

FELIX

"Keep the Cat Free"



10/05/13
Issue 1546
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Flexible screens

Felix Science interviews an Imperial professor researching OLEDs. **Page 12**



Only on tape

Felix Music interviews the creator of Opal Tapes. **Page 21**



Dialogue over Acton

- College stress they will continue to look for cheap, close accommodation
- Structural inspection of Evelyn Gardens and Garden Hall
- Garden removed from website for next year's freshers, with Paragon and Xenia remaining
- Working group of staff and students set up for input in Acton development

Philip Kent

Reporter

The Union has replied to the College's response to the Against Acton campaign, started earlier this year following the unveiling of plans by the College to construct a 724 bed hall of residence in North Acton. Paul Beaumont, Union President, sent a list of requests to the College, which went to the Management Board in March.

The North Acton campaign mustered large amounts of support from the student body at Imperial College, a body that has in the past been accused of not using their voice. A petition organized by the Union received 709 signatures, and a separate petition from the Garden Hall Committee got to 1,461.

Union's Requests

Paul's letter to the College comprised of five key requests to resolve the complaints of the student body. First and foremost of these was to push

for keeping Garden Hall, one of the cheapest and the most oversubscribed Hall of Residence.

Alongside this, Beaumont argued for retaining Evelyn Gardens, a grouping of five halls at Evelyn Gardens, near Gloucester Road. The halls in Evelyn Gardens are owned by the Wellcome Trust, and are leased to the College, though this lease is expiring within the next few decades.

It was also of concern that the Accommodation Survey, held in 2011, may contain "discrepancies" when compared to the Accommodation Strategy. According to an article on the Union's website (now unavailable), data from the survey suggested student's want accommodation close to College, at a price similar to that charged by Evelyn Gardens.

Building on from this, Beaumont argued that the North Acton project should have had proper consultation with stakeholders before the plans were approved. In his requests, he asked that such consultations



Berkeley First

Artist's impression of the new halls. Also a level on The Sims 4, maybe...

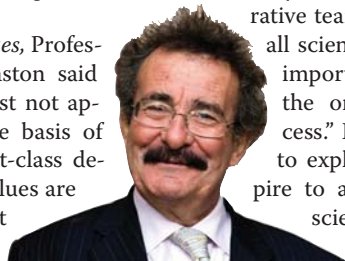
A first isn't all people look for...

Tim Arbabzadah Editor-in-Chief

It's exam season. Everyone at Imperial is slaving away behind a desk, energy drink of choice in hand. It's the time of year when finding a spare computer in the Library is enough to make you ecstatic, and noticing it's not free and someone is using the classic penny in the arrow key trick will send you into

despair. So perhaps it's not the best time to be told that getting a first isn't all there is to life.

In a letter to *The Times*, Professor Lord Robert Winston said that "Scientists are best not appointed purely on the basis of whether they had first-class degrees; other human values are important." He went on to say: "Success-



ful laboratories tend to be most effectively run with a happy collaborative team, essential in almost all science. Good degrees are important but they are not the only measure of success." Lord Winston wanted to explain to those who aspire to a science degree that science is not "harder" than other academic

subject. The letter was clarifying what he meant when sources reported a conversation that took place during a school visit.

Lord Winston is currently a Professor of Science and Society and Emeritus Professor of Fertility Studies at Imperial College London. He is mostly known for his work in science communication, including his recent series *Child of our Time*.

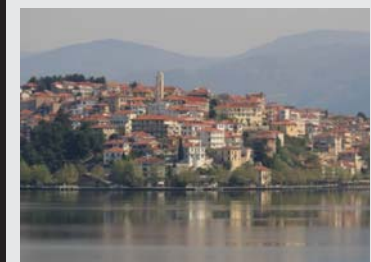
Inside...>>

ARTS



A review of the Design Awards >>15

TRAVEL



Greece: a summer paradise >>24

HANGMAN



Guide to the banker lifestyle >>26

EDITOR'S PICKS

SCIENCE

>>12

OLEDs

Weird fact about OLEDs: when I applied to university I specifically singled them out as an area of interest on my UCAS form. I may have exaggerated...



TRAVEL

>>25

Totally Mexico

Taking a break from thermo? Escapism is a nice feeling sometimes. The title here is a reference to the excellent Nathan Barley by the way!



PUZZLES

>>28

A welcome break

A massive slitherlink, hashi, a crossword, and Passi, what more could you want in a revision break? It's like being on The Crystal Maze.



MARQUEE WATCH PART 2

Queen's Lawn hasn't got a marquee, but it does have a bouncy castle...



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



Examining hope

Tim Arbabzadah
Editor-in-Chief



It's that time of year once again. The last term and the last stretch of College until exams are over (hopefully you won't be returning in summer for resits). You can almost sense the high tension and stress in the air. It's a familiar feeling and reminds you that the culmination of months (and in some people's case years) of work is just around the corner. Much like Phil Collins once said, you can feel it coming in the air tonight – which, incidentally, I've only just realised actually sounds pretty rude when you think about it.

So, standard advice about not stressing too much and blah blah blah. It really does apply though. It's better to actually do three hours of focussed work and then an hour of chilling out as opposed to five hours of not really concentrating. If you're not a final year then spare a thought for them. In your fourth year you may have had seven and over years of exams in summer. By then you definitely get exam fatigue, and really have to motivate yourself to remember that it's just one last push. Unless you do a law conversion course, or are going into a job where you have to do training and pass exams. Sorry, that's probably not helping the whole “one

last time” approach very much.

During the next few weeks you may start to think that exams and work are the only thing there is to life. At a place like Imperial it's really easy to get into the mindset that it is the most important aspect of your existence. All of the work and your grades do matter a lot, but remember that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Just keep a positive mental image of what it'll be like when you finish. It can be anything: sunbathing on a beach/watching endless TV/reading a good book/in Belushi's calling the toilet attendant “mate” and inexplicably giving him £2 coins for no reason – as long as it's something that makes you smile it's what you should remember you will be able to do in a few month's time. If that still doesn't help then remember this: it is just an exam. Nobody will die if you fail it (erm, except maybe for medics? But, you will have loads of on the job training I'm sure/hope). Even if you do, there's always a way out. Retakes, resitting a year, going to a different university to start fresh, there's a range of options. So, parting words from the strange Agony Uncle persona I appear to have adopted: work hard for this short period of time, and it'll all be over soon. Then you can forget differential equations exist.

Halls

College and the Union ping ponged responses to each other. This is a step forward. Now there is a much more open dialogue. Before it was all things that nobody was able to tell anyone about. The fact that the Management Board have responded to students is definitely moving in the right direction. However, we must be careful. The words must turn into actions and firm guarantees. Also, we must make sure we don't all just get bored, forget about it, and let things quietly slip by without the student voice being heard.

Garden Hall and Evelyn Gardens are still under threat, as is Pেমbridge. They really are a great asset and make being a fresher at Imperial an amazing year. In terms of student experience (the latest catchphrase that basically means how good your time is here) having such great, cheap, close accommodation was a real boost. We must hope that there will be some good news on this front at some point, and also continue to lobby for their survival. They are really worth it for Imperial. In terms of Acton, there must now be a positive dialogue. We have to see what we can do to make it the best it can be, if it must be. It's definitely good that there is a working group and students are involved.

THIS WEEK FELIX WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

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NEWS

RCS Motor race towards competition success

Philip Kent Reporter

Much celebration was had by members of RCS Motor Club as Jezebel, the vintage fire engine they maintain, was awarded 'Second in Class' at the 52nd HCVS London to Brighton Run, held last Sunday.

The HCVS London to Brighton Run is an annual competition where commercial vehicles aged 20 years or older travel from Crystal Palace to the Brighton seafront, where they are judged for the quality of their restoration. This is not to be confused with the world famous Veteran Car Club run that takes place every November, organised by the Royal Automobile Club.

This is not the first time Jezebel has won an award at this competition, having come best in class in 2009. However this award has additional significance being the first time in nearly four years that the aged mascot has made it to the coastal city and



RCS Motor Club

Jezebel

back under its own power. Last year it didn't enter due to being off the road following a major mechanical failure the previous November.

Chairman of the RCS Motor Club, Stephen Ball, told Felix "[the motor

clubs are] a great way to show case the extra-curricular clubs at Imperial," before concluding "getting students out and about and representing Imperial – it's exactly what the Mascots are there for."

Royal Society Fellowships for three Imperial scientists

Tim Arbabzadah Editor-in-Chief

Three Imperial scientists have been granted Fellowship of the Royal Society. Professor the Lord Ara Darzi of Denham, Professor Joanna Haigh, and Professor Sir Steve Bloom were all recognised for their "contributions to science, both in fundamental research resulting in greater understanding, and also in leading and directing scientific and technological progress in industry and research establishments".

Lord Darzi holds a host of positions with the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and at Imperial. He said that he was "honoured and delighted" by the appointment, and said that it was "humbling to be amongst a group of such distinguished peers". He thanked his colleagues for their help and support.

Professor Sir Steve Bloom is the Head of Division for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, in the Department of Medicine and Chief of Service for Endocrinology and Pathology in the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. He said: "It is a very pleasing honour for the entire team who have worked together over many years." He added that it will spur him on to work as there is much to still be



Between posing for portraits, Charles II gave it a Royal Charter

done, saying: "The world pandemic of obesity causes great suffering,"

Professor Haigh, who is the Head of the Department of Physics and the President of the Royal Meteorological Society, is mainly involved in researching climate science.

The Royal Society, which was founded in the 1600s, is a self-governing Fellowship of many world class scientists. Officially founded on 28 November 1660 the Society it was granted a Royal Charter by King Charles II. Notable former Presidents include Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Humphry Davy, and Sir Ernest Rutherford, to name a few.

Imperial student wins national science communication competition

Stephanie Walton Reporter

Imperial College's Leon Vanstone has been crowned the UK's FameLab champion 2013. In this annual hunt for the nation's best science communicators, each contestant has exactly three minutes to impress a panel of three judges. They may explain any scientific concept but cannot use assisting slides or large props. This year the standard was very high and Leon didn't expect to beat the other ten finalists. However he won over the judges with his truly genuine enthusiasm when describing the landing of NASA's Mars Curiosity Rover.

Leon's early interest in rockets and engines led him to study Aeronautical Engineering. His PhD is on hypersonics, which involves studying how fluids (including air) travel over objects at high speed. He has use of a wind gun on campus which fires air at an incredible 1.5km/s albeit for only 6 milliseconds at a time.

But Leon hasn't always been a scientist; he spent an unfulfilling year in financial services and has three suits to show for it. However it was in an orange skull-and-cross-bones t-shirt, jeans and "skaties", that he triumphed in London last month.



Stephanie Walton

Also winner of "fastest phone spinner in the UK"

As an Outreach Postgraduate Ambassador for Imperial College, Leon has extensive science communication experience garnered from a diverse range of presentations and demonstrations (in one such demo he set his hand on fire which was exciting but something he wouldn't want to repeat). He believes that you must always explain science to the best of your knowledge. You must always think of your audience. And if you reach the

edge of your understanding, admit it. He also stresses that science communication isn't just about the big stage. It's about talking to friends and family about what you do. It's about explaining climate change to the person in the street. But wanting to do it and taking the time and effort to do it well-- that's what makes the difference.

For more information visit <http://famelab.org/>

Sponsored Editorial

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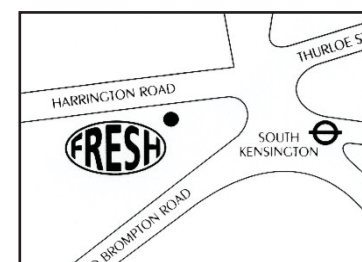
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HAB you seen our balloons?

Zoe Versey

Reporter

On Sunday 5 May, members of Imperial College Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (ICSEDS) travelled to Elsworth, Cambridgeshire for their first launch. The aim was to launch two high altitude balloons (HABs) and several model rockets built over the course of the year.

The two HABs were the culmination of ICSEDS's very own space race, with teams Alpha and Omega competing to design and launch a HAB able to take photographs of the curvature of the Earth for the lowest cost. Team Alpha chose to use a second hand HTC Desire smartphone, providing them with a camera, GPS tracker, battery, and processor in one package. Meanwhile Team Omega built their payload from scratch, using two Arduinos and a variety of sensors to track their balloon's location and altitude, and capture images.

Sadly, despite the wonderful weather and favourable wind conditions both



teams lost the signals of their GPS trackers, though another group of high altitude balloonists picked up one of the signals during the ascent. They learnt that they need to invest in more powerful ground tracking equipment and a



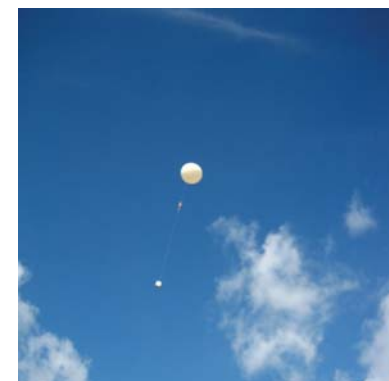
bigger antenna. They are hoping someone will come across them before they get destroyed by the elements (they are predicted to have landed just east of Peterborough) and have started an online campaign to raise awareness and the

All photos: ICSEDS

likelihood of retrieval (details can be found on their website and Twitter).

Alongside these HAB launches, members were also able to launch their very own model rockets, and unlike with the HABs they had a 100% retrieval success rate! The most impressive of the rockets was that of Project Officer, Tee-Jay Taiwo, who was launching a rocket just under a meter long with a H125 motor (average thrust 125N compared to the 1N to 3N A-class starting motors the other members had) in order to obtain his level 1 certification. ICSEDS happily announced that he passed the assessment after an exemplary launch, and this will allow ICSEDS to launch high powered rockets under his supervision in the future.

ICSEDS said that they would like to thank the Imperial College Chemical Engineering Department, for donating the helium for both teams; Steve Randall, for kindly offering his time and expertise at the launch, and their Project Officer's family members for volunteering to drive the helium tanks to



the launch site.

ICSEDS is open to anyone with an interest in space. Current projects include high-powered model rocketry, high altitude ballooning, and design of a ramjet engine. ICSEDS offers the chance to learn new skills working on hands-on projects and to meet other space nuts/valuable industry contacts. ICSEDS is a branch of UKSEDS, and part of a global SEDS network that started at MIT in 1980 and features many prominent space figures as alumni.

For more information on projects and membership Google 'ICSEDS'.

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FELIX

News Editors: Aemun Reza, Nida Mahmud
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Engaging the Wellcome Trust over the Evelyn Gardens lease

» continued from the front page

take place in the future, and additionally a consultation should be held now with regards to the North Acton project.

Finally, worried by lack of concrete promises for wardening provision at the new halls, a request was made that the wardening ratios are maintained. In 2011 Felix reported on a reduction in wardening provision at Eastside halls, with these rooms since converted to 'Deluxe' accommodation – with a £250 per week price to match.

College respond

The Union received a one-and-a-half page statement from the College's management board, the board that authorised the purchase of the land in North Acton. Their response covered the majority of the points from.

The first part of their report covered their current view. They were keen to stress the increase in bed spaces at the newly refurbished Wilson House, due to open ready for the next cohort of students, as well as an upcoming increase in bed spaces at Beit Hall, following the loss of East Basement.

One significant point was noting that Garden Hall will close next year, due to "needing refurbishment". It is unclear as to whether College intend to refurbish the property over the next year, however it has disappeared from the Accommodation website. It's sister hall, Weeks, remains, alongside the temporary Paragon and Xenia.

Additionally, it was noted that Evelyn Gardens would require some work in the near future. Fisher Hall has been mooted for closure in the past due to the state of the premises, though the impending expiry of the lease caused College to file a joint planning application with the Wellcome Trust to convert it into a nursing home.

College has stressed that they will continue to look for cheap, close accommodation. As part of this, they are considering the future of Garden Hall, Evelyn Gardens, and Pembridge Hall, which hasn't been mentioned before. Pembridge currently houses 96 students, which College feel is too small for the medium term, and the hall may require extension.

Regarding Evelyn Gardens and Garden Hall, College stated that structural inspection is needed of the halls, which is intended to take place following the end of the academic year. A consultation has been promised on the findings by the end of 2013. Additionally, it is likely that some potential proposals cannot be circulated with the student body due to commercial sensitivity, however Beaumont noted that this likely means that Evelyn Gardens lease will be looked into.

Finally, it was noted that College do not make a profit from accommodation charges, pointing out the cost of building maintenance and property values.

The way forward with North Acton

Being the item of complaint with the student body, a specific mention was made of the North Acton development. College have promised that wardening provision will be made at the new hall, in addition to the receptionist service. It was not mentioned, however, how many wardens there would be in the new hall.

Additionally, the development will go ahead, due to a contract being signed with property developer Berkeley First. However, consultations will be undertaken with students, wardens, and other members of College staff to ensure that the correct steps are made on the way forward.



Artist's impression of the new halls at night

Berkeley First

Union Council step in

In a busy meeting of the Union Council on April 30th, one of the main agenda items was a response to the College's document. In the paper, also by Beaumont, he listed a number of points for the Council to improve. They included:

- The Union should contribute positively to the new halls, regardless of the outcome to Evelyn Gardens and Garden Hall, and agree a consultation procedure with the College as part of this.
- That College should clarify what they mean by being 'committed to providing a range of accommodation options at a variety of prices, which reflect quality and location.'
- That the Union President should be included in commercially sensitive negotiations.
- And that College should clarify the refurbishment process of Garden Hall, and what consultations may be part of this.

At the meeting, Beaumont expressed

how unusual it was to get a response from College's Management Board, and how much of a good sign this was. In addition to this, it was confirmed that Simon Harding-Roots, Chief Operations Officer of Imperial College, was currently engaging with the Wellcome Trust to investigate the lease issue of Evelyn Gardens,

Finally, in what appears to be the beginnings of a formal consultation process, a new working group has been established by College to establish what use is made of space within the new Acton development, amongst other matters. This working group consists of people including sabbatical officers, members of College, and a cross section of students at Imperial College, covering those from all backgrounds and natures. The fact that such a working group exists is of huge promise to many at Imperial, possibly showing a gradual move towards a full consultation.

» Editorial: page 2

Hall changes timeline

- 18 February College Announce publicly the purchase of the land
- 19 February Union launch their campaign against the changes
- 22 February College put Q & A with Simon Harding-Roots and Debra Humphris online
- 23 February Union sends list of five requests to College
- 26 February Union launches show of support campaign
- 7 March Students protest Garden Hall closure after creating petition
- 20 March Management Board meet and discuss the situation
- 22 March College responds to Union's five requests
- 30 April Union Council discuss and vote on response to College's response

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Business School appoint new Dean

Aemun Reza

News Editor

Professor G. 'Anand' Anandalingam has been named the new Dean of Imperial College Business School and Professor of Management Science. He replaces Professor Dorothy Griffiths OBE who has been Head since February 2012.

He currently holds the position as the Dean of the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland in USA, which is ranked in the top 25 globally for the quality of its programs. Professor Anandalingam founded the Smith's School Centre for Electronic Markets and Enterprises and was its director from 2001-2004.

He starts his new position at Imperial on 1st August 2013.

A known expert in electronic markets and telecommunications networks, he has introduced several specialised Masters courses that aim to expand the School's global reach with degrees and educational programmes that will provide the students with

global experience. These courses have raised over \$40 million from philanthropic donors and corporate supporters.

In an interview with Imperial College, Professor G. Anandalingam said "Academics in top institutions are self-motivated to create knowledge and disseminate it to their peers. I also want to inspire and motivate them to really take education and teaching seriously."

He also added, "I think that we should work on problems that have an impact in the world rather than simply publish marginal papers for a small group of peers, however reputed. We all have the responsibility to make a difference in the world and to do things that will help those who cannot help themselves whether in medicine, science, engineering or business. I believe that one should not compromise on ethics and social responsibility".

He took his undergraduate degree at Cambridge University and completed his PhD at Harvard. Professor Anandalingam has published more than 75



Imperial
College
London

research papers and served as editor of a number of academic journals. He is also the co-author of the book *Beware of the Winner's Curse*, a book which critically evaluates the technology and dot.com boom of the 1990s.

In his spare time, he likes to play tennis and describes himself as a "jazz nut". He also says he loves cooking and throwing dinner parties and that he is a big supporter of Tottenham Hotspur and follows cricket. He is also a fan of American football and baseball.

Sir Keith O'Nions, President and Rector of Imperial said: "Anand's passion to see Business students taught really well and for them to do great things in the world, his commitment to research excellence, and his vision for engaging strongly outside the School and the College made him the outstanding choice to lead Imperial College Business School.

"He brings a global perspective, a talent for developing strong relationships with donors and industrial partners, and has the experience of working across disciplines that will support the Business School's focus on academic excellence and help it to flourish within Imperial's science, technology and medicine-focussed environment.

"At the same time as welcoming

Anand, I would like to thank Professor Dot Griffiths for serving as Dean of the Business School for the last year, which comes on top of outstanding service to the School over many years."

Professor Anandalingam said: "I'm looking forward intensely to working at Imperial College Business School, an environment where the academics conduct fantastic research, the students are devoted to academic excellence and the university's reputation is second-to-none.

"As the newest Faculty of this great institution and thanks to my excellent predecessors, the Business School has done incredibly well in a short space of time. I'm now very excited by the chance to apply my connectivity and experience towards making Imperial even more proud of its Business School.

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Comment Editors: George Barnett,
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COMMENT

An uncaring university



Oli Benton

Imperial College doesn't care about its students and there's nothing we can do to change it. The Sabbs are generally powerless and many of the Union's decisions don't seem to have our best interests at heart.

Much like a certain yeasty (and delicious) sandwich filling, those statements will either strike a chord with you or be they will dismissed out of hand as an exaggeration. They shouldn't be. They sum up everything that is wrong about Imperial; why the NSS rating is so low, why we're never going to 'beat' Oxbridge, why the attendance at the bars is falling and why those controversial halls in North Acton are going to be built, whether you like it or not.

College's unrelenting apathy towards its students and academic staff, its disregard for their views and opinions is not a new development (Holland Club/Translation Unit/bio-science cuts anyone?) and only continues to drag Imperial down. Without an effective Union countering this, the slide into anonymity will be even quicker.

Recently the Medics protested the BUCS merger of Medic and College sports teams. This is a contentious issue, but only between the administrators and the people actually playing the sport. It is something even most rival rugby players can agree on and the reasons behind it are worth examining as they are endemic to College thinking. Is having two separate sports teams a historical relic or is it upholding 148 years of tradition, 148 years that once lost can never be recovered? Why go through the effort of restructuring the whole system, and if the sports teams are merged, why stop there? Why not absorb the whole Medic SU, make their President a DP(Medicine), make Reynolds Eastside II and have done with it? BUCS points. All universities are ranked by BUCS points, which are gained for doing well in sport with the BUCS leagues. Imperial College currently sits at 20th. If the Medics' points were included we'd go up a place to 19th. I can't even begin to imagine how many more athletic sporty people that extra spot is going to attract. However, I believe the negative impact of the merger includes less access to sports for everyone and less money spent on sports as a whole (for example, ICURFC and IC-SMRFC both support 3 rugby teams. If they merged, maintaining a total of four teams would be more realistic) let alone having to find new Varsity rivals.

"But I don't care about them messing with the sports, I want to know why they are still going to build those halls that everybody is so against!" They will carry on regardless because



Imperial College is good at business. Really good, (for example the site of the new campus in West London was obtained cheaply through shrewd investment and property deals) and the money has already been spent. Do you think the developer is going to refund the money for a few stickers plastered around the Union building? The buildings are already being built so stopping it is as likely being served quickly in Metric on an ACC night. Paul Beaumont was part of the decisions and has been vehemently against it from the start; look how much they listened to him. Either his inclusion was a box ticking exercise, he was ineffective in putting his views across, or a combination of both. #Againstacton is trying to make a difference but now his hands are tied and it is too late, like trying to shut the gate after the horse is already on Tesco's shelves. So now the halls are definitely going to be built, the Union should be pushing for a massive increase in infrastructure like lobbying the council to upgrade the roads and cycle network around there (the potholes are awful) or find some money in the inevitable profits to run buses between campuses. While the buildings are going to be built, meshing this satellite campus with the existing services is an area that the Union could really make a difference in.

So why do College disregard us so? Why are they still going to build those halls and merge the sports teams even when nobody really wants it? You'll be gone in three years. In four years no one will remember a time without halls in North Acton or when Varsity was Medics vs College; it will be the norm to have an hour commute in as a fresher and to play Varsity against Roehampton. College will have made

money from their decisions, money to help subsidise your labs, and the person who made the relevant decisions will still be in their job while you'll have graduated and be slaving away, working 70+ hours a week in a dingy office doing consultancy and selling your soul so you won't care either. In my opinion, this game is too short sighted for Imperial to play if they have any aspirations other than the financial ones. The NSS ratings will continue to slide, people's experience here will become worse and worse and the continued slip into anonymity; academically, sportingly and socially will hasten. To quote Morpheus, IC "are the gatekeepers. They are guarding all the doors, they are holding all the keys. Which means that sooner or later, someone is going to have to fight them." While I'm not advocating bending spoons, stopping bullets with your hands or anything else from the Matrix, something needs to be done and despite greasing their palms handsomely, the Sabbs don't seem to have the stomach or the weapons for this fight.

So College doesn't care and really it's not College's problem, that's why they fund the Union; the Union is supposed to be the brake on the slide. Our voice, how we can tell the College what we want and need. Unfortunately our brake cable has been cut. The Sabbs have very little influence and nobody seems to make any real progress. While this may seem harsh, can anyone name any of the Deputy Presidents from two years ago? And what were their policies, what did they achieve? Are the Freshers even aware of Summerballgate that cost their Union £128k? If that can slip into dim and distant memory, what hope do less notorious Officers hope

to achieve?

Obviously the Sabbs kept the Union working, they kept it ticking over and that's great. However from a small team of people that we're paying £186k a year I'd expect a lot more. Yes, in 2011/12 we paid £186,098 for Sabbatical Salaries and accommodation. What do we get back for this huge sum of money? Do we even know if they are doing their job properly? I hope they are and I would hope that doing your job properly consists of a lot more than keeping the Union ticking over. In my naivety I would assume that's one of the jobs of the hardworking team of permanent Union staff (~420k combined salary in 2011/12). I want my elected officers to fight for change, to make my time here better and to protect my interests from the businessmen who run IC. So have they done this? They haven't come close for me, but what about the wider populous?

However, what I didn't want was these people that represent my views to go out of their way to stop me enjoying my time here. The list is long and oft repeated; entry charges, tankard prices and effectively banning yards are all factors that contribute to the decline of any semblance of a social scene and these are just within the Union Bar!

Despite all these negativities socialness does still thrive, if you look for it. I just wish that someone actually gave a ha'penny for what we thought about our time here when we're not giving them money or passing exams. I wish the Union could fight the good fight and support its students. I love being at Imperial and have had a great three years here already, but just think how great this place could be; think of the potential.

So why do College disregard us so? ... You'll be gone in three years. In four years no one will remember a time without halls in North Acton or when Varsity was Medics vs College

COMMENT

Comment Editors: George Barnett,
Navid Nabijou, James Simpson
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Letters



'In response to 'The Miranda Effect' 15th March:

Giulia, please don't feel offended but you know Jackie f***ing Chan about comedy. I said it once and I'll say it again: *Miranda* is the worst, most undemanding, lowest form of comedy out there. You can't even classify it as slapstick – the acting is shoddy, material bland, no 'quotables' and zero relevance or message to it. On top of it, this omnishambles is wrapped in some utter devotion from TV execs and the UK's lowest common denominator when imaginative mockumentaries like 'People Like Us' or 'People Just Do Nothing' struggle to get a series or be renewed.

Miranda fans – 'you can change' to paraphrase LCD Soundsystem and start appreciating good comedy. I will start you off gently with *Arrested Development*, taking it up a notch with UK version of *The Office*, followed by *Alan Partridge*, then candidly onto *Snuff Box* (Matt Berry), escalating with A. Iannucci's *The Thick of It*, enticing you with Charlie Brooker's works, nearing the climax with *The Day Today* & *Brass Eye* (Chris Morris) and then and only then, topping it off with *Nathan Bar-*



ley and *Jam*.

Don't feel discouraged – Uni is about discovering who you really are as a person and your comedy choices

do reflect that a lot. I just feel you haven't probably been shown some of that 'good stuff' because let's face it, comedy-wise, *Miranda* is like the

last VHS in Oxfam – they won't take her anymore.

– Patrick

Something bugging you? That person next to you sniffing too loudly while you are trying to integrate? Think Ukip are clowns? Write for Comment! It's easy, just tell us what you think about anything!

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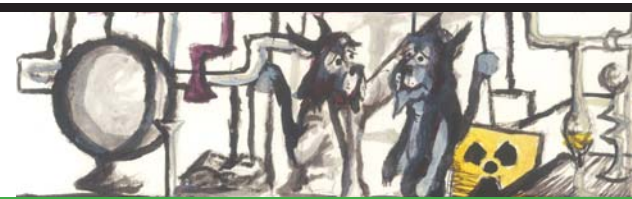
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Helter skelter helicenes

Laurence Pope interviews Dr Fuchter, a synthetic and medicinal chemist at ICL

Dr Matthew Fuchter is a Senior Lecturer in Synthetic and Medicinal chemistry at Imperial College London. In close collaboration with Dr Alasdair Campbell from the department of Physics, Dr Fuchter and his research group have dedicated some of their research to OLEDs and a group of molecules known as helicenes.

Laurence Pope: So what is an OLED? How do they differ from regular LEDs?

Dr Matthew Fuchter: OLED stands for organic light-emitting diode. They differ from regular LEDs in that the luminescent material used within them is organic, i.e. carbon-based. This organic material can be a molecule of low molecular weight, or a polymer.

LP: Your work focuses partly on helicenes. What makes them so important in OLED research?

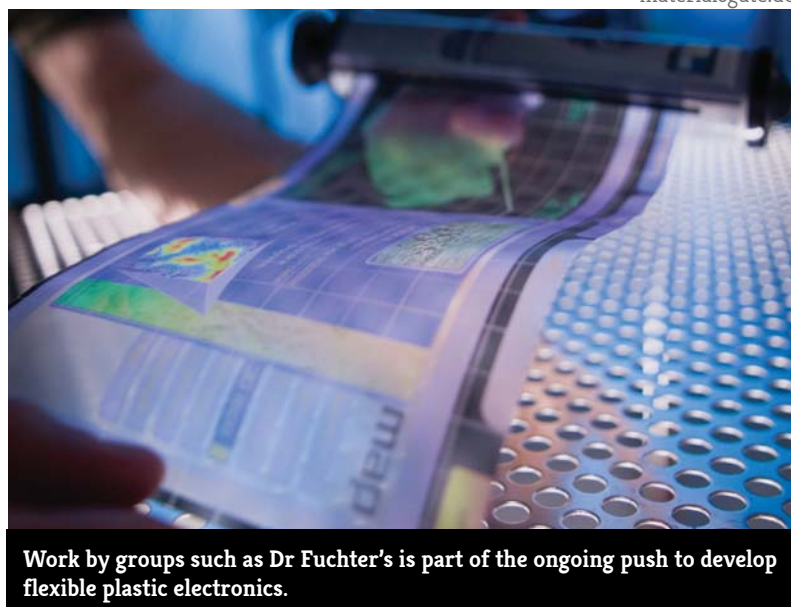
MF: My group's research came from a molecular interest in this class of molecule. When we started this work helicenes hadn't been explored in any depth as an OLED emissive material. There are already small molecules and polymers that have arisen from academic and industrial research which produce light emitting devices with good efficiencies, wide colour pallets, long-lasting stability and so forth.

We came from another angle, exploring a feature of the helicene itself. Helicenes are thermally-stable polycyclic aromatics. Aromatic molecules are flat, but if you start to fuse them together you get to a point where the polyfused system can't lie flat, as the rings start to bump into one another. That introduces a kink or a spiral into the molecule. Their electrons are still fully conjugated, but the molecule is no longer flat.

Why are they interesting? For devices, I see there to be two key interesting features.

Because they're not flat, how they pack in the solid state is somewhat different to common OLED materials, which are flat. How molecules pack together in the solid state is important, with ramifications on light emission.

But also, because helicenes are helical, they're also chiral, and can therefore come in left- and right-handed



Work by groups such as Dr Fuchter's is part of the ongoing push to develop flexible plastic electronics.

forms. We were interested in how this chirality could potentially be exploited in organic devices.

Putting these features together we wanted to explore the idea of using helicenes as the organic emissive material in OLEDs. It's an interesting new class of molecule in their own right, but also have the potential to directly generate polarised light.

Light can be polarised in certain ways. One form is circularly polarised (CP) light, where the light wave traverses as a helix, which also comes in left- and right-handed forms. Standard OLEDs produce unpolarised light, which needs to be specially filtered to generate CP light. We wondered whether you could use these chiral helicenes to generate a certain handedness of CP light.

To cut a long story short we found we needed a mix of organic materials, blended with small amounts of either left- or right-handed helicenes with conventional, non-chiral material. These OLEDs were able to produce circularly polarised light using different handed helicenes. It wasn't 100% CP light, but rather enriched light.

LP: How does the chirality of the helicene molecule control the chirality of the light?

MF: We're not sure why mechanistically. Light emission is generated from

the non-chiral polymer, not the helicene. It therefore looks like the helicene is interacting with the polymer in some way, most likely changing the conformation of the polymer to emit circularly polarised light. Almost certainly the helicene is influencing the polymer structure, possibly organising it into a helical conformation.

LP: So where is your research now heading?

MF: There are a few different directions we're heading in. One angle is more focused on commercial technologies based on this, further validating its effect using other polymers and helicenes. How good can we get this? Can we fabricate OLEDs that can match up to state of the art devices

whilst also generating CP-light? Can we tune the wavelength to emit more than just one colour of light? There are still a lot of unanswered questions!

Academically, we want to further study what is happening, what the helicene is doing to the polymer. How does that relate to the effect? Helicenes are fully conjugated molecules, which can carry charge and emit and absorb light on their own. Potentially you could further tune the helicene to improve the performance of the device in terms of conductivity or light emission.

Beyond that, OLEDs are one example of plastic electronics. This encompasses a whole range of OLED devices, such as organic transistors, organic solar cells and so on. Do helicenes have applicability with other devices? Do they have any advantage, with their chiral property? Again, we still don't know just yet.

LP: Has much research been carried out with helicenes before?

MF: There are some patents out there that claim novelty over the use of helicenes in OLEDs. None of them however have claimed the chirality of helicenes, as they use the racemic mixture, a mix of left- and right-handed molecules. Their claims of novelty stem from the helicene's thermal stability properties.

LP: What particular applications can you see arising from this research?

MF: There are several potential applications, some fairly immediate, others more long-term. One application

of CP OLEDs is as the backlight of an LCD, leading to more energy efficient displays.

3D cinema relies on CP-light, split between your two eyes. In theory you could fabricate an OLED TV that utilises different CP pixels to create a thin, fully flexible 3D display with different pixels emitting different CP light.

In photonics, the technology of light, there's an interest in CP-light emitting and CP-light detecting devices. Optical communications is for me an interesting area, which relies on a light source being on or off to transfer information. Using an interconvertible CP-light source could double channel capacity, from just on and off to on, on-left, on-right and off.

LP: How would you sum up the significance of your research into helicene use in OLEDs?

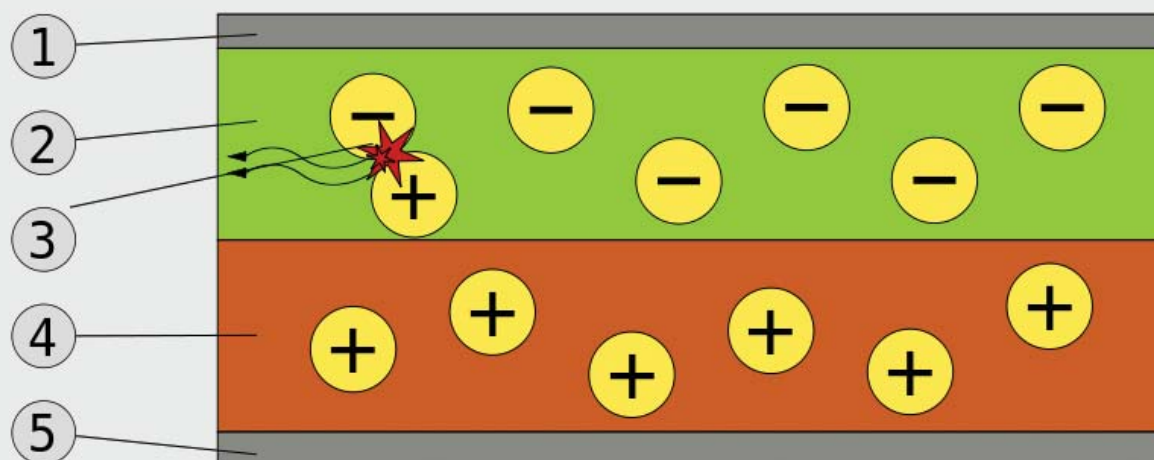
MF: The significance for me lies in the novelty in what we've discovered. I would make two statements.

We are the first research group to show that a chiral small molecule dopant can induce polymer OLEDs to directly emit CP light. This is the first time it's been shown that you can use dopants in this approach.

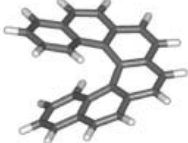
This is also the first study to use asymmetrically pure helicenes in this regard. There are very few papers focusing on this asymmetrical mix.

To read more about the Fuchter Group's research visit imperial.ac.uk/fuchtergroup. For more information on Imperial's Centre for Plastic Electronics visit imperial.ac.uk/plasticelectronics.

PRYING APART AN OLED



1) Cathode; 2) Organic emissive layer; 3) Radiation emission; 4) Organic conductive layer; 5) Anode. A voltage is applied across the OLED, creating an electric current (an electron flow) that flows from the cathode to the anode. Electrons are given to the emissive layer and removed from the conductive layer. Stripping electrons from the conductive layer creates holes that need filling with more electrons. These holes jump up to the emissive layer to recombine with electrons. Upon recombination energy is released as a photon of light. The colour of the emitted light depends upon the material composing the emissive layer.



imperial.ac.uk/fuchtergroup/research/tos

Various graphical representations of helicene architecture. The aromatic rings begin to kink when they can no longer lie flat.

Science Editors: Philip Kent,
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SCIENCE

A rising cancerous tide

Gavin Metcalf details the concerning rise of European lung cancer cases

Lung cancer, particularly non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), is one of the most common forms of cancer globally, with a very poor survival rate: less than six per cent of people diagnosed reach five years post-diagnosis.

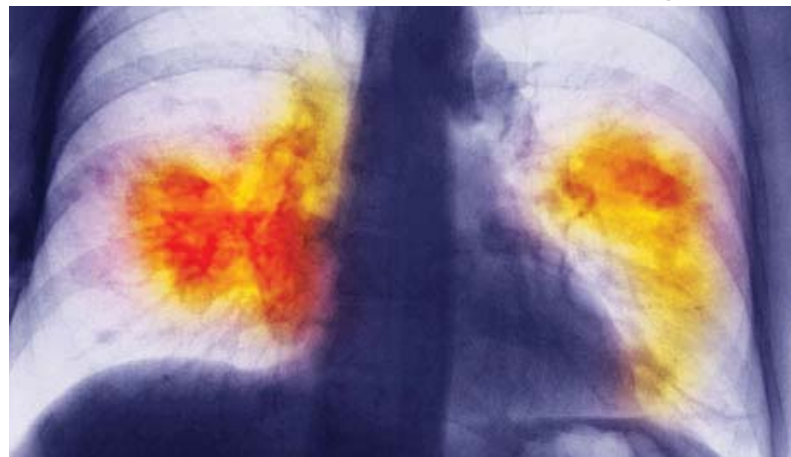
When one thinks of lung cancer a variety of thoughts come to mind, the foremost thought being smoking, and this is certainly a large risk factor. So much so that it is reported that lung cancer will overtake breast cancer as the largest cause of female cancer death in Europe by 2015. This has already been seen in Britain and Poland, with lung cancer leapfrogging breast cancer as the main cause of female cancer death.

The surge is attributed towards the number of women who started smok-

Lung cancer will overtake breast cancer as the leading cause of female cancer death

ing in the 1960's and 1970's, say researchers from the University of Milan.

The Europe-wide study by Professor C.L. Vecchia reports that despite an overall decline in cancer deaths, mortality rates from lung cancer among women continues to rise across the continent, up seven percent to around 82,000 since 2009.



A chest X-ray from a patient with lung cancer in both lungs. No graphic images today – tar-clogged blackened masses put people off their lunch.

Professor F. Levi, from the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine in Switzerland, has told Cancer Research UK: “The Key message for EU

national governments is tobacco control, particularly among middle-aged men and women — the European generations most heavily exposed to smoking.

“If more people could be helped and encouraged to give up smoking, or not to take it up in the first place, hundreds of thousands of deaths from cancer could be avoided each year in Europe.”

The lung cancer death rate is suggested to continue on its upward trend for the next few years — but with fewer young European women now starting to smoke, it should plateau sometime after 2020. There is hope yet.

For more information on how to stop and save your lungs from a cancerous, tar-clogged demise visit smokefree.nhs.uk.

Imperial College London

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Sport Imperial introduces ukactive's new initiative, One Big Thing - as part of Imperial College Union's 'Stress Less' programme. The event will be held annually to promote physical activity amongst students and staff and to raise money for **Right to Play**.

Join this One Big Thing to ease your stress levels through a little physical activity!

For more information or to register, contact Hannah at h.blandford@imperial.ac.uk or visit sports website:

www.imperial.ac.uk/sports
www.justgiving.com/OneBigThing



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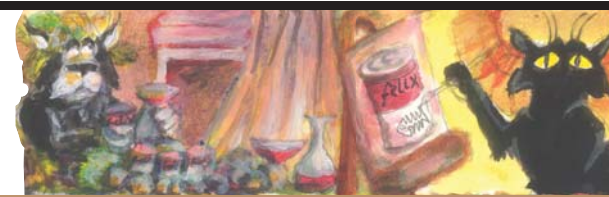


17.00 • 17 May • Hyde Park

ARTS

Arts Editors: Eva Rosenthal,
Meredith Thomas

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



DOODLE OF THE WEEK



Why work? Instead, doodle all lecture long and then send us your drawings to arts.felix@ic.ac.uk. This doodle was drawn in what Felix understands was a 'very stimulating' Electromagnetics lecture.

TIRED OF LIFE?

Our pick of what's on in London

Print Club group show @ The Print Club - Masters of the art of screen printing, the Print Club's groups show is a great chance to see some of the most exciting and innovative proponents of this venerable art. The show features 30 works from the group's best members and technicians. Opens 9 May

Eddie Izzard @ Wembley Arena - One stop on his global tour, Izzard focuses on universal themes, such as material focusing on human sacrifice, Greek gods, languages and more. You might be forgiven for mistaking him for a god himself after his superhuman exploits in both comedy and marathon running. 11 May

Deutsche Börse Photography Prize @ Photographers' Gallery - The prestigious £30,000 prize as drawn nominations for four nominees this year have a decidedly gritty portfolio focusing on war and inequality, raising questions about our jaded visual palate and capacity for empathy. Until June 30

TimeWave @ Innovation Warehouse - The first year of this international festival of theatre and technology promises to explore the themes of 'Transformation' in our young century. Very much an event for the modern age with a focus on digital start-ups featuring a brace of award-winning artists. June 19 - 23



Breaking the backdrop



Google maps
filming becomes
intrusive

Fred Fyles

Writer

The world of theatre revolves around the invisible. Behind the actors, off to the side, there will be a dedicated team of people bringing the stage to life; lighting, staging, and sound design all form the invisible heart of the production, playing with the audience's emotions in subtle ways and creating the magic that keeps people returning to the stalls. This team are usually hidden, their work not fully appreciated – nor understood – by the theatre-going crowd. But what happens when this world is brought into the open and placed under the brilliantly bright stage lights? It is a question that director Katie Mitchell has attempted to answer with her stunning production of *Fraülein Julie*, which seamlessly merges technology and stagecraft to form a new kind of theatrical experience.

A radical interpretation of Strindberg's 1888 original play, Maja Zade's translation has cut out large portions of the script, shifting the focus from the eponymous Fraülein to Kristin (Jule Böwe), the cook who can only observe as her fiancé Jean (Tilman Strauß) enters into a romantic tryst with Fraülein Julie (Luise Wolfram). This alone is already a radical departure from the traditional Strindberg, but Mitchell's meticulous production design and staging challenge the conventions of tradition even further.

The action takes place on a mid-summer's night at a Swedish country estate, and a large proportion of the stage is taken up with the kitchen in which Kristin works; closed off to the audience, the only way we can see inside is through the windows. However, an enormously talented camera-

crew have invaded the set, and what they film is shown, live, above the stage. The effect is startling; the audience is both removed from the action, and shown it in excruciating detail. We get to see the pain in Kristin's face up close – every movement or twitch taking on a new importance.

This is not the only way in which the audience gets to see what they would normally not be able to. Mitchell has said that with this production she is attempting 'theatrical cubism' – showing all the different levels of the production simultaneously – and she lives up to her word. As well as the camera-crew there are two sound-proof recording studios off to the side, where actors enter to record internal monologues, and a live cellist on stage providing the soundtrack. The real stars of the show, however, are the foley artists; clad in black, they take up the front of the stage, painstakingly creating all of the sound effects in the play. From the click of heels walking across floorboards, to the bubbling of pans and rustling of cloth that form the soundscape of Kristin's domestic drudgery, the foley artists create all of the ambient sounds we can hear in the play. The result is breathtaking, but also makes it difficult to know where to focus; should we be looking at the foley artists, or the actors, or the screen? After leaving the theatre it is difficult to tell if I've missed anything; it is certainly a production that needs to be seen twice.

With all of the technological wizardry going on, it wouldn't be a surprise if the performances are sub-par. They are not. The actors, drafted over from the Berlin Schaubühne, are effortlessly in control of their performances. The nature of this production requires a high level of precision;

any mistakes the actors make might lead to the cameras or sound being out of time.

Mitchell has said that past productions have had to be halted completely because of slip-ups. Control is therefore of the utmost importance. While this lends the actors a quality that some would describe as robotic, it perfectly reflects the restrictive social values of the time and makes the instances where the characters show pure emotion even more shocking.

Jule Böwe is on top form as Kristin, displaying a virtuosic ability to layer emotion upon emotion, with slight – almost invisible – movements betraying what she is really feeling. Wolfram's Fraülein is also sublime, floating around the stage like a hollow shell, creating a wonderful juxtaposition against Kristin's stoic character.

As with any playwright whose works have entered into the literary canon, directors who stray too far from the beaten path may be criticised for 'betraying the work's integrity'. I am sure that there will be a number of critics who feel that Mitchell's take on this naturalistic classic is too robotic, too mechanical, to truly reflect what Strindberg was trying to achieve. The script alone is radically different enough to give professors of Scandinavian literature an aneurism.

Unfortunately the show has now finished its run. However, it is my opinion that Mitchell did not simply succeed with this production, she reaches dizzying heights and shows what is possible on the stage. Fraülein Julie is balanced on a knife edge of timing and control but, by revealing the invisible art of theatrecraft to the audience, Mitchell has created a production that is both magical and technical. A true modern classic.

Arts Editors: Eva Rosenthal,
Meredith Thomas
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ARTS

Form before f(x)

Lily Le reviews the Designs of the Year



After marching through the tourists packing Tower Bridge, I was worried that the Design Museum might be hidden amongst the cafés and small shops of the narrow brick walkways lining the riverside. Of course, it wasn't. Bright, white, shining at the end of, rather than part of, a shadowy almost-alley, it is a building that exudes contemporary, minimal, and understated.

The Designs of the Year show is displayed in a single room which greets you with a yellow interior and block writing. Think... the shininess of Westfields in a museum. Perhaps the exhibition's venue, a centre devoted to design, makes one more aware of its own layout. Although it is no different from galleries in the Tate or Barbican you are instantly more aware of where you tread even before the exhibition begins.

The competition, run by the museum itself, is separated into seven categories. It is categorised by themes which link certain designs rather than by functional category. These include the way in which design communicates meaning, the manipulation of science and technology, the invitation to question and interact, and also colour, function, and memory.

On show were nominees and winners. All are real-life designs and include the familiar such as the revamp of Exhibition Road, the Shard, and the Olympic Cauldron.

Some designs were interesting, but hardly mind-blowing. Stop, stare, an utterance of "oh" and onto the next. Others seemed downright bad. For some reason the furniture section consisted of many uncomfortable looking, stiff chairs scattered around the place made from anything from wood to plastic, metal rings to iron spikes, and bits of driftwood.

Nevertheless, many were intriguing and invited discussion, debate, and sometimes admiration. A number of the architectural designs fell into this category. They all displayed that contemporary and modern vibe emanating from the Design Museum itself.

A particular highlight was the Book Mountain in Spijkenisse, Netherlands which is exactly that – a mountain of books which form a library. Wooden frames reference the barns of the local agricultural heritage and its homage to oversized, majestic landscapes serves as a nifty visual advert for reading.

Unfortunately, it is rather far for a quick visit and so the Clapham One Library is probably a more realistic destination. It was difficult to completely appreciate its design due to only a couple of photos and a small-scale model on display. But the mosaic-like pattern of the placing of the windows had me at first glance.

My favourite category was the product designs. It was full of the most innovative and original ideas. For example, faceted vases, which due to their handmade production process, were all totally unique. Coloured resin is poured into a plastic mould which slightly reshapes it as it cools, and when the mould is peeled away the triangular patterns stick out at different angles which reflect light or form shadow emulating the effect of pixels on an image. Its style, although dated, defines our digital era – in a vase, who would have thought?

Not knowing much about cars and bicycles, it was difficult to decide what to think about several of the transport entries. Chainless bicycle and cute small car? Sounds good to me, I guess. What was an obviously excellent idea though was the Air Access wheelchair which can slot into an aeroplane seat frame which prevents disabled passengers from having to be lifted onto stationary seats.

The fashion and graphics entries were slightly disappointing. The former included collections from well known names such as Giles Deacon, Comme des Garçons, Louis Vuitton, Prada, and Proenza Schouler but I failed to see the reason for their nominations above anything else. Alexa Chung for Madewell will do for me thanks.

For a similar reason, none of the graphical exhibits struck me as particularly innovative. Everyone is aware of that chunky minimalist font on a plain fuss-free background, used just about everywhere is slightly arty and modern. It was certainly used just about everywhere in these

entries.

The most interesting feature in this category was the rebranding of Australian cigarette packets. Identical, plain and plastered in ugly health warnings, the brands are given a small space to print their name on an olive coloured background (apparently the least pleasant colour to see on a design). It is supposed to demote brand loyalty (and obviously put everyone off cigarettes) but most interesting is its demonstration of design in controlling consumer behaviour.

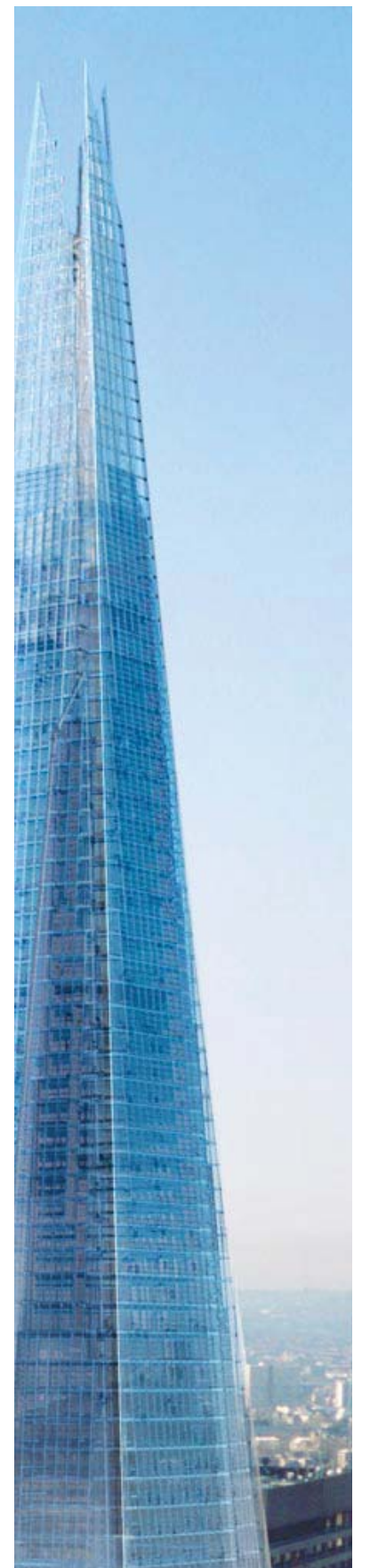
This time the tools are in the hands of the government for the sake of public health, treading on the toes of design freedom. What cultural implications will this have?

You may have noticed that I haven't mentioned any of the winners. The overall victor was chosen from the digital category.

I am not going to tell you but I will tell you what it was not. It was not the Windows Phone 8 app which allows mobile devices to communicate by birdsong. Neither was it a lightfield camera that allows users to manipulate the focus of the foreground and background of photos after they have been taken.

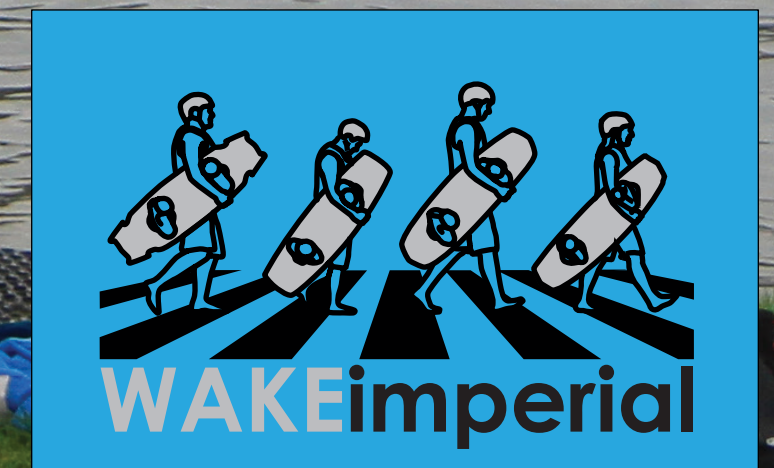
I would suggest a visit to the Design Museum to find them out for yourself. While debating whether the winners are worthy, the significance of design comes to life. In an age where we have the luxury of not having to compromise between aesthetics, function and trends, we forget about the designs of products, which we live around and base our worlds on. It is a brilliant idea to remind us of the importance of design by celebrating some of the best examples in an immersive public forum.

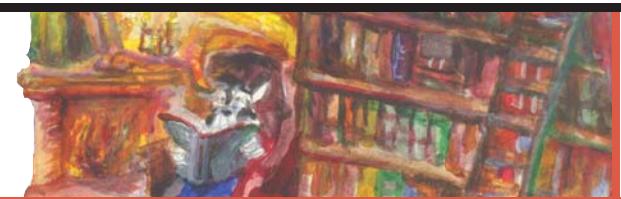
The Design of the Year awards run at the Design Museum until June 07. Ticket prices around £12.



Come hang out with wakeboarding...

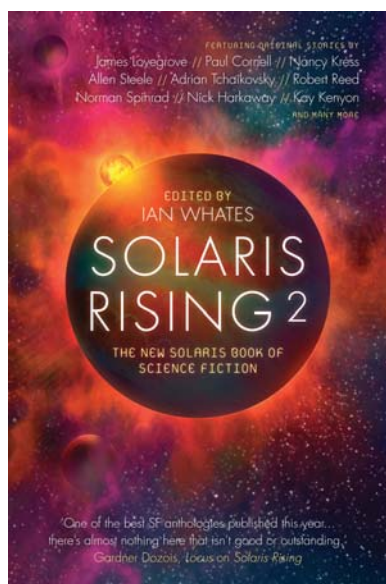
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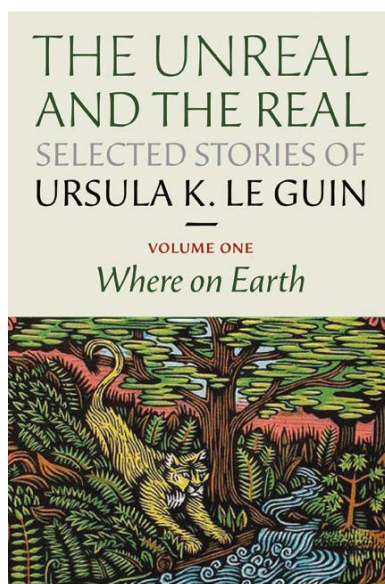
Summer Short Reads

Maciej Matuszewski looks at five brilliant science fiction and fantasy anthologies and short story collections – perfect for fitting around your revision timetable



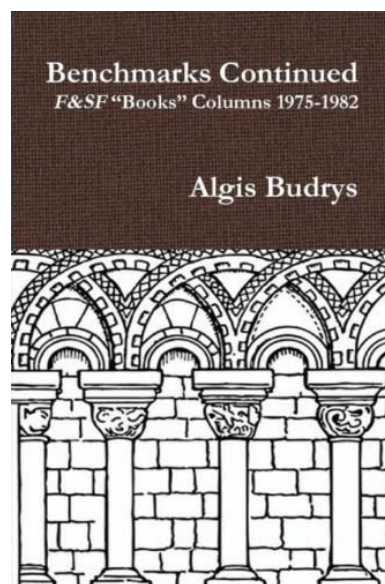
Solaris Rising
Ian Whates (ed.)
Rebellion Publishing
£7.99

The 2011 anthology *Solaris Rising* was one of the finest collections of SF in recent years and a welcome return to the anthology game by the Solaris imprint of Rebellion Publishing. Fans of the book will therefore be pleased to hear that the recently published *Solaris Rising 2* is a worthy successor to the original. Edited by genre veteran Ian Whates, *Solaris Rising 2* brings us original stories from over a dozen authors – each just as imaginative, fresh, and exciting as those in the first book. While the original focused mainly on A-list authors the new book gives less well known writers, such as Mercurio Rivera and Vandana Singh, a chance to show off their talents – I'm happy to say that they don't disappoint.



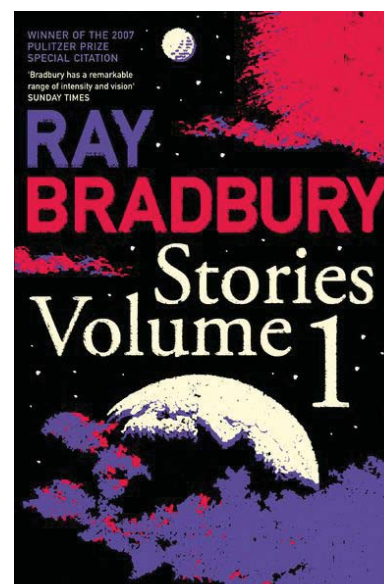
The Unreal and the Real
Ursula Le Guin
Small Beer Press
£15.99 (each volume)

There are few who call themselves science fiction fans, or indeed literature fans in general, who have not read at least some of Ursula Le Guin's work. Over a career spanning more than 50 years she has written over twenty novels and many dozen short stories. Few authors have done so much to blur the lines between genre and traditional literary fiction and this two volume collection contains examples of both sides of Le Guin's work. The first volume, *Where On Earth*, includes some of her more realistic work – including many of her Orsinian stories, set in the eponymous fictional European country – while the second, *Outer Space, Inner Lands*, focuses on her more fantastical writing.



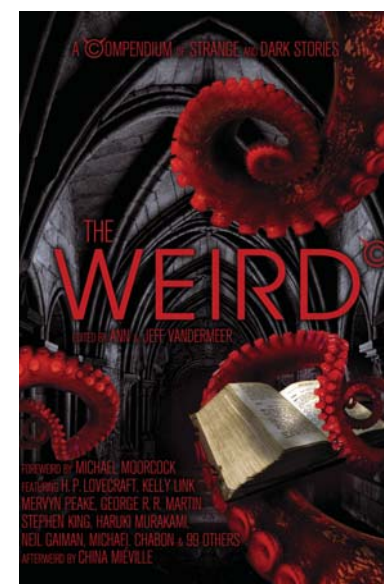
Benchmarks Continued
Algis Budrys
Harper Voyager
£16.99

While best known for highly acclaimed novels such as *Michaelmas* and *Rogue Moon*, Algis Budrys was also a prolific critic. The first volume of his collected reviews, entitled *Benchmarks* and containing his early work for *Galaxy Magazine*, was published in 1985. Now, thanks to the efforts of Dave Langford the second volume of the collection, containing Budrys' work for *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, has finally been released. Witty and insightful the reviews touch not only the individual books being reviewed but also detail Budrys' opinions about the state of the genre. Not only an interesting read this book is also a time capsule from a vibrant and important era for SF.



Stories
Ray Bradbury
Harper Voyager
£16.99 (each volume)

There are few speculative fiction writers who are as well known and as highly acclaimed as Ray Bradbury. A recipient of the US National Medal of Arts he also received both the Fantasy and SF Grand Master awards. His work – well known for both its imagination and literary quality – has inspired countless modern writers. This fascinating collection brings together all of his short work – including the stories from the famous *Martian Chronicles* – in two large volumes. Not only are the stories fascinating in themselves being collected in one place allows the reader to explore how Bradbury's writing style and his themes developed over time. Perfect for both newcomers and old time fans.



The Weird
Ann & Jeff VanderMeer (ed.)
Corvus
£25

The New Weird subgenre of speculative fiction has grown significantly in recent years. Characterised by its desire to abandon the traditional stereotypes of fantasy and science fiction and often incorporating elements of literary fiction and horror, this subgenre is difficult to define precisely. Containing 110 stories, this book provides a detailed and fascinating cross section of genres. Including work by a wide range of highly acclaimed writers such as William Gibson, George R.R. Martin, Stephen King, Haruki Murakami, Mervyn Pearke, Neil Gaiman and China Miéville this is a must buy, even for those who might not have previously thought themselves big fans of the New Weird.

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Dark-Folkers Wyldeck in Conversation

Julia Spindel chats to the band in the first of an interview double team

When off-beat rhythms in Wyldeck's music progress into double time for ever-exciting choruses, the audience is united in a desire to dance. The difference between audience members will be, instead, that some will favour these flashes of energy whilst others will prefer the more serene moments, perfectly showcasing Cece Wyldeck's pure treble voice. The music mixes these lullaby moments with tinges of dark rock perfectly. The powerful guitar strokes in the upbeat numbers resonate and are definitely addictive. Despite having only formed in March 2012, the band play as if they had been together for years, understanding exactly how to blend perfectly with each other throughout the variation in

songs. They clearly enjoy the experience and so does the audience. Wyldeck's songs are rich in memorable riffs and flowing melodies, successfully reminiscent of lost folk songs.

I spoke to Wyldeck before their set at the Underbelly in Hoxton a few weeks ago. They'd eaten too much at dinner and were trying not to curl up and nap. Cece, dressed all in white, had employed three napkins to avoid food stains and all had had to tie up their hair. Here's what they had to say:

Julia Spindel: So how did Wyldeck come about?

Wyldeck: We're all from south-west London and we've known each other for ages. The boys met when they were 4 or something, then Cece met them aged 10 (when girls were allowed to join girls scouts). The boys had a **Led**

Zeppelin tribute type band and had T-shirts and everything. Later on Cece and Dave were in a punk pop band that played alongside **2:54** (formerly the **Vulgarians**) and headlined before **The xx**. After a couple of years of this we had a couple of years off during which Cece wrote and debated a solo career. But after some late night drunken texts, the Wyldeck group was agreed on. It clicked in the first rehearsal.

JS: What's your favourite and least favourite aspect of being musician?

W: Our favourite aspect is definitely playing your instrument and doing gigs. It's always great when people tell you how much they've enjoyed themselves after we've put the effort in. Sometimes the free drinks are good but sometimes not. We're not rock and roll enough to get trashed before our set! Our least favourite aspect is the social media side of stuff – we just want to make music without the hassle!



years ago.

JS: What would be your advice for musicians just starting out?

W: Do it for fun, especially at the start. Don't take yourself too seriously. Sometimes dreamers are the ones that have enough determination to get somewhere but it's best to be personable too and not have too massive an ego.

JS: What were your first music purchases?

W: **Aqua, Shanks and Bigfoot, Fatboy Slim.** (Cece) Then during our punk pop phase I liked the **Yeah Yeah Yeahs** and stuff. Now I'm more into **Fleetwood Mac**. My first concert was the **Backstreet Boys**.

JS: And what are you listening to now?

W: **Daughter, Prince, HAIM, Cat Power, Polica, Kendrick Lamar, Kanye West.**

JS: Who would you most like to meet?

W: (Cece) I've met idols before and it's been disappointing. Maybe it's best to keep them just as idols. (Boys) But we would like to party with people that know a good time. Kanye West or Prince maybe. But you would have to prepare yourself.

JS: Who's your favourite on the London gigging scene at the moment?

W: **Phillious Williams.** There are a lot of nights going on at the moment involving very similar indie bands but they're doing something a bit different. Mark has a great voice but speaks

completely differently!

JS: What do you think of the London gigging scene in general?

W: People that do come along are impressed and the fans we do get are really dedicated and come to gigs again and again. We've learnt that we have to gig less often and write new material to make the repeated trips worthwhile for those people. Every couple of months we have a new song. Tonight we're playing 9 songs, our longest set yet, with two new songs.

JS: And, finally, what are your next plans?

W: We're playing some festivals this summer – Wilderness festival, Damn Dead Circus (set up by Phillious Williams) and Hamswell. But we'll do an EP first as that's a halfway step to an album in terms of how many killer songs you give away at once.



AMS album of the week

And So I Watch You From Afar: All Hail Bright Futures

Suspiciously named and sensibly abbreviated, **ASIWFYA** are a 4 piece who play instrumental rock. Their sound is probably best summarised by the title of their best known track, "Set Guitars To Kill" – hyperactive arena rock made to be heard from so close to the band that you can feel splinters flying from the drumsticks. Their self-titled debut released in 2009 benefited from the band's extensive catalogue of well-practiced demos, recorded with spacious production focusing on bringing out the wide variety of moods the group could create. Their second album, *Gangs*, adopted a more familiar mix, but fell just shy of being truly memorable when compared to their first album.



All Hail Bright Futures dropped in March of this year, landing squarely in familiar territory. Despite a switch of guitarist and a long break from touring, the album is full of the moshy aggression and tight musicianship we have come to expect, now married to a jubilant mood that covers the whole album in rainbows and sunshine. New guitarist Niall Kennedy gives the cheerful pop riffs of his last band, **Panama Kings**, a new light, without dumbing down the format of a good instrumental track.

Considering the album's production, what really seals the deal is the range of new guitar sounds, likely inspired by genre contemporaries **Battles** and **Adebiisi Shank**. Tracks like "AMBULANCE" use a warm, fuzzy, honky-tonk sound akin to the tone of an ice-cream truck piano. This is especially effective when juxtaposed with ASIWFYA's heavy moments. Gang vocals, chants and weeping synthesizers make a welcome return without removing the focus from the interplay between instruments.

Perhaps what the band loses with this album that was so strong on their previous releases was the ability to create a more varied song. Tracks clock in a little more than 4 minutes, and no longer possess a slow build of ideas or melodies – rather, they dart around, with the attention span of a small child, burning through riffs and noodly math rock passages as if they can't wait to get it finished. The album's closer "Young Bright Minds" is a partial response to this, featuring a 7 minute exploration of a riff that doesn't really compare to their previous epic tracks, like "Don't Waste Time..." from their self-titled. Rather, the band focuses on one mood throughout the album – relentless delight – and captures it perfectly. That's very special indeed.

Robin Thomas



JS: How do you guys write a new song?

W: Usually one of us puts something down then the others fine-tune it. Sometimes it's Cece, sometimes Dom and sometimes Jacob. Jacob's just written a song called "Beyoncé's baby". You can try and shout for it as an encore later if you like! We all know when a song isn't working. The best ones are written really quickly and those are the ones we play live, there's no arguing. There are lots we never play. Sometimes songs that we started to write ages ago resurface and are finally finished just because it's a better time for them. The other day we finished one Cece wrote 7

Music Editors: Mark England,
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MUSIC

Cassette Culture: Opal Tapes Interview

Ross Gray discusses the electronic cassette label with Stephen Bishop

Within the past year experimental electronic music has exploded into the D.I.Y. cassette culture within the UK, previously dominated by (but by no means limited to) noise releases. Stephen Bishop, head honcho of prominent label Opal Tapes, spoke to me about its formation, the themes that run through its work and his opinions on noise in electronic music.

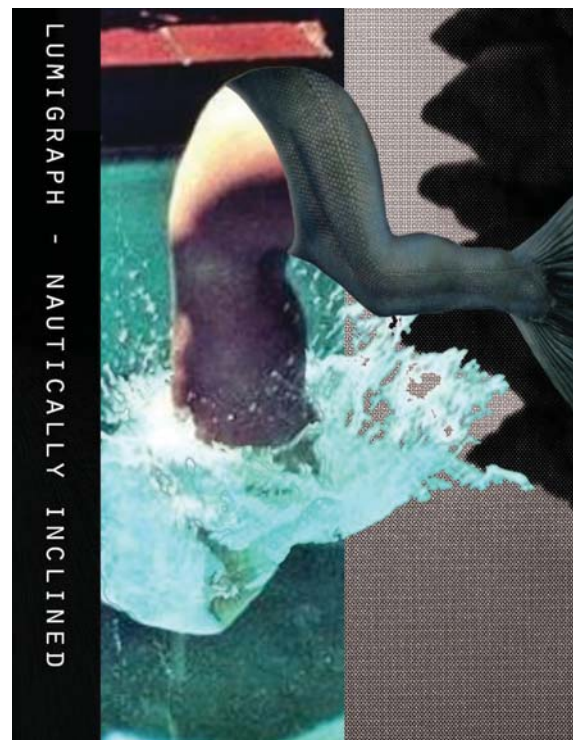
Ross Gray: How did Opal Tapes come about? There seems to have been quite a resurgence in cassette-based labels recently; did this inspire you?

Stephen Bishop: I started Opal Tapes last July after considering starting a label for a while. It came to be at a time when I really needed something to focus on and I just wanted to get busy and release some music and have a chat with some folks. I simply contact-

ed some artists whose work I enjoyed and asked if they were interested in doing a tape release. Things have just rolled on since then, same principle, and thankfully people have been really receptive to it.

RG: In the releases you've put out so far, Opal Tapes has demonstrated remarkable eclecticism, from danceable techno to almost all out noise, and yet as with the labels you mentioned, there's something that seems to hold it all together. Do you think that's the case?

SB: It's interesting to hear people say that and I'd like to know what you think that it is? I'm in the middle of the sounds so see it differently. I think one unifying theme to the catalogue is an altered approach. Most of the releases can be heard with reference to house or techno styles but tend to bring about a final piece which is often unsuitable for the context that is ascribed to it. For example the Huerco S. bits which have all the composite parts of a classic Chicago house track but are recomposed into a different environment and time/head space. The groove is still present but the literal ecstasy is nascent, transparent. I feel his music is incredibly sad. I do lean toward listening to electronics



which have a rougher edge to them, like to hear pieces with a loose and played quality. Perhaps these tendencies are recognisable? I don't really know man [laughs].

So this idea of a reusing of genre templates and a density and claustrophobia brought to it by adopting lo-fi techniques. That's a good line that can be drawn through Opal Tapes.

RG: I think for me it is a lot of things you mentioned; there seems to be this grittiness to all the recordings, and a running theme of experimentalism. I also feel like the

more dancefloor based productions (if they could be called that) have a tendency to bring in noisy elements. It seems that there's been more of a push in general towards these kind of noise / techno crossovers recently (e.g. Container) – do you think the use of noise is becoming more prevalent in electronic music?

SB: Noise and music is a strange thing. Noise is essentially a lack of information or an obscuring of it. Music is information. Whether the two are symbiotic with "noise-techno" etc I don't know. To me it's not noise, it's texture. It's musical information which is as valid as a chord. If it were possible to observe the flux of textural choice in electronic music then we may see a rhythm forming where it finds validity and then falls back out. Listen to Xenakis early work and the use of "noise" or more realistically non-traditional sound deployment is ever present. Same with much of the early electronic works of Europe and America. As such noise is not something new but something which becomes re-appropriated as music continues its cycle.

With an artist like Container, I don't perceive his use of "noise" as statement or anything so bold. To me it's just about urgency and latent energy. The potential of the machine poking through into the arrangement.

RG: On the subject of running

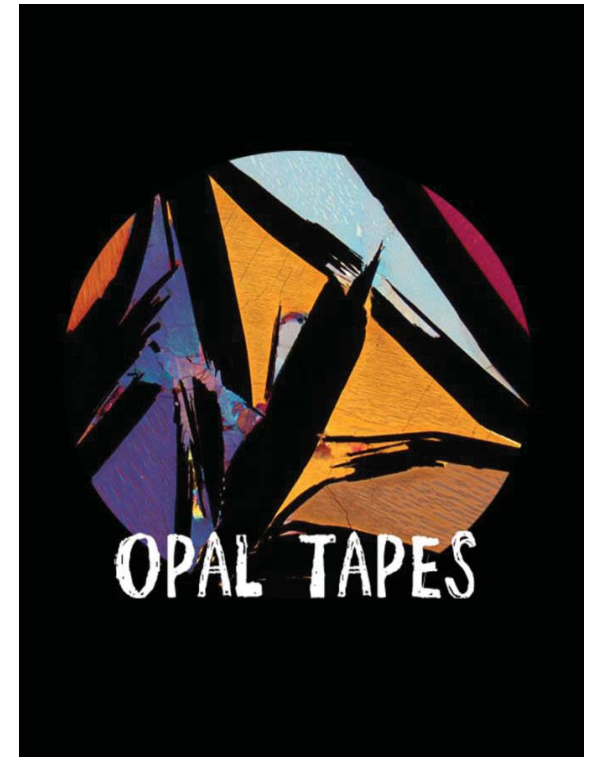
themes through the Opal catalogue, could you tell us a little about the Mirror & Gate series? Seems like the place where the variety is demonstrated most markedly.

SB: Mirror & Gate is a series of releases which is put together by myself and Matthew Kent of Blowing Up The Workshop. We both share similar ears (though Matt's work a little better than mine these days) and after months of emails it seemed a good extension for us to bring together artists we thought huddled under the same broly. The idea is as simple as bringing two artists or groups together whose work shares similarities, be they timbral or compositional, and then sit them on a split together. The tape split was common property within noise/industrial/post-punk scenes and I see no reason why it can't function in the same way for more formed musics.

RG: Any final comments?

SB: Thank you everyone, artists, customers, friends and family for helping me with the label. Without you all it is nothing but a chubby dude on Facebook squinting at 3 a.m.

<http://opaltapes.bandcamp.com/>
<http://blowinguptheworkshop.com/>



The internet presents: MS MR

Lily Le

Writer

During a week's worth of listening to the radio an average of 0-3 new songs make me drop everything, frown a little in an effort to identify the song / artist, then fiddle a little with the time bar on the listen-again player to figure out what exactly the wonderful noise is.

Last week this came in the form of MS MR, a New York Duo whose debut album *Secondhand Rapture* is set for release on the 14th May. As their rereleased single "Hurricane" burst onto the airwaves, the creepy intro of what resembles a slowed down version of a knife being sharpened was attention grabbing enough within a few seconds.

The vocals of Lizzy Plapinger smoothly drip off the dark and slow musical bed. True to pop music, they are definitely the forefront of MS MR's

style rather being given an equal weight with the other instruments. This is no bad thing. In a time saturated with Adele / Winehouse-esque vocals, it is kind of nice to go back to a good American pop accent but with more grit than Taylor Swift-type vocals. Crudely, MS MR have been compared to Lana and Florence but personally I'd add a bit of Paramore and Wild Beasts in the mix.

"Hurricane" is definitely the highlight of *Secondhand Rapture*, being the right mix of mystery, an apathetic kind of sadness, and a musical depth that a lot of pop songs compromise on in order to build a good level of catchiness. This depth is a vibe which runs through the whole album and is probably thanks to the lovely way which Plapinger floats over Hershenow's production, both of which quieten and reflect, or suddenly burst into noise (probably the reason for the Florence comparisons) at the right times.



Other highlights include the way which the word 'buurn' is sung on "Dark Woo Wop", and "Salty Sweet" which has a hidden darkness behind its poppy façade.

It will be interesting to see the audience which MS MR will draw in. Slightly too poppy for the 'indie-guitar' fans, maybe not poppy enough to become as mainstream as Lana; they're not the most original band around at the moment but *Secondhand Rapture* brings a temporary refreshing break to the table that many artists currently do not.



Short Waves: Polish Short Film Festival



Lily Le

Film Writer

Last month saw the fifth Polish Short Film Festival come to London, having made its journey around the globe. We went on down to Dalston (where else) to the cute little Rio Cinema (think Notting Hill Coronet, velvety squeaky chairs type of place) to find out what exactly Polish short films consist of.

As we entered, we were given a score card to pick the best film. The winner would receive 10,000 zloty – about £2000. Handing out tiny amounts of power with the ability to aid some stranger's film-making abilities may have also been a nifty way of making us really think about what we thought of each film and why.

Out of the nine shown, my particular favourite was *The Governance of Love*. It opened up with a picture of a cat, which seemed to have been sketched in wax crayons by a child and a blurry-voiced narrator declaring that he was a kitten. As the story moved on, he seemed to jump between his imagination and reality, between different places and beings.

As audience members started laughing at what seemed to be not very funny scenes, it was clear that

the subtitles, though translating literal meaning, were not able to depict the tone of the piece. It was a great shame, as the film may have had more of an impact had the native language been understood.

As the film unravelled, it was clear that they were not the ramblings of a child nor someone trying to be edgy. They were drawings and stories of a patient with a mental disorder. His weird perspectives on life struck up unpredicted connections with the audience. It was a clever way of giving us access to a world which is sometimes sadly shunned away.

Only three films were live action. Philosophical narrated animations, light-hearted and brightly coloured stop-frames to pop music, an eerie 'Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids'-esque black and blood red cartoon, and a rather dull compilation of scientific archive material formed the rest.

Of the live action pieces, a particular favourite was *The Guardians*. A young officer must allow only travellers with VISAs to pass a barrier and continue their journey into a misty forest. As he stamps the papers of the travellers, he peers intently at their faces with a sadness he knows he should not show. As a mother leaves her child and

husband behind, it becomes clear as to where the travellers are going. The simplicity yet complexity of leaving loved ones behind appears.

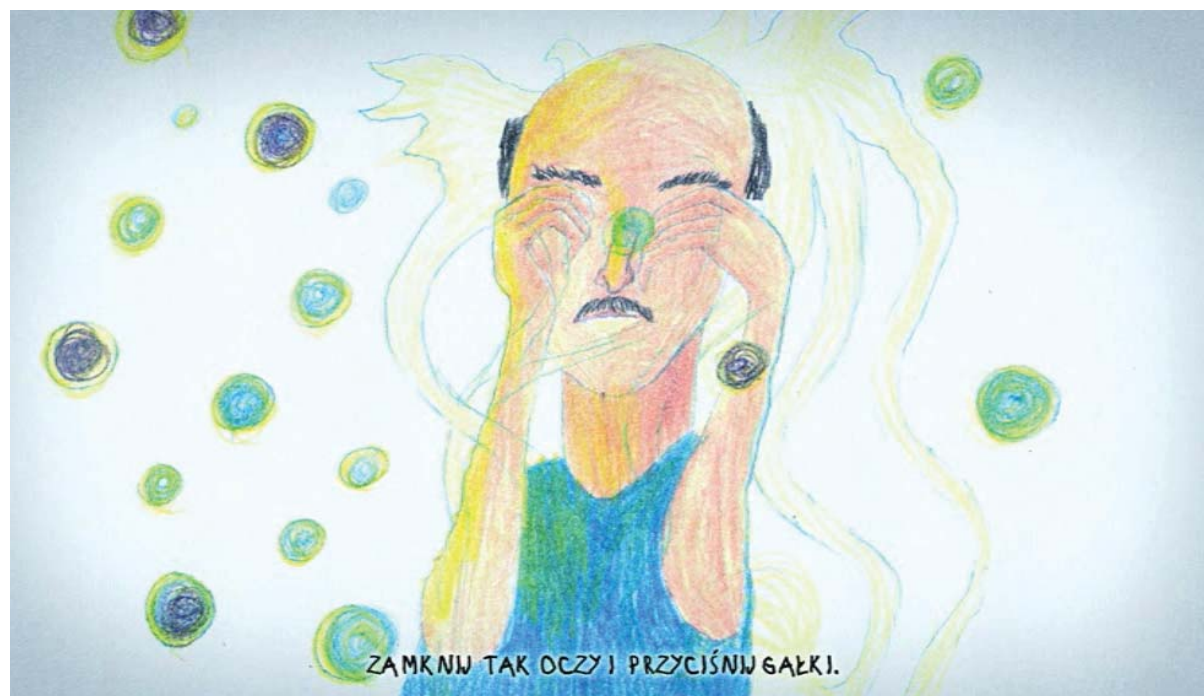
Despite dealing with a cliché subject, *The Guardians* retained the air of mystery, emotion it deserves, yet had an explicit and tangible directness about it. It had more of a depth than *All Souls' Day* (girl

hunts down long lost father and discovers dead mother was not so perfect after all) and *A Memory of Last Summer* (girl bumps into lost love and they have sex in parents' car).

Though the latter two played on themes not unknown in contemporary cinema, they were nonetheless beautifully filmed with quirky tones unique to each of them. This

was something which definitely belonged in each piece of the festival. I couldn't help but imagine what would happen had the films extended to a couple more hours.

Readers can find *The Governance of Love* at: <http://vimeo.com/60640887>



Film Editors: Katy Bettany,
John Park, Lucy Wiles
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FILM

Yippee-ki-yay, North Korea!



Olympus Has Fallen

Director: Antoine Fuqua
Screenwriters: Creighton Rothenberger, Katrin Benedikt
Starring: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart, Morgan Freeman, Melissa Leo, Angela Bassett, Rick Yune



John Park

Film Editor

With tensions in North Korea constantly on the rise, Gerard Butler's new action-packed outing tells a story that doesn't seem far too out of reach.

Even in this fictional world where Butler is an ex-Secret Service agent now demoted to work in the Treasury Department, North Korea is causing problems for the free world with their endless nuclear missile tests. Naturally, a meeting between the United States and its ally South Korea takes place in the White House, only for this highly-secured engagement to be hijacked by a guerrilla attack led by the North Koreans.

Well-armed bad guys dressed as tourists take over the White House in a laughable instant, and it's as

though the trained men who are supposed to be guarding those highest in the government forgot to come into work prepared that day. Whatever the reason, everyone falls like leaves, in a pretty hilarious sequence that shows the audience, in slow-motion and backed by corny music, the gunning down of agent after agent who are helpless against the perfectly prepared villains. There's even a dog that puts up a fight. Subtlety isn't exactly the film's strong suit, nor should it be.

Trapped in an impenetrable underground bunker with the terrorists is the President (Eckhart), Secretary of Defense (Leo), amongst others who are played by less well-known faces, which means they matter much less. Not even the position of Vice President is worthy of having a relatively famous name play him. (Poor Joe Biden – this goes to show the public's general perception of that particular position.) They're pushed around and kicked about, as they hold important secrets that prove vital to the North Koreans' endgame. But enough about them, where on earth is Butler flexing his hero muscles?

And so it's the perfect time for retired agent Mike Banning (Butler) to jump back into action, and take on these guys all by himself. It seems like an unfair fight, but not to worry; Banning was one of the best agents Lynne Jacobs (Bassett), the head of

Secret Services, had ever seen, which means he can take on a number of bad guys, even after 18 months of being out of the field, have all sorts of injuries inflicted on him, and yet walk away fine from all the bloody mess. That's what "best" means – i.e. superhuman.

Speaker of the House Allan Trumbull (Freeman) is now the Acting President and, in turn, forms himself a little emergency committee, which is essentially full of self-important, arrogant idiots who can't do a single useful thing in their stuffy meeting room. In dire times such as this one, Banning has no trouble speaking freely, calling them out on their silly errors, and generating some laughs for the audience for his sheer audacity.

Playing a man defined by his brute force and very little humanity, Butler absolutely nails the role Bruce Willis played more than a couple of decades ago. He has no trouble looking convincing as he beats someone to a pulp, he is disturbingly calm as he tortures someone for information, and he has no trouble firing off sly one-liners at the bad guys. This role seems to have been tailored for Butler, and he seems to be comfortably in his place, doing what he does best.

Other roles are very limited, as the film has barely enough time to develop its central character. All those

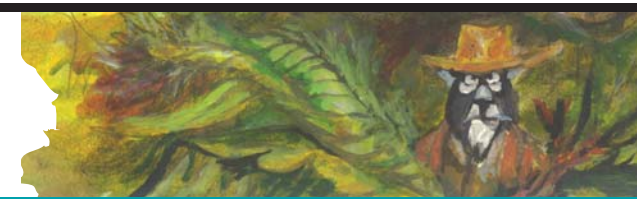
taken hostage put on an admiring level of bravery and patriotism, most memorable being Leo's Secretary of Defense Ruth McMillan, who doesn't utter a single useful word for the terrorists even after she's punched and kicked in ways no elderly woman should ever be treated.

Yune has played a vicious North Korean before in yet another high-profile film, *Die Another Day*, and he smoothly pulls off yet another one of those as he makes crazy demands and stares glaringly into the camera.

Under the assured hands of Fuqua, the man who gave us *Training Day*, *Tears of the Sun*, among others, he isn't one to shy away from brutality. There is a lot of fun to be had as the unrestrained pitbull of Banning ploughs his way through, saving the day, although his mission is slightly derailed by having to focus on saving the President's young son, the film's weak point in selling the action.

It's all incredibly silly, and this makes one hope that the actual White House does have better security than what is demonstrated here. Otherwise, if North Korea gets their hands on a copy of this film, we could all be done for. And the shamelessly patriotic message (any lingering shot of the American flag is an example) may even have you unknowingly side with the invaders. But all in all, it's a dumb, fun, easy watch.





Dream a little Greek dream

Natalia Petrou introduces you to the wonders of Greece

All photos: Natalia Petrou

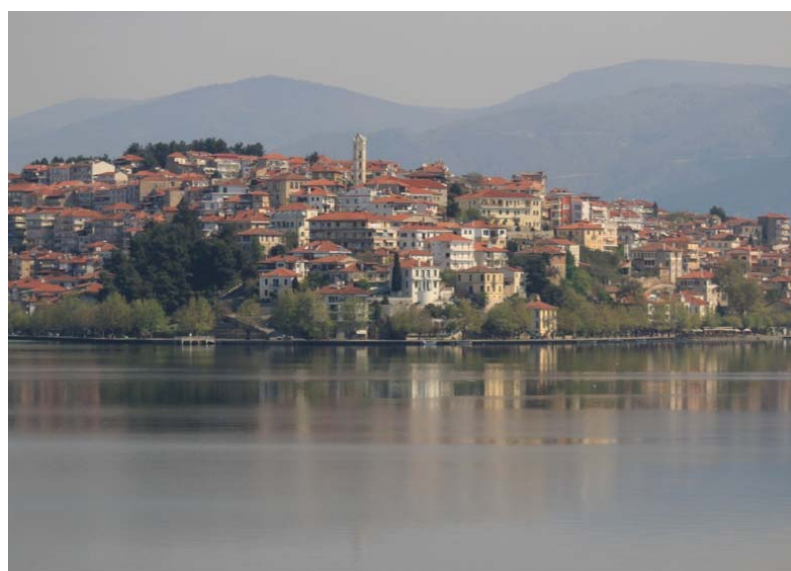
With summer vacations just a stone's throw away, it seemed ideal for me to think about possible summer destinations. The first thing that crosses all our minds when thinking about summer is, of course, sun, and consequently we think about Mediterranean countries. This article will be dedicated to my personal home country, namely Greece.

Greece is quite a diverse country, with beautiful beaches, small villages but also mountains and big cities, hence it has everything a tourist would wish for. Below some of the beauties will be presented. Of course, these are just a small portion of the sights in this country. Focus will not be on the most touristic places, as these are well known and reported, but on the more hidden gems of this country.

Crete, Falasarna beach

The biggest island in Greece, located in the southern part of the country combines the beauty of the sea and the mountains. It is the perfect destination for anyone who wants to relax from the humdrum of everyday life, but at the same time wants to explore the nightlife options.

One of my favourite beaches is "Falasarna", located in the western part of the island. With the wonderful combination of sun and sea, the beach is also under protection through the EU Natura 2000 project. It is quite a big beach, thus even if it is crowded you won't feel suffocated as it usually happens in the summertime. The only drawback would have to be the northern winds, making it sometimes difficult to swim and enjoy the sea. Otherwise it is just the perfect place to go; it is also close to Chania, one of the big



cities of the island, which offers many options for sightseeing, Greek cuisine tasting and nightlife.

Kastoria

If the sea is not for you and you want a place near the mountains, where it is of course chillier, even during the summer, then Kastoria is the place for you. It is located in the North-west of the country and it is a fairly small city, offering a vast range of activities and sightseeing options.

What makes this city unique and attracts visitors, is the magic atmosphere it conveys with the successful combination of mountains and the lake. One can walk aside the lake and enjoy the fresh air and the scenery or explore the inside of the city. There are many byzantine churches, which are worth a visit and also there is a folklore museum, located inside an old mansion, where one can travel to the past and imagine how people used to live. In the vicinity of the city there is a Neolithic lakeshore settlement, called "Dispilio", located on the

lake, where one can admire the early efforts of mankind to establish residential areas.

For the more relaxed visitors, the city offers spectacular cuisine as well and it is famous for the different kinds of pie and the traditional desserts.

Thessaloniki

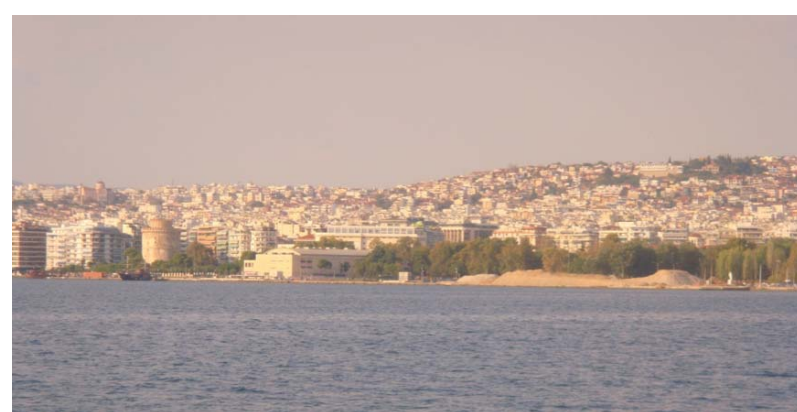
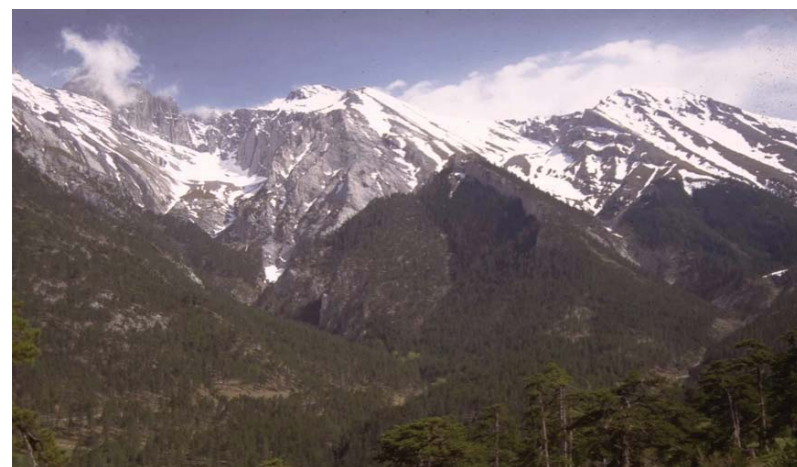
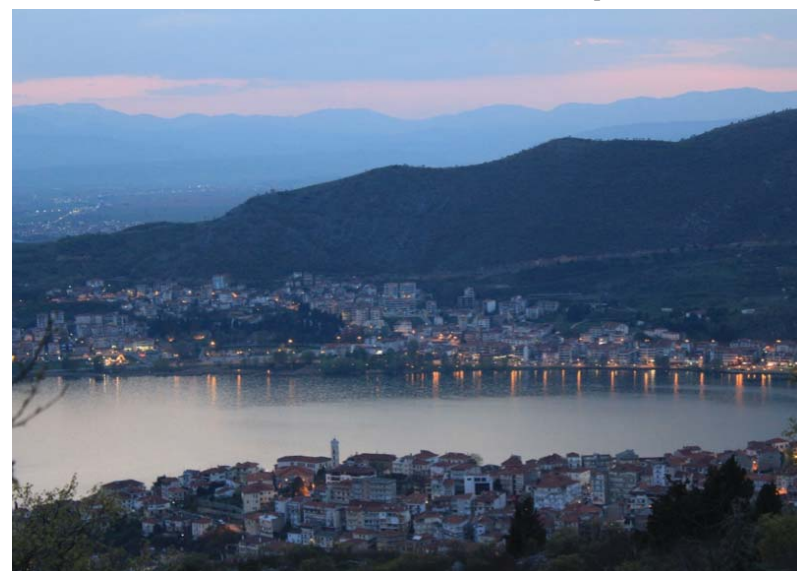
Moving a bit to the south again the second biggest city in Greece, Thessaloniki, can be found, located directly by the sea. The city itself offers a wide range of activities and sightseeing options. There are many museums and also the old town walls, where one can enjoy the view of the whole city from above. The most famous landmark of this city is the "White tower". One can go up the tower and again admire the breathtaking view of the city and the sea. My favourite activity in this city is walking by the seaside, which is quite relaxing and helps clear one's mind.

In close vicinity to the city, just a small drive away, one can go the beautiful beaches of Chalkidiki and enjoy the sun and the sea. My personal favourite is the second "leg" of Chalkidiki, with fewer visitors.

On the other hand, if you happen to be a bit more adventurous person, you can visit the highest mountain in Greece "Olympus", the mythical mountain of the Gods, located 150 km from Thessaloniki. Olympus is famous for its hiking and walking paths, which can be accessed throughout the year.

The city offers restaurants with great cuisine, which please even the most demanding food-lovers and it is the most famous city for its nightlife opportunities and it's called "the city that never sleeps"...

As you can see Greece is a huge country with different sceneries throughout its area, so you can choose what is most appropriate for you. Start packing, Greece awaits you!!!



Travel Editor:
Veronika McQuade
travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TRAVEL

Making a splash in Mexico

Stephanie Walton thinks you should vamos to South America

All photos: Stephanie Walton



Mexico receives such bad press these days that it is hard to believe it has a safe and beautiful peninsula kicking out into the Caribbean Sea. There are white beaches, fascinating Mayan ruins and magnificent colonial cities. It seems that the only two drawbacks to this balmy “Yucatán” Peninsula are that place names are unpronounceable (try “Xkeken” or “Xcaret”) and that although the street food looks great, it might be regretted later.

The Yucatecan feature perhaps most alien to us Englishmen is the “cenote”. Thousands of these magnificent underground sinkholes pepper the river-free land. The Mayans relied on cenotes for drinking water and the occasional swim; they say that after swimming in a cenote, you emerge 5 years younger. In addition, some were used for human sacrifice such as the haunting Sacred Cenote at Chichen Itza used in the appeasement of the rain God, Chaac.

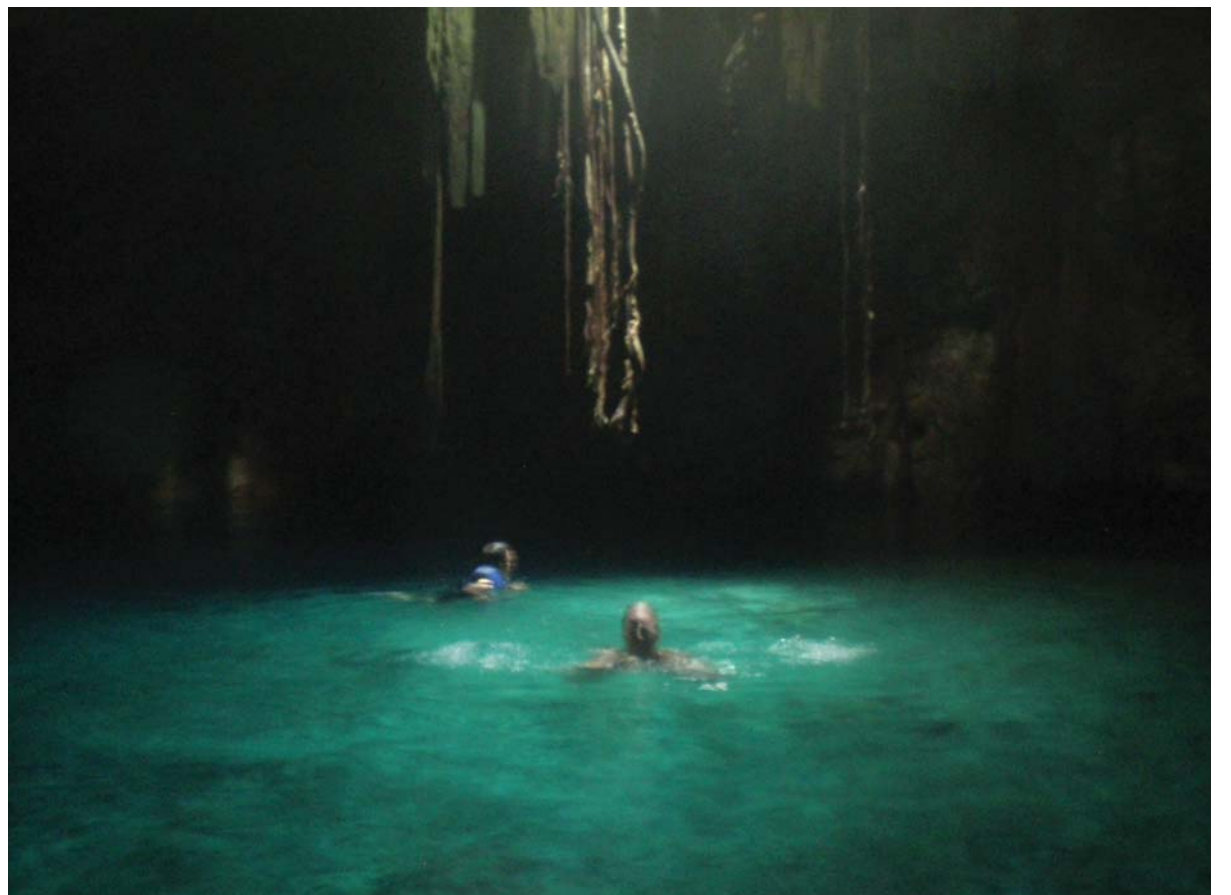
Since cenotes provide much amusement to the tourist, many are open to the public. Some of the more entrepreneurial Mexicans in Cuzama lead what can only be described as a “cenote-athon”, that is, visiting three cenotes in as many hours. Anaemic-looking horses transport tourists from one cenote to the next on carts run on rail tracks. The guide-book warned us

that this mode of transport could jar fillings loose. This I can believe. Relief from the bumpy ride comes, however, when another cart approaches from the opposite direction: you must slow down and either stand your ground, or disembark and intentionally derail the cart, in order to let the other pass!

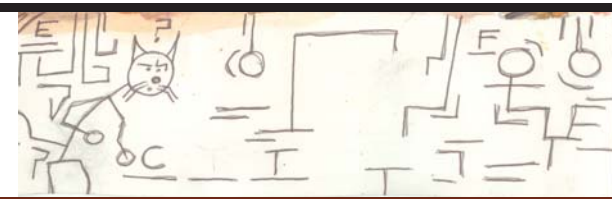
The cenotes themselves are deep underground and can be accessed either by slippery stone steps, or as in one case, a perilously flimsy step ladder. However, this inconvenience is definitely worth it. The water, which I should add must be shared with fish, is a surprisingly comfortable temperature, crystal clear and awesomely deep; diving opportunities are ample. Impressive stalactites hang down to nearly within reach and bats nest on the cave’s ceiling. It’s a swimming experience like no other and after three cenotes, although I still appeared the same age, I certainly felt more alive.

Another unparalleled Yucatecan swimming opportunity presents itself at Tulum. Here stand the remains of a late-Maya city still occupied during and after the Spanish arrival. Although not as impressive architecturally as other Maya sites, Tulum is perched on a cliff next to the Caribbean Sea giving it a picture-postcard beauty. On the beach its “Castillo” is clearly visible. The sand is white and the sea inviting. Stop taking photos and get in!

Read online: felixonline.co.uk



Gone on holiday recently? Watched TV recently? Watched a film? Listened to music? Gone to an art gallery? Don't just tell your Facebook friends about it (they said your status updates are boring anyway), write for Felix. Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk



The hangman guide to a city banker life

You're going to work there anyway, so you might as well get a head start

Right, that's it. I'm taking off my boy-scout costume (which doesn't really fit me any more) and I'm going to let old ladies get run over when they try to cross the road. If a bunch of lost tourists ask me for directions to Earl's Court station, they'll end up outside the local homeless shelter instead. Worst of all, I'm not going to hold the door open for anyone. I'm fed up with this world, and I'm just going to let it burn for a bit, fall over, and then blow up in your face, like a poorly made firework.

On one side, I'm stuck with all the imbeciles that don't know the difference between muscovado and demerara sugar, and on the other side, there's the intellectual pricks who'll lecture you on the correct pronunciation and etymology of 'eat a bag of dicks'.

Everyone you are going to meet at your workplace is somewhere between these two stereotypes, and you can rest assured that they don't care about you or your feelings. They probably don't even remember you were there when they pushed straight through you, screaming into a bling-tastic, plastic-studded phone to one of their partners about their latest STD.

So, I'm here to tell you to give up all semblance of being a reasonable person, and instead be the greedy, self-centered person you see on the street, and you'll feel a better human for it.

Do you often feel like a pillar of support, ready to be leant upon and shat on by pigeons, within a moment's

notice? I'm sorry, but if your friends aren't going to keep their business to themselves when they're thinking about changing star signs, you need to re-evaluate your friend catchment area. They're the kind of people who Instagram their daily bowel movements. Or Vine it, if they're feeling edgy. Instead, tell them to suck it up, and deal with it in their own way – everyone has their own problems, so piling theirs onto you isn't the act of a friend (*it's a wonder Hangman has no friends eh? His Apprentice audition tape was rejected for being "too much of an arsehole"*). It's the act of someone who secretly wants you to lace their food with laxatives, but is too afraid to ask. It's a fetish thing, and they don't think you'll understand.

If you start making a name for yourself as that 'always-happy-to-help' or approachable kind of lass/laslette, you're in for a bad time. People start to depend on you. They need someone to create a croque en bouche for the bake sale to supplement your bosses bonuses? You. They're looking for a final team mate to join them in the Crystal Maze? You. (It's a Tudor-Pole series, not an O'Brian). They need someone to write a glowing bureaucratic report for a colleague, whilst you're truly wondering how they still have the job? You. Life is a heck of a lot easier when no-one has any expectations of you. If you appear to be unreliable, then you won't be the default selection for vomit-cleanup at the departmental

cocktail party, and you can instead get as wasted as you want, and make even more mess. You deserve it.

Ultimately, there's nothing I like more than just sitting around and exerting the least physical effort for the largest gain in fuck-all. I'm not going to go out of my way, put on some clothes and actually leave the Felix office to volunteer at a soup kitchen. It doesn't take more than one person to use a tin opener and microwave some bowls of soup. Don't volunteer for extra work, and you'll be fine.

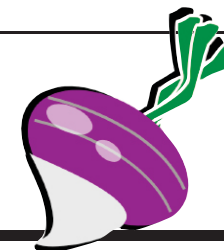
No-one is going to be out to help you, so you need to do everything for yourself. Buy and suck your way to the top. You can't trust anyone else to hide the bodies, or to clean up your mess. I'm not saying that you should go around pushing your annoying colleagues onto the tracks in front of the next Upminster-bound train, but rather you don't help them up, once they've... uh... tripped. Pretend to be traumatised and you can get their job, extra holiday, pity sex, and most importantly, a better desk.



"... and they're actually this large. They should call me Sir Chocolate Salty..."

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



Sir Alex Ferguson poised to manage North Korean forces

Breaking news from Pyongyang hints that the soon-to-be ex-manager of Manchester United Football Club is leaving his current job to take up a position in Kim Jong-Un's military advisory committee. It is thought that the 29 year old head of state was looking for a military tactician after an advert was posted on Craigslist.

Sir Alex Ferguson is no stranger to warfare on the front lines, surviving abysmal living conditions, intermit-

tent electricity and running water, and wide-spread malnourishment, after serving for 26 years in the north of England.

Pyongyang has refused requests to detail the transfer, simply stating that "The supreme leader welcomes all great western minds to his military. BYOF. Please like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northkoreais-bestkorea."

This news comes just days after North Korea was seen to be withdrawing its missiles from the coast,

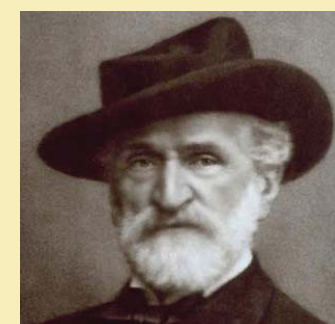
after rumours that the North Korean military forgot to actually load the oversized Nerf missiles. The FXSuprLancher2k is the newest piece of North Korean military technology, purportedly bought off Amazon marketplace in 2001, and has an effective range of 200 metres. Not safe for dictators under the age of 40.

With this new arrangement of military advisors, the US government is on high alert, and we advise students to be on the look out for any suspicious activity, or unattended items.



Opera Lyrics of the Week

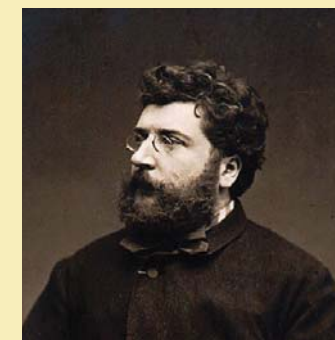
Verdi: "La traviata"



"*Libiam ne' dolci fremiti che suscita l'amore.*"
(Let's drink for the ecstatic feeling that love arouses.)

Wow, that's quite a way to announce to your lover that you've got some trouble getting junior to stand to attention. "I'm sorry my love, but I can't feel aroused when I'm with you, unless I'm drunk. Why can't you look more like your brother?"

Bizet: "Carmen"



"*Comme ils vont du fer de leur lance, harceler le flanc des taureaux!*"
(How they're going to, with the tip of their lances, pierce the flank of the bulls!)

Language used to be so beautiful. Nowadays this would say "How they're going to, with the tip of their penis, have sex with someone's arse". Would make Carmen a bit more entertaining though. Some 'edgy' prick in Shoreditch is probably writing a modern retelling right now actually.

Are you the laughing stock of your Google social circle? Wow your friends by sending stuff in: felix@imperial.ac.uk

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



**NEW MACHINE IMAGES
DAVID CAMERON'S WET
DREAMS**



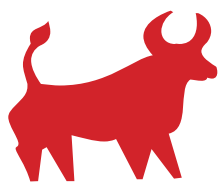
**LEAD IN NEW REMAKE OF
SCARFACE "LACKS ABILITY TO
INTIMIDATE ON SCREEN"**

IT'S THE H TO THE IZZOS – HOROSCOPES



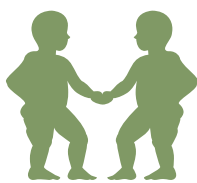
ARIES

This week you're enjoying the sunshine until you sunbathe on an ants nest. The ants are so furious they bite the same spot on your leg until they eat right through. They then crawl through your veins up to your brain which they carry back to their queen, one tiny piece at a time. Should have stayed inside revising...



TAURUS

This week you are torn between sexual frustration and your strict revision schedule: 10 minutes spent masturbating could be the difference between a 2.1 and a first! You think about maths proofs to distract you from your throbbing genitals and manage to last until the exam. But then you accidentally spaff all over your answers and fail.



GEMINI

This week you've heard that massaging breasts can increase their size. You begin a strict regime of mammary stimulation on your girlfriend, and it seems to be working as they swell in size. You're both delighted, until they start growing down as well as out; before you know it her nipples are swinging by her belly-button. You're dumped.



CANCER

This week you get a spray tan to mask the translucence induced by too much time in the library. But you become an unprecedented shade of orange, emitting an eye-scarring artificial glow. The physics department mistake you for a source of radiation and lock you in a lead box with all their radioisotopes. Pint?



LEO

This week your teeth grow an inch and become sharper every time you masturbate. You manage to be disciplined and go a week at a time without beating your meat, but eventually your fangs grow down to your genitals. The next time you get hard, the sharp enamel pierces your penis and you die of blood loss/pain.



VIRGO

This week you grow a foot long cat tail, and you are delighted to find that you can curl it round and insert it in your vagina (and/or anus). It's like having a furry dildo, which gives a curious but pleasant sensation. But then the fur starts to moult, and clogs up your vagina like a hairy tampon.



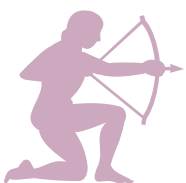
LIBRA

This week your blood turns to ink from poisoning by all the revision notes you've been writing. Unfortunately, the pigment in biro cannot match the oxygen-transporting abilities of haemoglobin, and your tissues blacken and die from hypoxia. The necrotic process claims your eyes last, forcing you to watch in horror as your whole body withers away.



SCORPIO

This week you eat so much pizza that you turn into one. Your skin becomes the crust; your eyeballs the pepperoni; your blood the tomato sauce. The pepperoni obscures your eyesight, so you blindly mistake your arm for a slice of Dominos. You die of tomato loss before you can find out if your ear tasted better than your toes.



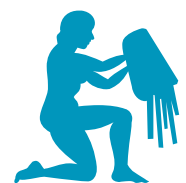
SAGITTARIUS

This week you get diarrhoea and put a cork up your anus to prevent unwanted leakage. But during lectures, the pressure builds up. The makeshift plug lasts until your meeting with your personal tutor, where it fires out through your jeans at high speed. Your semi-digested jacket potato sprays all over his collection of rare 1950s textbooks.



CAPRICORN

This week you stop showering as a sneaky exam technique: distract your coursemates with your BO in the exam so they can't concentrate (or even better, throw up all over their answers from the smell), then grades will be moderated up! You may well get that elusive first, but at the cost of lifetime social ostracism.



AQUARIUS

This week you decide that your life sucks and wish you could be anywhere in the world except the library. A genie grants your wish and transports you to a desolate warzone slum. You get bitten by a rabid dog and die wallowing in your own excrement. Be careful what you wish for, it could always be worse!



PISCES

This week you must choose between ejaculating baby slugs every time you come and having tree branches for limbs. On the one hand, firing slugs would condemn you to lifelong sexual dissatisfaction but on the other, the branches would make it difficult to find anyone who would sleep with you in the first place. What's it going to be?

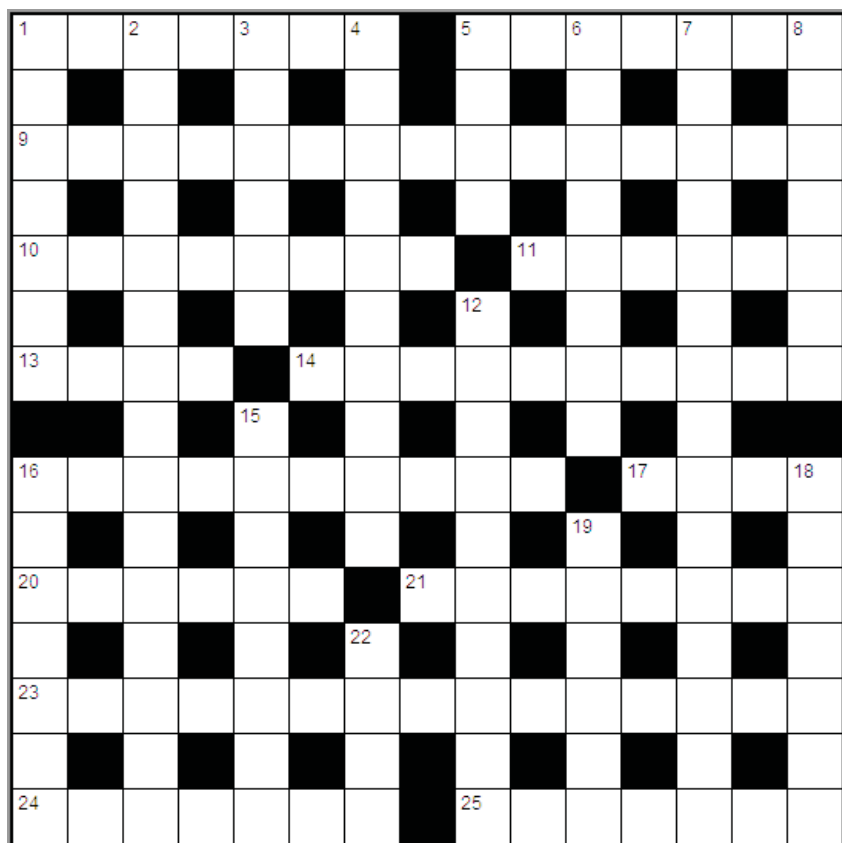
PUZZLES

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



Crossword

Thanks to Paulo Giaccone for the Crossword!



Quick clues

Across

1. Cubist artist (7)
5. Month (7)
9. Shy person (9, 6)
10. Fast-spreading disease (8)
11. Die from lack of food (6)
13. Spirit (4)
14. Unit of time (10)
16. Reporter (10)
17. Boy's name (4)
20. Guidance (6)
21. Relating to a country (8)
23. Object of deceptive appearance (7, 8)
24. Features of a landscape (7)
25. Halls of residence (7)

Down

1. Own (7)
2. Résumé (10, 5)
3. Contralto or tenor (6)
4. At the start (10)
5. Bacchanalia (4)
6. Number (8)
7. Includes the tango and the waltz (8, 7)
8. Walk over again (7)
12. Nonsense (10)
15. It has one wheel (8)
16. Overprotective (7)
18. Substance giving skin its colour (7)
19. Alcoholic drink (6)
22. Kill (4)

Cryptic clues

Across

1. Painter's sloppy, as is cop (7)
5. Company turned around to tolerate missing a month (7)
9. Psychiatrist at home, first to grow flower - wallflower? (9, 6)
10. Ms Moore, actress in blockbuster

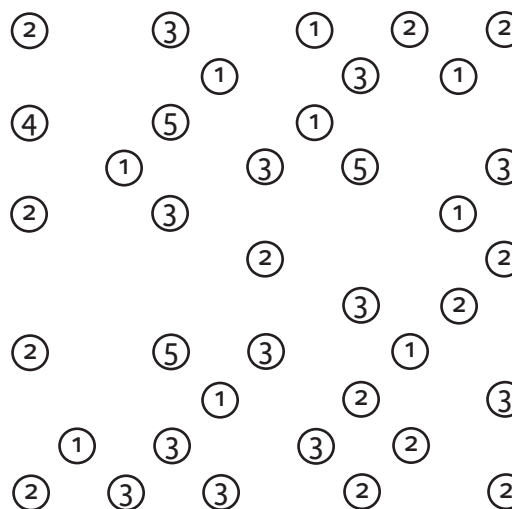
- "Rapid Growth" (8)
11. Deprive celebrity animal doctor, nearly (6)
 13. Person left behind old coin (4)
 14. Once on sand, stumbling for fleeting moment (10)
 16. Columnist Ms Brand has pot at top celebs (10)
 17. In the beginning, almighty deity actualised me (4)
 20. District attorney backing prostitution for tips (6)
 21. The Citizen newspaper (8)
 23. Caution: oil spill at sea - it's not what it seems (7, 8)
 24. View glimpsed, we hear, by rugby wings (7)
 25. Shining example, uni charity's one short, after secretary (7)

Down

1. Have Sweden supporting American gangs (7)
2. Courses worked at I've enclosed with job application (10, 5)
3. Reigns over Adele, say (6)
4. First dole cheque turned up altogether quickly in the end (10)
5. Sex party - alternatively, guys in odd positions (4)
6. One involved in massaging the rent might be unlucky (8)
7. Featured on "Strictly": Big Ronald Colman doing a twist (8, 7)
8. Look over tyre lacking last of tracery, brought in for this? (7)
12. Slap old cow about (or bull) (10)
15. Suitable for all one hundred in nicely turned out vehicle (8)
16. I, French, a scumbag, almost resentful? (7)
18. Man (Neil) mixed pigment (7)
19. Drink, sweet, no ice (6)
22. Do away with winter transport by the sound of it (4)

Hashi

Connect all the islands with vertical and horizontal non-intersecting bridges so that you can get from any island to any other one. There can be up to two bridges between any two islands. Each island indicates the number of bridges starting from it.



FUCWIT League Table

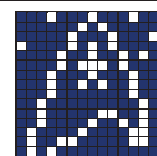
INDIVIDUALS

Yufan Zhao	8
Wael Aljeshi	4

Wow, exams must have really taken their toll on you guys. Send your answers to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk, because revision is for the weak.*

*Disclaimer: revision not actually for the weak.

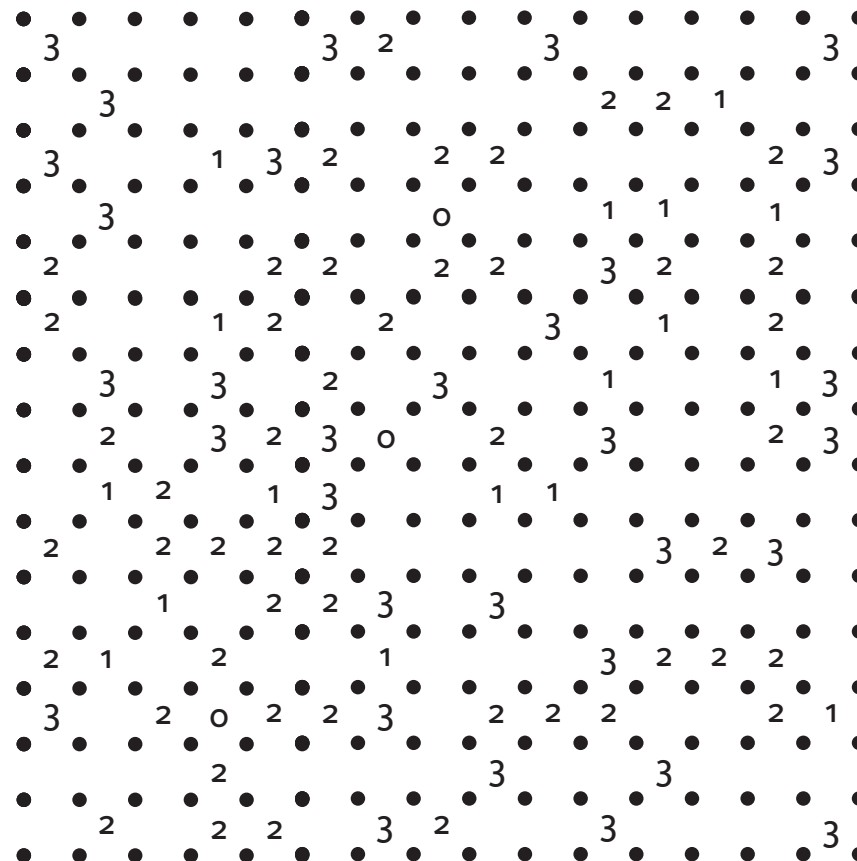
Last week's solutions



Little teaser solution:
 When reading out the lines it starts with one 3, so the next line is 13. This is one 1 and one 3, so the third line is 113. The fourth is then 3113, etc

Yes, it's the dreaded Special Slitherlink once more. Stand by for more Ophis after I finish my revision. Rules as always: 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.

Slitherlink



PASSI THE PARABOLASHAPED PENGUIN



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Friday 17 May

20:00 - 01:00

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Idea Days 2013 - first one at South Kensington, Wednesday 15 May



Our first Idea Day is on Wednesday 15 May, 11:00 - 15:00, Sherfield Foyer, South Kensington campus. You'll be able to tell us your opinions on a wide range of issues and what the Union can be doing to help and get some freebies for doing so!

The day will be designed to get your input on the Union's draft Strategic Plan, so that we can create a final plan for the organisation to work from for the next three years. We want to find out what's important to you as a student at Imperial College, and how we can help you get the best of your experience, both during and after your time here.

Details of Idea Days on other campuses will be coming soon. In the mean time, you can give your feedback online on each of our Strategic Themes. All comments we receive will help us inform our Strategic Plan and ensure that it fully caters for all of our members.

imperialcollegeunion.org/strategy

Real Ales at Imperial College Union - which guest ale do you want in June?



We've been running our guest ale polls for a few months now, and as a result, we've hosted a new guest ale in FiveSixEight and The Union Bar every month. May's guest ale is Naked Ladies, and now it's time to vote for a new ale for June. All you need to do is take the poll at imperialcollegeunion.org/realales and the ale with the highest votes wins! **The current poll will close at 12:00, Friday 24 May**, and the winning ale will be on sale from June.

imperialcollegeunion.org/realales



Stress LESS

EVENTS THIS WEEK

imperialcollegeunion.org/stressless

MASSAGES

Tuesday 14 May, 11:00 - 17:00

Free Library

Sitting down hunched over your computer can really make your muscles ache. Come to the Library Cafe and let a professional masseuse gently massage your stress away, making you feel more relaxed and ready for anything.

BOXFIT

Thursday 16 May, 12:00-12:45 and 16:00-17:00

Free Queen's Lawn

BoxFit is a great form of exercise, a high intensity workout. It helps develop your overall strength as well as balance and dynamic flexibility, also improving stamina and coordination. A great way to get all that frustrating stress out of your system. In case of bad weather BoxFit will be held in Court 5, Ethos.

ONE BIG THING / 5K ANYWAY

Friday 17 May, 17:00 - 20:00

Free Hyde Park

As part of Ukactive's 'One Big Thing', 5k Anyway is primarily a 5K fun run in Hyde Park and is open to all Imperial staff and Students. The course can be completed anyway you wish (run, walk, wheelbarrow races, three legged races etc) and we also have the opportunity of rowing 5K in Ethos. There will be prizes for the best fancy dress, fastest male and female and fastest team time.

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

SPORT

Imperial Falcons claw onto third place

Baseball team put on impressive display, thankfully beating UCL

Chris Carter Sports Writer

After a hard fought weekend of matches, the Imperial Falcons rounded off their season with an emphatic victory over the UEA Blue Sox, giving us a third-place finish in the BUBA Spring Cup.

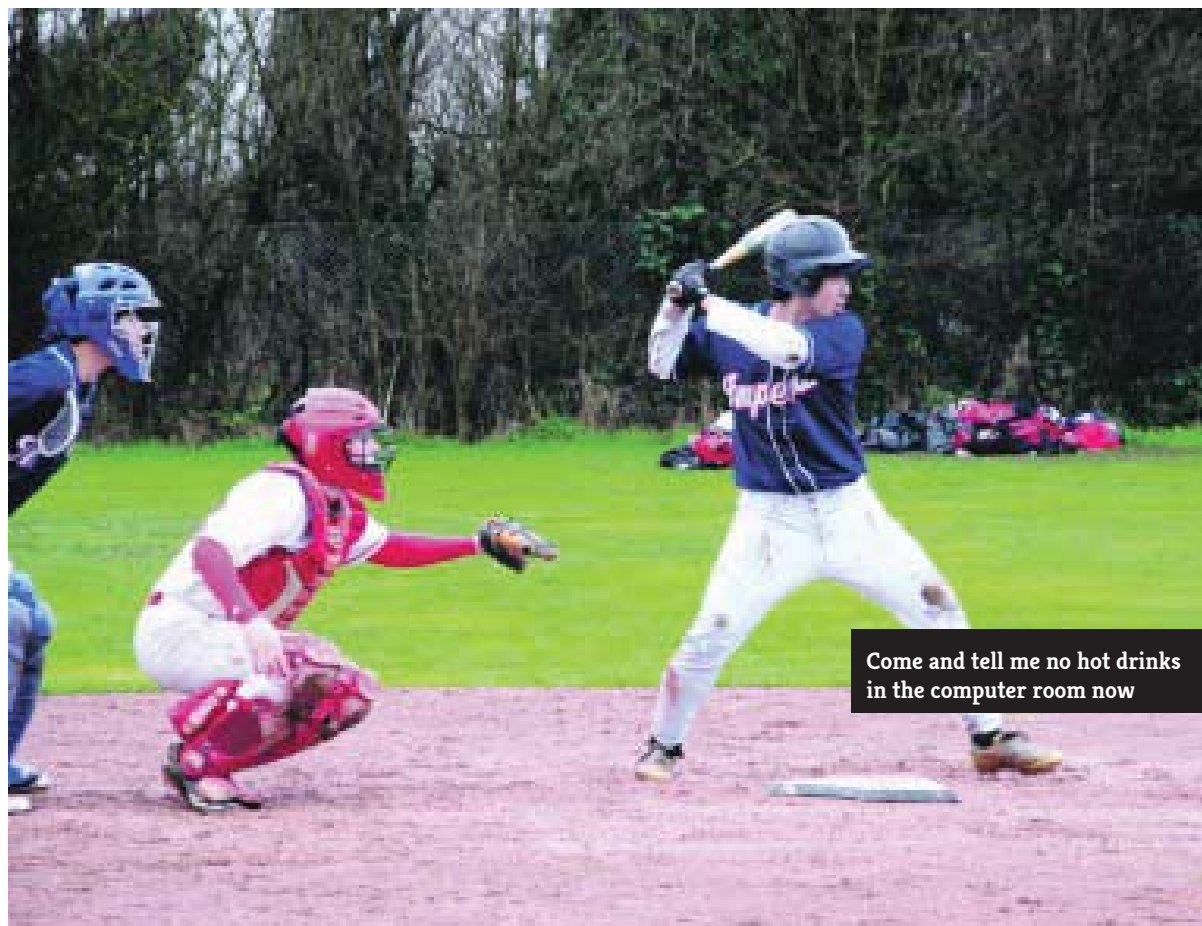
The Falcons' cup campaign got off to a shaky start on the Saturday as club president Dan "Wrong Gear!" Harris stalled the minibus a grand total of four times on the way to the ground. Despite some equally dodgy navigating from general manager Vincent Li, the team got to Croydon in time for the first match, with high hopes of a successful tournament.

Imperial opened their campaign against UCL, in a game that was expected to be a relatively easy victory. The game was tight during the first two innings, as pitcher Hajime Urata and the Imperial defence kept UCL

from scoring. The deadlock was broken, however, in the top of the fourth inning as a number of Imperial errors allowed UCL four runs. Fortunately, Imperial managed to claw a couple back in the bottom of that inning against the pitching of UCL's 50-Year-Old Man.

Thanks to some excellent pitching by Hajime, UCL failed to score in their final inning, leaving us needing three runs to win the game. A few batters later, the game was tied at 4-4, with two runners on and one out, with rookie Simon Andersson stepping up to the plate. On the third pitch, Simon sent the ball flying towards right field; the Imperial bench held its breath as the ball hung in the air, only for it to come down inches away from the fielder's outstretched arm. Sam O'Mullane ran home, giving Simon a walk-off hit, and giving Imperial a tense 5-4 victory.

Our next game, against the Southampton Mustangs, started in similar



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fashion, with neither team scoring in the first two innings, thanks to some tight pitching, this time by Vincent. Once again, however, Imperial's defence cracked in the third inning, leaving Southampton four runs up. The Falcons only scored two in the top of the fourth inning, but since it was a timed game, another inning would be played if we could end Southampton's inning in eight minutes. Fortunately, Hajime returned to pitch a breathless fourth inning, retiring Southampton in six minutes to give Imperial a shot at an unlikely victory. It wasn't to be, however, as the Falcons managed only one run in their fifth inning, giving Southampton a 5-3 victory.

The Sunday began with our final group game against the (slightly hungover) Nottingham Thieves; the Imperial bench swiftly exhausted the supply of jokes about stealing bases. Our defence made an excellent start, which continued as starting pitcher Sidney Louzon didn't give up a single run over the first three innings. Meanwhile, Imperial's offense racked up the runs, going into Nottingham's final innings 11-0 up. As Sidney tired, Nottingham began a late rally, but it wasn't enough as Julian Chiu struck out the last of Nottingham's offense. The 11-6 win put Imperial through to the semi-finals, and another match against Nottingham.

The semi-final was much closer than the group game, as Notting-

ham had mostly recovered from their hangovers and brought on their better pitcher. The score crept up, however, and Imperial's third inning began with the Falcons 4-2 down. Despite the "at-bat from hell" (during which Simon popped his shoulder and Julian pulled his hamstring), we tacked on another run, as Dan Harris came home in comedic fashion – Dan tried to slide into the plate, tripped over, and then (literally) crawled home as the opposition catcher let the throw from 2nd base through his legs.

Pitcher Hajime Urata shut Nottingham out in the top of the fourth inning, leaving Imperial needing two runs to win. Despite what he claimed was a "potentially career ending, crippling hamstring injury", Kevin McDonald brought Yutaro Jimbo home for the first run, leaving Imperial with one out and two men on base, looking sure of victory. The Falcons could not drive their advantage home, however, meaning a fifth inning would be required. Unfortunately, during the top of the fifth, Nottingham hit their stride and hit four runs, leaving the Falcons with a mountain to climb in the bottom of the innings. Imperial failed to score as Nottingham ran out 9-5 winners, putting them through to the final against ULJS.

Imperial went into the final game of the tournament against the UEA Blue Sox, competing for third place with a depleted line-up, as the injuries had

stacked up over the course of the weekend. This was compounded when our first baseman left half way through the first inning to umpire the tournament final. Fortunately, however, the lack of fully-functional fielders proved not to be a problem, as Imperial pitcher Yutaro struck out seven of the opposition batters in the first three innings, while not giving up a single hit. Meanwhile, Imperial's offense slowly built up the score, going up 4-0 after three innings.

As the sun came out during the top of the fourth inning, Yutaro continued his attempt to pitch a perfect game, and may have succeeded if not for emergency catcher Vincent, who obstructed a batter, causing a balk and costing Yutaro his perfect game. Imperial added more runs during the bottom of the inning, leaving UEA needing 6 runs to make Imperial bat again. Despite, some gallant offense, including a two-run home-run, Imperial finished the game as 6-2 winners, sealing a third-place finish in the tournament; congratulations go to ULJS for a well-deserved victory in the final.

The game against UEA was a great end to a long season, in which we won some, lost some and learnt the true meaning of the word "cold". It's been great to see the freshers improving throughout the season (special mention to Simon, Jacques Smith and Lewis Weinberger), and all the best for the fourth years and Masters students who leave at the end of the year.



"Keep the Cat Free"

We will surfive...

Everybody's surfing... surfing USA Newquay

Lizzy Griffiths Sports Writer

On the 1st March, the call of Newquay found SurfSoc packing into a minibus for our second trip of 2013. Already full and with two people still to pick up at Bristol, we battled on through the Friday traffic towards our goal: the sea (and Belushi's). At Bristol, we stocked up on passengers, port and WKD with Carly Rae on full volume. The creation of the 'social seat' and a few Cheeky Vimto's later, the atmosphere began to heat up and soon the whole minibus was skanking to Radio1's Friday Nite Dubstep Bangerz. Big up to Alex 'Karbs' Karvelas for not crashing at this point while Adam 'Hardcore' Harvey was gyrating in his face! However, Karbs became progressively less composed as the frequency of toilet stops "on the side of a f***ing road" increased but at around 1am we finally rolled into our destination. The night was still young though, and there was still time for many Jaeger bombs and games of International Cock or Ball before the Belushi's staff began to tire of our antics and we finally resigned ourselves to bed.

Disaster struck on Saturday morning with the realisation that Hardcore had lost his coat with the minibus keys in while raving with some new Polish friends. I dread to think what the combined effect of that nervous 'shitting myself' feeling and the hangover had on his bowels. But luckily it turned out Dario 'A-frame' Mazza had them all along. With the panic over and many small but perfectly formed waves surfed (apart from by those who were too ill to get in the water/ had locked their wetsuit in the minibus), a quick nap was had before fines commenced. As well as customary drinking, the main activity of Saturday night was grazing. Being the only girl on the trip, Lucy Bareback fell victim to repeated rounds of abuse and by the end of the night, had pretty crispy locks. Dolled up Sailors punters did not take having their hair chewed so lightly though, which nearly led to Zombie John being escorted from the premises. The night finished with a star appearance by Professor Bean, whose explanations of palaeontology ensured that everyone enjoyed an 'integrated learning process' as a bedtime story.

The waves were pretty non-existent on Sunday morning, which was just as



well because no one had set an alarm. Having missed check-out time and breakfast, there was only one thing to do: get back in the water anyway. The bracing water was enough to revive us despite the lack of waves, and after a few hours (or 20 minutes in one case) we were ready for hot chocolates and more Belushi's burgers. Manny and Dangermouse just couldn't get enough of the salty liquid though, and managed to stay out on Fistral for an impressive 5 hours. We reluctantly returned to London tired but in high spirits after another successful SurfSoc session.

Want to get involved? Booking is now open for our Summer Tour - email us at surf@imperial.ac.uk for more details!

