

Rag WEEK 2013
11TH - 15TH FEBRUARY

It's back, with loads of events...
Monday: Bungee Jumping on Queen's Lawn
Tuesday: Cartoon Collect
Thursday: Valentine's Masquerade Ball
Friday: Big Night In
 Plus, flip to page 54

Also coming up:

LGBT History Month - Page 11
 Cancer Awareness Day - Page 12
 Student Volunteering Week - Page 12

Imperial launches Education and Student Strategy Survey

Tim Arbabzadah Editor-in-Chief

Imperial have launched an anonymous survey to help to develop an Education and Student Strategy. The website consists of a questionnaire with all open text responses for students and staff to fill out with their thoughts on the education and student experience. The survey is behind a log in wall, but is going to be anonymous, unless students wish to be credited with their suggestions. The survey is open to all members of the College community and will be open until Tuesday 19 February. There will be two open meetings, which all students and staff can attend, at 13:00-14:00 Wednesday 6 February and 17:00-18:00 Thursday 14 February in the Pippard Lecture Theatre in Sheffield.

The survey is split up into four 'strategic objectives'. Each one relates to the educational and student experience at Imperial. There are examples that are deemed useful from other institutions around the world and data from within College is provided next to the question. There is also a box at the bottom of the page for further suggestions, and students and staff can complete as much or as little as they wish to. There is also a hashtag #impeeled for people to share their ideas

via Twitter.

Championing the survey is the Pro-Rector (Education) Debra Humphris, who will be sorting through the responses to produce a 'green paper', which will be further streamlined into a 'white paper'. This will be the document that contains the Education and Student Strategy, and will be taken to the relevant boards (Management Board and College Council) for review and to start putting it into practice. This white paper will be the implementation plan, which will be taken to the Management Board for consideration in June of this year. Speaking of the survey, Humphris said: "Every co-

The survey can be filled out online here: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/educationoffice/strategy/students>

hort of Imperial students leaves an imprint on the College. We hope part of the current generation's legacy will be to help shape the experience of their successors, by sharing their views and opinions with us in this process."

Paul Beaumont, Union President, urged students to fill out the survey by saying that "nothing is more powerful in effecting change than a **>>3**

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NSS Responses up from last year: Page 9

The famous ratio

Special Report: Page 4

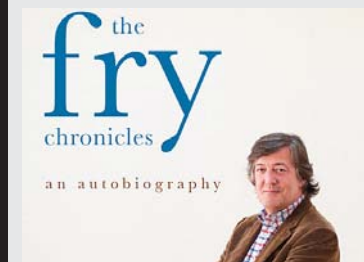
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Unseen Imperial

This week sees the return of this feature, which looks at various issues that people have and are sometimes hesitant to talk about publicly.



SCIENCE

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The pill

How one little pill (well, one per day) has changed so much for us. Also, how it can affect what type of person you are attracted to.



BUSINESS

>> 19

Win a San Fran trip

Imperial Entrepreneurs have the chance to win a trip to Silicon Valley. Those who are fans of the old school *Driver* games can see the sights.



CLASSIFIEDS

Flyer Distributers wanted

Jump&Bounce is hiring a flyer distribution team and we would love to get the community involved.

Teams will be lead by team managers. Distributions will be taking place at evening times at Shoreditch, Hoxton, Southwark, Camden Town, Notting hill, Sheperds bush, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington.

Flyer distribution will start on the 21st FEB and finish March 7th.

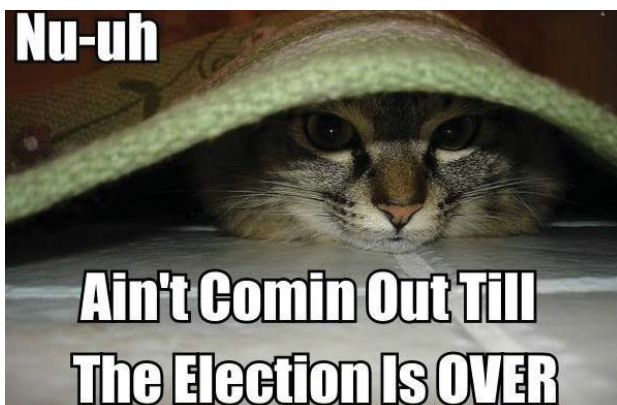
Campaign days THURS - FRI - SAT
PAY £40 per 1000 flyers

For more information: Get in touch with Brendon Kasozi via events@jumpandbounceclub.com

Email felix@imperial.ac.uk to place Classifieds.

Boy/girl seeking boy/girl also welcome. Accompanying pictures of you in provocative poses in the Library not.

LOLCAT OF TEH WEEK: Finding these is a perk of the job



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Run for Felix Editor!



Tim Arbabzadah
Editor-in-Chief



Elections are here once again. It seems like only yesterday I was putting my name down for Felix Editor and hoping someone seconds me.

I thought I would give some advice for those thinking of running for a sabbatical position in the Big Elections. It applies for all of the positions, but especially applies to the sabbaticals.

First up: are your intentions 'pure' for the lack of a better word? If the reason you are running is something along the lines of "I don't have a job and want something good to put on my CV", then don't bother. Yeah, just because you want a good CV doesn't necessarily mean that you won't be good, but it does mean you are unlikely to really go above and beyond the position and give your all to it. Especially when you're in the depths of a massive all nighter and what you are doing could affect a lot of other people. Think of it in this simplistic way: would you want a pilot to be not really paying much attention and just hanging about while landing the plane you're on?

If you are considering running for Felix Editor: go for it! It will be the best year of your life, I can guarantee that. I'm not just saying it. Actually, I'm even telling you that at a time when my stress level is through the roof (near the deadline). It's

a lot of responsibility, but it's also a lot of fun. What follows is a brief rundown of what life is going to be like if you become Felix Editor.

Fun. That's the one word I'd use. I know using the word fun makes it sound like a crap corporate marketing scheme and/or something you were told to trick you into doing science, but it's true. The Office has a great atmosphere, and you get to impose your music tastes on everyone.

Amazing opportunities. You get to do really cool things like go to the BBC studios to interview someone, design an entire newspaper from scratch (how many people can say they did that?), learn how to use loads of software, learn how to squint at a screen – sorry, you're an Imperial student, you know that one already.

Hard work. You'll essentially move into the Felix Office. Luckily I don't live too far away, but some Editors are forced to sleep in the Office. Wednesday will involve a massive push to get the paper done. Then, on Thursday (the day I'm writing this on), you will be at it (not in a fun way) every single waking second. Even popping to the JCR for a sandwich of questionable quality will be filled with work: you'll be thinking of what you need to get done when you get back.

Stressful. Yep, there will be some hair loss. Sorry. The role has some sides you don't think about. The ever approaching

deadline. Not to mention the financial and administrative side of the paper – you have to make sure to balance the books – that are generally pretty well hidden when people read it.

Mistakes. Loads. Trouble is that it's different now. Before, you could just fuck something up and nobody would notice. Now, there are thousands of hard copies to remind you about it. So, get ready to mess things up every now and then. Be prepared to learn from your mistakes and say "MUST TRY HARDER NEXT TIME".

There's not enough space to be comprehensive here. There are some downs, but the ups are so up that they definitely outweigh the bad sides.

So here is some advice for your campaign. To make a manifesto just think about what sort of stuff you would like to see in Felix and what tone you want it to have. Be realistic, but don't be boring. Be bold in your aims; you may not reach them, but you can get close. If you have an idea and want to know if it's feasible, talk to me to see what I say. You can always ignore my advice. Standard stuff applies: get a nice poster, website and flyers designed. Print everything out in good time (trust me).

If you are considering running, please just drop me an email at felix@imperial.ac.uk, and we can meet up for tea and have a chat about what it's like.



News Editors: Aemun Reza, Nida Mahmud
news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

NEWS

Students (both past and present) and staff are called upon to give their views on the educational and student experience

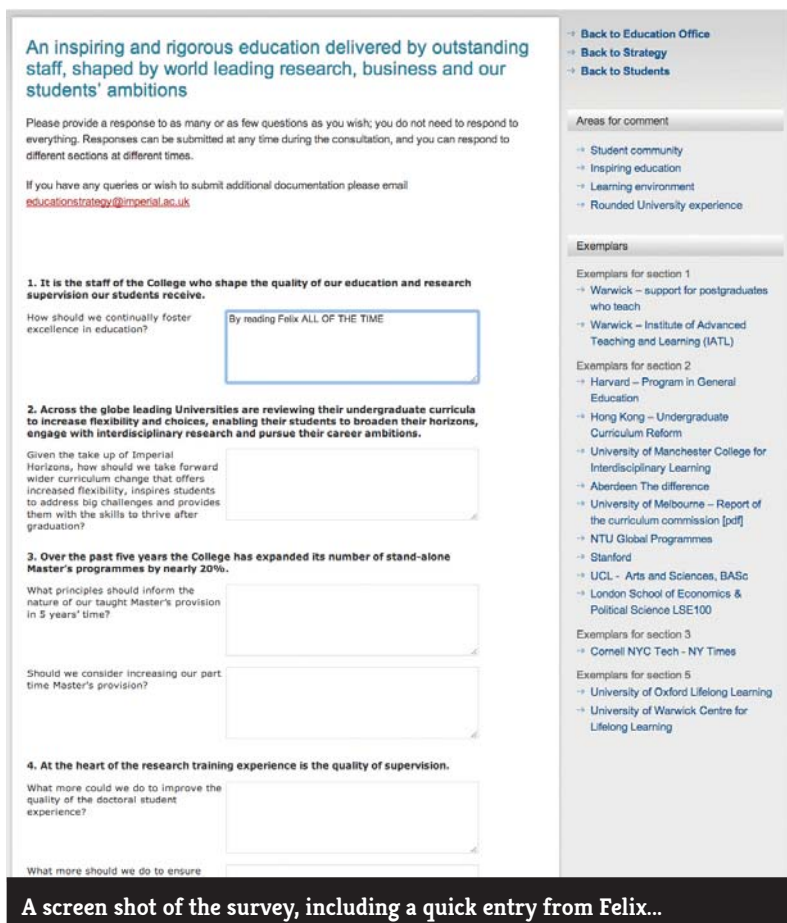
» continued from the front page

huge mandate. This mandate can only be achieved by all fifteen thousand students collectively voicing ideas, opinions and suggestions: please use this chance to have your say in the future of the College.” He also stressed that this is “the opportunity for current students and staff alike to mould the education strategy for the next few years directly.” Beaumont stated: “The College’s education strategy is a key part in the academic mission as a whole.

Imperial College Union, sabbaticals and student representatives are actively feeding into this process through the Union’s representation structure.”

The President & Rector, Sir Keith O’Nions, said of the survey: “Between now and Tuesday 19 February we are asking staff, students and alumni to

Every cohort of Imperial students leaves an imprint on the College – Debra Humphris



A screen shot of the survey, including a quick entry from Felix...

take part in our Education and Student Strategy Consultation, and contribute ideas and opinions about fundamental aspects of education at Imperial, capturing what we already achieve and how we can improve.” Sir Keith called the views given “crucial”, and said that it has “been essential to adapt Imperial’s educational approaches to keep pace”. Sir Keith went on to say: “In an era in which we compete with many other world-class institutions to recruit the brightest and the best, we need to consider what distinguishes Imperial’s offer to students. We should be clear on how we intend to stretch

and nourish students and equip them for their future careers.”

The President & Rector ended with a call for all to fill out the survey: “Our students deserve the very best from Imperial – I hope you will take this opportunity to shape the education and experiences we offer them.”

The survey can be filled out online here: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/educationoffice/strategy/students>
Any questions about the process can be referred to educationstrategy@imperial.ac.uk

The four topic areas being discussed

Four strategic objectives have been identified and are asked about in the survey. They are below:

A diverse community of the most talented students from across the globe

An innovative and inclusive learning environment both physically and virtually

An inspiring and rigorous education delivered by outstanding staff, shaped by world leading research, business and our students’ ambitions

An enriching and rounded university experience developing global leaders of influence

Title from the Queen for Imperial professor

Tim Arbabzadah Editor-in-Chief

Imperial College London’s Department of Engineering has been awarded a rare honour from Her Majesty the Queen to mark the Diamond Jubilee. The title is Regius Professor, and only two have been awarded in the past 100 years.

This year, twelve entries were awarded this title. Originally six were planned, but the judges deemed entries “exceptionally high” and therefore more entries were successful. Chloe Smith, UK Political and Constitutional Reform minister, said: “I have been bowled over by the response from universities. The submissions we received were incredibly strong which is why we advised the Queen to create twice as many Regius Professorships than originally planned.”

The Queen approves all of the appointments, with ministers advising her. The full list of universities where the twelve created positions are is as follows: Imperial College, London for engineering; London School of Economics for economics; Open Uni-



versity for open education; University of Manchester for physics; Royal Holloway at University of London for music; University of Essex for political science; King’s College London for psychiatry; University of Reading for meteorology and climate science; University of Southampton for computer science; University of Surrey for electronic engineering; University of Dundee for life sciences; and University of Warwick for mathematics.

Sponsored Editorial

More student cuts Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers near South Kensington

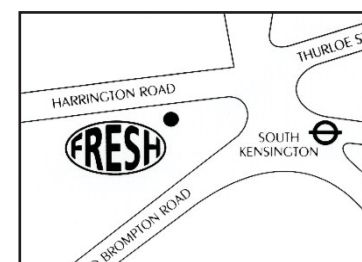
Men’s cuts £22 (normally £35)
Women’s cut and rough dry £28
Women’s cut and salon finish blow-dry £38 (normally £55)

discount and bring your student ID we look forward to seeing you. We use only the best products, Wella, Moroccan Oil, L’Oreal, and KMS and offer free coffee and herbal teas. To book an appointment call **0207 823 8968**. Tuesday to Saturdays 9.30 to 5.30 We are only 70 metres from South Kensington tube station. www.freshhairdressers.co.uk

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Come to **FRESH**, ask for a student



Looking into the gender balance

We all know about the infamous 'ratio' at Imperial. Is it about the STEM subjects, just Imperial, or a worldwide issue? **Matt Proctor** and **Eoghan J Totten** investigate

Male undergraduates continue to outnumber females by nearly two to one as revealed by the College Strategic Planning Division. Felix tries to make sense of it all.

The (unsurprising) revelation came to light after the department revealed that for the previous academic year a mere 3,116 undergraduates out of 9,080 were female. Some postulate that this is a particular facet of Imperial College but research into other UK universities, conducted by Felix, reveals otherwise. The statistics highlight a strong affinity of the male population with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) subjects.

United Kingdom Statistics

'Oxbridge', Durham University and University College London exhibit more balanced male: female ratios, with the latter having a 2% female majority overall. Delving deeper into the statistics shows a pivotal change in the ratio for the STEM subjects. The University of Oxford shows that male undergraduates outweigh their female counterparts by a sizeable 22%. Building upon this a mere 33.4% of science undergraduates at the University of Cambridge enrolled for equivalent 2011/2012 academic year were female. The trend for Durham was less polarised but reiterated the correlation. Taken with a pinch of salt these findings demonstrate that the phenomenon is far from localised to Imperial College (being a focus for higher technical education alone), which instead reflects a more generalised third level STEM trend otherwise obscured in different institutions by humanities departments.

Global Statistics

Further investigation conducted by Felix presented the observed male: female ratios as a global trend, extending into Europe, the United States of America and the Far East. Starting off in close proximity to the UK (*and closer to my heart* – Eoghan) the skewed ratio is observed in Dublin institutions. Out of the 11,844 undergraduates enrolled at Trinity College Dublin for the 2010/2011 academic year 4,856 (41%) were male. On the contrary this does not extend to any of the niche STEM disciplines. The starkest contrast to the

college-wide ratio arises within Theoretical Physics; one in thirty scholars are said to be female.

At Princeton University, an archetype of the widely renowned Ivy League, data for the 2011/2012 semesters revealed a 51:49 male: female ratio. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, rather surprisingly, exhibited a similar overall ratio. In spite of this a 2008 study co-ordinated by Michael McGrew-Hardeg, executive editor of *The Tech*, the leading MIT newspaper, presented profound deviation within certain STEM disciplines. While a staggering 75% of Brain and Cognitive Scientists were revealed to be women they only occupied a third of the available spots in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, alleged to be the most competitive course at MIT. One in four Nuclear Science and Engineering undergraduates were female.

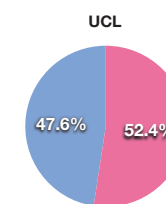
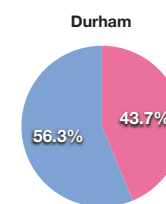
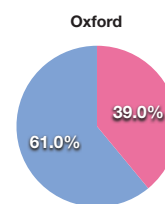
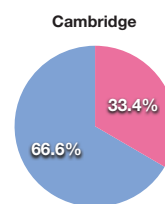
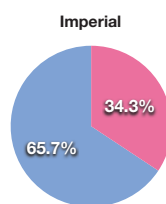
Addressing Asian student trends a minimal 2,543 out of 13,887 undergraduates at the University of Tokyo were female as of May 1st 2011. This may reflect an extensively developed Japanese economy renowned for being centred on the technocrat. The most polarised of all Universities is, in fact, in Europe. Technische Universiteit Delft in Holland once supported a whopping 80:20 male: female majority!

Possible Reasons for Extreme Male:Female Polarisation

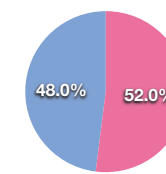
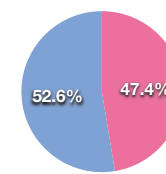
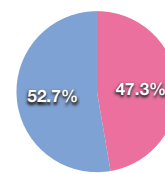
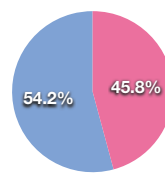
The data is overwhelming and persistent. The Imperial College gender ratio has remained approximately unchanged over the previously elapsed decade... but why? The trend extends far beyond third level education and deep into the world of work, despite the efforts of organisations such as WISE (Women in Science, Engineering and Construction), who aspire to achieve a 30% employment rate in the aforementioned STEM fields by 2020. One might argue that this target is somewhat tame; it even suggests a feeling of hesitancy on the part of WISE. This is difficult to rationalise when one considers the driven work ethic of so many women at Imperial College (indeed frequently more driven than many male students). It could be considered a wider pressing, societal problem that requires urgent address.

Some argue the phenomenon to be a simultaneously global and cultural legacy from a bygone era, when

Undergraduate Entry 2011	Sciences			Total			Notes
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	
Imperial	34.3	65.7	100	34.3	65.7	100	Total number of undergraduates
Oxford	39.0	61.0	100	47.3	52.7	100	
Cambridge	33.4	66.6	100	45.8	54.2	100	
Durham	43.7	56.3	100	47.4	52.6	100	
UCL	52.4	47.6	100	52.0	48.0	100	Brain sciences, Engineering sciences, Life science, Mathematical & Physical sciences, Medical sciences



Above row is the ratio for just the sciences. Below row is the total. UCL bucks the trend for sciences



Total Undergrad	2008 Entry	2009 Entry	2010 Entry	2011 Entry
Male	5618	5648	5863	5964
Percent	65.68	65.61	65.99	65.68
Female	2936	2960	3022	3116
Percent	34.32	34.39	34.01	34.32
Total	8554	8608	8885	9080

all forms of education and employment (not just STEM disciplines) were male-dominated. While it may indeed be controversial to invoke such a possibility of prejudice in a politically correct modern world there is evidence to suggest that it may at least in part be a contributory factor. In a paper produced by PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA) it was deduced that in research-intensive Universities: "Faculty participants rated the male applicant as significantly more competent and hireable than the (identical) female applicant". This was bolstered by a study undertaken by Yale University which concluded that science professors frequently "regard female undergraduates as less competent than male students with the same accomplishments and skills". It may be that these findings are categorical and possibly damaging generalisations of a more intricate problem, yet there may be some truth in it.

Male:female postgraduate statistics at Imperial College are closer to 60:40 as revealed by the Strategic Planning Division. Some might argue that the older, more qualified woman is viewed more favourably by selection committees, shaking herself free of any stigmatisation to which she may have been

previously and unfairly subjected.

In spite of this many believe that such bias cannot persevere in the modern world and look towards other possibilities. Nature versus nurture has often been cited, the trend of discourse moving towards the latter in recent times. It may be that the significant female depletion in STEM university subjects has its origins in early schooling, education and other childhood influences. Boys and girls, rightly or wrongly, are frequently encouraged in differing manners, with the former being directed towards scientific disciplines. It may be that this initiates a negative feedback that extends right through to third level education. The problem may simply be a product of nurture. Addressing this fundamental societal flaw may begin a process of resolution.

Laura Johnston, WSET Chair, was

asked for comment. She said that the figures "suggest it's a country wide problem and that more efforts should be made to encourage girls to pursue STEM subjects at degree level overall. Only then will Imperial start to see a proper balance. However, this doesn't explain the lack of females in more advanced positions within Imperial, eg. PhD students and lecturers, as the ratio of men to women becomes more extreme the higher you go."

Speculation on the issue need not have an end without wider discussion, thus Felix invites the undergraduate readers (particularly female!) to have their say. Find this article on felixonline.co.uk/ and voice your thoughts on the following pressing issues:

- Why does female depletion in STEM disciplines continue to prevail?
- What might be a solution to remedy the gender imbalance?

‘I looked down
the microscope and saw
a vampire.’

Dr Ralf Britz

Ichthyologist and discoverer
of the Dracula fish

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Imperial students in BP semi-finals

Nida Mahmud

News Editor

Imperial students have made it through to the BP Ultimate Field Trip semi-finals. Five Imperial teams, each with three engineering students have reached the semi-finals stage, which will be held on the 4th-5th February across the UK.

Emma Judge, BP Head of UK Graduate Resourcing commented: "We're really impressed with the standard of entries this year and it's great to see so many teams from different universities getting involved. We hope the semi-finalists are enjoying the challenge and we wish everyone the best of luck."

The Ultimate Field Trip is the UK's flagship student competition; it enables some of the brightest individuals studying STEM subjects to work in teams and answer a real life business challenge. The winning team

receives a 2 week international field trip with BP. The team that wins this year will complete their internship during the summer holidays; where they will be travelling to Stavanger in Norway, Shetland Isles, off the coast of Scotland and the International Centre of Business & Technology in London.

These teams are solving this year's challenge, where they are required to "Develop a single technical innovation, which has previously not been demonstrated, to significantly reduce the cost of PKT per capita in your country by 2030". Where the "innovation can focus on one mode of passenger transportation from road, rail, water or air, or you can use a combination of each. The solution you develop must be technology-focused, practical and innovative."

Imperial students regularly get through to the latter half of the competition.



David Eyton - BP Group Head of Technology/Fabio Capello look-a-like, handing over a prize to the previous Imperial College runners up at the 2012 Ultimate Field Trip grand final.

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If innovation makes you tick, now's the time to put that mental agility to use for the chance to win a Google Nexus 7 (32GB). We've developed some brain-teasing online games that will test your quick responses and lateral thinking against students across the country. Every week, the top of the leader board for each game will win a prize.

We'll also be on campus on 4th February, so come and join us for more chances to win on our giant touchscreen.

At Accenture, innovation is something we know a thing or two about. It's helped us to transform clients' organisations across the globe as one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies. So, while you're taking part in the games you'll discover how people with your kind of problem-solving brains have joined Accenture and helped to create the No. 1 sports app for RBS 6 Nations Championship, set up charities and transformed businesses across the globe.

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BIG

ELECTIONS

2013

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**NOMINATIONS
OPEN**

FEB

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31

04

1

Pick your position

Pick the position you want to run for by selecting Positions on the menu in eVoting.

2

Click on the Stand button

Click on the big button on the top right of the webpage and follow the steps.

3

Get your Seconder

Get your Seconder to go online and support your nomination.

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections



FELIX Sex Survey 2013



It wants you to do it.

Fill it out online at:

felixonline.co.uk/sexsurvey

Note: the Sex Survey is completely anonymous, as is the Drugs Survey. At no point can anyone track the answers back to you. Please be honest.

Increase in uptake of the NSS

Tim Arbabzadah Editor-in-Chief

There has been a large increase in the percentage of students filling in the NSS when compared to the same time last year.

The figures show that all departments except for Civil Engineering have a higher percentage. This has been attributed to the Department waiting until exams to remind students.

Those who do not fill out the NSS will start to receive calls soon asking them to complete the survey.

Doug Hunt, Deputy President (Education) was asked for comment on the NSS in general and said: "So last year the Union wrote a response to the 2011 NSS results, with clear recommendations to the College on how the education and the student experience at Imperial can be improved. From this a strict

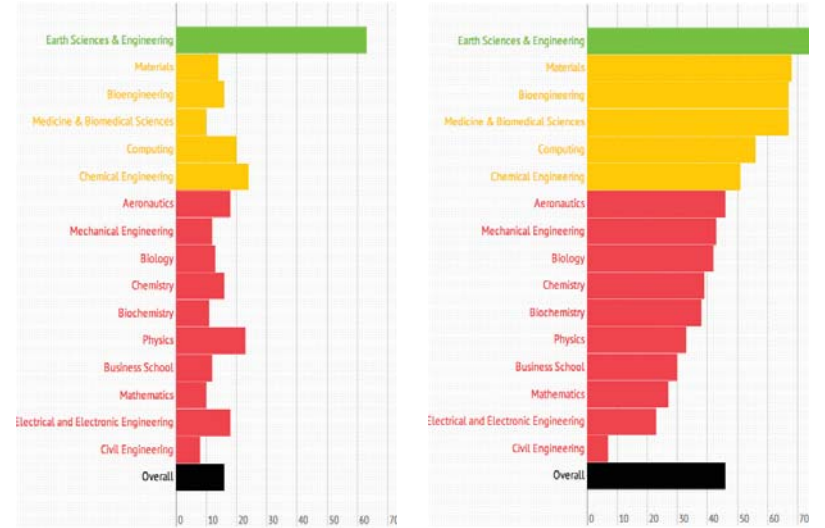
policy on how feedback should be given back in 14 days was developed and lecture podcasts were introduced due to this response. This year Paul and I gave an update to this response by awarding medals to the College on their progress. The College received 3 woods, 18 bronzes, 7 silvers and 7 golds. We also gave 3 new recommendations and included the Union's strategic plan on how we intend to improve your satisfaction over the next year.

In the 2012 NSS a new question was added, which asked how satisfied final years were with their students' union. At this part I would like to make clear that the Union is not just a bar, but is also made up of around 330 clubs and societies (highest number for any students' union) and the 400+ academic reps (both UG and PG)."

Felix asked Hunt to comment on the current rate at which students are filling

out the survey, and why the sudden increase. He replied: "The final years that are filling it in are currently destroying last year's participation rate when you see the College is at a 45.7%, compared to 15.9% last year. This is due to both the academic reps and departmental staff pushing it hard from when it opened. On top of that, the highest in the country was 46.5%, so we could get the highest turnout in the UK, if everyone keeps up the good work." He ended by reminding students to not "be neutral" when completing the survey.

The NSS is the National Student Survey. It is completed by all final year undergraduates, and is a factor in many university league tables. Imperial usually scores lower in satisfaction than other universities, particularly for the feedback section. For the results to even be counted, there are thresholds of responses.



Left: the response rate in 2012 at this time. Right: the response rate this year at the time of going to print. EEE have had everyone replying. This has been attributed to Lorraine Craig's encouragement.

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- Alex Kendall, IC Union President 2010-11

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FEATURES

Features Editors: Stephen Smith,
Caroline Wood
felix@imperial.ac.uk



UNSEEN imperial

Depression: the stigmatised illness

What is Unseen Imperial?

Unseen Imperial is a project that aims to talk about the things that we don't really feel comfortable about, but they are there if you scratch the surface. Mental health, discrimination, bullying; all the things that sometimes we pretend aren't happening right under our noses. It is a forum/campaign/discussion – whatever you want to call it, a project to get people talking about these 'uncomfortable' issues so that hopefully work can be done as a community towards de-stigmatising them.

Jonathan London

Writer

It can strike anyone at any time in their life. The percentage of students being diagnosed with it has more than doubled, to 21% , over the past ten years. Every year, it is partly responsible for half a million deaths worldwide, and every indication is that this number will only increase as time passes. Medically, it belongs to a group of conditions which are some of the least well understood on Earth, and socially, attitudes towards it are often still as backward as they were towards HIV in the late 1980s and early 90s. I am talking about depression, the most common mental illness out there, and sadly, one of those which to this day still carries the most social stigma.

Too many times one hears suicide attempts being labelled as “cries for help”, rather than being due to “real” depression. Often in fact, those applying these labels are the same people who would quite rightly be horrified by rape apologists making a claim that rapes are actually “made up”, or by religious extremists claiming that homosexuals can be “cured”. Indeed, as a society our awareness of depression and mental health issues in general, is so far out dated that it is often deemed socially acceptable to refer to individuals with severe clinical depression in a derogatory way, to call them “emo”, needing to “man up” (sexist much!?)

or “pull themselves together”. As if, by telling someone going through a nervous breakdown or major depressive episode to make an effort to be more sociable, work harder or just act as if nothing is wrong is somehow to help them. Would you expect someone dying of pneumonia to get better if you told their immune system to pull itself together and man up? I hope not!

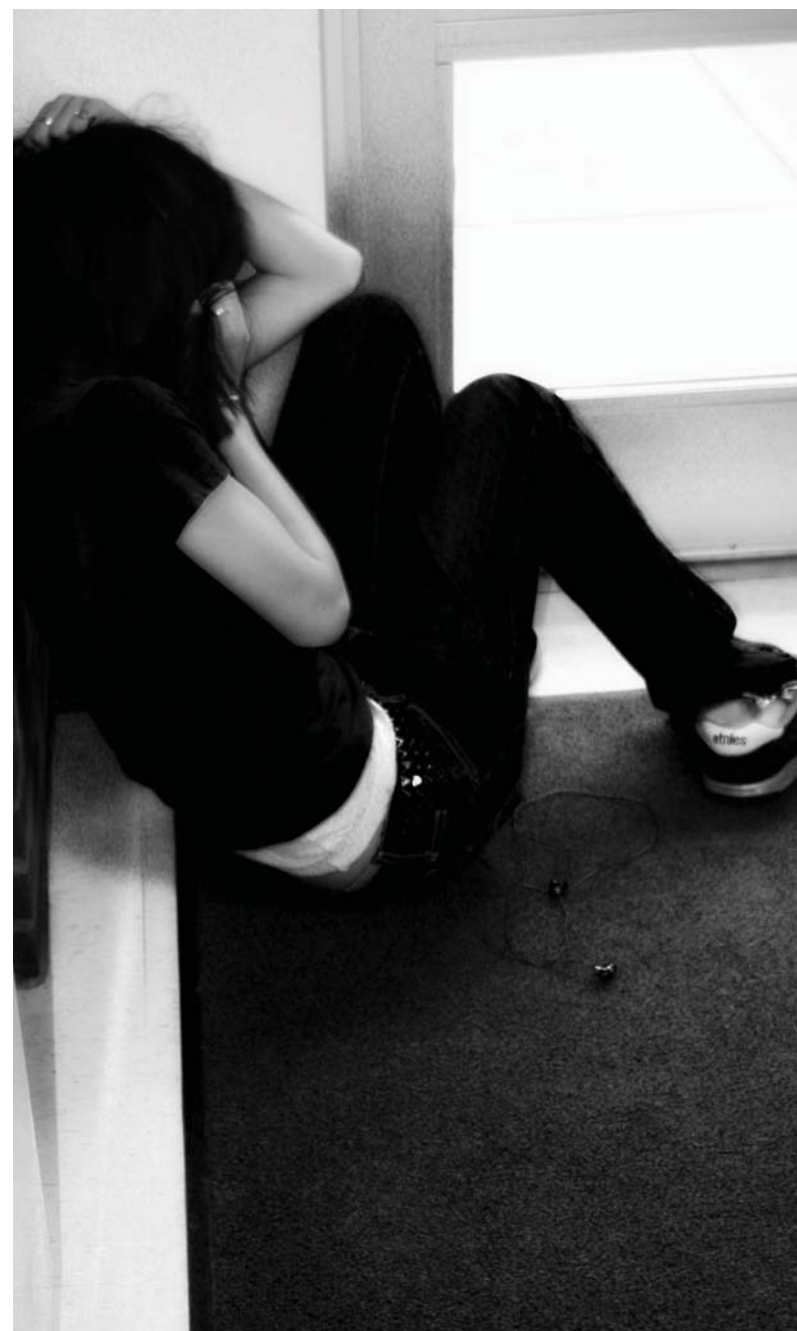
In fact, the stigma associated with depression runs far deeper. Having been medicated for depression, I now have a mark on my life history which for some careers would be viewed similarly to a black spot on your CRB. Taking a significant amount of sick leave due to having a depressive episode, no matter what anyone in human resources may try to tell you, is not viewed in the same way in corporate land as taking sick leave to recover from any other, more “real” illness. Why is that? Why is it that I, as someone who has suffered from depression, should fear a remission of symptoms, just in case my future boss thinks I am weak, or, worse, lazy! Why should I, as someone who for all intents and purposes is completely healthy (could lose a few pounds maybe??), have to explain myself if applying for a job at the home office, or any other role where I handle sensitive information. In short, why do we as a society find it so hard to treat people recovering from mental illness just like they were recovering from any other illness?

The obvious answer is that with more physical (don't like using that word, but it will have to do) illnesses, the symptoms are clear and well defined. You vomit blood, you're ill; no one is going to argue with that, no one will blame you for it. You shove a handful of pills in your mouth and try to down it with vodka before being brought to your senses by your girlfriend (ex, naturally) who then proceeds to tear the bottle out of your hand... that was a symptom of my condition; no one will argue with that,

but you can't quite see it in the same way can you?

Therein lies the problem. People must take some degree of responsibility for everything they do, regardless of whether they are mentally ill or not. However, if someone mentally ill commits a crime, you lock them up, but make sure you lock them up in a hospital, rather than a prison. We do this because we are aware that, even when we know a person, mental illness may cause us to no longer recognise that very individual, because of how it influences their behaviour. When I had my first, and hopefully last, depressive episode, it affected me in a way I cannot not adequately describe to someone who has not experienced it first-hand. How strongly it took hold me, how powerless I felt to do anything about it, and the state of mind I had to be in to consider death as a lovely holiday rather than something best avoided, no amount of poetry or literature can describe it. I was lucky to have had family and friends, almost all of whom stood by me during that time, who tried their best to understand what I was going through. However, I know many people are not so lucky.

It is for this reason that I have decided to write this article, after eventually stumbling across someone who had been through what I had, the day to day struggle of coping with my condition was made much more manageable, and so I am delighted to hear that Becky Lane (Deputy President (Welfare) for those of you that don't know) is setting up a mental health awareness day in the near future, which I hope will also be an opportunity for like-minded (illness of the mind, like minded... get it?) individuals to come out of the woodwork and support each other. I also hope that if you know someone (if you don't yet then one day you will), suffering from depression, you try to remember that the person they were before their episode isn't gone, and you do your



best to support them and be there for them while you wait for them to return to their normal selves, that is all anyone can ask.

And to anyone reading this who is currently suffering from depression,

there is a light at the end of the tunnel... and it isn't heaven. If you are really unlucky you will have to ride this out for half a year, most of you won't have to wait much more than 3 months, so hang in there bro!

The figures about student depression don't make for pleasant reading – but so many suffer in silence. I have so much admiration for the author of this piece for speaking out about his experiences without anonymity. For those of you reading this article who have experienced depression in the past or present, there are people and services avail-

able to help. In College there are the Counselling Service (www3.imperial.ac.uk/counselling), your GP, your personal/senior tutor, the Union Advice Centre (contacted by emailing advice@imperial.ac.uk) and the College Tutors (contacted by emailing college-tutors@imperial.ac.uk). There are also many organisations external to Imperial that can help

you through your difficulties such as Nightline – a confidential listening service aimed specifically at students (0207 631 0101). Although I am sure at times depression can make you feel like the loneliest person in the world; with all these support services, there is no need to battle depression alone.

If you are passionate about men-

tal health issues and delivering an important message to the Imperial community, get in touch with me by email on dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk to join the Mental Health campaign group. Whether you feel passionate about combating the myths about depression, or lobbying College to increase their counselling provision; as a group our voice is louder.

Want to contribute to Unseen Imperial? Either email Tim at felix@imperial.ac.uk or me at dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk, whether you want to be anonymous or not will always be respected.

Introduction and information at the end written by Becky Lane, Deputy President (Welfare).

Features Editors: Stephen Smith,
Caroline Wood
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FEATURES

LGBT history month

Russell Hills introduces you to Section 28 and LGBT issues

It's February, and that means it's once again time for LGBT History Month. For those of you that may not be aware, LGBT History Month aims to draw attention to both the past and the present state of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) rights, as well as the impact LGBT people have had throughout history. While in many cases the sexuality of historical figures is only speculative, it is important to acknowledge that alternative sexualities have always existed, and are not some "modern lifestyle choice". For example, while many people will know of Sir Francis Bacon, King James I and Florence Nightingale, they may not be aware that these historical figures are believed to have had relationships with members of the same sex.

LGBT History Month was first organised in 2005 by Schools OUT (a group promoting equality for LGBT people in education) to celebrate the repeal of a government act known as Section 28.

What was Section 28?:

Section 28 was enacted in 1988 by the Conservative government. The Act covered "Prohibition on promoting homosexuality by teaching or by publishing material" and stated that:

- "A local authority shall not –
- (a) intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality;
 - (b) promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship."

There were many aspects of this act that were damaging to the homosexual community. The term "promoting homosexuality" lends credence to the (false) belief that sexuality is a choice that people can be encouraged to take. Also, the act was implemented to "protect" children, implying that



The theme for LGBT History Month 2013 is Maths, Science and Engineering: keep an eye out for our article on LGBT pioneers in STEM subjects coming soon!

homosexuality is inherently dangerous to young people. Many LGBT student and support groups were closed down due to fears that they would be breaching the Act.

Many people and groups spoke out against this legislation, and it prompted Sir Ian McKellen to publicly come out on BBC Radio 3 during a discussion of the Act. Regarding Section 28, he says: "The notorious Section 28 was a disaster for children in state schools because it encouraged their teachers to lie about homosexuality". It was repealed (against much opposition) in 2000 in Scotland and 2003 in the rest of Great Britain.

Why do we celebrate LGBT History Month?:

While LGBT people and couples in the UK enjoy most of the legal freedoms enjoyed by everyone else, many of these were only introduced within the last 10-15 years. These include equal age of consent (2001), transsexualism declassified as an illness (2002) and various anti-discrimination laws

(1999-2010). However, there are still some areas (such as blood donation) where laws aren't equal. Laws regarding equal marriage are currently being introduced.

However, while the laws in the UK are (mostly) equal, it is a sad truth that there is still a large amount of LGBT-phobic abuse. A few facts gathered by the Youth Chances LGBTQ Survey paint a rather alarming picture:

- 3 out of 4 respondents have received verbal abuse because of their sexuality.
- Nearly half of respondents have experienced threats due to their sexuality.
- 1 in 4 respondents have been physically abused because of their sexuality.
- LGBTQ youths are up to 5 times more likely to self harm than other youths.

These numbers don't cover every-

thing, as it doesn't take into account those who have lost their lives as a result of LGBT-phobic abuse. *The Independent on Sunday* is aware of at least nine people in the UK who were killed or committed suicide after LGBT-phobic bullying between 2009 and 2011. One of these was Ian Baynham, who was beaten to death in the middle of Trafalgar Square by a group of teenagers shouting homophobic abuse. Unfortunately, the number of hate crimes against LGBT people in the UK is rising.

When we look at the rest of the world, homosexual acts are illegal in over 70 countries, and seven of these have the death penalty for such acts (eight if pending legislation in Uganda is passed). Also, Russia has recently passed a law prohibiting homosexual, bisexual and transgender "propaganda", much akin to our Section 28. However, the same law also covers paedophilia, essentially equating these categories. In many other countries, the stats for LGBT related hate crimes are just as bad, if not worse than those in the UK.

The above facts demonstrate that there are still many hurdles before LGBT people can be counted as truly equal. To quote Lester B. Pearson (14th Prime Minister of Canada and 1957 Nobel Peace Prize winner), "Misunderstanding arising from ignorance breeds fear, and fear remains the greatest enemy of peace". One way we can remove this ignorance is to make LGBT people more visible, both presently and historically, and give others the opportunity to learn and understand. This is why we observe LGBT History Month.

IQ is Imperial College's LGBT society. If you wish to come to our events, you can sign up to our mailing list by visiting www.union.ic.ac.uk/scc/iq.

If you identify as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning) and are aged 16-25, you are invited to take part in the Youth Chances survey. The project aims to assess the quality of life experienced by LGBTQ youths in the UK by gathering data from 15,000 people. If you wish to take part or get more information, please visit www.youthchances.org.



Imperial College Union **LGBT**

Below is the controversial Section 28 in its entirety

28 Prohibition on promoting homosexuality by teaching or by publishing material.

(1) The following section shall be inserted after section 2 of the ^{M1}Local Government Act 1986 (prohibition of political publicity)

2A * Prohibition on promoting homosexuality by teaching or by publishing material.

(1) A local authority shall not—

- (a) intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality;
- (b) promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) above shall be taken to prohibit the doing of anything for the purpose of treating or preventing the spread of disease.

(3) In any proceedings in connection with the application of this section a court shall draw such inferences as to the intention of the local authority as may reasonably be drawn from the evidence before it.

(4) In subsection (1)(b) above "maintained school" means,—

- (a) in England and Wales, a county school, voluntary school, nursery school or special school, within the meaning of the Education Act 1944; and
- (b) in Scotland, a public school, nursery school or special school, within the meaning of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980.*

(2) This section shall come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.

FEATURES

Features Editors: Stephen Smith,
Caroline Wood
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Think about the C word

Kate Pumphrey wants you to remember cancer awareness day

Monday 4th February is National Cancer Awareness Day and the ten-month-and-twenty-seven day anniversary of my father's death from – I need hardly say it – cancer.

According to Cancer Research UK, roughly 325,000 people were diagnosed with some form of 'malignant neoplasm' in 2010. But how helpful is that statistic, or indeed any other figure related to cancer? The sheer incidence of the disease implies that it is both predictable and prosaic. Cancer is neither of those things.

First as to the predictability. Cancer shares all psychotic irrationality of tyranny. It cats people about. Initially it works with stealth, frequently announcing itself with a malevolent flourish in the young and seemingly fit, consigning them to a hamster wheel of radiotherapy, chemotherapy, surgery, yet more radiotherapy, another form of surgery... Sometimes treatment will manage to block the wheel, and sufferers will be taunted with daydreams of remission, which might last for months, years, even a lifetime.

All too often this is proven an illusion, with cancer careering back into the picture bearing a fistful of aces.

And there is nothing mundane about this disease, despite its prevalence. Chemotherapy – still one of medicine's most commonly deployed solutions – is chemical warfare at its most vicious. Extreme exhaustion, weakness, consistent nausea, depression, profound constipation – these are the inevitable results of treatment; many also lose their hair or suffer other random un-pleasantries (in my father's case a raw sensitization of the nerves on his fingertips, which – extraordinary – was only eased by a German cream made for cow udders). And, because chemotherapy is delivered in cyclical bouts – usually every three weeks or so – just as soon as the patient has recovered from the worst, they have to return for more. It's hard to believe that this is the remedy – the friend, not the foe.

The impact of cancer in a family is felt at every level. Walk into our home a year ago and you may well have thought you had entered a pop-up pharmacy. Anti-emetics, anti-depressants, proleukin, prolacta, carbopl-

atin, temazepam (Scrabble is now a breeze), sleeping pills by the bedfull... Painkiller? Do you seek Astral or Volterol or an alphabetic intermediary? Low immune system? Take a tablespoon of Manuka honey (sourced from some obscure bee colony in one of the remoter spots of the Far East, then retailed at obscene expense in central London). And the strangest associations are made: I look at a Magnum ice cream, and think not of summer and sunshine but of its benefits to a skeletally thin man lacking saliva glands.

You might expect the horror of the situation to make life very dramatic, but mostly the path of the long-term sick is one of dull flatness. It's tedious, unremitting and infinitely wearing. There are frenzied lurches – the scan results, say, or the epileptic fit caused by the drugs – but even those tend to be smothered in the wishywashiness of a hospital's grey-blueness.

If it's hard to be gracious there are, nevertheless, those that are graceful. In my case, some of the winners emerged from the most surprising quarters, like the corporate law firm (my then-employer), that more or



less let me work part-time while I was nursing dad at the end of his life, and the GP, who dared to speak of "infinite love, infinite benevolence". Above all, however, it was my friends that rescued me from despair. Calls, cards, messages, flowers, cakes, invitations to parties, pubs and clubs... How good people are at being friends! How much

it matters.

Be aware on Monday. Check for lumps, bumps, and moles; pay attention to any other strange changes in your body. Maybe send a message to someone you know for whom the C-word is personal. And don't let us accept cancer: it is unacceptable.

Student Volunteering Week – 10 - 16 February

Madeleine Maxwell Writer

Student Volunteering Week, brought to you by the NUS and your very own Imperial Hub is a week aimed at celebrating, inspiring and supporting student volunteering.

Sunday 10th

If you've been waiting for the right time to get involved with Soup Run... here it is! We hope this will be the biggest Soup Run Imperial's Soup Run society has ever done.

Monday 11th

Flash mob of kindness! Keep an eye open for extremely lovely and happy people making kind and generous gestures throughout the day... there will be dance, there will be music... there will be free hugs and more.

Tuesday 12th

Pancake day!! There will be lots of delicious pancake-oriented volunteering opportunities – pancake party for elderly people in Kensington Olympia,

UNICEF's pancake flipping competition...

Wednesday 13th

Problem post-its! We are student community filled with intelligent, generous people with a massive capacity to help each other before we head out to save London and the world... post your problem on the problem board, and solve someone else's!

Thursday 14th

Spread the love on Valentine's Day... and come to our International Volunteering Opportunity Fair! Find out about all the great summer projects run by Imperial students, and hear from some external volunteering organisations too...

Friday 15th

Become a Step Change Ambassador – join Imperial Hub's exciting new scheme and make a difference by championing environmental causes on campus!

And come and celebrate with

us at Zoo Bar – free entry, free cloakroom and free shot to all Imperial volunteers!!

Saturday 16th

Imperial runs the Love Run! On Saturday 16th February, an Imperial team is running a 10K in Finsbury Park for a charity called Action Duchenne – funding research and campaigning for a cure for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a severe genetic muscular wasting disease affecting. Join the team or volunteer as a marshal on the day!

On top of this, the amazing volunteering societies at Imperial will be opening their

doors for taster sessions throughout the week, with one off volunteering opportunities, informal chats and more...

External charities in London are also getting involved!

London Youth, one of the oldest and best-established youth charities in London is holding a session EVERY DAY for Imperial students to attend one of their Urban Nature projects in youth centres across London. Fancy getting your hands dirty and digging up some veg? Or tending to some lovely urban chickens? Want to meet some great young people excited about making a difference in their community?

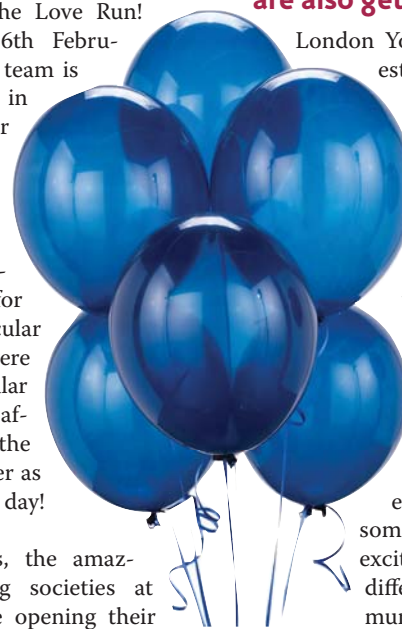
There will also be offers available...

A great new charity, International Women's Institute is donating ten 40% discounted tickets to a brilliant talk on Friday 15th February on the sex trade and objectification of Women. Mingle with activists, businesspeople and other students in a gallery space at the Tate...

And this isn't even everything...

WATCH THIS SPACE! More coming next week. If you register for six of our wonderful events, and fill up your SVW loyalty card with beautiful stamps, you will get discounts at some of South Ken's finest restaurants and cafés (Nando's, Café Deco and La Patisserie to name just a few...)

Find out more and register for one or all of our events here: www.imperialhub.org/svw2013. Please e-mail us with any questions! volunteering@imperialhub.org



Features Editors: Stephen Smith,
 Caroline Wood
 felix@imperial.ac.uk

FEATURES

You know TED^x, now meet... **TEDMED**Live Imperial College

Joshua Maxey Writer

Fresh from the excitement of last year's incredibly successful TEDx event, those great TED vibes return to Imperial College once more, this time bringing with them TEDMEDLive.

TEDMED is a community of the brightest minds interested in overcoming the world's most pressing medical and health challenges. Once a year they congregate in Washington, DC to bring to bear the latest thinking and research into a diverse range of fields surrounding the human condition, but don't be tricked into thinking TEDMED is of interest only to medics.

The four day conferences are extremely multidisciplinary, combining talks and presentations with performances from artists, poets and musicians. Highlights from past TEDMED conferences include David Blaine telling a room full of medical professionals how he continually defied the ad-

vice of doctors in his pursuit to break the record for holding one's breath under water, and illusionist Eric Mead demonstrating the complex power of the placebo with nothing but a piece of cutlery. These talks alone demonstrate the amazing accessibility to medical insight and innovation a TEDMED event affords its audience.

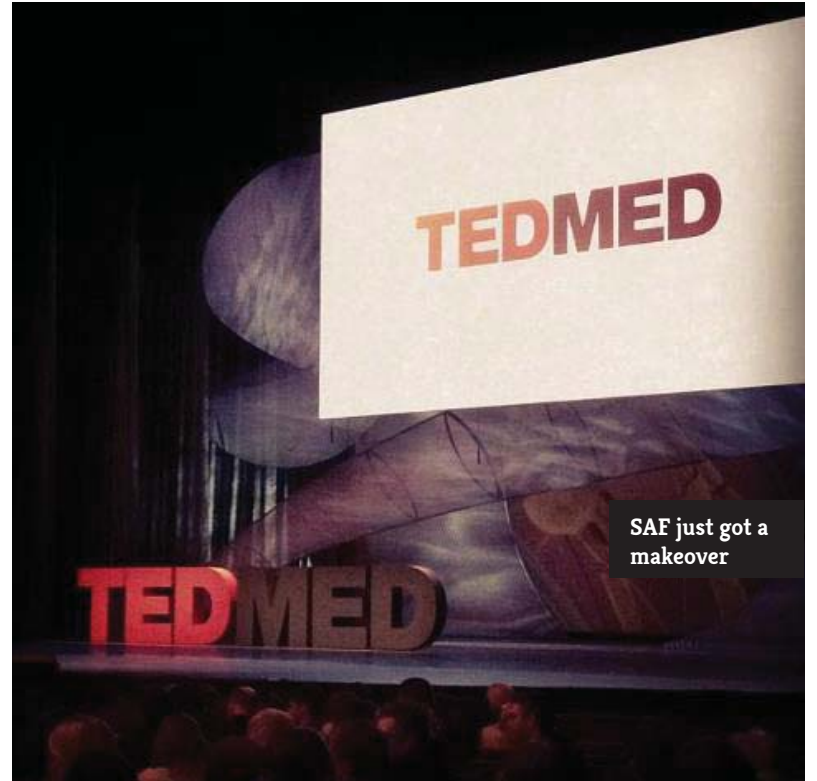
However, until this year, to be in a live TEDMED audience required a trip to the States. All that has now changed as it was revealed today that a license has been obtained to hold 'TEDMEDLive at Imperial College', a sister event to the conference in DC, the first of its kind outside the US.

From April 16-19 TEDMEDLive Imperial College will feature streams from stateside as well as a programme of live speakers, performers and workshops. All these will be presented under the overarching mission to 'Combine the nexus of health, information and technology with compelling personal stories and glimpses into the future of healthcare and medicine.'

Although many of the details have yet to be revealed, the event is expected to celebrate the contributions of Imperial College and the UK as a whole to the advancement of medicine and healthcare and is expected to be a big draw due to its unique European location.

Ticket prices are expected to be announced in the following days, but the organising committee has confirmed that a proportion of tickets will be made exclusively available to Imperial students at a lower price to make the event as widely available as possible.

More details are expected in the coming days and weeks. Discover them first on the TEDMEDLive at Imperial blog, found here: www.TEDMEDLiveImperial.com.



SAE just got a makeover

MENTOR > BOSS

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This is your invitation to join an organisation offering greater opportunity, greater challenge and greater satisfaction. An organisation dedicated to teamwork and collaboration. An organisation working in the forefront of technology, helping 92 of the *Fortune* Global 100 to reinvent business. Our capabilities are so broad, you can even change jobs without ever changing companies. Talk to Accenture and discover how great you can be.

Boot Camp – your toughest test yet

Boot Camp could be the most intense learning experience of your life. We won't tell you the location. We won't even tell you the agenda. All we can tell you right now is that you will negotiate a packed itinerary of business games and other mental challenges.

This is a popular scheme, and competition is fierce so the first skill we'll test is your response time. Applications are open now for first & final year students and close on 22nd

February. However places are filled on a first-come, first-served basis so apply early to avoid disappointment.

Boot Camp takes place 25th – 27th March 2013. It could also be the start of your future with us, as attending Boot Camp means you are fast-tracked to interview for Accenture's 2014 graduate, industrial placement or summer vacation scheme. All will be revealed by visiting our graduate website.

accenture.com/bootcamp

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Imperial has talent

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Anisa Nomaan

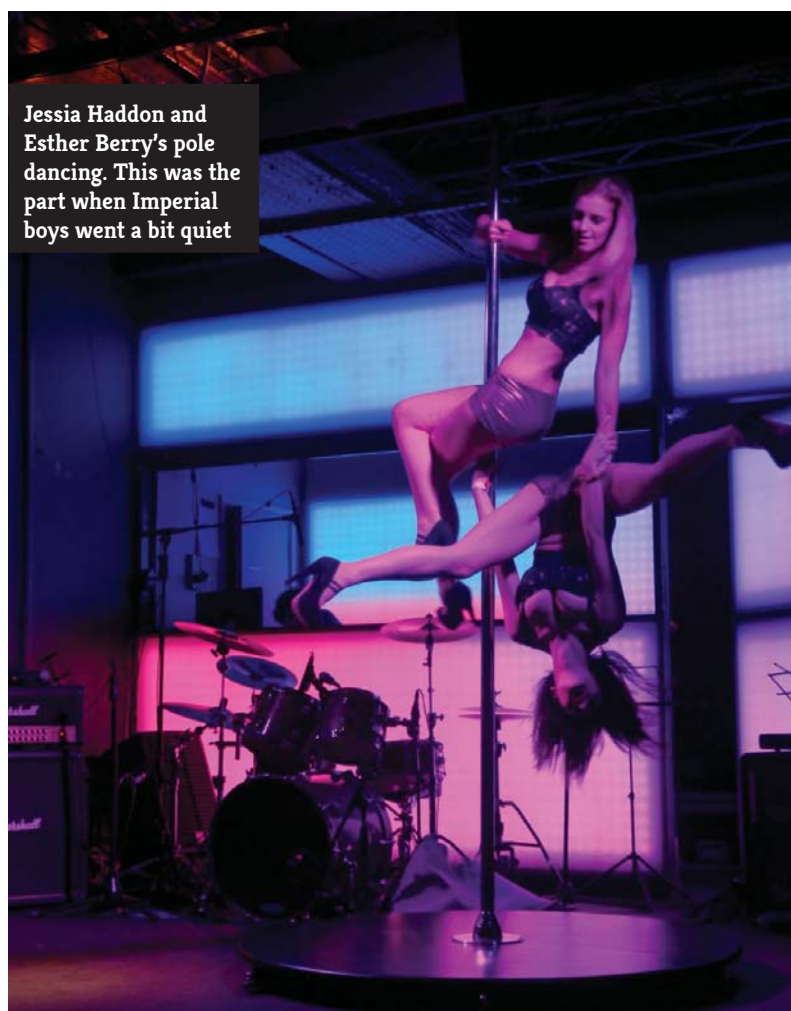
10 acts, 3 judges, 1 night and a whole lot of fun! This year's Imperial's Got Talent has proved to be bigger and better than ever before and has raised over £1700 for IC Save the Children. Our finalists gave us an amazing show with joint third place going to Jessica Haddon and Esther Berry representing Pole Dancing Society and Kasia Pietrzykowska's Hula Hoop act. In second place we had Wellington Tsu performing a body-popping dance and the winner of Imperial's Got Talent 2013 was... Vidish Athavale doing a Michael Jackson mash-up dance! The judges had many things to say about each performance with the RAG President David Goldsmith commenting that he loved the Belly Dancing act, Union President Paul Beaumont saying he was 'moved' by the Piano act and our Save the Children President Yang Liu left speechless after the UK national yo-yo champion performed. With a guest appearance from Cameron Jay, who has performed with Emillie Sande, a mega raffle draw and crazy after-party, we can happily say that this year's Imperial's Got Talent was the best ever! A massive thank you to everyone who came down and to the performers who helped us raise such a substantial amount of money for the charity. We hope to see you all there next year!



Michael Jackson mash up, the eventual winner Vidish Athavale



Wellington Tsu's body popping. Definitely won the hat competition



Jessia Haddon and Esther Berry's pole dancing. This was the part when Imperial boys went a bit quiet



Kasia Pietrzykowska's Hula Hooping. Also wins hardest name to spell



The judges. From left to right: Paul Beaumont (Union President); Yang Liu (Save the Children President); David Goldsmith (RAG Chair)

Political Philosophy Society: Previous and Forthcoming Events

Richard Murphy on the Corporate Tax Scandal: Thinking with Portals
Yaqub Chaudhary lets you know what they have coming up this term



Last term the Political Philosophy Society invited Richard Murphy to speak about the furore amongst the public, media and politicians that arose as a reaction to news of the tax affairs of major corporations.

As a chartered accountant and economist, Richard Murphy, a founder of the Tax Justice Network and director of Tax Research, has been an instrumental figure in bringing to light almost every major corporate tax story at present and is a regular commentator in print and on the radio. He is also a prolific writer on his web log at taxresearch.org.uk.

The seminar was organised at the height of the scandal with new stories being released daily. The very week the seminar was organised, Bloomberg uncovered that Google avoided \$2bn in worldwide taxes by moving \$10bn to a Bermuda based entity. In addition to this, the *Sunday Independent in Ireland* found Google paid only 0.14% tax on sales of \$62bn in seven years.

Other companies implicated in this brazen circumvention of taxation include Starbucks with sales of £3bn in 14 years which paid only £8.6m in corporation tax and Amazon with UK sales of £3.35bn in 2011 which only reported £1.8m in tax expenses.

The companies would all insist on full compliance with the laws through financial advice from the "Big Four" accounting firms. The response of Eric Schmidt, Google Chairman, was unapologetic saying that the company

was proudly capitalistic and paid taxes in "legally prescribed ways". Yet numerous MPs and commentators condemned these practices on the basis of morality. For example, Margaret Hodge of the public accounts committee said quite clearly, "We're not accusing you of being illegal, we are accusing you of being immoral."

Thus Richard Murphy was asked to address whether this really is a question of morality. Has Google been breaking its motto of "Don't be evil"?

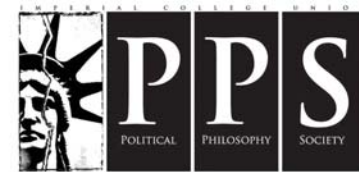
A full recording of the event is now available on the Political Philosophy website in which he begins by discussing why this is a significant issue now and the scale of the "tax gap" in relation to the UK deficit. He then addresses the question of legality and how companies avoid tax by undermining rules to prevent double taxation and finally, he presents his argument on why aggressive tax avoidance is unethical by considering the nature of the state and the power of legislation in enforcing property rights and the right to tax.

The next Political Philosophy Society event will be on Thursday 7th February at 6:30pm in RSM LTG20 on "The Future of Money". A panel of invited speakers will discuss future money systems that may emerge in the midst of widespread financial crises and with the vast proliferation of digital technology. For example, will our fundamental conception of money be altered by the emergence of virtual currencies such as Bitcoin and as more transactions are completed

electronically? Or will it be necessary to return to a money system based on the gold standard?

The three invited speakers are Detlev Schlichter (Economist and author of *Paper Money Collapse – The Folly of Elastic Money and the Coming Monetary Breakdown*), Tarek El Diwany (writer and consultant in Islamic banking and finance and a senior partner at Zest Advisory LLP) and Amir Taaki (Bitcoin project developer and Chairman of the Bitcoin Consultancy).

The PPS exists as a forum for discussion on a broad range of political and philosophical matters. Its aim is to encourage debate and discussion on campus that will lead to a better understanding of the world in general. It is a student led society and participation is very welcome. If you are interested in joining the committee or participating in some other way then please email political.philosophy@imperial.ac.uk for further information, or go to union.ic.ac.uk/pps.



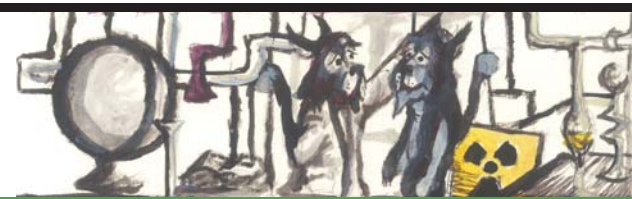
IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY

the FUTURE of MONEY

Thursday 7th February, 6:30pm
LTG20, Royal School of Mines, South Kensington Campus

A panel discussion on future money systems that may emerge in the midst of widespread financial crises and with the vast proliferation of digital technology with:
Detlev Schlichter (Economist and author of *Paper Money Collapse – The Folly of Elastic Money and the Coming Monetary Breakdown*),
Tarek El Diwany (writer and consultant in Islamic banking and finance and a senior partner at Zest Advisory LLP).
Amir Taaki (Bitcoin project developer and Chairman of the Bitcoin Consultancy)





Destiny's childless

Lucy Hagger teaches us about the birds, the bees and the pill with some biology thrown in

<http://www.hsmagazine.net>

The pill has been letting women grab life by the balls instead of washing those of unwanted children for over 50 years. Roughly 100 million women worldwide take the pill and this has led to improved quality of living across the globe, huge reductions in numbers of deaths during childbirth and an understandably massive decrease in the number of unwanted pregnancies.

The pill acts by changing hormone levels to trick the body into thinking that it is already pregnant. This stops eggs being released from ovaries and leads to various gruesome sounding things like increasing your cervical mucus. The main aim is to make the womb a pretty inhospitable place for eggs.

So the pill has been having its way with women's wombs for a long time and has played an important part in allowing women to have better educations and explore further into the working world. It's unlikely that many female CEOs and even **Destiny's Child** could have been such independent women if it weren't for contraceptives like the pill.

However, along with these many female-empowering outcomes of the pill, there is evidence that the pill may be altering other choices that females make, including their choice of potential suitors and their sexual tendencies.

Normally, when women are not on the pill, they experience alterations in their mate preferences through their menstrual cycle. Research has shown that when women are ovulating, and therefore fertile, they show a strong preference for more masculine and dominant men. Whereas when women are not fertile they shift their preference to more feminine 'good father' type men who can look after them and provide them with resources, be it sandwiches or diamonds. So these changes in women's instincts lead to the exploitation of men for either their potential to show-er you with resources or to provide their fantastic genes.

This cycling has been put down as one of the key reasons why women tend to cheat more on their partners when ovulating. Women also tend to act in a more sexually promiscuous way when ovulating, so single men of Imperial, maybe it would be in your benefit to show some interest in the la-

“It's unlikely that... even Destiny's Child could have been such independent women if it weren't for contraceptives like the pill”

dies' menstrual cycles. However, these women are generally going to be seriously fertile, so kids... use protection.

Preference changes also occur in men in response to ovulating women. It has been shown that men are actually more attracted to women when they are ovulating, be it because the women are acting more confidently or that men are picking up on some kind of pheromone-type signal. So, what better way to test this idea than send a load of awkward scientists to a strip club? They basically looked at female stripper wages throughout their menstrual cycles and found that they earned on average \$150 more when they were ovulating. This pretty ridiculous sounding fact is true; it's been proven using numerous beloved statistical techniques. Therefore, I conclude that ovulation makes me (and all you other women) \$150 sexier. So thank you to you ovulation for fuelling t h a t questionably sexy dancing in Metric for the many years to come.

All this normal cycling is altered when women are on the pill. Instead of having a change in mate preference, women on the pill are generally stuck in the 'good father' preference. As women don't actually ovulate when on the pill, the switch in preference to dominant, sexy, genetically matched men does not occur or does to a much lesser extent.

The kinds of relationships that form when women are on the pill therefore tend to be with 'good father' type males. Questionnaires of these couples



Michelle is struggling to remember the last time she took her pill...

showed that they actually tended to be happier in their relationship and therefore they often lasted much longer than couples that met when the woman was not on the pill. However, a huge majority of these couples stated that they were disappointed with their sex lives and weren't really very attracted to their partners.

There are even further issues. Say, there is a lovely couple that got together when the girl was on the pill. They go through life fulfilling numerous dating and romantic clichés until finally he pops the question. What wonderful news! NO. Following this apparent joyous news the inevitable baby conversations are going to come up, and the decision to come off the pill commences. Problem 1: when women come off the pill they show a strong preference for the masculine, sexy male type. This is not the type of man our scenario husband is. This means that these kinds of couples have an increased chance of splitting up at this point when the woman comes off the pill. Problem 2: If the couple do stay together, questionnaires have shown that these couples are more dysfunctional, unhappy and have unfulfilling sex lives. So your options here are either, never have children, stay on the pill forever and continue with your lovely relationship, stop taking the pill and break up with partner or finally stay with your partner and grow into an old bitter couple that probably hate each other.

These problems aren't even the end of it. As more women are on the pill than ever before, more women are having to face these potential situations, and many are choosing to stay with their "good father" partner and having their children. These men are not as well matched genetically as those men they would naturally choose to make babies with and it has been suggested that this may lead to some detrimental health impacts in the future. Basically, those men that are better matched genetically have more genetic dissimilarities, particularly in terms of genes involved in immunity. Therefore, if more women are having children with poor genetically matched men, there are likely

going to be more children with worse immune systems than if women were picking men naturally without the pill's interference. This could mean more allergy prone children and the potential increase in for example, cases of asthma. With the future for health looking already increasingly bleak with ever increasing waste lines and pint glasses, the addition of more sickly children is not ideal.

But please don't worry, this is not the case for every woman and these negative health effects aren't predicted to be severe. Also, if you did meet your partner while on the pill, don't panic! This is not the case for everyone, you may be the lucky exception.

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SCIENCE

Influenza research restart

Philippa Skett on the H5N1 moratorium and why caution isn't bad

“With great power comes great responsibility,” one wise man once said. Although he was unknowingly hinting at those with super powers to tread carefully, it too can be applied in the wider context to those that have the capacity to seriously affect people, either for good or bad. Right now, scientists are the super heroes of the real world (that includes you, so feel free to give yourself a pat on the back right now. Yes, even if you are alone in the Library Café), and with technology accelerating at metaphorical speeds to the point where we had to even redefine the greatest literal speed, great responsibility needs to come into play too.

Virologists are such people who have been treading carefully as of late. Last year they imposed upon themselves a moratorium to halt investigations into the avian H5N1 virus – a strain of influenza that is gaining momentum in infection, both in humans and birds, and which could lead to the next pandemic.

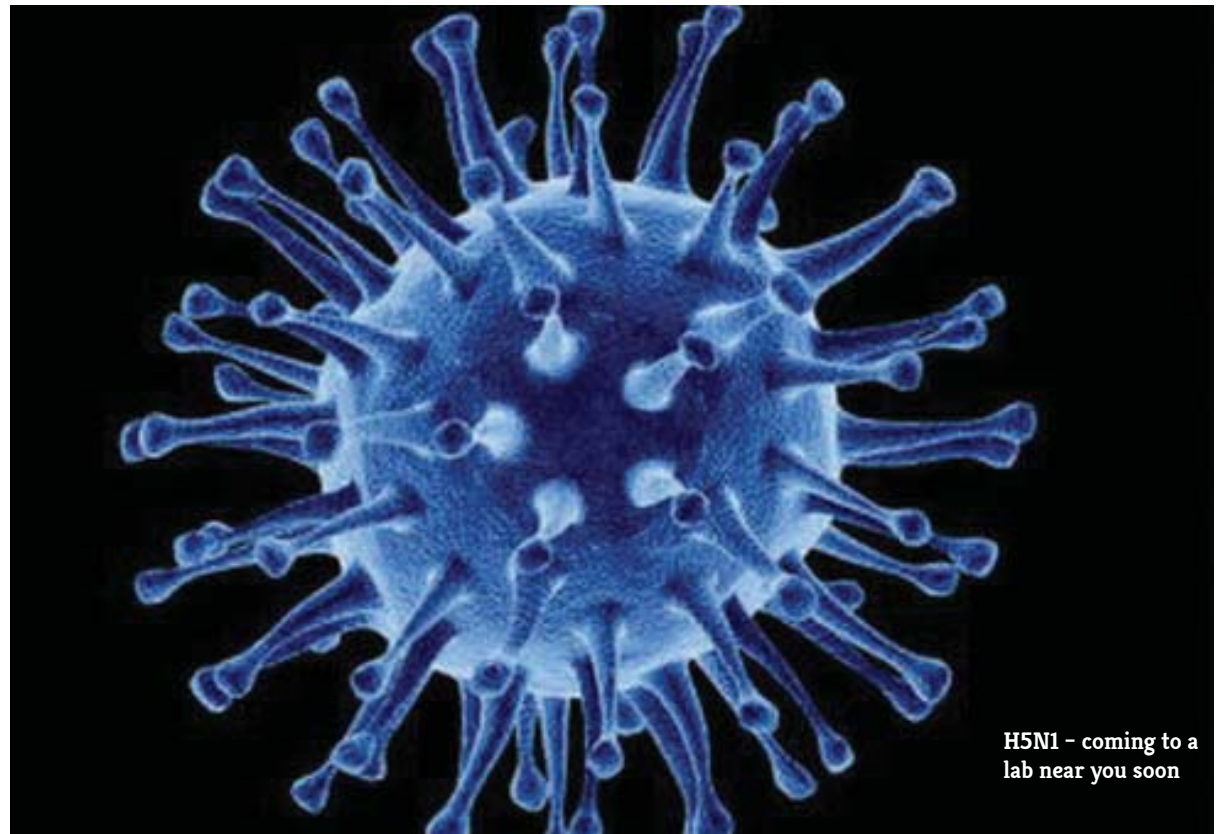
Research was initially put on a 60 day hiatus in January 2012 to discuss the biosecurity hazards of the investigations into H5N1. This was sparked by the attempt to publish previous research covering the mutations needed for the virus to allow transmission between ferrets and that could possibly allow for human transmission too. Researchers reasoned that such

mutations could just as easily occur in nature, and ignorance will definitely not lead to bliss if we just turn a blind eye. It is better knowing the capacity of the virus and being able to plan for a possible pandemic than feeling threatened by the hazards posed by carrying out such research in the first place, the scientists reasoned.

However, people who opposed this included the National Scientific Advisory Board for Biosecurity sector of the American government, who feared that without censoring the papers, such data could be misused by small labs that could lead to an outbreak of an artificially manufactured, dangerous strain of the pathogen. So despite research picking up considerable speed, the hiatus was introduced.

This “60 day” period halted as of last week however, and a letter from key researchers in the field confirmed that with the WHO, among others, issuing rules concerning biosafety, biosecurity and communication, investigations will now proceed. Governments and institutions need to approve research before it is taken any further, and a biosafety level of 3 or higher in labs is suggested as necessary for the work. With level 4 being the highest and necessary for investigations into pathogens such as Ebola, another virus whose infection is lethal and currently has no cure, level 3 for a virus with a lethality that is considerably less was considered appropriate.

However, how careful is too careful? “Scientific curiosity,” for want of



H5N1 - coming to a lab near you soon

a better phrase, has never been one to carefully toe the line between what is needed for scientific advancement and the relative views of the general public. Safety concerns, moral conflicts and technological constraints have all been known to hinder research, and it is how researchers conduct themselves when overcoming these barriers, and the responsibility they exhibit, that can add, or dimin-

ish considerable value to the papers that they then publish.

Often, a balance has to be struck, and this may be an example of when the balance was just about right. The introduced safety measures may limit the lab numbers that can investigate H5N1, but at least the labs that will be able to will do so without danger to themselves and others. Advancement speed may be stifled, but at

least measures like these may stop silly journalists wandering into labs and getting bit by whatever research is on show at the time. Because as much as we might like it, there are not enough Uncle Bens in the world to simply state that with “Great power comes great responsibility,” and hope that that alone does the job.

DOI:10.1038/nature11858

Shakespeare's sonnets encoded in DNA

Nick Kennedy Science Writer

Forget parchment in calf skin binding. Forget mock pine filing cabinets jammed with A4. Forget CDs, DVDs, MP3s – in fact, forget all digital, data-storing acronyms.

A team of scientists has stored all 154 of Shakespeare's sonnets in DNA – the Bard of Avon quickly turns in his grave – along with 26 seconds of Martin Luther King's “I have a dream” speech, Watson and Crick's paper on the structure of DNA, and a photograph of the European Bioinformatics Institute where the research took place.

The findings, reported in *Nature*, suggest that DNA is the perfect archive. Enormous data sets can be



Deoxyribonucleic acid: THE BEST ACID

stored concisely and accurately. If maintained in cold, dry and dark environment, it could last for millennia.

The team led by Nick Goldman translated computer files into DNA code, synthesised the DNA, se-

quenced it, and reconstructed the files with 100 percent accuracy.

All the data was stored on 153,335 strings of DNA, each made up of 117 nucleotides.

Nick Goldman suggests that DNA storage could be used in large-scale,

long-term projects, for example, at CERN, the European nuclear research centre in Geneva. Eighty petabytes – that is 1 million gigabytes – of data about the Large Hadron Collider currently stored on disk could be kept in a small amount of

DNA.

Technological advances are rapidly reducing DNA synthesis costs, suggesting this form of storage might be with us sooner than we think.

Scientists have considered storing data in live vectors, such as bacteria. But mutations might change the text over time and storage conditions would have to be carefully regulated. And perhaps the idea is just too strange: Martin Luther King, more than forty-five years after his assassination, living on in a bacterial smear.

Shakespeare's Sonnet 55 begins: Not marble, nor the gilded monuments of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme... A statement that appears eerily true.

DOI: 10.1038/nature11875

<http://www.westminster.ac.uk>

Heatwave at the corona

Nick Kennedy Science Writer

The enormous fusion furnace at the centre of our solar system has been continually belting out light and heat for the past 4.6 billion years since its formation. From the distance the Earth lies from the sun, the solar rays are strong enough to warm the atmosphere to around 20-30°C. The sun's surface is understandably hotter – with measurements around the 6000°C mark. But one question which has had solar physicists baffled is that its corona – the particulate layer above the surface – has temperatures measuring up to 4,000,000°C. So where's all this extra heat coming from?

Other than the regular conduction heating from the photosphere below, theories have been put forward that wave heating is a contributor. Jonathan Cirtain, a solar physicist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama explains that sound waves, caused by friction and vibrations within the sun, travel to the surface

and deliver energy in the form of heat. Calculations using this model lead to a coronal temperature estimate of only 1,500,000°C, so while this theory is enough in cooler regions of the corona, there is something more happening in the warmer regions which is more than doubling the temperature.

Recently, Cirtain and colleagues have gathered evidence in support of another theory focusing on the sun's magnetic field. The team sent out a rocket equipped with the High-resolution Coronal Imager (Hi-C) into space last July. The resolution of Hi-C was 0.2 arcseconds; enough to pinpoint features on the sun as small as 150 kilometres (which is comparable to spotting a 5 pence piece from 6 kilometres away).

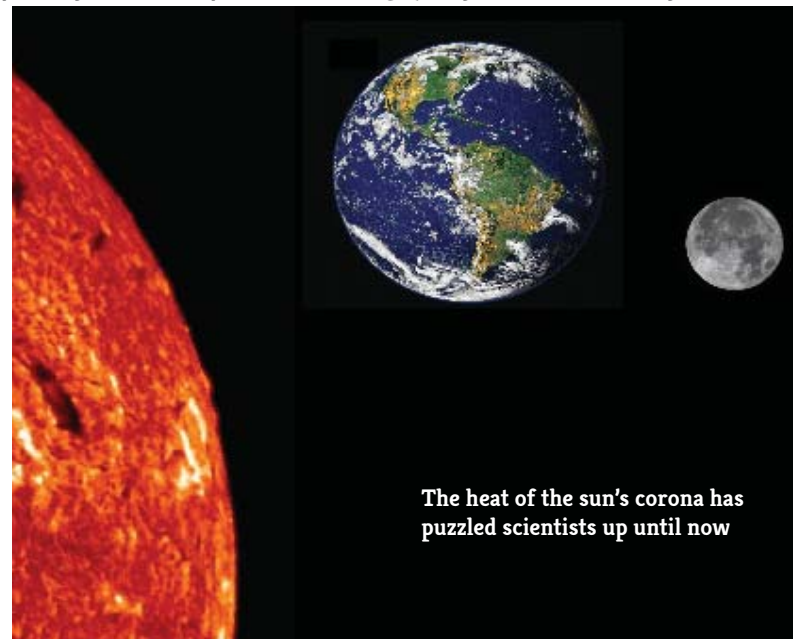
The camera-telescope was set to measure the extreme parts of the ultraviolet spectrum (with wavelengths at 193 Ångström) that are usually blocked by the Earth's own atmosphere, with the aim of observing the emission lines of Fe XII atoms (iron atoms which have had 11 electrons

in their outer shells ejected). Despite venturing out for a total of 5 minutes, observing a mere 3% of the sun's surface in this time, two distinct episodes were observed where the magnetic field strongly interacted to produce Fe XII. These contortions of the magnetic 'braids' would release enough energy to raise temperatures to as high as 7,000,000°C. It is likely that these interactions occur fairly regularly in magnetically-active areas of the sun, providing overall coronal heating, bringing temperature estimates closer to those measured.

The theory that magnetic braids (strands of magnetic field) were being unravelled and reconnected has been theoretically proposed before, but it lacked substantial evidence. Cirtain and his team have now observed results that can provide firmer backing to the theory.

"The new findings are a tantalizing glimpse of what is possible with such an instrument," says Peter Cargill, an Imperial College solar physicist. Even with this limited glance into solar

<http://sottyreview.wordpress.com/2012/03/17/why-does-the-moon-stay-with-earth/>



The heat of the sun's corona has puzzled scientists up until now

mechanisms, the new apparatus developed is still enough to test many old hypotheses, and to develop new ones. The next step will hopefully be to develop instruments which can

orbit Earth full time, providing a continual stream of data pertaining to the sun and its unusually hot corona.

DOI:10.1038/nature11772

Imperial College London

Moving out of halls and thinking about accommodation for next year?

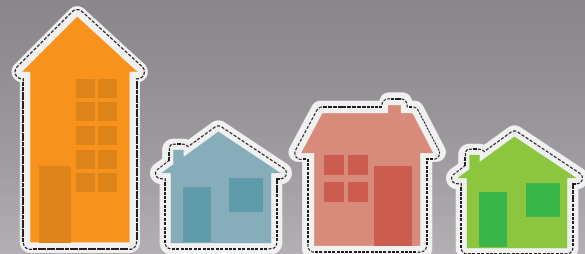
Don't miss the **Private Housing Talk** Tuesday 26 February 2013!

 **When and where:**

- 16.30 Exhibition opens in the Queen's Tower Rooms
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- 19.00 Exhibition continues with **a FREE prize draw to win an iPad mini!**

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- » advice on moving out of halls
- » tips and advice on when and where to start looking for a place to live in the private sector
- » learning how much you can expect to pay for rent and other costs
- » advice on your rights as a tenant and how to deal with landlords and their contracts
- » tips on moving in/out
- » exclusive opportunities to meet estate agents, landlords and other accommodation service providers



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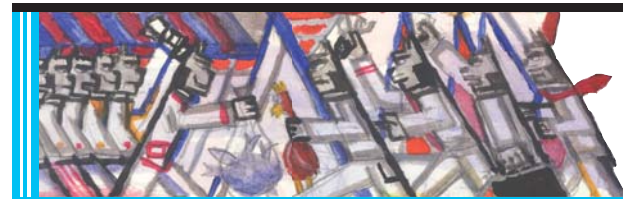
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Business Editor: Deepka Rana
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BUSINESS

Finding your way around the Valley

Imperial Entrepreneurs unveil the latest International Insight Series

When it comes to the crunch explaining what 'Silicon Valley' actually represents – ask yourself – do you really have a clear understanding? For most of us, I suppose the influence from popular social media tools and cool high tech gadgets will probably relate us to multinational corporations like Facebook, Microsoft and Google which have offices situated in that region of San Francisco. Perhaps this amount of information is more than enough to bore some of the more ignorant ones about tech-based entrepreneurship – but honestly, Silicon Valley's history and its place at the forefront of innovation and enterprise has more than what meets the eye.

Silicon Valley, as its name suggests, comprises a trove of internet or electronics-based companies that dominate markets and set 'tech-fashions'. But while this name aptly describes companies like Facebook, Yahoo and Apple, you should know many other kinds of corporations are also present in the same region. Take Gilead Science for instance. One of the top companies in the region, it is a research-based biopharmaceutical organization that conducts medical-related R&D in drugs and therapies. As you can see, it is hardly related to a silicon chip or semiconductor manufacturing. So, why do we use the term "Silicon"?

William Shockley, one of the 'found-

ing fathers' of Silicon Valley is the reason behind its nickname, due to his innovations in the design of the semiconductor. But its actual beginnings reach all the way back to early 20th century, when experimentation with electronics was taking place. Subsequently by the 1970s, while semiconductors contributed a major portion of the area's economy, its fame as the region where computers and graphical user interfaces were born soon drew more companies and venture capitalists into the region for business. And right before the dot-com crash, the Silicon Valley found itself to be the centre of an explosion of internet-based businesses.

Today, Silicon Valley is no longer considered just the centre of silicon chip manufacturers, its name is synonymous with world-class innovation and technological progress – a far cry from its early beginnings.

And now, as Imperial students, a select few of us will have the chance to experience it first-hand.

A month from now will mark the start of the International Insight Series to Silicon Valley, San Francisco, where a series of high-key appointments will be conducted within the world's fastest growing hub of cutting edge, high-tech companies. King's College Business Club and Imperial Entrepreneurs have jointly organised this trip to provide Imperial students the opportunity to visit some of the most prestigious companies existing



in Silicon Valley today.

With presentations, discussions and networking just beside some of the most successful start-up ventures in the world, this trip is promised to be that ticket you have been hoping for to get through the door for a promising career in entrepreneurship while

of course – soaking in the sun on the other side of the Atlantic.

The application process is really simple. To apply, you will have to forward your CV to zhong.lim12@imperial.ac.uk and answer the following question in less than 200 words: "What would you hope to gain from attend-

ing this trip?" The deadline for online applications at <http://imperialentrepreneurs.com/silicon-valley-trip/> is midnight on the 4th of February 2013.

For further details please visit imperialentrepreneurs.com

Identify your Dream Team!

Nitin Nihalani

Writer

I'm sure you've all heard the phrase 'two heads are better than one'. Seems pretty obvious, right? By this logic, it follows that three heads are better than two, four better than three and so on. Unfortunately, when it comes to startups, the equation is not quite so simple. Finding the right team is a very long and difficult task, and one mistake could jeopardise the entire business. Ed Catmull, co-founder of Pixar, summarises it perfectly: "If you give a good idea to a mediocre team, they'll screw it up. But if you give a mediocre idea to a great team, they'll make it work."

There are two main aspects to look at to build such a great team; skills and attitude.

Together, the ideal team will have a

broad enough set of skills to be able to cover any task that needs to be done, but enough of an overlap so that the team communicates well and the idea doesn't crash and burn the second one person leaves.

For most projects, the ideal team will have the following members:

The Visionary: the person who came up with the idea and is willing to put everything behind it. This is usually the person that runs the show, but also motivates the team and makes sure all bases are covered

The Brains: this person brings the idea to life using technical or other specialist skills.

The Logistics: once the idea has been brought to life, this person brings it out into the wild and makes sure it reaches the target market.

The Salesman: the one who makes sure that once it reaches the tar-

get market, people are convinced to spend money on it.

The Financier: the person that tracks the cash flow, making sure that enough money is being made and not too much is being spent.

Of course this will all vary depending on the business; one based on a brand will need more logistics and sales power, whereas one based on a new invention or discovery may need more brains behind it.

Despite the common misconception, skilled people are actually not too difficult to find, especially in an institution like Imperial College. The main challenge comes in finding people with the right attitude.

First and foremost, everyone in the team must share a passion for the business. This is what drives the sleepless nights and initial low pay before the idea develops and can start mak-

ing money. The visionary will naturally have the most passion, but the ultimate goal and belief that the product will bring value to the end users must be prevalent throughout.

Beyond that is the work ethic and personality fit with the team. We have all had experience with lazy members and those that constantly bring the team down. Even if they have the perfect skill set and are brilliant at what they do, they will undoubtedly disturb the harmony of the rest of the group and could potentially jeopardise the whole project.

However, it should be noted that there is a fine line between a naysayer and a critical thinker. Naysayers are the pessimists that find fault wherever possible, but offer no reasonable solution or coping mechanism. This is a clear sign that they do not believe in the idea and should be kicked out as

soon as possible. Critical thinkers, i.e. those who can make realistic outlooks and prevent overly ambitious and frivolous actions, are essential. Entrepreneurs are naturally optimistic, and the Visionary in particular would be blinded by it. A good critical eye can rein the team in and prevent early burnout.

So how do you find your dream team? That's fairly simple for most of us because the chances are your perfect match is somewhere in Imperial. It's just a matter of joining the right societies and talking to the right people to find them. Beyond that, LinkedIn and personal contacts need to be utilised to find the right people. It isn't easy and can severely delay the development of an idea, but once you are surrounded by people who share the same vision, there will be nothing that can get in your way.

COMMENT

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Navid Nabijou, James Simpson
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How to look good dead

Rory Fenton on posthumous presentation



Rory Fenton

I was told once that the best way to know a city is to get lost in it. I can't say if this is a universal truth but with my truly terrible sense of direction I've had plenty of chances to put it to the test. It was just this Monday that I made my favourite finding to date. Bumbling around the mean streets of Chelsea, lost and late for a lecture, I took a shortcut through Brompton Cemetery and turned a five minute shortcut into a 30 minute stroll, stopping at the most interesting graves, walking around the different mausoleums and ensuring I was more than fashionably late for that lecture.

The cemetery houses the mouldering great and the decaying good of 19th and early 20th Century London and long ago reached capacity. But what attracted me to the place was not so much the architecture of the various stone monuments as gaining a snapshot of how people had chosen to have themselves, or their loved ones, remembered. To sum up one's life in the space of a gravestone, perhaps the length of a tweet, is surely impossible and yet something must be written. It was looking at the different attempts at this "summing up" that grabbed my attention for so long and got me thinking about how and why people pick certain graves. For those of you considering dying at some stage, here's my handy cut-out-and-keep guide to choosing your grave. After all, if you get it wrong, you won't get the chance to change your mind.

The first consideration when choosing your final resting place is surely location. Residents of Brompton Cemetery clearly had this in mind by picking the leafiest, poshest area in the city. One of the saddest aspects of death is its democratic nature – it takes us all and treats us as if we were the same. By buying a really swanky location for your grave you ensure

that future generations will know just how loaded you were. If you wouldn't be seen dead outside of SW, make sure you aren't.

Now after a long, hard life don't you deserve to decay in style? Cemetery chic is very much in for when you go under but choosing that perfect tomb isn't quite as simple as keeping up with latest from the Milan catwalk. You'll want a timeless classic, something that endures through the ages but is still totally "you" and stands out. This absolutely means that the classic "rounded rectangle" gravestone is a no-no. Nothing says, "I really wasn't that much" like a miserable rounded rectangle – it's the jeans and t-shirt of the grave world and, darling, you deserve better. Not all budgets stretch to it but a tasteful, life-sized statue of an angel is a great way to express yourself and something many Brompton residents have given their seal of approval. Another really great investment that we at Felix can't get enough of is a roof. Remember, your hair still grows after you die and you certainly don't want it getting wet. A classic choice is the mausoleum, a small house to keep you nice and dry during those winter months and really leave your mark on the landscape.

Lastly we come to the tricky part – what to write? This has to be the most personal part of the grave experience – just how can you leave that perfect final message to the world? Yes, you could go it alone, but we at Felix have some great tips to make your epitaph an epictaph. Remember that the ideal gravestone is a permanent business card; you want to make sure that people know just who's worm-gobbled remains they're walking past. Include any titles you may have like Sir, Lady and so on. I saw one person in Brompton who went so far as to mention their Oxford MA and the barrister firm they worked for – take an up-to-date CV to your local stone masons



and see what they can do with it.

Once you've made it clear just who you were, how will you find those choice sentences that really encapsulate your life?

This could be quite a challenge but luckily there's a handy, one-size-fits-all solution to that: a bible quote. Nobody wants to run the risk of having people disapprove of their choice of epitaph. By choosing a quote from the bible, even if you don't believe in it in the slightest, you shield yourself from criticism and ensure you blend in nicely with the other bible quotes on your neighbours' graves. Sorted.

So there's my guide to How To Look Good Dead, allowing you to remain fashionable right up to the end and beyond. By following these simple rules you really can take all of the hassle out of dying and finally begin to look forward to it.

But let's say, for the sake of argument, that there's another approach to death and another take on the Brompton Cemetery. The stoneworks

today are giving way to the chisel-like wind and rain of a century, the carved statements of self-importance rendered increasingly illegible with passing years. The cemetery remains, as any other cemetery, a field of buried, indistinguishable skeletons; a congress of ex-people. It was this truth that, for me, held the real power of the Brompton Cemetery. The utter absurdity of so much of our existence is laid out in its coarse, stone-carved nudity. The gaping disconnect between the pompous monuments and the anonymous skeletons beneath them could well serve as a stark reflection of our own lives. Our obsessions with collecting accolades and positions simply for keeping up appearances seem just as foolish as keeping a roof over our graves. What use is there in limiting our existence for the sake of the approval of others? One thing I certainly can recommend – next time you're walking to College and have some time on your hands, get lost. You just might like it.

Take an up-to-date CV to your stonemason and see what they can do with it



Something got you raging? Write for Comment!



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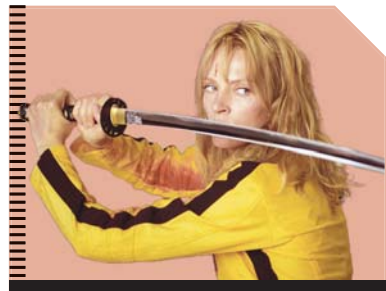


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Comment Editors: George Barnett,
 Navid Nabijou, James Simpson
 comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COMMENT

Isolated Imperial



Catina Willows

The Imperial attitude is warped by our exclusionism

So, imagine you're at a party with all the UK's universities. Standing in a corner are the Russell Group, stroking their rugby team ties and snubbing the rest of the unis, who are actually having fun. Out in the hallway are a bunch of businessmen in a circle, all jacking off onto Imperial, who willingly kneels in the middle.

They're jizzing job offers or something – don't read too much into this metaphor, it's just meant to show a point: Imperial isn't enjoying the party or talking to the other universities at all, but is at the centre of its own business bukkake. Imperial is isolated in a way like no other uni, and this isn't helping us (in fact, it makes us the creepy guy who's probably going to go postal).

I should have seen the warning signs when, during application, I found out that we're no longer a member of the University of London nor are we in the NUS. We don't even get the London Student on campus. All of these lead to one thing: a university that has no connection to the country's student body,

or even to the rest of London.

Paul Beaumont's recent comment, – "[the NUS] little reflects the needs and wants of the 'top end'" just seem to scream like a little spoilt brat, "but we're better than everyone else!" especially when all other unis at the top end are in the NUS. Our Union willingly and arrogantly puts us in a class above every other university, and like the spoilt brat, no one wants to play with us. I mean, our varsity game is against ourselves – that's sad, Imperial. Really fucking sad.

This has some real implications, too: sure, our research and graduate employment might be top, but what about the student experience? There's so many opportunities we're missing out on and I'm sure this is just one of the many things contributing to our abysmal student satisfaction rating.

The Imperial attitude is warped by our exclusionism, too. Look at the amount of hate the Feminist Society here has been getting (of which I'm not a member – though this may come as a shock to commenters on my previous article) just for daring to exist. Other universities



This is the only picture we could find for "isolation"

have had feminist or women's societies for years. They're a normal thing, though most Imperial students would never believe that. I've even heard of a feminist magazine – Cuntry Life – at Oxford. Oxford! It's a really worrying sign when we're winning at conservatism against the country's oldest university.

"Imperial apathy" is talked about a lot, and that's just another sign of

this. No wonder we're not going to protests or being active in politics if we have no idea what's going on. So, students, Paul, Union, please: let's do something about this. Voting yes to joining the NUS would be a great step, but maybe as a start we could say hello to our neighbours on the other side of London, or they're gonna forget that we exist.

Over-analysing - an Imperial tradition

Anum Farooq takes a positive view of life



Anum Farooq

believe that yesterday, today and tomorrow are simply the best days

Perhaps, everybody has Murphy in their life. Perhaps, many just do not notice it. Being a sensitive over thinker, I am always a little bit too aware of Murphy and his quirky laws. Basically, the theory goes that anything that can go wrong will go wrong.

Murphy always seemed to be in the picture, and I would worry non-stop about what could go wrong, what will go wrong and how to deal with it when it does go wrong. A while back, I had to be responsible and sensible, strong enough to restrain and calm a very ill person, alongside attempting to predict and prevent all the ways that there would be evil in the world as a child. Yet, trying to be balanced enough to contemplate the arguments with my foster mum, on one important bit about the universe or the other and being told otherwise.

I'll just pause here for a second. What about you? Just think of everything that has gone wrong in your life. On second thoughts, don't. Think about everything in your life that has been a lesson. It's strange right.

How do you feel with a saying from an Eastern Sage, who said "Why do



you complain of the rub, that polishes you, my friend?' Could it be that Mr Murphy is just a theoretical concept is inadvertently helping us become better people, in a transient life.

I don't know how it happened, or the moment when the weight from my shoulders was lifted and it felt like I could see clearly in the mist of reality. Occam's razor (from my limited understanding) is the concept that in essence does not seek a complicated explanation, but gets rid of the unnecessary, and holds true to the most straightforward way of explaining things.

Don't you see? Most people push

away happiness but subconsciously hold onto it. What we don't realize that happiness is here. Happiness is past, present and future, towards a tranquil horizon. A butterfly that comes and quietly sits by the shoulder, when we become too large for worry, too loyal for fickleness, too humble for arrogance, too funny for anger, too selfless for avarice, too brave to be to be influenced and too kind for jealousy.

One day I ran in the fields, and sat on branches that swayed in the wind, with the leaves a kaleidoscope of sunlight and green. I learnt that peace in all its definitions is a simple explanation

for the inner soul, and the outer world.

Find your path. Try to simplify life, find the simplest explanation and the most positive. It will make a world of difference. You have far more important and beautiful days to be dazed by challenges and miracles.

Define what is important, let go of the unnecessary. Think for yourself and simplify everything, understand the core. To see the translucent and most positive, to see good in all and to believe that yesterday, today and tomorrow are simply the best days, is a little philosophy that leads to nothing going wrong and everything going right.



Cubby away with the Fox

Carol Ann Cheah scouts out Fulham's newest kid on the (pub) block



When you're a new establishment issuing a challenge to been-around-the-block GBK by proclaiming you've got better burgers than they do – and offering punters the chance to play bartender with the first self-serve beer wall in the UK – you're sure to set a few tongues wagging. Tucked away from busy Fulham Broadway, where the quaint cobbled Vanston Place meets quiet Farm Lane, relative newcomer The Lazy Fox has done just that.

Initially I was slightly concerned that the oft-lauded beer wall was only a gimmicky way of drawing the punters – after stepping inside with my boyfriend, that certainly wasn't the case. Upon setting up a tab card and getting a pint-pulling demo from the lovely Jonathan, it actually presented itself as an ingenious benchmark for pubs to follow: PYOP (pour your own pint) means that even on a busy night, you won't be experiencing the infamous Imperial FiveSixEight-esque queues waiting for a pint. Or less than a pint, even – the clever wall (of which I'm trying hard not to insert references to a well-known kids' song about green bottles every time I think about it) allows you to pour in increments of 1/10th of a pint, with prices being displayed as you pour and adjusted depending on amounts.

This flexibility is perfect for the nitpicky to keep tabs (hah!) on their consumption, or for the curious ones

wanting to sample the whole mix of beers on offer. Don't expect Magners or Stella, as there's an eclectic international selection of eight drinks: from the Oktoberfest-favourite Warsteiner, to possibly my new favourite – craft brewer Meantime's offering of London Pale Ale. Popular customer suggestions sometimes appear as featured drinks on the wall, and while prices may be a bit higher compared to established favourite The White Horse further west (which we previously reviewed), I'm certainly not complaining with the added control you get over your tittle here. Of course, if you're not a craft beer person, you're more than welcome to have a good ol' pint of Guinness or some other classics from the friendly barman.

It's nice to see that in spite of all the modern bells and whistles, The Lazy Fox still has a cosy charm about it. The interior is clean and simple, with wooden accents, comfy couches and real fireplaces in the bar – all of which keep it from feeling spartan and give the place an intimate vibe, even on a quieter evening. The dining area at the back is roomy, easily seating a good amount of diners without feeling cramped. And of course, the Fox has two decent-sized screens with satellite TV for those all-important game days – other than in your own home, this is one of the few opportunities you'll get to watch satellite TV in “front-of-



the-hearth' comfort.

But of course, we couldn't leave the place without investigating their bold GBK-challenging claims. True to its aim, the core menu is mostly populated with, well, burgers (£9-12), while also being flanked by a selection of typical pub grub (like seafood linguine/sausage and mash) and daily specials, all perfectly tailored to the season. On Sundays, there's a separate roast dinner menu where the meat selection differs each week, and appears to be one of their more hectic days. Even though we didn't have wine, I have it on good authority that the selection is perfectly matched to the menu whilst not costing the Earth.

Our pan-fried halloumi salad

starter (one of said specials) was seasoned and dressed just right. I shared it with my boyfriend, who isn't the biggest fan of veggies but absolutely loved it – in hindsight, maybe I should've had one to myself!

Ever the carnivore, my boyfriend, plumped for their popular Redneck Burger (£11.95): an 8oz fillet ribeye mix and barbecue pulled pork combination served with chips on the side. Presented on a rustic wooden chopping board, the size was absolutely unreal. We reckoned that if our bubbly Greek waitress Yanna was raving about this burger despite not being a burger fan, we couldn't go wrong – and was she right. Fox one, GBK nil.

My Fritto Mistro di Mare, another daily special, single-handedly righted all that was wrong in this world with greasy overcooked seafood. The batter was light and crisp, the squid and prawns were cooked just right, and the fish fillets were so beautifully flaky that they put a Labour politician's promises to shame. Like the Redneck, this came with chips and salad on the side and was just as hearty. We noticed one couple opted to settle the bill at this point in the meal – prior to that we heard them commenting on how full they were getting even after two courses, so it wasn't just us!

Desserts (£6 each) were a mixed bag, as their Apple Crumble could've used a bit more time to crisp up the topping; but their Sticky Toffee Pudding served with ice cream was divine. The nice thing was that we were comfort-

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Mavrocostanti
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FOOD



ably encouraged by Yanna to give our opinion on both good and bad without feeling like we were treading on eggshells – brownie points for impeccable (and timely!) service. By the end of all three courses, even though we were starving earlier, we felt like the pub's namesake and retreated to one of the comfy aforementioned sofas near the fireplace to recuperate. My best bet is that even just a main course and drink combination would give your most Scrooge-like mates a 180.

Contrary to the sometimes-pretentious gastropubs you see nowadays, The Lazy Fox can probably be best described as a refreshing marriage between good ol' British tradition and the Facebook age. It strikes a nice

balance between the two, so you can enjoy the simple pleasures that come from pub tittle and grub enhanced with just the right amount of modern pizzazz. The Robot Pub Group, who run the place (along with its older sibling The Thirsty Bear in Waterloo) are also the masterminds behind the technology that makes the beer wall possible – along with a host of other solutions for optimizing the pub experience. Talk about having a long-term Show and Tell that works!

All in all, The Lazy Fox has something for everyone to enjoy, whether you're a traditionalist looking for a new watering hole or a tech geek curious about the beer wall. Go early in the week for a relaxing drink/meal and

catch up with mates or a date; stop by on match days, Sundays or one of their events/quizzes to enjoy some good ol' pub bustle (I've been assured that the matchday crowd is rather well-behaved!) You'll be well looked-after and you'll get to savour good drinks and a decent portion of food at a great price.

One final note: I wasn't exaggerating when I said this pub was in the Facebook age. If you're a Foursquare fiend, try checking in on your visit and see what happens. Thank us later.

*The Lazy Fox, 18 Farm Lane, Fulham. SW6 1PP. 020 7386 3783
Open 12pm-12am everyday
Reservations recommended for busier times (e.g. weekends.)*

ENJOYED THIS REVIEW?

The great folks at The Lazy Fox will be offering some special student deals when they launch their live music nights on Sundays in March. These deals will also cover their Monday quiz nights – so watch this space!

A very chunky review

Tim Arbabzadah and Caroline Wood try them for you...



It definitely sounds as if it's going to be amazing. The fudge is actually pretty nice. The problem is when you compare it to just a normal Chunky: doesn't add so much that you think it's revolutionary. Okay, we know that it's not exactly supposed to be pioneering new grounds, but, still, some innovation please.

Scores: Tim – 6/10 Caroline – 7/10

Big expectations were in store for this one. We basically assumed it was going to be a Kit Kat Chunky with a massive strip of Bounty-esque coconut in the middle of it. Turns out we had false hopes and it was just chocolate that tasted faintly of coconut. Weak taste meant it just tasted odd.

Scores: Tim – 2/10 Caroline – 2/10

This was the one that sounded amazing. In our minds, it was basically a Kit Kat Chunky Peanut Butter but with Nutella instead. That sounded incredible. It did actually have a strip of hazelnut stuff in it, and was pretty good, Still not close to the PB one, but it has mileage and could be the real deal.

Scores: Tim – 7/10 Caroline – 6/10

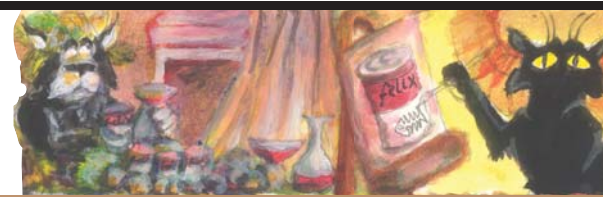
Reminiscent of the classic Club chocolate bar or some people's (Tim only probably) childhoods. It's actually just a Kit Kat Chunky with mint chocolate covering it instead of the normal chocolate you get. Can be touch and go. Tastes okay, but there's certainly no GIVE ME MORE factor.

Scores: Tim – 5/10 Caroline – 7/10

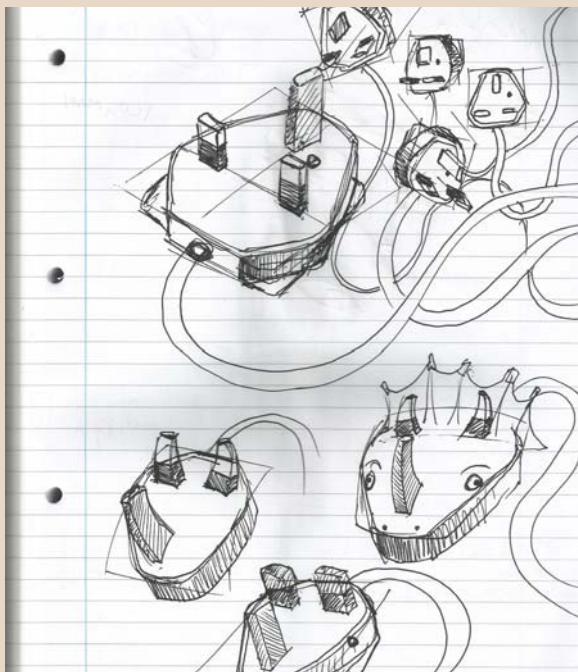
ARTS

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DOODLE OF THE WEEK



Why work? Instead, doodle all lecture long and then send us your drawings to arts.felix@ic.ac.uk. This doodle was done by Umar Hossain who kindly sent us a load of doodles last term!

TIRED OF LIFE?

Our pick of what's on in London

Ice Age Art @ The British Museum – An exhibition of exhibiting pre-historic objects. You might think that this is what The British does on a regular basis. But in their forthcoming exhibition, the objects made by ice-age men are going to be displayed alongside the works of modern artists. This is apparently groundbreaking, teaching us that our ancestors were not just creators of archaeological objects, but also artists.

Man Ray @ The National Portrait Gallery – A showing of the portraits of the Surrealist/ Dadaist photographer Man Ray are exhibited. His subjects are celebrities and artists, his contemporaries on the Parisian art scene from 1916 to 1968. Top tip: check out the new, totally unbelievable portrait of the Duchess of Cambridge at the same time. 7 February - 27 May. £14.

Macbeth @ Trafalgar Studios – A new production of Macbeth, starring James McAvoy, begins its run next weekend. It is always interesting to see how a famous actor fares on-stage. Can they rid themselves of their fame and truly become a character? Surely McAvoy will not disappoint as the doomed Scottish king. Get on the cheap tickets fast! Monday tickets are all £15 and day tickets only £10. Starts 9 February.

Garden of earthly delights by Paulina Otylie Sury @ Richard Young Gallery – Whimsical and dreamy, a bit like a secret garden in the springtime, are the photographs of Otylie. She gelatin-prints her shots and subsequently modifies them by hand to create ethereal effects. Especially recommended for those Imperialites who hate the new technologies.



Putting the cam

Eva Rosenthal & Meredith Thomas

Sam Swainsbury & Joseph Timms ©Johan Persson

Meredith and I went down to the Noël Coward Theatre in the West End in order to interview a young actor, Sam Swainsbury, involved in one of the most exciting theatre companies playing currently in London.

Swainsbury plays a cocky flight sergeant with no combat time in *Privates on Parade*. He answered our questions and only confirmed any notions we may have had about the toughness of the acting profession.

Felix: Why do you think you were selected for this current role?

Sam: This role? I think it's suitability. I've got an agent who is my link to the professional world. She will get casting breakdowns looking for a certain type of person and then will run through her client list and say, "Sam is suitable for this". Ultimately she gets me in the door and then I audition. I am very lucky with my agent. She's one of the best in the game so she can get me a really good audition like this one [for *Privates on Parade*]. Then I go in and try to wow the pants off the director, which often doesn't happen.

When I read this part, though, I thought this was very much in my comfort zone, so I went into the audition and just said 'give me the job' – I didn't actually say that – and it just went really well. It was a combination of suitability, timing and obviously Michael thinking I had the ability to do it.

F: What's it like working with Michael?

S: Working with Michael? (Laughs) He's really shit... no! When I talk about Michael Grandage, I can't help but gush because I think he is fantastic. He's brilliant like no one I've known before. He assembles a company of like-minded people, who are at the top of their game and who all get on with each other. He talks to everyone in the company on a level, so there are never feelings like 'he's the director' and we're 'the actors'. He always talks across at you, which is remarkable in itself. He also loves what he does so much. He loves directing. If you're not in a scene and you watch him watching a scene, he is there, living for it. He is one of the best directors I've ever worked with. Hopefully I will work with him again and again.

F: So how is this different from oth-



er companies you've worked with?

S: This job is the highest calibre job I've had so far. When it comes to theatre, this is pretty much as good as it gets: in the West End, Michael Grandage company, Simon Russell [Beale] in the company... there in rehearsals... For me as a young actor it doesn't really get much better than that.

F: Will you be working on other productions for Grandage?

S: Well that's down to Michael! I hope so. He is very loyal. He says to us in rehearsals that he loves to work with the same people again and again. That's why he's assembled such a great team. He keeps working with people whom he enjoys working with and has a good relationship. You end up with a great company full of people who really do their jobs well.

F: As an actor, what is your import to the part, how is it being directed and how much do you bring to a role?

S: I guess he [Grandage] says "let's try something". You get up and you have a go. Then he'll say "this was good, that wasn't" and he'll direct you, honing your performance. He is very open minded about what actors as individuals have to offer. He used to be an actor himself. It's always great to work with directors that have previously been actors because they have way of understanding what we do... because it's a fucking odd job.

F: How do you prepare for a role?

S: It depends. There are some characters that come and you totally get them – totally get where they are coming from. A lot of it comes down to my experiences.

There are other times when the characters are much further from you and you have to research and use your imagination to understand those experiences. For this [*Privates on Parade*] for example, it's 1948, and we're in the British Armed Services. Immediately there are things we can research. Where are you? We're in Malaya. Okay, what's it like in Malaya? Why are we there? You're in the army. What's your rank? What do you do?

You build up a character profile; then you can have fun with it in rehearsals and play with voices and funny walks.

F: Is there a difference to playing a comic part as opposed to playing a more dramatic part?

S: Not really. You start in the same way. You need the character to be rounded and real, but when it comes to performance the only thing that's different in comedy is that there is a technique, which separates it from drama. It's just simple comic timing. If you look at Simon tonight, his comic timing is second to none. That's something some people have and some people don't and it's something you can work towards.

Another actor in this company, John Marquez, has got an incredible nose for comedy and for sniffing out a gag without making it unreal. We'd been open for three or four weeks, and there was a line that was bugging him and he suddenly thought "Oh I've been missing this gag!". He told us in the dressing room and suddenly found a way of saying it with a rhythm. The line gets a massive laugh every night. There is a technique to comedy that straight drama does not necessarily need.

F: Is acting a job or a calling?

S: For me it was definitely a calling.

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ARTS

Back into campaign

Join me along to the Michael Grandage Company's opening show

Company of SADUSEA ©Johan Persson

F: How old were you when you decided?

S: Nine. I did a jazzed up nativity show at my primary school where I was playing Oriole the Angel. I took these three kids back in time to show them the true meaning of Christmas. My parents had no idea. They came to watch the show and they were knocked over by how much I'd learned. They took me to these theatre workshops around the corner and that was it.

It's an impossible career sometimes, when you're working, like now, it's the best job ever. When you're not working, it can send you insane. It's so competitive and completely subjective and often based on nepotism, timing and luck. I think you need some sort of calling in order to get through the tough times.

F: So is this your big break?

S: I will only be able to tell that in retrospect from the jobs that come afterwards but it's definitely the best exposure I've had so far.

F: What do you really aspire to in this profession?

S: It really changes as you get older. When I was at drama school in my early 20s, I was just waiting for the limo to pick me up to take me to the airport, then a private jet off to Hollywood and boom, famous thanks very much! But as you get older you realise...

F: That the reality of life is somewhat different...

S: Yeah, now I am 30 years old and what I aim for is to be happy and to reach a point in my career where I can choose between jobs and have a healthy family life. I think last year was the first time I was living off acting and not needing to... I was a male nanny for two years. Unemployed actor's side jobs can be very weird.

F: What's the weirdest job you've had?

S: Mine haven't been too bad. I dressed up as Buzz Lightyear for a rich kid's children's party. That was pretty humiliating. But one of my friends went around collecting piss from people. He was doing free sexual health checks, going around bars collecting chlamydia tests... so yeah there is some pretty random stuff.

F: Hopefully you won't have to do that again...

S: No hopefully not...

F: So if you had the choice... Hamlet or Macbeth?

S: I think it would probably be the Scottish Play [*Macbeth*] as I think it's a bit grittier. The thing with *Hamlet* is that it's amazing but everyone's got an opinion on it. I think I would just be scared of not getting it right.

F: What would be your ultimate role?

S: I've predominantly done theatre since I left [university] but I'm very interested in film anyways. At the moment I've really got a hankering for exposure on television. I just find it so exciting. It would be lovely to have one of those contracts with a big American series; like with the new *Mad Men* or something like that. It would be extraordinary.

When it comes down to it I do like playing the bad guys. I would like to play the trickier characters like Edmund in *King Lear*... yeah, someone with a bit of edge to them, maybe not quite so nice.

F: Can we ask you something a bit unfair now just because of the kind of newspaper we are... at this moment, how would you defend the arts to the scientists and engineers that read our papers in the battle for funding?

S: Obviously science is incredibly important but if you work all day, where do you escape to when you finish work? They [science and art] are completely in balance with each other. I know that when I want to escape I listen to music... art is everywhere. I just think we need art, we just need it. We need smiles! If we had a world without laughter or tears it would be a world of robots and I think that freedom of expression and to enjoy that expression is completely paramount as us as human beings...

F: And finally, you're in the profession of dressing up... Have you enjoyed the uniform?

S: My girlfriend said to me – there was a commercial video [for the show] that went up and I'd thought that they were rather nice when I first tried them on – and then she said “everyone else looks okay but your shorts... what is the deal with your shorts? They're just much shorter than everyone else's”.

They're not! It's just because I am much longer than everyone else! They took a bit of getting used to but it's quite nice, wearing uniform. I wear a very fetching policeman's outfit late in the play. That's probably one of my favourites.



Eva Rosenthal

Arts Editor

Privates on Parade, a musical farce rife with semi-gratuitous nudity and camp song-and-dance numbers, is not the sort of play one would expect Michael Grandage to stage. A star-studded Shakespeare production would have been the obvious choice as his new company takes to the London stage for the first time. The risk that Grandage has taken is palpable in every bawdy, mildly inappropriate scene. With a script that is already OTT, any directorial excesses could easily have had a disastrous effect. The fine line that Grandage parades his actors along yields a very strange sort of titillation. One cannot help but imagine that the whole thing is about to take a dramatic (although surely hysterical) tumble.

It does not. Instead, it triumphs in a medley of farcical comedy and dramatic sentimentality with a British feel.

Some of the credit for this success has to go to the unmissable star of the show, Simon Russell Beale.

Beale gives a fabulous performance as the fabulous Acting Captain Terri

Dennis, posted in Malaya for the entertainment of the peace-time conscripts. Beale as the transvestite Terri Dennis is the ultimate in campiness. He displays a sense of comic timing that results in subtle moments of absolute hilarity. For one of his numbers, Beale impersonates Marlene Dietrich. Without a doubt, the general impression of this nicely rotund man with rather disproportionately large shoulders in a tight blue dress and suspenders, singing in an exaggerated German accent, is very funny. However, it is the attention to detail – the little stumble as Terri/ Marlene struggles to get her legs around the chair or the grimaces she gives to her co-stars when they blunder – that truly enliven this production. Beale also manages to convey a true sense of tragedy.

Although Beale, partially as a result of the loudness of Terri Dennis' persona, tends to upstage anyone standing next to him, the rest of the cast are excellent in their own right. Each character has a real personality, perfectly drawn out by the actors, to such an extent that the individual characters are not farcical in themselves.

It was also amusing to see Sam Swainsbury, who we'd interviewed only a couple of hours earlier, now in pretty short army-issue shorts, totally transfigured into a foul-mouthed singing-dancing sensation.

The play does try to touch upon some serious topics: amongst them are the useless nature of the peace-keeping mission in the colonies, Imperialism in general, the oppression of women, the nature of leadership, discrimination against homosexuals and more. In retrospect, this is a bit much for the essence of the play to carry and perhaps the reason why the second half fell slightly flatter than the first. On the other hand, the drama worked well in the first act, providing the same service that 'comic relief' would do in a tragedy.

The stage and the colourful costumes – white satin for Beale – is understated and provides the perfect backdrop to the the 1950s musical style (think *South Pacific* – sentimental musical – with swearing).

There are some sensationally funny moments in *Privates on Parade* and I would suggest one take advantage of the many £10 tickets that this company has to offer.

ARTS

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TOP 10

(arbitrarily selected)

websites

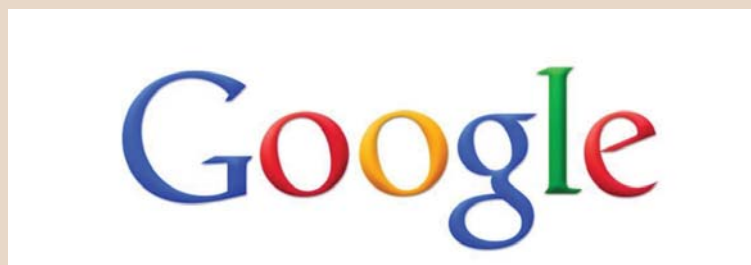
1 This isn't happiness



Tumblr do not have a great name. The regurgitation of cultural snippets is billed as a pretty vacuous activity, symptomatic of 21st Century consumer ambivalence, but there is always a role for the tasteful disseminator of other people's work. Peteski is one such curator and his tumblr, This isn't happiness was recently listed in the top 100 most influential blogs.

The posts cover art, design, photography and poetry selected every day from dusty corners of the internet you never imagined existed. The strangely enchanting atmosphere created is one of occasionally sweet, always romantic, yet darkly and cynically morbid beauty. Erotic art is thrown in with pedantic diatribes against obscured malpractices in graphic design to create a strangely coherent philosophy.

2 Google art project



Google have teamed up with 141 galleries and institutions worldwide to bring famous collections online in dazzling HD. With over 30,000 paintings and sculptures painstakingly digitised, the project represents a stunning resource for those unable to visit galleries in person. Using the same technology as street view, visitors to the website can stroll around galleries such as The Metropolitan in New York © and the Tate.

The detail with which one is able to view A-list artworks is astounding. It is possible to examine Dali's brush strokes or the cracked paint in van Gogh's *Starry Night*. This may very well be the future of art appreciation.

3

Ctrl+Paint

We need to mention at least one of the many excellent tutorial sites designed for beginner artists. Ctrl+Paint, set up by Illustrator Matt Kohr, is as good an example as any. Although it focuses on digital art there are many others that will attempt to teach you anything from drawing to painting.

Matt, however, has dedicated himself to producing quality videos and help guides, up to industry standard, entirely off his own back. He does however charge for some of his more advanced tutorials.

Whether this style of learning suits you or not you have to admire the dedication of a single individual building up such a resource, or possibly just appreciate that illustrators spend large amounts of time out of work.



4

DeviantART

DeviantART is the Facebook of art and undisputed champion of social networking amongst creative types. Users create profiles and are then able to upload paintings, drawings and pretty much every other genre you can conceive. In fact submissions range from traditional disciplines to pixel art and video, including, it must be said, a massive amount of anime and fan art.

Now entering its 13th year, the website has over 25 million registered members and grows by 160,000 uploads a day. There is a lot of dross generated, one suspects, by prepubescents. However, if you are prepared to search, there are some real gems and a lot of talent. Its also a good place to get critique about your own work, however accomplished you are.



5

Wikipainting

This project aims to "create high-quality, most complete and well-structured online repository of fine art". While this is grammatically dubious, it is certainly a laudable ambition.

Although still in beta development the website is based on a standard wiki structure. The eventual aim is to make classical art more comprehensible and accessible to the public and allow contemporary artists a conduit to that same community.

Wikipaintings is a not-for-profit organisation without the funding available to, say, the Google Art Project. However, free from commercial bias, the website also provides commentary and historical context on famous artworks built up by a similar approach to Wikipedia. In other words it is an art history student's dream.

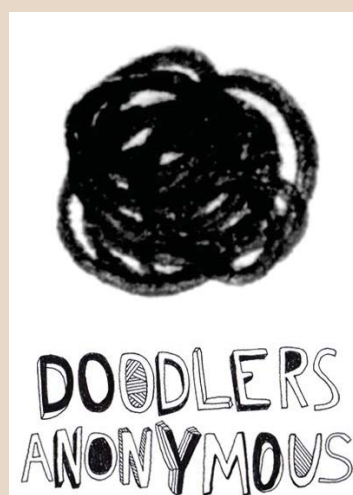


6

Doodler's anonymous

This website started by a pair of obsessive casual sketchers as a light-hearted homage to the humble doodle has expanded into a serious business. The website now showcases talented artworks found in moleskins, on the back of letters and on napkins. It also features a blog, a shop selling bound compilations and T-shirts. The buzzing community of artists use the simple concept to explore a surprisingly wide range of tangential interviews and posts.

With almost 1,000 members this buzzing little site is a great place to show off your subconscious scrawling, or simply to browse the whimsical musings and pencil spider trails of others. You could always save them for Doodle of the Week though.



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ARTS

7

Street Anatomy

In the spirit of randomness, and because there is quite clearly no rhyme or reason to this list. Here is a blog about anatomy themed art... only anatomy art. Why? Because the internet, that's why.

This site is so intriguing in our opinion because it restricts its scope to such a small area and yet turns up so many fascinatingly strange creative ventures. Bakers who cook cakes to look like butchered body parts. Designers who have re-jigged the New York subway into the form of a male member. The permutations, from the sublime to the horrific seem endless.

As the curators comment, there is more than a little "touch of memento mori" on the site but maybe its healthy to see that beauty can be more than skin deep every now and again.



8

Flickr

The ubiquitous Flickr cannot escape a mention. The go-to website for professional photographers allows anyone to set up an account and start sharing images. The website takes care to explicitly state the licence applied to each image. Many users make their work available under creative commons licences for non-commercial uses.

Flickr may seem like a strange choice. Many of the images are corporate or decidedly amateur. However, when you consider the volume of talented photographers who do use the site, you soon realise how rewarding it can be to simply browse at random. Definitely not worth a special mention at this point is Insatgram, which really does not compare at all. So Instagram, consider yourself snubbed.



9

Romantically Apocalyptic

We have had a lot of serious websites and it is time for some light relief. If forced, one would probably classify Romantically Apocalyptic as a web comic. However this is not the place to find a weekly series of badly drawn twenty-somethings reenacting old jokes. RA is a darkly hilarious trip into a demented world, populated solely by monsters, aliens and the insane survivors of the holocaust of mankind.

The entire series is illustrated with its own idiosyncratic mixture of photography and digital painting. The imagery is so stunning that we feel it deserves a place in this countdown. We recommend you read the comic from the start to have any chance of following what we will loosely call a plot.

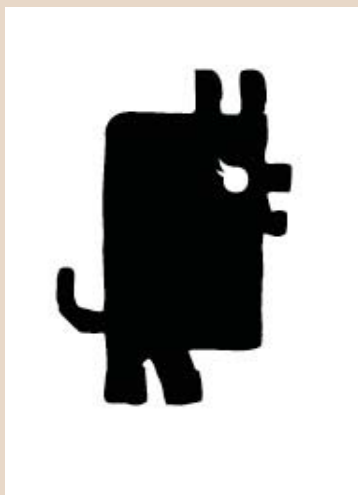


10

Artchipel

In the grand scheme of the internet Artchipel is a pretty small player. However the little French-based tumblr packs a wallop. The name is inspired by the concept of the island chain (Archeipeligo) because of its connotations of connection and interrelation. The art featured ranges pretty widely though photography, collage and painting but as with any gallery it reflects the particular tastes of the curators. In this case the overall impression is one of nostalgia and natural aesthetic with a decidedly modern twist.

With a growing network of contemporary artists and a regular stream of images and photographs to intrigue the casual procrastinator. As procrastination goes it has to be better than Facebook, right?



Youth in revolt

Fred Fyles

Writer

It has been over two years since the beginning of the Arab Spring – the wave of revolutions, protests and conflict that swept the Arabian Peninsula – and things have still not died down. The ongoing civil war in Syria, which has left more than 60,000 dead, along with the continuing protests in Egypt ensure that our newspapers are filled with articles about the Middle East's struggle for democracy on a daily basis. Whilst this increased exposure has led to heightened interest in the Arab world, it has done nothing to address the way many in the West see the Middle East: a single, monolithic entity, an endless desert stretching across from Africa to India, filled solely with oil wells, terrorists and guns. The V&A's exhibition, which features work from 30 photographers and artists, helps shine a new light on the Middle East, revealing it to be a place of beauty, creativity and tenacity.

A series of photographs taken by legendary photographer Abbas during the 1979 Iranian Revolution introduces the first section, which aims to document life in the Middle East. His black and white images of young men burning portraits of the Shah hang next to work by Newsha Tavakolian showing elderly Iranian women cradling photos of their sons, who died years before in the Iran-Iraq war, conjuring up an image of the region with which we are all familiar: a land of conflict and violence. However, work by other artists challenges this view of the Middle East; Tal Shochat's staged pictures of impossibly perfect pomegranate trees highlight the fertility of his native Israel, while Issa Touma's documentation of Sufi pilgrims in northern Syria display the colourful traditions which continue to this day. Young Middle Eastern artists are documenting the experience of what living is like in the area, and what being Middle Eastern means to them.

Hassan Hajjaj's portraits open the next section, and playfully explore the culture clash between East and West; women's eyes peep out from behind Louis Vuitton emblazoned headscarves, and traditional footwear is presented decorated with the Coca-Cola logo. Hajjaj is inspired by Western fashion photography, and this reimagining of Western art is continued by Raeda Saadeh, whose portrait *Who will make me real* shows the artist reclining in a pose similar to the ones found in 19th Century European nudes. Her body is covered in a cast made from Palestinian newspapers, which reveal her curves but destroy the sensual-

ity normally associated with such portraits; Saadeh is immobilised, and stares rigidly at the viewer from inside her paper-mâché prison. Shadi Ghadirian's photographs show teenage girls dressed in the style of 19th Century Iran's Oajar period, but he has included an anachronism in each portrait which clashes with the traditional veils and skirts many of the girls wear; one girl poses clutching a Pepsi can, while another reaches up to adjust her Ray-Bans. These works explore what it means to be young in the Middle East, and question whether traditional Islamic culture will coexist with Western consumerism.

The last section is by far the most powerful and, arguably, the most important, as it shows how art can be a conduit for social change and rebellion. The artists displayed here have all made works protesting against current regimes in the Middle East. Amirali Ghasemi's work directly challenges the oppression faced by young people in Iran, as well as the censorship put in place by the government. His series *Party* shows photographs taken at unsanctioned, illegal private parties in Tehran, but all the exposed skin shown has been cut out, replaced by a gaping white blankness, creating powerful, unsettling images. This protest against censorship is a theme explored in Jowhara AlSaud's line drawings of featureless, anonymous figures, printed on airmail envelopes. The figures are shown embracing, creating an atmosphere of longing, while the envelopes may refer to attempts at communication thwarted by the Saudi Arabian government.

It is not just the Middle East that is criticised; in her series *Most Wanted*, Taraneh Hemami took mugshots from a US governmental website shortly following 9/11 and distorted them by scratching the print surface. The result is a series of blurred faces. The key features can no longer be distinguished, but broad details such as headscarves can still be made out, referencing both western stereotypes of the Middle East, and the heavy-handedness displayed by the American government directly following the 9/11 attacks.

The exhibition displays a Middle East that is young, vibrant, and quickly evolving. As the region becomes more developed, and countries such as Saudi Arabia have an ever-increasing importance in global politics, it is vital that we come to recognise the Middle East as a veritable hotbed of cultural activity. The changes taking place there are far from over; in fact, they have only just begun.

Light from the Middle East: New Photography at the V&A. Free admission

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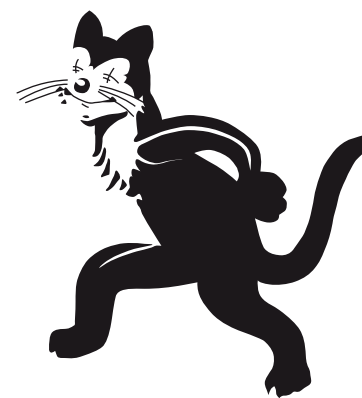




HOLY SHIT. THE CAT HAS THE CHEESEBURGER.

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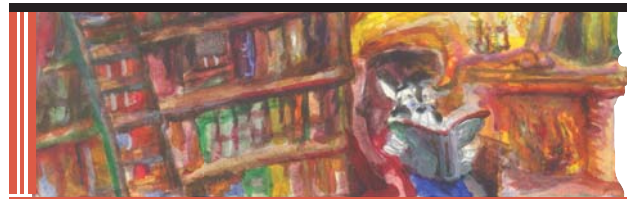


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FELIX



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BOOKS

A Mindstar was Rising

Alex Savell looks at the early work of Peter F. Hamilton



To those that follow the science fiction scene Peter Hamilton will most likely be a name that sets bells ringing. For me the name stand up next to all the other modern giants; Banks, Reynolds, Baxter and so on and Hamilton's *Night's Dawn Trilogy* will be familiar to many as the sort of epic space opera that took the subgenre from something regularly worthy of scorn to a legitimate field in its own right. But today we look back at one of Hamilton's earlier works, the beginning of a series of three books (he is loath to name it a trilogy it seems) starring a hero with a difference; Greg Mandel.

If by some chance you've managed to miss Hamilton, or maybe you've found the hefty *The Reality Dysfunction* a little too daunting to take a chance on, I suggest you take a look at *Mindstar Rising*. Even, perhaps, if you're not the biggest fan of science fiction I'd say it's worth a look and is a whole different ball game from what you might expect. Written back in the days when we were just beginning to understand that climate change was a big deal the book is set in an arid wasteland of post warming Britain, a world view that seemed all too realistic at the time. A country that's finally crawled free of a hard-line government that left the nation in socio-economic tatters, is only beginning to take the necessary steps to recover; a world view that seems all too realistic even now.

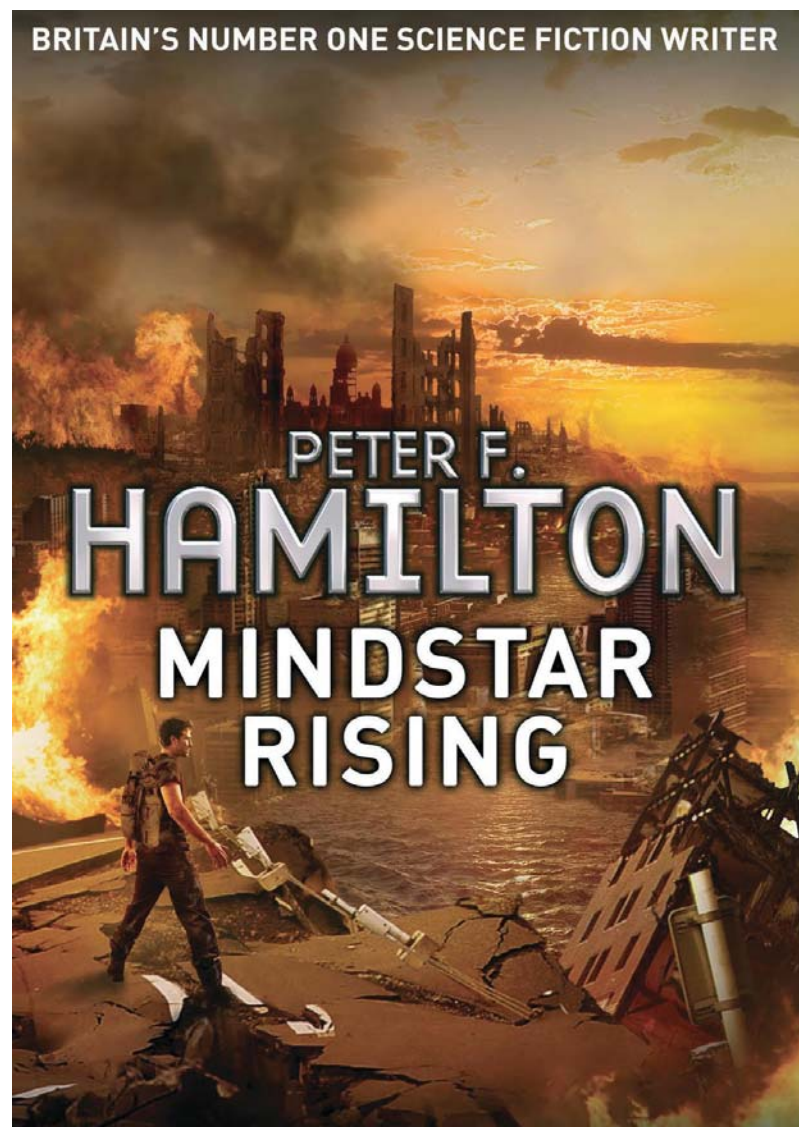
So the setting isn't so very unbelievable, sure there's a few jumps in technology in there; artificial intelligence for instance is becoming a thing, but in truth the only really 'out there' concept is Greg himself. A retired veteran from the Army's Elite Mindstar Programme; Greg has been turned into a super soldier engineered to possess unique abilities. Now, we are really entering comic book territory, Dr Doom seems about to leap out of the shadows, but rest assured Mandel won't be running around in red, white and blue lycra (unless I missed something really important). Instead Greg has a gland that allows him brief periods of telepathic sensitivity and some other lesser mental abilities; nothing that makes him significantly less squishy than your average human being and unlike most comic books the power comes with a price that's more than just a small amount of social awkwardness.

So if it's not that science fictional and the protagonist isn't that much better than everyone else then what's the appeal? Well if you're asking that question you may be missing the point; personally I love that the plot plays out in a world that isn't so very far removed from our own with a character that's special without being someone that every geek and nerd wants to be. But if that's not enough the book is a great detective novel; Mandel makes his living as a freelance investigator and is hired to investigate several incidents of industrial sabotage at Event

Horizon – one of the large technology corporations that's leading the push to get the country's economy back on track. With his abilities rooting out the traitors and following the evidence to the organisation responsible is something Greg was practically designed for and yet, as with all good detective novels, things are never that simple.

I remember how gripped I was by *Mindstar Rising*; I'd happily say that despite being a real, grown-up novel it maintains itself as an easy read. There's evidence that Hamilton is still honing his craft at this stage; the detail oriented approach present in the *Night's Dawn Trilogy* is not so evident and the plot is more linear than the vast scope of other works. But while there is a time and a place for plots that span the stars and a host of characters that George R. R. Martin would be proud of, I still take great joy from occasionally sitting on the shoulder of just one good character and sinking into the close atmosphere that that can create. Mandel isn't sitting in a smoky office in 1920s Chicago... but why should history get all the fun.

Peter F. Hamilton will be at Imperial College for Picocon 30 on Saturday, February 16. As one of the Guests of Honour he will give an individual talk and participate in the main panel with Steph Swainston, Richard Morgan, Kate Griffin and Jaine Fenn. For more information, and to register your attendance, visit icsf.org.uk/picocon.



A look at Doctor Who Fandom

Maciej Matuszewski Books Editor

I have had, shall we say, an unsteady relation with *Doctor Who*. While occasionally brilliant far more often it is painfully frustrating or just plain disappointing. Whatever my personal views on the show, however, I have to admit that, over its extraordinarily long run, it has been both hugely popular and influential, and is therefore deserving of study.

This was the reason why I picked up *Chicks Unravel Time*, sequel to the Hugo Award winning *Chicks Dig Time Lords*. A series of essays by over thirty female writers, including Diana Gabaldon, Juliet E. McKenna and Caroline Symcox, it promised to be an interesting exploration of the show's history.

Each writer focuses primarily on one season of the show but, apart from that one unifying theme, the essays vary wildly in topic – from looking at the Doctor's companions, to the personality of the Doctor himself to the general philosophy of the show itself. Each piece is insightful, well thought out and highly researched. Indeed, many of the essays are in fact nothing less than fully cited research articles, unsurprising given that many of the writers are academics.

Every writer is clearly very passionate about the show and, while in many cases, this makes for more interesting articles it also leads to the book's main problem. The fact that each writer is a massive *Doctor Who* fan means that their analysis is invariably positive. While some of the worst female stereotyping of the old series is, quite

rightly, pointed out and criticised, many other problems are glossed over.

There is no mention of the many failures in pacing, characterisation and basic plotting, nor of the frankly disturbing Doctor-Amy-River relationship (where the Doctor completely and repeatedly ruins his companion's life and then marries her daughter). Admittedly, many of these issues are subjective and so you would not expect them to be brought up by fans of the show, but I am still greatly annoyed by how it repeatedly feels that the book is making excuses for the show.

Don't get me wrong; this is still an objectively good book (as much as you can say that about anything), but certainly one aimed primarily for confirmed *Doctor Who* fans. If you don't like the show the book won't change

your mind and you'll find the near constant praise tiresome and annoying. Neither is this the book for you if you are looking for an objective analysis of the show's history. It is, however, highly informative and an interesting look at why so many people love the show.

Juliet E. McKenna will be at Imperial College for Picocon 30 on the weekend of February 16-17 as part of the Write Fantastic collective (also including Pat Cadigan, Ian Whates, Kari Sperring, Sarah Ash, Mike Shevdon and others). She will be participating in the 'Overcoming Death Through Science' panel on Saturday and running a series of drop in Writers' Workshops on the Sunday. For more information, and to register your attendance, visit icsf.org.uk/picocon.



BOOKS

Books Editor: Maciej Matuszewski
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Memoir mash-up

Giulia Gabrielli

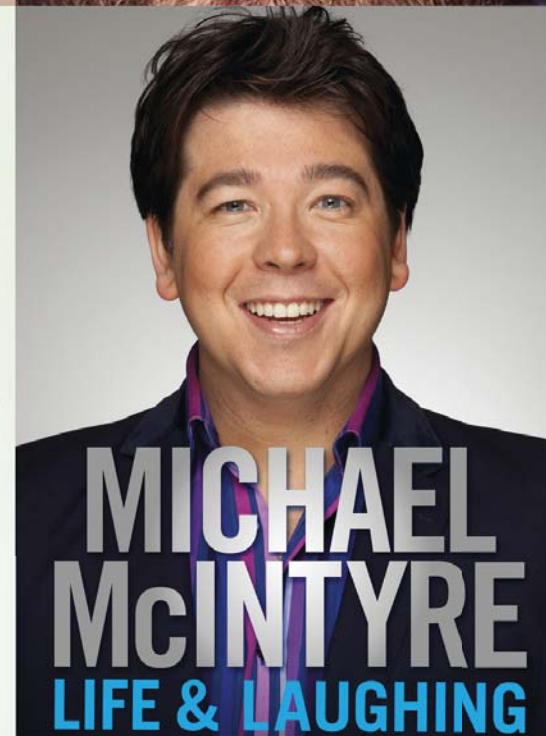
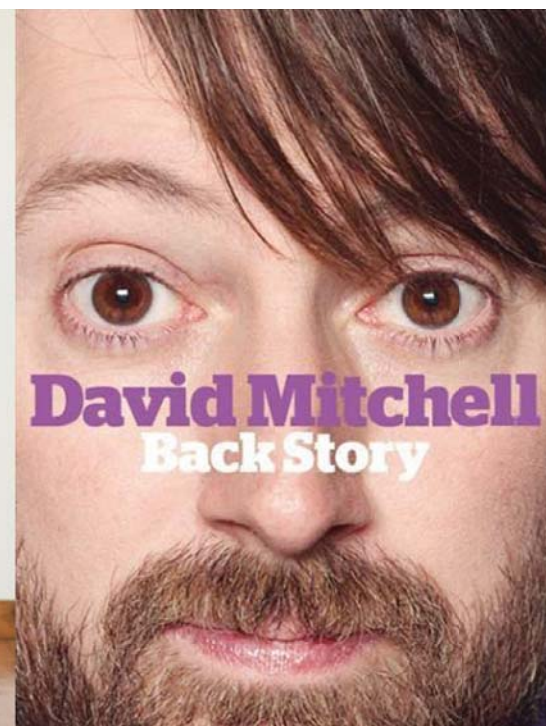
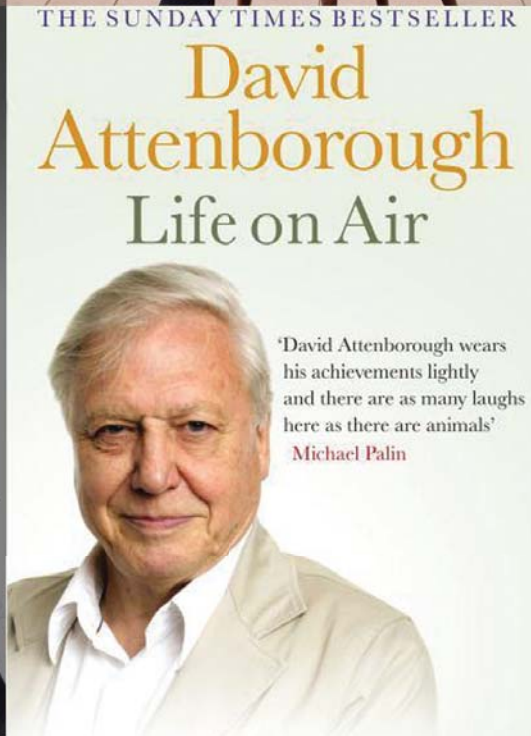
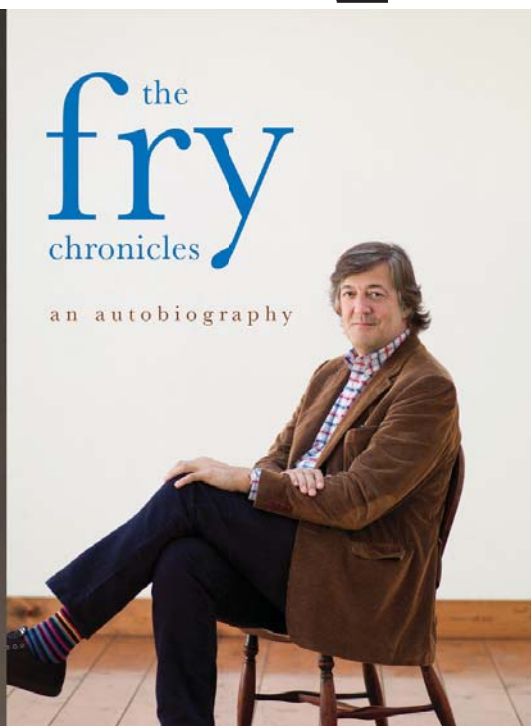
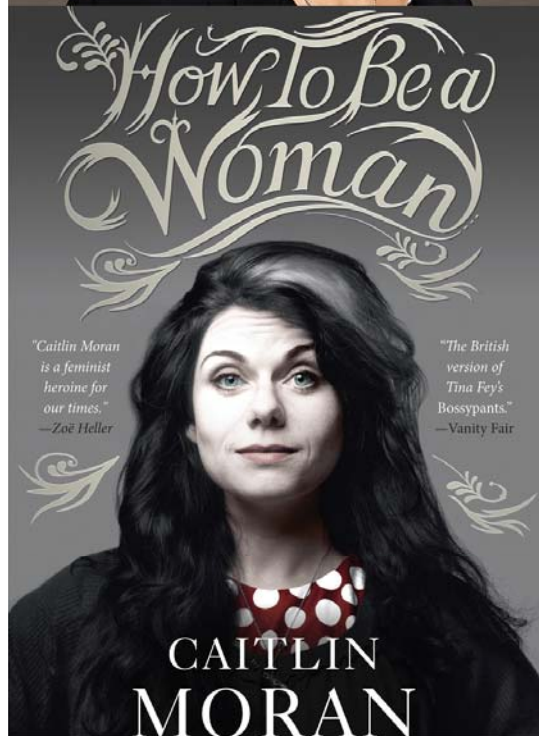
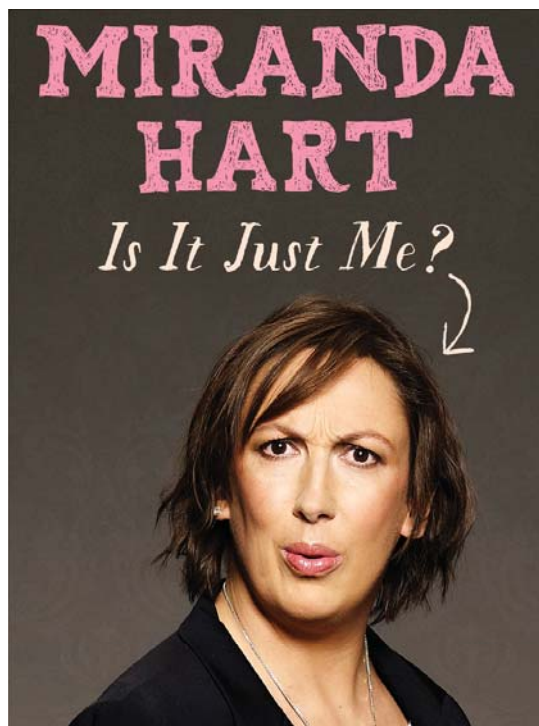
Writer

I am currently looking through Audible.co.uk. This is the Amazon sister-company dedicated to providing audiobooks to the poor souls, such as myself, that have countless hours of free mental time, and a bank card. But, why do I have all this time? Since starting work at the Centre for Functional Ecology in Montpellier, France, my life has been dedicated to saving Alpine forests from climate change. This has mostly involved weighing hundreds of plant samples, a sciency way of saying leaves. This is a repetitive process that leaves my mind free to wonder and I am not complaining: I study ecology! The task is long and time consuming, but to be honest, it's not even the first time I have weighed leaves. I am a pro leaf-wigher.

So here I am, literally scavenging through the comedy section of the site, looking for something worth spending my bonus point on (yes, I do have a monthly membership, ok! It's a bit of an addiction at this point). The internship has given me countless competences, some applicable to my CV, and others not so much so. A large knowledge of celebrity memoirs is definitely one of the latter... Even so, I am finishing all this fun weighing now, so maybe it's also time to sum up something about what I listened to, loved, hated. Here is a short guide to some celebrity biographies that you will have seen on chat shows, book columns and tube adverts, from someone who has read (well, listened to) a great deal of them. If you don't have all this time at your disposal (and let's face it, you're an Imperialite so you don't), I hope this helps you take your pick next time you browse through that bestselling list.

Let's start from the number one bestseller. Miranda Hart's funny face has been glooming from every book pile, every underground tunnel and the Graham Norton show since the publication of her *Is It Just Me?*, a book that asks if she alone is incapable of dealing with the daily complications of modern life. In truth, the answer is yes. Each one of us has embarrassing anecdotes to tell at a dinner table, but Miranda has lived through all of our worse stories, and has some nightmarish ones of her own to tell. Read if you enjoy slapstick comedy and are a fan of the lovely comedienne.

Slightly less recent, but equally, thrown at us in every sauce, Stephen Fry's *The Fry Chronicles* narrates the second chunk of the author's jam-packed life in his soothing style. A suggestion: avoid reading this if you still take rejection from Oxbridge to heart. Fry describes Cambridge as a mystical place, full of ancient walls of knowledge and masonic jargon, and you will only find it painful. Having said this,



Fry is so charming, that he makes even jail sound like an appealing place to visit (yes, Stephen Fry has been to jail).

David Mitchell's autobiography *Back Story*, another of the morning show favourites (not that students ever get to watch morning shows), is a witty journey through London and his life. Starting from Kilburn, the book travels in space rather than time up to BBC House (the big one near Westfields). Satisfyingly, the recollection ends on a very positive note (spoiler alert, if you've not turned the TV on in the last couple of years): his relationship with Victoria Coren. I admit I am a fan of *Peep Show* and the Mitchell/Webb combo, and although I feel no comedian better represents Britain's darker, slightly wingey side than David Mitchell, it was lovely to see him shrivel up with delight while describ-

ing his now wife.

Although not technically an autobiography, Caitlin Moran's *How To Be a Woman* narrates her life and quest to learn how to behave like a proper adult female. Whether you are into her feminist stance or not (and not-so-big revelation moment, I am), this is a truly funny book that will make all girls go "Hey I've done that!" and most of them say "Thank God someone warned my about that!" (large family and hippy parents: Moran's womanhood has been one of trial and error). The recently published *Moranthology* is also ok, but to avoid if you follow Moran's career on *The Times* as it is essentially a glossy file for all her articles.

For the science fans, actually, for the lovers of mankind and all things nice, David Attenborough's *Life on Air* is a feast for the brain. It is inspiring in the

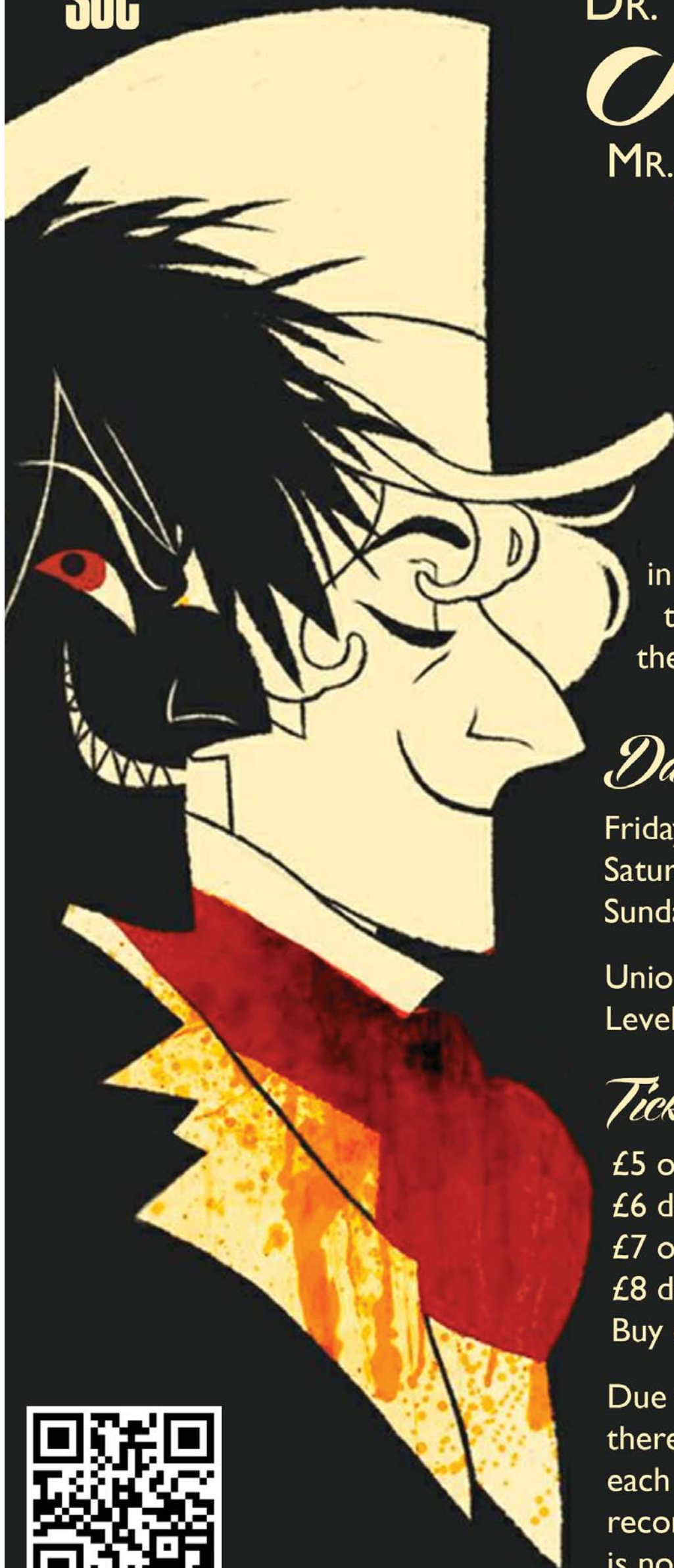
right sort of non-corny way, and incredibly entertaining. From his funny anecdotes about rat-infested temples, to the description of ground-breaking filming techniques, Attenborough is as good on paper as he is on film. Unsurprisingly majestic.

The choice about the ultimate life story to recommend was a hard one. David Attenborough is biology royalty, and although it pains me to write this, I have chosen laughter over royalty. For Michael McIntyre's *Life and Laughing* does exactly what it says on the cover. I know comedy hipsters resent McIntyre for going mainstream, but there is nothing to say: he is as successful as he is clever. McIntyre's hilarious childhood is a funnier version of all our family pasts, even with his eccentric Hungarian nan, his bombshell mother and his Canadian

father, producer of the slightly creepy hit song 'Grandad'. As the years go by, the comedy becomes serious business and when McIntyre describes his breakthrough gig, and the emotion of sharing it with the one-and-only love of his life and his two kids, my eyes dampened a bit. This is an autobiography that deserves to be listened to: his rendition of 'God Save the Queen', during a recollection of a particularly embarrassing family anecdote, made my mother almost crash the car she was driving (my Christmas present to her, the book not the car). If you still can't forgive me for picking Michael McIntyre over David Attenborough, don't waste any more time and go buy *Life on Air*, in fact, I will be happy to lend anyone of you my copy, as I hope you will enjoy all these reads as much as I did.

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MUSIC

Music Editors: Mark England,
Ross Gray, Simon Hunter
music.felix@gmail.com



¡Tres! ¡Uno! ¡Dos!

Max Eggl reviews the final installment from Green Day

Ladies and gentlemen, we have come to the last album of our trilogy, and thus the last of these articles. However I promise last should not be least! *¡Tré!*, as the last album is called, features the drummer on the cover as well as carrying his nickname. It was released a month before schedule, due to the band cancelling their promotion tours. **Green Day**, in accordance with their attempt to vary musical approaches on each album, decided to go for the stadium rock style, with the odd punk rock song thrown in (a lá *Dookie*). There is a more grand feeling to this album, especially when in some songs when you have the string arrangements and vocal harmonies.

Carrying on the 'party' analogy from the previous article, where the *¡Uno!* and *¡Dos!* were the pre-party and party music respectively, this is the music you hear the morning after. Thus it is

somewhat more melancholic and nostalgic (well I don't imagine you'd be very happy when you're cleaning up). It all works, and the three albums do jam together very well, even though they are relatively different.

This album had/will have two singles released off it. 'The Forgotten' may seem familiar to you, as it was chosen to be part of the soundtrack of *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2*. If it doesn't seem to ring a bell, Hooray! All the Green Day fans who listen to this song, and watched the movie will invariably connect it to that movie. Apart from its horrible associations, it is a very good piece of music, a piano ballad that pulls at your heartstrings. Yet I feel that compared to the rest of the trilogy, the song is kind of boring to be honest. The other single (in fact the first official single) off the album, is 'X-kid' which will only be released on the 13th February. Now this song is more like it. Typical Green

Day, it has a great chord progression, strong vocals and Mr. Cool does a great job on the drums. Certainly one of the top songs of this album!

It was very hard, trust me, excruciatingly so, for me to choose the best songs that really describe this album. All the songs were so really good, and had something to offer. However I did have to have a choice. Honorary mentions go to; 'Brutal Love', for its grand style, 'Sex, Drugs and Violence' for the amazing lyrics and 'Amanda' for the best Green Day solo I have heard in a while. Now to the actual winners. Bronze goes to 'Dirty Rotten Bastards', a song reminding me of 'Jesus of Suburbia'. A medley of different songs that mesh so well. It is such a interesting song, that is amazing to listen to and also just fun. I could not face leaving it off the list, because parts of this song are outstanding. For example, the bass line in the middle of the song is divine. When I hear that I just wanna jump up, and buy myself a bass and learn that melody. Silver goes to 'Walk Away', a piece of music that starts relatively slowly, building up the tension, until with a bang it bursts into a beautiful song. The collaboration of White and Armstrong is very apparent in the combination of White's guitar and

Armstrong's vocals overlaid, and it works so well. If Green Day keep churning out songs like this, I will be very happy. However they one up it, with the winner of Gold, 'Drama Queen'. This song is so beautiful it almost hurts. The acoustic guitar, the vocals, the piano notes, the guitar solo. This is where I use my copyrighted term, "eargasm". A pure eargasm. The topic of the song is also great, having to deal with growing up/getting older, which I can imagine lots of Imperial students can associate with. Not only do I think this is the song of the album, in fact I think this is the song of the trilogy. This is one of the best Green Day songs I have heard.

In my opinion, this is an absolute masterpiece of an album. The perfect balance of high energy songs, and slow ballads it hits all the right notes (pun intended). The nostalgia that you feel in this album applies well to the trilogy as a whole. Everything must come



to an end, but Green Day manage it in such a way that is absolutely stunning. I am sorry if this may seem somewhat cliché, but I give this album a 5/5, because it is so rockingly awesome. Please, if you didn't buy the previous albums, have a go at this one. If you did follow my advice and got the other ones, you know what you must do!

All in all the trilogy was a great set of albums. It really worked out, and Green Day really outdid themselves. I really hope that they create more beautiful music like this, to keep those eargasms coming!

AMS album of the week

Local Natives: *Hummingbird*

Local Natives have never been groundbreaking. They stood out not because they were doing something different to their peers, but because they were doing it quite well. Their second album, *Hummingbird*, does not break the trend. It wears its influences on its sleeve and they're pretty much the same as last time round. It's a fairly well informed American indie record. Grizzly Bear, Animal Collective, a little Fleet Foxes, Grizzly Bear, a bit of Broken Social Scene and Grizzly Bear. Yeah alright, it's essentially just slightly poppier Grizzly Bear.

This is a very difficult record to review. There's nothing particularly bad about any of it. There's no bad songs to complain about. The songs all slot together nicely. It's a nice record. It's just it's nothing more than nice. At no point is it anything more or less than nice. There aren't really any good songs to rave about either. The whole thing is just fairly flat, and the level isn't high enough for that to keep your attention. The songs all blend together because you stop paying enough attention to tell them apart. To call it bland seems cruel. None of the individual songs are bland, they're all fairly decent tracks. The problem is, the total is pretty bland.

In terms of song quality there are a few peaks. The first half of 'You & I' is pretty, and the last minute or so of 'Black Spot' is pretty good. 'Mt. Washington' is the best track here as far as I'm concerned. In fact, I'd say it's the only track which breaks the mould at all. It's not stylistically different, it's just really good. It's the only track I can still see myself listening to in a few weeks time.

In terms of songwriting they seem to have matured a bit. By this I mean they've cut out the exuberant bits. *Gorilla Manor* had the high-spirited 'Airplanes' and 'Sun Hands' to break up the flow, this has a few fairly dreary ballads. I suppose it's a bit more subtle and better thought out, but it's not as fun, and I don't think that's a worthwhile trade. *Hummingbird* is not a big change though. Big fans of *Gorilla Manor* will probably find this quite enjoyable. Casual fans probably shouldn't bother.

Stuart Masson



Grouper's Ghostly Maritime Explorations

Ross Gray

Music Editor

Reviews for Grouper's *The Man Who Died in His Boat* (recorded in the same sessions as my favourite work of hers, *Dragging a Dead Deer up a Hill*) have had a bit of a tendency to focus on the concept behind the album. Liz Harris (Grouper) has said that it's based on a teenage memory of peering inside the cabin of a wrecked ship, with the previous occupant's belongings still strewn around inside. I had intended not to dwell on this too much but the evocation of the scene is really incredible; from the off Harris treats us to tape-echoed ambience that resembles whispering winds over a blustering sea, and the whole album has a reflective melancholy to its sound.

Whilst it all really falls under pop ambient, Grouper has managed to explore a fairly wide range of soundscapes in her time, and all are dutifully represented here: from the completely delayed-out pieces, where a handful of chords and vocal tones are



extended and faded into nothing, to the pop tracks with prominent, distinct melodies and lyrical vocals. This release certainly seems stronger than most of the recent offerings – I felt violet replacement was a little lacking – which is perhaps not surprising considering the era it was pulled from, and provides some fantastic

examples of the haunting simplicity and droned out sounds that have made Grouper a pop ambient hero in recent years.

The Man Who Died in His Boat is being released by Kranky on the 4th of February 2013 alongside a reissue of *Dragging a Dead Deer up a Hill*.

Music Editors: Mark England,
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MUSIC

Yeasayer silence the Naysayers

Mohammad Mirza finds a fat slice of Brooklyn in Shepherds Bush

After their successful release of *Fragrant World*, **Yeasayer** decided to grace the Shepherd's Bush Empire with a set list heavy on songs from their latest album. In the air was a whiff of dope.

The crowd roared as the band took to their space station, which was designed to look like a stage. Kicking off with the well layered 'Blue Paper', it took them only a couple of minutes before they had turned the night into a dance party.

The enthusiastic performance given by Chris Keating, Anand Wilder's bold vocals and Ira Wolf Tuton's slippery bass groans, and not to mention the lively drums brought in by Cale Parks really came together well. They let each other's music ease in and it never felt as if they were stretching it. Yeasayer really sounded like four guys playing music.

Too cool for cliché, they distorted

Exhilarating
both visually
and sonically

the first few notes of their psych-delicious songs just to leave the crowd guessing. '2080' from their first album, *All Hour Cymbals* made the cut with its harmonised chorus and their acclaimed single 'Longevity' was a tasty addition with Keating's breathy squeals and chirps adding another layer of life to the song.

The ending of 'Longevity' transitioned into an improvised intro to 'O.N.E.' which in my opinion was one of the most entertaining tracks, recreated with bursting tempo and manifesting a pretty bold and beautiful performance from Wilder

who accentuated the lyrics with his strong vocals. I am such a fan.

You could nod your head along to 'Madder Red's very catchy yet psychedelic tune which morphed into 'Demon Road' after which 'Wait for Summer' flew over and around the crowd lifted by the rich warm synths and exotic guitars. 'Ambling Amp' was a delightfully bright and uplifting song well placed as the last of the main set.

A four song encore ensued, starting off with the compelling 'Fingers Never Bleed' and finishing off with the surprising addition 'Folk Hero Shtick'.

It is not very easy to translate such delicate musical arrangements to stage but Yeasayer performed admirably. One never felt that the pre-recorded tracks and drum loops were overplayed and most of what you heard was refreshingly alive and organic. The quartet was exhilarating both visually and sonically. They absolutely killed it.



Sharon Van Etten: This lady is no Tramp

Mark England Music Editor

If the highlights of 2012's musical offering involved bitching about **Lana Del Ray's** face, swaggering with **Odd Future**, or simply dancing like a drunk antelope to a Korean pop mega-hit, then I fear the album of the last year has passed you by like a proverbial leaf in a stream. **Sharon Van Etten's** third album *Tramp* was a piece of the purest beauty which had the critics purring but may have failed to make a nest in the public consciousness. Miss Van Etten's record is more delicate and fragile than

anything created by the nymph-like **Laura Marling** and she has just as many connections to Brooklyn cool as **Karen O**, so I find it a travesty that it did not feature more highly on album of the year lists. I jumped at the opportunity to review her recent show at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, and boy, I wasn't let down!

The night started off with two newer songs 'All I Can' and 'Warsaw' which set the tone for a fantastic evening. At first glance, the Brooklyn based singer seemed a little intimidated by the surroundings and she apologised for having a cold, but by the end of the night the packed out

venue was eating from the palm of her hands. Having only recently become aware of her, I was not familiar with the older songs but numbers like 'Save Yourself' and 'Don't Do It' were very refreshing and gave her a heavy, grungier live sound. For all the beautiful melodies and swooning guitars, my highlights were her lyrics; *Tramp* is an album based in heartache and breakups and there is no venom spared. One cannot help being taken aback by the overwhelming honesty and bitterness of 'Serpents' when the lines "You enjoy sucking on dreams, so I will fall asleep, with someone other than you" are uttered. I found myself becoming immersed in her fragile, bittersweet world in 'Ask' where Sharon whispers "like cigarette ash, [my world] is collapsing around me".

Before the show, I knew how strong Van Etten's recent releases were, but what I was not prepared for was how accomplished a live performer she has become. Her beautifully lilting voice reminds me of the late **Jeff Buckley** and there is not much higher praise than that. I left Shepherd's Bush with a smile on my face, and I noticed that every other person exiting the venue sported exactly the same expression; we had all seen something very special, and we knew it.



MUSIC

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My Bloody Valentine Live

Ross Gray is not talking about Bullet For My Valentine

When ATP (All Tomorrow's Parties) and **My Bloody Valentine** announced their live return to the UK, a single night at the Hammersmith Apollo in March, the internet immediately started buzzing. Tickets went up and were sold out in seconds. Another night was quickly added, where standing tickets also promptly sold out. Having not seen MBV – a key band in the development of my musical tastes – in three years, I was pretty stoked. They were clearly feeling generous with their live performances for the dedicated and added a third, more intimate, date – the show at Electric Brixton last Sunday. By the time this third date was added I was giddy with excitement so quickly seized the opportunity to not only see MBV one more time, but also several months before I had originally expected.

By the time support was announced (which happened on the day of the event) in the form of **Le Volume Courbe**, I was already pretty excited, more than I have been about a single gig for a couple of years. I wondered whether there would be material from the new album dropped, if it even exists, and would I appreciate 'The Holocaust' more now that I'm into noise? For those not in the know, The Holocaust is a ~20 minute long extension of a single note from 'You Made Me Realise' and is renowned for the incredible volume and distortion with which it is performed. I did hold some reservations though. I was concerned that they would not live up to their reputation for painfully loud

live shows – I felt the first time I saw them was nowhere near loud enough, although some people were sat on the floor holding their ears at the end – and that if they played a lot of new material, maybe it wouldn't hold a candle to the impressive standard of *Loveless*.

There was a tangible buzz in the air coming to the gig. Everyone on the tube seemed to be heading there, and I even recognized a few people from various ATP festivals (including the tall grey haired guy who is at literally everything). Needless to say, I was as hyped up as a little middle class girl buying her first pony.

The venue was surprisingly large. The size of it made me worry I have completely forgotten just how large the Apollo is, being spoiled by a spate of gigs in the past 3 months that rarely exceeded a 200 person capacity. Accordingly it felt pretty empty when *Le Volume Courbe* opened, and we managed to work our way to the second row. The set seemed pretty great but I was kind of distracted by the upcoming festivities and found it a little hard to focus, so I doubt I could really add any value by discussing it at length.

By the time *My Bloody Valentine* took the stage, the venue was absolutely rammed. Now I was very concerned about the business of the March dates, but was content in that we had held our spot at the front despite how crushed it was elsewhere in the venue. They opened with a new track (the only one they would play), which seemed pretty great, although maybe I was a bit caught up in seeing them again. The track was, as I somewhat expected, a lot less dense than anything from *Loveless*, though the drum

and bass elements Shields referred to were, not surprisingly, nowhere in sight. The first thing that caught me, sadly, was how loud it was – not very. It was pretty much at a standard gig level. Certainly nobody was vomiting on the floor whilst bleeding from the ears, as one would quite like in these situations.

From the off, people were complaining about the sound mix. Several people shouted after the first track that the vocals were too low, which sounds absurd for shoegaze, but was sadly true. Of course they should be buried, but certainly where I was, I literally could not hear them for the vast majority of the set. The sound system seemed completely unable to handle the levels that were desired, with a lack of definition in pretty much everything and the lows getting washed out. The band themselves were clearly very unhappy about the sound too, stopping halfway through 'To Here Knows When' to try and get it turned up, which they certainly managed, but perhaps at the expense of even more fidelity. As Kevin Shields angrily remarked, "It sounds like we're playing in a wind tunnel three miles long".

I think it is a testament to the strength of their live set that despite being clearly a little out of practice and having all the sound problems, I still really enjoyed the performance. 'The Holocaust' it turned out, was indeed phenomenal. Again the volume disappointed me, and I think this is possibly why they chose to cut it short (only 6 minutes), but the actual noise being produced was pretty incredible. I feel it's quite remarkable really just how good 'The Holocaust' is considering



that they have little tendency towards noise overall, and really wish it would have been extended. The drop from the absolutely searing distortion of the conclusion of 'The Holocaust' straight back into the punchy, catchy drive of 'You Made Me Realise' was a definite highlight of the set, and I look forward to seeing this executed to its maximum in March. Unless of course they are only going to perform 6 minutes of it now every time, which would be truly sad.

I think possibly too onerous of a burden is sometimes put on *My Bloody Valentine* as a result of their live reputation. Everyone who had seen them before, and knew how great they can be when the sound is as loud as they

want and the system is of a good quality, seemed to be disappointed with the set. Those I spoke to who had never seen them before thought it was still amazing despite the problems, and the girl next to us (sadly she disappeared before I could get an opinion) certainly seemed to be enjoying it based on how utterly mental she was going. Having had a night to reflect, whilst they didn't live up to the extremely high standard I have applied to them, I think they will in March. With two months to really nail their live performances again, and the fact that the sound system at Apollo is far better than at Electric, I think they should once again be able to provide the kind of performance that makes grown men weep.

Dandy Warhols silently rock Le Trianon

Edward Bals

Writer

On the 29th of November I was standing in Le Trianon, a music venue in Paris, waiting for the arrival of **The Dandy Warhols** onto the stage. Whilst waiting I took a look around the old theatre in which I was standing, and it is truly one of the most beautiful venues that I have ever been in, with wooden carvings surrounding the stage and adorning the walls. Then the lights dimmed and they came out on stage immediately launching into 'Be-In' with its slowly building crescendo of pure Dandy Warhols es-

sence setting the tone for the whole show. This wasn't just a tour to promote their new album, it was a show for the fans.

The Dandy Warhols are an American group which have been around since the early 90s, probably being best described under that blanket term 'alternative rock'. Whilst remaining in this general genre they've managed to change their sound almost continuously whilst still remaining identifiably as the good ol' Dandy Warhols. They started with garage rock, touched on psychedelia, and have had a stint with power-pop during their ongoing evolution, which

seems to be settling, at least for the moment, on a more stripped down, guitar driven rock.

With this constantly changing sound, The Dandy Warhols have generally polarised fans into groups which like a particular 'version' of The Dandy Warhols. It is almost without doubt that the track 'Bohemian Like You', through its use on a Vodafone advert, gained them recognition and was a huge part in their success during this period of the early noughties. I think that it was this song that I heard first and their infectious sound has meant that I have been snared since then. I've stayed a fan through their

various transformations, as even when they swap to different genres there still remains something quintessentially Dandy Warhols-ish in all their albums, and it's this that keeps drawing me back.

At the concert itself the band pandered to all of their different fans, playing a large selection of favourites from across their albums including, of course, 'Bohemian Like You' with other well-known tracks like 'Godless' and 'We Used To Be Friends' also making an appearance. A fair few of the songs played were quite different renditions of their album counterparts, even with a melodica being

brought out for a few. This added to their performance making it feel like a truly 'live' and special experience, not just a replay of the albums.

The band itself was one of the least talkative I've seen, possibly because it was Paris, and instead just got down to playing their no-nonsense rock, with the atmosphere building throughout the night, with the old theatre's dancefloor literally bouncing by the end. The concert was such a comprehensive compilation of the Dandy Warhols, making it a real pleasure to be part of the experience, and convincing me to seek them out whenever they're on tour.

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FILM

Film Editors: Katy Bettany,
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The Jewel in the Coronet EDR gets some

Alex Savell

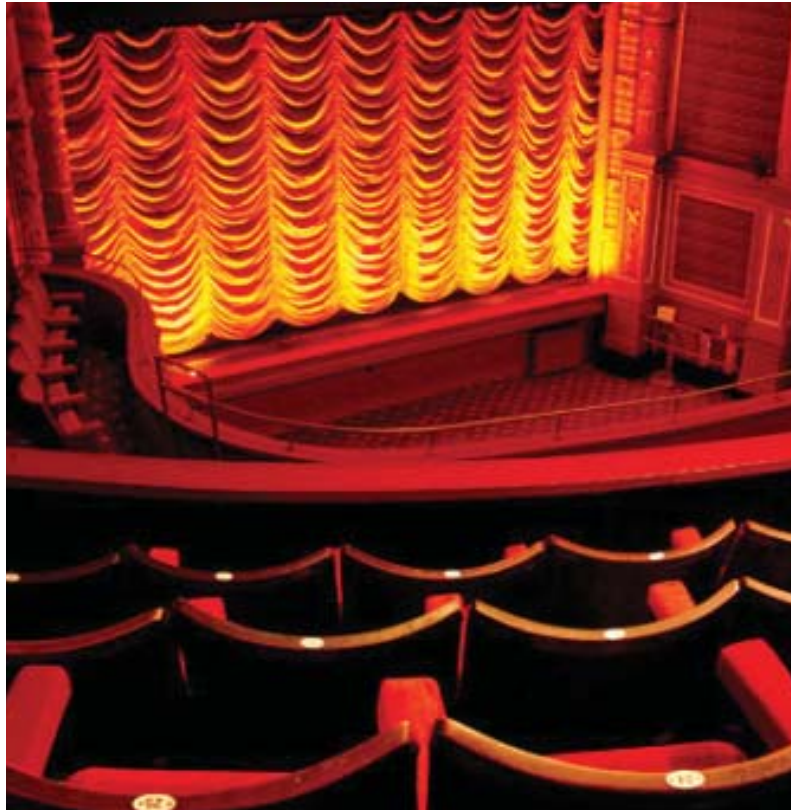
Film Writer

If my undergrad is anything to go by most people don't spend a huge amount of time in Notting Hill Gate. You might make it up to Edgware Road or into Bayswater for a year but for the most part those I know spend most of their time hanging out in Fulham or Shepherd's Bush. Everything in Notting Hill Gate is overpriced and there's not really that much there right? Wrong. The Coronet Cinema is a hidden gem that is not to be missed. Independent cinemas are much less numerous than they used to be as the big cinema chains are able to offer more films at more times in more locations. Those that survive are generally forced to find some niche to fit into; foreign movies or arts films, etc; unable to afford the high prices for studio blockbusters on the limited showings and audience sizes they can manage.

Not so the Coronet Cinema. Though they only manage four films at any one time and can only have limited showings each day on their two screens, the Coronet manages to survive in an industry where big business usually wears the crown. You would assume then that the prices they charge must be extortionate; directly on Notting Hill Gate, trying to survive, how could they not be? Well I'm not sure but at £7.50 a ticket they manage to beat the price of most top cinemas. Perhaps the lack of the 3D and HFR gimmicks of modern multiscreen keeps their costs down. So what's the drawback? Well so far as I can tell there isn't one! An old theatre building means that both screens are in a beautiful rooms that feel more like going to a play than a film and the quirky "No Smoking" and "Coming Soon" ads that seem to have been there since the early 90s give the place a nostalgic feel that really gets you in the mood.

If that's not enough for you, why not go on their student night? On a Monday it makes a great alternative to Orange Wednesdays, especially for anyone that maybe plays sport on a Wednesday afternoon. The price then goes down to £3.50 a ticket! And you get your popcorn for a whopping £1.50. Or, you could choose to eschew the popcorn and have a cheeky glass of wine or any other kiosk item on the same offer. So a large glass of wine, and *The Hobbit* for a fiver? I'd pay more than that in quite a lot of pubs, and I'd probably get a worse seat too!

Check out what's on at:
www.coronet.org
103 Notting Hill Gate
London



Hyde Park on Hudson

Director: Roger Michell
Screenwriter: Richard Nelson
Starring: Bill Murray, Laura Linney,
Samuel West, Olivia Coleman



Katy Bettany

Film Editor

It is sometime in June 1939, at Franklin D Roosevelt's (Murray) private estate, upstate New York. Europe is on the brink of war, and King George V (West) and Queen Elizabeth (Coleman) are about to become the first British monarchs ever to visit America, in a bid to improve relations and convince America to assist them in a War that was understood to be inevitable. Most of the film takes place during the weekend of the Royal visit; the rest documents FDR's dalliances with several women other than his wife Eleanor, (including the film's narrator, Daisy (Linney), his sixth cousin, intimate friend, and later, lover).

At times, the screenplay is too obvious and scripting lacks punch. Linney's narration can be melodramatic and cliched - in fact, overall her character is not much of a testament to Linney's skill as an actress. Daisy is plain, and altogether quite dull when compared to the eclectic Eleanor, who in contrast shines as the show-wife; columnist and closet lesbian.

In a film that was always going to be compared with the Academy Award winning 'The King's Speech', West and Coleman had big shoes to fill in playing the monarchs. West plays the struggling George well, portraying a man desperate to step out from underneath his brothers shadow; and be the kind of King he believes the British public deserve. Coleman is entertaining, but no Bonham Carter, and her obsession with the secret meaning behind food-types and occasional outbursts at her likable husband do not endear her.

Murray is the star of the film - playing the invalid President with great timing and a jaunty good temper. In a touching moment shared in Roosevelt's study, the two men compare ailments: the King with his now infamous stutter, and Roosevelt with his useless Polio crippled legs. Roosevelt bolsters the King's confidence, revealing that his disability is not seen and ignored, but simply not seen: the American people choose what they want to see in a leader. We see Murray provide a sort of father-figure to the young King in the central scene of the film.

Daisy's relationship with the Presi-



Alice...all grown up now...

dent is intended to be an exploration of the intimacies and nuances of friendship, but falls short. When FDR receives what has been described as 'cinema's most PG-rated handjob' (not an exaggeration), his relationship with his distant cousin moves into the icky league; and Linney's night-time forest running pushes it into the melodramatic. More than this though, is the odd positioning of this not-quite-love story with the serious business of international relations. The relationship between the President and the King was far more interesting, and more time should have been spent developing this relationship.

Part period biopic, part comic, this verges from the funny, to dull, to the distinctly queasy. Fantastic sets, soundtrack and costuming capture Depression America perfectly; and countless panoramic shots of upstate New York make this a visually pretty piece that nonetheless probably has more style than it does substance.

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FILM

Foxx is off the chain

Django Unchained

Director: Quentin Tarantino
Screenwriter: Quentin Tarantino
Starring: Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio, Kerry Washington, Samuel L. Jackson

Matt Colvin Coffee Break Editor

Smashing two concepts together is a curious business - about as curious as the length of time that it takes to travel between Knightsbridge and South Kensington on the Piccadilly Line. But who else to turn to than Quentin Tarantino? With his latest feature film *Django Unchained*, he has delivered a serious labour of love.

Already being tipped as a strong contender for the Golden Globes, *Django Unchained* is Tarantino's chance to go full Spaghetti Western. Of course, it's not that simple. This, for want of a better phrase, is a Southern Spaghetti Western - one that tackles slavery head on.

And this celluloid slavery isn't simply a background element that's routinely passed over. Here it's ugly, it's raw and it's very real. There has been talk among critics that this film fulfils some kind of adolescent desire to slip racial slurs through the censors, and while this is unflinching, fast-paced and kinetic, it's never played for poking fun at race or slavery. Instead, much like *Inglourious*

Basterds was Tarantino's filmic revenge on Hitler, here it's his revenge on the slave trade.

Acting almost as a companion piece to the fast and loose historical nazi-scalping adventure, *Django Unchained* again takes a past setting, here the America of 1858. The plot centres around slave Django (played in a winning performance by Jamie Foxx) searching the Deep South for his beloved wife Broomhilda (Kerry Washington). However, Christoph Waltz steals the show once again following his turn as the diabolical Col. Hans Landa in *Basterds*. As dentist turned bounty hunter Dr. King Schultz, Waltz is at all times hugely threatening with the capacity for violence and also an immensely pleasant character.

Django and Schultz (whose horse, Fritz, may be even more of a scene stealer) buddy up as they traverse the land as a bounty-hunting duo. It's not long before the duo come face-to-face with vile plantation owner Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio). Much focus has been placed on DiCaprio's turn as the rotten toothed villain. While you can tell he's having the time of his life, drawing it up like nobody's business, so are the rest of the ensemble players, and it's fantastic to watch.

I could wax lyrical about the strength of the cast: Kerry Washington brings a more-than-convincing bilingual turn as Broomhilda, and Samuel L. Jackson's long awaited on-screen return to the works of Tarantino

pretty much gives everyone a run for their money, portraying Candie's nefarious and wholly loyal slave, Stephen.

Other than a fantastic cast and its colourful historical setting, it's the regular tension, much like in *Basterds*, that is at once unbearable and gripping. One major scene featuring the majority of the main cast ratchets up the stress to an almost ungodly degree before letting go. And let go it does.

Indeed, it's not a film for the squeamish (this is, after all, Quentin Tarantino we're talking about). Blood splatters as freely as ever, and the film is unflinching in portraying the barbarity of the slave trade. In response to the standard questioning of the amount of violence present, Tarantino has spoken of his desire to not gloss over the issues at hand. Speaking to the Guardian, the director explained that "however bad things get in the movie, a lot worse s*** actually happened." Nevertheless, Django's rampage through the Deep South may call for a little cringing.

It may also call for a toilet break if you've poorly judged your hydration before sitting down to watch it. It's a reliably lengthy beast, clocking in at nearly three hours. However, while the film never overstayed its welcome, there were a couple of detours in a kind of 'whirlwind slavery tour' that didn't quite jam. This includes a sequence where Django and Schultz encounter some fanatic racists. The

scene is played for laughs, but at least to me the joke went on a little too long. The folks at the screening thoroughly seemed to enjoy it though, and it brought some of the evening's biggest laughs.

Events also seemed to build up to a natural climax, before it transpired that there was a good twenty minutes left on top of this. The final act features some memorable moments (including an explosive sterling cameo from a certain individual) but I can't help but shake the feeling that the final sequence comes sneaking up out of nowhere.

In keeping with the genre, naturally Spaghetti Western composer legend Ennio Morricone turns up to compose an original piece, but it's the anachronistic soundtrack that sings. Rick Ross, the Teflon Don himself, lends his dulcet tones for one scene, but it's a combination of Tupac Shakur and James Brown that brought the house down when paired with a climactic set-piece of near orgasmic violence.

It's reliably over-the-top, funny and brutal. Out of the two historical Tarantino films however, I'd probably just choose *Basterds* over *Django*, if only because I personally preferred the greater prevalence of tense dialogue over *Django*'s action set-pieces.

If you're a fan, it's essential. If you aren't sold on this particular brand, then this is unlikely to sway your opinion. If you're stuck in the middle, then delving headfirst into this tale of southern slavery is well worth it.

2013 Screen Actors Guild Awards Winners

Best Cast:
Argo

Best Lead Actor:
Daniel Day-Lewis
Lincoln

Best Lead Actress:
Jennifer Lawrence
Silver Linings Playbook

Best Supporting Actor:
Tommy Lee Jones
Lincoln

Best Supporting Actress:
Anne Hathaway
Les Misérables



FILM

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2013 February Preview



Flying high

John Park Film Editor

Flight – 1st February

Whip (Denzel Washington) loves his alcohol and drugs, which is a problem since he's a pilot. A faulty plane forces him to emergency land in an open field, instantly turning him into a hero for saving most of his passengers. But an investigation looking into every aspect of the crash draws out his substance abuse – and as an addict who refuses to believe he has a problem, it's clear he won't be able to cope well with the many hearings and tough questions lined up. The first half-hour is an intense opening showing us the actual crash itself. The rest is an in-depth character study of a man who spirals out of control, with Washington giving a solid lead performance.



"I just farted on the last piece of pizza before giving it to you"

I Give it a Year – 8th February

Marriage is hard, as evidenced by a pair of newlyweds facing all sorts of challenges in their first year. Rafe Spall and Rose Byrne are the couple, Minnie Driver is the straight-talking hilarious sister of the bride, Anna Farris and Simon Baker star as the potential extra-marital love interests, whereas Stephen Merchant and Olivia Coleman lend their comic helping hands as further supporting characters. With a cast this good, it's worth having some expectation.



Still hotter than Edward Cullen

Warm Bodies – 8th February

A zombie (Nicholas Hoult) falls in love with a non-zombie human girl (Teresa Palmer) after eating her boyfriend's brain. Aww. It's certainly an interesting spin on the well-known zombie apocalypse setting. Also acting as a tribute to William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, will these two star-crossed lovers overcome their obvious obstacles and differences to live happily ever after? If this decides to follow Shakespeare's work closely, the answer is probably not.



This is 40 – 14th February

Judd Apatow's sort-of-sequel to *Knocked Up*, we look at the lives of Pete (Paul Rudd) and Debbie (Leslie Mann) as a married couple having to come to terms with ageing and various mid-life crises. They love each other, there's some falling apart, but in the end it turns out they really do love each other. Sounds simple and pretty standard but with Apatow looking over the project, there are plenty of laughs to be had.



YAAAAAY I'm getting eaten alive today!!!

Hitchcock – 8th February

Filming *Psycho* wasn't an easy task it seems, as financial problems and sensitive topics prevented even one of the most respected and popular directors in Hollywood from finding much support. Here we focus more heavily on Alfred Hitchcock's rocky relationship with his wife Alma Reville, and the two powerhouse British veterans, Anthony Hopkins and Helen Mirren in their respective roles are truly magnificent, although the weak and uneven script doesn't do its potentially meaty subject any favours.



Did I lock my front door?

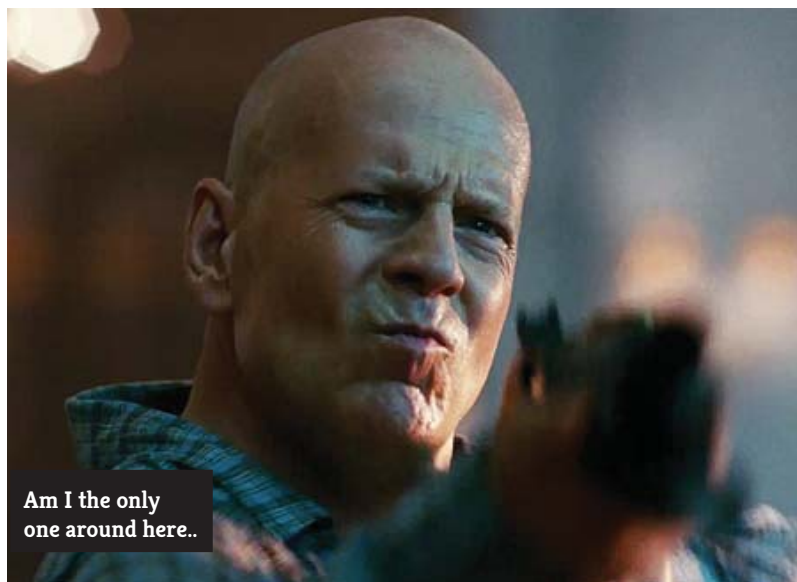
Beautiful Creatures – 13th February

The start of a thrilling new witch saga or yet another literary adaptation that fails to soar or even worse, a *Twilight*-like dud? Only time will tell but as far as the casting goes, it doesn't need any more big names for what appears to be aimed at young adults. Based on the popular bestseller of the same name, it deals with a group of witches, sorry, Casters, as a young girl about to hit 16 (Alice Englert) having to choose between the Light and Dark. Emma Thompson and Emmy Rossum are Dark, Viola Davis and Jeremy Irons are Light. Who will she side with? And the more important question: will the newcomers be competent in their lead roles?

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FILM

W: all you need is love...



Am I the only one around here..

A Good Day to Die Hard – 14th February

One for the boys this one, an anti-Valentine's Day addition to the mix. An American cop visits Russia – a combination not likely to go down well. In the previous instalment we met John McClane's (Bruce Willis, still going strong even though he's nearing 60 now) daughter. Here we meet his son (Jai Courtney), and the two of them fight the bad guys. A lot of dumb fun for sure, with absurd but hilarious one-liners that will make you chuckle.



What do you mean you haven't filled out the Felix Sex Survey



TOWIE's having a bad hair day...

Mama – 22nd February

Jessica Chastain is on a roll, covering a every genre possible showing her endless versatility. Here we meet her in the middle of a spooky horror film. As an unwilling aunt to two traumatised nieces, she slowly uncovers the mysteries surrounding their dark past and a sinister Mama spirit that surrounds them.



I've got a surprriiiiise for youuuuu

Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters – 22nd February

If Abe Lincoln can be a vampire hunter, these two can certainly be witch hunters. Hansel and Gretel have now grown up, and ever since their unfortunate encounter with a witch and her candy house, they have made it their mission to slay all witches that terrorise villages and kidnap children. They meet their match with Muriel (Famke Janssen) who seems to have a master evil plan to kill people. Complete and utter nonsense but perhaps to its intended target audience, this could work out to be some refreshing, blood-soaked light entertainment.

Cloud Atlas – 22nd February

Ambitious, visually enthralling, and endlessly entertaining, the Wachowski siblings team up with Tom Tykwer to cover 500 years of narrative, a boatload of characters, and fascinating, smart links between six separate plot chunks. This barely made a mark in the US box office, and is slowly getting its push in the European market – probably won't do much better on this side of the Atlantic either though; which is tragic, because here is a meticulously crafted film which offers a wide mix of genres and yet a powerful finishing punch.



Come here rude boy boy boy boy can you get it up...?

Song for Marion – 22nd February

Arthur (Terrence Stamp) is a grumpy old man who frowns at his loving wife Marion's (Vanessa Redgrave) singing passion. When she falls ill and is unable to perform in her choir's upcoming competition, it's down to Arthur's voice to determine whether the show goes on or not. Will he sing or won't be in place for his sick wife? The outcome is a predictable but warmly satisfying one, with Redgrave's well-placed rendition of 'True Colours' bound to leave the audience in tears. Plus, how many films this year will have a group of old retirees singing 'Let's Talk About Sex'?



Right Ben...down on your knees...

To the Wonder – 22nd February

Terrence Malick is not everyone's cup of tea, as evidenced by the polarised reactions at many of his festival screenings. His laboured, slow direction is considered beautiful to some, but also dull and pretentious to others. His latest is no exception to his methods, and sports an A-star cast as usual. An American man's (Ben Affleck) marriage to a European woman falls apart, which prompts him to reach out to an old childhood friend of his – where romance ignites. With very little dialogue and a director known to take his time with his lengthy shots, this one is definitely not for the easily bored.



SimCity (Not 5)

Josh Price gives us his thoughts on last weekend's SimCity beta

It's been almost a year since I discovered the new *SimCity* was announced. Was it really, finally, possible that Maxis were making a new game, with that one feature that was missing from the previous versions? Could this really be the dawn of *curved roads*? Speculation aside, I was particularly pleased to find that I had an invitation to the beta, last weekend. Naturally, what follows is not a full feature review, there will of course be changes, but I still had a fun in the limited hour that the beta provided. Plenty of time to start ~~oppressing the masses and begin industrialisation~~ creating an idyllic suburban utopia.

For those curious to know what this is, *SimCity* is a 'reboot' of the series which is about, surprise surprise, city building. The gameplay is fairly simple. A network of roads acts as the core of your city, from simple streets to 8 lane highways. Development is controlled by zones, residential, commercial and industrial. There are many services you need to manage too; Electricity, Water, Health, Rubbish, etc, etc. There's a whole list of needs you need to balance, in order to make your city functional and to keep your Sims happy. As the game progresses, new options open up to you, including better transport systems, landmarks and the like. If you're successful, you should slowly notice your small country-style town of shacks, develop into a huge megapolis of gleaming glass spires.

But what of new features? It's been 10 years since the last game, *SimCity 4*, came out (*Societies?* Mention it not!), and there are plenty of additions to boot in the new game. Zoning, for example, is now free and only necessary along roads themselves. Thankfully, this means no more "no access" signs springing up, or worrying about filling up those awkward little gaps. One of the biggest changes however is the level of increased customization. Any service, aesthetic, or general 'functional' structure you place can now be modified. Is your school over-enrolled? Build more classrooms!

Is your wind farm not meeting your power demands? Add more turbines! There are other neat features along this line too. The old radius system for buildings seems to have been done away with mostly, and there's no worry about taking up grid squares to play. And yes, finally, curved roads; you're no longer confined to building towns of a similar style to Milton Keynes.

One other new feature that is worth mentioning is the increased regional play, sadly absent from the beta. In previous versions of the game, you created your city in a region, but didn't necessarily need to interact with any others. With the exception of *SimCity 2000's Network Edition*, the game was entirely single player. In this version, however, Maxis have added the option of having you play with other people. These can be complete strangers, or just your friends. The level of interactivity between cities seems to be much improved; you can share certain services and the like. One other new feature seems to be "Great Works", which the beta excitedly promotes as something for mayors to work together on. Special sites are given over in a region, to these, and can consist of things such as a shared solar farm or international airport.

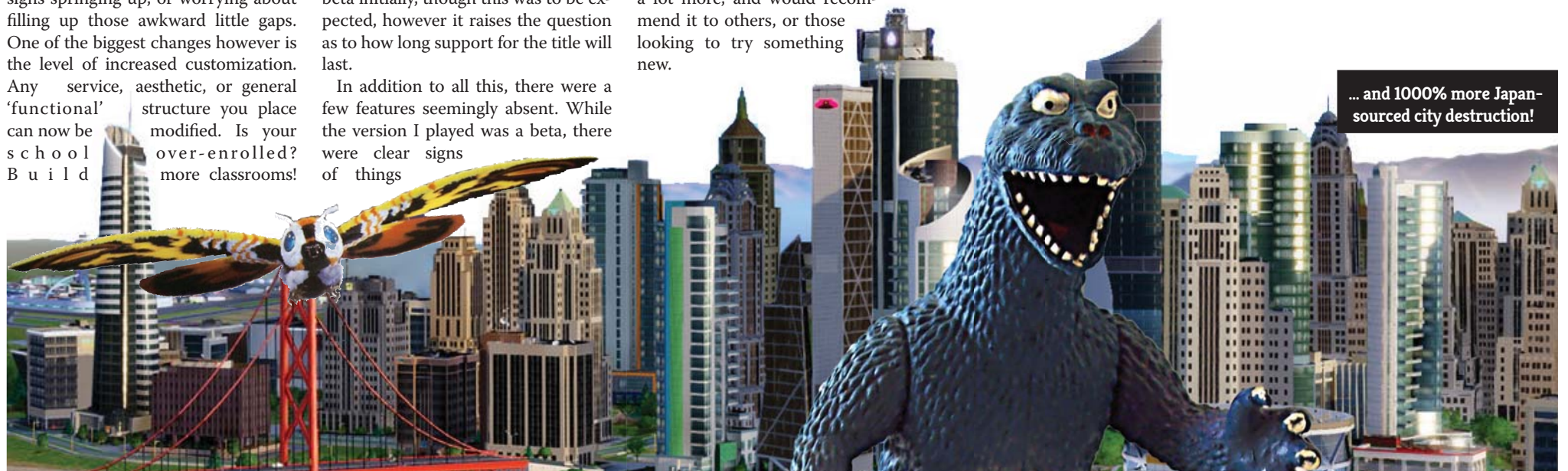
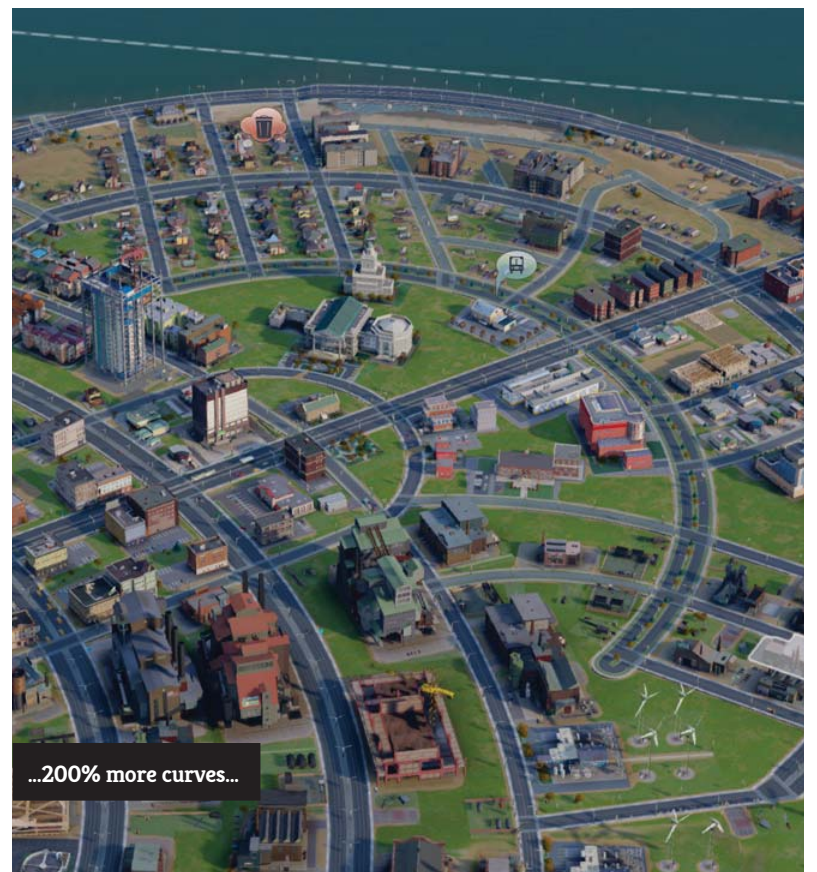
It's not all nice and rosy however. Depressingly, the game does require the presence of an always online internet connection. Maxis have stated that this is to ensure a better game experience, and that some of the simulations required by the game are required for play. The lack of a 100% offline single-player mode is disappointing, especially for those still without constant uninterrupted access to the internet. Not only this, but it raises the question of the reliability of EA's servers. There were some issues in connecting to the beta initially, though this was to be expected, however it raises the question as to how long support for the title will last.

In addition to all this, there were a few features seemingly absent. While the version I played was a beta, there were clear signs of things

available in the full version, hidden under a "Not in Beta" tag. Long term fans of the series will be saddened by the absence of certain features. Perhaps most notably, these include subways and farms; I can only hope they aren't specifically left out to be included as later downloadable content. One other feature that seemed to be annoying was the limited size of the city. Maxis have confirmed that this isn't restricted to the beta, and is a design and technical choice. They have stated that this will improve regional play, giving no "correct" city design. I was quite a fan of creating as large as possible metropolises in *SimCity 4* and I can imagine this will be a common complaint amongst other fans of the original game.

Overall though, my experience of the beta was very enjoyable. After playing for an hour it's nice to see that the attention to detail in graphics is present in the new Glassbox engine, and you are no longer confined to an isometric view. You can play the entire game from a tilt-shift perspective, and if you've got a computer with a decent amount of power under the hood, you can expect to be treated to some very nice looking cityscapes. The statistics mode is present, as in the previous game, which allows you to study different aspects of your city in almost minute detail. There are various graphs present which let you look at things, from happiness to local pollution. With the new engine these can be shown directly in your city, providing some strangely satisfying scenarios. For example, try watching the flow of power to your buildings after you've built a power plant.

Online qualms aside, I am definitely giving this title some more interest now I've had the chance to play it. As a major fan of the original series, I'm looking forward to the release of this a lot more, and would recommend it to others, or those looking to try something new.



See what your Sabbs are up to on their blogs

Elections time is almost upon us! You may have seen over the last few weeks our Sabbatical team taking a retrospective look back at their manifesto pledges that helped them get elected. Of course, it is hard to plan an entire year of a new job before you have even started and your Sabbaticals end up acheiveing considerably more than what was on their manifesto.

The Sabbatical Blogs give you a chance to see what your Sabbaticals are doing day-to-day to help improve the student experience at College. Some of the recent posts include Paul's trip to India with the Rector, Stefan's Summer Ball working group, Becky's latest initiative to encourgae you all to start up campaigns you care about and the great news that Henry has worked with the IC Trust to secure an increase in Club, Society and Project tours funding by £3,000.

Take a look now at:

imperialcollegeunion.org/blogs

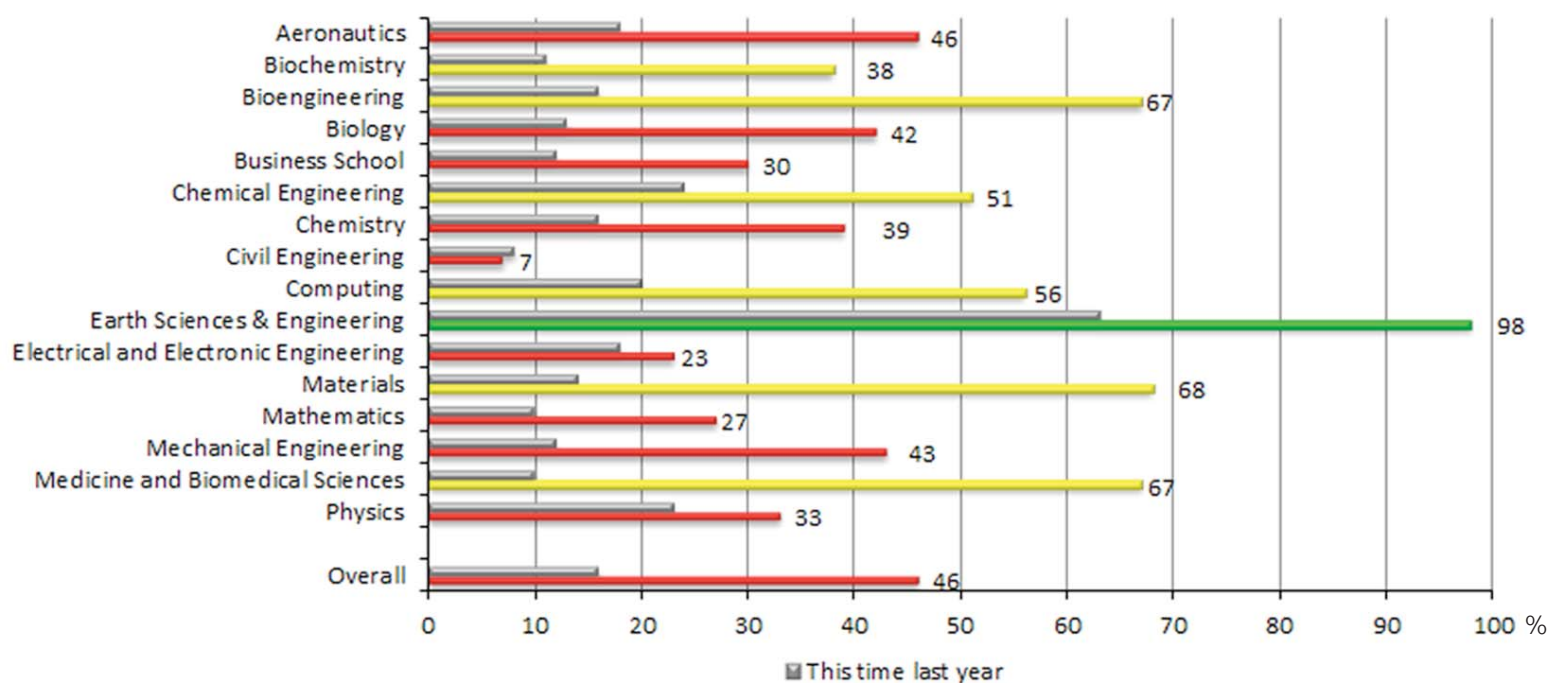


NSS - great response so far!

Final years are currently smashing last year's participation rate when you compare us to this time last year. Each subject needs at least a 50% participation rate for the results to be published but we should be aiming for 75% across the College to make sure the results are fully representative. This is possible, as we got 71% last year.

Also remember to not be neutral when filling it in, commit to a view.

National Student Survey Participation Rates on 30/01/13



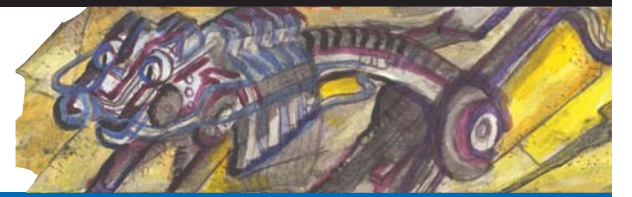
Doug Hunt

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Keep up-to-date with your Sabbaticals at:

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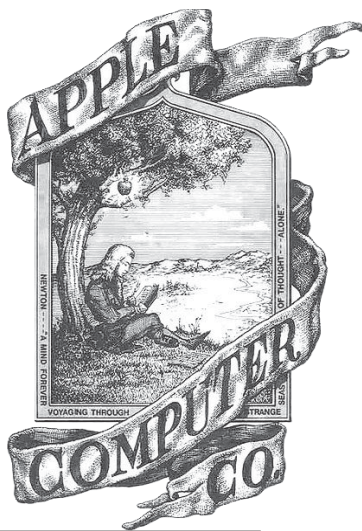
Apple, sweet or sour outlook?

Maximilian Eggli dissects the taste of the future for the fruity company

Apple have undeniably changed the world. It used to be the most valuable company on Earth, ever. Now, stockholders are insecure and other brands have come close, if not eclipsed, the atmosphere of 'coolness' that Apple once made its own. Have they diverted off their successful path, have they done wrong? Or is this just a momentary glitch?

Humble beginnings

Let's quickly summarise Apple's origins, as to understand the future, you have to know about the past. Established on the 1st of April by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne. Apple Computer Inc, as it was known in the early days, was quite successful; they sold the Apple I and Apple II, the latter being one of the first highly successful microcomputers made. Its success is mostly accredited to its ease of use, and utility programs (e.g. VisiCalc, the first spreadsheet program). After the release of the unsuccessful Apple III, came the era of the Lisa



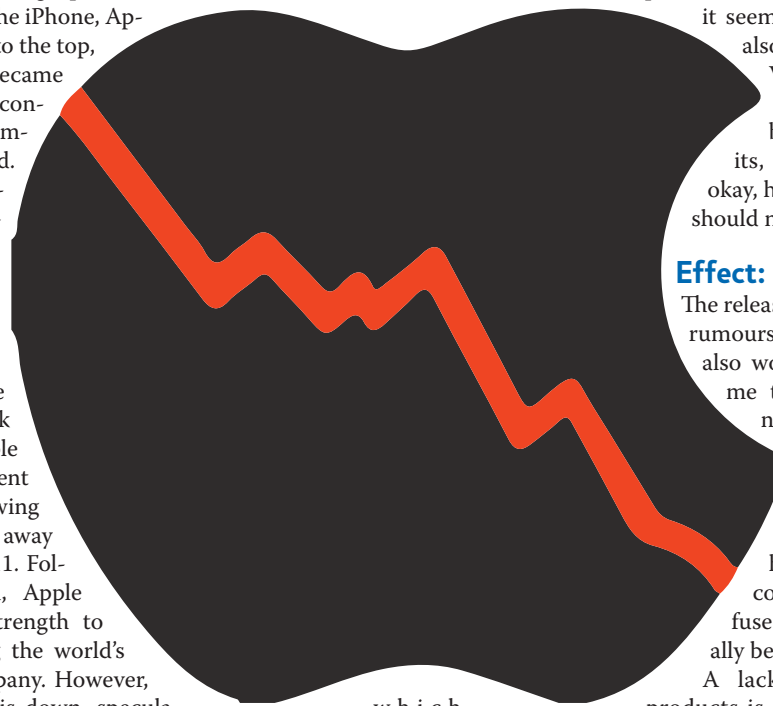
The original Apple logo

computer and the Macintosh. During this time the first fractures were seen between the Apple board and Jobs. Thus after an attempted putsch, Jobs was forced out of the company in 1985. The next five years were relatively successful for Apple, even without Jobs. However, then things started to go downhill. Mismanagement, wasteful uses of resources and overwhelmingly confusing product lines left the consumer at a loss, leading to Apple's decline. Facing bankruptcy, Jobs was brought back as an advisor and then interim CEO. He then restructured the whole company. He retired several products, released revolutionary new ones (iPod, iMac etc.) and generally changed the business model that Apple used. It still took Apple a while to really achieve mainstream success, but things were looking up. In 2007, with the release of the iPhone, Apple was on the way to the top, and eventually became the most valuable consumer-directed company in the world. Then Jobs was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, which severely affected his day to day running, forcing him to take medical leave. This leave affected the stock market, with Apple losing several percent in trading the following days. Jobs passed away on 5th October 2011. Following Job's death, Apple have gone from strength to strength, becoming the world's most valuable company. However, now Apple's stock is down, speculators are doubting them to stay ahead of the game.

Effect: Jobs

There we have it. So what conclusions can we draw from this? Firstly, I think

if Jobs would still be around, Apple would be doing better. Job's perfectionist management style, ability to say no and general revolutionary view of technology are what made Apple what it is. He was the god of the company, and inspired all his employees to apply themselves to the best of their abilities, and forcing all the big egos of Apple to work together to create great products. In fact when Cook took over, Forstall (head of iOS) was asked to leave after some high profile mistakes in iOS 6 (e.g. Maps). However it seems the real reason of his "firing" was his feud with Jonathan Ives, award-winning designer, who designed, amongst others, the iPod, iMac and iPhone,



which was kept at bay by Jobs.

This unique approach to leading a company, gave Apple the reputation of being a company that has the best quality products that you can trust. With the advent of 'Mapgate', this

If Apple doesn't go back to its old self, we'll never know what we could have had.

reputation is starting to erode. Also, it seems that the company is also resting on its laurels. While for any business with \$86 billion in the bank and record profits, this may seem quite okay, however, for Apple okay should not be enough.

Effect: No Jobs

The release of the iPad Mini, and rumours of a low budget phone also worry me. This reminds me too much of the first non-Jobs era. The one product per function approach was perfectly workable, and with new hybrid products the consumer will be confused about what is really best for them.

A lack of revolutionary products is also a key factor in Apple's sinking. While Apple was known for creating something new every year, or doing something that really kicked the market's butt. With the last few keynotes though, starting with the iPhone 4S, Apple hasn't really done anything new. Yes, the iPhone 5 has a bigger screen, but that is just a reaction to the market. In fact so is the iPad Mini. Apple is reacting to others, instead of setting a standard of being the proactive one.

Effect: Android et al

However, not only internal factors have led to Apple's decline in the recent weeks. Increased pressure from Android, Windows 8 and the Samsung Galaxy line in particular have not really helped. iOS is still a good operating system, if a bit outdated. Androids great modifiabil-

ity has lead to the decline in the iPhone OS, and now with Windows 8, a great operating system in its own right, it ain't getting better for the Cupertino based firm. Also a very smart marketing campaign by Samsung has really damaged Apple's rep as the coolest product around. In fact, many people see Apple as being dependable, for their parents, but not for themselves.

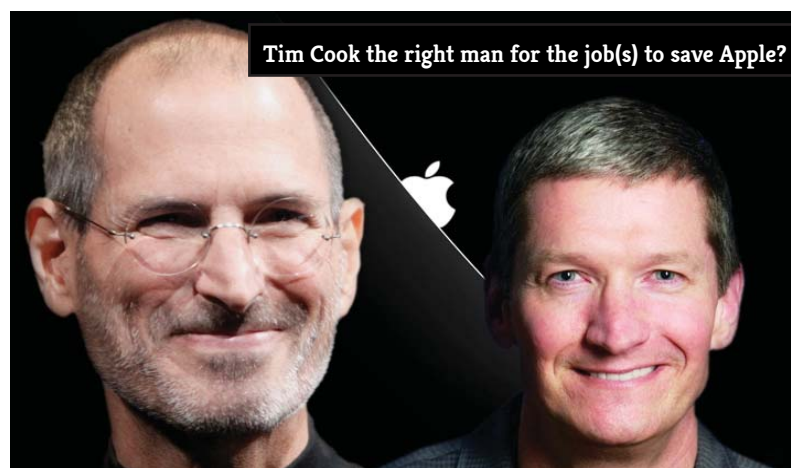
So what?

This apparent downfall does depress me somewhat. I used to get excited before Apple keynotes (sad, yes I know) because I knew something amazing would be on show. Nowadays, I tune in just to keep up with what's happening. Apple need something or someone to kick it in the backside and get it going. Steve Jobs is not around to do that anymore. Cook, seems able, but he has not been faced with a crisis before. All the Android fanboys and Windows fanatics, are probably overjoyed that this tech giant is possibly in decline. But think on this, without Apple there would not be an Ultrabook, smartphone, tablet, app-based market like there is today. If Apple doesn't go back to its old self, we'll never know what we could have had.



Apple is in a fragile state, just like their products, as this 1" drop proves.

Following Job's death, Apple have gone from strength to strength



Technology Editor: Jason Parmar
Maximilian Eggl
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TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft going hard?

Jason Parmar looks at Microsoft's new philosophy: go hard and soft

It's not unfair to call Microsoft a reactive company, i.e. they follow trends and build on others innovations, it's in their history.

Excel was an improved spreadsheet of existing VisiCalc, Word was an improved word processor of existing MicroPro and Internet Explorer was an improved web browser of existing NCSA Mosaic. Even Microsoft's first big commercial success in the mass market, MS-DOS was built on, like Apple, the investment in GUI that Xerox developed.

Microsoft have continued to be reactive to this day and have a reputation for successfully recognising growth markets, acquiring firms and developing products more successful than many of their competitors (with a few exceptions).

Xbox 360, for example, announced they've shipped over 70 million units in October 2012, not bad for a company who only entered the console market in 2001.

Over the last 30 years Microsoft have well and truly demonstrated that there's nothing wrong with being a reactive or a "following" company, as long as you do it well. Their reactive strategies have earned them the honour to be one of very few companies in the world to have over a billion users worldwide and is why they still are one of the top 10 companies in the world.

So why are they so interesting now? What's changed?

Well, we are currently seeing the most radical change in the Redmond based company's history. They've fundamentally changed what they companies message to world is, released radical new products and have meticulously integrated all their services, all within the last 12 months.

And the reason? Well it has something to do with the fact that Micro-

Microsoft®



Microsoft's rebranding was too badass for an Obama "cool story bro"

soft are reacting to what they believe is a fundamental shift in the market and computing demands.

The world has moved on from Bill Gates' famous BHAG to have "a computer on every desk and in every home". That goal has mostly been achieved in the western world today, and technology, never standing still, appears to be inching ever closer to the "post-PC era". Just this month it was announced that worldwide PC sales were down 5% compared with year and most believe that the downward trend will continue at an increasingly rapid pace.

But it's not like Microsoft never prepared for the death of the PC. In 2002 Bill Gates released the tablet PC thinking it would change the world and be the future, but it failed spectacularly. There's lots of cited reasons for the failure, e.g. primitive software, but the real reason is that Microsoft just isn't like their Cupertino rivals Apple, they're not a proactive company, they're reactive.

Microsoft therefore needed someone else to create a new growth market, a market they could build upon for the future success of their company. So in steps the world's best marketer and innovator, Apple CEO, Steve Jobs. In 2010 he released the iPad and claimed it would "change the world". Change the world it did, the world went into a frenzy for the product, growing the tablet market by 250% in 2011 and increasing current sales projections to 165.9m this year alone.

It's this market demand that kicked Microsoft the most and it's the one they have reacted to the strongest. But choosing to distinguish themselves from their wealthier rivals, they haven't gone directly into the "tablet" market and have instead claimed they are creating their own innovative market, the "hybrid" market. Regardless if the two market are the same or different, Microsoft appear 100% sure that it will be the future for computing devices and have attacked all guns blazing.

And by all guns blazing, I basically mean Microsoft went HARD. Not only did they not even contemplate going home, but they literally went hard by releasing their first piece of real hardware.

In this last six months alone Microsoft released: new hardware hybrids with the Surface RT & Surface Pro, a radical new operating system with Windows 8, an increasingly popular and innovative mobile operating system with Windows Phone 8, a completely overhauled cloud and subscription based Office Suite with Office 365, a "seamlessly integrated" cloud based storage service with SkyDrive and to tie it all together they not only integrated the functions of all of their services but they completely rebranded the entire companies products and publicity material with new logos, websites and design templates.

With a new Xbox 720 on the horizon and Microsoft's Bing search grabbing market share off Google every day, it's no wonder people are calling this Microsoft's biggest change ever, they're going hard.

But perhaps one of the most interesting emerging news topics about Microsoft going hard is their rumoured investment of \$3bn into soon-to-be private Dell. It's incredibly rare for Microsoft to tap into their \$67bn cash reserve so chances are Microsoft are thinking seriously about going into hardware. This makes sense for Microsoft, as CEO Steve Ballmer repeatedly stated at the launch of the Microsoft Surface that they believed that success relied on the strength of hardware and software working together. So it's possible that in the near future Microsoft may no longer just be a software company and may actually become, much like Apple, a "device company", effectively going from Microsoft to 'Microhardandsoft'.

So although Microsoft's profits are down 4% on last year, it's evident that they aren't standing still. In keeping with their reactive follower history, Microsoft have gone all in for what

they think is the future of computing. They've bet almost everything on the uptake of their new operating systems and the success of the tablet/hybrid market. It's a bold move and only time will tell if they can successfully win over business and consumers. But with the "post-PC era" drawing ever closer, a radical change was needed. I for one think Microsoft have reacted well, they've stepped up and have gone hard.

Too Long, Didn't Read

Microsoft are going so hard that home is just a fictional concept. They've radically changed their fundamental strategy by mixing hardware with software across all platforms (phones, tablets/hybrids and desktops) and they've released bare new products including Windows 8, Windows Phone 8, Office 365 and Surface in the last 6 months.

They're investing everything into the success of the hybrid market, their new software and their new hardware. This is all in the hope that consumers and business will continue to love them forever, or continue to grudgingly accept them.

So not only are they going hard from a "were releasing loads of new stuff" POV but their actually going hard into hardware with Surface, Xbox and a potential acquisition of Dell. If it all goes ahead maybe they'll need to rebrand again, from Microsoft to MicroSoftThenHard (but perhaps that's too much of a double entendre).

The News Bubble

General news from around the tech world, so you can keep up to date with the newest, weirdest and most futuristic things around.

128GB iPad

Yes, Apple finally has released a tablet with some REAL memory storage. Costing you around £750, it should only really be considered by the Apple obsessed or by those with serious amounts of data.

Twitter Porn

Six second porn clips were added to Twitter, via the app Vine. Invariably something quite explicit appeared in everyone's vine feed, due to it being an editor's pick. The hashtag "dildoplay" became quite popular on Twitter, but the video was almost instantly removed.

The Graphene Flagship

The EU has recently released its science funding, and announced it would give a budget of 1bn euros to the University of Cambridge who are working with Nokia to bring graphene to everyday electronics. Bendy phones like Nokia's Morph may be more than just a concept!

Office 365 (2013)

Microsoft has launched a new iteration of Office, redesigning it to utilise touch screen based controls as well as Skype's video chat. There are also several other features, which can be added via the app store. There is a one time purchase for £110 (will be cheaper for students) or a subscription model for £80 pounds per annum, which includes 60 minutes of Skype calling as well as more Skydrive storage.

Blackberry 10

After their market share collapsed from 19% in 2010 to 4% Blackberry released their long awaited make-or-break operating system. The Z10 and Q10 are the flagship devices, the former making its world debut in the UK. Blackberry's shares fell more than 6% after the launch.

Max Eggl and Jason Parmar Tech Editors

we are currently seeing the most radical change in the Redmond based company's history

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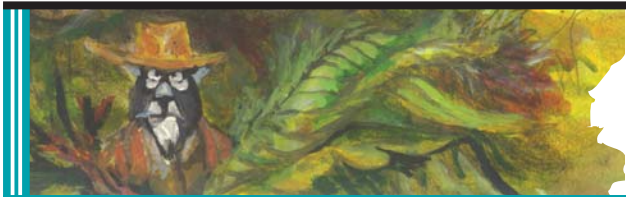
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GHEI is a USA and Ghana based, 501(c)(3) registered NGO working in the Western Region of Ghana, specifically in the village of Humjibre and the surrounding district. Our mission is to promote education and improve health in young people through sustainable development practices and community empowerment.

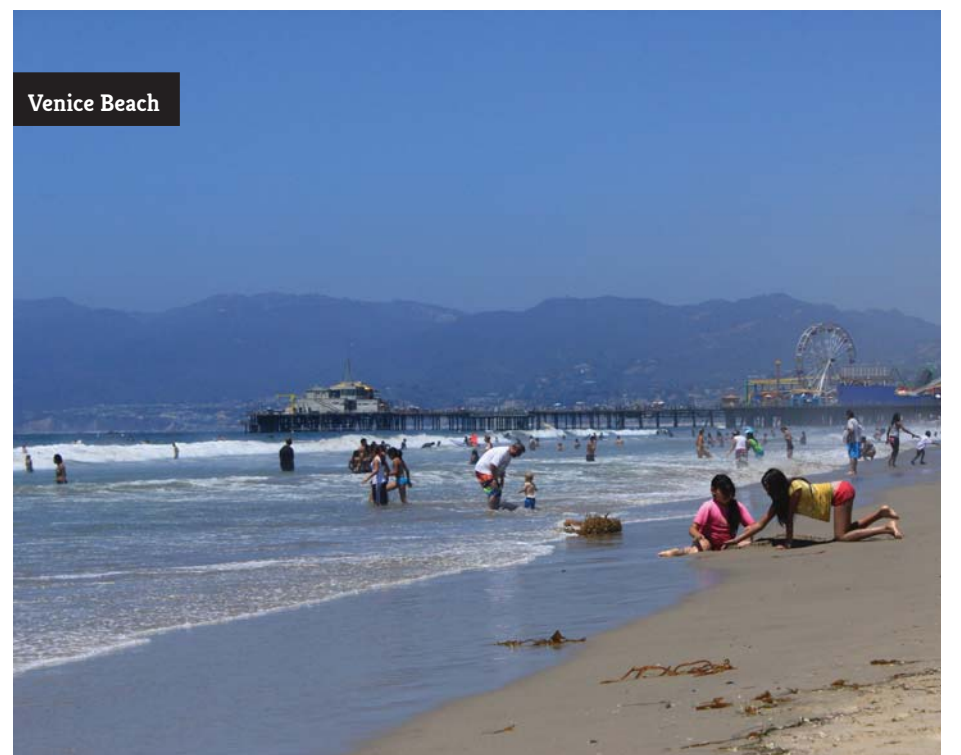
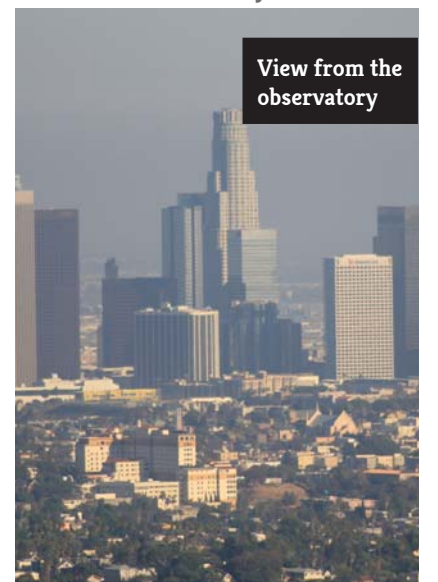


Travel Editors: Simon Carnochan, Veronika McQuade
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TRAVEL

Viva Las - oooops, scratch that - Los Angeles!!!

Photos taken by Natalia Petrou



Natalia Petrou

Writer

I know most of you have connected the above phrase with Las Vegas, but I decided it's high time that we turned our attention also to Los Angeles and its hidden gems. From the moment you land there, you really feel you are in a truly cosmopolitan city, which at the same time features lots of green areas, beaches and recreational activities. It's difficult to comment on every aspect of this city, but I will try to draw a general image of what it has to offer and basically appealed to me.

On the one hand you can find the rich and glorious neighbourhoods,

that accommodate all our favourite actors and TV stars, like Beverly Hills and Bel Air. Of course it is not necessary to be one of those to appreciate these areas, as everybody can walk around these neighbourhoods and just admire what is way over his/her budget for sure and dream that maybe one day he/she can afford something similar (dream a little dream). But even so the architecture of the houses, the parks and the shops are worth a visit.

On the other hand there are also famous beaches in the vicinity of the city, just a short bus ride away. To start with there is the Santa Monica Beach, where one can swim, surf or if afraid

of the ocean (like me) can just walk by the beach and reach the Venice Beach on foot. Along the way there are lots of small shops to browse and just enjoy the walk. The most famous beach of course is without saying Malibu, home to many TV stars as well, and has become more famous due to the series *Two and a Half Men*. This beach offers a nice beach to swim but mostly surf. Lastly I want to mention the also well known "Long Beach", which despite being a rather long bus ride away, is worth the travel. The view of the area is magnificent especially during sunset and this area also offers a wide range of restaurants and coffee shops to just relax and enjoy the

view. All these beaches are a great way to escape the hectic rhythms of the city, but I would advise to avoid going there on a Sunday since it can get quite crowded.

Of course how can I omit the most famous landmark of Los Angeles, Hollywood?! Walk on the famous "Walk of Fame" and discover the star of your favourite actor on the pavement and just walk around the area to enter the magical world of movies. To conclude the visit, one should definitely visit the Griffith Observatory, from which the view of the entire city is breathtaking. It is actually possible to see from there how many different areas comprise this glorious and huge city.

Obviously Los Angeles has a vast offer of shops all around the city. My favourite places would have to be the Grove Mall, with a wide range of shops and restaurants and also close by the farmer's market with food from all over the world. It is worth paying a visit to those places!

My suggestion overall is to visit Los Angeles as it combines perfectly the life of a big city with many recreational possibilities to forget the humdrum of modern life... Also the temperature there is more or less the same throughout the year, so all can find some time and a cheap bargain to visit it. What are you waiting for? Start searching...

CHURCH

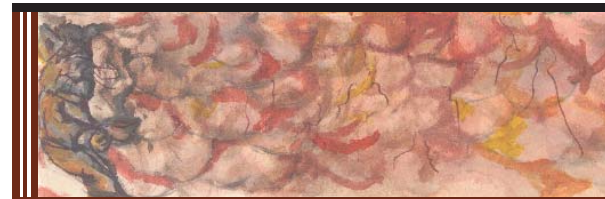
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SUNDAYS
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STUDENT UNION

Free café – 5:30
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Coffee Break Boss: Matt Colvin
felix@imperial.ac.uk

COFFEE BREAK

Hard-hitting interview

Coffee Break sits down with the Editor-in-Chief of Felix to get to the bottom of things once and for all

Taking the 74 bus is an experience any day of the week, but this particular journey towards College is fraught with danger. Danger of an intellectual format. It's dangerous because I'm desperately formulating a way of writing an introduction for this interview. A child in a buggy throws a stern stare in my direction that can only say, "don't go, don't go...". Of course, the infant is, in actual fact, incapable of human speech, a fact which steadies my nerves. The bus grinds to a halt and a quick walk along Queens Gate and into the West Basement of Imperial College Union brings me to my destination.

I'm here to talk to the current Editor-in-Chief of Felix, Tim Arbabzadah. Following his medium-rare grilling of the current sabbaticals over the past few weeks, Coffee Break has taken the opportunity to turn the tables, as it were, and interrogate him. What does he think are the most pressing issues that students currently face? What drives him? Face-to-face with the man, would I even have the nerve to ask such questions?

Opening the door, we instantly greet each other, as people generally do:

Coffee Break: Hi Tim.
Tim Arbabzadah: Hi.

CB: How tall are you?
TA: 5 foot 4.

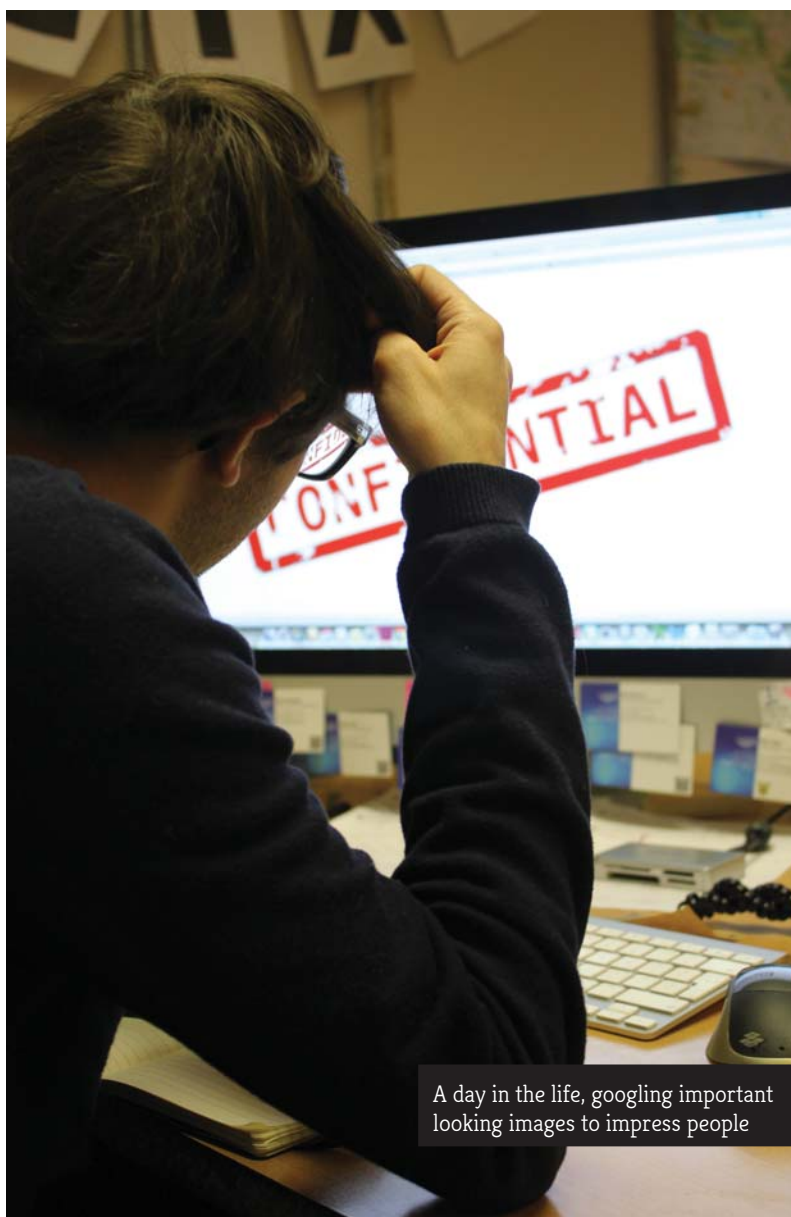
CB: That's an interesting height. Do you think you're tall enough to be in the position of Felix Editor?

TA: Yeah, there have been Editors of the shorter persuasion before and they've had a great time.

CB: You've painted a wall in the office with blackboard paint so people can write on it. Isn't that a waste of a perfectly decent blank wall?

TA: I don't think so, there was only a framed picture of London hanging on it before, and it wasn't even that good.

CB: Fair enough. Who or what are your main influences?



A day in the life, googling important looking images to impress people

TA: John Oliver from The Daily Show along with Danny Dyer's subtle performance in his latest film, *Run for Your Wife*.

CB: Cool. Who invented the fountain pen?

TA: Petrache Poenaru.

CB: Good knowledge.

TA: I thought we were going to be discussing stuff that's important to students, like fees.

CB: I get a bit nervous when I give interviews.

And on that groundbreaking note, I cut the interview short and left the office.

So what did I learn from this meeting of the minds? I now understand that the Felix Editor has an impressive knowledge of the history of the fountain pen, a skill that undoubtedly lends itself to the production of a weekly paper.

TRASH TALK



Cutting to the heart of the week's **big** topics

STUDENT FIGHTS JOB ADVERSITY



An enterprising student is undertaking the hellish task of attending 30 assessment centres over 30 days in order to raise awareness about the fact that he wants a job.

John Dominance, a final year student, hopes to raise £50,000 from the challenge, a sum which he says will "go towards me and my unending quest for a job".

When asked whether the constant travelling, group exercises, interviews and blue-sky thinking will detrimentally affect his degree results, Domi-

nance said, "I have a positive outlook about the whole thing. You just need to believe in yourself and be yourself, then everything will sort itself out."

As part of the task, Dominance must wear a suit and tie for the duration, including when he sleeps, "if I sleep at all," he continued, "I work hard and I play hard. That's what recruiters want to see."

"At the end of the day, it's for charity. Sure, the charity might be me, but it's still for charity. Who could be against that?"

CUMBERBATCH NOT SPOTTED NEAR CAMPUS



Rumours of a Benedict Cumberbatch sighting outside South Kensington Station on Monday turned out to be just that - rumours.

Much to the disappointment of the *Star Trek Into Darkness* actor's die-hard Imperial-based fans, it was confirmed later in the day that the *Sherlock* star was not enjoying the ambience of Wafflemeister.

The rumours, thought to originate from an individual in the Library Café, were swiftly quashed by the same individual, who confusingly

clarified that he "thought that [not-Cumberbatch] looked a little like Mr Cumberbatch, not that it was him".

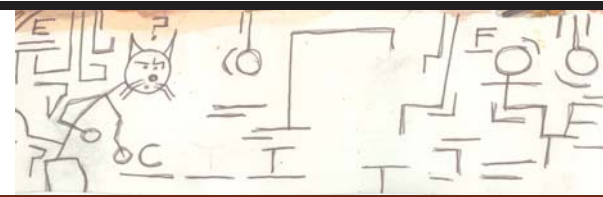
Not everyone was disappointed by these revelations. A second year Civil Engineering student who wishes to remain anonymous due to the inevitable backlash told Trash Talk: "I don't really care whether or not it was him. Personally I think his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes isn't all that great."

"That's just typical anti-Cumberbatch slander," said one fervent admirer from the Biology department.

FELIX



If you want to experience the Felix Office first hand, drop us an email. We always need writers, illustrators, photographers and probably more.
felix@imperial.ac.uk



Rap lyrics of the week

Big Sean: "High"



"Yeah I'm on camera, fresh out of a sex scene,
I just turn all my nightmares into wet dreams"

So, you're a porn star I guess? Or just a movie star that has done a sex scene, and thought that they should then tell everyone about it immediately after. That's not lame "hey guys, I got to be in sex scene today, that's so cool".

What's weird though is that your nightmares must have been somehow sex related to turn them into wet dreams. Also, wet dreams occur when you are not having a lot of sex/not wanking. That means you must not be getting laid at all, which completely debunks the idea that you're "fresh out of a sex scene" unless you didn't cum in that scene. In that case, perhaps you have a really ugly face that you make, which the director is just not willing to show others. Or, perhaps, you're just not getting any. Probably because referring to yourself as "Big Sean" is kind of douche. Plus, as rap names go, using your real name isn't inventive.

T-Pain: "Bartender"



"She made us drinks, to drink, we drunk them, got drunk.
And I think, she thinks, I'm cool"

First of all, thank you very much for explaining how the intoxication process works. So, you drink drinks and get drunk. Plus "I think, she thinks, I'm cool" is probably the least cool thing to think. If she knew that then she would definitely not think that you are cool. She would think that you are a bit lame and have a filthy search history.

Gosh, that's so, awkward...

A non comprehensive (as that's for dickheads) list of embarrassing things that you do, pretty much all of the time

Farting (especially when it's in public places)

Oh come on, everyone does it. It's just kind of satisfying to think you got away with. Most women pretend that they go to a secret place to fart, most men assume it's somehow masculine. If methane gas gently cascading from your bum is masculine, then cows are a regular 300 style beefcake.

Get into a situation where it's one on one with someone you really want to get with, but be too overwhelmed to say anything

Some classic Imperial awkwardness here. You've done it. Either you've engineered (or through luck find yourself in) a situation where it's just you and them. Right. Now is the opportunity to lay down some "mad seduction skillz" and show them how amazing you are. Oh, wait, hang on. What the fuck should I say. It's now been a good, solid few seconds of silence and is definitely getting awks now. Oh, okay, just reference something that you've compiled from knowledge of Facebook. "I've seen you've been to Egypt". Hmm, maybe creepy as then they'll know you've looked at all the beach shots. Harmlessly name drop that you really like that band that they like. "Oh, I really like Sum 41"... As soon as you utter any words, you remember that all music/TV/film pages people have on their profile is from about five years ago and you now just look like you've been living under a rock for the last few years. They make an excuse and leave. Sigh.

Thought you were being funny, cool and a complete badass while drunk, but actually just being a bit of a dick

What? Chanting on the night bus isn't exactly Bruce Wayne heroics.

Been caught exaggerating a



story from a night out..

Typical conversation:

You: Yeah, and we must have done, like, about, 10 shots.

Someone you know: Erm, yeah, I don't remember hanging out with you much.

Third person in the conversation that you were trying to impress: Right, I'm going to go back to my problem sheet (while secretly noting down to never believe any story you ever tell them).

You: I guess it was more like two, over the space of three hours. Still. It was crazy.

Taken a massive dump

Everybody poops. Bears partake in this activity in a woodland area. For

some reason, however, it's still socially unacceptable to do so at a house party and/or a night club. Next time you're at either, take a stand: go to the toilet – leaving the door proudly open – and loudly grunt and moan while relieving yourself. For added effect, play a quick game of Doodlejump on the iPhone (for bonus points steal someone else's iPhone). There. Stigma gone. Plus (just for the guys) let's see someone say "no spray no lay" to you now that they've seen that. They'll have to invent new rhymes just to deal with you.

Talk to yourself

Yep. You give pep talks before exams. Mutter "what the fuck?" during, think "I wish I just did Art History or some

other waste subject at UCL" out loud in the Library. Once, at least, you'll get caught by someone who will give you a look. It's okay. I'm sure that immediately looking down and starting to hum, followed by some looking around and saying "ah, shit, yeah, need to remember to call them up tonight for the massive rave we're going to" will fool them. They'll think that the talking to yourself is actually just because you're just that cool that you need to say things to remember all the amazing parties you'll be attending.

Read the Daily Mail's sidebar of shame, unironically

It's just really, really interesting to know exactly what someone you've barely heard of is doing on a Friday.

Got a photo of someone being a waste of a student loan?
Get permission, then just send it to us at: felix@imperial.ac.uk

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



GIVEAWAY AT HOMELESS SHELTER ATTRACTS FEWER ENTRIES THAN FIRST THOUGHT



PHOTOS FROM THE FIRST INVISIBLE MAN NEWS CONFERENCE ARE "DISAPPOINTING"

the horoscopes – what’s wrong with lowercase?



aries

This week you are fist-pumping so fast that you break the sound barrier. The resulting sonic boom sends you over the edge and you let the pressure waves wash over you in ecstasy. As your vision clears (or was that the vapour cone?), you realise you’ve just had the world’s first supersonic wank. Your parents will be so proud.



taurus

This week you try a new pulling strategy. After an acceptable period of eye contact and sweaty grinding, you move in like a cobra, weaving from side to side to hypnotise her. She could be the one to charm your snake! But she backs away, revolted when you start hissing ‘seductively’. Creepy clearly isn’t the new sexy.



gemini

This week you go skiing on Hampstead Heath because it’s the closest thing London has to a mountain and there are even some gnarly trees. But after a close shave with an abandoned picnic blanket you have a nasty fall and your ski pole lodges 6 inches up your bum. Good luck explaining that one to your GP!



cancer

This week you buy some ‘study’ pills from a dodgy dealer and take one before your deadline the next day. But soon your feet start twitching and you can’t stop your teeth grinding. Next thing you know it’s 8am and you’re shuffling to imaginary techno in the corner of the library. It wasn’t quite the all-nighter you were expecting.



leo

This week your hand is so much pain from pipetting all day that you snort some paracetamol for faster relief. In the cold light of day it’s invisible, but when using the UV lamp the glowing white residual powder on your nostril is exposed to your supervisor. Too embarrassed to admit snorting painkillers, you’re expelled for drug use.



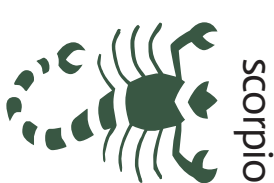
virgo

This week when pushing the treadmill, you see a rare 8/10 lifting weights. Seeing an opportunity for your first not pitch-black/doggy-style shag since coming to Imperial, you ramp up the speed to impress him. But concentrating too hard on your sexy pout, you lose balance and fall off the end. He, and the entire gym laugh at you.



libra

This week you are desperate for a pee but your lecture is so interesting that you can’t face leaving to go to the toilet in case you miss something extra-exciting. You lose the battle with your bladder, but it doesn’t matter because the lecturer just referenced a figure from one of his own papers!



scorpio

This week you run out of food and can’t be bothered to go 100m down the road to Tesco Express. You decide to use your shit as your dinner ingredient – there are sure to be some nutrients and fibre your gut missed the first time. You grill it until crispy on the outside but still tender inside: cooked to poofection!



sagittarius

This week you are so busy with coursework that personal hygiene is forgotten until you notice a film of mould growing between your toes. You scrape it off, and keep scraping but there’s more and eventually you scrape off your entire toe. You stare sadly at the flakes of blackened, redundant flesh on your carpet.



capricorn

This week you are sick of the verruca that your foot has been harbouring over the last 3 years. You try to get rid of it by gouging it out with scissors but it grows back, twelve times as big. It learns to speak and starts insulting you every time you cut your toenails.



aquarius

This week you are constantly followed by a giant rat that bites your ankle every time you make a grammatical mistake. Confusing your/you’re, or improper use of two/too/to induce particularly agonising lacerations. By the end of the week your ankle is a bloody mess but your grammar is perfect. No pain, no gain!



pisces

This week you have to choose between having your toe hairs plucked out one by one (if you don’t think this is that bad, try it and see) or having a monobrow for a week. Plucking toe hairs is super painful but would at least be over quickly, while the monobrow would be ugly but painless. What’s it going to be?

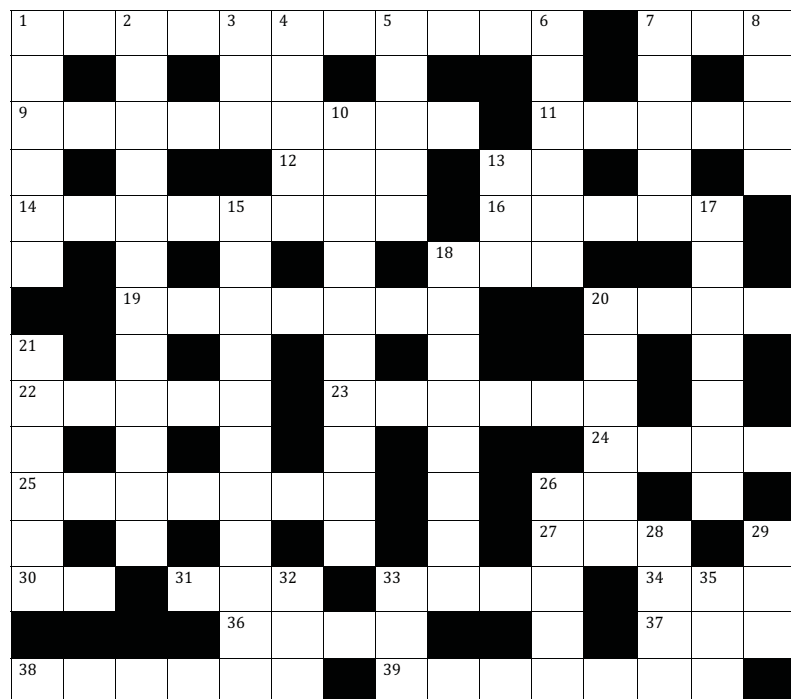
PUZZLES

Puzzles Commanders:
Sotirios Karamitsos,
Louisa Byrne
 puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Two Speed Crossword

Two sets of clues - Same answers



Quick Clues

Across

1. Taking snaps (11)
7. Make offer at auction (3)
9. Rough guess, approximately (9)
11. Hold weapon ready to use (5)
12. Lord of the Rings and X-men actor's first name (3)
13. One, when next word starts with vowel (2)
14. Sibling type love between two male friends (8)
16. Makes wait, e.g. an application (5)
18. Recent movie similar to Family Guy (3)
19. Large flightless bird (7)
20. Give up, resign (4)
22. Dissuade, talk out of (5)
23. Excite or provoke to use emotions (6)
24. Body part below the head (4)
25. Put program on computer (7)

Down

26. ___ Hammer, Can't touch this singer (2)
27. Type of long life milk (3)
30. Former partner (2)
31. Tilt (3)
33. Questions (4)
34. Night bird (3)
36. Having overly high opinion of own attractiveness (4)
37. Rubbish (3)
38. Chemical measuring glass piece (6)
39. Farm machinery (7)

Cryptic Clues

Across

1. Chart image, why? (11)
7. Rabid for, make offer (3)
9. Rough guess made with pal inside (9)
11. Mixed lid, we hold weapon (5)
12. A name is in vain (3)
13. One ant, indefinite article (2)
14. Male sibling sees E, with other male in (8)
16. Spend, makes wait (5)
18. Film and character in Berated (3)
19. Lost wealthy bird (7)
20. Queue around it, give up (4)
22. Made terrible, dissuade (5)
23. Use or a punishment, excite (6)
24. New rucksack, body part without inside (4)
25. Load market stand (7)
26. Old Donald's missing farm piece (2)
27. From a cow, long lasting hut, initials (3)
30. Used to be a prefix (2)
31. Unbalance a clue (3)

Down

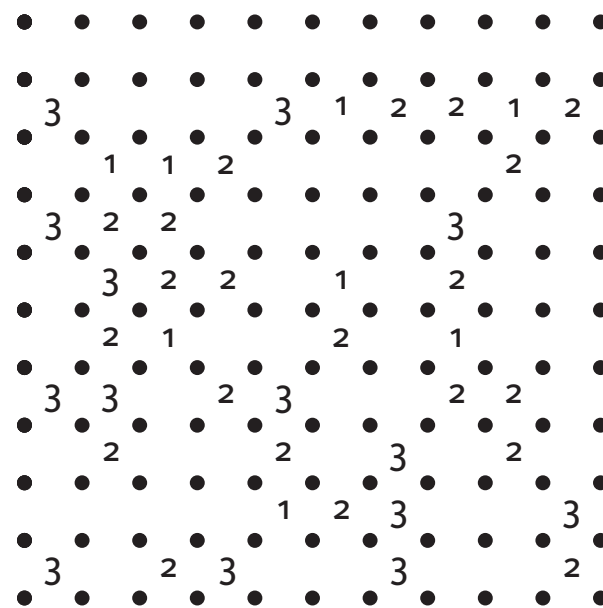
33. Blind fronted barrels, I wonder? (4)
34. It flew into the howling night (3)
36. Nova in the mirror (4)
37. Middle of potato is rubbish (3)
38. Bake 'er a cake, measure in it (6)
39. Novice measures angle in fields (7)

Across

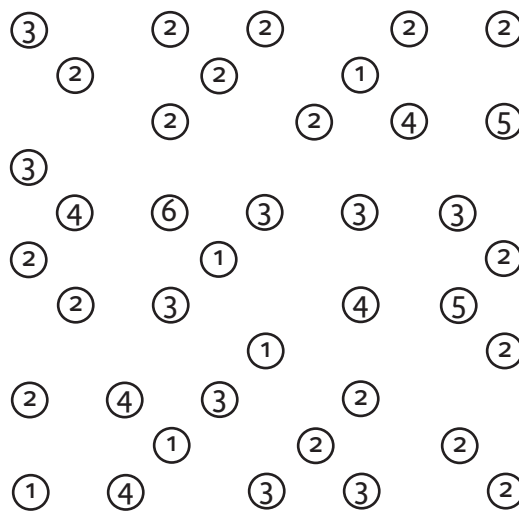
15. Natter within not-dead, different I suppose (11)
17. Most here study it every sec, nice (7)
18. Hero in neck wear has good ideas (8)
20. Satisfy to quieter end than bench (6)
21. Dream I look up to (6)
26. Inspires ill sound (5)
28. To Tooting, via yellow brick road, pup? (4)
29. Next to space, salt key (3)
32. Rap a good tee, final score (3)
33. Too small to tan (3)
35. For country, not for reward (3)

Slitherlink

Draw a single closed loop by vertically and horizontally joining the dots so that the numbered squares are surrounded by the corresponding number of lines.



Hashi



Connect all the islands with bridges so that you can get from any island to any other one. There are restrictions, though: the bridges have to be either vertical or horizontal and they must not intersect. You can have up to two bridges between any two islands and, last but not least, each island must have exactly as many bridges stemming from it as the number on it.

FUCWIT League Table

TEAMS

- Requiem for a Bean 16
- Sexy Beasts 11
- G.A.Y.S. 4
- I ate all your bees 4

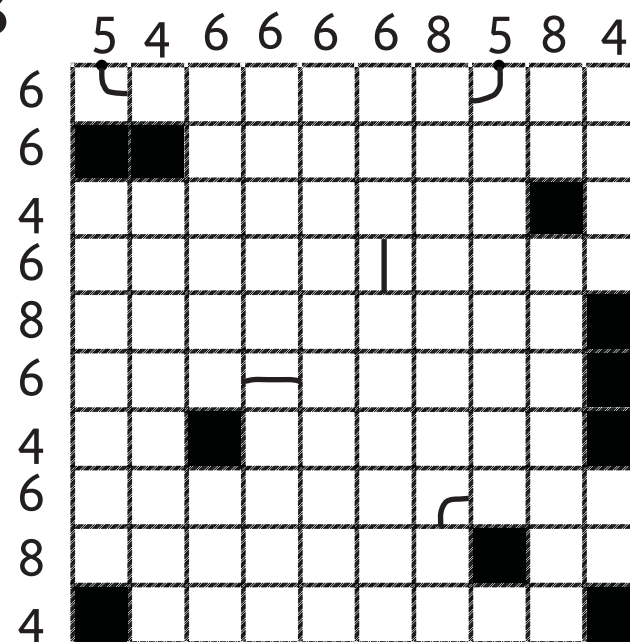
INDIVIDUALS

- Wael Aljeshi 16
- Yufan Zhao 13
- M-Soup 11
- Helix 10
- Tan Wei Jie 4

Send your answers to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk and compete for the glory of seeing your name in print and on top of a leaderboard to boot.

Ophis

Fill the cells with a continuous line (the "snake") that does not pass through a cell twice, doesn't intersect with itself, and passes through all white boxes. The numbers show you how many times the snake turns in the corresponding row or column. The snake enters and exits the grid at the shown points (and only those points). There are some hints to get you started.

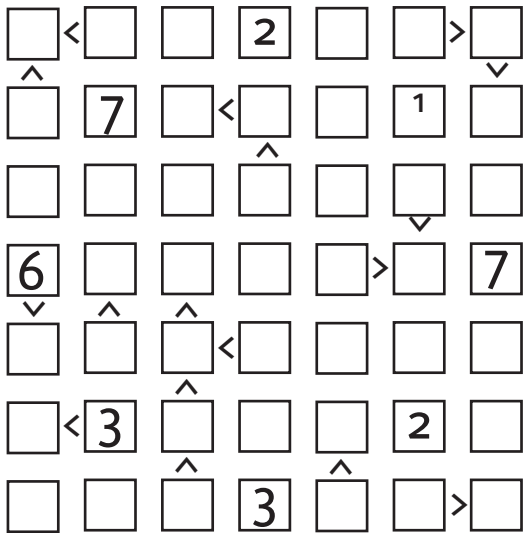


Puzzles Commanders:
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PUZZLES

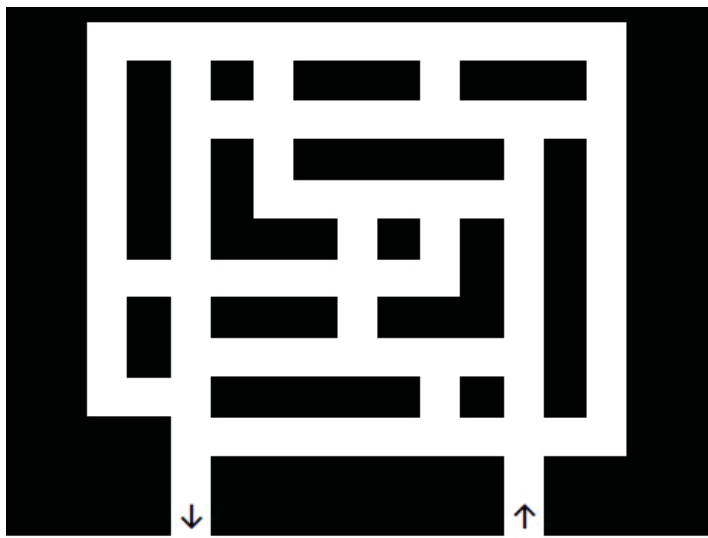
Futoshiki

Next in our line of obscure Japanese puzzles, Futoshiki. It's dead simple; fill in the squares Sudoku-style (all digits from 1 to 7 in a row or column without repeats) so that the inequalities are satisfied.

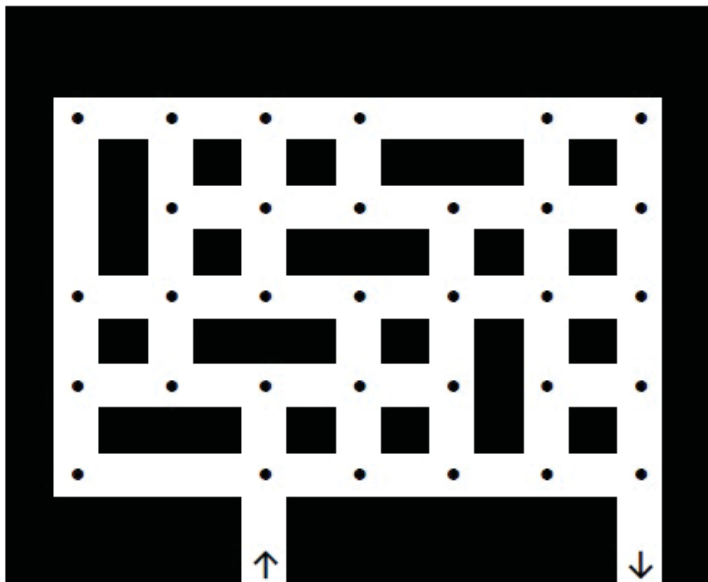


Maze time

Mazes are children's play, right? Try your hand at these variations.



In the above maze, you can only turn right or go straight. You can never turn left.

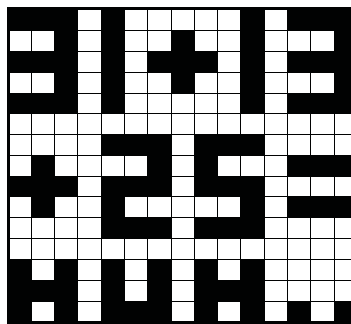


In the above maze, when you hit a dot, you must turn. You can't go straight.

3. Back on theme

The numbers in each row and column show you how many groups of black squares are in a row or column, as well as how many black squares each group consists of. Filling in the grid produces a pretty picture, which in turn produces points if you send it in.

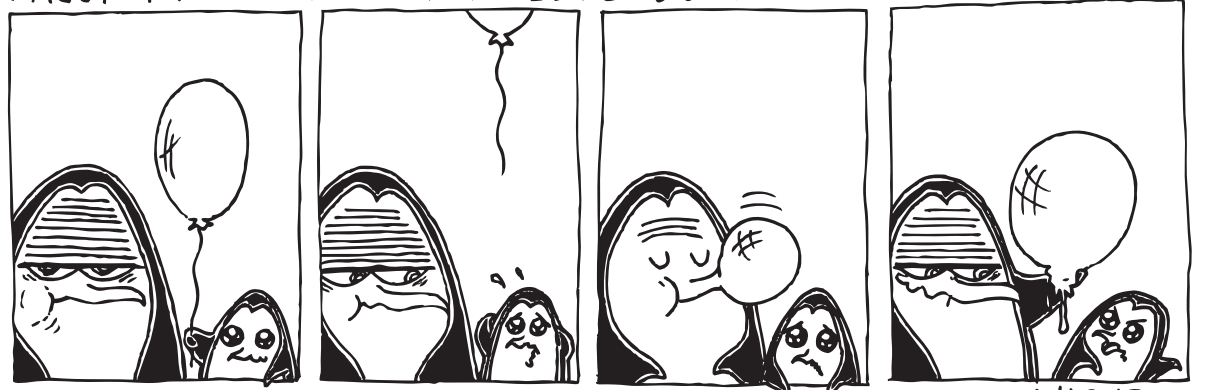
Last week's solutions



C	I	R	C	U	M	F	E	R	E	N	C	E	P
H	E	N	E	A	E	L	H						
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L	U	O	E	L	D	E	R	S					
L	R	U	L	E	R	G	E						
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G	O	D	S	T	I	L	T	O	N				
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	C	A	N	N	O	N	N	E	E	C			
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T	I	G	H	T	E	R	U	F					
A	L	A	O	S	M	O	S	I	S				
R	A	E	R	L									
I			G	Y	R	O	S	C	O	P	E	S	R

	6	5	4	4	1	3	1	1	1	6	5	1	3	4	4	7	20
	18	5	1	6	7	1	6	3	1	3	3	8	7	4	4	9	1
		17	4	1	1	4	1	4	5	5	2	2	4	3	3	2	7
			6	4	4	1	1	2	6	3	3	4	2	2	6		
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PASSI THE PARABOLASHAPED PENGUIN





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Sport Editors: Oli Benton,
Margot Pikovsky, Sorcha Cotter
sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

SPORT

Friends and Foe

Fiona Cameron *Mixed Hockey Captain*

On a crisp sunny January Sunday morning, (or a continuation of Saturday evening depending on who you ask), 30 of Imperial's finest, the IC and RSM teams, faced-off at Harlington Sports Ground for an epic Mixed hockey match and a half time boat race. The two components of the match up are fiercely contested allowing both teams to show off their



strengths!

We had a slightly late start as we needed to allow time for the force of the RSM to lower their blood alcohol levels, then commenced a match of epic proportions. Thumbs were caught in pockets, guys were slide tackling girls, sticks made contact with opposition's heads; these are just a few examples of the mayhem that proceeded to take place. With trigger-happy umpires, one would think that the players would take a more serious tone to the match, but the spirit of mixed hockey won through with the casual disregard of general hockey rules and nonchalant attitude. This was a fun match but there was certainly a fighting attitude from both sides as can only be expected from highly competitive Imperial students!

The first half began with both teams well-matched, and plenty of attempts on goal coming from both sides. After a bit of a tussle, Rooster managed



to net the first goal of the match for IC. This gained a slight momentum shift for IC as another one. This time pressure from IC resulted in a RSM own goal by the surprisingly fully clothed Matt Webb! This was unlucky

but he is now the RSM mixed top goal scorer. This led to a 2-0 advantage for IC at the end of the first half.

Then came the opportunity for RSM to show that though they were losing the hockey match, their more

experienced social life gave them an advantage for the half-time entertainment: the boat race. Unfortunately IC already started with a disadvantage due to their choice of beverage. Though IC valiantly tried their best, RSM won the race almost a whole person ahead with fire in their bellies and having rehydrated the RSM started the second half with renewed confidence.

Unfortunately despite a valiant effort a dramatic comeback was not on the cards for RSM. Matt Webb put his body on the line to save a goal (this is sadly against the rules of hockey) so a penalty flick was awarded against the RSM crushing their hopes of a comeback. The flick was successfully converted by Banana Split (Harriet Stevenson). A win was cemented with the final goal of the match by Flexi Vadge. Therefore the final score was four goals for IC to one boat race win to RSM.

IC Rugby 1s Pipped to the post

Oliver Benton *Sports Editor*

On a balmy Wednesday afternoon, ICURFC travelled to the all weather pitch at Maidenhead RFC for a double header match against Reading Uni.

Top of the league Reading were always going to be a tough physical match, and playing it on the plastic grass pitch was only going to add to the drama and pace of this crucial game.

After a brief and intense warm up, IC kicked off. Captain Jack made the initial hit on the catching Reading player and drove him into the rubber crumb. Imperial held their ground for a couple of phases, however Reading looked good on the counter, and after an initial break were making good yards.

An isolated Imperial munster runner had the ball tackled off him on the halfway line and Reading were away. Three quick passes and some pace on the wing put Imperial 5-0 down after five minutes. The conversion was close to the touchline and the kick was poor so the shellshocked Imperial kicked off again, only five points down.

This time the defence held firm for around fifteen minutes, with great work by Tom Chavas, knee chopping everything that dared run at him. New prop Pierre L'Bour was

an inspiration in the front row, hauling his weighty frame around the park and doing all the donkey work asked of him. While relatively inexperienced in the dark art of the front row, he was still confident explaining to the ex-premiership referee what was happening, much to everyone else's amusement.

At this stage in the game, neither team was making many yards as both defences remained firm; Imperial managed to stem the yards they were previously haemorrhaging until a scrum finally managed to unlock the Imperial back line. After the initial line break, the Reading backs flooded through, and touched down close to the posts. Luckily, the second kick was as bad as the first and so IC were only 10-0 down.

Reassuring words from Birkett in the huddle under the posts to stick to our guns, play pattern and remain calm were listened to. IC surged forward off the kick off, with many controlled short phases tiring the Reading defence before some sublime handling on the left wing by O'Connell and Floyd sent Syarif darting towards the try line. Hauled down five meters out, the Reading defence scrambled to slow the ball down, which meant George Lane, the boy from up North, had to do some rucking, for which he got kicked in the head. After checking that he hadn't broken his eye socket



like his hero, Chris McGeough, a quick dab of Vas and he was back in the game. In their desperate attempt to avoid conceding a try, the Reading flyhalf dove into from the side of the ruck and threw the ball away. The resultant penalty was kicked out on the five metre line. The always dominant lineout went up, and the maul went over the line with ease, L'Bour touching down a well deserved try, which Cox, on the wide angle, failed to convert.

With the momentum clearly on their side, Imperial received the kick off for the second half with practiced

precision and restarted the pressure on the Reading defence. However, the advice to 'keep calm' at half time hadn't been heeded by Floyd, who cynically stopped a Reading counterattack on the left flank with a deliberate knock on. An immediate yellow card left Imperial a man down in the backs. However this did not deter the forwards who continued to dominate the larger opposition pack with their sheer intensity. The pressure on the Reading defence built and built until eventually they cracked. With Coxy taking the ball to the line and drifting along the

defence, Lane cut a hard line back and strolled through two poor attempts to tackle before putting the ball down under the posts. A simple conversion for Cox put Imperial in the lead by two points.

From the kick off, Reading camped in the Imperial 22 for 15 minutes before coming away with a penalty which put them in the lead.

With only ten minutes remaining, and a point down, Imperial threw everything they had at Reading. Hard yards gained by Hardisty and Flanagan, and the always impressive maul, which made 10-25 yards a time, kept Imperial within striking distance of the Reading line, but to no avail. After a turned over ball, Reading played out the last two minutes with pick and goes and the game ended with them a point up. The entire pack to a man excelled themselves, particularly Olisa Ufodiama who was at the bottom of everything, legally and illegally, like a good 6 should be.

By the end of the game, the ground was littered with Reading players, who admitted that Imperial were 'one of the best drilled and hardest rucking teams' they'd played against. Despite the loss, this was one of the gutsiest and best performances of the year and if they can string together a few more performances like this one, ICURFC will stay in Prem B, and deservedly so.



"Keep the Cat Free"

They came, sword and conquered

Charlotte Levin Fencing President

The guys started on Saturday, facing Bristol. Their opponents had lost one of their main fencers, but gained an international who held his ground well in foil and epee. Whilst the epeeists found the going tough, losing their match 32-45, the foilists were able to even out the score through a 45-35 victory and then handing it over to the sabreurs to comfortably win 45-13 for an overall victory of 122-93.

Next up they had Cambridge, an opponent which had always been strong but where Imperial had always been able to rely on the sabre team saving the day. However, this time they were reminded that no success should be taken for granted and nothing lasts forever: sabre still won their match but by a margin much smaller than previously since Cambridge had now gained some new faces that were able to put up a challenge. IC's sabre victory was still by a fairly solid 14 hits, but with Cambridge being significantly stronger in both epee (27-45) and foil (22-45) they had to accept an overall defeat (94-121).

The following day, the girls joined them on the adjacent piste. Ahead of them were the last two matches of the league, against Cambridge and UCL, whilst the guys had only the newcomers UWE left. The latter match was not expected to be a big challenge, based on their performance against the other teams, so it came as no surprise that the sabreurs quickly finished their match (45-17) and left it to the foilists (45-40) and epeeists (45-44) to wrap it up.

Alongside this, the girls started off facing Cambridge, a team they had already beaten away earlier in the season. Both the epeeists and foilists were able to increase their indicators this time, from 43-44 to 45-42 for the former and 34-45 to 38-45 for the latter. This meant that sabre wasn't under much pressure, but they still had to win the match for us to win overall. The results from last time (45-25) indicated that the task wasn't going to prove too tough, however all three girls had recently suffered from injuries and illness and struggled especially against Cambridge's strong Polish sabreur. The rest of the team couldn't do anything but watch and cheer, but they were not to be disappointed: the match ended 45-38 to Imperial and they were just



one match away from a clean sweep.

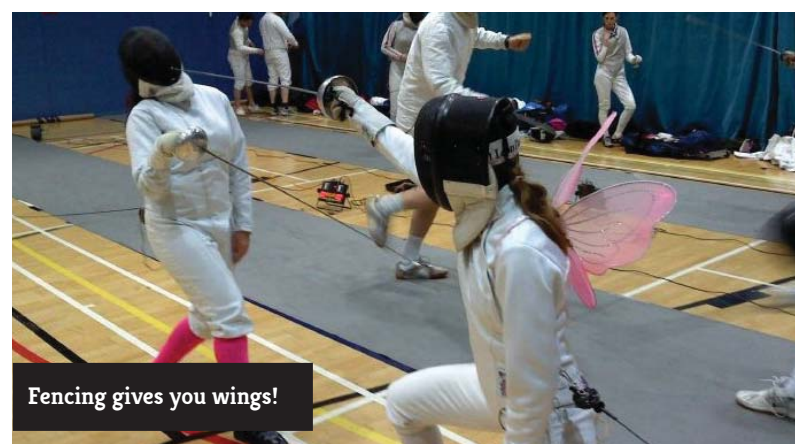
The epeeists had warmed up to take on UCL, a weapon match that had been lost last time due to some team changes. With a 10 hit victory in memory, UCL seemed confident that it was going to be similar this time and as a result gradually got more shocked as they lost hit after hit, reaching a final score of 45-28. The sabreurs took over and showed no mercy with heroic efforts in the final bouts to produce a stunning score at 45-17, meaning that even if UCL was to win foil by 45-0 they could not win overall. IC's foilists relaxed, happy to avoid any pressure, whilst UCL were fencing for their own pride. The final result landed on 41-45, a comfortable overall IC victory of 135-90. The two IC teams celebrated the end of the weekend with some pizza, working on preparing the guys mentally for the second leg of the league the following weekend.

Womens 2s beat ULU

Helen Pennington Sports Writer

On Wednesday 30th January, Imperial Women's 2nd Fencing Team set off to duel the University of London Union (ULU) team. The opposing team was an unknown quantity, causing Imperial to keep their guard up. The match began with Clare Perry, Hannah Bryars and Slavina Georgieva fencing sabre. Clare cut to the chase, beating her opponent 5-0. Slavina and Hannah continued, demonstrating that this was not a feint, leading to Imperial winning every round, only halting at 45-6.

After sabre, the women's foil team, composed of Sara Chakera, Veronica Ilkow, and Hannah fought for victory, rapidly getting to the point, and allowing their opponents only 17 hits to 45.



Fencing gives you wings!

ULU were foiled again!

Epee followed, with Becky Razey, Cora Anna and Helen Pennington. ULU took offence at losing two weapons, and redoubled their efforts. Imperial fought to keep ULU under 62

hits (the Women's 2nds previous record). The final score in Epee was 45-29, with Imperial having won every single round of every weapon. Imperial had lunged for victory, winning 135-52, leaving ULU piste off!