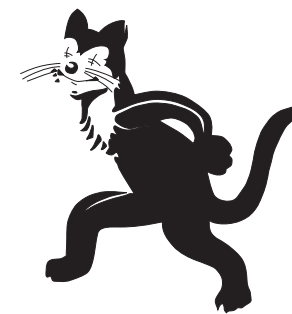


“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1515

FELIX



16.03.12

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

VARSITY PULLOUT | BUMPER ISSUE

Find your eight page pullout inside!

Final issue before break: more content

THE END OF ELECTIONS



Union aims for record UK student turnout by midnight

Maciej Matuszowski

Voting in the Union’s “Big Elections” opened on Monday. As well as the sabbatical, Student Trustee and Faculty Union Executive positions students can also use the Union’s on-line system to vote for members of their Departmental Society committee. 186 votes were cast in the first five minutes of voting, with well over

80,000 votes having been cast by over 5,200 voters at the time of going to print. This represents a turnout of 49% of the Undergraduate population and 13% of the Postgraduates, just over 30% of all Imperial students. This is already far above the average national turnout in UK university student elections, 16%. Imperial Union hopes to have achieved the largest turnout in the nation by the end of

voting, with at least 55% of Undergraduates and 20% of Postgraduates having voted.

Voting, however, has not been trouble free, with technical problems affecting the voting system early on Monday morning. Amongst those affected has been Jack Hewitt, candidate for Deputy President (Welfare), whose manifesto was not initially displayed on the in-line manifesto

view on the website, potentially leading voters to believe that he had not submitted it. The manifesto was viewable upon direct clicking on the candidate’s name. Hewitt maintains that his manifesto “met the word limit and was submitted on-time” and says that the error gives “the people [he is] running against an unfair advantage”.

Other candidates saw their names
...Continued on Page 3

SCIENCE



Bees: unlikely thrillseekers

Page 14

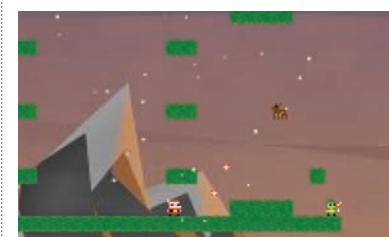
BUSINESS



Meeting the founder of Student Beans

Page 20

GAMES



Artificial Intelligence can create games

Page 40

HIGHLIGHTS

What's on

Insights into China's energy future

A Grantham Special Lecture by Dr. Yang Yufeng of the Energy Research Institute (ERI) of China's NDRC, and Ajay Gambhir of the Grantham Institute. China will have a major role in the future of the energy sector. Registration in advance, contact g.gayer@imperial.ac.uk for your free place at this event.

**Lecture Theatre G34, SAF
South Kensington Campus
20 March 17:30-19:00**

Nature and Society

Professor Martin Scheffer explains the remarkably abrupt changes that sometimes occur in nature and society – and whether we can predict why and when they happen. Contact g.gayer@imperial.ac.uk to register your place.

**Lecture Theatre 331, Huxley
Building,
South Kensington Campus,
22 March 18:30-29:30**

THE LONDON CLIMATE FORUM

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF ORGANISING LONDON'S BIGGEST FORUM ON CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES?

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caroline.wood09@ic.ac.uk or

james.hubbard@live.co.uk

PICKS OF THE WEEK

Going out in a blaze of glory



The Sex Survey results were too much to handle

And so we reach the last issue of term. I'll avoid the whole "it's getting nearer and nearer exams shtick" and instead give you the lowdown on some of the treats from our bumper Easter issue.

For starters, take the Felix Sexism Survey at felixonline.co.uk/sexism. Then, why not take a trip to Page 11 for the return of the Felix Easter Egg Review?

Finally, the Spring Issue of I, Science is out now. If you haven't picked up your copy from the Felix distribution bins, get on it!

Editor

CLASSIFIEDS

It's the last issue of term and all, so I'd advise against sending any urgent classifieds in at this stage. We'll be back on Friday 4 May, so if you want to put something right here in this column around that time, then get in touch!

It's free and easy. All you need to do is email felix@imperial.ac.uk.

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

Lolcat of teh week



FELIX

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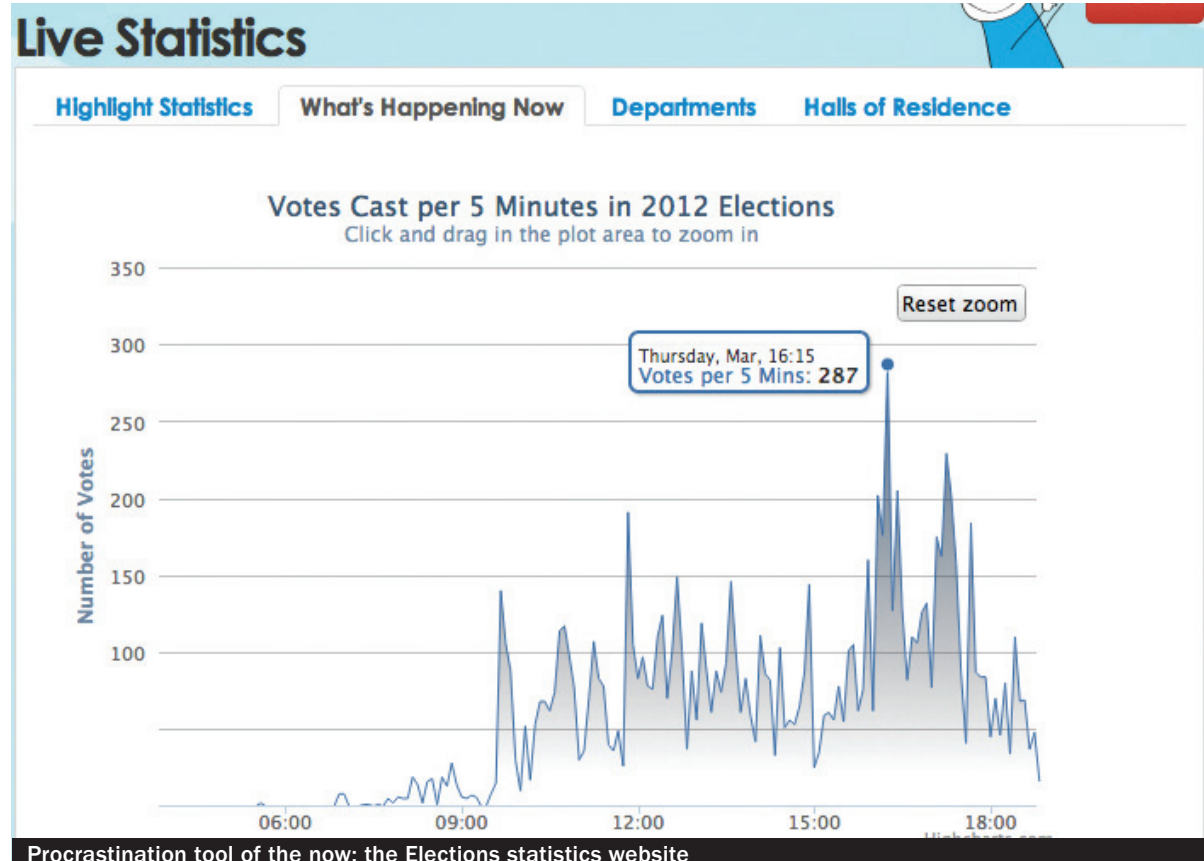
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NEWS

Union hopes for record turnout



...Continued from Front Page listed for positions they were not standing for or, in some cases, for two different positions. While the issues had been rectified before noon on

Monday some 1000 people had voted by that time.

Votes could potentially be struck from a certain time period of the election for the Deputy President

(Welfare) position following ongoing discussions of Union Court.

Voting closes at 23:59 today and results will be announced early next week.

More Summer Ball plans outlined

Matthew Colvin

Tickets are now on sale for this year's scaled-down Summer Ball. Promising a "transformed South Kensington campus" and marking the return of a black tie formal dinner option, the Union has sought to firmly overview the financial risk of the event in order to avoid a substantial loss such as that sustained at the 2011 Summer Ball.

"the Union has sought to firmly overview the financial risk of the event"

While in previous years the College has provided a subsidy of approximately £22,000 in order to help with the organisation of the event it emerged in February that the College do not intend to provide funding for the organisation of this year's Ball.

£13,000 has been set aside for DJs

and Band Fees, based on one smaller headline act. Deputy President (Finance & Services) Michael Foster told Felix that organisers are "not yet at the stage" at which acts can be confirmed, following similar timetabling in previous years.

The budgeted figure of £5,500 for the returning funfair – one of the most popular aspects of last year's event following a Felix survey late last year – is currently based on the hire of two rides and one inflatable.

Following student feedback, the formal dinner option returns after its absence last year. 178 formal dinner ticket purchases at £40 each are required by the beginning of May for the black tie event to go ahead alongside the Ball itself. If the dinner does not go ahead, a full refund will be provided to dinner ticket holders.

The ticket for the Ball itself has been reduced from £45 to £30. With a third removed from last year's price, potential attendees will no doubt been keen for further details as to whether the scaled-down event will be worth the value.

Russell Group extends its reach to four more institutions

Matthew Colvin

The Russell Group has agreed to extend its membership to four more universities. Durham, Exeter, Queen Mary and York are the four institutions that will join the traditionally 20-strong association of public research universities, of which Imperial College London is a member.

The Russell Group, established in 1994 after an expansion in the university sector, will now represent 24 UK research-intensive universities. The group works towards its main aim of leading the UK's research effort by lobbying the government and parliament. It has recently come into opposition with students' unions over its strong support of the introduction of tuition fees. The four new institutions were all previously members of the 1994 Group, which represents smaller research-led institutions, and now stands at 15 members.



Queen Mary is one of four institutions to have joined the Russell Group

"[The Group] will now represent 24 UK universities"

Professor Michael Farthing, Chair of the 1994 Group and Vice Chancellor of the University of Sussex responded to the departure with the following statement: "It is disappointing that these institutions have decided to leave the 1994 Group, but

I wish them well in their new mission group."

Professor Michael Arthur, Chair of the Russell Group and Vice Chancellor of the University of Leeds, said of the news: "[the newly joined universities] have demonstrated that – like all other Russell Group members – they excel in research, innovation and education and have a critical mass of research excellence across a wide range of disciplines."

The new universities will become members in effect from August 2012.

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

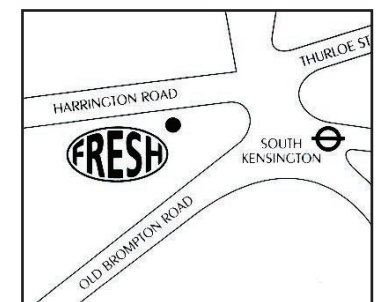
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Features Editors: **Katy Bettany**
Stephen Smith

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FEATURE

In Brief

Sexism forum held at Union

A forum on sexism at Imperial College was held on Tuesday, with the intention of investigating the extent of sexism within the college as well as brainstorming plans on how best to address it.

Earlier this term, a proposal to create a feminist society was submitted to the New Clubs Committee, who rejected it on the grounds that it would largely fill the same role as Women in Science, Engineering and Technology.

In light of this and other recent issues, Deputy President (Welfare) Nicolas Massie held a forum for a general discussion. It involved short talks from the Equality and Diversity Unit as well as group discussions to answer questions, such as those regarding the role of the Gender Equality Officer (a position few people know exists), the need for and specific aims of a feminists' society, and if there is sexism and barriers to success for women at Imperial.

The forum concluded that that a society should be founded with the aims of raising awareness, providing a safe space where people who have been mistreated can go for help, and outreach – promoting gender equality both at Imperial and in schools and the wider community. Further details will be provided when available.

Keir Little

Imperial take on BP Grand Final

Following the Regional Semi-Finals last month, two teams from Imperial College have made it to the BP Ultimate Field Trip Grand Final. The Grand Final will take place in the Royal Institute on 8 May. Imperial teams make up two of the three teams competing to win the prize of a 6-8 week internship in Trinidad and Tobago in the Gulf of Mexico.

The first Imperial team to reach the final is C-Less, which is made up of three third year Mechanical Engineering students: Zie Wearn Chua, Zhi Xiong Chong, and Wern Chia Chang. The other team is *Global Intelligence Consulting* which is comprised of Dun Xiang Ang, Nicholas Kwok, and Zhen Xiong Lim who are all in their third year of MEng Chemical Engineering.

Global Intelligence Consulting spoke about their win with Felix: "We are very excited to be in the finals! The BP challenge provided a realistic platform for us to put what we had learnt in Chemical Engineering into use and we are really proud that we had gone this far in the competition. We really have to credit our success to the rigours of Chem Eng [...] as well as the support provided by our lecturers. The final will be tough as it clashes with final exams, nevertheless we will try our best and do Imperial proud!"

Aemun Reza



All about body image

Dr. Phillipa Diedrichs, an expert in Body Image, gives a talk next week at Imperial. Deputy President (Welfare) **Nicolas Massie** interviews her for those who won't be able to make it

Nicolas: Can you tell me little bit about yourself?

Phillippa: I'm senior research fellow at the centre for appearance research at UWE and I'm a research psychologist who specialises in body image and eating disorder prevention.

N: Tell me about the type of research that you do.

I do a range of applied research. It's all about research which aims to have a meaningful change rather than research for research's sake. I do a lot of different projects. At the moment primarily my research is focusing on evaluating body image and eating disorder prevention programmes in school and in universities, one of which is the SUCCEED body image programme. And I also do a lot of work looking at the impact of media images and advertising on people's body image and a lot of advocacy work as well. I am heavily involved with the Campaign for Body Confidence, a campaign set up by two liberal democrat MPs, bringing together involved stakeholders to speak in the Commons every couple of months.

N: Can you tell me a bit more about your work with the SUCCEED foundation specifically?

P: I'm the head of research for the SUCCEED Body image programme, which is an evidence based eating disorder prevention programme that originated in the US around ten years ago and was hugely successful in sororities. There are now over eight years of evidence showing success at improving body image and reducing risk factors for eating disorders. It has been brought over to the UK and we are in the process of rolling it out across UK universities, evaluating how effective it is at preventing eating disorders and improving body image. It focuses on women at universities and is a two session interactive programme. The great thing about it is that university students are trained to then deliver the programme to other university students.

N: Do you have any figures on how effective it is compared to traditional therapies?

P: Not at this stage in the UK but there is US data that shows it is more effective than alternative interventions.

N: I understand that you are going to be giving a talk at Imperial in two weeks – what would you hope to achieve?

P: The talk is part of a campaign. The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness of body image and eating disorders, with a particular focus on body image and how it's an issue that impacts upon almost everyone and can affect people across all key areas of living including psychological and physical health but also social relationships, and how well people achieve in academic setting. It's also to discuss social and cultural influences that affect the way we feel about how we look and some key tips on



Dr. Phillipa Diedrichs delivers a talk at Imperial on Monday 19 March

how people can improve their body image.

N: A lot of people spend a great deal of time thinking about their bodies, what they eat, their exercise regime. Can you tell me this sort of fixation becomes a problem?

P: I think it becomes a problem when it starts to heavily influence how somebody sees themselves and judge their value. If you spend so much time working out in the gym that you can't finish your university assignments, or have a happy, healthy social life, then that becomes a problem.

N: You said 'if you can't live a happy, healthy social life' it becomes a problem. Would you say it becomes a mental health problem?

P: Anorexia and bulimia are diagnosable mental health conditions. Body image concerns are when people negatively evaluate how they feel about their own bodies and their appearance, whether that's how they look or how they function. That's not a clinical disorder but there is lots of research over the past twenty years that shows that negative body image is a significant risk factor for anxiety and depression, and for unhealthy relationships with food and exercise.

N: You said it isn't a medical condition but are there any sorts of treatments or strategies that those who want to improve their body image could employ?

P: There are lots of effective programmes out there, one of which is the SUCCEED body image programme which has a very strong

evidence base and a good success rate in the United States with improving body image among young women. What individuals can do is focus on what they like about their bodies, including what it looks like, but also what their bodies can do for them, trying to appreciate the function of their bodies as well as the way they look.

N: When should someone consider one of these programmes?

P: This is a varied answer and it depends on who you talk to. Taking part of the SUCCEED body programme has been shown to improve people's body image as well as their mood. From my perspective I would obviously recommend that everyone take part in the SUCCEED programme, especially considering that over 75% of people are unhappy with the way they look according to the figures that we see in the research. I don't think there is a critical point anyone needs to reach before they take part in something like that.

N: Would you say that there is a continuum from body image issues to eating disorders and body dysmorphic disorder (BDD)? Would you say that they are connected?

P: They are connected but I wouldn't say there is a continuum. Eating disorders and BDD are very complex illnesses that are determined by a range of factors, biological, social and psychological. Body image issues are a risk factor for certain types of eating disorders but are not the cause. It's a lot more complex than that. Not everybody who has body image concerns will go on to develop an eating disorder and

FEATURE

not everybody with an eating disorder started out with negative body image.

N: Are there any social groups you come across in your line of work?

P: There tends to be a lot of focus on adolescents and on women – traditionally body image has been seen as a problem for women and young people but increasingly it is recognised as an issue for everyone. Increasingly we are working with adult men and adolescent boys. Consistently the research shows that men also have body image concerns. There is also research being done with children as young as four years of age and adults as old as 80 years of age. It is an issue across the lifespan for everybody.

N: At Imperial we have a strong gender imbalance – do you see this as an issue and do you see it impacting on body image?

P: In terms of it impacting on body image I couldn't really say. I don't know of any research that has looked at that directly so it's a bit of a leap to talk about that in relation to body image.

N: At Imperial we live in a reasonably high stress environment – is there a relation between academic performance pressure and body image?

P: There are studies that show people who have a negative body image are less likely to participate in class. There was also a study that showed that students with high body image concerns [performed worse academically] than students who didn't.

N: The fashion industry is often blamed for people's obsession with their bodies. Is this fair?

P: It's fair in that the fashion industry has a role to play – I don't think it's fair when they are blamed exclusively. I think there are a lot of industries that benefit from reinforcing narrow beauty ideals that contribute to body image concerns. Certainly I would like to see more diversity in the types of people and appearances that they use and represent, and there's a lot of research, including some that I've done, that shows that if advertisements use more diverse and larger size models it has a positive impact on people's body image. I think

there's a lot of room for improvement but I think it's important to focus on the positives and we are starting to see initiatives from within the fashion industry which are about promoting diversity in appearance.

N: Do you know of any other cultures where media and the fashion industry don't have the same impact?

P: No, not really. There is some research that shows that with increasing exposure to westernised media there is an increase in body image concerns and disordered eating behaviours. There was a study that looked at body image and disordered eating among adolescent girls in Fiji before and after television was introduced and they found a significant increase afterwards. I don't know that we would be able to make any significant comparisons with any cultures where the media isn't an issue. The research focuses on western cultures and the impact of westernised media.

N: Is there an ideal body size?

P: I'd say there is an ideal body size

that is unique for every individual and that is probably what I would call the 'healthy ideal', when they are at a body size that is comfortable to them and when they have a healthy relationship with food and exercise.

N: You've mentioned men a couple of times – we have a lot of men at Imperial. I wonder how body image issues in men compare to body image issues in women.

P: It's difficult to make direct comparisons – most of the research focuses on one or the other, but there is an increasing amount of focus on men. We did some research in collaboration with the SUCCEED foundation that was focused on body image in adult men in the UK. What we found is that men are concerned with body image and that it impacts on different areas in their lives. It's really hard to make clear comparisons with women, and it has traditionally been seen as a women's issue, but the study that we did also looked at how men talk about their appearance with other men, and how often they do talk about it, and 80% of men said they

regularly engage in conversations that focus on appearance and reinforce their own beauty ideas. The vast majority of men said they wished they looked different to the way they did, with a heavy focus on muscularity, hair and height.

N: What impact would you say men can have on women's body image and is there anything men can look out for and try to do differently?

P: It's not so much what men can do to women – it's what everyone can do. One thing that everybody can do is not engage in 'body-talk' or 'fat-talk', which is commenting on another person's body weight and shape whether that's complimentary or in a negative way because what that subtly does is reinforce that how we all look is important, and people value that.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved with the SUCCEED programme but can't come to the talk on Monday 19 March at 12:30-13:30 in SAFB 121 then get in touch with dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk

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- Alex Kendall, IC Union President 2010-11

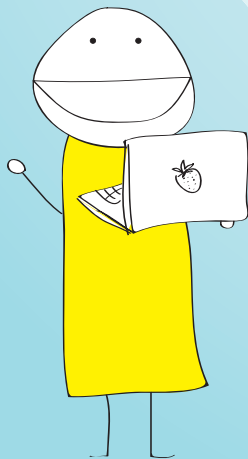
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Top UK Six University Election Turnouts

Your
vote
counts!



University of Exeter - 38.3%

Loughborough University - 36.4%

Lancaster University - 32.2%

Imperial College London - 31.9% so far

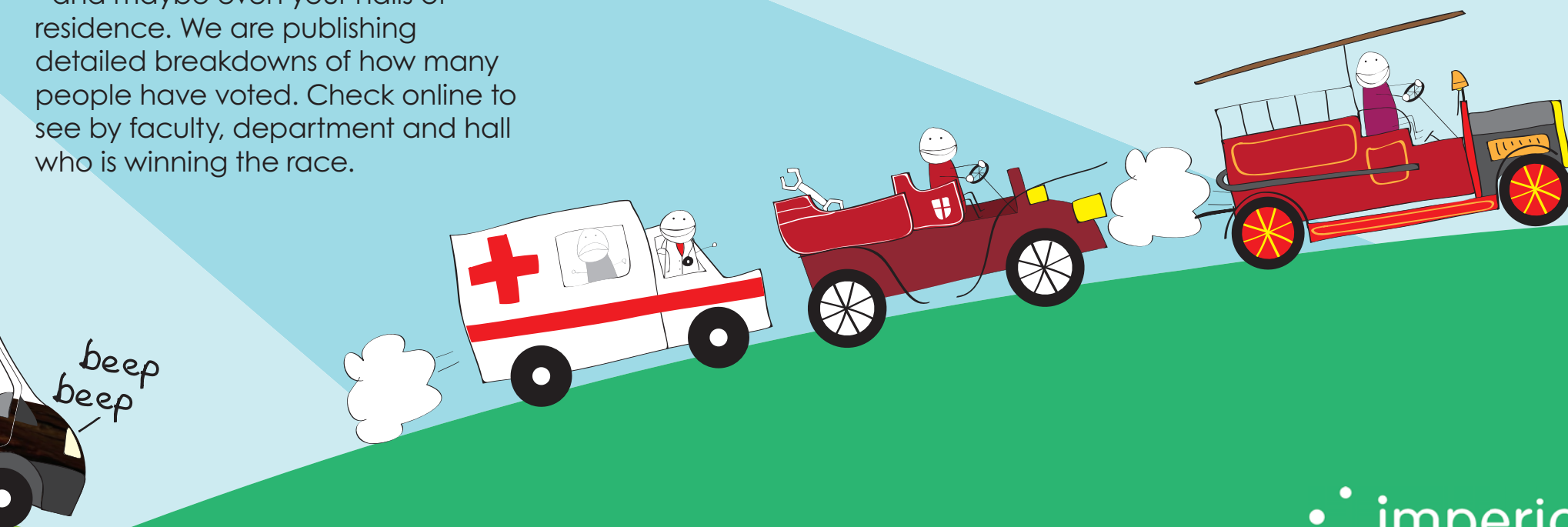
University of Essex - 31.7%

University of Sheffield - 30.9%

Which faculty is winning the race?

Not voted yet? You're letting your faculty down! And your department - and maybe even your halls of residence. We are publishing detailed breakdowns of how many people have voted. Check online to see by faculty, department and hall who is winning the race.

Election turnout taken from NUS Election Survey 2011.



Features Editors: **Katy Bettany**
Stephen Smith

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FEATURE

In Brief

Motor Club races towards fire engine repair

Members of RCS Motor Club have got one stop closer to fully repairing Jezebel, the RCSU's 1916 fire engine, after successful remounting of an engine bearing, and reconstruction of the engine. Jezebel has been off the road since the end of last year, following an engine fault when travelling back from Brighton.

The new bearing has been produced in house by the club, utilising the expertise of the club's alumni members. Following part of a metal ingot being molten down and cast to form the new bearing, it was then machined and etched to form a good fit with the engine. The engine has now been rebuilt, with distinctive features such as the pots, radiator, and lights now reattached.

Jezebel now runs again under her own power, and is capable of driving around. However, there is still reassembly work to do, such as reattaching the bonnet, before the repair is complete. These alterations are expected to be completed soon.

The club have also recorded the production of the new bearing, with a view to produce this into a video released to the general public.

Philip Kent

Bike auction brings the money

On Monday lunchtime ICU RAG and the Bike User's Group for the Imperial College Community (BUG) held this year's second bike auction. Up for sale were 52 bikes varying from basic and run-down to high-end racing frames. Prices this time around were lower than October's highly successful auction, in part due to lower numbers in attendance and also due to the variable bike quality.

Head of Sport Imperial Neil Mosley once again took on the role of auctioneer. BUG raised funds for their workshop (with plans currently in progress) and RAG raised money for charity.

The total raised from the bikes sold amounted to £1,100, with some rolling over to the next auction. This was a successful start to Cycling Week, and the Dr. Bike Mechanics on-site once again proved very useful to the students, both for bikes bought at auction and those from home, providing both repairs and professional and personal advice about the bikes and cycling.

Special thanks go to everyone who came along, Andy from Sport Imperial, Deputy President (Welfare) Nicolas Massie and College Security for all their help in securing the bikes, auctioning them off and assistance provided on the day, and Stef Piatek for organising everything.

Jack Hewitt – RAG Chair

Afonso Campos



The auction spinning into action

Unseen Imperial

Anonymous accounts of student experiences

There are some aspects of our lives that we just don't talk about. This makes it easy to think that we're alone in our experiences, when in fact, we're probably not.

Last week the Union asked the student body to submit anonymous accounts of their experiences of mental health. Sincere thanks to everyone who took part – here are the responses:

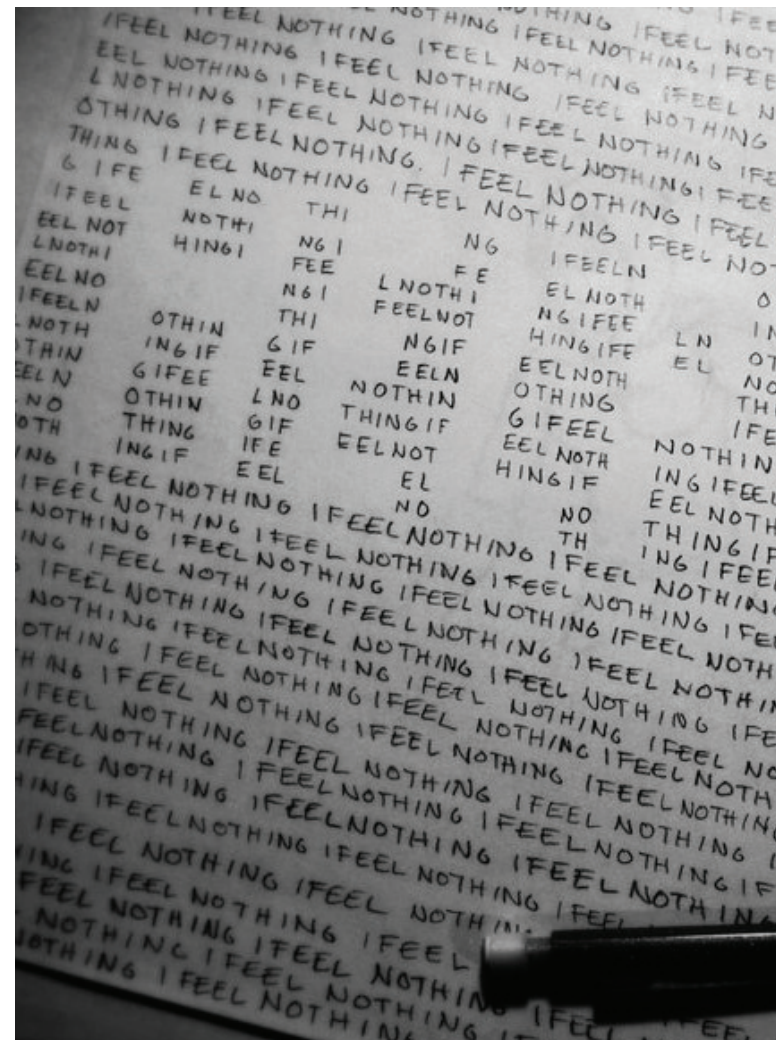
Last year my father was diagnosed with a serious illness. It was the tipping point in a chain of events that lead me to where I am today. Talking about my feelings, especially when it involves seeing doctors and potentially taking medication, has been met with very mixed responses. I'm hoping by contributing and telling my story I'll be able to tell my friends the secrets that I have kept from them for fear of what they will think.

I've always been a stressy and panicky person and throughout school my family, my friends and I learnt to deal with it. Then, when I came to University, it was picked up by my personal tutor who thought it might be best that I speak to a councillor in College. To put the experience in short, I hated it. I went to one session and within the space of about 30 seconds I wanted to run. From that point on I decided I'd just have to cope.

Over the course of the next few months things went from OK to bad. Little things became a big deal. I couldn't go to a party without feeling suffocated and really alone. I couldn't go on a tube or into a shop without tears filling my eyes. I couldn't keep on top of my studying without exhausting myself from fretting. I decided to go home for the weekend to get away from it all.

It was that Friday night that I was told about my father. My whole world came crashing down. Despite the positivity of his doctors my mind immediately jumped to the worst conclusions. I cried a lot. I stopped sleeping. The stress I was feeling started to manifest itself in physical problems that made me snappy and unsociable. At this point, just before my exams, my mother suggested that I go see the GP. She referred me to a councillor in the health centre.

The counselling at the Health Centre began as awfully as it had previously in College. There were awkward silences and it was quite frankly really weird talking to a stranger about my life. I felt like my problems were silly, but I persevered. I knew I couldn't continue to rely on my mother. After the third session I finally started thinking about me and sorting myself out. As a scientist one tends to learn to think in black and white. Then when there is no evidence you tend to think it's not valid. It's hard to



Email icu-disabilities@imperial.ac.uk if you would like to share your anonymous experiences of top

define anything about the process that you have to go through to change your mentality. It's a way of thinking that I had never before employed.

So here I am today. I have learnt that I cannot just deal with my worry and low mood; I have to consciously make an effort to stop it. Sometimes it's exhausting. Sometimes I feel myself taking a step backwards and even sometimes things still spiral a bit. But I know I'll get there; it's a work in progress that I know will never be complete because no one particular thing is going to stop it and make it all go away.

You may feel that you're fully accepting of mental illness but imagine if your best friend told you they were on anti-depressants. I know how some of the people closest to me reacted and it upset me and it stopped me from speaking to anyone about my experience. If you're reading this and you're anxious about revealing how you're feeling - don't be! There's a wide network of support out there to help you even if, like me, you chose not to tell your friends. Use it. I promise you that it'll help if you can give it the chance and are prepared to put in some effort.

OK, so here goes: In the not-too-distant past, I was raped. I was raped by someone I called my friend, in my own bedroom, during the day. And it is because of these details in particular that I would like to write this note.

Like probably most of you, I was taught by my parents, by my schools, and by the media that I should be aware of the dangers of being raped when going out at night. I should not dress in a revealing manner, I should carry my drink around with me, I should be wary of men that I do not know, and I should go home in a taxi or licensed cab, or via the main, well-lit streets. It seems naïve and stupid now, but this is how I thought rape was played out. And I thought that the victim would be visibly, physically hurt, and be left in some strange room or dark alleyway.

So at the time, because of my misconceptions about what rape is and the circumstances under which it can happen, I was totally taken aback and I was unprepared. Then after what happened, I saw it in some way as not being a "real" rape. I tried to be logical about it, and said to myself that if I just forgot about it, it wouldn't hurt me. I managed to do this so well

FEATURE



Topics that are not openly discussed

that I did not make the links between this and my insomnia, some of the subsequent changes in my behaviour, attitudes and emotional side, and the relationships I had with important people in my life. This changed when last summer I got a few snapshot flashbacks of what happened, and everything was suddenly made clear. I felt anger that I did, and still don't, know how to express or release. I felt that it was my fault for not dealing with it earlier, and so I felt deep, painful regret for what I had lost in the meantime and I soon slipped into depression. I could not focus on work or other areas of my life, and outbursts of these emotions sometimes (still) spring out of me at the slightest trigger. I guess what I am trying to say here is that I was very naïve and ignorant of how rape can happen, and the serious effects it can have on emotional, mental and physical well-being in the longer term.

I also had misconceptions of who and what counselling services are for, believing that they were only for people with extremely serious difficulties. This meant that I did not look for help from

a counselling service until I truly was in a dire state, and ultimately needed a lot more help. I believe that this is probably the case for many people at least in the British society – admitting that one needs counselling, and then that we are going to counselling, is still very taboo here. It was only towards the end of this year that I did not make up some excuse about where I was going on Tuesday afternoons when people asked, again fearing awkwardness. It turns out that there was no awkwardness at all, and I would encourage anyone else who is going or has been, to be more open about visiting a counsellor. It is not just for those with serious mental health issues, there is no reason to be ashamed for going, and contrary to what I initially thought, they help enormously.

I'm a female Imperial Student and wrote this poem for you about my mental health experiences. I feel down every fortnight or so, wasting hours

on the internet, having eating binges, not being able to get anything done that I wanted to or talk to anyone about what I'm going through. On the outside I can be quite an outgoing and upbeat person! I do think I have low self-esteem though. I have never sought any help, partly due to the stigma, partly because I deny that I do have a problem.

Underneath

No one knows what lies under the surface,

Is it better that way?

Feel I have to be fun around my friends

Or they won't be friends anymore.

So I stay inside, safe in my own world,

But it's in my own world where my thoughts suffocate me.

When the shadow passes I don't want to talk about it anyway.

Just pretend it never happened,

Try to move on

To summer days.

When I was 14 I developed depression. Things were really difficult, I was self harming and missing a lot of school and I had completely lost my friends – it's a very isolating experience. Even though I saw a psychologist, I couldn't talk to anyone – I felt massively ashamed that I wasn't coping, I'd always been a high achiever and wasn't the "type" to struggle so I put up this wall and refused to face up to things. It took several years of therapy before the depression and self harm started to be less present in my life – I was 17 by the time I was discharged and outwardly coping pretty well with things. I say outwardly as although I'd mostly stopped self harming, it'd been replaced with an eating disorder. I'd had it for years before I finally told my doctor about it, having moved to Imperial and finding things getting out of control again – getting good grades and keeping busy became a lot more stressful and pressurised in a uni environment than back in 6th form and combined

with homesickness I just found myself completely overwhelmed. I'm now waiting to start treatment for my eating disorder. I wish I'd spoken out earlier and asked for help back when I first became ill but that's what makes mental health problems so difficult to cope with. It's a lot easier to admit to having a cold or something physical than to admit that actually, things are really tough but talking about it is so important. Sometimes people react badly, but often they don't – without the support of people like my friends and my mum, things would have been a lot harder.

We'd really like to run more articles like this. If you'd like to share your experiences of anything people don't openly discuss, such as faith, sexuality, body image, mental health, disability or discrimination of any kind, please email icudisabilities@imperial.ac.uk. You can create an anonymous email address to send it from and any details which could be used to identify you will be edited out.

Features Editors: **Katy Bettany**
Stephen Smith

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FEATURE

Featured Fiction: Revenge!

Pavitar Devgon tells a shocking tale of violent hatred and gruesome vengeance

A lonely tree stood solitary on a darkening hill. Its branches were bare and no birds would roost in its empty canopy. The bark towards its trunk was peeling off and patchy in many places giving a diseased appearance. Gnarled roots grew twisted in the parched earth, meaning that the whole tree leaned crookedly on its base.

Sparse vegetation had appeared on the hill, sun-dyed brown, and now coated in sweaty dew.

Two men stood beneath the tree. One was shaking, as if from extreme cold, while the other was calm and assured.

"I told ya I'd find ya." The second man breathed. "And I told ya, what I'd do to ya."

There were no clouds in the sky to shroud the stars, not that any could be seen on such a dark night as this. The air was still – no wind had stirred since before sunset – and the silence was unsettling.

"I ain't never meant for this to happen!" blubbered the first man, stiff and

transfixed as a statue on a plinth of ice. "Johnny, please!"

Johnny just gave a derisive chuckle. "No."

A gleam of silver caught the moonlight and shone coldly. The hammer was particularly shiny, devoid of any rust.

"How many roads must a man walk down?" Johnny smiled, a thin slit cutting his cheeks. Danny's unsteady legs buckled and he fell to his knees, hands on his head, pulling at his hair. His brown suit, originally a ruddy hue, was stained with dirt from the thigh down and sweat from the belly up. A faded tie failed to conceal his mighty gut, which he had lavishly filled only hours ago.

"I...I d-don't know!" He was tearing at the eyes now, nose running grotesquely. "What are you talking about?"

"You know exactly what I'm talking about." Johnny hissed, moving closer so that his pale, cold grey eyes could stare down into Danny's horrible brown ones, close enough to draw in the stench of onions and fear. "You betrayed me." He forced out every syllable. "You led Sid



A lonely tree stood solitary on a darkening hill...

straight to her. And then you kept it from me."

"No! I-I..." Danny choked. "Sh-She went for h-him. She's the one to blame. Not me!" He whispered. A dog barked somewhere distant, its deep growl magnified in the taut silence.

"Lies!" Johnny shouted. "I suppose it is fitting for you to die on your knees like the scoundrel mutt that you are. I just wish Blue-Louie'd never pulled you

from Lachrymal Lake. It would've been so ... easy ... to let you drown."

The metal face looked straight into Danny's, who almost fainted at the sight of it. "Don't! You need..." He didn't even get a chance to finish the sentence.

The air around the dead tree exploded and blood pooled onto the dirt, quenching the grass. Three shots in total. A slow draught finally fluttered over the hill, carrying away the gunsmoke, and the

smell of death.

Johnny looked down at Danny's marble face with contempt. He spat on it.

"You should never have meddled in this boy." He chastised the corpse. "Looks like this man won't be walking down no more roads. What a shame." Johnny pulled his coat around himself tighter, stowing his gun away from the forsaking moon. He was about to walk away before he turned around and kicked at the body so Danny now lay sprawled on his large stomach. Then once more at his groin. He lent down and whispered into Danny's ear, blood still dripping out of it.

"Tell Sid; this time I showed you mercy! He won't be so lucky."

With that Johnny swept up like a bat and hurried away from the scene, anxious to not be discovered, and ardent on the pursuit of his next prey. One down, he thought.

The crickets' started a gentle hum, which crescendoed as Johnny eventually left.

The tree stood just as before.

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
[facebook.com/Phoenix.IC](https://www.facebook.com/Phoenix.IC)



FEATURE

FELIX EASTER EGG REVIEW 2012

The Felix team deliver their own withering verdicts on this year's chocolate menagerie

Lindor by Lindt

Beneath its golden exterior lies Lindt's usual soft chocolate experience, but it's on the miniature egg truffles where this Easter offering truly shines. Fun for the whole family.

"It melts in my mouth!"

"Sexy and seductive, it's almost too much"



5/5

Maltesers

Much like the Maltese Falcon from which this popular chocolate brand derives its name, there's more here than meets the eye. Malteser chocolate actually has a surprisingly complex flavour, which is reflected in this rich and rewarding egg.

"Loving it!"




4/5

Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Giant Bunny

In a risky Easter strategy, Sainsbury's have gone after both quality and quantity with this massive bunny. Oh well, one out of two ain't bad.

"Says 'Taste the Difference' but tastes like every other bunny"



3/5

Baileys

Definitely the most complex flavour on the table, the Baileys behemoth has as rich a bouquet as some fine wines.

"Smells of musty rooms and old wooden bookcases. The sort of thing that would spark flashbacks in your gran's mind"



3/5

Green & Black's

Described by one confused individual as 'the Queen Latifah of eggs', this offering from the favourite brand of suburban yuppies fails to take the Felix Easter Egg review crown.

"Chunky, rich, meaty at times"

"Love the aftertaste"



3/5

Thorntons

Despite portraying themselves as purveyors of wealth and prosperity, Thorntons drop the ball with this extremely average egg, giving way to churlish taunts being hurled across the office.

"For little girls only"

"Rich... like me."



3/5

Mini Eggs

Despite being an ordinary looking egg composed of the standard Cadbury's Dairy Milk, several religious cults have sprung up in the Felix office around these mysterious orbs.

"I would do anything for Mini Eggs"

"Boring but acceptable"



2/5

SpongeBob SquarePants

You see that face? That yellow, pourous visage? That's not a smile, son. That's a scream. The scream of someone forced to eat this terrible, terrible egg.

"Shit"

"Unacceptable"



1/5

21 ISSUES DOWN



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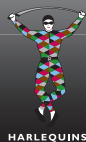
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Imperial College vs Imperial Medicals - Wednesday 21 March

Registration for free student match tickets has been extended for 1 week only! Register online by 14 March, or you will need to pay the full price of £10 at the gate.

Matches at Harlington, Wilson House, Ethos and The Stoop Stadium, Twickenham, home to Harlequins RFC



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In brief**Lubricated wood grinds better**

Pine trees are used to produce biofuels

Scientists at Imperial College have discovered that efficiency savings of up to 80% in the production of biofuel can be made by lubricating the wood biomass.

Biofuels are used widely in Brazil, where all light vehicles run on ethanol or a 25% ethanol in gasoline blend, and the USA where gasoline with 10% ethanol content is widely available. Wood chips from fast-growing trees such as pine are used to produce cellulosic ethanol as well as biodiesel.

The first stage in this process, which often happens at the logging site, is the grinding of wood chips into even smaller particles to increase their surface area and thus their reaction and dissolution states. After this, the biomass is treated with ionic liquids as a solvent for the cellulose and lignin.

The researchers, led by Dr. Agnieszka Brandt of the Department of Chemistry, studied the effects of treating the wood before the grinding process. They found that a short impregnation with ionic fluids increased the energy efficiency of the grinding process by up to 80% depending on the fluid used. A short impregnation time was found to be necessary as the fluid is acting not as a solvent, changing the chemical properties of the wood, but as a lubricant for grinding. The findings were published in the journal *Green Chemistry*.

Brandt says: "Tree wood is a mine of really valuable chemicals locked up in a safe that we need to unlock before we can use the different components. Breaking down the timber into a fine powder helps us to access these chemicals, but it needs to be an energy-efficient process to make it sustainable. Our previous work showed how the chemical action of ionic solvents improved energy efficiency in the processing, but we were surprised to discover how much more energy could be saved when take advantage of their lubricating physical properties."

These energy savings could reduce the per-litre price of ethanol fuel by 10%.

DOI: 10.1039/C2GC15663F

Keir Little

LSD may help alcoholics

Zara Shubber

A powerful hallucinogenic drug once used by the CIA in torture experiments may help alcoholics stop drinking, according to new research.

The research, funded by the Research Council of Norway and based on experiments conducted in the 1960s and 1970s, shows that the psychedelic drug LSD (Lysergic acid diethylamide) can have "a significant beneficial effect on alcohol misuse."

It fails to show how LSD works in alcoholics, but doctors who have seen the research say that LSD causes the human brain to function more "chaotically", inspiring alcoholics to give up their dependency on booze. Robin Carhart-Harris, a psycho-pharmacologist at Imperial told Nature, "Psychedelics probably work in addiction by making the brain function more chaotically for a period – a bit like shaking up a snow globe – weakening reinforced brain connections and dynamics."

Once the dust settles, many people who take LSD say that their problems appear clearer and simpler, allowing them to make a strong resolution to stop drinking.

LSD was introduced on to the market in 1947 as a psychiatric drug and was used by some doctors to treat alcoholics. Several trials conducted in the decades that followed the drugs release all showed positive benefits on alcoholics. But, taken individually, these trials were too small for researchers to draw any scientific conclusions from.

So Teri Krebs and Pal-Orjan Johansen, researchers at the Norwegian University of Sci-

We've missed a trick here. This is probably as good as anything we've got

ence and Technology, decided to pool together data from six clinical trials conducted in the late 1960s and early 1970s. They found that a single dose of LSD leads to a "decrease in alcohol misuse".

In the pooled analysis, there were a total of 536 participants, mainly men who had sought treatment for alcoholism and who were subsequently admitted for in-patient treatment.

The alcoholics were given either a dose of LSD or a placebo at random.

Of those who took LSD, nearly 60% stopped drinking. In comparison, only 38% of patients who were given a placebo stopped drinking. But the beneficial effects of LSD faded after one year, the research suggested.

"Given the evidence for a beneficial effect of LSD on alcoholism, it is puzzling why this treatment approach has been largely overlooked", the Norwegian researchers said.

LSD, a class A drug in the UK, is the most

powerful hallucinogenic drug known. People who use it report a wide range of intense physical, sensory and psychological effects. These psychological effects, known as a 'trip', may be pleasant or unpleasant, and can induce profound short and long-term effects on the mental state of those who take it.

The idea of psychedelics shocking the mind and altering one's perceptions so that new thoughts can be planted is not new or unique to psychotherapy. The English poet William Blake wrote that "if the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would appear as it is, infinite".

Humans have used natural psychedelics for thousands of years for religious sacrament. LSD was used in the 1950s and 1960s by beat poets like Allen Ginsberg to spark creativity and by politicians who thought LSD could help bring about world peace. Even the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) used LSD to try and control people's minds in their human experimentation program known as MKULTRA.

The findings from the Norwegian study show that the use of LSD in treating alcoholics is just as good as any other treatment we have, if not better.

Professor David Nutt, from Imperial College, summed it up well to the BBC: "Curing alcohol dependency requires huge changes in the way you see yourself. That's what LSD does. Overall, there is a big effect. Show me another treatment with results as good; we've missed a trick here. This is probably as good as anything we've got."

DOI: 10.1177/0269881112439253

Honey bees seek thrills just like us

Fiona Hartley

Honey bee scouts are at the forefront of bee exploration, seeking out new sources of food for the hungry hive and finding suitable nest sites for the colony when it outgrows its current home. These bees differ from their fellow foragers. They do not wait to be told where to go or what to do, but seek novelty, maybe even adventure.

A new study, published in *Science*, has examined the brains of honey bee scouts and found that this novelty-seeking behaviour appears to be based on the same molecular pathways used in similar thrill-seeking human behaviour.

Novelty-seeking behaviour in vertebrates involves catecholamine, glutamate and gamma-aminobutyric (GABA) signalling in the brain. The differences in thrill-seeking behaviour between individuals are often attributed to personality differences. So do insects like honey bees have personalities of their own, just as we humans do?

The researchers, led by Gene Robinson and Zhengzheng Liang, compared the molecular underpinnings of novelty-seeking behaviour in bees that do and do not scout. The bees in the colony under scrutiny were fed from a jar



On his way back from an adventure

of sugar water with a yellow flower pattern and faint scent for a few days. On three consecutive days an alternative jar with a different colour and a different scent was placed in the hive's vicinity. Bees that visited at least two new jars were defined as scouts and marked by Liang, for later capture.

Microarray analysis was performed on the brains of these scouts, and on the brains of non-scouting bees, to determine the activity patterns of genes in each. Among the thousands of differences in gene activity that the researchers found between scouting and non-scouting bees – around 16% of 7500 genes in total showed a significant difference – several were related to the signalling pathways implicated in vertebrate novelty-seeking, including receptors for the neurotransmitters glutamate and dopamine.

As both scouts and non-scouts forage for food, Robinson and his colleagues were surprised by the magnitude of differentially expressed genes between the two. In order to determine whether changes in brain signalling caused novelty-seeking behaviour in the bees, they were exposed to different treatments that would activate or inhibit the neurochemical receptors involved in the signalling paths implicated in vertebrate thrill-seeking.

The researchers found that octopamine and glutamate treatments increased the likelihood of scouting behaviour in bees that had not previously shown novelty-seeking behaviour. Bees that were fed chemicals that blocked dopamine receptors were less likely to exhibit scouting behaviour.

Since honey bees and humans are not closely related, novelty-seeking behaviour has presumably evolved independently in each lineage. But the results suggest that insects, humans and other animals share a "toolkit" of genes that plays a role in this type of thrill-seeking behaviour. This kit has been adapted for use in each species, but it still contains the same components. Perhaps the pioneers of our world, be they human astronauts or honey bee scouts, are not so different after all.

DOI: 10.1126/science.1213962

Last great ape genome sequenced

Sophia David

A decade after the completion of the human genome sequence, researchers have sequenced the genome of a female western lowland gorilla called Kamilah from San Diego zoo. This means we now have a fully sequenced, representative genome sequence from each of the four great ape groups: humans, chimps and bonobos, orangutans, and gorillas. Having the full set will enable scientists to better understand when each of these groups evolved – a current matter of debate.

Humans are identical to our ape relatives in almost all of our DNA base-pairs. We differ by 1.37% from the chimp, 1.75% from the gorilla and 3.4% from the orang-utan. Molecular data suggests humans and their closest relatives, chimps, diverged about 4.5 million years ago while evidence from fossils suggests they diverged as far back as 7 million years ago. Having completed the sequencing of the great ape genomes, researchers at the Sanger Institute in Cambridge now suggest that humans and chimps split around 6 million years ago. Additionally, they believe gorillas diverged from the human-chimp line approximately 10 million years ago, a finding consistent with previous estimates. The researchers also confirmed that humans are most closely related to chimps



Kamilah the gorilla

but, in fact, 15% of the human genome more closely matches the gorilla's.

Dr Richard Durbin, senior author of the study from the Sanger Institute, said, "After decades of debate, our genetic interpretations are now consistent with the fossil record and provide a way for palaeontologists and geneticists to work within the same framework. Our data are the last genetic piece we can gather for this puzzle: there are no other living great ape genera to study."

Another significant finding was that gorillas share many parallel genetic changes with humans including the evolution of hearing. Previously it has been shown that a gene involved in hearing,

called LOXHD1, had evolved rapidly in humans compared to the same gene in chimpanzees and this was thought to be related to the development of language in humans. However, the sequencing of the gorilla genome has shown that this gene has evolved in gorillas at a similar rate to that in humans, casting doubt on the connection between the gene and language.

As well as sequencing the genome of Kamilah, the researchers also partially sequenced the genome of three other gorillas including an eastern lowland gorilla, a rare species estimated at only 20,000 individuals. They compared the genomes of eastern and western lowland gorillas and concluded that the species diverged around 0.5 million years ago but continued to interbreed a small amount after that. Researchers have previously suggested that the shrinking population and low genetic diversity of eastern lowland gorillas is due to recent human activity.

However, the new analysis suggests that this problem is much older.

Another reason for studying animals is to help decipher the functions of genes in the human genome. The researchers at the Sanger Institute have identified a mutated version of a gene that, while strongly associated with dementia in humans, is present in all the gorilla genomes they sequenced. Therefore, it is

Our data are the last genetic piece we can gather for this puzzle

interesting how gorillas can survive with this mutation when it causes such problems in humans.

Today, gorillas survive in just a few isolated and endangered populations in central Africa. As well as informing us about human evolution, this latest research also emphasises the importance of protecting the full diversity of these species and may aid conservation efforts. Harry Marshall, a primate researcher at the Zoological Society of London, said, "People can start to take the genome and try to look for bits of it that might be linked to animals' fitness."

DOI: 10.1038/nature10842

No eyedea

Pavitar Devgon

Peek-a-boo, I see you! Our eyes are amazing machines, capable of capturing all of the light coming into them for the brain to process, as well as adapting to variations of distance, hue and intensity. And it's not only humans that are gifted with this. Almost all animals use eyes as their primary method of sensing their environment, be it with two eyes, four or eight.

Now, new research has been presented which shows that a species of polyp, *Hydra magnipapillata*, uses specialised cells which respond to light in the absence of eyes. Published in the journal *BioMed Central (BMC) Biology*, the report outlines that stinging cells (cnidocytes) in the polyp's tentacles are controlled through a nervous system which uses light as a stimulus. The light triggers a defence mechanism of poisonous barbs on the tentacles against potential predators and or to catch unwary prey.

The research was conducted by a team led by Dr. David Plachetzki from the University of California. They further discovered that opsin – a light sensitive protein found in sensory cells – is responsible for regulating the action of the protective cnidocytes. This is linked to a simple nervous system with light sensitive neurons to act as a relay, in a similar fashion to many other sensory organs.

Plachetzki described that other phototransduction proteins are also present in their sensory cells. "Not only did we find opsin in the sensory neurons that connect to cnidocytes in the hydra, but we also found other components of phototransduction in these cells. These included cyclic nucleotide gated ion channels (CNG) required to transfer the signal and a hydra version of arrestin, which wipes the phototransduction slate clean for a second signal.

"We were also able to demonstrate that cnidocyte firing itself is effected by the light environment and that these effects are reversed when components of the phototransduction cascade are turned off," he said. Though cnidarians have been around for over 600 million years in various animals' systems, the Hydra's approach to using light is along a similar pathway to other animals' development – sensing more of your environment can only be an added advantage to help catch your prey, while avoiding being someone else's. The similarities shared with human evolution also hints at a common ancestor going back millions of years.

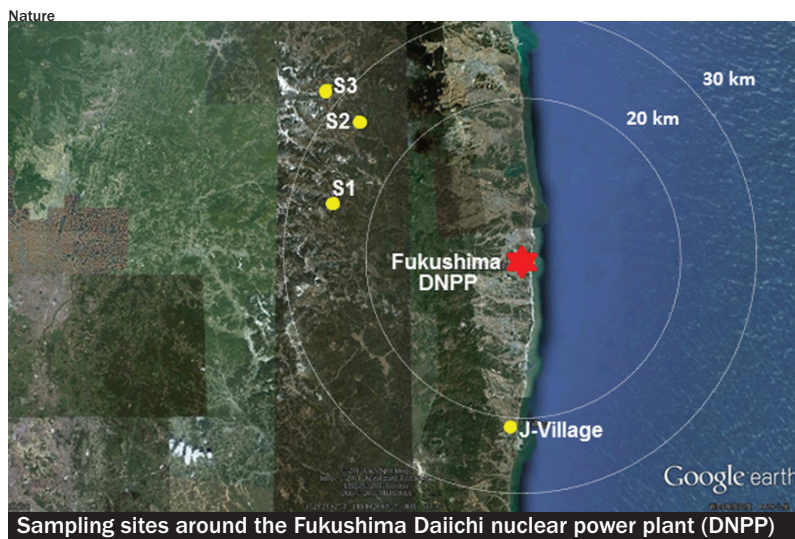
DOI: 10.1186/1741-7007-10-17

Plutonium found far from Fukushima

Emma Houghton-Brown

Last week, just days before the anniversary of the Fukushima disaster, came evidence that radioactive plutonium has spread much further from the nuclear plant than previously thought. Scientists from the National Institute of Radiological Sciences in Japan, found traces of the potentially harmful substance over 20 kilometres away from the plant – thankfully though, they say this poses no health risk.

The crisis, which left 27,000 people dead or missing and caused billions of dollars in damage, began on 11 March 2011. A magnitude 9.0 earthquake on the Pacific floor triggered a tsunami which impacted, and subsequently devastated, the northeast coastline of Japan. Moments after the initial quake, the three operating reactors at Fukushima Daiichi automatically shut down. However, 41 minutes later the tsunami burst through the plant's defences, flooding the reactors. Over the following days, emergency systems failed and the reactors melted down. Hydrogen gas was released, triggering explosions in the reactor buildings which allowed volatile radioactive chemicals to escape into the air and sea.



Sampling sites around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant (DNPP)

Unlike other radioactive contaminants to come from Fukushima, plutonium is different. It is not volatile so it is harder for it to escape from a nuclear reactor during a meltdown. But it is thought, in the case of Fukushima, the force of the hydrogen explosions propelled out some plutonium in the form of particulate matter.

Plutonium can be extremely harmful. When it decays, it releases heavy particles such as electrons and helium nuclei – not

particularly dangerous outside the body, but if ingested can cause genetic damage.

The team analysed soil samples for different plutonium isotopes produced during the course of the power plants' nuclear reactions. And for the first time, detected traces of plutonium-241, which has a half-life of about 14 years.

The additional plutonium exposure from inhaling this loose plutonium is five times higher than the government's

current estimate for exposure from the accident. But the health risk is less scary than you might assume, as the average person on Earth receives much greater exposure over a 50 year period from natural sources of radiation.

Lead author of the study Jian Zheng estimates that the total amount of plutonium-241 released from Fukushima was about 10,000 times less than that from the 1986 Chernobyl accident in Ukraine – making these recent findings particularly interesting. The distances at which the plutonium was found suggest that it was ejected during the hydrogen explosions in the first days of the crisis yet the relatively low levels indicate that the heavily shielded concrete casings around the reactors did offer protection from the worst of the fallout.

Independent work such as this is particularly important because, as reported in *Nature* last week, mistrust in the government in running high among Japanese residents. And although clean-up of the immediate site could take four or five decades, studies like this are key for providing residents and evacuees with the information they need to get their lives back to normal.

DOI: 10.1038/srep00304

Want to write for
Felix Science?
Email us.

Technology Editors: **Chris Bowers**
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TECHNOLOGY

A note from the Editors

Apple: reviewing our reviews



Two weeks ago, on this very page, Feroz reviewed the latest Macbook Air. The review itself was fair, balanced and overall very positive about the laptop. However, this has been tarnished somewhat by the hoops we had to jump through just to get the review out to print. The article itself had been written and finished three weeks prior to publication, but we couldn't print it until two Apple employees had read through and approved the review. Their approval was based on the criterion of there being nothing overtly critical said about Apple or the product itself. That is stifling.

As the review was generally positive, we passed through this process, albeit not swiftly. Thankfully, no change was required - the words you read were 100% Feroz's. Principally though, that's not the point. What would have happened had the review been more critical? It feels like we are being pressured to write a glowing review - more like an advert than a critique - just to be able to get it in these pages.

Perhaps you think this sounds unfair - after all, Apple did provide us with the laptop, trusting us with equipment it values at over £1,000. You don't need us to tell you that Apple is a popular company - it's going to have students buying its products left, right and centre; it doesn't necessarily need our publicity. Based on this, what right do we have to criticise its goods?

This isn't how we see it though - and nor do other companies: we haven't had our work pass through pre-publication scrutiny from other hardware manufacturers. We feel that companies should be confident enough in their products to run the 'risk' of a bad review. Should a company fear negativity from a newspaper article, perhaps it should proactively improve the product; pour its heart and soul into the project so it's as good as it can be. The popularity of the Apple brand however, would suggest this has already been done, and that it doesn't need to fret over student journalism.

Don't get us wrong - we fully respect and welcome any company's right to respond. That is, should we print an article or review that the involved company feels is unfair or inaccurate, and can factually prove as such, we would be happy to retract our comments. We strive in this section to bring you accurate and interesting journalism - we have no desire to slate a company or product based on preconceptions.

It seems to us then, that Apple has taken this a step too far. It is a very brand-conscious company, so it seems fair that it wants to protect that brand image. However, we feel there needs to be some trust in a situation such as this - there's a fine line between making sure people don't attack your brand unprovoked and dictating peoples' opinions. Unfortunately, we feel this particular example falls on the wrong side of the line.

What is Zynga up to now?

Joshua Maxey looks at the past and present of Zynga

When Mark Pincus founded Zynga (named 'Presidio Studios' at the time) in April 2007, only a small proportion of the relatively fledgling Facebook user base were aware of the transformative impact 'social' would have on their digital lives. Even less appreciated was its application to online gaming, a pastime thought to be the reserve of a generally derided stereotype. But last year Zynga accounted for 12% of Facebook's total revenue, and a quick look at the monthly active user (MAU) rankings for Facebook apps places Zynga way out in the lead with 240 million, six times the figure for second place. So where did this company come from, and what are its plans for you?

A company founded five years ago next month naturally hasn't had a lot of time to generate much of a 'history'. Mark Pincus (age 46) on the other hand, has. After getting his MBA from Harvard, he started the technology company Freeloader with a \$250k loan in 1995. Seven months later he'd sold the business for \$38 million, announcing himself as a player in the evolution of the web 1.0. However, not everything Pincus touched turned to gold. Among his failures can be counted tribe.net, a social network he started at age 37 that never took off. But the big break came when, in 2007, along with friend and technology investment powerhouse Reid Hoffman, he invested in the social sapling Facebook.com. This put Pincus on a collision course with Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook co-founder) and at the heart of the social revolution that would, not uncontroversially, transform all of our digital lives irreversibly.

In his five years at the helm of Zynga, Pincus has played the role of the quiet revolutionary. Mark Zuckerberg has had his own Hollywood film made in his (arguably 'dis') honour while the late Steve Jobs (Apple co-founder and CEO) was never one to hold back praise of his own products. Through all this, Pincus focused on the quality of his products at the expense of his public profile. This approach paid dividends. When Zynga released its first product in July 2007, (a poker game for Facebook users) it ushered in a new age of free high quality games. Before Poker Blitz (since replaced by Texas HoldEm Poker), free online games were more often associated with poor Java applets on addictinggames.com, miniclip.com and the like. Zynga were the first to change all this. In comparison with Apple's iOS app store, today's most ready supplier of free digital games, Poker Blitz was launched almost a year earlier.

Zynga has never stopped growing. Attracting



an investment of \$29m early on in its life and recruiting big names from the gaming industry (notably Bing Gordon, former Chief Creative Officer of EA) propelled it to produce hits such as FarmVille, CityVille and Words with Friends, to name but three. Expanding across Google+, Myspace and Yahoo! and generating enormous valuations year on year culminated in the company going public in December 2011, following a \$10bn valuation in April of the same year. However, this action forced Zynga's hand, revealing a lot of information about the company that had been closely guarded up until that point. For instance, only 2.5 per cent of its users paid for virtual in-game goods. This was enlightening to other players

“[Zynga is] now on a mission to become for gaming what Google is to search“

in the industry who saw a chink in Zynga's armour. Away from all the preposterous MAU figures, there was only a small proportion of the gaming community bringing Zynga its revenue. Overcoming Zynga's near monopoly swiftly became a mission to win round a portion of the user base who valued game quality over loyalty. And with details of Facebook's near-preferential treatment of Zynga coming to light at the same time, competitors were not short of motives to topple the social gaming giant either.

Cue Zynga's next big move. Having firmly established itself as the industry's game changer (pardon the pun), it is now on a mission to become for gaming what Google is to search, and Facebook to social. In 2007 Pincus joked that Zynga “[are] a fly on Facebook's ass”. It's certainly true that while Zynga brought in a lot of revenue for the social network last year (around \$445m), but to really innovate, at some point it must fly the nest. There is a plethora

of companies who could, and do, offer what Zynga currently provide, and Facebook has no qualms about tapping that resource. At present for Zynga, there's only one worthwhile social platform, but while they dominate that market, they can only grow in tandem with Zuckerberg and co's gaming user base.

But has all that just changed? On 1 March, 2012, an overhaul of Zynga.com - first announced five months earlier - finally arrived, introducing the 'Zynga platform'. The press release describes this as a “new platform designed to bring players what they've asked for: new ways to play and more people to play with”. This in no way severs Zynga's strong and valuable Facebook ties. What it does offer is a route to Zynga's vast community of online gamers, without the Facebook intermediary. It also boasts enhanced connectivity and user interaction within games, and with what could effectively become a quasi-newsfeed dedicated to your gaming-sphere, you can quickly see how broad and future-proof a move this is on Zynga's part. It deftly sidesteps a five year tie-in deal with Facebook (signed in 2010), for which most of the details are withheld, while at the same time tapping into a 800 million strong user base it has invested little effort in cultivating.

So now we play the waiting game. Zynga's continued success will rely on it building an attractive social environment tuned as much to its users as to its games, accessible through mobile and desktop. Much akin to Apple's success in building a digital ecosystem where hardware and software are seamlessly integrated, Zynga must look to blur the line between social and gaming. By drawing in customers on these two fronts, it can create a product not only for the avid gamer, but for the masses. This must be its next step in expanding the portion of its user base driving revenue. Regardless of their success up until now, just as EA, Activision, and Blizzard missed the boat on social gaming 1.0, Zynga could well lose the race to dominate second time round. However, with their announcements this month, they don't look to be going anywhere just yet.



DIGGIDY DAWG

F E L I X M U S I C N I G H T

W I T H T H E I N C R E D I B L E

SUN GLITTERS

"[Sun Glitters] pitch-shifted vocals and chopped-up melodies create a compellingly itchy, glitchy R&B"

- the Guardian

A L S O F R O M X V I R E C O R D S

HENRY WU & EVERMEAN

L O V E

4 X V I

T. Williams

"Really good vibe"

Mary Anne Hobbs

"Superb"

Alexander Nut

"Sounding large!"

L O V E

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POLITICS

“Like Geldof mixed with Bush”

Rory Fenton argues Kony 2012 is not just stupid – it sets a dangerous precedent

If you’ve been online at all in the past week, chances are you’ll have seen Kony 2012, a 30-minute video about the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in central Africa made by the charity Invisible Children, officially the most viral video in the history of the internet. But along with the inevitable memes, the criticisms came hard and fast. You will likely have heard that the charity has dubious finances, spending just 30% of its income on projects in Africa, much of the rest on publicity. But this isn’t why we should be concerned by the success of Kony 2012. Now a week later, we can reflect on a video that was dangerously simplistic, misleading and ultimately deeply patronising to Africans. This article explains why.

An American Analogy

It is the year 2007 and alien visitors arrive to Earth. An American citizen, George, needs their help. He shows the aliens a video entitled Bin Laden 2007. They see the terrible events in New York in September 2001. They see airborne steel slice through tall-standing concrete, they see the dust cloud envelop New York, they see the misery and destruction, pain and anguish; all created at the order of one man – Osama Bin Laden. Why did he do all of this? “He hates America,” comes the reply. The aliens are moved. They want to help. Surely they can do something for the poor people of New York? And what about Bin Laden? “Your alien firepower can help us bring this man to justice, dead or alive.”

We all know how the aftermath to 9/11 turned out. We know that, contrary to what the aliens might think, New York is back to being a thriving major city – those dust cloud images are simply out of date. We know that while Bin Laden was unmistakably vile, “He hates America” just doesn’t explain terrorism away – it’s more complicated than that. We know that vastly superior firepower, alien or not, does not make capturing the leader of a rebel organisation easy, not least when they can hide in unfamiliar terrain in a foreign country.

We now know that it took billions of dollars and two wars to finally kill Bin Laden. We now know that simple analyses of hostile groups, however vile they may be, are dangerous. We know that foreign interventions do not come without significant civilian casualties. So now, in 2012, have really we failed to learn this lesson?



Africa finally gets what its always needed: a bunch of trigger-happy white American students

The African Reality

In a word – yes. The similarities between Kony 2012 and America’s response to 9/11 are as clear as they are disturbing, a perfect marriage between Bob Geldof and George W. Bush. Just like Manhattan, northern Uganda is no longer a war zone – the LRA left over 6 years ago, a fact brushed over by Kony 2012. As with Bin Laden, Kony cannot be explained away as an anomalous evil, Like Al Qaeda, the Lord’s Resistance Army exists because the political situation allows them to – in the LRA’s case, a complex mix of land issues, political rivalry and religion. Just as fighting the “War On Terror” meant collaborating with some very unpleasant regimes (like Egypt and Saudi Arabia) so too would the removal of Kony (the president of Uganda is all but a dictator).

War on Terror analogies aside, the video fails to reflect the reality on the ground. It is simply not the case that “nobody cares” about the LRA. America has already sponsored two military strikes against the group with the intention of killing Kony. One resulted in the deaths of eight Guatemalan special forces. And no Kony. The other, in 2008, resulted in an LRA backlash against civilians with 1,000 killed and 500 children abducted. And no Kony. Does this mean that military interven-

tion can never work? No. But it does mean it is very complicated and unpredictable. It can also have terrible consequences.

America currently has 100 military “advisors” working to help the Ugandan army to track down Kony. They have been there for just 5 months without the need for a Facebook campaign and there has been no suggestion by the Obama administration that they will be withdrawn. And yet the video urges pressure on the White House to keep them there. Why? They offer no explanation.

An Attitude Problem

Thirty minutes of YouTube was never going to suffice to tell the complete story. But the problem with Invisible Children isn’t that they failed to tell a detailed story, it’s the very story they chose to tell. It is a centuries old story of a helpless, childlike Africa at a loss without “our” help. It is a story that must stop.

Watch Kony 2012 and the first thing that jumps out to the politically correct among us has to be this – why so few Africans? It is supposed to be about Africa, after all, and yet so much of the video is taken up by not just the white American director but his four-year-old white American son. Most of

the interviews are with white American policy makers and activists, with just two Ugandan politicians (briefly) and a former child soldier making up the African contingency. But this is a West-focussed video because it has a West-focussed message; the LRA’s continued existence is because we in the West don’t care enough but “make Kony famous” and he can finally be brought to justice. This is wildly deluded.

Let’s be clear – Africa is not governed by quantum mechanics. It doesn’t need us to look at it to exist. There are amazing local people working within their own communities to confront the LRA. But more importantly, Africa’s problems are at least as complex as those in the West. After all, we still have desperate poverty in London, we have problems with our health system and kids who fail to learn basic literacy at school. We should never give up trying to tackle them but we acknowledge the lack of a simple, one-size-fits-all solution and we rely on experts to guide us. There is no reason to assume Africa’s problems to be any less difficult. Not intractable, just difficult.

So why the different standards for Africa? Why was Kony 2012’s message so opposite to what we would want for ourselves or, say, the Middle East? We are seeing the continuation

of a special approach to Africa that began with colonialism – it is an infantilising attitude that says that Africans are helpless without the West and moreover that Africa’s problems and their solutions are uniquely simple. So simple that even, say, a four year old American could understand them. From this we come to the conclusion that “we must do something”. So we send T-shirts to Kenya and destroy their local garment market. We spend thousands of pounds to send some A-level students to build a school in Ghana, and take jobs from locals. We buy some Kony 2012 bracelets to promote intervention in a war we don’t understand and risk civilian lives. When we are ill-informed, “something” is absolutely not better than nothing.

Those who buy the bracelets and put up posters will never have to live with the consequences of their demands. But here we hit the heart of the matter – the video was never about Africans. It was about us, the West. A message that we are uniquely privileged and powerful in this world. That by simply posting or retweeting we are “making a difference”. I don’t doubt that those involved have genuine intentions, but their efforts are unlikely to do more than make them feel good about themselves and have untold consequences in central Africa.

Moving On

Some good may yet come from Kony 2012. The fierce backlash it promoted from development experts means that more people are questioning the motives and methods of charity campaigns in general. If it encourages viewers to take an interest in the LRA and read around the issue, it may well create and intelligent level of awareness. But neither of these was the intention of Kony 2012. In so far as it succeeds in its own goals, the campaign is likely to be harmful.

Film making can and should play a powerful role in raising awareness of strife in other countries. A great example of this is Channel 4’s *Sri Lanka’s Killing Fields* which focussed on interviewing those involved in the country’s civil war and using raw footage of the conflict. It managed to be both a powerful call for change and an intelligent, realistic account of the war while maintaining the dignity of those affected. Invisible Children, on the other hand, chose simplification and Mumford & Sons. The public and, more importantly, the LRA victims deserve better.

“Bling-Bling” or “Flamby”?

Isaid Benitez-Cabral takes a look at the choices facing the French people at the Presidential Elections

Five years have passed since the last presidential elections took place in France in 2007, which saw the centre-right populist Nicolas Sarkozy beat the centre-left Ségolène Royal to become the sixth president of the Fifth Republic. The presidency of France is up for grabs once again and will be contested in two rounds on 22 April and 6 May. In 1981, the French people chose left over right and booted out the unpopular incumbent. It is not unrealistic to think that we could see a replay of this unusual situation in the upcoming elections.

François Hollande, the centre-left Socialist Party presidential candidate, has been ahead in the polls for the past five months. Hollande’s ideas appeal to many in France, but critics point out that he has never held government office and doesn’t possess the charisma a president should exhibit. In his manifesto, he vows to introduce higher tax rates for high earners, scrap tax breaks and create 60,000 new teaching posts. In February he proposed a 75% marginal tax rate on incomes above 1,000,000 euros, which is higher than Sweden’s top marginal tax rate. This was a bold step and a change from his earlier proposed marginal tax rate of 45% on incomes above 150,000 euros. In January he announced, “My true adversary does not have a name, a face, or a party. He never puts forward his candidacy, but nevertheless he governs. My true adversary is the world of finance.”

Shortly after the February tax proposal, Hollande visited London, where he sought to rally the support of the 300,000-strong expatriate French community residing in the British capital, the majority of whom voted for Nicolas Sarkozy five years ago. He met with Labour leader Ed Miliband and the shadow cabinet and gave a speech at King’s College to supporters and students. David Cameron, however, turned down his request for a meeting.

The British Prime Minister has made it clear that he supports the incumbent president – in an interview with *Le Figaro* he called him “a brave politician” and stated that “Nicolas Sarkozy has my support, I say it clearly”. The presidential candidate came under attack during his five-year term for his perceived immodesty and flamboyant lifestyle, leading to the moniker ‘bling bling president’. Some think that he used his private life to strategically divert media attention from political issues, for example when he announced his divorce from longtime wife Cécilia on the same day as one of the first strikes against his reform program unfolded.

His merits include pushing through economic reforms in the wake of the

Reuters



Between a rock and a hard place: I don't envy the French people

financial crisis and an assertive foreign policy. He led the successful military intervention in Libya and strengthened relations with other European countries, in particular with Great Britain – on military relations and collaboration on civil nuclear energy. The dynamic duo of the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy, known as ‘Merkozy’, tackled the Eurozone crisis with zeal. Merkel said earlier this year that “I support Nicolas Sarkozy across the line as we belong to friendly (political) parties”.

Although Cameron and Merkel have backed the French president’s re-election bid, it is the French people who get to decide whether he can stay or not. François Hollande is not the only opponent in the first round. Marine Le Pen, president of the right-wing National Front, announced on Tuesday that she had secured the backing of 500 elected officials, required to be able to stand in the presidential race. She is popular –

according to an ifop poll 16% of French people support her, which makes her the third horse in the race. She finds support among traditionally rightwing voters and increasingly among the unemployed, who support her anti-immigration, Eurosceptic and protectionist policies. The

“The British Prime Minister has made it clear he supports the incumbent”

National Front’s appeal has increased, owing to the current economic crisis and the softer image projected by a young and polished Marine Le Pen.

The other presidential candidates include François Bayrou of the centrist Democratic Movement, who came third in the first round in 2007 – he is

now fourth in the ifop poll with 13% of French people intending to vote for him in the first round. Jean-Luc Mélenchon is a left-wing candidate who has been polling 10% support. He was originally a member of the Socialist Party, but broke away and founded his own party Front de Gauche (Left Front) in 2008.

On Tuesday, after five months in the lead for François Hollande, polls indicated a reversal of fortunes for the first round, with 28.5% of French people supporting Nicolas Sarkozy and 27% supporting François Hollande – only last week the situation was the other way round. The polls give Hollande a comfortable lead for the second round.

Nicolas Sarkozy attended a mass rally this week where he announced that the Schengen treaty that permits free movement of people between European states had to be renegotiated, otherwise he would pull out of it. He also proclaimed a protectionist ‘Buy European Law’. This can be seen as trying to win back

votes from Le Pen supporters. This could lie behind the bump in support seen in Tuesday’s ifop poll. He is not one to cede to triumphalism, at least not yet.

The opinions of students are, however, varied. One Imperial student I talked to is not enthused by this year’s presidential campaign and complains that ‘France is going straight into a recession and they are debating on whether the meat in supermarkets is halal or not’. He says the solution is to see through and continue with the policies introduced by Sarkozy – here he emphasizes that he doesn’t approve of Sarkozy – and is afraid that the election will effectively amount to a referendum on Sarkozy and not the result of a battle of ideas. Another French student is considering voting for Hollande and approves of his support for small and medium enterprises, which she says would promote innovation, and above all is wooed by the theme of social justice in his campaign.

Business & Finance Editors: **Will Prince**
Deepka Rana

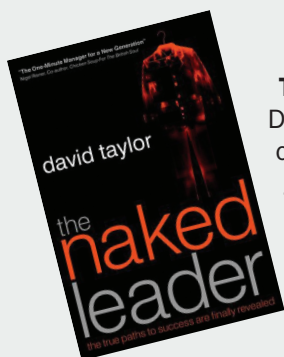
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In brief

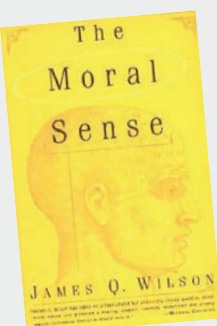
Felix Business recommends...

Six books to fill those poolside, Easter holiday moments



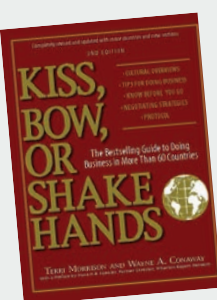
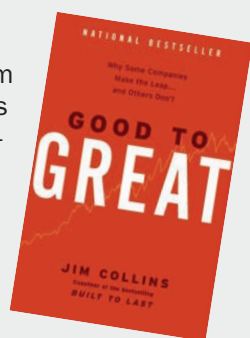
The Naked Leader – David Taylor: Hailed to contain the formula for guaranteed success, straight from the celebrated lifestyle guru himself.

Too Big To Fail – Andrew Ross Sorkin: Scene-by-scene narrative of what brought about the financial crisis and its key players.



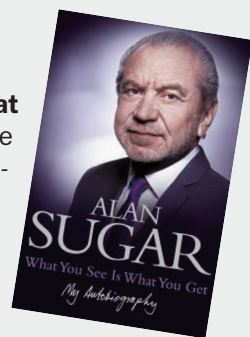
The Moral Sense – James Q. Wilson: Exploration of the source and development of people's sense of morality. Take note Goldman Sachs interns...

Good to Great – Jim Collins: In-depth analysis of what allows both outstanding and mediocre companies to stand the test of time and achieve greatness.



Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands – Terri Morrison, Wayne A. Conaway, and George A. Borden: The definitive guide on how to do business across the globe, the one-stop handbook to avoid appearing on an HSBC advert.

What You See Is What You Get – Alan Sugar: We don't think the title is ironic unfortunately.



Spilling all the beans

We speak to studentbeans.com founder James Eder, who takes the time out to teach us a short lesson in business.

Will Prince

I'm sat on a couch at The Beans Group head office, waiting to interview its founder, James Eder. I've been there only a matter of seconds and I'm already finding myself forced to adjust my expectations. The mental images evoked by the word 'office' certainly weren't matching the scenes before my eyes. As Heart FM gently filled the room (that I later discovered to be referred to as the Beanstalk) employees scoured computer screens, tapped furiously or, as a few were doing, discussed what I could only deduce to be this week's *EastEnders*. I can't purport to be a regular when it comes to 'office tours', but this was certainly not what I envisaged.

The Beans Group is best known for studentbeans.com, the brainchild of the 29 year old James Eder. A business that actually sprung out a final year project during his time studying at Birmingham University, James, along with his brother, put their savings on the line and set off to make a success of it. Seven years on, studentbeans.com is now a nationally recognized brand that receives 700,000 visitors to its website a month, a fact that swells Eder with pride. "I can't write songs, I can't sing," he admits, "but if you're walking down the street and you hear someone singing a song you've written, how awesome a feeling is that? We've created something that has made a difference, that last month just got over 700,000 visitors coming through to the site, and if you removed it from the world, in theory 700,000 people would notice it disappear. It's really this excitement that keeps me personally going, and similarly for the team."

The thought of building a customer base of 700,000 in seven years would make any budding entrepreneur balk but Eder downplays his successes as he explains to me the company's 25 year vision. Better known as the BHAG (pronounced bee-hag) – the Big Hairy Audacious Goal – is for The Beans Group to touch 100 million people everyday, a target that James feels keeps the company progressing in the right direction. He draws on the example of NASA engineers who, in getting a man on the moon, worked purposefully to achieve something that excited and inspired them. This in turn trickles down and defines the working environment as one in which work is done with real enthusiasm and enjoyment, two characteristics that are both seen in the atmosphere at The Beans Group.

Clearly well read in the business of business, Eder backs up his experience of start-ups with the words of Vue Cinemas founder Tim Richard: "it's a combination of luck, wind and timing. You need to be in the certain place, but the wind needs to be blowing in the certain direction, and also at the right time. It's not about luck, but when fortune meets opportunity, things come together".



Full of beans – James Eder

Eder certainly seems to know about fortune meeting opportunity. He recounts to me the occasion when internally they decided to contact Acorn, the company that powers Virgin Experience Days (similar to Red Letter Days), with a view to opening up a working relationship. Minutes later, having left the office, he's standing on platform at Golders Green, the location of the Bean Group office, that James is the first to admit is not the centre of the world. Waiting for the tube, he gets chatting to the person next to him. Asking what he does for a living, the stranger turns and replies "You know Virgin Experience Days? We're the company who organize those..." All this, as James points out, within the space of ten minutes. "You couldn't make that up, I feel like I'm in *The Truman Show* sometimes."

"You get the sense that James is the kind of guy who makes his own luck"

Whilst that story seems purely down to chance, you get the sense that James is the kind of guy who makes his own luck. He tells me about the dark early days of studentbeans when, for the first four years, working 18 hour days was not unusual. In the face of abuse from shop owners in Sheffield or intimidation from competitors on

the streets of Birmingham, James has repeatedly picked up his head and powered on.

In fairness, as admirable as James' example of persistence and application is, it's nothing unconventional. In every sphere of life, hard work, generally, results in reward. However, James has clearly meditated long on the science of business and his seven years being his own boss have given him an impressive ability to view business in a very stripped down form. When I finally ask him for some advice for budding entrepreneurs, his answer is far from conventional.

"Could you imagine if everyone goes out and randomly speaks to one new person every day? Just something random and stupid and small, that gets people talking. People do business with people. Who in your network who you're close to but have never met yet could be that person who could help you in the future? Whether it's getting a job or being business partners, you just never know. And that's the point of the story about the platform in Golders Green."

The point is simple, it's more of a lesson in life than in business, but at its core sits something that's key for anyone who wants to get on in the world of work. Moreover, it strikes me as something that would be particularly potent at Imperial, given our vast resources of intellectual capital and apparent lack of any sense of community. If only the candidates in the presidential election held such simple yet progressive ideas, we might yet see some real change for the better.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Graduates from the University of SIFE

SIFE's Insight Into Business Program aims to teach kids through hands-on experience writes **Michael Xiao**

The Insight Into Business Program (IIB) works closely with secondary schools throughout London to improve the financial literacy and business acumen of young students today.

High unemployment rates amongst young people today is a continuing problem within the UK. With the high costs of college placements and the low number of apprenticeships and jobs on offer young students are facing an increasingly complex financial world with fewer and fewer opportunities available. Socially disadvantaged youth are particularly affected, thereby perpetuating a vicious circle of poverty and social exclusion. It has become all too apparent that young students today are rarely given the chance to learn about business and finance thus shrinking a potentially lucrative avenue of opportunity. Insight Into Business is a project dedicated to providing the knowledge and skills necessary to allow young students to create their own success.

It has been said that an individual becomes an entrepreneur through the experience of actually going out and trying to start a business. Through a number of specially designed and highly interactive workshops we provide the fundamen-



The Felix artist's impression of the judging panel

tal knowledge and experience necessary to encourage students to become more entrepreneurial and give them the confidence to go out into the world and start a business of their own.

The program runs every year throughout the autumn term. Our workshops are typically divided into three sessions that are delivered on a weekly basis. Each session aims to provide an overview of a key fundamental aspect of the business development process.

Each year the program culminates in a competition in which teams from each school are set a business related task and then come to Imperial to compete. This year students competed to create a product or service that would best take advantage of the London 2012 Olympics.

Uniquely this year the competition was reformatted into a Dragon's Den style. Each team had to present their product or service to the panel of dragons with a business plan. After scrutinising the teams, the dragons decided which idea was most worthy of investment. Our team of dragons this year consisted of a professor from the business school, a careers advisor and two of SIFE's own business advisors.

The competition this year was an overwhelming success, which is amazing considering a city wide teachers strike forced teams from half of the schools to forfeit the competition. In spite of this the remaining teams performed admirably receiving nothing but praise for their outstanding presentations and innovative

products/services. One such idea, a new Olympic based Smartphone app, was so good that certain members involved in the competition had considered actually creating it.

IIB is entering its third year of operation and it is a very exciting time. With two years worth of experience IIB has established itself as one of the big programs currently undertaken by SIFE. Fuelled by the success of the last session we are now looking to expand. We are currently working with organisations such as STEMNET to promote IIB and attract many more schools into the program.

In order to facilitate the higher number of schools we will naturally need a larger team. We at IIB are currently looking for passionate and committed individuals who are looking to get really involved in a worthwhile project.

All the work we do is London based so this is the perfect opportunity for anyone who is looking for community/ volunteer work. Also, for anyone thinking of joining the CV2012 award scheme next year, this will count towards your mandatory thirty hours. This is also naturally a perfect opportunity for anyone who is looking to improve their teaching skills.

There are a number of new initiatives we are looking to implement for this

coming year to ensure the program runs smoothly.

A new hierarchy system will be introduced with a larger number of roles of responsibility being created. This will allow the more experienced IIB members to provide support to new members more effectively and ensure a smooth transition when the program is handed down each year.

This is also a great opportunity for anyone looking to enhance their CV. From leadership and teamwork to presentations, this program will provide numerous opportunities to enhance your transferrable skill set. Furthermore, our new merit system will give members the opportunity to progress within the project, so work hard, show us your passion and commitment and you could end up running the project.

There will be an induction session held later in the summer term giving an overview of the plans for the coming year and the different roles available. Additionally we are planning a formal training session to help everyone with their presentation and teaching skills.

This is really an amazing program to be involved in, so if you are interested just send an email to james.pearle08@imperial.ac.uk and join us in our effort to help the youth of today help themselves.

Are you a Student Upstart?

Paolo Strampelli

What do Steve Jobs, Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg have in common with each other? Apart from being incredibly successful businessmen, all began their companies during the period that they should have been in college - and all dropped out to do so. Indeed, a look through more recent history gives numerous examples of Americans who have also begun their great adventure while still at university.

It is harder, though not impossible, to find a similar list of Britons who have done the same thing. But this simply means there is a clear opportunity to find such people within our university system and not wait for them to caught up in the corporate life on graduation.

Step forward, Student UpStarts.

Student UpStarts is a relatively new accelerator that sets itself apart by being focused entirely on students. Founded by Christian Jakenfelds and Matthew Stafford - both former Imperial students (Christian studied Biochemistry and Matthew graduated from the business school with an MBA) - they realized

that students should be presented with the opportunity whilst still pursuing their studies.

So, last year they started by offering an accelerator designed for students still in full-time education looking to start a company in the tech, media or telecoms industries. At Imperial College, these sectors account for most of us! For around 8% equity in their startups, these student-founders received up to £15k investment and are entered into a 13-weeks hands-on program. Industry-specific mentors provide guidance on clearing the hurdles that often put off first time entrepreneurs: incorporation, share structures, taxes and accounting.

And it has caught on even more than they had imagined - "the response we have gotten from the students accepted into the program has been fantastic. In the coming weeks one company is heading off to Stanford to showcase its work, and two are currently working on final applications to Y Combinator," says Christian. This is all the more impressive when you realise that there are only three companies in this current cycle, with a target of 10 to 15 for this summer.

When asked about why they got involved and decided to set up UpStarts Matthew is clear in his beliefs, "For me it's because when I was studying software engineering I saw the potential of the super-bright coders but there was no support from the university." Matthew studied Computer Science at Durham. "Then again at business school - all entrepreneurial sounding but not one lesson on sales or how to set up a company. And the winners of the business plan competition got £10k but that was useless without further support/network. That's what pissed me off. I've worked for the corporates and I just found them too restrictive and slow moving."

Christian points out similar flaws in the UK system, "The best students aren't offered help from their universities and so look at the big corporate jobs in consulting and banking instead, telling themselves 'I will do a startup later'. The problem is, before you know it, you will have a mortgage, wife and kids and a tough time trying to start a company. However, as a student, you are in the best position to start something with next to no risk attached. Absolutely

nothing is holding you back."

The UK has four of the top ten universities in the world (QS World Rankings 2011/12) and one of the greatest and most diverse urban centres - London. However, until very recently, there has been a huge gap in the market for a venture that backs student entrepreneurs. Which, when you think about it, makes little sense.

That scene is now starting to change. University entrepreneurial societies have been growing organically. In addition, last year the Prime Minister announced that any higher institute without such a society would be assisted in its establishment by the end of 2012. With the European debt crisis, there is clear government support to back entrepreneurship as a driving force of creating new jobs and reducing unemployment. In this coming budget, the UK government is set to announce a new investment option for business angels, the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme. Through this, they can get up to 78% of their investment deducted from their income tax. Meaning it has never been a better time to be an Angel investor, and

therefore, the best time to seek out these Angels.

So what's next for Students UpStarts? Right now the current batch of companies are incorporated and being mentored by strong, relevant mentors as well as getting exposure to Business Angels and VCs, while networking into the London start-up scene and they are loving it. In the summer this could be you.

Christian and Matthew are currently in the process of getting office space for the summer startups around Shoreditch and the Silicon Roundabout, home to the new Google offices (and more hipsters than you have ever seen before!). If this sounds like something you want to be a part of, applications opened this week and you can apply online at www.studentupstarts.com. The brilliant part is, your company can still be at the idea stage. So what's your excuse to not apply?

You can stay up to date with Student UpStarts on Facebook, on Twitter @studentupstarts, or by dropping an email to contact@studentupstart.com.

Comment Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**
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COMMENT

FELIX

Independence Days and Felix

Felix, unlike many other student publications, enjoys editorial independence. This grants us the ability to criticise the decisions of the Union and College without interference in the publication process. Other universities have, for example, sabbatical positions in place within their unions, undertaking the role of covering communications within the union. This could cover all manners of media; television, radio, and indeed the press. Felix, on the other hand, does not have a sabbatical officer enter the office just before the printing deadline, looking to remove a quote that doesn't tie in with the Union's own stance.

Last week Felix ran a comment piece which called into question the editorial independence of Felix. This article led a significant number of people to believe that College had directly intervened in the production process of Felix a week prior to this. I would like to take the opportunity to reassure readers that the decision to run or not run articles remains solely an editorial decision, with editorial independence remaining entirely strong. The reasoning in the case detailed was the result of potentially serious inaccuracies, something that I feel, as an Editor, should in turn be taken with the utmost seriousness.

It is certainly right that we have the ability to hold those who represent us to account when the evidence is entirely clear. Felix thrives on responsible journalism and investigations, bringing light to the student body relevant and pertinent behind-the-scenes. The comment section, while promoting opinion and debate, should in no way court libel or defamation when it could threaten the responsibility invested in Felix by its editorial independence.

Once again, I apologise for any concern caused with regards to the relationship that we hold with both the Union and College. Investigative reporting must be encouraged, but what is being reported must be scrutinised before we can make anything from grandiose claims to the smallest of statements to the most heated tête-à-tête with the Union. Even when under the banner of opinion, we cannot allow claims against institutions to go unchecked. Perhaps future successors will disagree, but diving in to expose a story without, for example, having the hard evidence to back it up, is not the way that it works.

IC's international scene



Wenjun Er

The Overseas Societies Committee is the arm of the Imperial College Union which both looks after the interests of and manages all of the international societies present at Imperial. With a current strength of 38 societies under our watch, the total membership that comes under the OSC amounts to a staggering figure of 2126, making us one of the largest Management Groups around. The line-up of events for the OSC this year witnessed the inauguration of the OSC World Summit and the International Festival entitled 'The Melting Pot', alongside our staple events which included the OSC Football World Cup and the International Night. Apart from Management Group level activities, a large number of constituent societies also very enthusiastically stage their own annual cultural performances to showcase their tradition and heritage in an emphatic style.

It may seem like a no-brainer to an outsider that the international scene at Imperial College London should be one that is flourishing and thriving in light of the highly cosmopolitan make-up of the student community. However, the flowery picture I have painted in the first paragraph is simply a façade which hides an unsettling truth behind it. In reality, the OSC is suffering from a declining spiral which is threatening its very existence. A deeper probe into the situation uncovers several fundamental issues international societies are facing, as I shall depict below.

First, Union policies have been structured to not support activities which involve food. Sadly, food is sometimes one of the most effective ways of sharing various cultures and traditions with one another and it is not surprising that the international societies are suffering because of this.

Second, arguments which are usually put forward by other Management Group Executives point to the fact that certain cultural shows are profit-generating, hence they should not receive financial support from the Union. Little do they realise that they have gotten the order of cause and effect horrendously wrong. The progressive cuts in the budget of the OSC has driven societies to increase their ticket prices year after year, with the minimal profit they generate channelled back to finance events involving food (which they

receive absolutely no grants for) or donated generously to a charity in an attempt to benefit the community around us. Moreover, we should also understand the main source of this ticket income: it comes from the very pockets of international students like myself who attend several shows a year in support of fellow international students, with the damage usually amounting to around £50 by the end of Spring term.

Third, on top of the worrying problem of a shortage of funding, international societies are further slapped with huge fees for running cultural performances. The cost incurred amounts to £2500 on average, of which approximately £2000 is attributed to lighting and sound equipment hire from Dramatic Society, and approximately £500 is attributed to the charge by the Conferences & Events office for the Great Hall hire. While the figure for Dramatic Society's services may seem like an excessive amount, charging to hire an auditorium within the school which we pay fees to attend seems a rather ridiculous policy in my opinion.

What I have described is simply the tip of the iceberg. These persistent problems have severely undermined the activities and events within the OSC. Even the inauguration of two new large-scale events in the form of the OSC World Summit and the International Festival failed to reinvigorate our quest to increase funding for the OSC. The Management Group took hefty cuts for the third consecutive year, which saw us drop to a funding level of £4186 for the upcoming academic year. This figure reflects the largest percentage drop amongst all Management Groups and Faculty Unions, and the current amount stands at a worrying 60% of the funding level back in 2009/10. With some simple mathematics, each member within the OSC is given, on average, a £1.97 grant for a full academic year. In my opinion, these figures seem to have some stark resemblance to poverty statistics quoted in many reports. Such is the sorry state of the support that the OSC currently receives.

In the past few weeks, this issue has been surfaced by several key leaders and election candidates within the Union. Comparisons have been made between the £4186 received by the OSC and the approximate amount of £15000 received by a 60-member-strong Gliding club. It is heartening to know that there are student leaders who understand our concerns, and it is the hope of the international community that there will be more amongst the student population who will lend their ears and appreciate our plight.

There are exemplary models around in other Universities to draw comparisons to. The One World Week at Warwick University is an annual extravaganza aimed at celebrating the diversity of the student population through forums, debates, discussions, parades, performances and a large host of sports and games. This event is by no means an easy task for



Does the international scene need to reach explosive new heights?

volunteers to organize, but it is without doubt impossible to put in place without ample support from the University. Glancing over to our close neighbours at King's College London, international societies get their College theatre venue for performances at negligible running costs, including light and sound equipment. International students who are aware of such discrepancies in funding within our College can only yearn for equal levels of support to those provided at other Universities, and we are left to reflect on the absence of the true international experience that Imperial had promisingly looked to offer. It is the duty of not just the student leaders, but all members of the student community to stand up on this issue so as to curb the degradation of the international scene at Imperial.

It would be foolish to expect changes to happen overnight, but it is time for us to rally together to lift the international scene to the dizzying heights that it is potentially capable of reaching. More importantly, my use of the word 'us' in the previous sentence refers not just to international students but local students as well, for the benefits of improving the international scene will have far-reaching positive effects for the entire student community. Local students will stand to gain from a more holistic experience of the plethora of cultures and traditions that international students represent, right here in their home country. Other concomitant positives include improvements in satisfaction surveys, advancement in University rankings, and even possibly the boosting of our reputation to become one of the most prestigious institutions where the best minds from all over the United Kingdom and the world assemble to study, work, and play in a warm and inclusive cosmopolitan environment.

It is a dream of many of us that one day every student who walks through the gates of Imperial College London can say that he or she has had a truly international experience at this world-renowned establishment. But it is only if everyone works together that this dream can be achieved. Do your part, and stand up for our cause!

Want to show your support for the OSC from the comfort of your own home? Head over to felixonline.co.uk to get your voice heard.

COMMENT

Back Boris? Not bloody likely!



Padraic Calpin

This May, Londoners will again be called upon to elect a mayor, and if the polls are anything to go by the race between incumbent Boris Johnson and returning rival Ken Livingstone is too close to call. The thing is, I have real difficulty understanding how that can be so. Cynics remark that British politics is increasingly being reduced to a personality contest and, worryingly, it seems to me that the 2012 mayoral election has a candidate basing their entire campaign on a persona.

Because, simply put, if we look over these four years of Johnson we see that even his claimed successes, such as the council tax freeze and the “New Bus For London”, don’t hold up to close scrutiny.

Seeing as it is now plastered around the city as part of Boris’s “9 point plan for a Greater London”, the freeze of council tax bills in the “Mayor’s Precept” portion of London is the perfect example. The Back Boris campaign proudly claim that this freeze saved families £445, and while it’s true that the precept did rise under Livingstone, this figure is entirely imaginary. Rather being derived from promised budgets, this figure comes from projected increases based on the average precept rise under Livingstone. Not only that, this ignores the fact that Boris’s freeze was funded substantially by a central government grant, for which Ken would also have been eligible. Of course, Johnson has also gone one step further, pledging to cut the precept if he’s re-elected. The slight issue is

that his cuts only amount to a generous average saving of £7 a year per household.

Of course, as students, council tax changes aren’t entirely our concern. Transport however, the area where the mayor has the most direct control, most certainly is, and the record here is similarly patchy. Under Boris ticket prices have soared, seeing the cost of a single bus journey rise by 50% to £1.35, and a weekly zone 1-2 travelcard by 20% to £29.20. But while Boris is happy to try and claim network investment begun under Livingstone for himself, it seems a fair portion of this money is propping up pet projects with spiralling costs.

While fares make a dent in our pockets, TfL has spent £11m developing just 8 of the “New Buses For London”, which is a stark contrast to the £300k it costs to purchase an existing hybrid model. The Barclay’s Cycle Hire scheme, originally meant to be delivered at no cost to the tax payer, now has 80% of its current £140m bill footed by TfL and the London Boroughs. In a strikingly similar story, the planned Thames Cable Car, also promised to be delivered through private investment, now has nearly half its £60m bill being met by TfL, with no clear indication of how its predicted £3m annual running costs will be met.

Of course, it’s also possible that fare increases have come about as a way to replenish revenue lost from scrapping the Congestion Charge Western Extension. And while Boris is making some effort to recoup the economic effects of its abolition, the same cannot be said for the environmental impacts.



Just a persona? Boris in action

Up to 4,000 deaths a year in the capital can be attributed to air pollution, and London is looking at swingeing fines of £300m from both the EU and the International Olympic Committee. But Boris has seemingly refused to treat the issue seriously, at one point trying to claim high levels of particulates in Central London were due to pollution being carried over from the continent. Any money he has committed to the issue has been spent predominately on Dust Suppressants, which a TfL study states “will not be a useful [...] technique for preventing exceedances of the PM10 EU limit value”, and pot plants, rather than actually addressing the causes of pollution.

All of these points above fit in to a wider image of an entirely disconnect-

ed City Hall. A place where Tory London Assembly members believe “relatively few Londoners use [...] transport in any way”. Where the number of staff paid over £100k has doubled, the mayor receives a larger salary than the Prime Minister and marketing advisers are paid through private companies to evade tax. It’s a City Hall accused of “barefaced lying” about Police cuts, and that boasts of cutting waste while maxing out public borrowing.

Of course, who you vote for on May 3rd remains entirely your choice. However, I implore you to reflect carefully on the following question when making your decision: What precedent does it set for our Democracy if we allow a man to drift towards a second term simply because he’s ‘funny’?

“...the 2012 mayoral election has a candidate basing their entire campaign on a persona.”

Where was the debate?



Philip Kent

On the Wednesday before elections opened, members of the Union had their questions answered live on STOIC by candidates for the ICU Sabbatical Positions, as well as the faculty union presidents and the student trustees. This is a fantastic idea – if the candidates want our vote, they should be prepared to answer our questions and be subject to our scrutiny.

If only that’s how it worked. The programme itself was excellent, very well put together with some brilliant commentary by the people in the ‘Felix Studio’. However, the format of the programme could do with improvement, as it came across as simply a platform for the candidates to say ‘Hi’ – not that this is bad, in fact, it’s important that we all get to know them.

As it so happened, one of my questions came up for the Felix Editor candidates. To my disappointment, in a question where I asked for details on how the potential editors would change the journalistic output of Felix, the three of them proceeded to answer the complete opposite: how they would improve the satirical output. Needless to say, I was annoyed, and so proceeded to question them on Twitter (and then challenge them on their replies).

Candidates need to be scrutinised on their policies: they can promise no end of wonderful things, but if people don’t actually challenge them to see if the policies are realistic, or that they have been properly thought through, then there is a risk that a bad candidate is elected. Who isn’t won over by tales of wonder and awe (and free sweets)?

Whilst this allows the electoral body

to challenge the candidates – grilling them as they deserve, there are other benefits also: candidates can fight amongst themselves. Whilst this could lead to petty fighting and generally disgusting tactics, we can hope that Imperial students are above this, and can engage in an open and honest debate. This not only teaches us more about the candidates’ policies (and how practical they are), but also gives us a honest idea as to what the candidate is like as a person, away from the superficial image given off by campaigning.

We saw this in 2010 with the General Election – the three party leaders were put head to head in a (strangely entertaining) debate. It may not have changed many people’s vote (bar a somewhat temporary boost in support for the Liberal Democrats), but it gave the public a chance to make their

mark. The only thing I would change is to allow the audience to fight back at the candidates – make them prove themselves to the electorate. Just less “I agree with Nick”!

I have support in this, @EsotericGamer and @ICUChris both called for a proper debate – this should send a message. It may be too late for this year, but that does not mean that next year’s candidates can’t be subject to the interrogation they deserve. Let us scrutinise them in public for everyone to see, and in return ICU gets the best set of sabbatical officers that they could possibly have. In the meantime, back to Twitter.

Reminder: If you’re reading this on Friday, and you have not yet voted – remember to have your say! Voting closes at 23:59 at www.imperialcollegeunion.org/elections.

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COMMENT

Can a scientist believe in miracles?



James Faux

Most people define a miracle as a supernatural event, inexplicable by the laws of science and nature. So is it reasonable for a modern, rational, Imperial scientist to believe in miracles?

Last week I spent an afternoon wandering around the Blackett lab, asking fellow Physics undergraduates for their opinion on this. Many simply hadn't considered the question, and freely admitted they didn't have any thoughts on the matter. Others refused to answer, perhaps nervous of this odd, religious second year interrupting their conversations. However, a few had stronger opinions. One student stated that miracles were impossible, another that a belief in miracles and a belief in physical laws are incompatible. Yet another explained that his belief in miracles and his scientific studies were two separate areas that didn't necessarily contradict one another.

Let's conduct a little thought experiment. A first year medic bursts from the SAF claiming that a supernatural event has taken place. A cadaver, just about to be dissected, suddenly opened its eyes, sat up and asked for a glass of water. As a rational Imperial scientist, you're naturally sceptical, and your friend sitting with you looks incredulous. Your friend immediately exclaims "That's complete balderdash!" and continues eating.

But you're not so quick to dismiss the claim. You question the medic a little further: "Are you certain of what you saw? Have you slept much lately? Was anyone else present?" The story still checks out, and you decide to go and examine the evidence for yourself. You enter the SAF and immediately see a group of medics laughing uproariously. It turns out to have been an elaborate RAG Week prank.

But who was the better scientist: you or your friend? Despite the fact that your friend was correct, how was he so certain? I would like to suggest that it is unscientific to dismiss miracles without first investigating the evidence, even if the claim is outrageous. Because we all study science it can be easy to forget that scientific laws are not infallible. They are simply expectations based on consistent observation and experience.

Now, as a Christian I certainly believe in miracles. Christianity makes no sense if miracles aren't possible. My entire faith hangs on the miracle of Jesus Christ, having been dead for three days, rising from the dead. Of course, you'd initially think that was impossible. So did all those who claim to have seen Jesus alive after his death. In the biographies of Jesus's life, we read of how his own friends took some convincing before they really believed it was him, and not a ghost or some trick of the mind. Jesus talked to them, touched them, and ate with them. Only then did they



Personally, I'm getting memories of Bognor Regis

begin to believe.

Interestingly, the Bible doesn't seem to make much distinction between supernatural and everyday events. It explains how in God "all things hold together" – that is, matter would cease to exist if God were to stop sustaining it. From this perspective, our very existence is the real miracle. Any so-called 'supernatural events' might be unusual, but are just as miraculous as everything else.

There is one other, huge miracle in the Bible. According to Jesus, the most important things in life are to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and to love your neighbour as you love yourself. I can't answer for everyone, but I know that I, for one, have not met these cri-

teria. I'm a long, long way off. But by his death and resurrection Jesus has made it possible for me to have the right relationship with God, despite all my shortcomings. The miracle is that anyone who has faith in this, no matter who you are or what you've done, can look forward to an eternity in paradise.

Perhaps what you've read has been intriguing, provoking or just plain offensive! I'd love you to bring your questions or objections to a series of events investigating the resurrection of Jesus next week at Imperial. It's advertised under "Impossible, Improbable, Irrelevant?" To find out more check out www.impossible2012.org. I hope to see you there!

“My entire faith hangs on the miracle of Jesus Christ, having been dead for three days, rising from the dead”

Don't vote... yet



Veli Akiner

You heard me. Despite being torn three or more ways between candidates telling you to vote for them, hold back until you've heard what I have to say (assuming you have a voice in your head when reading this), or even completely. This article is no more than twelve hours from being too late for this year, but should serve well for next year's elections and beyond.

Democracy is the best of a truly awful set of government options: for it to work properly you need a populace that's not only impartial and properly informed, but intelligent and humble enough to know when their opinion is completely unwarranted. Yeah, everyone has the right to their opinion, blah blah blah. Claiming otherwise would paint you as some demon advocate against free speech. I couldn't care less about everyone having their own opinion on a topic, but for two things: not

all of them are sufficiently informed and not everyone is capable of dismissing ignorance or propaganda. Either problem by itself would be solved by the absence of the other; and solving the latter is a hell of a lot harder, so here's what you do.

If you don't have any good reason to vote, don't. If you can't handle telling your friends that you didn't vote then just lie about it, praying nobody hacks the elections to de-anonymise the whole thing. "But it's your right to vote! All the people who died in the struggle to have your voice heard would be disgraced! If everyone stopped voting, we'd have another Hitler in power!" Sure, prove Godwin's Law yet again. And sure, all of us here have a right to vote. A duty, some might even say. This is where people are wrong. Your duty is to make a vote that matters – one that is based on a critical review of each of the candidates. So in fact, your real

responsibility is to put your brain into gear during elections to think properly about how to spend your vote, rather than blindly choosing someone because they hounded you the most over Twitter or Facebook. At best, your vote is completely random, hence inconsequential. At worst, you're favouring a candidate for the wrong reasons at the expense of someone better.

I will confess that the "properly informed" pre-requisite is quite hard to achieve: not only does a campaigning length of two weeks hardly provide sufficient information, but the candidates themselves could be running for a slew of unfavourable reasons that can be hard to filter out. Not to mention that if you're slick enough with your public relations you can completely hoodwink enough people to win an election. Impartiality is trivial in governmental elections but called into question when the chances are you might personally know a few of the candidates. In my

experience, it's the people who aren't particularly enthused by elections that tend to say that they're going to vote for the guy they know – if you're one of them, just remember that they don't know if you actually voted, and any brownie points you gain are minimal when you consider you are just one among dozens of friends and potentially thousands of voters. You might argue that if one vote is insignificant, then there's no harm – which is true until others start thinking the same. In short, if you think elections are a popularity contest, kindly step away from the booth and into your nearest autocratically governed student body.

The frenzy surrounding elections is sure to dazzle and disorient you (I know I feel like that), but before giving in to the rainbow of posters, tweets, Facebook updates, human pyramids, flyers and free sweets to vote against RON, take a step back and think about whether you should even bother.

“...if you think elections are a popularity contest, kindly step away from the booth”

COMMENT

Just a joke?



Keir Little

Rape culture is not a culture of rapists or one that glorifies them, but a culture that downplays or even disregards the effects of rape.

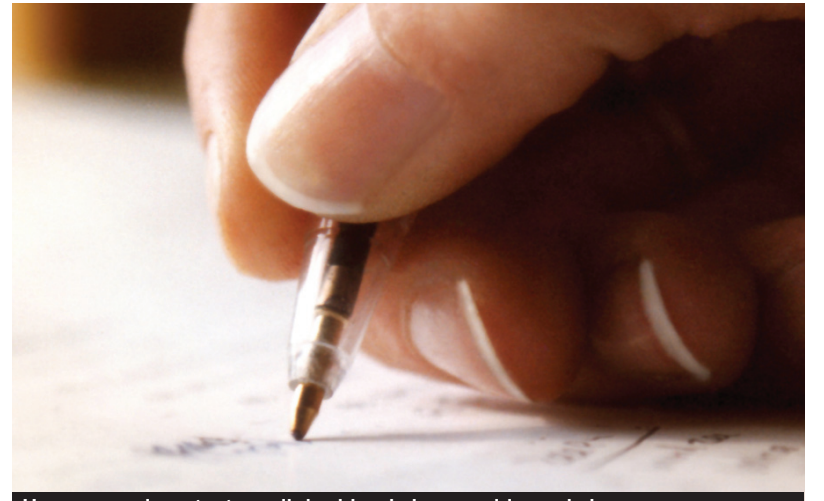
Let me ask: what have you personally done to prevent rape recently? If you're a man, the answer is hopefully "not raped anyone." If you're a woman, the answers will be many: avoiding dark places at night, avoiding walking alone, taking a taxi rather than public transport, not making eye contact with people in the street, keeping away from groups of men or calling a friend to make sure that they got home safely. This is only considering the relatively rare case of people being raped by strangers in the street, compared to the much more common crime of being raped by someone you know or someone you've just met in a social situation, which requires its own preventions: not getting too drunk, not taking drugs at a party, watching one's drink, and avoiding going to social events without close friends. Men reading this might be shocked at such measures: surely all of that's not necessary?

It is. Rape, sexual assault and harassment happen. In 2006, the UK saw 85,000 rapes – around 230 per day. Of these, less than 1% led to a conviction. Of children aged 13 to 18, 33% of girls and 16% of boys have suffered from some form of sexual abuse. In total, 15% of women are victims of rape at some point in their lifetime, and it is believed that 85% of rapes go unreported. Think about those numbers for a moment: someone you know, likely several people, has been raped or sexually

assaulted. You may not know about it; they may not talk about it, but it happens.

This brings us to our infamous Hangman article for two reasons, the first of which is rape culture. Even disregarding the abysmal rate of conviction noted above, you may be thinking "rapists are hated by society, how can there be a 'rape culture'?" Rape culture is not a culture of rapists or one that glorifies them, but a culture that downplays or even disregards the effects of rape. It's the idea that women who dress provocatively are "asking for it;" the idea that a woman who's sexually active or doesn't fight back is "secretly enjoying it;" the idea that if someone does walk through a dark place at night, they "had it coming to them." No one deserves to be raped. These ideas blame the victim for something that isn't their fault, and in doing so, they take some of the blame away from the rapist. The tactics for preventing rape may well be good advice, but they do not constitute blaming someone who fails to follow them: if I leave my door unlocked, it is still the burglar's fault if my TV gets nicked.

Similarly, no one believes that people will read Hangman and then date rape someone, or condone someone who does. Each joke like that, however, contributes to a culture in which rape isn't something serious, but something to be laughed at: where victims of a horrid crime are ignored or dismissed, and where criminals are seen as, "oh, those



Humour and context are linked in obvious and less obvious ways

silly rapists!" It leads to a culture in which rapists aren't brought to trial or convicted; where victims are afraid to report that they've been raped and people raped by their partners can't even turn to the police for help, because it's believed that such a thing simply can't happen. This is rape culture, and it is everywhere, even here at Imperial.

Secondly, given the statistics above, think how many people here are victims of rape or sexual abuse. Think of how many people there are reading this article now, and who read Hangman on the 10th of February. Rape is a traumatic experience, which can cause long-term distress and damage to sufferers. Descriptions of rape, especially those

which present it in a trivial, humorous light, can trigger anxiety and panic attacks in victims. Do we really want a newspaper distributed to over 13,000 students doing that?

On some level, there's a time and a place for every joke: you might see me, for example, playing a game which trivialises violence and makes fun of people blowing up. You would not see me, however, laughing at such a thing in the context of any real war or shooting. What's the difference between this and rape jokes? In our society, with rape so prevalent, there is no such thing as a context that's removed from rape. Until rape has stopped completely, it's not "just a joke."

There aren't enough intellectuals



Samuel Furse

The world is ruled by aggressive simpletons. We have all met jobsworths and nice guys, people who run things according to the first thing that comes into their head, rather than thinking it through.

The first example of this I came across in the political arena was the monarchy debate. There are a number of British people who describe themselves as republicans, many of whom complain bitterly about the royal family. This seems to include a disparaging tone about the members of the family themselves, what they do or are perceived to do, the constitutional position they hold, and perhaps even how that position fits into the running of the British state. All of these things are delineable, but are never separated in the debate. Added to which, what republicans think it should be replaced with is at least as unclear. An elected head of state? How will they be elected,

and by whom, and how often? Royalists are frequently no better. They do not complain of course, because they have their way. But rarely, if ever, do they put forward a coherent set of reasons for retaining a hereditary monarchy. So the debate, such as it is, falls apart – or never really starts in the first place. It just becomes a raging torrent of abuse from republicans up against slight bewilderment from royalists.

The NHS reform bill disagreement has many of the same characteristics. We have an elected government who are doing what they have said they will, but in a way that is making a lot of people bleat furiously. The bleating may be perfectly correct and justified, although we will not know that until it is far too late. As with most government policy, it is probably going to be a mixture of success and failure that is all too murky to pick apart. Certainly, we cannot tell exactly what will happen, not least because the NHS is far

too big and complicated to be readily predictable. The anti-NHS-reform-bill campaigners do seem to include quite a lot of medical professionals, but despite their undoubted intellectual ability, they have failed miserably at putting forward any coherent argument against it. Their poster campaign is a perfect example: a picture of a photogenic woman physician and a strap line about a high percentage of medical professionals being against the bill because it will destroy the NHS.

Even if it will destroy the NHS – which seems unlikely, frankly – why is that the best way of getting the point across? Yes, the attractive female medic makes it look better, but why should she, or others at her level in the organisation, be seen as knowing what will and will not work in a public service health care system? To put it another way, why should a junior doctor be in a position to run the NHS? Compare it to the idea of a train driver

being in charge of a railway or a post-doc running a University. It is just not realistic. More than that, there is no coherent argument from the self same people about what should be being done with the NHS. The opposition to the bill has become a stroppy barrage of loathing for both the proposal and its proponents.

As I say, they may turn out to be correct, but I think it is more likely to be only partly correct at best. In any case, surely, in order to deal with this benighted legislation in an effective way, the opposition to it needs a coherent and well-articulated set of arguments. Medics are not stupid people, why are they not fighting this on intellectual grounds? I cannot see why taking an intellectual approach would be ill-advised, provided you had lucid reason on your side, whether it be politically left, right or down the middle. But perhaps I am not intellectual enough to see its short-comings.

ARTS

The Poet's Column

Ode to Greg Artus
by Anonymous

"He looks like Michael Douglas", we thought.
How little we knew.

His lectures made us think,
And his voice made me quiver.

Tutorials were never a chore,
And when your eyes bore into me,
As you demolished the logic of my argument,
I so wanted your...

Approval.

Always devil's advocate,
But somehow we understood where you really
stood,
Outside Sherfield with your cigarette.

We knew we were less important than nicotine,
But we wanted to be more.

So eloquent in your explanations,
You almost made Plato sound reasonable.
An intellectual giant,
And surprisingly tall.

Greg:
A liberal, cerebral hearthrob.
Michael Douglas has nothing on you.

**Felix Arts is constantly
looking for new poets.
If you want to see your
work appearing here, do
get in touch.**

Poems about Gordon Ramsay

Freshly hand picked and delivered from
<http://gordonramsaypoetry.tumblr.com/>

Bread's dreadful
Wet chewy dough, damn.
Wowwowwowwow.
Strands of mozzarella.

It's soaking wet
It's bland
and it's a thousand miles away from anything
called focaccia
let me tell you

you're an airhead
who's got her head stuck in the clouds.
this is business.

Showing some flesh

The National Portrait Gallery
Freudian slips into something more...

Rocio Molina Atienza

Lucian Freud Portraits is a monumental exhibition, revealing the life-long strive of the artist to capture the mystery of human flesh. Freud, from his beginnings one of the greatest artists of the 20th Century, has struggled with his art, learning and challenging himself up to his death last summer at the age of 88. Until then, he had been working closely with the **National Portrait Gallery** to prepare this exhibition; one of the painting was left unfinished, its striking incompleteness proof of his energy.

**"immense canvases,
which cover the walls
with voluptuous flesh"**

Dramatic tension tinges every single one of his paintings, an undercurrent of conflict that brought about by the awkward positions of the body, the unnatural perspectives or the violence of his brushstrokes. One wonders whether the sitters he chose were troubled themselves or whether it was Freud's own vision that impregnated his paintings with drama.

His early painting possess an unnatural flatness and an obsessive precision that echos old Flemish artists. Portraits of Kitty Garman, Freud's first wife, are dominated by her huge absorbing eyes, which resemble the females populating the paintings of Paul Delvaux, pupils dilated as a result of belladonna. Freud deliberately depicts surreal cartoon-like figures who appear trapped in their own, flat, world.

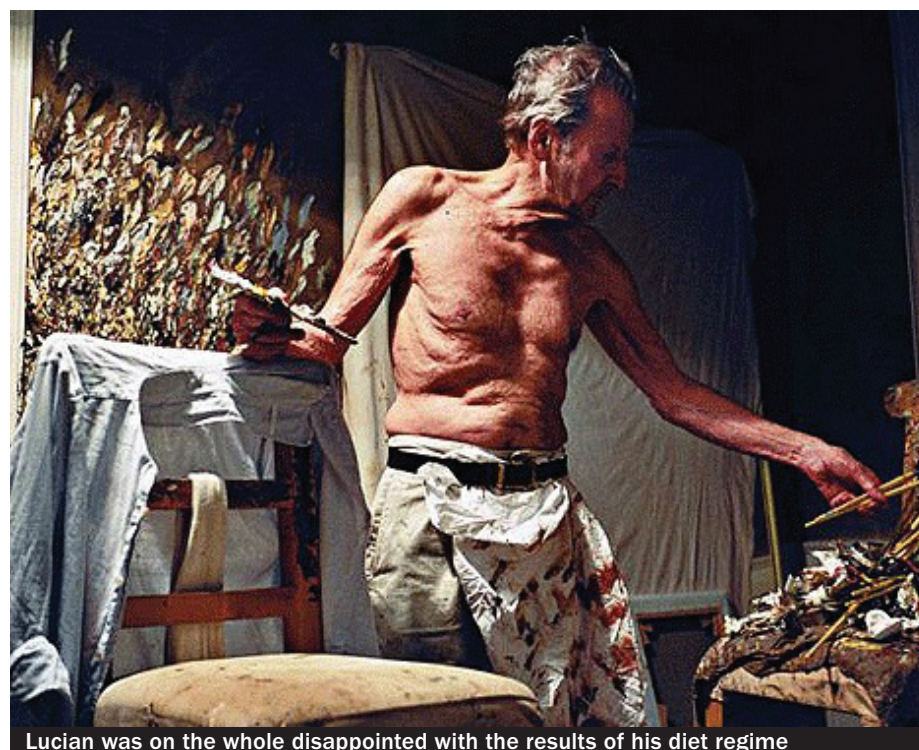
The bold brushstrokes and the myriad of tones that mark Freud's style do not appear until the 1950's during which time he started to develop his fixation on the human body. 'Woman smiling, a portrait of Susy Boyt', marks this transition: her skin has texture and feeling, and we can perceive the bone structure that supports this skin. This is one of the few paintings Freud did where the subject is smiling.

Freud's talents now unleashed a powerful whirl of skin tones and thick brushstrokes that seem to sculpt rather than paint human flesh. Frank Auerbach's portrait is a beautifully crafted piece, were the sitter appears to emerge out from the canvas. Auerbach was a close friend of Freud and Francis Bacon, all three of whom were significant figures of the School of London movement in the 80s which revindicated figurative painting and tried to bring it back to the art galleries.

Halfway through the show, there is a drastic change in the size and magnificence of the pieces. The last rooms contain immense canvases, which cover the walls with voluptuous flesh. The encounter between Freud and Leigh Bowery lead to one of the most thriving stages of Freud's career. Leigh Bowery was a performance artist whose hefty body and physical awareness inspired Freud. Bowery introduced to Freud to his most well-known muse, Big Sue. Her massive body nurtured Freud's obsession with flesh and its changeable nuances.

Freud Portraits will remain in the memory of all of those who go to see it, a mark hard to remove if ever that was desirable. Worth going twice if you have the chance.

Lucien Freud Portraits at the **National Portrait Gallery** until 27 May. Tickets from £14.



Lucian was on the whole disappointed with the results of his diet regime

GILBERT
& GEORGE
IN LONDON
TAKEOVER

Eva Rosenthal

Gilbert & George, an eccentric duo even by the standards of the London art world, establish the ultimate vision of a dark, murky, sort-of-foggy London. As the ghostly reporters of the ghastliest news stories to hit the capital in the past years, with the *London Pictures* they have created a body of work which should electrically shock even the most cynical of us. The *London Pictures* provide the means for entering a reality separate yet reflective of our own. I may never have known anyone involved in a "100 FOOT DEATH PLUNGE" or been present at a "MAYFAIR NIGHTCLUB STABBINGS" but whatever, they happen. They happen all the time, even though we pay little attention to them, reading about them in the rush of the grimy Tube or wherever, they just pass us by, unnoticed. This is the different world which Gilbert & George, impartial heralds, have carefully collated and which we can now see in impeccable crispness, despite the tenebrous subject matter. Humour is everywhere, if only because some of the headlines are absurd to the extreme. The Queen features prominently – imagine a stamp image of the Queen with the word "THIEVES" or "STABBINGS" floating above her head. Who knows if this is meant to be some sort of true political statement about the monarchy in a country where monarchic ideals are still so heavily ingrained or simply taken as a joke. The whole thing is in some ways a big joke; the show has opened in four galleries at the same time (one of these in Hong Kong) and, being perhaps a prime example of the commercial nature of the art world, you might feel predisposed to hate it. I urge you to rethink that initial gut feeling and immerse yourself in Gilbert & George's mad London – they will certainly make a killing. So what? They deserve it.

Gilbert & George London Pictures at **White Cube**. Entrance free.

Blame it on the MUJI

Emma Laurin

The events that took place on 11 March 2011 in Japan were a wake up call for many people. 20,000 died and hundreds of thousands were stranded without homes. This major disaster served as an eye opener for Japan: it made people appreciate the everyday things that surround us and those moments that make up day-to-day living. The earthquake raised questions about the increasing concerns around excessive consumption of goods and sustainability.

“Eat in measure and defy the doctor” is an old Japanese saying – by eating moderately or stopping before we feel completely full we reap health benefits. The key to health is to eat the adequate or fit amount; if we reduce our measures from 100% to 80% we will create a joyful, balance and healthy life. This saying was the inspiration for the Design Museum’s latest exhibition *Product Fitness 80*.

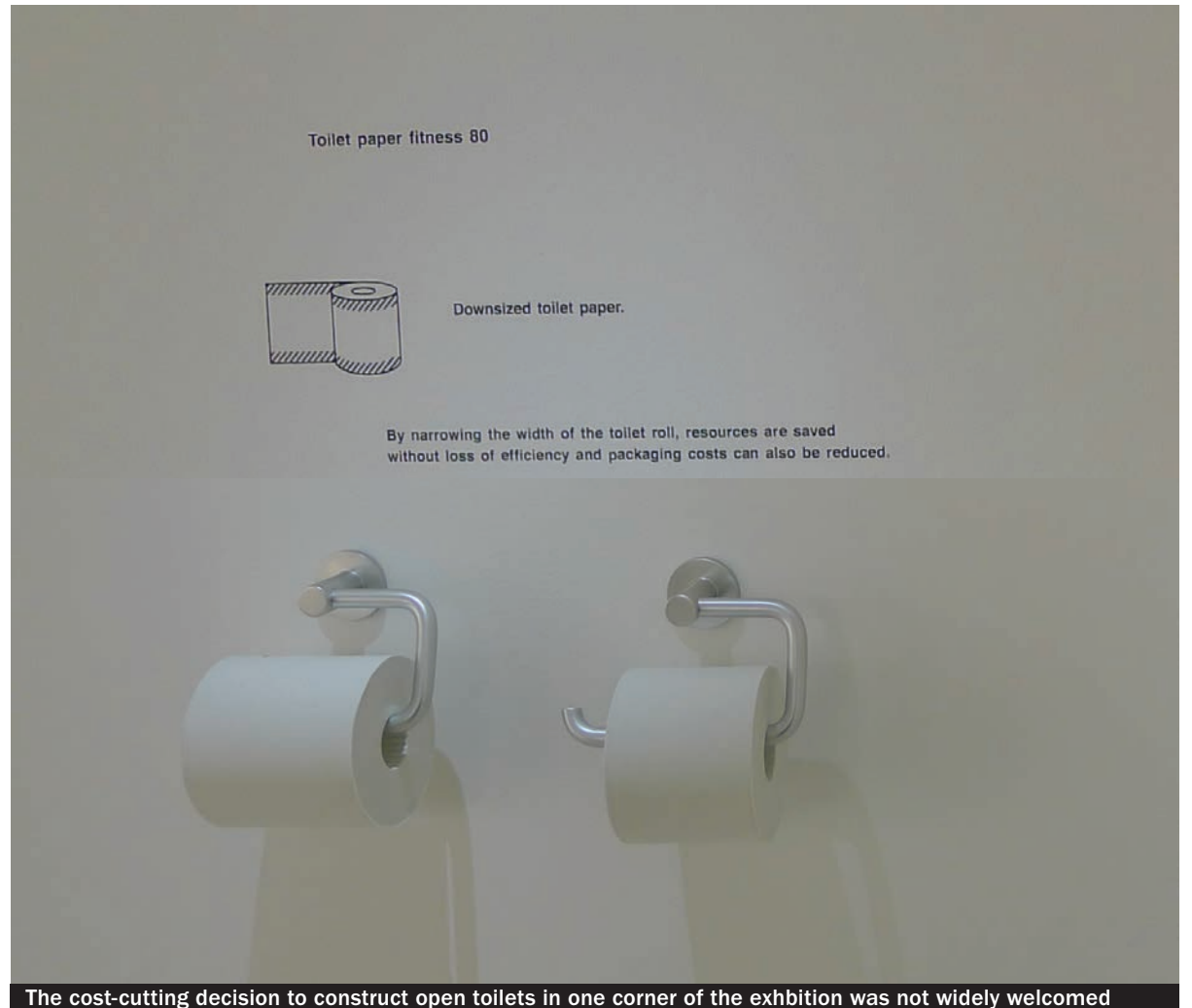
MUJI has always intended to design products that are truly fit for their purpose. Monozukuri, is a Japanese word for craftsmanship. For MUJI it is just that, making products wrought with craftsmanship. With their minimalist approach, even MUJI felt their need to renew their definition of monozukuri, to be in harmony with society and the Earth. This was why

MUJI decided to create the *Product Fitness 80* exhibition. The exhibition aims to reflect MUJI’s willingness to educate themselves and ourselves by renewing our own adequacy and fitness, as their message to the world.

Walking into the *Product Fitness 80* felt like taking a step into Japan. MUJI have a special ability to preserve Japanese culture at its best with everything they touch and this was also shown in the exhibition. Less is more. With small measures it was easy to see how they revalued the way we use things and how those items are manufactured. One good example of that is the ‘towel with further options’ – by giving the towel segments it could be cut and changed for its purpose. If the towel has a stain, it can easily be transformed by using the path of the segments and cut it into another size. The ‘box cutter 80’ was another good example, by decreasing the distance between the break-off sections, the blade will last longer and each blade will be sharper more times. Small changes with a big impact, that makes us stick to our objects longer.

If you want step in to the world of Japan and understand how MUJI think, don’t miss out on this opportunity.

Product Fitness 80 shows at the Design Museum, until March 18.



The cost-cutting decision to construct open toilets in one corner of the exhibition was not widely welcomed

Fluent on Paper

This Sunday 18 March from 7pm

Open-mic poetry at **The Builder's Arms**
(just off Gloucester Road)



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	CHRISTIAN L. CARTER
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Imperial College Dodgeball Club sees out the term in style. Remember, if you

VARSITY

2012

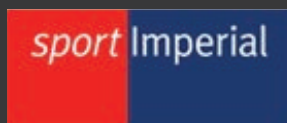


28 GAMES

2 SIDES

1 FELIX PULLOUT

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and the Felix Sport team

RUGBY: THE JPR WILLIAMS MATCH

A word from the club captains

Joseph Pick

ICSM RFC Club Captain

This season has not been an easy one for the medics. The medic timetable and a number of long term injuries have led to a disrupted and at times frustrating season in the BUCS premierships. The competition has at times proved a little too difficult. When playing universities that offer sports science degrees we are sometimes left a little short of resources.

That said a number of encouraging performances have been strung together and a lot of younger players have really come through the ranks. Our Saturday side is doing well in London North West 2, sometimes playing against semi-professional outfits. We have qualified for the final of the United Hospitals Cup this fixture is being played on the 16th of March. This is the oldest rugby competition in the world and we are hoping to win the cup for the 9th time in 10 years.

In true medic form, despite what some may see as a disappointing season, we appear to be reaching a crescendo in time for varsity. Bring it on.

Toby Spittle

ICURFC Club Captain

ICURFC have had a successful season, with a strong contingent of freshers, a number of whom will be playing tonight. They have bedded into the Club well and have pushed a number of senior players. The 1st XV are looking for promotion and had a successful cup run including victory over Imperial Medicals. This has been the only College v Medicals fixture as the teams compete in different leagues. It promises to be a great match with both sides expecting victory!

Looking forward, ICURFC are excited to be touring North America this summer. Playing a number of top American Universities including MIT, Harvard, Princeton and Columbia, the Club is pushing the boundaries of sport at Imperial. Players will, I am sure, be a credit to the University and the Club.

I would like to wish both teams the best of luck and to thank ICURFC sponsors Accenture, Citi and Find Invest Grow for their continued support and look forward to hearing 'Sylvia' reverberating around the stadium after the final whistle.

Head to Head: the

IC CAPTAIN: CHARLIE ESBERGER

Tell us a bit about yourself in one sentence.

I'm a fourth year physicist who started playing rugby at secondary school and eventually chose it over football.

Over the course of your college career, what have your Varsity experiences been like? Are you approaching it differently as captain?

First year I watched from the bench as we missed a great chance to win, having broken my clavicle earlier in the season I wasn't ready to start again. Second and third year were similar, disappointing experiences where we didn't make the most of our chances. Nothing really changes too much as captain, just have to be aware of the team's strategy as well as your own individual role on the pitch.

Have you been able to evaluate the opposing team's level, given that you've only played once this year?

We played the Medics in the BUCS cup back in November. Despite not performing too well we won 18-10. I'm sure they have come a fair distance since then though, and we certainly have.

Its fair to say they've had a really poor season but maybe they can pick it up for this one off.

What are your thoughts on playing at the Stoop? Sport Imperial have pulled out all the stops to get people to come to the game this year; how important is it to have strong support?

Its great to play at The Stoop, knowing guys like Care, Monye & Easter play there week in week out. The support is what makes it such an occasion and is vital to the evening. We appreciate everyone coming along and getting involved in the singing and banter, the louder the better.

Do you pay attention to the other Varsity results, or is it all about the Rugby?

I keep a vague eye on hockey as I have some friends in the club but that's about it, to be honest.

6 Nations time: was England's victory

against France a one-off or do you think things are moving in the right direction after the World Cup?

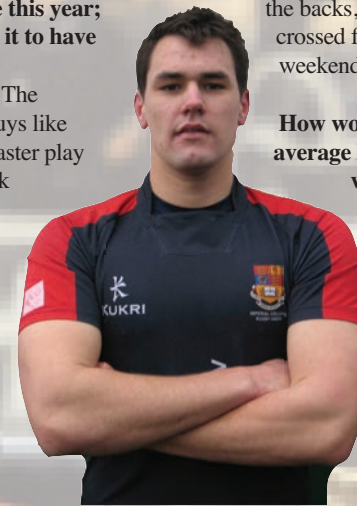
Well by reading the players' testimonies the biggest change has been in the atmosphere, apparently. There's a talented bunch of young guys, especially the backs, that bodes well. Fingers crossed for a win versus Ireland next weekend.

How would you convince the average Imperial student to go and watch Varsity?

Take pride in your college and come along and support. As well as the rugby the cheerleaders will be strutting their stuff if that's your thing, and you wouldn't want to miss the celebrations after the match.

Finally, what are your post-match celebration/com-miseration plans?

I imagine the same as most Wednesdays, back to the Union and then take it from there. It will certainly be a late night if things go our way that's for sure! There was a lot of basking in the glory of promotion last week, I'm sure we could manage it again.



Team L

Reserves

ICURFC:

- 16. Wilson
- 17. Ufodiana
- 18. Le Bour
- 19. O'Connell
- 20. Durkin
- 21. White
- 22.

Imperial Medicals:

- 16. Hassanzadeh-Baboli
- 17. Pick
- 18. Warren
- 19. Nightingale
- 20. McKeon
- 21. Harling
- 22. Kwasnicki

11.
James

10.
J.Cox

13.
Lane

15.
Hayward

14.
Judd

9.
O.Cox

12.
Floyd

7.
Flanagan

4.
McGeogh

8.
Baker

5.
Esberger (c)

6.
Hardisty

1.
Scaife

2.
Kyle

3.
Fenton

RUGBY: THE JPR WILLIAMS MATCH

Captains' interview

ICSM CAPTAIN: JONNY FISHER-BLACK

Tell us a bit about yourself in one sentence.

Living up to the stereotype of a rugby playing medic.

Over the course of your college career, what have your Varsity experiences been like? Are you approaching it differently as captain?

It's always been a great match to be involved in from coming on in extra time as a fresher to captaining the side last year at the Stoop. Getting MoM in 2nd year is a personal highlight. It's my second year as captain and I don't think it makes that much difference really; it's fairly easy to get the boys pumped up for matches like Varsity.

Have you been able to evaluate the opposing team's level, given that you haven't played each other this year?

We played them in the cup a while back so we've seen a little of each other. The College are obviously coming in off the back of a promotion season from the league below but we've been in this position be-

fore and I think the Varsity match really is a one-off game, which is probably why it's such a close affair every year.

How often do your course commitments clash with rugby ones? What wins out in the end?

With two games and two training sessions a week rugby takes up a lot of time but usually people are pretty understanding so I always put rugby first during the season.

What are your thoughts on playing at the Stoop?

Sport Imperial have pulled out all the stops to get people to come to the game this year; how important is it to have strong support?

It's not a bad pitch. Don't think it's a touch on our home ground at Teddington but suppose it will have to do. It was a brilliant atmosphere down at the Stoop last year and it's always amazing to have the support of the Med school down at the game, I think it makes everybody raise their game.

Do you pay attention to the other Varsity results, or is it all about the Rugby?

Definitely. We only really get to watch the other rugby matches and some of

the Hockey and Football down at Harlington. Supporting your mates in the other sports gets everyone a bit fired up for the game in the evening.

Speaking of Rugby; was England's victory against France a one-off or do you think things are moving in the right direction after the World Cup?

They're a pretty inexperienced side at international level at the moment but the games against Wales and France have definitely been an improvement on the horrible performances during the World Cup. Think they're probably going to get better and better as a side the more they play together.

How would you convince the average Imperial student to go and watch Varsity?

I think there's still quite a lot of Med school pride and spirit around so don't think it should be too much of a hard sell. Even if you don't particularly like rugby it's an entertaining night out with your mates and the atmosphere is always great.

Finally, what are your post-match celebration/commiseration plans?

Same old nonsense at the Reynolds as every Wednesday... ideally not ending up as a double page spread in a national newspaper the following week.



VARSITY WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH

Can't make it? Stay up to date throughout the day on felixonline.co.uk

Lineups

7. Davies
1. Fisher-Black (c)
4. Evans
2. Cole
8. Balogun-Lynch
5. Ley Greaves
3. Shaath
6. Morris

14. Hutchinson
12. Rutter
9. Barrie
15. Nzekwue
13. Macmillan
10. Gurney
11. Clough

RUGBY 2NDS MATCH



Captain: Matthew Poynton

The 2s this year have had an up and down season. After a disappointing start against teams that went on to top the league, our season was back on track with back to back wins in the run up to Christmas lifting us up the table. After Christmas we had a series of narrow losses, losing two games by a total margin of 3 points, both after being in winning positions.

However we recovered from these with two more wins to hopefully secure survival in the league whilst playing some very attractive rugby. This team is a young team and has grown in confidence and ability throughout the season leaving us in a strong position for Varsity and the future.

Lineup:

1. Alistair Tang 2. Matthew Poynton (c) 3. Dariush Hazzendah-Baboli 4. Conor Walsh 5. Greg Warren 6. Raj Atkar 7. Adrian McGrath 8. James Morris 9. Jack Faulker 10. Aiden Benson 11. Freddie Tan 12. Richard Kwasniki 13. Tim Langdon 14. Rory Hutchinson 15. Matthew Harling
Subs: 16. Farhan Hussai 17. Tim Rawson 18. Joe Pick 19. Jo Simmonds 20. Annalan Navaratnam 21. Mike Quinn 22. Alex Scott



Captain: Marc Robins

TBC

Lineup:

TBC

FOOTBALL

1s Varsity Match



Captain: Harold Wilson-Morkeh

This season has been a mixed one for the ICSM FC 1st team. We've suffered an unprecedented amount of injuries to key players and as a result we've failed to put out consistent XIs all season. This has meant building an understanding between team members has been more difficult than usual but the players have still performed with admirable spirit and passion throughout the season.

Varsity is a one-off game and we can use that to our advantage. Setbacks during the season can all be forgotten with a win in this fixture. Our penalty shoot-out loss last year is still fresh in the memory so we're determined to settle the score in 2012.

Lineup:

Imran Ahmed
Karim Amer
Ime Eka
David Hillier
Samuel Horti
James Illif
Bradley Lonergan (GK)
Patrick McGown
Uzoma Nnajiuba
Ifeanyi Onubogu
Youssuf Saleh
Adem Uner
William Tomlinson
Harold Wilson-Morkeh (C)



Captain: Marc Robins

We have started the season being the winners of a dramatic cup final last year and having lost the league title by a point. Our aims for this year were to literally win every title we were competing in: ULU Cup, ULU league and BUCS league. Unfortunately, we did not have the necessary depth in the squad to achieve this, so we ended up being in an average position in ULU league. We are chasing the league title (and consequently the promotion) in BUCS and are currently 3 points behind the top team; with 2 games to go (including a table-top clash vs Westminster) we have plenty of chances of finishing first.

Moreover, we managed to make it to the final of ULU Cup for the third year in a row.

ICFC is definitely a club to be proud of being part and all 7 teams are truly a big family.

Overall, we are 3 wins away of winning a dreamy double and becoming one of the most successful Imperial teams ever.

Lineup:

Henry Gardner (GK)	Dionigi Benincasa (CM)
Tom Fryatt (CB)	Ahmed Cherif (CM)
Pete Woodhead (CB)	Constantinos Zarnas (AM)
Christian Nielsen (RB)	Pierre-Luc-Joffre (RW)
Omar Amjad (RB)	Nathan Ferrol (AM)
Gavin Graham (RB-LB)	Jack Robinson (CF)
Theocharis Tofis (LB)	Joshua March (CF)
Dominic McMonagle (LB)	
William Wilson (CM)	
Jonathan Hill (CM)	
Will Wilson (CM)	

2s Varsity Match



Captain: Ajay Mohite

TBC

Lineup:

TBC



Captain: Timothy Beasley

The 2011/2012 season has been somewhat of a transitional year for IC 2nd Football Team. Results have been mixed as personnel and tactics have had to be adapted at many points throughout the year to cover for injuries and player movement between squads. At the start of the season the ambition was to strive for promotion in both our BUCS and ULU leagues, and although this has not quite come to fruition, things could have been very different if a few results had gone slightly differently along the way.

However, the season can still be seen as a relative success. The vast majority of the squad will still be available for selection next year, and with a few additions, we should be set up nicely to have success in all competitions.

The highlights from this year have included victories over both the Medic 1st and 2nd teams, and hopefully this run will be continued at Varsity!

Lineup:

Chris Aspinall	Jon Mitchell
Kola Ayanwale	Peter Nugent
Tim Beasley (C)	Oladapo Ogunbiyi
Tom Caron	Gus Polissano
Kume Feese	Nam Seungkyu
Joan Garcia	Tom Than
Dom Lawrance	Dan Widdowson
Kyri Mavrommatis	Will Wright

3s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Louis Peters

This will be the second year that the 3rd teams of each football club have met each other under the pretence of Varsity - Last years inaugural match was deservedly won in a hard fought game that the medics clinched in the dying minutes. It was a game enjoyed by not only the team but also the tens of fans on the sideline cheering their support which will hopefully be repeated this year!

ICSMFC 3s have had a highly successful season thus far. Having already reached the UH Cup Final to be played on Wed 14th March we will hopefully be bringing the team its first piece of silverware for many years. One week later we will hopefully be repeating last years accolades and succeeding in conquering our IC rivals.

Lineup:

GK : Naeem Meghjee	CM : Jawaad Saleem
LB : Louis Peters (c)	CM : James Gilbert
CB : Ed Cairns	CM : Jay Cash
CB : Will Hancox	LM : Alex Maini
RB : George Issit	RM : Will Ocen
CM : Mark Jenkins	ST : Shaneel Patel
CM : Odhran Keating	ST : Tobi Oyefesot

IC Captain: Sami Dabbagh

Expectations at the beginning of the season were muted, with the departure of big names and even bigger characters at the back end of last season. Two wins from our opening 2 games away at UCL hinted at a promising season. First term also saw us recover from a terrible start in BUCS to win 3 games on the trot taking us to the top of the table. A major highlight was beating our own 2s and also our demolishing of St. Mary's in the BUCS cup. As the season comes to a close, with two games to go we are still in the mix for promotion in both of our leagues, quite an astonishing feat. And with 2 wins and 2 losses out of 4 against Medic opposition this season, Varsity is a perfect curtain closer.

Lineup:

Chris Aspinall	Oli Gaithe
Sam Thomas	Max de Pauw
Sami Dabbagh	Rob Maizonnier
Nick Birtle	Byung Choi
Ed Lobb	Fares
Apos Mourouzis	Indy Birdee
Dan Moxham	Tristan McKee
Bilal Nasim	

4s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Harry Posner

The 4th team have had an incredible season this year, with a great intake of new freshers to bolster the side. The chat has been beyond belief and so has the playing on the pitch. With a goal tally of unbelievable belief, for the 4s, we have had some great results, but with the first varsity we hope to extend our streak. IC 4s won't know what hit them.

Lineup:

Markos Reissis	Qingyang Chen
Runi Sudunagunta	Nick Smith
Danny Sudbury	Harry Posner
Josh Khan	Dev Thakker
Chris Darwen	Doug Burke
Michael Colwill	Jake Levi
Henry Gann	
Olly Kemp	

IC Captain: Haran Rajkumar

The 4s have had a very successful season with 11 wins and counting leaving us second in the league with 3 games remaining. Despite this, a poor set of results in the middle of the season means it will be difficult for us to win what would be a third consecutive league title. This season has still seen some fantastic performances and the 7-0 destruction of LSE 5s, will be long remembered. Freshers Taha Butt, Jack Peacock and Myles Jarvis have been stand out performers all season. (The lack of culture/ intellectual presence in Reynolds had left Myles disgruntled at his former club). After disappointing performances in various cups the 4s will be looking to achieve a taste of success in Varsity.

Lineup:

Giles Mann	Ariff Faisal
Haran Rajkumar	Paolo Strampelli
Jack Peacock	Bruno Howard
Bilal Abou El Ela	Myles Jarvis
Marcello Valerio	Francis Nwobu
Phill Vautier	Sander van der Bie
Myles Mcgrath	George Bizell
Taha Butt	

Men's 1s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: James Arthur

The team have had mixed results in the BUCS league 2, coming up against much stronger opposition that last season, and struggled for points with disappointing results early on. The first team is currently placed fourth in the table. The medics play in the Premier League of University of London Hockey, and have finished the competition in second place behind UCL. This year also saw the team reach the quarter finals of the BUCS Cup completion for the South East of the country.

There is a good breadth of players, with both freshers and several players that will be representing the school for their sixth and final time at Varsity.

Despite a tough start to the season, the medics have currently found some good form winning seven of their last ten games. Last year's varsity match was close fought, with 5-4 game going to IC. The medics came out on top at the only match played this year – there is no doubt that this year's varsity will be a close match well worth watching!

Lineup:

Eric Lindberg	Amish Patel
Ben Faber	Mrigank Sinha
Vernon McGeoch	James Arthur (Captain)
Alex Freethy	Alec Aslanyan
Sam Patel	John Chetwood
Freddie Torlot	Stuart Taylor
Tom Marjot	

IC Captain: Sam Alton

Having been promoted into the highest BUCS league for the south east this year, we've had a tough season against teams such as Portsmouth and Reading. It has been a challenge for all the team, but credit to the freshers for stepping up and bonding well with the team. The experience has been demanding, but the rewards will be observed when we bring the same standard of hockey to the medics. In particular, the experience of our final year students, Lionel 'Dr Ritchie' Sumner and Ewan 'Yogi' Quince will be vital when it comes to scoring, having proven to be a dangerous pair throughout the year.

Our preparation for Varsity has improved significantly in the past weeks with our best performances being displayed in our latest Wednesday matches with a growing confidence emerging. There is a great desire to maintain our unbeaten record at Varsity and show the medics who's really in charge!

Lineup:

Vishal Dhutia (GK)	Graham Hunt
Lars Mejnertsen	Sam Alton (C)
James Meacher	Jay Jaswantlal
Gilles Stassen	Christoph Belce
Tom Bullen	Tom Bence
Anthony Vaquero	Ewan Quince
Lionel Sumner	

Women's 1s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Rosalind Marshall

After a shaky start to the season we found ourselves our new coach Justin who has since done wonders for the 1st XI. The makeup of the team has changed considerably since last season, and with Justin's fantastic coaching we have had some incredible wins. After Christmas we were joint top of the league with Kings, but an unfortunate loss against them a couple of weeks ago means that we will most likely finish second in the league. This season has built the foundations of a strong team for the next couple of years, and we look forward to a fantastic varsity game...

Lineup:

Jessica Mistry (GK)	Charlotte Read
Rosalind Marshall (c)	Morven Allen
Rhianna Davies (vc)	Anna Hurley
Mahala Attwell-Thomas	Rachel Panniker
Harriet Davidson	Katie Evans
Sharon Ocansey	Charlotte Lees
Rosie Belcher	Alison Kent
Elke Wynberg	Sophie Wrigley

IC Captain: Jill Tombs

The Ladies 1'st team has had a very successful 11/12 season. We have been known many times to turn up with the bare 11 players, but the girls have shown great commitment and competitiveness and have had a magnificent time so far. This season has seen the team play some of their best, expansive hockey and we have gained promotion in our BUCS league, to 1A, with one game in hand; as well as winning the ULU premier league. These are massive achievements for the team, made even harder by great runs in both the ULU and BUCS cups, resulting in reaching the final of both. With the help and dedication of our coach Oli Bell, the team has trained hard and as a result has only lost one match so far this season, but with two finals and a potential rearranged varsity match ahead the hardest are yet to come. We have had a very busy season, but the girls are definitely up for capping off the season in style with a win over the medics at varsity.

Lineup:

Jessica Purcell	Jill Tombs
Celia Hayes	Teddy Middlebrook
Aashraya Shankar	Harriet Stevenson
Maria Parkes	Sorcha Cotter
Emma Spandrzyk	Kirstin Hay
Gigi Fateh	Shanika Mehta
Nora Kettleborough	

Men's 2s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Josh Orpen-Palmer

Lineup:

Preth De Silva	Shiva Radhakrishnan	Yash Verma
Matt Murden	Josh Palmer	Ed Norman
Joe Santiapillai	Alex Tindale	Munraj Gill
Dilan Patel	Jack Hammond	
Dalraj Tamber	Shrawan Patel	
Yin Yin Lee	Uttaran Datta	

IC Captain: Freddie Briggs

Lineup:

Freddie Briggs	Jacob Farrant	George Smith	Henners
Ben Bell	Josh Freemont	Udara Gamalath	
Kesh Murthy	Jason Ye	Danny Forrester	
Ed Powell	Jack Farrant	Tom Poole	
Chappers	Matt Horton	Matt Thomas	

Women's 2s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Alison Toczek

We have had a fantastic season both on and off the pitch this year, finishing a competitive 4th in our BUCS league and celebrating our wins (and occasional losses) in style at Sports Night. With some fantastic newcomers and much loved regular players there's been some great hockey and even better team spirit, and we are all looking forward to the challenge of Varsity! After the past three Varsities resulting in a draw, it'll be an exciting and demanding game for both sides, and hopefully a fun day all round!

Lineup:

Victoria Laxton	Hannah Donaldson
Kimberley Anderson	Sharon Ocansey
Natalie Condie	Lauren Ewington
Nicole Van Der Spuy	Kate Richmond
Stephanie Drew	Katie Saide
Catrina Stoddart	Rebecca Ayres
Alison Tang	Alison Toczek
Tara Gillespie	

IC Captain: Kathryn Leonard

With regards to BUCS overall results, the team has played 9 matches to date, with 3 wins, 1 draw and 5 losses (the greatest of which was 15-0). Captained by the resilient Kathryn Leonard, the team has seen the intake of a number of new players and the strong development in team spirit, technique and undeniable skill. Top goal scorers for the team are Ellie and Fiona, with midfield extraordinaires Hilary, Sorcha and Caroline providing great support.

Injuries have been frequent and significant; despite this, defence has held strong. It has been great to be a part of such a high spirited team; we intend to break our current streak by securing a great win at Varsity against ICSM 2's.

Lineup:

Hannah Bungey	Julia Smith
Kirsty Poore	Ellie McMurray
Emma Toms	Hilary Andrew
Jemma Williams	Katherine Chimenes
Kathryn Leonard	Vivien Tang
Hannah Williams	Melanie Singh
Maddy Coke	Fiona Cameron
Caroline Wood	Alison Tully

Men's 3s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Michael Smith

TBC

Lineup:

TBC

IC Captain: Jonnie Clowes

It's been an up and down season for ICHC M3 this season. A disastrous start to the year resulted in a Christmas at the bottom of bucs. This term, some big improvements in both play and passion led the team to second in ulu, the ulu reserve cup final, which is to be played before varsity yet the day after the ICHC annual dinner (not good), but with a relegation decider still to come in bucs. Having played our first varsity last year, the men's 3s are looking to continue their 100% record and start Varsity with a bang for ICHC.

Lineup:

Jonnie Clowes (c, GK)	Guy Khosla
Jack Tremlett	Tom Papworth-Smith
Alex Jones	Alex Kirby
Hasit Mehta	Ed Jarrold
Matt Shannon	Declan Murphy
Henry Abbot	Tharun Puvaneswaran
Hemal Malde	Alex Bowers
Ben Taylor	Kenneth Chau
Tom Parker	Joe Andrews
Mikey Leung	

NETBALL

1s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Elizabeth Nally

ICSM Netball 1s began the 2011-12 season on a high. We were ULU Premiership Champions, had returned from Sheffield with the BUCS Cup and had only just missed out on BUCS promotion, coming second on goal difference.

The squad remained strong, only losing one final year and gaining a talented, versatile fresher who slotted straight into the team. We easily commanded a hold upon the ULU league once again, keeping the title for a second year. However, the BUCS league was our main focus for this season. Tied on points with one game remaining, we have our fingers crossed for promotion.

We're looking forward to another closely contested Varsity, but remain confident after a consistent season that we can come away on top for another successive year!

Lineup:

Elizabeth Nally	Hannah Scanlon
Sophie Ellis	Louise Thornhill
Ffion Harry	Colleen McGregor
Lindsay Hennah	Emma Williamson
Charlotte Boughton	Binta Umar

IC Captain: Emma Gould

We've had an excellent season this year and are on track to finish in the top two of our BUCS league. Tamar and Poppy's consistent shooting and strong defence from every member of the team have contributed hugely to this year's success. We have only played the medics once this year, in our very first match where we narrowly lost 42-39. Varsity promises to be a closely fought battle and a win for IC 1sts would be the icing on the cake!

Lineup:

GK - Heather Williamson	C - Emma Gould (c)
GD - Claudette Faux/Maria Daoud	WA - Lucy Byrne/Rachel Zaborski
WD - Maria Daoud/Rachel Zaborski	GA - Poppy Pinnock
	GS - Tamar Loach

2s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Frances Dixon

At the end of last season, the 2nds lost several players. We started this season with several freshers and so took a few games to settle down and get to know each other. We started our BUCS season well with wins over Reading and Brighton. Unfortunately, our next few BUCS games coincided with 4th year exams and RAG week so we were missing a lot of players, and didn't do so well. We hope to finish the BUCS season the same way we started it, with a couple of wins. In ULU, we have had a difficult season. We started with a win, but after some close matches and matches against really difficult teams we couldn't keep it up. This season I feel that we have really improved throughout the season as we've got used to playing with each other, so I am confident that we will come back really strong next season.

Lineup:

Frances Dixon	Jen Low
Jedda Oyenuga	Nina Cooper
Natalie Lane	Sally Ko
Sarah Hancox	Hiba Saleem Danish,
Charlotte Mansel	Isabel McLuskie
Maddison Gronager	Julia Eddington

IC Captain: Toni Semmence

The season got off to a rocky start, with the team consisting of 8 new members. We quickly got into the swing of things - our performance in the ULU league was not to be outdone and we have secured a position in the top half of the table with 3 games in hand. The girls also played fantastically in a very difficult BUCS league with some exceptionally strong teams and have managed to finish mid-table. We are very pleased with our performance this season considering that we have been plagued with injuries and have often had difficulties fielding a whole team. The 2's last league game of the season is against ICSM 3's on the 19th March (Just 2 days before Varsity!) We are hoping to use this game as a warm up that will boost morale within the team. The match is being played at Ethos at 8pm and we would be grateful for all the support we can get. The team is the most determined I have ever seen them and this year varsity is OURS!

Lineup:

GK: Emma Dixon	GA: Hannah Weekes
GD: Sophie Andrew	GS: Jordan McDonald
WD: Laura Kor	Subs:
C: Abi Johnston Hume	Sarah Simmonds
WA: Lucy Topham	Chrissie Loedolff
	Olivia Chant-Tuft

3s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Megan Mackenzie

The team has had a total revamp since last year and during the year we have improved massively. We have had a tough season with our BUCS fixtures, but have proved that we are not a team that easily gives up by having various last half comebacks keeping our opposition on edge. Our team work and aggressiveness is really starting to shine through, helping us to achieve some great wins in our ULU matches.

We are looking forward to giving varsity a final push to hopefully end the season on a high.

IC Captain: Sarah Hurton

IC Netball 3s have had strong season so far. We are on target to finish within the top two of the ULU league and have a good chance of being promoted. We also reached the semi-finals of the ULU reserve cup putting up a good fight to the eventual winners. We have a very strong team and the match is bound to be close but I'm confident we will win on the day, especially after last year's amazing victory!

Lineup:

Marie Houdmont	Affy Etok
Emily Hutchinson	Aiysha Puri
Clare Hutchinson	Rhian Willson
Megan Mackenzie	Izzy Stopford
Megan Thomas	

Lineup:

GK - Alex Hamilton	Nancy Edge
GD - Rachael Collins	WA - Lucinda Hazell
WD - Sarah Hurton (c)/Kate McManus	GA - Heather Piening/Beverley Tsang
C - Amelia Al-Qazzaz/	GS - Lucinda Batchelor

4s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Sophia Butt

In BUCS we are top of our division, last Wednesday we had our last BUCS match against Kingston 3s who were tied with us on the league table. It was a close match but in the end we won 31-26 - a well deserved victory as everyone stepped up their game. In ULU we still have 3 games left to play. In our ULU league we have done well so far and won most of our matches but have had some unfortunate narrow loses by 2 or 3 goals to Kings and QM. We unfortunately narrowly lost to RUMS 3s 30 - 27 last Monday.

Lineup:

GK - Nina Vasir/Becky Razey/ Flo Chamberlain/ Anna Gill	WA - Lena von Heimendahl/ Kat Lau
GD - Anya Sasao	GA - Sophia Butt (c)
WD - Nikita Shah	GS - Zelig Britton
C - Laura Vickers	

IC Captain: Maria Lobo

This year the 4th team has had a lot of new players and it's been really fantastic to see everyone's improvement over the season! While we didn't do so well in the league, we got to the quarter finals of the Cup and now we have really gelled as a team. Every girl has been so dedicated to training sessions with the shooters regularly staying on afterwards to practice their technique. If we play to the standard we have been I am confident this can be reflected in a win against the medics!

Lineup:

GK - Margot Tirole	WA - Maria Lobo (c)/Emily Giversen
GD - Laura Elliott	GA - Grace Singh
WD - Maria Gomez Pons/Holly Riedlinger	GS - Harriet Rumgay
C - Caitlin Archer	

5s Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Nat Ilenkovan

After a busy season full of ups and downs, the ICSM fifths are hoping to finish on a high. Following a narrow draw to a team that we previously lost to, things are looking good for varsity! I have absolutely loved being the captain of such a fantastic team who have worked incredibly hard all year, and I can only hope that their efforts pay off in the most important game of the season in a win against the medics!

Lineup:

GK - Sophie Boyd (Tara Vasir)	C - Lizzy Kostov
GD - Nat Ilenkovan (Anna Tennant)	WA - Giada Azzopardi
WD - Hanne Ertman	GA - Sarah Grantham hill
	GS - Chandni Radia

IC Captain: Ally Orrin

The 5th team is new to IC this year and they have already done brilliantly, showing a huge improvement. The whole team's dedication and commitment, along with Yuri and Jade's impassable defense promise to give the medics a run for their money against the medics!

Lineup:

GK - Jade Nagitta	GA - Annabel Keeler
GD - Yuri Ichinose	GS - Imogen SMith
WD - Sophie Rae	Reserves - Jasmine, Sarah Waterman,
C - Ally Orrin (c)	Haley Turner
WA - Emma Needham	

BASKETBALL

Women's Varsity Match

Medics Captain: TBC

TBC

Lineup:

TBC

IC Captain: Nina Hartwich

For us, the Varsity game against the Medics will mark the end of a rather successful season. I am confident that the team will demonstrate its strength once more and walk away with a clear win!

While not all our efforts were rewarded with a win I am very proud of my team for always remaining positive and for never resorting to mean fouls or violence despite the fact that some teams we encountered had a rather brutal way of playing. We have been told on several occasions by both losing and winning opponents that they appreciate our fairness and positive attitude.

The greatest success of the team is that we made it to today's BUCS Cup Final! We are playing LSE 1st and need as many supporters as possible!

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Lineup: | Jessika Nyqvist |
| Dehydys Pimentel | Hannah Barrett |
| Elena Garcia Ochoa | Marta Vila |
| Ying Siu Sheryl Liang | Irina Kostyleva |
| Aga Florek | Maria Papadopoulou |
| Hannah Darton | Nina Hartwich (c) |
| Lauriane Zinguerlet | |
| Sarah Khawaja | |

Men's Varsity Match

Medics Captain: Kaveesh Dissanayake

ICSM basketball is enjoying its most successful season to date. We have equaled last year's win total in ULU despite being severely injury depleted. We also defeated the IC 2nds in ULU for the first time in club history. This is our first season in BUCS, and we currently have two wins, with two more matches to play. Our biggest win of the season came in the 2nd round of the BUCS cup, when after being down by 20 points at half-time, we came back to beat St. Mary's University College by one point! With momentum on our side, we're looking to set another club milestone by beating the IC 1sts at Varsity for the first time ever.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Lineup: | John Murray-Bruce |
| Sunit Raja | Jacky Chen |
| Hazim Ghani | Ranjodh Sanghera |
| Richard Stanton | Mohamed Gaafar |
| Kaveesh Dissanayake (c) | Alex Williams |
| Shammi Kakad | Faethon Milikouris |
| Kaspars Karlsons | Alex Aivazidis |
| Siddharth Kohli | Caspar Briault |
| Paul Choong | Kenny Ho |

IC Captain: Kris O'Sullivan

Imperial Basketball Men's 1st team have had a very strong season so far. After being promoted last year from BUCS league 3 they have established themselves well in a new league, currently tied top of BUCS league 2 with an outstanding Win-Loss record of 7-2. The next game vs. City University will decide which team wins the league and gets promoted to a new division. Imperial Basketball also progressed to the finals of the ULU Challenge Cup, which took place on Monday 13th March, but after a hard fought match they ended up runner's up. Varsity will signal the end of a great season with a great team and we will prove our worthiness at the Varsity match at Ethos!

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Lineup: | W. Valla |
| R. Oberdieck | D. Li |
| N. Lutsko | C. Chung |
| K. O'Sullivan (c) | J. Alison |
| P. Measham | S. Coste |
| A. Hassan | J. Kingsley |
| R. Garcia | |
| S. Napierala | |
| B. Tamburic | |

WATERPOLO

Medics Captain: Brad Sanders

2012's ULU water polo league results may prompt some of you to think IC will dominate at varsity. They are sitting at the top of the league table, undefeated in weeks. They play their matches, they go to the pub and they exchange (tall) stories of their dazzling tactics.

But while they sit jauntily on puffy cushions in the Hoop and Toy, the Medic Beast has been stirring.

We play our matches. Then instead of filling the local with news off our brilliance, we go straight to a late night gym and sculpt our abs. We work on our swimming and throwing muscle groups so that the next time we're in the water, we are bigger, better and stronger than our opposition.

And it works. UCL's student paper last week detailed their team's suffering at the hands of ICSM water polo in an article titled, "Medics Rise from the Dead."

Felix could soon be printing similar lines come Varsity.

Lineup:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Matt Hall | 8. Kareem Ibrahim |
| 2. John Livesey | 9. Dimi Mitakos |
| 3. Arjun Patel | 10. Thomas Badenoch |
| 4. Nick von Guionneau | 11. Christina Baithun |
| 5. Hannah Collins | 12. Zoe Groom |
| 6. Kimmee Khan | 13. Sophie Bates |
| 7. Brad Sanders (c) | |

IC Captain: Joe Gibbs

IC Waterpolo have had a fantastic season following last year's ULU success. We have won 9 out of 9 ULU games and well placed to win back-to-back titles. Varsity is a big game for us as we often train with and compete against the medics throughout the season. No-one can remember the last time the medics won, and we hope to keep it that way.

Varsity ambition:

Keep our unbeaten record this season and in varsity history.

Lineup:

TBC

LACROSSE

Medics Captain: Josh McGuire

Medics season summary:
2011-2012 has been a solid season for Imperial Medics Lacrosse; still undefeated, placing top of the league for another consecutive year, the ULU cup final still to come and it seems like nothing can stand in our way. We are absolutely pumped for varsity which will be the final jewel in 2011-2012's crown.

IC season summary:
This season has been really fun, we've really enjoyed our matches and thoroughly come to learn that winning isn't everything although a lot of time we don't bother to keep score. Super excited for varsity which should be a real HOOT! WOO, GO IC!

Lineup:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Josh McGuire (c) | Abi Muruges-Warren |
| Kristen Foxwell | Will Stanger |
| Tom Durrands | Caz Williams |
| Jahnvi Karia | George Moore |
| Tom Emms | Sophie Moin |
| Annabelle Mondon-Balantyne | Alex Beverly |
| Dan Taylor | Izzie Brown |
| Erika Refsum | Harrison Howarth |
| Vatshalan Santhirapala | Cat Hedley |
| Emily Murry | Matt Poynton |
| ShoshKrasner-Macleod | Rebecca Singh |
| Ed Donnelly | Fred Cripps |
| | Hannah Brooks |
| | Gaby Prager |

IC Captain: Ellie Hill

TBC

Lineup:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Lisa Ashari | Genevieve Pugh |
| Damian Powell | Tania Buckthorp |
| Kat Roelle | Phillipa Owens |
| Elizabeth Allen | Tanya |
| Anna Jordan | Immy Keane |
| Imo Simmonds | Scot Adams |
| Joseph Healey | Jon Watson |
| Georgia Hall | Daniel Campbell |
| Georgiana Andrews | Ian Erskine |
| Alice Wickham | Brad Kyne |
| Claire Scott | Ellie Hill (c) |
| Hannah Ralston | |
| Ali Ibrahim | |

SQUASH

Medics Captain: TBC

TBC

IC Captain: Stephen Wall

2011/12 has been a disappointing season for IC squash, after the departure of almost all of the players who took the 1st team to 4th in the country two years previously. The 1st team looks as though it will be relegated in both ULU and BUCS, as other universities have been able to strengthen while Imperial have been unable to replace players like former world No.2 Peter Marshall. The 2nd team has been more successful in a weaker league, finishing mid-table in BUCS and aiming for promotion in the final match of the ULU season, a winner takes all fixture against RUMS 1st team.

With the season almost over, all that remains is to defend IC's honour at Varsity, having won comfortably against the Medics for the last two years.

Lineup:

TBC

Lineup:

TBC

WOMENS RUGBY

Medics Captain: Katherine Fok

IC Captain: Yasmin Edwards

Joint season report: A later season start organised by BUCS saw our first fixtures to be the UH 10s Tournament. Having won all the group games, we were unlucky to lose by 1 point through a converted try, to GKT in the dying seconds of the final.

The regular season kicked off with a rocky start. Having brought only 11 players to a ULU Cup game against UCL (who play BUCS in the league above us), we have now grown to a squad of over 30 thanks to the appointment of our coach Danny Badham in January, and the wonderful camaraderie of the team.

Other highlights saw a tense rematch against Kings College London. We had lost by a wide margin earlier in the season but we were narrowly defeated 20-17 having led by two tries for most of the second half. An amazing testament to the effort and improvement of all the girls. This leaves us poised to finish off the season 2nd in BUCS and 3rd in ULU.

With a squad ranging from Freshers to Fifth Year Medics, this was the year we were looking forward to playing the first full length Varsity fixture. However, our last match of the season will see us play GKT in the BUCS Cup Final also on the 21st of March. Having just played as team united, our tired selves will split up after the Cup Final into Imperial Medicals and IC teams to play one last burst of 10s, in true Varsity spirit.

Lineup:

Amani Chowdhury
Ellie Stewart
Evelyn Thangaraj
Helena Lee
Jasmin Hodgson
Katherine Fok (c)
Michell Gatter

Mona Theodoraki
Ran Xiong
Sammy Gottardi
Sarah Burns
Seetha Muthalagapan
Wakana Teranaka
Wei Ren Lau

Lineup:

Alice Lieberman
Amy Humphreys
Catherine Lu
Charlotte Hewitt
Esther Liew
Fanny Dehaine
Gemma Singer
Heather Grant

Julia Aubert
Juliette Chupin
Lana Lee
Laura Bellamy
Lize Xia
Lucy Olliff
Rosie Elsmore
Siri Luthman
Yasmin Edwards (c)

WE'RE GOING TO VARSITY TOO

Just because this is the last issue of term doesn't mean that we don't want to cover the sporting event of the year...

Felix embraces the technological age and provides you with liveblogging from Harlington through the day. The latest scores. The latest action. felixonline.co.uk

ETHIS!



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1969-70 T. M. HARRIS	1971-72 J. A. V. ROBERTS
1970-71 J. M. GAGLEY	1972-73 S. A. ROBERTS
1971-72 A. J. WILSON	1973-74 S. J. GARDNER
1972-73 A. P. BURDAGE	1974-75 M. CAMPBELL
1973-74 S. J. WILSON	1975-76 M. A. WILSON
1974-75 A. R. BRAY	1976-77 M. J. WILLIAMS
1975-76 J. C. KALE	1977-78 M. J. WILLIAMS
1976-77 S. G. TANNER	1978-79 M. J. WILLIAMS
1977-78 I. S. SHELLEY	1979-80 J. D. SASSI
1978-79 P. A. S. SOUTHGATE	1980-81 J. L. HARRIS
1979-80 W. J. HENDERSON	1981-82 C. E. HILLIER
1980-81 D. W. BRADLEY	1982-83 J. J. HARRIS
1981-82 D. H. GIBSON	1983-84 M. A. SMITH
1982-83 P. H. LEVIN	1984-85 M. S. TAYLOR
1983-84 J. T. BARRON	1985-86 P. S. GRIMM
1984-85 M. F. BARRON	1986-87 D. C. BOWME
1985-86 J. CARTER	1987-88 D. J. BOWME
1986-87 R. G. HENLEY	1988-89 J. D. HACKETT
1987-88 D. GILBERT	1989-90 M. E. GOODWIN
1988-89 M. F. BARRON	1990-91 D. G. SIMSLEY
1989-90 A. CHANDMAL	1991-92 A. B. LELAND
1990-91 A. T. HULLOVICZ	1992-93 A. HARRINGTON
1991-92 J. M. COOPER	1993-94 J. HARRIS
1992-93 N. J. WALLER	1994-95 R. C. LAND
1993-94 D. J. WILLIAMS	1995-96 G. B. WALLACE
1994-95 C. G. HENDERSON	1996-97 S. G. WALTER
1995-96 D. E. POTTER	1997-98 A. S. TAYLOR
1996-97 R. J. REDMAYNE	1998-99 J. J. THORNTON
1997-98 J. D. COOPER	1999-00 A. B. BROWN
1998-99 P. A. HATH	2000-01 S. D. BURGESS
1999-00 L. C. BROWN	2001-02 S. J. CLIFFORD
2000-01 M. J. WILLIAMSON	2002-03 W. J. DUGDALE
2001-02 C. CARR	2003-04 W. J. DUGDALE
2002-03 M. CHANT	2004-05 ALEXANDER CHANT

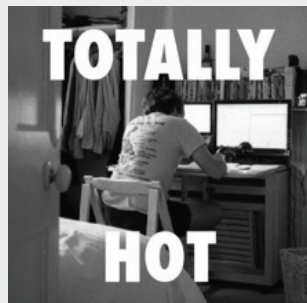
want to do a centrefold, it's as easy as emailing centrefolds@imperial.ac.uk!

MUSIC

Music Editors: **Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto** **Alex Ramadan**
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music.felix@gmail.com

Kadhim's totally hot album of the week



Listen at <http://spoti.fi/FelixRevision>

Nine weeks until final year exams; boom, let's get down to revision. **Samiyam**, play me in with 'Cushion' – the bass means business, my new pen and 'revision folder' mean business too.

That's how revision plans start: with vigour. But things calm down pretty quick. 'Terrapin', from **Bonobo's** debut album, and **Gold Panda's** attention-grabbing remix, 'Before Tigers' are emblematic of how quickly determination turns to oblivious relaxation.

Six weeks until final year exams; the whistle from **Kool and the Gang's** 'Funky Stuff' gets you back in gear. Hell, you've even got this new spot in the library where you actually slip a few minutes of focus into those long meaningless, unproductive hours. A couple of tracks down the line you've got 'Camel' by **Flying Lotus**, a mesmerizing, metronomic aid to study that might even trump ProPlus...

Four weeks until final year exams; fuck, it's sunny outside. 'Ivy & Gold' by **Bombay Bicycle Club** is the sound of your douchebag art school friends 'preparing' for their crits in Regent's Park; 'The Look' by **Metronomy** is your mother calling you to tell you how hot it is in Brighton, "you should come down for the weekend..."; 'Husks and Shells' by **Volcano Choir**? Sleep can't come quick enough at the end of the day.

Two weeks until final year exams; fuuuuuuuuuck. It's time to get serious. Sunlight ceases to be a part of your life. The library starts to feel like the cold streets of New York, with just as many crazies too. 'NY Is Killing Me' by **Gil Scott-Heron and Jamie xx** starts to sound like it's coming out of your heart not your headphones. 'My People... Hold On' by **Eddie Kendricks** begins to sound like your eulogy, and 'All My Friends' by **LCD Soundsystem**, well I hope I don't have to explain.

One week until final year exams; the calm before the shit hits the jet engine. You've fallen into a serene daily rhythm, which either means you're kind of ready for your exams, or your soul has bailed and run off with some Mexican chick with tattoos, piercings, and the cool eyes of a girl who couldn't give a fuck about your parents' expectations. This is the final stretch of the playlist.

One day until final year exams; 'STRESS' – **Justice**.

The day exams finish. The summer is here. Quit working and cool out with 'Quitters Raga' by the unimpeachable **Gold Panda**.

This is my last column until June; try not to cheer too loudly. Thanks to David Trevelyan and Sophie Baker for contributing to the playlist; sorry I didn't include your suggestions, Michele Tonutti. Tweet me @kadhimshubber about music and I'll tweet back x

POCA's poppy atmospheres

Anastasia Eleftheriou finds even traffic signs can inspire

POCA is formed of Poca (vocals), George Karpasitis (guitars), David Horler (bass) and Jack Painting (drums). They have collaborated with Sophie Frankford (violin), Midori Jaeger (cello) and Elin Klingfors and Txako Jones (backing vocals).

Anastasia: How did you get the initial motivation to form POCA?

George: I was probably three years old, when I decided to become a singer. After that, it did not take very long to realise, I needed songs to sing and a band to play with. I started to write songs when I was thirteen. I came to London in September 2010, to become a professional musician. I came to London to find my band. And now we have POCA.

A: What kind of music do you usually play in your performances?

G: We play original songs. Sometimes we top it off with a nice cover. I don't like to label the music we create. I just know what my beliefs are. They lay in magic and wonders, in colours and dark skies, in moons and stars, in beauty and love. That is what I bare in mind everytime I write; everytime we jam.

A: Do you compose music as well?

G: Yes. That is all I do. Every day gives me another melody to work on. When a new melody is starting to make sense, I add lyrics to it or vice-versa and take it to the rehearsal. All the magic happens then. We arrange the songs together.

A: From where do you get your inspirations?

G: I like to walk a lot, seek for inspiration. It manages to find me everytime. The streets, the people, the cafes, the lights, the colors, the moon taking a swim in the Thames - all that makes this vibrant city. These are the reasons for me to write another line. Last week I found inspiration in a traffic sign.



A: I am sure that you lead very busy lives as students and recent graduates. How many hours a week/a day do you spend on rehearsing and performing?

G: Yes, that is true. We all have to work non-music related jobs to support ourselves and that makes everything a bit more complicated. However, I really do believe in the saying, that if it is important you will find a way, if not, you will find an excuse. POCA is important. We rehearse when we can. Regularly on Sundays, sometimes for a couple of hours, other times seven hours.

A: Tell me all the details of your next performance. I believe that many Imperial students would love to spend a music night with you.

G: And we would love to share our music with many Imperial students. Our next performance is on the 4th of April, at The Comedy bar, in

Leicester Square. Watch our space in Facebook for more information closer to the date ([facebook.com/POCAandthecaptains](https://www.facebook.com/POCAandthecaptains)).

Meanwhile, we are participating in the Live and Unsigned 2012 competition. Our second round took place on the 11th of March.

A: What are your future plans for POCA?

Ge: We have only just completed recording our first EP, which will be released very soon. In the meantime we will be performing in venues in and around London and possibly some festivals this summer. We will keep on being inspired and writing more music, until there is nothing left for us to write.

Since this interview took place, POCA have made it through to the London semi-finals of Live and Unsigned 2012 (congratulations!); check their Facebook page for details.



Rama's Hip-Hop Tune of the Week

In an attempt to redeem myself for last week's poor no-show this week I've upped the ante and bringing you a whole mixtape.

A month ago **Drake** was the only Canadian hip-hop artist I knew of, and judging from a quick Wikipedia search my knowledge hasn't expanded much, however I recently had the good fortune to come across **Shad**. I love old school hip-hop beats and so it would appear does Shad, his social awareness and general rapping style remind me a lot of **Common's** older material, all of which make his music pretty awesome.

'Besides', released in December, is a mix of some of the features he has done over the past years. It is one of the best mixtapes I've heard in a long time. It's available for free download on his website www.shadk.com so I suggest you go get it.

Shad
'Besides'

Earth shattering performance

Ross Gray spends Sunday in a church... and enjoys it

Continuing my recent binge of church-based gigs, last Sunday I had a beautiful foray to The Union Chapel to see **Earth's** tour, supported by **Mount Eerie** and the pretty obscure French Canadian **Ô Paon**. If you read my recent review of **Nicolas Jaar** at Roundhouse, you'll be well aware that sweaty, active gigs are not really my thing. As such, spending several hours sitting in a cold church listening to some sweet 'ATP'-presented music is pretty much ideal. Sadly this review will likely lack in humour as all the patrons were not absolute mugs, so remained quiet and respectful throughout, as it always should be.

Ô Paon opened the show, which she informed us was her biggest ever. Her sound is somewhat hard to describe but she reminded me of a more singer-songwriter style grouper; intricately layered structures of delicate guitar and vocals built up through extensive looping. Her singing also made me think in places of **Braids'** Raphaëlle Standell-Preston, with long notes extremely full and a playful vocal style. Numerous tricks were employed to coax the full range of timbres from her voice and guitar; she would turn her head mid-note to produce a Doppler effect, alongside not-so standard guitar practice such as scraping her pick along the ridges of the strings. All of the lyrics were sung in French but this was in no way to her detriment; it allowed you to focus more on the melodies and layers she was creating. Besides, I'm sure whatever her lyrics were they were pretty great.

I was pretty excited for Mount Eerie's slot, mostly because I was hopeful he would play some of his fantastic 2009 black metal inspired folk album *Wind's Poem*. Upon opening he immediately dashed my hopes, coming out with a 12-string guitar and informing us "This is all new material tonight". Obviously he stuck to his word and we were treated to a set entirely consistent of tracks I had never heard before. I can't help but feel I ruined Eerie's set for myself by not paying atten-



Samurai Jack rides an antelope for the Day of the Dead

tion; I'd assure myself that I would focus on his deep lyricism (perhaps his strongest trait), but instead ended up daydreaming every track. He managed to get some interesting sounds out of his guitar, and I did particularly enjoy 'House Shapes', a track which opened with 4 – 5 second blasts of atonal strumming, each separated by piercing silence. All of the new material was in a far more standard Eerie/**The Microphones** style, with the two releases penned for May and September.

The man who invented drone metal, Dylan Carson, revealed no shocks with his band Earth, now known for their "country doom" – still slow, drawn out instrumental tracks, but

far less heavy than his massively influential material (so influential that **Sunn O)))** named a track after him). Earth played mostly from their newest album *Angels of darkness, Demons of Light II*. In this incarnation, Carson is accompanied by a bassist, drummer and cellist. It was particularly interesting to hear some old tracks (though nothing *Earth 2* era) such as 'Tallahassee' performed with the cello; for this track the cello was put through a pedal that gave it an extremely deep, doomy sound.

The (pre-encore) set was ended with 'The Bees Made Honey in the Lion's Skull', probably the highlight of the evening. Each member of the band is extremely tight in their playing, and everything is controlled perfectly – in this track, extensive use was made not only of guitar feedback, but also cello. This feedback was never the kind of raw idiocy you would hear morons like **Kasabian** (if they even use feedback, I haven't listened to them – just blindly assuming) idiotically bashing out, it was carefully handled, subtle, and surprisingly quiet. The cello's feedback provided deep, resonant bass, only noticeable if you listened really carefully. These short bursts of feedback were always followed by a drop straight back into the grooves Earth manage to develop in their generally 10 minute upwards tracks. While it's obviously not what you would expect had you only heard the drone metal albums, Dylan Carson is still a musical force to be reckoned with and I highly recommend that if you can, you try and catch this tour at some point.



Accurate representation of French Canada

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

Final Lesson: Summary



Over the past ten weeks, I've tried to give an insight into the wonderful world of post-hardcore music. Hopefully I've achieved my goal in revamping the record collection of the old-timer P-H fans and perhaps even converted some people previously sceptical about this incredible genre. However, the sad truth is that there's probably very few of you willing to read anything labelled "post-hardcore" but for anyone that is, I urge you to read this summary and listen to the bands mentioned, you will not be disappointed.

Starting with the old favourites of post-hardcore, we came across **At The Drive-In** with their drug-induced weirdness and unpredictable live shows. Next up was **Refused**, a hardcore band from Sweden who fathered modern heavy punk. The almighty **Glassjaw** came third with American metalcore heroes **Every Time I Die** following in week four. Then we had **The Fall of Troy** and witnessed Thomas Erak's godlike guitar mastery. Week six then saw a change of setting as I began to let you into the UK post-hardcore scene and the amazing bands it has to offer. Firstly there was funny men **Reuben** and then the apparent vagrant-led **Meet Me In St. Louis** bringing us up to two weeks ago. We then had the ever-ranting **Blakfish** and finally explosive trio **Shapes**.

All of these bands, while quite different are phenomenal in their own way and I would strongly encourage you to check them all out. On a more specific note, you can find so many decent UK post-hardcore bands if you just look around the Facebook pages of Shapes etc. and I would really recommend you do this because, in the words of Blakfish, the scene is dead, and any underground bands you find will really need the support that you can give them. Don't get me confused with Lenny Henry though. I'm not trying to get charity for these bands; the music they produce is astonishingly good and any money they get is more than well-deserved. These bands are constantly touring and their shows (just like all post-hardcore shows) are fucking awesome, just have a look around and there will definitely be something you'll enjoy, normally in some terrible area of London but the shows are definitely worth getting a little bit stabbed for.

If you are a rich man however, something far more appealing may be Sonisphere 2012 which will have the newly reformed Refused as well as Glassjaw playing *Worship and Tribute* in its entirety. Unfortunately I will not be attending as the pleasure overload would render me a deadman.

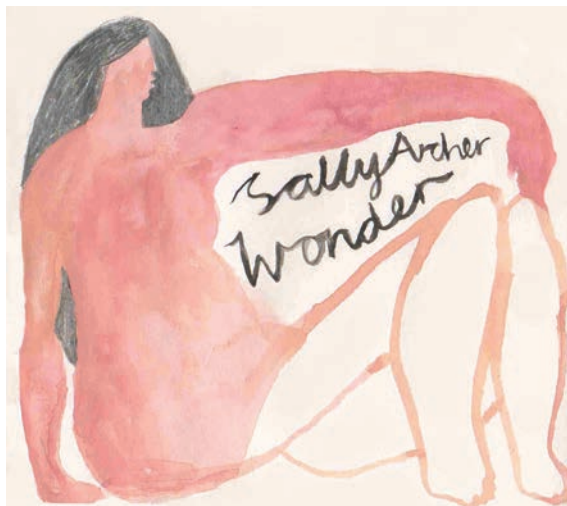
Finally, never stop listening to post-hardcore... ever.

MUSIC

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Ross Gray **Mark England** **Simon Hunter**

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Archer's Wonder



Peter Barnardo

Imagine the strength in the voice of **Adele**, the soul of **Corinne Bailey Rae** and the mellow vibe of **Regina Spektor** in one artist. Ever since starting her vocal career at the WOMAD festival in 2007, **Sally Archer** has performed in many gigs around the country and has recorded in Abbey Road Studios. Her songs include a selection of heartfelt melodies with beautiful piano and soulful guitar parts; and of course the wonderful blend of her voice can't help but make you smile.

Sally's first EP, *Wonder*, was released last May. The get-up-and-go title track has creative jazz-influenced rhythms and a warm, bright feel, while the beautiful 'Gold's Fool' has a mellowness which makes the passion in Sally's vocals stand out. The talent and charisma of her accompanying band of musicians shine through particularly in the title track and the last track, 'Fearless'. Along with her well crafted blues-influenced music, the stories in Sally's lyrics are deep, emotional and profoundly honest. As an artist, Sally has also made the album artwork herself. Overall, the EP has a charming quality to it with a lovely mix of colours, moods and sentiments.

Following her last stunning performance at The Cuban Bar on Wednesday, Sally will be coming to the Imperial College Union Level 1 to perform in a live lounge along with other artists, which is kicking off on Friday 16th March at 7pm (hosted by the Imperial College Christian Union).

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Techno Nonsense: Hyperdub

Simon Hunter gets to grips with London's latest dance music pioneers

Regular readers of my column probably need little introduction to the label that I concern myself with this week. Hyperdub has, with not a hint of exaggeration, been the most influential electronic music label to have come out of London in a long, long time. Why then, you may ask, has it taken me so goddamn long to dedicate some prime Felix real-estate to the imprint? Well Hyperdub is the music label equivalent of a seven foot, teardrop-tattooed, switchblade-wielding nut job: fucking intimidating.

This is the label that, in 2005, introduced the world to **Burial**; the elusive and outlandishly gifted producer hailing from the same South London school that produced Joe Goddard (**Hot Chip**), Kieran Hebden (**Four Tet**) and **The XX**. In all honesty, it was this man's most recent release that prompted me to write this, and I could cover many columns in literary masturbation about the guy. But I won't.

It's eight years ago that Hyperdub released its first record, and in those early days the label was predominantly used by the owner, Steve Goodman aka **Kode9**, to put out his own material. Kode9 (often teaming up with MC The Spaceape) makes dark, jungle and dub reggae infused electronic music that can be both smooth and bitingly aggressive at the same time. Following the release of **Burial**'s Mercury nominated album *Untrue* (ultimately beaten by **Elbow**'s *Seldom Seen Kid*), Hyperdub added several new artists to its roster. **Zomby**, **Samiyam**, **Ikonika** and **King Midas Sound** all released music on the label in 2008 and since then output has only increased.

As the UK dubstep scene grew out of South-East London in the mid-late 00's, Hyperdub began drawing fans from around the world. **Kyle Hall** (Detroit), **Samiyam** (LA) and **Hype Williams** (New York) have all put



out EPs on the label, giving it, and the London scene it champions, further exposure to huge audiences. Despite this diversity that has spread across the label, Hyperdub's output is still heavily London based with one of my favourite tunes of last year; **Ossie**'s 'Set the Tone' which layered meltingly smooth

"Boy, does Hyperdub demand respect."

vibes over lively staccato percussion. **Terror Danjah**, the grime-rave producer from East London and part of the Butterz crew, has also seen several releases on Hyperdub, adding yet another side to label's ever-expanding metaphorical music polygon.

And yet, I can't resist. Some mention has to

go to Hyperdub and **Burial**'s most recent release; the *Kindred* EP. This record sees **Burial** take a different path; yes the stuttering drum patterns and haunting vocal samples are still there but in the underlying feeling there is a stark difference. The tone is more aggressive, the songs are longer – pulling you further and further into the twisted and emotional soundscapes – and just when you think a song has finished, it evolves and spits something else out at you. The track 'Loner' sees **Burial** take influence from 90's rave rhythms but layers them over a bass line so full of dread there's no way those kids would have been able to drop a handful of pills to this without ending up curled in a corner, shaking with fear.

It's taken me a long time to get this out of my system, and in a way it's been therapeutic. I'm no longer scared but, boy, does Hyperdub demand respect.

EASTER GIGGING

Demdike Stare

Union Chapel
 Sunday 31, March

Bristol hauntologists **Demdike Stare** are bringing an intriguing audio/visual incantation to the airs of Islington.

Aesthetically, they take inspiration from the dustiest moments of horror movie history, recalling questionable religious practices and bohemian liberation. -Their music may well be the soundtrack to a latent Halloween celebration deep in the Amazon rainforest.

Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto

Pelican

Relentless Garage
 Saturday 7, April

Chicago post-metal quartet **Pelican** play *Relentless Garage* in Camden, supporting their upcoming EP *Ataraxia/Taraxis*. Expect instrumental sludge, combining angular math metal style riffs crafted to precision with evocative guitar melodies which more than compensate for the lack of vocals. Not to be missed by any guitarists nor by fans of **Neurosis**, **Mogwai** or metalgaze in the style of **ISIS**.

Riaz Agahi

Clark

Village Underground
 Saturday 7, April

IDM up-and-comer **Clark** showcases his new album, *Iradelphic*, live with a variety of synths, a mpc, and other "musical accessories". Support comes from the fantastic Border Community resident **Nathan Fake**, whose live shows generally showcase the dreamier side of his material – walls of euphoric, sweeping synths and quiet vocals abound. Further support offered by instrumental hip-hop artist **Letherette**.

Ross Gray

Rhythm is the Ritalin

Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto on the intimate relationship between rhythm and sound

Why is there rhythm in music? To some, this question may seem utterly superfluous, but is arrhythmic music really so unfathomable? The heartbeat is itself a periodic throb, as is breathing. It appears that rhythm is an integral part of vitality and perhaps this is why we are so attracted to it.

The reassurance of repetition acts as a psychic pillow, letting us know that our predictions of the world are congruous. In fact, some theories on the nature of intelligence base themselves on the reinforcement of predictions made while understanding previous experiences. But what happens when these predictions are challenged? If you met a person with ears for eyes, you'd certainly be taken aback; that's just not how the world is. Then again, if our ideas were never challenged we would learn nothing new and life would be a mundane thing.

There's nothing like a steady beat. It cradles you beyond boredom, tucking you neatly in your comfort zone, knowing that the next three minutes are going to be exactly the same. No change. No worries.

Then there's jazz. As feared by Vince Noir

as revered by Howard Moon. Every second, a breath suspended. A veritable vertigo of anticipation, darting between surprises and unfamiliar instances, each moment a shadow of the next.

“Ever second, a breath suspended. A veritable vertigo of anticipation.”

In dance, rhythm entrances the body, allowing the mind to wander elsewhere. A cathartic release as one's earthly ties are made sublime. For the same reasons do we prefer to dance at night in darkened rooms beneath unnatural lights. It is the farthest we can get from the quotidian, an exit from the dragging day to day. Breaking the cycle of daily obligation with another of a more tenuous nature can make the former more bearable. Hence the sacrament of Friday nights.

There is no reason for music to invariably alternate between verse and chorus. Such a

monotonous structure is a poor man's kaleidoscope, recycling a simple pattern ad nauseam.

Rhythm is the reappearance of sound in particular patterns. But couldn't playing a sound once be enough? Once it has become, why summon back its memory? It remains a constant affirmation of its non-vanishment, a reminder of something that cannot last forever.

Is it an attempt to remind you what it sounded like – massaging your ears once more in case you forgot how it felt? Or is it an attempt to recycle the past? Why do what has already been done?

Surely there is a better representation of sound in its subordination to the time domain – an ever fleeting object continually disappearing into the past. Something to be left as a memory and perhaps recall it in a synaptic disturbance. Or does the recollection serve to keep us in a single moment, conveying something greater than time would allow?

Our memory can hold a moment forever, suspending everything, all at once. We can experience a tremendous amount in a single instant and condense the greatest of spaces into the finest point.

Time is too precious to linger on.

Soko at the Union Chapel

Mark England

If any of you have seen the recent contentious article from The New York Times talking about how depraved and culturally rigid London has become. Thankfully, **Soko**, whose origins lie in France, but spends most of her time in California, doesn't hold such views about our fair capital. You can see from the very first minute of her show that playing here, at the Union Chapel in Islington, was a special moment. After interviewing her following the gig she indicated that the venue was “absolutely perfect, like everything you could ever hope for” and one can understand why; her dream-like bedroom pop is perfectly sited to the intimate, beautiful setting.

It was obvious from when she walked on, Soko was extremely nervous. The technical problems which plagued the beginning of the set only added to any anxiety. I couldn't really connect with the opening barrage of songs as they stuttered into life. I had been warned by a friend that quality control was something that Soko was not famed for, and I have to say that I definitely agree. However, her beautiful and haunting lyrics began to draw me in. Lines such

as “real love is looking at someone sleeping for longer than you can sleep for” as well as the melancholic cry of “I am still looking for my father, so I cannot have a lover now”. Her fragile voice only added to the depth and one could almost reach out and touch the troubles which she was singing about.

The highlight of the night was the title track of her debut *I Thought I Was An Alien*. The ever rotating backing band excelled on this song to bring the chapel to a quasi-religious level of worship. It occurred to me that this packed crowd sat in almost total reverence to the waif-like vision that was Soko. They were totally in awe, remaining silent, only to erupt in rapturous applause after each song.

The song which first made me aware of Soko was ‘First Love Never Die’ which is totally awesome and I would recommend it to all of you. She explained that creating all forms of her art was like playtime for a child, and that this is best represented by the video for this song, co-directed by her friend Spike Jonze.

By the end of the show, Soko was visibly crying. It was easy to see that this gig meant everything to her. However, something I couldn't get to grips with was the lack of setlist which meant that any momentum built up was easily lost. It took six years to make her debut, creating a base of 100 songs, but it was easy to feel that a bit more focus would have helped. And yet, this is where Soko's charm lies; the striking elven figure who has fleeting moments of beauty interspersed with times of utter madness. At

Thomas Leeman



Kudos to Soko: this hat is hard to pull off

times I felt quite uncomfortable having a singer speak words so painfully honest. She told me that every other singer who does not perform with such sincerity and fragility are “liars and frauds”.

When leaving the venue I felt a certain sadness that whatever show I went to next, the intensity would not compare with what I had just experienced. Soko totally excelled in the softer moments but I was left thinking if only the set was honed, it would have been a perfect night.

Reviewed in 60 Seconds



Roman Flügel

Waste It All

2012



Despite its five track length and status as an EP, *Waste It All* could well stand as the most diverse set of recordings London-based ‘nugaze’ group **SpE Eco** (founded by Dean Garcia of **Curve**, and his daughter, Rose Berlin) have ever put out.

The tracks recorded with **Skylight** employ a slower, more guitar-heavy mix than Eco's usually dreamy material, with Rose's vocals pushed lower in the mix. The EP as a whole is harsher than their older sound, with some tracks notably employing a kind of dubstep-style ‘dirty’ (awful word) bassline.

Somehow, it works. If you like checking out local talent be sure to grab this.

Ross Gray



Ricardo Tobar

Betweener EP

2012



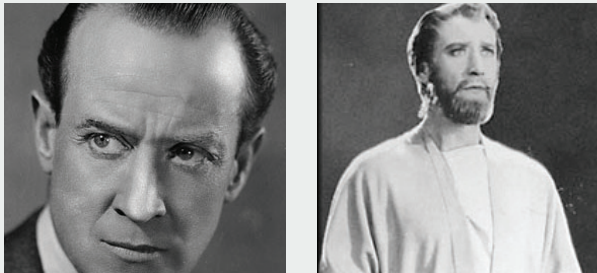
Experimental electronic musician **Ricardo Tobar** proves once again that dance can fully transcend its boundaries when challenged with influences from shoegaze, noise and drone. With *Betweener EP*, he moves slightly toward standard progressive house but sticks firm to his principles. His beats are industrial sounding, muted with filters and interesting.

Opening with an incredibly beautiful, swelling, lo-fi analogue synth, the EP proceeds triumphantly; spacey, muted sounds are utilised throughout, phenomenal euphoric highs slowly drift into each other, and short breakdowns lead into nuanced, rarely used vocal samples.

Tobar yet again manages to produce incredible music that breathes beauty in the bedroom and creates frenzy on the dance floor.

Ross Gray

Easter Special: Jesus in Cinema



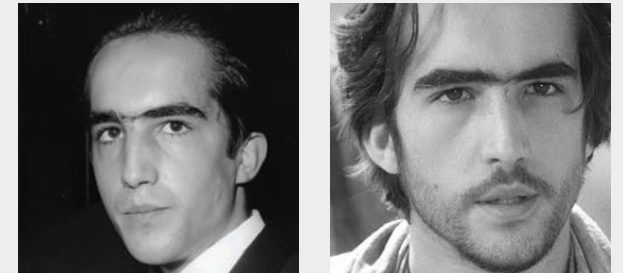
The King of Kings (1927) – H. B. Warner

The legendary Cecil B. DeMille's last silent film, it does have its odd, completely original material (including its fairly creative opening in which Mary Magdalene, possessed by the Seven Deadly Sins, searches for her lover, Judah Iscariot), but he does mostly stick to the events outlined by the Bible. He doesn't put everything in order, but Hollywood's most ambitious director does a fine job adding more of his unique touch. The famous resurrection scene, one of two sequences in the film shown in colour, remains as powerful as ever.



King of Kings (1961) – Jeffrey Hunter

Released by the same studio (MGM) a couple of years after their enormous success of *Ben-Hur*, even the poster for *King of Kings* shared a similar style to the Oscar-winning Charlton Heston epic. So imagine everyone's disappointment when the box office returns were weak. The mass appeal of its attractive sparkling blue-eyed Hunter couldn't pull in massive numbers at the cinemas, although his youthful look did give the film its lasting nickname of *I Was a Teenage Jesus*, a parody of the title *I Was a Teenage Werewolf* (1957).



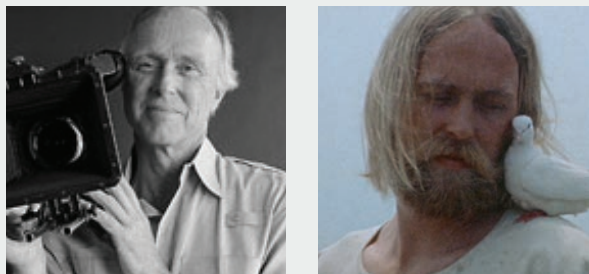
The Gospel According to St. Matthew (1964) – Enrique Irazoqui

Famous for having most of its dialogue taken straight out of Matthew's Gospel, Pier Paolo Pasolini's take on Jesus is unique in the way that the director himself couldn't be further from being a devout Christian. With his reputation of being an atheist, homosexual and Marxist individual, he doesn't sentimentalise nor does he glorify the story – instead he chooses to keep an accurate record of events. Most refreshing however, is Irazoqui's aggressive, outspoken Jesus.



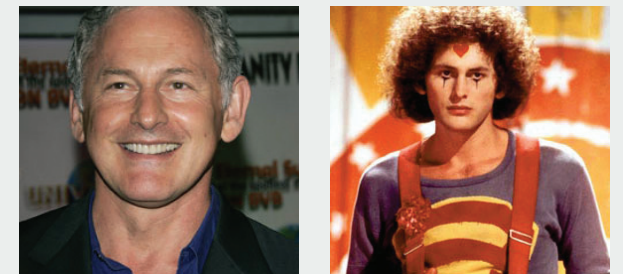
The Greatest Story Ever Told (1965) – Max von Sydow

An expensive flop for United Artists, von Sydow plays Jesus amongst the starchy ensemble cast that includes Charlton Heston, Claude Rains, Jose Ferrer, John Wayne, Angela Lansbury, Sidney Poitier and Shelley Winters. This epic tale of massive proportions (e.g. its 260-minute running time), there is no denying that this is a challenging, butt-aching watch, but the sheer ambition and vision director George Stevens carried with the project is well worth a watch, perhaps not in a single sitting though.



Gospel Road (1973) – Robert Elfstrom

The year 1973 saw the release of three musical films based on the life of Jesus Christ and perhaps the most memorable one is the feature sung and narrated by American country singer Johnny Cash. His wife June Carter Cash stars as Mary Magdalene, and with its on location shoot in Israel, combine these with Cash's original songs in his signature performance style perfectly suiting the film's every scene, what could have been a cheesy, tacky music video turns into a touching, sincere piece.



Godspell (1973) – Victor Garber

The fact that this is set in the 70s New York should immediately tell you that *Godspell: A Musical Based on the Gospel According to St. Matthew* (its full title) is not your typical film telling the story of Jesus. Yet its fresh, comical approach, smart and never offensive, full of entertaining, catchy tunes written by Stephen Schwartz (now an Oscar-winning composer for Disney) is exactly the reason for the film's timeless appeal. Jesus does dress up as a clown here, all the more reason to seek this one out.



Jesus Christ Superstar (1973) – Ted Neeley

It was only a matter of time before Andrew Lloyd Webber's smash hit, award-winning stage musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* caught the attention of film studio bosses. Two years after its stage debut, Webber's biblical tale made it to the screens and was met with mixed reviews. There is no doubting Webber's talent when it comes to music composition, but Neeley's Jesus has been criticised as being more "whiny than heroic" with its general tone being "monotonous" and "tedious," never a good sign for a musical.



The Last Temptation of Christ (1988) – Willem Dafoe

A more human, perhaps more relatable take on the Crucifixion, Jesus contemplates a quieter, less painful life with his "love" Mary Magdalene. Plagued by doubt, depression and lust, this brave departure from what the scripture says attracted a fair amount of controversy for director Martin Scorsese, but it's a contemplative piece and an interesting spin on a widely accepted story. Christians, try to watch and absorb with an open mind. Non-Christians, indulge in this honest bit of filmmaking by one of Hollywood's finest.



The Passion of the Christ (2004) – Jim Caviezel

The brutal yet riveting portrayal of the last few hours of Christ's life is an unforgettably raw and bloody experience, and yet the violence seems never unnecessary or over-the-top. Whether you believe in this story or not shouldn't prevent you from being completely drawn in. Mel Gibson's reputation may have gone downhill over the recent years but his directorial achievement here is unquestionably bold and unique, putting his lead, the usually quiet yet intense Caviezel through many tough physical ordeals.

All hail the crime-fighting Hobo

Hobo with a Shotgun

Director Jason Elsener
Screenwriters Rob Cotterill, Niv Fichman, Paul Gross, Frank Siracusa
Cast Rutger Hauer

Rhys Davies

Some films are bad. Some films are so bad they're good. And there are some films which are so bad, they're awesome.

The plot is neatly summarised in the title. The Hobo (played by Rutger Hauer of all people!) arrives at a town black with crime and corruption. He decides to take a stand and starts cleaning up the streets – with a shotgun, naturally. This attracts the attention of The Drake, the particularly vile crime-boss of the town, who calls for the Hobo's head on a platter.

This film was originally a spoof trailer for *Planet Terror* and *Death Proof* (a collective homage to grindhouse by Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino respectively) but was lucky enough (and so were we) to be made into a fea-



Boris Johnson is getting serious about winning his London Mayor campaign

ture film. Other entries which were not so lucky include: *Werewolf Women of the SS*, *Don't*, and *Thanksgiving*.

Cinematically, the film looks like it was made in the 70s for that authentic exploitation feel. The writing and the acting are equally hammy. You get the feeling that someone was sitting over their typewriter, thinking, "Oh yeah, this is going to be really deep and meaningful." That earnestness transforms the tragedy (in any other film) into comedy.

Likewise, the violence and gore in this film is so over-the-top, it is beyond ridiculous, fitting for something associated with Tarantino and Rodriguez. It's the kind of violence that your 16-year-old self would get a real thrill out of; it provoked howls of immature laughter from the sofa when I watched it with my housemates.

So far, I've only explained how it's bad. And it is bad, believe me, but it is also so very awesome. This comes from two main factors, I believe. First,

the enthusiasm of those involved. It is clear that no one in the cast is trying to bag an Oscar with this film. Instead, they are free to enjoy themselves and make a fun film. That is part of what makes this so refreshing to watch.

The other element that sublimes this film into gold is Rutger Hauer. Unrecognisable as Roy Batty from *Blade Runner* or the 'Man with the beer' (A series of ads by Guinness, as, in a black coat, Hauer looks like a Guinness), Hauer conveys a great deal of complex-

ity in the character of the Hobo. At the start of the film, we see the Hobo pushing a trolley around, rooting around in rubbish bins for food and cigarettes. He begs and degrades himself in order to get enough money for the one thing he wants more than anything else (not a shotgun but I won't spoil it). Not particularly easy to watch. But when he converses with another character, he flits between simple human desires and possibly mad ramblings. Even though he is the sole protagonist, it is hard to be sure where he is coming from. In the entire film, he is the only character elevated from a 2D cut-out, thanks largely to Hauer's engaging portrayal.

He also blows away a paedophilic Santa Claus. Did I mention that?

On the back of Oscar season, there are plenty of deep and artistic films to watch. Also, summer is coming, bringing with it the usual clutch of blockbusters. This is neither. If you want to watch either of those, you know where to go. If instead you want largely mindless violence to the point of hilarity, I advise you check out *Hobo With A Shotgun* from your local Blockbuster.

Glenn Close is a Nobbs

Albert Nobbs

Director Rodrigo García
Screenwriters Glenn Close, John Banville, George Moore (short story)
Cast Glenn Close, Janet McTeer, Mia Wasikowska, Aaron Johnson

John Park

No, this is not a story about an Irish lesbian. Sure, Albert Nobbs (Close) is actually a woman posing as a man in 19th Century Ireland, and the slightly misleading trailer might make you think that Albert is sexually interested in women. However, *Albert Nobbs* is a story that has very little to do with sex. Instead, it's about companionship, loneliness and survival during tough, conservative times where social and gender divisions prevented females from the working class being taken at all seriously. The decision to dress like a bloke was really the only method that Nobbs could think of, at the young age of 14, and she has kept up with this act for decades.

Working as a butler in a hotel, earning an honest living, saving up, and dreaming of a bright future, Nobbs is solely focused on being good at her job. She has very little interest in socialising or speaking a word to her colleagues, and



I don't boil bunnies anymore! You must believe me!! I'm not crazy!!!

everyone at the hotel agrees that she is not only shy, but is also a bit of an eccentric. The only real method she communicates with anyone is in her own room, talking to herself as she counts the money she has managed to save up over the years. It's sad and depressing to see a person this isolated, but this is all she has ever known, and she is fine with it.

Close may not look enough like a man on screen for everyone around to be tricked by her disguise, but that is really not the point here. She has had to pretend for most of her life, and this restriction has naturally had an effect on Nobbs, most notably her confidence. She is always on the look-out, paranoid and absolutely petrified at the

thought that someone might find out. And Close's rigid and restrained performance perfectly embodies the nervous Nobbs, as Close gives one of the most stirring, touching performances of the year. She says very little, and is always carefully mannered.

Her secret however, doesn't stay buried forever. A painter, Hubert Page (McTeer), forced to share Albert's bed due to a shortage of rooms, discovers Nobbs' secret. It turns out Page is going through something similar of "her" own, and Nobbs is further intrigued when Page is revealed to be happily married, to a woman. Is it still possible to have a normal life, a person to fully love and embrace you even if you happen to be a woman who dresses up as a

man? Seeing Page, her wife, and their home give Nobbs hope, and she turns her eyes to the young, beautiful Helen (Wasikowska), working as a maid in the hotel.

Complications arise though, as there is a young man also interested in Helen. Joe (Johnson), a boy hired off the street for knowing how to operate the hotel boiler, actually welcomes the fact that Nobbs shows keen interest in his girlfriend. He wants Helen to hang out with Nobbs, and to squeeze out many material gifts. Helen initially goes for that idea, but as time goes by she realises that Nobbs is a strange yet nice man with manners, qualities her current passionate younger lover seems to lack. Wasikowska is charming as the clueless young girl who may not be easy to like at first, but does eventually win you over with her naive warmth. Johnson on the other hand, plays his nasty piece of work with a hint of ambition, anger and jealousy, a mixture that results in intense confrontations and outbursts, something that Johnson handles well.

Despite being a film revolving around one woman's unique life, the director takes his time to use his supporting characters rather than relying on one outstanding performance of a seasoned performer. McTeer provides a reliable

shoulder of support for our heroine who often struggles to find her place in the world, Brendan Gleeson, whenever he sporadically shows up, is a funny, boozy doctor, a regular guest at the hotel, and Pauline Collins, the money-and-opportunity-grabbing lonely owner of the hotel, Mrs. Baker, manages to convey the uptight, strict boss with both her wicked ways as well as with the occasional wit.

The problem with *Albert Nobbs* is that even in the most crucial, emotional moments, everything feels too slight and oddly doesn't explore the character of Albert further. A brief background story is not sufficient enough to truly enrich an intriguing, yet highly unusual narrative such as this one. Most frustrating of all, is the hastily written ending. Most of the running time is spent on relatively tame events, that the film never builds a strong momentum. It's sloppy, and leaves the film's story hanging. *Albert Nobbs* is a clear showcase for the versatile actress that Close is and has been for years, and yes, she does no doubt give an award-worthy performance that will be one of the highlights of her distinguished career, but the muted atmosphere cannot quite keep up with the actress' intense performance.

Film Editors: **John Park**
Lucy Wiles

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FILM



How to:

Survive the iCU Cinema All-Nighter

It has returned. It's coming to the end of term and just when you thought you might look forward to a bit of shut-eye, BAM! iCU Cinema phwacks you in the gut with an All-Nighter. Six films, back-to-back, from the early evening to 6am the next morning, or until the projectionist goes insane and feeds his hair into the projector, whichever comes first.

One might reasonably ask, "How on earth does one survive such a test of endurance?" Well, it just so happens that I prepared a thorough and completely unscientific guide to all those who dare accept the iCU Cinema All-Nighter challenge.

Mission: Impossible?

Before I begin, let me reassure you: it is possible. Almost. There are rumours that Chuck Norris made it to the second-to-last film before falling serenely asleep in his chair, mumbling something about "roundhouse kicking Joseph Kony before it was cool". To give yourself the best chance of making it all the way through the night, it's essential that you get a good night's sleep on Monday. You may have read articles about how the 8-hour sleep is unnatural, and you need two separate sections of sleep with sex in between (or reading, whatever). For the All-Nighter you'll need to be in bed on Monday at 6pm and not rise from your comatose slumber until Tuesday 1:37pm (at the earliest).

Coffee is your friend

Of course, being the independent-minded and strong-willed Imperial students that you are, you may choose to ignore my sleep advice. I would warn you to

do so at your own peril, and to hell with you, but my colleagues at iCU Cinema are more sympathetic. Hot, fresh coffee is piped in from the fields of South America via a mind-bendingly long pipe that looks mysteriously like a jar of Nescafe, a paper cup, and some scalding hot water... The crack-like caffeine is your only weapon against the oblivion of sleep so use it; but use it wisely.

Ah, one other thing – tea and beer are also on sale. Certainly they are more delicious than coffee, and the beer is likely to make even *Puss in Boots* a riotous laugh, but help you stay awake until the morning, they do not...

Timetable

18:00 – Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol

20:45 – Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

23:30 – The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

02:30 – Puss in Boots

04:30 – Moneyball

06:00 – Attack the Block

Tickets are £10 in advance at tickets.icucinema.co.uk, or £12 on the door. Individual films are £3 on the door.

Hot and cold food & drinks will be on sale throughout the night. (Including beers, coffee and cider!)

The girl with the pillow

Have you ever been to one of those fancy cinemas that have sofas instead of normal seats? They're awesome, aren't they? A truly luxurious cinematic experience. iCU Cinema is not one of those cinemas. More than 12 hours sitting on the Union's standard-issue fold-out seats will do ghastly things to your body that would see even the hardest Medic run for the hills screaming, "THERE IS NO GOD!" Pro-tip: bring a pillow, bring a duvet; heck, wear pyjamas and bust out those man-uggs you keep pretending you don't have.

Moneyballs

Imagine the scenario: it's around 2am, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* has just finished, and you're all feeling a bit abused, both by the film and by the fact that you're now three films in. You're buying a cup of tea when the hot guy or girl beside you realises they haven't got change for a Pot Noodle. Jackpot! Swoop in with a couple of 50p coins and a cool remark about how "the original Swedish version was way better" and, hail mary!, you've got a duvet buddy. Note: if you don't bring some change, this will never happen and you'll never find happiness... ever.

Attack the fry up

So, let's say we've come to the end of the All-Nighter. You're feeling proud of yourself no doubt. Only problem is you've got to re-enter the land of the living, and we all know what a terrible, deadline-infested place that can be. What you really need is an infusion of good, strong, deadly cholesterol. Luck-



ily the SCR does a bang up breakfast. Or if you're feeling really adventurous, seek out the Contractors' Cafe – just on the other side of the walkway to the Queen's Lawn. Seek, and ye shall find affordable breakfast of the likes ye only find at the Sandwich Shop.

Puss in bed

I might as well go ahead and put this out there now: you can pretty much write off anything you were planning to do on Wednesday. That includes: lectures; that super-important meeting with your project supervisor, and that lunch with

your boyfriend/girlfriend that you totally promised to not be late for. The crazy shit that summoned the dead from their graves in *Dawn of the Dead* won't be enough to get you out of bed after the All-Nighter. Your only other option is to go hard and just power through with crack-caffeine, because as soon as you go home you're done.

If you're planning on coming to the iCU Cinema All-Nighter, tweet @iCU_Cinema and let us know how the preparations are going. The fact that you will have tweeted us is a bad sign; you should be asleep, charging your batteries!

Television Editors: **George Barnett**
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TELEVISION

Abrams vs. Alcatraz

Lucia Podhorska breaks out a review of *Alcatraz*

Created by J.J. Abrams, the mastermind behind *Lost* and *Fringe*, *Alcatraz* follows a special unit within the FBI dedicated to investigating the disappearance of the prisoners and guards from the infamous prison in 1963. The year is 2012 and the 63s, as they are commonly referred to, have started showing up the same age as when they disappeared and with no memory of how they vanished, or where they've been for the past 50 years.

Heading the investigation is Emerson Hauser, an FBI agent who also served as an officer on Alcatraz in the 60s. Played by Sam Neill (*Jurassic Park*), his main goal is to capture the convicts as they arrive in the present day, while also trying to figure out how they disappeared in the first place. His character is generally quite cynical with many hidden agendas. He is aided in his quest by Rebecca Madsen, an SFPD homicide detective with familial ties to Alcatraz. Jorge Garcia (*Lost*) rounds off the main cast as Dr Diego 'Doc' Soto, an author of books about Alcatraz and comic book shop owner. His in-depth knowledge of all of the inmates has proven invaluable and his character provides some much needed light-heartedness.

Voted as one of eight Most Exciting New Series, the show first aired in the US in January and has followed an 'inmate-of-the-week' format. Each episode therefore follows the team as they chase down the newest prisoner to return from who-knows-where, as well as showing flash-backs from said prisoner's time at Alcatraz. The warden, deputy warden and head doctor at Alcatraz are crucial characters in these flashbacks, showing us that many of the guards were every bit as cruel and criminally inclined as the convicts themselves.

After 10 episodes, we are still no closer to discovering the secrets behind Alcatraz. The plot is easy to follow, but each new episode brings up more questions. Background information about the main characters themselves is also quite scarce, but then it is still early days. So far it is clear that they all have a few skeletons in their closets. The disap-

pearance seems scientific in its nature, with numerous references made to the works of *Jules Verne*. In typical J.J. fashion questions of morality and religion are investigated, whilst psychology and brain-washing also play an important role. Why and how did over 300 people disappear all at once? Where have they been and why do they have no memory of how it happened, yet know to look for certain objects hidden in various locations in San Francisco?

"Why and how did over 300 people disappear all at once?"

Being a great fan of *Lost* and *Fringe*, I was excited to hear about Abrams' new project. The element of time-travel was not at all surprising, but the idea behind it was something unique. The series is definitely entertaining to watch, but it lacks the punch and fast pace of his other

shows. I guess the main issue I have thus far is how unconcerned everyone is with the fact that people are popping up from the past. After an initial 'is everyone else's head exploding right about now' moment in the first episode, Rebecca and Doc just take it at face value and stop questioning it. Even the inmates themselves don't seem too concerned about suddenly finding themselves in the future and adapt to the present very quickly. I also question the inmates' ongoing compulsion to carry out the crimes they were originally caught and imprisoned for.

Despite these drawbacks, I still think *Alcatraz* is an enjoyable watch and I look forward to new episodes every week. It has all of the elements at hand to make it a great show. With only three more episodes until the end of the season, I'm sure the writers will keep us guessing at the ending.

Alcatraz started airing on Watch this week. Catch it at 9pm on Tuesdays.



Pick of the week

Facebook's actually quite boring isn't it? Well here's something to satisfy your procrastinatory needs

**March 16 | 2030 | Sky Sports F1
*The F1 Show***

Georgie Thompson and Ted Kravitz update us on the latest Formula 1 news, focussing on the upcoming Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne.

**March 17 | 2235 | BBC4
*Top of the Pops: 1977***

Get your groove on as David Jensen presents an edition from March 10. Featuring the UK's 1977 Eurovision entry: Rock Bottom by Lynsey de Paul and Mike Moran (they didn't win, but amazingly were runners-up.)

**March 18 | 1400 | BBC1
*Formula 1: Australian Grand Prix***

For those of you without Sky; catch the opening race of the new season with Jake Humphrey.

**March 20 | 2230 | BBC3
*Pramface***

Heartwarming comedy about 16 year old Jamie who gets 18 year old Laura pregnant. Whoops.



Bring back Murray Walker

ALCATRAZ

Fashion Editors: **Saskia Verhagen**
Alice Yang

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FASHION

Fashion week highlights for

From New York to London, Milan to Paris; Saskia Verhagen and Alice Yang

Alexander McQueen

Once again, the organic references at McQueen were seared with a modern intricacy, the shoes heel-less and the models' eyes hidden behind mirrored visors. It was curious to watch the clothes move, each shaggy twist of Mongolian lamb fur, ostrich feather and goat fur undulating and recoiling as if dancing to the ebullient refrain of The Beach Boys' "Good Vibrations". The silhouettes blos-

somed from shrunken, pleated seed husks dotted with pearlescent florets of sequins into shimmering cascades of organza, massaged into discernible frothy petals which somehow sustained an extraordinary oxymoronic combination of a downy, feather-like texture and the crimped shape of a pteriomorphic seashell. The inspiration? A humble mushroom. And unglamorous as that might seem, visually, this woman is a futuristic incarnation of a fairy princess, a Sugar Plum Fairy in lilac dégradée, and that future is certainly bright. Even the evolution of the princess, a story told through

the length of the show, was not one haunted by any dark, apocalyptic coda that might hint at the signature of Sarah Burton's late mentor. Instead, the movement was from "innocence to experience," as Tim Blanks elegantly put it. Burton is pushing forward, in technique and vision, McQueen's spirit becoming less of a shadowy burden and more of a guiding star, a surveying eye casting his blessing over her hand in keeping his house alive. To quote a different genre of legend, "I, I love the colourful clothes she wears, and the way the sunlight plays upon her hair..." - SV



Jil Sander

Raf Simons' swansong at Jil Sander could have seemed planned to be just that, a collection to end an era at the fashion house. However, his departure from the house was confirmed a mere two days before the show, and at the finale, a tearful Simons received both a standing ovation and an encore. The show opened to the tune of Mazzy Star's "Fade Into You" with a

model demurely clasping her blush pink coat closed; you wondered what was hidden beneath. Nothing, perhaps, or maybe a satin sheath night-dress? As the collection unfolded, it became clear that this was a woman whose challenge it was to at once both conceal and be seen, a play-off between the proper and the improper. Graphic cut-outs, slices of silver and moulded black leather cut through a palette evoking the break of dawn: pale grey, pink and coffee brown. Protected within serene confines, Raf Simons captured a collection of

intimate domestic moments between a couple, from morning lingerie to sculpted black cocktail dresses, and the vision was almost poetic in its simplicity. Vanessa Friedman of the FT called the collection "mesmerizing". This, the closing collection of Simons' "couture trilogy", was nothing short of an ending most appropriate to an extraordinary seven-year reign at Jil Sander. As successor to Raf Simons, there is no doubt that even Jil herself will need all the help she can get sustaining the critics' ceaseless praise of his work. - SV



Louis Vuitton

All change on the Louis Vuitton Express – a steam engine pulls into the Cour Carrée of the Palais du Louvre, and a procession of romantic heroines from a by-gone era (followed two paces behind by a uniformed porter, naturally) disembark to an audience held beguiled by a vision of cinematic nostalgia. The colour palette seemed to be taken out of a sepia film reel: on a base of brown, Marc threw

violet, lime green, mustard orange. And though some colours should, objectively, have been throwing insults at one another upon forced combination, somehow the mustard nestled comfortably within the chocolate brown velvet, the kaleidoscopic embellishment upon navy blue. The silhouettes were certainly nothing modern, but escaped any inkling of seeming dated; the fabrics from which they were cut required the highest level of technology to produce, many costing up to €1,000 per metre. Skirts fell to mid-calf, layered beneath magnificent frock-coats with wide enamelled

buttons, and sunken top hats (something reminiscent of the everyday garb of the Mad Hatter) perched atop. Some of these melancholy beauties were bespectacled; dark, saucer-sized lenses twinkling beneath their hat brims – evocative of the lady wishing to travel incognito, unaware that she's wearing the most conspicuous items of disguise. This is not to mention the luggage toted by her loyal porter, equally luxurious in glittering sequin or alligator, or fluttering dégradée goat fur. A triumph of Tolstoyan proportions, exposing Marc Jacobs for the true showman that he is. -SV



FASHION

autumn/winter 2012

bring you the best bits from last month's catwalks

Gucci

A romantic decadence underpinned Frida Giannini's show for Gucci this season – a story of power and luxury painted in black. But it was in the shades of blacks that Giannini weaved her magic: from leathers to velvets, jewels and furs, the elaborate mix of textures and fabrics used in each outfit gave an unexpected grandeur to the single toned colour. With a deep atmospheric beat that faded into a clinking musical chime, Gucci's first parade

of models came clad in tight brocade dresses or loosely cut trousers. Stomping the Milanese catwalk in knee-high pointed boots and sweeping capes, the models conjured a sense of adventure through a dark enchanted forest. Yet this season, the element of forestry originated from the garments themselves, with appliqué flowers on translucent chiffon blouses, and floral prints swirling on billowing silk. A floor-length emerald devoré dress paired with sweetly twisted-back hair painted a portrait of elvish royalty - in fact, the collection as whole

emulated a sense of mystical aristocracy, but the women donning Gucci's robes were the heroines of their fairytales, not the damsels in distress. But that didn't stop them from disrobing into the sheerest of dresses, lighter than air. Rather, it seemed that the jewelled flowers entwining themselves around the models were a delicate work of nature, and that the layers of tulle flowing to the floor were but a dramatic addition. This may not have been a collection to battle the cold, but given the choice we'd choose Gucci's dark fairytale adventure any day. - AY



Lanvin

This season at Lanvin certainly had cause for celebration: Alber Elbaz's brought in his 10th year at the helm of fashion's longest surviving house with thundering applause and bellowing cheers. From peacock green to glowing orange, and cut in Alber's signature structure of strength in simplicity, the models took to the runway with a confidence that only Lanvin can install. Dramatic elegance with a dash of fun is what Alber

does best, with Karlie Kloss taking a starring role as the quintessential Lanvin woman in a sweetly structured black velvet dress. Flirty in its flare, but toughened up with a double wrapped leather belt, no doubt this will become next season's most coveted LBD. After a dark interlude, it seemed the treasure chest opened, filled with golden bullions and gems the size of marbles. The girls glittered in Alber's crystal-embellished, gold-plated eveningwear, followed by his unique take on the patterned dress – floral prints leaking delicately down

the garments, leaving artful trails behind. Of course, no glamorous occasion is complete without diamonds and fur and Alber Elbaz isn't one to hold back; each outfit came with heavy dash of either, or in most cases, an irresistible combination of both. If a statement needs to be made this season, one need look no further than Lanvin. In the true style of Parisian theatre, the show ended with Alber himself taking to the mic with a triumphant rendition of *Que Sera Sera*, and in this case we couldn't agree more. - AY



Haider Ackermann

Inspired by the autumn leaves outside his house in Antwerp, Haider Ackermann's show this season was one of romance and nostalgia. Referring to nature as opposed to the cyberistic future he has so often insinuated, it was a sensual and sinuous collection that Ackermann presented to the bellowing croon of Frank Sinatra's *Autumn Leaves*. Opening before dusk on such

darkened days, the first models stalked out in husky greys, mossy greens and the deepest browns. Like sharp-clawed owls swooping down upon their prey, Ackermann's use of leather came in sharp distinctive layers, harrowing down to the knee in dagger-like points. But as the sun began to rise, the colours of dawn gradually began to leak in. The dark plums that formed elongated trousers morphed into brassy copper jackets and glowing red coats. When day broke, so did the streaks of blue. But alas, it was a short day typical of the gloomy days of

winter, and soon the deep amethyst of night returned in dresses tightly clinched forming shimmering folds, whilst others slipped on in the matt hues reflected by the clouds. The juxtaposition of delicately beautiful fabrics and the powerful constricted waists with sharply flared hips forged an enchanting partnership, the love story between Ackermann's erotic tones and commanding sense of architecture, sewn together impeccably by his unparalleled sense of draping. This was, undoubtedly, the season's most alluring love story. - AY



GAMES

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Games by Angelina: Artificial

Laurence Pope takes some time out to chat to Michael Cook, a PhD student designing

L Laurence: So, first question, for someone who's never heard of Angelina, how would you best describe it?

Mike: Angelina is just a piece of software, exactly like any other kind of application on your computer. It needs a lot more resources to run, and what it essentially does is I set a few parameters, let it run, and it emails me when it's done to let me know when a new game has been produced. Inside there there's all kinds of artificial intelligence going on to produce these games. It's really just your average bit of code running on the PC.

L: What was it that prompted you to look into A.I. and base your research on this sort of software?

M: I've always played video games, and they've always been an interest, but A.I. in particular became of interest to me when I started computer science at Imperial. There are a few streams you can go down in computer science, but for me it was always about the logic and making computers do really unusual things. Video games are already an exotic thing for a computer to do anyway, procedurally generated worlds, things like that.

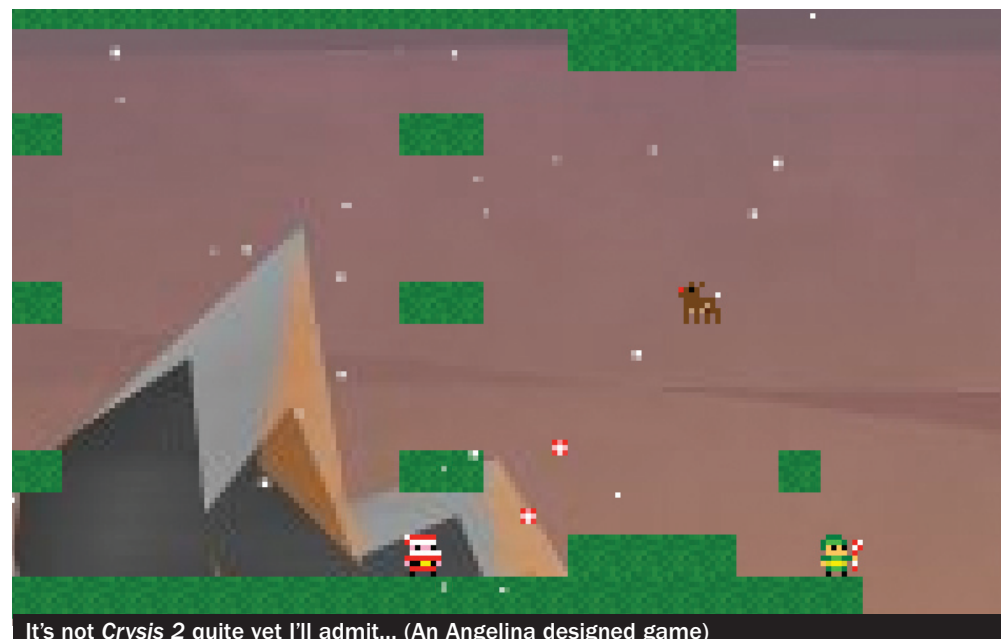
L: I've read a couple of the articles that have

already been written, and I got the impression Angelina was very much *in silico* Darwinism. Would that be a fair assessment?

M: I often relate it back to natural evolution, because I think it's a good touch point for people to understand computational evolution, and there are a lot of similarities. It's probably best to talk about Angelina's evolutionary processes.

Computational evolution is a very common A.I. technique used all over the place; medicine, engineering, pharmacology, all kinds of stuffs. It's been used in games before, so it's not something new in that sense, we're just using it in a different way. In essence it's very much like evolution in the real world. It's not really directed, there's no intentionality, at each step it's not clear where the program's moving. It's only when you step back and look at Angelina as a whole that you can understand where it was headed. It's just like evolution in the real world – it doesn't have a real goal, it's just a process that happens naturally.

It has helped to think of this as an evolutionary process, because normally evolutionary processes in computing are just one thing, one species of animal, but in Angelina we have multiple species evolving alongside one another, and they exert pressures on one another, just as two species would in a natural environment. So if a level design starts to tend toward a particular feature the



It's not *Crysis 2* quite yet I'll admit... (An Angelina designed game)

power ups will have to alter their design to compensate for that.

L: At the moment Angelina can't add in graphics or audio on its own. What's the raw product look like before you spruce it up?

M: It looks pretty much like the Santa games up on my website now. It's the stock stuff sitting there just waiting to be used. I often put in a lot of the visual touches later, especially if I'm making a game for something like the *New Scientist* game. If you go back further, before the platform games, you can see what they were really like, when they were simplistic, little more than basic coloured shapes on the screen.

In a way I feel that some of the coverage I've gotten has been a little cheap; the screenshots make it look very clever, but I did all that art. The good thing is my PhD supervisor, Simon Colton, does lots of work in A.I. generated art, so we're going to look into ways to get Angelina to be a bit artier in future all by itself.

L: So it's likely that Angelina will soon be able to add in simple graphics all by itself, but what about higher resolution stuff? For example, do you think Angelina will be able to create a game as visually rich as *Team Fortress 2*?

M: Yes, eventually. The idea of computational creativity is quite interesting, because researchers like ourselves are struggling with defining a grade of creativity. For instance, writing the Felix article you're going to write requires a certain level of creativity, but reading it also requires a certain level as well in order to visualise some of the things you're discussing. Now you could argue that they're two quite different levels of creativity, one being much higher than the other. Currently, some aspects of Angelina feel creative, but we don't really consider the system very creative at all.

You could go some steps up and have Angelina design artwork based on existing things in the world. It could say look on Google images of images of people or soldiers and restyle them in a

particular painting style. That would be one form of creativity.

To generate the kind of high-quality art style seen in *TF2* from scratch would take a very long time, but definitely Angelina will start to make strides towards that eventually. 8-bit is just a convenient start point.

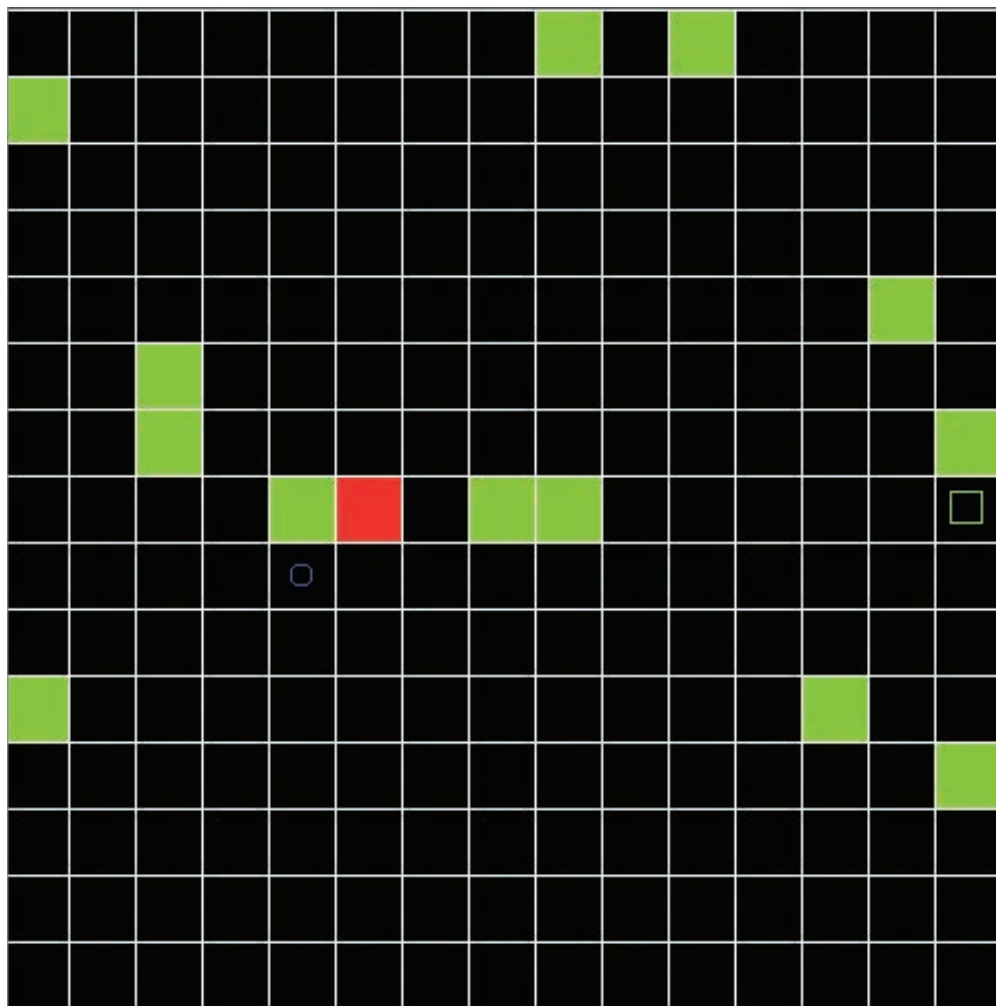
“As A.I. becomes more sophisticated and more able to create, hopefully it will only serve to highlight what we value in human creativity”

L: You've said before you believe Angelina has benefit for game designers, but do you think it has any use outside of that?

M: It'd be better to say research like Angelina, as I'm obviously not the only person looking into this sort of A.I. There's a bunch of different ways I hope it'll affect the games industry.

One of the ways as you say is that it'll give designers more powerful design tools to work with. Secondly, from the opposite end of things, which is that people like you or I will be better able to design games, because tools like Angelina will be able to boost people up, just like Photoshop has boosted my photoediting skills in general. It'll help us make more intelligent and interesting games for ourselves, which are still designed but are amplified by the effects of intelligent tools.

Thirdly I hope that'll lead to really interesting games, and that's a benefit for everyone. In computational creativity we often think about how A.I. can emulate existing human creativity. We talk about how A.I. artists could paint paintings that humans might, or design games that designers



An exclusive look at Michael's next line of Angelina-based research – the building of puzzle games with a series of levels and increasing difficulty

Intelligence and game design

an A.I. software program, Angelina, that can create games all by itself

might. A.I. might offer another form of creativity, games which humans could never make themselves, games that can redesign themselves live to make new challenges, artworks that are composed of thousand and thousands of tweets, tasks that are so immense only a computational program could synthesise them. It's interesting because it could lead to new genres of games or new mechanics that we might never have thought of.

Hopefully, as researchers get closer to the public a lot of our research will get released for free, and a lot of our games are released for free. Certainly I hope to release everything about Angelina for free, not just the games but also in time the code behind it as well. That has huge knock-on effects for everyone.

“A.I. might offer another form of creativity, games which humans could never make themselves”

L: Let's have a think about the app market for a moment. Do you think that if a designer could press a button and have a game pumped out with no work that the market would be flooded, especially if you plan to release the code for free?

M: Some people have claimed I've been quite naïve for saying that I don't believe it'll have that effect on the app market, and I think there is an element of naïvity in there somewhere. It's impossible to think that these won't have an effect on people, because in a sense the app market has already experienced these problems before, in that it's already quite easy to make a basic app. If we make that process even easier we'd certainly see flushes of very simple apps. One of the next projects I'm working on with Angelina is puzzle games, and I've already realised that the kind of complexity we could potentially create, those apps are already being sold now for £0.69. It would not be beyond the stretches of imagination to have Angelina do that.

If that were to happen, I hope that what we would see is that the minimum level of what we consider interesting would rise. It would no longer be interesting to us to see the next Zynga game, and that could be a great thing. It might be that in the future Angelina would be on everyone's computer, and they could push a button and let it make a game for them, so that they don't have to spend £0.69 on another.

Then, people would take an interest in games that are truly creative and truly inventive. Of course, the question is what would happen when Angelina pushes up to that level, if it ever could. My feeling is that as A.I. becomes more sophisticated and more able to create, hopefully it will only serve to highlight what we value in human creativity.

For me people like Edmund McMillen, who made *Super Meat Boy* and *The Binding of Isaac*, and Derek Yu, who made *Aquaria* and *Spelunky*,



Michael has plans to use a new library called APACE to allow Angelina to create point-and-click adventures

those people communicate something very unique through their games, something very deep about who they are. I'll always be interested in buying their games, and I don't think an A.I. could ever replicate that connection between me and the designer.

Games like *Battlefield 4* are going to be highly mechanical games. There's going to be a lot of equations that need balancing, a lot of weapons, generic vehicles and levels that will need to be balanced and created. Those games might find themselves being impacted by Angelina.



Super Meat Boy — a highlight of human creativity in the gaming industry

If you look at the indie market and the huge swathes of inventiveness, uniqueness and human connection between the games and the people that make them, they will be, if anything, the very last games to go if they should ever be affected by these tools. This is where the real art shines through. My supervisor always says “Photoshop didn't ruin fine artists,” and I don't think these tools will either. What they might do is flush out people who are getting away with churning out the same app every week. Maybe those people will see their incomes affected, but hopefully it'll encourage them to go after projects they really love,

rather than just chasing the current trend. Maybe it'll be a bad thing for the industry; I really hope it isn't!

L: For me certainly, I've never been a fan of those mechanical shooters that come on year on year, so I do think it'll have a positive effect.

M: Yes, and I think that eventually, whether or not these tools are released, if they become useful private companies like Activision will build their own, and they'll have a lot of money to spend on R&D. It may be that their tools will far surpass whatever I could ever produce to make the next Battlefield, in which case you'll see these games coming out, because they'll always have the edge with technology.

Of course, not all creative or inventive game developers are indie; Valve's games have a terrific personality, and those things will always be here. You can't match them with A.I. You can't replace that human element. Humans have slaved over their work and it shows; Angelina can't emulate that, and nor would we want her to. That's another question. There are a lot of things the industry are

“Photoshop didn't ruin fine artists, and I don't think these tools will either”

not interested in.

L: There was a comment made by Mark Nelson, claiming that Angelina should be more transparent, and should allow designers to change what they want. Do you believe what he says?

M: Mark is a really awesome researcher, and a lot

of his papers spurred on the research that I did. I kind of brought that quote on myself. When I talk about Angelina in interviews like this I often talk about it being used in conjunction with designers and things like that. Really, it's the research around Angelina that will go on to be used. Angelina itself in an autonomous designer, it can't be used in conjunction with human designers.

Mark on the other hand has worked on building tools that collaborate with a human. For those tools it's very important that humans can express what they're looking for. With Angelina it requires a lot of tinkering with the code, when I run it it doesn't ask me what I think. There are a lot of great tools like Tanagra, a level design tool. You start to make a 2D level for a game like Mario, and as you make the level Tanagra watches and tries to work out what kind of level you're after, and it starts to fill in the level ahead of you. You can tell it to change things, but it tries to collaborate and



Companies like Activision will probably have to up their game in one way or another

design alongside you.

My aim with Angelina will always be to make a designer that works on its own and designs games without me.

Tools need more transparency, but Angelina doesn't. Hopefully her research will spurn on the development of more development tools however.

L: So the final question I had – Angelina, where did the name come from?

M: In computing, there seems to be a tendency for really terrible acronyms. There are many dreadful examples! Angelina's acronym is A Novel Game-Evolving Labrat. It's tail-recursive, which I find hilarious, but I'm not sure it's at all funny outside of computer science departments – or even within them!

L: Thank you very much for your time. Good luck with your research!

M: Cheers!

Interested in more?

If you're interested in finding out more about Michael's research or fancy trying out one of Angelina's games check out his website and blog:

<http://www.gamesbyangelina.org/>

GAMES

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Free Web Games

Sorry, nothing remotely funny to say up here this week. I'm suffering from the 'flu, and I don't see why anyone else should be happy. Check out these two totally mediocre web games that you can play right now in your web browser. In order to suffer thorough these you're going to need the Adobe Flash Player plug-in, which can be installed from <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

Monsters TD

<http://www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/591382>

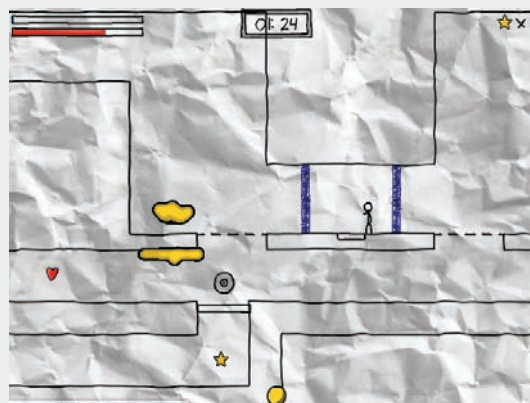


Monsters TD is a tower defense game. Pretty standard, right? Perhaps, but *Monsters TD* spins it out very well.

A strange group of monsters are trying to reach a portal, and your only defense is a weird selection of freaky steampunk towers. It starts off pretty basic, but as you advance towers can be upgraded and become more specialised in their function. Like all tower defense games *Monsters TD* requires a little trial and error and a fair bit of thinking to position your defenses appropriately. Give it a shot.

Crumpled

<http://www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/590513>



Crumpled is not a tower defense, but trying to classify it is difficult. It's part puzzle, part parkour, part artsy, part pure imagination. You control both a wall-climbing man and his fellow 'blob' of plastic, which can morph into shapes and take on new properties.

Combined, the two must get through the levels, activating switches, blocking damage and providing platforms for one another amongst other things. It's amazingly creative, and certainly worth your time.

Space Invaders? Not on MY watch!

Cave Johnson details his plans for first contact

Hello Earth-dwellers, Cave Johnson here.

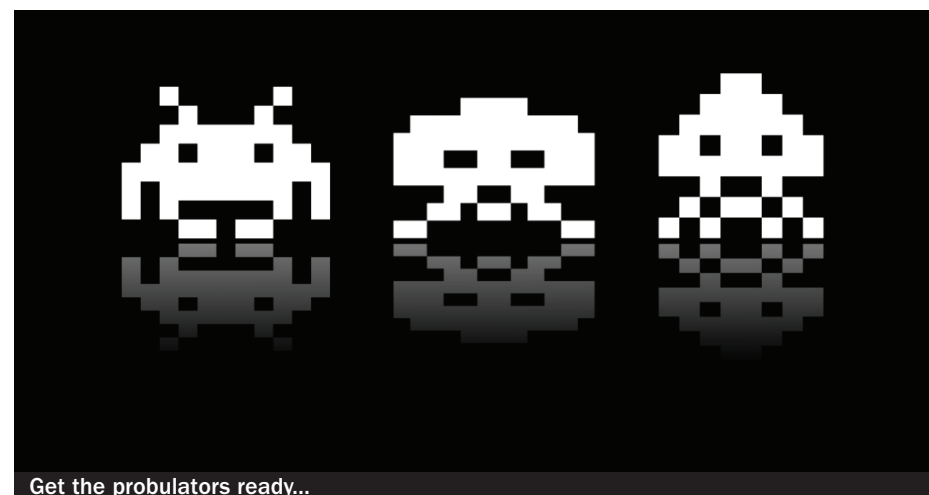
Firstly, I've got a note from the lab boys over in biochem, and they've told me to tell you not to eat any of the 'Election Special' range from the JCR. There's something scribbled here about 'politicitis', and severe social repulsiveness. This news probably comes too late for most of you, but you can all take comfort in the fact that you're furthering the advance of science by at least a couple of minutes.

For the last question of term, Harry asks, "If we meet friendly extraterrestrial life, how should we abuse (sorry, harness) its power? If it's evil, how should we combat it?"

Firstly, we can be pretty sure that any aliens who turn up at our doorstep are going to be more technologically advanced than us. They're likely to have ray-guns, teleporters and some fancy anti-lemon technology. If they come in peace, then it's our duty as citizens of the United States to keep all of the science and advancements to ourselves, and make damn sure it doesn't fall into the wrong hands. Like communists. Or Black Mesa. I'm not sure which is worse.

"We're looking for pre-probing test subjects. If interested, talk to your college's test associate and he'll fill you in. As will everyone in the lab"

We know from all the stories that it's not a proper abduction unless there's some kind of probing. That's science fact. Our resident xenobiologist says that this is because it's the way that most aliens greet each other, and as such we want to give our visitors the warmest welcome possible. We don't want to risk damaging the alien bodies through such invasive



procedures, so the boys down in biology want to get some pre-probing done to minimize potential loss when the time comes. Coincidentally, we've got a great testing opportunity for lazy students – talk to your college's test associate and he'll fill you in. As will everyone in the lab. Once we've learned everything about their technology, we'll just be left with the little green men themselves. The aliens – not the leprechauns – for the UCL-calibre students among you. Keep up.

The *Journal of Astroxenochembiophilosophical Geological Pseudo-Science Materials B* recently published an article that listed the ways that aliens may be biologically different from us. It's a couple of hundred pages long, but it's a good read, if your college has access to it. It even has pictures. They've concluded that the most likely form of any alien invaders is not that of the classic green-skinned and beady-eyed variety, but rather short, furry creatures that embody an image of cuteness. That's how they get close to their prey. For the conspiracy theorists among you, I would suggest printing out a copy to keep on you at all times. Don't worry about the amount of paper required though – there are too many trees anyway. And they're all watching you. As a special testing offer to you paranoid students, we've created a unique testing experience.

We're looking for volunteers to sit in a room with a tin foil hat on. We'll then bombard you with all the types of radiation we can think off, and see what happens. Don't worry about the cancer risk, as we'll just boil the tumours right out of you later. With more radiation.

"In the worst case scenario, Aperture has enough nuclear material to make sure that if I can't have Earth, neither can they"

Back to business then. If they're here for global domination, then I expect that the human populace won't have much of a chance. The governments will bow down, and you'll all become slaves to your new despotic overlords. Do not despair, faithful test subjects. Aperture has a set of guidelines for this exact situation. I don't know what they are, but I expect it has something to do with the giant lasers that the boys have been making over in weapons testing. There's supposedly enough energy from one blast that we can go directly from 'cow' to 'steak' in half a second. There is so much abandoned weapons technology down here that we should start hosting conventions. On the upside, Aperture has enough nuclear material to make sure that if I can't have the Earth, neither can they.

Just as a reminder, I'm going away for a few weeks. This is in no way related to the missing zoo animals, or my recent attempt at creating Cave's Ark. This is just a holiday. A simple underwater holiday. With slugs.

I'll leave you in Caroline's safe hands whilst I'm gone.

Get probed.
For science.



Pictured: one puppy, one disguised alien. One will bark and yap, the other will transform and vomit boiling space acid down your throat. Choose wisely



Because men and women should be able to wear whatever they want

Because gender shouldn't matter

Your opinion on sexism at Imperial counts



Sexism has proved to be a real debate at Imperial this year. Following International Women's Day last week, we thought we'd do our bit for gender equality. We would like to hear your thoughts and opinions on sexism at Imperial, whether you think it is an issue affecting students, and how to solve the issue.



felixonline.co.uk/sexism

A veggie and a meaty

by **Clare Cheng and Hannah Cox**

Black Bean, Courgette, & Olive Tacos served with Garlic-Lemon Yogurt – makes 8 tacos

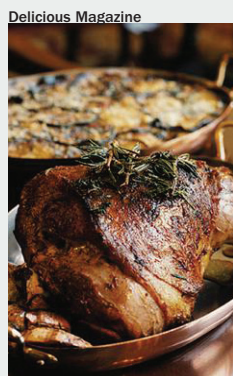
1tsp olive oil
 1 courgette, diced small
 2 jalapenos, seeded & sliced thinly
 ¼ tsp salt
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 1/3 cup pitted kalamata olives, chopped
 ½ tsp ground cumin
 ½ tsp ground coriander
 1 6-ounce can salsa verde
 1 16pound can black beans, brained and rinsed
 ½ cup finely chopped spring onions
 8 6inch corn tortillas
 1 cup unsweetened plain soy yogurt
 2-3 cloves garlic
 Zest of half a lemon
 Juice of 1 lemon
 ½ teaspoon light agave nectar

For the tacos: Sauté courgette, jalapeno with the salt for 7mins (until the courgette is lightly browned). Add garlic, cumin, coriander, and sauté for 2mins. Add salsa verde, olives, and black beans. Cook for 5mins. For the garlic-lemon yogurt: Grate the garlic and lemon zest into the yogurt. Then squeeze in the lemon juice and add the agave. Mix well with a fork and season to taste. Layer bean mix, yogurt, and spring onions in the tacos for a tasty vegan meal.

A Good Meaty Meal After Our Vegan Month: Roast Lamb Leg with Apricot and Thyme

Serves 8

Leg of lamb on the bone
 6 dried apricots slices into thirds
 Sprigs of fresh thyme
 Olive oil
 1tbsp apricot jam
 Gravy:
 4tbsp flour
 570ml stock
 1tbsp white wine
 ½ tsp soy sauce
 Pinch of dried thyme
 2tbsp apricot jam



Preheat oven 220°C/425°C. Calculate baking time: allow 20mins per 420g, plus an extra 20mins. Stab the meat with a small knife, pushing the apricot pieces and thyme into the holes. Coat in oil, sprinkle with salt and bake. Turn the oven down to 180°C/350°C after 20mins. 30mins before the end of cooking time coat lamb in apricot jam (when cooked leave the meat to rest covered in foil for 15mins before carving). Use the juices from the roasting tray to make the gravy: Spoon off the fat from the surface, then use a scraper and a little stock to dissolve away some of the meat stuck to the tray. Add flour to the saucepan, pouring in enough juices to make a roux. Add the rest of the juices and stock, season and whisk. Add the white wine, soy sauce and thyme, bringing it to the boil and simmer for a few minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the apricot jam and taste before serving. Serve with roast potatoes and green vegetables.

Veganism is looming...

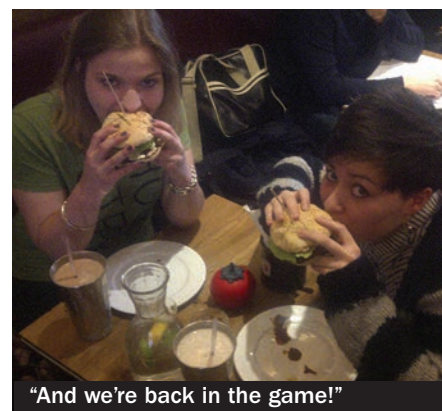
Looking back on a vegan experience

Clare Cheng
Hannah Cox

With our final week of veganism looming, it's time for us to look back at what we've achieved so far as well as look forward to our unrestricted diets! We've enjoyed being vegan more than we thought we would. Our preconception of the vegan lifestyle was that of tasteless and unfulfilling meals that satisfied your body, but not your mind. So it was a surprise when we found that actually some parts of being vegan were pretty good.

We've both enjoyed soya milk, albeit different forms. Clare enjoyed having her Alpro Soy sweetened soya milk in everything, from tea to cereal, and is pretty much planning on sticking with it after we finish. In contrast Hannah enjoyed unsweetened soya milk in tea, but couldn't face it at all on its own or in cereal. So while she conquered her biggest potential challenge when taking on veganism (maintaining her daily tea-fix), she's excited at the prospect of drinking a nice cold cup of creamy fully dairy milk. After all you can't beat the real McCoy. Additionally there've been some pretty good meals! A particular favourite was a mixed vegetable and barley soup – really wholesome and warm for the winter months. If you want the recipe, comment on the article online and we'll send it to you.

Veganism is often portrayed as one of the healthiest lifestyles you can follow, with minimum saturated fat and a lack of processed foods, just plenty of vegetables, pulses and grains. With this in mind we expected to feel healthier and to shed a few pounds. The true reality of the situation is that yes, we have lost a few pounds, which is great! However we don't feel it's a surefire thing that you would, because we often found ourselves in the situation of compensating our meat for carbs. Perhaps it's only because we made a conscious effort to use this month to (dare we



say it) diet a little that we managed to avoid this trap; there is such a thing as a fat vegan!

It's incredibly difficult to maintain a balanced diet, particularly with regards to protein. After all there's so many beans you can eat before it's antisocial. We have been feeling tired constantly and concentration during lectures has been more difficult than usual. A good chocolate bar is what we would normally need to keep ourselves going; that endorphin and sugar rush that pushes you through your afternoon schedule. We did find a good alternative in Nakd bars. Clare would really recommend the Chocolate Orange flavour and would continue to eat them occasionally after finishing veganism. Hannah on the other hand preferred the Banana Bread and the Apple Pie flavours. They tasted so much like the real thing, an opinion with which Clare concurs. Having said that, they weren't the real thing and often made you miss them even more.

So now we're coming to the end we're looking ahead to that fateful hour when milk, steak, sushi and a boiled egg will be able to pass our lips again. As you might imagine, a little like a final meal on death row, we've been giving quite a lot of thought to what we're going to eat first. It's a difficult

decision, which could lead to dairy-meat-filled binge, resulting in hospitalization. Hannah is definitely looking forward to her first mug of cow-milk tea – she'll have the water boiled ready for the stroke of midnight! The following day she's going to feast on a juicy steak with béarnaise sauce and Heston's brilliant triple cooked chips (she's literally salivating as we write). Clare shall be having herself a huge Chinese takeaway, no scrimping on the roast duck pancakes. Perhaps she may even top it off with some sushi at the end... she's pretty desperate right now.

We've realized that veganism isn't the end of the world for food lovers. It makes everyday life that little more difficult when you walk down the aisles of delicious Easter Eggs or pass a good ol' burger bar with that smell of meaty goodness. It's virtually impossible to eat out at most restaurants; a handy tuppa wear box of humus and crudites must accompany you at all times.

For us this is definitely a one off. Our love of food conquers our love of animals and the environment – sorry tree huggers. However as mentioned previously there are lots of things we've enjoyed about being vegan, and will carry on in the future. In particular what we will try to continue with is the principle of having a vegetable based diet with a steak on top of course. Previously to undertaking this challenge, the balance of our plate was definitely in favour of a nice piece of meat or fish. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why obesity rates world wide are so high as people have lost sight of what a truly balanced diet is. After finishing our vegan month we're definitely going to make more informed food choices.

To conclude, veganism has been an eye opening experience; not a life choice that's for us, but very informative and something we'll never forget. Thank you for reading and please remember this was all for charity, so please give generously at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/goingvegan We've earned it!

Fundraising Progress uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/goingvegan

As you all know we've been doing all of this for the Multiple Sclerosis Trust. For those of you who don't know MS is a neurodegenerative disease, where over time the neurons of the nervous system lose their myelin and eventually die altogether. There's no cure and it mainly affects people around our age (20s-30s). Many of you will know somebody in your lifetime who is struck down by this disease.

Hopefully however with support from the MS Trust that person will get the best care possible. They raise awareness of the disease, provide advice to patients and families of sufferers, as well as fund crucial research to improve therapies

and perhaps one day find the cure. It is essential for the continuation of the trust that they get support from the likes of you and I.

So far we've raised close to £600 thanks to people's generous support. However we're still hoping to raise more by doing a marathon bag-packing session, as well as going around campus on Monday 19 March with Hummingbird cupcakes. So get your wallets at the ready for some delicious cupcakes (which you can well and truly rub in our vegan faces).

The MS Trust and us still need your help to raise lots of money so if you feel you've got a pound to spare please give.



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

God's Coming – Look Busy

John Niven's religious satire fails to impress

Joseph Spiking

"GOD'S COMING! – LOOK BUSY!"
"Shit. Think He's is gonna be pissed?"

And so begins John Niven's fourth novel, *The Second Coming*. Niven introduces us into his world as God returns from his one week vacation – a week in Heaven corresponding to several hundred years on Earth. God, who left for his vacation at around the time of the Renaissance, returns to find his lovingly created planet scarred by "Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Belsen, Guantanamo, Belfast, Cambodia, Vietnam, Flanders, Ypres, Nagasaki, Hiroshima, Rwanda, Bosnia.....ethnic cleansing, capitalism, communism...nuclear deterrence and mutually assured destruction...Fatwa and Jihad...gays being hanged...the Taliban...the burqa and the hijab...Kim Kardashian...deforestation, globalisation, collateral damage, brand awareness, marketing, product placement and Republicans".

However, this is no 'normal' God. As Niven gleefully tells us, this is a God that "loves fags", "loves spades" and has his "shirt sleeves rolled up" to tackle the big problems of our age (like a celestial David Cameron). This is a God that conference calls his fellow religious entities (complete with a potty mouthed Muhammad) and has dinner with Satan – the two have a friendly competition going about who can get the most admittances into their respective domains, and a God that accidentally starts the big bang because of a casual "morning toke" gone awry. So far, so deliberately controversial.

Niven does not stop there. When God is meeting Satan for dinner, we are greeted with a parade of celebrity and political hate figures meeting numerous grisly ends: you have Reagan crap-

ping himself to death and the recently deceased Jesse Helms. Helms was, before his death, a five term Republican senator for North Carolina, who was famous for opposing civil rights, disability rights, any bill that he suspected of hiding vaguely feminist tendencies, gay rights (he once famously called one of his many political opponents a "militant-activist-mean lesbian"), affirmative action, contemporary art that he considered to be sexually inappropriate, and (of course) abortion. Helms meets his sticky ending by the hands of Satan, whom "slashes Helms throat" causing him to "topple over in a spray of blood", after Helms had just admitted his love for "COCKS! GIANT BLACK FUCKING COCKS!" After witnessing the roaring trade Satan is achieving, God decides to send the "little bastard", or Jesus, back down to his earthly home to clean up our collective moral debris.

Jesus is reborn as a struggling front man of an indie group, his fellow band members being a wholly 'unique' blend of vapid, two dimensional characters. In a bid to spread his new commandment of "Be Nice" to the masses, Jesus enters *American Popstar* – a reality show that searches for the next big thing. And of course it is headed by Steven Stelfox, Niven's deliberately unsubtle recreation of Simon Cowell.

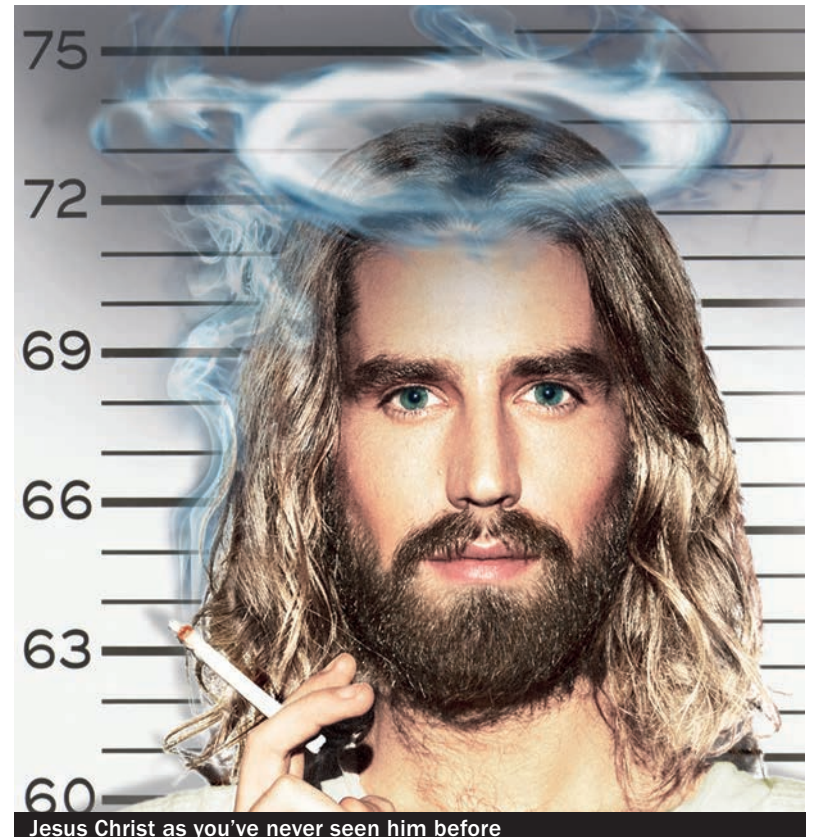
It is within these segments of the novel – the ones that deal directly with the music industry – that gives the novel its only redeeming feature. It is hard not to be swept along with the genuine enthusiasm the author has for the concept of Jesus playing 'Born to Run' on the final of *American Popstar*. However, for some reason, Niven suffocates these moments of agile and authentic humour with clunking pieces of synthesised angst about just about

everything. And this is what proves terminal for the novel.

As you may have noticed from the above extracts, this is a book that doggedly chases controversy. Henry Sutton, a journalist for the *Daily Mirror*, said that "only the truly ignorant will take offence" to Niven's novel. I would agree with that statement – this book is not offensive. However, the book is incorrect. Not politically incorrect but just completely incorrect.

"...he portrays all of his arguments in exceptionally simplistic, Tabloid-esque headlines with the intention to shock..."

Niven aims his tirade of artificial moral disdain at almost every aspect of organised religion. He does not consider the fact that the characters he chooses to represent organised religion are realistic. For example, the Pastor in the novel is an obviously homophobic, racist, misogynistic and sexually repressed individual. Not once does Niven reflect the debate that is present inside the church regarding topics such as gay marriage; instead, he decides to depict the argument using only primary colours. He takes a shot at the celebrity culture we live in, yet does not decide to dissect the anatomy of such a culture. Niven also criticises the burqa – but again chooses to ignore the existence of the many wom-



Jesus Christ as you've never seen him before

en who choose to wear the burqa for their own personal reasons. In doing so, Niven ignores the inherent beauty of that decision – the kind of decision that even the God Niven depicts would agree with and thus misses the point quite spectacularly. Thus, he portrays all of his arguments in exceptionally simplistic, Tabloid-esque headlines with the intention to shock, polarise and, childishly enough, probably to offend. And it is this that proves to be the worst part of a pretty distasteful book. How can Niven credibly criticise organised religion, republicans etc. etc.

of making over simplistic, illogical, unrepresentative and essentially bigoted arguments when he himself makes over simplistic, illogical, unrepresentative and essentially bigoted arguments? To put it another way, I am not criticising Niven for pointing out the plank of wood in his brother's eye when he has dirt in his own – I am criticising the fact that they're brothers in the first place.

Or to put it in a way Niven may understand, only buy this book if you want to fork out £7.99 for a roll of toilet paper with only 376 sheets.

No humans were harmed in the writing of this review

A look at *Tastes like Human*: the latest book of humorous lists by 'The Shark Guys'

Maciej Matuszewski

I have somewhat of a fondness for amusing lists. They're a quick read and perfect whether you want to you want to wind down or just procrastinate. I was therefore interested to hear of *Tastes like Human*, the latest book by 'The Shark Guys' – Noel Boivin and Christopher Lombardo.

Having written for websites like *Cracked* and *The Huffington Post* the pair are no strangers to the for-

mat and show themselves to be more than competent. The two-dozen or so lists cover a wide range of topics. With titles like 'Top 10 Horniest Cult Leaders of All Time' and 'Top 10 Exploding Animals' the book is often irreverent and outrageous, but rarely truly offensive and always funny.

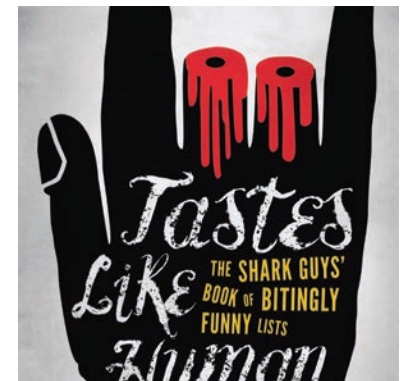
There were several points at which I actually laughed out loud, such as the advice to, when leaving an audience with the Queen, "never turn your back on Her Majesty" but instead

to "walk backward with your arms wind-milling behind you to avoid other people or large potted plants".

"irreverent and outrageous [...] and always funny"

Apart from this, there really isn't

much one can say. *Tastes Like Human* is good for a collection of humorous books but, as you might expect from a book of this type, it certainly isn't anything life changing. That's not a criticism and I would still recommend that you check it out. At 115 pages it is somewhat short but this means you don't tire of it and that it can easily be finished by even the busiest student or slowest reader. At less than £2 for the ebook it's certainly at least good value for money.



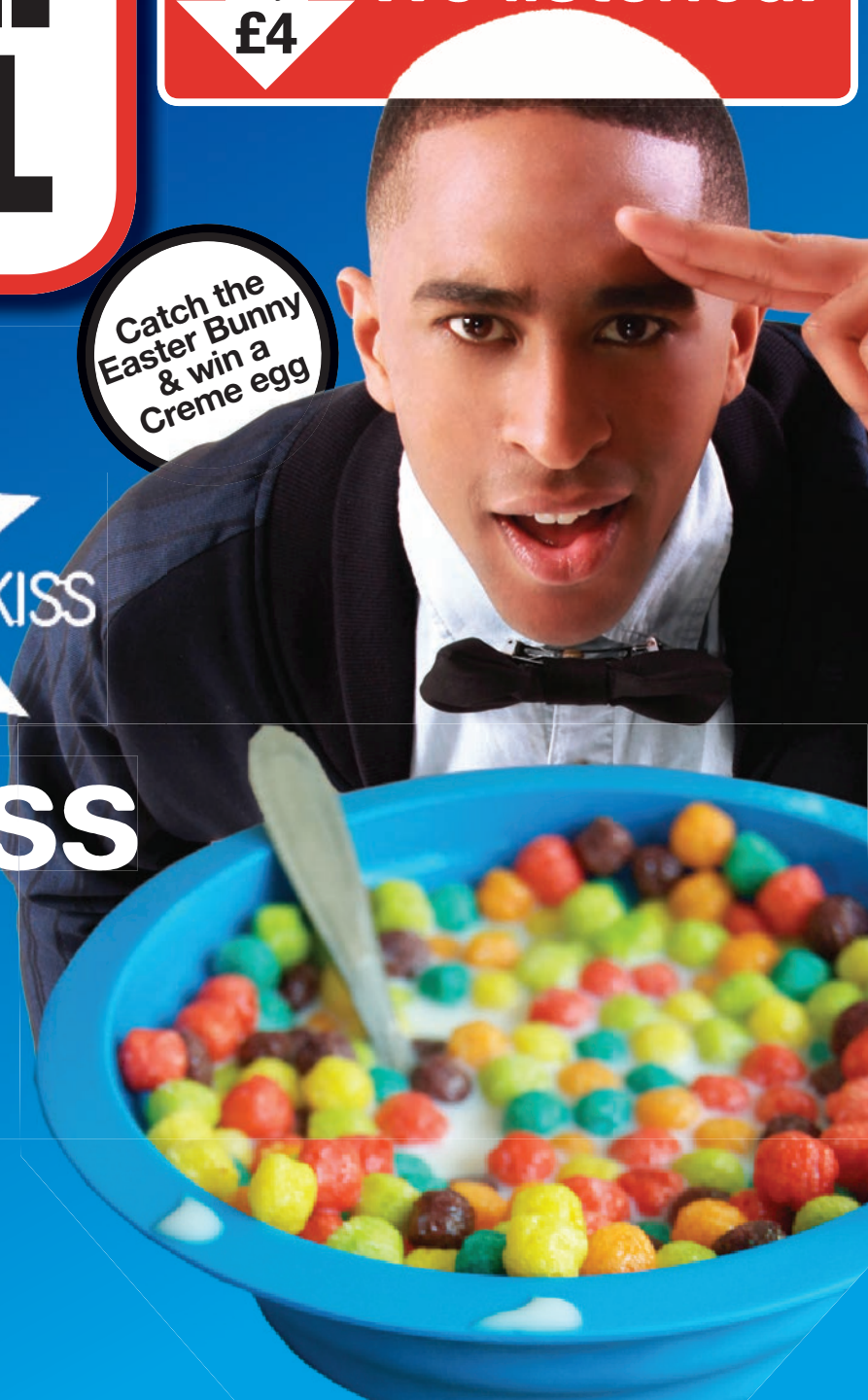
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TRAVEL

Post-exam Paris to Dakar

Five Imperial students will take to the road this summer in an alternative road trip



Sure, it's all smiles now, but there are camels to face

Daniel Hyde

This summer I will be part of a group of five Imperial students cycling from Paris to Dakar. Dakar is the capital of Senegal, the most westerly point of continental Africa and over 5,500km from Paris. We will leave from Paris after exams, nipping through the traffic and cutting into the calmer interior of France. We will travel along the Way of St. James, a network of pilgrimage routes converging on the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. We will depart from the Way around the Pyrenees, long

before Galicia in the north west of Spain. Through Spain we will aim for Gibraltar, then taking the ferry across the Straits to the port of Cueta in Morocco.

The ferry from Gibraltar marks a significant point in our journey. We leave behind Europe and all its sensibilities for the unfamiliar African leg of the trip. The route will mainly follow the coast, offering a cooling breeze from the Atlantic. In Morocco we will pass through the chattering bazaars and enjoy vistas of the Atlas Mountains. Leaving Morocco we will enter Western Sahara. Everything I

know about Western Sahara is from Wikipedia. The first paragraph details the facts of it being a disputed territory, one of the most sparsely populated territories in the world and mainly consisting of desert flatlands. My only first-hand connection with it is a friend who told me his friend volunteered in a refugee camp there. When I try to imagine the view I will see from my bike for days travelling through this country I can only see a block of hot sand rising into a sky of hot blue.

Western Sahara passes into Mauritania. Entering near Nouadhibou, the

road becomes a desert track for 7 km and is bound on both sides by a minefield. Sticking to the track it is safe enough but it sometimes happens that wild camels become victims of the dispute within sight. We will continue south, passing through gendarmerie mobile checkpoints every 30-100 km apart, the scenery becoming greener as we pass out of the Sahara desert towards our destination.

After two months on the road, resting for a day every five days or so, we should reach Dakar. We will have travelled through six countries and two continents and all under our own

power, carrying all our gear. We will have seen and experienced the change in culture, geography and architecture from Paris to sub-Saharan Africa while cycling a humble bicycle. Flying home from Dakar on the plane, with the bike in the cargo hold, will be much easier, but not as enduringly brilliant.

To keep up to date with our progress in the lead up to and undertaking of the trip see our website www.paristodakar.org and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/paris2dakar. Expect to see some more articles on our return!

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Revisiting the past to protect our future

Students from Imperial Jewish Society travelled to Lithuania to explore the country's Jewish heritage. JSoc member **Andrea Levy** describes the experience of revisiting the past

Imperial JSoc members wrapped up to keep warm in -25°C temperatures during their heritage trip to Lithuania.

The action began when nineteen valorous Imperial College Jewish Society members and Rabbi Broder, the London Student Chaplain, met at London Gatwick airport to embark on a surreal trip to Kovno, Lithuania – the second largest Lithuanian city after Vilna. It would be a trip to a centre of European Jewry and rabbinic learning in the 18th to 20th Centuries. For many of us, it would also be a trip of rediscovery of our eastern European roots and of return to the very place our ancestors once fled from.



considerably, probably as a result of the fact that Vytautas the Great, ruler of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from 1392 to 1430, granted freedoms to the Jews that were restricted elsewhere. These freedoms included the right to practice their faith and thus to celebrate their religious holidays, protection of synagogues and cemeteries, the right of unrestricted mobility, trade, financial activities, amongst others.

Hence, Jews became deeply rooted in Lithuania, developing a rich heritage in the country, despite later turmoil, including persecution and expulsion in the late 15th Century. Anti-Semitism picked up in the 20th Century and culminated with the brutal assassination of the vast majority of the Lithuanian Jewish community by the Nazis in the Second World War. In fact, a significant number of Jews in the UK have ancestors amongst those who fled.

The expedition began when we met our Kovno-born tour guide Chaim, an expert of all things Jewish in Lithuania, and set off for Vilna. The first stop was the small town in Žiežmariai, where there had once been a Jewish community and where we walked into what remained of a wooden synagogue. It was an immediate connection to our past, and we experienced the gratification of returning to the place from where our ancestors once fled. Indeed, the majority of Lithuanian Jews are known to have inhabited small towns such as this, which were a cradle of Jewish culture, whilst often working in the larger cities.

We visited the largest Jewish cemetery in Lithuania in the outskirts of Vilna, where we saw the tomb of the highly influential Rabbi Eliyahu (1720-1797), known as the Vilna Gaon (“genius of Vilna”) after an enlightening talk about his ethos by a direct descendant of his among us. Once in Vilna, a noteworthy visit was to the site where the first copies of the “Vilna Shas” were printed, which is used throughout the Jewish world as the authoritative, traditional edition of the Talmud; rabbinic discussion concerning Jewish law. Indeed, there was a widespread saying that “if one

wants to gain wisdom – one goes to Vilnius”, given the vast number of centres of biblical study and distinguished scholars in the city.

We came together in the evening for a superb, traditional JSoc Friday night dinner with Israeli students of medicine in Kovno. The next morning, on walking around the Kovno city centre it became clear we were the only ones imprudent enough to be outside in such cold, snow-lined streets – there wasn't a soul to be seen. An ideal opportunity to roll down hills covered by snow in the island formed at the confluence of the two rivers – the Nemuras and the Neris.

Furthermore, remarkable visits made on our last day, included the now abandoned synagogue in the Kovno town of Alexandrot, where Rabbi Israel Salanter was based; head of the Mussar movement – a Jewish ethical and educational movement, born in 19th Century Lithuania. We walked the streets of the Slobodka neighbourhood where the renowned Slobodka Yeshiva (Jewish educational institution) was once located and stood before breath-taking views of Kovno, on a hill where the first novel written in Hebrew is thought to have been written, by the rivers which were once the border between Russia

and former Prussia.

Most notable perhaps, was listening to Chaim narrate to us the story of escape of the last group of Jewish prisoners of Fort 9, a Nazi concentration camp. Standing in the dark silence of the tunnels in the fort in the biting cold was a powerful means of helping us understand what was experienced

“Standing in the dark silence was a powerful means of helping us understand...”

by our forerunners.

In essence, we are very thankful to everyone who made this trip possible. The trip was funded by Holocaust survivor and businessman William Stern, UJS, Tribe and Imperial College Union. Thanks also go to the enthusiastic organizers of the trip within Imperial JSoc, Noah Nathan first and foremost, not to mention Gabriella Lebrecht and Yoni Weiner. Not only was it a cool off – -25°C cool off – from a long week at university, but a unique experience we won't forget.

“It would be a trip of rediscovery and of return to the very place our ancestors once fled from”

From around the 14th Century, the Jewish community in Lithuania grew

Imperial KVN team take comedy crown

Russian standup and sketches impress to become United Kingdom's top group

Nickolai Vysokov

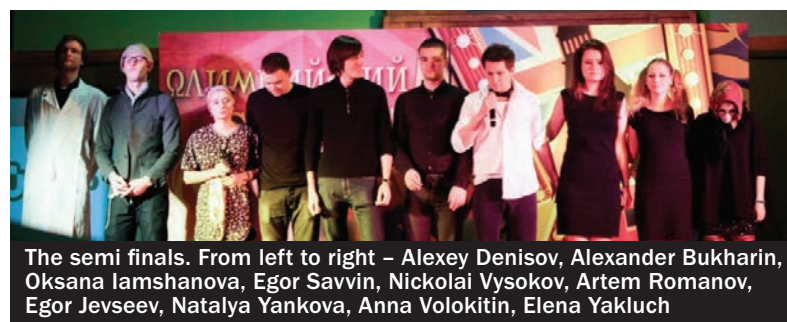
On Sunday, Imperial College KVN Team “IMPACT” became the UK League Champions, beating 17 other teams from other universities and combined team all over the UK for this title.

KVN is a Russian version of University Challenge within standup and sketch comedy. KVN (translates as Club of Funny and Ready-witted) has been running for over 50 years in Russia, now spread all over the world including Australia, Canada, USA, Israel, Germany, and it started in the UK in 2010. It has had enormous success, and attracted teams from all over the world for the Inter-continental Festival of KVN last year and also a set of world-famous judges such as a Russian football player Roman Pavlyuchenko, previous world champions of KVN and famous Russian artists and producers.

Our team was mainly made up of masters and undergraduate students – our team captain Elena Yaklych, Natalia Yankova, Alex Bukharin, Oksana Iamshanova, Anna Volokitin as well as four PhD students – Artyom Romanov, Alexey Denisov, Irina Tsymashenka, and Nickolai Vysokov, as well as two guys from outside of the university, Egor Savvin (LSBF) and Igor Jevseev.

The team has performed brilliantly on stage throughout and took the first place in quarter-finals, then in semi-finals round and won the finals! In the finals we have withstood a fierce battle with LSE, London Kazakh Society (who took the second place), Bournemouth University, and a joint team from Oxford Brookes and City University.

We have presented the best jokes, funniest and most original sketches to over 800 people from the Russian community living in London. It took



us hours of brainstorming, weekends of rehearsal, and sacrificing the time we should have devoted to education to come up with the jokes tailor-made for the audience and to perfect the details of our acting to deliver a show we can be proud of.

No words can describe the energy emanating from the stage during the performance and no English words

can translate the witty wordplay, so to experience it one would have to come and see it live if you speak Russian or if you're learning it and can come along with someone who speaks Russian (to explain the references to political and cultural background). But to give you a flavour – our first performance in the quarter-finals started with a geeky character coming on stage with a dead-

serious announcement that “Imperial College scientists have successfully crossed Large Hadron Collider with a washing machine. Now we know how to do money laundering with the speed of light” followed by an annoying granny ranting about immigrants and such turning out to be Queen Elizabeth, stoned Neo and Morpheus being “in the Matrix” and finished off with the geeky character announcing that “Imperial College scientists have really enjoyed the experiment, where they crossed... Imperial College scientists! Now we're looking for collaboration with scientists from other universities for crossing scientists of a different sex.”

As the prize for winning the competition our team has been invited to go to Jurmala, Latvia this summer for the annual Singing KiViN festival, where they will have a chance to compete with teams from all over the world.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Dodgeball Tournament takes no prisoners

‘Wilson Old Boys’ victorious after defeating ‘Handball’ in RAG Dodgeball Tournament

Tom Peake

At 12:00 on Saturday 10 March, Imperial College’s second ever dodgeball tournament kicked off at Ethos Sports Centre. 12 teams entered but only a few had paid attention to the poster stating: ‘Fancy Dress Advised!’ ‘Dodgy Balls’ came in a football kit and at first thought it seemed they had turned up to the wrong event, while ‘Why Always Us?’ came wearing hats which were used to distract their opposition throughout the tournament! However, the prize for best costume went to ‘Orient Hurricanes’ (representing Orient House) who turned up wearing suits and steaming drunk. Apparently this had been from early morning drinking and not the night before!

The group stages went smoothly, with three teams undefeated in their group, ‘Handball’ who tactically threw their balls together and blasted their opponents away with the sheer strength of their throws, ‘Garden and Weeks’ who used the expert knowledge from two players from the IC

Dodgeball Club to their advantage, and ‘Wilson Old Boys’ led by Scott Esnouf. ‘Beit Hall’ also scraped through to the semi finals by beating ‘The Mechanical Dodgeiners’ in a play off for the last place in the semis.

Teams not managing to secure places in the finals then played again to determine their tournament ranking, which can be found on the IC Dodgeball Club Website. The semis, played at an intense pace, produced ‘Handball’ and ‘Wilson Old Boys’ as the final two. Next came an epic contest of strength and agility where ‘Handball’ definitely had the strength advantage but were finally outmatched by the more experienced Wilson team who were more solid in their catching game.

The last-man-standing competition, a game where everyone is placed into two huge teams and is a free for all, was won by the team captain of ‘Wilson Old Boys’, Scott Esnouf, who was clearly having a great day!

Be sure to come next year as the event was a tremendous success (raising approx. £150) and will certainly be repeated!

Zain Abbas



The clue's in the name

Underwater Hockey make progress at Nationals

Rajeev Dattani

Imperial’s Underwater Hockey team played their first ever University Nationals tournament last month in Coventry, finishing 7th out of 18 universities.

The weekend saw the Imperial Underwater Club enter a team in the University Underwater Hockey Nationals. On Saturday morning a team of six, missing two key players due to injury, travelled on the Virgin Pendolino from Euston to Coventry – a city where architectural beauty is unheard of. Arriving at the Coventry Sports & Leisure Centre, the team were brimming with (as much) enthusiasm (as is possible at 8am in Coventry) on their first outing at this great tournament.

The initial group stage saw Imperial in a group with Aberdeen A, Bangor, York B, and Warwick B. Aberdeen A were the favourites to win the group and challenge for the trophy. Our team captain Jeeves Dattani, having previously captained Warwick B, was keen for a strong win over his old side.

The first match was against York B, and started in a disastrous fashion with an early goal conceded on the counter-

attack. The remainder was fairly close however, and goals from Jeeves Dattani, Joe Slade and Jonny Ely saw the team through to a 5-3 win.

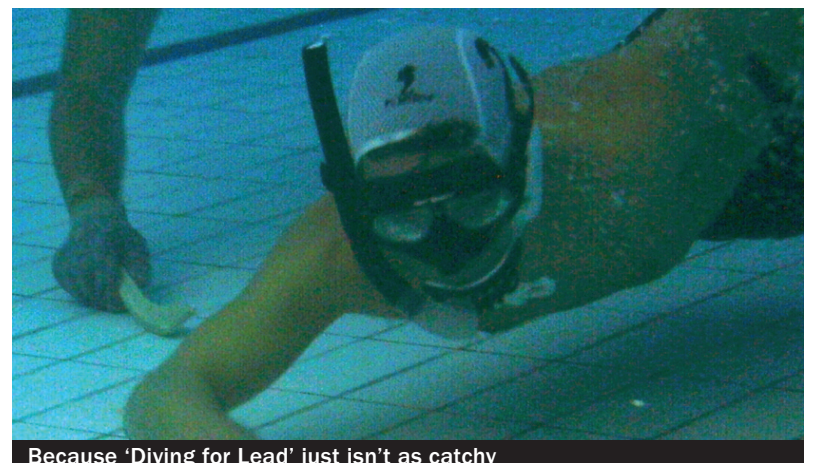
The next match saw Imperial face the daunting prospect of Aberdeen A – a strong team who trounced Warwick 7-1 – our closest rivals in the group. Some player recruitment was needed, and as teams are allowed two players from different universities Kerstin Schillinger (University of Kent) and Gordon Proctor (Royal Holloway) – also playing for their respective barbarian teams – joined in. Aberdeen showed much of the same attacking spirit against Imperial as they had against Warwick B, winning 7-0 in a strongly fought but ultimately unsuccessful match.

Next on the cards were Bangor, a previous tournament host (with possibly the worst after-party in living memory), were easily walked over with a 9-1 win with goals coming from nearly all our players. With one match left to play, things were set for a second place decider. Imperial against Warwick B, the winner finishing second with a draw meaning Warwick B would finish on top due to goal difference. The match started badly with Warwick B scoring

the first goal, but the team’s determination came through bringing the score to 2-2. With a minute left to play Joe Slade skipped past two Warwick defenders to score the winner.

Imperial finished second in their group; a fantastic result for their first outing at the tournament putting them into a group with all of the other second placed teams from the other groups. These were: Warwick A, Warwick Barbarians, Plymouth Barbarians and Oxford (Barbarian teams are made up of former students). This was a much more experienced group with heavy defeats at the hands of Warwick A, Warwick Barbarians and Plymouth Barbarians. Their only hope remained in beating Oxford. A now tired and worn Imperial team took to the water and conceded the first goal – starting the match on the back foot. This continued and despite scoring two goals past Oxford, courtesy of Jonny Ely and Andy Strang, they lost 6-2.

This was a fantastic experience for a young team who had never played together before, and an overall tournament finish of 7th out of 18 university teams and 10th out of 25 overall was a good result which we will look to improve on next year.



Because ‘Diving for Lead’ just isn’t as catchy

Want to play?

We train every week at St. Mary’s pool, Paddington, at 7pm on Mondays – usually followed by a pint at the Fountains Abbey. Meet in the Beit Quad at 6pm – all you need to bring is swimming gear and we’ll provide the rest of kit for the session. This new and rapidly expanding club is always looking for more members.

What is Underwater Hockey?

Underwater Hockey is a fast paced sport, played by teams of six at the bottom of a pool with four alternating substitute players. Invented in the early 1950s, the object of the game is to move a lead puck, with the help of a hand held pusher, along the bottom of the pool. Snorkels allow the players to keep moving.

HANGMAN 2.0



HANGMAN.FELIX@IMPERIAL.AC.UK

UNION FAILS TO REACH 120% TARGET IN “BIG” ELECTIONS

MICHAEL HUNT REPORTS ON HOW THE ONIONS’ MOST SUCCESSFUL ELECTIONS EVER FAILED TO REACH THE AMBITIOUS GOALS SET

The last week has seen the Onion’s latest attempt at reaching the number one spot in student union election turnout. Last year’s first place (based on the percentage of voters to electoral role) went to Exeter University. With a staggering 38.3% turnout, Exeter was assumed to be the obvious target to beat in 2012. However “big” plans from Imperial College Onion’s think tank set the optimistic goal of achieving a 120% turnout in this year’s Sabbatical elections. While some criticised such a goal has “optimistic” or “mathematically incorrect”, the Onion (with its team of hardened monkeys) set about to do

the impossible. However, the inevitable failure of reaching such a target has come as no surprise to some individuals, despite a plethora of gimmicks and stunts to boost figures.

Throughout the five day voting period the Onion went to extremes to attain a respectable (but not quite wanted) figure, topping the election league tables nationally. The first and most obvious ploy was to bring back a live stats page which, after last year’s popularity, proved to be a huge success. Paraded by the official mascots (The Little Guys), this year’s stats went to show that the sheer arrogance of Imperial students would

not let them be bested by “lesser” universities. With an average of 40,000 users on the stats page at any one time, Hangman fully expects this tactic to replicate itself for many years to come.

However, in a particularly controversial move, the Faculty Union elections were merged into the same period and system as those used for the Sabbatical elections. Due to the nature of every student officer position being elected at the same time, students were continually spamed with emails, flyers and lecture shout outs to go and vote. Whilst most students were annoyed with the continual bombardment



FREE IPADS GIVEN TO IMPERIAL STUDENTS BY UNION HACKS



of election propaganda, some individuals welcomed the infinitely increased attention. Some have speculated that such a system will leave other (still important) positions open to inadequate candidates where an unsuccessful sabbatical candidate would normally stand.

In what is considered to be the most shocking exploitation of “Freebie” theory, the Onion decided to heavily invest in a free iPad 2 for everyone who voted. The saving grace of this was that the tablets were bought in bulk just before the release of the iPad 3, costing the Onion marginally less. With such an incentive irresistible to the majority of under-

graduates, the costly initiative succeeded in rapidly raising the turnout of voters. However the public wish to measure the outcome of the event, it can not be denied that this was the best year for student democracy according to someone’s definition.

Outside the Onion’s control, Imperial Memes (a Facebook page with over 4,000 fans) is thought to have heavily influenced the outcome of the elections with suggestive posts about certain candidates. All votes are likely to be cancelled and rendered void henceforth, with Imperial joining the heady ranks of UK universities questioned over election reliability.

ELECTIONSCOPEES - STILL LESS SPAM THAN IN YOUR EMAIL BOX



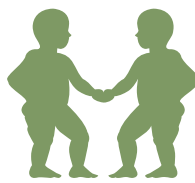
ARIES

This week you don’t care about elections. Screw it, no-one cares about elections. Why don’t all the candidates just get together and have a big President threesome, and their illegitimate love-child can be our new leader, saving Imperial from enthusiasm and responsible drinking.



TAURUS

Seriously, didn’t everyone stop caring about the turnout once we passed UCL? Big whoop, we’re addicted to our web browsers more than them. It’s hardly an achievement to beat most other universities anyway – they have people on Arts degrees, and that lot still use Comic Sans for everything.



GEMINI

Confusing tree maps, how I do love thee. I bet not a single one of you could withdraw your pale faces from the dim glow of your monitors when you realised you could watch your department’s block slightly grow or shrink based on which button you click. SERIOUSLY WOW THE BLOCKS CHANGE SIZE.



CANCER

AMAZING NEWS JUST IN: THEY’VE ADDED A NEW CIRCLE TO THE STATS PAGE. They should have made it tumbleweed instead – it would have drawn more attention. At least the circle is easily visible, who the hell came up with having a light yellow bar overlaid by a slightly darker yellow bar?



LEO

Joy, now the Union homepage is constantly bugging me that it’s time to vote. I’ve already voted dammit, and my AdBlock won’t get rid of it. Oh look, they’ve given the guy next to the link to the normal homepage a sad face. That changes everything, the apathetic voter will *definitely* make the effort now.



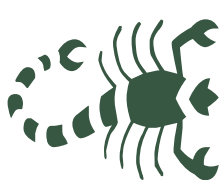
VIRGO

RON is such a pretentious tool, running for all the damn positions. How did he even manage to run in every Faculty Union? I say we all vote for him for everything and watch him slowly turn to a life of alcoholism and drug abuse, using Union finances and blaming the losses on the Summer Ball.



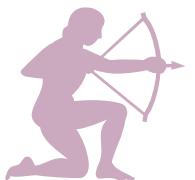
LIBRA

So I’ve just been informed that RON isn’t a real person. “It stands for re-open nominations” they tell me. Like that’s going to do any good – ooh I know, we’ll let the same idiots run for the same positions over and over until all but one of them collapse with exhaustion from annoying everyone during lunchtime.



SCORPIO

There are people wearing those stupid T-shirts supporting some idiot or another all over the place. If they love their candidate so much, why don’t they just get down on their knees and show their appreciation...? Hallelujah. Besides, they only have one top each – don’t they ever wash?



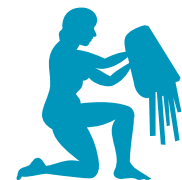
SAGITTARIUS

The leaflets suck this year. I picked up what was meant to be my annual stash of loo roll, to find out they were all shiny and just spread stuff where that stuff is not supposed to go. So I put them back on campus and laugh to myself as some ignorant voters read them and ask their friends if they can “smell that”.



CAPRICORN

The Post-grads have got the right idea – ignore the elections entirely and get on with their anti-social research. Or maybe they just don’t vote because their computers have been on the fish tank screensaver for so long as a reading light for theses and to “relax” them that they’ve forgotten it’s an actual computer.



AQUARIUS

The freshers barely even care! Where did it all go wrong – why did the second and third years start caring? It doesn’t even matter; a bunch of people take a year out of lectures to go to meetings and blog about stuff. Then return to lectures a year later and realise all their friends have forgotten about them.



PISCES

Deadened by routine, the old Sabbaticals go back to blogging, but this time it’s about their “feelings” and how they “miss being important”. Who cares, RON is doing your job now. And better. Will you all just go and vote now so that we can win and everyone shuts up about it? It’s doing my head in.

WELIX WEDITOR

WATT WOLVIN

SAYS:

VOTE

NOW



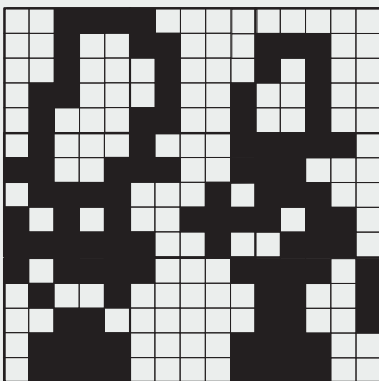
IMPERIALCOLLEGEUNION.ORG/ELECTIONS

PUZZLES

puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Last Fortnight's Solutions

Nonogram



Crosswords

QUICK(ish) - Across 1. Placebo 5. Warlock 9. RNA 10. Out of Action 11. Evaluate 12. Sponge 15. Tata 16. Fabulously 18. Postman Pat 19. Jump 22. Euston 23. Suicidal 25. Excremental 27. Rod 28. Theatre 29. Curtain **Down** 1. Perfect 2. Anabaptists 3. Exodus 4. Out-strains 5. Waft 6. Rock pool 7. Oui 8. Kennedy 13. Nessun Dorma 14. Subaquatic 17. Impotent 18. Present 20. Paladin 21. Scalar 24. Fete 26. Cue

CRYPTIC - Across 1. Chieftain 6. Ascot 9. Masters 10. Walleye 11. Ops 12. Conservator 14. Gasify 15. Shanghai 17. American 19. Ask out 22. Swiss cheese 23. Arc 25. Arousal 27. Edifice 28. Elect 29. Rationale **Down** 1. Combo 2. Insists 3. French fries 4. Absent 5. New Delhi 6. All 7. Cheetah 8. The Artist 13. Venus de Milo 14. Glassware 16. Bachelor 18. Episode 20. Ocarina 21. Behest 24. Crete 26. Set

Chess

White commences with 1. Qd3!!
Each of the mates in one are easy to spot after you see the first move.

Eggword

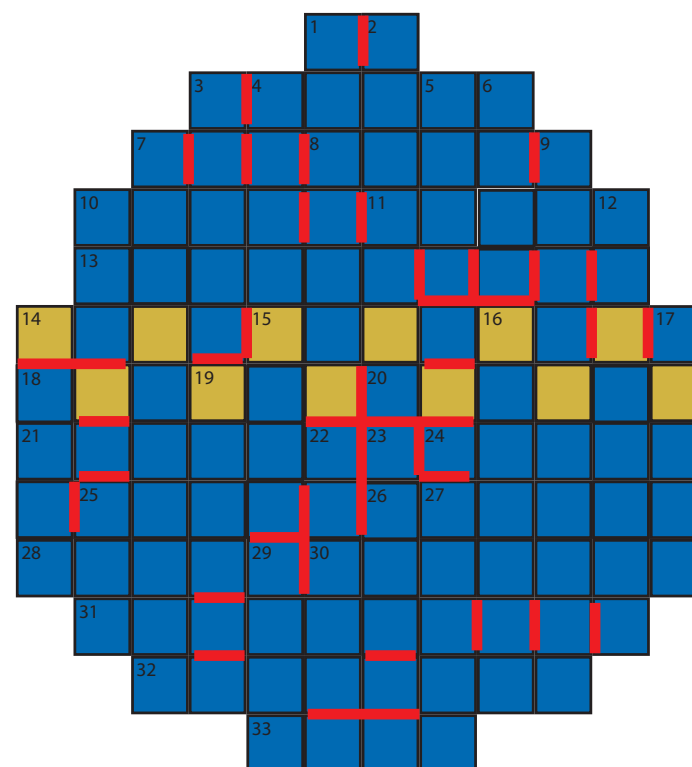
Across

4. Lacking strong features, uninteresting (5)
8. Fencing sword (4)
10. Piece of piercing metal; player (4)
11. Done openly (5)
13. Complete; utter (6)
14. The first man (4)
15. Cause to feel satisfied; polite interjection (6)
18. English takeaway (6)
20. Three beat horse gait (6)
21. Portugese speaking country of southern Africa (6)
24. Alcohol (slang) (5)
25. Footwear (4)
26. Indoor regulation (6)
28. Compund containing NO2 (5)
30. Elderly or retired persons (7)
31. Put forward for consideration (7)
32. Example or model; an underlying scientific overview (8)
33. Profoundly immoral (4)

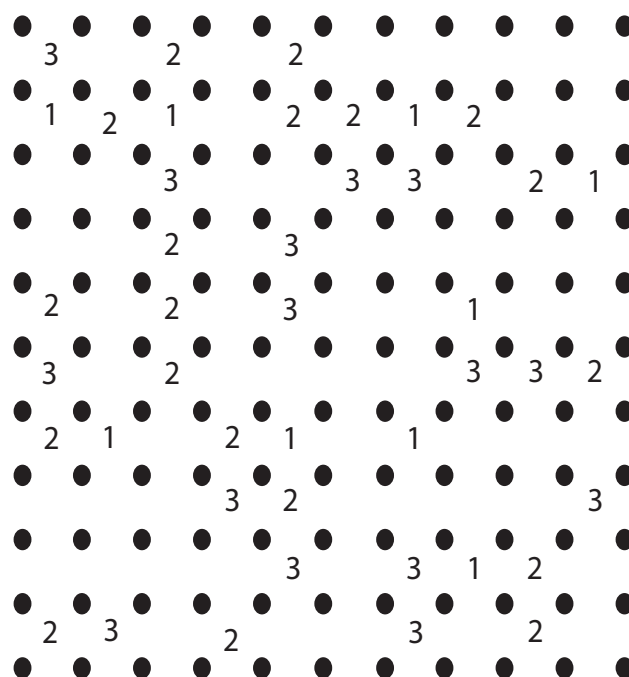
Down

1. In a way that produces no dirt; without difficulty (7)
2. 2500 year old civilisation of Oaxaca, Mexico - defeated by the Spanish in the 1520s (7)
3. ___ und Drang - late 18th century German literary movement (5)
4. Troublemaking or dishonest person (3,5)
5. Upper ice part of a glacier (4)
6. Intentional action (4)
7. Stirred with ice, served without (8,2)
9. As can be expected (4,2,4)
10. Unhappy (3)
12. Tool for plucking hairs (8)
16. Grunting while asleep (7)
17. Makes e.g. drink (5)
18. Descendant of 14 (4)
19. Lacking wealth (4)
22. Baffled or perplexed (2,3)
23. Best Texas Hold 'em starting hand (4)
25. Sibling (informal) (3)
27. Up to (5)
29. Man-eating giant (4)

Welcome to the Easter crossword - you'll find a phrase when you've solved all the clues.
Wish you all a good break!



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 easter egg per correct solution.

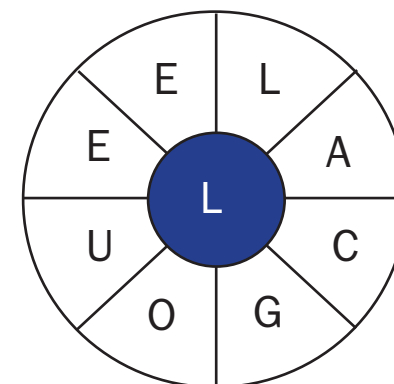
Contributions wanted!

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.

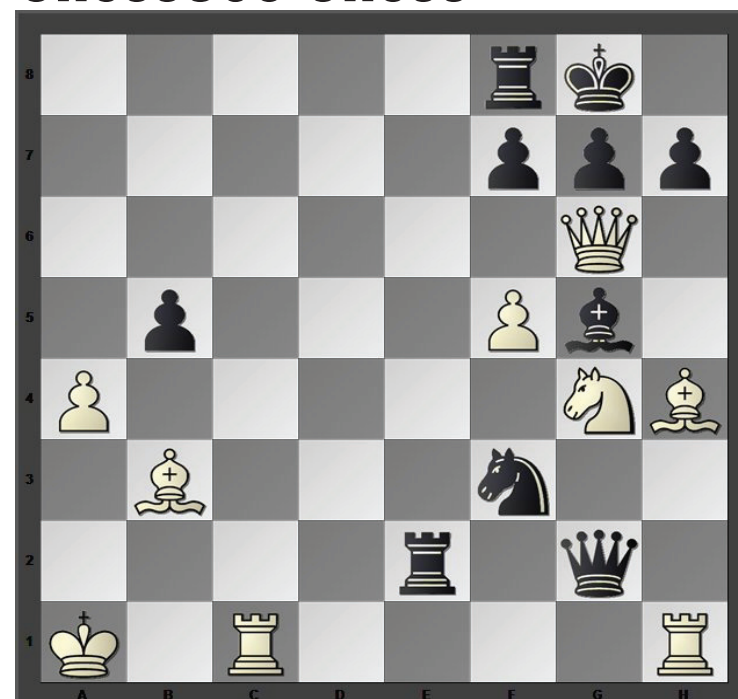
Word Wheel

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 4

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	689	647	93	2.75
14 ICSM Badminton W1	7	3	0	4	18	14	0	2.75
15 Netball W1	8	5	0	3	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	682	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	1	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 W1	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	4	7	10	4	-0.17
43 Table Tennis M1	5	2	0	3	36	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	62	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

sport Imperial

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Olympian visits IC Judo

Chung-Yiu Yi Judo

In early March 2012, judoka from the Imperial College Judo club arriving for what was otherwise another regular evening of hard judo practice at ETHOS, found themselves very unexpectedly honoured by a visit from the Olympic Champion (Athens 2004) and World Championship judo gold medallist (Brazil 2007) and nine times All-Japan Women's Judo Champion (2002-2010), and multiple silver & bronze medallist at various Olympic Games & World Championships, Ms Maki Tsukada sensei.

"... so low key was her visit, that none of us instantly recognized this champion of champions"

In fact, so low key was her visit, that none of us instantly recognized this champion of champions in our presence at the dojo, and indeed her very humble nature gave us no clues, as she helped us set out

our tatami mats in preparation for the class.

It was only on the mat, at the formal start of the session when Glenn our coach introduced her to us, that we gasped in awe at her presence before us! But this champion had just been helping us set out our mats! Amazing lady or what!?

Tsukada sensei proved to be every bit a great champion, through her humble and generous and kind nature, during our two training sessions we have had with her. She has amazed us with her skillful demonstrations of her favourite throwing techniques: ouchi-gari, kouchi-gari, and osoto-gari. She also joined in our (often hilarious) warm up games as well as our newaza and our standing randori sessions and has given us much inspiration and treasured advice throughout. Always eager to encourage us and to allow us to throw her with good technique, and always gentle when throwing us in return. There will be many a young judoka amongst us, who will always remember and treasure their times with her and will have the fondest of memories of wrestling or throwing or being thrown or being presented their 4th kyu belts, by a true champion of champions. I am also sure those preparing for the upcoming BUCS judo championships in Sheffield next week, will have been inspired by these amazing times with her, and will fight with more

confidence and skill as a result. We will always remember being amongst a true and humble champion who smiled and laughed with all of us and joined in our games and set out our tatami mats even before most of us had arrived for our class that evening in early March.

"We will always remember being amongst a true and humble champion"

Ms Maki Tsukada sensei has since retired from the Japanese judo squad and will be working alongside the Japanese Judo Olympic Squad, in the forthcoming Olympic Games. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for finding the time to be part of our club, and we sincerely wish her well in her work and hope that she will always remember, as all of us at the judo club surely will, the larger-than-life times and laughter, smiles, warmth and ippons we all shared, if only too briefly, in the dojo at ETHOS, Imperial College. Many happy ippons yet to come Tsukada sensei! Sayonara and domo arigato gozaimasu!

Chung-Yiu Yi



SPORT

First ever Imperial all-ladies bowling team



Hopefully a strike, only with no staff or student walkouts

IC Tenpin Bowling Team Tenpin Bowling

Last November, bowlers from Imperial College London competed at the regional BUTBA (British University Tenpin Bowling Association) competition and blazed the lanes, emerging as 1st runners up. Congratulations to Christopher Chan who bowled an average of 211, ranked 2nd overall and to all the other 11 bowlers who have fought their best. The team has advanced to the 2nd round of BUTBA.

This term, 9 bowlers competed at BUCS from 10-11th February, in Not-



A team victorious

Tenpin bowling also offers casual bowling every Wednesday

tingham. The team did the school proud by clinching the silver medal in the Girl's Team Event (Josephine Chiu, Xin Yan Goh & Hui Erh Tay) and a bronze medal in the Girl's All Event (by Hui

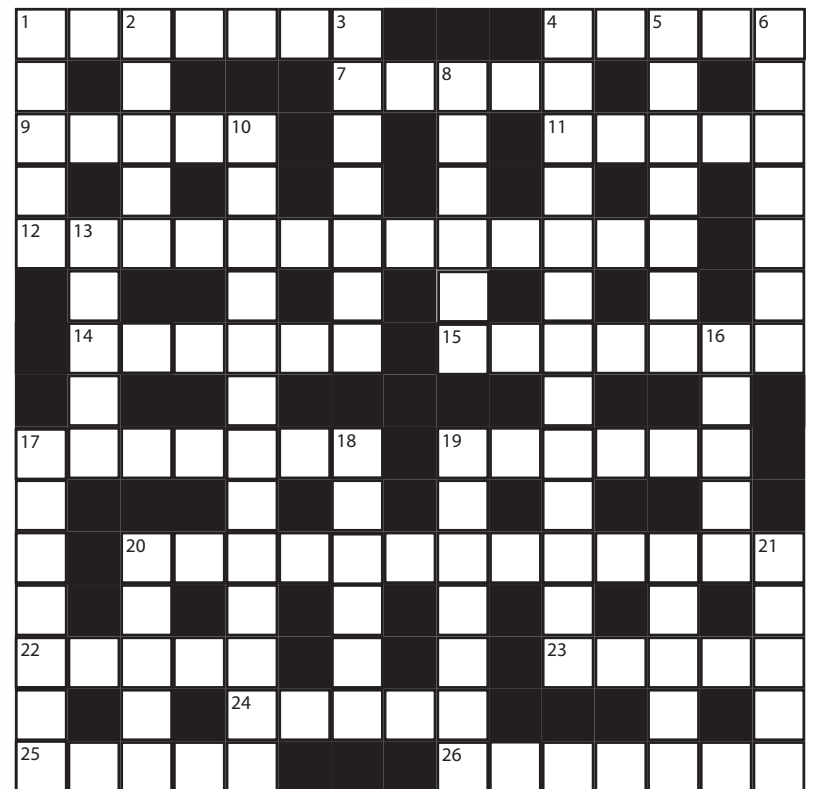
Erh Tay, with an average of 193). In addition, Christopher Chan will also be representing BUCS for international competitions. This is the first time in history that we not only managed to form a girls team, but also emerged victorious. Indeed a moment to proud of!

Apart from being competitive, Imperial Tenpin Bowling also offers casual bowling every Wednesday for those who wish to pick up some new skills or

just to have plain fun with friends! This year, we have also initiated friendly matches with other Universities.

Lastly, to anyone who wishes to be part of this awesome club, please email as at: tenpin@imperial.ac.uk to be part of our mailing list or if you have any questions for us. All are welcome, whether you are a national champion or if you don't even know what a bowling ball looks like!

Cryptic Crossword 1,515



Across

- 1 Standard bore (7)
- 4 Damp leaves have plenty (5)
- 7 Fact: roofless taxi Order of Merit (5)
- 9 Rubbish! Perhaps leave game (5)
- 11 Non-descript sounding mode of transport (5)
- 12 Continual missing ant ñ er, country dismay (13)
- 14 Sounds like an associate joint offence (6)
- 15 Clubs' arid-sounding endless verse (7)
- 17 Cosine in adhesive sugar (7)
- 19 Peeled off; ran away holding Russian gun (6)
- 20 Chaotic? No, it's anarchic too early (13)
- 23 Half a dispute, so it's said, would go well with a curry (5)
- 24 Relative pleasant with added fifth (5)
- 25 Times Educational Supplement ñ the French unit (5)
- 26 New Musical Express, we hear, is against us (5)
- 27 Order male escort (7)

Down

- 1 Copper biro has third degree (5)
- 2 Field above North cloth (5)
- 3 Mix grey ale fervently (7)
- 4 Shocked if I complain at noise increase (13)
- 5 Simple scheme I inserted (5)
- 6 Gee, lies about requiems (7)
- 8 Is Earth surrounded? (6)
- 10 Rightness to hoot angrily abused (13)
- 13 Entrails spoiled Alistair (5)
- 16 I arid lengths compute (5)
- 17 G & coke, perhaps? Bottomless bumble muttering (7)
- 18 Conscience itches terribly (6)
- 19 Goods don't sink. No A, Sam (7)
- 20 Saying to Latin era (5)
- 21 Article thanks eighth Greek (5)
- 22 Paper crawled endlessly, or so we heard (5)

Rugby 1sts defeat St Mary's for promotion

...Continued from Back Page
Mary's were giving it everything. Such were defensive efforts required; even James Hayward and George Lane were seen to experience some hard forward graft. In the final play of the game St Mary's were awarded a soft penalty try as a consolation. The final score was

12-10. This capped a great season for Imperial Rugby 1st XV winning their league with a game to spare. They will be tested next year in South Premier B! This performance sets up an exciting fixture next week against Imperial Medicals at Varsity, please come down and support your team!

SPORT

IC Rugby

The Perfect Promotion



Imperial Rugby 1sts promoted to South Premier B after battle with St Mary's
Chris McGeough reports

Last Wednesday saw Imperial rugby 1st team take on St Mary's in the league title decider. Both teams were tied on points and promotion was at stake, it was going to be the toughest game of the season. The conditions during the warm up were standard Harlington; it was cold, wet and windy. James Cox got the game under way, and a good start saw IC remain camped in St Mary's half for the first ten minutes. It wasn't

long before Mary's conceded a penalty under the pressure. A kick to touch put IC in their favourite position – an attacking line out on the five metre line! Sean 'the Beast' Baker was unfortunate not to score the opening try, the referee judging that the ball was held up over the line. However, the IC pack was determined to register some points, and the resulting scrum saw a classic 8, 9, 14 move rewarded with a try from Jack Judd. Sadly Jack was injured for his efforts, so Freddy White was introduced

to the action. As the half progressed, St Mary's started to come more and more into the game. However, good work in the line out by Captain Charlie Esberger limited their attacking options; and good defence in the midfield, notably from Mike Floyd, forced St Marys to settle for a successful 3 point penalty. The half time score was 5-3.

St Mary's got the second half underway. Neither team seemed to be able to break the others defence; poor conditions gave wingers Fraser 'the Salmon'

James and Ed Durkin little to work with. However, a good spell of play positioned the Imperial forwards once again in their favourite position. With hooker Rob Kyle's throwing on form, the result was inevitable – a try for 'the Beast'. James Cox stepped up to add the extras from a difficult position. The next twenty minutes saw heroic defence from imperial, man of the match Chris McGeough putting in a couple of noteworthy big hits. The poor conditions meant a lot scrums and the back

row players, Jack Flanagan, Jon Hardisty and Olisa Ufodiama, did extremely well to keep the St Marys number eight from gaining anything off the back of them. As the Imperial line held strong, it wasn't long before the frustration caused St Mary's to force one pass too many, resulting in a knock on. Good scrummaging from Simon Fenton and James Scaife gave a good platform for scrum half Olly Cox to ease the pressure. With full time approaching, St
...Continued on Page 55

TECHNOLOGY



Zynga through the ages
Page 16

COMMENT



The international scene at Imperial
Page 22

FILM



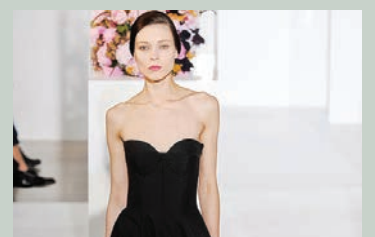
Cinematic Jesus on the big screen
Page 34

TELEVISION



J.J. Abrams' latest project
Page 37

FASHION



Choices for autumn and winter 2012
Page 38