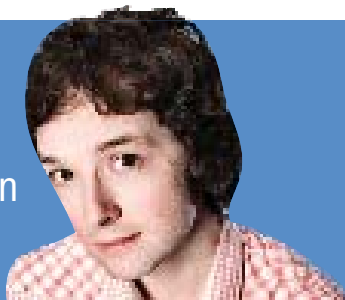


CHRIS ADDISON

The actor and comedian keeps Felix in the loop about his career: **Page 10**



THE FELIX SEX SURVEY

The results are finally here – find your eight-page pullout inside!



Online petition to prevent mountain hut charges

Alexander Karapetian

Having made the decision earlier this year, Sport Imperial began charging for a mountain hut used by various Clubs & Societies as a rest stop during outdoor trips. At first, the hut was free to use by societies and houses approximately twenty-five people. Prices of £50 for booking weekend use were introduced without a consultation period, focus group or notification to the clubs.

Prior to the merger of several medical schools to form the Imperial College School of Medicine, the hut was donated to St Mary's Hospital Medical School with the intent to encourage students to take part in outdoor activities without incurring further costs. Yet, students believe charging goes against the original aims of the donation.

Baffled students in various outdoor clubs took to Facebook with an online page and petition in protest. In the petition, which gained 206 signatures at the

time of writing, students posted comments such as: “this goes totally against the spirit of the charitable donation of the hut”, “charging... is simply unacceptable, particularly without consultation”, and “as a club we simply wouldn't have been able to take so many people into the outdoors so frequently without it, and we really appreciated this charitable donation”.

Recreational clubs which were affected include the Fellwanderers, Mountaineering, Canoeing and various other outdoor societies, who collectively believed that “charging for use... goes against the original intentions of the donation and is the first step in commercialising this charitable gift”. The 123 strong Facebook group's description said that “the financial impact on the clubs who use it regularly is not negligible... members will bear the brunt of the cost”.

Having spoken with Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Monya Zard, Felix found that she met with Sport Imperial

...Continued on Page 3

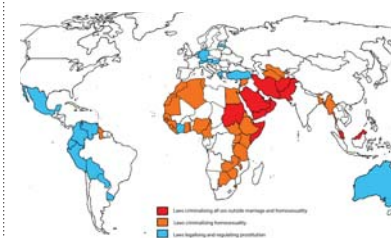
AN INTERVIEW WITH UNION PRESIDENT SCOTT HEATH: Page 6



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POLITICS



Sexual rights around the globe
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MUSIC



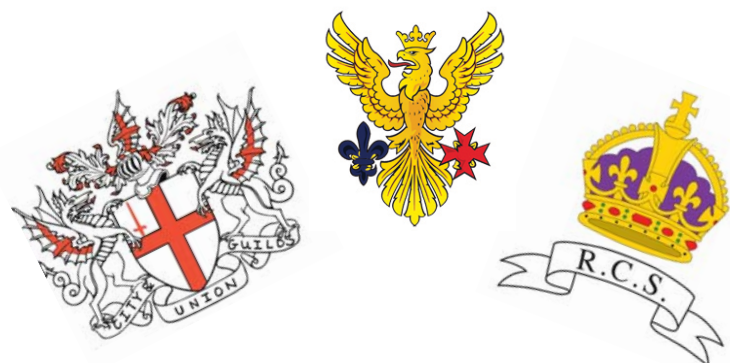
St. Vincent in Shepherd's Bush
Page 28

GAMES



Cave Johnson: the man, the legend
Page 30

FACULTY UNION PRESIDENT INTERVIEWS



This year's officers speak: Page 8

HIGHLIGHTS

What's on

Graphene: materials in the flatland

Professor Sir Kostya Novoselov discusses graphene, just one of a whole class of two-dimensional crystals. Its unusual electronic properties combined with the possibility of chemical modification make it a promising candidate for future electronic applications.. Registration in advance, contact k.weeks@imperial.ac.uk for your free place at this event.

**Great Hall, Sherfield Building,
South Kensington Campus
07 March 17:30-18:30**

The Olympics are coming

Chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority Sir John Armitt talks about readying London for the Olympics. Open to all via registration in advance through colette.stevenson@imperial.ac.uk.



**First Floor Lecture Theatre,
Business School,
South Kensington Campus,
13 March 18:30-20:30**

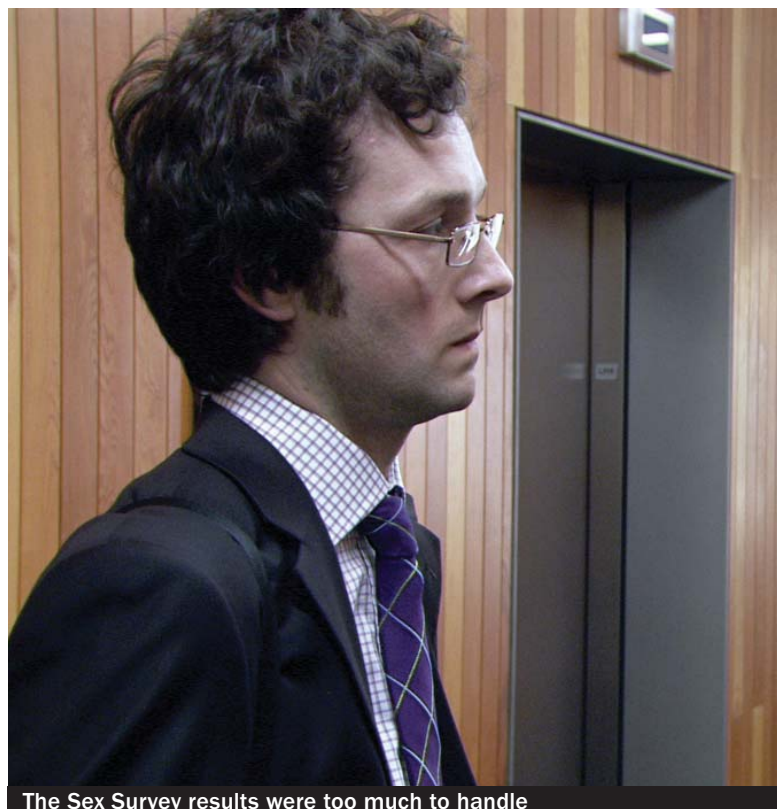
Facial behaviour

Professor Maja Pantic of Imperial College Department of Computing discusses technology that allows computers to understand human social behaviour. Registration in advance via r.foulsham@imperial.ac.uk.

**Business School – LTUG
South Kensington Campus,
13 February 16:00-17:00**

PICKS OF THE WEEK

Because one is not enough



The Sex Survey results were too much to handle

I'll go ahead and take the opportunity to go ahead and destroy any exclusivity that Pick of the Week brings with it, and choose a handful of this week's unique content.

First of all, thanks to the tireless efforts of an elite team, the Sex Survey is finally ready and published! If you enjoyed it last year, you're in for a treat now.

In addition, we're on a bit of an interview overload at the moment. We've been chatting to the Union and Faculty Presidents, and none other than comedian Chris Addison (Page 10).

Editor

CLASSIFIEDS

A single room in a ground floor flat with garden, lounge with TV, new kitchen and a shared bathroom between three.

The flat is on a quiet street just off Munster Road, near Parsons Green, with lots of convenient local shops. The flat is a 10 minute walk away from Parsons Green Station as well as being a 15 minute cycle from South Kensington.

The flatmates are great guys, both in their second year at Imperial and great fun, I'm looking for someone sociable and easy going. If you would like a look round call **Jordan** on **07846541296**

**Send us your
classifieds!**

felix@imperial.ac.uk

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

Lolcat of teh week



isocolos kitteh has acute face.

FELIX

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Alex Nowbar

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NEWS

Facebook campaign over £50 charge

...Continued from Front Page
and raised the issue at their Sports User Group Meeting on 14 February. Despite their efforts, the initial response was that they would not reconsider. After Chair of the Recreational Clubs Committee (RCC) Dominic Andradi-Brown gave a report at the RCC General Meeting on 16 February, a severe backlash occurred along with the creation of the online petition.

Years of not charging and pressure increasingly mounting last week caused students to hold a meeting which resulted in Sport Imperial rescinding the charges. Also, they agreed to continue to let outdoor clubs use the mountain hut free. Notably, they introduced the condition that they produce a sport/club development plan. Numbers for free weekend bookings will be allocated annually after this is reviewed based on how often the club uses it. Instead, for clubs which do not include use of the hut as a core activity (at least once annually), the £50 booking charge remains.

Numerous clubs associated with the RCC already face an increase in costs of running trips, with the Union increasing charges to hire minibuses and fuel prices. A final comment from Brown noted that "trying to stay true to the core RCC recreation sports value of providing cheap opportunities for students to get out of London and get involved in an activity is becoming increasingly challenging", and many clubs have had to increase their trip costs this year.



The St Mary's mountain hut

ConFusion over event success

Clarification sought over joint university venture

Tim Arbabzadah
Ravi Pall

This past weekend saw Fusion@ London, an event budgeted to raise £78,897.50 in aid of the charity Cancer Research UK, take place. The main aim of the event was "to foster a closer relationship between the capital's student population". However, the success of the event is yet to be established. It remains to be revealed the exact gain or loss from the event, which was a joint student venture between the unions of Imperial College London, King's College London, and University College London.

As of writing, the number of tickets sold for the first time London event is unknown. After numerous attempts to contact the event organiser, founder, and President, Angela Udemba, Felix

was unable to gain any information pertaining to the financial state of the event. Angela went on to respond: "I don't yet know exactly how many tickets were sold and how much money we made". The treasurer of the event, Heather Jones, echoed these sentiments, saying that, at the present time, "it's basically impossible to give an accurate gain/loss figure". When questioned, Michael Foster, Deputy President (Finance & Services), did not have any details on the matter.

The current loss (as reported via eActivities, the Union's Club and Society live financial reporting system) of the event stands at £23,473.70. This includes the successful launch event (generating a surplus of £4,548.46) but does not include the income generated by ticket sales.

The event spanning the weekend of

25 and 26 February was held at Troxy, a well established venue situated in Limehouse, and had a maximum capacity of approximately 4,000. At the time of publication the ticket income has yet to appear on the Union system.

When seeking clarity from the Students' Union of University College London (one of the joint partners of the Fusion@London), Felix received a reply stating that "UCLU was not involved in the planning or financial responsibility for the event." King's College London Students' Union gave no statement. Following reports to the Union's Executive Committee, it is now known that no financial liability was placed on any party other than Imperial College Union.

Felix is seeking to clarify the present situation over the next week.

Sponsored Editorial

More student cuts

Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers

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

Men's cuts £22

Women's shampoo and cut and shake dry £28

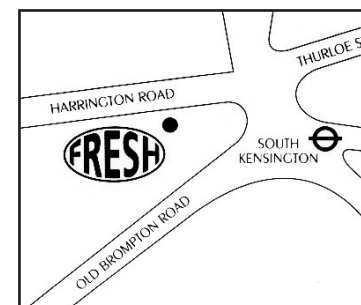
Women's shampoo, cut and blow-dry £38

All of our cuts are done by highly experienced stylists.

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

We are only 70 metres from South Kensington tube station

To book an appointment, call **0207 823 8968**. Ask for a student discount and bring your Imperial ID.



NEWS

News Editors: **Sophia David**
Alex Nowbar

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

In brief

RAG Jailbreak

ICU RAG was proud to offer students the opportunity to do a Jailbreak this year. Jailbreak has quite a simple objective: get as far away from campus as possible in 18 hours and then get yourselves back whilst raising money for charity. And get a photo of yourself holding a copy of felix to prove it.

This year it started on 18 February at 9am in Beit Quad, with groups dressed as students-cum-hobos to tigers to pirates embarking on a weekend of travel.

For most of the groups the first stop was Dover, with Heathrow and London City airports unfortunately being rather dickish towards the students. With the obvious exception of one group who went possibly to the pub and then White City, Edgware Road and Brent Cross in an attempt to basically go up North for a Night Out. When that failed, they went down to Victoria Coach Station and were originally going to Penzance, but took the decision to instead go to Manchester (which is geographically closer to London) and then proceed to lash on.

Another group made their way to Cardiff by day's end, assuming that thanks to the signs being completely un-understandable that they were on the far side of the globe, despite forgetting that they hadn't used their passports.

However, some groups were considerably luckier in their ventures. Four groups made it onto the Continent. One for a fleeting moment in Dieppe, before following a stoned 'professional hitchhiker' back to the UK. One had a grand tour of Belgium-Antwerp, Brussels and Bruges before going to Amsterdam, spending their euros on (in an entirely understandable way) chips and beer and waffles before concluding their grand tour possibly in an all-night café.

However, one group conclusively proved to those who chickened out at dover that persistence does pay off. After 10 hours of sitting around waiting, they got themselves to Magdeburg and Berlin, ending under the Brandenburg gate on Sunday before flying/hitching their way back to London.

One group really did prove that all it takes is a smile, thumbs up and some luck to get a free holiday. They hitched down across France (missing Paris so no 'Eiffel Tower and Felix photo' from them, unfortunately) to the South Coast and then somehow got to Barcelona. Once there they decided to spend two nights in Barcelona – saw the sights, absorbed the culture, that sort of thing – before flying back on Tuesday morning. And they didn't spend a penny getting there.

Jack Hewitt – RAG Chair



Not that kind of jailbreak

New student mayoral manifesto

Keir Little

A student manifesto has been released in light of the London mayoral and assembly elections in May. The document, produced by Student Vision for London in collaboration with many London universities' student unions, outlines nine key issues for students with demands for the mayoral candidates to solve them.

London's student population stands at 433,000 - roughly one tenth of the city's voting population. Vision for London believe that students are currently under-represented by the Greater London Authority and their issues are poorly accounted for.

Working with Imperial College Union, as well as student unions from the University of

the Arts, London School of Economics, King's College and Queen Mary, Vision for London have identified nine problems, and solutions for them, which affect a majority of students.

The issues fall into the categories of crime, transport, housing and employment, and include demands for a 30% discount on pay-as-you-go travel, a higher maintenance allowance to reflect the greater cost of living in London, and an investigation into the poor state of student housing, with a view to creating a student charter for landlords.

The needs of international students are also considered, with calls against discrimination and restrictions on who can be a guarantor for international students' accommodation. One issue raised by the Imperial College Union was

to oppose the strict and often confusing regulations on student visas, claiming that they are detrimental to London's economy and competitiveness as an academic centre. They also were keen to promote problems which do not just affect Imperial students.

A potential mayoral candidate debate happening at Imperial College is being planned, with union president Scott Heath believing we are best-positioned to attract Boris Johnson to speak; however, so far there are no confirmed details on this.

The Student Vision for London organisation urge all students to register to vote at their term-time address. Their manifesto, and more information, can be found at <http://visionforlondon.org.uk/>.

Union no longer cash-trated

New cash machine installed in Union building



Dare you go for the fifty pound note?

Tim Arbabzadah

As many happy sober (or otherwise) students may have noticed, there is now a cash machine in the Union.

It has been placed in the alcove where the ousted cash machine used to be. The official Felix position is that the new cash machine "looks well like one of those ones in Fabric or McDon-

alds that charges you". However, contrary to that, the machine is actually free of charge. In other words, it doesn't cost you anything to take your money out.

Scott Heath, Union President, said on his online Sabbatical blog about the news that it was "remarkably easy to find people who wished to install a machine that cost £1.50 or £3.00 per transaction" before going on to point out that

finding a free-to-use one seemed "illusive".

When the Union finally did manage to find a willing installer, BT said that the Union wasn't in possession of a phone line that was suitably accessible. In addition, BT said that providing the correct line would cost £30,000. Luckily, for the Union, an alternative of using 3G was found.

Heath's blog post concluded by wishing prospective users "happy withdrawals".

MEANWHILE, ON THE QUEEN'S LAWN

On Tuesday at Lunchtime, Rector Sir Keith O'Nions was ambushed by RAG, who had conveniently prepared a number of actual borderline-edible cream pies earlier that day. Having successfully evaded one pie-er, the Rector was hit with an upper-cut, fatally covering him with cream.

However, at this point the tables were turned and Sir Keith somehow gained one of his own and turned on the RAG chair, who thought that bending over and shoving his face into it would prevent it from going onto his clothes. He was mistaken.

On the bright side, RAG Week is coming up, with Amnesty Society taking over the pub quiz, a pub-crawl to Piccadilly Institute (with cheap entry), a dodgeball competition, a hog roast and a Metric night. Promises to be a crazy one.



A year in office with the Imperial College Union President

Felix interviews Union President Scott Heath about another year of significant changes: to higher education and to Imperial College itself

Felix: What has been the highlight of your year?
Scott: There really have been too many to just single out one.

My more ‘jovial’ highlights are going to the British Grand Prix (courtesy of Santander Bank and declared to Council); visiting Aachen for the IDEAListic conference and getting to interact with our European counterparts; attending meetings with other Sus from the Russell Group and being invited to a parliamentary roundtable discussion.

On the more serious notes I would say that receiving direct confirmation from the Government that all the hard work we put in to our White Paper Response in the summer was fruitful was a big highlight. We suggested that they drop the proposals to penalise students that wanted to repay their student loans early and they listened!

We were quoted as one of three Student Organisations to input, the other two being the NUS and the Open University Student Association.

Furthermore I am very proud that we have made the brave move to work with other London Unions to create the London Student Manifesto. This is easily the first time since we left ULU we have worked so closely with other SUS in London.

I can also say that our Freshers’ Week was very successful and great experience – even if I did give 18 talks in four days!

“I have managed to increase the representative power of the Union”

F: What have you been most satisfied with during your time in the role?

S: The performance of the entire team; both the staff and Sabbaticals.

We have done some amazing things in the year so far and it has only been possible with the support of everyone and the great team dynamic we have.

The NSS Response which we wrote as a guide to improving the student experience has had a huge effect, changing policy in the College, triggering committees to creating working groups and really emphasising what students need to make their time here better.

I have also managed to increase the representative power of the Union by securing us seats on more committees and making it regular for the Union

to meet the Principles of Faculties. I have also secured confirmation that the Union will participate in the processes to select the next Rector and Pro-Rector (Education).

This year we even received an invite to the Rector’s Away Day for the first time in our history.

F: What have been least satisfied with during your time in the role?

S: Most of the time I that I have been dissatisfied it has been with the College. Last year there were large amounts of negative feeling towards College Management due to the Life Sciences restructure. We had all expected that this would have shown the College the importance of considering student opinions and the necessity of providing greater consultation. However it isn’t too hard to see that this is not the case. Look at the Holland Club. If the College had announced they were going to give a £4m make over to the venue very few people would have been concerned. However by keeping all plans undercover and disclosing as little as possible they have created an even bigger air of suspicion about their activities.

F: Do you feel at all disconnected from the student body after a year in the role?

S: If I am completely honest I feel the absolute opposite.

I think I now know an Undergraduate student in every department, have access to someone in every year group and, due to my age, have friends doing PhDs. I even live with the first year students in Wilkinson Hall. And it’s not like I hide in my room and curse their untidiness. I go out for drinks with them; we cook in the kitchen together; watch movies and TV, etc. I even went on the Halls trip to Belgium. And I really do find this really useful, because we end up talking about their courses, what the Union does, etc. I feel like I understand more about the 1st year courses than I did when I was a Fresher myself.

F: How have you delivered on your manifesto points so far?

S: One of the first things you discover when you take office is that Manifesto points are easy to write but difficult to achieve. However I think it is fair to say I did choose a large selection of deliverable aims. I said from the on-set that I wanted to complete a Guinness World Record, the initial thought being the World’s Largest Jagertrain. But as you can imagine the negative press, and sheer cost, that this event



“I feel confident in saying that I have achieved far more beneficial things for the students of Imperial College than my manifesto points would ever have done”

could cause did make it decided to change tack. I can, however, tell you it would take 1,548 or more jagerbombs to win. Instead I have decided to work with College Outreach to try to break the more achievable ‘World’s Largest Chemistry Lesson.’ Due to an irritating thing called the Olympics it seems this will be able to plan it this year but not do it until next academic year.

As for other pledges, if you go to the Quad you will now be able to withdraw cash; if you look at our finances you will see that we are balancing the budget and if you attend the General

Meeting in Summer you will see me striving for greater efficiency.

What I would say, though, is that I feel confident in saying that I have achieved far more beneficial things for the students of Imperial College than my manifesto points would ever have done, by doing the things I knew imagined I would do.

F: What’s an average day like in the office?

S: If there was an average day then I would really query the necessity of a Sabbatical for this role! Take today

for instance, I went for my fortnightly breakfast with the ICSMSU President, had a meeting in College, worked on a survey for PG student engagement and analysed the results from the bursary survey. If I do this next week I would definitely think I was a cast member on the movie *Groundhog Day*.

F: Are there any aspects of the role which you feel you could’ve handled better?

S: I think it is fair to say that everyone will look back at things they have done and criticise themselves – it’s only hu-

man. However I have always felt the important part of that process is not to regret and overthink things, but to walk through the process, ensure you learn lessons and disseminate that wisdom.

Do you feel that publicising your achievements is in some ways a difficulty?

It has always been, and will always be, difficult to champion the personal successes and Union successes. However I do feel I have made it a little easier.

One of the first things I did, after

securing funding for the benches and new bins in the quad and getting it repaved, was to request a better Sabbatical Blogging system. It looks better, it’s easy to use and provides a great platform to talking about successes we have had.

I am also creating and soon to release a Union Impact Report, which will be called ‘The Review.’ This is designed to publicise the wider impacts that the Union and its activities have; all in one convenient location.

What tends to be the problem is that some of our achievements are hard to

communicate easily. Securing a seat at the Strategic Education Committee, something we have been trying to do for 8 years, means very little to the average student even though the effects being large – this is the Committee which saw the Life Science Restructure plans first! And what ends up happening is you weigh up whether it’s better to spend a large amount of your time championing what we have done, explaining its importance, etc. or just getting on with achieving more for the Students. And often, but not all the time, the primary wins.

F: Do you feel that the Union could have benefited at all from taking a definite standpoint on student protests earlier this year?

S: It is my belief that we didn’t voice our disapproval enough about the cuts to UK Science Funding last year; especially as its effects on our PhD students and the University funding has been significant.

However I think it is fair to say a lot of our student body, especially the Student Council, has not been eager to take to the streets over these changes.

What I will say is that we, as a Union, have never really considered whether we should use our voice to support national campaigns that don’t overly affect us. A prime example of this is the EMA cut.

F: What is your stance on Clayponds?

S: I am still very disappointed with the College for their underhand approach to the Clayponds closure. This was another example of where the Management Board makes a decision and then realises the effects afterwards. For example, nobody has thought about the wardening structure that exists in Clayponds and whether this will move to Orient House; nobody has worked out the prices for this accommodation to ensure that we still have cheap accommodation options for our PG students and nobody consulted the Union until after the decision was made!

After this I pushed hard to ensure that the Union guarantees input into MB decisions which we feel affects students; not what College believes does. I raised this at College Council and the concession I received was that the meeting agenda and papers will be made available to the Union for comment before their meetings.

Though this will provide some good Union oversight it still doesn’t guarantee us a voice in the room.

What I do find comical about this whole situation is that it is the Union reminding the College that it should consider the risks of its actions and assess the effects of its decision before making them – many people I am sure would imagine it would be the reverse!

F: What is your stance on the Holland Club?

S: As I stated earlier in this interview, this situation is a complete PR disaster for the College and another situation that unnecessarily blew out of proportion.

When this was brought to the Union’s attention in January I stated to Felix that my priorities were to make

sure that the Students had a seat at the table and that any space designated for students would have to be influenced and managed by students.

This week it was confirmed by the College that the plans are moving forward and a task group has been formed. It is made up of three people: the member of the Holland Club committee, a Senior Dean and myself.

One thing that is essential is that any changes to this space do not deter people from using it. There is no gain to any student or staff member of this College if a popular social space is changed into an area that no one wants to use.

We were aware that the PRB meeting would take place last Friday but the Union was informed that it could not attend. As such we submitted a document. I stated, clearly, that we would welcome a space that could be provided to PGT students which they could call their own and that we had concerns about accessibility. I also highlighted that we had no issues with the Holland Club’s Bar area but felt that the under-utilized snooker and meeting rooms could be used more efficiently in a campus which is so desperate for space.

“The [Holland Club] situation is a complete PR disaster for the College”

F: Why should people be interested in running for President?

S: This is a question I get asked frequently and there is one simple answer: to make a difference. My role is the most varied of the Sabbatical team and it has lots of scope to make it your own. When I started I never imagined doing half of the things I have done and I have enjoyed every minute of it. There really is nothing more satisfying that improving the University experience for the student body.

And next year is going to be a really interesting year. We will have the first year of students paying the £9,000 fee entering the University; you can guarantee there will be a new government policy to respond to and the City is hosting the Olympics. It certainly won’t be a boring time!

F: What advice would you give to someone who was thinking of running for President?

S: Stop thinking – start doing!

NEWS

The Faculty Union Presidents speak

This year's Imperial College Union elections include Faculty Union Presidents in the line-up for the first time. Felix speaks to the outgoing officers



**Luke Kanczes –
Royal College of Science
Union (RCSU) President**

How have you improved the RCSU since last year?

The biggest thing that's improved this year has been The Science Challenge. Thanks to Paul Beaumont's work as Science Challenge Chair we've managed to secure sponsorship and really revive the event from last year.

What's a day as the RCSU president like?

Studying part-time and organising RCSU events full-time.

Why should people get involved with the RCSU?

Getting involved in either the RCSU or

one of the departmental societies is not only a great CV boost but it also means you meet a tonne of new people, make loads of new friends and get a few free tickets for events.

What's been the highlight of your year so far?

Sitting on the stage on commemoration day and watching a bunch of my friends graduate right in front of me was probably the highlight of Imperial so far.

Do you feel the faculty union presidents should be sabbaticals too?

Personally I don't think the RCSU President really needs to be a sabbatical position. Maybe in a few years time that's something which should be considered, but right now the role isn't large enough to be a sabbatical.

Why wasn't CGCU involved in your ICSM v RCSU pub quiz?

more competitively against the RCSU this year?

Yes, most certainly. In addition to the traditional events, such as club nights at Archangel and the London Brighton run, the flagship freshers' event – the Welcome dinner at Café de Paris was bigger and better than ever before. We had a fantastic attendance of more than 600, supported by students and staff, testing the capacity of 700. This event marked a start of a series of fantastic events and this is something that the CGCU is determined to carry on – to bring better and more affordable events to the engineering students.

Does the rivalry between faculty unions extend to the CGCU offices?

A significant part of the competitive rivalry originates from Mascotry. For those who are not familiar with the topic, the practice of Mascotry revolves around stealing the mascot of our rivals which include the Medics, Scientist and Miners. Then holding them for ransom where the money is given to RAG.

A popular location of the Mascots hiding place is inside their respective union's office. The CGCU exec committee has to keep an eye out for sus-

We did ask them if they wanted to be involved and they didn't get back to us.

When will we see more collaboration with the CGCU?

We've got our Tri-Union Boat Party coming up on March 14th which is with both the RSM and CGCU.

What's been the key to ensuring the success of the string of events you've held this year?

Planning them early and ensuring they're good value for money I think has been the key.

Is RCSU really the only unpaid faculty president?

There are only three faculty union's, the RCSU, the CGCU and the IC-SMSU and of these the ICSMSU is a sabbatical position and the CGCU President receives some money for their work. The RCSU President tra-

ditionally does significantly more than the CGCU President, but is completely unpaid. To be honest though I don't really think it should be a paid position.

How have you delivered on your manifesto points so far?

My main manifesto point was to bring back the RCSU beer festival, which we did at the RCSU Oktoberfest last term. This wasn't quite on the scale I'd have liked but with the Union's new responsible drinking policy it was really the best we could do. Hopefully this will become a yearly event and will be something next years committee can build on.

What would you say to people intending to run for your role?

The main thing I'd say is to think about whether you think you can spare the time. It really is a big commitment but easily the best thing I've done in my four years at Imperial.

apply!

What advice would you give to someone who was thinking of running for a CGCU position?

CGCU is by far the biggest faculty out of the three and as President you are ultimately responsible for approximately 6,000 students, 44% of Imperial. The President must ensure the large executive committee is run smoothly through regular meetings, and they should try to get the most out of exec members. As President you oversee all of the different subsections of the committee including events, industrial relations, alumni relations, finance, engineering representation and sport. This means that the President will be heavily involved with all aspects of the faculty union from securing and managing relationships with sponsors and companies, arranging contractual agreements for events, budgeting and maintaining a strong relationship with the college, union and alumni. The role requires a natural leader who is very good at building strong relationships and managing their time effectively, it is very demanding however extremely rewarding and a great honour which opens doors for you!

Why should people get involved with the CGCU?

If you have always wondered what it's like to be involved in such a successful organisation and to be involved with the organisation of huge events then this is your chance! It is great fun to be on the committee and is a really rewarding challenge. Especially those in 1st and 2nd years don't be shy to

NEWS



**Suzie Rayner –
Imperial College School of
Medicine Students' Union
(ICSMSU) President**

Do you feel the faculty unions aren't equal in that your role is the only sabbatical position?

Inevitably the faculty unions become unequal because of my sabbatical position. I think ICSMSU are lucky because by having a full time officer, we are able to achieve a lot across the board just because we have more time and faculty contact. That's not to say I think they should be unequal, I would

highly support the other faculties getting sabb presidents.

How have you delivered on your manifesto points so far?

Fortunately a lot of my manifesto points were also aims of the college/ICU – improving the 'completion of the circle' with regard to feedback from students to faculty and vice versa was a key aim and has been ad-

dressed from all sides.

Do you feel there's more prestige associated with being ICSM President than the other positions?

I am proud of having had the opportunity to hold the position, so I suppose there must be to some extent! Being the 'face of the medical school' is amazing.

Being 'Queen of the Reynolds', how have you fended off attempts to close the bar?

We have worked closely with the new CX campus dean, Building Managers, ICU commercial services, Security etc to ensure that we are all abiding by union rules and the law and to find ways to enhance our working relationships. I think communication has been a key factor in this. We fortunately haven't had any real bar-closing-attempts this year!

Is the experience gained from running the ICSMSU worth taking a year out of the lengthy medical de-

grees?

Mostly. A year is a long time, and for someone who loves medicine, you do sometimes miss it. However, the skills I have gained (people management, super efficient admin) will help me a lot in my F1 year and beyond.

What would you say to people on the fence about standing for nominations right now?

Do it, the SU experience is a hugely enjoyable one and really does give you skills you won't get elsewhere. Don't be scared of competition, contested positions allows the electorate to decide who is best for them at this time, so you shouldn't worry if you aren't successful.

What's a day in the life of an ICSM committee officer like?

Hugely variable from position to position – generally there are so many responsibilities flying around that we are trying to keep everything running smoothly day to day and 'changing the union' from time to time. Hav-

ing new ideas is great, but remember maintenance is essential too.

How has the ICSM responded to claims of excessive alcoholism?

We have made huge changes over the last few years to our bar and edited events to counter this. Similarly, by running welfare campaigns we try to increase people's awareness of alcohol and its risks.

Do you feel the drinking culture would deter non-drinkers from running for a committee position?

I don't think so, I certainly know of many people who have been involved with the union who are 'non-drinkers'.

What has been the highlight of your year so far?

I don't really have one highlight as yet – working with a fantastic team within both ICSMSU and ICU and growing ICSMSU as a whole. If we manage to get funding for a Reynolds refurbishment, that will be it!



**Jacky Kwan –
City and Guilds College
Union (CGCU) President**

What do you find most interesting about your role?

The most interesting part of being in this role is the opportunity to meet with lots of different people. It is amazing to have the opportunity to discuss ideas with Directors of Undergraduate Studies, Heads of Departments and sometimes with the Principle and even the Rector! This role also allows you to meet with distinguished alumni within the vast C&G network. I have been learning an enormous amount from talking with them and I benefit hugely from it.

How have you improved the CGCU's presence at college?

We produced 1,000 CGCU handbooks this year to educate students about CGCU, our traditions and embrace our identity as Imperial Engineers. In addition to that, the executive committee, the dep reps and dep soc chairs have organised short 30 minute long lectures at the beginning of the year in each engineering department to inform students who the reps are and what we do.

Do you feel the CGCU's run events

picious scientist and miners lurking outside the CGCU office!!

What's an average week like in the CGCU office?

A typical week largely consists of representing the engineering students at lots of different areas: academically, professionally and socially to the college, union, alumni bodies and external companies. This comes in in the form of lots of scheduled meetings and calls. In these meetings, I voice the students' views on important topics and discuss and decide the engineering faculty union's position on the matter.

I am also responsible to manage with admin requests from the CGCU management group, i.e. requests from engineering departmental societies and engineering clubs on a daily basis.

Why should people get involved with the CGCU?

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Imperial College London



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Stand for election at imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

Features Editors: **Katy Bettany**
Stephen Smith

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FEATURE

In The Thick of It with Chris Addison as he keeps us In the Loop

Tim Arbabzadah goes on pun overload as he asks the stand-up comedian/actor about everything from his university days to his ongoing tour

Tim: First off, I apologise if I ask any questions that you've been asked before...

Chris: Well, it's kind of difficult not to do that. It's the nature of interviews. I once did a proper press junket day where you'd stay in a room and people come in every five minutes and it's fucking weird – you think you're going out of your mind. So don't worry about it, it can't be as bad as that.

T: Let's start with *The Thick of It*. Ollie, the character you play, what I always think about him is that he's actually quite a horrible person. He does some really unlikeable things but he's very likeable and I think that's kind of a testament to you and your acting the fact that you've made this character who is not very likeable on the face of it be an actual quite likeable character – what's your take on that?

C: I think the reason Ollie is likeable – here's the thing – Toby, his counterpart in *In the Loop* is rather less likeable than Ollie. Toby's a proper shit. And Ollie, yeah Ollie does some fairly unlikable things, as do all the characters, but if there's anything that makes him likeable is the fact that he's so spectacularly incompetent and he's a bit downtrodden in a way. You know he's at the bottom of the pile and because he's at the bottom of the pile you automatically feel slightly sorry for him and I think that feels a little bit like liking him.

T: That's true, he is incompetent, and in fact that leads me quite well onto my next point. An American remake was made and it failed – do you think that this should work well in America or do you think that they like programmes where people are more like well-oiled machines?

C: Well I know it works over there because we made [*In the Loop*] as

a sort-of cousin to *The Thick of It*. It was released in America and did well in America and it was nominated for an Oscar. The American pilot for ABC was terrible – it had really, really good people involved in it but it was terrible. But Armando Iannucci and one of the writers Simon Blackwell created a show for HBO which starts in April called *Veep* which is very much in the style of *The Thick of It* but with Americans. It has Julia Louis-Dreyfus as the Vice President of America set in her office. So you can definitely do it in America, they absolutely love it. Well, the blue states love it. The red states? Eh... not so much.

“The minute you throw your mortar-board up in the air it's over”

T: I like to compare the show to *The West Wing*, where everyone has these great speeches and everyone's really good at their jobs, whereas in *The Thick of It* everyone's a little bit less good...

C: Well yeah, there's room for both of those things, one of the things about *The West Wing* is that it's a very hopeful show – it's very positive about the power of politics to do good and that doesn't really turn up in *The Thick of It*. *The Thick of It* is not cynical about politics, it definitely isn't, but what you have to remember is that *The Thick of It* is a workplace sitcom. If you take the politics out of *The Thick of It* – which might seem like an odd thing to do, but actually you should try this – you realise that actually you're just dealing with a classic British workplace sitcom where a bunch of people who don't really get on are thrown together in the same place and put under immense pressure and then we see what happens to them in that situation. The politics is the 'sit'. It could have been some people in a conference centre, or a mechanics workshop, or a bakers, or anything, but it happens to be in the world of politics. With *The West Wing* it's much more actually about politics and its machinations and it's also a soap about the characters so you need more emotional juice out of it.

T: Can I now go back a little bit in time? Not literally, obviously...
C: Well the answer to that is, no, you can't. Literally, no, but figuratively, give it a go.

T: After university, did you go straight into comedy?

C: I went into comedy about a year after I graduated. What they don't tell you, what nobody ever tells you and what you're not particularly going to thank me for telling you (although it's probably best that I do) is that the year after university is one of the worst years of your life. Unless you're on a vocational course like medicine where things sort of meld into your career, the year after university is bleak and difficult because it's a big, big, big jolt. You've had 14 or 15 years of formal education, you've been in the place where all your friends are, you've had roughly the same hours. If you want to do stuff at the union, there are a billion things you can do there with like-minded people. But the minute you throw your mortarboard up into the air it's over. It's over. The door is locked and bolted behind you and there's no way back in.

It's extremely depressing, and in that year I became really bleakly depressed. I had done a lot of drama and so on – not acting – but directing a lot of plays as that was the thing I wanted to go on and do and it's really easy at university. If you're doing a student production it's a cheaper licence but if you're trying to do it out in the real world it's fucking hard. You need to earn money while doing it, you need to find people who want to do it; it's a really, really hard thing to do. In the end I needed some kind of creative outlet and stand-up is the easiest one. If you have no other skills, if you're not musical particularly or you can't draw or you know all of those sort of things... stand-up. It's dead easy. You just pitch up, somebody else sorts the lights, the room and the advertising. You just need to come up with some words – that's all you have to do. So that's why I tried it really. I'd never planned it. I certainly didn't do anything like it at university – I wasn't in a revue or anything.

T: I can imagine what my parents' reaction would be if I told them I wanted to be a stand-up comic. It would be something along the lines of, “yeah, no, that's really funny but can you actually do a real job at some point?” Were your parents OK with it?

C: Yeah, they've always been tremendously supportive. I think that once it eventually – quite a long way down the line – became clear that I was going to be alright they relaxed and really enjoyed it but they've always been tremendously supportive. When I set out I gave myself five years and said, “if in five years this is clearly going no-



where, I need to rethink and, I dunno, I'll retrain and do something else,” but, fortunately for me, five years down the line things were going pretty well. I sort of realised that I'd been doing it for five years and thought, “Oh yeah, was this the point where I was going to take stock?” Probably I would've told my parents something like that and then that might have given them a bit more hope. Parents just want you secure. They want you safe and they want you secure – that's their main thing. I think all parents out of everybody worry about their children's career choices whether they're as outlandish or as silly as mine.

T: Back to *The Thick of It* – I've seen you said in interviews that people seem to have this sort of idea that you're now a political commentator. Do you ever find that weird, sitting on the couch of *The Andrew Marr Show* thinking, “what am I doing here?”

C: Well the Andrew Marr thing is interesting, because it's a paper review. It has two functions: one is, it reviews the papers, that's the obvious one. The other one is that it reveals a bit of the personality of the people who are reviewing the papers. It's a little like a cross between an interview and commentary. Sometimes I have to go in and talk about things that I haven't actually got a direct relationship with, but I've always said no to doing *Question Time*. I used to think, “oh, what's a comedian doing on *Question Time*?”

C: No, that was deliberately chosen because I used to write shows that were very heavily themed and that was deliberate. Well, obviously it's very hard to accidentally write something and say it has a theme – but it was deliberate in that I would take it up to Edinburgh. There are a gazillion comics in Edinburgh and you need to do something to stand out. That's why I did those shows and when I came back to stand-up after a few years of enforced absence I wanted to have a show that was just straight stand-up really and very talky because I just wanted to get back to the roots of it. I thoroughly enjoyed it, so for the last two shows I've avoided doing a theme.

T: Like being an everyman character...

C: Yeah! Exactly. That's it. So yeah, I don't comment on politics. You know, it's in my stand-up show, you know there's some political stuff, there's some personal stuff, some political



bullshit and a lot of fucking about but I'm not a crusader or anything like that. I enjoy politics, I enjoy the game aspect of politics – which is the bit that's most harmful actually! I do comment on people, if I'm around during *Question Time* I will tweet through it but, you know, I'm not Andrew Lansley. I would never claim to have knowledge above anybody else's of the press. People who famously play doctors or vets often get asked questions about health...

T: And you famously play a special adviser...

C: ...so I must get asked about politics, yeah!

“Occasionally you have real ‘you are here’ moments in life”

T: I really should ask about your stand-up because you are a stand-up comedian and I've been very careful to make sure that you know that I know that you're not an actor – you're a stand-up comedian and an actor. So your stand-up show, this year it hasn't got a theme has it.

C: No, that was deliberately chosen because I used to write shows that were very heavily themed and that was deliberate. Well, obviously it's very hard to accidentally write something and say it has a theme – but it was deliberate in that I would take it up to Edinburgh. There are a gazillion comics in Edinburgh and you need to do something to stand out. That's why I did those shows and when I came back to stand-up after a few years of enforced absence I wanted to have a show that was just straight stand-up really and very talky because I just wanted to get back to the roots of it. I thoroughly enjoyed it, so for the last two shows I've avoided doing a theme.

T: You've worked extensively in radio. Is that a medium that you personally enjoy or is it about the different challenges? It's just about the sounds rather than the visual aspect after all.

C: Well, my first love of comedy came from the radio. When I was a kid, about 11 or 12, on every sunday at 12:27pm Radio 4 used to repeat a classic radio series like *The Goon Show*, *I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again*, *Round the Horne* and all those proper mid-twentieth cen-

tury classic radio shows. That's one of the first places that I found kind of 'my comedy'. I was brought up on radio comedy really and it's always seemed a natural thing to me.

Eventually I got my own series *The Ape That Got Lucky* in 2005. The first day that we did the actual show and there were four microphones standing there and the four of us in the cast there, each with our scripts, standing back and forth at the microphones waiting for our turn to speak, it sounds genuinely exciting. You know, I've seen pictures of the Goons doing this and this is what I've loved for years. When I was maybe 16, what I really wanted to do was to go into radio. I listened religiously to what was then Manchester's Piccadilly Radio, it's changed now, but there was a guy on there, James H. Reeve. He used to forecast this call-in show between 10 and 1 and I've never heard anyone like him. He was urbane and funny and dry and it was an amazing show and I really wanted to do that so when I came to do the 5 Live satirical show that was great, I felt like I'd done both of the kinds of radio that I've always loved so, yeah, I really like it and I'd like to do more of it really.

T: Was that one of those tingly, almost out of body experiences where you're almost looking at yourself doing something and you're like, “Oh my god, I'm actually doing this, this is happening”?

C: Yeah, I think so on both of those occasions. For the Radio 4 shows that we recorded, it was so exciting, but in both cases it was the microphones. It was what the microphone looked like, where it was positioned and stuff. You know, sitting in the 5 Live studio, which weirdly, was the 5 Live studio that they used in *The Thick of It*...

T: Oh really, for the episode with the Richard Bacon interview?

C: Yeah, which was charming and weird. But you know, occasionally you have a real 'you are here' moments in life. They're exciting, and both of those occasions were one.

T: Was it intimidating and perhaps a bit scary to come into something so established and so big as *Mock the Week* and suddenly being the new 'regular guy' – did you feel that pressure?

C: The thing is it wasn't that sudden. I'd done *Mock the Week* about 11 times before I became a regular. I was on a lot for the three series previous to becoming fully paid up so all it felt like was a step up in commitment. When I initially did it, I thought it would be ter-

rifying to the point that I went and saw it recorded the week before. My experience of big panel shows and things like that has always been that after the first one you do of any particular panel show you come away going “ah yeah, yeah, I get that now, I know how that works” and I wanted to find that as far as I could so I went to the recording a week before so I had more of an idea of how the show worked on the night. I'd also spent years saying “no no no, I'm not going to do *Mock the Week*” out of fear really. I finally sort of bit the bullet and did it and absolutely loved it. I've always really, really enjoyed doing it, and I was quite surprised by that at the beginning which is why i think they kept having me back, because I was enjoying myself. When they finally said “do you want to come and do this full time” it wasn't such a big leap.

T: Now that you're a full regular, do you feel that with the younger comedians and the guys who come on for the first time, that you're trying to help them out, trying to not cut them off, and trying to make sure that they get to showcase what they want to showcase?

C: I think *Mock the Week* has had a reputation for quite a long time of being a real bear pit where people would leap over each other's jokes and all of that kind of thing. You could see that I think, but I don't think it's like that now. I think it's very different and I think there's a lot more space given to people. Dara [O'Briain] is extremely good because he plays the part of the traffic policeman in the centre of it all, which you don't see so much of in the edit, but because he's the host as well as introducing the show on camera it's kind of his job to ensure that everybody gets a say and he can kind of stop you and bring somebody in if you're getting too garrulous or overexcited. So yeah, people get their chance definitely. You have to sort of step up I think once you've been given the chance, which can sometimes be a bit intimidating and scary, but it's a much nicer and much more collaborative show than its reputation once would have had you believe.

T: Thank you very much, it's been amazing talking to you.

C: Thanks, it's been nice to talk to you too – good luck with that year after the end of your studies!

T: I'll now look forward to despondence!

Chris Addison is on tour at venues across the UK until June

FEATURE

Features Editors: **Katy Bettany**
Stephen Smith

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FEATURES

Featured Fiction: *The Vole*

Calum Grant tells a surreal tale of homelessness, lies and small furry mammals

A wise soul once said only two things are guaranteed in this life: death and taxes. It may have been Charles Dickens, but then again it may have been someone else. Whoever it was most probably belongs to one of those categories.

Now, it would seem to be the case that I happen to know of an arguably wiser soul who has carved out an existence for himself within civilization in which no tax collector would ever have just cause to come knocking at his door. Indeed, a lifestyle which challenges conventions and subverts modes of ordinary thinking to which we have all become accustomed to such an extent that this seemingly obvious alternative solution is as hard to see as an overweight gent's direct observance of his genitalia. The key difference here being that we would

like to see that which we cannot.

How is he doing it? How is my friend avoiding the payment of society's tariff? Is he well endowed in material wealth? Is he a creative accountant? Black market trader? Gangster? Prostitute?

The answer to these questions and more is mostly no, with a dash of not really. You see, my friend is what some would call homeless. But being that a home is not a place but an abstract idea, where the heart is if you will (one should take heed to note that this well known statement is to be taken in purely a figurative sense and does not refer in actuality to a ribcage, and thus the phrase 'mi casa es su casa' is not an opt-in policy for organ donation between friends) you have most definitely forgotten what came before these brackets. That's the tragedy of using them for large ideas: it convolutes the prose to such an extent

that it loses its sense of rhythm, urgency and, in this case, professionalism.

He is homeless, but lives in a swanky flat complete with running water and a vole (the mammal) that was short enough to be tolerated. Upon telling

"Is a lie a lie if we believe it to be true?"

people, very early on when meeting them, that despite his apparently clean hair and non-invasive odour he is, in fact, homeless, the conversation is sure to follow a line of questioning the other converser finds both fresh and exhilarating.

Where do you sleep at night? How did this happen? What do you do for money? Is it true that cocaine tastes better when you've paid for it by way of fellatio? The usual things we all wonder about that lifestyle. "I sleep where I can," he proceeds to tell them with absolute conviction. However, where that happens to be is of course the aforementioned apartment, complete with a small mammal (vole) acceptable.

Is it right that he routinely beds vast swathes of ankle by using the widespread conflation of the concept of homelessness with the reality of houselessness? Well to his mind he isn't saying anything technically untrue, which really makes the point of my piece: is a lie a lie if we believe it to be true? Both he, the Pope and Neil Buchanan (formerly of *Art Attack*) seem to think not, and I'm inclined to agree with them.

One can only lie knowingly, therein arises the maliciousness. The liar must be aware of their deed whilst it is happening, else they are merely perpetuating what they believe to be true based on all the cards in their hand combined with all they know up until (and sometimes including) that point.

Very well, you mentally nod in agreement (this isn't to be taken literally, but with the connotation of insanity with which the term 'mental' is so frequently associated these days) you happily concede this point which I have made so elegantly and clearly from the outset, but ask a question of me, for there still remains the outstanding matter of the means by which said homeless friend avoids the tax man?

Well a hint of the answer has been made but let us say it explicitly now: he was the vole all along (of course!).

Phoenix *is hatching...*

Imperial College's annual arts magazine is back. **Phoenix** showcases the work of talented student writers, photographers and artists.

If you fall into one of these categories please get in touch. We welcome all genre of visual arts and written word. Submissions must reach us by **1st May**.

phoenix@imperial.ac.uk
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Are you one of them?



Trading starts
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Doors Open
7.15pm

Students £5
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SCIENCE

In brief

World's oldest living organism

A research team from institutions around Europe and Australia have published an article that comes to the mind-blowing conclusion that some large organisms still alive today can be thousands of years old.

The group, led by Sophie Arnaud-Haond, concentrated mainly on clonal organisms; organisms with the same genetic information branching from a single ancestor, such as fungi and plants. Previously, species of fungi and angiosperms (flowering plants) were known to extend over a hundred metres and reach ages in the order of centuries. However, their actual ages can vary widely depending on the size and number of samples taken as well as the location. The team also questioned why the distribution of samples was so closely correlated to the maximum size of the colony.

By analysing the spatial cover of *Posidonia oceanica*, a species of seagrass, Arnaud-Haond and her colleagues attempted to estimate the potential age of the plant clone. Their findings showed that to reach a km-range spread via clonal growth only would relate to a minimum age of about 12,500 years. When a similar method was used on two pairs of meadows in the Mediterranean, located 7 km apart between Formentera and Ibiza and 15 km apart around a cape in Formentera, the minimum age was placed between 80,000 and 200,000 years, meaning the meadows originated during the late Pleistocene Epoch.

However, the research team is uncertain; due to global rises in sea level during the last ice age (80,000 to 10,000 years ago), the meadows would have been at least 100m above sea level and being a marine plant, the clone would not have been able to survive. One possible solution is that the meadows were carried by glacial flows and split, being able to cover wider areas of land and affecting the validity of the method used to calculate age.

Another factor the team noted was that the population is falling rapidly, possibly due to human involvement. Given that it may have taken the meadow thousands of years to reach its current size, it may be unable to cope with the pressure put on it by human population.

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0030454

Pavitar Singh Devgon



Posidonia oceanica

The nanorobots are coming

Philippa Skett

The once distinct lines between fact and science fiction are getting increasingly blurred almost on a daily basis. This month, it's biology taking the lead. The Wyss Institute, a department committed to Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University, recently unveiled its first ever cellular robot. It could be little to no time before these miniature machines are flowing through your body as they look to be the big players in medicine for the future.

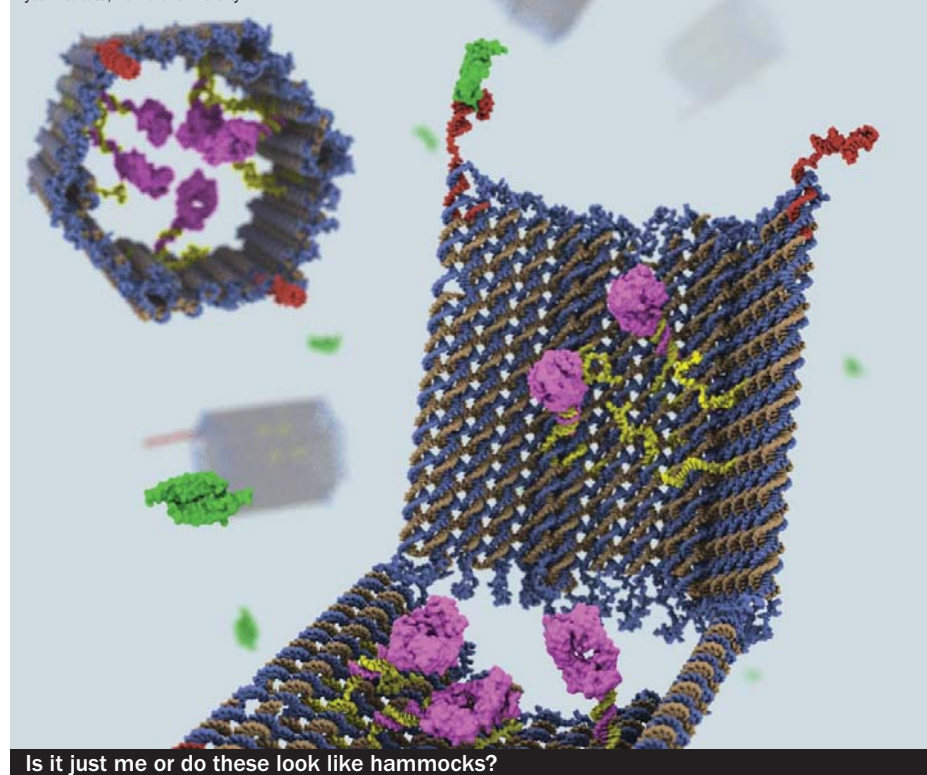
Scientists in the US are currently developing these DNA nanorobots. They are based on the concept of 'DNA Origami,' initially put forward by Paul Rothemund from Caltech in 2006. By manipulating DNA, the usual, regular double helix structure is split down the middle, and then, using the specific bonding of the base pairs, turned into complex 2D or 3D forms by twisting DNA over itself in various ways.

At the Wyss institute, they have managed to build complex structures using the split DNA strands, producing the microscopic models that can self-assemble quickly and be modified to execute specific tasks. In only six short years, DNA manipulation has gone from simple 2D structures to structures that could tour your bloodstream, seek out target cells, and even deliver them a lethal blow to kill them completely.

The nanorobot itself has a basic barrel structure that splits laterally and is hinged by double stranded DNA motifs, which can recognize cell surface receptors – cellular nametags that indicate the type of cell. The molecule it can deliver is attached inside the barrel and once the double stranded motifs recognize the receptors they bind to them, causing them to change shape, forcing the barrel to open and releasing the molecule. The binding of the receptor to the nanorobot directly ensures specificity so they only deliver to the cell they are designed to target.

DNA nanorobots have displayed significant

Wyss Institute, Harvard University



Is it just me or do these look like hammocks?

successes, recognising leukaemia cells out of a mixed cell sample, for example, showing the potential for them to be used to treat cancer in the future. Furthermore, they could do this without the damaging side effects of chemotherapy and without killing healthy cells, as the nanorobots cannot recognise healthy cells if designed correctly.

So what lies ahead for these petite pioneers of our blood vessels? At the minute, they are still being tested in vitro, and whether or not they work in living tissue is yet to be seen. One issue is that the body's own defence mechanisms could eradicate the tiny machines before they even get to their target tissue; the liver has

been found to clear them and they are susceptible to degradation by enzymes called nucleases, that destroy unwanted DNA strands as part of the cellular housekeeping process.

However, if these issues are overcome, they could provide a level of target specificity and drug delivery efficiency that could never be achieved using conventional drugs, along with being the potential first steps to better cancer treatments. These tiny creations could be the basis of a new generation of therapeutic treatments, and could revolutionise how we use drugs in the future. It could only be a matter of time before your blood becomes one complex highway for these tiny tearaways.

Origin of life may be geothermal pool

Elliott Barford

The origin of life on Earth is one of the most compelling questions in science today. Recently, hydrothermal vents on the ocean floor have been cited as potential settings for this event. However, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* has published a study led by Armen Mulkidjanian from the University of Osnabrück, Germany, arguing that the first life arose in pools of condensed vapour from geothermal vents on land.

Nearly 4 billion years ago the 'late heavy bombardment' saw Earth's surface pulverised by asteroids, leaving few rocks intact. This was bad luck for scientists, as the earliest life probably existed before then – so we will never discover its fossils. Consequently, scientists are trying to picture those organisms from the biological, not fossil, record: finding features that all living cells share, because they prob-

ably also occurred in our most ancient ancestors, or 'protocells'.

The Canadian biochemist Archibald Macalalun pointed out in 1926 that, while our blood resembles seawater, the insides of our cells do not. They contain much higher concentrations of certain metal ions and phosphate than are (or ever were) present in oceans, but less sodium, which they constantly pump out. Our cells control these concentrations with 'ion-tight' membranes and transporter proteins, but protocells had not yet evolved these. Ions would have flowed through them and reached the same concentrations as in the surrounding water.

Mulkidjanian's team looked among the oldest, most conserved proteins in many organisms for those which require particular ions. They found that potassium and zinc are involved in the most ancient, basic processes, such as protein and DNA synthesis, while so-

dium ions are not. Meanwhile, phosphate fills the backbone of every DNA molecule and is present on many proteins. These features of every modern cell were probably present in protocells too. However, no known or reconstructed marine environment has a high potassium-to-sodium ratio, making hydrothermal vents unpromising as potential cradles of life.

The authors put forward an alternative setting for the beginning of life: pools formed of condensed steam from geothermal springs. When magma-heated water rises from deep underground, some evaporates, carrying with it lots of potassium, phosphate and zinc but very little sodium. It also contains organic molecules and ammonia, which cells can use for energy or synthesis. Additionally, the exuded sulphides probably solidified into porous structures that could protect protocells from the sun's harmful UV rays.

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SCIENCE

Twinkle, twinkle, little star

Marie-Laure Hicks on why we need sleep – and why eight hours might be too much

Every student faces the eternal dilemma: balancing work, having a social life and sleep. On average, we humans spend a third of our lives sleeping. So what is sleep and is it really that important?

There are two main types of sleep. The first type is composed of four stages. Stage I is called light sleep, during which muscle activity slows down and you doze off. Brain activity is described by low-amplitude beta waves. Stage II, or true sleep, sees a slowdown of the breathing pattern and heart rate, as well as lower frequency, higher amplitude theta waves. Stage III, or deep sleep, is characterised by delta waves, which have a higher amplitude and lower frequency. During this period, your breathing and heart rate are at their lowest. During the final Stage IV, breathing becomes rhythmic and limited muscle activity takes place. The pattern then reverses. A complete cycle of this first type of sleep takes between 70 and 90 minutes.

The second type of sleep is REM, or rapid eye movement, sleep. It describes a number of episodes that occur three to five times over a night's sleep. During these events, rapid eye movement takes place and brain activity is almost as high as when you are awake. The breathing rate and blood pressure rise. For most people, the body is paralysed and unable to regulate its temperature. It is during these periods that you dream.

Each non-REM sleep cycle is generally followed by increasingly long REM episodes. The use of REM episodes is unclear, as their prevention does not seem to have any important effects. A strong rebound follows after the prevention is ended, however.

The causes and reasons for a large part of sleep behaviour remain a mystery. It is thought that the circadian cycle, effectively a body clock, regulates periods of drowsiness and sleepiness depending on light and darkness. But how much do we really need to sleep?

A number of theories exist on the optimal sleep time. Of course, there is the widely known and recommended eight-hour sleep. Thomas Wehr and Roger Ekirch, on the other hand, suggest segmented sleep: two blocks of four hours with a couple of hours resting in between. Some research has suggested that long sleep is actually less healthy than short sleep. Most people tend to sleep between 6 and 10 hours a night. Overall there is no consensus, other than that we need to sleep enough to avoid being tired the next day.

Sleep deprivation can have serious consequences. In 1965, Randy Gardner stayed awake for 11 days. Overall, he remained fairly healthy – he was even



Are you getting enough sleep? We're certainly not, but these guys are...

able to win at pinball – but he experienced hallucinations, difficulty concentrating and became basically cognitively dysfunctional. Sleep disorders can strongly impact people's daily lives.

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Dr Gillian Twigg, at the sleep centre in Charing Cross Hospital, specialises in the study and diagnosis of these disorders. Unusual behaviour can take place during sleep, especially REM episodes, like shouting, kicking, and sleepwalking and is caused by disruptions in the sleep cycle or abnormal awakenings. A more common and concerning sleep disorder is obstructive sleep apnoea: the muscles and soft tissues of the throat collapse and prevent breathing. These disorders can be diagnosed after a night at the sleep centre, measuring blood pressure, oxygen levels, heart rate, breathing, blood oxygen levels and body movement.

Most patients who suffer from sleep disorders experience severe tiredness and mood swings during the day. There can be memory impairments and some people find it debilitating. Sleep is a strange thing. Its use is still unclear, but disruptions have severe repercussions. The rest of the animal world does not provide much help with answering these questions. Dolphins, for example, are capable of maintaining half of their brain asleep whilst the other is awake and bullfrogs don't seem to sleep much at all.

Thank you to Dr Twigg and her team at the Imperial College Healthcare sleep centre, Charing Cross Hospital.

Hair of the bug

Robert Treasure

I'm sure I'm not alone in my scepticism of the apparent healing properties of alcohol when suffering from a cold or general post-Saturday-night divine punishment. Yet the latest research conducted at Emory University, Atlanta, suggests that fruit flies genuinely use alcohol to combat infection – from parasitic wasps.

As you may well have inferred from their imaginative name, fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) eat rotten fruit, or more accurately, the yeast that decays said fruit. As by-products of the decaying process, yeast produces carbon dioxide and ethanol, thus rendering the fruit slightly alcoholic. Subsequently, the fruit fly has evolved resistance to the harmful effects of alcohol (in the form of the enzyme alcohol dehydrogenase), an adaptation not exhibited by the parasitic wasps (*Leptopilina boulardi* and *Leptopilina heterotoma*) that deposit their eggs in its circulatory system.

This disparity in ethanol resistance prompted Todd Schlenke and his colleagues to feed healthy and parasitised fruit flies in an environment containing untreated and alcohol-coated fruit, the latter ranging in concentration from that of medium strength lager to Special Brew (4-10%). They observed that the parasitised flies overwhelmingly preferred the alcoholic to the regular fruit (80 to 20% respectively), whereas only thirty percent of healthy flies were equally enticed. These numbers show a conscious decision on behalf of the parasitised flies to actively seek out the alcoholic fruit in a bid to remedy their infection. This proved to be an excellent tactic: the degree of oviposition (egg laying) by the wasps in these flies was reduced greatly by the presence of ethanol, Schlenke explains why:

"The wasps die [from ethanol exposure] and all of their organs are diverted through their anus. Their guts actually pop out.."

Apologies to anyone eating their lunch for the vivid mental image painted by Schlenke, but it's clear that it is in the wasps' best interests to steer clear of the ethanol-inducing flies. Schlenke also goes on to state that the investigation documents the first evidence that alcohol consumption can act as a defensive mechanism against infectious diseases and parasites, but before you hit the bottle to cure your ailments remember that the fruit fly's alcohol tolerance is the result of millions of years of evolution in an ethanol-rich environment, not consecutive nights in the student union.

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TECHNOLOGY

Tips & Hacks

Tweet archives open for business



Twitter has this week “unlocked” its tweet archives for market research purposes, allowing businesses access to tweets dating back to the beginning of 2010. Specifically, it has partnered with the UK-based data mining company Datasift, who – while analysing approximately 250 million tweets each day, will provide the data to others for a fee. For comparison, companies used to be able to search only thirty days’ worth of tweets, and regular users are still limited to seven days. This has, of course, sparked privacy concerns, but Twitter has quickly come forward to shoot them down. The executive director of Privacy International, Gus Hosein, claims people have always been happy to use Twitter in the knowledge that their tweets would disappear fairly rapidly. Twitter’s counterargument, however, is that people use the service knowing that what they tweet is visible to anyone at that given moment. Of course, private and deleted tweets will not be made available to anyone, which one would expect. Even so, it will be interesting to see if this affects Twitter’s popularity.

Cheaper mobile roaming charges



In an attempt to avoid shock bills for customers, this week MEPs have voted to introduce a cap on what companies can charge per megabyte of data while roaming. Additionally they have voted to cut prices for texts and calls, but this is the first time any limitation has ever been made on data. In the age of the ‘always-on’ smartphone, turning your phone on for even a few minutes while abroad can result in a massive – and often unexpected – bill. While each tweet, email and status update may only be a few kilobytes, it all adds up. This is a very positive step then for anyone who travels abroad and wants to keep in touch with his/her digital world. While this legislation is not final, all further approval is expected to be “a rubber-stamping exercise”. So, by mid-2014, we should be seeing maximum charges of 12p per minute, 4p per text and 16p per megabyte.

Perfection, at a premium

Feroz Salam finally gets his hands on a Macbook Air



I’m quite ambivalent when it comes to the relative merits of operating systems and the devices they run on. The Mac vs. PC debate has been stumbling along for almost as long as I can remember, and much of what can be said has been said, many times over. Suffering the minor misfortune of having to use Windows, OS X and Linux on a regular basis, it’s hard to have strong opinions when at the end of the day a computer is really just a lump of metal and plastic, and not a philosophical statement, despite what Stephen Fry would have you believe.

In choosing a modern laptop/operating system, what you are really debating is largely personal preference: aside from gamers who have more options on Windows, buying a laptop usually boils the decision making process down to a question of money and aesthetic ideals. So what does a Macbook Air do to define itself as unique? Quite a lot, as we shall soon see. In this review, I have forgone the usual listing of specifications and benchmarking tests: the laptop has been out for 6 months now and there’s enough of that available online if you need it. What I have tried to focus on is the experience of using a Mac as a student. If you have been sitting on the fence about buying a Macbook for a while, my goal is to push you off it in either direction.

Remarkably thin and elegant, the Air is one of the most striking laptops I have ever used. The hardware has clearly been designed to benefit the user experience: one pleasing difference from the average laptop is its roomy touchpad. For such a thin piece of kit, it also sits well in the hand – I often found myself carrying it around with one hand as easily as I would a sheaf of papers. The only real problem I had with it from a design perspective is how easily I misplaced it on my desk, which is more a testament to its diminutive size rather than any misstep on Apple’s part.

In terms of performance, I was quite happy

with the system as it was – when it came to browsing, doing some writing and watching flash videos (what I mostly use my computer for, aside from programming), the Air performed solidly. If you require Matlab or other major programming IDEs such as Eclipse, the higher-end Air coming in with 4GB of memory and an i7 processor would be a better bet, but keep in mind the limited space (256GB being the upper storage limit on the device) would probably require investment in an external hard drive.

“[the Air] is elegant and a good performer”

Considering the solid state drive and the i5/i7 processors inside these machines, the smooth performance isn’t much of a surprise. In terms of Flash in particular, I was impressed by how easily the device handled the plugin, something that I have had troubles with on Linux for a while now. Battery life was comparable to my not-so-ultra ultrabook, which is impressive, and probably enough to get you through a normal day at uni without having to rely on finding a power socket. I was very impressed by the speaker quality, which was loud and clear – something I was not expecting considering I still don’t know exactly where the sound was coming from.

Elegant and a good performer; so where are the Air’s flaws? I have to admit I was not too enamoured of OS X. Where I look at plans for Windows 8 and see changes that Microsoft has planned, OS X seems very much transitional. The changes to the UI are there (fingers flick up to scroll up, other gestures to do other fancy things), but it’s not the same big break that Microsoft and some other Linux operating systems are experimenting with. Whether this

is necessarily a bad thing, I don’t know. OS X was for a very long time a leader in terms of UI functionality, and it is still very much on par with the other major operating systems. If you’re looking for the ‘next big thing’ however, this isn’t it.

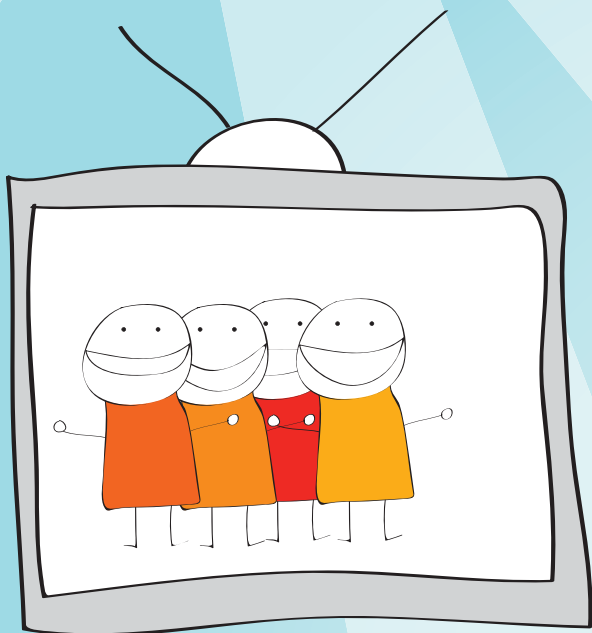
Another issue that is not so much a criticism but a statement of fact revolves around the price. This is not so much an argument about Apple’s Air as much as a point about ‘ultrabooks’ in general. The Air and ASUS’s Zenbook both retail at roughly the same price (after Apple’s student discount is taken into account). For shaving off a kilo or two in weight (and taking a slight performance hit), you are paying a premium of roughly 200 pounds (HP’s Pavilion series offer the same processor and a better spec for the extra weight). Whether or not this is worth it is only a call you can make. If your budget for a computer hovers around 1000 pounds and you aren’t a power user (the Air, remember, doesn’t offer a CD drive, only has two USB ports and comes with basic Intel integrated graphics), this might be the laptop for you.

I liked the Macbook Air, a lot. I don’t usually care about the computer beneath my fingers as long as it works, but it’s very obvious that a lot of effort has gone into making the Air something special. It’s different, and not in a bad way. It can also handle your everyday computing tasks for a whole day, something that can’t be said about some other ultrabooks released over the last few years. OS X may not be a revolutionary computing experience, but it’s a solid system that compares favourably in many aspects to Windows. The real question, as always with Apple products, is whether you can justify the price: if you’re someone who wants a feature for every penny, this may not be the device you’re looking for. If you’re willing to accept the price premium for a laptop so thin that it could also be used as a cheese slicer, I say go for it: you’re not going to find much better out there.



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POLITICS

Politics Editors: **Rajat Jain**
Joseph Letts

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February in Quotations

“I challenge you to distinguish a naked prostitute from any other naked woman”

The lawyer of **Dominique Strauss-Kahn**. The former French presidential hopeful and ex-IMF chief is facing pimping charges in France less than six months after a rape case against him was dropped in New York. His defence team claim that he did not know that the women at the orgies he attended were prostitutes.

“If I find the opportunity, I would shoot them in the head”

Afghani police, typically regarded as American collaborators, show their sympathy with rioters after burnt copies of the Koran were found at a NATO base on 20th February. Despite apologies by various officials including US President Obama, deadly attacks have continued against Western diplomats. Police killed two senior NATO officers.

“Today, I would say good bye to the power, which should always be responsibility not a privilege”

Former President of Yemen, **Ali Abdullah Saleh**, before handing over power to Abd Al-Hadi, the former vice-president. Saleh controlled the country for 21 years before protests forced him to accept a Saudi-brokered deal to stand down in exchange for immunity. A presidential election took place last week but only Al-Hadi stood after all opposition parties agreed to support him to maintain stability in the weak state.

“The consequences of any outside intervention are much harder to foresee”

William Hague ahead of an International conference on Syria being held in Tunisia. As violence continues, the British foreign secretary expressed concern over Syria but made it clear the military had no intention of intervening. Hague supported last year’s “no-fly zone” over Libya but opposed “boots on the ground.” The Conservative minister previously supported the invasions of both Afghanistan and Iraq under the previous, Labour, government.

“I will be very happy at anything substantially over two million!”

Rupert Murdoch tweets about expected sales of the first Sun on Sunday. The paper was finally launched seven months after its predecessor, The News of the World, was shut down over the phone-hacking controversy. The new paper’s first editorial guaranteed to hold its journalists up to a higher standard. Inquiries are continuing to take place over illegal actions within Mr Murdoch’s organisation, News International. In the end, 3 million copies were sold.

Edited by **Rajat Jain**

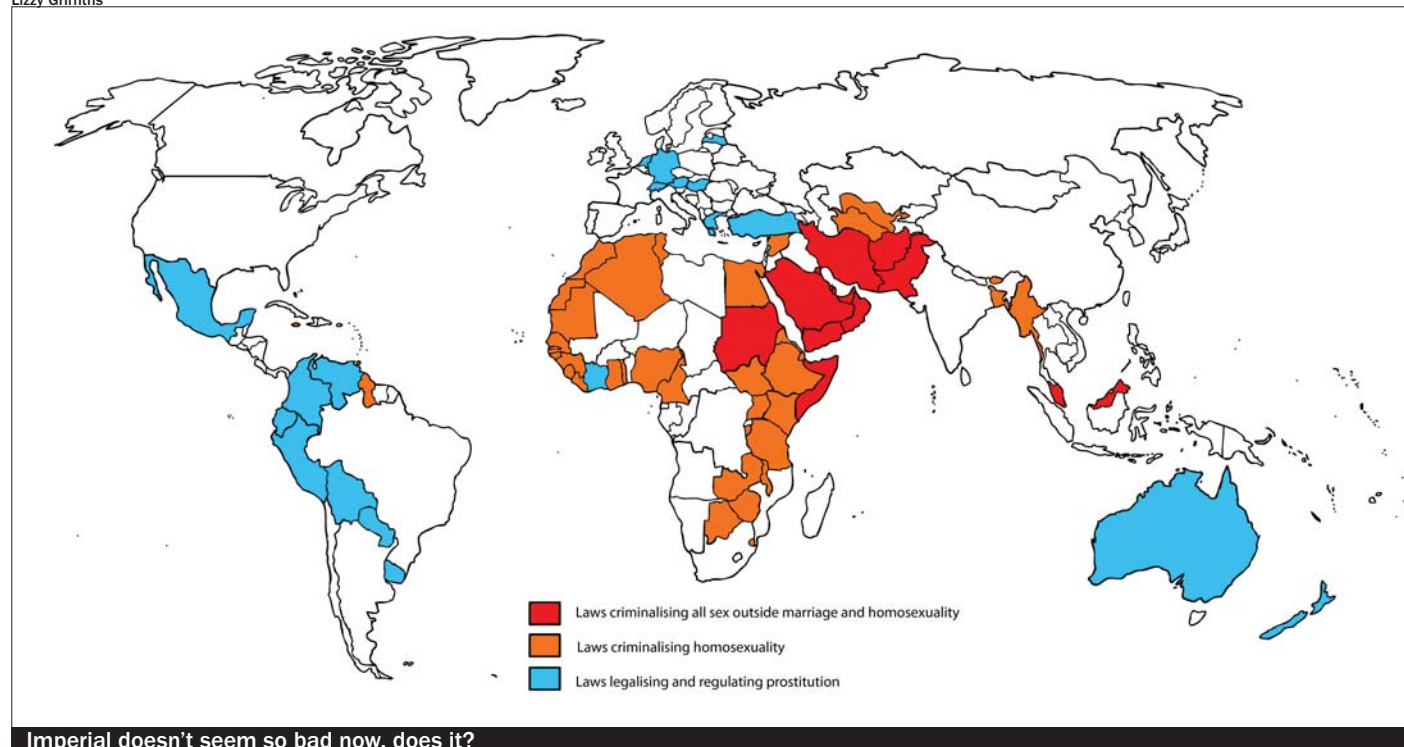
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Freedom to Fornicate

Imperial is an orgy by international standards

Lizzy Griffiths



Imperial doesn't seem so bad now, does it?

Rajat Jain

This week, Felix releases the full results of the much-anticipated sex survey. This typically makes for depressing reading in a university concerned with its high levels of “geekiness” and obsessed with a less than ideal gender ratio. Beyond the statistics and the innuendo, there is, however, a hidden and, I believe, largely positive message of how far British society has come, holding such a survey would have been unthinkable when Felix was founded. While the survey has only been run for two years, is still highly anonymous, filled with “I’d prefer not to say” and is taboo discussion outside the student world, it reflects a freedom that still does not exist in many countries. This week, we look at the sexual rights that we take for granted but continue to be restricted around the world.

Fornication

80% of Imperial students are not virgins, yet very few students are married. Other than during a brief Puritan period (1650-1660), this has largely been legal (though often scandalous or taboo) in England. However, the act is forbidden under Islamic law (Zina) and is illegal in at least twelve Muslim countries.

Homosexuality

It has been 45 years since homosexuality was decriminalised, and only 8 years since civil partnerships were introduced, but 14% of students described themselves as either bisexual or homosexual. Homosexuality is legal in much of the world, and marriage leg-

islation has been passed in much of Europe and the mainland of the Americas. In 2009, the Indian Supreme Court finally deemed old anti-homosexual colonial legislation as unconstitutional, freeing a further one-fifth of the world’s homosexual population. It may seem progress is being made, but the reality is homosexual acts remain illegal in much of the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean. In many (largely Muslim) countries, homosexuals are executed. In much of Africa, things are moving backwards. In Uganda, an anti-homosexual bill has re-emerged, though with the odious death penalty for repeat “offenders” removed after international pressure, as MPs continued to describe homosexuality as “un-African” and “un-Christian”.

Abortion

55% of students admitted to having sex without any method of contraception. While most will be able to look back at this as a stupid mistake with no real consequences, in much of the world it could change your life completely. While abortions can legally take place in almost every country on Earth, in most of Africa, South America, the Middle East and the Far East, making a stupid drunken mistake is not a valid excuse. In fact, rape is often not considered a valid reason – abortions are typically only legal if the mother’s health is at risk.

Prostitution

Okay, I can’t give any Imperial statistic for this one – I would hope the college degree has a good enough reputation that no student

would ever have to turn to selling their body. However, the law is nevertheless important. The “oldest profession in the world” is illegal in much of Africa, Asia (notable examples include India and Kazakhstan) and the United States (though not Nevada). In a small number of countries (see above) it is regulated and legal, but in most countries (including the United Kingdom) laws exist against brothels and pimping. The exchange of sex for money is not, however, a criminal offence.

Religion, the Law & the Fact

It should be noted that these laws often fail to reflect the reality on the ground. Homosexuals are often attacked and even killed without any concern from authorities in countries where it has been decriminalised. Abortions and prostitution are widespread in all countries. The difference is that in areas where they are illegal, abortions are often very dangerous and prostitutes may be attacked without protection from the authorities – a particular problem in Pakistan where fornication, homosexuality and prostitution are illegal yet eunuch brothels are commonplace.

However, while the United Kingdom may have made progress in these areas, this does not make us “free”. Islamic countries, for instance, often allow polygamy (though, importantly, only with one man), while British law still only gives advantages (in the form of tax breaks) to pairs of people who make a long term commitment in the form of marriage or civil partnership. Further, “pimps” as legal employers would have the duty to protect prostitutes – a single woman working alone is at far greater risk of being harmed.

Volunteering at Tesco

Luke Sheldon attacks the Government's new scheme as enforced labour that only benefits big companies

Work experience is something most of us did at school. It was unpaid, but it was two weeks long and we did not do the work of paid staff. Invariably we shadowed workers and got a chance to carry out a few of the tasks. This is far from the "work experience" the government have been championing this week. The coalitions work experience does not pay, is forced upon you and helps subsidise the large corporations to the tune of millions.

A Tesco advert offering 'Job Seekers Allowance plus benefits' for a night-shift worker brought these issues to attention and provoked outrage amongst the general public. The coalition has defended itself like a scratched CD, repeating the mantra that the work experience scheme is "voluntary". This is wrong. Being forced to work under the fear of benefit sanctions – and the almost certain destitution that accompanies this – is not voluntary.

Officially the work experience scheme is 'voluntary' – job seekers are supposed to be able to decide whether or not to take a placement. However, regularly people are pressed onto work experience by the job centre and are not told about the one week grace period where they can leave it without being punished. This is epitomized by the court case of Cat Reilly who is seeking judicial review over the work experience scheme she was enrolled on (it was in fact the Sector Based Work Academy, but it still involves work experience and is also called "voluntary" by the government without actually being so). She was asked to attend an innocuous open day which would lead to a weeks training and a job interview. It materialised when she attended the open day that it was in fact a six week scheme with two weeks unpaid labour at Poundland. When she challenged the relevance of this placement to finding work she was interested in, the job centre threatened her with loss of benefits. Not only do the official work experience guidelines express the threat of sanction, causing the Citizen's Advice Bureau to label the work experience scheme as "compulsory", but also, as shown above, the job seeker is rarely given a choice over this work experience. They are bullied and harassed by the job centre without being told of their rights to leave the scheme within the first week (or to not even start it!). George Osborne has also indicated how little choice he believes there should be by stating that he wants all people refusing the work experience scheme to be forced onto the mandatory work activity scheme, meaning – if you do not choose unpaid work experience, we

Rajat Jain



KFC and Starbucks this week announced apprenticeships while Burger King dropped out of the scheme last week after the backlash faced by Tesco

will for you.

Cat Reilly's solicitor has remarked, "These Orwellian schemes are about work for its own sake rather than for any greater purpose". I find this statement slightly misleading as work involves payment, and these placements do not pay. You do up to 30 hours a week for no cost to the employer with only the £52.50 that is Job Seekers Allowance on which to survive. This is an hourly rate of £1.75. Seeing as a living wage in London is £8.50 this falls far short. Which is interesting, as the majority of companies providing these schemes are large high street stores drawing multi-million pound profits such as McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Tesco and Asda (although HMV are looking a bit ropey). I'm sure they could find some spare change to pay a living wage to everyone working in their stores – instead they pay nothing. It could be deemed acceptable if it was equivalent to the work experience we did at school; however it can last up to eight full time weeks and invariably involves doing the work that paid staff do. Cat Reilly cleaned and stacked shelves alongside paid staff and last week Argos commented on their use of the government's work experience scheme by saying "We can confirm that Argos does not have a policy to recruit colleagues through the governments Work Experience Programme, but [...] Christmas is our busiest time of year and we are pleased to provide the opportunity for work experience during this time." Essentially no one doing work experience at Argos has a chance of a job at the end but they are happy to take them on

when they are busy at Christmas so that they do not have to pay staff overtime or employ temporary workers. This was confirmed by a Commons committee who found evidence that companies were using the work experience to replace paid staff. Hugely wealthy corporations are happily boosting their profits by taking on free labour with no prospect of a job. This is exemplified by Tescos who boasted of the 300 people they have employed through work experience, forgetting to mention this is only 21% of the total work experience placements they took on – a startlingly small employment rate (and evidence suggests it is even smaller than this).

"The Tories are now rolling [the scheme] out at a terrifying pace"

David Cameron last week defended the scheme by declaring that 50% of people who did work experience were off Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) after three months (though not necessarily into a job) and that this was the only way young people were going to get into work. This implies that even if they are not employed by the company they do work experience for then it helps them get employed elsewhere. However figures released soon after showed that 50% of jobseekers were off JSA after 3 months without work experi-

ence – essentially the work experience made no difference to jobseeker's job prospects. Not only is work experience through the job centre exploitative but it also does not help people into work. In fact there are elements that make it more difficult as forced labour does not look great on the CV and working 30 hours a week gives you less time to find work...

The fact that this is being championed by the coalition as a way of combating youth unemployment is ridiculous. Youth unemployment has been soaring since the financial crisis, recently topping a million, and unless in the last five years we all suddenly became lazier en masse then it is fair to say that the paucity of jobs is the real issue, not young people's 'lack' of 'experience'. Sadly these work experience placements do not create a single job and in fact can reduce the amount of available jobs as companies replace paid work with unpaid work experience (as admitted by Argos above). These work experience placements just make the disaster that is youth unemployment worse.

This story is not new, and in fact was going on with Labour under the guise of the Flexible New Deal, although the Tories are now rolling it out at a terrifying pace. What has made it hit the headlines over the past couple of weeks all started with one simple, now infamous, Tesco advert for the nightshift work offering 'JSA plus expenses'. This triggered an Internet storm about the abuses going on under the name of work experience. The work and pensions secretary, Iain Duncan Smith, has since labelled critics as "job snobs" for

looking down on shelf-stacking as a career. Ignoring the irony of this comment coming from a wealthy Tory MP, it begs the question in this day and age of flexible labour whether now even asking for a wage makes you a snob.

Chris Grayling, minister for employment, has also attempted to label all critics as members of the Socialist Worker Party (SWP), ignoring the large online campaign (which involved more people than the SWP have members) and the grass-roots campaign group Boycott Workfare involving many people who have experienced forced unpaid labour themselves. The strength of the opposition is reaching critical levels with the Boycott Workfare campaign coordinating a national day of action hitting over 20 high streets across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (including Oxford Street) this Saturday (3rd March). This is beginning to have an effect as Waterstones, Sainsburys and TK Maxx have withdrawn their support for workfare schemes, along with a number of charities, and many other companies are suspending their involvement and calling on the government to remove sanctions. Soon we may be left with a government work experience scheme with no work. The government is refusing to listen to this pressure and a collision is sure to occur as the government press on regardless whilst the public anger builds. Hopefully this argument will help us reassess our attitude to the unemployed and realise that however much unpaid work experience you force people to undertake, when there are no jobs, people will stay jobless.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Putting a Katz amongst the pigeons

Kings Park Capital founder Jason Katz talks to Imperial Investors Club, Deepka Rana reports

Jason Katz, a renowned investment banker who turned his hand to private equity, visited Imperial College to share his knowledge and advice in an event organised by the Imperial Speaker's Club and the Imperial Investment Club.

Katz, clad in casual business attire, began to address the audience in his characteristic relaxed and affable manner, outlining how he, a history graduate from Bristol University, became managing director at UBS within 10 years of joining the firm, a feat that had never before been achieved at the firm.

Having secured a graduate job at SG Warburg (later to become part of UBS) Katz recalled how he was in a pool of about 60 first year analysts, all at the beck and call of senior associates and MDs, working up to 100 hours per week with little recognition in what was a fast-paced and impersonal environment. It was only after spending a few days working on David Freud's (now Lord Freud, and indeed grandson of Sigmund Freud) team that Katz first started his rapid progression up the banking hierarchy. Having requested to stay on Freud's team, he was now part of a smaller team and was allowed to make much bigger contributions and meet clients regularly. This idea of initiative and boldness was one that Katz continued to emphasise throughout the talk and it became clear it was an ethos he has lived by since. Only a few years after joining the firm, Katz suggested the creation of a hotel and leisure division, an area that



Lolkatz: He haz ur private equity financial expertise

accounted for 10% of GDP but did not its own specialist division yet, much to everyone's disbelief. Despite now leading his own desk, his superiors refused to make him a MD straight off the bat as he and his team were essentially thought of as "a bunch of kids taking charge of a new division". His only way of impressing on to them that he deserved the title was to secure clients and complete deal after deal, which is precisely what he did. The main thing budding investment bankers must always bear in mind is that "you're being paid for your commercial judgement and will be judged solely on performance".

In the following years, Katz successfully led the division from strength to

strength, working with clients such as lastminute.com, Fitness First Centre Parcs and working on many other deals with an aggregate value of \$40 billion.

"a bunch of kids taking charge of a new division"

He made the idea of 'empire building' very clear to the audience, highlighting the fact that whilst sheer numerical and analytical skills were essential, there was no substitute for style, consistency and even humour.

Katz then continues to explain how he found himself somewhat bored of the daily office grind and decided in 2007, when the economic landscape was still flourishing, to start up a private equity firm and continue to use his experience of the leisure and travel industry.

Having left the bank and founded 'Kings Park Capital', Katz readily admitted that he and his team no longer enjoyed quite as lavish a lifestyle as his former IB colleagues. Not to say that he is doing particularly badly, having flown in to London from Cape Town that day and heading to New York City the morning after the event.

The differences between working as a dealmaker in an Investment Bank and

in a private equity firm were frequently highlighted. With only 7 people working in the office and his own money at stake Katz remarked on how much more personal his everyday business became, and the increasing selectiveness that he and his partner have had to exercise when choosing a company to invest into. In fact, KPC sees approximately 200 investment opportunities per year but on average only invests in 2 to 3 of those. However raising the money to invest into these couple of opportunities has not been an entirely smooth road. Of the total 400 entities approached, only 50 agreed to put money behind the new company, raising a total of £60 million, a long shot from the £200 million that was the original aim. Despite this Katz seemed optimistic for the next fundraise, emphasizing how important the fact was that KPC was now no longer a new company with no clients, increasing the likelihood that institutional investors would consider them this time round.

As the evening drew to a close with a Q&A session, Katz responded to a suggestion that there was nothing left to explore in private equity by joking that the exact same would have been said after the invention of the wheel and electricity, highlighting that there were always going to be new opportunities in the market, some simply requiring more resourcefulness and patience than others, leaving the audience with the distinct impression that this was a man who still had many a goal to accomplish, despite already achieving so much in a very short amount of time.

Stay ahead of the game with Traderversity

Craig Glastonbury

Traderversity is an exciting new, free, virtual trading game designed exclusively for UK university students. The interactive online game at www.traderversity.com lets students try their hand at trading with real-time access to the stock market without investing any real money. Creating healthy competition, players can get to grips with the basics of trading, interact with other student traders and be in with the chance to win a share of the £5,000 monthly prize fund!

Traderversity is the world's only free, no-risk financial trading game with real-time prices. Quick to register and easy to use, simply log in via Facebook and a valid university email address and once registered players can start buying

and selling Equities, Currencies, Commodities, and building their portfolio.

Designed to help de-mystify "The City", the game can be used by students from all academic fields, from economics and finance, through to arts, sciences and humanities. Students can experience the thrill of the trade with Traderversity's live games, competitions and step-by-step learning tutorials, and can share tips and advice with other players on what to invest in and when.

Traderversity provides a risk-free chance to play the stock markets without investing any real money. Over 1000 students from 87 universities across the UK have registered so far and 300 of these have won real cash prizes already!

Traderversity is currently running

two competitions where students can win one of five iPad2s or a share of £5,000. The top 50 players at the end of the month will be entered into a draw and the first five names chosen at random will each win an iPad2 16Gb Wi-Fi. In addition, there is £1,000 of real cash up for grabs every week with a top prize of £250, and the top 50 all winning cash prizes.

On registering, players are awarded £1m of virtual money to use to enter live trading competitions where profits and losses contribute to the overall leaderboard. Players can go head-to-head with friends and contacts using the website's in-built Facebook widget, as well as against other players in the wider Traderversity league. Students also represent their universities in the overall university league, which tracks

the universities with the best trading talent. And with talent in mind, Traderversity works closely with leading investment firms, so students displaying trading finesse might catch the eye of industry headhunters or future employers!

Two London-based businessmen, Jonathan Rose and Chris Hobcroft, devised the game based on their own experiences in trading, financial services and technology. Between them, they have 15 years' experience in the trading, financial services and technology sectors. Jonathan says: "We looked at the trading games on offer and we saw that nothing was tailored specifically to students. We saw only over-simplified and boring alternatives, or those that didn't reflect the reality of what was truly happening on the market."

1,000 quid a week to be won on traderversity.com while learning to make an awful lot more in the city.

Free real-time trading game. Exclusive to students.

EQUITIES - COMMODITIES - FOREX

For further details, email craig.glastonbury09@imperial.ac.uk

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COMMENT

FELIX

The Sex Survey returns – there are no cheap thrills to be found here

This week marks the second-ever Felix Sex Survey. Its return was almost a given, following the sheer response last year, both in terms of respondents and feedback following publication. One year on, we decided to improve upon last year's results in any possible way we could find. It is thanks to the vast response from across Imperial and dedicated individuals working behind the scenes with the collected data that we have been able to produce results on this scale. We very much hope that you enjoy reading it, yet, at its core, there are interesting debates that can be found.

Many have stated in correspondence to Felix regarding the survey that sex remains almost a taboo subject at Imperial. Nevertheless, many also think that the unwillingness to more openly discuss sex is perhaps an old fashioned viewpoint, and that we, as a community, should be more willing to tackle it head on. After all, welfare and sexual health are hugely relevant to university life.

At the very least, we hope that the survey results raise awareness of welfare at Imperial and goes some way towards debunking some of the common stereotypes that Imperial finds itself with.

Felix would like to take the opportunity to reiterate the fact that extreme care has been taken by everybody involved in analysis or data collection to ensure that all data provided remains strictly anonymous. Indeed, the data that we have collected over the past month has been deleted. No details can be tracked to any specific individual.

In the future, we shall be considering conducting more surveys that cover a wider range of topics than those already encountered. One potential area that we are keen to look at is the potential for sexism, as voiced by writers in this very section recently, at university. If you have any interest in any aspect of the production of a survey, then please feel free to get in touch with us.

It's time for a Union General Meeting



Scott Heath

It took me approximately 4 months to really understand how the University and Union work. Both of these organisations are layered with bureaucracy, which doesn't help. Additionally, you need to get to term time before various committees meet and the workloads hit a stage where acronyms like SRASOC* start rolling off the tongue. (*Student Recruitment and Admissions Strategy and Operations Committee)

As you would expect, being President I have to spend a good portion of my time thinking strategically, analysing the threats and risks to the Union and working out how to mitigate them. This is also true for my Executive Committee, who recently, and very unjustly, were criticised in a comment piece for their decision this term to 'redistribute' 10% of club funding. And redistribute is the right word.

Clubs currently receive a cash grant to assist with their operations. This money is distributed at a rather hellish meeting known as CSB budgeting, which I attended on Monday for the third time in as many years.

At that meeting last year we made available a staggering £337,000 of the funding the College gives the Union to operate. For 2012/13 we are providing £303k. Our plan is to use the difference (£33k) to help clubs and societies in ways that are more effective than the £2 per each club membership that has been reallocated.

We intend on providing a new website with more functionality. We shall increase the volunteering opportunities available to our members, assist societies in finding sponsorships, provide even better training and establish a 'club hardship fund' to provide struggling societies with the necessary financial assistance.

This will all be done in the face of a probable 0% change in funding from College, a 5% increase in staffing cost (a college HR decision), inflation sitting at 4.2% and our bars running at a minimum profit level to ensure they are as cheap for students as they can be.

The result of this will be simple: we know that our plans will cost more than the £33k we have redistributed. As such, we will be spending more on Clubs, Societies, and Projects next year than we have this, and more than we did the year before.

However I do find two things rather worrying.

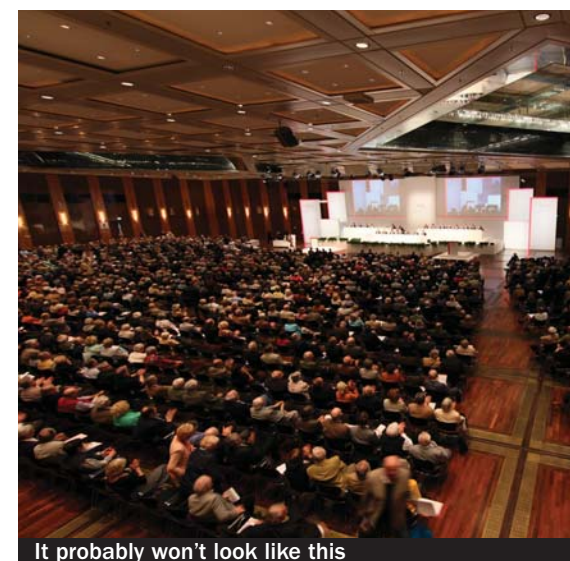
First is the huge disparity between the levels of support the Union provides for different activities. All overseas clubs societies, which have a current membership of 2,130, receive £5,270 of 'cash' support. Compare this to the £13,840 that the 61 members of gliding received for their activities and you might also share a little of my concern. Of course, there are reasons that we support gliding so highly, most of which relate to its high cost. But equally there does need to be a time when we ask if activities like this are sustainable and whether they provide a benefit to our members that means we can justify sacrificing support elsewhere.

The second concern is how little financial assistance we provide to the Representation and Welfare branches of our Union. This year we hosted Rep Week, a cross-campus event designed to make your representatives more visible and to get feedback on what you would like to see improved. For this we provided all Departmental Representatives with polo shirts. It was a small gesture, considering all of the hard work these people put in, and cost very little – about 0.1% of the CSB budget. However this is easily the most we have ever spent on our Dep Reps!

Now I guess some of you may be wondering about the title of this piece, especially as to what a General Meeting might actually be. So let me explain. A general meeting is an open forum of at least 200 members. It can be attended by anyone who wants to go and attendees can add items to the agenda. It's a place where big strategic items and questions can be discussed. These meetings are commonplace in Student Unions across the UK but the last one held by Imperial College Union happened over 5 years ago.

I believe we should hold this GM to talk about the questions I have raised in this piece but also to discuss some other concerns I have.

In a comment piece last week, it was suggested that the Executive Committee structure needs to change. Though I disagree with this, I do believe that one Union committee does need to be altered: our Trustee Board. The TB can overturn decisions made by the Union Council, authorise expenditure over £1m and set out the Union's strategy.



It probably won't look like this

It would be reasonable to imagine that such a Committee would have the people that you elect to lead your Union, the Sabbatical Officers, as members. However this is not the case. As President I am the only Sabbatical who has a vote.

The remaining votes are taken by four students, the chair of council, a former President (the Court chair) and four external members.

If all Trustees are in attendance there is a majority to current students and their representatives. However some Student Trustees have variable attendance and, more worryingly, variable understanding of what students need from their Union. An example of this is one person being elected to this role last year to 'get more weights in Ethos' – something the Trustee Board is never in a position to do!

The result of this is that there is a giant risk that the voices of people external to our Union can be more influential than our members and subsequently decisions could be made about our long-term future that we do not support.

So in the Summer Term I shall invite all Union members to attend a General Meeting. Here we shall discuss our Trustee Board Structure and our resourcing. However I also believe we should use this opportunity to discuss the purpose of each committee we have, and adjust their structures accordingly. I also believe it is time to assess the remit and roles of our Sabbatical Officers to ensure they provide a benefit to the student body that matches their cost and justifies the commitment of the people who hold these positions. And finally, more than anything, I believe it's time to host a meeting like this: one which is open and transparent, to provide all members an opportunity to hear about our potential risks and contribute to some potential solutions.

Generally meet people all the time. Why not tell us about it: felixonline.co.uk

COMMENT

At times, women are actively disliked



Laurence de Lussy Kubisa

“... should you wish to be insulting, don’t make it about something someone has absolutely no control over”

It might be hard to believe, but I actually started this article before Stephen Smith’s excellent article on sexism at Imperial and the superb piece on feminism by Veronica Gouvea. Stephen explored particular issues at Imperial and Veronica explained why feminism is important. I feel this piece is now a synthesis of the two including a reminder of what women face in society at large.

Whilst we have made vast improvements over the last 100 years on legislated misogyny, it remains that the female is one of the last subsets of humanity against which it is possible to get away with real discrimination in our society.

Discrimination faced by women permeates all areas of our lives – from professional through recreational to social interactions. It appears in all forms and guises, some intentional, others accidental and, perhaps crucially, rarely as overt and declared misogyny.

Professionally, discrimination comes in two main forms – the ‘boys club’ which can be sometimes be found at the top of big institutions (14 of the 100 FTSE firms have no women on their boards) and the just as destructive, ever-present myth that women are somehow inferior to men at top jobs. Now you may feel that the second point is no longer believed by anyone with half a neuron; I disagree. It is still present and, it seems to me, often manifests itself in women themselves. The statistics would suggest that there is always a nagging doubt that, when things get tough, a woman is not suited to a career in something ‘important’ (e.g. politics, business, science). For example, there were only 861 female

candidates at the last general election (3284 male) even though women were just as likely to be elected (15% chance overall, ~15% for men, ~16% for women).

Recreationally, women face not discrimination but a propagation of myths pertaining to a women’s role in society. This ranges across a broad spectrum, which I’ve crassly decided to group together: from magazines to advertisements through to poorly constructed female film characters (which itself is a separate crime against cinema) and images of ideal women. This can be anything from magazine articles asking women “should you be pregnant by now?” (*Glamour*) to advertisements for cleaning products that feature consistently women, and all the way to Bond girls. All of these clearly place the emphasis of women’s role in society on children, housekeeping and pleasuring men.

Whilst I am in no way insinuating that my female readers cannot critically interpret all of these, it seems, and my female friends have supported my view here, that there is a general cumulative effect. That is to say, it is easy to ignore individual instances, but with such a huge amount of ‘information’ depicting a certain role women must play in society it will inevitably result in self-doubt which can manifest itself at times of great importance in a person’s life (career choices, for example).

Socially, there seems to be a significant portion of the male population who do actively dislike women, either that or they are maddeningly unfunny comedians unable to make jokes about anything other than women. Add to that the sorts



Frankie Boyle couldn’t get away with *Tramadol Nights* not being that good

of daily incidents described by Stephen (rating of women etc) and you can see that 50% of the population has to wade through a lot of shit for no obvious reason. I have no problem in people observing that someone is physically attractive and to state their desire to mate, but there is a difference between that and reducing a person to physical attractiveness and a means for sex.

The ‘comedic defence’ often employed by the kind of people who commented on the recent UniLad apology is weak. I have no problem with humour being offensive (c.f. some of Frankie Boyle’s material). The problem arises when the jokes are so badly constructed as to be unfunny even without the offensive element – then the joke merely becomes a vessel for prejudices.

Before you all rush to comment and

poke holes in my arguments, I am not suggesting any of the following: that there is a misogynist conspiracy, that all men hate women, that women hate themselves or that women shouldn’t ever clean.

Feminism shouldn’t be the dirty word it is now, it’s about equality and anyone who believes in an equal society is, by definition, a feminist. To dismiss a whole series of valid points about equality based on the fact that a few people who define themselves as feminist are man-hating is a crime against good debating.

Lastly, I’m not advocating some boring utopia where everyone is nice to one another and nothing offensive is ever said. All I’m saying is that, should you wish to be insulting, don’t make it about something someone has absolutely no control over – be a bastard indiscriminately.

In Imperial College we trust?



Anonymous

Imperial College Union’s Clubs & Societies Board (CSB) voted to cut its contribution towards the “tours pot” from £9,000 to £0 at its annual budgeting round on Monday. The move, at the recommendation of Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Monya Zard, was due to a £7,500 increase in funding from the Imperial College Trust.

ICU policy states that tours “further the aims and objectives of a club or society, supporting their core activities beyond which can be achieved through usual day-to-day, week-to-week operations”. The IC Trust, whose activities include “the promotion of charitable purposes for the benefit of the College”, is an independent charity. In recent years the trust has donated £9,000 for sports tours and £10,500 for other tours – a generous total of £19,500.

According to Zard’s October Council paper, the IC Trust met on 26th October 2011 and agreed to increase its contribution from £19,500 to £27,000, although the breakdown of this extra funding between sports and non-sports tours has not yet been made clear. Zard also stated that the increase was down to “continually increasing numbers of tourists” and gave “Heather Jones and the Membership Services Manager” credit for their successful application for extra IC Trust funding.

At the start of the annual club budgeting round, Zard proposed that the amount of money for tours should be decreased, or cut entirely, with the extra cash moved to the general club and society funds (requests for which were around £80,000 over the amount available). She said that there was “extra funding from the IC Trust” for tours. When pushed for the figures, Zard said that she thought that the

amount was previously “about £10,000” and was being increased to “something like £18,500” (the absolute increase quoted by Zard being inaccurate to the tune of £1,000). Zard couldn’t even say whether the amount granted by the IC Trust had yet been confirmed, but added that it was pretty much guaranteed.

The motion was passed by CSB with few objections, as the board railroaded through their decisions with no real discussion about the consequences. Other cuts that appeared to be made in an entirely arbitrary manner included cuts to the amounts available to new clubs and projects. In many cases it seemed like CSB members were plucking numbers from thin air, with a worrying lack of discussion about how funds had been utilised in previous years.

As far as the tours budget is concerned, there is real cause for concern. Last year,

all £28,500 of tours funding was allocated. If the number of students embarking on tours is really increasing, as suggested by ICU’s application for increased funding, then next year’s decreased pot of £27,000 is likely to be stretched more thinly than ever.

The move could also sour relations between the union and the IC Trust, who have presumably increased the funds available in good faith that the number of tours can now increase. Conversely, all that the extra cash seems to have done is help plug a gap in club and society funding, caused by the redirection of Union subvention to central Union operations. The fact that the benevolence of the IC Trust has led to a £1,500 decrease in funding will surely lead the trust to question exactly why they bother offering this money if no commitment is shown by the Union itself.

THE Skeleton Fund

In support of the Rector's Scholarship Fund

This summer, Kadhim will cycle from John O'Groats to Land's End, on a tandem, with a skeleton on the back seat; the furthest any man or woman has ever cycled on a tandem with a skeleton...

In process, he hopes to raise £10,000 for the Rector's Scholarships, which helps students of all backgrounds to attend Imperial.

Follow his journey at
Facebook.com/SkeletonFund and
Twitter.com/SkeletonFund

Donate at
JustGiving.Com/TheSkeletonfund





THE FELIX SEX SURVEY 2012

Take a look inside...

3 STUDENT SATISFACTION

How sex affects the views of students

4 THE CENTREFOLD

All the data on one beautiful double-page spread

6 VIRGIN LIFE

What virgins get up to, and what they care about

7 THREE'S COMPANY

The wonderful world of the threesome. Who asks whom more?

8 THE SEX MAP

What buildings have the most sex?

The Front Page

Our front page takes on the form of a word cloud made up from all the text responses to the “any other information” question in the survey. The size of the word corresponds to the frequency the word appeared across all the answers (yes, the words “thug life” appeared many times). Thanks to Annina Sartor and tagxedo.com.

With thanks to...

Feature Editor Matt Allinson, Philip Kent **Survey Design and Coding** Jonathan Kim **Data Analysis** Tim Arbabzadah, Annina Sartor, Chris Bowers, Afonso Campos **Infographics** Veronika McQuadeova **Sex Map** Ravi Pall **Illustrations** Lizzy Griffiths, Julia Wei, Maria Veiga **Writing** Tim Arbabzadah, Chris Bowers, Annina Sartor, Chris Wiltham **Layout** Philip Kent **Special Thanks** Matthew Colvin, Kadhim Shubber, Annina Sartor, Felix Copy Editors and, of course, everyone who filled out the survey!

1063 RESPONSES*

*AND ONLY 21 ROGUE MAVERICKS.

The Felix Sex Survey

Matt Allinson

The number of respondents we had to the sex survey this year has been almost overwhelming. 1063 of you replied, and only about 20 of them as far as we could tell were blatant trolls (thank you guys btw for making us laugh).

Over the course of these next seven pages, we'll delve into the details of the results that you've given us. You've told us about what you've done, who you've done, and where you've done it.

Furthermore you've told us how happy you are with what you're getting and helped us address some of the classic Imperial clichés about gender imbal-



ance and frustration.

So thank you, everyone, who took the time to share this information with us. We appreciate that telling this stuff to complete strangers is a sensitive issue and we've dealt with it with the utmost privacy and discretion. The raw data has long since been deleted and great lengths were taken to make sure that no individual was identifiable in either this print copy, or to our writers while we were analysing the data. Thanks also go to the people who donated a huge amount of their time in helping me analyse your data and produce this pull out, without whom I would've known where to start.

So sit back and enjoy, and I hope you find this report as funny but informative to read as we found to write.

Best of the comments

In an effort to allow you to share any additional information with us, we gave you the option of leaving comments. From a data analysis perspective, this may have been unwise (a grand total of about three comments were of any objective use), but it certainly did throw up some points of interest.

The gender ratio was a common cause of concern. Responses on the matter varied in eloquence from “TOO MANY MEN TOO MANY MEN” to “the Imperial campus possesses a distinct lack of totty. This is a shame.” Males especially seemed upset at the fact that “there are so many more honeys at other London universities.” Opinions were not exclusively negative, however; the phrase “I'm a GIRL in COMPUTING” was used as a supporting argument at least once.

Many respondents felt the need to ex-

press their love for sexual acts in general. Phrases such “sex is *good*!” and less print-friendly versions thereof were scattered around the data set.

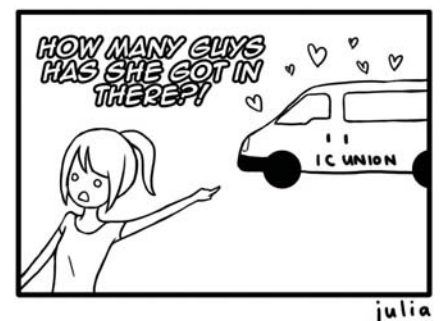
Some rather worrying details were shared, including discussion of how easy it is to masturbate on the fourth level of our cherished library. (Apparently, you just need to “get that table right in the corner.”)

Felix would also like to offer its congratulations to the engineering student who “did it for the first time last Tuesday.” In their own words: “Awh yeah.”

“I'm in love! Yay!”
[How touching – Ed]

“THUG LIFE BITCHES”

promiscuous



julia

tumblr:
multipleimproperintegrals.tumblr.com
twitter:
[@miicomic](https://twitter.com/miicomic)

“There are so many more honeys at other London universities.”

Keeping it legit

As with any survey on this scale, there's always a significant chance of individuals (mas- sive jokers, trolls, whatever really takes your fancy) providing a great deal of fake data that could potentially skew the results. We've worked hard to filter this misinformation out and ensure that the data we have is as reliable as can possibly be.

One way to significantly cut down on this was to restrict the survey to people with an Imperial College London login – but then, it

was for Imperial students anyway.

More complex methods for troll-busting took on two main forms. The first was an automated method, whereas the second required human interaction.

If you provided your department when filling out the survey, we also obtained your department from the College database (as acknowledged within the privacy statement). If these did not match, we flagged your entry as a potential fake entry. If you did not provide your department, this check was not made. Your real depart-

ment was never stored. This worked for everyone except those studying within the Royal School of Mines, as a bug marked all these students as trolls. Hey, obviously it can't all go incredibly smoothly.

In addition, we combed through every entry to spot any obvious foul play.

Some of the possible trolls were too close to call, however, after extensive discussion a decision was made on each case. The result is we only analyse truthful data – making these statistics more accurate.

Happy with your sex life?

All values are percentages	Positive	Neutral	Negative
MATERIALS	73	17	10
CIVIL ENGINEERING	67	28	05
EARTH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING	64	27	11
PHYSICS	61	25	14
LIFE SCIENCES	61	27	13
MATHEMATICS	58	26	16
COMPUTING	56	33	11
CHEMISTRY	56	35	09
MEDICINE	54	32	15
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING	51	38	11
AERONAUTICS	48	41	11
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	46	38	15
EEE	45	36	19
BIOENGINEERING	39	45	15

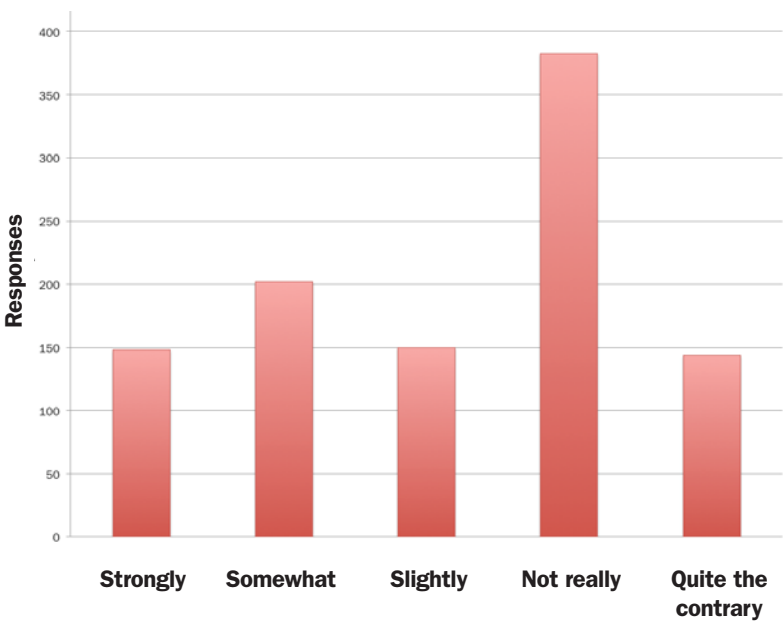
And the winners for sex life satisfaction by department this year are the Materials department, with 73% of their respondents being either happy or very happy with their sex life. Notably, there is a larger proportion of Bioengineers that are in a

relationship than are happy or very happy with their sex life. Does this suggest that the partners of bioengineering students are terrible in bed? Or that bioengineers have incredibly high standards for their sex life? Potentially. It is interesting to note, however, that bioengineers have the sec-

ond lowest proportion of people in a relationship who are in a relationship with a fellow Imperial student. Perhaps it is fairer to conclude that the fact that a lot of bioengineering students have potentially long distance relationships is why they are unhappy with their sex life.

All values are percentages	In a relationship	With an Imperial student
MATERIALS	67	04
EARTH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING	65	05
CIVIL ENGINEERING	60	06
PHYSICS	52	19
MATHEMATICS	52	10
LIFE SCIENCES	52	14
COMPUTING	51	07
MEDICINE	48	14
CHEMISTRY	47	07
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	46	04
BIOENGINEERING	42	02
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING	41	03
AERONAUTICS	37	02
EEE	35	02

Does Imperial negatively affect your sex life?



People who feel that Imperial does not affect their sex life have 51% of the vote. Does this mean we can definitively disprove the theory that Imperial Students are sex deprived and mad about it?

A pessimist would say no, and there's a lot of evidence for them to make their case. Perhaps unsurprisingly, this 50:50 split is almost identical to the one observed in the total number of respondents who are in a relationship. Because our survey has a bias in attracting people who are happy in their sex life, perhaps we are getting an un-representatively happy view of Imperial's sex life.

Your correspondent, however, would like to take the positive outlook on life, and certainly wouldn't want to

encourage self-fulfilling despondency. The Materials department, who have the highest sex life satisfaction despite having the lowest proportion of students in a relationship with an imperial college student, seem to have the answer. Perhaps if you're feeling a little lonely you should get an RSM wing man.

On a final note, and of importance to College and the Union, 25% of students taking our survey said that their sex life at Imperial had, or would, negatively affect their answer to the National Student Survey. Seeing as college is on a large drive at the moment to improve Imperial's currently dire standing in this metric, perhaps opening a department of English Literature, Psychology or Veterinary Medicine would help.

A comment on the survey – and how it compares to last year

Fantastically, there were twice as many respondents this year, which has allowed us to go into much more detail this time around. On the other hand, that makes it rather difficult to compare many of our analyses, as there is nothing to compare against.

An interesting point to note is the large fresher bias we had this year. Last time the majority of respondents were in their third or fourth year – attributed to the influence of Felix Editors and their social links. Any reasoning on my part as to why this is would be purely conjecture – perhaps current first years are more sexually active and hence more likely to fill out the survey.

Other than that, most of the analyses carried out both years show very similar results. This includes, however, the fact that the majority of our respondents were not virgins – which skews how much we can rely on this data representing Imperial as a whole. Barring that, it is good to see that our results this year enforce

the relevance of those from the debut survey.

There are some statistics that have varied this year, outside a sensible margin of error. However, it is with caution that we would put much emphasis on these changes. Many of the respondents from last year may very well have been in their final year, and the large percentage of first-year respondents this year obviously represents brand-new data.

One such statistic is the percentage of virgins per department. It is difficult to say why this is the case, but both the percentages and the ordering

“most of the analyses carried out both years show very similar results”

(from lowest to highest) have changed, as you can see in our centrefold.

What is interesting about this particular statistic is that most of the percentages have increased. It is nice to see that there are more virgins who are happy to say so this time around.

The survey itself also differed

this time around. Missed by some participants was the question on sex toys, but in general the ethos for this year's version was “more”. We strived for a finer granularity of data than before, and it is this – along with the increase of people willing to fill out the survey – that allows us to bring you this eight-page bonanza of analysis.

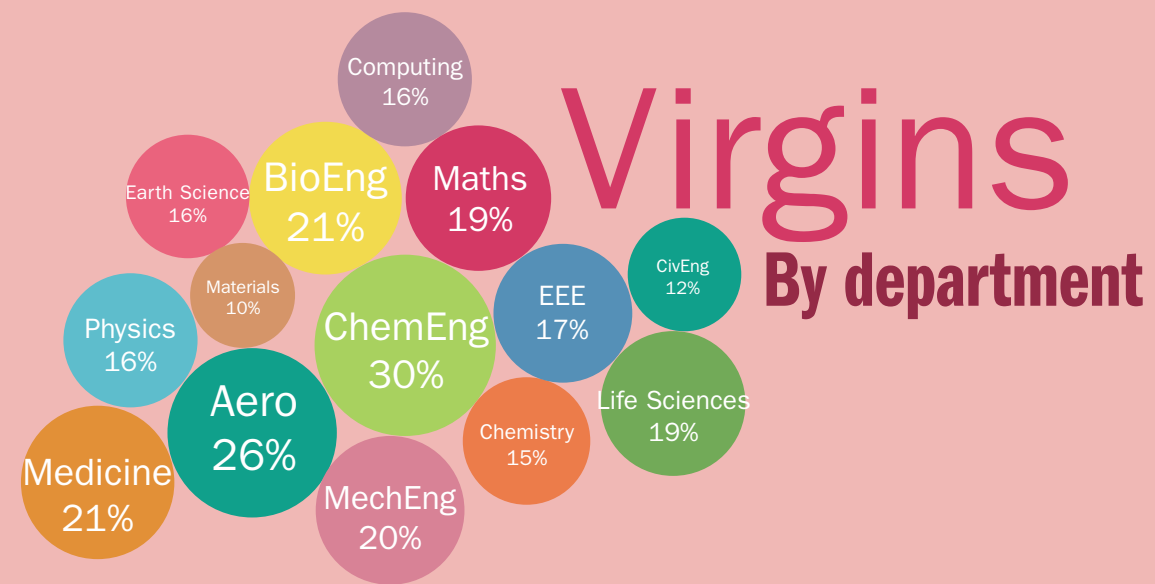
Of course, the survey can still be improved. While we are very pleased with the increased number of respondents, it is clear that there remains a trust barrier when it comes to the survey. This is something we would ideally like to overcome, and

I would stress again that the data is completely anonymous.

“The survey itself also differed this time around”

One consideration for any future editions might be to allow students to view the survey before logging in. Perhaps knowing the questions in advance – and being able to see the “do not wish to say” option – will make them feel more comfortable about participating.

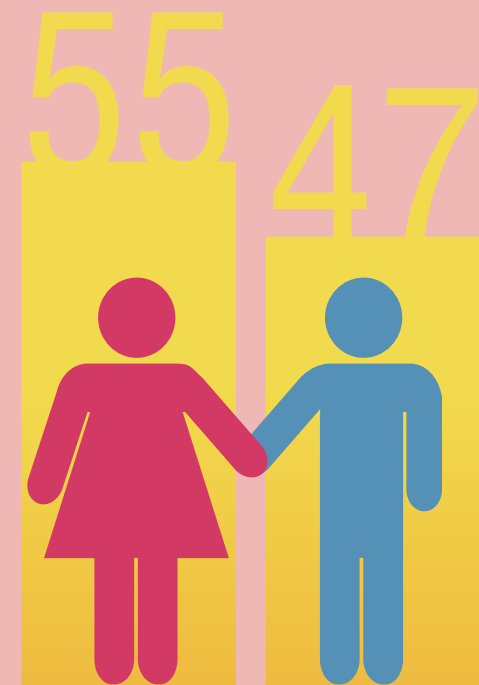
Returning to the comparison with last year, perhaps the best comparison we can make is again one of “more”. We have done our best in this pull out to provide you with the most interesting data and correlations we could find, and we hope this increased output is of as much interest to you as last year.



At what age did you lose your virginity?

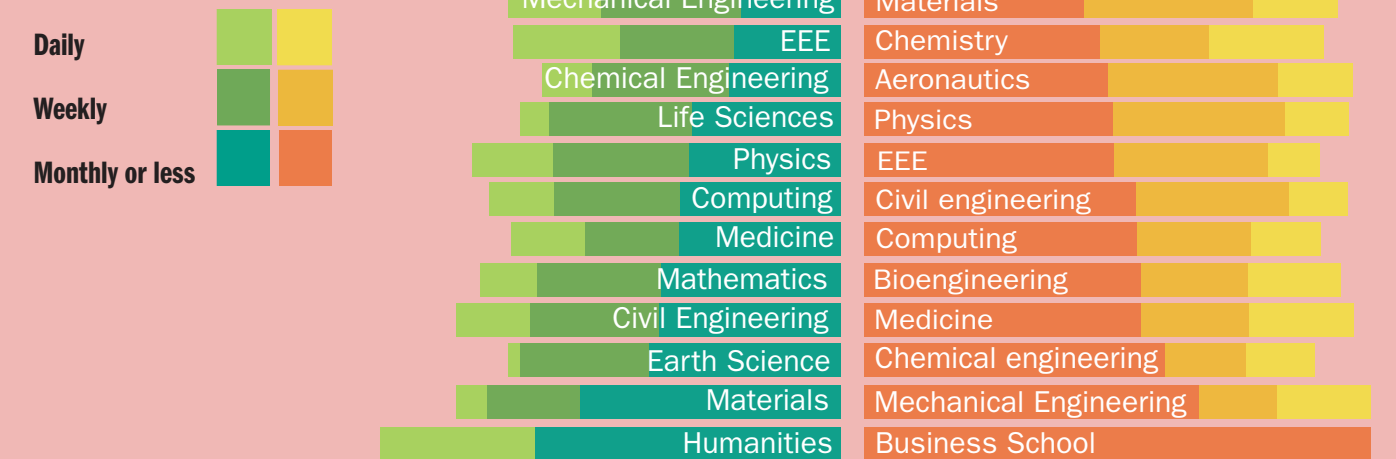


How often do you have sex? Guys vs. Girls

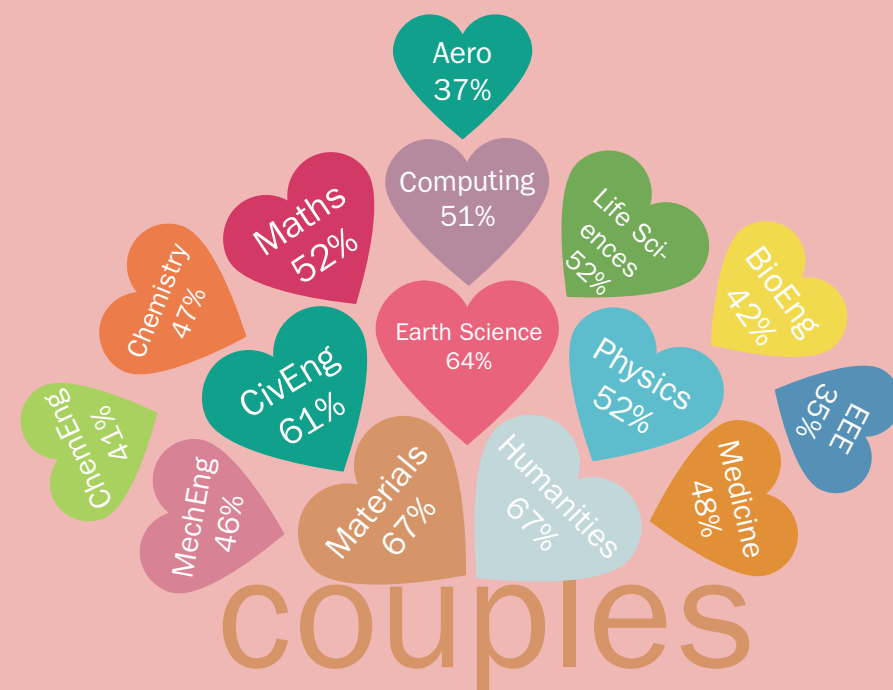


Are you in a relationship? Girls vs. Guys

How often do departments... Masturbate Have Sex

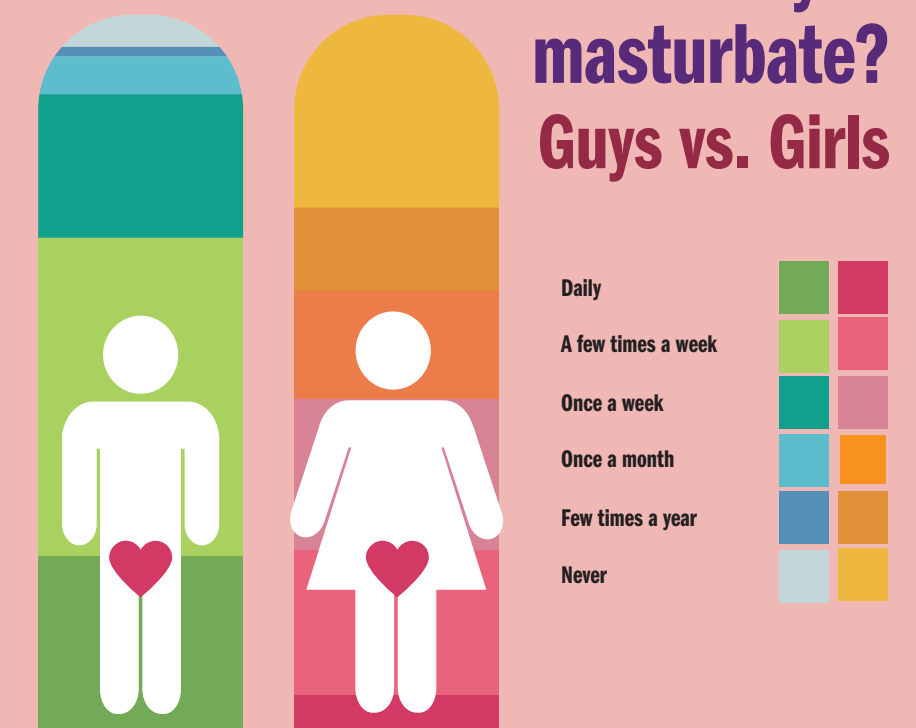


How many sexual partners have you had?



Are you in a relationship? By department

How often do you masturbate? Guys vs. Girls



FELIX SEX SURVEY 2012

The lowdown on virginity at Imperial

Coming to a total of 17.8% of respondents, the data set of people who have yet to lose their virginity is significant enough to deserve a page of its own. The discussion below is based on data gathered from 49 female and 136 male respondents.

Population Spread

Perhaps unsurprisingly, this section had more male respondents than female. The imbalance was slightly more pronounced than the rest of the survey or the population of Imperial, with a ratio of almost 3:1.

It also does not come as a surprise that those who are typically the youngest students are most likely to be virgins; this applies to almost a quarter of first-year students.

Across all age groups, a higher portion of polled males were virgins than females, with the difference becoming more pronounced for those students who have spent more time at Imperial. Notable is a more than 40% decrease in the fraction of female students that are virgins between their first and second year.

Masturbation

Contrary to what you may expect, virgins are no more likely to masturbate

frequently than their non-virgin counterparts; the difference in the fraction of students who masturbate daily to weekly is minimal. The spread in the virgins' data leaned a lot more significantly towards either extreme, with the vast majority of virgins (almost 80%) masturbating either daily to a few times a week or less than a year to never, while the non-virgins' frequencies were spread more evenly.

The gender split is not surprising. Almost 80% of male virgins masturbate daily to weekly, while more than 40% of females do so less than once a year or never.

Of interest is the effect of cultural or religious influences: of those virgins who masturbate less than once a week, more than half said that cultural and/or religious reasons influence their sex life.

Satisfaction

Following suit with the other unsurprising trends, the data shows that virgins are generally less happy with their sex lives. Almost two thirds were indifferent or unhappy about theirs, whereas the same fraction of non-virgins claim to be satisfied.

Virgins who claim that cultural and religious reasons do not affect their sex lives tended to be less happy with their lack thereof, with almost 80% being indifferent or unhappy. Conversely,



those who stated that their sex lives were affected by cultural or religious reasons tended to be satisfied despite (or perhaps due to) never having had sex, with a third responding that they were happy.

“virgins are no more likely to masturbate frequently than their non-virgin counterparts”

Finally, virgins don't seem more likely to hold a grudge; the percentage of virgins who think being at Imperial has negatively affected their sex lives is only marginally higher than

that of non-virgins. This data was only slightly polarized by gender in the case of virgins, and strongly for non-virgins (where more than 40% of males said it did, whereas more than two thirds of females disagreed). This is, again, not too surprising – those students who are sexually active are more likely to be affected by the gender ratio than those who are not.

Pornography

There was almost no discernible difference in virgins' porn habits; they seem neither more nor less inclined to indulge in pornography. Those who stated that cultural or religious reasons do not affect their sex lives tended to do so slightly more frequently, however, the differences are not large enough to

be truly significant considering the size of the data sample available.

Conclusion

It may come as a shock, but there is a distinct statistical possibility that Imperial students are, in fact, human beings. Virgins' decisions to indulge in onanism and erotica come down to individual decisions rather than consequences of their lack of experience with sexual intercourse. We hate to disappoint.

Unfortunately, your correspondent was unable to find comparable data from other universities. Perhaps one peculiarity of our cherished College is that its students are more than happy to discuss their sex life. That, or they just really like answering surveys – we'd have to poll them to find out.

Data reliability and sensitivity



Matt Allinson
Feature Editor

This year, we got twice as many respondents as last year. This was fantastic news; we were overjoyed to see that students were as excited about this survey as we were. Before we can start making concrete conclusions about the sexual characteristics of Imperial students, we need to know for sure that we have representative data of the college.

Last year, for example, we had no lesbian respondents. Before we ran the headline “No Lesbians at Imperial College,” however, we figured that the veracity of our data was probably to blame. With the increased number of respondents we are hoping for a broader spectrum

of Imperial students.

This year, there was a fresher bias in the data, with 32% of our respondents being freshers, while only 28% of the whole college population are. The 4th years were under-represented in the overall survey this year, making up 16% of the college total but only 13% of our respondents. 2nd and 3rd years were also marginally under-represented.

More noticeable in the data spread is the over- and under-representation of departments. Primarily, the over-representation of Physics students (6.9% more of our respondents were physicists than are members of college) and the

under representation of medics. (The percentage of respondents from the Medical School was 7% less than the amount of medics that make up the undergraduate body of Imperial.) The computing department were also slightly over-represented while Chem Eng, Mech Eng and EEE were slightly under-represented.

More importantly, one must consider the bias in the nature of the questionnaire that can't be measured statistically. For example, the majority of our respondents are happy with their sex lives, and are actually in a relationship. Is this representative of the average Imperial student? It's hard to say. It's feasible to imagine that a sex

survey is most likely to be filled out by someone with an interesting sex life than someone with nothing to report. So it's believable, for example, that we don't have a true representation of the number of virgins at Imperial.

Ultimately, though, the main goals of the sex survey were to be light hearted and interesting. As scientists it's in our nature to try and generate the best data we possibly can, however the very relaxed nature of the survey means we have to compromise at times.

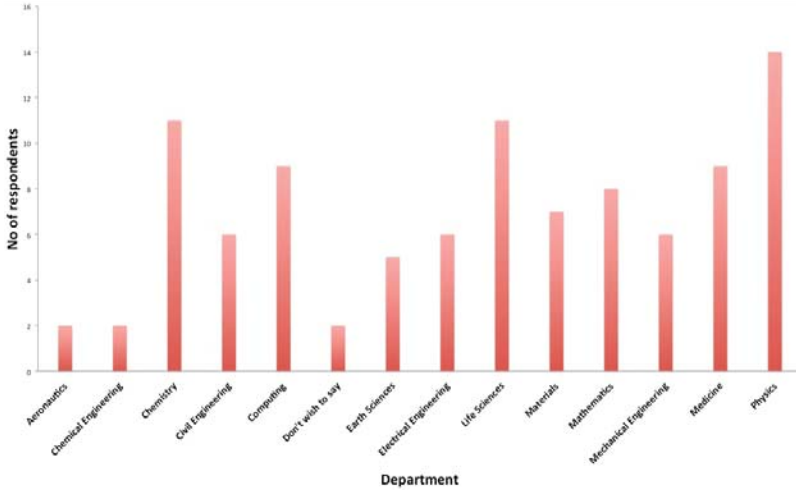
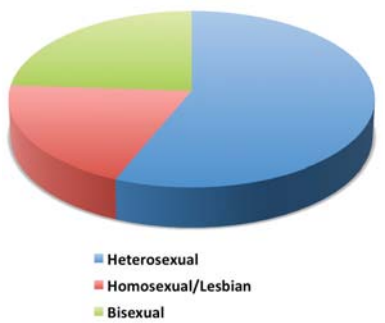
The sex survey has, noted failing aside, allowed us to paint a broad and amusing snapshot of Imperial's sex life.

Two is company, three is an attainable goal...

In total, 96 respondents said that they had been involved in a threesome. First thing to note is that 96 is divisible by three, so it is possible they were all Imperial threesomes, although we cannot confirm or deny this fact. We didn't ask about any larger groups of people, although the comments box at the end could have been used to tell us (or brag about) your experiences.

Sexuality and gender

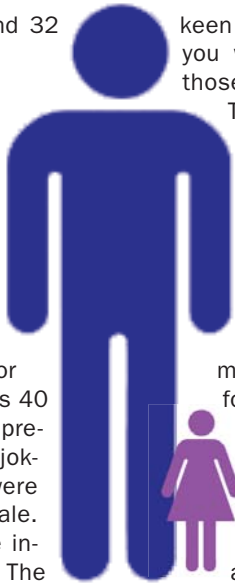
Out of those who said they had had a threesome, 54 were heterosexual, 19 were homosexual, and 23 were bisexual. This information can be seen in the pie chart below. Unfortunately, we didn't get to find out what combination of gender the threesomes were. However, we can tell you that. of the people that claimed to have been in a three-



some, 61 were male and 32 were female.

Asking for threesomes

In terms of asking for threesomes: well, let's just say, not everyone got their wish. 136 people admitted to asking for a threesome. That leaves 40 people hastily trying to pretend that they were only joking. Of the 136, 103 were male and 32 were female. This can be seen in the infographic on the right. The



been mathematicians amongst you will be able to spot that those numbers don't add up. That's because of the "don't wish to say" option that was available in all the questions. However, the statistics do clearly show that men were more willing to ask for a threesome, or, at very least, more willing to admit to Felix that they asked for a threesome.

Been asked

When it comes to being asked, it seemed a lot of

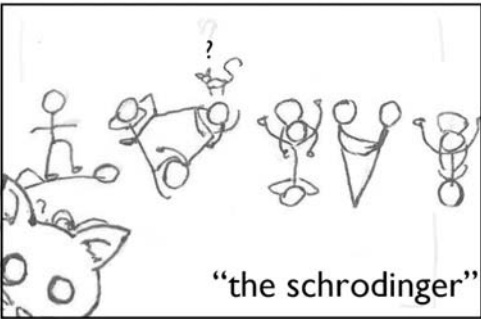
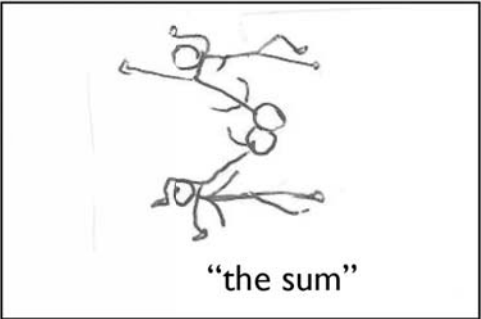
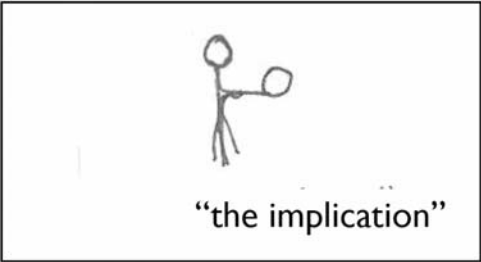
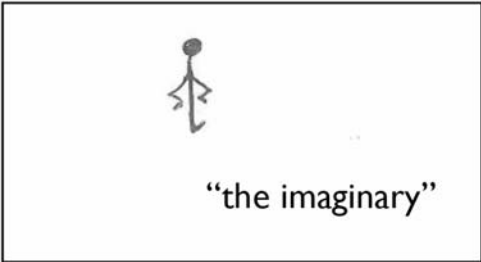
people have. In fact, way more have been asked than have asked. 256 were found to have been asked for a threesome. Again, looking at the number that actually followed through, it seems there were a lot of awkward silences. The split this time was much more even. In fact, more men were asked than women. 131 men, compared to 121 women, said that they'd been asked, with the remaining 4 not wishing to disclose their gender.

Breakdown by subject

The subject chart speaks for itself really. This is starting to feel like the oddest lab report in history. If I turn this into my supervisor, would this count as progress for science? Yeah, fine, I'll do that. It turns out Physics is the most prone to threesomes, or lying. 14 people said that they had participated in a threesome. Life Science and Chemistry are joint second. Possibly a combination of the two.



THE NEW KAMASUTRA



How this affects your welfare



Nic Massie
Deputy President
(Welfare)

I love talking about sex: sex is one of my favourite subjects. I think the sex survey is excellent, because it brings a topic that is often taboo and kept quiet in the Anglo Saxon world to very bright daylight, and I think that's a wonderful thing. For example, the fact that some people have over 30 sex toys is okay, and it's also good for people to know that it's okay. For people who are reticent about getting their very first sex toy are encouraged and normalised and made to know that it's not that weird. People's attitudes towards sex can have a massive impact on their lives. Some use sex to boost their self esteems, which can be

dangerous, whilst others can try to use it to hold on to their partners, which obviously leads to a separate set of complications. Sex should never be used as a tool, though unfortunately it often is. A healthy attitude to sex is important, and an understanding of your rights, that it's always OK to say no, for whatever reason, is critical. If someone doesn't respect you for saying no, they definitely won't respect you for saying yes.

"... [sex is] a topic that is often taboo"

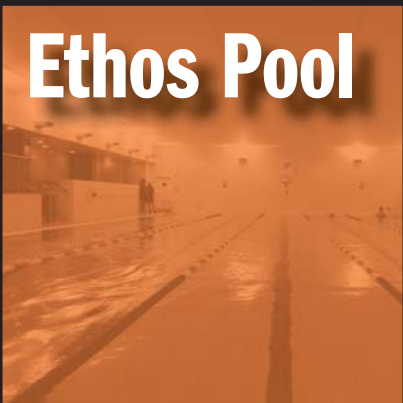


Sex Map

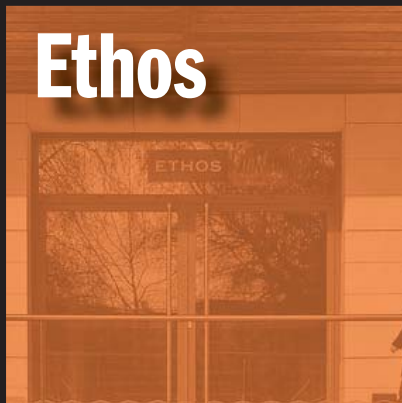


Off-Campus Locations

Ethos Pool



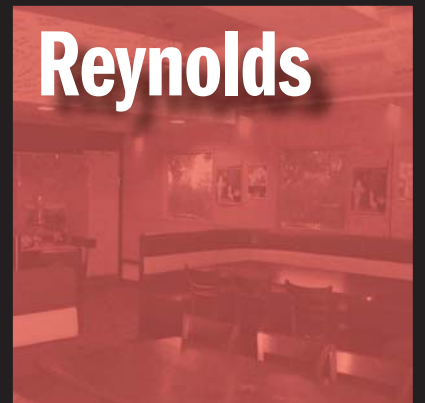
Ethos



Minibuses



Reynolds



Analysis

In one of the sections of the survey, you told us which on-campus locations you'd (allegedly) gotten lucky in. We've collated this data into a map conveniently coloured according to the number of respondents claiming to have used these locations for more than their intended purpose.

Objectively speaking, the variation

“More than 125 people seem fairly unconcerned about matters of privacy.”

between most locations can not be considered truly significant when comparing the sample size: the counts for the vast majority of locations varied between the low-to-mid 20's.

Blackett is particularly popular, with almost 30 people admitting to having had intercourse in its hallowed halls – or showers. The communal areas of Halls of Residence take the crown, however: more than 125 people seem fairly unconcerned about matters of privacy. The same is also indicated by the popularity of outdoors locations, Queen's Lawn and Prince's Gardens.

It is the library, however, that is a cause of true concern. More than 30 individuals claimed to have used this shrine of knowledge as a place of study of rather non-academic matters.

“The counts for the vast majority of locations varied between the low-to-mid 20's.”

Overall, it is clear that many respondents know little shame – or at least flexible quantities thereof. With 19% of respondents (a whopping 194) listing at least one location, a significant fraction of students seem to be getting very, very lucky. We cannot say the same for those who walk in on them.

Key

Yellow	< 20
Orange	21-24
Red	25-30
Dark Red	31-45
Dark Red	> 100

ARTS

Arts Editors: **Will Prince**
Eva Rosenthal

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Poet's Column

Just Have Some Fun by Pavitar Devgon

Lost and alone with nowhere to turn,
For I'm now without guidance, but still do I yearn
To belong and be and feel her kiss
When life was good and careless bliss

Once, time ago, could I laugh,
I used to smile and join in farce.
I used to dance and sway her hips,
I had my friends, I was transfixed

I didn't waste time when each second was pre-
cious,
I didn't forget to give and share
I always remembered everyone around me
I'll always remember that they did care

There was a time, many moons before me
When thoughtlessly I divided time,
It worked in instants when I was busy
By when alone, I fell out of rhyme

And now that I can finally think
Plan ahead and quaff this drink
All I seem to do is long
To be young again and change this song

I don't want to think or plan ahead
I want it done and follow the dead
Endlessly plodding on the track of life
Til comes the end, til falls the knife

Olgen's key is now at hand
And with it do I have a plan
I can use it to make it mine
And live in life, ah, so sublime

Goodbye to those who knew me well,
For a fresh bold shore do I set sail
With a dampened map and a rusty knife
A hidden key and forty tales.

Take this, ye, last momentum from me,
Live life fun while time with thee be.
Ne'er look back and wish undone,
Look to the fore and plan some fun!

**Felix Arts is
constantly
looking for new
poets. If you want
to see your work
appearing here, do
get in touch by email
or pay us a visit in the
Felix office.**



Going dotty for Kusama

Tate Modern has us turning Japanese and just a little mad

Laura Johnston

The disturbed mind of Yayoi Kusama is a fascinating place. An artist with links to Georgia O'Keefe, Andy Warhol and Joseph Cornell, her art is inspired by her own hallucinations and her outlook on the world. Even before arriving at the exhibition entrance, you have already been greeted by huge red blow-up balls with white polka dots, hanging from the ceiling – a small taste of things to come.

This retrospective chronologically follows Yayoi Kusama's journey to becoming Japan's best-known modern artist, the events in her life directly corresponding to the development of her art. The collection begins with her early days when, living in 1950's Japan, women were not meant to paint. The first two rooms lure you gently into Kusama's world, but while the paintings are relatively 'normal', they still feel unnerving and there is already a presence of her signature polka dots, abstractly layered over the top of nature inspired pieces.

**“It's shocking yet you sit
there paralysed...unable
to keep your eyes off it”**

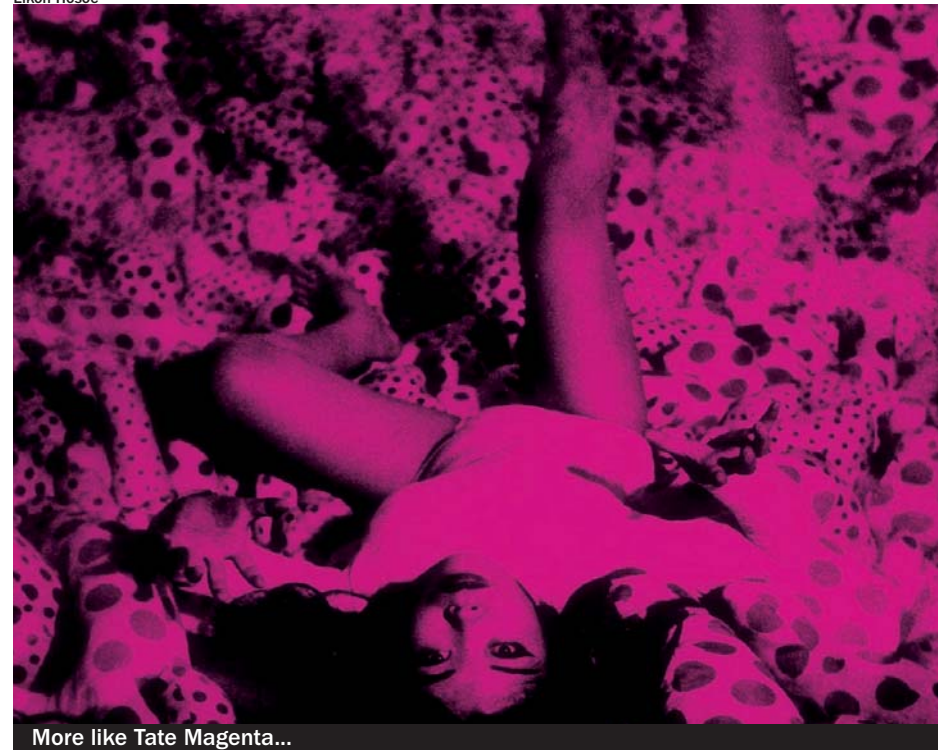
The move to New York prompted a freer style of art. When entering the third room – a large white room in which hang seven white canvases, each one with slightly varying textures and densities of a repetitive pattern – a feeling of calmness overcomes you. That is, until one closely inspects the 'Infinity Net' paintings and realises that each dot has painstakingly been done by hand; with the tens of thousands of small dots on each canvas one envisages Kusama, sat in a studio for hours at a time, in a trance-like state, painting in this obsessive and compulsive way. There are small areas of a concentrated texture and then large interrupting scrapes – parts where she's become frustrated with the monotonous process.

Stepping into room four entails leaving the real world behind you and fully submerging yourself in Yayoi Kusama's alternative Avant-Garde vision. You are confronted with some of her famous sculptures: everyday objects such as a couch, bookshelves and clothing covered in thousands of fabric penises.

As a forerunner to the development of pop art, Kusama thrived in swinging 1960's New York, where she moved to performance art, using experimental Flower Children – the hippies of the 60's – in her work. One advert for volunteers states “Happy people needed for Kusama's happening”. The participants would get naked in some of New York's public spaces, including Central Park and Brooklyn Bridge. Then, they would paint each other entirely in polka dots and dance, Kusama herself joining in.

Easily the most disturbing and impacting part of the exhibition is Kusama's 1967 experimen-

Elkoth Hosoe



More like Tate Magenta...

tal film 'Kusama's Self-Obliteration' which is shown on a large screen in a dark room. The bulk of the film follows Kusama – herself covered in polka dots – through a forest whilst she blankets everything in sight in polka dots, obsessively, like the main character of a horror movie would; a horse, trees, a lily pad in the middle of a lake and even a very unhappy cat all suffer the same fate. The film then moves to a dark room in which a group of hippies participates in a drug-fuelled, polka-dot body-paint-covered orgy. At one point the camera zooms into a man's penis as Kusama paints little blue polka dots all over it. It's shocking yet you sit there paralysed, mouth gaping, unable to keep your eyes off it. By the end, you're absolutely sympathetic with Kusama's state of mind to the point where you start feeling like you're almost going crazy yourself – covering a forest in polka dots? What a bloody good idea!

After moving back to Japan in the early 70s and voluntarily admitting herself into a psychiatric hospital some years later (where she has lived ever since) Kusama returned to sculpture and installations and, to a lesser extent, painting. One of her most famous installations, 'I'm here, but Nothing' (2000-2012), was particularly eerie: it consists of a normal front room lit only by UV lights, where everything – couches, lamps, a TV, even the flowers on the dining table – are covered in fluorescent polka dots that look almost like light beams that should disappear as you walk past the source. Playing on the TV, and unsettling the atmosphere, is a video of Kusama singing a creepy Japanese song.

The showstopper of the whole exhibition is the final installation 'Infinity Mirrored Room-Filled with the Brilliance of Light', which Kusama has created especially for the **Tate Modern**. The small dark room with mirror-covered walls and hanging lights that change

colours in different patterns is worth the entrance fee alone. Because of the darkness in the room you can't see your own reflection so it gives the impression of never-ending space with millions and millions of little multicoloured lights. It's breathtaking and you could literally waste hours away in here with the outside world a mere distant memory. This is how Yayoi Kusama sees the world and you come out feeling very privileged to have experienced it.

**“She blankets everything
in sight in polka dots...a
horse, trees, a lily-pad...”**

As the revision and exam period quickly approaches we all need a bit of escapism. When the pressure mounts I urge you to take a couple of hours out of your day to visit Kusama's world. I promise the stresses of Imperial life will be forgotten instantly. There's something incredible about her work; art critic Sir Herbert Read described her pieces as “images of strange beauty that press on our organs of perception with terrifying persistence”.

As with all **Tate** events, the exhibition is perfectly set out as a journey and you come out with a deep understanding of Kusama and her work. However, it is no coincidence that upon leaving the exhibition space you are greeted by the staircase leading straight up to the 7th floor bar – a large glass of wine is needed for recalibration into the real world.

Yayoi Kusama at **Tate Modern** until 5 June. Tickets from £10

Enron to a winner

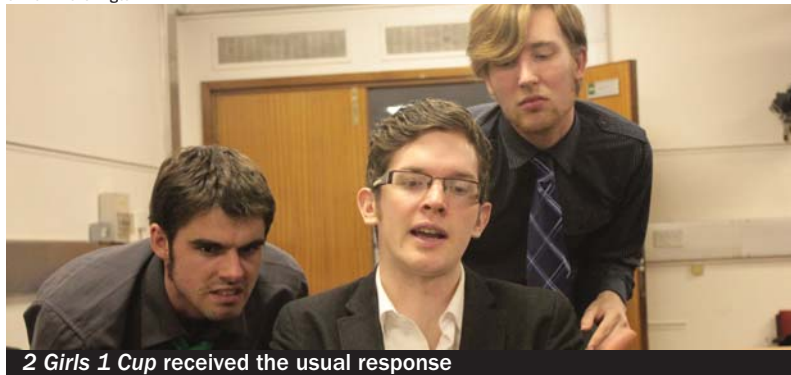
Laurence Pope

Last week I requested a gilded invitation to see DramSoc's latest spring term play ENRON before it went on stage. Whilst I did get my invite I didn't get it on gold leaf coated paper, the stingy gits. In spite of this I went to see the cast perform on Tuesday, with no idea what to expect, despite everything I'd heard about both ENRON the company and ENRON the West End production. As it turned out, I was pretty impressed.

ENRON isn't a company many people seemed to have heard of, so a brief history lesson may be required. ENRON was a large Texan energy company that went bankrupt in 2001, following a massive scandal that caused ENRON shares to drop like a stone, costing thousands of people their life savings and jobs. The play, originally written by Brit playwright Lucy Prebble, principally revolves around Jeff Skilling, ENRON's former president, and his role and attitude towards his company's fall.

As someone who can't make head or tail of the Financial Times I was a little worried when I sat down to watch. Would this be worth my time, or would I quickly regret my decision not to sit at home and watch paint dry? Thankfully it was the former. Whilst finance does inevitably crop up here or there it's not the focal point of the play – that would be the interaction and development of

Simon Worthington



the characters. Will de Renzy-Martin captures Skilling's character perfectly, projecting the image of a driven, unapologetic businessman to great effect. Alongside Skilling stand his business partners, quirky financial officer Andy Fastow (played by Al Norman) and ENRON CEO Ken Lay (Dominic Wood), as well as the fictional female executive Claudia Roe (played by the very non-fictional Grace Surman).

The play is certainly quirky, with 'two Velociraptor heads with glowing eyes' and 'a ventriloquist's dummy' being part of the props list. If that wasn't enough to entice you, an energetic dance number with ENRON traders set to remixed Matrix music should do the trick. The synchronisation between the actors is almost spot on; given another week of practice and it'll certainly be an audience pleaser.

One initial niggling concern was about the accents; as Skilling first opened his mouth I admit I expected something rather cringe worthy. Those expectations were indeed wrong. Perhaps it was a little unusual hearing such accents to begin with, but none stood out as being absolutely terrible. If anything, by the end of the play some people were sounding far too British.

Once more DramSoc manages to impress. When combined with a proper set, costumes, lights, sounds and visuals I hope that the first ever amateur production of ENRON will succeed just as well as the company it's named after.

Well, at least before its bankruptcy...

Enron shows from 7 – 10 March, **Union Concert Hall**. Tickets are on sale now: £5 students, £7 non-students.

Take your seat

Political correctness on trial

Caroline Knight

What starts off as the kind of play you think will predominantly explore the extremes to which political correctness is taken – sometimes creating just the awkwardness and indignity it hopes to avoid – changes course and ends up shining a very cynical light on the soulless and business-only orientated nature of today's entertainment business.

Signal Theatre's – a young Chicago company – *A Place at the Table's* dialogue is solid and slick. Yet these brilliant little moments are overwhelmed by the long-winded exchanges that go into much too much detail about the ins and outs of how the Biz operates – rather too much to take on board for the average punter who only watches TV... and even a bit too much for someone who works somewhere in the business (yours truly).

Good job the cast of four was vibrant enough to keep us interested, each actor a delight to watch regardless of whether the script was going through one of its momentary lulls. Christopher Tester is confident and natural as "the disabled playwright" Adam, with a great Benedict Cumberbatch-esque voice, too. Someone you would think has years of acting experience already behind him.

Kellie Batchelor – one of the company's founders – proves she can play

both the screeching chav (I last saw her as the village bicycle Cherry in Anthony Nielson's *The Night Before Christmas*), as well as the more yummy mummy end of the spectrum as Sarah the TV executive who starts off wanting to change the world with Adam's Disabled sitcom, only to turn into just another figures-obsessed media whore.

Jacob Dunn has tremendous presence and energy as Sammy. He is positively terrifying when he enters drunk, under the influence of "a litre of champagne", and gives Adam a bollocking for not taking his advice to give up trying to get his play made into what would end up as just another sell-out sitcom.

Eva Tausig as Rachel is funny as the rabbit caught in the headlights intern, and then successfully makes the transition into the cockier, more knowledgeable runner in the second half – exchanging her Alice band for a Ramones T-shirt instead.

Director Robert Wolstenholme – another of **Signal Theatre's** founders – pulls everything together wonderfully, with some great set design that includes an eye-catching gold BAFTA award replica. Tuesday 28 February was its opening night. Besides less than a handful of barely noticeable line fumbles, one would never have guessed!

A Place at the Table runs until 17 March at the **Tristan Bates Theatre**. Tickets £10.

What the playwright heard

Alex Morton

With any absurd, wildly fantastic or outrageous anecdote about the world beyond our experiences, it is all too easy to dismiss it as an urban myth. The three men in their make-shift lounge dance between light-hearted, ludicrous and downright disturbingly macabre tales, and it doesn't matter whether the tales being told are true or not. The audience is absorbed and captivated by their delivery, as much as the content. In fact it just so happens that most of these anecdotes are, at least in part, true.

What I Heard About the World is more than just the black box studio being the modern analogue to the minstrel. The manner in which the stories are told matters as much their content. Amusing idiosyncrasy and a touch of light-hearted humour is used to defuse the grim and an air of gravitas and sincerity to disarm the hilarious and outright bizarre. With this, interest never wavers and the edge is taken off the initial reaction and with the deliberately imprecise retelling of the

stories, a more open-minded approach can be taken with reflecting on how the world and societies we aren't familiar with are perceived. We are encouraged to reflect upon the airplane hijacker's grasp of the economic practices of the industry – there's a place where you can rent demonstrators to be angry on your behalf, the option to confess your sins and a massacre with its own theme tune (courtesy of a karaoke-loving General).

"An arm of gravitas and sincerity to disarm"

These are just a selection of the stories that Alexander Kelly, Chris Thorpe and Jorge Andrade take from their research-engine 'Story Map' and truly bring them to life.

If a flaw had to be found in what is a thoroughly thought-provoking produc-

tion, it would be that despite the thought provoking nature of the tales told, there is very little structure holding everything together. This in itself isn't a bad thing. What is slightly disappointing is that the nuances that arise from the consequences of what happens aren't properly explored. There is extra depth that could be teased out in a way which wouldn't compromise the atmosphere of being left to make our own interpretations.

Leaving the theatre, the initial sensations of wonder and naïve curiosity begin to be replaced with more sombre thoughts of the serious consequences and implications of what was told. What is definitely apparent though is that despite the fact that the more you learn about the world, there is that almost daunting realisation that there is so much more that you will never witness or experience. Somehow it all feels a bit closer than it did before.

What I Heard About the World is showing at the **Soho Theatre** until 3 March.

Nicholas Pomeroy



The Bafta winner for best supported actor goes to...

ARTS

Arts Editors: **Will Prince**
Eva Rosenthal

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Poet's Column

The Purist by Ogden Nash

When people aren't asking question
They're making suggestions
And when they're not doing one of those
They're either looking over your shoulder or step-
ping on your toes
And then as if that weren't enough to annoy you
They employ you.
Anybody at leisure
Incurs everybody's displeasure.
It seems to be very irking
To people at work to see other people not working,
So they tell you that work is wonderful medicine,
Just look at Firestone and Ford and Edison,
And they lecture you till they're out of breath or
something
And then if you don't succumb they starve you to
death or something.
All of which results in a nasty quirk:
That if you don't want to work you have to work
to earn enough money so that you won't have to
work.

Ogden Nash (1902 - 1971) was an American poet. He wrote mostly light verse and he only attended Harvard University for one year (dropped out – in case you're getting any ideas).



I-Night

International night, coined I-Night, has been ongoing for more than a decade. A colourful variety show, originally a haven for international students to express their various traditions on stage has grown into a major event in Imperial's calendar and is the largest of its kind in the College.

The event takes place in the **Great Hall of Imperial College** London and has proved to be a successful channel for the cultural vibrancy within the College time and time again. Some favourites are the Japanese society's 'anime-style' pantomime and Cypriot's society's cultural dance and comedic sketches. Unsurprisingly, the laughter and harmonious atmosphere produced by I-night has invited participating groups beyond the overseas societies including Juggling, Belly Dancing society and Wushu.

Taking place in the **Great Hall**, Tuesday 6 March, £10. Tickets available at www.union.ic.ac.uk/osc/ Free refreshments included!

Great Expectations?

Joseph Kaupp on Dickens and his (perhaps misunderstood) views on the Industrial Revolution



Not exactly an upbeat revolution

The Dickens exhibition at the **Museum of London** contrives a fair representation of the city in the 19th century, allowing us to walk the very streets that Dickens himself traversed, and through which he invented a score of enduring characters that relate to readers even today. London of the mid-1800s is more than just the backdrop of Dickens' stories. It is a central character itself in his works, rhythmically vacillating between protagonist and antagonist. As the exhibition guides us through the chronology of the author's work, we cannot help but bear witness to the dramatic transformations of London life. From *Sketches by Boz* to *Our Mutual Friend*, the city matures just as much as its revered biographer. Among the characters and alongside the plot-lines, we find ourselves in the midst of the Industrial Revolution.

In one particular exhibit, we are informed – by virtue of some anonymous scholar – that Dickens was optimistic about the type of society that industrialization could usher in. It is explained that he held great hope for the potential benefits that technological advancement offered society. This is in stark contrast to many other scholastic writings about Dickens' attitude towards industrialization. Many academics cite *Oliver Twist* and *Hard Times* (among others) as unmistakable condemnations of the shifting society. But these – perhaps prematurely – fuse Dickens' views with those who outright opposed industrialization and the hellfire and brimstone perceptions of the type of world that innovations in productive capacity would bring. (Such apocalyptic

attitudes are perhaps most vividly allegorized in J.R.R. Tolkien's descriptions of Mordor).

Although his work frequently spotlights the cruel indifference of modern life, we too are made known of Dickens' resilient hope for the future. He was even once referred to as a "vulgar optimist." Despite this apparent contradiction, we can be certain of one thing: sordid or sublime, Dickens managed to illustrate his surroundings with a unique vitality. The stale pubs, debauched gin houses and wretched pawn shops were all painted with a peculiar stroke of charm that was at once full of squalor and liveliness – something which seems to have been a prevailing characteristic of 19th century London.

"...We bear witness to the dramatic transformations of London life"

So, how can his optimism be reconciled with the apparent wrongs about which Dickens wrote? Consider Adam Smith in *The Wealth of Nations*:

"The violence and injustice of the rulers of mankind is an ancient evil, for which, I am afraid, the nature of human affairs can scarce admit of a remedy. But the mean rapacity, the monopolizing spirit of merchants and manufacturers who neither are, nor ought to be, the rulers of mankind, though it, perhaps, cannot be corrected, may very easily be prevented

from disturbing the tranquility of anybody but themselves."

It is perhaps wrong to say that Dickens outright opposed industrialization and the productive innovations it spawned. But his aversion towards the "mean rapacity" and heartless greed of the owners of production and their cruelty – especially towards children – is unmistakable. *Bleak House* and capture especially well Dickens' reservations for many of the contemptible practices that prevailed during industrial times. It may have been his intention to prevent the merchants and manufacturers from "disturbing the tranquility of anybody but themselves," although to say that Dickens opposed industrialization in itself may be painting with too broad a brush. Conversely, to claim that Dickens was optimistic about modernity, full stop, neglects a great many reservations I suspect he had about the changing times – amongst them the changing face of his beloved city. This was perhaps a more certain and inevitable effect of industrialisation. In fact, it is interesting to read Dickens' thoughts on one innovation in particular – the railroad. Dickens was said to have been at two minds about the railroad system. He submitted to their facilitation of modern obligations, but he also feared that they would break apart neighbourhoods and families, attributes of the communal spirit about which he often wrote.

His reservations about the metamorphoses that London was undergoing are apparent. On one hand, there is the Dickens who was hopeful for the potential benefits of industrialization. On the other hand, there is the Dickens who saw its potential side effects: both the

ARTS

avarice of the monopolising spirit, and the gradual extinction of many of the cherished charms of the city (some of which are now on display in the exhibition). Although in part a boon to society, industrialization had its drawbacks—it threatened the quaint, but susceptible character of the city that Dickens so admired.

There is a theme of resistance weaved throughout the history of innovation. Google the societal context of a given breakthrough innovation and you will most likely find some sort of backlash. A dramatic example of resistance to change is the scientific dark ages, when thinkers and innovators were burned at the stake for rattling the comfortable world-view of society (and, of course, for threatening the reallocation of power). But less extreme examples abound, such as the resistance to the spinning jenny, or to Darwin's theory of evolution.

So, we return again to our question: how do we explain Dickens' mixed-

feelings about the changes taking place in his era? Ben Franklin said upon ratifying the constitution: "there are several parts...about which I do not at present approve, but I am not sure I shall never approve them." My suspicion is that Dickens had a similar ambivalence towards the innovations of his day—hopeful for the future, but hesitant about marching without reflection into a brave new world.

"How do we explain Dickens' mixed feelings about the changes taking place...?"

Today we similarly must wonder about the seeds of change being sown by the information revolution. What are the trade-offs associated with a "better"

society? The Kindle is a brilliant improvement—economically and environmentally—to the age-old book; however, it also means the extinction of notes in the margins, and small second hand bookshops—such things that, by untold powers, manage to transport us back in time to another place, another age.

Woody Allen's latest film *Midnight in Paris* deals with a similar theme. Gil, the protagonist, has romantic fantasies of Paris in the 1920's. He envisions narrow alleyways and small cafes humming with jazz and rife with musicians, artists and writers from all around the world. Allen calls it golden age thinking. Gil struggles with the trade-off between the charm of the past and the utility of the future. Paris of the past has Maxim's, streetcars, and candle-lit alleyways, but what they don't have is e-mail, electricity, and antibiotics. Since the advent of the information revolution we have seen the birth of the Internet, the television, the phone, the mobile phone, the hands-free phone, Skype,

the iPod, YouTube, cars that can park themselves, and—arguably more significantly—a score of new vaccines. We've reached Mars and even managed to increase the average life expectancy to nearly 80 years in most developed countries.

However, the sustainability of the

"(Dickens) was hesitant about marching without reflection into a brave new world"

things that matter to us is inevitably questioned by innovation. These are different things for different people. For me it is vinyl records and old cinemas. For my father it is the Sunday edition of the morning newspaper. For my grandmother I suspect it has something to do

with the cordial chitchat between her and the postman. But these are only incidental charms on an individual scale. What about those larger things that matter so much to so many? Is religion sustainable in the face of scientific discovery? When subjected to the rigor of the scientific method, do the foundations on which so many faiths are based maintain their integrity? How about those whose doctrines specifically preclude the possibility of evolution—an idea whose certainty is imminent? How about our privacy? Yes, we will probably get healthier and live longer. Root canals, prostate exams and other unsavory medical probings will become less uncomfortable. Our world is getting better, but we have to wonder, what are the trade-offs? If only Dickens were here to give his view of our own changing modern times.

The Dickens Exhibition at the **Museum of London** is on display until June 2012.

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Music Editors: **Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto** **Mark England**
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Kadhim's totally hot album of the week



Perfume Genius
Put Your Back N 2 It
 Matador
 2012

I saw **Perfume Genius** in November 2010; I hated him. “Whoa there!”, I hear you cry – hot coffee spitting from your mouths in shock. Don’t be too hasty, don’t turn the page, don’t ‘Command + T’ away: there’s redemption at the end of this article.

He was playing at the beautiful Cecil Sharp House in Camden. It’s a regal building first opened in 1930 and the home of the English Folkdance and Song Society. My friend had invited me believing that Perfume Genius would be, in his words, “right down my street”. I used to spend a lot of time on folk road, with the likes of **Laura Marling** and **Mumford & Sons**, so he had good reason to trust in his judgement. Unfortunately he hadn’t realised that I’d converted the road into a shared space full of electronic ambient music – Perfume Genius’ wistful piano laments fell onto disinterested ears. I left the gig fully enjoying explaining to my friend that “nah man, just not into that kind of thing as much anymore”.

The memory of that night quickly disappeared from my mind, until last week. I was scrambling around for a suitable ‘Album of the Week’ after I was told that **Burial’s** new three-track EP “didn’t count as an album”. (I still recommend you check it out – it’s called *Kindred*). Thus I came across *Put Your Back N 2 It* on Pitchfork’s website. When the first note struck me, and his hurt-drenched voice emerged, I felt winded.

Memories of Cecil Sharp House flooded to the front of my mind. Of course the songs on this album, Mike Hadreas’ second, are not the same that he performed then – but what at the time felt obnoxious has now grown into such careful and unimpeachable sensitivity.

Perfume Genius writes unashamedly introspective music. He sings, with a voice heavy with heartache, lyrics like “Hold my hand, I am afraid. Please pray for me, When I am away”. But I urge you not to dismiss it as I was so foolish to do at Cecil Sharp House. Pay attention and you’ll find that this isn’t whinging – it’s an exploration of his inner-self. You feel like you’re walking through the dark caverns of his heart, shining your flash light at the cave-drawings on the walls – not knowing exactly how you came to that spot and where you’ll emerge into the light again.

Well, I suppose that’s enough metaphor for one week – take your time with this one, choose the right time to listen to it.

If you think my use of metaphor was a bit over the top this week, tweet “Let’s have less of the fancy flower arrangements next week!” @kadhimshubber. Alternatively, tweet a virtual hug @perfumegenius, and let him know it’ll all be ok, one day.

St. Vincent woos Shepherd’s Bush

Stuart Masson left all starry-eyed by Annie Clark’s stunning performance

I am 110% in love with Annie Clark, of **St. Vincent**. That means I could back-track 10% and still be completely in love with her. The woman knows her way around a guitar and what more do you need? The live tone is sensational, probably the best I’ve ever heard, and it suits her manic little riffs absolutely perfectly. The solos (and there are plenty) seem essential to the message of the songs instead of the normal ego-inflating wankery. The atmosphere of it ebbs and flows and it never gets close to dull. The rest of the band does their job, but it is all about Annie Clark. Tonight’s gig is her biggest ever UK headline show but that doesn’t seem to faze her. She runs the stage. Her whole performance is just captivating. After one song I noticed the drummer picking up drums, but I have absolutely no idea how they were knocked over, because I couldn’t take my eyes off Annie Clark.

The setlist is complete gold. A front three of ‘Surgeon’, ‘Cheerleader’ and ‘Chloe in the Afternoon’ is just unstoppable, and the huge grin they produce never leaves my face throughout the show. ‘Actor Out of Work’ has always been a masterpiece and that doesn’t change in the live arena, whilst she manages to make me fall in love with a track I was never a big fan of in ‘Dilettante’. Cruel is probably her poppiest moment, and it’s great fun live. I was hum-

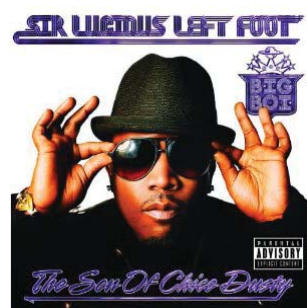


Sun, absence of concrete and chewing gum. Clearly not Shepherd’s Bush

ming the chorus riff most of the way home. ‘Strange Mercy’ is the best song about police brutality in the history of the Universe (sorry **N.W.A.**) and ‘Marrow’, whilst introduced as a ‘dance song’, is her at her most angry and intense and works really well. The encore is fantastic. ‘The Party’ stripped down to just one

synth and vocals is beautiful, and then ‘Your Lips Are Red’. It’s probably my favourite St. Vincent track on record, and the rearranged live version is even better. It’s a fantastic end to a fantastic gig. It’s by far the best gig I’ve been to this year, and I really can’t imagine it being beaten. Top notch.

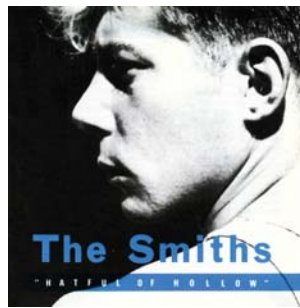
Reviewed in 60 Seconds



Big Boi
Sir Lucious Left Foot: The Son of Chico Dusty

Big Boi, one half of **Outkast**, released this, his debut solo effort in 2010 after half a decade of work. *Sir Lucious Left Foot* includes an impressive array of featuring artists from **Jamie Foxx** to **Gucci Mane** but the real strength of this album lies in the sheer variety and invention in the production. Mixing electro with funk while sampling everything from classical choral pieces to grungy guitar riffs means every track is a total diversion from the last. While this works for most numbers, some (notably ‘General Patton’) end up just too obscure. Overall though this is a great hip hop album that is a lot of fun.

Simon Hunter



The Smiths
Hatful of Hollow

Although this was the first **The Smiths** album I heard, due mainly to my Dad’s obsession with **Genesis** and **Phil Collins**, it wasn’t until I was quite old when I listened to this 1984 release. To those of you who have heard or own this album perhaps its existence was brought back to your attention by the Christmas John Lewis advert with its cover of ‘Please Please, Let Me Get What I Want’ as it was with me. It is an amazing selection box of songs showing some of The Smiths’ best work. Anyway if you know this album well give it back its place on your iPod. If you haven’t, give it a listen – try track four.

Angus Tenison-Collins

Got an album you want to shout about?

Send us a short review with a rating and we’ll be your soapbox

Be sure not to miss...
John Cage

Cafe Oto
 Sunday 11 March

Not quite a resurrection; the **Scratch Orchestra** will be performing his opus of chance composition and Fluxus actions, *Song Books*. Each song scored in terms of when “a note” should be played and for how long.

Attendees will take home a free libretto of the entire score, also including ruminations on a number of Cage’s favourite topics including anarchy and mushrooms.

Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto

MUSIC

Kurt Vile, we like your style

Mohammad Mirza and Mark England have a blast in Camden

We are going to start this review with a bold statement: **Kurt Vile's** *Smoke Rings for my Halo* was the hottest album of 2011. No matter how poignant **PJ Harvey's** *Let England Shake* was or how acclaimed the **Horror's** *Skying* was, no-one can convince us otherwise. It was with this in mind that we headed to Koko on 21 February for the NME awards with high expectations in mind.

Vile is a chilled out motherfucker, a true troubadour. Born on the streets of Philadelphia, he has lived a hectic life up until now, originally being part of **The War On Drugs** followed by constant touring with his backing band **The Violators**. Tuneful yet sporadic, his music combines the spirited choruses of **Springsteen** with lo-fi leanings of **Sonic Youth**. But you can't just limit the man's genius with a couple of influences. His unique sound, helped by his hypnotising, yet engaging, care-free voice, allows you to fully appreciate the powerful imagery his lyrics conjure up.

As we walked in to the bustling venue, we heard the senile caterwaulings of a distressed busker. "The support band is terrible," we simultaneously thought. Yet to our horror, it was the man we had been looking forward to

seeing for the past two months... Vile. After a few songs, though, we were drawn in by his "I-don't-give-a-shit" stoner attitude; an approach we found refreshing, with all the try-hards like **Adele** smothering the charts. His set-list drew heavily from his latest release but it was good to hear some of his older material.

One of the highlights of the night was a cover of Springsteen's 'Downbound Train' which simply blew us away. We found that Kurt Vile excels at stripped-back mellow numbers. The intimacy of 'Peeping Tom' was a prime example with soft, soothing yet dark undertones ringing throughout the performance. There was a feeling that the lyrics were lost beneath the fuzzy reverb at the venue and not to mention his lovely flowing locks. However, he surpassed himself with standout tracks 'Smoke Ring For My Halo' and 'Jesus Fever' which both blossomed into two magnificent moments. Noise regulations forced him to cut his encore short and to our dismay, he did not get the time to play 'Society Is My Friend', a song our drug* addled brains were aching to hear. He did reconcile this by sticking around and talking to fans afterwards.

So we came to enjoy Vile's performance as the night progressed. He did not come off well at first but gradually we fell in love with the enormous presence of his voice and his apa-



Kurt Vile, what a man!

thetic reaction to the crowd (highlighted by his response to hecklers, "I've already played that song, man"). We truly admired the psychedelic ramblings of this stoner-tinged troubadour and would recommend the latest album to anyone craving a modern classic. What a man!

**Music journalism is our unspecified drug here.*

Azealia Banks

Alex Ramadan

Since the first time I saw the video for 'L8R' in 2010, I have been riding the **Azealia Banks** train pretty hard, falling more in love with her with each new song that she releases. It was therefore only natural that when I got wind of her doing a show at Heaven I jumped at the opportunity and convinced one of my housemates to come along for the ride.

We arrived at Heaven having missed all the support acts and were greeted by the sight of free candyfloss, but not even this distracted us

from our goal, we only had eyes for Azealia.

In true testament to our careful planning, not long after our arrival the lights dimmed and the sweet sounds of **The Prodigy** alerted us that Miss Banks would soon be on stage. A brief foray into **Basement Jaxx** and then there she was wearing a chinese style silk dress and wielding a confetti cannon.

Her show was quite literally an attack on the senses. Azealia's rapping was on-point being loud, fast and fluid. Ignore the video of her performing at Karl Lagerfeld's house, this girl is good live, and unlike many better known rappers she had no need for a hype man. There was a pretty awesome light show, a costume change and when she performed '212' balloons poured down from the ceiling of Heaven.

There was one downside, however, to this



Flailing hand guns or peace signs?

otherwise awesome gig. It's length. To call the gig brief would be an understatement. Azealia's set lasted less about 30 minutes. Admittedly for an artist who is yet to release their debut album this is not entirely unexpected, I just wanted more.

Rama's Hip-Hop Tune of the Week

Tyga ft. Nas & Wale
'King and Queens'

Until very recently my knowledge of **Tyga** extended to the facts that he was behind the less than impressive song 'Coconut Juice' and that he had a fair few tattoos. I certainly would not have expected him to be releasing a track with two of the greatest lyricists in hip-hop.

You can therefore imagine my surprise when the song 'King and Queens', surfaced featuring guest verses from **Wale** and **Nas**. With soulful production by **The Olympicks**, Tyga and Wale both present solid verses. The song is rumoured to be off his forthcoming album *Careless World*. The highlight of the track for me, however, is the tight verse by a resurgent Nas. If he maintains his current run of quality output, *Life is Good* should be very exciting.

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

Lesson 8: Blakfish



This week we'll be taking a detour into the mysterious world of so-called "math-core". Math-core is to post-hardcore what Imperial is to UCL: the same, just a bit cleverer. There are countless math-core bands that have left their mark on post-hardcore music but the one I'm reviewing this week is rather more low-key, a hidden gem from none other than Birmingham.

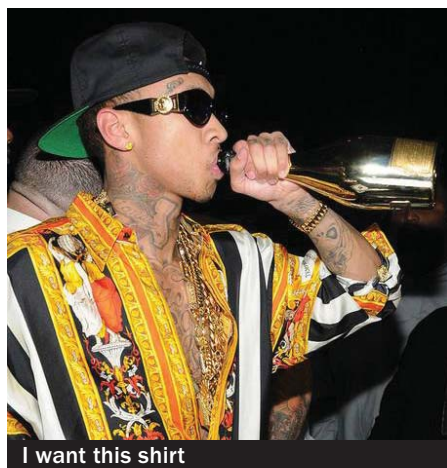
Blakfish formed in 2000 as mere schoolchildren but went on to be one of the greatest UK math-core bands of their time, even going on to support **Biffy Clyro** on a 2010 European Tour. They released various E.P.s followed by an incredible full-length during their time together. The release of their most recent E.P., *See You In Another City*, made a big impact amongst fans of UK math-core for its sarcastic yet catchy lyrics and indie/hardcore hybrid sound. This record saw their popularity rise significantly but it wasn't until the release of their debut album *Champions* that they really got a glimpse of life as a band outside the underground scene... and they didn't like it. After the release of *Champions*, Blakfish were performing at much bigger shows including Sonisphere and, as mentioned before, the 2010 Biffy Clyro tour. This increase in popularity however meant there was no time left for them to enjoy life and Blakfish ceased to exist mid-way through touring with Biffy Clyro. Nonetheless, *Champions* lives on and continues to inspire math-core fans old and new.

SYIAC and *Champions* are both comprised of songs primarily about everyday things that got on the band members' nerves like driving in London or vegetarians. This, along with the genius of the lyrics gives the tracks a strange charm, I guarantee that if you listen to their songs you will be singing along to almost every line in agreement. Their sound adds various extra dimensions to the mix with heavy riffs and roaring vocals united with upbeat choruses and melodies. Their distinctive style makes this band a definite must for angry hardcore-lovers and fans of softer indie alike. Check out the recommendations and if you like what you hear then buy the album, it's more than worth it!

Writer's Recommendations

1: Listen to 'Your Hair's Straight But Your Boyfriend Ain't'. It's basically just Blakfish moaning about fashion. Brilliant.

2: Listen to Blakfish's true Christmas anthem 'The True Meaning of Christmas'



I want this shirt

FILM

Film Editors: **John Park**
Lucy Wiles

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

We beat Meryl Streep



Streep's unlucky streak began all the way back in **1979**, when her first ever Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress was won instead by England's very own national treasure **Dame Maggie Smith** (*California Suite*), which is fair enough, since this was Streep's first time in the Oscar game and her role in *The Deer Hunter* was a rather brief one (although clearly, not at all unmemorable). But she later went on to receive her second nomination the following year for *Kramer vs. Kramer* and score her first victory. Hurrah for Meryl, in the beginning of the 80s.



Even to this day, the late **Katharine Hepburn** holds the record for the most acting Oscar wins (4), and for one of these wins she was in direct competition with Streep. Although never acknowledging the glitz of the Oscars (she never once turned up to accept the award in person), Hepburn was nevertheless highly respected for her continuously superb dedication to her craft. Her win for *On Golden Pond* in **1982**, over Streep's *The French Lieutenant's Woman* was seen as entirely justified, marking a career-crowning performance for the much-celebrated actress.



Shirley Maclaine was no Oscar-magnet either, and she had to wait for almost 25 years after her first nomination for her eventual win that came with *Terms of Endearment* in **1984**. Accepting the award, she thanked the Academy voters for finally "terminating the suspense." And it's a performance that deserves every bit of that golden statuette. Playing the protective mother in a teary family soap-opera, she single-handedly lifts the film out of its ordinary status. Certainly a much better choice for the year's winner than Streep's nominated role in *Silkwood*.



The Oscars award performances, but occasionally can bow down to long careers that have gone criminally unnoticed. This partly explains **Geraldine Page's** win for *The Trip to Bountiful*. It's not a bad performance, but perhaps not remarkable enough in its own right. For Page, nominated a whopping seven times before her win in **1986**, it was about time, but it almost feels like a consolation prize, handed out due to the actress' age and long-standing career. Either way, the Academy was clearly impressed with Page's trip than Streep's one in *Out of Africa*.



Surprise! **Cher** the pop superstar is also an actress. After she made it big in the music scene, she also ruled the screen with her energetic performances. Her most famous *Moonstruck* in which she immortalised the line "snap out of it!", won her the highly undervalued Oscar in **1988**. Looking amongst the five nominated in the category, (with Streep for *Ironweed* included) perhaps the most outstanding was Glenn Close in *Fatal Attraction*. The Academy voters clearly couldn't stomach the female villain who has made men think twice about one-night-stands.



Jodie Foster's roaring comeback as a legitimate adult star kicked off with her Oscar-winning role in *The Accused*. She was a successful child star, and like many in the industry, initially struggled to make the transition with several flimsy adult roles. But *The Accused* was the start of a new phase in this brilliant actress' career. So there is very little to be disappointed with, and yes, she did go on to beat Streep's performance in *A Cry in the Dark*. But in all fairness, Foster's raw portrayal of a rape victim simply outclassed all the fellow nominees in the Best Actress race of **1989**.



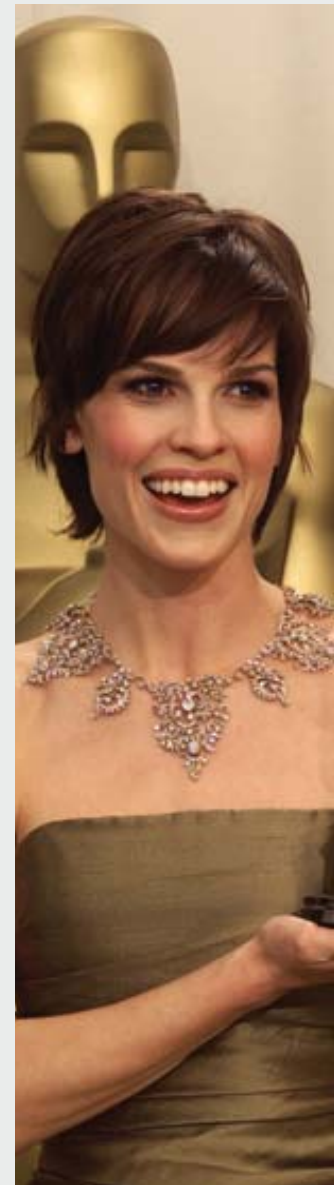
Kathy Bates was a late bloomer in the business, first getting serious recognition for a role she landed aged 40+. But it's better late than never, as her terrifying Annie Wilkes of Stephen King's *Misery*, a delusional psychopath who decides to imprison her favourite author of all time, earned her a handful of awards, including an Oscar in **1991**. Competing once again in the tough Best Actress category was Streep, perhaps in one of her weaker, lighter roles with *Postcards from the Edge*. The one thing she did prove here was that she could also belt out a tune live on stage.



There were three strong contenders in **1996**. Emma Thompson (*Sense and Sensibility*), the good old Meryl (*The Bridges of Madison County*) and the one who actually walked away with the gong, **Susan Sarandon**, for her deeply touching performance in *Dead Man Walking*. Even the convicted killer played to fierce perfection by Sean Penn was eventually moved by her warmth, and it's in Sarandon's Sister Helen that the film finds its spiritual core. The devastating finale is as painful as it is beautiful, thanks largely to the veteran actress' faultless performance.



A lot of people look back on *Shakespeare in Love* and think whether it was really worth all that hype and award love. Given the strong competition it faced from superior war films (*Saving Private Ryan*, *The Thin Red Line*), the intelligently written, wonderfully lavish costume drama was probably ever-so slightly overrated. More controversial was **Gwyneth Paltrow's** Oscar triumph in **1999**. Just by direct comparison, Streep gives a heart-breaking turn as a cancer-ridden mother in *One True Thing* whilst Paltrow plays dress-up to proudly stand on stage to act. Embarrassing.



Not Streep's finest hour this – she did take an intense crash course in learning to play the violin for *Music of the Heart* which did get her an Oscar nomination and rightfully, nothing further happened. **2000** was instead a dramatic showdown between Annette Bening (*American Beauty*) and **Hilary Swank** (*Boys Don't Cry*). Playing a darker, more twisted character is always a safe bet if you want to win an Oscar, as evidenced by Swank's win for playing a girl playing a boy (or was it the other way around?). Either way, bravo Hilary, for a truly remarkable performance.

ACADEMY AWARDS SPECIAL

Congratulations are in order for Meryl Streep - she finally, FINALLY has that third Oscar. She had to wait almost thirty years and pitch in countless outstanding performances to win last Sunday for *The Iron Lady*. Before this she had lost a staggering 14 times. **Felix Film** looks at previous Academy Award winners responsible for Streep's losing streak

FILM

We beat Streep too

Film Editors: **John Park**
Lucy Wiles

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Chicago was the dominating force to be reckoned with in **2003**, scooping all the important prizes. **Catherine Zeta-Jones**, in her sultry, foot-stomping interpretation of a vaudeville singer turned murderess in a jail block, won Best Supporting Actress, besting out a range of other talented performers of that year, one of whom was the unlucky Meryl in *Adaptation*. A quirky, hugely fun character in an equally quirky and eccentric film based on a screenplay by Charlie Kaufman, Streep was a bold and unique drugged up author – yes, this woman can really do anything.



Nothing was going to stop **Helen Mirren** in a year that was dominated by her outstanding performance in *The Queen*. **2007** saw the worthy star scooping up dozens and dozens of prestigious awards for playing Elizabeth II. And although Streep managed to make the Academy's nominations along with Mirren as the deliciously evil Miranda Priestly in *The Devil Wears Prada*, there was just no slowing down the momentum *The Queen* carried with it ever since its ecstatic opening night response at the Venice Film Festival where Mirren was awarded the Volpi Cup.



Producers of *The Reader* must have been a nervous wreck when their cheeky attempt to slide **Kate Winslet** into the less competitive Best Supporting Actress category failed and saw the English actress placed in the same tight race as Streep in **2009**. It was an intense performance from Streep too, playing the ferocious Sister Aloysius in *Doubt* potentially ruining Winslet's chances of winning her first ever Oscar. Although *The Reader* hardly marks the highest point achieved by Winslet, it is nonetheless a haunting performance, something that should not have gone unnoticed.



Julie & Julia should have been Meryl's third Oscar. But no... The Academy voters, loving new winners and doing almost anything to avoid repeat winners, managed to find the **2010** Best Actress winner in *The Blind Side*'s **Sandra Bullock**. It's one of Bullock's most appealing performances, but in no way exceptional. The film itself enjoyed a strong box office, which must be the reason why this shallow, feel-good sports movie was even considered. The hype around this started late, but was a powerful one, something that carried through all the way to the end.



The many faces of Meryl Streep

ACADEMY AWARDS SPECIAL

Silent film *The Artist* and 3D film *Hugo* dominate on Oscar night

Bess Donoghue

The 84th Annual Academy Awards ceremony was presented Sunday night, hosted by comedian and actor Billy Crystal. After last year's rather disappointing ceremony with hosts Anne Hathaway and James Franco, in an attempt to reach a younger demographic, Crystal returned to host the ceremony for the ninth time.

Crystal delivered a classy and traditional monologue, presenting some of the night's nominees through his sense of musicality. Prior to the monologue was a skit of Crystal debuting in some of the year's popular films, including

The Descendants, in which he shared a memorable and comedic kiss with actor George Clooney.

The awards received this year were in some ways predictable, but also exciting to witness. In regards to many of the artistic categories, Martin Scorsese's *Hugo* took the cake, winning Best Cinematography, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Art Direction. Scorsese was a popular name throughout the night as many of the winners showed great appreciation for the opportunity to work on the film.

Of course, the other important winner for the night was *The Artist*, not only winning Best Picture, but also

Director, Actor, Original Score, and Costume Design. This marked the first silent film to win the Best Picture category since the late 1920s, when sound started to first appear in motion pictures.

The correlation between *Hugo* and *The Artist* is striking, as both celebrate the history and advancement of cinema. While one reflects on the history of cinema, the other reenacts early movie-making. With these two films as leaders for the night, the Academy clearly valued the opportunity to celebrate the history of film, and the importance of cinema across the globe.



Nine-time host Billy Crystal

Legs, laughs, and Oscar highlights



Guess who?

The real head-turner, attention-grabber and scene-stealer of the night was not J-Lo's wardrobe malfunction, but the owner of that right leg pictured on the left. It belongs to none other than Angelina Jolie who, in her black dress with a slit down the (you guessed it) right side, was the talking point of Hollywood.

Her leg has since become so famous that it has its own Twitter page, dubbed @angiesrightleg, with cheeky little Tweets "You have to admit I'm one hell of a leg" and "Left leg and I talked - everything's cool. Next Oscars, she gets the slit" already attracting more than 38,000 followers. Albert Brooks wasn't impressed by the huge public interest in the leg, writing "I know genuinely funny people who have like 5k followers and this has 25k @AngiesRightLeg #end-ofthefworld"

Presenting the Best Adapted Screenplay award, Jolie attracted laughter from the audience standing in her awkward pose that showed off her leg.



Christopher Plummer, Octavia Spencer, Meryl Streep, Jean Dujardin

The awards given to *The Help*'s Octavia Spencer (Best Supporting Actress), and *Beginners*' Christopher Plummer (Best Supporting Actor,) were also well-received when both actors received a standing ovation from the audience.

While many of the speeches made by winners throughout the night were predictable, full of many thank-yous and dedications, Meryl Streep's speech after a surprise win for Best Actress after her performance in *The Iron Lady*, was one to go down in the books.

"I look out here and I see all my life before my eyes, my old friends, my new friends, and really, this is such a great honor. But the thing that counts the most with me is the friendships and the love, and the sheer joy we have shared making movies together," Streep said, thanking colleagues from her entire career.

The award for Best Actor was predictably given to Jean Dujardin (*The Artist*).



The Descendants and *Midnight in Paris*, each had a brief moment of fame, winning Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Original Screenplay respectively. Both of these awards were completely deserving of their praise.

After a struggle to grab the interest of viewers the last couple of years, the 84th Oscars may have created a positive future for the show. Billy Crystal kept the night running smoothly with his humorous skits, and all the attendees were charismatic and optimistic. Although comedy was present throughout the night, it was a classy and elegant event that when all mixed together, wonderfully celebrated another year of film.

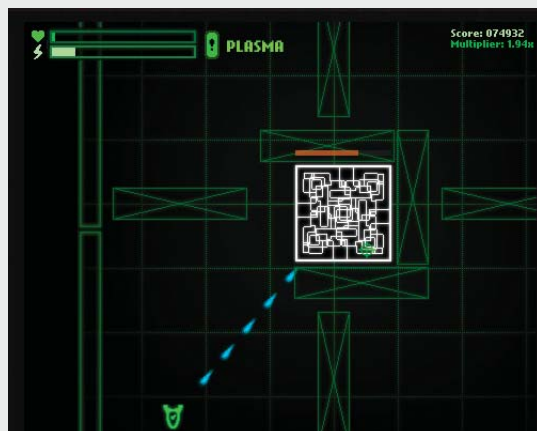
GAMES

Free Web Games

Despite last week's absence, Felix Games hasn't been cancelled, so put away the balloons and party poppers. Instead, drown your sorrows with these 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/>

Untouchable

<http://www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/590784>



Untouchable is very reminiscent of bullet hell games, except with a slightly more manageable amount of bullets and a variety of projectiles. And slowdown ability. And powerups. OK, so it's more of a retro-shooter than anything.

Still, *Untouchable* is pretty fun to play. You pilot a small bullet-spewing ship against a variety of pixelated enemies. By the second boss you have to manage your limited slowdown power carefully, with bullets and all sorts of missiles and electrical strikes flying all over the place. Frustrating fun for all the family.

That is, if they're into online flash games of course.

New York Shark

<http://www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/590705>



OH SWEET MERCY IT'S A SHARK OH GODS OH GODS OH GODS SAVE M-

Calm down, it's only a virtual shark. But hell, this virtual shark can cause obscene amounts of property and personal damage.

Live the dream of every red-blooded male and pilot a shark rampaging through New York city, causing death and destruction everywhere you go. Bring down planes, smash cruise liners to pieces, behead King Kong (seriously) and make canoeists your midday snack.

It's fun, simple, crazy action and well worth at least one playthrough.

A Questionable Lifestyle

Cave Johnson advises on how to get the best possible start as an evil scientist

Hello teary-eyed ladies, Cave Johnson here.

I know many of you were worried when I didn't write in over the last fortnight — Caroline is still sorting through all the letters stained with your tears. No need to apologise — I know you missed me. I would miss me too. Who wouldn't?

Continuing with the series of answering any and all of your questions, Jimmy writes: "I've had the ambition to start an institute of questionable (evil) science. Research would be focused on chemical weapons, zombie plagues, mutations, tentacle grafts, hegemonic nanoswarms, 20,000-ton tanks with laser cannons, and giant stompy robots. As an experienced science practitioner, how would you go about setting up such an institution?"



"I can see the family resemblance - he's got Aunt Gertrude's plasmids"

"Unless you've got a PhD people won't fear you. Mr Doom sounds like a kindergarten teacher. A foreign one"

There's no point in beating around the bush Jimmy — you want to be an evil scientist. We all do at some point, but it takes guts and determination to admit it and get the ball rolling — we could do with an ambitious boy like you in the lab. Actually, scratch that, I could do with a hundred of you — lately, the boys in the lab haven't been working as hard as usual. I think they're planning a mutiny. Well, that or they're getting more stupid. We've got a new cloning process in the works, so if you don't mind, we'll take some of your blood, fiddle with your DNA and stick it in some bacteria. With any luck, we'll get a duplicate version of your fine self. We've found that upon creation of your twin, one of you is undoubtedly evil, but we've yet to work out which one. The legal suits say I also need to mention that the side effects may include having an arch-nemesis, a clichéd storyline for the rest of your life and being incarcerated for crimes your clones committed. The boys in the lab spent days calculating that if you have a single clone and one of you is evil, then if we make 99 clones, 50 of you are going to be evil. At the moment we're not exactly sure what it is that makes people evil, but we think it might be something to do with facial hair. A surprising number of our clones come grown with a variety of goatees and long, thin moustaches. Anyway, if we find a way to separate the good ones from the evil ones, then we'll ship your evil clones to you, free of charge.

I could start with mentioning that those of you who are studying at Imperial but intend to join the plague of bankers that impede scien-

tific progress, are the real evil scientists, but I won't. I'm above that. Unlike them, I could also mention those people over at Black Mesa who steal ideas and government funding, but then they're not even scientists. They're more akin to fish. Plus, I've a court order that says I must stop slandering those treacherous thug-fish. Like hell I will!

Anyway, on your quest towards international domination, there's nothing more important than location, location, location. You can't have a proper base of operations living in your parent's basement. Before rushing out to your local real estate agents however, there are a few things I would bear in mind when looking for an inner sanctum. You want a site where you can test in peace and quiet, have very few witnesses, and yet still be able to 'invite' test subjects to your facilities. In addition to this, it sounds like a lot of your projects will take up a lot of space. I would look to invest in a large space, adjoining your initial domain, which you can move into when needed.

Once you've started your testing and have some working prototypes, I would suggest that you go and make a name for yourself. Go and cause a few disappearances around your local towns, start rumours, or test some of your projects on the unsuspecting public. The suits over in legal are now telling me to point out that I am in no way speaking from experience. Potential buyers, and those you hold to ransom won't take you seriously until you have proven yourself. If the label of evil scientist ruffles your feathers, then another well-trodden route is that of the good old-fashioned American super-villain. You'll have to come up with a name, and maybe even a catchphrase to get those gals swooning over you. And remember, unless you've got a PhD, in your line of work, people won't fear you. Mr Doom sounds like a kindergarten teacher. A foreign one.

There's not much point having a nice place with enough room for an army of whooping terriers when you're stranded in the middle

of nowhere. Like Canada. Without adequate transport links or abundant natural resources, your plans will grind to a halt. Late colleagues of mine, who had the same aspirations as you do, ended up moving to Siberia to conduct research into using bears as cavalry. They ended up running out of toothpaste, which led to widespread rioting and the release of grizzly bears with IQs over 150 into the wild. Obviously.

Something most young people don't seem to think about either are the operating costs of running an empire, as it were. Having a lair that's able to exploit natural resources is key to keeping your giant stompy robots stomping, be it geothermal or hamster-wheel energy, large amounts of precious metals or even a city of mole-men. Whatever you don't have to pay for makes your life easier.

Finally, there's the motivation to see your vision come true. There's no such thing as aiming too high when it comes to science, only being afraid of missing your target. We normally have to keep on playing pre-recorded messages for our test subjects to keep them motivated to reach the end. It looks like you want to see this through till the end, so at least I don't have to mail you the pre-recorded tapes of me shouting at you to get on with it.

Any problems with those projects of yours, and I'll be glad to help. As always, if you have any questions for me, then Caroline is waiting to take your telegrams. Cave out.

Questions for Cave?

Do you have any questions for Mr Johnson? If so, email them onto 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.**

Books Editor: **Maciej Matuszewski**books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

BOOKS

How to be a woman

Samuel Furse takes a critical look at a highly praised feminist work

I had been resisting reading this book for a while. Partly because I have no desire to lose the meat and two veg, and partly because publishers are canny enough to know their target audience and design the cover accordingly. Having worked for a bookshop as an undergraduate I also know that the covers are as much of a fiction as the text they are attached to. But, on a day between Christmas and New Year, having lost all my dignity by finding myself both in a Waterstone's and in a provincial town, I seized the opportunity to satisfy my curiosity.

And I was pleased I did. There were enough words I do not know for me to listen, without alienating me. There were jokes on every page and it was engaging. There is an observational and articulate person behind the text who is able to get their point across cleanly. It was a good read, I was hooked. Perhaps this is why I found a lot of the book so disappointing. I did not want to dislike it, but as it got so decidedly off-centre in places, I could not help but feel let down.

I suppose what I should do is go and write a book myself, and have it published, and use that as my response. But of course the world does not work like that. This book is a product, to be sold. And this one has been, and even to me. Does it help that the writer is both pretty and intelligent? Probably. But it is also because it is what people want. So, I make the following arguments, in the style of the author herself,

both as a list and with some trepidation:

1) Sexism is not what you describe, Caitlin Moran. Yes there are wankers who leer suggestively and tastelessly and their behaviour undermines a woman's self-confidence, and of course that is about as acceptable as arbitrarily chopping bits off people. However, it has almost nothing to do with the recipient of such behaviour. The reason it happens is because there is a stupid person (in this case, a man) who does not understand what happens to him

"I did not want to dislike it, but ... I could not help but feel let down"

when he sees a woman. All he can do is respond in a way that suggests quite strongly he has no idea what he looks like. Added to which, the reason why telling men, or even making it unacceptable for them to behave like that, has not worked, is because the underlying problem has not been solved. There will always be wankers.

2) Men do not have all the power or all the influence. The world just does not work like that, and probably never has. Needless to say it is only comparatively recently that women have been in posts or offices that are considered powerful, but that is really not the same

thing as becoming more influential.

3) I have often thought that women are judged more on how they look than men are, and men are judged more on what they have than women are. There are a variety of tedious arguments about whether this is nature or nurture, but one point that is rarely made is that we are judged on what it is we care about: I am judged as a scientist because I want to be one. There would be no point in judging someone as a florist if they say they want to be a mechanical engineer. That is why a woman might take longer choosing a frock for a night out and her boyfriend will not really give a hoot. And all he wants from her shoes is for them to be pavement-worthy. Equally, men often do just the same thing about money, influence or intellectual standing. They may become obsessed with a promotion and pay rise, the latter of maybe not even 10% of their current salary. If they get it, their other half is not going to love them more. But he will still go for that promotion and the extra cash, he is motivated for it. Both women and men have similarly false connections, it does not make either gender worth less.

What is lacking from this book is an understanding of human nature, of what is alike about men and women. If this were injected it would help tell us how things may be judged intellectually. Blaming men, sorry, "the patriarchy" for one's own perceived shortcomings, and in an off-centre way, achieves nothing. But, as I say, it is a book made for selling.



Caitlin Moran is an acclaimed broadcaster and columnist at *The Times*

Some of the best science fiction you'll ever read

A look back at *Ender's Game* – Orson Scott Card's first great masterpiece

Maciej Matuszewski

Orson Scott Card's *Ender's Game* is widely regarded as one of the greatest classics of the science fiction genre but I didn't get round to reading it until last summer. Having read it, I have to say that the hype was fully justified and that it is, in fact, one of the best science fiction books that I have ever read. While it may be a cliché to say so, I was really hooked from the first page and was left wanting more after I'd finished.

The novel focuses on Andrew 'Ender' Wiggin, the result of a selective breeding programme which means that, despite his preteen age at the start of the book, he is exceptionally mature and intelligent.

It follows his training at the orbital Battle School as he is trained to lead Earth's International Fleet against invasion from the insectoid Formics, which have attempted to attack the planet twice before.

The universe of the novel is richly detailed and believable. While the main focus of the book is on Ender, the political situation on Earth, explored through both the actions of Ender's equally intelligent siblings, Peter and Valentine, and the interactions of his superior at the Battle School, Colonel Graff, with his colleagues, forms a fascinating backdrop that is vital in understanding why Ender is put through the trials that he is.

While it may be a small point, I particularly liked the Greek titles

of Hegemon, used for the leader of the unified Earth, and Strategos and Polemarch, used for the leaders of the International Fleet.

"Ender's Game is, in many ways, close to perfect"

While this doesn't really affect the story it does give the book an interesting and unusual flavour and does somewhat help it to stand out.

The real achievement of *Ender's Game*, however, are its characters. Every one of the main players in

the book is very well developed. It's saying something that I'm hard pressed to call anybody in the book, even the initially sinister Graff, a villain. In the end the novel comes off as an exploration of the tragic consequences that can result from a lack of communication. I'd like to say more, but I'm afraid that it would spoil the fantastic ending.

I have heard some complain that they find it hard to believe that a character as young as Ender could be so skilled and intelligent. I personally don't find this too much of a problem – I'm perfectly happy to accept the explanation of the selective breeding programme. I also think that this is a part of the story that is very necessary, with the youth element

being crucial to the theme of lost innocence having as much of an impact as it does. I certainly don't think that many seasoned science fiction readers will have much trouble suspending their disbelief on this point.

I would thoroughly encourage everyone to read this book. It is, in many ways close to perfect. Indeed after reading it I held off from looking at any of the sequels or prequels, knowing how much weaker sequels can devalue a brilliant original (I'm looking at you, *Dune*). I have, however, just picked up *Speaker for the Dead*, the next book in the series. I've heard good things about it and the fact is that even if it's a fraction of the quality of *Ender's Game*, it's going to be a brilliant book.

FOOD

Food Editors: **Anastasia Eleftheriou**
Michael Krestas

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Thai Pot Noodle

Have you ever wondered whether you could re-create a homemade pot noodle, but actually make it taste edible? This version tastes so amazingly fresh and vibrant, plus the bowl of authentic Thai flavours is virtually fat-free too!



Well, it beats regular Pot Noodle

Ingredients - Serves 2

Vegetable stock (750ml)
Chunk of fresh ginger
½ red chilli
3 cloves of garlic
1 stick of lemon grass
2 Kaffir lime leaves
Handful of button mushrooms
Two bunches of rice noodles
Raw king prawns (150g)
2 tbsp fish sauce
1 lime
1 pak choi
Bunch of fresh coriander
Couple of spring onions

Make up the vegetable stock using boiling water and a stock cube if you don't have fresh. Peel and finely chop or grate the garlic, ginger and chilli. Fry them all in a shot of vegetable oil in the bottom of a large pan for 1 minute or so to release their flavours and aromas. Pour in the warmed vegetable stock and bring to a gentle simmer. Bruise the lemon grass with the back of a knife and add to the soup with the lime leaves. Slice the mushrooms thinly and add these to the simmering stock. Dump the noodles, fish sauce and juice of the lime, stir well and simmer for about 3 minutes. Add the prawns and stir through with the pak choi, coriander and spring onions, simmering for just a minute or so more. Splash in a glug of coconut milk as you serve if you prefer (optional).

Watch a video of the dish being prepared at **www.sortedfood.com/thaipotnoodle**

Ben Ebrell, Head Chef at Sorted

Take part in Imperial Fairtrade Food Awards, by sending your recipe to food.felix@imperial.ac.uk in order to instantly win free entry to a Fairtrade event and to have the chance of winning a £30 voucher and two cookbooks!

The Big Fat Real Greek!

Anastasia Eleftheriou
Michael Krestas

Many of you may feel a bit unwilling to visit a Greek restaurant because of Greece's absurd and unjustifiable dealing of its politico-economic crisis. Besides, it is a fact, especially for those studying economics, that a country so small as Greece and with such a small and limited economy, can easily drag down healthy(?) economies such as America's, the UK's and Europe's. However, we suggest you try to forget for a moment that all our problems' source is Greece and enjoy some delicious food!

The Real Greek is a modern restaurant chain found across London. It's the ideal place for you and your friends to enjoy tasteful Greek and Mediterranean dishes in a relaxed environment.

We haven't visited a Greek restaurant for a long time and our anticipation to taste everything on the menu was great. We decided very quickly though; "please bring us the standards". As a starter we had the traditional Tzatziki – Real Greek is the only restaurant in London that makes it with garlic instead of mint, as we were told by the waiter – and Babaganoush, a light and fragrant blend of smoked aubergine, tahini and garlic, served with the necessary Greek flatbread.

As soon as the king of all dishes, the Greek Souvlaki, arrived, we were super-excited. It arrived accompanied with grilled Cypriot

fluidstyle.co.uk



A glass of Ouzo and plenty of mezes make the crisis fade away

Halloumi cheese, pork sausage and delicious handmade pastry parcels with creamy leek, spinach and feta filling, known as Tiropitakia. It's quite hard to explain with words, how few dishes combined with familiar music melodies and Thames waters can instantly take you back home. OK, the truth is that we simply can't be unbiased in this review. But it's a fact that the restaurant was literally packed, by people from various nationalities, who seemed to enjoy it as much as we did.

You might be wondering why we haven't mentioned the Greek Salad yet. Well, we both think that this is a dish everyone should have on their table. You can never fully enjoy a Greek meal without having that unmistakable combination of tomato, cucumber, feta cheese, olives, olive oil and oregano in your plate. After all, it's healthy!

For more information, visit: **www.therealgreek.com**

Vegan Diary: Red Thai Tofu and dining out

Clare Cheng
Hannah Cox

After a successful week of our vegan challenge we decided that a treat was in order and headed off to nearby Wholefoods' SAF to experience eating out in a vegan restaurant. We were excited to find out what, with a bit of time and effort, can be achieved with the ingredients at our disposal.

The answer? Quite a lot, however, it all comes at a price; it's fair to say that eating vegan food in Kensington is certainly not helping us to save money. We started off with the cashew nut based "cheese trio" which were flavoured with mixed herbs, olives and peppers. They tasted like a mild cream cheese and we were pretty impressed by how yummy they were. With the "cheeses" came pear chutney, grain crackers and a balsamic vinegar dressing and all combined together were very satisfying. It was even possible to forget the absence of meat and dairy.

Onto our mains, we ordered a vegan "Pad Thai" and the pasta of the day. The latter of the two with its wild mushroom and paprika sauce was a meal that no meat eater would notice as being vegan. The sauce was creamy (a quality we've found to be lacking in much vegan food) and rich. The "Pad Thai" on the other

hand was a completely different story. Firstly it was entirely composed of raw vegetables, enoki mushrooms and a few cashew nuts in a tahini based sauce so was definitely not worth the nearly £15 price tag that it came with. In addition its raw nature and the absence of the main ingredients of noodles, chicken and prawns meant that by no stretch of the imagination should it have been called a "Pad Thai". However, if we left this to one side the meal was refreshing and light and certainly left you with a feeling of being healthy (if not entirely satisfied).

We walked away from the meal with significantly thinner wallets and a mild sense of satisfaction (although a steak would probably have been tastier!)

You can sponsor Hannah and Clare at **uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/goingvegan**

Vegan recipe: Red Thai Tofu

Ingredients

1 block extra-firm tofu (14 ounces), cubed
1 tsp oil
1 red bell pepper, seeded and sliced thinly
½ cup sliced shallots

4 cloves garlic, minced
1 tbsp minced fresh ginger
1 tbsp Thai red curry paste
½ cup water
2 tbsp soya sauce
1 tbsp light agave nectar/pure maple syrup
15 leaves fresh Thai basil

1. Fry tofu in hot oil for 10 minutes, flipping so the sides are browned. Midway through cooking, drizzle with 2 tsp soya sauce and toss to coat. Once cooked set aside.
2. Sauté the red pepper, shallots, garlic and ginger in oil for 5 minutes.
3. Meanwhile mix together the curry paste, water, remaining soya sauce and the agave/maple syrup in a bowl.
4. Add the tofu and sauce mixture back to the pan and cook for a further 5 minutes. Then add the Thai basil, toss to wilt and serve.



It's getting better every week!

Album Launch MISSING ANDY



Friday 09 March
20:00 - 02:00

Only
£3.50

Free entry before 20:00

Drink Offers
from 20:00
in Metric

House spirit
& mixer – £2.20
Vodka Redbull – £3.00
Jägerbomb – £3.30

Missing Andy are a five-piece indie rock act that are riding on the crest of a wave, having performed at the renowned SXSW festival alongside the likes of The Wombats, Pigeon Detectives and Lightspeed Champion. The band have also been asked to be part of a soundtrack to the forthcoming Hollywood movie Chain Letter (featuring Nikki Read of Twilight fame).

With tracks such as The Way We're Made it's easy to see why Missing Andy are gaining so much attention. The song is a stunning combination of driving rhythms, potent riffs, soaring instrumentation and an infectious mix of spoken and crooned vocals.

Missing Andy are launching their new Album "Generation Silenced." Come join us for an amazing night of live music from a truly outstanding up and coming British band. Metric's one-to-watch!

Tonight!
STICK IT ON!

Bonkers



Metric is giving you the chance to be the DJ, letting you select the tunes you want to hear. All you need to do is bring along your favourite tracks on an iPod, Smart Phone or CD. If our DJ likes it (and we haven't already played it) we will stick it on!

Friday 02 March
20:00 - 02:00

Only
£3.50
Free entry before 20:00

Drinks
Offers

From 20:00
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Wednesday nights

Stella 4% £2.00
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Friday nights

House spirit & mixer £2.20
Vodka Redbull £3.00
Jägerbomb £3.30



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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

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On Médecins Sans Frontières

The humanitarian organisation has a significant presence at Imperial – find out how to get involved

Kaushali Trivedi

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international humanitarian organisation that provides medical humanitarian assistance in situations of extreme need irrespective of race, religion, creed or political convictions. In the past few months, media attention has focused on the risks of delivering aid to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), after Dr. Karel Keiluhu and Philippe Havet were killed in Mogadishu, Somalia and Blanca Thiebut and Montserrat Serra were abducted in Dadaab, Kenya. Why did these four feel so passionate that they would risk their lives volunteering so far from home, what work were they doing and how can you get involved to make their dreams reality?

Firstly, let's consider the scale of the problem. A refugee is defined as someone who has crossed a national border to

flee conflict or persecution. Even if they make it no further than a camp in the neighbouring country, under the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, they have the right to protection from violence, basic humanitarian assistance and a long-term solution (remaining in the country of refuge, resettling in a third country or returning home). IDPs are those who remain within their country of origin. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has only assumed responsibility towards certain IDP groups, leaving the majority under the rule of their own governments, which are often implicated in the violence they are trying to escape. The UNHCR estimated in 2009/2010 that there were 15.4 million refugees and 27.5 million IDPs. About half come from Sudan, Iraq, Columbia, Palestine and Afghanistan. MSF works with IDPs in all these areas and

refugees in neighbouring countries as well, dealing with ongoing violence and limited or non-existent healthcare infrastructure.

These issues are also concerns in Somalia, where MSF has provided medical aid since 1991. In addition to the violence, the 2011 drought brought yet another famine, displacing an estimated 1.5 million people into the capital Mogadishu as well as neighbouring Kenya and Ethiopia (where MSF runs hospitals and health posts in refugee camps). A man mourning at his grandchild's funeral starkly illustrates this: "Over the last 3 years the farm dried up. We wanted to feed the children but there was nothing." With limited vaccine coverage, childhood infections are rife, and quickly become epidemics in crowded refugee camps. Mortality rates are 6 times "emergency levels" as a result of extreme malnutrition. In 2008 MSF

national staff performed over 700,000 outpatient consultations and admitted over 24,000 as inpatients: they treated neglected tropical disease like kala azar, malaria, tuberculosis, delivered antenatal care, performed basic surgery, gave vaccinations and administered therapeutic feeding.

Arguably this is just a drop that can never even hope to fill the ocean of need. Emergency humanitarian aid will never resolve the underlying issues. But as the former president of MSF, Dr. James Orbinski, argues, "It's not about creating a perfect future, it's about responding to another person who is suffering as a human being". An MSF surgeon in Iraq explains "over half [our surgeries] are on emergency patients [with curable conditions]. We are making a real difference". Mary, a Burundian woman whose life was saved by an emergency blood transfusion puts it more simply:

"If it weren't for MSF, my five children wouldn't have a mother".

Thank you for reading despite my reliance on numbers as evidence both for the importance of the situation and that MSF's work is significant. So how can you help make that difference? Get informed: the MSF website (<http://www.msf.org.uk/>) is full of blogs from doctors, logisticians and patients, reports giving overviews of issues and other resources. Imperial has a 'Friends Of MSF' (FOMSF) society that runs awareness events and fundraises, and if this article has interested you at all, please get in touch through Facebook (IC Friends of MSF) or email (fomsf@ic.ac.uk). Finally get fundraising: FoMSF are running a Metric night on 10 March (with an amazing line up from Lyrix Organix) and will be helping with the national FOMSF fun run on 24 March.

Imperial College London

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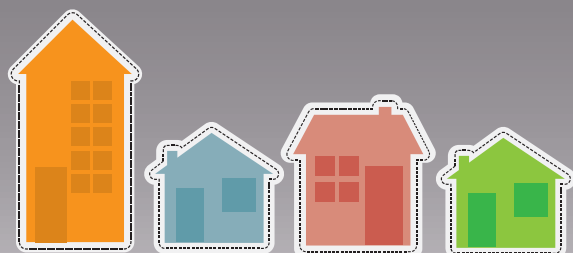
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- 16.30 Exhibition opens in the Queen's Tower Rooms
- 18.00 Talk in the Great Hall
- 19.00 Exhibition continues with
a FREE prize draw to win an iPad 2!



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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

The Life of Death

Alexander Karapetian takes to Malaysian Night 2012

I was lucky enough to buy a ticket to the Malaysian Society's MNight long before the sales rush which rendered the Saturday showing sold out. It was a two-day production held in the Great Hall, and I attended the Sunday showing. It was the first time I'd been to such an event in my three years here, and my main motivation for going was to support one of my copy editors here in Felix who was on the cast. A review simply had to follow.

I took my seat with a few friends near the front, reading the provided synopsis of *The Life Of Death*, directed by Ray-Men Chua, Alia Johari and produced by Sheela Ratnam and Wui Yang Ee. Having taken over four months to organise, the show's story was shaped as a murder mystery, following the antics of a team of cops chasing after a serial killer who called himself the Heartbreaker, preying on happy couples and leaving a heart-suited card at the scene of every crime, counting down from the King to the Ace.

It was a full house, and I wasn't sure what to expect at first. When the hosts Ahmad Mustafa and Kim Guan Yeap began their introductions, I felt like I was sitting through a lengthy array of sponsor messages and commercials, but their banter-filled, amusingly confident double act was soundly humorous and served as a satisfying warm-up.

It wasn't long before we were introduced to the police cast after a murder scene. With Clayton Qwah playing hairy – erm – Harry Kok, a hopeless romantic with a few screws loose, Carol Ann Cheah playing Dominique, an eager overachiever and Pak Tung Foong playing Sarge, their tough commander, the antics just kept coming.

The cast's acting was very natural, with a variety of jokes peppered with stereotypes for additional effect. Undertones of the hopeless romantic chase we all know about too well were also present, giving the audience a chance to empathise with the characters' bold antics. The Heartbreaker villain's introduction brought a chilling parallel to the overall mood, giving the production a power to move the audience from an uproar of raucous laughter to a sorrowful mourning in seconds.

There were moments I felt compelled to sympathise with the masked Heartbreaker character/metaphor, whose gruff voice and pain-filled backstory shared similarities with Rorschach from *Watchmen*. The fourth wall was also cleverly broken, with an unfortunate friend of mine sitting in the front row feeling the brunt of this shadowy character's voice after he stepped down from the stage and bellowed "you think

Photos by Gene Peng



It's lucky that significant arm movements are currently in fashion...



...not to mention black clothing and contrasting headbands

I'm a heartless killer, don't you?" whilst wielding a very convincing dagger.

Transitions between scenes frequently featured various dances, melding the play with a systematic and welcome exposure to culture, including a performance of *Dikir Barat*, a traditional Malay musical form, hip-hop and Stomp-like performances. Their choreography was top notch, and they managed to wedge some hefty humour in there with a troupe performing Cee-Lo Green's "Forget You" using cleverly reworked lyrics which lightly bashed other universities.

The interval saw the two avid hosts return with an extended effort to generate banter by exposing members of the audience from other universities, and my unfortunate friend in the front row was put under the spotlight again.

Their attempts to gain audience participation saw an initial reluctance to answer questions such as "which of us is sexier?" but it wasn't long before they received comments such as "neither", and the banter resumed, with the hosts taking it in their stride.

The show certainly had me in stitches at various points, with unexpected humour spontaneously tickling the audience's funny bones left, right and centre. A clever use of the Pokémon first generation battle music during a surprise Matrix-style fight scene complete with floating hit-point indicators reignited waves of nostalgia across the audience, and hearing "FIRST BLOOD!" sound at the initial hit was the icing on the cake. Such scenes appeared expertly choreographed and executed, with a strategic use of strobe lights for a time

lapse and slow motion effect making the Heartbreaker's murders that much more uneasy and convincing.

There were a few inside jokes made, with members of the cast slipping into Malaysian slang/pidgin purposefully at times which seemed to please the parts of the crowd who understood, though a translation was provided in the programme for such moments and they weren't too difficult to derive the meaning of.

The show saw a touching end, with the Heartbreaker being revealed as one of the police officers, Harry Kok, all along, his angst stemming from his failure to be loved and his strict upbringing. Abruptly referencing previous events where he accidentally put the rest of his team in danger allowed us to piece together other occurrences

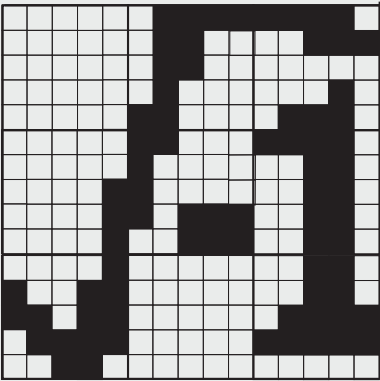
where his stupidity could be re-evaluated as malice, providing the audience with that all-important, yet disturbing, penny drop moment.

Following the show's end, Nasi Lemak was provided to every ticket holder, and although a bit spicy, I must say I really enjoyed Malaysia's national dish. At risk of turning this into a review more fitting in the Food section, I'm going to sign off noting that Malaysian Night 2012 was an extraordinary experience and easily the best show I've seen in a while due to their sheer combination of humour, emotion and vibrant culture. The Malaysians pulled off a memorable evening, taking care of its audience entirely along the way, and I'm very pleased to have attended what was easily the best show I've seen for quite some time.

PUZZLES

Last week's Solutions

Nonogram



Crosswords

QUICK(ish) - Across 1 televise 5 parade 9 orb 10 coup de grace 12 pillow talk 13 edit 15 tether 16 yearned 18 savages 20 helmet 23 earl 24 cat stevens 26 I have a dream 27 ebb 28 satire 29 spinster **Down** 1 troupe 2 la belle 3 victor hugo 4 shutter island 6 argo 7 aladdin 8 eventide 11 dolly the sheep 14 paul newman 17 ascetics 19 variant 21 element 22 isobar 25 fear

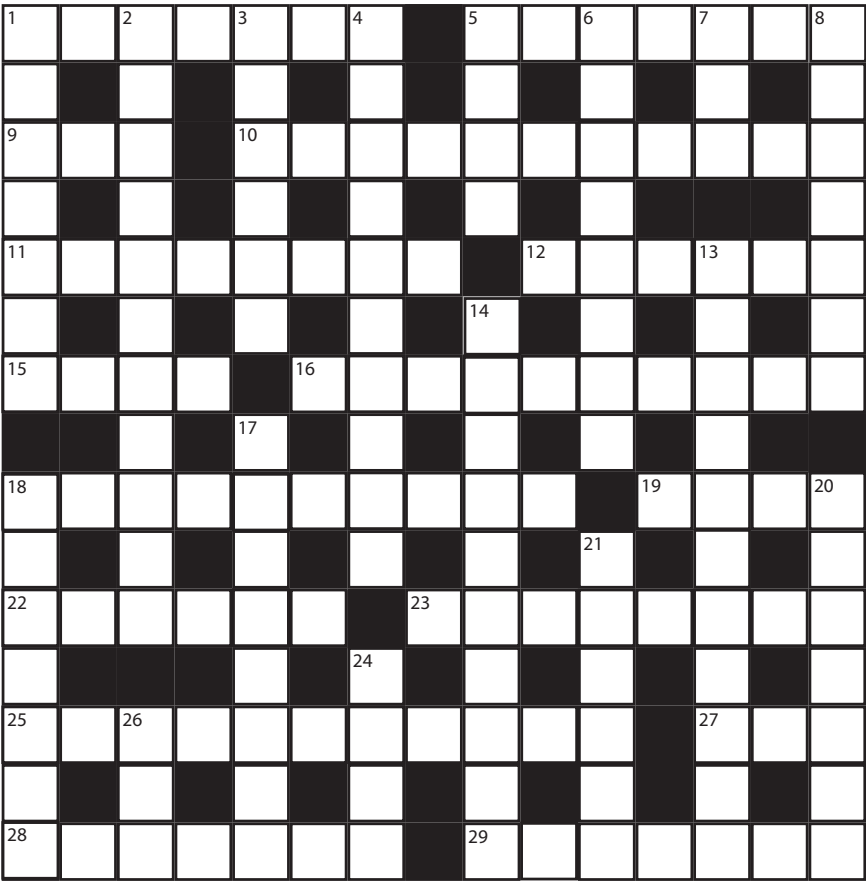
CRYPTIC - Across 1 Assisi 4 a la carte 10 stealth 11 polenta 12 Nile 13 ivory tower 15 corralled 16 rails 18 retie 19 actresses 21 round robin 23 iris 26 destiny 27 sorcery 28 esteemed 29 Sartre **Down** 1 arson 2 smell a rat 3 sale 5 lepered 6 cold turkey 7 renew 8 epacris 9 shovel 14 sage advice 15 cartridge 17 insurgent 19 acolyte 20 thirst 22 upset 24 style 25 aria

Chess

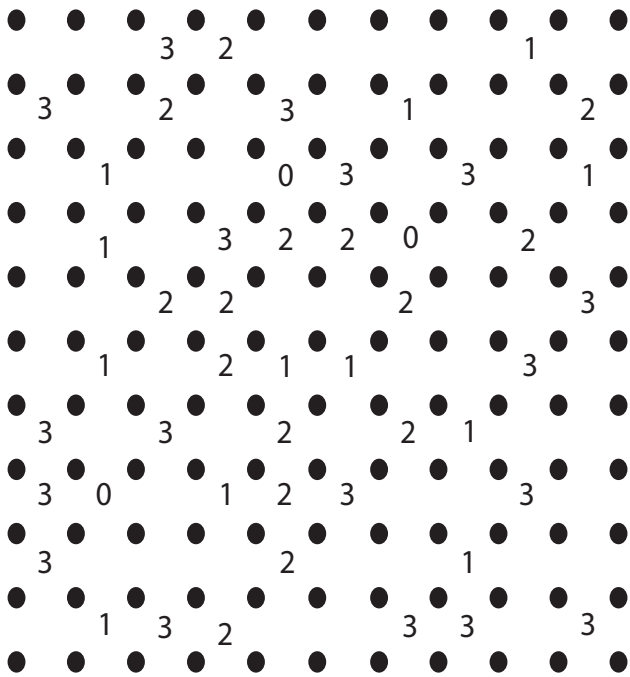
“The two critical lines are as follows, 1. d4! (hemming the black king in): 1...Kg4 2. e4+ Kh4 3. g3# 1...Kh5 2. Qd3!! Kg4 3. Qh3# Note that NO other first moves work for white.”

Quick(ish) Crossword

- Across**
1. Harmless psychological pill (7)
5. Man who practices witchcraft (7)
9. Acid in all living cells that acts as a messenger (1,1,1)
10. Not working or disused (3,2,6)
11. Assess amount or value (8)
12. Invertebrate; to obtain something for free (6)
15. Steel and motors conglomerate (4)
16. Exceedingly; barely credibly or astonishingly (10)
18. Show following the adventures of Mr. Clifton in Greendale (7,3)
19. Push off surface into the air (4)
22. London railway station (6)
23. Likely to take one's own life (8)
25. Pertaining to waste (11)
27. Unit of measure equal to 5.5 yards (3)
28. Building housing shows (7)
29. Window cover (7)
- Down**
1. Ideal; tense (7)
2. Protestant Christians of the Radical Reformation of whom the Amish are direct descendants (11)
3. Second book of the bible (6)
4. Stretches to excess (10)
5. Gentle air movement (4)
6. Small tidal body of water (4,4)
7. Positive French reaction (3)
8. President preceded by Dwight D. Eisenhower (7)
13. “None Shall Sleep” aria from the opera Turandot (6,5)
14. Underwater (10)
17. Helpless or powerless (8)
18. Gift; tense (7)
20. One of twelve peers of Charlemagne's court; knight associated with chivalry (7)
21. Having only magnitude, not direction (6)
24. Elaborate outdoor party (4)
26. Signal; long wooden rod (3)



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, as the puzzles team receives one Prime Minister's Question per correct solution.

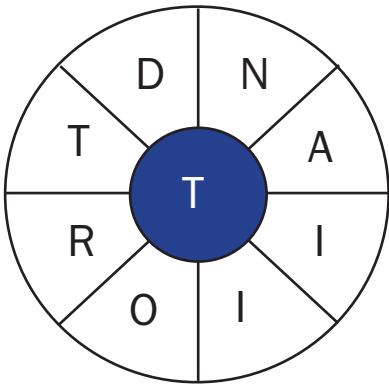
Contributions wanted!

If you'd like to contribute by sending in puzzles, comics or even some editing, e-mail puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk. 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 and mate in 2

PUZZLES

Nonogram – Hats Off

		5		1						4						
		1	4	1	1	2				1	2	1	5			
	1	1	4	2	6	3	4		1	1	4	3	4	1		
	3	2	3	3	2	2	1	1	3	2	5	6	2	2	3	
4																
1 2 3																
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6 1 3																
1 4 4 1																
1 1 2 1																
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4 4																
4 4																

The cells in a grid have to be coloured or left blank according to numbers at the side of the grid. The numbers measure how many unbroken lines of filled-in squares there are in any given row or column. Look at last week’s solution to see what a typical solution looks like. The overall solution should yield some sort of picture, or as good as a picture can look in monochrome on a 15x15 grid. As usual, answers to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

FUCWIT League Leader Board		
Teams:		
Elbowfart	125	The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is both new and improved, with prizes for both the winning team and the winning individual.
The Jailbaits	115	
Pegasus & Parrots	86	
Paddy Got Bummed	55	
Cum Puzzling Sluts	47	
Team Nuclear	33	Points are awarded for each puzzle solved, double if you're the first correct solution.
Ludibrium Lads	14	
Individuals:		
Jeremy Neale	124	The competition is hotting up, each wave of solutions more climactic than the last. Can you really afford to miss out?
Wael Aljeshi	44	
Send your solutions to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk!		



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WorDUOku

What’s better than one fulfilling existence? TWO wordokus, you say? Well, in that case you’re in for a treat!

Tell you what, in addition, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the letters in the grid once and once only. Along one of the rows or columns, a very special word or phrase will appear. More often than not, I’ve been told that these phrases yield great advice to be applied to almost any situation.

The headings above reflect the childishness of the word or phrase. The more childish the word, the more difficult the wordoku.

Pleasant

			Q		U			
K			I		R			Q
	K			I			T	
U								O
	R	O	T		Q	K	U	
		E				W		
		K	W		T	E		
T		U	O		K	Q		R

Suggestive

			W					
		O			P		E	
	R			B	O			W
E						L		U
		W			S	O		
	U	S		O		W		
			S	E	W	U		O
	S							
		R	O			P		

Cryptic Crosswords?
No Thanks!

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

SPORT

ICBC find BUCS Head success

...Continued from Back Page
than-lightweight bowpair, the constant chitter chatter from Powell and the hole in Cottrell's hand, the quad completed the course in 13:12.4, taking sixth place in the category. Next was the men's coxless four (bow: Rory Sullivan/Matt Pointing/Ali Hudson/Ben Spencer Jones) who took the bronze medal in a time of 13:32.6. Unfortunately the guys were unavailable for comment after the race. The men's coxed four (cox: Jess Johnson/Hal Bradbury/Simon Steele/James Hobhouse/Danny Bellion) smashed down the power to take fourth place, the same position their time of 13:50.4 would have earned them in the coxless event.

For the first time since 2009, ICBC had a senior women's eight entered into BUCS. Although they had had only two outings and some side-switching was required, the girls (cox: Libby Richards/Klara Weaver/Louise Connell/Lily Beadle/Hannah Patterson/Rosie Davies/Harriet Cross/Cat Buizza/Siân Morgan) smashed it to take fourth place in a time of 14:41.8. In another break with tradition, lightweight women were racing and the quad (bow: Maddy Whybrow/Steph Lunt/Ana Yong/Alice Pistolesi) consisted of three of Imperial's finest novices and one from last year's intake. The tiny girls battled against the headwind and crossed the

line to take 7th in the event in 17:37.3. Their male counterparts continued to build on their practically unbeaten record in the men's lightweight coxless four (bow: Paddy Hudson/Gareth Brown/Wilf Kimberley/Tim Richards) as they took the win in 13:20.6, 10s ahead of their competition and 12s ahead of IC's heavyweights.

On the way up to the start of division 2, disaster struck the women's lightweight coxless four (bow: Whybrow/Lunt/Pistolesi/Hannah Neenan) as the rudder string broke, forcing the girls onto the bank and into cheerleading roles; welcome encouragement for those racing at one of the toughest parts of the course. This left only the women's coxed four (cox: Johnson/Patterson/Cross/Connell/Weaver) to represent the fairer half of ICBC. Despite a fracas with Edinburgh University, whose stroke girl decided the slower crew had right of way, the girls finished off the day in the smashing time of 15:08.0. They took the silver medal, just 2s behind winners and 24s ahead of third place and would have won the women's coxless four category; a promising start to 2012 for the female students.

Leading the second division and wearing the coveted number 1 were the men's championship eight (cox: L Richards/Spencer Jones/Sullivan/Pointing/A Hudson/Bellion/Hobhouse/

Steele/Bradbury). Starting the division meant the eight enjoyed perfect water with only the gusty headwind to contend with. Great crew spirit kept the rate up and the power going down all the way along the course, with Spencer Jones and Sullivan bashing out a strong rhythm. The guys completed the course in 12:08.6, an agonisingly close 0.4s behind Durham, forcing them to settle for the Bronze medal behind the two north-eastern universities, with Newcastle taking the win. The next closest crew were more than 30s off the pace.

The lightweight men were back out in the same order (bow: P Hudson/Brown/Kimberley/T Richards) but with two blades each instead of one for the men's lightweight quad. The glassy water experienced by the eight had turned to vicious waves by the time the quad arrived. The skinny boys soldiered on, wearing their new tartan leggings and camouflage lycra combination, and added another gold to their ever expanding collection in 12:46.6.

Once back in London, some headed to Fiesta Havanas to dance away their last remaining ounces of energy. Over the weekend, 93 BUCS points were won between the ten championship boats, giving a running total of 123 so far this season. Now the focus turns to the Women's and Men's Heads of the River on 3 and 17 March respectively.

Coming soon: **VARSITY**

It's that time of the year again...

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Playing in one of the matches? Or just fancy yourself as a **sports reporter/photographer?**

Get in touch with us to take part in our extensive Varsity coverage.

It's going to be **epic.**

Promotion and port for IC Hockey Ladies 1s after Brunel tussle

Celia Hayes
Hockey

We arrived at Harlington knowing that a win would secure promotion, so we were ready to f*** s*** up, despite our chunderous captain being MIA. The game started off slowly with half of our team away with the fairies and severely hungover from the previous weekend – we know, it's an issue.

After a bit of scrappy hockey we settled back into our classic form and Kirstin slotted in a quick two goals to take us ahead at half time. With a riveting half-time chat from our award winning coach, we started strongly into the second half. Gigi showed the other team what hockey skills were and defenders Celia, Aash and Maria cut shapes through their midfield like Imperial boys in Metric on a Wednes-

day. With our legendary passing seriously confusing the other team (and with a few protein shakes later) we were many more goals up and showing the Brunel girls who really was top of the league.

The defence held steady with the addition of Shanika taking it up the rear, an unusual position for her as she is usually running riot with Scorcha up front. Harry, Ted, Nora and supersub Hannah all trashed the goalkeeper and took us to a 6-1 lead (their only goal coming from GK Percy's charitable conscience). Anyways, what it really comes down to is that we won (port), and that we are going to get PROMOTED (PORT!!!).

In summary IC Ladies 1s are amazing – both in looks and talent – and we thoroughly deserved some trophyware. Bring on the ULU and BUCS semi-finals.

IC Hockey



Cruella de Vil had better watch out – they're armed and dangerous (with sticks)

SPORT

Ladies' Hockey

CSM 2-1 RSM

In the first game of Saturday both teams had a strong opening half, despite the barrage of abuse pouring in from each side, but CSM took an early lead with a well-placed short corner. The first half carried on with high intensity play from both sides and continued with a few more questionable tackles (including one that probably belonged on a rugby pitch) which went unnoticed by the referees. A second short corner from CSM was mis-hit but then recovered to bring the score to CSM 2 - 0 RSM towards the end of the first half.

The second half saw the RSM Ladies stage a comeback, with Harriet Stevenson bringing the score to 2 - 1. RSM continued to put pressure on the CSM squad for the remainder of the second half but the robust defence of CSM meant the game ended CSM 2 - 1 RSM.

Sarah Hayes

Football

CSM 0-0 RSM

In a titanic effort from both sides, CSM and RSM fought out a gritty, well contested goalless draw. After a frenetic opening, RSM settled into their rhythm first. At the half way stage it was already evident that goals would be very hard to come by, with set pieces likely to be pivotal in deciding the outcome. RSM repeatedly forced corners, followed by CSM chances requiring several stunning save from RSM custodian, Daly. The final whistle blew. Either side could claim that they deserved victory, yet there was a tacit acceptance that a draw was unquestionably the fairest result on the day, after sterling performances from two very, very well matched teams.

Matt Day

Squash

CSM 0-5 RSM

Being the first to arrive in Camborne the RSM Squash team kicked off proceedings, captained by Nat Elliot-Green (N.E.G), calling on the experience of the veterans Henry Debens and Mark Porter, and the youth and vitality of the French freshers Raphael Pesquidous and Marc Lelong.

Each player gave it their all, barring Mr Debens who allowed a 2-0 lead to drag out to a 3-2 victory, with 4 of the 5 RSM players nothing up a perfect score sheet of 3-0. RSM claimed the whitewash, winning 15 games to CSM's 2, and got the weekend going to the best of starts by bringing home the A.L Thomas Memorial Trophy for the second year on the trot.

N.E.G

Men's Hockey

CSM 3-1 RSM

RSM Hockey has enjoyed its usual mix of unbounded success and abject misery this season, but we arrived for this year's Sharpley Cup with high hopes. Some sneaky weaving from the Camborne attack opened our defence up inside the first 5 seconds... panic over, though, and we soon settled into a fast-paced - but evenly matched - contest. James, Freddie, Lionel and Harry soaked up the pressure from the notable talents of the CSM attack, until a well-placed cross was

converted after 15 minutes: 1-0 CSM. The response didn't take long, however, with Lionel scoring from a sublime short corner to level it.

The midfield of Scouse, Mikey and Jake continued to give it everything into the second half, but were unable to present Ewan, Mash and Ben up-front with a clear-cut chance for what could have been the

all-important second goal. The pace started to tell into the last quarter, and two CSM goals in quick succession finished the game off.

Man of the Match goes to Lionel Sumner for his tireless performance, Champagne Moment to Jonnie Clowes for any one of his 573 immense saves. Massive respect to everyone who played, and cheers to all the supporters.

Mikey Pettit

MINERS BRING BACK THE BOTTLE

Introduction by
Royal School of Mines Union President **Richard Simons**

Once again the Royal Miners set off on their quest to the dark regions of Cornwall in search of Bottle Match glory.

For those that don't know, the Bottle Match is a 110 year old varsity, staged between the Royal School of Mines (RSM) and Camborne School of Mines (CSM). Each year the competition is hosted by one of the two schools at their home ground, with this year being the turn of the CSM to host down in Cornwall. The Bottle Match is the big-

gest weekend of the year for any Royal Miner and always delivers in high tensions, heavily contested matches, excessive nudity, (most-likely-gone-too-far) banter and filthy hangovers.

With 150 people on board the coaches left London and made it to Cornwall without in record time, before becoming stuck up a country lane and one having to be literally pushed out of the mud! So we arrived at the caravan site a little late but had the comforting news that during our travels the Squash and Golf teams, who had left ahead of us

for their games, had won and drawn their respective contests, meaning that the first two trophies of the weekend were returning to London. The Saturday saw the bulk of the sport, with the men's and ladies hockey, football, netball and the all-important rugby which decides the home of The Bottle for the next year.

After a successful weekend the Bottle remains to grace the Union Bar for another year, and the miners return to London victorious (if a little battered and broken).

Rugby

CSM 0-22 RSM

(Largest margin in Bottle Match history!)

After last year's victory, the team was feeling confident, since we had retained most of last year's squad and had also added some quality freshers to our ranks. We started the game well and a scrappy CSM into conceded several penalties which resulted in their scrum-half being sin binned. We spent most of this half camped on their try line but were unable to capitalise until the 35th minute when Fra-

ser "The Salmon" James leapt over for the first try of the game, leaving the score at half time 7-0 RSM.

We started the second half in a similar fashion to the first, but were once again unable to cross the line as CSM fought bravely in defence. Finally in the 60th Sam "1.0" Coe crashed over after good work from the forwards and we never looked back. Minutes later Chris McGeough charged down the

wing and steamrolled past several defenders like a runaway train. Then in the last play of the game Captain Ed "EGV" drove in off a maul for the final score of the game. Notable performances came from George Lane, James Scaife, Mike Floyd and Fred White. Olly Cox somehow claimed man of the match from their captain, which will forever remain a mystery.

"Broken" Ed Vaughan

Netball

CSM 38-29 RSM

Considering this was the first match RSM played as a team we did really well. We only lost the first quarter, so after finding our feet we went on to draw or win in the next 3. Unfortunately it was too little too late, and CSM claimed their first victory in Bottle Match netball. The natural talent of the RSM shone through and there is no doubt that next year we'll win it back.

Rachel Zaborski



Golf

CSM 2-2 RSM

The first match out was between the two best ranking golfers and was a close match, ending in a win for the CSM on the 17th hole. Next out where the two girls, Sorcha and Rachel (a non-CSM ringer!) but Sorcha brought home the match comfortably despite a glorious shank into a greenside bunker. The third pairing, consisting of Alec and some other bloke was over by the 16th, leaving the CSM 2:1 up with only one match left. At this point, moral was low and a victory for CSM was on the horizon. But with courage and determination Steve Hayward fought off his competitor to bring the score to 2 all. Since the RSM golfers won the previous year, the trophy remains in its rightful place (In a tree next to the football pitch in Pool). Special thanks go out to the Golf Manageress Celia Hayes for her support and encouragement throughout.

Ryan Manvell

SPORT

Felix Sports League

...where do you stand?



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Fencing W1	9	9	0	0	1152	741	36	5.00
2 Rugby W1	2	2	0	0	77	0	-20	5.00
3 Tennis M1	4	4	0	0	38	10	-232	5.00
4 Tennis W1	5	5	0	0	56	4	-18	5.00
5 Ultimate Frisbee 1st	3	3	0	0	45	9	-20	5.00
6 Hockey W1	10	9	1	0	39	3	5	4.70
7 Rugby M1	10	9	0	1	242	149	-103	4.10
8 Fencing M1	9	8	0	1	1075	847	28	4.00
9 Badminton M1	9	7	1	1	59	13	0	3.67
10 ICSM Hockey W2	6	5	0	1	29	5	-2	3.50
11 Table Tennis W1	5	4	0	1	19	6	-124	3.20
12 Badminton W1	10	5	4	1	49	36	0	2.90
13 Fencing W2	8	6	0	2	699	647	93	2.75
14 ICSM Badminton W1	4	3	0	1	18	14	0	2.75
15 Netball W1	8	5	0	1	334	252	-9	2.63
16 Squash W1	5	3	1	1	11	9	-12	2.60
17 Tennis M2	6	3	2	1	40	32	-64	2.50
18 Lacrosse W1	7	5	0	2	101	37	-3	2.43
19 Hockey M2	9	5	2	2	27	22	2	2.33
20 Basketball M1	10	7	0	3	662	583	0	2.30
21 Fencing M2	9	6	0	3	1078	908	52	2.00
22 ICSM Hockey W1	4	2	1	1	23	9	-12	2.00
23 Football M3	8	5	0	3	15	15	24	1.63
24 Lacrosse M1	5	4	0	3	71	36	-9	1.60
25 Football M1	9	4	2	3	15	14	228	1.33
26 ICSM Badminton M2	4	1	2	1	15	17	14	1.25
27 ICSM Football M2	7	4	0	3	15	12	-2	1.14
28 Basketball W1	9	5	0	4	505	404	77	1.00
29 Football M2	8	3	2	3	20	22	46	0.88
30 Badminton M2	8	4	0	4	22	34	0	0.50
31 ICSM Football M1	2	1	0	1	4	6	1	0.50
32 ICSM Netball W1	2	1	0	1	82	72	2	0.50
33 ICSM Netball W2	2	1	0	1	52	50	-3	0.50
34 ICSM Netball W4	2	1	0	1	47	50	-40	0.50
35 ICSM Rugby M3	4	2	0	2	88	90	28	0.50
36 Rugby M2	10	5	0	5	92	132	-6	0.50
37 Squash M3	6	3	0	3	10	19	-77	0.50
38 Table Tennis M2	6	3	0	3	53	49	-37	0.50
39 Hockey W2	8	3	1	4	10	32	79	0.13
40 Netball W3	9	4	0	5	185	157	-52	0.00
41 Futsal M1	7	3	0	4	31	40	13	-0.14
42 Golf Mixed 1st	6	1	1	2	7	10	4	-0.17
43 Table Tennis M1	5	2	0	3	38	47	-12	-0.40
44 Futsal W1	3	1	0	2	2	11	52	-1.00
45 ICSM Badminton M1	3	1	0	2	10	14	170	-1.00
46 ICSM Rugby M1	3	1	0	2	52	104	4	-1.00
47 ICSM Rugby M2	3	1	0	2	32	135	-22	-1.00
48 Lacrosse W2	3	1	0	2	15	21	-9	-1.00
49 Football W1	7	2	0	5	4	43	13	-1.43
50 Rugby M3	10	2	0	8	100	120	-39	-2.20
51 Squash M1	5	1	0	4	3	22	-19	-2.20
52 ICSM Netball W5	4	0	1	3	25	185	-9	-2.50
53 Netball W2	6	1	0	5	123	200	-4	-2.50
54 Squash M2	6	1	0	5	11	18	-160	-2.50
55 Squash M4	6	1	0	5	3	15	-7	-2.50
56 Hockey M3	7	1	0	6	8	20	8	-2.71
57 Hockey M1	10	1	0	9	9	46	82	-3.10
58 Basketball M2	3	0	0	3	142	266	411	-4.00
59 Fencing M3	5	0	0	5	424	656	36	-4.00
60 Hockey M4	9	0	0	9	3	67	64	-4.00
61 ICSM Basketball M1	1	0	0	1	46	64	35	-4.00
62 ICSM Hockey M1	3	0	0	3	6	26	3	-4.00
63 ICSM Hockey M2	3	0	0	3	3	19	101	-4.00
64 ICSM Hockey M3	1	0	0	1	0	3	-2	-4.00

5 points for a win | 2 points for a draw | -4 points for a loss



Web: www3.imperial.ac.uk/sports
Facebook: Search 'Sport Imperial'
Twitter: @SportImperial

This Saturday: Hyde Park Relays

Ming Wang-Koh
Cross Country and Athletics

If getting fit or being more active was your new year's resolution then now is your chance! Wipe the dust from your running shoes and sign up for this year's Hyde Park Relays!

The Hyde Park Relays is an annual running relay race organised by Imperial College Cross Country and Athletics Club. The race, now in its 63rd year, begins by the bandstand with the ladies race start a few hundred meters away. A ladies' team consists of 4 runners, while the men's and mixed teams each have 6. Each relay leg is 5km for men (and mixed teams) and 3km for ladies. The 1 lap course is nice and flat, circling the Serpentine and taking in some of the beautiful sights of Hyde Park. Marshalls will be covering the course to make sure no one gets lost.

From its humble beginning, the Hyde Park Relays has grown to accommodate top runners from across the UK and teams as far out as Italy and Poland. Of course, many do it

to get fit or even just for a good laugh. The race welcomes a large number of internal entries from college departments, sports (and non-sports) clubs, halls and anyone else who wants a fun-filled Saturday.

There are prizes for the first internal men's/mixed and women's teams, fastest internal individual and if it's not your day, there is always the Gary Hoare award for the last team in! Post-race, re-energize yourself with a hot, cooked meal in the SCR followed by a mad night out in Metric where you can rave with other uni and foreign teams - including a surprisingly even mix of guys and girls!

So get fit, organise a team and sign up for the Hyde Park Relays 2012.

The date: 3 March 2012. Team registration is open from 10.30 'til 13.00 in Metric. All of the above is included in the entry price, which is £5 per person (£30 for men's/mixed teams and £20 for women's teams).

Enter online or by scanning the barcode below. For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.hydeparkrelays.com>

Happy Running!



Enter the Hyde Park Relays 2012 by either scanning the QR code above or by entering online!

Synchronised swimming: 5 years old

IC Synchronised Swimming



Incredibly Cool. Obviously that's what IC really stands for

Carla Canturri
Synchronised Swimming

Everything started five years ago with a Felix article to recruit members. The founding member Danai Balfoussia now admits "Come to think of it, I could have made it sound a bit more exciting!" Exciting or not the Imperial College first synchro team (and currently the only one in the UK) started training in Ethos with only five members. The club trained there for two years and were

later later exiled to St. Marys for the rest of their life. Sigh...

The club has enjoyed high and struggled through low times such as making it out of dormancy last year with a record of 23 members, only to be beaten by this year's 29 members. Some of the founding members of the club are still members today. This year has been a record for first times: the first two male members, the first competition in France in May 2012 and the first custom made swimming suits, with the year not finishing yet!

As a [very cool] Olympic sport synchronised swimming will be featured in the London 2012 Olympics, and despite the club not getting any tickets for the main event they will be attending the London Prepares Series Test Event to be held in the Olympic Aquatics Centre in April. What a better way to start getting in the team 'GB' spirit?

I encourage everybody to come and try this amazing sport; it is never too late to join! For more information email us at syncswim@ic.ac.uk.

SPORT

Excellent results for snowsports at BUIISC

Photos by Ed Hallett



He was *this* close to hitting the roof



Matching skis and bibs are all the rage on the slopes

Luke Bridgestock
Snowsports

Wednesday 22 February saw the finest snowsports sports athletes from universities in the south of the UK gather for BUIISC (British university indoor snowsports championships) South. Imperial College London were in no lack of talent this year, with strong racing and freestyle prospects. Everyone gathered bright and early (except for Ross who decided he needed more of a lie in to boost performance) to make the journey to Milton Keynes indoor snow centre.

Strong racing performances were put in by the skiers for the individual slalom event, most notably veteran (and some say semi pro), Michael Parkes obtained a solid 29th position. An equally strong performance was put in by most (but not all) of the snowboard racers. Virgin racer, Ed Hallet zoomed down the course scoring 11th overall,

earning himself a place in the BUIISC finals! Ross Maske just missed out on the finals finishing in an impressive 15th place. A special congrats goes to John Boi who managed to complete his first ever race without disqualification. Ex-snowboard captain, Luke ‘safe n’ steady’ Bridgestock disgraced himself and the club with a pathetic performance, earning himself a lager and baileys. Rumor has it he is over the hill (excuse the pun).

Our ski race team was unfortunately bested in the first round despite a solid performance (the standard was high). The snowboard race team had more luck in the first round beating Exeter (CSM scumbags) who had vandalized the union minibus with cling film and a pizza box earlier in the day (savages). Payback was sweet! However, were knocked out in the next round (with any hopes of going to the finals) by John Boi returning to his usual form of “slow time or no time”. Needless

to say the rest of the team were bitterly disappointed, and are still refusing to talk to John.

In the evening the excitement and adrenaline fueled slopestyle competition kicked off. With more Imperial entries into this freestyle comp. (8 in total), then any in recent years, there was a real chance of glory. Solid runs were landed by most of Imperial’s competitors with fresher snowboarders Ross Maske and Mikkel (not Michael) Kranker landing some sick tricks. John Boi pulled out all the stops doing ‘the sickest run of my life braaaahhh!’ (douchebag quote of the day). Male freeskiers Adam MacLean and Simon Federer laid down some awesome moves with Simon inches away from landing his first 540. However the real star of the show (and the day), was female freeskiier and our beloved president, Bethany Burks. She killed it in the qualifying rounds earning a place in the finals. Pulling of some of the gnarly-

Cryptic Crossword 1,513

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9								10						
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22													23	24
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Across

- 1. Director I left, left fifty in restraint (9)
- 6. One from Glasgow at racecourse (5)
- 9. Queens Tower - first result of Imperial work (7)
- 10. Disney robot certainly has streaky visual (7)
- 11. Processes classical piece of music lacking class (3)
- 12. Covert arson arranged by custodian (11)
- 14. As in short video, unknown liquid convert (6)
- 15. Drug and force onto ship with space to wave and say hello (8)
- 17. From Alabama, I am wandering around emergency room rear (8)
- 19. High class sulphur to render you unconscious before time to request date (3,3)
- 22. Defective stuff for four dollars I chew with ease unusually (5,6)
- 23. Hump Arab conservative (3)
- 25. Extremely sour exchange in alcoholic’s meeting left amorous feelings (7)
- 27. If into game of chance, follow English belief system (7)
- 28. Take in interminable lecture (5)
- 29. Reason to go easy on the alcohol (9)

Down

- 1. Peep underneath computer collection (5)
- 2. Asserts that houses are single, limited terraces (7)
- 3. Sarkozy for example gets electrocuted on side plate (6,5)
- 4. Missing muscle issued (6)
- 5. Naked girl reportedly in city (3,5)
- 6. Everything found in maternal love (3)
- 7. Animal with great pace, one doing so with underhanded tactics, it is said (7)
- 8. Oscar winner takes priority love first (3,6)
- 13. Demo unveils abstract sculpture (5,2,4)
- 14. Leader changes during fight between rich and poor with vitamin bottles (9)
- 16. One who hasn’t married composer acting up (8)
- 18. I depose bad show (7)
- 20. No vehicle in a pipe (7)
- 21. Demand is he saint (6)
- 24. Island set in stone without crime (5)
- 26. Appointed group (3)

est tricks seen by a female competitor since the days of Ces O’Holigan, Beth achieved 3rd place overall a position in the podium.

The innovations were not only confined to the slope. One freestyle competitor, not only managed to produce a football size bruise on his arm with

more colors than the rainbow, he also made advancements in the field of motorway urination. In all a very successful day, and next Wednesday (29 Feb) will see Ed Hallet and Burksey battle it out on the national level at the BUIISC finals in Leeds. The very best of luck to both of them!

Tim Richards

Pulling their weight

Lightweight men retain title at BUCS Head 2012 while carnage cancels novice racing

Elizabeth Burke reports



The BUCS 4s and 8s Head on the River Nene in Peterborough never fails to be a challenging race for all involved and 2012 was no exception. In a weekend of two halves, the gales of Saturday played havoc with the beginner crews as many failed to complete the course whereas the relative calm of Sunday delivered more medals and BUCS points for ICBC's seniors, both men and women, heavy-weight and lightweight.

The lightweight men were once again worth their weight in gold, winning their two events with relative ease.

The Novices arrived at the course early and soon the men's beginner eight (cox: Danya Husain/Jake Barker/Stephan Rossbauer/Martin Ebner/Jérémie Werner/Rayane Jackson/James Baker/Dan Ward/Elliott Jennings) were out facing the 25mph winds, and even stronger gusts. At the start, boats floated and crashed into each other as they were battered from bank to bank by the wind.

Such was the extent of the carnage that only 32 of the 53 crews present completed the 2.5km course and several boats are thought to have capsized. Imperial's crew was fortunately NOT one of these and the guys came ninth overall in a time of 13:33.6. The women's beginner coxed four (cox: Ana Yong/Chloe Goulding/Anne Hardijizer/Giulia Zerbini/Nadine Kalmoni) was in the same shambolic division. During the race, the girls crashed with Southampton and Zerbini was inches away

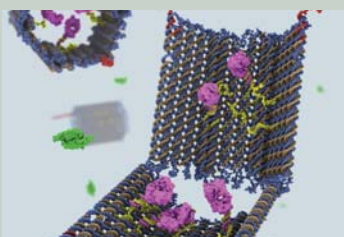
from attempting to decapitate their cox, followed by a "heated conversation" on the water. Despite this, the girls took tenth place in 18:04.8, much more successful than the ten crews that never made the finish line. The second beginner division was cancelled due to the inclement weather, preventing the women's beginner 8 and the two men's beginner coxed fours from racing.

As the Novices headed home/to Belushi's, the seniors arrived in Peterborough, just as the weather began to

calm. After crew meals of inordinate size and a good night's rest, ICBC were ready to race. The gales had been replaced by lighter, yet still gusty, winds and freezing temperatures, which led to problems marshalling, even for the experienced crews. First to face the 4.5km championship course were the men's quad (bow: Paul Jones/Myles Holbrough/Sam Cottrell/Dan Powell). Between the brie, wine and baguettes following Frenchman Jones, the lighter-

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