

## THE FELIX SEX SURVEY RETURNS

It's back! Make your voice heard: [Page 2](#)

# SOLVING THE GENDER GAP

Investigating Imperial's efforts to support women in the workplace

**Sophia David**

There are currently 81 female professors at Imperial which make up just 15% of the total holding this senior post. Felix has investigated what Imperial is doing to combat gender inequalities and support the career progression of women. In fact, a substantial movement exists within the College and members of staff have told Felix of the “ground-breaking steps” that are being taken to support female staff. However, they have also highlighted that this is “working better in some areas than others”.

The main female-support system is the Academic Opportunities Committee (AOC), established in 1998, which aims to ensure “a level playing field for women academics at Imperial College.” More recently, since 2008, Academic Ambassadors for Women have been appointed to represent women across the College in the Engineering, Natural Sciences and Medicine faculties.

Patricia Hunt, a senior lecturer in the Department of Chemistry and part of the Faculty of Natural Sciences' (FONS) Academic Women's Committee at Imperial, told Felix how, “We are

Jan Chlebek



Members of staff are confident in the improvement of support for female staff

promoting the support of women at all stages of their career through mentoring, advice and support.” She described how the AOC assists with and reports issues ranging from the development of breast-feeding facilities to working hours for those with young families, as well as encouraging women to apply for higher positions.

On the reasons for the gender imbalance, Hunt commented, “You need to remember that someone in their 50s now (and a professor) will have started studying science in the university system when sexism was prevalent,

when the women were winnowed out and so there are few women to promote. In Chemistry, we have a modest “pipeline” of early career women coming through. I hope with all the work we have been doing over the last few years that there will be a much larger percentage of women in the department and thus a much larger percentage of professors in the next 5-10 years.”

Karen Makuch, the Women's Ambassador for the Natural Sciences Faculty and Chair of the FONS AOC, told Felix that the steps taken by the College were “ground-breaking” in terms of the

advancement and retainment of women in academia. She highlighted the Elsie Widdowson Fellowship for academic staff returning from a period of maternity leave. The purpose of this award is to allow female academics to concentrate fully on their research and allows the Department to relieve the member of staff of any teaching or admin duties. FONS has also initiated a scheme so that women post docs returning from maternity leave will also be relieved of their teaching for 12 months, to mirror the action taken for permanent

...Continued on Page 3

## TECHNOLOGY



Uncovering the Kindle Store  
[Page 12](#)

## POLITICS



The race for the Presidency heats up  
[Page 14](#)

# Chinese ambassador visits Imperial

**Aemun Reza**

The Chinese Ambassador to the UK visited Imperial College last week to discover more about Imperial and also gave a lecture on the role of innovation as the path to success in twenty first century China. Xiaoming Liu has been the Ambassador for China since 2009 and took the time to talk to Chinese staff and students to find out more about their experiences at the college.

Mr Liu was given a tour of the Im-

perial incubator and was introduced to researchers who have worked in collaboration with China. Some of these researchers included Professor Sir Brian Hoskins, Director of the Grantham Institute, who is a Foreign Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Professor Yike Guo from the Department of Computing who established a joint laboratory of scientific informatics between Imperial and Tsinghua University in 2007.

The Ambassador and his wife, Mme

HU Pingua, have been visiting other universities around England. When speaking about Imperial, the Ambassador stated: “Imperial College London is the last of the G5 elite universities in Britain I have visited, however people in Britain often say ‘last but not least’ and my visit to Imperial today is rightly described in this way. Your university matches any of the other four – Oxford, Cambridge, LSE and UCL and your reputation, strengths and innovations are much admired worldwide.”

Amna Siddiq



Rector Keith O'Nions meeting with Mr Liu last week

## TRAVEL



A medical summer in Honduras  
[Page 40](#)



# HIGHLIGHTS

## What's on

### The human genome and 21st century medicine

Professor Timothy Aitman, Head of Molecular Genetics and Rheumatology speaks on the exploitation of gene discovery and resulting new development that arise in cell biology.

With an aim to link genetics and genomics to every medical speciality at Imperial College, this talk will shed light on the "coming genetic revolution".

Open for all, with tickets to be purchased in advance. £3 for staff and students as part of the Friends of Imperial College lecture series.

**Lecture Theatre G16,  
Sir Alexander Fleming Building,  
02 February 19:00-20:00**

### Lunchtime Concert

London Tango Quintet perform as part of Imperial's lunchtime concert series. Open to all, first come first served. Contact [a.robins@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.robins@imperial.ac.uk) for more information.



**Lecture Theatre 1, Wolfson,  
Hammersmith Campus,  
07 February 13:00-13:45**

### Building sustainability

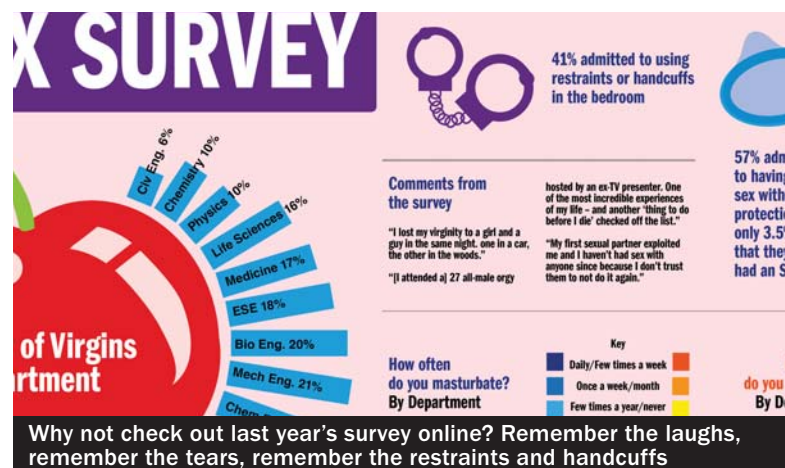
Architect Ken Shuttleworth talks at the 37th Annual Pavioir's Lecture about the triumphs and pitfalls of sustainability in building.

Open to all. Registration required in advance. Contact [cvgenoff@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:cvgenoff@imperial.ac.uk) to register.

**Lecture Theatre 164,  
Skempton Building,  
07 February 17:00-18:00**

## FELIX SEX SURVEY

Here's hoping you're as excited as we are



In a comeback for the ages that we're quietly confident is bigger than Mike Tyson's, we're extremely proud to be bringing you the second-ever Felix Sex Survey!

Following last year's 'hard-hitting' results, we just couldn't resist coming back for more. Answer whatever you're comfortable with. The survey is, of course, entirely anonymous to everyone involved and the data will be deleted once it's over. You've got two weeks to take part, just in time for our Valentine's Issue. Aw yeah.

Hopefully, this won't be the only survey that gets people talking this year – check back soon.

Head over to [www.felixonline.co.uk/sexsurvey](http://www.felixonline.co.uk/sexsurvey) to get started.

**Editor**

## CLASSIFIEDS

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*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](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk). Tel: 020 7594 8072. Fax: 020 7594 8065.  
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News Editors: **Sophia David**  
**Alex Nowbar**

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# NEWS

## Imperial awarded for efforts in Sinking Westminster the representation of women

...Continued from Front Page staff. She also highlighted the Imperial College Early Years Education Centre (a childcare centre) which benefits women in academia who are raising a family.

Going back to 1999, Imperial was also one of the founding members of the Athena project, established by several bodies including the UK higher education funding councils, Universities UK and the Office of Science and Technology. Its aims are “the advancements and promotion of the careers of women in science, engineering and technology (SET) in higher education and research.”

The 2010 Athena Survey of Science, Engineering and Technology (ASSET) of dozens of universities concluded that “women continue to feel disadvantaged and excluded in a number of ways.” One finding was that “male academics still predominate in positions of authority.” The survey also found that whilst the gender-related differences tend to be small, they “accumulate over the course of an individual career to create differences in opportunity and experience.”

However, Patricia Hunt said, “I personally believe that Imperial is doing much better than the survey might immediately make you think. After reading the ASSET survey I was very hap-

py to be working at Imperial. I won't say it is perfect, but definitely better than some of the information coming out of the survey. What is needed now is the Government and funding bodies getting seriously behind initiatives like Athena.”

Imperial also has an exceptional achievement of Athena SWAN awards, which “recognise and celebrate good practice on recruiting, retaining and promoting women in SET in higher education.” Imperial has obtained a bronze award, the achievement of which allows individual departments to apply for awards. The Natural Sciences Faculty is leading the way within the College having obtained a silver award

### “Imperial has an exceptional achievement of Athena SWAN awards”

within the Chemistry department, a silver award within Physics and a bronze award within Life Sciences.

The Engineering faculty also boasts several awards with the Chemical Engineering and Materials departments having obtained silver awards, and

the Earth Science and Engineering and Computing departments having obtained bronze awards. Deputy Principal of Imperial, Dorothy Griffiths, described this as a “huge achievement in traditionally male dominated engineering fields.”

In addition, the Department of Physics has also gained Juno Championship Status awarded by the Institute of Physics. Project Juno was established by the institute in 2007 and aims to “recognise and reward departments that have taken action to address the under-representation of women in university physics.”

Among the range of female staff that Felix spoke to, none think that discrimination overtly exists within the College today. Whilst the percentage of female professors at Imperial is lower than the national average of 20%, recently reported by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), Imperial is not faring too badly at all since science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects have long been dominated by males. It certainly seems that with the substantial efforts taking place within the College to support women, along with the rising ambitions of women, Imperial, and other universities, will continue to see a rise in the number of females in senior positions.

## Sinking Westminster

Philip Kent

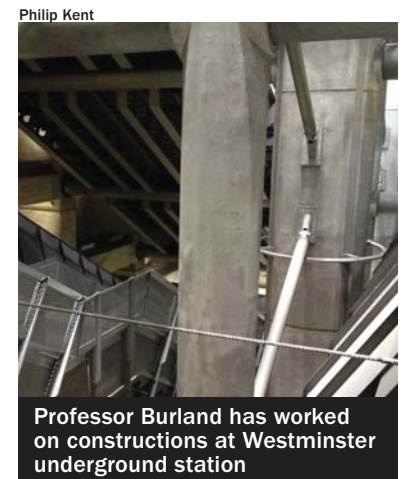
Members of the House of Commons Commission have met to discuss options to deal with the subsidence problems that the Palace of Westminster is experiencing. The palace, which was constructed in 1870, is slowly sinking into the ground, and the clock tower, which houses the infamous Big Ben, is leaning at an angle of 0.26 degrees.

Conclusions from the discussion were that repairs should take place, though these will not be until 2020 at the earliest. The committee also stated that the Palace remains structurally sound.

This collaborates with the view of Imperial College's Emeritus Professor John Burland. In an interview to Radio 4, he made clear his opinion that the swaying of the tower is not a problem to worry about. He added that this has been a problem with the tower for many years; the lack of cracks in the cladding suggests it had swayed during its construction.

He also stressed that the construction of a car park and the Jubilee Line Extension under the palace has only affected the angle to the tower very slightly – these changes were controlled during construction.

These modern constructions have also not caused the cracks seen in the buildings. Regardless, the cracks may actually be beneficial – natural swaying in the building will concentrate around cracks, forming them if none exist. He



Professor Burland has worked on constructions at Westminster underground station

is also “not in the least” worried about the possibility of the palace sliding into the Thames.

Professor Burland has worked on a number of projects involving the palace, the first of which was an underground car park. More recently, he had a consulting role in the extension of the Jubilee Line. This included work to stabilise the tower, which was at risk of collapsing due to the close proximity of the new Underground station.

However, he is best known for his work in stabilising the Leaning Tower of Pisa, a project that ended in 2001. In gratitude for the part he played, the Duke of Castro made him a Knight Commander. Later, in 2005, he was made a CBE for his part in reinforcing the tower.

## Dawn on the Horizons

Jonathan Peek

Monday 23 January saw the start of the Horizons program, an experimental scheme that sees 200 undergraduates from departments across the college meeting for a series of lectures and tutorials over the next 8 weeks. Using the topic of climate change, the program aims to develop participants' awareness of how scientific issues and debates can have wide reaching impacts on an international scale: from affecting policy making in Governments to new technology in people's homes.

The pilot scheme is using the topic of climate change as the basis for the lectures and discussion with the view that if the scheme is repeated other topics such as food security and changes in the global population being used instead. Supporting the series of lectures by leading experts in fields relating to climate change is a number of tutorial sessions where undergraduates from all the different departments

of the college can discuss ideas raised, develop team working skills and explore the topic from other viewpoints.

The opening lecture was presented by Professor Sir Brian Hoskins, Director of Imperial's own Grantham institute for climate change and member of the UK's Committee on Climate Change: the committee tasked with advising the Government on how it can meet the 80% cuts in CO2 emissions by 2050 set out in the Climate Change Bill in November 2008. The lecture presented an overview of the topic of Climate changing touching on early work on the Green House gases dating back to early 1800's though to our current understanding of the driving principals behind climate change. Taking in the developments to how we now study changes in the climate, what climate models are currently predicting, and some of the controversies that surround climate change – the ‘Climate Gate’ scandal based on email leak from the Climate research Unit and the ‘errors’ in the 2006 Intergov-

ernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report both of which made headlines around the world. Concluding with a thought provoking slide on why trying to take any action about climate change runs in to difficulty, the lecture was a good summary of the underlying issues of climate change and was a good opening to the scheme.

The lecture was followed by a tutorial that gave the undergraduates a chance to start exploring what policies the Government should be bringing into effect to help stop climate change. Discussions as to why people were taking part in the program was more that people were interested in climate change than the opportunity to develop their professional skills, with a lot of emphasis on the actual science behind the headlines in the media.

With the next lecture being presented by leading figures in the media the program looks set to hit its targets of giving Undergraduates the chance to look at climate change from a range of viewpoints.

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.

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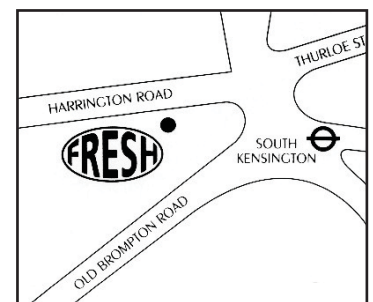
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# NEWS

News Editors: **Sophia David**  
**Alex Nowbar**

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

## In Brief

### RAG mascot finally returned

It's been a pretty busy week for RAG. Firstly, Chris the Collecting Tin (the RAG mascot) was finally returned, having been lurking in the depths of the RSM for a good few years. RAG Chair Jack Hewitt agreed to 'buy' it back in return for showing how not to do a yard of ale, with more down his shirt than throat, and also what not to ask for at the barbers.

On Saturday, student-run company Ardour PR ran the Masquerave for Right To Play, getting over 200 people into Metric, with a mix of Dubstep, House and masks proving irresistible, and over £400 made for charity.

And then on Tuesday, the RCSU threw its annual RAG ball, with no kidnapping of the President required to ensure the profits go to charity.

This is all good preparation for what promises to be a pretty crazy term for RAG. With Medics RAG dash set for today and their RAG Week and Jail-break less than a month away, it promises to be a cracking month. Watch this space. **Jack Hewitt**

# Unexpected guest at RCSU Ball

## Cricketer commotion as students raise money for RAG

### Paul Beaumont

Last Tuesday, the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) held its annual Spring Ball in aid of Raising and Giving (RAG).

The evening – attracting two hundred and fifty ticket sales – will have raised somewhere in the region of £450 for RAG, the charity-raising Management Group of the Central Union, when combined with the profits from the RCSU Autumn Ball. These funds will then be split between the charities the Union decides to support this year.

Held at Embargo, King's Road, the venue was in a geographically unusual location for the RCSU – who normally book clubs in Central London. The reasoning behind the choice of this venue was to try and make the event more accessible for older students, many of whom live in neighbouring Fulham and Earls Court –

whilst still only being a thirty minute walk (or stumble) back to halls for many Freshers.

An unexpected visitor for the evening – Freddie Flintoff, England Cricket Captain – was allowed into the venue, and mingled with the crowd for some time, causing a stir, before taking a table away from the dance floor with a few friends.

**“Flintoff mingled with the crowd for some time, causing a stir”**

As one of the organisers of the event, I can confirm that the RCSU was extremely pleased with the evening. The time of year – just after January exams – and lack of monetary incentive

to buy early (due to the event being for charity) meant that ticket sales were initially slow. This was the first event of the academic year that the RCSU didn't sell out tickets before the night, but, due to on-the-door sales, the venue soon filled.

This event is one of a series of charity events that the Faculty Union runs throughout the year – though the only Ball. Hummingbird Charity Cakes Sales (which took place last term, and will continue this term) plus a new event for this year, the Inter-Faculty Challenge (modelled on *University Challenge*) will complete the Union's planned charity agenda. The RCSU will also be participating further in RAG Chair, Jack Hewitt's RAG week events – to be held the week commencing Monday 5 March.

The Inter-Faculty Challenge – RCSU vs. IC-SMSU – is being organised for IC RAG week, on Tuesday 6 March – watch this space!

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION AFRICAN CARIBBEAN SOCIETY PRESENTS

# AFROGALA

## GENERATIONS

SHOWCASING AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN TALENT & CULTURE

**DATE:** 4TH FEB 2012  
**TIME:** FOOD SERVED 6.00PM  
DOORS OPEN 7.00PM

**VENUE:** GREAT HALL, SHERFIELD BUILDING  
IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON SW7 2AZ  
NEAREST TUBE STATION: SOUTH KENSINGTON

**SPONSORED BY:**

imperial college union | Bank of America Merrill Lynch | Malakh & Sco

**TICKETS:** £25 FOR PREMIUM SEATS  
£15 FOR NON MEMBERS  
£12 FOR MEMBERS

**ALSO AVAILABLE AT:**  
[WWW.UNION.IC.AC.UK/OSC/ACS](http://WWW.UNION.IC.AC.UK/OSC/ACS)  
**CONTACT:** 07910 176483 / 07500 830121

**SUPPORTING:** African Revival



## Counterfeit scam warning

Following an incident on Prince Consort Road last Tuesday comes call to stay safe on campus

Please be aware of anyone trying to sell goods from a vehicle as the items being offered will either be stolen or counterfeit and you could face arrest for receiving stolen goods if stopped by the Police.

There has been a recent incident of a male claiming to be from Milan selling "Armani suits" buy one get three free! He was driving a light blue Vauxhall Astra reg. FT61 FBA. The student involved declined to view the goods but in the past students have got into

vehicles and were driven to an ATM to get cash where the person has become aggressive demanding large sums of cash for these stolen or counterfeit goods.

If anyone is approached by this or any person offering to sell goods from a vehicle please either call the Police or contact security as soon as possible.

Please remember "IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE THEN IT PROBABLY IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!"

**Terry Branch, Head of Security**

## Highlights from felixonline.co.uk

### Concerns over future of Humanities

**What is happening?** Since my start at Imperial I have experienced the passion that people put into learning languages, both students and staff members show a big interest in the courses offered by the humanities department. The humanities department is a vital part of the transmission of knowledge at our College. Imperial constantly advertises the international background of our students and staff members, but a key part of giving people the opportunity to benefit from this rich environment and exchange cultures are the language classes. If only the people taking these decisions would know

### Clayponds in crisis

**Anon** It seems to me that this is being done to force PG's into the overpriced GradPads, combine this with the attack on the PG and Staff bar, the Holland Club, you have to wonder how much the College values its Post Grad Students



Annoyed? Irritated? Bored? Then why not go to YouTube and find your drunken mates being interviewed on STOIC cameras over a typical Union evening? Or why not comment on the issues that concern you online, or send a letter to the editor? That's by email, not post... unless you really want to.

**Search 'Metric Moments' at youtube.com**

**Comment at felixonline.co.uk**

**Email felix@imperial.ac.uk**

## Driving Lessons For Imperial Students

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- Alex Kendall, IC Union President 2010-11

To make inquiries and book lessons,  
call 07808 610 898

Features Editors: **Katy Bettany**  
**Stephen Smith**

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# FEATURE

## How to become a science journalist

Alice Yang talks to Dr. Toby Murcott about his not so straightforward career path

An animated and passionate figure in person, Dr. Toby Murcott is as one would imagine the typical science journalist – never without an opinion, in possession of an open (yet critical and witty) mind and of course, a seemingly unlimited knowledge of everything within the bounds of science.

The fact that he can educate me on the human genome, and equally as well strike up a heated debate regarding the latest happenings at CERN, is to be expected given that he includes BBC Radio 4, *The Times*, *Nature* magazine as well as his own critically acclaimed book *The Whole Story: Alternative Medicine on Trial?* amongst an impressive list of journalism projects in the past 20 years.

Highlighting the uncertainties that many science journalists face when embarking on their career path, Dr. Murcott begins his life story with more than just a hint of humour in his voice.

“Like so many people in this industry it wasn’t a straightforward story. I did a PhD in Biochemistry at Bristol University and then I moved onto a Postdoc which is when I began to realise that I was not the greatest research scientist – I quite enjoyed it but not as much as I was hoping to.”

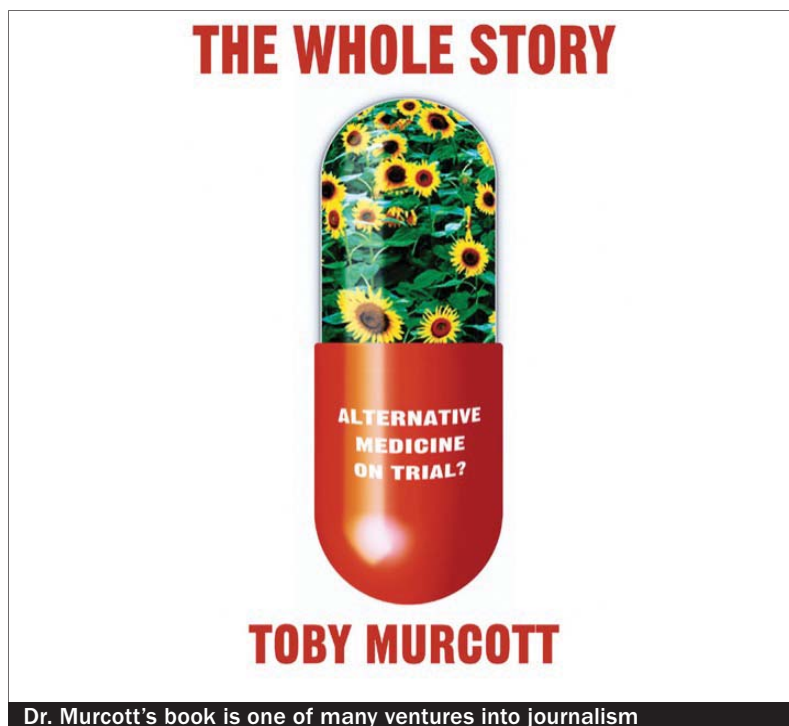
**“...I began to talk more about science rather than do it.”**

At the same time, without really knowing it, I began to be a lot more involved in talking about science rather than doing it.”

Thanks to his long love of speech radio, Dr. Murcott kicked off science journalism career in the medium, spending his days working on his postdoc and his evenings building up his radio CV.

Having entered the world of radio journalism, Dr. Murcott also spread his knowledge into written journalism, eventually leading to the publication of his book inspired by his weekly column in *The Times* discussing the scientific evidence behind complementary health treatments. Nevertheless, despite all his successes in writing science, Dr. Murcott is unhesitant in claiming his preference for radio journalism.

“It’s very noticeable that people who work in a particular field tend to love that field and really enjoy it, and I love to listen to radio for pleasure. There are a number of satisfying things about radio, one of which is that you hear real peoples voices and it’s a very intimate



medium and its very satisfying to have that almost one to one connection with people, giving them something interesting.”

Currently also a lecturer in Science Journalism at the City University London, Dr. Murcott points out that he never underwent formal training in science journalism himself, and asked whether or not he feels that such courses are essential for success he declares, “I don’t think there is an obvious answer, everyone is different.”

“What a masters [in science journalism] does is it condenses and puts into one place the various elements you need which are: practice, criticism and work experience. It’s not essential, but it is one way of doing it. A good course is very valuable.”

“I don’t think that any journalist needs to be an expert on any subject other than journalism. But, the things a science journalist needs is to know is what questions to ask; to have an understanding of the process of the work they’re reporting on, as well as how science works so they’re able to rigorously examine the science that is laid out in front of them.”

On the topic of science journalism, I wonder what Dr. Murcott’s views on ‘good’ and ‘bad’ science journalism are.

“You have to ask ‘What is the purpose of journalism?’ Now there are a lot of things a journalist would say – to hold people who have public money to account and to comment on all sorts of things. But actually, the point of journalism is to sell and get an audience, because unless you do that, you have no money to do the reporting or research you want to do.”

“I think we need to train journalists to

understand what science research can and can’t do, but I also think we need to trust people to know the difference between gossip and really serious science research. I’ve certainly gotten angry reading bad science reports, but the media is not here to educate – that’s the job of schools and universities.

“This leads us onto discuss science in general, to which Dr. Murcott has much interesting information to impart.

**“A science journalist needs to know what questions to ask”**

“There’s a very good analogy of science: if you imagine all our knowledge is a sphere, then the edge of the sphere is where our knowledge of the known leads the unknown. As you increase the amount we know, that sphere gets bigger and so of course its surface area gets bigger – the more we know and the more we uncover, the more we realise we don’t know.”

As for what particularly interests him currently in the world of science, Dr. Murcott answers fluently “firstly, anything to do with the genome and genomics. It won’t be that long until we can sequence an entire human genome in a matter of hours, and the things that can be done with genetics is just mind-boggling.

“I think the other thing is particle and high-energy physics. We’ve got a standard model that was developed in the 1920s which has stood up reason-

ably well but is starting to show signs of weakness at the edge; and while hunches are never reliable, I wouldn’t be surprised if there was a major revision of the standard model of physics in the relatively near future.

“I also think another area that is very interesting is the increasing computing power as it has allowed people to make much more complicated and elaborate mathematical models which have allowed us to test our understanding of what we know. We can test anything from climate science through to chemical equations, it can help us understand environmental issues and improve our knowledge in reducing energy consumption. Powerful computers are allowing us to do amazing things.”

Naturally, this leads onto a discussion regarding the recent results from CERN claiming that the speed of light had been broken, to which Dr. Murcott is confident is not the case.

“There is some small error that they haven’t spotted. But what this story is is a beautiful story about how science works. What’s happened is that these researchers have looked at these neutrinos and have tried to find the problem, which they can’t, and so they’ve put it out there for other scientists to look at. It’s not a story about neutrinos going faster than light, it’s a story about how science works to get the most reliable answers to a particular question.”

Before wrapping up I ask him for any words of wisdom he’s like to offer to Imperial’s budding science journalists.

“Advice I’d give is to stand still, take a moment and think ‘What do I really like doing? When I want information from the world where do I get it from?’ because you’re going to do better in a medium you know, like and understand.

The most important thing about being a science journalist is having done something that gives you practice and experience, and finding out whether or not you can really do it.

**“...take a moment and think ‘What do I really like doing?’”**

What I think is very hard to do and very often lacking in science journalism is a deep understanding to how science works, and recognising why it is that when you ask a scientist a big question they can’t give a clear answer.

Deep down it’s a combination of curiosity, nosiness and fascination; the ability to meet a deadline; to be able talk to and extract information from scientists, and of course strong communication skills that makes a good science journalist.”

Chabad of South Kensington invites you to... ה'ב

**Schedule: Friday, 3 Feb 2012**

**6 pm** - Dr Naftali Loewenthal - *"The Temple within"*

**7 pm** - Kabbalat Shabbat

**7.30 pm** - Shabbat dinner

**Professor Kate Loewenthal** - *"Mental Health and Religion"*

**Dr. Naftali Loewenthal** - *"Metahistory of Judaism"*

Location: Imperial College Union, Prince Consort Road, London SW7

RSVP: [www.SKchabad.com/unity](http://www.SKchabad.com/unity)

Chabad of South Kensington is an independently funded branch of Chabad Lubavitch UK charity, number 227638



# THROB

## TOMORROW

SATURDAY 28TH JAN  
7PM - 1AM £3



### BANDS

**SPANK ALLEY**

Busty Jazz-Funk

**WOLF TRACKS**

Fiery Indie Rock

**HOWLIN' CIRCUS**

Blues & Roll

**INESCAPABLE FATE**

Brutal Death Metal

### DJS

**JONAS dB**

Wonky Hip-Hop

**PHRIJ**

Jazz & Bass

**SMB**

Deep House

**NOT INDIGO**

A Tonal Illin'

## In brief

## Ancient popcorn found in Peru

Pamela Belding - STRI



A popcorn map, obviously

They may not have had any decent bowls to eat it from, but new research suggests that, as long ago as around 4600 BC, ancient Peruvians were eating popcorn. A research group led by Tom Dillehay from Vanderbilt University, and Duccio Bonavia, from Peru's Academia Nacional de la Historia, have found South America's earliest ever examples of corn 'microfossils', at two mound sites, Paredones and Huaca Prieta, on the northern coast of Peru. These fossils, together with some of the oldest known corn cobs, husks, stalks, and tassels, discovered at the site, indicate that the area's ancient inhabitants were using corn in a variety of ways, from corn flour to popcorn – despite it not yet being an important part of their diet.

What makes this story even more fascinating is that, with this discovery putting popcorn on the Peruvian map around 2,000 years earlier than previously estimated, such use of corn now predates the first known examples of ceramic pottery in the region. In a paper recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Dolores Piperno, of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, explains how the domestication of corn, originating in Mexico around 9,000 years ago, spread in only a few thousand years to South America, and thus "in many areas corn arrived before pots did." She goes on to conclude about the ancient Peruvians that "early experimentation with corn as a food was not dependent on the presence of pottery".

The complex history of the hundreds of varieties of corn now present is still largely unclear, especially for such early time periods, as any historical evidence of corn cobs or kernels were hardly well preserved in the humid tropical rainforests between Central and South America where the crop is thought to have been originally dispersed. The wealth of information provided by this new data is therefore incredibly valuable in trying to get a glimpse of how and where corn became what it is today.

Arianna Sorba

## Look out! Here comes a spider goat

Emma Houghton-Brown

On a small farm, nestled deep in Northern Utah, something extraordinary is happening: creatures are being bred that are part goat, part spider. Last week's episode of the BBC's epic science series *Horizon* followed Adam Rutherford as he journeyed to meet these fascinating hybrids and their creator to find out more.

In charge of the unusual herd is Randy Lewis, a professor of genetics at Utah State University. The farm is a university outpost where they research modern farming techniques, teach animal husbandry and raise the intriguing "spider-goats".

Since the first genetically engineered bacteria in 1973, we have been able to exploit the universality of the DNA code by cutting and pasting bits of DNA from one species into another. More recently, this editing technology has progressed and expanded into the field known as synthetic biology, and DNA code is effectively interchangeable between all species.

Using synthetic biology techniques, Randy and his team have taken the gene that encodes dragline silk from an orb-weaver spider and spliced it into DNA coding for milk production in the goat udders. This new genetic sequence was then inserted into an egg and implanted into a mother goat.

Now when their beloved spider-goats, Freckles, Pudding, Sweetie and the gang, lactate their milk is full of spider-silk protein – they produce "silk-milk".

The milk is then processed to extract the spider protein and run around a spool to be collected. This process is considered extremely exciting because naturally occurring spider silk is widely recognised as the strongest, toughest fibre known to man. Its tensile strength is greater than steel yet it is 25 percent lighter than synthetic, petroleum-



An actual spider goat... Batteries not included

based polymers.

"We're interested in dragline silk – the silk that spiders catch themselves with when they fall. It's stronger than Kevlar. It really has some amazing properties for any kind of a fibre," Randy explained.

It could be argued that breeding spider-goats is merely an extension of our 10,000 year old farming practices. All livestock and arable products have been genetically selected. They are carefully bred to produce the most desirable characteristics with each cross being a genetic experiment of its own.

"The trouble is, you can't farm spiders," Randy mused. "They're very cannibalistic."

The impressive and desirable properties of spider silk means Randy's apparently bizarre research is extensively funded. Studies have shown that the silk is not only incredibly strong by is also compatible with the human body. So

far, no inflammation or negative reaction has been found when the silk has been inserted into the body. It's already known that silk good enough to be used in ligament repair can be made and it is hoped that, within a couple of years, tests to determine the best designs and the best materials that can be produced, will be underway.

This could include creating strong, tough artificial tendons, ligaments and limbs; repairing other tissues; healing wounds; or creating super-thin, biodegradable sutures for eye or neurosurgery.

As amazing as it is, this extraordinary piece of bioengineering isn't even on the cutting edge anymore. The fast moving field of Synthetic Biology now incorporates an extensive variety of genetic exploration techniques; and personally, I can't wait to see what they come up with next.

*Horizon: Playing God* presented by Adam Rutherford is available on BBC iPlayer

## Nano-ear can hear microorganisms

Michele Tonutti

Is there something more we can learn from the sounds emitted by bacteria and viruses? Even though microbes cannot 'speak' in the way that animals can, scientists believe that there is a lot to learn from the noises produced when small organisms move around.

Until now, these vibrations had always been thought too weak to be picked up by any conventional device. This is why optical physicist J. Feldmann and the Photonics and Optoelectronics Group at the University of Munich recently developed the world's tiniest ear. The 'ear' is a particle of gold, 60 nanometres in diameter, that by vibrating in response to passing waves can provide useful information about very faint sounds.

This method exploits some basic principles of physics: when a wave passes through a medium, particles in the medium respond by oscillating with the same frequency of the wave. By studying the response of the gold particles to sound waves, researchers are able to investigate the nature of the vibration.

One of the gold particles is immersed in water

and held in place by a laser beam that serves as 'optical tweezers' – a technique invented in 1986 and widely used in modern molecular biology and genetics. Energetic pulses of light are then fired at similar particles trapped around it with the same method. By heating up, they generate a disturbance in the water, leading to a compression-decompression process that generates a sound wave. Scientists are thus able to analyze the movement of the first particle (the 'nano-ear') and gather information around the nature of the wave. By varying the frequency and the orientation of the light pulses, the scientists saw that the particle would match the new frequency and align its vibration with the new direction.

Dr. Ohlinger, one of the authors of the study, claims that this nano-microphone "allows us to get closer than ever to microscopic objects." Never had it been possible to have such a great sensibility before, affirms co-author Dr. Lutich: results showed that the nano-ear could pick up sounds down to about minus 60 decibels – an intensity one million times smaller than what the human ear is able to detect.

This technology could lead to a new and revo-

lutionary way to study the microscopic world. As well as helping us understand better the way microorganisms function, it could also be implemented in the study of cells affected by certain diseases. For example, red blood cells vibrate less if infected with malaria than healthy ones.

However, there are still some problems scientists will need to solve. One of the major issues appears to be the capacity to distinguish between sound waves and other type of vibrations such as the ones caused by random molecular movements. Biophysicist Dr. Oddershede of the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, told the journal *Science* that the project still needs to go through a long process of refinement before acoustic microscopy can become a reality. She is nevertheless quite optimistic about its future: "It's a really interesting idea, and [...] this paper is very inspiring. I do believe they can relatively quickly improve the equipment."

Despite these initial difficulties, the researchers are convinced that we are on the right path not only to see, but also to hear what the world of microorganisms has to tell us.

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# The phenological fallacy

Christopher Nichols on why the first cuckoo of spring doesn't necessarily tell us much

A recent flurry of articles expounding the effects of the current mild winter on the natural world serves to remind us of the consequences of climate change, but do these examples contain any scientific meaning, or are they merely interesting, if foreboding, anecdotal tidbits?

Spring flowers such as hazel catkins, snowdrops, and daffodils, traditionally expected in late January or early February, have been seen across the UK from as early as Christmas Day. Hedgehogs and other hibernating mammals such as bats have been active in defiance of their normal winter tactics, whilst red admiral butterflies have been taking advantage of the almost balmy climate. Even the birds and the bees are following suit by living up to their eponymous phrase earlier than in previous years, with robins singing, wood pigeons rearing young, and buff-tailed bumblebees managing to emerge uncharacteristically early.

Keeping records of such phenological events is entrenched in British tradition. Records of the first cuckoo of spring or the first leafing dates of trees have been

kept for hundreds of years. Data such as this can prove useful in providing evidence for the effects of anthropogenic climate change on individual species or groups. For instance, it has been shown that since 1939 UK birds such as the wren have been steadily breeding earlier. Countless examples of phenological advances such as this can be found across a diverse range of organisms, but can they advance our understanding of the deeper biological implications of climate change on ecosystems?

When taken in isolation, the answer is not really. A 2005 paper by Dutch scientists Visser and Both acknowledged the fact that on its own, evidence of phenological advances could illustrate contrasting climate change impacts. Positive if the advances were evidence of adaptation to climate change, or negative if that species was becoming increasingly out of synchronisation with its environment. The latter cannot be known unless data also exists for other important species with which it interacts, for instance we cannot know if an advance in flowering date is beneficial or detrimental to a given plant unless we know whether or not its insect pol-

linator has also advanced. The point is a 'yardstick' by which to judge the potential impact of a phenological shift on a species is needed.

Whilst this may seem obvious, more cryptically it has also been shown that the use of these 'firsts' is fundamentally a poor indicator on which to judge the effects of climate change on a species. Granted, the 'first' cuckoo of spring has been getting earlier and earlier, but this data alone tells us nothing about what the rest of the population is doing. It would be much more informative, according to Jean-Pierre Moussus and colleagues, to use the mean date of a phenological event to analyse and predict the effects of climate change on a population.

Unfortunately phenological data for many individuals in a population is a rare luxury, let alone equivalent data for the species with which they interact. Many researchers however, unlike some species to climate change, are adapting to this way of thinking and are designing experimental systems accordingly, with the aim of painting a more complete picture of the impacts of climate change.



He doesn't look very defiant, does he?

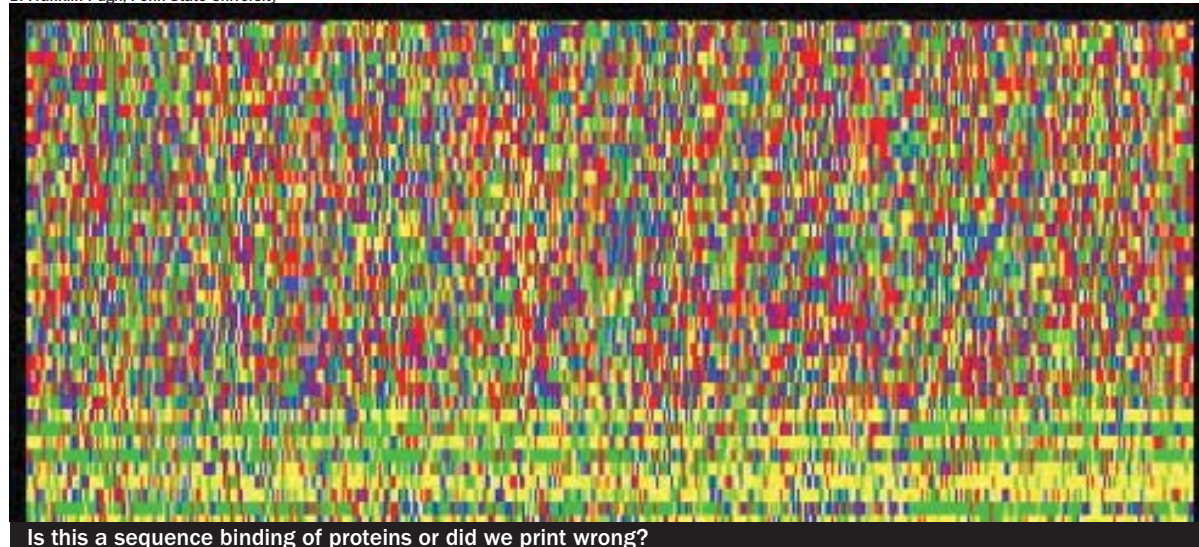
## New insight into gene expression

Philippa Skett

A new genomic sequencing method has been put into practice by Professor Franklin Pugh and graduate student Ho Sung Rhee, after development in Penn State University. The method, known as ChIP-exo, gives us an insight into the proteins that read and regulate chromosomes (transcription preinitiation complexes, or PICs) and was detailed in a paper published online in *Nature*.

Although it varies in proportion from species to species, a lot of DNA does not actually code for anything; around 98% of a human genome is non-coding, compared to 11% of the genome of bacterium *E. coli*. This means that the coding portion that makes up genes has to be identified, and, with the human genome consisting of 3.2 billion base pairs, this can prove tricky. Genes themselves have integral sequences called promoter regions that allow their identification in between all the millions of non-coding base pairs, and ChIP-exo takes advantage of these integral sequences as PICs bind to them. Furthermore, ChIP-exo eliminates "transcriptional noise," unwanted levels of transcription to allow detection of more PIC binding sequences than other sequencing methods

B. Franklin Pugh, Penn State University



Is this a sequence binding of proteins or did we print wrong?

would allow. "The advantage over other techniques of [ChIP-exo] is its ability to narrow down any binding location across millions and billions of nucleotide genomes to a certainty of about one nucleotide," said Pugh.

In the new technique, genes are first transcribed into a more dynamic molecule called RNA in a process called transcription, that occurs in the nucleus. RNA is then translocated to the cyto-

plasm of the cell to provide the instructions to manufacture the protein. PICs are different proteins that allow and control this RNA manufacture, and bind at the promoter regions of genes in a sequential manner to allow transcription to proceed. A better understanding of how they position themselves along the DNA allows a greater insight into where the genes actually start in the genome, and how gene expression in cells is

regulated, as not all genes are active all of the time.

To identify these PICs and the sequences they bind to, exonucleases (the "exo" in ChIP-exo) were used. These enzymes catalyse the degradation of the double stranded helix effectively destroying the genome. Multiple exonucleases were applied across the whole genome, and it degraded the DNA until a cross-linking point was reached in

DNA where the PICs begin to interact with the promoter regions. These conserved regions were then isolated and sequenced accordingly. Rhee ran ChIP-exo for various PICs, RNA Polymerase II, the enzyme that actively synthesises RNA, and for GTFs, General Transcription Factors, and mapped of the precise location of more than six thousand of these PICs in yeast. The technique showed how they interacted specifically with nucleosomes: DNA bound tightly to proteins called histones to allow it to be compacted into the nucleus.

So what does this indicate in the long run? Studying yeast here allows for many of the principles to be extrapolated on to other species, including humans, to allow a better insight into their gene regulation and initiation; a small yet crucial step towards being fully aware of the genomic capabilities of humans and how we can manipulate it in the future. Genetically modified crops, genetic diseases, developmental disorders, and advancing in on the cure for cancer are all areas that can benefit highly from the new data this technique can deliver, and, when used in conjunction with existing methods, the limits to our grasp of genetics have now been extended.

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## In brief

## 'Extinct' monkey rediscovered in Borneo

Deep in a forest in Borneo, researchers have found what they thought was an extinct species of monkey called Miller's grizzled langur.

As late as last year, researchers thought that the elusive monkeys were extinct. But this has changed now that PhD student Simon Fraser accidentally caught a group of the langurs on camera, which he had originally set up on a time lapse to try to get a glimpse of another rare animal, the Bornean clouded leopard. The photographs were taken in the Wehea Forest of East Kalimantan last June.

It was a challenge for the researchers to confirm the identity of the monkeys once they had spotted them in the images, because so few photographs of them exist. In the end, the researchers had to resort to descriptions from museum specimens.

In recent years, the langurs have had 95% of their habitat destroyed by logging, agricultural encroachment, coal mining and fire.

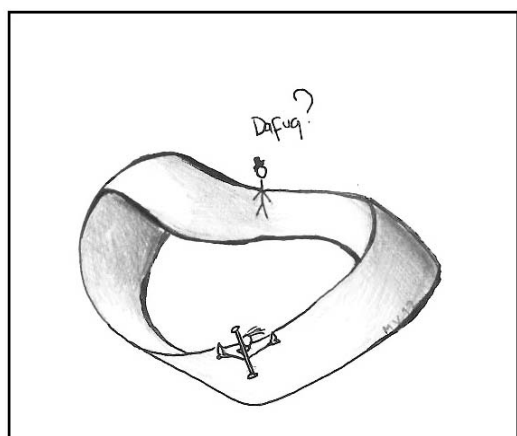
Kelly Oakes



Lolcats? Owls? Let me introduce the lolgur

## Möbius

by Maria Veiga



Möbius STRIP CLUBS ARE A STRANGE PLACE...

## New milestones reached in fight against Alzheimer's

Philip Kent looks at the latest Alzheimer's research

**A**lzheimer's is an as-yet incurable disease that accounts for the majority of cases of dementia. A characteristic symptom of people with Alzheimer's is memory loss, with the person affected gradually becoming increasingly forgetful; unable to remember their own identity, and eventually, complete unresponsiveness in its later stages. This is amongst many other symptoms.

A common misconception is that Alzheimer's is a genetic disorder. Whilst there are many cases where a malformed chromosome can cause the disease to develop (often in earlier ages than other sufferers), this only accounts for very few cases. Scientists are currently unsure on the exact causes of the majority of the cases, which generally develop after the age of 65.

This is an incredibly saddening thing to happen to anyone, but luckily two new pieces of research may help in the quest to find a cure for this disease.

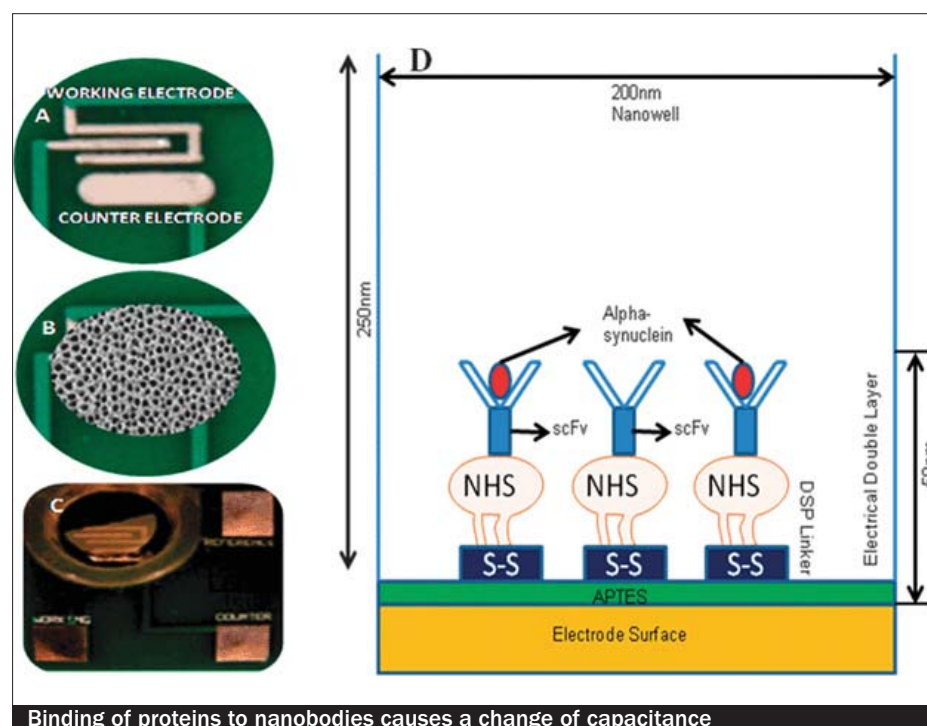
## Detection

In the minority of cases, Alzheimer's is caused by genetics, making it hard to identify whether a person will suffer in later life. Current techniques involve a number of tests (which also ensure that the patient has Alzheimer's, and not a different form of dementia); but before these tests are done, deterioration to the patient's mind, as well as a proactive step of actually going to the doctor, must already have taken place. Luckily these tests have up to 90% accuracy.

However, new research from the United States can help to improve both the time and accuracy of detection. This works through use of a biosensor, a device that interfaces between biological and electrical systems. When the compound under investigation reacts with the biosensor on its catalytic zone, an electrical signal is generated that can be investigated.

In this development by a team lead by Shalini Prasad from the University of Texas, a biosensor has been developed that can measure the concentration of a number of proteins which have been linked to diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. These proteins bind onto nanobodies (not dissimilar to antibodies), causing a change in capacitance in an electrical layer. Prasad's team found that the change in capacitance is linked to the concentration of the antibody under investigation.

These proteins build up in fluid that surrounds the brain, which can be extracted and analysed. The extracted fluid is applied to the biosensor, which can detect even very small concentrations of the problematic proteins.



Binding of proteins to nanobodies causes a change of capacitance

This is an improvement over existing methods – Prasad told the RSC's Chemistry World that they aren't as sensitive. With the old methods, it isn't possible to detect whether a patient is likely to suffer from Alzheimer's (or Parkinson's) from such an early stage.

So far, scientists have only tested samples of the fluid obtained post-mortem, but thanks to the high sensitivity of the new technique, detection in samples obtained during the early stages of Alzheimer's looks to be a possibility. Prasad's team hopes to take part in clinical trials, which should give an indication as to how well it works as an early indicator.

## Prevention

Drugs are available which slow down the progression of the disease, which means that people diagnosed with Alzheimer's can still enjoy a good quality of life for a longer time – and this is only aided by early detection that may be made possible by this research. However, a drug to stop the development of the disease does not yet exist.

A new research project undertaken jointly by the Universidad de Antioquia in Colombia, and the Banner Institute from the United States may go some way to changing this. This study involves a group of people who are likely to develop Alzheimer's, with drugs trials seeing if the progression of the disease can be stopped.

These subjects, of which there are 500, all originate from the Antioquia region of Colombia, and are all likely to develop the dis-

ease due to a genetic mutation. One of the researchers, Francisco Lopera, stresses that "what is useful in treatment and prevention of neurodegenerative disorders will be useful to those suffering from sporadic Alzheimer's as well".

The subjects in this study are analysed using a PET scanner. A tracer is injected into the subject, where it travels to the brain and binds to the same protein in Prasad's work. Therefore, the image built from the radiation released gives a very good image of the areas of the brain containing the protein.

The group has also got a set of drug candidates from previous tests in rats. After obtaining clinical approval, these drugs can be injected into the subjects, then retested via the PET scanner after a couple of years to see if the drug is effective in preventing the development of the proteins. This means that it is relatively quick to obtain a set of candidate drugs.

This method can also find drugs for other diseases, including Parkinson's and Huntington's. In addition to this, by analysing subjects who are in further stages of the disease, it may be possible to find drugs that stop or reverse the buildup of proteins. The group intends to do research in this area, as the massive trial being undertaken will yield immense amounts of useful information on how Alzheimer's develops, and how drugs affect it. If a prevention drug is found, it can be given to subjects who will develop Alzheimer's (by virtue of their genetics), and they can then be tested via this technique in their later years to see if the disease has been prevented.



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Technology Editors: **Chris Bowersaurus**  
**Feroz Salami**

# TECHNOLOGY

technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Tips & Hacks

### Megaupload down, hackers revolt



Thursday last week, the U.S. Justice Department seized and shut down the websites of Megaupload Limited, most known for megaupload.com and megavideo.com. They have also begun criminal cases against owners and executives of the company. Attempting to access one of the company's websites gets you a lovely FBI notice, listing the crimes of the company as "conspiracy to commit racketeering, conspiracy to commit copyright infringement, conspiracy to commit money laundering and criminal copyright infringement". All serious allegations, and the FBI have backed this up – organising for the New Zealand Police to raid a mansion where four executives were, seizing assets, including luxury cars, worth \$17m. In response to this, the activist group Anonymous launched what they have described as "the single largest Internet attack in its history". Many websites were taken down, including that of the U.S. Department of Justice, using distributed denial-of-service attacks. They haven't stopped either, with many links claiming to be ways to access Megaupload sites using Javascript to automatically have your computer join in the attacks. Be careful!

### O2 brings free Wi-Fi to London



In a massive boost to London's internet infrastructure, O2 have announced they will be providing free internet to millions in central London with Europe's biggest free Wi-Fi zone. Beginning their rollout soon, the coverage will start off small, but by the time the Olympic Games are here, the boroughs of Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea should be covered. It even comes at no cost whatsoever to the taxpayer – how lovely of them. The system will apparently be installed on street furniture throughout the covered areas, so one would hope they've got a fairly foolproof anti-vandalism/theft system thought out. Bad news though, if you live in one of the areas and think this means you can ditch your home broadband – the service isn't meant as a replacement for that purpose. Perhaps many of us won't be using it then – we all have internet at home and at university. Bring on complete Wi-Fi coverage on the Underground, that's something we'd all like to see.

# Kindling dissatisfaction

## Feroz Salam finds the Kindle Store massively unintuitive



A novel approach to reading, to say the least

I was one of the 1.2 million adults in Britain gifted an Amazon Kindle this Christmas, and as far as presents go it's probably my favourite so far. Using the device has been a dream, and it has made the 20 hours I spent stuck flying in economy class this winter many magnitudes more enjoyable. There is much to praise about the Kindle, and most of it has been said already. The price speaks for itself, the device is solid and the ability to pick up newspapers and magazines from publishers across the world (delivered daily to your bedside table, no less) makes it a unique pick in a field of lookalikes.

Setting the positive device reviews aside for a moment, I would like to focus on something that not many technology reviews have dealt with. Understandably, most reviewers have centred their pieces around the device itself and the software that runs on it. What this excludes, however, is a discussion on how the Kindle Store works. It's where I find the Kindle experience fails miserably. For the uninitiated, the Kindle Store is where all the magic of buying those books/newspapers/magazines actually happens. Or where it's supposed to happen.

### Struggling to spend

What I find is that the Kindle Store (both online and on-device) is really very poor at getting you to books that you want to read. After having unpacked my Kindle, I set about looking around the store to buy a few books for my flight the next day. When you reach the home page of the store you are met with three options for choosing books: browsing the entire library, choosing from a featured selection or picking up a recommended book.

Browsing the entire library, as you would expect, is a mammoth task. Small as the Kindle library is at the moment, hundreds of thousands

of books lie in wait, and Amazon does little to ease the pain of searching through them. Clicking on this option leads you to a list of major genres. Clicking on a genre leads you to a list of books, ordered by sales (you can also order by rating, and possibly by price). I don't know how many bibliophiles read the Technology section each week, but if you have any experience buying books you'll see why this is really very poor. Aside from buying science fiction, I have never gone into a bookshop with a specific genre in mind ('Ooh, I'm feeling like some alternative historical romance this week'), and I don't focus very much on bestseller lists. Sorting books by rating doesn't help me identify books I want either: *Heston's Fantastical Feasts* might be well appreciated by cookery nuts but I'm really not in the market for that sort of non-fiction. Sorting by price, and we're getting just a little bit silly.

### "Amazon does little to ease the pain of searching through them"

Those who head to the editors' picks for good content are better off, but only very slightly. The recommendations are good, but are usually fairly major books that you'll find recommended by other website and reviews. There aren't that many of them either, and if you're looking for something better than the browse feature to dive into Amazon's library, this isn't one of them.

The Recommended Books section fares the best, but it's still not a great effort. Buying some Kurt Vonnegut has crowded my recommendations section with all of his books, along with a scattering of bestsellers. Assuming that because I read one book by an author I am

similarly interested in all his books is a charmingly deluded notion. It also introduces me to precious little in the way of new authors and books; surely in the age of Google I don't need to be pushed into staring at the bibliography of an author I am already aware of?

### Finding solutions

If the store experience is so dire, where can Amazon improve? I think one good (and basic) step would be to include plot summaries of books on the results pages. The status quo, a list of titles, star ratings and book covers is almost entirely uninformative. Overall, however, the browsing experience needs to be revamped. You need to be presented with more books on every page, books that aren't surgically sectioned away into neat categories. A virtual bookshelf would be nice, where you could see the spine/front cover of every book and a small plot summary popup when you hover over a specific book. Recommendations need to be completely revamped, in a way that applies to all of Amazon's services (on a related note, I am not enamored of the fact that buying one USB cable has meant Amazon assuming I am in some sort of computer-cabling mafia).

The problems all stem from one central theme: Amazon is not Google, but is acting as if it is. The book with the most number of 'hits' doesn't mean I'm more likely to read it. Being able to sort by a wide variety of options doesn't improve my purchasing experience. What the Kindle Store is forcing me to do is look up books in real life and head to Amazon to buy them when I get home, simply because browsing on the Kindle is a mess. If the Kindle Store is meant to be an alternative to your brick-and-mortar retailer (as the Amazon marketing shtick would suggest), it's doing a massive disservice to a vast user base.



## Why should you do the NSS?

The annual National Students Survey has been launched with all final year Undergraduate students receiving emails, letters, flyers and, if they don't complete the survey by March, a telephone call.

### Make your voice heard: do it now!

If you are one of the 48% of Earth Science and Engineering students who has completed it – thank you. However, if you one of the 93% of remaining Civil Engineers to make your voice heard: do it now!

But before you rush off to [www.thestudentsurvey.com](http://www.thestudentsurvey.com) here's a few tips:

### Try not to be neutral

The options on questions range from Definitely Agree to Definitely Disagree with the 'middle-of-the-road' option being 'neither agree nor disagree.' However neutral responses provide no indication as to whether things are improving or need some attention. Help us help you by not sitting on the fence.

### Rate your entire degree

NSS is very different to SOLE. Use SOLE to discuss the positives and negatives of your year and NSS for the positives and negatives of your whole degree.

### Give detailed comments on the free-text questions

There will be free-text questions where you can write what you like. Please be detailed. Last year's comments were the basis of our NSS response.

### Our London counterparts appear to have a better turnout

You still might be asking why it is necessary for you to complete the NSS. Firstly, each Department must reach 50% for the results to be published. If results don't get published the effect is as good as nobody answering the survey i.e. 0%. Last year we increased participation to 65% from the 2009 figure of 58%. However our London counterparts appear to have a better turnout with Kings College on 75% and LSE on 70% – I am certain we can do better than them!

Secondly, you have a chance to provide feedback on ALL areas of your University experience, including the Students Union! This is far more than SOLE provides.

Last year's NSS has already delivered improvements for students And finally you get a big opportunity to influence the college. The response written by the Union on last year's NSS has already delivered improvements for students and shall continue to do so next year. The results have also shown how valued our library is; providing the Union with support when we lobbied for temperature-reducing solutions as well as providing the hardworking library staff with a sense of satisfaction.

So please, spare 5 minutes and 'Have Your Say'.

Scott.



## your SABBATICALS

**Scott Heath**  
President  
[president@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:president@imperial.ac.uk)

Keep up-to-date with your Sabbaticals at:  
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**National Student Survey 2011 Response**

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**Read the Union's response to last year's NSS results at [imperialcollegeunion.org/nss2011](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/nss2011)**



# POLITICS

Politics Editors: **Rajat Jain**  
**Joseph Letts**

politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Nigeria's Nightmare

### Islamists and the Giant of Africa

Last Friday, gunmen bombed police stations across the northern city of Kano before taking to the streets to gun down pedestrians. At least 178 people have been killed by the attacks in Nigeria's second largest city. The terror group Boko Haram (Non-Islamic education is a sin) took full responsibility.

Boko Haram, which has only been active since 2002, said the attacks were in retaliation for the government imprisoning many of their members. Their broader *raison d'être*, however, is to end secular democracy in Nigeria and replace it with Shari'ah law. Their growing power has led to fears that Nigeria may be heading for a civil war. Many of the group's members trained in Somalia – this reflects an emerging trend of unity between Islamic groups across Africa and has African leaders growing increasingly concerned. If Nigeria cannot control Islamists, other governments worry, how does anyone else in Africa stand a chance?

With Africa's largest population (1.25m), third largest economy, and fourth highest growth rate (8.4%), Nigeria has long been described as the "Giant of Africa" and is part of Goldman Sachs' "Next Eleven" high growth countries (after the four BRIC countries). It has also been a centre of film and music for much of Africa as well as a regional peacekeeper and force for stability.

The rise of Boko Haram, however, reflects a fundamental problem within Nigeria with lessons for leaders both inside Nigeria and the rest of Africa, to avoid falling to extremists. The biggest problem is Nigeria it is not a nation – it is 250 ethnic groups with different religions, languages and customs placed in a common state by the British and left to its own devices when it gained independence in 1960. Rather than encourage unity around common ideas, successive military governments tried to hold the country together by force before respecting the federal system which tries to gain peace through appeasement. Giving each of the 37 states a high degree of autonomy allowed the Muslim-dominated North to introduce varying degrees of Shari'ah law while the Christian dominated South remains secular. Further, there is an unwritten rule that the presidency must alternate between a Muslim and Christian. Far from bringing long term stability, such moves encourage and legitimise divisions. Instead, the country, like all others, needs a common goal or idea.

The idea long fed to Nigerians was that of being the "Giant of Africa." Consistent economic mismanagement by successive governments, however, has turned the idea into a myth. Much of Nigeria's wealth has come from the fact that they were lucky enough to strike oil. However, mass corruption has meant this oil wealth has been poorly managed – most Nigerians remain desperately poor while the hairdresser of the previous president's wife is rumoured to have been given an oil field worth tens (if not hundreds) of millions of dollars as a gift. Boko Haram may not have a specific economic message, but it has been shown time and time again that, throughout the world, radical groups always gain popularity during times of economic hardship. Other African leaders must not neglect their people or they too will face the horrors seen by the people of Nigeria last Friday.

Rajat Jain

# Fighting for Florida

Joseph Letts

By the end of the year, Americans will have elected a new President. However, with no clear majority in public opinion for either the Democrats or the Republicans, who will become the next Leader of the Free World? Who will answer the call from visiting extra-terrestrial dignitaries?

The main focus of the country is the Republican Nominee election. So far, having lost such luminaries as Michelle Bachmann, billionaire Donald Trump, Jon Huntsman, and former pizza boss Herman Cain, the list of competitors has been whittled down to Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum and Ron Paul.

The current Republican nominees are being put through their paces by a number of Primaries and Caucuses, events where Republican voters in each state can put their vote behind a nominee of their choosing. Each extra notch on their belts brings a contender one step closer to becoming the Republican Presidential candidate.

Since the start of 2012 there have been three primaries in the states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina in which the candidates have frantically jostled for the position of Top Dog. Starting off the fight the caucus in Iowa was held on January 3 with a narrow eight-vote victory going to former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum, followed by former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney after a vote re-count. The next battle was fought at the New Hampshire primary, where Mitt Romney took a double-digit lead in votes, emerging as a clear leader in the contest. Upon winning, Romney spread a message of party unity, hoping to end personal attacks between nominees. At the time Mitt Romney was seen as the top candidate for the position of Republican nominee and it was seen as a foregone conclusion that he would dominate further Primaries. However, this changed after the re-count in Iowa and a shocking thirteen-point victory by Newt Gingrich in the more socially and religiously conservative state of South Carolina. With three primaries producing three separate winners, the Republican Presidential nominee elections have become a free for all.

So, what now? The next primary will be held in Florida on January 31. This election might become a turning point in the race, with the possibility of securing the prominence of the latest primary winner Newt Gingrich, a former Speaker of the House of Representatives, or giving more ground to Mitt Romney who has recently suffered public embarrassment for being reluctant to reveal his most recent tax returns to the public. It could also give Rick Santorum or Congressman Ron Paul a chance to get a foot in the door.

Rick Santorum is trying to gain momentum. After being declared the winner of the Iowa caucus, he has struggled to gain a larger support base, only receiving 17% of votes in the recent South Carolina primary. Along with trying to discredit the electability of the two most popular candidates, he sells himself as a conservative who's heart beats in time with the Republican party. However, he has neither the money of his two leading competitors, nor a prominent organisation in the state to which he



A tough choice for Republicans: behold the diverse range of old, rich white men

can ally himself. Finally, with Florida lacking strong conservative or evangelical Christian bases, his hard approach and conservative anti-abortion and anti-homosexual agenda may not gain many additional votes.

Congressman Ron Paul has had a difficult time in the nominations so far. Despite a stable and sensible approach, a lack of common ground with the main line of the Grand Old Party means that he has had a hard time gaining votes in the Primary elections. In a strategic move, Paul has decided to skip the Florida primary and concentrate his attentions elsewhere.

Mitt Romney's defeat in South Carolina has shaken some of his support in the party. Some are shocked that he was unable to successfully parry attacks on his business past, finding it hard to understand how he could not shield himself from attacks on a history that epitomises some of the strongest principles in the capitalist-loving Republican Party. However Romney has started to fight back, having released his tax returns for the last few years on Tuesday and also preaching a new message of tax reduction for the masses. He also has a secret weapon; his campaign staff in Florida have already been running a marathon for the last fortnight, having already spent \$7m on advertising in the state. They have publicised his causes so ruthlessly that as the other candidates have turned to Florida they have faced a state where 197,271 early and absentee votes have been counted with Romney leading in the polls on Monday. However, there is some discontentment with Romney's tax returns, after admitting that he expects to have paid a mean of 14.6% tax on his income over the last two years. Some consider him an out of touch millionaire, who as President would be unable to understand the needs of the general populace. There is also some confusion over his position at private equity firm Bain Capital, both issues causing some to doubt Romney's economic credibility. If Mitt Romney wants to become his party's darling, he will have to pull off a stellar performance in the Florida primaries and show the Republicans that he is a strong leader and a far superior contender.

Newt Gingrich has shown twice that he can revive a flagging campaign, most recently

snatching victory from the jaws of defeat in South Carolina. However his most pressing needs as he looks towards Florida are to assert his position on a number of subjects as well as weathering a host of personal attacks. Discrediting opponents is a key part of American elections, with this being no different. Newt Gingrich has a strong competitor in Mitt Romney and has already used a \$5m donation to his "super Political Action Committee" to launch a slew of advertisements ripping into Romney's perceived weaknesses. However after three marriages (involving two extramarital affairs) and a Speakership in the House of Representatives ending in resignation and a fine by the ethics committee, Gingrich has many issues that could be of political benefit to his opponents and does little to endear him to social and religious conservatives. While decried as a balloon full of hot air and a poor team player by his opponents, Newt Gingrich is trying to reinvent himself as a reformed, honest man who plans to de-throne President Obama and heal America. However Gingrich has some demons to face in Florida. As a former advisor to the bank Freddie Mac, an institution credited with a key part in the real estate crash in Florida, he will have a hard time gaining favour from the home crowd.

The race for the Republican Presidential Nominee promises to be long and arduous, finishing with the selection of a single candidate at the Republican National Convention on August 27. However, as we approach February and the Florida primary the Republican Party is fractured and undecided, with many contemplating whether to vote for the candidate they prefer or bite the bullet and vote for a candidate they despise but whom they feel will have the best chance of ousting Obama.

And while the Republicans squabble over who will be team captain, things are much calmer in the Democrat camp. With many wary of the credibility of any chosen Republican nominee, the President is having a slightly less publicised sting campaign. On Tuesday he gave his State of the Union address where he promised a blueprint for long term economic stability in America and pushed for an increase in taxes for the wealthy as well as measures to stimulate job growth and education.



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## Letter from the Editors

In the Season 1 finale of the critically acclaimed US drama *Mad Men*, man's man Don Draper is assigned with reinventing The Wheel, Kodak's new 'continuous' slide projector. The projector is an apt metaphor for its owning company: good quality, but hardly innovative – as media buyer Harry Crane puts it, the only benefit of the new device is that “it sells projectors to people who already have them”.

Back in the 60s, when the show is set, Kodak were able to rest on the laurels of a strong brand name, built over their long history and from a dominant position in the photographic film market. Their advertisements from the time were less than inspiring: dreary, black-and-white affairs, most bore more resemblance to user manuals than attempts to seduce the buying public. However, in spite of this, Kodak were able to sell their products, and by the 1970s had managed to build a 90% market share.

When *Mad Men* premiered in 2007, Kodak was in a very different shape. Growing numbers of customer complaints were a symptom of the worsening health of the company, as quality control and customer relations took hits in their effort to find a niche in the digitised environment. Through Draper, the *Mad Men* writers were able to reassess Kodak's relationship with its past. Reframing 'history' as 'nostalgia', they shifted the emphasis from the company to the consumer; instead of requiring the buying public to connect with Kodak's own brand history, Draper shows how a brand can connect the buyer to their own past. He is pitch-perfect “It's not called the wheel, it's called the carousel. It lets us travel the way a child travels – around and around, and back home again.”

Kodak must now attempt such a change of focus. They have the benefit of a nostalgia for the days of red and yellow boxes of film, though for Kodak to return 'back home' to the times of market dominance looks unlikely.

– The Business Editors

# Bankruptcy... A Kodak Moment?

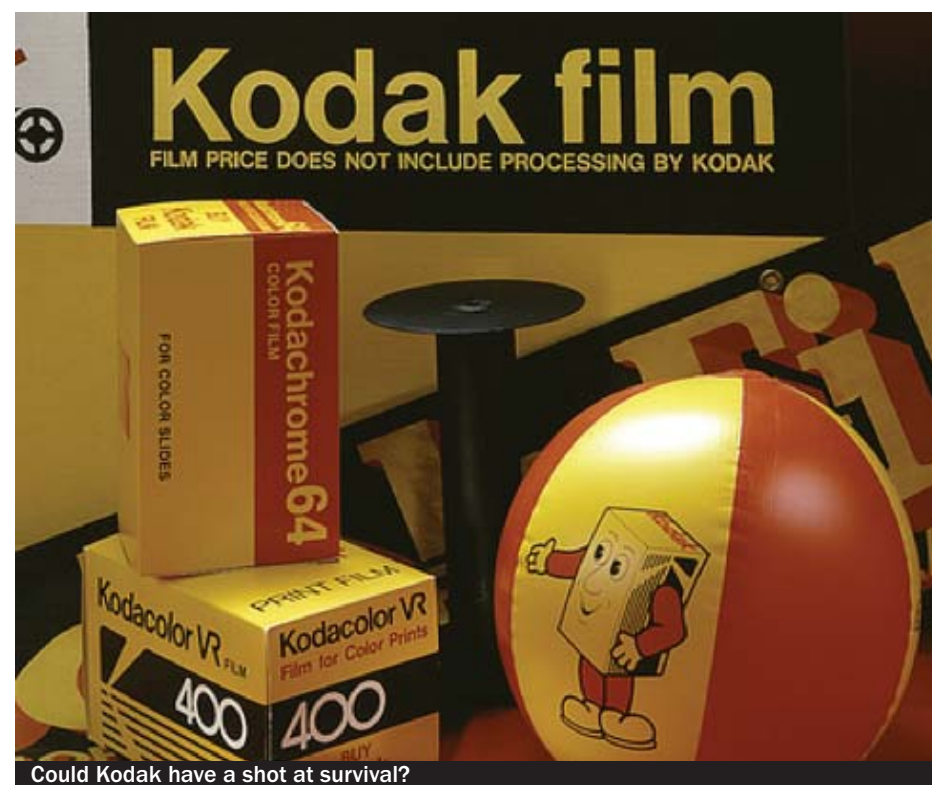
**Paolo Strampelli of the Imperial Entrepreneurs charts the history of a company that has struggled to keep apace with the times**

**F**iling for bankruptcy... a Kodak moment” joked someone in an elevator at one of Goldman Sachs offices, according to the twitter account @GSElevator. On Thursday 19 January, (ex) photographic giant Eastman Kodak Co. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Low on cash, unable to effectively sell its assets, the company hopes through this move to slash its debts and, by forcing larger technology companies to pay to use its patents, stay in business. Kodak is now calling for a \$950m bankruptcy loan, a call which seems to have been answered by the Citibank lending syndicate.

Eastman Kodak, or 'Kodak' as it is most commonly known, was founded in 1899 by George Eastman in Rochester, New York. In 1900 it introduced to the American public the Brownie camera, the first camera to be produced and sold *en masse*. Innovation and mass production were about to put the world into cars and airplanes, the American Century was unfolding, and Kodak was ready to record it. From that moment onwards, the company continued to grow: in 1976, Kodak commanded 90% of film sales and 85% of camera sales in the US. In 1975, Kodak invented the world's first digital camera.

So, how did a company with such a glorious history find itself in such a disastrous financial condition? According to some, it was exactly that – their history – which can be held responsible. Robert Burley, an associate professor from Toronto's Ryerson University said of Kodak, “They were a company stuck in time. Their history was so important to them, this rich century-old history, when they made a lot of amazing things and a lot of money along the way. Now their history has become a liability”. Kodak actually did foresee the digital revolution coming to a certain extent, and made a number of investments in this field. However, Kodak could not figure out a business model in the digital era that produced the same returns that investors expected based on its film-based industry history. Its first digital product was a product called Photo CD, launched in 1992, which still kept film as the capture media and then digitized them and saved them on a CD through the use of specific scanners. The product was largely unsuccessful and, more importantly, resulted in Kodak being distracted by it from the digital photography revolution occurring in Silicon Valley at the time.

Signs that Kodak's monopoly wouldn't last forever could however already be seen through the way it handled its rivalry with Fujifilm in the eighties and early nineties. Although Japanese Fuji entered the U.S. market with lower-priced film and supplies, Kodak refused to believe that American con-



Could Kodak have a shot at survival?

sumers would betray its sacred brand. This lack of foresight and excessive trust in the brand led, often, to ill decision making, such as when Kodak passed on the opportunity to become the official film of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Fuji obtained the sponsorship rights and, also thanks to intensive marketing and price cutting, started taking Kodak's market share, which increased from 10% in 1990 to 17% five years later.

Thus, as a result of lack of foresight and a series of wrong financial calls, Kodak now finds itself filing for bankruptcy. As Don Strickland, ex VP of Kodak Digital Imaging stated last week, “Kodak's mission statement has always been to be the world leader in imaging, and as a consequence of the digital revolution there is no longer a business in imaging.”

If successful, Kodak's move will allow it to emerge as a smaller company, with fewer employees and a change of focus to something very different to what the name Kodak symbolizes to many people. Antonio Perez, current CEO of Kodak, believes filing for bankruptcy was a necessary step on the path towards achieving this, as he stated after the move was announced: “The board of directors and the entire senior management team unanimously believe that this is a necessary step and the right thing to do for the future of Kodak.”

Is it, then, the end for Kodak? Probably not. After it will sell off its intellectual property assets and boost its cash position, the

Rochester-based former giant will mutate into a smaller company, which will be built around printers and ink. Since being elected, Antonio Perez has steered the company away from its traditional focus on cameras. Instead, Perez believes that Kodak's only hope is to specialize in these markets, investing in technologies that would give it an advantage over competitors in the field and allow it to get back in the game. Diversification (which in the past saved Fuji from a situation very similar to that of Kodak) could also be an important chapter in Kodak's new business plan, with medical imaging markets and health markets some of its possible targets.

One thing we can however be sure about: Kodak will not be forgotten. Its yellow boxes of film and point-and-shoot cameras made it possible for countless millions to freeze-frame their memories forever, and allow us to remember and define what an entire century looked like. Nevertheless, even if it succeeds and another smaller company emerges from the bankruptcy proceedings, it seems unlikely there is going to ever be another 'Kodak moment'.

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Comment Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**  
**Sam Horti**

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

# COMMENT

## FELIX

### Keep a keen interest in the latest college issues

During the past week the Felix website has seen some of its highest activity ever, as various members of College have taken to our comment boards to voice their opinions over last week's report on the potential closure of Clayponds. Demonstrating that the postgraduate voice at Imperial is very much alive and well, it shows that adjustments to college life are not solely exclusive to one section of Imperial's community, but rather everyone.

Even considering this, undergraduates may be wondering why they should care about postgraduate accommodation, especially if they have no intention of pursuing a postgraduate education. It is unwise to continue through an academic career at Imperial without awareness of the decisions that college takes on important issues such as Clayponds or the Holland Club, and the effects that it has on other hugely significant areas of college life. There can easily be repercussions from postgraduates to undergraduates across the college, as, obviously, the student body is not rigidly divided.

Needless to say, Felix will report on these issues and bring them to the attention of Imperial, especially when bodies such as the Union are incensed at what they believe to be a lack of communication on the part of the college. It is important to remember that Imperial is not only made up of undergraduates, nor solely postgraduates. Not every major story will revolve around one particular area of college. The fact that there have been so many comment from those affected by the Clayponds story cements the fact that news has a reach across the entirety of Imperial.

Comments will continue to be made on upcoming stories as term unfolds. Consider your own input into the stories that affect you and ensure that you are aware. After all, as you are no doubt reminded, it's not all about academia here. Make the most of your Imperial experience and understand what is happening around you.

Herein lies the point: exercise your right to respond to articles online, and in doing so keep the stories that matter to you at the forefront of college life. Consider writing a comment article for this very paper about an issue that you find important. Whether Imperial-related or not, free opinion and expression is at the forefront of this paper.

# Imperial doesn't seem to care about its postgrads



**Tom W Phillips**

**A**fter finishing my undergraduate degree, I'm now in my fifth year at Imperial studying for a PhD. Recent news about the future of Clayponds and the Holland Club has led me to believe that Imperial is disconnected from the lives and needs of postgraduate students.

The college has confirmed that it intends to close Clayponds, the postgraduate student estate in South Ealing. Its replacement is Griffon Studios, a new, purpose-built development offering "high quality and affordable accommodation options" in Clapham. Unlike Clayponds, there is no pastoral care system at Griffon Studios – a key benefit of living in university accommodation that is particularly attractive to students new to London or the UK.

A 19 square metre studio there will set you back £235 per week. £300 per week will get you a 22 square metre studio that's apparently suitable for couples. In contrast, a single room in Clayponds ranges from £104-£148 per week and a single studio is from £181.

To put that in context, I'm a postgraduate student in the Plastic Electronics Doctoral Training Centre and my stipend is £1299 per month. Living in the smaller studio would cost me a whopping £1018 per month and leave me with £281 for living costs. No wonder they haven't filled all the rooms. My girlfriend and I privately rent a flat in Southfields twice the size of Griffon Studios for £230 per week – a much bet-

**Imperial appears to have completely forgotten to investigate what a typical PG can afford.**



**Griffon Studios – the best a postgrad can get?**

ter deal than anything Imperial offers.

The Rector responded to criticism from Clayponds subwarden Craig Court by saying that a focus group found students wanted to be within 30 minutes of South Kensington. Who doesn't? But not at these obscene prices. Imperial appears to have completely forgotten to investigate what a typical PG can afford. Furthermore, in a move that will undoubtedly be a bitter blow to current Clayponds residents, proceeds from its sale will be used to subsidise accommodation in Griffon Studios to the tune of £25 per week. What is the point in building new accommodation that is so expensive it has to be subsidised from the proceeds of selling existing housing that has great feedback from residents?

The second development to cause me to doubt Imperial's commitment to PGs is the recent news that college catering is planning to convert the Holland Club, the staff and PG bar in the basement of the Sherfield building, into yet another catering outlet. The response has been overwhelmingly in support of the Holland Club. At the time of writing, the Save the Holland Club Facebook page has nearly 800 fans and there are 57 comments on a college announcements blog post – all against the plans.

Jane Neary, head of Commercial Services, told Felix that catering was unable to meet demand last year. How can Neary explain that I can go into any catering outlet at 1pm and find cabinets unfilled? I worked as a bookseller for six years and when the shops didn't meet customer demand, we didn't build a new shop, we restocked the shelves or changed the products. Perhaps catering should try this approach before trying to assimilate a well-loved and excel-

lent place to drink into another soulless, drab Taste Imperial clone?

I can understand that Neary wants to provide facilities for taught PGs, but destroying the best place on campus for PGs to relax with colleagues and friends (and blag free beer off their supervisors) is not the way to go about it. At best, catering's plans are misguided; at worst (and more cynically) it is an attempt to increase the size of their food and drink monopoly and make even more money.

There is a common thread running through both of these issues: Imperial needs to become more aware of the financial realities of postgraduate life and needs to listen more carefully to the needs of students and, in the case of the Holland Club, staff. It is unacceptable that the Union was not consulted about Clayponds and that the bar manager, Kevin Young, and the Holland Club committee were not consulted about catering's plans from the very beginning. Postgraduates are responsible for the bulk of the world class research that makes Imperial the great institution it is. I urge the college management to not let them down.

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## COMMENT

## Higgs boson? Probably Heston again



Charles Betts

**H**eston Blumenthal can be a bit pretentious. Take his recipe for green bean salad:

1. Build a zero-gravity space capsule and fill with water. Bring water to boil.
2. Chop ends off beans using Navy SEALS LASER tracking system.
3. Insert vacuum-packed green beans into the capsule.
4. Cook for  $265.3\pi$  seconds, monitoring the crunchiness of the beans every 0.000000001 seconds using the Vickers hardness test, set to HV10.
5. Refresh beans with liquid nitrogen cooled Amazonian rain water and dry in CERN Particle Accelerator.
6. Serve with injection moulded mustard vinaigrette.

It's enough to make me scream "Nobody cares! Nobody cares!" It's just overenthusiastic drivel from what appears to be a slightly unhinged, borderline OCD chef. It's all too much when chucking the beans into a pan for 3 minutes and then drizzling with olive oil would have done just fine. My brother, knowing my disdain for over-complicated cooking, gave me Heston's *At Home* book for Christmas – a bitter-sweet respite from the hilarious annual gag of planting a chocolate willy in the bottom of a used, otherwise empty PlayStation 3 box. Although the

last laugh was on me when, during my college canteen-inspired squelchy vegetable soufflé demonstration on Boxing day, the liquid nitrogen container spilt over his leg and he lost four toes.

There is, however, one seemingly unnecessarily arduous recipe in the book that is worth the bother. That makes my initial anger look rightfully misjudged, that I should just "calm down dear". I used to think a potato was just a potato, that to make chips all you had to do was boil them for 10 minutes or so and then fry them. Heston has taught me otherwise. First, the potato chips need to be rinsed under running water to remove any surface starch. They are then boiled in a pan of simmering water for 20-30 minutes and left too cool. They then go in the freezer for at least an hour, before being fried in grapeseed oil to create a light crust. By this stage, used to meals prepared in under half an hour, my stomach starts grumbling. Then it's back in the freezer for a further hour as my stomach starts to invoke the Battle of the Somme, before being fried again at a higher temperature until they are golden. So, that's around 3 hours to make some bloody chips. It all seems a bit like when the US spent millions of dollars developing a special pen that could work in space, and the Russians just took a pencil.

When I first made these triple-



NO, LEFT THE CHIPS IN THE OVEN FOR 10ns TOO LONG. WHY ALWAYS ME?

cooked chips, I dived straight in for a golden finger starving as I was after 3 hours of waiting. But WOW! What a corker! This, I immediately decided, is how chips are supposed to be. This is what the potato is for. This is what happens when a nerdy chef cooks and re-cooks different potato recipes hundreds of times and uses science to guide him. Odd how you can forget what really good food tastes like. And each time you rediscover it, you won-

der how you ever put up with anything else. Why you should live to eat. The chips crunched gracefully, they didn't splodge. The middle was as soft as mohair. These are chips as I have never known; they surprise you. One immediately feels privileged that this fellow has shared his secrets with us. It's like Fernando Alonso giving you a driving lesson, or Stephen Fry showing you how to use Twitter. It's just... well, it's just lovely.

This, I immediately decided, is how chips are supposed to be. This is what the potato is for.

## Tuition fees protests wastes good placards



Stephen Smith

**A**pparently 2012 is going to be a bumper year for protests, and I am quite looking forward to them. As the late Christopher Hitchens once wrote, "seek out argument and disputation for their own sake; the grave will provide plenty of time for silence". But what would the brilliant man have made of the recent tuition fees increase? Having earned a third class degree in PPE from Oxford, and having achieved in his short life much more of merit than David Cameron – who got a first class degree in precisely the same course – he would probably advise against going to university at all. He'd say that it's vastly overrated, except for the cheap alcohol.

In saying this, Hitchens would be – as he often was – wrong but for all the right reasons. When he graduated, he became social science editor on the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, something unthinkable today, even with a first-class degree. Currently, a good degree is essential for all but the most menial of jobs, and even then, work experience

and networking are always necessary for starting in better-paid careers.

The life of a graduate in 2012 is wildly different from that of one from the Hitchens era, which makes the tripling of tuition fees appear to be, at first sight, "the biggest betrayal of young people in postwar British politics" as anti-fees campaigner Michael Chessum wrote in the Guardian last year. If going to university is so essential, why would the Government want to discourage thousands of people with higher fees?

But is it really as bad as Chessum claims? A graduate on a standard £25,000 salary will only pay back £7 per week. Think of David Cameron as a friendly gentleman giving you four years of education and housing in exchange for two pints every Friday evening, and it really doesn't seem like such bad value. In a world where no degree often means no career, you must really misunderstand the loan repayment system to be put off going to University because of the fees.

No one should be discouraged from applying simply because they are poor:

the Government will give you enough money to live and pay for your tuition, and by the time you have to pay it back you'll be quite rich by many people's standards. Of course, in an ideal world there would be no fees, and of course it's annoying suddenly having to pay more of them, but that's all it is: annoying. Like a persistent itch, or David Cameron's patronising and rather sinister voice: we just have to deal with it, it's really not that bad.

Consequently, protesting about tuition fees is a waste of good placards, especially when there is a huge number of other, vastly more worrying, issues about which to protest. The semi-privatisation of the NHS, the disgustingly harsh sentences for some London rioters, corporate lobbying of the Government, the complete neglect of environmental issues, the abolition of the EMA, the technocratification of the EU, the approaching war with Iran, the secretive drone war in Pakistan, widening social inequality, the atrociously selective reporting by the popular press, rising unemployment, and the soaring price of

whisky, amongst other things.

There is so much to be angry about in 2012 that protesting about tuition fees is like running into a burning house to rescue an expensive packet of biscuits while several young children scream with pain as the flames engulf them in the next room.

Nevertheless, this weekend the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts (NCAFC) will meet for its National Conference in Liverpool. There they will discuss and decide how this year's student protests will unfold. My only hope for the conference is that they leave as the National Campaign Against Cuts, putting the question of tuition fees aside until the more serious matters are resolved.

Far from being a heroic student uprising of the Mai '68 variety, as Chessum likes to say, tuition fees protests merely distract us from the truly important issues. As students, rising youth unemployment is our greatest worry and we should concentrate our anger there. That and the soaring price of whisky, naturally.

There is a huge number of other, vastly more worrying, issues about which to protest.



Comment Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**  
**Sam Horti**

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

# COMMENT

## Learn to think better of teaching



**Jakov Marelic**

... it could be convincingly argued that the job of a teacher... is one of the most important and worthwhile jobs possible

Three out of four secondary school students are not taught physics by a specialist physics teacher. 16% of those eligible for school meals make it to university. Independent schools, however, manage to send 96% of theirs to higher education. These points are raised by Teach First (whose mission is to address educational disadvantage and who have been active around Imperial recently). Their solution? Train as a teacher yourself. If enough individuals who are physics graduates become teachers, the problem will be solved.

Now, it's been said society has three essential facets. One, to provide food and shelter so individuals can survive. Two, to bear and rear children to replace the dead. And three, to educate, research and to achieve progress so that the next generation is better and smarter than everything that came before it. The first two of these tasks have been done by animals for billions of years, but the third is done only by humans in the last 400 years or so since rediscovery of ancient Greek civilization. It led to the invention of the telescope, microscope and air pump, and gave rise to the idea of

mass education. Virtually all our society's progress comes from these last four centuries. In light of this, it could be convincingly argued that the job of a teacher, who educates children, is one of the most important and worthwhile jobs possible.

Yet when I look closer at what the reality of being a teacher entails, I see a pay freeze for the next four years at a time when inflation has reached 5%. I see their pensions under attack. Micro-management, bureaucracy and overwork erode their work-life balance. At least office temps don't have to take their work home with them. Teachers also suffer a lack of respect from the ill-informed, who think they finish work at 3pm and do nothing in school holidays. Furthermore, I see the school building project cancelled, religious groups invited to take over the running of schools (Education Secretary Michael Gove was forced to deny they would teach creationism) and market forces being introduced to education (don't get why this is bad? Imagine if access to education was as unevenly distributed as income).

There is a reason for all this, the mainstream press will be quick to tell us: the debt. In 2008, several large fi-



Samuel L. Jackson in *Coach Carter*, can a motherlover say awesome, inspirational teacher up in here?

ancial institutions were on the verge of bankruptcy and managed to convince the New Labour government to transfer their private debts onto the public balance sheet, with no strings attached. The banks got an excellent deal; teachers got sold out. This debt had to be paid off, so all political parties started talking about how much they'd cut, by how much they'd reduce public sector salaries and pensions, and how much teachers would be economically punished for the mistakes

and greed of the top 1%.

The goals of Teach First are noble indeed, but I can't help thinking education might be better if they joined an anti-austerity group. Teach First tells us to each solve the problem individually, but they forget we have much more power collectively when we work together. History and experience demonstrates this. With better working conditions and benefits, good teachers will naturally become attracted to the profession.

## Pigs – our friends and maybe our equals



**Rhys Davies**

Pigs have given us so much, from food to medicine, with so many charming phrases along the way

Getting home one day, I was met with an unwelcome, albeit familiar, sight. The living room looked like a bomb had gone off and the rubble had been picked over by looters. In the kitchen, scores of mice were defending the ceramic mountain range by the sink from an amorphous and strangely sentient fungus. I dared not step into the bathroom – from what I could see, I didn't know whether to call a professional cleaner or an exorcist. Faced with this special circle of hell, there was only conclusion I could reach: I'm living with pigs!

On reflection, this might not be quite the hyperbolic statement that it appears to be. We may be most closely related with chimps, but we share much in common with our barnyard friends.

Medically, we have much to owe the pig. Before *E. coli* and human DNA got drunk together at a party in 1977, most insulin came from pigs – for which diabetics of the world rejoice. And unless the law making motorcycle helmets compulsory is repealed or stem cells actually prove themselves useful for something, we can fund the deficit in organ donors with a little help from our por-

cine pals. Pig hearts, sow livers, bacon kidneys – these things need not sound as daft as they do.

Although, in the interests of balance, maybe we should start making human suede and human bacon? That brings me onto another point of similarity. Human meat tastes most like pork... so I have been told. In the language of the Marquesas Islands of Polynesia, the word for human translates as Long Pig. However, the semantics ties itself in knots when the word for pig translates as Short Human. The words for all other animals are a specified number of chickens in a coat. The word for chicken is some kind of vegetable, I believe.

Religion has tended to have a dim view of pigs. They've always been seen as dirty, greedy, unclean animals, not quite kosher, quite haraam. I don't want to get into any theological debates here (goodness knows Comment loves them!) but it seems to me that pigs are the scapegoat (scape-pig?) for the nature of an animal that doesn't walk with cloven feet, but does speak with a cloven tongue and thinks with a cloven mind. Pigs have borne this misrepresentation with characteristic good humour.

Pigs have given us so much, from



Not even the ultra masculine Timothy Dalton can bring himself to shoot man's equals: pigs. He's so dreamy...

food to medicine, with so many charming phrases along the way. In return, we have not been so generous. Apart from the occasional lovelorn chap who marries a pig, we have consistently taken without giving back. Given our intimate relationship with our porcine cousins, this is categorically wrong. So, what can we do to redress this imbalance? Offer them some rashers of Danish bacon made with real Danes? Or at least a selection of chickens in an overcoat. Maybe we should donate our kidneys en masse as a gesture of reparation? Maybe not. I can't speak for you, but I'm using mine at the moment.

One option that would be for the benefit of everyone would be to give pigs flying lessons. Microlights, biplanes, Boeing 747s; it doesn't matter. We could transform the phrase, "when pigs fly" from a cynical scoff at a far-fetched idea to simply a measure of time. If pigs could fulfill their dreams, what would stop you from yours? On a practical note, they could also fill in when BA strikes again.

I'm not the only one to notice this fundamental bond between man and pig. Winston Churchill said: "Dogs look up to man. Cats look down to man. Pigs look us straight in the eye and see an equal."



## COMMENT

## SOPA: who got the last lulz?



**Alexander  
Karapetian**

**Y**ou cannot censor the Internet. You cannot subpoena a hashtag. You cannot arrest an idea. You CAN expect us.”

These are the words of decentralised hacktivist online group Anonymous, tweeted as they launched a hailstorm of Distributed Denial of Service (DDOS) attacks on various websites just hours after the US Government shut down Megaupload.com on Thursday 19 January. Their attacks successfully brought down websites belonging to the RIAA, MPAA, Universal Music, the Department of Justice, the US Copyright Office, EMI, the FBI and others by flooding them with requests, but a number of outlets have begun accusing them of falling head first into a trap.

Thursday’s wave of activity saw the largest coordinated attack in the history of Anonymous, with over 9000 participants – both willing and oblivious. Unsurprisingly, their efforts have been slated as counterproductive, with claims that the US government had deliberately timed the Megaupload takedown to occur directly after the SOPA protests where Wikipedia, Wordpress and various websites underwent a blackout to raise awareness against provisions in the acts.

If this is true, then it is plausible that not only did the US Government take heed of Anonymous’s words, to “expect us”, but that they also considered such actions may play in their favour by overshadowing the peaceful and lawful protests from all the websites blacking out last week. Popular tech website CNET’s Molly Wood reported that “if the SOPA/PIPA protests were the web’s moment of inspiring, non-violent, hand-holding civil disobedience, [the move by Anonymous] feels like the unsettling wave of car-burning hooligans that sweep in and incite the riot portion of the play.”

It is likely that this would be ripe ammunition for the US government to use against freedom on the internet and I think this will cause them to call for tighter internet controls to crack down on what they perceive as cyber-terrorism, and at the very least, may provide emotional motivation for them to do so.

The websites blacked out on Thursday to protest against provisions in the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and Protect Intellectual Property Act (PIPA) bills, which threatened the health of the internet. If they went through, the US government would have the ability to order ISPs to alter their DNS servers from resolving the offending websites, to force search engines like Google to modify their results to exclude such sites, and so on. Outright censorship. I’m not an advocate of piracy, though I believe in freedom of speech and believe the internet is our safest place to express this.

I’d heard of Megaupload through MegaVideo. It was notorious for limiting videos to 72 minutes, and I was firmly aware that it was a site mostly used to transfer pirated files. It wasn’t too long before people discovered how to make their film nights more convenient in first year, circumventing the MegaVideo limit by simply switching from the Imperial wireless connection to a wired one.

While some people did use Megaupload to illegally pirate files, it must be noted a great deal of users had legitimate intent, for instance transferring files which were too big for E-mail. I believe the US’s rash decision to take it down without warning was completely unjustified, and there has been emphasis lately on users who wonder what happened to their files.

This raises another interesting question regarding cloud services: why Megaupload and not, for example, Rapidshare? In fact, Rapidshare reportedly are “not concerned” about the takedown, emphasising that they don’t provide features such as a rewards system for frequently downloaded files. Rapidshare, Dropbox and Windows Live SkyDrive all fall into the same category from a technical perspective, and a fair proportion of us use these services regularly. What happens to our files if a service is taken down?

Megaupload’s servers contained more than 25 petabytes of data (over 25,000,000 gigabytes), personal files, and I’m appalled at their availability being so abruptly withdrawn. Your music library is your personal soundtrack to



This domain name associated with the website Megaupload.com has been seized pursuant to an order issued by a U.S. District Court.

Sorry, we know some of you are so street that the sight of feds is terrifying

your life, a photo is potentially an instance of a treasured memory and your documents are the fruits of your ongoing creative efforts, work related or not. Take away access to all my files today and you’ll be taking away my life. For this, I think that cloud backup and storage are not real substitutes to their local equivalents, and while Megaupload had a lot more problems than piracy (their employees were accused of money laundering and trafficking), I’m hesitant to store mission critical data up there in case of some kind of amalgamation of Murphy’s law and freak unavailability.

More to the point, now all those 25 petabytes are in the possession of the feds, it’s likely they’ll go through as much of it as possible to secure a conviction. It’s also likely that IP addresses of uploaders were logged too. See where I’m going with this? Privacy is completely out the window, and the US government nonchalantly demonstrated they didn’t really need SOPA anyway.

Now while I disagree with these violations, I must also disagree with some methods used by Anonymous to DDOS the affected websites after Megaupload went down. The attacks were conducted by the aptly named Low Orbit Ion Cannon program (C&C gamers will get the reference), a piece of software initially written by the “good guys” to perform stress tests and load balancing on networks. The software was later open sourced and people began voluntarily using it to flood websites with connection requests, causing them to overload and go down. It even has a “Hive Mind” mode, where the program acts as

a slave and accepts commands originating online, allowing for increased coordination.

Though use of this tool on other websites equates to criminal activity, it can be said that everyone who participated was doing so of their own free will. This was, unfortunately, not the case for some unsuspecting users, since the program was modified to work using JavaScript and the link was shortened and distributed throughout Twitter under the Anonymous hashtag. This meant it could run inside a browser with no downloads necessary and that the link could be shortened to trick users into visiting the page without realising what they were getting into. It is claimed that more than 27,000 computers were involved in the DOJ attack with “average people participating in the DDOS attack from their living rooms”. The stats were, however, not broken down into the amount of traffic from the voluntary program as opposed to the involuntary JavaScript link.

Some Anonymous spokespersons responded saying that “preying on unsuspecting users is despicable”, and that they “need to fight for the user, not land them in jail”, though we cannot be sure who can speak for them and whose word to trust, due to their decentralised nature. These issues surrounding Anonymous give the vigilante group an aura of recklessness, which the US government don’t hesitate to exaggerate, and while SOPA appears to have indeed perished, we can only ask ourselves: at what cost? Now excuse me while I mourn Megaupload with 72 minutes of silence.

Your music library is your personal soundtrack to your life, a photo is potentially an instance of a treasured memory... take away access to all my files today and you’ll be taking away my life

## Lord what a mess – A letter to the editor

If you wish to write a letter, email: [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)

Dear Editor,

I would like to protest in the weakest possible terms against the total disregard Felix shows for the correct style of address of Peers of the Realm.

References to life peers “Lord

Robert Winston”, “Lady Eliza Manningham-Buller” and others regularly appear despite being hideously improper. According to Debrett’s – a resource I use almost as much as How to Get Laid, but to more avail – it is only the younger sons and the daughters of

Dukes and Marquesses are styled in the format “Lord (or Lady) [forename] [surname]”, and not actual peers.

Should one insist on including the first name then it should come before the peerage title; think “Alfred, Lord Tennyson”.

Just because the BBC and others routinely fuck it up doesn’t mean Felix has to.

Best wishes,  
Christopher Kaye  
Junior Treasurer  
ICU History Society.



## The Poet's Column

### Passage of Rhyme by Pavitar Devgon

A top the world sits a bubbling spring  
Where white lilies grow and nightingales sing  
Here snow slowly falls; the air is so thin  
Whence water outflows and then it begins.

The mountainous creek runs down the slope swift  
Waterfalls pouring to crash upon drift  
Fleeing fast from the fraught cold of the cliff  
Winding its way to the arbourous rift

Between the trees, quenching soil and life  
Fulfilling their needs while bearing their strife  
Arriving where dwell both sparsely and rife  
Whistling on like sweet flute and shrill fife

It flows further fore and happens a lake  
Streaming in all it has learned upon wake  
Taking all given, it gives all it takes  
Soon sliding onward the sinuous snake

The marshland, it wanes and salinates flows  
Cordgrass and Juncus breed; nothing else grows  
The delta drinks rivers, this we all know  
The water here rages; here the wind blows

The blue river's journey finally ends  
Amid ocean torrents, global heat trends  
Cascading and tumbling in the sea  
The cycle completed, now Avanti!

### The Politician's Fingernails by Kadhim Shubber

Are my fingernails too long?  
They look ok... head up, stop looking at them  
(smile!)  
They feel kind of long.

There. When I clench my fist like a man!  
I can feel them. Oh. My. God.  
Can other people feel them?

When I shake their hands?  
Like this lady (smile!) Can she feel them?  
I love her eyebrows.

I think she's noticed my nails.  
Why am I still holding her hand? Let go!  
Dammit, you let go too quickly! (Smile!)

Why is Cindy staring at me? (Smile!)  
I hate her so much; my nails, her face,  
The blood and screaming and utter joy.

Is she looking at my hands? ... She knows!  
(Smile!) (Shake hands!) Did he notice?  
Oh fuck... people know. Where the fuck is Ryan?

Slow down. Keep cool soldier! Think!  
Plan B: Hug. Yeh. People fucking love hugs...  
Shit.

# Hockney's biggest splash yet?

David Hockney mixes traditional and modern mediums to recreate Yorkshire landscapes of dazzling colour



'Winter Timber' 2009 – Blue Wood. Like blue balls but worse

### Eva Rosenthal

Herman Hesse, the German novelist and poet, wandered for some time through the Swiss countryside – and wrote as a result the aptly named *Wandering*. His book is about many things, one of them being a communion with nature. Hesse tells his reader “Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth” and these words resounded with especial strength throughout the two hours spent at David Hockney's new show at the **Royal Academy of Arts**. For the creation of the new works exhibited in *A Bigger Picture*, Hockney has not strayed from his native Yorkshire, painting the forests and fields near his home. Nevertheless, the concept of unity with nature and the natural world in his painting is readily observed.

*A Bigger Picture* (a reference to Hockney's famous 'A Bigger Splash') is an exhibition on a massive and grand scale. There is a retrospective aspect – some early work, such as the 1980s photo-collages of the Grand Canyon, is included – that succeeds because, despite its brevity, it chronicles with clarity the development of Hockney's landscapes to their present state. However its onus is on the landscape paintings, watercolours and 'iPad' drawings of recent years as well as sketchbooks and one extraordinary video installation.

Hockney has assimilated and collated the details of nature to astonishing effect: the grandiose, whispering trees in 'Woldgate Woods 26, 27 and 30 July 2006' are just that because of the dark blue colour running

throughout the painting and the tiny leaves flung against a grey sky, virtually carried by a breeze. It must surely be that Hockney experiences a different reality to us; it is one so concretely understood however, that his Yorkshire landscapes, almost by obligation, epitomize nature. Nature, its essence, is confidently expressed such that reality is almost augmented; the landscapes could even be viewed as an improvement (at least within the confines of the RA!) on Yorkshire itself.

### “Hockney's work advocates a return to nature and form in art”

The same scenes recur, depicted at different times in the same season or year. The landscape that greets visitors to the exhibition is shown in spring, summer, autumn and winter. Hockney's knowledge of this particular view is all-encompassing, as is his understanding of how hawthorn blossoms or of the elements composing the 'tree tunnel' he has studied. Perhaps greatest in scope is the collective 'The Arrival of Spring in Woldgate Woods', composed of 51 iPad drawings following the budding Yorkshire spring, the final blooming of which is culminated by an immense oil painting.

The naturalism of *A Bigger Picture* is somewhat countered by the use of new technologies, placing Hockney's work definitively in

the 21st century. The iPad drawings are just his first forage into technology; the film installation is a technical feat but also complements the oil landscapes by taking the 'augmented' reality a step further. There are two phases, the first taking place in a colourful, bright room in which separate cameras were used to film the movements of ballet dancers. The images were then collaged, contorted, resulting in a different perspective of reality, reminiscent of the Grand Canyon collages. The second phase is comprised of several slow motion films of the Yorkshire countryside. These were filmed using nine cameras mounted on a moving van, each camera capturing a slightly different area of the landscape. The effect is hypnotic; the combination of almost imperceptible movement and collaged images results in a novel countryside, one that could be representative of nature everywhere.

Hockney's work seems to advocate a return to nature and form in art. Although this may not sound appealing to the lover of minimalism for example, Hockney's landscapes are of such quality that one cannot fail to be moved. For nature-starved Londoners especially, this may be an opportunity to experience the countryside, and its (ideally) therapeutic effects, without ever having to leave the city. If only for this reason, it is an exhibition which should not be missed and which surely confirms David Hockney as one of the great British contemporary artists.

David Hockney: *A Bigger Picture* at The **Royal Academy of Arts** until April 9



## Take a gawk on the wild side



Aahh, mate, aah, mate, aaaaahh, maaate, I'm bugging out so bad here

### Margot Pikovsky

If labs and essay deadlines have so far prevented you from paying a visit to the **Natural History Museum** and you're looking for an excuse to get out of the library: forget the dinosaurs, forget the massive blue whale and forget the Kobe earthquake room, because if there's one exhibition that you actually have to make it to between now and March 11th this is it: *Wildlife Photographer of*

**“Anyone coming to this exhibition expecting cutesey animal snaps is converted”**

*the Year.*

The NHM and BBC Wildlife have been organising and collaborating on the competition every year since 1964, when a humble 600 submissions were received for just 3 categories. This year's panel of judges were faced with more than 40,000 entries from all round the world; proof of just how prestigious the competition has become over the last half century.

Anyone coming to this exhibition expecting cutesey animal snaps is soon converted: the ensemble is such a vibrant celebration of the fusion of man's creativity and the glory of nature, technical prowess, and artistic flair that it's hard not to lose yourself and let go of the outside world for several hours.

The exhibition is more than a collection of pretty pictures though: some photos will leave you bewildered, others shocked, impressed or dumb-struck.

The overwhelming feeling by the end however is a deep respect for the photographers and a profound inspiration to go home and create something magical of your own. At the very least, the exhibition reminds us of how to marvel at the beauty of nature: the intricate detail in a tern's wings as it prepares to land on water, the staggering Milky Way stretching nonchalantly over the horizon at night or the sheer audacity of a mountain goat, several thousand feet in the air committing a death-defying feat just to reach a mineral lick (one of my personal favourites – ‘Balancing Act’).

With outstanding contributions in many different categories and by many different participants (a particular mention goes to the 11-14 Years Old contestants, whose work easily equalled in brilliance those of their more senior rivals) it is a small wonder that a winner could be picked at all. Still, Daniel Beltra of Spain proudly takes home the title this year for his thought-provoking ‘Still Life in Oil’: a portrait of a group of pelicans drenched in crude oil. Despite my initial reservations about the win due to its political nature, I was oddly touched by the beautifully tragic composition and almost palpable fear of the birds. In the winner's words and as a perfect summary of the competition as a whole: “I wanted to create a set of images that wouldn't look out of place in an art gallery [...] it's a route to understanding that doesn't depend on shock. I think it gets the message to a wider audience, because if the image is aesthetically appealing, people are more likely to stop.”

Seriously, don't take my word for it: just go see.

*Wildlife Photographer of the Year* at the **Natural History Museum** until March 11

## Enter the Zarina

Emotions run high at film artist and photographer Zarina Bhimji's retrospective at Whitechapel

### Arianna Sorba

To coincide with the world premiere of her latest film installation ‘Yellow Patch’, the **Whitechapel Gallery** in East London is currently showing the first major retrospective of the artwork of Zarina Bhimji. Born in Uganda to Indian parents, Bhimji left for Britain in the early 1970s to escape the brutal regime of Idi Amin. This complex cultural history cannot help but heavily influence her work, and partly explains her passionate focus on themes of loss, pain, and human displacement.

The exhibition opens with some of Bhimji's earlier work, a collection of photographs from her series, ‘Love’. Taken on her visits back to Uganda, the photographs capture with vivid and harsh intensity the scenes of decay and abandonment she finds there. In one, an enormous chandelier lies disused, dominating the tiny room it now inhabits as the bright light refracting through its glass hints at the awe it would have once inspired. In another, a family home, bathed in warm sunlight, sits derelict and empty, poignant due to the obvious, aching absence of the family who once lived there. This idea, of places now empty where there once was such a strong human presence, echoes throughout the collection, from the mountain of abandoned paperwork that fills up one image, each file the ghost of a person now forgotten, to the mysterious bag of hypodermic syringes that invades and taints the image of an otherwise bar-

ren, natural scene. It is with great talent that Bhimji manages to somehow capture the intense beauty in such desolate and emotive moments.

**“The emotive power and haunting beauty is undeniable”**

The climax of the exhibition, the greatly anticipated ‘Yellow Patch’, results from Bhimji's journey further into her own past, to India, the home of her parents. In my eyes it was far less successful. Where ‘Love’ was subtle yet expressive, the film installation seemed simultaneously painfully obvious and frustratingly abstract. Repetitive close up shots of derelict buildings and abandoned objects gained little from the disjointed sounds that accompanied them, and offered none of the personality and the evidence of humanity that her earlier photographs captured so well. Brief moments of beauty or interest, such as the looming wreck of an unfinished ship, were utterly desensitised by the slow and passive movement of the camera that panned across them. On some intellectual level, I was intrigued by some of the more unusual images, and I appreciated the occasional contrast between the bustling movement captured in the audio against the total stillness of the visual. But I was utterly unable to connect emotionally with the

installation. I found myself yearning for some kind of narrative to pull me through it, a connecting thread that I sensed was there but could not cling on to as image after image slid before my eyes. Perhaps I'm simply not emotionally intelligent enough to personally respond to such a restrained piece – but if that's the case, then is it really good art?

I found myself similarly unappreciative of the two other smaller collections on display, ‘Cleaning the Garden’ and ‘She Loved to Breathe – Pure Silence’. ‘Cleaning the Garden’, one of Bhimji's earlier collections, apparently contrasting English and Spanish traditions of formal gardening, seemed to me to have no strong central theme or message, providing aesthetically pleasing but ultimately impersonal photographs. Meanwhile, ‘She Loved to Breathe’ came across as uncharacteristically unsubtle, with an arguably unnecessary addition of chilli and turmeric scattered on the floor beneath what on their own were powerful and cleverly composed images, abstractly referring to the trauma of Asian immigrant women in the UK forced to submit to virginity tests in the 1970s.

Despite these criticisms, I'd still recommend the exhibition, even if only for ‘Love’. The emotive power and haunting beauty of some of that collection is undeniable, and as for the others... Well, perhaps I just didn't ‘get’ them.

Zarina Bhimji at the **Whitechapel Gallery** until March 9



‘Your Sadness is Drunk’. My drunkness is horny like Newt Gingrich in an open relationship



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## MUSIC

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

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Kadhim's totally hot album of the week



**Dizee Rascal**  
 DirteeTV.com  
 Skank Recordings  
 2012

The most irritating thing about **Tim Westwood** is this: he's actually 100% credible. He's been supporting UK hip-hop since the 80s and, by all fair metrics, has earned the right to ram obnoxious horns and gunshot sounds up the backside of every track he plays on his radio show. I, on the other hand, have absolutely zero street-cred – unless of course you count the Walkway as a street, and you accept furiously avoiding eye contact as 'cred'.

Which, you could argue, might make my decision to choose **Dizee Rascal's** new mixtape as my Totally Hot Album of the Week slightly strange. The only UK hip-hop I've ever listened to is **Foreign Beggars**; whose 2003 album *Asylum Speakers* is a must-listen and whose 2008 song 'Hit that Gash' is... well, find out for yourself. So, what insights about grime, a genre of music as far removed from my expertise as astute political analysis is from Dizee, could I offer you? Well to you 'haters' – see, I can totally get into this – I say this: I may not understand a word of French, but I'd sure as hell as jizz my pants if Audrey Tautou started talking to me.

Let's be clear: this ain't no pop record. With **Calvin Harris** off cheating on him with **Rihanna** (who would say no?), Dizee has gone back to the quick-fire spitting with which he first made his name in the early 2000s. All that festival-pop nonsense has gone the way of Sports Direct's stock and buggered off down the street. Grime-Dizee is back. The tracks are bombastic, viciously-tight, full of swagger, and as energetic as an LHC proton (and yes, that joke is exactly why I'll never have street-cred). But naff jokes aside, there's something primally appealing about this mixtape. It makes you want to bounce off the walls, get pumped up, and perhaps run about throwing gang signs while studiously avoiding confrontation with people who actually understand the lingo...

I've genuinely got nothing bad to say about this tape. Criticism is fairly difficult when you're busy concentrating on skanking like a total boss. Imperial, it's time to leave your comfort zone and get dirtee this week. Just think of it as gateway grime. Peace out.

*Tweet me @kadhimshubber and let me know whether it's acceptable for a guy who went to private school in Eastbourne to say 'Peace out'. Alternatively, tweet @CalvinHarris and tell him, "If I ever see you near Dizee again, I'll pop a cap brah!!!"*

# Inescapable Fate

**Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto** talks death and dubstep with lead guitarist **Will Jones**, ahead of the *Felix Music Night*

*How long has the band been going?*

I really should know this... I've been playing with them for a couple of years, but they were already together for a few years before that.

*Wow. So it's a quite a long standing band then.*

Yeah, but it's... piss poor, because we've only played about 5 or 6 gigs. Just far too busy really. We practice every week but we just don't play many gigs, though recently we've been heading out more. We played the Fiddler's Elbow in Camden last term, with a couple of other thrash and rock bands. It was pretty well received. We've got a couple more gigs lined up this term.

*Would you say you guys are death metal, thrash metal, or somewhere in between...? I heard someone calling you brutal death metal.*

Oh, we're not brutal by any standards. We only have about two blast beats in our entire repertoire. I think Greg (Power, founder of the Felix Music Nights last year) got it into his head, but I'd say we're more thrashy, but the vocals are death.

*Cookie Monster style.*

Yeah, well there's a bit more diction. I've heard worse than Sean's vocals. You can make out what he's saying if you listen closely.

*Hold on, my recorder's running out of juice... Let me just delete these traffic recordings.*

Do you use that to record traffic?

*Among other things. Mainly to get source material for samples.*

I've recorded some rain sounds before with one of those.

*Oh cool. Do you use them in the band or for your own solo projects?*

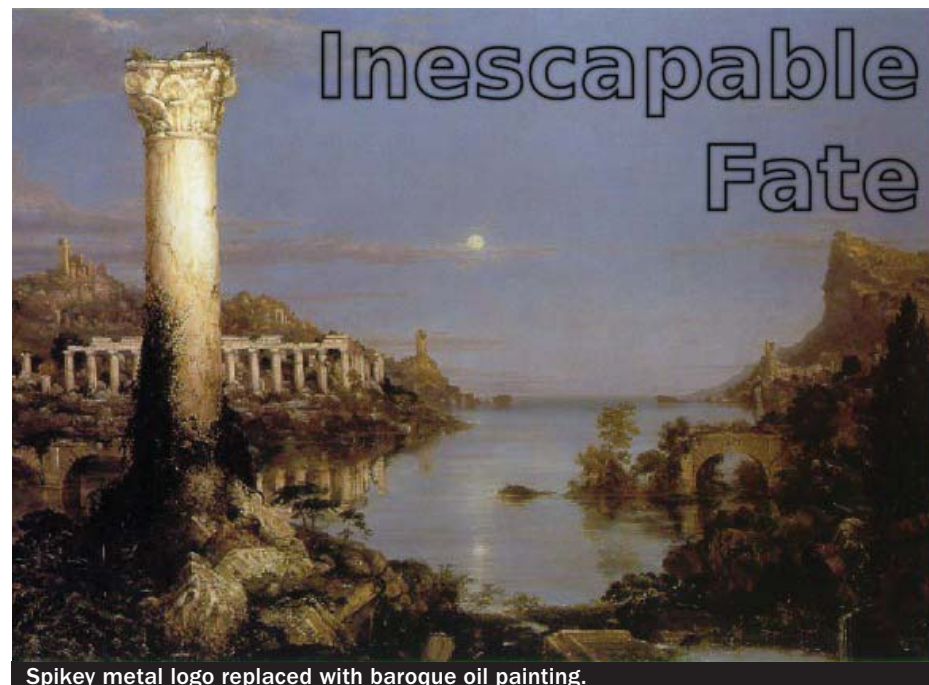
It's for my own stuff. I've got a few tracks on my DoC homepage, of all places, that are more or less different than what we play in the band. Sort of like the stuff you played at *KABLAAM*, I quite enjoy the sort of atmospheric sounds. At the moment I'm really into sort of groovy stuff, like polyrhythms, which I've been doing a lot of recently. Synths as well... I love electronics basically.

*Groovy how? Drum based or oscillatory?*

The genre I'm in at the moment is called 'djent'.

*I read about that in your interview with Greg last term. Isn't that metal though?*

It is metal. It's kinda like Marmite – the sort of thing you either love or hate. The idea is you play a very simple 4/4 beat and the bass drum follows the guitar... it's not necessarily the idea but that's how a lot of people do it.



Spikey metal logo replaced with baroque oil painting.

So you have a steady back beat with something really funky over the top. You separate your hands from your feet, sort of. It's quite syncopated which is why you could call it groovy. I suppose **Meshuggah** pioneered that style. I really enjoy music which has a lot of polyrhythms. That's not really what we play with **Inescapable Fate** though, because it often comes to a stage when it just becomes wankery. We're a lot more straight up.

*That's cool. I didn't know you did solo electronics.*

Yeah. I find myself listening to a lot of sad, atmospheric music. Just long... long, sad tracks... I must sound like such a miserable fuck haha

*It's okey.*

I think that's what drew me into metal. There's a lot of attack but there can also be a lot of really strong melodies.

*Yeah. I think what most people don't seem to grasp about metal, and why they tend to just shun it away, is that they don't see the cathartic side of it. When I was playing metal I found it to be such a powerful release of energy that's pretty hard to find otherwise.*

Yeah. I guess my advice to anyone who wants to get into metal is not to take it too seriously. When I play or just listen to it I just can't help but want to move, it's kind of bizarre. When you've got a kick drum up at volume and it resonates and you can feel it in your body... There's a lot of fanatics who are really elitist but you know, if you don't like that music, that's fine, don't worry about it. But I find that a lot of metal musicians I meet are actually really open minded. There's no point putting yourself in a box and listen to only one kind of music.

*I actually did that once. For two years I would listen to, of all metal genres, black metal. The really deep underground stuff. At one point I realised that it was just stagnant. The whole genre is about achieving a point of perfection in the sound, being cult and true and whatever. Ironically, it's about being as under produced and grim as possible. Metal has merged with so many genres now, it's almost ridiculous to list them... you can get symphonic metal, jazz fusion...*

*You can attach the metal tag to anything... that's the problem with rap metal haha*

Yeah haha and it sounds stupid at first but it does help to open your ears a lot and you can end up listening to straight jazz afterwards.

*I meant to ask you about dubstep actually. It just seems to release a lot of... displaced anger.*

I think dubstep is actually electronic 'djent'. You can really draw a parallel because dubstep is really about dropping a thump when you least expect it. Some of the stuff the **Music Tech** guys do I really enjoy. Breaks and things.

I don't really mind... I think the most, I wouldn't say irritating, but sad thing, is when you see people listening to music and they're just not really doing anything. I find it very difficult to not even tap your foot... like you said, at least with dubstep there is a release.

*I guess there are also the more intellectual styles of music like jazz and IDM.*

Yeah, but that's really for the musicians I think. At a lot of metal gigs, the audience is full of... not nerds, but... even the bands say it would be nice if our music would be more accessible to people who don't understand

*Continued overleaf...*



# Head down Spank Alley

Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto on Big Muffs, dingy bars and classical music with *THROB*'s jazz-funk outfit

**Who's in the Spank Alley?**

**Matt:** I'm Matt, first year PhD student and I play the drums

**Jermyn:** Jermyn, 3rd year Biochemistry, undergraduate. I play the saxophone.

**Faris:** I'm Faris. I'm a 3rd year PhD student and I play the piano.

**Jordan:** Jordan, also 3rd year PhD. Bass.

**Eugene:** Eugene. I'm a 3rd year undergrad Chemist and I play the guitar.

**Eugene, I have to ask you about your guitar. It's just beautiful.**

It's a 1965 Gibson hollow body. I bought it on Demark Street downtown, which is the worst place to buy a guitar because they'll just rip you off. Good place to window shop though.

**Do you know it's history?**

The shop owner said he bought it off someone after a gig in the 1970s. That's what he says anyway.

**Jordan, I noticed you were only using one**

**effect pedal in rehearsal tonight. What's wrong? Are you okay?**

**Jordan:** I'm having withdrawal symptoms already. That's what the ale's for.

**So do you prefer to go light on the crazy stuff with the jazz band?**

**Jordan:** It's not really appropriate is it...

**Do you ever go through episodes where the other guys let you do your thing?**

**Jordan:** Not really...

**So do you feel repressed with this band?**

**Jordan:** Haha na, it's just a bit of a change. Just walking bass lines.

**Jordan and I were going to play at THROB but we only jammed once.**

**Jordan:** We could have gone for half an hour of feedback to be honest.

**When I came into your rehearsal tonight I noticed something different right away: you**

**guys were all playing from sheet music. Are you guys classically trained?**

**Jordan:** Don't look at me.

**How long have you been playing your instruments?**

**Jermyn:** 11 years.

**Matt:** Same for me. Half my life.

**Gone...**

**Matt:** Just gone...

**...behind the drums. Bashing away at the past.**

**Keys?**

**Faris:** About 20 years I think. I only got into jazz about 6 years ago though. Before that I was just playing whatever, just by ear. I'm jealous of people who can actually sight read. I'm not one of those people.

*Continued overleaf...*

*...Continued from Page 26*

how it works. But I guess that's sort of the attraction for a lot of people, understanding what's going on and the satisfaction of knowing that for example the next three bars are going to be all messed up but you actually know all the notes. I don't really expect that for a lot of the things I play. But it's nice every once in a while when someone comes up and says, oh "I enjoyed your music" even if they don't have a clue what you were doing, but that's fine because part of the satisfaction is achieving that. You know, like when you see someone get up on stage and they're thinking "oh, I'm going to start playing in fives now, just to be an ass" and no one else will notice, right, because it just gets lost. But if it sounds good, it sounds good.

That being said, in jam nights I rarely play metal because metal's really hard to improvise well on. It often ends in tears. It's a lot easier to make interesting improvise in jazz or something.

**Either that or it just ends up sort of psychedelic.**

Yeah, if you have a looper it can be a lot of fun but in metal you just end up chugging along on the same riff.

**And noodle a bit.**

Yeah, the stereotypical solos as well...

**I bumped into an old friend earlier, whose quite the metalhead and he was telling me about a bit of controversy surrounding the upcoming Download festival. Apparently Chase & Status are playing straight after Machine Head.**

Why do people care? You go to see one, the other or both.

**I have a feeling there are a lot of closet ravers among the metalheads.**

Yeah, I don't get why it's controversial.

**What about The Prodigy playing alongside Black Sabbath and Metallica?**

I would say **Black Sabbath** are less heavy than **The Prodigy**, who use a lot of guitar samples anyway. I think it's cool. It means that they can guarantee enough of an audience for that sort of thing.

**Apparently Lou Reed collaborated with Metallica.**

He played some stuff on their latest album.

**I've never listened to it but I've always heard great things about Lou Reed's Metal Machine Music, which is basically 6 hours of clanging metal noises and feedback. MMM has influenced so much later music that I almost don't feel the need to listen to those records. Just the idea of it...**

Yeah, I'm sure you can recognise it in a lot of music.

**Why do you think metal music is called metal anyway?**

I don't know... it's really stupid but I always thought it was because rock was called rock. But then I thought, well why call it rock?

**Rock & roll...**

Maybe it's because metal is heavier than rock?

**How does the rock roll? Like the pelvis of**

**Elvis?**

I have no idea.

I thought you were going to ask about more capital D's besides dubstep.

**Oh yeah, I wanted to talk about death.**

haha none of our songs are about death actually. A lot of them seem to be about the financial collapse, like 'Inflate/Deflate', because Laurie seems to have a real problem with that.

**Nice. So what's with the "morbid fascination of death" to quote a certain Norwegian band?**

That's like asking why most other music is obsessed with love? Some people might find that just as insipid. I personally don't care. Lyrics are just noise between solos, right? I think there are more offensive topics than death that are commonly dealt with.

**I'm somewhat puzzled by what some people are capable of singing about.**

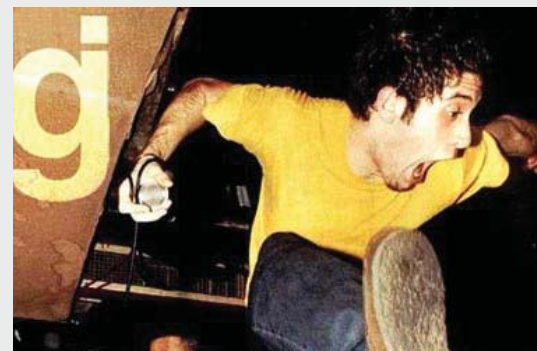
Well there's a band called **Necrophagus**, which refers to the practice of eating dead people. I think that's part of the joke though. It's not like some guy actually wants to eat your child. Another famous one is a song by **Bloodbath** called 'Eaten' which is a guy who wants someone to find someone to eat him. It's based on a true story about a German guy who posted an ad in a newspaper a couple years ago. That just shows that a lot of these things are not that far beyond the realm of what happens in the world.

**I guess love and death are the central themes in our lives.**

Love sells more though.

## George Jeffery's A beginner's guide to post-hardcore

### Lesson 3: Glassjaw



The point of this column is to give you enough guidance so that you can go out into the big bad world of post-hardcore and not end up naked, lying in filth and eating your own rancid faeces. That was meant to be symbolic for listening to poor music by the way. To set you up with a solid foundation, the first few episodes in this saga consist of the older but integral champions of this genre and to add another sturdy block to this foundation, this week I give you **Glassjaw**.

The majority of you will probably know the lead singer Daryl Palumbo from pop group **Head Automatica** but I assure you, Glassjaw could not be more different. Being from New York themselves, their style is heavily influenced by the early NY hardcore scene although Palumbo's signature vocal sound adds a great deal of likeability to this niche style. Their debut album *Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Silence* is held by their "most loyal" fans to be their best but those not perched comfortably on a hipster-high-horse recognise their second and most recent full-length release *Worship And Tribute* to be a work of mastery.

Along with these two full-length albums, Glassjaw have also released four incredible EPs and various demos. All of these releases have their share of savage and softer tracks but the pure essence of post-hardcore is wired into every second. *EYEWT-KAS* is mainly composed of heavy tracks but after this release the band started showing a less aggressive side, with Palumbo starting to sing more than just blare pig noises. Their music is hard to describe but I think the best way would be to say it has palpable hardcore roots with a chilling edge... sometimes. The experience can be likened to someone punching you in the teeth and then whispering in your ear to take your little pants off... or something less rapey. (Why does rape always come up in this column?)

Anyway what I'm trying to say is that the music is very good and has given the band its rightful place in post-hardcore history. Glassjaw have a new release in the works so keep your eye out for that and make sure you check out the Recommendations. Yeah, that's right there's two this week, suck on that bitches!

#### Writer's Recommendation

1. For the fans of heavier stuff check out the song 'You Think You're (John Fucking Lennon)'.
2. For something a bit more reasonable, check out the song 'All Good Junkies Go To Heaven' (check out the amazing rehearsal version on YouTube).



# MUSIC

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

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

...Continued from Page 28

*When I learned to sight-read I just ended up memorising the songs and pretending to read long.*

**Jordan:** That sounds familiar.

*I do envy those people though. You can think about music in a completely different way. You can see real patterns on the pages and if you're trying to write rather than improvise you can play with those forms.*

*So what have you been playing lately?*

**Jermyn:** We play a lot of **Herbie Hancock** covers.

**Matt:** It seems to be our preferred thing right now.

**Eugene:** Not so much jazz any more. More funk, but it's a good thing.

**Matt:** Yeah, we're playing an **Average White Band** song.

*Any traditional standards?*

**Faris:** Yeah.

*I wouldn't call Herbie Hancock traditional jazz though...*

**Jordan:** Traditional jazz-funk! Well we started playing some more traditional stuff...

**Eugene:** **Miles Davis** as well.

**Faris:** 'Spain', 'Caravan'...

*No Kind of Blue?*

**Matt:** 'So What'!

*Don't you need an upright for that?*

**Jordan:** I've got one actually.

*Dude! Get it out!*

**Jordan:** Stick a Big Muff on it haha

**Matt:** Of course our real aim is to become a 70s disco band.

**Jordan:** I'm trying to grow an afro right now.

*Don't count on it.*

**Jordan:** Why not? What do you mean?

*Well... 3rd year PhD. Anyway...*

*So how big's your repertoire?*

**Faris:** We've got about 20 songs or so...

**Matt:** We've only been playing together since November. I came to Imperial the month before. These guys played before in various incarnations though. We try to play at least a couple of hours a week.

**Eugene:** This is our first proper gig actually, other than the jam nights.

*Is that because you're playing only standards at the moment?*

**Jermyn:** In jazz it's more about the improvisation



Spank Alley at Tuesday's Jazz & Rock jam night

anyway.

*Do you try to work your own thing around the old classics?*

**Matt:** One of the songs we're playing, 'Watermelon Man', has turned out to be a different tune altogether.

*Do you ever play any songs in strange tunings?*

**Eugene:** It's all been standard so far hasn't it?

**Faris:** 'Actual Proof' is hardly standard.

**Eugene:** Ohhh I remembered practicing that over and over and over and over...

*So have you played the whole of the Headhunter's record or what?*

**Jordan:** Nearly!

**Matt:** It's so tempting to just stick with Herbie Hancock!

*Have you guys seen him live?*

**Jordan:** I have. He's like 74 now. He still jams pretty hard. I saw **Roy Haynes** recently, who was rather instrumental in the 50s bebop scene. He's 86 now and he still plays amazingly well. It's ridiculous.

**Jermyn:** We saw **McCoy Tyner** recently. He was **John Coltrane's** pianist

*Have you guys been to Ronnie Scott's?*

**Matt:** Yeah. My cousin actually DJs for the club

part of it. He does a thing called Doing Something With Jazz.

*The 'Queen of Motown' Martha Reeves and the Vandellas sold out 4 nights in a row there.*

**Jordan:** Yeah, it's a classy sort of vibe. Or it tries to be.

*Not like Spank Alley I suppose!*

*So other than the London Jazz Festival which is consistently ridiculously amazing, how do you find the jazz scene in London?*

**Matt:** There's the Jazz Café up in Camden.

**Eugene:** There's a nice joint in Fulham...

*Club 606! I remember going there in 1st year, because it was just a few streets away from Orient House where I was. It's in the middle of this industrial estate. You just have to find this black metal door and walk down these dingy stairs...*

**Jermyn:** Yeah, it's underground right?

*Once you get downstairs it's really chill though. There's a really strong free jazz scene, particularly around Dalston. Are any of you guys into that?*

**Jordan:** I quite like some of that.

**Eugene:** That's what we call our solos if they don't work out! "That was freeform!"

**Matt:** It's good because you can never be wrong.

**Jermyn:** Just walk off the stage to get a beer and call it 'expression'.

*The anguish. "I need a beer. Leave me alone." [dramatic silence for 10 minutes while you get served]*

*So, I'm taking that as a no.*

**Matt:** Pretty much.

*Do you guys know Sun Ra?*

**Jordan:** Yeah! Did you go see them at Oto?

*Not the last time but I caught them during their 3-day residency which prolonged to 5 because the Icelandic volcano left them stuck in London.*

*Anyway, for those of you who don't know him, he was this free jazz guy in the 60s who took too many drugs. He had this sort of cosmic jazz take on things and he believed he was from another planet.*

**Jordan:** Yeah, he actually started playing bebop kind of stuff and somehow went...

*Backstage.*

*He thought jazz was channelling the spirit of the universe or something and I can see what he meant. Jazz is some of the most exploratory music there is and much more free than classical.*

**Matt:** Classical is much more composed. There's almost no room for free interpretation.

**Faris:** Having said that, there's a lot of baroque music which has a lot of improvisational harpsichord passages and variations.

*I always thought that when a composer is working on his magnum opus, there must be a lot of theory behind it but there was probably some spontaneous moment which sparked it. That's what strange about classical music. It seems so restrained though, it almost seems to lose the human element. That's what jazz manages to save.*

**Matt:** you can say what you like about classical music but you have to admit it's stood the test of time.

*Some people might beg to differ on that.*

**Jordan:** Some of the modern classical music is really just modern music which is scored for a full orchestra and it just seems to come off as forced. Some of the purposefully dissonant stuff really tries to say something but a lot of it just fails.

*So finally, how did your colourful name come about?*

**Matt:** 'Spank-A-Lee' is a song by Herbie Hancock.

*Is there no other motivation behind it?*

**Jordan:** It is funk after all so there has to be a bit of spank.

**Eugene:** What better place to get down and dirty than an alley?

## Given to the Wild

Lily Le

The third album from **The Maccabees** has been released after much anticipation and to critical acclaim. Sorry, "much" anticipation? Critically acclaimed by who now?

Things are expected to change for the Maccabees. Their new single has had airplay on national daytime radio and the new album has had plenty of press coverage; but when it comes down to it, is the music strong enough to turn The Maccabees into the new **Coldplay** or **Muse**?

Coming from one of their biggest fans who has been following them since before they had even released a single record, the answer is simply no.

Judging the LP alone, it is spectacular. Dark yet warm, sweet without being sickly, it has a huge sound while maintaining an intimate, personal feel. Orlando Weeks sings with such tenderness that his voice sometimes cannot be distinguished from the music. This is no bad thing; it demonstrates the ability of the band to ensure that their instruments have significance and do

not solely act as a support for his voice.

The overall vibe is one of maturity. Not only in comparison to their infantile earlier releases and the fact that it will not be just 15 year olds listening, but lyrically explores the idea of being *Given to the Wild*, having to grow up, and the temporary nature of the life we grow up for. The amazing thing is that it matches style of their music, so much so that when you listen you feel that unnerving feeling: the one where you realise that you are maturing every second of every day, and you finally realise who you

are becoming.

However, albums will never be judged alone, and the fact is The Maccabees are not underrated and have not produced anything to label them as such. It is a beautiful album and will no doubt be one of my favourites of 2012, but as I fan I hope that it is not the album which defines the Maccabees, because they are a great band with the potential to do so much more. Plus, the finale of final song 'Grew up at Midnight' sounds exactly like that of 'Sea Within a Sea' by **The Horrors**.



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Television Editors: **George Barnett**  
**James Simpson**

tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# TELEVISION

## What the editors thought

### Birdsong

We had high hopes for this. We really did. The BBC are good at this sort of thing – period drama, romance, and some conflict thrown in for good measure. We can't argue with the quality of the cinematography because it was – as is usually the case with this sort of programme on the BBC – superb. The mood created is described perfectly by Marie-Laure Hicks in her review of the show.

There was a certain synergy between Poésy and Redmayne that was believable and quite endearing.

However, the show is not without fault, the main issue we had with the first episode was how long it took for things to get going (we're talking geological timescales here); certain levels of tenacity were required to continue watching after enduring the first half. Things did start to pick up though, particularly towards the end where the times between scenes at war and those set in the summer which Stephen spent with Isabelle decreased. It certainly added a heightened sense of drama to the occasion.

Talking of heightened senses; whilst adding a little interest to the episode, the sex scene was a tad ridiculous, Isabelle and Stephen had only just kissed before he went down on her. Maybe that's just how he rolls... Besides, we'll let them off as Clémence Poésy alone makes for good viewing.

Overall we thought *Birdsong* was alright. Perhaps best described as somewhat flaccid. It just sort of happened; it wasn't great but it certainly wasn't terrible either. Maybe its downfall was the timing – had it not started a week after the brilliant *Sherlock* ended then perhaps we would have viewed it in higher esteem.

Will we watch the next episode? Probably. There were aspects we liked enough to merit giving it another opportunity to impress us. We'll let you know next week.



We also enjoyed former Television Editor Matt Allinson's brief appearance. Although it was probably just us that saw him

# “Dulce Et Decorum Est Pro Patria Mori”

“How sweet and fitting it is to die for one's country”

BBC



I'm rather ravishing, don't you think?

### Marie-Laure Hicks

Following *Sherlock* and *Great Expectations*, another one of Britain's favourite novels, *Birdsong* has been adapted for the small screen by the BBC. The first part was broadcast last Sunday. The book, written by Sebastian Faulks, is considered a modern retelling of the Great War. Set in pre-war Amiens and the Somme trenches, it chronicles parts of the life of Stephen Wraysford and his affair with Isabelle Azaire.

The BBC adaptation opens in the trenches with Wraysford, portrayed by Eddie Redmayne, and moves back and forth between the war and 1910 as the Englishman recalls his summer in Northern France. The young man was then staying with the Azaires, a wealthy family. He is young, still discovering the joys and beauties of life. Isabelle Azaire (Clémence Poésy) is locked in a loveless marriage to an older man. Together, they discover the passion of love.

The drama is defined by atmospheres, glances, not words. A look, a touch is all that is needed to convey such thoughts and feelings. Better than a million words. The pre-war setting is almost idyllic. Calm, beautiful, full of life and nature, it is comparable to being plunged into a Debussy piece or an Impressionist painting. The light and brightness render a poetic, dream-like ambiance, ideal for a love story.

The contrast with the trenches is astounding. The war is dark, muddy, loud. The country is distorted. Everywhere, destruction and death are present. The trenches rob the men of their humanity, their life and leave them empty. It feels like a Sassoon or Rosenberg poem has been brought to life. Stephen Wraysford is unrecognisable. The sheer scale of the Great War is awe-inspiring, especially in the army hospital where corpses are aligned and the amputees are taken care of. Our hero is right in the middle of it, as a lieutenant. The only escape he has left from the daily violence and danger, from insanity, is his memories from that summer six years ago, and Isabelle.

**“The light and brightness render a poetic, dream-like ambiance, ideal for a love story”**

Redmayne and Poésy are splendid. The chemistry between them and their talent carry the drama and give it depth and emotion. There isn't much dialogue, but every look says something. This adaptation may have taken decades to achieve, the result is stunning. The depiction of the war is a fantastic reproduction, in my opinion, fair to descrip-

tions of those who lived it. The realities of the war are there. The wounded and the dead are omnipresent. The audience is taken into the muddy trenches, the tunnels. It encounters the dangers and risks, the constant bombing and guns firing. This place is impersonal, maddening, so far away from the innocence and bliss of peaceful times.

Written by Abi Morgan (*Brick Lane*, *The Iron Lady*, *Shame*), the main discrepancy with the book is that sections including Wraysford's granddaughter in 1970s Britain have been cut in order to concentrate on the love affair and the historic events surrounding it. The show also provides a look into the world of tunnellers, a less well-known aspect of this war. At the time of the story, there would have been twenty-five thousand men creating a network of tunnels spanning hundreds of miles.

In the words of Edward Thomas, “Can you remember?” As fewer and fewer survivors remain, the Great War should not be forgotten. Not only in memory of those who died fighting, but also the horror and destruction. The drama provides a chance to retell and document this period. It brings it to life and reminds the audience of the dreadful nature of war. This story of violence, love, friendship, death and life is quite simply a journey through time, places and people; a great experience.

Catch the second part of *Birdsong* on Sunday at 9pm on BBC1



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INDIANAPOLIS 2012





# FILM

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

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## 2012 Oscar Nominations



### Best Motion Picture of the Year

*The Artist*  
*The Descendants*  
*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*  
*The Help*  
*Hugo*  
*Midnight in Paris*  
*Moneyball*  
*The Tree of Life*  
*War Horse*

### Best Actor in a Leading Role

Demián Bahir – *A Better Life*  
George Clooney – *The Descendants*  
Jean Dujardin – *The Artist*  
Gary Oldman – *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*  
Brad Pitt – *Moneyball*

### Best Actress in a Leading Role

Glenn Close – *Albert Nobbs*  
Viola Davis – *The Help*  
Rooney Mara – *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*  
Meryl Streep – *The Iron Lady*  
Michelle Williams – *My Week with Marilyn*

### Best Actor in a Supporting Role

Kenneth Branagh – *My Week with Marilyn*  
Jonah Hill – *Moneyball*  
Nick Nolte – *Warrior*  
Christopher Plummer – *Beginners*  
Max von Sydow – *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

### Best Actress in a Supporting Role

Bérénice Bejo – *The Artist*  
Jessica Chastain – *The Help*  
Melissa McCarthy – *Bridesmaids*  
Janet McTeer – *Albert Nobbs*  
Octavia Spencer – *The Help*

### Best Achievement in Directing

Woody Allen – *Midnight in Paris*  
Michel Hazanavicius – *The Artist*  
Terrence Malick – *The Tree of Life*  
Alexander Payne – *The Descendants*  
Martin Scorsese – *Hugo*

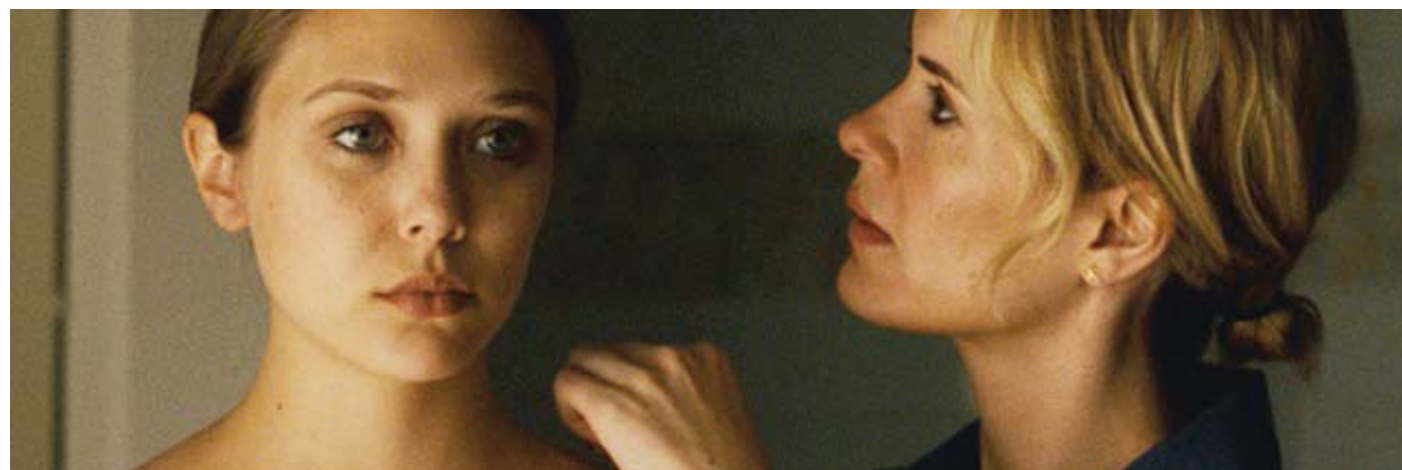
### Best Foreign Language Film

*Bullhead* (Belgium)  
*Footnote* (Israel)  
*In Darkness* (Poland)  
*Monsieur Lazhar* (Canada)  
*A Separation* (Iran)

### Best Animated Film

*A Cat in Paris*  
*Chico & Rita*  
*Kung Fu Panda 2*  
*Puss in Boots*  
*Rango*

# Mysterious, magnetic, monstrous, maddening



Don't worry, it's not bad being an Olsen – just be glad you're not one of those Kardashians or Hiltons. You've actually got talent

## Martha Marcy May Marlene

**Director** Sean Durkin  
**Screenwriter** Sean Durkin  
**Cast** Elizabeth Olsen, John Hawkes, Sarah Paulson, Hugh Dancy

### John Park

With a title that is as confusing as this one, it would be a safe bet to assume that *Martha Marcy May Marlene* is a film that attempts to mess with your head. We see a young girl (Elizabeth Olsen) fleeing from a housing compound in the harmless-looking countryside. A boy running after her calls her Marcy May. Not much confusion there. Things get more complicated when Marcy May's older sister Lucy (Sarah Paulson) calls her Martha. Another flashback sees the female protagonist being called Marlene. The audience is further confused and intrigued for sure. Thus starts the haunting story of Martha (this appears to be her real name), a young, innocent girl who makes the mistake of running away from her home and joining a violent cult.

The circumstances behind why she ran away from home in the first place are never clear, and it's never important enough for us to care. It's what follows after her eventual escape that grips us from start to finish. Having been trapped in her strict, psychosexual cult for around two years, the normal outside world is a difficult one to fit back into. It's the little things that add up to Martha being portrayed as a complete lunatic. When she goes for a swim, she does so completely naked, something that is not tolerated in the normal world. When her sister is having sex with her

husband Ted (Hugh Dancy), she thinks it is socially acceptable to climb into bed with them. Ted, who was initially more than happy to see the return of his sister-in-law, is no longer pleased to have her around, and wants her out of his house.

Beautifully edited between the past and present, we are shown the kind of life Martha was living before she found the courage to run away. It seems harmless at first, as the leader of the camp, the charismatic Patrick (John Hawkes) seems like a perfectly ordinary guy. But as he asks his crew to shoot live kittens point-blank, exploits members to take part in many group sexual acts, and readily gives permission for murder, alarm bells start ringing for Martha, which prompts her to turn her back on the strange cult. But it's the paranoia that keeps the poor heroine from having a normal life: afraid that she has not fully escaped, and with dreams and constant reminders that create an unbearable environment for Martha to live in, no matter where she goes or who she turns to.

Olsen, the less famous younger sister of the Olsen twins, puts on an astonishing debut performance as the damaged young girl, always so weak and vulnerable, petrified at the prospect of what might happen to her if she is not careful. She is distant and withdrawn, and clearly shows the obvious effects of a traumatised individual with natural restraint. There isn't a hint of awkward or forced emotion here with Olsen, and this is no doubt the breakout performance of the year. The developing dynamic between Martha and her older sister is an interesting one: on the one hand we have a concerned, more mature sister wishing to do

her part as someone clearly in the position to take charge, trying to see her younger sibling improve, whereas Martha is far too mentally isolated to be able to accept any kind of amateurish help.

Patrick, the cult leader, is a piece of work, mastered so brilliantly by the frightening Hawkes. He is a master manipulator, first welcoming his new recruits with a smile. Things take a dark turn as he expects the women to sleep with him: they are fooled into thinking that this is the right thing to do, whilst in fact they do not actually have a say in the matter. Hawkes is such an effective villain, so charming in the beginning to almost woo the young, clueless Martha, and yet turning into a ruthless leader within a matter of seconds, whilst keeping his appeal intact. It's a superb performance in a crucial role, and we understand why Martha fears the man so greatly, and it seems almost too possible for this smart guy to catch up on Martha's whereabouts.

So concerned with the film's atmosphere relating to the heroine's never-ending crisis with the nightmare that terrorises her every day, it seems as though the director forgot to give this a proper, satisfying ending. It ends much too suddenly, so abruptly in fact that this doesn't even feel like an artistic flourish – looking more like a tacky wannabe trying to mask the fact that this could not come up with something sensible given all the excellent psychologically ambiguous build-up. The rest is fantastic – we are given just enough information on both the past and present to do our on guess-work on just how far Martha's head is messing with her. It's a very silent film, but not at all a calm or peaceful one.

## Upsetting omissions from this year's Academy Awards (and no, we're not talking about Harry Potter)

**Michael Fassbender** (*Shame*) - **Best Actor in a Leading Role** – “What, women can get naked for some Oscar love but men can't?”  
**Leonardo DiCaprio** (*J. Edgar*) - **Best Actor in a Leading Role** – “Sadly, DiCaprio's Oscar-less curse continues, even with a heavy biopic”  
**Tilda Swinton** (*We Need to Talk About Kevin*) - **Best Actress in a Leading Role** – “Goes to show AMPAS members didn't feel the need”  
**Albert Brooks** (*Drive*) - **Best Actor in a Supporting Role** – “A whole load of critics' group wins (New York, Chicago, etc) will have to do”  
**Seth Rogen** (*50/50*) - **Best Actor in a Supporting Role** – “Jonah Hill shockingly managed to squeeze in, but the superior Rogen didn't”  
**Carey Mulligan** (*Shame*) - **Best Actress in a Supporting Role** – “She bared all, and yet, no nomination. Absolute scandal!”



# Clooney is a family man



Time to drive away from all those damn photographers – and the crazy women who would do anything to get a piece of Clooney

## The Descendants

**Director** Alexander Payne  
**Screenwriters** Alexander Payne, Nat Faxon, Jim Rash  
**Cast** George Clooney, Shailene Woodley, Amara Miller

### John Park

Clooney is an actor who seems to push the boundaries as he ages. Although known for playing slick and suave characters, here he is in *The Descendants*, a warm and modest family drama in which the confirmed bachelor of Hollywood plays a dedicated father of two, living in Hawaii. The twist is that his wife ends up in a coma after a water-skiing accident. He even admits that he's been the back-up parent in their marriage. But it appears the responsibility is suddenly on him now. Not that he minds, of course; he just doesn't have a clue on how to go about this.

His elder daughter Alex(andra) (Shailene Woodley), the rebellious teen who drinks and experiments with drugs, is far from pleased that her loser of a dad is now her full-time guardian. The younger daughter, Scottie (Amara Miller) is a cheerful little firecracker, but not so little that she does not understand

what is happening with her mother. Being young and full of imaginations, she does do and say some outrageous things, something Matt (Clooney) doesn't quite know how to handle.

The plot thickens however, as Matt discovers his wife's infidelity. This comes as a complete shock to him, even more so when the news is broken to him by Alex. He's devastated for sure, but how can you be angry towards a comatose woman? The simple answer is, he can't, and like any man on earth, he tries to track down "the other man," but perhaps not for the same reason most men would.

Even in the midst of quite a serious turn of events, Payne makes sure to inject some off-beat humour to keep a healthy tone and pace. It never turns into a serious tragedy, nor does it veer towards hysterical comedy. There is certainly no room for any slap-stick comedy. The film speaks from the heart, and the laughs are an added bonus. Payne has had successes in the past with films such as *Sideways* and *About Schmidt*, about ordinary men going through unusual events, and "The Descendants" does not stray far from what he is used to, but has original themes of its own. It has a stronger focus on family for

sure, as well as that difficult concept of life and death, with forgiveness and redemption attached.

Carrying the entire film on his shoulders is the invaluable Clooney, who makes the task look so easy. It may not be a particularly dramatic or showy role, but playing the complexities of an ordinary husband and father faced with unimaginable challenges, Clooney is a force to be reckoned with. He has the confidence and likable qualities to create a charismatic and unique central hero. His interaction with his daughters is a heart-warming one, as he develops stronger bonds with his girls.

Just because his wife is in a coma, doesn't mean the world stops. Life goes on, and Matt has not only his daughters to worry about, but also his work. He's a lawyer, taking care of his large family's enormous estate fortune, and an important legal decision needs to be made – the family wants the land sold before a certain deadline, so they can be millions of dollars richer. But Matt's not quite sure, and the pressure from his family starts to build up. Everyone dresses in colourful shirts, shorts and flip-flops; but this doesn't mean they're light-hearted when it comes to doing business.

The real surprise, however, comes in the form of the two young actresses who, even with very little screen experience, absolutely nail their supporting roles. Their chemistry with Clooney is more than just convincing, as the three of them settle so well into portraying a dysfunctional family. The news of their mother hits them both hard, and Woodley never overplays the rebellious side of her character, and it is impressive to see a complex role written for a teenager handled so well by the young actress. She has bitter feelings towards everyone given her situation, but is grown-up enough to understand that during the more serious moments in her life, she needs to step up. Payne also uses Miller's Scottie well, placing someone young in a position of having to deal with her mother's impending death.

Set in Hawaii, the audience is very often treated to some remarkable sights of the beautiful island, which is a bonus, really, to the gentle, almost therapeutic view of family life painted by the always consistent Payne. If you don't like his patient style, *The Descendants* is not a film that will change your views on this unique director, but for those who have been following his work, this is another rare treat that you cannot afford to miss.

## Top 10 Box Office films in the UK this week



**1) War Horse** - 12A - Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, Tom Hiddleston

**2) Haywire** - 15 - Gina Carano, Michael Fassbender, Ewan McGregor, Channing Tatum

**3) Underworld: Awakening** - 18 - Kate Beckinsale, Theo James, Michael Ealy

**4) Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** - 12A - Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Noomi Rapace

**5) The Iron Lady** - 12A - Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent

**6) The Sitter** - 15 - Jonah Hill, Sam Rockwell

**7) Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** - 12A - Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg

**8) The Artist** - PG - Jean Dujardin, Bérénice Bejo, John Goodman, James Cromwell

**9) Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** - U - Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney

**10) Puss in Boots** - U - Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Zach Galifianakis

We need things to put on our page other than pictures of Colin Firth. Send your articles to [film.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@imperial.ac.uk)





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

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# FILM

## Before the world ends, check these out

Hitesh Shewakramani compiles a list of movies to watch out for this year. Featuring a lineup including superheroes, James Bond, sparkly vampires, hobbits and other mythical creatures



### The Dark Knight Rises: July 20

Christopher Nolan is back with the third film in the series with Christian Bale reprising his lead role. After the massive success of *The Dark Knight*, we expect nothing less than awesomeness from this one. New evil rises (Tom Hardy's Bane) and Anne Hathaway appears as Selina Kyle (a.k.a. Catwoman); definitely something to look forward to.



### Breaking Dawn: Part 2: November 16

Many reasons to rejoice about this one. Twihards will be getting their closure, whereas critics who can't stand Edward and Bella will no longer have to watch another *Twilight* film after this one. Although there are rumours circulating that Summit, the franchise's production company, don't want to stop at number five.



### The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey: December 14

From the creators of *The Lord Of The Rings Trilogy*, we have the long-awaited prequel. *The Hobbit* (novel) portrays the adventures of Bilbo Baggins, before the happenings of the LOTR series. Given the fact that the series turned out to be one of the best trilogies the world has ever seen, high expectations ride on this.



### The Dictator: May 18

2011 saw the deaths of many dictators: ranging from Gaddafi of Syria, Kim Jong-Il of North Korea to Osama Bin Laden. But Sacha Baron Cohen is more than confident that he will out-do all of these men. Expect to be utterly outraged and offended as the man responsible for *Borat* and *Bruno* will no doubt say and do some unthinkable things.



### Men in Black III: May 18

After a 10-year break since the last film in the series, we have the third entry, *MIB III*. This one has time travelling involved with creepy aliens and loads of action. Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones slip comfortably back into their roles, and there will be new faces too: Emma Thompson, Josh Brolin but most worryingly, PCD's Nicole Scherzinger.



### Skyfall: October 26

Bond, James Bond, is back. MI6 is under attack and Bond must eliminate the threat. Be prepared to be shaken and stirred. Under the direction of Academy Award winning Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*), Craig will no doubt be a competently moody British secret agent we have all come to adore, and Javier Bardem's stint as the villain will be epic.



### The Avengers: April 27

Iron Man, Hulk, Thor, Black Widow, Hawkeye, and Captain America team up in an organization formed to save the world. It's an ambitious film with a 220 million dollar budget. Will it manage to blow our minds all the while keeping a sane storyline or will it turn out to be a convoluted scrambled egg of superheroes? Only time will tell.



### The Bourne Legacy: August 17

Based on the *Bourne* series, and Robert Ludlum's novel of the same name, *The Bourne Legacy* brings us a new CIA operative and his experiences. Matt Damon is no longer with us on the franchise, but Jeremy Renner is just as talented and can make a likable hero, as evidenced by his outstanding turn in *The Hurt Locker*. Joan Allen returns as Pamela Landy.



### Django Unchained: December 26

"A slave-turned-bounty hunter sets out to rescue his wife from a brutal plantation owner." The hype surrounding this is solely due to its director and ensemble cast. Quentin Tarantino, (*Inglorious Bastards*, *Pulp Fiction*) is behind this film and he has teamed up with DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx, and Samuel L. Jackson. Great director + great cast = great movie?



### Brave: August 17

Any Pixar film is well worth the wait, and their latest is setting out to be an exciting new adventure film with a strong, quick-witted female protagonist. As the beautifully animated poster may suggest, the computer graphics will be eye-poppingly surreal, the action scenes exhilarating, and the script sharp, full of humour aimed for both kids and adults.

## Silence is golden... so... shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

### The Artist

**Director** Michel Hazanavicius  
**Screenwriter** Michel Hazanavicius  
**Cast** Jean Dujardin, Bérénice Bejo

### Lucy Wiles

The French dream team of director/producer Michel Hazanavicius and actor Jean Dujardin are famous in France for their James Bond spoofs, the *OSS 117* films. Now they venture into the States, to 1920s California for a wonderful – and silent – recreation of Hollywood before sound movies really kicked in.

*The Artist* is shot in the same speechless, black-and-white style as the old movies in which the hero, actor George Valentin (Dujardin), stars in so brilliantly, occasionally breaking out into the odd tap-dancing routine to please his adoring audience.

The film is set in 1927, Valentin is a star, but audio filming is incoming and threatening to rout him out. Valentin, a smug glory-lover who laps up the adoration at a premiere, ignores his co-stars and steals the stage with his reliable and loyal performing dog, has a shaky domestic life, and his wife is far from hap-

py when he's photographed with an unknown woman, leading to an appearance on the cover of a magazine. The woman is actually the young and very beautiful Peppy Miller (Bérénice Bejo), who is then spotted as an extra on George's next film.

As Peppy and George begin to fall in love with each other, the 'sound age' of Hollywood begins and Valentin loses his job, to be promptly replaced by Peppy as the darling of the film world. George loses everything: his house, wife and servant – and to make matters worse, *Tears of Love*, his first picture as a producer-

director-star, bombs on the same day that Peppy's debut is hailed as a resounding success. Will Valentin move into the 'sound age' – or will he be forgotten forever as one of the silent era?

This is a very clever film, especially for an audience who has little or no experience with soundless films. Hazanavicius manages the silent cinema beautifully. The film draws you in, moving seamlessly between funny and sad and turning the dawn of the sound age into a personal tragedy for Valentin.

Feature-length remakes of past genres can often be dull and tired after the nov-

elty has worn off, but *The Artist* manages to keep the viewers interested throughout, mostly due to its lead actor, Dujardin. Best of all, *The Artist* never feels like a parody – it's nostalgically corny, fun, good-looking and respectful. Because of the silence, you wouldn't know it's really a French film – especially with John Goodman playing a big-shot producer – although Hazanavicius gives us a quick reminder of the film's provenance in its final scene, reminding us that so many of the best silent Hollywood films were made by Europeans who crossed the pond.



# STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY?

**Experiencing an unexpected cash shortfall and struggling to make ends meet?**

**Yes?**

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# GAMES

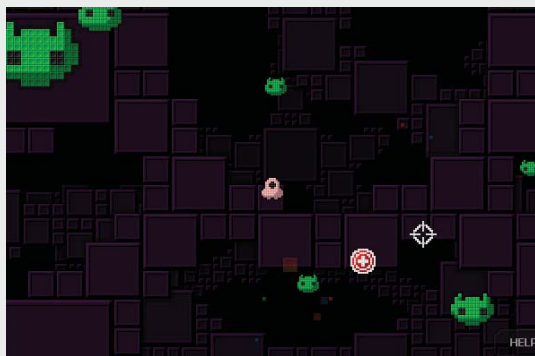
games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Free Web Games

I hope you folks are playing these games; people down at the Felix office are staring to complain about the massive amounts of time I spend doing my 'research'... So here we are, two totally awesome web games that you can play right now in your web browser. In order to enjoy these you're going to need the Adobe Flash Player plug-in, which can be installed from <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

### Pixel Purge

<http://www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/547623>



An old favourite of mine. Pixel Purge is one of those games that's devilishly difficult to screenshot – a second away from the controls and you're being assaulted from all sides.

You man a spaceship, fighting a pixel army of varied invaders. When they explode you grab their pixelated remains to earn points and upgrade your vessel with bigger, badder weapons and improved health regeneration. The onslaught starts off slowly, but very quickly new enemies filter in, making survival a challenging task. Make sure you spend those upgrade points wisely!

### Q – compressing the heart

<http://www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/588674>



I'll be honest here, I couldn't make head nor tale of this game, though as a surreal piece I don't think you're meant to. *Q – compressing the heart* is a point and click puzzler that draws heavy influence from *Limbo*. The game does have its own miniature style though and, whilst not being particularly long, is a fun, if somewhat puzzling game to work your way through.

Large cash prizes to those offering Felix Games an explanation.

# Budgeting for real science

Cave Johnson here folks. Stop procrastinating and put yourself forward for testing. You won't regret it. Probably

**H**ello Felix readers, Cave Johnson here. Since last week's article, we have had an amazing number of questions sent in – one. In all honesty, I was expecting no-one would read the piece, let alone send in a question. I think I'm beginning to like you, test subjects.

**“If you had complete control over Imperial's budget, what would you change and why?”**

Keith asks, “If you had complete control over Imperial's budget, what would you change and why?” Firstly, I'm not sure what the rate is between your funny British money and the dollar, but I'm guessing that your college's budget is large enough to settle most of the civil suits currently against us, and then there may even be enough left over to start paying the boys in the lab. To be honest, they weren't too happy when they started being paid in ‘Cave Dollars’, Aperture's latest internal currency, after IOUs and the ill-fated spreading of our A.S.S. (Aperture Science Stock) options between employees.

On the upside, the bean counters and the guys over in Legal said it was completely fine to print our own money, as long as we promised to actually pay them back with ‘real money’ at some point. With the current lab retention rate there's not even a need for a pension plan, so they're essentially working for free. Some people have likened Aperture to a dictatorship but I prefer to think of the lab boys as ‘volunteers for Science’, and I'm Science. With a capital S. They're free to leave at any time. If they can make it out.

Considering that I get paid for every word that I type for Felix, I'll try to answer the above question fully, and I won't tip-toe around the subject. In this case, words aren't cheap and I'm typing my way to science. I definitely won't be padding out sentences with useless and superfluous words, just to get some quick bucks, nor will I spend a long length of time reminiscing about my days making shower curtains. That reminds me of the time I made a new waterproof shower curtain coating, based off human skin. It didn't sell too well – something to do with mutated flesh, and completely unfounded rumours about people being strangled by their curtains when they weren't looking. As a side note, I would advise against using surviving test subjects of human-snake hybrid programmes, for tissue donations. I probably wouldn't want to use the bodies of the failed test subjects either.

Ignoring the mountains of debt and the ongoing lawsuits, I would still want to spend all of the money on the progression of science.



Oopssss... Lookssss like ssssomeone dropped the ssssoap...

For far too long, scientists have been restricted by funding and being told what they can and can't research. I didn't get to where I am today by avoiding science that people said wouldn't work. Science is about taking rules, bending them over your knee and beating them till they learn to stop interrupting your progress. Money just gives you a bigger cane.

**“Science is about taking rules, bending them over your knee and beating them till they learn to stop interrupting your progress”**

There are many important aspects of science that still have vital, unanswered questions. Are left-handed people really evil? What happens when we try to replace your whole skeleton with metal? Magnets – how do they work? Can we graft wheels onto amputees? How many giraffes does it take to build a super-collider? Finally, why is it that I can't get the funding for research into portals, but Black Mesa gets government money for some useless inter-dimensional testing? Dimensional science is boring, expensive and far too safe for real scientists, like us.

Coincidentally, if you want to take part in any of the above testing, please contact your college's testing associate. Just a few notes: if you're right handed, don't worry – we'll just remove your hands and swap them around. If you're not an amputee, don't worry about that either – Aperture's butcher is also a board-

certified surgeon. And mortician. If you've got no bones, and it's not due to a previous testing opportunity at Aperture Science involving our repulsion gels, then good news – we have many new testing opportunities waiting for you! However, I'm afraid that if you're not a giraffe we can't let you into that last test. Half-giraffes are welcome to apply though.

Back to the topic in hand, I would also look to cull the weakest of the Union's clubs, to reduce the expenditure of the college, and to ensure that only the strongest of the societies survive. I propose a new series of tests at Aperture whereby we are able to pit clubs and societies against each other, to see how resilient you are. There would be a range of tests, from assault courses and sporting activities (such as dodging some fast moving bottomless pits) to puzzle solving and staring competitions. The victorious societies get to continue existing, and they may even get a small trophy. We'll see how that goes. Trophies are expensive, so you might have to share.

Hope that answers your question Keith. As previously, any correspondence (questions, resumes or money) can be sent to [felix.games@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix.games@imperial.ac.uk) with the title “Ask Cave”, and they'll forward it on to Caroline.

Watch out for those shower curtains. CJ.

### Questions for Cave?

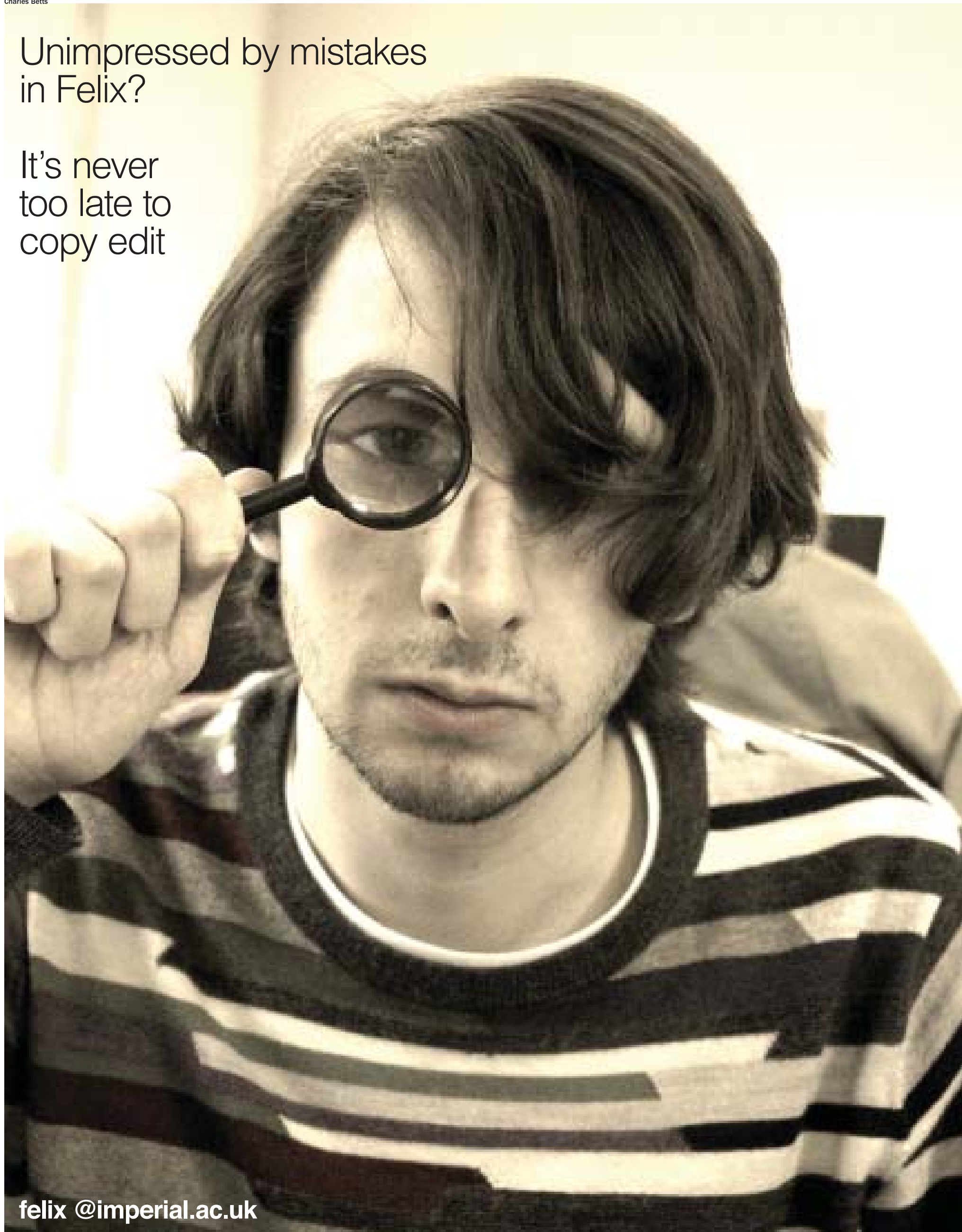
Do you have any questions for Mr Johnson? If so, email them onto [games.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:games.felix@imperial.ac.uk) and I'll pass them onto him for answers. Responses will be published in Felix.

So go do as the man says people. Write in – **for science**.



Unimpressed by mistakes  
in Felix?

It's never  
too late to  
copy edit





# FOOD

Food Editors: **Anastasia Eleftheriou**  
**Michael Krestas**

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

## My big fat Greek dish

### Chicken gyros with pita and tzatziki

Gyros is a dish of meat; usually pork or chicken which is served wrapped inside pita bread usually with tomatoes, onions and tzatziki sauce.



#### Ingredients

##### For the gyro:

- 1kg of chicken (legs and breast)
- 6-8 cloves of garlic
- Juice from 1-2 onions, chopped (required)
- Freshly ground pepper
- Oregano
- Mint xer
- Cinnamon
- Ground allspice
- Sumac (optional)
- Olive oil

##### For the tzatziki:

- Strained yoghurt
- Cucumbers
- 2-3 gloves of garlic
- some chopped onion
- Parsley
- Mint

Cut the chicken into very small slices. Pour the olive oil and the juice from the onions. Mix well.

Mix all the dry spices in a bowl and pour all together over the chicken. Cover and refrigerate for 4-8 hours, stirring occasionally. Grill to a very high heat for 15-20 minutes, stirring frequently until golden brown all over.

For the tzatziki just mix all the ingredients together making sure you dry the cucumbers. Serve in pita with tzatziki and fries.

**George Trigeorgis**



## Food that loves you back

Exploring **tibits**, the Regent Street Veggie Paradise

**Anastasia Eleftheriou**  
**Michael Krestas**

Finally, there's a place in London where vegetarians can completely be themselves. As soon as you enter **tibits** a warm welcome from the staff, accompanied with a high-class atmosphere and tempting smells coming from the buffet are enough to set up the scene of an exceptional breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Once seated, you're given a tab and help yourself at the buffet you may choose your favourite from a wide selection of fresh salads and vegetables, tasty sauces, falafel, soya cottage pie, pasta and many more.

Once you've finished, you visit the bar where your plate is weighed (bread rolls are on the house) at £2.00/100g for lunch and £2.20/100g for dinner. You may visit the buffet as many times as you wish and enjoy over 40 delicious, healthy dishes.

At tibits, everything is crafted with carefully-sourced, seasonal GM-free ingredients, with the very best of Asian, Indian and Mediterranean influences. We guarantee that you will appreciate the quality and variety of the food boat.

There's no queue and you need not call the waiter or wait for your food to be cooked. Breakfast is also served everyday till 11:30am



And it's healthy to boot, nice

and Saturday till 12:00pm at £1.70/100g.

Also included are a wide range of cocktails and fresh fruit juices, sandwiches and pastries.

So think twice before you choose fast food because you are in a hurry; if you are near Regent Street you can enjoy fresh, delicious, healthy and well-cooked food on the spot at tibits. You don't even have to think what to order as you can have a try of everything and pay by just weighing your plate. Take aways are

also available.

Why not consider tibits for Valentine's Day? Gift vouchers are available at the bar in £10 and £20 denominations, as well as a selection of books, teas and special products such as tibit's famous Dried Beans.

**www.tibits.co.uk**

14-18 Heddon Street, W1B 4DA  
020 77584110

## Kensington cooking class act

### Yiango Mavroconstanti

Whole Foods Market is well known for organising great events for food lovers like me. Last week, I discovered that every Wednesday in January they have free cooking sessions. Without thinking it twice, I immediately sent an email to book a place for the January 18 class. Lucky me, I found two places, one for me and one for my friend.

This Wednesday's theme was "Beans and Legumes", so I was very excited to see what it was about. We went there half an hour earlier so that we wouldn't miss a minute, but unfortunately we were pointed in the wrong direction. This resulted in losing about 10 minutes of the class until finding an employee who actually knew where it was. Nevertheless, we finally found the right place



All that's missing is Gregg Wallace

and joined the class. Sarah, the healthy eating specialist of Whole Foods Kensington, was explaining why it is important to soak the beans before cooking and the different soaking times for various kinds of beans. She gave very useful advice, for example if you add some oil when they start to boil then they will not create the foam they usually have. Also, everybody

had the chance to try red kidney beans, black eyed peas, cannellini beans and a lot more!

I can now cook beans perfectly thanks to the advice of the lovely Sarah. At the end of the session, they offered a goody bag to everyone there, including mung beans, red curry paste, coconut drink and several recipes. I recommend you go to the next class but book places soon to avoid disappointment.

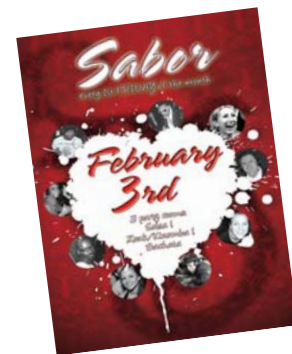
Classes are held every Wednesday 19:15 - 20:00 and they will continue in February too, but with an extra cost of 5 pounds. And, please, if the staff tell you to go downstairs, ignore them and go upstairs and you'll find it!

**www.wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/kensington**

63-97 Kensington High Street, W8 5SE  
kensington@wholefoods.com

Send us your contribution at [food.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:food.felix@imperial.ac.uk) and win free entrance for two for the Sabor Latin night on Friday 3 February. Prepare for an intimate, friendly and vibrant night at Firefly!

Learn more: [www.danihke.com/sabor.html](http://www.danihke.com/sabor.html)





Books Editor: **Maciej Matuszewski**

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## BOOKS

# A tribute to a reclusive author...

## Joseph Spiking looks back on the life of JD Salinger

**H**olden Caulfield, Salinger's most auto-biographical literary creation, once said, "What really knocks me out is a book that, when you're all done reading it, you wish the author was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it." Salinger, a man known for his inaccessibility, was not going to give his phone number away to his devoted readers. Instead, he gave them a greater gift – the gift of a conversation with himself through his novels.

Few authors in modern literature have based their novels inside the lands of their own personal experience as much as Salinger. A brief review of his life story, or the story that can be pieced together, is one that complies with the contours of his work.

Jerome David Salinger was born in New York on January 1, 1919. He was born into a Jewish family, although he later discovered that he was only half Jewish, his mother being Catholic. Salinger's father, a successful food importer, sent his underachieving son to a Manhattan private school. However, this was not to last long – Salinger dropped out within two years of enrolling. This was to be the template for the majority of Salinger's educational experiences, including two ill-fated semesters at New York University, which he attended after graduating

from the Valley Forge Military School.

Salinger's discontent with the academic world was to be translated onto page in the short story called *I'm Crazy*, published in *Collier's Weekly* magazine on December 22, 1945. *I'm Crazy* centred on a disaffected youth, Holden Caulfield, who was going to be expelled from the prestigious Pencey Prep school for failing his exams. This was later developed into a full novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*.

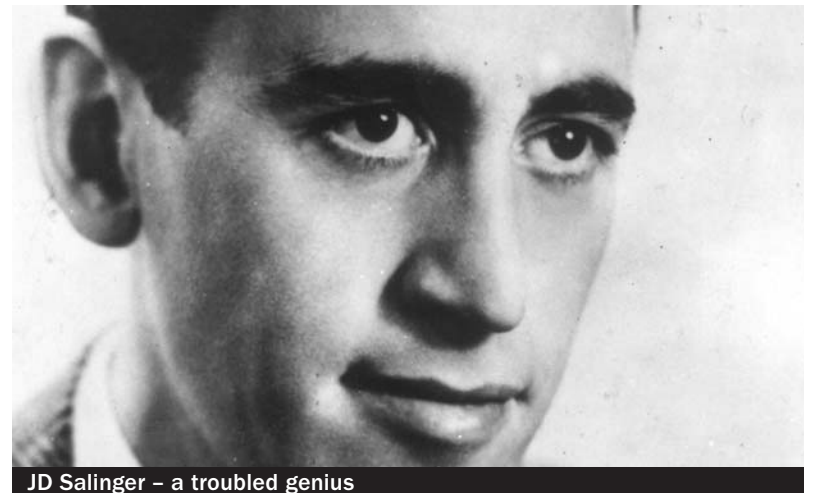
**"...he gave them a greater gift – the gift of a conversation with himself through his novels."**

This was not the first short story Salinger had published. In the autumn of 1939, Salinger enrolled in a writing course that was taught by Whit Burnett, the founder and editor of *Story* magazine. Burnett first published *The Young Folks*, an acidic attack on the superficiality of student life. Salinger's success was to be short lived, his upturn in fortunes coinciding with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Four months after the attack, Salin-

ger was drafted into the US army.

Salinger was part of the 4th Counter Intelligence Corps (C.I.C) detachment that landed on Utah Beach, Normandy. Salinger was originally meant to be part of the first wave, at 6:30am; however, an eyewitness report put him with the second wave of attack. Whatever caused Salinger's delay probably saved his life – the first wave encountered the fiercest German defence. Maybe it was this act of sheer fortune, of escaping death due to coincidence that gave Salinger's works such a fascination with finding reason in a random world. One of Salinger's best pieces of unpublished work, *The Magic Foxhole*, focused directly on Salinger's experience of Normandy. *The Magic Foxhole* opens with the haunting image of a chaplain frantically searching for his glasses, which were hidden beneath the corpses of Normandy beach. You don't have to be Freud to understand the significance of this image – in Salinger's post war world, God and Reason were things to be challenged and analysed, not accepted. It is this conflict with finding reason in chaos that characterises the later works of Salinger, from the death of Holden Caulfield's younger brother in *The Catcher in the Rye* to the emotional distress seen in *Franny and Zooey*.

The effects of the war soon took their toll on Salinger. The day the German army surrendered, May 8, 1945, Salinger spent the evening alone, holding a



JD Salinger – a troubled genius

.45 calibre pistol in his hands. Salinger was soon admitted into a psychiatric ward, suffering from clinical depression. Little is known about this period of time; however, soon after his release he resumed writing short stories.

*A Perfect Day for Bananafish* is possibly the best insight we have into Salinger's post war mental state. The story revolved around a conversation between a young honeymooning war veteran and a child he meets on the beach; the innocence of their conversation is juxtaposed with the horror of the veteran's own wartime experience. After their conversation, the veteran returns home and ends his life.

Then Salinger completed *The Catch-*

*er in the Rye*. Salinger was believed to be ill-prepared for the amount of attention the novel would bring him, and this turned an already traumatised, private and cynical man into a recluse. Much has already been written about Salinger's reclusive nature, and I shall not add to it. However, it is interesting to note that the last interview Salinger gave was to a couple of nearby school children – who then sold the contents of their interview to a newspaper. One can only speculate as to the damage this caused a man who placed juvenile innocence on a pedestal. Salinger never gave another interview.

JD Salinger died on January 27, 2010.

## ...and his greatest masterpiece

### *The Catcher in the Rye* – the archetypical story of teenage disillusionment, confusion and rebellion

#### Christopher Reynolds

J. D. Salinger's only full length novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*, has become one of the 20th century's defining novels, dealing powerfully and intelligently with the turbulent feelings of loneliness, alienation, and sexual confusion felt by so many during their adolescence. The book is narrated by Holden Caulfield, a teenage boy convalescing in a sunny Californian mental hospital, as he relates the circumstances that lead up to an unspecified mental breakdown he went through.

His story begins on a winter evening at the prep school he attended in Pennsylvania. With the holidays approaching, Holden has learned he has been expelled, and finds himself alone and frustrated in his dormitory while his schoolmates attend a football match.

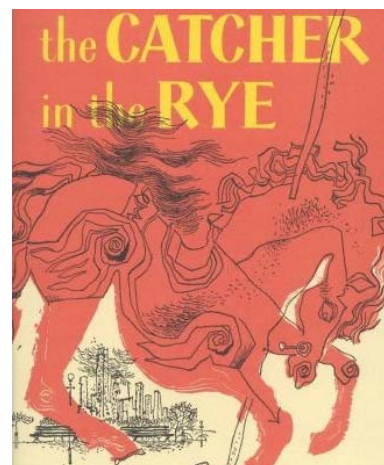
Holden is a boy that most people who have experienced teenage years can relate to: weak, forgetful, self-obsessed, unsure of his own attractiveness, and

**"Holden is a boy that most people who have experienced teenage years can relate to"**

jealous of the achievements and supposed sexual conquests of his classmates. As the evening progresses, we witness the hostility Holden has for the world around him, and will be

a constant theme of the book, as he gets in fights with his roommates for little reason. Feeling no point in staying at the school, Holden walks out, and takes a train to his home of New York City, where he rents a hotel room and tries to imitate an adult life.

The book is centered around a metaphor that Holden relates to the reader: he day-dreams of standing in a field of rye growing on the edge of a cliff, wearing his red hunter's hat. Young children, too small to see over the rye, run blindly towards the edge, and Holden is the only one who can catch them before they destroy themselves. It is with this unforgettable, and justly famous, metaphor that Salinger reflects Holden's attitude towards life: through Holden's narration, couched in the slang of a forties teenager, he derides the people and places around him as "phonies"



and "crumby", believing that everyone around him is putting on an act.

Only his little sister is exempt from his criticism, and it is she in particular

that he sees as one of the children running through the rye, peacefully living out her halcyon prepubescent years in the rye before plunging off the cliff into the tribulations of the adult world that he himself feels so acutely. Holden's actions in the novel show him desperately trying to find a place for himself in life. By running away to New York and attempting to find people he can relate to in some way, he is trying to imitate the lives of the adults he sees around him, but experiences only disappointment when he finds that he lacks the maturity to deal with the situations he puts himself in. As the book progresses, and Holden gradually reveals the past experiences that have shaped the way he views the world, it becomes clear that Holden is the one who needs saving before he plunges off a cliff that he himself is running towards, through the rye.



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

# TRAVEL

travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Positive social change for Honduras

Re-live Ruby Ramjan's experience of last year's Global Brigades

September 1, 2011 was the day that I became a Global Brigader, and 11 am was the time that I looked out onto the beautiful landscape of an undiscovered country and fell in love. I must admit that I joined Global Brigades because I thought it would be a fun summer trip and, undeniably, it was a fun summer trip! However, upon landing in Honduras, I swiftly realised that Global Brigades would be so much more.

**“To say that my experience was life-changing, but it is an understatement”**

The definition of a brigade is “a group of passionate volunteers who mobilise towards positive social change”. Honduran society is rife with corruption, human rights abuse and a despicably huge wealth gap. In other words, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, neglected in parts of the country where malnutrition, poor housing and infant diseases are widespread. This is why in 2004 Global Brigades launched in Honduras, as a source of hope for these forgotten communities.

On the first day of our medical brigade, eleven Imperial student volunteers, our brigade leaders, Flaco the driver, the doctors, the dentist, the pharmacists, and Chuck the policeman all travelled to our designated community. We were warmly welcomed with rainbow-coloured balloons and a huge sign saying “Bienvenida!” Most of the

community have no access to medical care so, as a team, we brought medical care to them. Over three days, we served 600 patients, promoted public health strategies to the adults of the community, taught the children how to brush their teeth (and handed out toothbrushes and toothpaste!), and distributed £10,000 worth of drugs that we, the Imperial brigade, took to Honduras.

Nothing warms my heart more than a Honduran child. The afternoon we spent at the Nuevo Paraiso orphanage, affiliated with Global Brigades, was one of my personal favourites. On walking through the gate, three adorable little girls ran up to me, one clutched my skirt, while the other took one hand each. We played skipping rope games and swung on the swings until we were red in the face. Communicating in a mixture of broken Spanish and hand gestures, they introduced me to their friends, their playground and their rooms. Another dimension was added to my passion for Global Brigades when I learnt that some of our Honduran brigade leaders had once been that child at the orphanage clinging onto the gates of their home, waving and blowing kisses as the volunteers would very reluctantly drive back to El Rapaco.

El Rapaco is a magical little condo in the mountains and our Honduran home. Every evening we had siestas in the hammocks, fiestas under the tree, dinner with Spanish music in the background, constant inter-mocking of accents between us and the Americans, and random bursts of Salsa. There are a thousand stories to tell, and while I could happily divulge every detail of my Global Brigades experience, I could never convey the feeling of complete peace and undisputed happiness



Global Brigaders have so much fun, working together to get the job done...

that I felt in El Rapaco.

I never fully comprehended the meaning of the words “manual labour” until we did the Public Health Brigade. The 11 Imperial students, along with some local community members and masons, built a latrine, a stove, a concrete floor and a pila in one of the houses in the enchanting village of Zurzular. When I was first told we were building a latrine (toilet), I assumed the last one was either not hygienic enough or it was falling apart: the concept of not having a latrine is so foreign to me that it never even crossed my naive mind, but that was indeed the case for this elderly couple. The lady of the house told me that the old stove used to get so hot that her grandchildren have been burnt whilst playing in the kitchen. We built a concrete floor because the plain earth that previously

made up the floor of their home was a parasite paradise.

A pila is a water storage tank. Previously, the 80 year old man of the house had to walk for hours to get his hands as much as he could carry on his long journey back. “In just one week, students and the people from Global Brigades have helped me give my family essential things that I’ve never been able to provide by myself. It was not a gift. I mixed concrete with you, I dug holes with you. We all sweated together and much of my savings has gone into paying my share for these projects. But you were the resource that I’ve never had but have always needed.”

To say that my experience was life-changing sounds like an exaggeration, but it is an understatement. The captivating landscape, siestas, nightly fires-

tas, bonfires, the warm and welcoming Hondurans, our USA friends, discovering an undiscovered country: the list never exhausts. Was it the gratitude of the hundreds of patients we saw in the Honduran villages? Was it the contentment that goes hand in hand with voluntary work? Was it the satisfaction of getting my hands dirty? Global Brigades gave me a thirst for more voluntary work and reignited in me the call of duty to humanity, a duty that I think we forget too easily. As volunteers, I felt we made a tangible impact to the rural communities we served: I could see the happiness in the faces of the Honduran people around us, I could feel the satisfaction in their warmth towards us and I was certain of their appreciation when I noted their tears as we said goodbye to them for the last time.



“Nothing warms my heart more than a Honduran child”



For more information on how **you** can get involved in a Global Brigades project over the coming Summer:

**Visit Facebook:** facebook.com/ICGMB

**Send an email:** imperial.medical@globalbrigades.org

**Visit the website:** globalbrigades.org



# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## Health, medicine, and Palestine

Palestinian Society report on a talk by Gaza volunteer Dr. Mads Gilbert

### Nabih Hanbali

Imperial College Palestinian Society had the privilege of hosting a talk by Dr. Mads Gilbert last Friday. Dr. Gilbert, a renowned Norwegian doctor, volunteered in Gaza in 2009; at a time when Gaza was under a dreadful invasion.

The talk, entitled 'The misuse of Health & Medicine in Palestine', brought the Gaza massacre vividly back to our memories. A minute of images under the sound of bombs and air attacks set the scene of fear and terror. Palestinians lived through for three weeks. Dr. Gilbert, through his impressive speaking talent, was able to make the audience glimpse what living in Gaza was like at that point in its history, and highlighted the determination of the Palestinian people to survive and resist.

The story started with Kahlil, a Palestinian refugee in Lebanon, whose

family was exiled in 1948 and forced to leave their homes. Khalil lost his arm and mother in the same explosion, when Lebanon was under attack by the Zionist state in 1982. Khalil did not give up and decided to help other Palestinians get through their traumatic experiences. Khalil suffered but remains determined to live.

Dr. Gilbert has always believed that medicine and politics are inseparable, and emphasised that it is the duty of doctors to speak out against genocide. These views have always been publicly expressed by Dr. Gilbert, though his rationale was rarely heard. Doctors have a duty to help people: it forms the core of their oath. The people of Gaza suffered due to military attacks, invasions and bombings. It was manmade guns and missiles that murdered the children, women and men of Gaza. Thus it was the duty of Dr. Gilbert, and indeed all doctors, to shout out to the world to stop the cause of this suffering.

Loay, a ten year old boy at the time, returned home to help his dad collect a few of their belongings after having had to leave their home in Beit Lahia. They were hit by a missile which killed his cousin. Loay survived but lost both of his eyes. Today, Loay lives with his family in a house where the kitchen, living room, bedroom are all the same room. Though Loay suffered, he remains optimistic and is very supportive of his younger siblings. Loay is determined to live.

The talk was very enlightening and thought provoking for all that attended. There were far too many matters and topics for me to discuss in this article, so I will finish as Dr. Gilbert finished his talk – there is something we can all do to help, no matter how small our contribution. And when there is occupation, there is resistance and determination, and those who seek justice never fail. One day there will be a Free Palestine.



Dr. Gilbert spoke on the relationship between medicine and politics

## Bringing the rain to those in need

Raincatcher Imperial on the vast importance of water provision

### Matthew Murchie

It's common knowledge that water is essential for survival. Lesser known, perhaps, is the multitude of water-related problems faced by people in areas without adequate water supplies such as Tabora.

The few shallow wells, lakes and rivers that provide the local population with water are often contaminated with viruses and bacteria that cause deadly diseases such as diarrhoea and typhoid fever. In developing countries such as Tanzania, the second greatest child killer in rural areas is diarrhoea, causing over one and half million deaths each year.

In many cases, families cannot afford supplies to sterilise their water, whether they be water purification tablets, water filtration systems, or stoves and fuel for boiling water. Just as often, they simply don't understand the importance of sanitation and clean water. This is why one of the main aims of Raincatcher, aside from building rainwater harvesting tanks, is to educate the local population on effective hygiene and sanitation.

Even when municipal water supplies are drinkable, they are often extremely expensive and unaffordable to the majority of the population. Some of the

poorest people in Tanzania spend 10% of their income just on buying water at inflated prices.

Aside from the risk of water supplies being unsafe to drink, the sheer time taken to collect water from wells and ground water supplies, often located many miles away from villages, leads to many harmful long-term consequences.

It's not uncommon for women and children to have to walk several hours every day to collect water from distant supplies. Walk in the day and endure the searing heat of the African sun; walk at night and risk being attacked or sexually assaulted in the darkness.

The hours spent queuing up for water and carrying it home is time that should be spent going to school. It's time that should be spent taking care of a family. It's time that should be spent on work, earning money to support a home.

Education is a vital step in breaking the poverty cycle, contributing to the population's economic sustainability. Proper schooling is seen as one of the most effective methods for combatting HIV and AIDS, as well as for promoting gender equality. Constructing our water tanks near schools has the advantage of giving parents an incentive to send their children to school to receive a decent education.



Easy access to water is of huge benefit to developing countries

In short, free and easy access to clean water is of paramount importance in alleviating the water crisis in Tabora – not just by providing drinking water for the local population, but also through the many opportunities that present themselves with the help of an improved wa-

ter supply.

To find out more about Raincatcher Imperial, or to donate money to us through Virgin Money Giving, visit [www.raincatcherimperial.org](http://www.raincatcherimperial.org). Any contribution, however small, will go directly to our project in Tabora!

### Ladies' Judo

**sport Imperial**

SELF-DEFENCE  
SELF-CONFIDENCE  
STRENGTH  
STAMINA

**Just Girls, Just Judo, Just Do It**

SPEED  
FLEXIBILITY  
FUN  
FEMALES  
FREE

**Come to Ethos on Thursday nights for beginners judo sessions. Focussing on the fitness and fun aspect of the sport, the class normally costs £3.50 each or £25 for ten, but vouchers for free lessons are available if you attend! For ladies only.**





# HANGMAN



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Twitter



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

Lol. Cammy is havin anger management classes.



**Barack\_attack\_I33thaxor**

haha. Why?



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

He punched his daughter in the face when he found out meg-avideo was down.



**Barack\_attack\_I33thaxor**

hahahahahahahahahahaha



**Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!**

It's not funny. I broke her jaw.



**Barack\_attack\_I33thaxor**

hahahahahahahahahahaha



**Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!**

Well, I guess it is kinda funny lo



**Ed\_Balls**

Economy shrinks by 0.2 %. David you need to sort this out!



**The\_Cleggomatortrontown <3**

Fuck off Ed balls.



**willyoujoinmyliband?**

Lol. Who the fuck is Ed balls?

## DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send them in lads, get on the fucking scene:

Send your photos to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# The perils of lending your laptop to others...

You want to use my laptop? Well you can't, just wait until you're around a computer; nobody wants to talk to you that much

It always just starts off so innocently. "Hey mate, erm, can I just quickly check my emails (i.e. Facebook, Twitter and Google+ LOOOOOL obviously not Google plus) on your laptop?"

The correct reply to such a request is usually: "Fuck no, suck my balls. Why don't you just check that shit on your phone like every other normal human being on the planet?"

That's not what you end up saying. Obviously, you end up just groaning and sighing and saying "Yeah, sure mate, here you go". All the while, you're frantically trying to surreptitiously delete the shit outta your internet history and secretly hoping you remembered to use "private browsing" for your private time. Uhoh, remember last night. Shitting hell that definitely wasn't deleted was it? Why would the one time you decided to see what "gay dwarf porn" looks like (overrated – probably, this is all fictional) be the one time you forget to purge your browsing data after? Even if you haven't been looking at anything too out there, there is still no way to look like a classy man-about-town in your circle of friends after they've had a look through your history. Especially when they look at your Facebook history and see that you scrolled through every single picture of about 10 different girls and go to their walls with stalkerish frequency.

Of course that's not the only thing to worry about. There's also the absolutely classic realisation that you keep your Facebook and Twitter signed in at all times; you're so incredibly sociable that you couldn't bear to go without talking to people in non real situations for too long. Oh great, now they're going to do a "hilariously brilliant" Facebook rape in which they update your status saying: "I love it up the arse xx". Fine, this isn't too bad, it's worse if they see the



YOU DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT BROWSING BBC WHEN YOU BORROWED IT

filthy inner goings on of your mind in video form. This is mainly because the only embarrassing thing about that Facebook rape is its lack of originality. I mean, if you're going to try to make me look gay (as apparently we are all now 8 and that's a bad thing) at least be more discrete than me "liking big strong men". How many gay men do you know have come out on Facebook with a poorly worded, grammatically dubious status update?

Just hope your mate isn't sadistic, if he is then your ex is getting a long winded, heart felt, proclamation of your love via both Facebook and Twitter (damn them being so easily connected). Again, who decides to tell someone they love them in such a way. That's what a drunken text at 2am is for, for fucks sake.

The only solution to this problem is to stand over their shoulder and watch them like a hawk. "Here, I'll just get you to your emails. There we go, okay, cool, you done, good". Then again, if you're feeling in the mood for some Derren Brown Jedi mind tricks, you can go super blasé about it all. "Yeah sure mate, here you go". Then just walk away and don't even look at them. Hum a little tune to embellish the performance. They'll think: "Wow, he must be bulletproof and have nothing incriminating on here. There are probably zero self-taken pictures of him posing with his shirt off and his 'abs' clenched frantically".

So there you go. Don't lend someone your laptop if you can help it. If you can't help it, either watch them like they're your newborn, or overconfidently, nonchalantly hand them it as if it's no thing. Good luck.

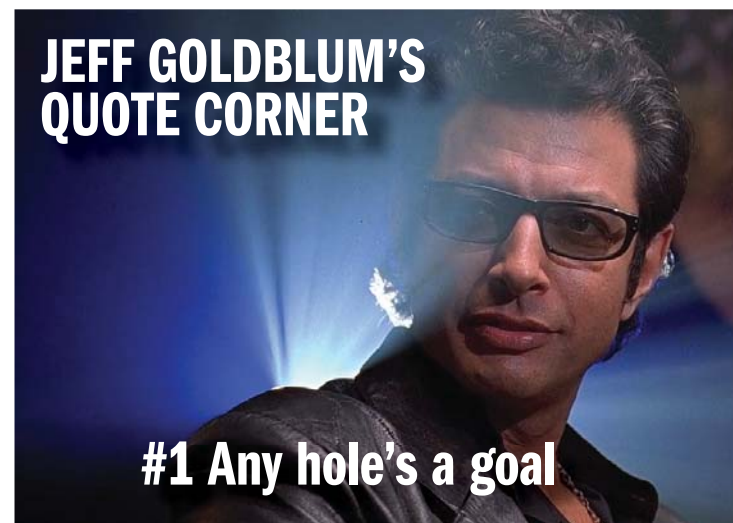
# REDDIT FRONT PAGE ATTEMPT OF THE WEEK



Can Hangman go global again? No.

## JEFF GOLDBLUM'S QUOTE CORNER

#1 Any hole's a goal





# HANGMAN

## DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



Sure, of course you came dressed as Tommy from the Rugrats. More like you love the feel of those nappies, son

# Down with the Führer

One of our Science Editors was on the lash and ended up in an underground bar in Soho after a birthday party. He came across this Führerwein. Like a true lad, he demanded it and got his credit card out. Money is no object when it comes to smashing the Führer. He downed it and chundered within seconds of saying "I SAVED THE FÜHRER". Then came the sudden realisation of his destiny; his quest to track down and deal with the other six horcruxes.

(Seriously, noble cause and that, but are you feeling alright this week? – Ed)

You can obviously do better.

hangman.felix@

imperial.ac.uk



Houston, we have an entscheidungsproblem.

## Hirosopes\*

\*He's obviously the best character from Heroes. Time travelling Asian. He'd stop Hitler.

### Ariës

You're in a lecture. Not only have the lights been dimmed, but you're pretty sure your lecturer studied rhetoric Alan Reichman. Except without the whole Batman thing. You still want to give him a blowjob. He accepts and, to your dismay, extends his cock but not your coursework deadline.

### Germiny

Today, you wash your hands after a long day of danger-wanking – what's this? Finally your collector's edition of *Cool as Ice* arrived in the post. You literally go nuts. When you can no longer take the friction burns, you decide you've done enough to melt Naomi Campbell's "heart of stone". Oh baby.

### Leö

This week, they've started locking the Queen's Gate again. Do they not understand how hard right angles are after a night out?! You attempt to decompose the bars by constant unholy acid reflux. What were you drinking at the Union. No success. You turn into a schnitzel and fuck off back home the long way. Pass the ketchup.

### L!bra

What time does the Narwhal bacon? Midnight? Chico time? When our sex survey went live? No matter - it's always hammertime in your pants. Now get yourself over to reddit's front page and douche the night away. Might wanna turn off the Taylor Swift in case the missus hears.

### Sägittärius

This week, you stumble upon a kitten. Deciding to take it to a shelter (you über philanthroLAD), you run into that one good looking girl from your course (yes, one.) The kitten scratches her. Did you know feline aids is a thing? Without hesitation, you ask her out. It's you or nobody now.

### Aquariunt

You finally get out of bed the morning after yet another evening of free drinks (why do all those nice guys splash out so much? Aren't they students too?) Wait, what? A fourth year medic you met on the way to college gave you crabs. Not again...

### Taurüs

Today, you wonder whether your Nintendo DS can turn invisible. You'd put it down in the kitchen and it disappeared. Oh wait, that's just because all your kitchen appliances are white too. Serves as a friendly reminder from Nintendo to all females. The world's your kitchen! Now sudo make me a sandwich.

### Cäncer

This week you decide to try the double decadence from Domino's against all the advice thrown at you. You almost explode from the layers of cheese that defy all logic. Forgetting to go to the gym after, you become hench. The editor sees this, says 'I told you so—(no seriously, what are you on about? – Ed).

### Wirgø

Today, you realise your mother looks like Angela Merkel. You wish you were an orphan. We can fix that for you, just check our classifieds for that assassin ad. He's really cheap and effective, but remember, kids, Felix takes no responsibility for the content advertised in that section. Or in Hangman. In fact, we take no responsibility. Ever. Now DO 1.

### Scörpio

Today, you begin your gap year with an excursion across Finland to see the Northern Lights. The landscape gets you pondering the insignificance of man and the awesome power of nature. You're interrupted by a Facebook tag. Turns out you could have seen them from Scotland anyway. AntiLad.

### Capriporn

Your little sister comes crying home explaining that she lost her kitten. After breaking off most of your friendships due to one liners revolving around pussy, you decide against finding the thing - it looked pretty sick and distraught anyway, and nobody likes an unhealthy pussy. You go to the Holland Club instead. Oh wait.

### Pisses

You're in the Felix office on a Thursday night. What are you still doing here? Are you attracted to the barrage of Bün-tarrrr? Do you hate your degree or is it because of the girls we have down here in the office? Nope, turns out it's half six and your page isn't done. Fuck it.

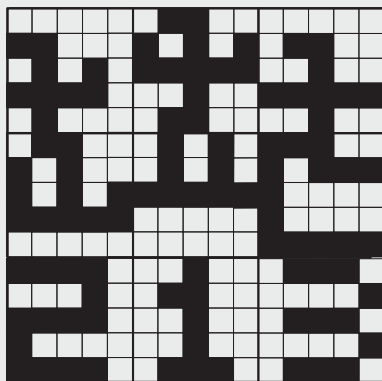


# PUZZLES

puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Last Week's Solutions

### Nonogram



### Crosswords

**QUICK(ish) - Across** 1. Indigo 4. Einstein 10. Pepperoni 11. Agent 12. Sherlock Holmes 14. Incan 16. Antipasto 18. Laryngeal 20. Masts 21. Rites of passage 25. Atoms 26. Early bird 27. One on one 28. Meteor

**Down** 1. Impossible 2. Duple 3. Gremlin 5. Iris 6. Scallop 7. Elevenses 8. Note 9. Conclave 13. Loss leader 15. Carnivore 17. Teleport 19. Nielsen 20. Mistype 22. Ocean 23. Abide 24. Halo

**CRYPTIC - Across** 1. Playing the field 9. Take apart 10. Barge 11. Heave 12. Debauched 14. Aide 15. Bask 16. Ratio 18. Inane 20. Hide 21. Jerk 24. Cathedral 25. Scram 27. Ulnar 28. Gastritis 29. Temple of Artemis **Down** 1. Patch 2. Awkward 3. Imager 4. Grandfather 5. Hit 6. February 7. Earshot 8. Dreadlock 13. Baked Alaska 14. Agincourt 17. Referral 19. Antonym 22. Erratum 23. Esprit 26. Moses 28. Goo

### Chess

"White wins with a similar kind of idea to the puzzle two weeks ago with the move 1. a4! (the idea of course being to play Rb5#). With a few careful checks it is easy to see that black has no reasonable attempts to prevent white's attack, the sequence which forces white to play on for the most amount of moves is: 1. a4! Rb1 2. Rxb1 Rb6 3. Rxa6+ Rxa6 4. Rb5#"

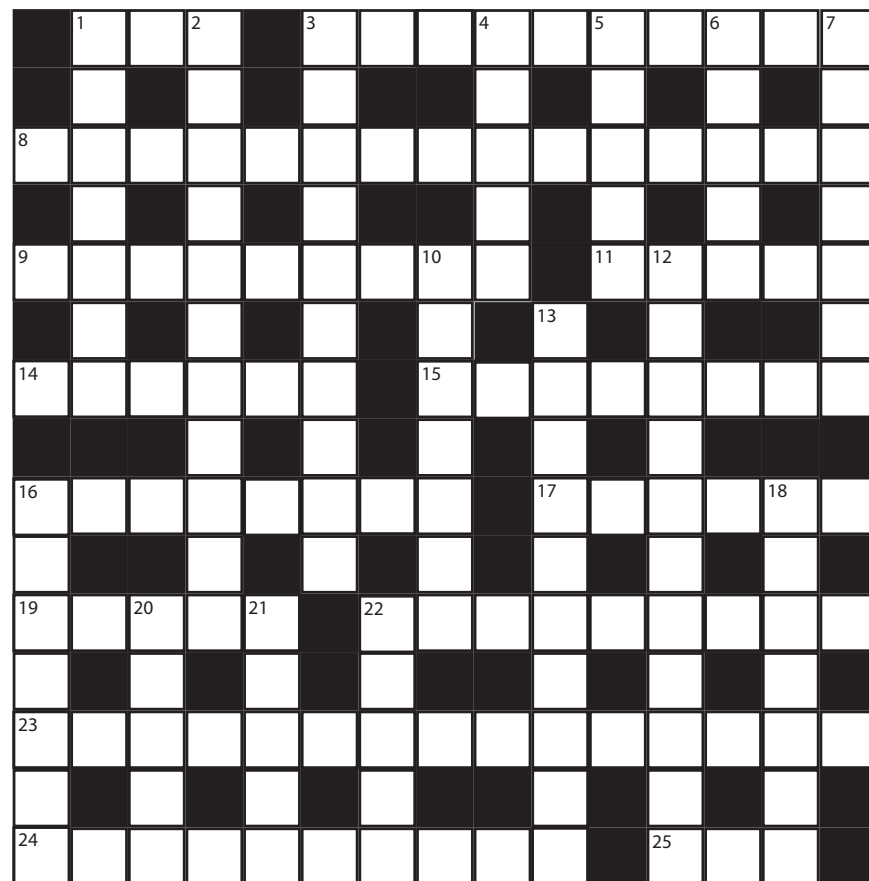
## Quick(ish) Crossword

### Across

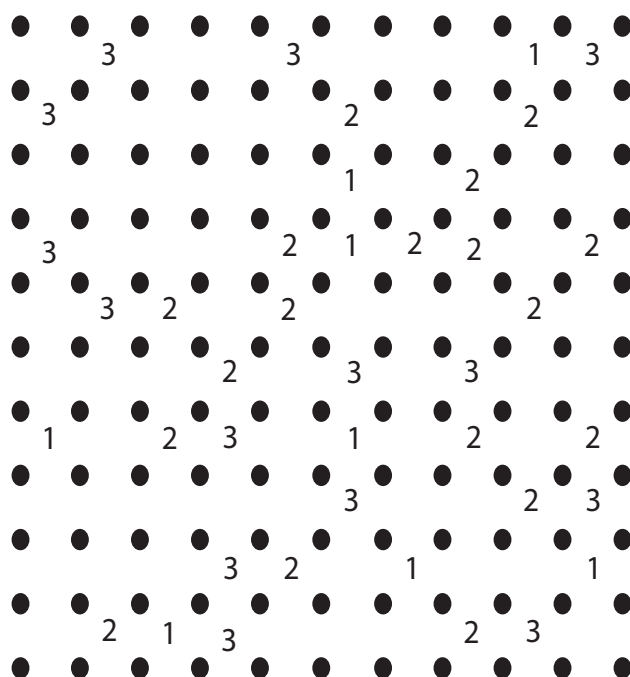
- Hit overhead (3)
- Hamilton \_\_\_\_\_, Scottish Premier League football team (10)
- In spite of (15)
- French phrase appearing in another language (9)
- Is obliged, or duty bound to (5)
- Loved and respected deeply (6)
- Omission from an editorial change (8)
- Location of the pirates in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera (8)
- Explanation or justification of an action or event (6)
- Out of the way; secondary matter (5)
- Of interspecies relationship that may be beneficial for both parties (9)
- Condition or feeling of not being pleased (15)
- By a factor of a score (10)
- Statement of agreement (3)

### Down

- Large, yellowish brown solitary cat with black spots (7)
- Edited by omitting or modifying parts considered indelicate (11)
- Event that logically precedes another (10)
- Piece of information (5)
- Yellowish red tropical fruit, used green in chutneys (5)
- Hold tightly to (5)
- Relieve pressure or severity (7)
- Natural features of a picturesque landscape (7)
- Not in a fit condition for voyage (11)
- Match display (10)
- Acclaim or enthusiastic approval (7)
- Threatening or sinister (7)
- Important topic for discussion (5)
- Make a bill a law; put into practice (5)
- Rigid (5)



## SLITHERLINK



The aim with Slitherlink is to make one continuous closed loop by connecting the dots. The numbers in each square indicate how many edges of the square are part of the loop, so if it contains a "2", you know that two and only two out of four edges

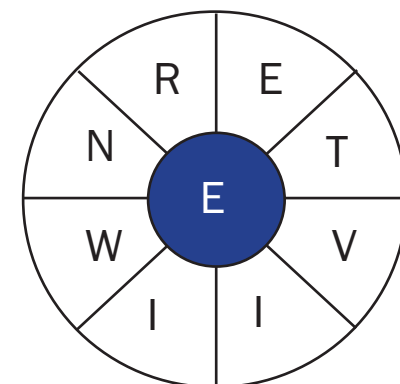
have lines. That's all the info you need to get the one logical answer (though waiting a week to see the solution will also do). Answers to [puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk), as the puzzles team receives one wee haggis per correct solution.

### Contributions wanted!

If you'd like to contribute by sending in puzzles, comics or even some editing, e-mail [puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk). Be they horrendously complicated things or funky picture puzzles you think readers would like, do get in touch. General suggestions are also welcome.

## Word Wheel

TARGET: 20



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

## ChessSoc Chess



White to play & mate in 3







## SPORT

## Felix Sports League

...where do you stand?



| Team                   | P | W | D | L | F   | A   | Diff | Index |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|------|-------|
| 1 Fencing W1           | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 403 | 233 | 170  | 5.00  |
| 2 ICSM Football M2     | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11  | 6   | 5    | 5.00  |
| 3 ICSM Hockey W2       | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10  | 1   | 9    | 5.00  |
| 4 Lacrosse W2          | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7   | 2   | 5    | 5.00  |
| 5 Tennis M1            | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 38  | 10  | 28   | 5.00  |
| 6 Tennis W1            | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 56  | 4   | 52   | 5.00  |
| 7 Ultimate Frisbee 1st | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 45  | 9   | 36   | 5.00  |
| 8 Hockey W1            | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 15  | 3   | 12   | 4.50  |
| 9 Rugby M1             | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 242 | 149 | 93   | 3.88  |
| 10 Badminton W1        | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 25  | 15  | 10   | 3.80  |
| 11 Fencing M1          | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 585 | 460 | 125  | 3.20  |
| 12 Hockey M2           | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 23  | 10  | 13   | 3.20  |
| 13 Table Tennis W1     | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 19  | 6   | 13   | 3.20  |
| 14 Basketball M1       | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 465 | 380 | 85   | 2.86  |
| 15 ICSM Badminton W1   | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 18  | 14  | 4    | 2.75  |
| 16 Badminton M1        | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 27  | 13  | 14   | 2.60  |
| 17 Squash W1           | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 11  | 9   | 2    | 2.60  |
| 18 Tennis M2           | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 40  | 32  | 8    | 2.50  |
| 19 Fencing W2          | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 564 | 585 | -21  | 2.00  |
| 20 ICSM Hockey W1      | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 23  | 9   | 14   | 2.00  |
| 21 Lacrosse W1         | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 85  | 36  | 49   | 2.00  |
| 22 Netball W1          | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 240 | 195 | 45   | 2.00  |
| 23 Football M1         | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 12  | 10  | 2    | 1.57  |
| 24 Badminton M2        | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 13  | 19  | -6   | 1.40  |
| 25 Basketball W1       | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 278 | 223 | 55   | 1.40  |
| 26 Lacrosse M1         | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 51  | 27  | 24   | 1.40  |
| 27 ICSM Badminton M2   | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 15  | 17  | -2   | 1.25  |
| 28 Football M3         | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 13  | 14  | -1   | 1.14  |
| 29 Hockey W2           | 6 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 6   | 26  | -20  | 0.83  |
| 30 Football M2         | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 17  | 19  | -2   | 0.71  |
| 31 Fencing M2          | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 697 | 683 | 14   | 0.50  |
| 32 Futsal M1           | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 18  | 27  | -9   | 0.50  |
| 33 ICSM Football M1    | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4   | 6   | -2   | 0.50  |
| 34 ICSM Netball W1     | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 82  | 72  | 10   | 0.50  |
| 35 ICSM Netball W2     | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 52  | 50  | 2    | 0.50  |
| 36 ICSM Netball W4     | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 47  | 50  | -3   | 0.50  |
| 37 ICSM Rugby M3       | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 88  | 90  | -2   | 0.50  |
| 38 Squash M3           | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 10  | 19  | -9   | 0.50  |
| 39 Table Tennis M2     | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 53  | 49  | 4    | 0.50  |
| 40 Rugby M2            | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 92  | 132 | -40  | -0.14 |
| 41 Golf Mixed 1st      | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7   | 10  | -3   | -0.25 |
| 42 Table Tennis M1     | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 38  | 47  | -9   | -0.40 |
| 43 Basketball M2       | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 225 | 195 | 30   | -1.00 |
| 44 ICSM Badminton M1   | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 10  | 14  | -4   | -1.00 |
| 45 ICSM Rugby M1       | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 52  | 104 | -52  | -1.00 |
| 46 ICSM Rugby M2       | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 32  | 135 | -103 | -1.00 |
| 47 Netball W3          | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 109 | 100 | 9    | -1.00 |
| 48 Rugby M3            | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 100 | 120 | -20  | -1.43 |
| 49 Hockey M1           | 7 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 9   | 30  | -21  | -1.57 |
| 50 Football W1         | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4   | 35  | -31  | -1.75 |
| 51 Netball W2          | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 95  | 164 | -69  | -2.20 |
| 52 Squash M1           | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3   | 22  | -19  | -2.20 |
| 53 Hockey M3           | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 7   | 18  | -11  | -2.50 |
| 54 ICSM Netball W5     | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 25  | 185 | -160 | -2.50 |
| 55 Squash M2           | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 11  | 18  | -7   | -2.50 |
| 56 Squash M4           | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3   | 15  | -12  | -2.50 |
| 57 Fencing M3          | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 437 | 521 | -84  | -4.00 |
| 58 Hockey M4           | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3   | 38  | -35  | -4.00 |
| 59 ICSM Basketball M1  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 46  | 64  | -18  | -4.00 |
| 60 ICSM Hockey M1      | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6   | 26  | -20  | -4.00 |
| 61 ICSM Hockey M2      | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3   | 19  | -16  | -4.00 |
| 62 ICSM Hockey M3      | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0   | 3   | -3   | -4.00 |
| 63 ICSM Hockey W3      | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0   | 7   | -7   | -4.00 |
| 64 ICSM Netball W3     | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 26  | 106 | -80  | -4.00 |

5 points for a win | 2 points for a draw | -4 points for a loss



Web: [www3.imperial.ac.uk/sports](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/sports)  
 Facebook: Search 'Sport Imperial'  
 Twitter: @SportImperial

## Rugby League try their hand at 9s

Will Brown  
Rugby League

After a successful 13 a-side fixture last week Imperial College Rugby League set off to Surrey Sports Park to enter the London Broncos 9's tournament and try their hand in the shorter format of the game.

A total of six sides entered tournament including highly experienced outfits from Feltham and Filton College, both of which included several London Broncos academy players. Teams from Carshalton and Woking also took part.

The round robin tournament started with a repeat of Imperial's last fixture against Woking College. Imperial started strongly, setting up camp of the Woking try line but a lack of composure and a failure to finish sets meant they came away with nothing to show for their efforts. In a repeat of last week's game Woking scored breakaway tries when Imperial were in the ascendancy. It was later discovered that Woking were playing with 10 rather than 9 players but they were still, controversially, awarded the victory.

Next up were Carshalton and having just been beaten in such circumstances a fired up Imperial took to the field. The game started with hooker Stephen Dias dominating one of the Carshalton props in a tackle that belied his stature and scrum half Jack Neil taking down his opposite number with a tackle that was felt on the side-lines.

Soon after, Imperial's Alex Bukharin made a strong run up the middle before an audacious chip over the line from Padhraic Comerford set up the first of his tries in what was try of the tournament. Winger Ming Wang-Koh continued the good play by running from touchline to touchline before showing his true pace, beating the Carshalton winger on the outside.

A second try from Comerford shortly followed but Imperial then switched off and complacency allowed Carshalton to score two late tries and claim an 8-8 draw.

Woking College, having such a large squad, were able to field two teams and were up again, the 3rd time Imperial would be facing them in the two weeks. At half-time it was two tries all, the first from Imperial coming from Neil, who did well to collect a wayward pass, the second coming from Wang-Koh; putting his cross-country legs to the test after running three-quarters of the pitch to score his first try for Imperial.

With the game all square, Dias came off the bench to play hooker and made an immediate impact by tackling Woking's winger into touch to save a try. This gave Imperial possession and straight from the restart, Hamish Mackenzie managed to break the line and run in for his first try. Imperial were not finished at that, Mackenzie showing his pace to run in another try to get that revenge on Woking College for the past two meetings.

Next up for Imperial were Filton College, and after playing the previous 3 games without a break, this was the last team that Imperial needed to play. Even though Filton had to travel half of the country to be in Guildford, they still had beaten everyone else by at least 5 tries without conceding. This was understandable with the size of their forwards and the pace and agility of their wingers yet Imperial stepped up to the plate. They produced some great plays including a step by Comerford that sent one of the large forwards to the ground. Filton were constantly on the back-foot with Imperial coming so close to their try line but at the turnover Filton's wingers showed the pace that Imperial were wary of to score the first try breaking from under their own

posts.

This didn't stop Imperial and after a few sets a piece for each team including some big hits and a Sonny Bill style offload by half-back Neil, another counter attack from Filton resulted in a try in the dying minutes of the game. Filton would then go onto lifting the trophy so Imperial should take pride in this result, keeping the score so close.

The final game for Imperial was against Feltham College, which was sure to include a few young offenders, as well as London Broncos academy players.

Imperial remained unfazed, however, and after a hard fought battle which included the two smallest players for Imperial, Mackenzie and Dias chasing a Feltham player in possession for half the length of the pitch and performing a great double tackle to hold up the ball so that the Imperial defence could retreat, Feltham managed to score two quick tries in succession.

By this point, the lack of numbers had cost Imperial dearly, unable to make as many interchanges as most teams. Feltham managed to score again towards the end of the game to end any Imperial challenge.

After a hard fought day in Guildford, Imperial College Rugby League headed for the train back home with a couple of tinnys and their heads held high. Imperial's injured President David Hobson said: "The lads played really well today and with a little more composure and experience we could have been looking at competing in the final. Being able to compete with teams with far superior levels of experience proves that we're developing well." Based on this evidence Imperial will be looking forward to continuing their rise next term in both the 13 and 9 aside formats of the game. For more information or to get involved contact [rfl@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:rfl@imperial.ac.uk).

## Comfortable success for Men's 1s

James Brown



Innovative defensive tactics from the 1s there

...Continued from Back Page try he managed to score again, giving Imperial a safe advantage.

Imperial kept creating chances, with Robinson hitting the bar after a crossing from Tofis down the left. March and Benincasa that got into the game as subs, gave an extra

boost to Imperial that control and game to the end.

Overall, it has been one of the best Imperial's performances so far, who are looking to extend their winning record and challenge for some silverware by the end of the season.

## Dodgeball: 2nd place in Essex

...Continued from Back Page

in 16 tournaments all over the country. Edmund Teo was given the honor of 'man-of-the-tournament' following some unbelievably skilled game play in only his second appearance for the 1st team as he was practically unhittable throughout the duration of the tournament.

The Imperial Wolverine's II team also displayed some strong performances in their games with some absolutely stunning catches from their 'man-of-the-tournament' Luke Barron and strong leadership from team captain Will Robinson.

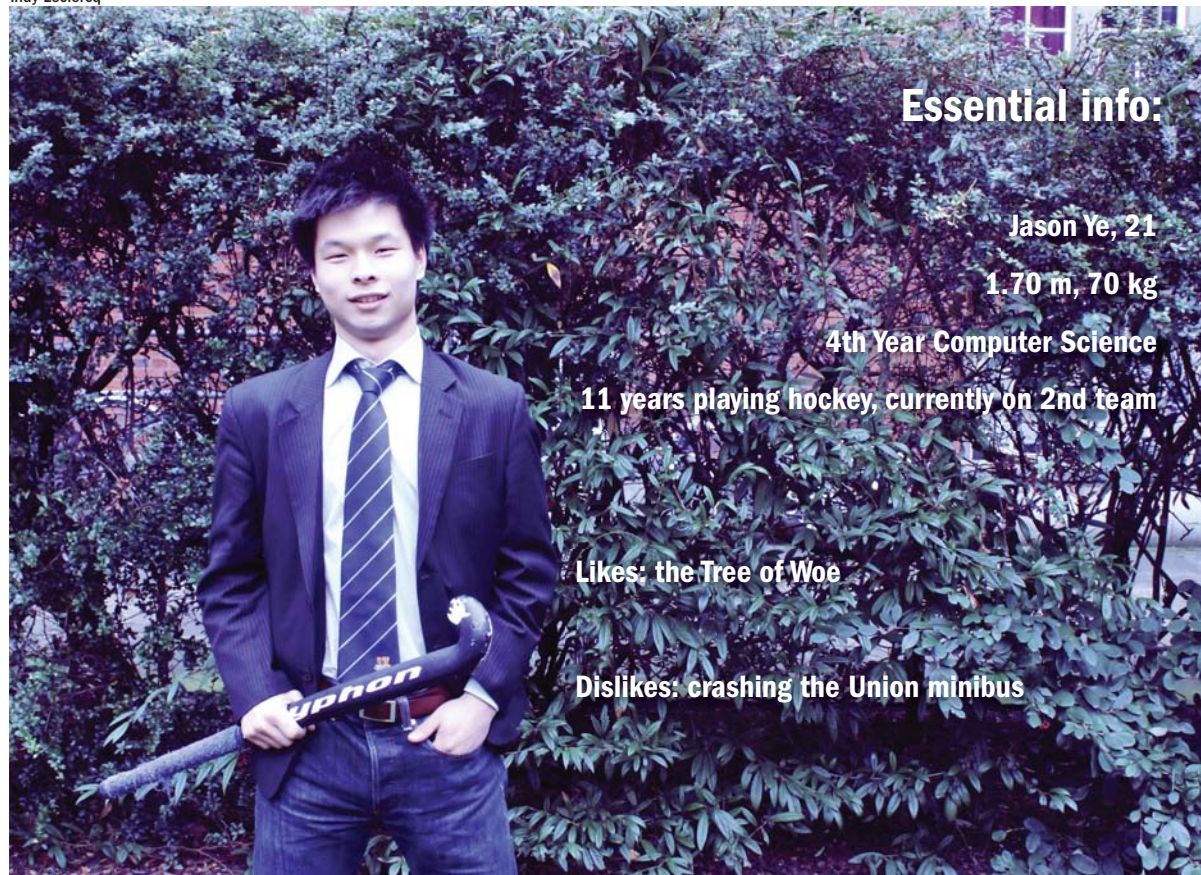
Such strong and promising performances from the Imperial Wolverines teams in this particular tournament highlights just how the far the team have come and the potential that they have to go even further (as long as they remember how to start the minibus engine).



# SPORT

## Captains' Interviews: Hockey Club Captain

Indy Leclercq



### Essential info:

Jason Ye, 21

1.70 m, 70 kg

4th Year Computer Science

11 years playing hockey, currently on 2nd team

Likes: the Tree of Woe

Dislikes: crashing the Union minibus

### Indy Leclercq Sport Editor

The captains' interviews are still going strong! This week, Hockey club captain Jason Ye meets up with me in 568 to discuss all things relevant to a wooden stick and a small hard ball.

Introductions out of the way, I ask Jason how long he's been playing hockey – he looks pretty sharp in his blazer and hockey tie, and is obviously no newcomer to the sport. "I've been playing for ten or eleven years now, picked it up at school when I was eleven and haven't stopped since!"

Such dedication to the sport has led him to take up the mantle of club captain in his final year. He's happy to tell me more about the workings of the club, and the team structure. "There are about 90 people in the club. We have four men's teams and two women's teams, as well as a mixed team. They play in both BUCS and ULU leagues, and currently the men's 1s are in the Southeast 1A division, just below the premiership, while the ladies 1s are in Southeast 2A."

I ask him what the aims for the season are. Any hopes of promotion? "Actually, the ladies 1s have had it tough for the past few years, constantly finishing second of their league! They have a new coach this year who is really experienced, especially on the player development side. It came down to a single match last year, but this year

they're top of their league so far, so let's see what happens."

Jason tells me the Mens 1s were promoted last year, but are having a tough time in the league above. "Results are picking up, though", he says, "hopefully they'll be able to make a stand" (and presumably avoid re-relegation).

The club captain himself plays with the seconds, although he says that the teams are not fixed: "We try to have the best people for each game. It depends on how people are doing in training, how they've been playing in the past few matches."

Speaking of training, I ask him how it is set up. Any famous coaches, like rugby? "We go up to Harlington every Monday, and operate a pitch rotation policy. The 1s and 2s train together, and come out half an hour before the others. We try and make it so that everyone has equal amounts of time to practice. As far as coaches go, we have one for the ladies, one for the mens 1s and 2s, and last term an ex-club captain came along to coach the 3s and 4s. We actually got the Engand goalkeeping coach to come down for two specialist sessions, though, which was amazing."

Our 1st XI have nothing to envy the first XV, then.

At this point I have to confess that I knew little about hockey beforehand, and while it may seem a bit presumptuous, I don't think that many readers know an awful lot about it either. Jason gladly fills me in, though, when I ask

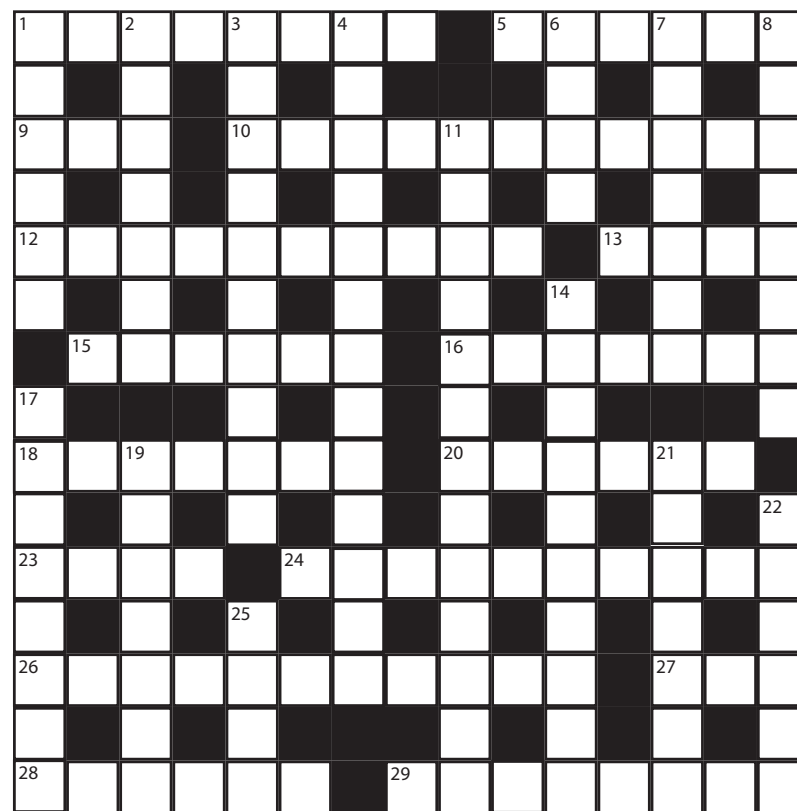
him about hockey in England. "pretty much every town has a club; I'd say there are more than a thousand in England alone. It's not actually a professional sport, but players in the top premier league teams do get paid – I think you can earn about £40K a year, which isn't bad!" Curious, I ask about the top uni teams: "Well, obviously there's Loughborough, [*Reigning multiple BUCS champions who also play in the English Hockey Premier League – Ed.*], and you also have Birmingham, Brunel, Exeter, Cardiff...we're trying to break into that circle, and maybe over the next five to ten years, get promoted into the premiership."

Competition aside, hockey seems to be one of the more socially active clubs, and I get Jason to fill me in on the goings-on off the pitch: "I think one of the great things about the hockey club is the fact that we are a mixed club – there are lots of social aspects that, say, rugby or football miss out on by actually having two separate clubs. We all know each other, and even if we don't play in the same teams, we might have a post-match drink, or a get-together. There's a really good club spirit."

"We also organise a number of socials, including – but not limited to – a fresher's meal (complete with mums, dads, and incest), a fresher's tour, a Christmas dinner and an annual black tie dinner."

That much is clear, then – no shortage of opportunities to enjoy yourself

## Cryptic Crossword 1,508



### Across

1. Substitute, having last of cakes, does nothing (6,2)
5. Rancid air conditioner to identify with Imperial (6)
9. Section of business to give out machine guns (3)
10. A drink taken in through mouth is favoured with eating apple (8,3)
12. One who's driven notes cheaters (4,6)
13. Leader's equity following charity week causes anger (4)
15. Made smooth and tough editor (6)
16. He got ripped in part, something to increase sense of self-importance (3,4)
18. Supervised making the cut, and then some! (7)
20. Hear Bran Flakes for example are succeeding (6)
23. Gang found in acre wood (4)
24. Beef dish packs a punch lacking naan starter, one gone bad (10)
26. Global warming may do to start a conversation (5,3,3)
27. One with concerning wrath (3)
28. Write down figure as reason for hunger? (6)
29. Saint yearns for pains (8)

### Down

1. Meeting with the dead, a scene gone awry (6)
2. Lover of doctor backs into clothes rack (7)
3. Frequency of trig function in worthless stuff gives desire to sleep (10)
4. Bad antics with disguised selling? (4,3,6)
6. Overeat a hundred sheep (4)
7. Misery on German or Spanish flight (7)
8. Scorn cheat with allure (8)
11. Monet for instance to inspire Jew to depose leader (13)
14. Books cruise with celebrity beforehand for competition (10)
17. Register for taxi in rural home (3,5)
19. Mountain before night with relaxation (7)
21. Destroy and overturn tower gripped by assault (7)
22. Proposals cancelled with terse taking of sides (6)
25. Slide down with time in comedic sketch (4)

in the hockey club! Jason adds that around thirty people go on tour every summer for with previous destinations including India, Malaysia and Eastern Europe. This year it's Portugal – not a country one would immediately associate with hockey, but Jason assures me that there are clubs everywhere: "there are quite a few teams in Lisbon, and also in the south of Portugal. You have to find the teams", he says, but they will be there!" Finally, with Varsity approaching (yes, it's *already* that time of year) I ask the captain about the club's approach to the whole thing:

"We take it very seriously. Last year, the mens 1s won in an extremely tight match; so did the ladies 1s. The mens 2s lost, unfortunately, so we're hoping to take our revenge. Traditionally, IC are stronger at hockey though – the mens 1s have never lost Varsity" Is he looking forward to it? "It's a whole day with five matches at Harlington, starting at 9...and the atmosphere is great! Drinking port on the sidelines or stealing the medics' chicken head are part and parcel of the experience too."

I wish him luck for the next game, and for Varsity – will they remain unbeaten?



# SPORT

## Football: Men's 1s victory vs St.Barts

**Theocharis Tofis**  
Football

Men's 1s 2  
St. Barts 0

On Saturday the 21st of January Imperial 1s achieved a comfortable victory against St Barts 1st for the ULU league. It has been a troubled season for the 1s so far, with some of the key players injured. Although, second term kicked off promisingly, with a knock-out win over Goldsmith's for the ULU cup, followed by the victory over St Barts.

The 1s got strongly into the game, showing from the beginning that they will be bossing the game. The whole team looked in good shape, moving the ball confidently around the pitch and playing some attractive attacking football.

The duo of Hill and Wilson won the control in midfield, giving Imperial a clear advantage for the win. The first goal came after a perfectly played long ball by Fryatt, finding Zarnas on the back of St. Barts' defence, who then calmly looped the ball over the keeper to hit the back of the net for the 1-0.

Barts did not look willing to quit the game and tried to get an equaliser at the beginning of the second half. Although, the back four (Nielsen, Woodhead, Fryatt and McMonagle) looked pretty solid and the goalkeeper Garner made two decent saves from opponents' headers to keep Imperial on top. Then mid-way into second half, Cherif passed to Zarnas who dribbled beautifully past three of Barts defenders and after a double

...Continued on Page 46

IC Dodgeball



IC Dodgeball grab silver in Essex Open  
Ellen Kemp reports

**W**hat started out as any other Sunday afternoon in January for a group of Imperial College students quickly turned into a gripping, nail-biting occasion and a first in Imperial College Wolverines dodge ball history, following a string of outstanding performances at the 'Essex Open Dodgeball Tournament'.

Wolverines I kicked off the tournament by securing a confident 3-2 victory against the 'Reephram Raiders', their fellow division one team and therefore a challenging and worthy opponent. They then went on to defeat 'Winchester Reloaded' with a

phenomenal 5-0 outcome. They completed their qualifying matches with yet another 5-0 victory against the 'Warwick Freshers', in spite of a slight numerical mishap with the scoreboards, which didn't go unnoticed by the team and spectators.

This led them to be top of their group and it quickly dawned upon them that they would be pitted against both of Warwick's notoriously skilled teams in the semi-final group, who themselves joked that the Wolverines would 'have fun in the 5th and 6th place play-offs'.

This, however, did not deter them and following a spectacular 4-1 victory against the Warwick II's in the semi-finals the team's confidence went

from strength to strength.

This on its own was not enough to secure a place for them in the final – they would need to beat the current National Champions and Premier League title contenders, Warwick I's, to achieve this. It was always going to be a mighty difficult feat given that the Warwick I's have won gold in every open tournament they've entered since the East Midlands Open, one and a half seasons ago! The match started off with a win to Warwick in Game 1, however this did not stop the Wolverines, who managed to pull back a win making the score one all. Warwick then hit back fiercely, winning yet another game and bringing the score to 2-1 in Warwick's favour. The Wol-

verines fought back, with remarkable skill and notable performances from both Alan Soltani and Scott Esnouf, and went on to win another 2 consecutive games making the final score an incredible 3-2 to Imperial, securing their place in the final against the 'Bedford Bulls', yet another Premier League team.

The final proved to be just as thrilling as the previous matches but with a 4-2 outcome to the 'Bedford Bulls' and the Imperial Wolverines I's were delighted to come runner-up to the undefeated team, taking home their first ever silver medals – a particularly proud moment for Adam Cutmore, Club Chair, who has previously played

...Continued on Page 46

## SCIENCE



The spider goat  
bites back  
Page 8

## BUSINESS



The final Kodak  
moment?  
Page 16

## ARTS



A right Hockney  
geezer  
Page 22

## TELEVISION



Digging BBC One's  
*Birdsong*  
Page 30

## GAMES



Cave Johnson is  
back again  
Page 36