble (6)
10. Any of various poplar trees; west Colorado city (5)
11. Waiterless restaurant (9)
12. Very large ocean wave (7)
13. Marry (7)
14. Boredom (6)
16. Receptacle for cigarette remnants (7)
19. Shooting with a bow (7)
21. Harp player (6)
25. Lone bone of the forelimb (7)
26. Most desirable (7)
28. Policy of racial segregation (9)
29. Where Moses received the 10 commandments (5)
30. To sway as if about to fall (6)
31. The highest reaches of heaven (8)

Down

1. Amount (8)
2. Give a detailed statement of (7)
3. Pacific archipelago (5)
4. Plant with showy flowers (6)
6. Strong feeling of dislike (9)
7. Rule or principle (maths) (7)
8. Tooth coating (6)
9. Breach of the law (7)
15. Female escort (9)
17. (Meat of) the chest of an animal (7)
18. Male horse (8)
20. Unrestrained (7)
22. Extremely large or great (7)
23. Prevent from accomplishing (6)
24. It's used during sex... (6)
27. ...Delicious!!! (5)



SLITHERLINK

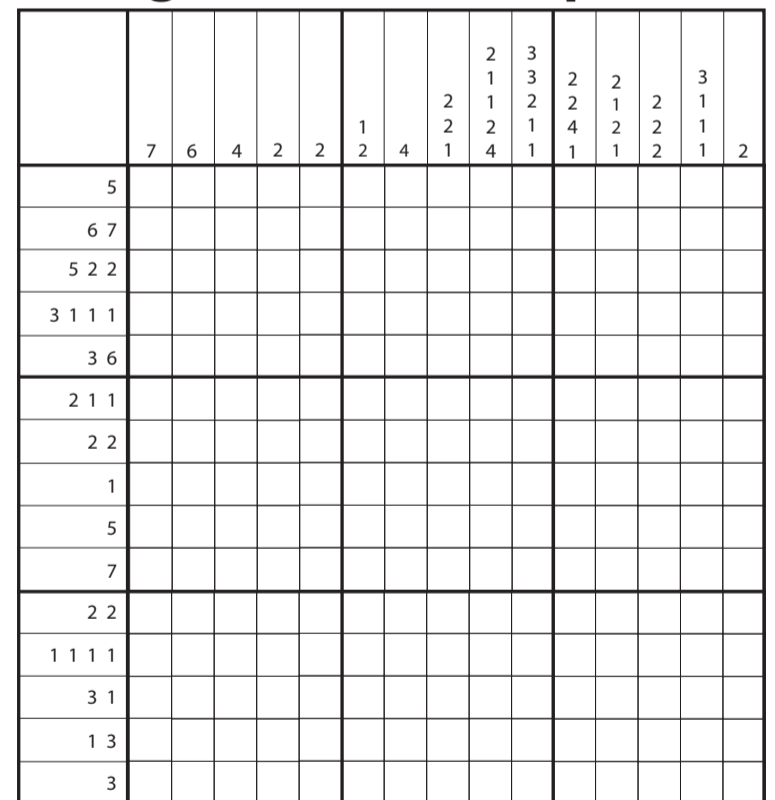


ChessSoc Chess



White to play and win

Nonogram - Aerial Escape



FUCWIT League Leader Board

Teams:

Elbowfart 18
The Jailbaits 18

Individuals:

Jeremy Neale 23
Wael Aljeshi 16

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

Send your solutions to: puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk for points galore!

SPORT

Imperial Wolverines hunt down Bronze Fencing: girls go top

Alan Soltani

Dodgeball

On Sunday 23th October, the Imperial Wolverines enjoyed an unexpected 3rd place finish in the 16 team South Coast Open, butchering some of the countries best dodgeball teams on the way.

The wolverine-pack started the day slowly with lone wolf Quang 'throw with a bang' Hui missing the train and team Captain Alan 'sensei' Soltani recovering from his nocturnal lifestyle. The team had a harsh awakening against fierce rivals and universally unpopular Minotaur Dodgeball. Imperial lost 3-1 (matches are out of 5); a disappointing scoreline but a deserved win for the Minotaurs after taking us by surprise with some high quality play.

The Wolverines soon bounced back recording two comfortable 5-0 victories against Southampton Buckaneers and Portsmouth Purple Cobras C. Dodgeball pin up Steve 'Chabal' Ndumbe stood about for most of each game and then pulled off some expert pressure catching and funky court moves, playing majestically in the last thirty seconds of each game. The Imperial Wolverines eventually made it into the quarter-finals where they would face the Jammy Dodgers - Britain's second

best team.

In this match Scott 'beef generator' Esnouf and Wolverine of the tournament Thomas 'The Doctor' Peake excelled. These two pulled off some clinical counter-attacking moves complimented by a great catching display by 'Big Al' Soltani and the ever infallible, inscrutable and irrepressible Adam 'Ash' Cutmore. The wolverine-pack posted a 3-1 win against JD and progressed into the semi-final where they would meet a strong, well-rounded Southampton Pirates side.

Here, Alan made the ingenious decision of bringing back on the big guns of Luke 'Andy Murray' Barron - a ball magnet, and Quang 'lucky charm' Hui who dodged like a champion, allowing the rest of the team and especially Doctor Peake to execute a good hitting game. Imperial raced to a 3-1 scoreline needing just one more game to make it into the final. Unfortunately, the Southampton Pirates, one of the nicest teams around, just didn't know when to lie down and get ball battered. Out of nothing, they fought back to a 4-3 win. Imperial dropped to their knees as the team narrowly missed out on their first ever final...heart-breaking stuff.

The Wolverines picked themselves

back up and had a few minutes to prepare before the best-of-7 3rd / 4th playoff - the battle for bronze. As if it was written in the stars, the team staring at us 50 feet away was none other than the always angry Minotaurs. In the first game, the Minotaurs cheekily left out their two best players and were duly punished. With the court volume rising, Imperial ground out a 2-1 lead, needing 2 more games for bronze. The next game defined controversial. Alan 'Woody' Soltani clearly hit a really angry ginger dude on the foot and he proceeded to give the finger and refuse to go out. The Minotaurs got a taste of their own medicine with the 30+ crowd cheering every time one of them was eliminated. As the whistle sounded, the referees had decided the game was drawn but after much Minotaur moaning the decision was overturned. 2-2. Imperial remained unfazed. The team had caught the scent of a lesser beast in their nostrils. In the next two games, the well organised, gargantuan Imperial side flourished, obliterating the Minotaurs. Doctor Peake making some magical, uncharacteristic catches. 4-2. A bronze medal finish. The celebrations were wild. This was dodgeballing heaven - a true underdog story.

...Continued from back page top-5 in the UK, the match isn't too easy and Imperial wins with the not massive margin 45-43, which still brings them to an overall victory of 135-81. Next opponent is Oxford, the match that matters. The girls are aware of what's ahead and gear up for a tough fight. About an hour later, the Imperial team is standing there looking at each other, wondering what just happened. Oxford didn't seem like they cared, they had barely tried to win. Instead it had been very easy for Alice, Emily and Charlotte and they

had won 45-25, leading to the overall result 123-96.

By this time, it was only two matches left before the minibus could return to London. Cambridge scored many hits but never really threatened, epee ended 45-42 and the match 135-74 overall. Queen Mary saw themselves defeated by 45-31, the overall score landing at 135-63, and it was finally time to go home. With the weekend finished, the team was very pleased with another clean swipe and has now set the focus to the Championship knock-out match coming up.



About two seconds after this photo was taken, they got out the retractable claws - way better than wrenches



Fencing against a backdrop of cinderblocks. That's Cambridge for you

Interested in sport?

We need contributors!

Drop by the office or email us:

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

SPORT

Club Captain Interview: Snooker

Essential info:

Elwin Carlos, 20

Plays snooker left-handed

2 years of competitive snooker

3rd year Physics student

Likes: freshly-ironed snooker tables

Dislikes: the general lack of female snooker players



Indy Leclercq
Sports Editor

We continue our Club Captains interview series this week with a sport that many people have heard about or even seen on television but that tends to keep a low profile amongst Imperial's sports clubs - snooker.

Elwin Carlos, a third year physicist, is this year's ICU Snooker club president. We meet in Beit quad for the interview, and he turns up in full matchday attire - waistcoat, bow tie and all. He takes me up to the third floor of the union, where the snooker rooms reside, to conduct the interview and take some pictures.

The rooms are impressive, boasting four full-sized tables - which are a lot bigger in real life than on BBC2. I point this out, and Elwin smiles. "Most people tend to be surprised about how much the television shrinks the tables - it's all camera angles". The whole place seems to be a pretty well-guarded secret, but Elwin wants more people to come along. "We organize beginners' coaching sessions on Tuesday nights, so people can come along and discover the sport, even if they've never held a cue before". He offers to let me shoot some balls, but I decline - I would definitely need some coaching first!

We begin the interview proper, and I start by asking about the snooker club's recent achievements. "We're currently defending BUCS Trophy champions, having won the second-tier competition of the BUCS Snooker Championships for the past two years".

The snooker season revolves around one tournament held as part of the

BUCS nationals events in March: the twenty-odd university teams participating are divided into four groups. The top two of each group qualify for the Championship knockout tournament, while the third and fourth-placed teams

Our aim this year is to break into the top eight, and compete with the 'big' teams

compete for the Trophy.

Elwin is clear about the club's objective for this season: "At the moment our first team is ranked 9th in the country. Our aim this year is to break into the top eight and compete with the 'big' teams: Cardiff, York, Manchester, Southampton, Warwick, QUB, Nottingham and Kent. We have two or three guys capable of making big breaks, so I think we have a pretty good shot this year." He sounds convincing, and I'm inclined to believe that they'll manage this year after coming so close in previous editions.

This prompts the question, though: what does preparation for the BUCS tournament involve?

"We just had team trials last week, which we use to gauge the standard of the new people at the club. However, seeing as we only have the BUCS tournament in the second term, whoever is playing best at the time will be

in the team. We also have an internal league in which members compete for the prestige of being the best player in the club."

On top of that, ICU Snooker now has a professional coach coming in for the first time in their history. "We've brought in Patsy Fagan. He was the UK champion in 1977 and is an ex-world number 11 - he comes down to our club on Thursday nights to help us improve our skills," says Elwin enthusiastically. What, then, does it take to be a good snooker player? The snooker president smiles knowingly at this: "it takes a few weeks to pick up the basics, how to hold a cue, how pot a ball...but to go from that to being able to make big breaks, it just takes hours and hours of practice."

I gather that Elwin has been putting the hours in at the table, then. I ask him how he got into snooker, and it turns out that he really came into his ball-pocketing stride at Imperial: "From a young age I've always been interested in snooker, but before Imperial it only went as far as having a small table from Argos in my garage and practicing on my own or with my brother. I only started taking it seriously when I got here - I was a complete amateur when I arrived. In two years I've gone from struggling to pot about 2 balls in a row to potting 20 balls in succession, which I managed for the first time a couple of weeks ago." Although all sports take practice, the facilities at Imperial seem pretty top-notch, and it's pretty easy to come and play a few frames during lunchtime - with or without a bow tie.

Cryptic Crossword 1,499

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9								10						
11				12						13				
14								15						
								16						
17		18								19		20		
										21				
22												23	24	
25				26						27				
28								29						

Across

1. Drug increase, this slows down trip? (5,4)
6. Chav love mayhem! (5)
9. Time matters making animals or plants with these (7)
10. French chemist or holy man, it is heard (7)
11. Holy woman forming new United Nations (3)
12. Mucking around, you lent one's cartoons (6,5)
14. Plunder woolly coat (6)
15. Near fundamental oxygen contained (8)
17. 12 points for ward containing strategy for businessman (8)
19. Stupid people identify moon before Eliot (6)
22. Cap I follow following fallow, for example (11)
23. Gobble down tea unconventionally (3)
25. Perform great musical work, nearly ten! (7)
27. Victorian feasted upon mammal (7)
28. Small cat with equipment. Thank you! (5)
29. The key to beating the dealer? (6-3)

Down

1. Settled in smooth fabric (5)
2. Intrinsic nature of church below Eastern rising headland (7)
3. Betray, getting angry again and again (6,5)
4. Advantage of lob, perhaps (6)
5. Manipulation of little dog with exercise lesson attempt (8)
6. "Hello, sir!" starts to belong to man (3)
7. Funny native male in Asian country (7)
8. Cocoon has lyrics adapted (9)
13. Drive for extreme Rastafarianism in believer, one making stuffed animals (11)
14. Poor kid! Flower research in natural environment (9)
16. 10 years of books is self-indulgent (8)
18. Gift here? (7)
20. Peculiar orange, nothing but mint (7)
21. Located in Macedonia, Southern stadium stand with jellied eels initially below (6)
24. Time for this place, that place (5)
26. One of all possibilities, one unknown (3)

The snooker club also sends an 8-ball pool team to the BUCS championships - something of a revival, apparently. I ask what the main differences are; surely a team of snooker players have the required skills to compete in pool?

"Ah, sure, the skill set is very similar but in terms of tactics there are some important differences. In pool you need to be slightly more careful about where your cue ball ends up after a shot. You have to be careful in snooker too but with pool, being reckless will often lead to your opponent potting 6 or 7 balls in a row to win a

frame." Duly noted. He also tells me that the club organizes free trips to Rileys Victoria, a local pool hall, every week.

Any parting thoughts? Half-jokingly, half-seriously he breaks into a smile: "Sometimes it feels like I'm sacrificing my degree to play snooker." Is it worth it? "Definitely."

ICU Snooker can be contacted at snooker@ic.ac.uk. For more information visit union.ic.ac.uk/snooker. Yearly membership is £25 and includes daily access to the snooker rooms, free beginners' coaching and free pool sessions.

Surf's up!

Imperial surfers venture down to the BUCS nationals in Newquay to tackle the waves

Page 42



Winning start for Hockey Men's 2s

Jason Ye
Hockey

Men's 2s 4-1 Roehampton 1s

After the abysmal performance in the preseason friendly against UCL, the Men's 2s regrouped and approached their first competitive match of the season in a whole new light.

Roehampton University's Men's 1s provided the opposition who joined this league from the one above after being relegated last season. Arguably this made them the team to beat if we were to push for promotion. The short trip from South Kensington to Roehampton's home pitch at the Bank of England Sports Ground would have been smooth sailing, if it were not for Yellow Bag's inability to follow basic directions around Hammersmith Roundabout.

Armed with a new defensive strategy and formation and two new additions to the side -Fresher Oli and a guest appearance by Teabag of the Men's 3rd Team - we started the game briskly. Some weaving runs on the right by Dirty Whaler culminated in a extremely arrogant aerial ball down the line to Fresher Danny who shimmied past the Roehampton left-back and proceeded to hit the ball across the circle to Strap-on who was waiting to tap it into the open goal.

1-0 up and looking solid at the back, our new defensive press allowed us to get all our players behind the ball and force Roehampton's heads down. After a while they started dribbling up their own arses and we were able to break their attacks down one by one before they even made it to our shooting circle.

Twenty minutes into the first half saw

...Continued on Page 41

...Continued on Page 42

Resounding wins for women's fencing

Charlotte Levin
Fencing

Women's 1st 135-74 Cambridge 1st
 Women's 1st 123-96 Oxford 1st
 Women's 1st 135-81 ULU 1st
 Women's 1st 135-63 Queen Mary 1st

IC Fencing Women's 1st maintain their position as number 1.

Early on Saturday morning, Imperial Fencing's Women's first team start-

ed their journey to Cambridge. With a great season behind (BUCS Champions with only victories in the score sheet), confidence, expectations and eager to perform were very high. Not even a traffic jam due to closed motorway being partly closed resulting in 2h delay would bring them down!

The schedule was done so that the first third of each match, foil, would be fenced on Saturday, followed by sabre and epee, the other two weapons, on Sunday. This meant that Zoe Robinson, Alice Mitchell and Hannah

Bryars were to start it all off. First match is Cambridge, and despite the girls not having had any time for a proper warm up, they dance through it with the final score 45-5. Positively puzzled, they continue by winning against Queen Mary 45-11 and the new comers UCL 45-14. Last match was Oxford, a team that turned out to be a greater challenge than expected. It's an even match at the start, the lead swaying back and forth, but towards the end Oxford pulls themselves together and wins 45-33, the first foil

match Imperial has lost in a year's time.

Sunday arrives, with sabre on piste first. Zoe and Hannah continue and Alice is swapped for Clare Harding. Clare has had to wake up hourly during the night for medical reasons, but with the combination of caffeine and adrenaline nothing can stop her. The three girls show no respect to the other teams and crush Cambridge with 45-27, UCL 45-24, Oxford with

SCIENCE



Getting the message across on alcohol
 Page 8

BUSINESS



Apple's prime market position
 Page 12

FASHION



Get set for Spring/Summer 2012
 Page 30

GAMES



Suckered in by free-to-play games
 Page 32

TRAVEL



Going wild on a Nepalese adventure
 Page 36