

## Fairtrade fortnight at Imperial

Fairtrade Society bring their two week bonanza to campus once again. Find out all inside. Pages 12-13



# Anger over new halls

- Students angrily denounce College plans for halls in North Acton
- Union sets out five requests of College
- Distance and price highlighted as main problems with the halls
- Likely to be replacement to Evelyn Gardens
- Probable closure of Garden hall

**Tim Arbabzadah** Editor-in-Chief  
**Maciej Matuszewski** Reporter

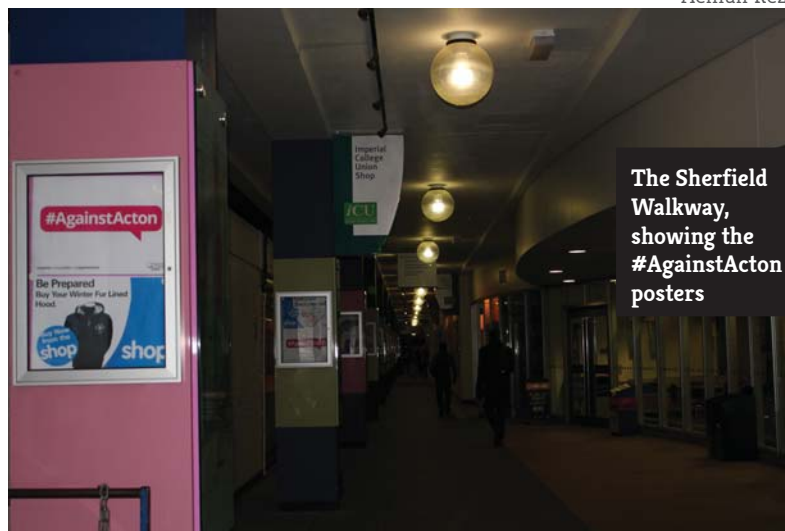
Imperial College London is planning to build a large hall of residence in North Acton that will potentially replace halls that are cheaper and located far closer to the South Kensington Campus. The North Acton Halls could be used as a replacement for Garden Halls and the halls in Evelyn Gardens, both of which are in South Kensington. The plans have been controversial amongst the student body and have already been denounced. Students have highlighted distance, cost, student experience, and welfare concerns. The Union have launched a campaign against the plans, using the Twitter hashtag #AgainstActon. Already many students have voiced their opposition in a rare turn of student activism at Imperial.

The College Council (who are the highest decision making body of Imperial) publically announced on Monday 18 February that it had decided to authorise purchase of the land for the new development, with building work planned to begin in May 2013 and finish before the start of the 2015-2016 academic year. The halls would be located on 1 Victoria Road, Acton, W3 6BL, house 724 students, and will have student facilities that are twice the size of the JCR and SCR combined. To discover how far along the way the plans are Felix contacted Simon Harding-

Roots, the Chief Operations Officer of Imperial College London, who said that the land has been bought and relevant documents exchanged. At 10am on Tuesday 19 February Imperial College Union launched the campaign to oppose the decision. The Union have now delivered a response to College, which was passed unanimously by Union Council (see page 5), and have started putting up posters around campus.

During the meetings discussing the plans, Paul Beaumont, Union President, actively opposed the plans. He told Felix: "We [the Union] believe we've already won the quantitative argument against College Management with our analysis of the proposed prices and student accommodation survey data; all we now need is the help of students to assure the qualitative data". His concerns and analysis seem to have not been taken on board. The Union appear to not be the only ones who are not entirely satisfied. Michael Bluck, Chairman of the Wardens Committee indicated the Wardens' worry. He said that the "Committee expressed its concern, given that very recent experience of UG accommodation in similar sites had been negative, largely on the grounds of travel time and separation from the support and social provisions based at the SK campus".

The North Acton halls will be two minutes away from North Acton tube station in a well lit area, with >> 4



Aemun Reza

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# EDITOR'S PICKS

## COMMENT

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### Paragon nightmare

Comment have pumped out a whole 8 pages of stuff. Everything from banking to Sri Lanka to memes. The number of pages isn't TOO DAMN HIGH.



## #AgainstActon

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### Show your support

Fresher in halls? Take this out and stick it on your window. You get to see the centrefold from your side!

#AgainstActon



## ARTS

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### Actually vintage

Forget pretentious people with their Instagrammed, Facebooked photos taken from their iPhone, this is some old school photography.



# College are Acton up

Tim Arbabzadah  
Editor-in-Chief



**H**alls in North Acton is a terrible idea and should be immediately reversed. It's a terrible idea. Evelyn Gardens are the way forward for now until you find a better alternative to North Acton. In an ideal world Evelyn Gardens would be kept on as halls for the foreseeable future. If there needs some redoing on the inside, then that is something that needs to be done. Some are better than others. In particular, I remember Willis Jackson basically being fine. I really enjoyed it and didn't for a minute think it was not a pleasant place to be. Students want halls that are near by, not too expensive, obviously not run down but they don't need to be a palace. This is what students want from halls: a bed, wardrobe, access to a shower near by, washing and drying machine for clothes, a kitchen, and to be near campus. That's it. Luxury and everything else is nice, but students would rather be close in a less well furnished halls that is affordable, then further away in a better furnished halls. That's the too long didn't read summary, and I thought I'd put it up at the front.

Unfortunately, the North Acton development looks pretty close to being set in stone. We own it now, and it would be hard to back out. If College were willing to, I would shave my head. (Wait, hang

on, if they do I can back out right!? If your reading this Sir Keith, I would hate to shave my head, so maybe you can reverse it just out of spite towards me?) So what can be done to make things right? A great, and difficult, question. Well, perhaps we could become landlords to other students? Particularly those whom the development is more suitable to? Perhaps we could turn them into apartments for young professionals and rent them out? That way Imperial won't lose money, and a new commercial interest would be developed for the College. Don't know if any other universities do this, or if this is even a possibility. Maybe it sounds like a daft idea, but why not? Loads of companies own space and rent it out. Why couldn't Imperial. Could be a nice alternative stream of income to the ailing HEFCE money.

What definitely isn't set in stone is Evelyn Gardens and Garden Hall. We should stall for as long as we can to try to extend the lease.

Now, unless their heads have all been collectively in the sand, they will have heard the opposition to North Acton from the Union during the discussions, and, soon enough, after taking one look at this paper, will see the opposition from students. It's amazing to see so many students speaking up and speaking out about this; a big factor

for this being incredible to see is that it is a decision that won't affect current students, and so I am genuinely incredibly excited that so many are actively speaking out against something to stand up for other people (in this case freshers who have not yet arrived).

Now to explain the main reasons for being as against as possible to humanly be to the North Acton move. This is as detailed as I can be in the space provided.

The distance to South Kensington is way too far for freshers. This really is the headline concern. It's possible to write a very lengthy piece on just this. It's going to be about 40 minutes each way (I'm being generous). I don't know about you, but in your first year especially that feels very far away. It's enough to make you not want to bother with lectures. It's enough to make it really annoying getting home after a long night in the Library/on campus. It is close to the new campus, which is being built, but, as Paul so beautifully put it, there aren't going to be any undergraduates using that new campus. North Acton is just too far to travel everyday to and from campus. You want halls to be close and essentially a crash pad near campus. You want to be able to come back after a night out and sleep off the hangover while still being able to get in for lectures. When you're working

late in the Library, you don't want a long ordeal to get home. You want to be able to get back soon.

The price, once you include travel costs, will still in all likelihood be more expensive than just getting a house in Fulham (like most second/third years do Lillie Road/Ongar Road anybody – come on, everyone knows someone who has lived in that eight person house). Besides, whom would they get a house with and when would they get time to hunt and get one – just two concerns with that. Even if private accommodation were an option, halls is a special and unique opportunity to embrace university life, make friends, enjoy your youth, and have a great student experience (I believe that is the catchphrase everyone uses nowadays). Saying it is in a price band is intentionally misleading. If I said I am going to charge you between 50p and £50 for a bottle of orange juice, you agreed, and then I charged you £45 you would rightfully say you're being duped into accepting a bad deal. While we talk about the price, it is worth mentioning students want cheaper halls near campus. They do not care much about furnishings. Being near campus and in halls that isn't grotty is enough.

Evelyn Gardens will likely be closed and turned into something else. This is a travesty as these halls were amazing.

I lived in Willis Jackson, and my older sister also lived in EG. They were both great halls that the vast majority of people look back on with fondness.

Another thing that is very annoying in all of this is the lack of honesty and openness from College. Due to it being commercially sensitive, nobody that knew were allowed to say anything to anyone (least of all say anything to Felix). I do not blame them for not leaking as they would have been breaking trust and confidentiality agreements; it would not have been hard to identify the source of the leak. Yes, it would have been a great, bold move to do so. It would have allowed students to be fully informed of everything before College Council had made a decision. Then everyone would have been able to show their dissatisfaction early on. The fact that they had silenced everyone until now, when the decision is further along the line, is a very cynical move indeed. It means they can't see the student reaction before the decision is made. This allows them to tell students that students were consulted before they properly consult students.

I would like to end by saying that I really must commend Paul for his efforts behind the scenes on this. Him (and the Union) have really fought the corner on this one. Now get out there and get your views heard!

# THIS WEEK FELIX WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

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▼▼

# Venture Catalyst Challenge '13

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FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE

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Tuesday 26th February  
at Midnight

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APPLY AT: [WWW.ICSTARTUP.COM/VC](http://WWW.ICSTARTUP.COM/VC)

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# Students object to plans

» continued from the front page

the tube station winning “Tube Station of the Year”. College estimated in their announcement that it will take around 30 minutes by tube to South Kensington. This has been criticised for not taking into account the door-to-door travel time. It has been argued that with the walk from South Kensington and congestion added, the journey could take 45 minutes either way. The Union estimated the journey as 35-40 minutes. Harding-Roots acknowledged that it would be a tube ride every day, but said that busses to and from the Union were something that they were working out. Of the distance issue, Harding-Roots said: “We need a dose of reality”, and that it “would be great to have them in Kensington & Chelsea or Hammersmith & Fulham, but [it is] not affordable”. He said that people need to be “realistic” and that “W3 ticks most of the boxes”. The Union disagrees with this evaluation suggesting Hammersmith, Fulham and other such areas would be more appropriate, as well as highlighting that the Evelyn Gardens and Garden Hall also tick the correct boxes. Harding-Roots said that the location was “frankly one area we couldn’t fill”, and that they “looked at major new redevelopment projects in Earl’s Court and Hammersmith”. He said: “Earl’s Court would have been fantastic” and that the development plan of the area “used to include student accommodation... but not any more”. He said that there were “some student accommodation options in Hammersmith” but rents would have been around £200 per week. Discussing the halls and location in the announcement on the College’s website, Jane Neary, Director of Campus (formerly Commercial) Services, said: “No stone has been left unturned in the search to identify opportunities for student accommodation. Numerous other developments have been considered, including projects in Fulham, Hammersmith and Ealing. These were rejected however because they were either too expensive, too far from Imperial campuses or they couldn’t achieve the critical mass to create a vibrant student community of at least 400 bed spaces in one location.” The validity of the 400 figure and where it is from has been questioned. Felix contacted Jane Neary with questions about the halls, but, at the time of going to print, she is yet to reply.

The distance has been highlighted as a problem for the student experience. Having to travel in such a long distance could reduce students’ ability to participate in Clubs and Societies as well as reducing the sense of commu-



Berkeley first



Aemun Reza



Berkeley first

nity that they feel with course-mates who live closer to the College. In a Union website blog post Becky Lane, Deputy President (Welfare), pointed out how “in 2015, there will be 700 students who may not engage with South Kensington based services such as Ethos gym, the Disability Advisory Service, the Counselling Service and the Health Centre”. As well as this, the Union question the “business case”, stating that prices would be above that of private accommodation in the same area and closer to South Kensington. They also noted that the “only applicable evidence is unfavourable – that a nearby University of the Arts (UAL) hall isn’t full”. At Imperial once a room is offered you must either take it or find private accommodation.

The price of the halls has been an issue that the Union has raised. Harding-Roots said that “affordable rents” were the “main focus”. He said that College needed a “balanced portfolio, including lower band rooms, which are under £150 per week. He went on to say “People will want different things and people have different views. North Acton will double the amount of rooms in the lowest price band”.

The rooms are likely to cost £146 per week at the latest estimate from College. This doesn’t take into account the cost of travel. Which would depend on whether or not the student in question had a weekly, monthly, annual, or just a normal oyster card. With an annual travel card for a student between zones 1-2 being about £16 per week, this puts the halls at roughly £162 per week. This is in a similar, and occasionally higher, band than the Evelyn Garden halls, whilst being further away. This is the cheapest possible travel card. It also means that with the price is above the £150 price band described above. The Union estimates the price to be £165 per week due the cost of a weekly student travel card.

The future of Evelyn Gardens is in doubt, with the possibility that it will be closed. College has 32 years left on the lease, which is owned by the Wellcome Trust – who have indicated that they want the properties back at the end of the lease. Imperial are trying to see if they can extend the lease, but current indications are that this is not possible. College has said that to redo the halls for the long term would cost too much money. The Union says that this is simply due to neglect in the past

and is “self inflicted”. The Union have urged College to protect Evelyn Gardens. Currently North Acton is said to be an insurance policy.

Garden Hall (which is the most oversubscribed hall) will close at the end of this year if the new part of Wilson House is ready, a move which the Union have criticised due to Garden’s price and location. Wilson House was praised as “a brilliant example of what we would like more of as it is close and affordable” by Harding-Roots. Speaking of Garden, he stated that it is in a poor state and that it needs “urgent remedial works”. He noted that College would “look at redoing [redecorating] Garden or alternatives for all College uses as [we are] very short of space on campus”. This furthers speculation that Garden will be turned into office space.

The announcement of the North Acton halls says that feedback from students was used for the survey, which the Union contests, saying that most students filling in the Accommodation survey wanted to have a travel time of less than 30 minutes and in Zone 1. The Union went further to say that “this project ignored the feedback from students taken in the 2011 Ac-

commodation Survey”. Most students taking part in the survey highlighted that the current halls were in a good location. On the survey, the Union claims that only 13% of respondents favoured halls such as North Acton. The Union also stressed that most amenities – such as an onsite bar – were not asked for by the students.

The Union has stated that College should offer a range of accommodation and set out the three parameters: “High specification and close, but not cheap. Close and cheap, but not at such a high specification. High specification and cheap, but a little bit further away from campus.”

There have also been fears over the wardening facilities in the halls. Harding-Roots said that there were “no plans to drop wardening”, and there will be a 24/7 staffed reception. The warden to student ratio that will be in North Acton is, at the minute, unclear. The Union have hinted that they think that the new halls will find it difficult to recruit a wardening team.

As well as pastoral care, safety concerns were raised. The walk from North Acton through to Hammersmith has been deemed unsafe and is advised against. College have said that no first years are accommodated at Hammersmith, but that they could look into providing transport as they would not want undergraduates to walk through an unsafe area.

When asked by Felix if the plans were a done deal and the new halls would definitely be in North Acton Harding-Roots said “it is”. He said that there was no chance of reversing the payment but Imperial now can guide the layout and design, saying “we want to engage with students to find out what they would like to see there”.

The information was made public at this time due to the purchase of the halls being commercially sensitive, with Harding-Roots suggesting that Imperial did not want another university to sweep in and take the halls.

The search for new halls has been going on for three years, and North Acton has been on the cards for one year. The Management Board approved the plans in December, and College Council approved it in January. College now own the halls after buying them off of Berkeley First, who are a specialist student halls developer. They have been involved with Imperial before as they are part of the joint venture at Griffon Studios, which had some problems reported by Felix last year, as well as Paragon.

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» Letters: page 21

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# NEWS

## Union requests to College

### 1. An Imperial affordable for every capable applicant

Retain Garden Hall as a Hall of Residence in the College Space Master plan.

As the most oversubscribed Hall the College needs to realise that there is strong demand for this type of accommodation. A range of rooms to suit all budgets and tastes are necessary for a diverse student community – there will always be some students who prefer (or can only afford) triple rooms, and so it is essential that these are retained. Renovations – if absolutely necessary - do not need to be of the highest specification available; students are quite content with basic specifications if it's all they can afford, and it means they are close to College.

### 2. Protect Evelyn Gardens

Continue to seek out alternative, superior solutions to Evelyn Garden's ending lease than the North Acton project. The North Acton project is to be viewed as an 'insurance' policy should nothing else be possible, but all options of retaining Evelyn Gardens or finding alternative accommodation closer to South Kensington, at an affordable price, must be actively pursued.

### 3. Accommodation designed for education, not the other way round

Review the whole Accommodation Strategy given the discrepancies between the Accommodation Survey 2011 data, the Strategy's interpretation of that data and the backlash from students over the results of that Strategy.

Data from the survey (even if correctly used) is insufficient to build a strategy in itself. A wide ranging consultation with students and staff similar to that which is being undertaken for the Education Strategy must be followed. Whilst the current strategy claims to be focused around 'feedback from students', this cannot be the case if the Union and students disagree with it. College Management should agree a methodology for this consultation with the Union: asking students if they like double beds and TVs is not evidential.

### 4. Good governance means a dialogue with students and academics

Hold formal consultation with students and academics on North Acton and on all future projects before committing to a development – whether they be accommodation related or otherwise.

The Union requests that the College Management responsible for this project present to all interested students and staff the North Acton project. All future developments should have a similar level of consultation before they are proceeded with – we should not have a situation where students and staff, the College's most important communities, are kept in the dark until actions of the College Management are complete.

### 5. Recognise the true value of Wardens, not just the cost

Don't reduce Wardening ratios any further; and retain Wardens as College staff who undertake the role alongside their College careers.

As the backbone of the College's welfare & social provision in halls, it is imperative that Wardening numbers are maintained. Wardening provision is something that the College has been proud of for many years: this sentiment must be maintained. These people make the student experience in first year – something that is certainly preferable over Campus Services being able to sell a few extra rooms. Financial considerations are only one aspect to be considered when planning changes.

## All students deserve the same experience



**Scott Heath**

Union President 2011-12

During my degree, and my Sabbatical term, I was always concerned with the prospect of future students being priced out of accommodation.

Though the majority of people within the College do believe in, and actively support, the widening participation agenda – providing sizeable bursaries, enhancing scholarships etc. – it is clear that people do not understand the negative implication of accommo-

modation costs.

No greater emphasis of this was the Open Day held last spring, where potential applicants with their parents/guardians were taken to see some of the most expensive (and naturally glamorous) rooms on offer as opposed to seeing a spread of available rooms.

I fundamentally believe that all students deserve a relatively comparable student experience. Obviously we cannot give every student an apartment in South Kensington, though some people will have the means to get one, but ensuring good proximity to University, similar durations of commutes and a halls structure that doesn't encourage separation of the 'richer' and 'poorer' students is essential. By forcing students with less financial support to travel for longer, thus reducing the amount of available study time as

well as making it harder to go to and from the library will naturally provide an academic advantage to students who live closer.

The ultimate question to ask is why Acton? If the University feels it must leave the Evelyn Gardens properties, why aren't they considering Battersea? Not only is it half the distance away from South Kensington but with huge prospects for the future it would surely be a good place to build.

It is clear that the College has many answers to the questions from students, both past and present. What I would encourage them to do is be open and honest to the student body. Hold a public meeting and answer the questions of students. If they approach this situation with closed doors and the issuing of 'PR-approved statements' they will only increase suspicion and create further concern.

## Views from Twitter



**Imperial RCSU @RCSU**

Are you #AgainstActon? Raise your voice at <http://bit.ly/VFoXSt> - @RCSU unequivocally supports @icunion in this cause.

**Imperial CGCU @IC\_CGCU**

In case it wasn't clear enough, CGCU wholeheartedly supports @icunion's #AgainstActon campaign. Raise your voice! <http://bit.ly/VFoXSt>

**Thomas Whiley @Trwhiley**

Knowing I would of been put in paragon, i wouldn't of applied. People won't come here if you put them a 40 minute tube away. #AgainstActon

**Dot Overington @dwo\_22**

#AgainstActon 'cos it took being a postgrad to be able to afford £140+ pw rent and £20pw tube pass. I loved Evelyn Gardens! Big mistake IC.

**Angus Turnbull @ajt108**

hugely #AgainstActon - i would have much preferred a less well done up evelyn gardens! appalling idea

**Juliet Kernohan @JulietKernohan**

State of @imperialcollege student housing is poor enough already without putting students 45 minutes away from campus #AgainstActon

**Hugh Gledhill @GledhillH**

As a former Evelyn Gardens IC student, and a current North Acton resident, I'm #againstacton - removes all flexibility from uni life

**Luke Neal @luke\_neal1**

I think moving halls to Acton would genuinely put off a lot of prospective students, esp. those who need cheaper accommodation. #againstacton

**Harveen Heey-yaah @Indie\_\_an**

Ridiculous. Acton is too far. My friend is exhausted from travelling to and from Paragon. Living close to college is essential #AgainstActon

**Chris Carter @chriscarter\_303**

I'm in private accommodation, North Acton is TWICE the distance from my flat to Imperial. #AgainstActon

**Arianna Sorba @AriannaSorba**

Acton isn't just far from campus, but from EVERYTHING that central London has to offer and made people accept originally #againstacton

**Niki K @thetrickyniki**

Students would rather live in mediocre halls if it means it's cheap. It's only 1 year anyway. No posh expensive halls please! #AgainstActon

**Henry Bickers @henrybickers**

#impcol can be pretty infuriating sometimes. Acton as a location is a terrible idea #AgainstActon

**Official Chris Darby @ChrisDarby89**

If @imperialcollege had more than a cursory care for students, they wouldn't move them a half hour commute from college #AgainstActon #NSS

**Mika Niwa @mikachu\_niwa**

Imperial, officially bans their students from a social life #againstacton

**Tom Phillips @tomwphillips**

Tbh I doubt @imperialcollege even cares about #AgainstActon. International students who pay huge fees will pay the crazy £150+/week rents.

**R Davies @Quinnfeld**

@icunion the obvious corollary of students being distant from college is that college will seem distant to students. #AgainstActon

**John Golden @johngolden10**

@icunion central London halls are one of the main appeals to undergraduates of @imperialcollege #AgainstActon

**George Rapley @george\_rapley**

#AgainstActon. Personally, massive reason for coming to IC in first place was living in central London, 10 mins walk from campus..\*facepalm\*

# Paragon: a case study of distance

**Tim Arbabzadah** Editor-in-Chief

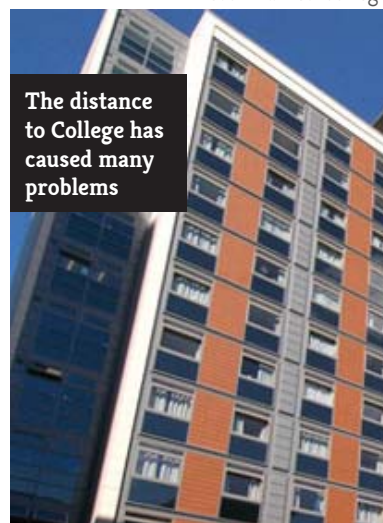
Paragon halls are located in Brentford, about six and a half miles from the South Kensington campus of Imperial College London, which is where most students need to be every day. The use of the halls is a temporary stopgap measure; the problem was caused by the last minute renovation of Wilson House. They are a shared halls: Imperial, University of West London and Thames Valley College all share the space. There are 176 rooms for freshers in Paragon, each room costing £155 per week. This does not factor in the travel cost per day that is needed to get into College. They are all single study bedrooms (with en suites) and arranged in cluster flats of eight with a shared kitchen.

Felix contacted Jon Matthews, Paragon Warden, for comment. He said that there "have been difficulties". He said that it has "always been [a case of] managing expectations". When asked to highlight the main problem that there is with the halls, he replied: "The main issue is distance from College". He went on to say: "students spending two hours a day are going to have [a] lesser experience than those

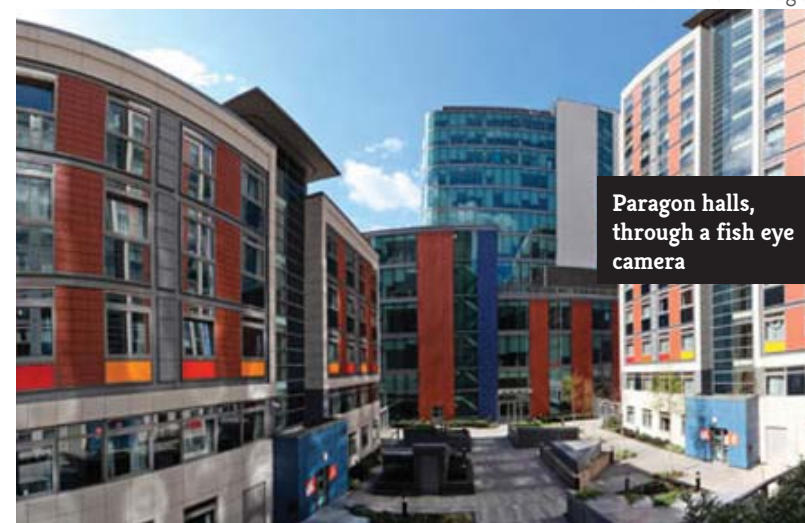
spending 20 minutes walking". This was likely referring to Evelyn Gardens and other closer accommodation. He said that there were not necessarily welfare concerns, but the student experience was diminished in comparison to those students in closer accommodation. He said that the wardening team "do our best, but no matter what events we do, there's always that commute". Paragon does have communal space, but it is not exclusively for Imperial. There have reportedly been problems with mixing between the universities. The different universities have attempted to advertise events to each other, however, there has been little uptake so far.

He said that Paragon was College's "only real option to taking in the students". The original plan was to house students in Elephant and Castle. This was opposed by the Union last year.

There have been many problems with Paragon this year. The vast majority have been due to the distance. Many students have tried to change halls, and it is believed that there are up to 2-3 complaints per week about the distance. The College website states that Paragon is "ideally located for students studying in central and west London". However, the com-



The distance to College has caused many problems



Paragon halls, through a fish eye camera

mute to and from College has been highlighted by many students as being too long. Paragon Warden, Jon Matthews was asked about the travel time issue. He said: "Door to door travel time is about one hour. Times that I do take the tube, can get back in 45 minutes, but that is with perfect connections. Realistically, looking at about an hour. If one cannot afford to be late [i.e. exam], I would say add 15 minutes on to an hour just in case." To mitigate this problem there is a shuttle bus available to South Ealing on the Picadilly Line. However it is five days a week and not run by Imperial; Paul Noke, Head of Residential Services and GradPad, previously told Felix that College "pay a small contribution to allow our students access... to the shuttle busses". Although there are times in the morning when students

from Imperial are not allowed to use them. These stop at 8:30pm. There are then MPVs from South Ealing to Paragon until 12:30am, which, for a fresher on a 'big night out' is not very late. Plus this is only three days a week, as not enough use has been shown to justify extending it. Much like Paragon, it has been suggested that the social life of having so many students in one area will not be able to take away from the daily commute.

The quality of the accommodation has also been called into question. The College website states the following: "Paragon is a high-quality, award-winning, purpose-built hall of residence in Brentford operated by Touareg Trust, part of the Notting Hill Housing Group." However, it has been noted that the showers are not very good, as they have low water pressure

and do not spray water straight down. The heat has also been noted. It is believed that to get the shower up to a higher temperature, one needs to run a cold tap. The heating has also been highlighted to Felix by an anonymous source. The heating was said to take up to two hours to heat the room, and that the room only stayed warm for a short amount of time. There are more problems, which have been highlighted by anonymous accounts to Felix. One of these is below, and another is in Comment on page 20.

Although the majority of students in halls this year were not in Paragon, for those that were it was the only first year experience that they will get (barring retaking exams or starting at a different university).

» Comment: page 20

## Sponsored Editorial

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

**Men's cuts £22** (normally £35)  
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## The Life of a Paragon Fresher

### An anonymous fresher gives their experiences living in Paragon

Paragon, described on the University web-site as: "a high-quality, award-winning, purpose-built hall of residence with excellent transport links and good shopping and leisure facilities available", has been a source of quite some controversy amongst Imperial students. Sounds idyllic, so what's the problem?

Primarily it's the distance. With the closest tube station located in zone 4 of the Picadilly line, the 40 minute commute to university is gruelling, especially for a 9am start. After a 10 min bus journey there follows the challenge of pushing one's way onto a central bound train. Usually there are no free seats, so we stand. Even so, it is not uncommon for it to be so crowded that we are forced to wait for the next train. Paragon is situated so far out that the underground runs above ground. Now that is saying some-

thing; so much for "excellent transport links".

Secondly it's the location of the actual Hall of Residence. Situated in Northfields, Brentford, I find it misleading to promulgate the shopping and leisure facilities in this area. When I look out of my flat window, I have an excellent view of the GlaxoSmithKlein headquarters as well as the M4. Maybe I'm being unfairly critical; it does have its perks. Besides from tall buildings and cars there is also a Petrol station, a Co-op and a local Fullers pub!

Finally Paragon is impractical and overpriced. Due to its location there is no way of oscillating between Halls and South Kensington during the day. This means two things: packed lunches and long days. Once you've left Paragon, you're committed to staying on campus.

This leaves you with the choice

of either become a hyper-efficient expert in time management and organisation; or quite the opposite. Many decide to not go in for lectures in the first place. After all, they are recorded, sparing you a 1 1/2 hour commute that day.

With summer exams coming up and the university work load building up the "Paragon Paradox" is becoming ever more transparent to us. It is safe to say that I write this on behalf of all Paragon Residents, who are all equally frustrated with their living conditions and the blatant unfairness of our situation. The incontrovertible truth: Brentford, Middlesex is not South Kensington, London.

Hopefully this article will call into question the plans to develop a new undergraduate hall of residence, W3, in North Acton. Please not another Paragon!

News Editors: Aemun Reza, Nida Mahmud  
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# NEWS

# A&E department closures announced

- Hammersmith, Charing Cross, Central Middlesex and Ealing hospital A&E Departments set to close.
- 'U-Turn' shown to be false.
- No A&E Departments for the boroughs of Hammersmith, Ealing and Brent.
- Petition with 100,000 signatures ignored.
- Changes will take 3-5 years to implement

**Aemun Reza** News Editor

The hope that the Charing Cross A&E department was to be saved has been overturned after the official meeting was held on February 19. This comes after speculation that the A&E department was going to remain open as a smaller A&E.

Andy Slaughter, Hammersmith and Fulham Labour MP, announced that the A&E department of Charing Cross, Hammersmith, Central Middlesex and Ealing hospitals would be closed. He stated that this decision would mean that "Charing Cross Hospital will be demolished and most of the site sold for private development".

He also added that the "NHS use of the site will be 3% of current levels. All 500 beds at Charing Cross will go and all acute services will be lost".

This means that all 'blue light' emergencies will be diverted to other hospitals and that there will be no A&E department in the London boroughs of Hammersmith, Ealing and Brent.

The replacement to the closure of the A&E department will be 'Urgent Care Centres' (UCC) at each of the hospitals. They are centres that have to be 'staffed by at least one GP at all times' and are 'able to treat minor injuries (including minor fractures)'

The Save Our Hospitals campaign claims that these closures will affect 2 million west London residents and that petitions with over 100,00 signatures opposing the closures have been ignored.

In a letter to Fulham & Hammersmith Chronicle, Carlo Nero, the chair of the Save Our Hospital – Hammersmith and Charing Cross campaign said: 'We now feel deeply betrayed by our elected representatives who have meekly given in



to NHS bosses at the eleventh hour without any prior consultation with the community whatsoever.'

In the full press release by North West London NHS, it states that 'These proposals will now take 3-5 years to implement, ensuring that improvements in out of hospital care are in place before major changes to hospital services are then implemented'. This would mean that current medical students might not be affected by these changes.

The Shaping a Healthier Future programme stated that it would be 'Investing over £190m more in out-of-hospital care to improve community facilities and the care provided by GPs and others. Most of these improvements will be put in place before any major changes to local hospitals are made'.

Jeff Zitron, Chair of the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT), said: "This is an important decision for the NHS in NW London. I am delighted that, after thorough and careful examination, we are able to fully recom-

mend what clinicians feel will deliver the best possible care for local people for years to come. We have not taken this decision lightly, and have been very careful to consider the many thousands of responses we received during our extensive consultation last summer. I am confident that this is the best decision for the people of North West London and for the NHS."

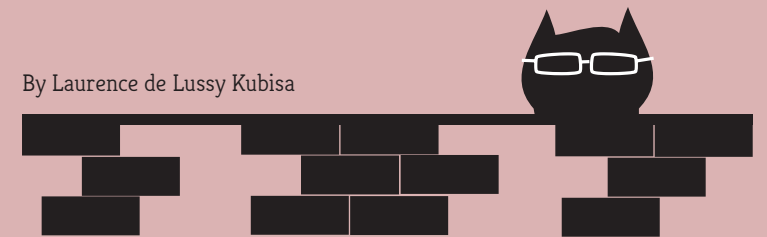
A statement released by Imperial College said that: 'Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Imperial College London welcome the decision to move forward with the plans to re-configure health services in North West London.'

It also mentioned that 'Throughout this process, we have also maintained the importance of the Academic Health Science Centre's mission to link up education, research and front line healthcare. Our support for these proposals has therefore been conditional on the NHS's commitment to fund any relocation of our existing medical school facilities.'

## THE WORLD BEYOND COLLEGE WALLS

There is a world beyond South Kensington...

By Laurence de Lussy Kubisa



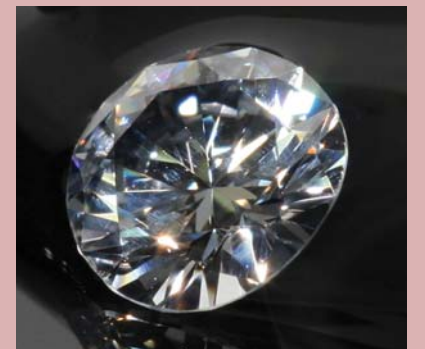
### Google invests in new 'shops' trend



Tech giant, Google, announced this week that they are to open a series of innovative 'shops' across the USA to sell Google products. The ground-breaking new concept whereby people venture to the 'shop' and spend money on items they wish to purchase has been enthusiastically announced by Google spokesperson. "It's a fantastic new technology and we feel people are going to love it" stated the spokesperson before adding "you can find the locations on the internet, just use Bing to find it".

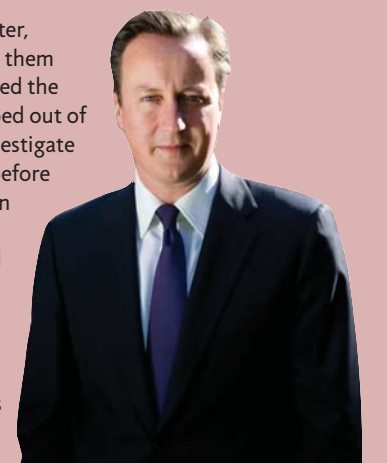
### Diamond raid in Belgian

An innocent cargo of diamonds was kidnapped in Brussels, Tuesday, just as they were about to board a flight to visit their family in Sierra Leone. Just as the blameless diamonds, who were mined by overworked and underpaid miners to fund questionable government activities, were seized by a well organised group of raiders who are yet to demand a ransom.



### PM to spend the rest of tenure single-handedly tackling corruption in India

After assuring the Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, that he would help them tackle the issue, David Cameron donned the first of many potential disguises, slipped out of the press conference and began to investigate corruption from the bottom up. Just before melting away into the crowd, Cameron stated that he would "deal with the AgustaWestland company" but added that it "won't be before I've tackled the whole rotten system". Rumours that the PM has been simultaneously sighted in Dehli, New Dehli, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Chennai are, as yet, unconfirmed.



# NEWS

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## Successful week for RAG

**Nida Mahmud** News Editor

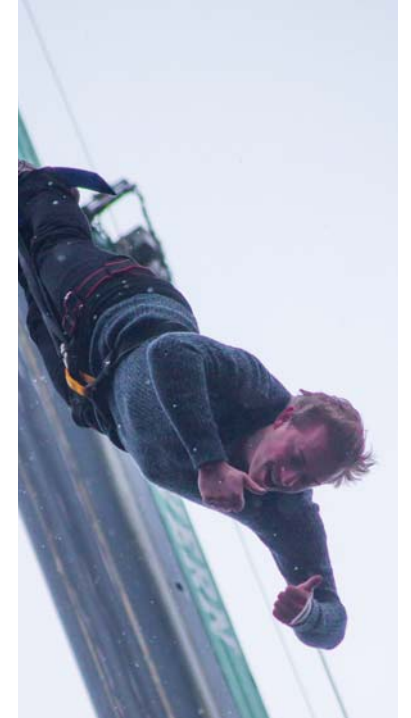
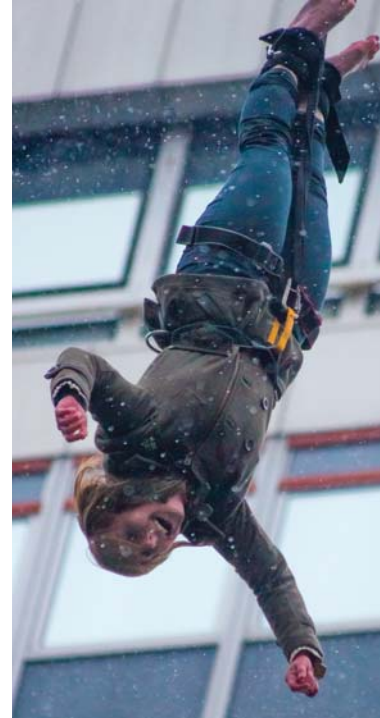
Raising and Giving (RAG), the charity arm of Imperial College Union had their annual RAG Week during 11-15 February. It was a week of fun filled events that raise money for RAG's chosen charities. David Goldsmith, RAG Chair, said "RAG took over Imperial."

The thousands of pounds that have been raised will go towards International development, breast cancer research and Richard House children's hospice in Newham.

RAG kicked off with a Bungee jump on the Queen's Lawn, automatically raising awareness about RAG so that everyone knew what was happening. Other events included a cartoon collect, as Masquerade ball, a Secret Valentine service, and a RAG week raffle.

David Goldsmith commented, after the Bungee jump "we then ensued to

raid the streets of London and shake passers-by by their ankles in search of their spare change. We partied it up Penthouse-style on Valentines Day and guzzled on unlimited pizza on the Friday. We generated inconceivable levels of fun yet at the same time we raised heaps of cash for those in need. This is the true spirit of RAG. It is a driving force that brings students of Imperial together in order to do something good whilst having a hell of a great time doing it"



Benjamin Lester

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**Jamie Dunbar Smyth**

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**NEWS**

# Think tank: £9000 fees cost more than save

## “Jury has to be out” about cost-effectiveness of funding says CEO

**Nida Mahmud** News Editor

The Treasury has estimated that £1.7 bn will be saved by having higher tuition fees and putting an end to the teaching allowances.

However, the loss in potential earning by students not pursuing a degree will cause an increase of £3.6 bn, this figure was quoted by the university think-tank million+. Furthermore, the end to the teaching subsidy will cause worker skills to decrease. Million+ also found that the ramification of increasing the tuition fees means it will cost the government 6.5 times more than the estimate made by the Treasury for their cash savings in 2012-13.

The Chief Executive of million+, Pam Tatlow, commented: “The shift from the direct funding of universities to indirect funding via student

loans has protected student numbers and, on paper, helps the Government reduce the structural deficit. The real question is how to maintain a thriving, efficient higher education system which is good for students, good for universities and good for the taxpayer. Once the total economic costs are taken into account, the jury has to be out as to whether the Government’s reforms are the most cost-effective way of funding higher education.”

It has also been found that the increase in tuition fees will add 0.24% to the consumer prices index of inflation. Last week, Sir Mervyn King, the Bank of England Governor, criticised the Government for having “an own goal” with their policies pertaining to tuition fees. As ministers has previously claimed that fees of over £6,000 will only be charged in “exceptional circumstances”.

The Office for Fair Access has stated that a third of the universities in are charging the maximum for fees at £9,000. Approximately 75% of them charge the maximum for at least one degree.

This leads to graduates entering university in the 2012-13 academic year incurring £1.46 bn more in costs in comparison to those who began university in 2010-11. Million+ also said that these figures take into account “up-front costs of higher tuition fees, all forms of student support, as well as the longer-term subsidies and write-offs on loans in the 30 years following graduation.”

The matter of raising tuition fees to £9000 caused a large controversy due to the Lib Dems making a pledge to not raise tuition fees in the run up to the last General Election. It sparked widespread student unrest.

Imperial College London



Engaged with the ceremony... clearly

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# NEWS

News Editors: Aemun  
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## CLASSIFIEDS

### Java software developer wanted

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There are lots of opportunities to develop new applications as well. Please forward your CV to HM.

Apply via email: - hr.educationoffice@gmail.co

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

### Asbestos has been found in Skempton

Recently released College Council minutes from last September have revealed the discovery of asbestos in the Skempton Building. The material, which is no longer used in construction, is highly toxic and leads to a range of respiratory illnesses.

The asbestos was found in the ductwork to Lecture theatre 2, which has now been "capped off" in order to safely deal with the situation. The College already has an Asbestos Management Plan in place for these situations to reduce any risk associated with asbestos.

The substance was found during the on-going works taking place in Skempton and its finding has led to delays with the refurbishment plans. The minutes state that the operation to remove the asbestos will take 8 weeks over either Easter or Summer.

Niall Jeffrey

### Woodlane Studios running on a tight schedule

There is fear in the College Council that the contractor, ISG, who have the £39 million construction contract for the accommodation blocks at the new White City campus, may not be hitting their "target completion date".

According to the September 2012 meeting minutes the venture was originally to end in September 2013, however an agreement was made to give accommodation to some students early. ISG therefore had a target completion date for the end of August 2013, a date that now looks overly ambitious.

The College Council deemed the current timings "extremely tight" and have therefore asked that the situation be "closely monitored".

Niall Jeffrey

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do in job  
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# FELIX

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### When and where:

- 16.30 Exhibition opens in the Queen's Tower Rooms
- 18.00 Talk in the Great Hall
- 19.00 Exhibition continues with  
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### Join us for:

- » 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
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# Fairtrade: the lowdown before

## What is Fairtrade?

**Aditya Narayanan** fills you in on what Fairtrade entails

**H**ow many of you drink coffee or tea to get you started in the morning? Or sneak a banana/bar of chocolate to get through afternoon lectures? How many of you wear clothes to uni? Throughout our daily life we reap the benefits of consuming all manner of products made using cash crops – most originating in developing nations. Crops such as cotton from India or Brazil, coffee from Ethiopia or Colombia or bananas from innumerable Caribbean and South American countries. And yet, many of those involved in the production process remain in poverty, strong-armed by the power and resources of multinational corporations they work for or compete with.

Ethical consumerism is not a new phenomenon; increasing numbers of people are willing to pay more for everyday items in the knowledge that they were produced without harming anything. Some even boycott companies due to unsavoury practices, leading many to use Corporate Social Responsibility as another marketing tool. On a less cynical note, there have long been organisations and business movements that have aimed to provide a good service without compromising on ethics.

More recently, the trend in ethical consumerism has tended away from simple charity to promoting initiatives aimed at developing infrastructure or economy in a morally sound manner in order to provide a tangible,

long term contribution. However, most of these efforts – such as those backed by the Rainforest Alliance or Soil Association – are centred on efficient resource consumption such as energy efficient practices or sustainable agricultural methods. This protects the land, but does not necessarily include the people affected by these issues within their outlook. This is where Fairtrade comes in.

The Fairtrade mark is slowly becoming recognised the world over. The bright blue and green swirls cooing the triumphant stickman is the stamp that confirms that a product has been bought while adhering to Fairtrade standards (see below). These standards cover a vast array of categories all intended to empower workers to have more control over their conditions of employment, such as:

- All produce must be sold at a minimum price required for workers to earn above the minimum wage limit.
- Working conditions are safe and equitable for everyone including provision of adequate health and safety and the right to join independent trade unions to ensure their rights are always supported.
- Crops are grown in a sustainable manner and without use of certain chemicals that could cause damage if released.

In practice, this means that farmers form co-operative organisations to collectively barter with buyers, allowing them to negotiate from a position of strength and increase the price at which they sell goods well above

the minimum. This protects farmers from market crashes elsewhere in the world, and gives them access to more resources from which they can increase both the quality and quantity of their produce. In addition, the Fairtrade premium takes a small percentage of the price you pay and places it into a community fund. From here, the co-operatives can vote where the money is spent. This could be roads, schools, water, or anything else requiring investment.

So how did Fairtrade become as big as it is now? The first Fairtrade organisation was set up in 1987 in the Netherlands under the name 'Max Havelaar' and focussed on supporting Mexican coffee growers. From this, the movement spread, and slowly across Europe similar organisations sprouted with the UK's Fairtrade Foundation being in 1992. However still they were very independent and it took a further five years before the Fairtrade Labelling Organisation was created so as to "unite the labelling initiatives under one umbrella and establish worldwide standards and certification." From here, the movement has flourished and evolved beyond just food and textiles. You can now pamper your loved ones with Fairtrade cosmetics, as sold by Lush (who will be visiting us during Fairtrade Fortnight) and wear Fairtrade jewellery made from Fairtrade gold. Believe it or not, you can even have Fairtrade sex using Fairtrade condoms!

Slowly the Fairtrade certification process is moving towards certifying



entire companies as Fairtrade rather than focussing on solitary products – something that has been helped by companies such as Cadbury's and Ben & Jerry's committing to achieve Fairtrade status. This means that all products made by a Fairtrade company contain 100% Fairtrade materials. In addition, towns and universities (in-

cluding our very own Imperial College) are also earning the right to call themselves 'Fairtrade' by virtue of the suppliers they use. There still remains a way to go in the quest to reduce wealth disparity in the world, but by going Fairtrade we choose to use a fair system making us one step closer to eradicating poverty.

**MAKE IT HAPPEN**  
**CHOOSE FAIRTRADE**



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

# FEATURES

# More Fairtrade fortnight

## We go to a Fairtrade university

**Nicholas Greenwood** gets you ready for the week ahead

Imperial is one of only a few universities in the U.K with its own student led Fairtrade society. Back in 2007 Imperial became one of the first universities to gain Fairtrade university status showing a clear demonstration of student support for ethics in the trade system. Meeting the goals for this involved setting up a Fairtrade policy within the university, ensuring Fairtrade products are available at all outlets and events, setting up a Fairtrade steering group with representatives from across the college to influence change and running events aimed at raising awareness through the university. I hope you see where we fit in!

Although the status was lost many years ago, this year we have reclaimed it and as a society we are working hard to ensure that we do not lose it again! In the past we have been involved in the steering group, achieving Fairtrade status and a push to get Fairtrade products into the union shops. The imperial catering department is especially supportive in our activities providing much of what we need for our events. We are eternally grateful to them for this.

Year on year ICU Fairtrade has had a growing member base and our presence is being felt more strongly as time passes, we hope you too have felt this. Although we aim to spread events across the year, the main focus of our campaign lies in the next 2 weeks, Fairtrade Fortnight, where we make sure that all of you know everything that we are all about.

Last year many of you may remember the ambitious plans to hold an event on every single day for the whole two weeks. Through the gruelling efforts of a committed team, Fairtrade fortnight 2012 was an incredible success and will stick in the memories of everyone involved. This year however, we take a different tack: focusing specifically on quality rather than quantity, learning through our past experiences of what works (see [www.icufairtrade.org.uk/private/wiki](http://www.icufairtrade.org.uk/private/wiki)) and adding some new variations. We are also spreading efforts wider than before by collaborating with as many other societies as possible to get everybody involved. With all of our efforts, we hope to pull off the best Fairtrade fortnight yet!

• Ben & Jerry's all you can eat ice-cream nights are pretty self-explanatory so I won't talk too much on that as-

pect. This time however, to spice things up, the debating society is using the event as a platform for a live debate on Fairtrade to kick off our events.

• Next, I'm sure many of you have enquired into the thrill of knitting but have never actually picked up a set of needles. Join us in the SAF where Knit Sock will show you how to knit the range of winter wear shown in their recent centrefold!

• Cosmetics company LUSH is kindly coming in to show us how Fairtrade influences their products and they will give a short beauty class so you can see exactly what goes into what you buy!

• The Political Philosophy Society has set up a future trade conference where speakers will talk about the current and future structure of trade and how Fair-

trade relates to that.

• Divine are sending us some genuine cocoa farmers to give a short talk while we sample FREE chocolate! This is combined with a fine selection of Fairtrade teas, courtesy of Teasoc.

• To top things off, our grand finale: the Cheese and (Fairtrade) Wine night with the standard raffle and quiz, only this time, the event is kindly hosted in BaRCM with live music performed by students of the Royal College of Music! All in all, a good opportunity to enjoy a sophisticated environment with complete with non-Imperial students.

I hope you are looking forward to the next two weeks as much as we are. Please do get involved, you may even win a 1kg bar of Fairtrade chocolate just for doing so! We will be selling Fair-



trade ICU Fairtrade society T-shirts over the coming weeks which can be purchased from the union website.

Finally, a special thanks to our spon-

sors who provide us with many of the essentials ingredients for our events: Divine chocolate, Peros, Epona clothing, qi teas, cafe direct and LUSH.

FAIRTRADE.ORG.UK/STEP    MORE TICKETING INFORMATION AT ICUFAIRTRADE.ORG.UK

MON 25 FEB	TUES 26 FEB	WED 27 FEB	THUR 28 FEB	FRI 1 MAR
	<p><b>FIND US IN THE JCR FROM 12:30 - 1:30 TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS AND AVOID THE SUPPLEMENTARY DOOR CHARGE!</b></p>		<p><b>£3</b></p> <p><b>BEN &amp; JERRY'S</b></p> <p><b>ALL YOU CAN EAT ICE CREAM NIGHT!</b></p> <p>BLACKETT PHY. COMMON ROOM (TIME 1: 18:00, TIME 2: 20:00)</p> <p>FEATURING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CANDYFLOSS MACHINE</li> <li>- ICECREAM RACE</li> <li>- LIVE DEBATE!</li> </ul> <p>NEED WE SAY MORE?</p>	<p><b>FAIRTRADE KNITTING</b></p> <p><b>FREE!</b></p> <p>SAF FOYER (12:00 - 14:00)</p> <p>SIT DOWN AND RELAX AFTER A LONG WEEK! COME KNIT USING FAIR TRADE COTTON WITH THE FAIRTRADE AND KNIT SOCIETYS!</p> <p>WE WILL SHOW YOU HOW!</p>
<p><b>4 MAR</b></p> <p>UNION MR3 (18:30 - 20:00)</p> <p>PAMPER YOUR SKIN. CREATE YOUR OWN FACE MASK ETHICAL AND DELICIOUS INGREDIENTS!</p> <p><b>LUSH BEAUTY CLASS</b></p> <p><b>£1</b></p>	<p><b>5 MAR FREE!</b></p> <p><b>FUTURE TRADE CONFERENCE</b></p> <p><b>FEATURING FAIRTRADE</b></p> <p>TBC (18:00-19:30)</p> <p>DISCOVER HOW MUCH FAIRTRADE AFFECTS THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.</p>	<p><b>6 MAR</b></p> <p><b>FREE!</b></p> <p>UNION MR4 (12:00 - 14:00)</p> <p>SERIOUSLY, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO TURN DOWN THIS FREE EVENT?!</p> <p><b>TEA &amp; CHOCOLATE TASTING</b></p> <p>FEATURING A SHORT TALK FROM GENUINE FAIRTRADE FARMERS.</p>	<p><b>7 MAR</b></p>	<p><b>8 MAR</b></p> <p><b>CHEESE &amp; WINE NIGHT (RCM)</b></p> <p>BA.RCM (7:00 - 9:30)</p> <p>SAMPLE OUR FINE SELECTION, LISTEN TO A LIVE PERFORMANCE COURTESY OF THE RCM AND WIN PRIZES THROUGH THE NIGHT IN OUR FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT FINALE!</p> <p><b>£5</b></p>

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# Keep calm and discover Islam

**Islam Society** warmly invite you to their week of events

**T**here seems to be a 'KEEP CALM...' slogan for every situation including 'KEEP CALM IT'S ONLY THE OLYMPICS'. But here's one you may not have thought of, 'KEEP CALM AND DISCOVER ISLAM'; perhaps because mainstream media has done such an effective job in portraying that word 'Islam' with terrorism...Islamism... radicalism...list goes on. But just how much do you really know about it? There are loads of misconceptions and Discover Islam Week aims to address them.

Questions that you probably won't see in your exam paper during your scientific degree include questions such as 'why are we here. What is the meaning of life? Is there a 'purpose' to life and if so what is it? It's easy to let these questions sit at the back of our mind and to not reflect on them because our routine makes it easy to do so. DIW is an opportunity for everyone on campus to take a step back from the work, challenge the way you think and to find out more about a religion followed by over a billion people.

The coming week and today marks the start of Discover Islam Week 2013, the annual project organised by the Islamic Society. There are events every day kicking off with today's talk, which is by a former priest at the Vatican who will be speaking on 'Jesus, Moses and Muhammad: Brothers in Faith' at 6.30pm. Tuesday's event hosts a panel discussing their reasons for becoming Muslim, including former MTV presenter, Kristiane Backer. 'Great British Islam' is on Wednesday afternoon, which includes a short documentary on Britain's Islamic history. Wasim Kempson will be speaking about the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) on Thursday, addressing why Muhammad is a true inspiration for every Muslim. DIW ends with an informal and relaxed dinner on Friday with some light entertainment.

So whether you're an undergrad, postgrad, male, female, of faith or not of faith, join us for any of the days or just pop by the exhibitions on Monday and Thursday in SAF for a bite to eat and a wander round, we look forward to seeing you there!!

## DISCOVER ISLAM WEEK



**Moses, Jesus & Muhammad**  
BROTHERS IN FAITH  
with Idris Tawfiq  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
18:00  
EEE LT 408



**Conversations**  
with Yusuf Chambers, Sarah Joseph  
& Kristiane Backer  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February  
18:00  
SAF G16



**Great British Islam**  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February  
13:00  
Huxley LT 145



**Muhammad:**  
MERCY TO MANKIND (pbuh)  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
18:00  
Huxley Lecture Theatre 308



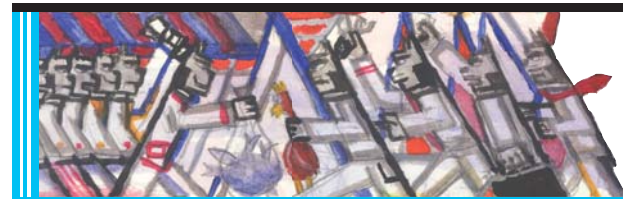
**DIW Dinner**  
with guest, Shaykh Fahimul  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
18:00  
EEE 509



**Exhibitions**  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> and  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
10:00 - 16:00  
SAF and Sherfield Building

Learn more about one of the largest religions in the world  
from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013





Business Editor: Deepka Rana  
business.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# BUSINESS

# The Gate to an Imperial success story

**Pedro Pereira** interviews a founder of tech startup 'GateMe'

**E**xams... Library, presentations... Library, coursework... Library. Being an Imperial College student is usually associated with the “nerdiness” stigma. If you weren't already one when you got in, the general idea is that by the time you leave, you will have become a super studying sleepless monkey.

While some of us see the above idea as a math fact, others disagree completely. Andre Nakkurt, Imperial alumni and one of the founding partners of GateMe, an innovative guest management platform, was probably one of the latter ones. The idea of a “dark” secret world lurking far from the old Library isles and cold laboratory workbenches must have attracted him, either that or being sick of waiting in queues to get in his favourite nightclub. We decided to investigate!

**PP: You say that GateMe is “innovative”, can you tell us what is so innovative about it?**

AN: GateMe helps clubs turn random guests into regular clubbers, which increases their bottom line. We do this using state of the art technology, which helps nightclubs understand the clubbers in detail. Since day one, the clubbing industry has been using pen and paper to manage table bookings and guest lists. All these messy papers contain data, which can't be used because processing costs are too high. In comparison, GateMe runs on any mobile device or tablet, which makes it easy to use the data. Fortunately for us, the industry is catching onto this very fast.

**PP: Does it explore a new business market? Is it disrupting an old one?**

AN: It's all about execution and long term vision at this point; disrupting an old market and creating a new one is a long journey and the team is enjoying it so far. There will always be imitators and we're flattered by their compliments.

**PP: Sounds good! So who are the faces behind GateMe? Is it only Imperial alumni? Do you need to be extravagant and cool to work in a start-up? Do you really wear flip flops and drink Red Bull all day?**

AN: GateMe considers itself lucky, because the team has extremely good rapport. Three team members are brothers and four have known each other since primary school. We have attracted similarly passionate and reliable people, who have helped us develop high quality software very fast.

The team enjoys a varied background from PwC consulting to Google and indeed, our developers are known to enjoy the freedom of flip flops!

**PP: When was the official launch and how did you celebrate?**

AN: We had been working on our prototype for a couple of months and were often visiting clubs to get feedback; at one point the positive feedback started to drown out the negative and we knew we were onto something. The team was pleased after landing the first paying customers and excitement grew with expansion from Estonia to London and Miami. Every new paying customer warrants a ring from our “happy customer” bell (we actually have a bell in the office solely for that occasion. True story).

However, the team feels that “the Eureka!” moment is yet to come; it will happen after we cause a major disruption in the industry and we're working tirelessly towards that.”

**PP: Is it true that all start-ups have offices with grass rugs and dogs walking around?**

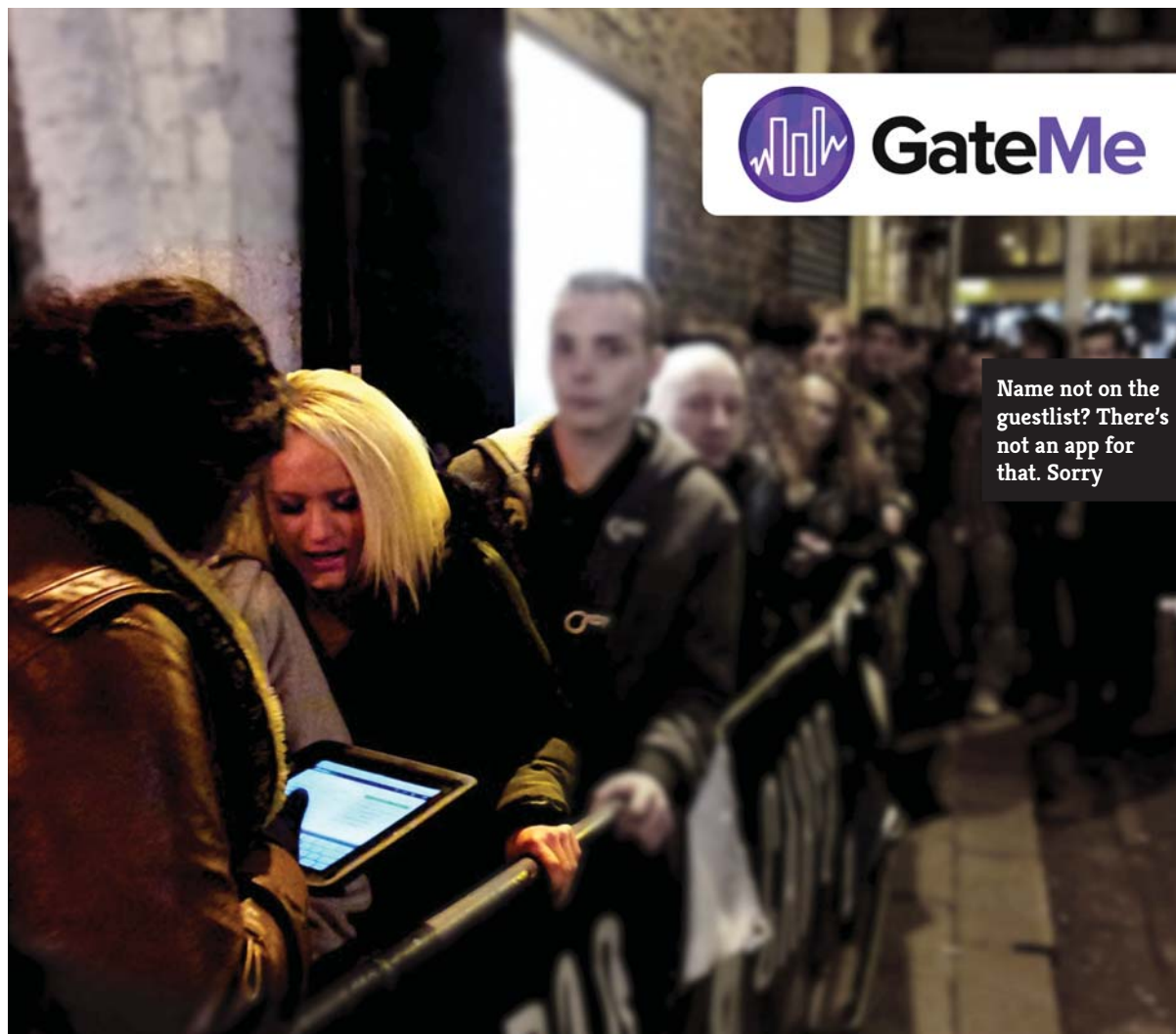
AN: Very recently we had the honour of winning Seedcamp London and being chosen among the one percent of companies, who get world-class mentoring and support from the prestigious seed investment fund. An important part of that support comes in the form of shared office space at Google Campus, London. Seedcamp is best described as one large family of young and ambitious overachievers, in the best sense of that word. The shared office is fantastic, because we can bounce ideas around the room and learn from their experience.

**PP: What about future strategy? Where do you see GateMe in 3 years time?**

AN: We're currently focused on software for nightclubs and the natural progression from there is towards the clubbers. The team works around the clock to become the go-to brand for nightlife.

**PP: Being Imperial alumni, will you ever come back? Did Imperial College Business School help you at all?**

AN: It's kind of given that the academic side at Imperial College Business School is outstanding, but my biggest surprise was the strength of internal and external events happening throughout the year. I exhausted myself trying to absorb as much as possible from these fantastic events and



Name not on the guestlist? There's not an app for that. Sorry

this has already paid off. Fortunately, Imperial College Business School benefits from a very active start-up community; places like IC Start-up and Imperial Entrepreneurs are where it's really happening.

The experience far exceeded my expectations and I will remain very close with Imperial. I look forward to giving something back and fortunately I have the chance in a couple of weeks. As part of a panel for the Business Plan

Competition, I expect to see some interesting ideas from the current students. This was a major part of my programme, which prepared me for the challenges our team faced with GateMe later on.

So next time you find yourself waiting in a 100 meter club queue, thinking why you didn't book a table or joint the guestlist that afternoon, think about Andre and “his” GateMe.

Smile, call it field research and you just might be a step closer of becoming a serial entrepreneur!

*GateMe is available in all major phone/tablet app markets, but if you are interested in knowing more about or you think you've got the skillz it takes to be part of this amazing team, drop by [www.gateme.com](http://www.gateme.com) to register and send these nice guys an email.*



Stand out from the crowd

Write for Felix Business



# Rats get infrared 'sixth sense'

**Sarah Byrne** investigates the brain implant that gives the ability to see invisible light

**R**esearchers at Duke University have given lab rats the ability to 'see' infrared light, in research published in Nature Communications last week.

The story was reported widely as the rats getting a 'sixth sense'. The term is an exaggeration, implying some unexplained or paranormal effect. But the reality is startling enough.

The rats were fitted with an infrared sensor, which was wired up to an implant in the region of their brain that normally reacts to the sensation of their whiskers brushing against something.

Infrared (IR) light is part of the electromagnetic spectrum that also includes the visible light that we can see, but its wavelength is longer, putting it outside the range our eyes can detect. Infrared perception by living things is not entirely unknown, however — some bats and snakes have been found to be able to 'see' IR light — but it is rare, and certainly not the case for rats (which the researchers did double-check in a control experiment with normal rats).

With the implants, the rats could not only detect the presence of IR light but could distinguish between different frequencies, which could be considered equivalent to seeing in colour. In fact they learned to navigate their way around using the

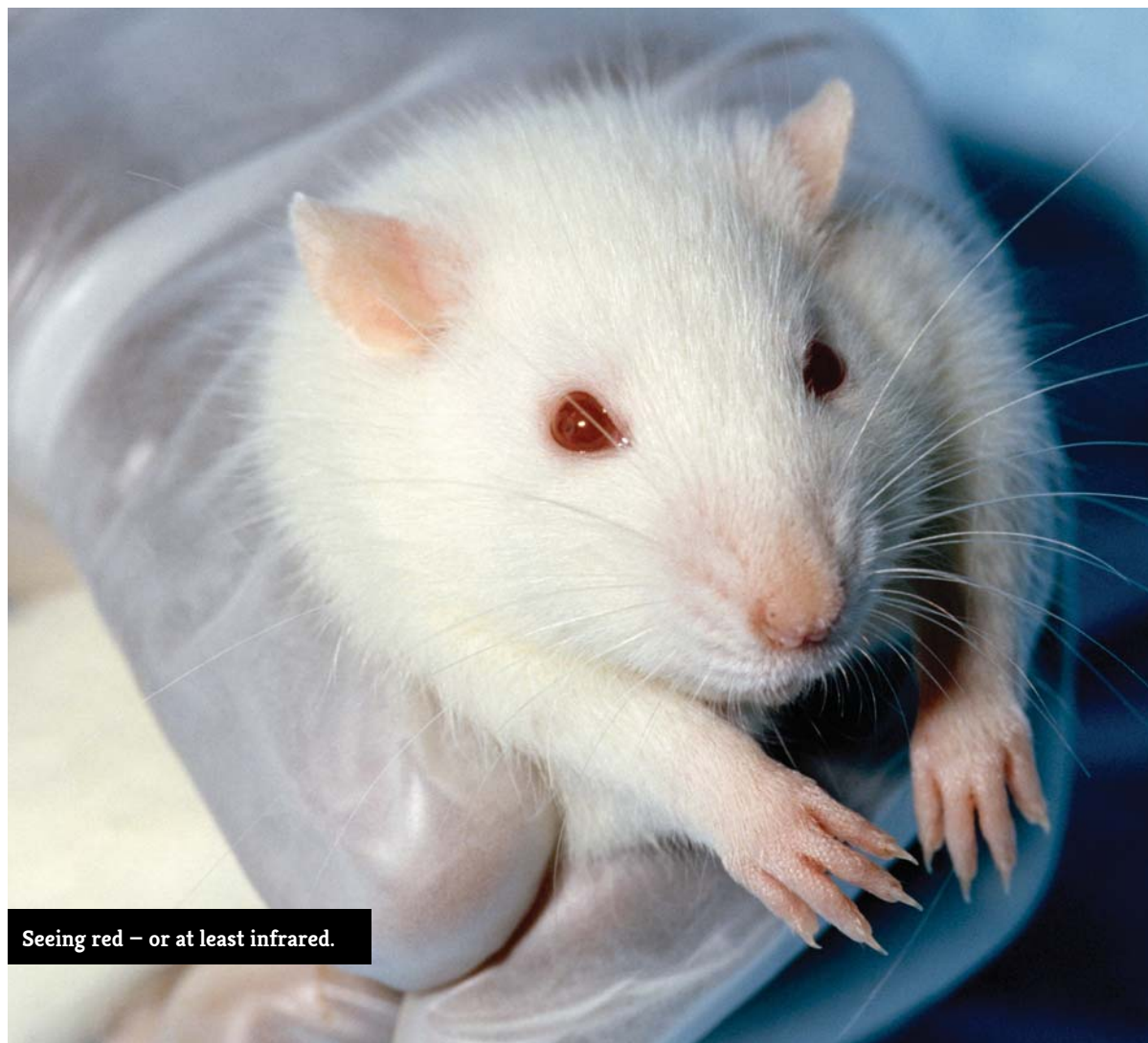
different infrared sources to guide them.

One question remains unanswered — and is a difficult one to answer as the rats can't report back on what the experience was like. Given that the electrodes were hooked up to the whisker stimulation area of the brain, did 'seeing' infrared light from the rat's point of view just feel like touching something with their whiskers? Or was it an entirely new type of sensory experience?

Ethical considerations probably rule out trying the technique on a human volunteer (though who wouldn't be just a little bit curious to find out what having a new sense would be like?). So further research is needed to establish exactly what is going on in the rat's brain.

The result raises some intriguing possibilities for the future though. So far the focus of such neurological prosthetics has been on restoring normal function where it has been lost through injury or disease. The best known example is cochlear implants for deafness. But what if we could go a step further and use this technology to actually give people more abilities than any of us naturally have? Super-humans may someday be a possibility. But first, we need a bit more work on the super-rats.

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms2497



Seeing red — or at least infrared.

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## Fish getting high

**Philip Kent** Science Editor

Does any of your medication get washed away through the water system? If so, your medication could lead to aquatic life having a very exhilarating day indeed.

Research from Umeå University, Sweden has shown how an "unusually high" concentration of anti-anxiety drug, Oxazepam, in a river in Sweden has caused fish to exhibit a number of strange changes to behaviour.

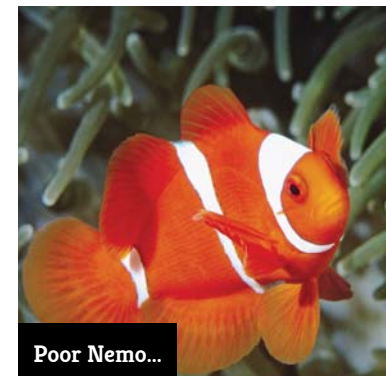
Whilst water purification and treatment systems are supposed to remove contaminants such as drugs, many have slipped past, leading to worry that other drugs may be harming aquatic life.

Fish take up the drug through the tissues in their muscles, meaning that they are incredibly sensitive to even small concentrations of the drug.

The drugged fish appeared to leave their protective shoal formation, preferring to swim individually. When the concentration of drug was increased, the fish went one step further and travelled through to unknown places far more willingly than their normal counterparts.

Secondly, fish drugged to any concentration of oxazepam became far more hungry, and more innovative in finding their food.

It is not certain that oxazepam is the sole cause of the erratic behaviour, or whether circumstances are to blame, concern has nonetheless been raised



Poor Nemo...

as to the ecological effects of washing drugs out into the oceans. It is hoped that this will again raise the argument for regulation of aquatic pollutants.

DOI: 10.1126/science.1226850





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POLITICS

# Lifting the Barriers

What does a trade agreement between the two largest economies in the world mean?

**Alexander Soloviev** Writer

Spring seems to be in the air. The feeling of change and new prospects seem to blossom. For 2013 marks the beginning of free trade negotiations between the EU and the US.

So why should you care? Free trade agreements are about removing barriers between nations. Quotas, which limit the amount of imported goods, and tariffs, which serve as an import tax, are set in place to benefit local manufacturers and businesses. Imported goods are inflated in price, giving the consumer incentive to buy local.

While these protectionist measures keep local unemployment down, trade barriers do more harm than good, especially for the consumer. In a free market system the lowest priced goods are the ones that win out. This either destroys the competition or causes them to change their game and adapt to the situation at hand.

The late Soviet Union serves as a rather extreme example of the evils of protectionism. After its economic boom in the 50s, centralized planning and resource managing meant that there was no incentive for industries to modernize. Extreme limits on imported goods meant there was no

tangible competition. As a result of this and other factors the economic stagnation of the 70s and 80s became a harsh reality.

As the example of the Soviet Union illustrates, protectionist measures do provide for some short-term gains, but as a long term economic policy they only serve to handicap. Only direct competition could allow for continuous modernization and relevance in a global trade environment.

This is why you should care. The EU and the US represent the largest economies of the world. The two represent nearly half of the world's GDP and 800 million people. Negotiations could come linking European ties with NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), an agreement between Canada, the US and Mexico. If such an agreement was settled, the economic benefit would be enormous. A research institute in Munich found that if a comprehensive agreement is reached then living standards in both the US and the EU could rise by more than 5% by 2030. Trans-Atlantic trading could treble. This would also include standardizing safety rules, competition laws and technical procedures.

But money isn't everything. The negotiations could be serving

a political purpose as well. This potential union would serve as a counterweight of the rising influence of ACTFA (ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement), which links Southeast Asian economies to China's growing clout.

But not all are convinced. Some view the negotiations as too good to be true. There is already the usual muttering of losing jobs in both the US and the EU. This talk will get louder as the negotiations get closer to fruition. However, unemployment concerns have always figured into free trade talks. The long-term realities of an agreement are simply that more jobs are created than lost.

The more troubling concern for these negotiations comes from the side of the EU. Ratifying any agreement of such calibre will most likely require every country's approval. For export driven economies, such as Germany, the target will be a broad and comprehensive agreement. The real sticking point could turn out to be France and southern countries, especially in terms of regulating agriculture. American agricultural output is massive in comparison to southern Europe. Cheap, US goods threaten the livelihood of southern European farmers. Health and safety laws differ as well: the spectre of



GM foods will likely rear its head in discussions.

The other complication lies with the US. If negotiations stall for longer than two years, a comprehensive EU-US trade agreement will be a hard sell for Obama. He might then turn his

attention to establishing further ties in the Pacific.

As it stands to reason, an EU-US free trade agreement seems somewhat utopic. Even with a target date of 2015. Here's to hoping it won't get bogged down in negotiations.

# Riding through Europe

**Marie-Laure Hicks** Politics Editor

The horse meat scandal is revealing the intricacies and complexities of the European food industry. When disconcerting discoveries were made in Ireland in November 2012 and finally the scandal erupted in the UK mid-January, no one expected it to blow up in such a dramatic way. Since then, three separate supply chains, 13 countries and 28 companies have become involved in one of the largest food crises since BSE. The scandal looks like it might even take an international turn, with products being removed from supermarkets in Hong Kong.

The finger pointing dance has begun. Suppliers in Romania are being accused by French companies of mislabelling their meat. Following the discovery of horse meat in school meals, the UK government and FSA are at a loss. 2,501 DNA tests were run by a watchdog and

an investigation has begun to determine whether the government was warned about this two years ago. Financial pressures on the food industry to drive prices down, the impact of the economic crisis leading to horse owners sending their animals to slaughterhouses and selling the meat are all factors leading to the influx of horsemeat into the food chain. Ties between meat laundering, various trafficking operations and local mafia have also been uncovered in the fraudulent supply chains. Needless to say, this does not justify the scandal taking place, more so it begs the question of regulation.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) does not have much power. Reduced budgets and attempts to make the industry self-regulating means that standards are enforced by strained local authorities and the companies themselves.

European regulation only requires the distributors to know the origin

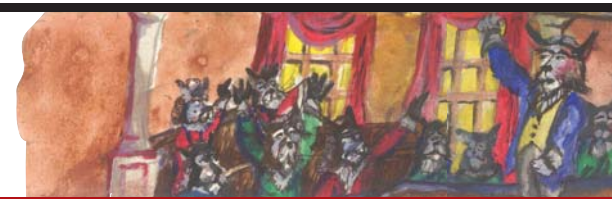
of their product. Traceability here is not the issue, solely labelling. With products labelled as beef containing up to 100% horse meat and pig meat, there is a clear need to guarantee the veracity of the label displayed on supermarket shelves. With the guilty supply chains spanning up to five countries, it makes sense for regulation to be at a European level.

Calls for a form of European food standards and regulating agency have grown louder in the midst of the scandal. This would be complicated to put in place as all 27 countries will have to ratify the set of rules, and then again unanimously agree on any changes to come in the future. Even if an organisation were successfully created, it could rapidly be deadlocked into bureaucracy and negotiations. Integration is needed for such a body to function, a difficult decision for Europe and a choice the Coalition government is unlikely to make.



CanIndia

samtheblackheart



# Action Against Acton

## The College's plans for undergraduate accommodation in North Acton are ill-thought-out and must be opposed



**Paul Beaumont**  
Union President

**W**hat's the point of widening participation and encouraging the brightest minds to apply to Imperial – if they're then not going to be able to afford to come. Or worse, can \*just\* afford to come but get placed in a hall in North Acton?

For the last six months, I and the Deputy President (Welfare), Becky have been arguing against the North Acton development that will probably replace Evelyn Gardens – and now, the probable closure of Garden Hall too. College has listened, and even, I'd go as far to say, accepts that North Acton isn't a good plan – it's an insurance plan in case something better doesn't come along. What worries me is that they'll now stop looking for alternatives.

What makes me think that? The College's news article on the subject tries to sell the project as something positive for students. I've provided a short dissection of the news, from my – and, now, thanks to the Executive Committee's response – the Union's point of view.

The full news story can be found on the College website: [http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news\\_18-2-2013-12-14-47](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news_18-2-2013-12-14-47).

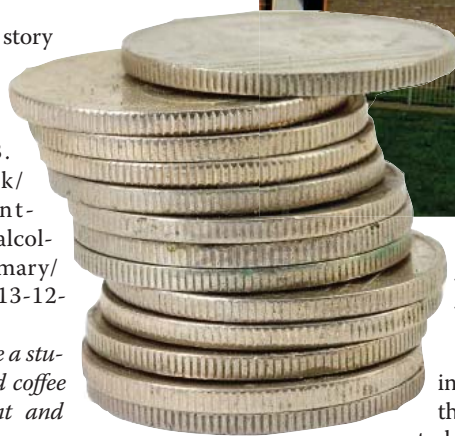
*"Plans include a student lounge and coffee shop, restaurant and bar, gymnasium, newsagent and print shop, cinema room and study centre, as well as facilities that could be used by Imperial College Union."*

This almost sounds as though the Union was complicit in the plans; I was thoroughly against them. Coffee shops, restaurants, print shop, newsagent and bars (all run by College) are duplicating services normally found on campus and just extorting more money from students. Eastside 2.0. On the flip side, inclusion of these services at least shows that College is aware that the hall is too far away for South Kensington to be useful for students...

*"Simon Harding-Roots, Chief Operations Officer at Imperial College, said: "The quality and design of this development will be outstanding. It presents a great opportunity to provide a large portion of the College's accommodation requirement, delivering excellent value*



Livin' it up in North Acton



*for money and affordable rents for our students."*

When considering the travel cost, this is more than students are willing to

pay. This development is going to be more expensive than Evelyn Gardens and Garden Hall. The number one reason why people don't accept an offer from Imperial is the cost. How is this affordable?!

*"Student feedback acquired during the development of the College's undergraduate accommodation strategy has been used in the selection and planning of W3..."*

No it hasn't. The Accommodation Survey data was clearly ignored. That they're building a bar, more than 30 minutes away from campus, and for (when including travel costs) at £165pw - £15pw more than students were really looking to pay – shows exactly the opposite. Also, if I still count as a student, then my feedback was listened to but not used in the selection at all...

*"...including suggestions that at least 400 bed spaces per hall are needed to*

*constitute a community..."*

Unless Commercial/Campus services are withholding data, this didn't appear in the Accommodation Survey results at all that the Union received. This justification is just being used to close Garden Hall. The 7 halls next door to it don't count as a community I guess...

*"The travel time by tube to the South Kensington Campus is around 30 minutes and to Imperial West is around 10 minutes."*

'Around 30 minutes' is actually 35+. That it's 10 minutes to Imperial West is wonderful, for **the zero postgrads who will be living in this hall** (Imperial West is a postgraduate only campus and W3 is an undergraduate only hall).

*"The addition of these new halls of residence to the College's undergraduate accommodation portfolio will mean that almost 60% of the current planned bed spaces will fall within the lowest rent band, currently £115 - £150 per week – a price range students identified as optimum in their feedback."*

60%? College Council was told all the single rooms would be £146pw at today's prices. What about the others? What isn't College telling us? Also, the

'lowest rent band' means nothing: Here are some bands: £115-£150, £151-£152, £153-£154, £154-£155. College can set the bands at whatever it pleases...

*"This project will create a dynamic student hub," Mr Harding-Roots added. "As well as ensuring we are meeting the needs of our students"*

This brings me back to my initial question. What is the point of an Access agreement encouraging students to apply, irrespective of their background? Projects like this undo all the work of the Admissions Tutors and College Outreach who try and further the College's academic mission of attracting the brightest students. Widening access is achieved through bricks and mortar – realistically priced accommodation – not shuffling paper documents from QAA to OFFA and back again. UCAS information shows that the number one reason, by a mile, that students who have been accepted turn down Imperial is **living costs**.

Read the Union's response to the project online: <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/campaigns/accommodation>.

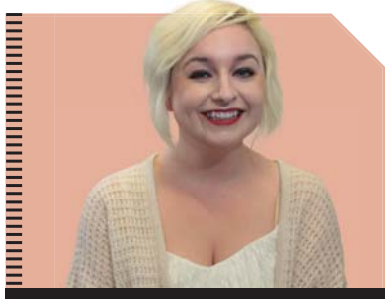
The number one reason, by a mile, that students who have been accepted turn down Imperial is living costs

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

# COMMENT

## W3: A Welfare Perspective

The proposed halls will impact hugely on the welfare of students, argues **Becky Lane**



**Becky Lane**  
Deputy President  
(Welfare)

**I**t's the topic of the moment – the new halls that Imperial College London Council has approved in W3, North Acton. Some of you may have been following the Twitter hashtag #AgainstActon, seen the info about the campaign on the Union website or read Paul Beaumont's blog post (opposite article). I'm going to assume you know the basics, but here is my lowdown on why I think the halls in W3 will have some pretty serious consequences for the welfare of the students who get allocated these halls.

**Personal safety** should be a key concern. In the Imperial College new staff orientation, staff are told not to walk through an estate less than a mile away from the site of the new halls. Crucially this is an estate that students would need to walk through to get to Westfield. Medical students are also warned away from this estate when based at Hammersmith hospital – if College deems this area so unsafe, why locate 700 students there who are likely to be new to London and potentially to England? This seems like a strange mixed message to me. There are many other **personal safety** issues, it will take two night buses to get back from either the Union or Central London after participating in an activity or a night out. This either has the effect of putting our students at a higher level of risk late at night, or decreasing engagement with activities.

On the subject of **engagement**, Imperial College Union is proud of not just the sheer number of Clubs, Societies and Projects, but the level of engagement that we have with our students. We recognise that Clubs, Societies and Projects fulfil many functions for first year students, for example the overseas groups can really help a student from an international background to acclimatise to life in the UK. Many students also seek peer support through their links in clubs when they are going through a rough patch, and maybe most importantly they are **fun**. They help students in the high pressure environment that is Imperial College to blow off some steam! I strongly feel that the average participation and engagement of students in W3 would be significantly less than students placed in either Beit or Princes Gardens.

This is just one aspect of students feeling **disconnected from the Imperial College community**; as the community is South Kensington centric. When moving to a new city or country, I think it is really important

to feel part of a community to make that transition more manageable. Not only should we consider our students who engage with the Union through Clubs, Societies and Projects, but what about the students who rely on the income from **working part time at the Union**? As W3 is being marketed as cheap accommodation, it is reasonable to assume that some of the students who live there may wish to supplement their finances with some part time work. The Union provides flexible part time work in its outlets allowing students to earn extra money without interfering on their studies. Two night buses and the general distance may mean that students living in North Acton are unable to do part time work at the Union.

This year, some first year students have been placed in **Paragon** which is located in Brentford. Although this is not the same location, the travel time is comparable to that of North Acton. I strongly believe there have never been so many students so unhappy with the location of their halls. The College Tutors and academics in departments have mentioned that they have had vast numbers of students asking to **be relocated to halls closer to College**. The main reason cited was their levels of stress due to commuting times. Spending over **an hour per day** on public transport cuts into their relaxation time and students have commented that the wake up early-travel-lectures-travel-work-sleep routine has been difficult for them. These students have also raised concerns mentioned in the previous paragraphs. It strikes me that College Council should be learning from previous location mistakes made by Campus Services, not repeating them.

There is also the fact that these students will not only be further away from the Union, but the **vast array of services provided by College**. As I mentioned before, South Kensington is the main hub of undergraduate services, and as there is no plan to move any undergraduate teaching to Imperial West, it will be for the foreseeable future. Therefore, in 2015, there will be 700 students who may not engage with South Kensington based services such as **Ethos gym, the Disability Advisory Service, the Counselling Service and the Health Centre**. These are all resources that should be as simple as possible for students to engage with. Even though these students will be travelling to South Kensington for lectures every day – due to time constraints and pressures from



So tired from the commute he can't even button his fly

travelling, they may be less likely to use these services. It should be made as easy as possible for students to access the help they need and **distance is a barrier**.

The topic of **wardening provision** has not yet been mentioned with respect to W3. In smaller halls it is not uncommon for the warden to know the name of every student. With a team of wardens, subwardens and hall seniors, the transition of moving away from home is made much more bearable. I don't know many people who could hold down a full time academic position and look after (and know by name) 700 undergraduates. I have a sneaking suspicion that the wardening provision will be much lower in W3, which is worrying. We know that war-

dens provide frontline round the clock pastoral support for students. A front desk and 24 hour security could never replace or even come close to this. A hall is not just about stopping intruders entering, it is about fostering a **safe space and a community** that first year students can flourish in. Can this be achieved in a hall a substantial distance away with an impersonal feel? I don't think so.

These are my top worries about W3. I am sure you have your own, some of these things really do need answers from the members of College staff spearheading this development. As a Union our primary concern is the **student experience of our members**, I wish I could say the same of the decision makers behind this development.

A hall is ...  
about fostering a safe space and a community that first year students can flourish in.

# COMMENT

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

# My Paragon Nightmare

A first-year shares their experience of living in halls over six miles from the South Ken campus

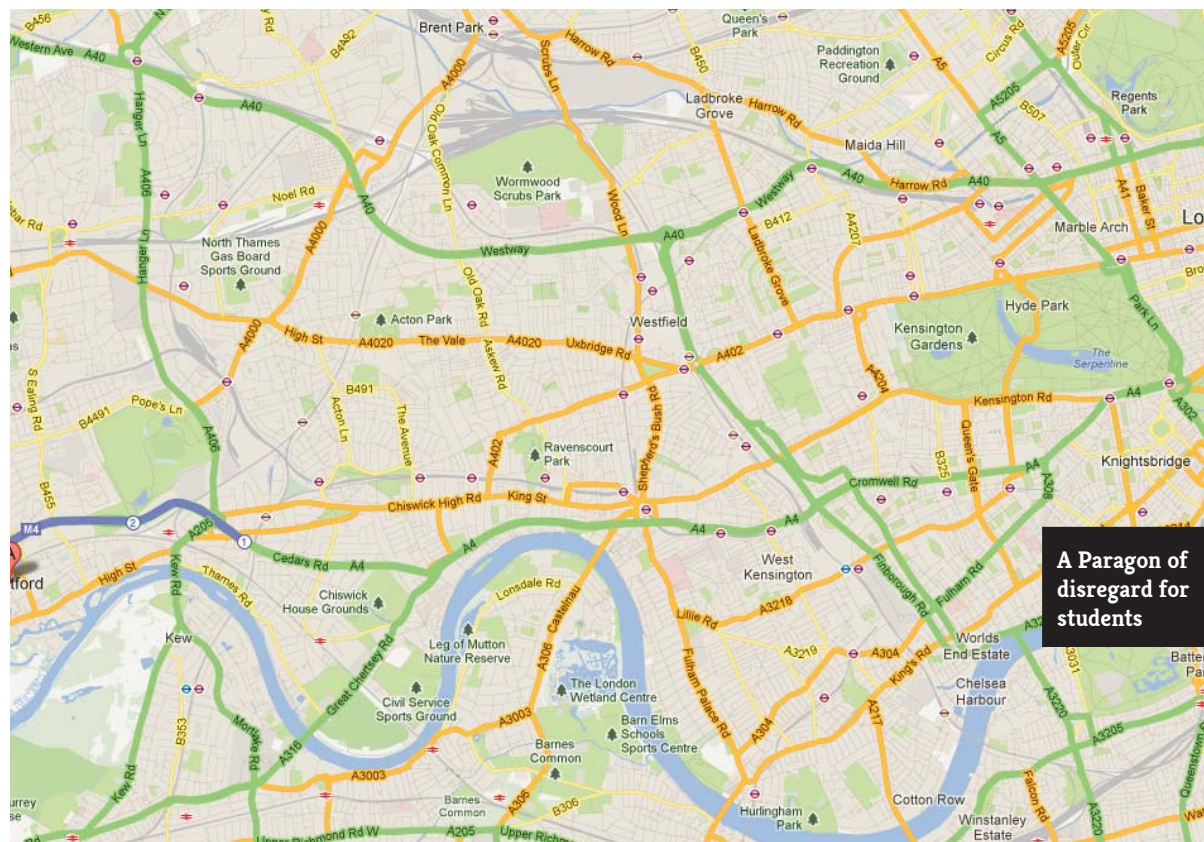


Anonymous

I was fully prepared for the difficulty of the first year. I was prepared for the step up in terms of work and difficulty of the course. I was prepared for the task of finding new friends all over again. I was even prepared to live alone and take care of myself. I was not however, prepared to find myself alienated from a lot of other 'freshers' by being shoved into Paragon. All the other difficulties of a first year are just common ground; everyone is in the same boat. For the students at Paragon, being there meant being in a completely different boat altogether.

The location is the obvious main problem with the halls. Every morning, I wake up two hours before my first lecture, just to have enough time to get ready and take the 40 or so minute journey into South Kensington.

While no changes are necessary, it is far from a comfortable journey. Being the 'Heathrow' tube, it is often filled with tourists with infinite amounts of luggage, and coming from the periphery of London, it is the prime tube for many commuters. If you throw in the fact that we have to make the journey during rush hour, it all adds up to a cramped and uncomfortable journey, with a seat being nothing less than a miracle. In all honesty, after a term of these terrible mornings, I've sadly grown used to them. Near the beginning of the year the journey always felt like it was over an hour, excruciatingly long. Now, however, I don't notice the 40 minute journey, all I notice is the difficulty of getting out of bed so early, especially knowing that several of my classmates in 'regular' halls get up 15 minutes before a lecture and casually stroll in. The only thing worse than the travel in the morning, is the travel back in the evening. If I finish at 5 or 6, I get caught in the rush hour, and as a result end up holding my breath for the next 40 minutes so I'm not crushed by the surrounding commuters, or their luggage. Whereas some students go back to their room between lectures or for lunch, we cannot even consider something like this. If you include the walking either side, there and back takes up two hours of your day. It's a highly alienating feeling, knowing that very few of your classmates have the same problems you do. Besides the vast inconvenience of the journey, the price of travel is extortionate. Our student loans obviously do not take this into account, so while I was prepared to live on a student budget, I was not prepared to also throw in £117 per month for Zone 1-4 travel (some peo-



A Paragon of disregard for students

ple pay £90 for zone 1-3, or less for zone 1-2, although this is far more inconvenient). Budgeting becomes a whole new beast as you can't let yourself go skint and live on cheap noodles, you have to have enough to travel to your lectures. It stretches even further for nights out, surely the most exciting prospect of being a student. Should we want to go out, we either have to go out in the surrounding area (Brentford and Ealing) which, at best, seem sad and nothing like the London most of us dreamed about living in, or we make the tube journey (at least 40 minutes, more for central London and other popular places), which usually makes 'pre-drinks' redundant. Throughout the entire night I find myself looking at my watch and thinking "should probably go home soon." This is simply because the only way to get home after the tube stops running is a night bus, which is at least an hour and a half, and requires pre-planning, due to the fact that it only runs from certain stops (once you've had a drink or two, Googling the way becomes far harder). This challenge has crushed my desire to go out and party: it's just too much hassle every time. Surely no other fresher faces this problem. The surrounding area of Paragon (Brentford) is very dreary and depressing. The only upside is how close the corner shop is, at it is pretty much outside the Paragon gate. Looking at the area,

it feels nothing like London and not somewhere one wants to live. It houses a small industrial park and a small and depressing high street.

The long journey begins to seem all the more pointless when on some days you only have 1 or 2 lectures (worse still when you have a large gap between them). Finding the motivation to go in in these situations becomes harder and harder the longer into the term you are, as a result work suffers, probably the worst side effect of imperial choice of Paragon. This is also a problem on regular days, as after a long day of lectures and travel, you usually have no energy for revision or problem sheets, let alone coursework.

The halls themselves are quite modern, more so than many halls at other London universities and other halls at Imperial (forgetting Eastside and Southside). Every flat has a large communal kitchen (shared by 8) and each room has its own en-suite. While an en-suite is a great luxury, it's diminished by the fact that we have the worst showers possible. They spray in a wide arc that goes around you, forcing you to either dance around to get hit by water or use some DIY skills and attach half a bottle to the shower head. The rooms themselves are equipped with everything you could need, but also come with a bed which is both shorter and narrower than a standard single bed. Some of the taller students

have mentioned that at night, they have to sleep curled up almost into a ball. We have a decently sized laundry room, but not large enough considering the sheer number of students from the other universities at the hall (UWL mainly). The common room is a separate building shared by all of the different blocks of Paragon, and is very poorly equipped. There are two pool tables, which more often than not have the balls stolen, a broken television and more light and open space than anyone can find a use for. The few attempts that have been made to utilize this space for parties have been nothing short of depressing.

The flat structure has its own problem. Every flat has a door which can only be unlocked by an occupant of that flat. Whereas in another hall you could wander up a floor to see your friends there, we must first bang on the flat door hoping and praying our friends will hear us. This structure serves to just further the feeling of isolation: not only are we isolated from the rest of imperial, we're isolated from each other as well.

One thing I must commend though, is the effort by our wardening team (perhaps not our Head Warden), who have done what little they can to make this place more comfortable for us, and more social. Their ongoing efforts are, and always will be appreciated.

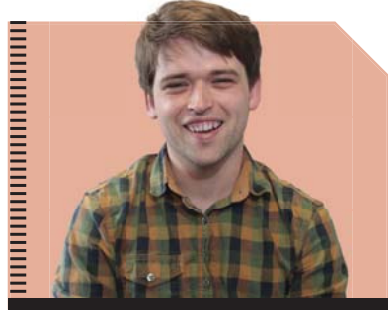
I was fully prepared for the difficulty of the first year ... I was not however, prepared to find myself alienated ... by being shoved into Paragon

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# COMMENT

## W3: An Educational Perspective

The educational experience of future first-years will suffer as a result of being housed in North Acton, says **Doug Hunt**



**Doug Hunt**

**Deputy President  
(Education)**

**I**f a first year lives in North Acton, they are going to spend at least 90 minutes a day traveling back and forth between South Kensington and their halls. As the courses at Imperial College London are already known to have a high workload, our future students are going to find this incredibly painful and I expect **more first years will drop out** when they are going through the transition of a school mentality to that of what is needed to complete an Imperial degree. I predict that these **students will engage less with the student community**, fewer will do Horizons, which will ultimately lead to them **not being a well-rounded student and less employable**.

I also expect the lecture attendance will drop significantly for any first years that live in North Acton, for example I doubt the lecture turnout on

Wednesday mornings is going to be as high for those that are lucky enough to live in South Kensington. This is going to leave a gap in some students' knowledge of their discipline and I am worried more students may **fail their exams** and get lower marks due to this.

Furthermore, the students that are living in South Kensington will be able to access the 24-hour central library at practically all hours with just a six minute walk to Eastside, while students will have to **get 2 night buses back to North Acton** when the underground stops running. It seems a massive shame to me that less of our students will be able to access one of Imperial's greatest resources, which the students think most highly of.

I know the Union does not represent academic staff but I really don't envy any of the undergraduate admissions tutors who will have to sell

Imperial to prospective applicants, on the fact that there is a good chance they will have to pay around £6,500 on accommodation and travel, while they receive a **sub-standard student experience**. In the latest UCAS data, the biggest reason for students declining an offer was the cost of living. This

data doesn't even take into account the students who didn't apply in the first place and I envisage that more applicable students won't want to come to Imperial due to this recent development.

I mean, seriously what is the point of paying members of College staff in Outreach and Recruitment, while telling the Office For Fair Access (OFFA) that we are doing our part on widening participation, **so we can charge the £9,000 fees**, if we just segregate the cash rich students from the others and deter talented applicants from applying, who just simply cannot afford it? **How are we supposed to attract the best talent from across the globe** if we can't even manage it in our own country?

So as you can see, I am clearly #AgainstActon and I urge every student reading this to let your academic reps know that you are too.

... future students are going to find this incredibly painful

## Letters



Dear Sir,

**Star letter**

Let's be under no illusion: student satisfaction ultimately derives from friendships and action, really. When students say they want to be in a Central London location, one of their primary concerns is how much action they'll get (along with the friends they will have).

Don't let what anyone else says make you think otherwise. North Acton is hardly prime London. Imagine the look on a potential one night stand's face when inviting them back to one's place, via the two night buses from Tiger Tiger. Compare that to the suave and sophisticated (and haute) South Kensington. I think we know who will be taking the skin boat to tuna town.

The Union don't seem to want to focus on this point, but someone needs to highlight it. Remember: Action = Student Satisfaction, Forget Against Acton, it's: #NoActionInActon

Yours,  
Anonymous

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Dear Sir,

Last week you highlighted how the Union Council outvoted the Sabbs

on two issues. I believe that this highlights how out of touch with the common students the 'Sabb clique', are in their cushy office, removed from being students but still well sheltered from the horror of the real world.

Surely now it is time for the Sabbs to step up. The Against Acton campaign launched on Tuesday is the next opportunity to show students that they do actually have a voice in the running of Imperial College and that that voice is through their elected representatives. We are not just 'customers' to be dictated too by the whims of a commercial services manager, we are not clients or subscribers, we are students.

I believe the outcome of this campaign, and the difference it makes will be indicative of the state and power of the Union, its councils and the Sabbs as a whole. Too few students currently care about the Union, and in particular the Union Council, believing that it does little to benefit them other than running the clubs and societies and the bars and swaddling everything they do in red tape. Indeed what does the DP(W) and DP(E) actually do on a day to day basis? Send a few emails, go to a few meetings? What cold, hard progress has been made over the last couple of years? Indeed, can anyone name either of these DPs from two years ago? Some people still don't know who the

current ones are. Surely this campaign is a chance for them to prove that they are worth the combined £32K that they cost all of us every year; a chance for them to actually make a huge difference to the future students.

This campaign, with the whole weight of the Union and Felix behind it, is surely a massive opportunity for them to show to the next generation of Sabbs that it is worth running for these positions in the Big Elections this year as you can actually make an impact.

Yours,  
A Concerned Undergrad

---

Dear Sir,

I am somewhat bemused by the approximate costs for the proposed halls in North Acton. As has correctly been pointed out by the Student's Union ("The maximum annual maintenance loan for London is £7675. 39 weeks at Acton would be roughly £5900 – excluding travel costs."), and considering the price of a Zones 1-2 Student Travelcard is £848, thus bringing the total cost of the hall to approximately £7000, it raises the possibility that those who are sufficiently well off

enough to not qualify for the means tested part of the maintenance loan may be priced out of these halls.

Whilst I am aware that savvy students could save money by purchasing monthly travel cards, this does not negate the fact that you either have to be at the bottom end of the system (and thus qualify for a 100% loan) or have significant funding from other sources to afford these new halls. As I suspect the latter will no doubt apply for Southside and Eastside, and the former may be tempted by Pembroke Hall or (depending on cost after re-opening) Wilson House due to the shorter commute, I can't help but wonder who Campus Services are targeting the new hall of residence at.

Since all customers are either priced out, have more financially and logically favourable options, or can simply afford to pay more for better, it does raise the prospect that the only selling point for this hall is 'You Have No Other Choice'. As this form of selling seems somewhat strange, I would be most interested if Campus Services was able to enlighten us, maybe as a letter here in Felix, as to who exactly they predict will live in this hall, and their reasons for it.

Yours,  
A Bemused Reader

## Your thoughts on Acton-gate

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## COMMENT

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# Populist Legislation Sure to Destroy London's Economy

A defence of banking's most controversial practice: bonuses

Aaniya Ahmed



Ross Gray

**W**ell, this is turning into a delightful little serial isn't it? Today, I would like to discuss the most controversial of all issues concerning investment banking: remuneration. This has been a hot topic since the (thoroughly understandable) moral outrage at bankers still raking in massive bonuses following the crisis. Whilst I understand this viewpoint, there is a piece of legislation coming in from the EU that is pretty much sheer insanity; which will almost certainly destroy our financial services sector and deepen any future recessions. I know everyone dislikes bankers these days but I can't help but feel we might miss the substantial amount of GDP and tax they contribute once the EU has decimated what was once the jewel in the British economic crown.

Of course, I am discussing the proposed cap on bonuses. I believe the only reason this suggestion has actually got through is because to anyone involved in the industry and to British politicians, it was so utterly ludicrous nobody gave it a second thought. For those unaware, the EU is proposing a 1:1 cap of variable:fixed income in a banker's pay (i.e. your bonus is capped at 1x base salary). There is a clause to allow for 2x base salary with shareholder approval, which I would be astonished if any banks fail to get.

In my mind, this is a bow to populism with very little thought put into the damage it could do. Or possibly, in the case of Germany and France – long embittered by having to pay the downside of our risks whilst we reap all the benefits – a great deal of thought put into the damage it could do. Essentially, the reason this won't work is because it's aimed at reducing total compensation. I would be amazed if that happens.

An investment bank (I'm talking pure corporate advisory at the moment) is a human capital-intensive business. Their only expenditure is their employees. As such, why on earth wouldn't they give as much as they possibly can to their employees? It makes economic sense. The purpose of a public company is essentially to generate value for their shareholders. If they don't pay out as much as possible of revenue to the bankers who generate the money, what are they going to do with the rest? They could sit on it in a large cash pile; that screams

incompetent corporate governance. They could invest it into the company to drive up the stock price. That would be good. That is exactly what they do by paying their best bankers generously. They are investing their capital in the most effective way possible. Consequently, the chances of them substantially reducing compensation are pretty much nil. This is not good.

Let's say we have a rock-star managing director. He brings in over £100m a year in fees, so consequently gets a £600k base salary and £9.4m bonus. There is no way an advisory firm would let this employee go if he continues to perform. Consequently, they will end up paying him a £5m base salary, which is pure insanity. Let us now propose there's another recession. This company has many similar rock-star MDs (they only hire the best). Sadly now there's no business to go around, no matter how good you are at making deals. Previously, the bank's intrinsic risk management system – and yes, that is effectively what bonuses are – would've kicked in. The £9.4m bonus would've been axed, the MDs could all have kept their jobs and continued contributing to the economy, albeit at a lower rate. If the bank has a £5m fixed cost, they cannot do this. A large proportion of the MDs would have to be fired for the business to remain profitable. Not only would this destroy corporate value in the long term (if you don't see how this affects you, imagine what it will do to your future pension if all finance equities slide 70%); it would also make the recession that triggered



The reason this won't work is because it's aimed at reducing total compensation. I would be amazed if that happens.

this scenario an incredible amount more severe.

I personally think the sane answer to the compensation question for bankers who work in risky divisions, such as debt packaging (or, you know, trading: that division whose sins bankers often have attributed to them), is bail-in able bonds. Cap cash bonuses at 1x base salary, sure: that's definitely a good idea, as high cash bonuses do tend to encourage reckless risk taking. But allow bankers to have a higher variable payment than this in the form of bonds that will be the first port of call when the company needs a bail-out. Keep the heady compensation,

as much as it angers the populace, but make these bankers the first port of call when it hits the fan. Maybe, if the bankers were aware the majority of their compensation was up for grabs if their actions turned out to be too risky and have a negative effect on the bank, nothing would ever hit the fan. Or, you know, you could just cap all bonuses and drive up fixed costs. In this scenario, who will be responsible for taking the financial burden of bailing out the banks when it all inevitably goes wrong again? That's right – you, the taxpayer, not those dastardly bankers who caused all the trouble in the first place.

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# COMMENT

## The Execution of a 12-Year-Old Boy

It is vital that the international community acknowledge the realities of the war in Sri Lanka, argues **Visakan Balakumar**



Visakan  
Balakumar

**I**t is a war that has produced some of humanity's most shocking and depraved images. But the new photographic evidence, released by Channel 4 News last Monday, is perhaps the most disturbing yet. The first photo shows Balachandran Prabakaran, the 12-year-old son of a Tamil Tiger, being held captive by the Sri Lankan army and looking up anxiously from a fortified bunker. A second photo shows him nervously eating a snack, whilst being watched by a government soldier. Less than two hours later, he will be taken, executed at gun point – and then photographed a third time.

The third photo taken of Balachandran shows the 12-year-old collapsed on the ground with five bullet holes in his chest. Digital image analysis points to the fact that all three photos were taken with the same camera. A separate piece of video footage places the child's corpse lying alongside the bodies of five dead male LTTE cadres. This too, appears to have been a war trophy filmed by government soldiers and shows the dead men, presumably Balachandran's bodyguards, as having been stripped, bound, blindfolded and then shot in the head.

"The new photographs are enormously important evidentially because they appear to rule out any suggestion that Balachandran was killed in cross-fire or during a battle. They show he was held, and even given a snack, before being taken and executed in cold blood," claimed the film's director, Callum Macrae. "It is difficult to imagine the psychology of an army in which the calculated execution of a child can be allowed with apparent impunity. That these events were also photographed and kept as war trophies by the perpetrators is even more disturbing... With every month that passes, the evidence of systematic execution of prisoners grows. The pattern of apparent sexual violence against female fighters is disturbing in the extreme." Most of the LTTE leadership, including the 12-year-old's father and leader of the LTTE, Vellupillai Prabhakaran, were killed by the Sri Lankan armed forces as they advanced on rebel territory. The Sri Lankan military stands accused of a long list of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including shooting LTTE members as they tried to surrender.

These photos are the latest in a series of 'trophy' images and videos taken by Sri Lankan army personnel to have found their way off the island, including bound and blindfolded men being



summarily executed and naked bodies of female combatants being sexually assaulted. They are part of the new evidence, due to be shown as part of the forthcoming documentary *No Fire Zone: The Killing Fields of Sri Lanka*. The feature-length documentary will be screened at the Geneva Human Rights film festival. *No Fire Zone*, the culmination of a series of three films, documents the war crimes committed by both sides in the final stages of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka.

The conflict has its roots in decades of violent oppression and state terrorism unleashed upon the Tamil nation in the Northeast of the island, by successive Sri Lankan governments that were democratically voted in by the numerically greater Sinhalese community, concentrated in the south. Liberal Democrats deputy leader, Simon Hughes, echoed the sentiments of a majority of Tamil people when he declared that the ongoing ethnic strife was "unarguably a genocide". It was out of this struggle, for the right of Tamil people to exist, that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (or LTTE) were formed and began to wage an armed war in order to create a separate state, Tamil Eelam, in the Northeast of island. The return to sovereignty for the Tamil nation, which had existed as an independent entity until the entire island was brought under a single ad-

ministration in colonial times, enjoyed overwhelming endorsement by democratic means with a Tamil separatist party winning an unprecedented 80% of seats in Tamil areas of the island in the 1977 Sri Lankan parliamentary elections.

The documentary follows on from the "Petrie Report", the UN's own damning internal report released in November last year. The report criticised the UN leadership, UN Security Council and top UN officials in Sri Lanka. There was "a grave failure of the UN to adequately respond to early warnings and to the evolving situation during the final stages of the conflict and its aftermath, to the detriment of hundreds of thousands of civilians and in contradiction with the principles and responsibilities of the UN," one extract from the report read. While the Sri Lankan government has staunchly and repeatedly refused any kind of independent mechanism investigating the final months of the war, the UN estimated in 2011 that at least 40 000 Tamil civilians were killed. This estimate has since increased.

The report stated that "a large majority of the civilian casualties recorded by the UN had reportedly been caused by Government fire, but the UN did not present this data". It went on to say that "the UN was placing primary emphasis on LTTE re-

sponsibility when the facts suggested otherwise." One may wonder how the Sri Lankan government would have reacted had the UN reported these figures, and as a result, there had been a high level of pressure on the regime from the international community. It is perhaps most distressing that the death of tens of thousands of civilians could have been averted had the UN, a body with a mandate to protect those very civilians and indeed people across the world, adopted a harder stance.

It is abundantly clear that the UN must adopt a much stronger and more proactive role in the future. With the outbreak of full scale civil war in Syria, the onus is on the UN Human Rights Council to take measures to make sure that justice and accountability, for the war crimes and crimes against humanity such as those shown in "No Fire Zone", is provided not just to the Tamil nation in the island of Sri Lanka, but to people all around the world. With the US confirming that they will sponsor a resolution against Sri Lanka in the March session of the UNHRC, whether that resolution passes, and the strength of it, will be an important first step in the UN repairing its heavily damaged credibility.

If you are further interested, please visit [nofirezone.org](http://nofirezone.org), the website of the upcoming documentary.

The Sri Lankan government has ... refused any kind of independent mechanism investigating the final months of the war

# COMMENT

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## A European Citizenship (Part II)

**Leonardo Ialongo** discusses the value of European sovereignty in an increasingly competitive world



Leonardo Ialongo

**I**n last week's article I discussed some of the reasons why European integration is necessary. However in recent years, due to the economic crisis, it has been the shortcomings of the union, rather than its advantages, which have been under the spotlight. This financial crisis, although it originated in America due to the private debt bubble, soon spread in the fertile ground of European public debt. The banks that were impoverished by the crisis could not lend money to the states, which in turn struggled to pay back their debt. The countries not able to cope with debt, and unable to devalue their currency like in the past, were forced to ask the European Union for help. This started the process of bailouts and austerity. It also started to draw criticism towards the Euro. It was deemed too weak and, according to some, destined to fail. I could not agree more. However it is not because the Euro project is wrong or utopic; the Euro was doomed due its systemic weakness. The European jurisdiction, in fact, divides the powers between the ECB and the national governments in a way that does not let them to effectively confront their debt. The ECB has powers to oversee the monetary policies, and yet no control on public debt and no right to issue European bonds; on the other side the national governments have little or no control on monetary policy. This creates an instability that will necessarily crush any attempt at a single currency. There are therefore two options: one is to abandon the Euro; the other is to remove these systemic flaws. If we are to keep the Euro, the symbol of European economic integration, more central European oversight on national debt is necessary, and it needs to be accompanied by the famous Eurobonds. This should be and is the aim for the EU in the short term.

If the analysis of the crisis reveals the systemic weakness of the monetary union, there is another lesson to be learnt. The globalised economy has diminished the power of single states. In the past, a state was a political entity of sufficient power to prevent the market and the private companies from endangering the interests of citizens. Now it seems that the markets and big corporations can influence national policies to the extent of driving countries to impose unpopular legislations, sometimes arguably against the will and interest of their people. To me it seems that this is the real threat to national sovereignty, and that the EU is the best option we have to main-



A crisis of integration

tain it. The concept of sovereignty is quite complex, and for clarity, I will be using it in the sense of an institution capable of defending the interests of its members against foreign intrusion. The EU in fact might not always represent the interests of your particular country, but it will defend the wellbeing of the European people as a whole. Therefore if the European Union is more effective in preserving the interests of the European population, it will achieve, on a global scale, the sovereignty that the individual state does not have the power to maintain. So long as the European Union remains a democratic government, it can therefore be the means of protecting popular sovereignty. Recently *The Independent* affirmed in an article by Mary Dejevsky that: "membership [to the EU] has given the Scots and the Welsh a sense of security that allows them to affirm their national identity in a positive way they were not able to before." This perfectly underlines the message I am trying to convey. More European economic integration will give the economic security necessary to express national identity and preserve popular sovereignty from external interference.

If I agree with the direction in which Europe is heading, I do not agree with the way it is doing it. The project of a stronger union, to the extent of a federal state, has always been part of the EU since it was envisioned by its founding fathers. However until now, in the words of Jacques Delors, "l'Europe avance le visage masqué" (Europe advances with its face masked). A federal Europe has always been a project of the

European political elite, rather than of the people. If this was to begin with a good approach – as it laid the foundations for economic integration – it is now becoming its major drawback. The reason is that this elitist approach has alienated the European population. This is further aggravated by the internal organisation of the Union. All the major posts are appointed by the national governments and the only directly elected body is the European Parliament. However the parliament has very limited powers: it can in fact only vote legislations and amend them but not propose them. Furthermore, the most important leadership figure, the President of the Commission, is appointed by the national governments through the European Council and the parliament can only veto it. All of this complicated bureaucracy undermines the principle of direct representation. If Europe wants the support of its people it needs to start a process of democratisation of its institutions. This way it will also gain the democratic legitimisation it needs to legislate and continue the process of integration.

The issue however lies in the reformation of these institutions. It was often the national governments that stopped such a process for fear of losing their national sovereignty. As summarised in the Spinelli Group's Manifesto,

"[...] whereas the formidable challenges of a manifold crisis demand common responses, drawn at least at European level, too many politicians fall tempted to believing in national salvation only. In a time of interde-

pendence and a globalised world, clinging to national sovereignties and intergovernmentalism is not only warfare against the European spirit; it is but an addiction to political impotence."

National salvation is an illusion fed to the public by demagogic Eurosceptics, who use a narrative that appeals to the nationalist feelings of European citizens. This is especially strong in Britain where the shadow of the lost empire still triggers national pride. The problem lies in what I will call cultural integration. The feeling of being a European citizen, and caring about what happens outside your borders is fundamental for the progress of the EU. If this sentiment is in some way developing in some Eurozone countries, in Britain – where Europe still means across the channel – it seems like an impossible request. It is therefore cultural integration that should be having the highest priority for the EU. This reminds me of the famous words of Massimo D'Azeglio, one of the founding fathers of Italy, "Pur troppo s'è fatta l'Italia, ma non si fanno gl'Italiani" (Translated to: "Unfortunately we have created Italy, and yet not the Italians").

Similarly in Europe, until the consciousness of European citizenship develops, Europe will remain a weak entity. The crisis and the lack of direct democratic representation seriously undermine any attempt at cultural integration. I feel it is our responsibility as European Citizens to make our voices heard and demand more democratic representation, so that the European Union can become a direct expression of our popular sovereignty.

If Europe wants the support of its people it needs to start a process of democratisation of its institutions.



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# COMMENT

## In Defence of Memes

**Pietro Aronica** thinks persecution of memes is TOO DAMN HIGH



**Pietro Aronica**

**M**emes, meant in the sense of those internet jokes very fond of cats and stylised shouting faces, are often misunderstood. They are seen as part of a nerdy, self-referential culture keen on meta-humour and pushed beyond the limits of common human discourse by its anonymity, and while all of this is absolutely true, they do display some characteristics that can be associated with art. I do not wish to imply that they are at the same level of Dante, Shakespeare and Tchaikovsky, but perhaps they deserve more love and respect than they are currently given.

For example, advice animals are

the modern day equivalent of stock characters: in the same way that the crafty, smart servant and the miserly old man and many others in classical comedies can be identified within their first two lines on stage and convey a certain set of characteristics to the audience, so the mememakers know which animal they need to use in order to give the idea of social awkwardness, foul bachelorhood and bad jokesmanship. Regardless of cultural background and language barriers, all denizens of the internet can recognise the trait these characters are supposed to represent, getting remarkably specific at times.

Not only do these characters help express emotions and situations bet-

ter than words could, they also allow everyone to tell their own version of the story. Again, this is not dissimilar to the artists of the past giving their personal rendition of mythological or Bible tales: any given event can be retold in different ways, and because all macros and images are public domain and easily modifiable, sharing them is very easy.

This is perhaps the greatest achievement of the internet culture: the establishment of a common language, a common set of rules and conventions. Art has helped the spread of ideas throughout the ages thanks to its ability to entertain as well as educate, and much progress has been had due to art making people come together.

While memes obviously cannot do this in the same capacity, they do offer a convenient, bite-sized, standardised tool to communicate, and this shared culture can do many great things.

There are misogynistic memes, and racist ones, and an official mascot for paedophilia, that's true: when given anonymity, many will turn to their dark side. But they are merely a few of the possible expressions of the internet, which, by and large, are of creativity, ingenuity, cleverness and humour. Memes can be the shared language that the web needs to talk to each other on level pegging, and they should be treated with respect.

Except for Dolan. That thing is an abomination.

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# UK LGBT History Timeline

**1102**

The Council of London took action to warn the English people of the sinful nature of homosexuality.

**1541**

The first civil sodomy law, the Buggery Act of 1533, making male-male sexual intercourse punishable by death, was given permanent status.

**1785**

Jeremy Bentham wrote an essay arguing that homosexual acts neither weaken men nor threaten marriage, one of the first to publically argue such opinions.

**1812**

Female-born James Miranda Barry graduated from the Medical School of Edinburgh University. He served as an army surgeon overseas. He lived as a man but on his death, was found to have a female body.

**1954**

Alan Turing, an English mathematician instrumental in the development of computer science, committed suicide, after being treated with female hormones following his prosecution for homosexuality.

**1936**

British athletics champion Mark Weston made the transition from female to male.

**1866**

Lord Penzance judged in the case of Hyde v. Hyde and Woodmansee that marriage is the union between one man and one woman exclusively, providing legal precedent against future same-sex marriages.

**1861**

The death penalty for homosexual activities was removed, although they remained illegal.

**1956**

The Sexual Offences Act was passed, including for the first time crimes of homosexuality between women.

**1967**

Homosexual acts between two men over 21 were decriminalised in England and Wales, but remained illegal in Scotland until 1980 and in Northern Ireland until 1982.

**1970**

The case of April Ashley, a transsexual woman, set legal precedent that transsexual people could not change their birth certificates, and could not legally marry.

**1988**

Section 28 was passed into law, prohibiting schools and local authorities from teaching that homosexuality is an acceptable form of relationship. Sir Ian McKellen came out live on BBC Radio 3 in protest of the act.

**2009**

An act was passed giving lesbian parents and their children equal treatment under the law.

**2004**

The Gender Recognition Act gave transsexual people legal recognition as members of the sex appropriate to their chosen gender, rather than their sex at birth, for all purposes including marriage. The Civil Partnership Act gave same-sex couples the same legal rights and responsibilities as heterosexual spouses.

**2003**

Section 28 was repealed, and employment regulations made it illegal to discriminate against gay, lesbian and bisexual people in the workplace.

**2001**

The age of consent for gay men was made equal to that for heterosexual partners.

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Food Editors: Carol Ann Cheah,  
Sophia Goldberg, Yiangio  
Mavrocostanti  
food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# FOOD

## Mini The <sup>↑</sup>Food Survey

**Sophia Goldberg** discusses the best and worst food on campus, where you can get the best lunch or coffee and whether students are put off buying healthy foods because of the price tag.

**I**n light of the Sex Survey, I thought: why not conduct my own Food Survey? It's not exactly the most highly scientific of surveys (\*dodges open fire\*), but answered by Felix food writers and fellow food lovers, maybe the survey will give a new life into the food on campus – or not, in some cases. Most of the people I asked ate at Imperial outlets on a regular, weekly basis. About a third of the people I asked only ate in uni very rarely, when they've forgotten their packed lunches or are staying in late – can anything really beat a homemade lunch? I think so.

Try the most popular place to eat, FUEL, oh yes, that 'pie place' with the infinite mash and gravy (apparently the beetroot smoothies are good too). Everyone I asked who had been to FUEL (apart from one, crazy person) said it was great. The favourite pies were the chicken based pies, either with ham or chorizo (the Matador pie). But hold out you hungry meat eaters – apparently the goat's cheese one is also fantastic. In general, most people I asked felt the pies are good value for money, considering that they are handmade and you can fill your pie box full to the brim with mash and gravy, given that there isn't a helpful but annoying person serving it out. People felt that the salad and chicken or salmon boxes are also good, healthier than the pies, but more expensive. I can empathise with the complaints regarding when Pieminister run out of

the best pies. It can also get pretty crowded in there.

The second most popular place to eat lunch was the JCR, basically because of the large selection of sandwiches and wraps, which is obviously an easy and cheap lunch. The Library Café was in third place, again because of the sandwich-lovers amongst us and of course, the jacket potatoes, the favourite filling being chilli. For a hot meal, the jacket potato is probably the cheapest thing on campus and will keep you going throughout the rest of the day. In fourth place was the Queen's Tower Rooms (QTR), a hot meal on its own will only take you back a few quid, whereas the meal deal will take you back around £5. The meal deal is very filling, so either go there with a massive appetite or an intention to sleep all afternoon. Because of my poor question-asking skills many people said their favourite place to eat at uni was The Sandwich Shop on Gloucester Road. I felt I should mention it because everyone does rave about it – they also do noodles if you're not in a sandwich mood. Fans of The Sandwich Shop feel these sandwiches are sometimes tastier and better value than the ones at uni outlets.

Producing good academic work requires a half decent cup of coffee. Just over half the people I asked prefer EEE and the rest prefer the Library Café. One person said the SAF coffee was 'terrible' – so I may avoid that in future. The Chemistry café was not voted so highly, though

this was probably because only a few Chemists did the survey. They say the coffee there is fantastic – apparently you may even be served by an award winning barista, so if you haven't done so already head over! People do seem to like their local places, whether that's the RSM or Business School café. I think it's good to keep trying new things, for a list of coffee outlets at uni, check out: [www3.imperial.ac.uk/eatinganddrinking/cateringoutlets](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/eatinganddrinking/cateringoutlets).

Everyone who snacks goes to the Union Newsagents and 50% of them snack at the JCR. I was surprised to see that only one person snacked on fruit and everyone else snacked on crisps, chocolate and pick 'n' mix – apparently we're all glutinous fannies. For breakfast snacks I was given some great advice, to crash the SCR in the mornings, apparently you can buy porridge or make up a large yoghurt and muesli pot for around 60p.

When it came to healthy foods, most people felt that the salad boxes in SAF and FUEL are more expensive than just buying a sandwich or jacket potato. They are right, in FUEL a salad box with salmon costs more than pie and mash – but not by much, around 50p. One person felt the prices of juices and water is too expensive. I disagree, I feel the prices are competitive with supermarket prices. Unanimously, people felt ripped off when it came to fruit as snacks. They might not necessarily be more expensive, but people seem to feel ripped off spending over 40p



on a banana when they cost around 15p in a supermarket. Confectionary does not seem to compare so unfavourably to supermarket pricing. Nevertheless, this mark-up is true for all cafés from Café Nero to Star-

bucks. You know what I think? Bring in a bag of apples or bananas at the start of the week and leave them in your locker – it's much cheaper than buying them every day at uni. Just don't forget about them.

## Pollo Longinotti Al Forno

**Elizabeth Crow**

Writer

This extremely simple but impressive dish originates from a Northern Italian family.

It is perfect for serving to friends and takes very little effort. Chicken thighs are a cheaper alternative to breast and are both low in fat and full of flavour. They are particularly tender in this recipe, where they are sealed to lock in moisture and flavour.

**Ingredients (Serves 2)**

4 boneless chicken thighs  
1 ball of mozzarella  
4 slices of parma ham (or similar)  
500g carton passata  
2 garlic cloves  
Salt and pepper (chilli flakes and bay leaf optional)  
1 tbsp olive oil  
Cocktail sticks

### Preparation

Preheat the oven to 180°C. First heat the oil in a pan, add in the chicken thighs and seal until the outsides are no longer pink.

Tear the mozzarella into 4 evenly

sized pieces, wrap each piece in a slice of the ham and stuff the parcels inside each of the chicken thighs. Skewer each thigh bundle with two cocktail sticks to hold closed.

Place thighs in an oven proof dish. Pour over the passata, peel and add the garlic cloves and season to taste (if you are using them, add the chilli flakes and bay leaf). Put this in the oven for 1 hour until cooked through (i.e. so that the chicken no longer pink!)

Serve with small roasted or boiled new potatoes as well as a green vegetable such as grilled courgettes, steamed green beans or spinach.



# FOOD

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## VegSoc do Sushi

**Sophie Middleton** on how good vegetarian food can really be

**T**hink vegetarian food is boring? Think again! VegSoc, Imperial's Vegetarian Society was created five years ago to celebrate how amazing and diverse vegetarian cooking can be. We have regular events and always aim to do something unique, exciting and internationally inspired from hands-on vegan sushi rolling to American vegan pumpkin pie night.

This tradition of experiencing the diversity of vegetarian cuisine has continued throughout the past term, which began with a free trip to a local vegetarian Indian restaurant, SAGAR, where members enjoyed a selection of their favourite Indian snacks and meals. This was followed by vegan Mexican night which involved a choice of Mexican delights from fajitas and tacos to corn bread.

Monday lunch time saw the third

event of the term which took the form of a vegan buffet lunch with a selection of homemade pasta salads, tasty sandwiches, choc chip sponge loaf, juices and more. The event was attended by many of our members and their guests who enjoyed a chance to have a free, healthy lunch.

Where have I been all year? Have I missed out? I hear you call, well, the answer is no, you haven't missed all the VegFun, we still have more events to come over the next few months. Our next event will involve going off campus to 222, a well-known veggie restaurant on North End Road, Fulham. 222 offers a relaxed atmosphere and serves a variety of freshly-prepared delicious dishes from all over the world from stroganoff to risotto, all with the promise that all dishes are low-fat, low-salt, non-GM and never deep-fried or micro-waved. The event will take place on Tuesday

the 26th of February and we will meet at the restaurant at 6.45pm (a quick Google search will tell you where it is) --a group of us will be setting off from outside the Union at 6pm, if you don't fancy arriving alone. The restaurant is reasonably priced and this trip, unlike our other meetings which are free, cannot be subsidised by the society due to low membership.

The final event of the term will be vegan cupcake icing, the event will be free for members (so please join up asap). There, each member will have a selection of vegan chocolate, vanilla and carrot cupcakes as well as a selection of toppings (some Easter themed) and icings to assemble your own creation.

During the summer term we will still be here to disrupt your revision time with a scrumptious veggie buffet picnic as well as another outing, the location of which is yet to be con-



firmed. If free all-you-can-eat food sounds like your thing then join us today by visiting the Union website and buy membership! You don't have to be

veggie, you just have to enjoy the food.

For more info please email us at: [vegsoc@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:vegsoc@imperial.ac.uk).

## The grass is greener at Greenfields

**Chris Witham** reviews the independent café Greenfields

**D**espite the oft-heard claims of how great it is to be studying in central London, many of us rarely dare to venture off campus during lunch, resigned to eating JCR fried chicken or soggy homemade sandwiches. South Kensington is not ideal for the student lunch habit, but with its 10% discount to Imperial students and location mere minutes away on Exhibition Road, Greenfields is hoping to change your ways.

With its label of "sandwich emporium" one might expect Greenfields to fall into one of two categories; a down market deli selling nothing more than you could make yourself, or a posh eatery, providing morsels that wouldn't satisfy an anorexic gerbil, with extortionate prices. It was much to my delight, then, that I found a nicely rounded and varied menu, including the occasional daily special. However, it is not the sandwiches that stand out here, although I'm sure they would satiate those interested. It is, rather, the hot food that makes the trip worthwhile. Ranging from toasted ciabattas to grilled goats cheese with roasted peppers via jacket potatoes and omelettes, it is some of the best available in the local area. A good, albeit smaller, selection of smoothie/

milkshakes compliments the meals nicely (although if you aren't a fan of bananas you may wish to ignore that part of the menu, since every single milkshake contains them). Other, more mainstream, beverages are available.

The highlight of my small sample of the menu was undoubtedly the butter bean and vegetable casserole. A beautiful blend of textures was immediately apparent, with the soft casseroled vegetables nicely balanced with crunchy ones buried in the fluffy couscous. Also worthy of mention is the salt brisket of beef toasted ciabatta, which was served with a well thought out garnish including gherkins. Unfortunately, my personal preference tends towards a saltier meat, which this certainly wasn't and I felt as though perhaps this was a conscious decision in a misguided attempt to appeal to a larger audience.

The accompanying drink, the chocolate and banana frappé milkshake was divine, but strangely came with a warning from the waitress that it wasn't very sweet, so might require the addition of sugar. I couldn't help feeling that the staff expected their customers to have very uncivilised palates, a sentiment which made me slightly uncomfortable. This was

quickly forgotten, however, given the excellent quality of the unsweetened drink.

A meal at Greenfields, though of good quality, is not something the average student will be able to indulge in many a time. Even with the 10% discount, the prices remain too high to compete with on-campus options, the jacket potato a prime example. Whilst under £2 in the Library Café, a comparable one at Greenfields will set you back over £5, and whilst some dishes are cheaper as takeaway options, the appeal of the café itself is lost. You are best advised to have your student head on when it comes to ordering.

Hope is not lost for Greenfields though. With its charming, cosy interior, it is the perfect destination for casual one on one meetings and lunchtime dates. It's away from the real hustle outside, yet retains enough of a busily London feeling to ensure the atmosphere is not that of a countryside cafe at a National Trust castle. It has real appeal, due in part to its plentiful, enthusiastic staff and wonderful decor, and I was sad to leave and find myself on the cold harsh streets of London. If you are looking for somewhere special to visit for that important lunch, you needn't look further than Exhibition Road.

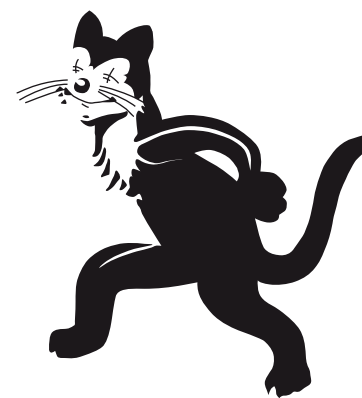




**HOLY SHIT. THE CAT HAS THE CHEESEBURGER.**

**Well, it seems the internet is over.  
So you might as well write for Felix.**

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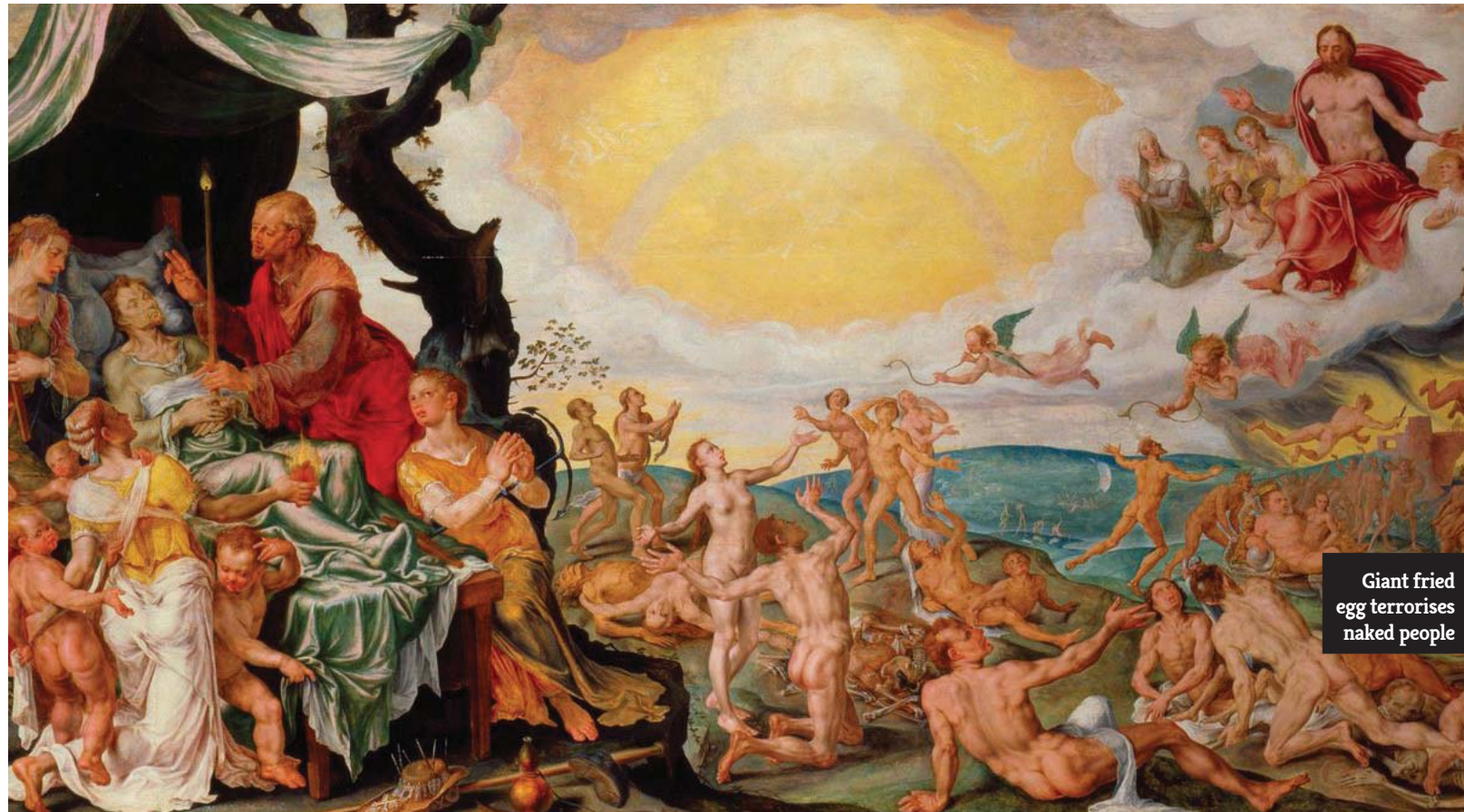
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Arts Editors: **Eva Rosenthal,**  
**Meredith Thomas**  
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# ARTS

# Not an Italian job



Giant fried  
egg terrorises  
naked people

**Jemma Pilcher**

Writer

The Renaissance is generally considered to be an Italian affair. No one could doubt the profound part that the works of the Italians, such as Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, played in this era. But this is not the whole story. The 130 plus artworks which are currently on display at The Queen's Gallery depict the flip-side of the Renaissance, from the darker lands of Northern Europe. These artworks are certainly a far cry from the soft, sensuous curves of Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus* and they may lack the alluring quality of da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, yet these artworks were constructed with skill and talent comparable to the Italians and are a real feast for the eyes.

During the 15th century, Europe experienced a burst of social, cultural and economic change. The increased use of gold, rather than land, for exchanging wealth enabled money to flow to artists, musicians and scientists, rather than just amongst landowners. The demise of feudalism, coupled with the decline in the Roman Catholic Church's influence on North-westerly Europe allowed new philosophical views to arise and pave the way for new artistic expression. Although the two sub-genres of the Northern and Italian Renaissance were in constant cultural exchange, there are notable differences between the styles. This is mainly attributed to the grounding of the

Northern Renaissance works in the Protestant Reformation, thus challenging the teachings of the Catholic Church. The distribution of new texts and the subsequent escalation of new thinking was fuelled by the invention of the printing press. It was the contribution of the German Renaissance giant, Albrecht Dürer, to use printing as a chief method in creating visual artworks.

A significant quantity of the gallery space is dedicated to his work, with his woodcut prints establishing a definite highlight of the exhibition. His prints for *The Book of the Revelation of St. John* (a.k.a. Apocalypse) are especially awesome to behold, as these violent scenes are depicted with such incredible intricacy. The lack of colour makes it difficult to focus on a particular character, especially as each image is crammed with action and chaos. These images would have seemed particularly poignant in 1498, two years before the heralded end of the world.

This exhibit also comprises a collection of sumptuous paintings. A fine example of this is Lucas Cranach the Elder's *Apollo and Diana* (c. 1526), which shows the sun god and his twin sister, the moon goddess, hunting in the nude. The intense contrast between their pale skin and the dark, luscious foliage behind them is quintessential for Northern Renaissance paintings. Depicting the dominant force of nature was a popular theme amongst German artists of the era

but this image also shows the primitive strength of humanity. Diana is perched on the back of a stag, with her curly hair gently wrapped around its antlers. The fastidious attention to detail is what really makes this painting such a marvel, from the delicate highlights on the stag's eye, to the tiny swan gliding on the lake in the distance.

Within the corridor, between the main rooms, sits an alcove of glass cabinets containing some of the most exquisitely decorated armour that I have ever seen. Each item is covered with fine etching, depicting scenes from myths and religious stories. *The Parade Shield* (ca. 1562-3) is particularly beautiful. The entire surface of the blued iron is adorned with embossed figures, portraying four episodes from the life of Julius Caesar, illuminated with overlays of silver and gold. It has been suspected that this shield was a gift for Henry VIII, which is hardly surprising, as it looks like it was crafted for a king.

The furthestmost room within the gallery is devoted to the incredible technical skill of the artists from the Netherlands. At opposite ends of this room hang two embellished Flemish tapestries, *The Triumphs of Petrarch* and *The Redemption of Man*, surrounded by oil paintings of rich, saturated colours. My favourite of the paintings on display is the double-sided, stand-alone panel called *Martyrdom of St. Ursula*, attributed to the anonymous

artist known as Master of the Magdalen Legend. One side delineates the quayside massacre of Ursula's company of eleven thousand virgins and her betrothed, Conon, the son of the pagan King of England. They were returning to Brittany from their pilgrimage to be baptised in Rome, when their vessels were attacked by the Huns in Cologne. The entire party was slaughtered, including Ursula, when she refused to marry the barbarian leader. This painting is very beautiful despite the graphic scene. Amongst the chaos Ursula stands with grace and integrity, whilst being targeted by three archers. The other side of the panel depicts St. Hugh and St. Bruno.

The exhibition closes by paying homage to the great Hans Holbein the Younger. As an important court artist (most notably for Henry VIII) Holbein's collection is composed mainly of portraits. The life-like quality of these pieces is truly breathtaking and reinforces the incredible talent of the artists working in the renaissance.

The masterpieces that run throughout this exhibit transport you into a rich and colourful world, where infamous kings and brave knights dominate; a form of escapism which I highly recommend.

**The Northern Renaissance: Dürer to Holbein at The Queen's Gallery. Tickets from £8.50 for students. Until 14th April.**

Snowdonia  
landscape  
colours  
Sherfield green

**Eva Rosenthal**

Arts Editor

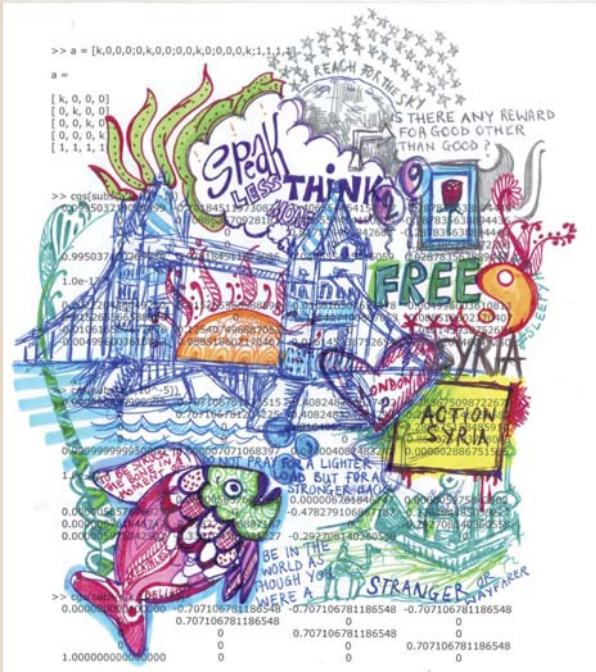
With each passing year, the Artsfest annual exhibition increases in importance. This show is the result of a collaboration between two of the largest arts societies on campus: Leonardo Fine Arts society and Photographic society. Last week, Rocio Molina gave us an insight into the trials and tribulations of putting on an exhibition. What was the outcome?

Slightly woozy on free white wine that tasted fruity and delicious and went down like grape juice – it should become common knowledge to the average student that so-called 'private' views are always alcoholically provided for – my eyes can perhaps be forgiven for initially only managing to focus on the great expanses of white wall that remained free of art. The Blythe gallery being a fine small space, eventually coming upon the collaborative piece was not quite unlike hunting for green fields in Antarctica; the landscape certainly popped up out of the lightness.

Whilst the exhibition can seem a bit sparse, it is also quite a feat of bravery and rather weirdly charming in a way that only unpolished things can manage to be.

The piece itself is a photograph – taken on the Photosoc trip to Snowdonia – deconstructed into square segments, some of which have been taken over by artists from Leosoc. Each of the contributors has a unique style and it is this that makes the piece most interesting to the viewer. From mad purple and jade colouring of the fields to well-realised landscapes in an Impressionist style, seeing the different approaches to the same romantic scenery are a wonderful way of looking, figuratively, through the eyes of many people.



DOODLE OF  
THE WEEK

Why work? Instead, doodle all lecture long and then send us your drawings to [arts.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:arts.felix@ic.ac.uk). This doodle was done by Aaniya Ahmed.

## TIRED OF LIFE?

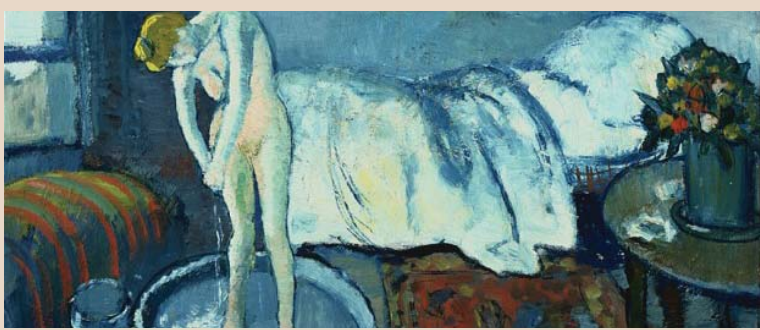
## Our pick of what's on in London

*The Bride and the Bachelors: Duchamp with Cage, Cunningham, Rauschenberg and Johns* @ The Barbican – Readymade for your delight a couple of months filled with Duchamp. Central to their series of events is the exhibition *The Bride and the Bachelors*, a performance-based show delineating the influence of Duchamp on some of the great 20th century artists, choreographers and composers. Tickets from £7. Now - 9 June.

*Becoming Picasso: Paris 1901* @ The Courtauld Gallery – Before he was a genius – surprise, surprise – Picasso was no genius. This exhibition shows the work of a young, naïve and above all, eager man on the verge of exploding into creativity and invention. Tickets from £4.50. Now - 26 May.

*Medea* @ English National Opera – Some people can listen to Baroque music for hours on end, feeling only delight. If this is you, I urge you wholeheartedly to go *Medea* at ENO. If this is not you, but you enjoy a good tragedy – one involving the murder of rivals in love by poisoning with golden dresses – staged with a certain stylishness... I also urge you to go.

*Art & Science* @ GV Art – This gallery has form when it comes to themes around art and science. Their current exhibitions aims to question the inter-disciplinary relationship held between Art and Science. Their current show features work from Susan Aldworth, Annie Cattrell and Helen Pynor. Now – March 16



## Before Instagram

Fred Eyles

Writer

It can be said that photography is a method of preserving time. A moment is captured and immortalised in a 35mm negative, retained and treasured. The years may march on, but the picture will remain the same, retaining the ability to transport the viewer instantaneously to a certain time and place. If this is the case, then the exhibition of portraits by Man Ray, currently on display at the National Portrait Gallery, have captured not just a moment but an era.

The subjects of his portraits, mostly shot in Paris between 1920-40, read like a who's who of the European avant-garde: Duchamp, Dali, and Matisse all make frequent appearances, but there are also pictures of Le Corbusier, Gertrude Stein, Hemmingway, Joyce... the list could go on. Almost exclusively in black and white, these works show Man Ray as a master of light and shade, comparable to his contemporaries Brassai and Cartier-Bresson – a remarkable achievement when one considers that photography was never his central medium.

Man Ray invites us into a world that has now gone forever. His pictures are intimate, almost confessional, and display the human side of the artistic visionaries of the 20th century. Picasso in his studio, Stein in her apartment, these pictures show us places that were often off limits for the public. When contrasted with today's obsession with sharing photographs (Facebook is estimated to receive 3,000 photos every second) one realises how privileged we are to have an insight into such a remarkable time.

However, that's not to say this is an exhibition is without its flaws. The sheer number of famous names captured by Ray's lens, all displayed together, can become slightly overwhelming; deadening the impact such photos would have if seen individually. At some points in the exhibition it felt as though the focus was not on the man behind the camera, but rather those in front of it. This is not helped by the fact that we are presented with copies of *Vogue* featuring Man Ray's shots of authors and models. This feeling continues into the last section of the gallery, which looks at Man Ray's life in Hollywood and Paris from 1940-76. The centrepiece is a series of photographs from the *Sunday Times* portraying Catherine Deneuve. These are neither inspiring nor intriguing. Placing this at the end creates an anticlimactic finish to what had largely been a solid collection of Man Ray's work.

Luckily the exhibition manages to turn the attention back to Man Ray by featuring some of his artistic photography. His famous work *Le Violon d'Ingres*, showing a woman's back



adorned with the F-holes of a cello, is present, along with stills from the four films he produced. However, for me the highlight of the show came in his solarised portraits. Solarisation, a process in which the image's tone is partially or completely reversed, was perfected by Man Ray and his assistant Lee Miller, who features in many of these works. Man Ray used this effect to create off-kilter, somewhat otherworldly photographs, which are all exceptionally beautiful.

Man Ray's work with colour is also exhibited here. Early pieces, which had to be painstakingly assembled from separately coloured negatives, possess wonderfully muted tones. His later work, by contrast, has lost some of this magic. When using more modern techniques, Man Ray's work simply

fails to impress. It could be that this is something to do with our society's fetishisation of all things 'vintage' – see Instagram if you want an example. However, I feel that this phenomenon is due to something else. Man Ray's work is a product of his time. The equipment he used, the people he photographed, the way he collaborated with a circle of artists. These are all things that have been confined to the early 20th century, and it is this that makes the exhibition so special. When we enter the rooms of the National Portrait Gallery we are, no matter how briefly, stepping into Man Ray's world – one of splendour, beauty, and glamour.

**Man Ray Portraits at NPG. Tickets from £10.90. Now - 27 May.**



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# MUSIC

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# Cold Cuts of Noise

Riaz Agahi reviews the mighty collaborative album *Cuts*

**M**erzbow is widely regarded as the biggest name in noise music; the man's been blistering eardrums in over 350 recordings since 1979. Like most of the experimental music world, in addition to copious solo albums, there are copious collaborations, often live.

This album, mastered by James Plotkin, sees him collaborating with Swedish saxophonist Mats Gustafsson and Hungarian drummer Balázs Pándi. It's always interesting to hear Merzbow blending his style with that of another band or artist, to which his many and vastly diverse work with Boris or even *The Haters* is a testament. This album is certainly no exception, not least because Merzbow has cited free jazz artists such as Albert Ayler as big influences and suggested that his sound was like mixing elements of these influences with electronic

pioneers like Karlheinz Stockhausen through pure electronic noise.

Therefore, it is great to see him working with one of the true heroes of modern free jazz in Mats Gustafsson. Although much younger, Gustafsson has been just as prolific and has notable projects such as *Fire!* and *The Thing* to show for it, as well as an extensive solo output. He's from the Swedish town of Umeå, which has produced many notable artists, such as Meshuggah and Refused, and according to Gustafsson had a punk and hardcore scene running in parallel with free jazz, and perhaps Gustafsson could be viewed as a product of his environment. He is often known and, unfortunately, pigeonholed for the aggressive use of a squealing saxophone but in fact he has also been known to perform with live electronics too, something which is present in this album, and for another example of him breaking with this stereotype of his

work, see the more measured and accessible album *Exit!* by *Fire! Orchestra* released earlier this year.

Balázs Pándi has performed in an amazing variety of projects, having worked with *Venetian Snares*, Italian noise-jazz-rock group *Zu*, personal favourites *The Kilimanjaro Darkjazz Ensemble*, for the past few years, been a live drummer for Merzbow. Unbeknownst to me, I actually saw them perform together at Supersonic last year, with Niko Wenner and Eugene Robinson from *Oxbow* also making appearances.

Although most people have focused on the interaction between Merzbow and free jazz, which is certainly interesting, I can't help but feel that Pándi's drumming is the place to start. Once again, everyone has described it as free jazz based, and although mostly true, this ignores some beats that are more common in metal, not least of all, the use of a blast beat. Of course, since 1994's *Venereology*, chaotic metal drumming and electronics that blend noise and grind has intermittently been a part of Merzbow's sound.

Merzbow's role in all of this is arguably a lot more restrained than normal, with him and Gustafsson sharing the role that Merzbow usually occupies, and at times Merzbow's sound even achieves some bassy tones while Gustafsson's saxophone hits the high ends pretty hard. This restraint in Merzbow's noise means that instead of the dominant force in the music, a wall of enveloping sound, it sits in the mix as merely another instrument, with much less of the entropy normally associated with a Merzbow release. This interpretation is confounded by the fact that sometimes it is hard to distinguish Merzbow and Gustafsson. A good example of their interplay is demonstrated in 'Deep Lines. Cuts' where they exchange noisy squeals like



2 shredding guitarists trading licks in a solo.

One complaint, perhaps, is that the bassy end of the spectrum is not too well covered, with a gap in the mix only occasionally plugged by Merzbow, although it sounds great when he does. Other bands who have a similarly (yet also quite different) noisy jazz sound such as *Supersilent* cover this area pretty well, so this was one source of moderate disappointment for me.

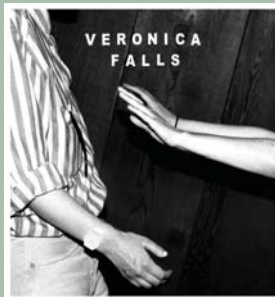
It is interesting to note, perhaps, that Pándi's drumming facilitates what I would describe as a convergence of the styles associated with Gustafsson and Merzbow, sitting nicely between noise and the noisier end of free jazz. More chaotic than *Fire!*, for example,

but less intense and face melting than the likes of *Government Alpha*. Notably the opener, 'Evil Knives. Lives' is particularly catchy; although I'm sure to the uninitiated it's simply unpleasant. The short tracks are a little more conventional, in that Merzbow takes a back seat, droning away nicely in the background, while the saxophone takes centre stage in a standardly Gustafsson noisy free jazz solo. Although this is less cutting edge and less abrasive it is still top quality stuff and it is interesting to hear, especially in these tracks, but also in the album as a whole, Merzbow as a more laid back, restrained cog in a machine rather than simply an overpowering machine on his own.

## AMS album of the week

### Veronica Falls: *Waiting for Something to Happen*

Veronica Falls released their self titled debut album back in 2011 to a smattering of applause from the indie pop scene. Adding shoegaze elements and some great little indie guitar riffs to the basic *Camera Obscura* template made for a very listenable and fun album. It never really clicked for me though, and after a few listens I'd pretty much forgotten about the band. That is until a few weeks ago, when I saw they'd released a new album, and decided to give it a go. I expected very little, since bands with forgettable debuts tend to release even worse sophomore records. Instead, I was blown away. This could well be my favourite twee pop release for a couple of years.



There's not really anything new here. It's the same basic formula of twee pop with a bit of noise pop and shoegaze. It's got the same male / female vocal interplay. It's got the same little indie guitar riffs thrown in a few times every song. It's just better at all of them. The songs seem to be a lot more well thought out. The choruses are catchier. The first album had a few great tracks (the new album reminded me of that) such as 'Bad Feeling' and 'Come On Over' and a lot of fairly average ones. The lows of this might be the same tedious twee pop filler but the peaks are truly fantastic. 'If You Still Want Me' and 'Buried Alive' are already two of my most played tracks over the last 6 months or so and I've only had them a few weeks. 'Broken Toy' and 'Waiting for Something to Happen' are also some of the best modern twee pop around as well.

As with the vast majority of twee pop albums, there are a few that don't work. It's tough to make 12 consistent tracks of catchy fun without a couple of clangers (even *Dear Catastrophe Waitress* [Belle and Sebastian] had 'Step Into My Office Baby') and 'Falling Out' and 'Last Conversation' tick that box here. However, the vast majority is good and there are a few tracks of absolute gold. This is definitely a record I'd recommend to indie pop fans and one I imagine I'll still be listening to in months to come (with a few skipped tracks...). I definitely won't be forgetting about Veronica Falls again any time soon.

Stuart Masson



# LET IT RAIN

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# FILM

Film Editors: Katy Bettany,  
John Park, Lucy Wiles  
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## Why won't you just die? Oscar race heats up

### A Good Day to Die Hard

**Director:** John Moore  
**Screenwriter:** Skip Woods  
**Starring:** Bruce Willis, Jai Courtney, Sebastian Koch, Mary Elizabeth Winstead



Lucy Wiles

Film Editor

Well let's face it – the chances of the fifth movie in ANY film franchise being spectacular were slim. But when *Die Hard 4.0* (aka *Live Free or Die Hard*) was a bit rubbish, this one was bound to be equally shoddy. Which it was.

After the first three *Die Hard* films tied up the loose ends of a good trilogy pretty damn tightly, why anyone though the fourth film was a good idea is beyond me, let alone the fifth. Clearly a classic case of making sure the premise is squeezed for as much cash as possible – plus, of course, a chance for old Bruce to stretch his legs.

In all fairness, director John Moore does his best, despite his back catalogue being a list of remakes such as *The Omen* and game adaptations like *Max Payne*. There is a small improvement on the messy *Die Hard 4.0*; Moore does have the edge on Len Wiseman, and the CGI effects and stunts are a bit neater. However, taking the story outside of the USA was not a good idea, and hasn't done the filmmakers any favours. Russia is a bit old school for this type of film, really.

Randomly placing jokes associated with the Cold War just aren't

clear to everyone and raise less than a few titters from the audience. McClane's enthusiasm for going abroad to 'kill all the scumbags' seems a little too much, and loses the character any last shreds of respect he was clinging to – not to mention the fact that, when he gets abroad, he is not quite sure who the 'scumbags' are. The chases through a snow-covered Moscow are like a poor attempt at an American *James Bond*, and the somewhat drawn out climax is littered with clichés of helicopters and disinterested gunfight.

Considering the poor sod is going through the same pile of crap for the fifth time, Bruce Willis is, I guess, still quite enthusiastic. Much more than I would be his situation, that's for sure. But that doesn't make up for the mess made of the well thought out system that made the first three films work: for a successful *Die Hard*, you need a hero (McClane, obviously), a family member in danger, a bad guy and a sidekick. In this fifth *Die Hard*, this pattern has been messed up. The family member and the sidekick have been combined into one whiny irritating character – McClane's secret agent son – who intersperses the breaks between plot twists and gun fights with annoying father-son bonding.

The best part of *Die Hard* was always the key relationship between trigger-happy McClane and a tech-savvy, hugely intelligent evil mastermind. This was already bugged up in *Die Hard 4.0*, but it was made even worse in this latest film – the bad guys are now Russians we barely see, and hence can't work up that much anger towards. Another let down is that any final ditch attempt at excitement brought on by violence has been well and truly doused in order to be sure of that 12A rating.

Frankly, I really wouldn't bother.



The Wanted recruit new members

Felix's award cabinet



With the 85th Academy Awards ceremony a mere two days away, the sprint to the finish line is one of the closest ever this year. Out in front is *Argo*, whose supremely talented scriptwriter Chris Terrio pipped *Lincoln*'s Tony Kushner, *Life of Pi*'s David Magee and *Silver Linings Playbook*'s David O. Russell to the post to scoop the prestigious Best Adapted Screenplay award from the Writers' Guild of America this week – with that lineup representing the majority of the frontrunners for the Oscars this year.

Also coming up to the front is *Zero Dark Thirty*, whose writer Mark Boal beat John Gatins (*Flight*) and Paul Thomas Anderson (*The Master*) alongside other top class writers to bag the Best Original Screenplay award. This news was surely very welcome for the team behind the Bin Laden hunt thriller, as the controversy surrounding the movie was initially looking as though it might damage its chances of winning the big time awards. In his acceptance speech, a clearly delighted Boal praised *Zero Dark Thirty*'s director, saying: "You took this script, and you made it live and breathe and fly, and you led all of us unflinchingly and bravely to a place of truth and beauty."

A dead cert for a bet would be the Best Documentary prize: this award must surely be going to Malik Bendjelloul's *Searching for Sugar Man*. The film's ever-increasing popularity, its success at the BAFTAs and its Best Documentary WGA award are looking to set it in good stead for the top documentary prize at the Oscars.

On the same evening as the WGA awards, the Golden Reel awards were bestowed by the Motion Picture Sound Editors. While Ang Lee's *Life of Pi* cleaned up nicely, taking the accolade of Best Sound Editing of Dialogue and ADR as well as Best Sound Editing of Music in a Feature Film, hot on its heels was the hugely popular *Les Misérables* – which, not surprisingly, won the award for Best Sound Editing of Music in a Musical. Latest Bond film *Skyfall* took the award for Best Sound Effects and Foley, while Pixar's *Wreck-It Ralph* did well, scooping Best Sound Effects, Foley, Dialogue and ADR in an Animation.

With no more awards to be handed out before Sunday's ceremony, we now have as clear a picture as we're going to of the forerunners and the top contenders. So place your bets – but it's anyone's race.

## The return of the dinosaurs

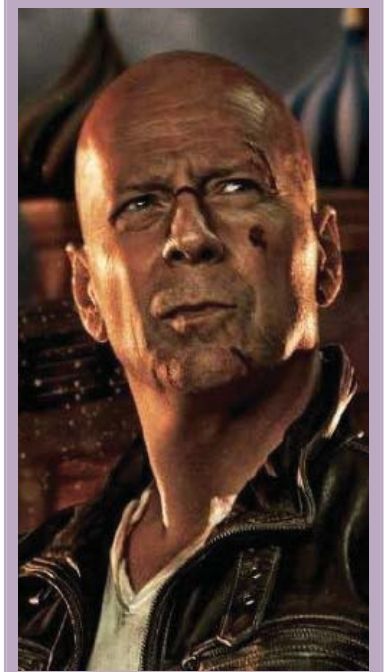
While the hype is slowly building for the confirmed *Jurassic Park 4* movie, audiences worldwide are trying to contain themselves, and hoping for another classic gem. However, producer Frank Marshall confirmed that Kathleen Kennedy – his co-producer for the last three *Jurassic* films – will not be involved in the project, owing to her commitment to the new *Star Wars* movie that is due from Disney. A fan had asked Marshall on Twitter about the extent of Kennedy's involvement, he wittily tweeted: "No, Ms. Kennedy has moved onto *Star Wars* and will not be producing *JP4*. She's traded raptors for TIE fighters."

At the moment, there has been very little official information leaked about *Jurassic Park 4*; the cast, plot and filming location all remain firmly under

wraps. As far as we are aware, no director has been chosen and the script is still being tweaked. It does seem a little optimistic that a release date of June 13th 2014 has been settled – a case of so much to do and so little time – and there is much speculation that, with nobody firmly at the helm, this date is most likely a little flimsy.

That being said, the project is planned to progress steadily as we head towards March, with anticipation building from the public. *Jurassic Park* will be re-released in IMAX 3D in April 2013 – and is obviously going to stir up a lot of excitement for the upcoming fourth film.

In the meantime, we shall leave you with this picture to whet your appetites... <http://memebase.cheezburger.com/puns/tag/dinosaur>



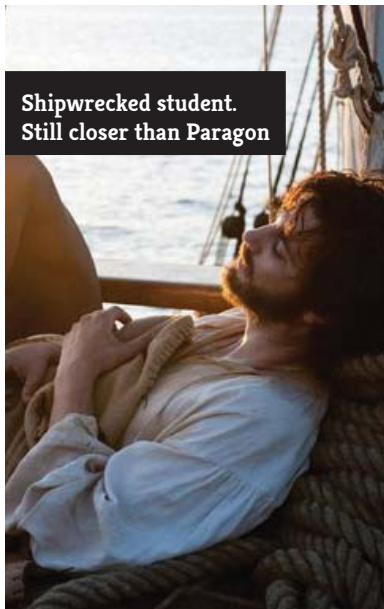
### UK Top 10 Box Office

- 1) **A Good Day to Die Hard** – 12A – Bruce Willis, Jai Courtney
- 2) **Wreck-It Ralph** – PG – John C. Reilly, Jack McBrayer, Jane Lynch
- 3) **This is 40** – 15 – Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann
- 4) **Les Misérables** – 12A – Anne Hathaway, Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe
- 5) **Beautiful Creatures** – 12A – Alice Englert, Viola Davis, Emma Thompson
- 6) **I Give It a Year** – 15 – Rafe Spall, Rose Byrne
- 7) **Django Unchained** – 18 – Leonardo di Caprio, Christoph Waltz, Jamie Foxx
- 8) **Sammy's Great Escape** – U – Patt Carroll, Carlos McCullers II
- 9) **Lincoln** – 12A – Daniel Day Lewis, Sally Field, Tommy Lee Jones
- 10) **Flight** – 15 – Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, John Goodman, Melissa Leo

Film Editors: **Katy Bettany,**  
**John Park, Lucy Wiles**  
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# FILM

# “Our lives, are not our own..”



Shipwrecked student.  
Still closer than Paragon

## Cloud Atlas

**Directors:** Andy Wachowski, Lana Wachowski, Tom Tykwer  
**Screenwriters:** Andy Wachowski, Lana Wachowski, Tom Tykwer, David Mitchell (novel)  
**Starring:** Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Hugo Weaving, Jim Sturgess, Susan Sarandon, Hugh Grant, Jim Broadbent, Ben Whishaw, Doona Bae, James D'Arcy, Xun Zhou, David Gyasi, Keith David



**John Park**

Film Editor

himself ends up composing a brilliant piece of music too, and is left shocked and dumbfounded when Ayrns wants to take credit for the young apprentice's work.

San Francisco, California, 1973; journalist Luisa Rey (Berry) stumbles upon what could be the biggest news story and scandal of her career, going after a corrupt energy company. With some unexpected help from a couple of its employees (Hanks, D'Arcy), Luisa gets closer to the truth, which doesn't sit well with the CEO (Grant).

United Kingdom, 2012; publisher Timothy Cavendish (Broadbent) becomes an overnight sensation after his gangster author Dermot Hoggins (Hanks) impulsively throws a harsh book critic off a building. His book becomes a bestseller, and Cavendish starts pocketing the cash, but not before Hoggins' fierce associates come looking for their share in the profits. Although he turns to his older brother (Grant) for help, he finds himself locked up in a "retirement home" ruled by the tyrannical Nurse Noakes (Weaving).

Neo Seoul, Korea, 2144; Sonmi-451 (Bae) is a fabricant created solely for the purpose of serving humans. Now as a captured prisoner giving her final interview before her inevitable execution, she recounts the days that lead to her arrest, starting with her encounter with Hae-Joo Chang (Sturgess) a rebel fighter leading the resistance against current society, their noble fight, leading to her startling discovery behind her creation.

A tropical island, 2321; set "106 winters after The Fall", most of humanity has gone back to living in a primitive society. Zachry (Hanks) is constantly plagued by visions of Old Georgie (Weaving), a dark spirit that taunts his conscience. The arrival of Meronym (Berry), a member of the "Prescients", who have held onto advanced technology even during/after The Fall, sends excitement and a hint of worry to the tribesmen, as her intentions aren't too clear. Also living with the fear of being attacked/eaten by the cannibalistic Kona tribe, Zachry must make

the smart decision of whether to trust Meronym or not.

So there you have it, six completely different plot strands, covering a wide range of genres (you get everything: action, adventure, comedy, drama, fantasy, horror, romance, sci-fi, thriller), touching on too many themes to list individually here. How do they all fit together? Is it even possible to link 500 years of material? Yes you can, and you'll have to watch to find out how.

But what is impressive is how the film itself is never bogged down by its dense material. The structure is clear, the many characters, even in their short appearances, are well-developed, and the actors who are reused again and again throughout the film inhabit their roles perfectly in the many varied roles they play. It is hard to pick out just a few from this fantastic international group, as the cast all bring their A-game as they are put through centuries and centuries of events.

The actors frequently change their race and their gender (seriously), thanks to some incredible work done in the make-up department. It's also fun to play a little game of who's who, trying to dissect the heavy prosthetic make-up hiding their faces.

What we have here is no doubt an example of hyperlink cinema, and much like the greatest of this sub-genre (*Pulp Fiction*, *Babel*, *Crash*, *Magnolia*, *Traffic*, *City of God*, *21 Grams*, to name a few), *Cloud Atlas* excels in establishing the crucial links, more challenging here since the directors are covering 500 years' worth of narrative, as well as rounding off every segment with a rewarding emotional punch. The soundtrack also plays a crucial role in these key moments, each finale incorporating an immense piece of exhilarating music, some composed by Tykwer himself

Don't be put off by how very little financial success this experienced in the States. For whatever reason, this didn't go down well with audiences there. But here is hoping Europe can do better. Find the biggest screen, the loudest speakers you possibly can, and enjoy.



Fringes in eyes are so annoying

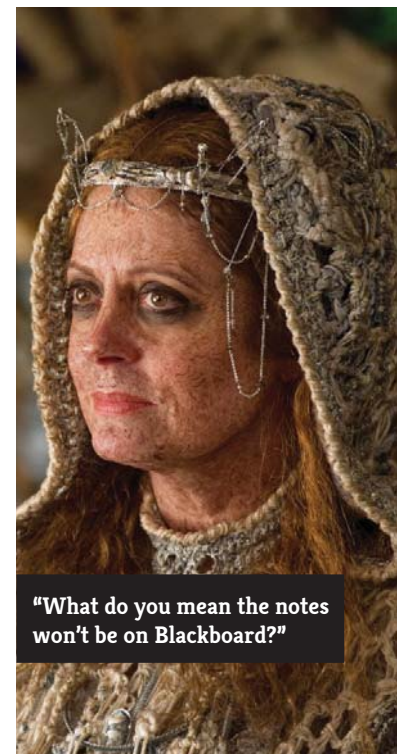


Being slow clapped is never fun

There isn't an easy way to describe or to compliment the team effort from the Wachowski siblings and Tom Tykwer, and their boldest, grandest feature adaptation of *Cloud Atlas*, based on the novel of the same name by David Mitchell. All that can be said is that it's brilliant. Absolutely brilliant. Here is a film of unimaginable scale and ambition, six (and maybe an extra half) different narrative strands all put together and connected beautifully with endless smart editing, a true work of wonder that needs to be seen. It would be a crime to miss this masterpiece on the big screen.

South Pacific Ocean, 1849; Adam Ewing (Sturgess), an American lawyer working for his father-in-law (Weaving), witnesses the whipping of a black slave (Gyasi), who he later finds hiding on his ship. The two strike up an unlikely friendship, whilst the sinister Dr Henry Goose (Hanks) lurks in the background interested in Ewing's wealth and fortune.

Edinburgh, Scotland, 1936; told through many love letters from Robert Frobisher (Whishaw) to Rufus Sixsmith (D'Arcy), we follow Frobisher, a young, enthusiastic, bisexual musician who is hired as an amanuensis to famous, highly respected composer, Vyvyan Ayrns (Broadbent). Frobisher



"What do you mean the notes won't be on Blackboard?"



Practicing their sucking techniques. Interpret as you wish...



Student fails viva



# FILM

Film Editors: Katy Bettany,  
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# Felix Film favourites for the



**Amour**

Number of nominations: 5

**Why it will win:**

This Palme d'Or winner was the arthouse favourite of last year, with audiences warming to its harshly honest, beautifully woven tale of love. Michael Haneke's unique brilliance in directorial style always goes down well with viewers, and its bittersweet look at end of life not only amazed Europe, but also the U.S.

**Why it won't win:**

Foreign films never win the top prize. Ever. (Silent-film *The Artist* doesn't count.) A big win at Cannes means very little when it comes to the actual Oscar race. A nomination in the traditionally English-language category should be enough of an honour. And within the States, the film hasn't been performing well at all with picking up awards.



**Argo**

Number of nominations: 7

**Why it will win:**

The surge behind this outstanding thriller has been astonishing, with the film nabbing the Golden Globe, SAG, WGA, DGA, PGA and even the surprise BAFTA wins. It's a tense, and ultimately feel-good historical drama that, as a bonus brownie point, paints Hollywood as heroes in saving American lives. Who doesn't appreciate a good pat on the back? Its healthy box office intake is also looking good for the film's overall popularity.

**Why it won't win:**

Ben Affleck missed out on the crucial Best Director nomination, without which the Best Picture award can often be very difficult to win. This kind of win hasn't been done since *Driving Miss Daisy's* win all the way back in 1990.



**Beasts of the Southern Wild**

Number of nominations: 4

**Why it will win:**

Debut director Benh Zeitlin cheekily nabbed a Best Director nomination (ahead of Kathryn Bigelow, Ben Affleck, Quentin Tarantino) for this year's race in his breakout independent feature, with his wonderfully magical, densely packed and beautiful film creating quite the storm when it first debuted in Sundance, winning rave reviews and attention at various international film festivals.

**Why it won't win:**

It's too indie, and hasn't been winning enough during the race. Again, here is a "be grateful you even got the nomination (even more so as a debut)" type film that gets slotted in every year. And this hasn't made a lot of money, which is never a good sign.



**Django Unchained**

Number of nominations: 5

**Why it will win:**

Now widely considered to be Quentin Tarantino's best work since *Pulp Fiction*, and the film well on course to become the director's highest grossing film, it would surely make sense to send some more Oscar love his way. It also tackles the ever important theme of slavery, a great sore-spot in American history, and it's packed with excellent performances from the usual Tarantino collaborators.

**Why it won't win:**

No director nomination for Tarantino will definitely hurt the film's chances. Plus, is the film too violent? Too eccentric? Too lengthy? There are many reasons to love Tarantino. But the exact same reasons apply to those who are not, and will never be, his biggest fans.



**Les Misérables**

Number of nominations: 8

**Why it will win:**

It's a large, sweeping, musical adaptation of one of the world's favourite stage shows. A film that brought everyone to tears (always a massive plus), it's full of rousing moments backed by an emotionally charged soundtrack.

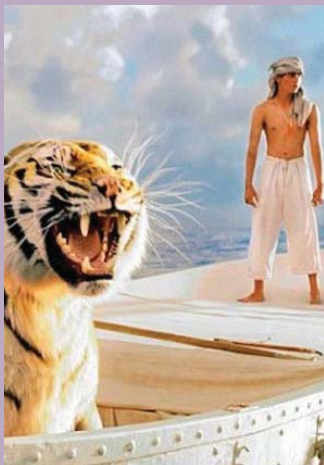
**Why it won't win:**

Again, no director nod for Tom Hooper, which makes the win challenging, and the many bum notes the actors hit with their live-singing they're all so proud of and can't seem to stop talking about, are bound to act as a negative point. And a lot of the film's hype seems to be resting on the individual to technical achievements from various departments, as well as Anne Hathaway's startling supporting turn. But not for the film as a whole.

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FILM

# The Oscars: Best Picture



Life of Pi

Number of nominations: 11

**Why it will win:**

Filming the unfilmable, Ang Lee has adapted Yann Martel's novel of many internal monologues and very few characters into the visual feast event of the year. The fact that Lee managed to create something that is more than watchable for two hours from a book that was essentially written off as one that could never become a film is a remarkable achievement.

**Why it won't win:**

Yes the special effects may be marvellous and so might its cinematography as well as its editing and soundtrack. This has very good chances with these categories, but the film as a whole remains too abstract, philosophical, ambiguous and inaccessible to become a big crowd-pleasing winner.



Lincoln

Number of nominations: 12

**Why it will win:**

Leading the Oscar race this year is Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln* that has scooped up the highest number of nominations. Spielberg certainly found himself an excellent, committed cast to play the many iconic roles, and his decade-long research seems to have paid off in recreating the era, taking one of America's favourite Presidents, who abolished slavery, bringing him to the big screen. As intelligent, informative as it is entertaining, this certainly clicked with the audience, having bagged 100 million+ dollars already in the States.

**Why it won't win:**

Spielberg is no doubt a big name in Hollywood, but has oddly only won the Best Picture... once.



Silver Linings Playbook

Number of nominations: 8

**Why it will win:**

With a whopping number of acting nominations (FOUR – one for each acting category (Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro, Jacki Weaver) – the first film to do so since *Reds* in 1982), plus a director nod for the always daring David O. Russell and a good steady box office run, there is a chance this could be the surprise upset of the night.

**Why it won't win:**

This doesn't exactly fit with the generic Oscar Best Picture winning type of film, looking too bright and chirpy for its own good. Even with tackling the serious theme of mental illness, the film itself looks like a quirky romantic comedy with a unique twist, not like the grand biopics voters are usually looking for.



Zero Dark Thirty

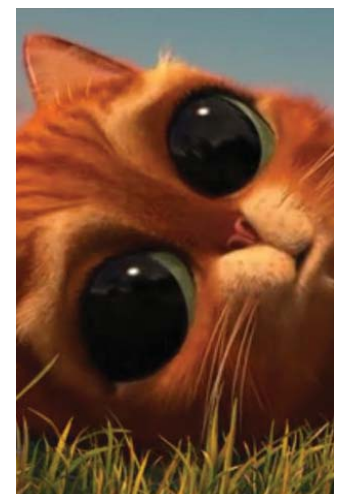
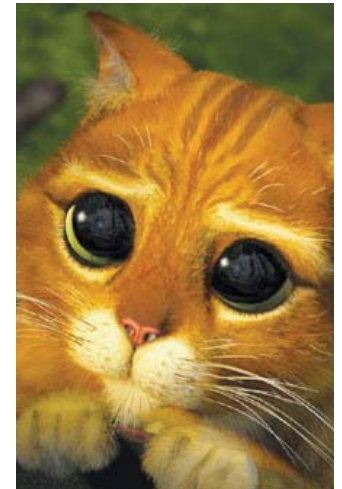
Number of nominations: 5

**Why it will win:**

Delivered by the same duo (Kathryn Bigelow, Mark Boal) who brought you the Oscar-winning *The Hurt Locker*, they are an expert when it comes to expertly crafted thrillers that need no big-scale, fancy, expensive action but relies on a solid lead performance and taut narrative with a fine eye for small details.

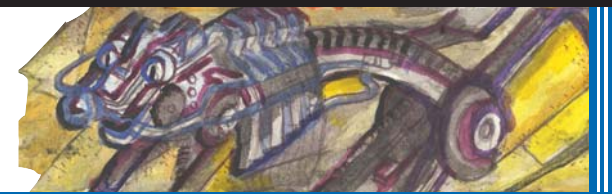
**Why it won't win:**

The controversy surrounding the film, however ridiculous, absurd and off-base, can't be doing the film any favours, and although the box-office receipts are looking better than that of *The Hurt Locker*, the flames have largely died down on this one. Plus, nothing for Kathryn Bigelow – quite possibly the biggest snub of this year's nominations.



The awards season is coming to an end this Sunday with the Oscars. So we really won't have anything to write about anymore. So please...if you've seen a film, any film, good or bad, please write to us. Please, please. Think of the cat.

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



# Revolution: wearable technology

**Maximilian Eggel** is weary of what the wearable future will hold

**A**fter the smartphone and tablet revolution, the next big thing in the tech world seems to be wearable gadgets. After the full saturation of these two markets, which are quite important for these kind of companies, the technology giants are attempting to claim this new area of the market. Potential game changer, these could completely revolutionise the way we

... the technology giants are attempting to claim this new area of the market

interact with our gadgets, affecting even more of our lives than all our smartphones and tablets already do.

Google, undeniably one of the "biggs", was the first to jump the gun with its "Project Glass". These glasses are quite spartan, formed only of an aluminium strip, nose pads and a piece of glass with the projector. The OS of the Glasses is said to be Android, so more than likely it will feed into the whole Android ecosystem that Google has go-

ing. This product really came into the public's view when product testing began in April 2012. The glasses were worn by the Sergey Brin, one of the Co-Founders of Google, at various public events as well as demoed with several extreme sports athletes and broadcasted on Google+.

The internet is awash with rumours that Apple, another big boy on the tech company block, is now also about to jump onto the wearable gadget ship with its iWatch. The conspiracy theorists are having a field day with this one, wondering if Apple themselves may be responsible for the 'leaks'. The iWatch has been rumour since 2007 its been a constant fallback for tech journalists when news on Apple was rare. However, now a days, the iWatch may actually become reality. An accessory to other iDevices more than an actual gadget on its own, its income is supposed to replace the falling income of the iPod line. There are many purported features of the iWatch ranging from unlocking your phone, to beeping if you leave your connected iDevice behind when you leave the house. While a very interesting addition to the Apple product line, I am wondering if, apart from dedicated fans, anyone will actually buy this.

What Apple can do, Samsung can

do, according to android lovers, better. Samsung also apparently will be releasing a smartwatch, the Altius. Rumours of this product are scarce and it is hard to find any concrete facts on what this gadget will do. Not even the OS is assured, as Samsung could opt for Android or even a self created OS. However rumours quote that its functions are said to be quite similar to that of the iWatch.

However these are not the only wearable gadgets on offer. The Pebble smartwatch started the whole watch thing, while EyeTap is apparently very similar to Google's Project Glass. This makes the prediction that this future market space will be fought over quite fiercely and that there will be quite a lot of competition for each company seem very credible.

However what does the consumer want to see from this area of tech? An ease of use and actually forgetting that you are using any technology is the central idea behind these kind of gadgets. Thus each new device must be useful and have a clearly defined purpose that our gadgets today cannot fulfil. Thus, while I think the idea of the smartwatch is quite cool, the "smartglasses" just seem so much more useful. The watches will just be introducing another screen that I will have to look at, while the glasses will remove them, and actually use your surroundings as their screen. However, you never know technology is a fickle field. The cool ideas may never work, and the pointless ones may actually flourish.



Sergey Brin, Co-Founder of Google wearing Project Glass

## 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.

### Drawing in 3D

For all you artsy people: a new \$50 3D pen is looking for funding. It releases melted plastic from the nib, which hardens within seconds. This allows you to build up beautiful shapes at a much cheaper price than 3D printers.

### Hacking Frenzy

PCs of Facebook Employees were hacked roughly a week ago, however no data stolen. A few days ago Apple was targeted. Apparently all this cyber attacks are originating from a building in Shanghai. Government paranoia, fuelled by internet speculation has pointed the finger at the Chinese government as the main culprit.

### Cheaper MacBooks

Apple has now finally left its high perch, and has reduced some of its laptops to more affordable levels. This price drop is applied to some MacBook Pro and the high end Macbook Air. However the prices, although lower, are still somewhat ludicrous.

### Phone for a Pretty Penny part 2

HTC has announced the HTC One, its attempt at dethroning the king of Android smartphones the Galaxy 3. With an unibody aluminium case, and several key features, including Blink Feed, the HTC Zoe camera and a great sound system this actually seems like a great attempt by the failing Taiwanese Manufacturer.



Maximilian Eggel Tech editor



# CHURCH

[everynation.co.uk](http://everynation.co.uk)



**SUNDAYS**  
ACTIVITY SPACE 1  
**STUDENT UNION**

Free café – 5:30  
**LIVE BAND**



ICU DRAMSOC PRESENTS

# ANDROMEDAN NIGHTS

DRAM  
SOC

imperial  
college  
union

MAY THE FARCE BE WITH YOU



7:30PM (DOORS 7PM)  
27TH FEBRUARY - 2ND MARCH

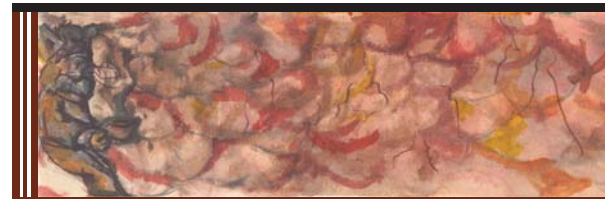
UNION CONCERT HALL  
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Coffee Break Boss: Matt Colvin  
felix@imperial.ac.uk

# COFFEE BREAK

# How do you solve a problem like #AgainstActon?

Coffee Break offers a few handy hints to help resolve the whole situation amicably...ish

**A**cton. Acton. Acton. Everybody's going on about Acton. The word's lost all meaning, now representing some Mordor-esque land of ruination and desolation. Treats such as the London Transport Museum Depot (that's right folks, *de-pot!*) may await Acton aficionados but the possible plans to close Evelyn Gardens and ship 700 or so Freshers beyond Westfield haven't been that well received by students, to say the least. So, in our infinite wisdom, we've decided to lend a hand and recommend a few new locations which would doubtless be better received.

## The Scottish Highlands

If you're going to banish students to Zone 3, then you need to go the whole hog and fling them to the other end of the UK. Enjoying renewed tourist interest because of Daniel Craig's Macaulay Culkin-inspired rampage in last year's *Skyfall*, the rolling landscapes and greenish-brown vistas would be perfectly suited to a new hall of residence; not only because of the prime development land on offer, but because of how singularly difficult it would be to travel to College. Who wouldn't enjoy a twenty hour round trip for two hours of lectures – daily! That said, you could take the opportunity to recreate quintessential Sunday evening viewing *Monarch of the Glen*, but for real. Go Laird or go home.



## Heathrow Airport

One of the big touted positives of the proposed accommodation in Acton is the close proximity to Heathrow, especially since that if there's one thing Freshers enjoy, it's regularly hopping on the Piccadilly Line and going to Venezuela with their infinite bank bal-

ance. This could, of course, be solved by just building some new rooms right there in the airport. You'd have bars already in place for one, along with prime duty free shopping. Students would have the time to run backwards along those charming flat escalators,

beating any Ethos treadmill. I imagine one could also engage in some wacky adventures, such as becoming acquainted with airport staff and scoring free plane tickets to America and visiting MIT to see what lecture podcasting is actually like.

## South America

Yeah, that's right, the whole continent. Just parachute Freshers in and see how they get on. Life Science students could at the very least take advantage of the outstanding biodiversity. Those of a more business and criminally minded persuasion could have a crack at one of the Colombian drug cartels.

wouldn't even need to go to South Ken – unless you're a medic I guess. But of course, for those career fiends out there, it'd be the ultimate CV booster, being an astronaut and all. Heck, you probably wouldn't even have to take part in any cringeworthy telephone interviews where the signal's so terrible you can't even hear the questions.

# FELIX



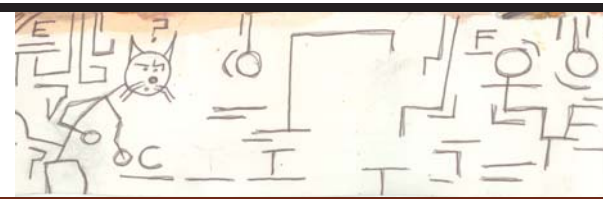
If you want to experience the Felix Office first hand, drop us an email. We always need writers, illustrators, photographers and probably more.  
[felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)

## The Moon

Space is ace. Everyone loves it. Loads of room for scientific discovery. Surely there's a little bit of overlap with Imperial's purview? Yeah that's right, I'm saying that we should build a campus on the moon. Student satisfaction would literally skyrocket and you

## Generic Conclusion

So let's just ditch this whole #Pray-ForActon campaign and set our sights beyond the M25. The sky's the limit! There's a whole world out there just waiting for another hall of residence and 700 students and if we simply restrict our view to Zone 3, then we're simply missing out.



## Rap lyrics of the week

Chiddy: "High"



*"Junior high school I had a crush on the Principal, I guess I was turned on by the leadership"*

This is basically included as that's just a hilarious line. An interesting fetish that, for leadership. Where was that from? The school of writing corporate cover letters with bullshit jargon in them?

Eazy-E: "Foe tha love of money"



*"So I dash, I ducks and I hides behind a tree"*

Before we even get into the stupid quote, let's tackle the song title. Fuck money, for the love of God learn to spell. Please.

Right, now, on to the strangeness of this. Again, the English is a bit dodgy, but whatever. He is saying that he is running away from the police, by hiding behind a tree? Is that really the most effective strategy to evade the police? How many suspects have you seen on the news have "the armed robber is thought to have evaded the police and helicopters by taking refuge behind a small oak tree". None. That's going to get you on America's Dumbest Criminals.

**Think you're funny? Maybe you are. Or, more likely, people are just laughing at you. Either way. Write an article and send it in: felix@imperial.ac.uk**

# Stop pretending to like work

## Just admit You didn't find that lecture "interesting"

Work. It's dull, tiring, and for the most part you gently sweat in an overly warm lecture theatre surrounded by pig-faced course"mates", feeling the deep acidic tang of your greasy neighbour's BO tickling the back of your throat.

So stop telling your friends you like your course. Fuck off. It's annoying, and makes everyone feel bad. You feeling good when queefing-off to your chums about how much work you're doing isn't beneficial to society, it's harmful. So stop pretending to enjoy the lecturer's notes so fucking much and remember that you are a fundamentally worthless nothing. Even if God was real he probably wouldn't like you. And neither do your parents.

"Come! Swim in the mind-pool of my overwhelming enthusiasm!" Cry these self-validating mono-plebs as they travel from one productive activity to another. "Take my throbbing enthuse-ability into your mouth and choke on the salty fruits of my labour!" Together we must stand up against these fountains of vapidty,

wipe their cerebral juices from our lips, and crush this behaviour.

Sadly, this phenomenon is spreading. On a tour of a lab group recently a bright eyed and bushy tailed prospective applicant turned to me only and said "Oh, I can't believe that you can actually get paid for research!!". Yes you fucking can, it's a job, like any other. And a poorly paid one at that. If you had told me how surprised you were at the low salaries for research posts, then maybe I would have listened to the rest of your external-but-we-all-wish-it-was-internal monologue, and not spent the time reminiscing of when I was a young child and the myxomatosis laden rabbit had wandered into the shed and I showed Daddy what a big boy I was by ending the life of the fluffy little creature with nothing more than a rusty claw hammer and bit of good ol' fashioned steely-eyed determination, and how much funnier it would have been if the rabbit's face had been replaced with your face, and how much less Mummy would have cried if she



**Rocks. Some people's subjects involve spending all day looking at these. As if anyone likes that**

hadn't seen me smiling. These people need help!

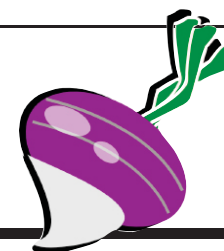
Like for most things, I blame the banks. And the nonce that invented the curriculum vitae. "Suitable applicants must demonstrate enthusiasm and interest through regular readership of suitable publications". No one finds hedge funds interesting! It's not possible. They only pretend to be-

cause they want to make money and gradually privatise the NHS.

So remember that it is o.k. Not to like things, and to do things that benefit your life in the long term without drawing immediate enjoyment from them. Take a moment to consider the bored and the disillusioned before you open your mouth, and ask yourself everytime: "Am I a prick?"

## the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



# New halls to be built in Durham

## Plans for halls in Essex rejected as it was "too far"

Imperial's newest halls will be located in Durham, if new plans announced in an incredibly impartial article are to be believed. The article said "our glorious leaders have taken skill and courage to come up with this amazing opportunity". When asked about distance to a campus, they reportedly looked at the floor and said "Erm, yeah. Well, it's close to A CAMPUS. That's the point right? Yeah, it's Durham's campus, but, come on, there will be fun people there right?"

The plans are not exactly students' cup of tea, with most not keen on the idea. The commute, claimed by College to be 5 minutes, is widely disputed.

The shocking news comes later on in the decision process than most would have liked. This has surprised

the university, as they thought that people would applaud the initiative taken and the fact that they didn't want to bother students with decisions like this.

Many students have forgotten that they are supposed to just take everything lying down as was agreed in 1950, and have spoken out against the move. It remains to be seen if a sensible solution involving someone who has made a dick move realising that their idea is a bad plan and therefore finding a way to change their decision will occur or not.

The rumours of halls on Jupiter are "unfounded". This is probably because of the inhospitable atmosphere and large travel time; although, judging by Paragon, this probably isn't a major concern, so Imperial were likely outbid.



**Imperial students will probably now not get to be on TOWIE**

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# HANGMAN



## TOOL OF THE WEEK

Well, now you know what his cumface is...

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

## THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



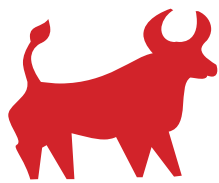
### NORTH KOREAN MISSILE NOT AS IMPRESSIVE AS FIRST ASSUMED

## Horoscopes – Now is W3



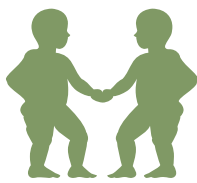
ARIES

This week you get your accommodation offer and are forced off to Paragon. Oh dear. Could be worse, you could be in Acton. You wake up to find out that you were only dreaming. Drowsily, you jump out of bed and ready yourself for the walk from your house in... Acton. Ahhhh man. That sucks.



TAURUS

This week you are bored and look up safe for work porn. You find yourself strangely aroused by it all. Eventually you come to a shuddering climax while staring at a picture of a girl pretending to DJ her crotch. Everyone in the computer room isn't quite as impressed though, plus you made the keyboard sticky.



GEMINI

This week you decide to become a clown and go to Clown College instead of Imperial. Your degree is definitely easier, but having to get the bus dressed as everyone's nightmare and constantly being pried in the face can get a bit grating. You make a joke out of it, but laughing just feels like work now.



CANCER

This week you are just in sight of the sweet release of deadlines being over. No more jacket potatoes, no more masturbating in the Library (out of necessity, now it's just for fun), you're free! You feel like George Michael, but without the inability to sensibly drive. You get a j pot for old time's sake. Pint?



LEO

This week you put yourself forward to be the new Pope. Not sure of what to do you look up the job description. You learn Latin, put on robes, and start having outdated views on condoms. It turns out you just stick out in lectures, and your hat is getting in the way of everyone seeing.



VIRGO

This week you have to decide on the long term strategy of something in College. It gets tricky when you pick something that immediately make everyone so annoyed that you get confused and think you're at UCL or somewhere where people give a shit about stuff other than work, food and sleep.



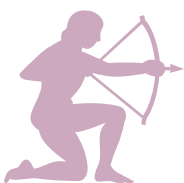
LIBRA

This week you meet Prince Phillip. It's a disappointment when he doesn't say something inappropriate to you. Devoid of all hope you decide to go where souls die in silence: the Library. Prince Phillip steals your last textbook and calls you a tosser. You can't do your APS, but at least something you wanted happened.



SCORPIO

This week, you discover that you are still eating fucking horsemeat. This is just absurd. Come on people, still. You get pissed off and decided that the only way out is to go straight to source and just murder a pony that you see running free. A very posh family are really annoyed with you.



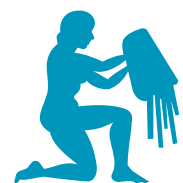
SAGITTARIUS

This week you try to start a stand up comedy career as a "mathemagician". You get booed off stage everywhere and repeatedly heckled. Everyone thinking you're weird and annoying? Hmmm, this is what being in a nightclub is usually like for you, but with less awkward flirting. You have no spray, and get no lay.



CAPRICORN

This week you go for a massive dump. As is your usual habit, you wrap it up in a tupperware box. Later on you realise that all you have left for dinner is some kind of "beef" product. You decide not to risk it and just chomp on your own feces. The sweetcorn are the only nuggets of flavour.



AQUARIUS

This week a black bar pisses you off when it covers the rest of your horo [REDACTED]



PISCES

This week you must decide between eating a horse or eating a horse. On the one hand, a horse is really nice, and you are pretty hungry. On the other hand, you want a lasagne, and, well, you know the drill. Maybe a pony might be more to your suiting? What's it going to be then? Eh?



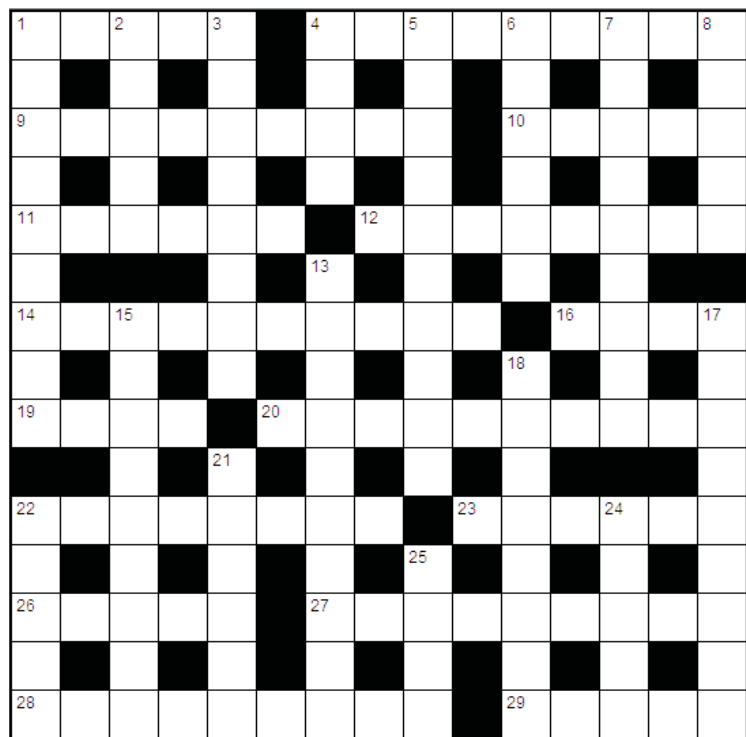
# PUZZLES

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



## Double Crossword

With thanks to Paulo Giaccone



- 22. Complete, utter (8)
- 23. Salvage (6)
- 26. Walk in a leisurely manner (5)
- 27. Disappear into the air (9)
- 28. Current affairs magazine (9)
- 29. Uni newspaper (5)

**Down**

- 1. Sample given in advance (9)
- 2. Film starring Sigourney Weaver (5)
- 3. Fraction (8)
- 4. Medical inspection (4)
- 5. Musical instrument once heard at fairgrounds (5, 5)
- 6. Shriveled up (6)
- 7. Stamp out (9)
- 8. Wipe (a hard disk or whiteboard) (5)
- 13. Bitterness (10)
- 15. Understandable (9)
- 17. Sequence for two ballet dancers (3, 2, 4)
- 18. Lycanthrope (8)
- 21. Spoken without hesitating (6)
- 22. Accumulate (5)
- 24. Walk on one's hands and knees (5)
- 25. Light-haired (4)

- 1. Expand Florida region that's incomplete (5)
- 4. In another place, present the Spanish stitch first (9)
- 9. Repeat row about messy eater (9)
- 10. Rita destroyed a piece of jewelry (5)
- 11. Silent about Christmas decoration (6)
- 12. I honour the French before the Channel Islands - idiot! (8)
- 14. Fresh threats about little darling (10)
- 16. Now, as previously, displaying insect (4)
- 19. Every fruit has top cut off (4)
- 20. Womanly character? Strangely, 'e means self (10)
- 22. Head of orchestra's after washboard - instrument that's perfect (8)
- 23. Save druggie about to ingest Charlie and ecstasy (6)
- 26. Wander without beginning to stroll (5)
- 27. Ms Mendes gets author that catches rodent to vanish (9)
- 28. Witness to carpets being shredded (9)
- 29. Iron piece of linen before nine - you're looking at it (5)

**Down**

- 1. Preview of upcoming "Broken Tears", upsetting film about what comes next (9)
- 2. A bit more time in bed I skipped for foreigner (5)
- 3. Feel even that hiding at this time is almost too late (8)
- 4. Maximilian East returns for test (4)
- 5. Storage man remodelled old-fashioned instrument (5, 5)
- 6. Dry humour of that woman (6)
- 7. Expunge ad I create in error (9)
- 8. Delete times before end of movie (5)
- 13. Dispatched again, blokes having time for animosity (10)
- 15. Former copper put on fur - that can be forgiven (9)
- 17. Sex up dead poor dance (3, 2, 4)
- 18. Monster bloom comes up after royal address (8)
- 21. Easily communicating illness on hospital ward (6)
- 22. Gather Welsh politician's on donkey (5)
- 24. Stroke fawn (5)
- 25. Pretty impartial (4)

**Cryptic clues**  
**Across**

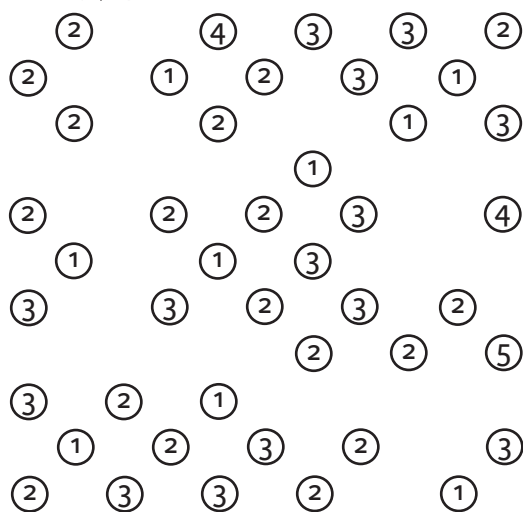
**Quick clues**

**Across**

- 1. Distress signal (5)
- 4. Absent (9)
- 9. Say again (9)
- 10. Bejewelled headdress (5)
- 11. Decoration for Christmas tree (6)

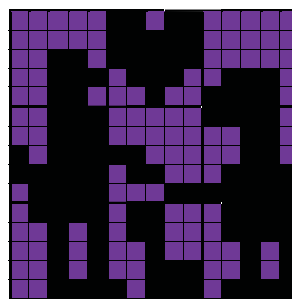
- 12. Psychology term for a person with very low IQ (8)
- 14. Kind-hearted person (10)
- 16. Privileged and influential member of American society (4)
- 19. Apiece (4)
- 20. Womanhood (10)

## 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.

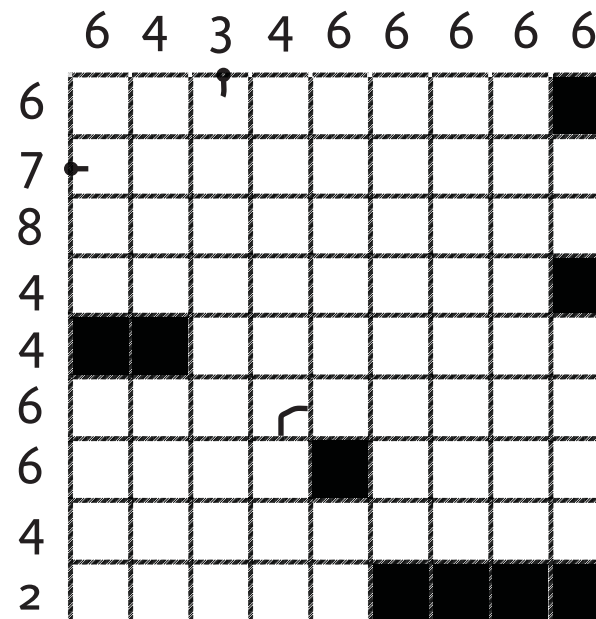
**Last week's solutions**



U	A	I	E	H	O	T	Y	R
O	R	Y	T	A	U	H	I	E
E	T	H	R	I	Y	A	U	O
R	Y	T	U	O	E	I	H	A
I	H	E	A	R	T	Y	O	U
A	O	U	I	Y	H	R	E	T
T	E	R	Y	U	I	O	A	H
Y	U	O	H	T	A	E	R	I
H	I	A	O	E	R	U	T	Y

## 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 (but no black 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's a hint to get you started.

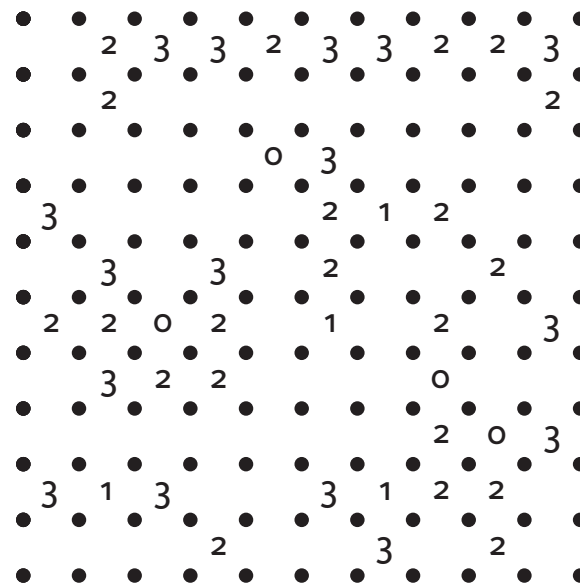


## FUCWIT League Table

TEAMS	
Requiem for a Bean	48
Sexy Beasts	22
G.A.Y.S.	4
I ate all your bees	4
INDIVIDUALS	
Wael Aljeshi	33
Yufan Zhao	38
Helix	22
M-Soup	17
Tan Wei Jie	7
Tan Yu	5

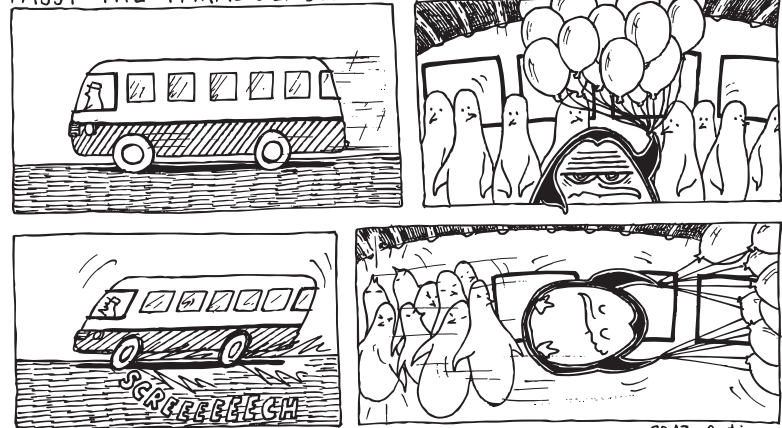
Send your answers to [puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk).

## Slitherlink



The rules take up precious space, but it's bad form not to include them: 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.

PASS! THE PARABOLASHAPED PENGUIN



2013 Owl

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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.*

## SPORT

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

» continued from the back page

crews in front did not help. Calls after 2km of “we’ve halved Newcastle’s gap boys” were in fact entirely mistaken and Sullivan has been booked into a Spec-savers appointment later this week. They eventually finished with a silver medal, in similar fashion to the women’s champ 4 of Caterina Buizza, Harriet Cross, Lily Beadle and Hannah Patterson. The girls cited a ‘firm but fair’ pre-race chat from the rested Sullivan before division 2 as the reason for their strong row, following IC’s only bronze of the day earlier in the morning as half of the 8. The other half of the 8 were formed

from the women’s quad, and the secret to Olympian Mel Wilson’s success was spotted before division 2 in the form of considerable amounts of generic-bear-shaped-jelly-flavoured-sweets. Top tip for you there aspiring GB rowers!

A final mention should go to the Intermediate 8, who in-keeping with IC traditions caught an unfortunate crab in the run in to the line. I have searched long and hard for the video of the Matt Lunt classic which still brings a tear to my eye but unfortunately I think his lawyers have had it removed from the internet.

So, 2nd in the Victor Ludorum, 3 golds and 7 medals in total. All-in-all a



thoroughly successful weekend in the ICBC camp and with both Heads of the River coming up soon (and of course #LadsOnTour in Amsterdam) it’s go-

ing to be an action packed few months for ICBC. The overall goal has to be to steal Durham’s self-appointed crown of most successful undergraduate rowing

program in the UK and continue racking up the BUCS points. And with 125 points gained from BUCS head alone, it’s your move fencing!

## Animal Cruelty as Netball Puts Down RVC

Poppy Pincock Sports Writer

Previously in the season, IC 1’s ventured to muddy Hertfordshire with some usual players missing and some turning up hungover to take on RVC 1’s in the BUCs league, so understandably we suffered an unfortunate loss. However, with 2 more chances to play them, we were determined to show them what we’re made of.

This Monday, our first chance came- a LUSL match in our home turf of Ethos. With every player intact (except WA Kirsty who managed to break her shoulder at the beginning of the season...) we were ready for a win. The first quarter started badly,

with a quick turnover from RVC 1’s they scored 4 goals in succession before we had scored any! Their GS in particular surprised us with her quick movement and superb aim. However, this made us yet more determined and with some of the best play we’ve seen through the centre court we quickly pulled back into the lead. Our shooter Tamar showed she was equally capable of scoring from anywhere in the D with shot after shot going in, (this is a girl who once showed up slightly drunk to a match and was still able to shoot perfectly – albeit sometimes her catching wasn’t quite as on form). By the end of the first quarter we had a lead of 14-8, extending 10 goals ahead of their 0-4 lead.

It seemed GK Sophie had the hardest job to do with their shooter easily being their stand out player. Using her height to our advantage, Sophie pressured RVC into doing loopier passes that often the GS couldn’t even reach. Furthermore, Sophie’s blocking skills are superb meaning the RVC GS occasionally tried to shove Sophie out of the way which luckily the umpires saw and called contact. On the other side of the court, WA Nancy, GA Poppy and Centre Sam were perfecting their centre passes. With Nancy only joining the 1’s just before Christmas, this has been a difficult area in recent games. However, on Monday something just clicked and they began working seamlessly together, easily getting the ball into the

D and scoring within 3 or 4 passes. Of course, nothing ever works perfectly all the time, and the odd pass into GS Tamar went a bit astray, with one sending her flying back onto her bum.

In the final quarter, we intended to neaten our game, as against a better team every mistake would probably cost us a goal. We saw fast turnovers as WD Tereze and GD Verity came out of nowhere to steal the ball from under their noses. Verity just seems to have endless energy when she plays, leaping across the court to intercept passes. Due to some contact from RVC’s WD, Nancy managed to get ‘Netball finger’ due to the ball pelting the tips of her fingers at full speed, causing a fair amount of pain. Luckily Claude,

who usually plays WD/GD, was able to quickly come on to play WA. Considering she rarely plays attack, Claude showed her versatility as she fit in well and by the end of the game the score was 61-39.

IC 1’s position in the LUSL league only goes to show that they should be in a higher BUCs league. Currently 4th in LUSL, below Medics 1’s (1 league above in BUCS) and Kings medics 1’s (2 leagues above in BUCS) and above plenty of teams that are in higher BUCs leagues too. Unfortunately, due to some undeserving losses the 1’s are looking at finishing second this year in the BUCs tables but with most of the team returning next year, we’re looking up. Roll on varsity...

## Checkmate at Chess Congress

John Sargent Sports Writer

On a cool Friday February afternoon a rag-tag team of students (and alumni that can’t seem to get away) gathered in the shadow of the Royal Albert Hall to take a van-load of trestle tables into Imperial College’s Union Dining Hall in preparation for an event that has been a long time coming – the 2013 edition of the Imperial College Chess Congress.

For the last two weeks entries were flying in thick and fast, to the point where we were worried that we wouldn’t be able to accommodate all the players! For this congress we used the improved venue of the dining hall, which was opposite the space used at the last one (but had the gym above and bar below so potentially noisy). The downside of our new space is that we had a capacity of between 80 and 90 players compared to the old room’s 110-120 – luckily, the number of entries peaked on the day at a cosy 88

which meant that despite promising to potentially turn cash-on-the-day entries away, we didn’t have to in the end.

The round on Friday night got off to a lovely start. There was a brief scare as Metric (Imperial College’s night-club) was directly below the venue but it turned out not to be a problem, with the faint hum of a Gangnam Style remix barely audible at about 10pm as the games finished and provided a background beat to tidying up in the evening.

Saturday brought a fresh, crisp start and the free tea, coffee and snacks provided to the players throughout the tournament assisted in waking everybody up in time for the morning round. We also had the pleasure of Ray Morris-Hill of Battersea chess club drop by to take some lovely photographs of the room and players with the morning light streaming through the windows.

This presented a rather interesting challenge, as the angle of the light shifted throughout the morning and two boards were moved to areas where the light wasn’t in a player’s eyes – sunlight

in England admittedly wasn’t high on the list of things we thought could interrupt a chess tournament and we will be petitioning the Union to assist us with some curtains for next year. There was a lot of fighting, aggressive chess being played as well with players eager to start their Saturdays off with wins. Several very exciting games in both the morning and afternoon sessions lasted all the way through the 4-hour sessions (and in a few cases even longer owing to the 90min+30sec/move time control).

In-between rounds the players tended to flock towards either Gloucester Road or South Kensington where plenty of food and drink outlets were available for lunch – Sandwich World (simply known to Imperial College students as THE Sandwich Shop) on Gloucester Road was a particularly popular destination with a large number of freshly made baguettes making appearances in the playing hall at various points.

The amount of sugar (biscuits) and caffeine consumed by the crowd was also impressive, and underestimated by

us as we had to go back to supermarkets to buy more supplies on no fewer than four occasions after the start of the congress – but completely worth it despite foam cups now becoming an endangered species as players and staff alike stayed in high spirits throughout the day.

Going into the last round, the Open had two players race ahead of the pack in IM Thomas Rendle and FM Miguel Navarro-Cia of Imperial College on 4/4, and the resulting draw in the final round guaranteed them joint-first place in the tournament as their nearest competition was on 3/4 going into the afternoon round, due to Thomas Rendle grinding a very hard-earned victory over IM Augustin Madan in the morning.

The next section to be determined was the Minor, where Pascoe Rapacchi was sole leader on 4/4 going into the final round but was successfully caught by the resurgent Anup Sinha (Imperial College Chess Club President all the way back in 2004-05!) who was on 3/4, and they therefore finished joint-first in

the Minor.

The battle for the Major was the last to be settled, going down to the wire between Bob Kane of West London and young Michele Donati of Italy well after the winter sun had set. In a very charged position Michele was down to using his increment for each move to Bob’s 20 minutes. Michele, however, held strong and after a very tense and drawn out while a draw was agreed, guaranteeing both of them a share of first place.

Games all over the room were finishing late on the final round though with potential prize money on the line – additional grading prizes were announced to a satisfied crowd at the start of the second round, with two (U2100 & U1950) in the Open, two (U1800 & U1700) in the Major and one in the Minor (U125). Despite having fewer players than the Open and Major, an additional U100/Ungraded grading prize was introduced for the Minor after Rafael Larios generously donated to make this possible (ungraded players were eligible for this grading prize).

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# SPORT

## Hyde Park shows all a Relay good time

### Jean-Claude Besse on the runaway success this year

**A**fter last week's BUCS Cross-Country in Leeds, the running hype continued with the Hyde Park Relays 2013, a competition held since 1949 and gathering students from all over Europe. Imperial XC members had been up all week to prepare for the event, and were impatient to show the results of their winter training.

On D-day, after only a few hours sleep for many due to last minute preparations, the course was set up in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, our usual training playground. The men's route was about 5.2km, to be run by six people (unless you're Milan Misak and want to wear 6 numbers on your vest for a mere 31km jog – hero!), while the women's team had 4 laps of 3.5km to complete.

The men's race got underway at 14:00 under pleasant weather for runners, the rain having just stopped. Women followed 5 minutes later, and tourists could admire about 100 run-

ners doing their best to place their team. Women came back first to pass to the next leg, while the next runners were either warming up or cheering compatriots in a friendly atmosphere.

On the men's side, despite tentatives by Cambridge and St. Mary's, the first leg was clearly dominated by Imperial's Chris Bannon, thanks to a very intelligent acceleration after staying behind in the first windy part. He even had time for the Michu celebration, snatching the fastest time of the day in an impressive 15'42". This left time to change vest and start his second leg for Medics' team, just a bit slower this time!

Sadly the lead was lost a few kilometers later with Chris Thomas unable to fight off the machine-like St. Mary's team, while Cambridge and Oxford came up to take 2nd and 3rd. Fresher Liam Smith (who later ran two supplementary legs for his hall teams), third year Chris Charles and Jean-Claude Besse followed, taking the next three legs as fast as they pos-

sibly could to avoid the return of St. Mary's 2. Imperial was still in 4th before last leg, the exact position they took in 2010 and 2011. Men's Captain James Ellis finally crosses the finish line in 5th overall position, but satisfied given the very high level of competition this year. Congratulations to the other IC XC teams who all finished in the top half and particularly to Milan Misak who completed all 6 legs himself!

In the women's race, Imperial XC had a record 4 teams in a field of nearly 50 teams. It was up to recent american import Melissa Newton-Mora to start off the girls bid: improve on last years 7th position. She did an impressive job to finish in the main pack along with Cambridge, Oxford, Bristol and St Marys University in a time of 12.39. Imogen Keane then stormed out to try and retain our position followed by Eileen Brandley, it was then up to Sophie Kirk to lead the team home after leaving her marshalling post just 5 minutes prior it was always going to be an interesting race. With a cry of "Im going to get her" (Oxford Brookes was in sight), the Captain set off in hot pursuit. Having caught Brookes at the bridge it was all about the pb and holding off any further teams. Oxford (the real one) were too strong this time but the first team still finished in and incredible 6th position, up one on last year! Other great performances were by Harveen Hayer, Kimberley Mason and Lauren Stanley who are all new to the club!

Once marshalling and course taking down jobs were complete (which included jumping over fences in closed parks, pushing a trolley all around Hyde Park at dusk, and deciding against carrying away a big "Metropolitan Police – wet paint" sign as well), we joined the team in the SCR for (much needed) jacket potatoes and the prize giving ceremony. St. Mary's took both men and women external first places, while both internal categories were awarded to Imperial Triathlon. Fastest legs were Chris Bannon (ICXC, 15'42") and Sophia Saller (Oxford, 12'04") in the Women's.

After a quick shower, Imperial Cross Country Club 'ran' to the Union and later Metric, for yet another night of post race celebration. Competition spirit took over some teams, who are still disputing the victory in a boat race and who actually participated... (it will always be IC in our hearts!) Freshers were also introduced to the Hyde Park Relays Horn (the old boys showed us how it was done), while some had the privilege to take the DJ's spot in Metric. The job was not quite



It's overly photogenic Vicki! Again.



I would.  
#YOLO!

finished at that point, since people had been assigned to sleep over at the Union to steward foreign runners, or were in charge of having rooms clean on time the next day. But who cares? The music was on, facepaint for all ICXC members, a good night worth remembering (for those who can!).

To be short, compared to BUCS last week, you can replace "painful steps in the mud" by "flying on the road", hilly by flat, long journey by a run home; whilst keeping the fun and competitive level (of both racing

and partying!). And as a triathlete I had images of the Brownlee brothers rushing along the Serpentine during last summer's Olympics.

And finally, a huge thanks (certainly from all satisfied 500+ runners) to co-organisers Matt Douthwaite and Ming Wang-Koh, hopefully we, the ICXC team, did a good job to help you out, but your organisation made Hyde Park Relays 2013 an awesome event which every runner at any level within Imperial College just had to join!



Chicken Run: The Sequel



"Keep the Cat Free"

# Devils sharpen tridents for UCL



**Tim Runcorn** Sports Writer

Forget the Medics, everybody knows Imperial's true rivals are UCL. They may have a more girls, reading weeks and the arguably the biggest Harlem Shake in Europe but they certainly don't have the best university ice hockey team in London. A point that will be emphatically proven on Friday 1st March when the mighty Imperial Devils take on the UCL Yetis in the biggest grudge match of the season, the London Ice Varsity. The adrenaline-filled, full-contact contest will see the oldest London uni ice hockey club (us) take on the new kids on the block in front of hundreds of noisy supporters providing an electric atmosphere at Brixton Ice Arena (a couple of mins walk from Brixton underground station on the Victoria



Typical Oxford, always on their knees

line), a place both teams call home. Past 'friendlies' promise a finely poised battle, with the Devils playing in the division above but with the Yetis having a recent run of form in their favour. With the bragging rights of clinching the inaugural London Ice Varsity title up for grabs, it will undoubtedly be the team who rises up to the occasion on the day who will take the honours. One thing is certain – a great night's entertainment, not only with the hard-hitting action of the fastest team sport on earth but also

figure skating demonstrations, a skills contest and DJs running throughout. Doors open at 7.45pm for an 8pm puck drop so BYOB for the most entertaining pre-lash ever; the game will finish by 10.30pm and food and drink (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be available at the rink. Tickets are just £5 from [tinyurl.com/icevaristy](http://tinyurl.com/icevaristy) (use QR code) so come and show your support as Imperial crush UCL in a cracking game of real hockey. Check out [fb.me/imperialdevils](http://fb.me/imperialdevils) for more information.



It must be huge...

# If Carlsberg made Boat Clubs...

**Rory Sullivan** Sports Writer

In a highly successful weekend at Boston, ICBC laid claim to having the fastest 8, the fastest 4 and the fastest women's quad, as well as medals left, right and centre in other categories. We also finished 2nd in the Victor Ludorum for BUCS points and medals, narrowly behind Newcastle. You cannot argue with that.

The BUCS men's 8 has not been won by an IC crew since before anyone I asked from the Boat Club could remember (BUCS results archiving not the best!); and for the crew of Hal Bradbury, Sam Cottrell, Jonny Rankin, Ali Hudson, Ben Spencer-Jones, Henry Goodier, Wilf Kimberley and Tim Rich-

ards with cox Ellie Smith it was a day to remember. When Ali put head coach Don McLachlan on loudspeaker in the minibus on the way home to announce the result, you could cut the tension with a knife. Scenes of jubilation greeted the results, with tops immediately being removed and beats dropped.

The eight won the event over Durham by 7 seconds, and finished 10 seconds ahead of Newcastle. It was the perfect way to top of a fantastic weekend for ICBC, which began on the Saturday with the Beginner men in their first race against other Unis. There was an excellent 8th (out of 33) for the beginners 4+ of Tom 'Baby, It's Cold Outside' Jones, Bastian Winklehake, Zhehou Cao and Nikola 'David Guetta' Spasojevic with cox Hena Begum. These lads were feel-

ing the pain after racing earlier in the day (in the eight with Karl Steevens, Shaun Nicol, Will Joyce and Kevin Ng Sijie, who finished 17th of 41), and their faces show it in one of the best rowing photos I have seen in a long while (see our website!)

On the Sunday, the senior squad arrived in force at a cold but remarkably calm Boston RC. In the first division the IC lightweight men's four were the fastest of the day, beating all of the heavyweight coxless and coxed fours (almost unheard of at BUCS head). It was the start of an incredible day for Richards and Kimberley in combination with Myles Holbrough and Paul Jones. IC's third gold medal came from the women's championship quad of Mel Wilson, Myriam Goudet, Georgie Phillips and

Klara Weaver. They showed their class, winning by a phenomenal 35 seconds and bringing another 20 BUCS points to the table.

The next best result of the day must be the women's lightweight quad. The crew of Josie Bowler, Jade Hubbard, Nadine Nalowe and Nicola Mason did brilliantly to take the silver, pushing Durham into 3rd place. Boom. Three of the girls later raced in the 4- with Nina Dalton in place of Nadine however the exertions from the first division showed and they were pushed back into 5th. These excellent results from the lightweight girls came despite a trauma filled day before, which included Sam Cottrell's suspect driving of a mould filled minibus, dinner at a restaurant in Peterborough with Ali Hudson and first-hand experience

of Captain Spencer-Jones' 'Goat' (what would his parents say?!).

The morning division on the Sunday had seen further evidence of ICBC being the only boat club who have any fun. On the way to the start the IC heavy and lightweight fours met the champ quad (who eventually finished 6th) and decided that a 'warm-up' drag race was in order. Sprinting three abreast the wrong way down the Boston course was thoroughly frowned upon but was just the thing to get the fires burning on a chilly morning.

Following this huge expense of energy the heavyweight four of Rory Sullivan, Ben Spencer-Jones, Henry Goodier and Jonny Rankin found the headwind a little tiring, and Sullivan's wildly inaccurate distance measurements of >>>54