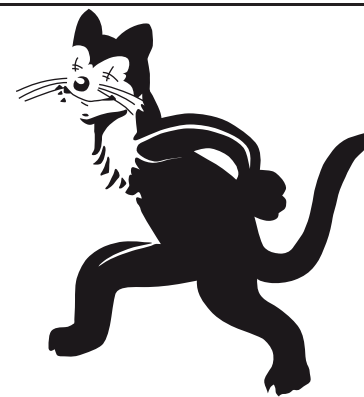


FELIX

"Keep the Cat Free"



14/06/13
Issue 1551
felixonline.co.uk



I, SCIENCE is out now!

Pick up a copy from the distribution points around campus!



Pick up your copy. It may even be next to Felix...

Opticians on Walkway shutting down

- Six months to leave the space after lease is rescinded
- Opticians told a catering facility will replace them

Tim Arbabzadah Editor-in-Chief

The optician on the Sherfield walkway is set to close. Just before Easter, the optician was called and told that the lease is being rescinded and that they have six months to leave – serving them notice is in the provisions of the lease. They will be gone by September and have been told that a new catering facility will be in their place.

Felix contacted Shabbir Khambalia BDS, Practice Director of Vision at SW7, who said: "The notice came as a great shock to us out of the blue. I was called one day just before Easter and told that my lease is being rescinded and that I have 6 months notice to vacate the premises. In an instant the College took away my livelihood. No

alternative site has been offered and no real explanation given except that they want to increase the catering facilities within the College and our service does not meet the College's requirements."

Khambalia went on to say: "We have been extremely happy in the three years we've been at the College and feel [like we are] part of the community. I can proudly say [that the] majority if not all of our customers have been thoroughly happy with our service. This has been apparent with all the support we have already received from people, including the petition and writing to Sir [Keith] O'Nions [President & Rector of Imperial College London]. We will be extremely sad to leave the College." >>5



Max Hunter

Report raises concerns over educational access

Bursary and outreach programmes praised but improved participation needed

Maciej Matuszewski Reporter

A recent joint report from the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has raised concerns about the efforts made by elite English universities to increase numbers of students from low income backgrounds. The report, focusing on the 2011-2012 academic year, was generally positive about the efforts of most higher education institutions but recognised key areas for improvement.

In an introduction to the report Professor Les Ebdon – Direction of Fair Access to Higher Education, and for-

mer Felix Editor! – commented that evidence showed "sustained improvements in participation, including for students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds". The report went on to highlight data showing how "18 year olds from the most disadvantaged areas are 80 per cent more likely to apply to higher education in 2013 than they were in 2004". Sir Alan Langlands, Chief Executive of the HEFCE – the body responsible for distributing government higher education funding – praised universities' bursary and outreach programmes, saying that "in 2011-12 the sector again committed financial resources well in excess of the funding provided by HEFCE for

widening participation, retention and disability". In total, English universities spend over a billion pounds a year on outreach activities and bursaries.

Professor Ebdon went on to admit, however, that "the most selective institutions have made little or no headline progress in increasing access in recent years". Despite year-on-year increases in bursary and outreach spending Imperial College has performed particularly poorly in this regard, with only 18.1% of undergraduate students in the 2011-2012 academic year coming from families with incomes of less than £25,000 a year. Only six English higher education institutions (Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, the Cour- >>4



Former Felix Editor (no, seriously, he was) Professor Les Ebdon

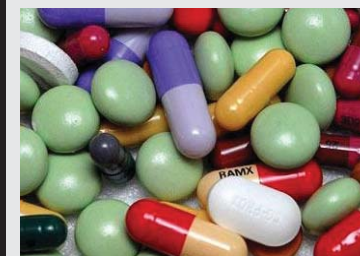
Inside...>>

POLITICS



Special report on Turkey >>16

SCIENCE



Drug laws censor research? >>19

HANGMAN



Definition of a hipster >>36

EDITOR'S PICKS

FEATURE

>> 8

Meet the Sabbs

Yep, you get the chance to meet the team next year. This includes my successor, who will wrestle the Mac from me and start his reign over summer.



SCIENCE

>> 19

UK Drug laws

Imperial's very own David Nutt is at it again. By "it" I mean making sensible points that people in government refuse to listen to...

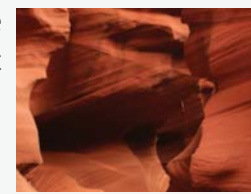


TRAVEL

>> 35

The Canyons

Ah. Holidays. They will be here oh so soon. It's just a last sprint finish to the end, then you can explore stunning places like in this week's Travel section.



CLASSIFIEDS

Live out or live in as an au pair wanted

Mother of three kids ranging from 6 to 8 years old looking for a student with a high level of spoken and written English to help with children afternoon activities. The candidate should be an energetic, happy girl, should not smoke, and must be familiar with the local area. CRB check and references are also requested. The position can be live out or live in as an au pair and is based in South Kensington.

If interested, please contact Mathilda via email: dimeomathilda@gmail.com

After school nanny wanted

After school nanny wanted for two girls (4 and 7) starting 5 August in Parsons Green. Hours flexible but ideally 15-20 hours per week during the school term and then full time during half terms and school holidays. Must have lots of energy and creativity. Experience with or willingness to learn about allergies is important as is the ability to work independently and meet crisis with calm. Extra languages are a plus.

If interested, please contact Mona via email: elnaggarmona@yahoo.com

Volunteers wanted for experiments investigating balance and perception

Must be aged 18-65 and not suffering from vertigo, dizziness, balance or hearing problems. The research is at Charing Cross Hospital, takes about one hour. You will be reimbursed for your time. Fully Ethics Committee approved. To find out more, please contact Dr Ed Roberts: neuro.otologylab@gmail.com

Felix accepts no responsibility for goods or services offered.



Difficulty in reaching out

Tim Arbabzadah
Editor-in-Chief



There I was thinking that I would have a nice, relaxing end of term. I thought that it was the summer term and so it would be chill, and, besides, I've done this weekly slog so many times that I should be used to it by now. I was very mistaken. This is a bigger mistake than that time Justin Bieber's mum said to Justin Bieber's dad "I'm feeling sexy tonight, baby". That might not have happened, but you get the drift. I write this, as you can definitely tell from the writing style, from under my desk at the very last minute. Like with so many things, you think the last time will be the last time, but it usually isn't. So, here goes nothing. Remember these are not as well formed as they could be, and the perennial disclaimer about some considerations deleted due to space requirements.

Access to education

It's fairly safe to say that everyone thinks that no matter what background you come from you should be allowed to go to university. If you're clever and willing to learn, there should be nothing in your way. Unfortunately, there are many things in people's ways. Imperial, universities, and the Outreach Department, sadly, can't fix all of them alone. I know first hand that Outreach do work

hard and do some great work. But they have so much to fight against. This is really an area where no one person or group can truly be blamed. You could, and people probably do, argue until you're all blue in the face (and have stereotypical movie-style sexual tension) about where blame should be attributed. Here's an example: it's the universities' fault! Is it? What about the schools that teach the students for the majority of the time. Ah! I have it! It's those darn schools. They're not engaging enough in their lessons. So simple. Right? The schools? So it's their fault that behaviour is bad and people don't listen to teachers or do their homework? Besides, the kids still spend most of their time at home. The parents then? Duh it's all their fault. Oh really? How about when you have a lot of other pressures on you and are trying your best but your child is influenced by their peers. The kids then? Well, they are just, you know, children. I'm 23 and still immature, so what do you expect them to be like? Plus there are bigger problems and pressures in the world that causes them to be like that. I could go on, but I think you get the point. It's everyone's fault in some way. Besides, when has attributing blame ever solved a problem? If there is one person to blame, then it may help identify a solution. However, in a multi faceted problem,

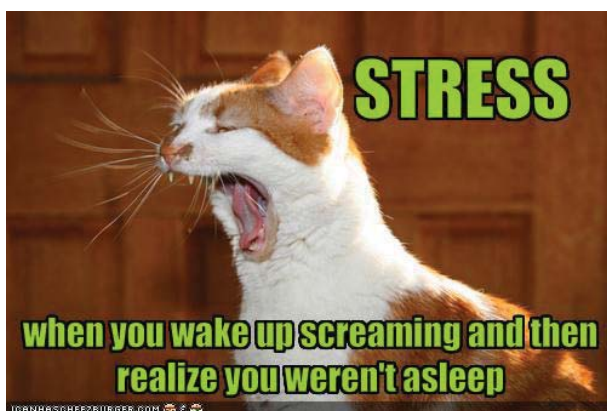
it is often just a way of slowing everything down. The schools, universities, and government must work together to solve this. Parents need to be brought in on this too.

A problem often identified by teachers and classroom assistants is behaviour, which often hinders people excelling and learning as teachers are essentially crowd controllers not knowledge imparters. Solving this is really tricky and a start is teachers knowing how to deal with unruly pupils. I believe all people deserve a chance to shine and should be helped. If they are holding themselves and others back, then they need to be shown, in terms they can understand, what a good education can bring them, and why it's better to work hard. I guess at school it's just not cool to be the good pupil is it - how many roguishly handsome movie heroes are not trouble-makers? Solving that would mean a massive shift in societal perceptions, which probably won't happen.

Seeing the light

Another catering outlet. Really? I hope this is an elaborate end of year troll by College. If I were anyone working in any space around College I would be watching my back. They seem to ruthlessly just rip something away from you saying "we're taking our ball back now".

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



THIS WEEK FELIX WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Felix, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB.
Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk. Tel: 020 7594 8072. Fax: 020 7594 8065.
Printed by Iliffe Print Cambridge, Winship Road, Cambridge.
Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711.
Copyright © Felix 2013.



Editor-in-Chief Tim Arbabzadah **Deputy Editor** Saskia Verhagen **Assistant Editor** Matt Colvin **News Editors** Aemun Reza, Nida Mahmud **Features Editors** Caroline Wood, Stephen Smith **Business Editor** Deepka Rana **Science Editors** Philip Kent, Laurence Pope, Philippa Skett **Politics Editors** Padraic Calpin, Marie-Laure Hicks **Food Editors** Carol Ann Cheah, Sophia Goldberg, Yango Mavrocostanti **Comment Editors** George Barnett, Navid Nabijou, James Simpson **Fashion Editors** Saskia Verhagen, Alice Yang **Arts Editors** Eva Rosenthal, Meredith Thomas **Books Editor** Maciej Matuszewski **Music Editors** Riaz Agahi, Mark England, Ross Gray, Simon Hunter **Television Editor** Lucia Podhorska **Film Editors** Katy Bettany, John Park, Lucy Wiles **Games Editor** Ross Webster **Technology Editors** Jason Parmar, Maximilian Eggel **Coffee Break** Matt Colvin **Travel Editor** Veronika McQuade **Sports Editors** Oli Benton, SORCHA COTTER, Margot PikoVsky **Online Editors** Philip Kent, Jonathan Kim **Puzzles Commanders** Louisa Byrne, Sotirios Karamitsos **Copy Chief** Annina Sartor **Illustrators** Hamish Muir, Outi Supponen



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

NEWS

Union awards announced

Imperial College London

Aemun Reza News Editor

The Imperial College Union Awards Ceremony was held yesterday (Thursday June 13). The Awards Committee chose the winners and Union Council unanimously upheld the decision.

Union Fellowship with Distinction was awarded to Nathaniel Bottrell, a long-time trustee, and Stephen Richardson, Deputy Rector of Imperial College London.

The winners of the Awards and Fellowship with Distinction were Nathaniel Bottrell, a long-time trustee, and Professor Stephen Richardson, Deputy Rector of Imperial College London. There was also Union Fellowship for Dr Lorraine Craig, Earth Science and Engineering Academic Tutor. Many students were awarded Union Colours and Outstanding Service Award (see right). At the last Union Council of the academic year all of the sabbatical officers, including Tim Arabzadah, Felix Editor, and Shiv Vorha (ICSMSU President) were awarded Honorary Life Membership.

The President's Awards were also announced at the last Council of the year. These are awarded by the Paul Beaumont, Union President, with no other committee being involved and are his personal pick of those that have supported the Union in an outstanding way. Club, Society, or Project of the Year President's Award went to Caving Club for discovery of the longest cave in Slovenia back at the beginning of the year. Rhys Tyers Caving Club Chair said: "Connecting our cave systems and thereby discovering the longest cave in Slovenia this summer was the crowning achievement of over a decade of work by the caving club. We think this project has taken over a hundred person-years of effort and it's really nice to see this recognised by the union and RCC through these awards."

The Undergraduate Representation President's Award went to Biology Soc. Aaron D'souza Biology Departmental Representative said: "I think that there have been a lot of people this year who have put a lot of work and effort and dedication into making this year so successful for the Biologists. In my case, I have had a lot of support from the BioSoc, the Biology department, the Biochemistry dep rep and Doug (Hunt). Without them, Biology wouldn't be getting this award." Doug Hunt, Deputy President (Education), said that they have "increased the number of their Staff-Student Committees for the next academic year so more issues can be raised and dealt with more swiftly". He added that they have been heavily encouraging their lecturers to use Panopto [lecture podcasting].

The Postgraduate Representation President's Award went to the Business School. Simon Schillebeeckx Business School Departmental Representative



Stephen Richardson,
Deputy Rector of Imperial College London

said: "Unfortunately I cannot be here today as I am giving a talk at the Good-enough College Conference in North London. I am very happy to receive this reward and that Paul and Doug decided to award it to the Business School for representation. I have tried my very best to intermediate between the needs of the students and the appropriate college channels. If I were successful in my endeavours, I think this wouldn't have been possible without the fantastic cooperation with Doug, Paul, Andrew George, and Debra Humphries. Thanks a lot". Hunt commented saying: "They have convinced the College to increase the PhD writing up period to 12 months as Imperial is behind our competitors in this respect, they have also helped give the rest of the College academics insight into the Business School's workings and have made the Graduate School write various drafts for College policy e.g. the double marking definition and group plagiarism rules."

The President's Personal Awards were given to three individuals. Professor Stephen Richardson was again the recipient of an award. Richardson was a student at Imperial and completed his PhD in 1975. He later returned as a lecturer in 1978 and has been a permanent fixture of Imperial since 1987. He was appointed Deputy Rector in 2009. Beaumont said: "Stephen has been a champion for the student voice and student experience for the last twenty-five years. Since his appointment as Deputy Rector, he has been the go-to person in the College Management – always frank, honest and willing to listen." He went on to say: "Stephen has been a great help to the Union itself this year too; helping with our new Partnership Agreement, Code of Practice, Funding and Space agreements. He has always had a good word to say on the Union's behalf when it comes to campaigns like #AgainstActon, the College Management Board's response to student views on the new halls, the Holland Club and Level 0, and the Union's involvement in

that." Beaumont also commented on the good feedback he gets from his lectures and his promotion of teaching when he was Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering. He said: "Despite being one of the most powerful figures in the College, Stephen has never forgotten his roots – nor probably his days as a student here. This grounding creates a very important friend for the Union."

Also in for a double award was Lorraine Craig, who picked up a President's Award as well. Craig joined College in 2006 and since joining ESE SOLE & NSS scores have shot up. Beaumont described her as "a complete hit [with the students]". He said: "Lorraine knows every single one of her students by name – and makes it her job to ensure their student experience is second to none. She is – for all intents and purposes – these students' second mum." He also mentioned how she "always had a good word to say on the Union's behalf when it comes to campaigns like #AgainstActon" and how she always comes up with great initiatives.

The final President's Award was given to Phillip Kent, a Chemistry student, for his role as Systems Administrator for the Union Website. Beaumont said: "Imperial College Union literally wouldn't have a web presence without Philip. Over the Summer 2012 he helped myself, and two members of staff completely re-write the Union's website, which takes £1M of CSP transactions each year. As SysAdmin, Philip has worked selflessly to try and ensure the security of one of the CSPs best communication tools: Dougal, the Union webserver. Without Philip, CSPs could have lost their websites and individuality, and the Central Union, the support system. Philip has also written some of the new systems that students and the Union rely on for annual events: the Mums and Dads matching system, for one. For all of his contributions, I have awarded Philip the President's Award, and the Council has awarded him an Outstanding Achievement Award."

Full winners

Union Awards

Colours

Zahra Aboukhalil
Fatima Ahmad
Matthew Allinson
Martin Asprusten
Giada Azzopardi
Richard Bennett
Henry Bleech
William Brown
Christopher Charles
Francis Clegg
James Cooper
Peter Davis
Pongsathorn Dechatiwongse
Aaron D'souza
Christian Franke
Shiladitya Ghosh
William Glendinning
Usman Goga
Boshuo Guo
Maija-Lisa Han
Dariush Hassanzadeh-Baboli
Johannes Hoenigl
Ali Hosin
Ibtesham Hossain
Maximilian Hunter
Matthew Hutchins
Emily Hutchinson
Narthana Ilenkovan
Naomi Jordan
Neeraj Kalra
Hanan Kamel
Natalie Kempston
Giridhar Kesavan

Outstanding Service Award

Dominic Andradi-Brown
Isabel Fenton
Benjamin Fry
Adam Funnell
George Goldberg
Maryam Habibzay
Philip Kent
Wasim Khouri
Joseph Letts
Thomas Lim
Slobodan Radosavljevic
Suzanne Rayner
Joseph Rumer
Simon Schillebeeckx
Steven Tran
Ross Webster
Thomas Wilshere
Jake Woods

Fellowship

Lorraine Craig

Fellowship with Distinction

Nathaniel Bottrell
Stephen Richardson

President's Awards

UG Rep: Biology Soc
PG Rep: Business School
Club of the Year: Caving Soc
Personal Awards: Lorraine Craig, Philip Kent, Stephen Richardson (Deputy Rector)

Sponsored Editorial

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

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

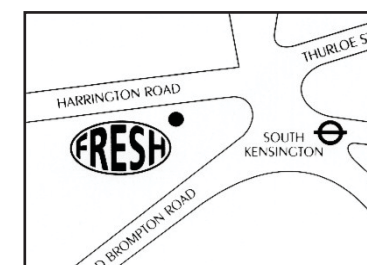
FRESH Hairdressers has been offering high quality, fashionable haircuts for over 20 years. All of our haircuts are by highly experienced stylists, NOT trainees.

TO GET A GREAT HAIRCUT

- 1) You don't have to spend a lot of money at expensive trendy salons
- 2) You don't have to spend hours as a Guinea pig at a training school
- 3) You don't have to be butchered at some cheap Barbers
- 4) You don't have to wait till you go back home

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

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



Global bio-medical hub to be built in London

A £650 million medical research centre is under construction in London. Funded by the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust as well as Imperial College London, University College London and King's College London. The Francis Crick Institute will be based in King Cross next to St Pancras International station and will open in 2015.

The institute will have 1,500 staff, including 1,250 scientists, and an annual budget of about £120 million. The biomedical super-laboratory aims to attract the 'brightest and best' as it will launch a global search for new talent to conduct the research into cancer, the immune system and infectious diseases.

It has been named in honour of Francis Crick, whose work identified the structure of DNA and won him and two colleagues the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1962.

Nobel prize-winning scientist Sir Paul Nurse, director of the institute, spoke to *Nature* about the new centre. He said that the quality of the employees will have a huge impact as they are the 'people who move the needles'. He says that the major role of the Crick centre is to act as a source of high-quality talent to support biomedical research effort throughout the country.

Sir Paul said: "We support the scientist and the other institutions that take them, so they get a flying start to their career. We will focus on the quality of the individual rather than saying, 'We are going to work on stem cells or DNA therapy'."

He also commented on how it was unique to form a partnership between the UK's three largest funders of biomedical research and three "rival" London universities.

"We are trying to put something in place that reduces all sorts of boundaries that can get in the way of research," said Sir Paul. "The major universities in London tend to compete. Here it's the opposite. They have all got together to support this endeavour. It's a major contribution to London science."

The Francis Crick Institute will not have the clinical facilities for the research and will depend on the three universities for this. One of the themes is to pursue multidisciplinary research in both the clinical and physical science setting.

Sir Paul said: "What we're also trying to do is have a culture where the investigator will look beyond the research they're doing, into how it can be used. That will apply to universities but it will also apply to the National Health Service (NHS) and also to the pharmaceutical and biotech industries."

Aemun Reza

Imperial seventh lowest proportion of students from deprived backgrounds

» continued from the front page

tauld Institute of Art, the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music) had a lower proportion of students from deprived backgrounds.

This agrees with worrying figures released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). These show that for the 2011-2012 academic year only 62.7% of new entrants to the College came from a state school – compared to a 88.5% average for all English universities – and only 15.5% belonged to the four poorest National Statistics Socio-Economic Classes (NS-SEC – see box on right) – this is compared to a 30.7% average for England. The College also falls short of HESA's benchmark figures – the percentages of students from backgrounds in the lowest NS-SEC category – which could be expected given factors such as Imperial's location and the courses that it offers. These benchmarks are 74.5% of new entrants from state schools and 17.1% of new entrants from the lowest NS-SEC. Full figures showing the effect of the introduction of higher fees for the 2012-2013 academic year have not yet been released.

Speaking to Felix Paul Beaumont, Imperial College Union President, said he was "genuinely not sure what more can be done, other than better communication of the College's financial support package and increased, more focussed Outreach work". He added that, in his personal opinion: "The College has one of the most generous cash-in-hand financial support packages in the country. The National Scholarship Program requires that £5k of the bursary must be in 'service discounts' rather than cash in hand, which the College very nicely gives students in their first year (when they can cash this in on their accommodation), and then provided £50 million to the initiative, which will rise to £100 million in 2013/14 and £150 million in 2014/15 gives £1k cash in their first year, and £6k cash for years after. Most other universities waive fees, which does nothing to help students whilst they're at university: they need the cash there and then." He went on to say: "The College is also discussing other ways in which students will be able to spend their service discount in the future, if they so choose. Some considerations at the minute are being able to put the money towards clubs and societies, as most students complain that the thing that they miss out on the most are clubs and societies activities." There has, as yet, been no official Union response to the figure.

Speaking to Felix Dr Melanie Bottrill, Scientific Projects Manager in Imperial's Outreach Office, said: "The Outreach team at Imperial works really hard across the calendar year to deliver a wide range activities for

prospective students. This year we expect to interact with over 11,000 school students through our activities on campus, such as summer schools and other funded enrichment courses. In addition, we do all sorts of work within schools, such as the Pimlico connection, Postgraduate Ambassadors Scheme, Inspire and our school visits programme. Our activity is much wider reaching than I think most people realise. Rarely a day passes without an activity happening on campus or without one of us being within a school, so we are a really busy team – and we are brilliantly supported by all the UG and PG students who work on our programmes as mentors or volunteers.

"With the new fee regime, the demand for our programmes has grown and prospective students want more opportunities for support and information from universities. This is the first full academic year (12/13) of the new fees, and the College has set aside part of this income to significantly expand our outreach programmes aimed at academically able, but disadvantaged prospective students."

In its access agreement – a document all universities charging more than £1,345 per student must submit to OFFA – the College pledges to "spend at least 35% of additional fee income" on bursaries and outreach activities. Additionally, "the College commits to increase expenditure on outreach activities by at least £550K once all undergraduate cohorts are on the new fee system".

Dr Bottrill added: "The biggest challenge that is faced by the College, in my opinion, is the small pool of prospective students who fit the criteria of being able and interested in STEM subjects, but of a widening participation background. To increase this number, we need to be supporting these students much earlier in their school careers. If we can inspire students early in their school careers about STEM subjects helping them stay within this field, then the number of prospective students for Imperial will grow."

Speaking to the *Daily Telegraph* Wendy Piatt, director general of the Russell Group of elite research universities, said: "Our universities put a lot of effort into trying to help solve these problems but we cannot do so alone. Outreach work, including summer schools and mentoring, can be successful at inspiring students from a wide variety of backgrounds to apply to a range of universities and has an important role to play. But no-one can guarantee that those students will go on to apply successfully to Russell Group universities. It remains important that admission to university is based on merit and fairness to all candidates; any decisions about admissions must maintain high academic



FACT BOX

NS-SEC indicates the occupation of the highest-earning person in a student's household. Applicants give the occupation of the highest-earning person in their household on their UCAS forms. This is then translated into seven categories, which are:

- 1 Higher managerial and professional occupations
- 2 Lower managerial and professional occupations
- 3 Intermediate occupations
- 4 Small employers and own account workers
- 5 Lower supervisory and technical occupations
- 6 Semi-routine occupations
- 7 Routine occupations

standards."

The Government's response to the OFFA and HEFCE report has focused mainly on the positives. In particular, ministers pointed out the effectiveness of the recently introduced National Scholarship Programme. In an official press release the Secretary of State for Business, Vince Cable said: "I have always said that going to university should be about ability, not ability to pay. So it's encouraging that the National Scholarship Programme has helped more than 35,000 students from poor backgrounds in its first year. This has been supported by over £130 million investment from government and institutions."

Universities and Science Minister David Willetts added: "This report highlights how our reforms are putting students at the heart of the system. We are making progress in ensuring talented people from disadvantaged backgrounds make it to uni-

versity. This year the proportion of applications for the most disadvantaged 18 year olds was at its highest level ever but we are not complacent, more needs to be done."

The Labour Party, however, insists that current efforts by the Government are not enough. Policies being considered by Labour include the "idea of making lower A-level offers to poorer students". A report published last week by the left leaning think tank the Institute for Public Policy Research recommended that "funding should be shifted out of fee waivers and bursaries and into outreach programmes, which have a stronger track-record of recruiting applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds" and that "a student premium should be introduced of £1,000 extra per student from a low-participation area or who has received free school meals".

» Editorial: page 2

Imperial College London

GPNAY – Union Council unanimously opposes the GPA

Maciej Matuszewski Reporter



The Union Council this week unanimously passed a paper opposing plans by a number of UK universities to replace the current system of degree classification with US style grade point averages (GPA). The group of twelve universities – including King’s College London and UCL, but not Imperial – first published their plans in June 2011. The new system would involve students being assigned letter grades for each piece of assessment. Each grade would be assigned a numerical value between 0.00 and 4.25 with the final grade being a weighted average of these numerical values.

The Union Council, however, rejected arguments that the GPA was superior to the current system since it is better understood internationally and provides more information to potential employers. Instead the Council

raised the point that the GPA would lead to a greater focus on marks rather than learning course material. This would further lead to more stress for students and might encourage some to take easier modules. It was also pointed out that introducing a new system would lead to more confusion. The currently proposed system would be particularly confusing as it would go up to 4.25 and not 4.00, as is the case in most US universities, and it would not “align itself with the one for A-levels, which is letter grade and percentages”.

The passed paper states that the

Union believes that “Imperial College London should keep the traditional British degree class marking system” and that “switching to a GPA marking system would be a misuse of College resources”. The Council resolved to inform both the College and the group of universities which favour the change that the Imperial “student body opposes a GPA marking system”.

Speaking to Felix Debra Humphris, Pro Rector (Education), confirmed that there had so far been no discussions in College about changing the degree classification system.

Opticians sorry to leave

» continued from the front page

One of the letters sent to Sir Keith O’Nions praised the service and “superb care” offered and said that the writer was “surprised and dismayed” to hear the eviction and hoped the “absurd” and “flawed decision” would be changed. The letter went on to suggest the optician could move, saying: “It seems anyway rather odd that so small a space should apparently make such a difference to your plans for expansion – if this particular space is indeed so very vital could you not find room elsewhere on campus for Vision@SW7?”

Khambalia told Felix: “All staff and students who are finding out about the closure are absolutely up in arms about it.” Khambalia said that the practice have no local area to relocate to at the present time.

The opticians has been there since 2000 and was bought by Vision at SW7 three years ago in a private deal with the previous owners. As a result of this purchase, Vision at SW7 say that their removal will mean “the loss of



[a] £70,000 investment” and said that “no compensation [is] being offered”. College say that this loss is from the private deal made with the previous owners, which did not involve College.

Khambalia said that after buying the store they “have really turned it round and previous customers who had gone somewhere else are returning to us”.

The optician has started a campaign to be allowed to stay. This includes a petition in store and the posters (pictured) that have gone up in the windows.

Registered Osteopath

Specialising in:

- Sports injuries & rehabilitation
- Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI)
- Sciatica and trapped nerves
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Tennis/Golfer’s elbow
- Back and neck pain
- TMJ pain (jaw pain)
- Postural problems
- Arthritic joint pain
- Ligament sprains
- Frozen shoulder
- Muscie aches
- Whiplash



British Osteopathic Association

Registered with the General Osteopathic Council



Alan Coles BSc (Hons). BSc (Hons) Ost

The Surgery
7 Stanhope Mews West,
Gloucester Road,
London SW7 5RB.

Telephone: **07802 826109**

www.sw7osteo.com

Email: alancoles.osteo@gmail.com

20% Discount on First Session for Felix readers

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

★ Presents ★

THE SUMMER BALL 2013

1920s PROHIBITION

Saturday 22 June

YOU HAVE **ONE WEEK LEFT TO**
GET YOUR TICKET FOR
THE MOST OPULENT NIGHT
OF THE YEAR!

Last year's Summer ball sold out so make sure
you get yours before **23:59 Friday 21 June.**
On the door prices: £45 for the ball and £10 for the afterparty.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AT:
imperialcollegeunion.org/summerball

TICKETS ONLY

£40

AFTERPARTY **£6.50**

FIRST TWO DRINKS
ARE FREE

Sponsored by





Meet the new faces of the Union

David Goldsmith Union President

Age: 20
Course: Medicine
Year: 2

Why I ran: The position allows me to get fully stuck into the Union, enabling me to dedicate all my time and effort to it. This is what I have been craving all year.

My main focus for next year is the relationship between the students and the College. Much greater notice must be taken of student preference before decisions, big and small, are made. This extends into all areas of the student experience and I am hinting here in particular to the building of halls in North Acton. My aim is to vastly improve the input students have on these decisions. I will be working closely with Nat (DPE) and the Pro Rector (Education) to ensure that the new education strategy that is being implemented is tailored toward what students feel is currently lacking. With regard to the Union, the emphasis again will be on getting greater student input. This is particularly the case with regard to the Union bar, Metric and the Summer Ball.

A unique plan of mine for next year will be to investigate the implementation of a free half-day each year in which students in the lower years at the University are able to engage together in charity fundraising or volunteering. This will likely be a great challenge to achieve but it is something I will be fighting hard for.



Yasmin Edwards DPCS

Age: 21
Course: Biology
Year: Final

Why I ran: I have had a great time being involved in clubs & societies and it has been a massive part of my experience at Uni. I want to encourage more students to get involved in things other than their studies so this great experience can be shared, and hope by making the running of clubs & socs easier, more people will do so.

Next year I aim to ensure the people who volunteer their time to run clubs & socs get all the support they need to do so, this is especially important for chairs and treasurers. I plan to increase student involvement in clubs & socs by running a re-freshers fair and encouraging more engaging promotion of clubs & socs events. I also aim to improve the training depocs receive to facilitate better and more varied department-wide events. And finally, I hope to be a friendly face so people feel they can come and discuss in person any problems they might face in running clubs & socs.



Kieron Creagh DPFS

Age: 21
Course: Biology
Year: Final

Why I ran: The Union has been a big part of my life. I want to make it even better and I'm excited to spend another year here.

Next year I will be working for you over in the Union offices. It will be my job to listen to your comments and ideas and, along with my own experience, improve everything I can. One of my main goals is to make more students proud to be part of Imperial College Union. I hope to do this by giving everyone a better understanding of what we actually do and how much most students, one way or another, actually use the services on offer. I also have a lot of ideas when it comes to our bars, and not just in South Ken, to ensure they provide a relaxed, social and student focused atmosphere that, most importantly, everyone wants to use. However the Union is not just the building or facilities it provides, I plan to make sure it is as easy as possible to play sports, join and run clubs and societies and organise events. Keep an eye out and throughout the year I'll make sure you're updated on everything that's happening. And if you have any ideas or just want to know what I'm doing and you see me about just let me know!



Natalie Kempson DPE

Age: 22
Course: Public Health (Masters)
Year: One-year masters

Why I ran: I love education. I ran for DPE in the hope that I can make you all love it too.

Next year I want to focus on the good stuff rather than just the bad. This year the first Student Academic Choice Awards were held, and next year I want to make these bigger and get more students nominating those members of staff who really make a positive impact on their time at Imperial. Increasing awareness of UROP will hopefully increase the number of research opportunities for undergraduate students interested in research, while increasing the number of places on BEST courses will benefit more business-minded individuals. A job for all of us will be to ensure that we are involved in every decision made about the development at Acton, so that future Imperial students have the best possible student experience.



Marissa Lewis DPW

Age: 22
Course: Medicine
Year: 4

Why I ran: I decided running was more constructive than complaining... and my housemates happen to be very persuasive.

The main aim for next year is to ensure Imperial is an inclusive and positive experience for all of our students. The prospect of many of Imperial's undergraduates living out in Acton has really highlighted the need to tailor welfare for incoming students which doesn't rely on proximity to South Kensington; a goal which would no doubt benefit post-graduate students who can be similarly vulnerable, especially if moving to London for the first time. In a similar vein, I'm keen to work with the newly-elected welfare officers to ensure the needs of all students are represented and fought for. I'm also really looking forward to continuing and expanding the Stress Less scheme and STI clinics started by Becky, to ensure they are sustainable for many years to come.



Joe Letts Felix Editor



Age: 22
Course: Civil Engineering
Year: Final

Why I ran: For the chance to shape and produce news and entertainment for all Imperial students.

Next year's Felix will be bigger and better! We'll be producing more news and featuring contributions from a larger range of students from all campuses and as well as introducing a "What's On" section and a Careers section. We'll also take a closer look at the Union and bring you interesting features and surveys.

For next year I plan to open Felix to the masses by providing an easy article submission system and providing explanations about how we operate. I will start with the aforementioned new sections (What's On, Careers) and exciting surveys. My focus for the next year is to expand Felix with more content relevant to the average Joe Huxley on all campuses.



WHAT THIS YEAR'S TEAM SAY THEY'VE DONE



This year's Sabbaticals. From left to right: Henry Whittaker (DPCS), Tim Arbabzadah (Felix Editor), Paul Beaumont (Union President), Becky Lane (DPW), Stefan Nubert (DPFS), Doug Hunt (DPE)

Paul Beaumont, President

Out of all the things I've done that students will notice, I'm most proud about the Union's successful #AgainstActon campaign, and the number of responses to College and Government we've written on behalf of students, the recommendations we've made (and acted on, when in a position to do so) to improve the student experience. There are many things only a few will notice but have huge implications for the Union: I guess I'm pretty proud I registered the Union as a charity with the Charity Commission to ensure we keep our charitable status in the future. Introducing two free drinks at the Summer Ball is only a partial implementation of my manifesto promise, but I was wrong to say it would be affordable to have an open bar: it is much more expensive to run a bar at a venue that isn't normally a nightclub (ie on campus!).

Stefan Nubert, DPFS

There are a few things I'm happy about achieving this year. The first one is the major restructuring of the commercial services at ICU. This may not be instantly visible to students and it's actually still on going (should be finished by mid-July). It was a manifesto point for me and something I am passionate about improving. It's actually made parts of this year very frustrating for me, waiting on processes to complete but now ICU's commercial services are in a much stronger position for the future now the difficult phases are over. Going forward the new management (once fully in place) will continue to improve things. It also gave more life to the role of the DPFS, making it significantly more "hands on" than in previous years. Another point is the re-introduction of drinks offers. I had to push hard

for these initially, but having built a strong working relationship with the commercial services manager we've introduced a good range of offers. A list of a few other little things such as giving a pay-rise to the senior student staff, making We Are Metric nights cheaper for clubs, proposing future financial safeguards, upping slightly the grant awarded to CSB along with an increase to the IC Trust funding for tours (jointly with Henry the DPCS) and introducing sorted recycling to our bars.

A final almost trivial point, but important to me, was being approachable as a sabbatical and being as quick as I could to respond to and deal with club queries. I feel I've mostly accomplished this, but as ever with the sheer volume of these, there will be those who felt I wasn't efficient or helpful enough dealing with their problem and I can only apologise for that. Overall I feel our sabbatical team has accomplished a number of major points this year and cooperated on a great number of projects.

Doug Hunt, DPE

I have built on the great work the previous DPEs have done before me – improving the "You Said, We Did" campaign, running 2 Rep Weeks (with doubling the number of tips sent to your reps), NSS 2012 Response and giving a more detailed breakdown of what takes place in all the Staff-Student Committees across the College. Through benchmarking and seeking student opinion on international opportunities the College is now offering funded summer research placements at several other world class universities, while I have also helped increase survey turnout in SOLE and the NSS. I also worked with the Departmental Societies to increase the number of

students taking part in the Mums & Dads scheme, made sure every Dep Soc has a Fresher Facebook group to welcome first years, raised over £700 for them via Soc Off events and already made sure the incoming committees are trained, so it can be improved for next year. This year we also launched the A-Z rep finder online tool and the Student Academic Choice Awards, which allows students to reward some of the College's best academics, support staff or Graduate Teaching Assistants. Lastly, the entire Sabbatical team and I worked together on a vast range of projects together to try and improve the student experience at Imperial.

Becky Lane, DPW

It's been much more hectic than I could have ever imagined but all the more enjoyable for it! This year I have written the first Student Experience Survey response which will be used by College to improve and shape the student experience at Imperial. I have begun work with ICT to try and solve the age old personal tutor problem (something which I really hope remains a priority). Lots of exciting projects I hadn't even considered when I ran for election have popped up, as I hurriedly write this I am in the process of writing a bid to the NUS/HEFCE to try and get the Union £240,000 of funding to spend on green projects. Despite all of that, I'm pretty sure I will just be remembered as the girl who got the petting zoo, bouncy castle and massages... which isn't the worst legacy in my opinion.

Tim Arbabzadah, Felix Editor

Well, I'm not really sure exactly what to write here, despite it being my idea. So here goes nothing. This will, in all likelihood, be a mini manifesto re-

view. First, I redesigned the paper and did a (pretty needed) deep clean of the office. The latter people didn't see unless involved in some way. Hopefully, the paper and office look pretty. I think I kept up the fun tone, and hopefully made it enjoyable to read – including an added page of light relief. I also tried to do some investigative news stories. The international student fees one and the (controversial, sorry) look at workloads spring to mind. I regret that I didn't get to do more of these. I had plans that I still think would be great; the weekly pressures of getting the news and paper together meant that I just didn't find the time, and, for that, I am sorry. I tried to bring all of the news to you in an unbiased and informative way.

I definitely do think that I held College and the Union to account, I think. I don't think I ever didn't say what I thought on the matter. Loads of things spring to mind: Acton, Translation Studies, Holland Club.

I lowered Clubs and Socs adverts and was very accommodating in terms of prices (ask any of them!).

Where I failed: I didn't ever hold a proper office party open to everyone. It would have been awesome, but I tried a smaller version and realised it probably was a bad idea with the computers. I'll hold my hands up and say my bad, but you can pop down to the office and say hi whenever you like and I'll always find time for you. I also didn't hand out papers personally on Friday. Maybe I will one of the last two weeks. To be honest, you probably didn't want to see me at that tired state.

Overall, I tried to make the paper the best it could be. I worked myself to near madness this year, and hopefully it paid off in some way!



TED^x Albertopolis

x = independently organized TED event

An afternoon of inspiring, thought-provoking
and entertaining talks

EXPLORING HOW ART AND SCIENCE FIT TOGETHER IN THE MODERN WORLD

23 September 2013

Book now
royalalberthall.com

Find out more at **TEDxAlbertopolis.com**
Box office **0845 401 5034**



 /TEDxAlbertopolis

 @TEDxAlbrtopolis

#TEDxAlb

FELIX

FEATURES

E-lighting up

Two smokers give the new E-Lites a test to see what they're like

Frank Machin Felix writers
Meredith Thomas

Others in the Felix Office will vouch for this. My first words on smoking my allocated e-cigarette were, "this tastes like smoking a dusty egg in a sauna". In my all too numerous returns to the device I never managed to elucidate a more pithy nor precise description of the experience. As you can probably tell by now, this review will not be positive. Mine came in a red box, which apparently means regular strength, meaning you get the full eggy experience.

Now, I am on record as being a fairly unabashed smoker. I have inhaled some pretty knarly things in my time from the relatively throat scratching Gauloises though dodgy Bulgarian counterfeits up to an including, to my smouldering regret, rollies drunkenly assembled from bus tickets (never do that). All of these had a taste which vaguely harked back to something that might have once come from a plant including, technically, that one bread stick (never do that either).

The E-light did not hark back to anything apart from possibly a starch filled swimming pool. See, I never beat the eggs – figuratively. The claim that one charge replaces 30 cigarettes was fairly ludicrous and it is going to take a few weeks to repair the damage my street-cred accrued when the guy from the off-licence saw me smoking it on the way home. In conclusion despite what advertisers would have us believe about the bright new dawn of the i-fag, very much like its brethren

ebooks, prophylactics and Prii (the plural of Prius – jeez, read a book), the old ways are the most certainly the best. – *Meredith Thomas*

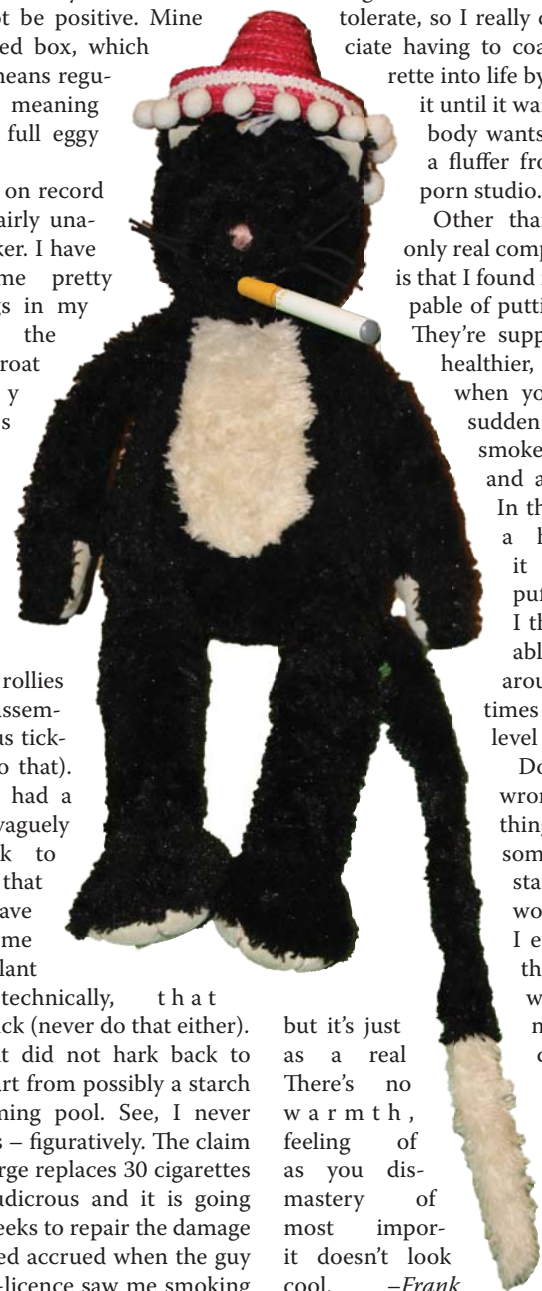
I chose the menthol flavoured E-Lite for two important reasons: 1) The packet was green 2) Menthol is kind of a goth thing, so I felt I owed it to my subculture. When I smoke, which isn't often, I really want my nicotine the very instant I start smoking. Finding my lighter and igniting the damn thing is as much of a delay as I can tolerate, so I really don't appreciate having to coax the cigarette into life by sucking on

it until it warms up. Nobody wants to feel like a fluffer from a 1970's porn studio.

Other than that, the only real complaint I have is that I found myself incapable of putting it down. They're supposed to be healthier, but not when you have the sudden ability to smoke anywhere and at any time. In the week and a half before it ran out of puff (chortle), I think I probably took in around three times my usual level of nicotine.

Don't get me wrong, these things are awesome, and I'm starting to wonder how I ever went to the library without one, not the same feeling of triumph there's no play your fire, and, tantly, nearly as cool. –*Frank Machin*

If you are a smoker and wish to quit, visit <http://smokefree.nhs.uk/> for more information and help.



Imperial College London

End of Term Reuse & Recycling Campaign

For the 5th year, we are running a reuse and recycling scheme in halls of residence. As you prepare to leave at the end of term, please take some time to ensure as little as possible goes to waste.

STEP 1

Donate

Do you have items in good condition that you no longer require?

- Kitchen items
- Bedding
- IT / Electrical items
- Books
- Clothes
- Shoes
- CDs / DVDs
- Unused toiletries
- Bric-a-brac
- Sealed/canned food



Reusing items avoids unnecessary CO₂ emissions

SEE LOCAL POSTERS TO FIND YOUR HALL'S DONATION POINT

STEP 2

Recycle

Once you have segregated items for reuse please recycle anything else that you can

- Glass
- Hard plastics
- Cans
- Tins
- Paper
- Card



Recycling is another way to have a positive impact on the environment

WASTE & RECYCLING SACKS WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOUR ROOM TO MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU TO SEGREGATE YOUR ITEMS

STEP 3

Feel good

Feel good having helped those in need

- Ace of Clubs
- Bright Sparks
- Clothes Aid
- Emmaus
- Guy's & St Thomas'
- Manna Centre
- OFFERS/EX-IT
- St Mungo's
- Streelytes
- Marylebone Project
- The Upper Room
- TRAUD



Just some of the charities that may benefit from your donations

Thank you for taking part!

Donate >>>

Recycle >>>

Feel good >>>

Job done !!!

What did my hall achieve in 2012?

Read about last year's success and find out more: www.imperial.ac.uk/wasteandrecycling

RCSU – Year in Review

With the RCSU Summer Ball just around the corner, **James Tsim**, RCSU President, talks about the year that has just gone by



RCSU with their Jezebel



Future RCSU President Plabon saha. He's really sensitive about his disfigured feet. Best not to mention it...



One of the RCSU balls. Sweaty balls. Mmmmmmm

This academic year is coming to a close with exams and final year projects and soon the next RCSU committee will be taking the reins. We hope that you have enjoyed reading RCSU Broadsheet this year and keep reading next year! The RCSU this year has had fantastic turn-outs to events, with Freshers enjoying a taste of top class bars in Chelsea during our pub crawl, taking

full advantage of our Autumn Ball to make friends and amazing discounts at the 'RCSU Bookshop'. As usual Mascotry was rife in the RCSU, with us successfully acquiring the CGCU Spanner and Bolt during fresher's fair which ultimately led to pieing of Temi Ladega (CGCU President). Freshers also got involved and I was surprised by a mysterious looking group of Freshers knocking on the office door carrying the Medics mas-

cot (Phoenix costume).

First term was jam packed with career events from Ernst & Young and Deutsche Bank as well as innovative and informative lectures from the Imperial College Business School and Imperial Innovations. The aim was to build on the long term benefits for students and making them aware of the broad range of opportunities inside and outside of science. RCSU Welfare Week was also a big

hit, with students fully exploiting the STI Clinic, Doctor Bike and Self-defence classes. On top of that students enjoyed the free smoothies which were handed out along with highly subsidised ice-skating. The Union does care about student welfare more than you think and with over 1000 free RCSU branded condoms handed out this year, I need not comment further on the sexual activity of students in the RCSU.

The joint CGCU-RCSU Winter Ball was a sell-out, held at an all exclusive venue with a £10,000 bar tab. Some people may question whether it was a good idea to let the engineers near our RCSU girls or whether £10,000 is too much. But a party with a gathering of around 700 Imperial students, this is the largest Imperial party preceding Christmas and an awesome end to an awesome first term. RCSU RAG this year has been ex-

All photos courtesy of RCSU

£12 Early bird
£15 Standard

Outrageous
£9,000 Bar Tab!!

You are invited to
The **RCSU**
Summer Ball

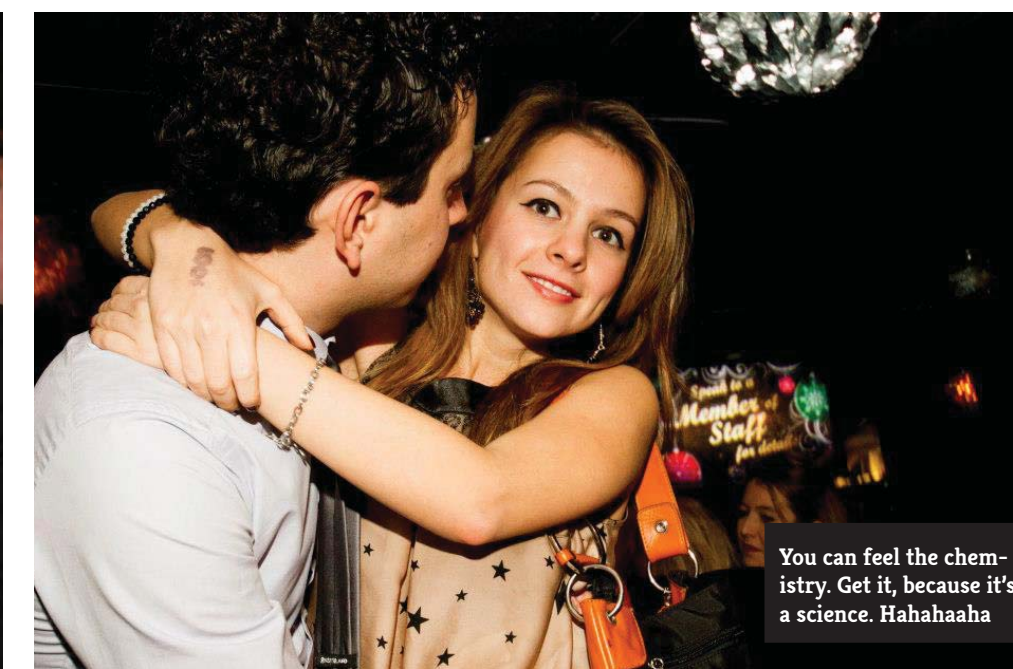
9pm
25th June

Black Tie @ Grace Bar

Buy tickets:
rcsu.org.uk/summerball



Dat cufflink



You can feel the chemistry. Get it, because it's a science. Hahahaaha



Students thought the dancefloor was a rubix cube



Brave man wearing that t-shirt

tremely active such as helping in the organisation of a cake sale for charity. A few members of the RCSU team also took part in November to raise money for men's health. Currently the RCSU is running a campaign and accepting donations to support the Bangladesh Factory disaster. Find out more by going to the RCSU's Facebook page.

The start of 2013 saw the launch of the RCSU Science Challenge hosted by our Science Challenge Chair, Ryan Browne. This is our annual essay writing competition, which this year saw an additional twist with the addition of a video category. This competition was open to all Imperial students and a large range of secondary schools. With over £4000 worth of prizes, a trip to CERN and a final at the House of Lords, this is one of the largest science communication competitions in the UK. A big thank

you to our judges, which this year included Lord Robert Winston, Sir Brian Hoskins, Sir Roy Anderson and Dr Jad Marrouche. Towards Easter, the RCSU Spring Ball took place at the cosy Warwick Bar. The theme was Red & White, where we tried to challenge some of the conventions of a formal ball. Girls came dressed in beautiful red and white dresses, whilst many a man came in red chinos with a white

shirt. The end of term also saw the RCSU Interdepartmental Quiz, where the Dep Socs came together to organise a successful quiz night, intellectually challenging many a student. The end of academic year 2012/13 is fast approaching, so join the RCSU for a final party at Grace Bar on the 25th June 2013. Let's end this year at the RCSU Summer Ball with a blast. £9000 has been placed behind the

bar, so get ready for the PARTY OF THE YEAR! For those graduating there is a Final Year's Dinner prior to this which comes with a champagne reception and 3 course meal. Finally I hope that you have enjoyed the RCSU this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the RCSU committee for their hard work and wish the best of luck to Plabon Saha, RCSU President-elect.

COMMENT

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



Deportation Woes

The Government's treatment of overseas nationals is reprehensible, and is threatening a large number of students at Imperial



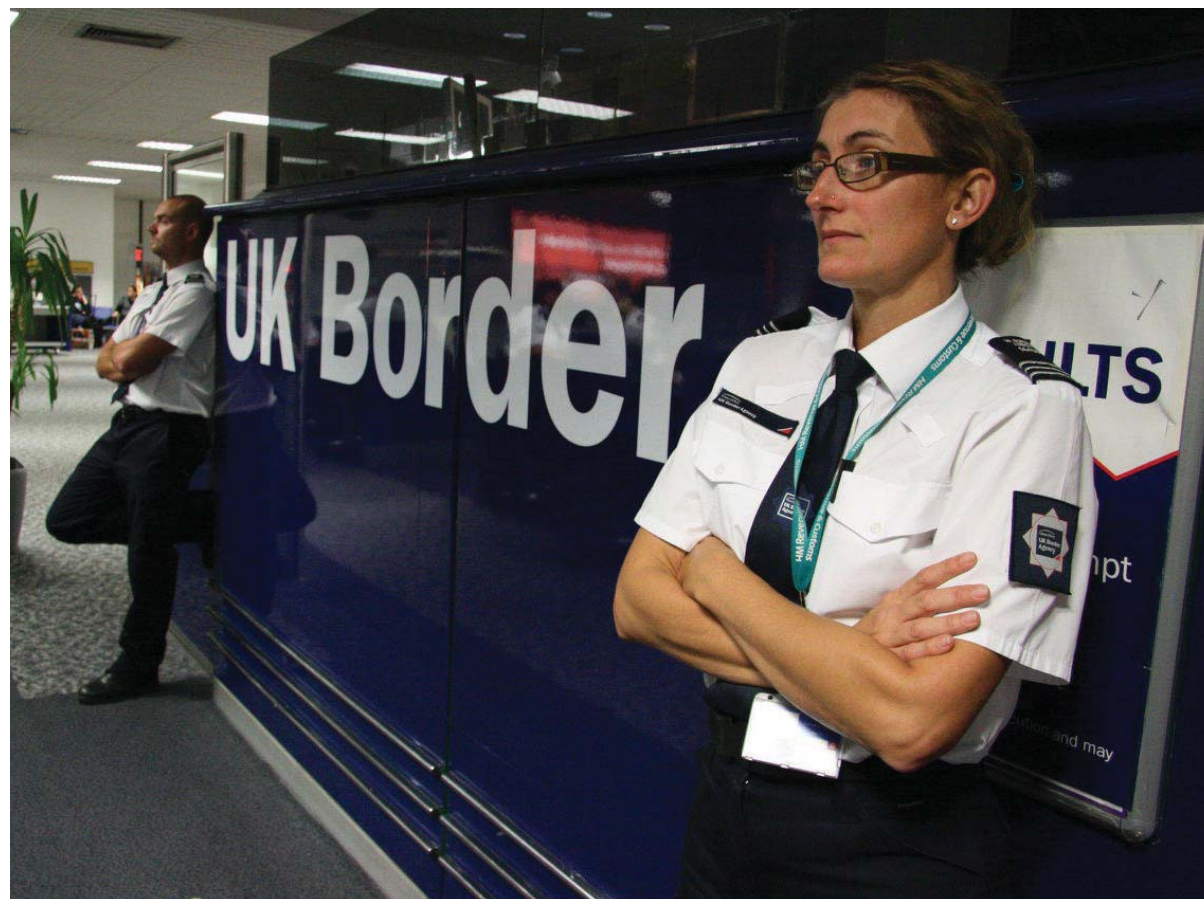
Chris Kaye

Okay, so you've studied here for perhaps as much as four years, or maybe even more. You look at your peers on your course and perhaps it doesn't occur to you that they may soon become 'persona not grata' due to visa restrictions, and very soon be unceremoniously removed from the country.

It's odd to think that HM Government would be so keen to deport hard-working, intelligent people at a time of economic difficulty like this. But, unfortunately, they lack those magic words 'European Union' on their passports and so they're screwed. Never mind that they may be Australians or Canadians or Hong Kongers, who are British in all but name, and whose family sacrificed so much to keep us free from oppression in the 1940s. They're not welcome, oh no!

It's really disgusting, our priorities as a country. Firstly, our Government fights to prevent giving Right of Abode to Gurkhas, and it's only in the face of a campaign by Joanna Lumley and both the Conservatives and Lib Dems that the then Labour Government relents. Secondly, we've had a Government reluctant to allow loyal Afghan interpreters, fearful for their lives, the right to live here.

However you look at it, it's a weird set of priorities. Those who have put their trust in Britain get screwed over, yet those who have contributed nothing get everything, just because we're members of an undemocratic, self-serving organisation like the European Union.



What's perhaps worse than the cases I've highlighted is those of British Nationals (Overseas). They are Hong Kongers, born before the Handover to communist China, who chose to adopt some form of British Nationality while they still lived in a British territory. Their passports look exactly like ours, have the Royal Crest on the front, and are issued with the full authority of

the Crown. Woe betide them, however, if they thought they could live in the country of their nationality! No, BN(O) gives no rights to live in the UK. You may have moved to Hong Kong thinking the British would protect you from the evil regime you fled. I'm afraid you were mistaken. Our Government, guided by our civil service, doesn't care about you. We only

care about being 'good Europeans'.

If you do have a sense of right and wrong, and are a British Subject, you can sign a petition about giving full rights to BN(O)s at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/44679>.

Christopher Kaye is next year's Campaigns Officer and tweets @okaye_chris

Your peers on your course ... may soon become 'persona non grata' due to visa restrictions.

Our pick of the best banter from felixonline.co.uk

We do occasionally edit letters and comments we receive to improve spelling, grammar, and clarity of expression.

Online

In response to "College put students last at Harlington" (31st May)

Finally someone had the guts to say it. IC is a total sell out, the students always come last. Renting out the Queen's Lawn to put up marquees throughout the whole spring/summer, selling off the Holland Club for yet another catering outlet, selling off Evelyn Gardens and Clayponds in order to ship off the first year students to North Acton, and the list goes on. Let's face it, at IC it's all about the money. This place is run like a business, not a university. It's a disgrace.

Bring on the further commercialisation of the college! Who needs students anyway? Wouldn't IC make a lot more money without us getting in the way at all?

I look forward to reading the college's public response in Felix.

Oh wait.

Can't believe they made people park next to bins! What a disgrace!

I was playing at Harlington the same day, and as I recall it was sunny, so no need to shelter in the car. I agree that the college sometimes puts students as a

secondary priority, but this article just seems like someone whining because they didn't get to park in their usual place. Boo hoo. The walk from those bins 20 metres or so away from the hockey pitch isn't exactly a mission.

Talking about WW1 is frankly irrelevant and just sensationalist. The fact that QPR has use of the training grounds has given IC football use of professional football coaches almost every training. And QPR's predecessor at Harlington, Chelsea built the artificial pitch, which is used every week by Imperial's 1st team. But yes, these benefits definitely do not outweigh the humiliation of having to park next to a bin. Can't believe Imperial are debasing alumni in this way. What an abuse of

human rights!

The college needs to start putting students first, but this type of article needs to be written by someone with real grievances. I don't mean to be so confrontational, but I did find using the fallen from WW1 to back up an argument against parking next to bins quite disrespectful.

And at the risk of disagreeing with another comment above, IC students are very lucky to have free use of Ethos for the duration of their studies. Not many other students can say the same, and have to pay huge membership fees for gym use.

Having said that, I do feel the university is being increasingly run for profit, and I do agree with the author of the article about sport being a central part of university life. It has certainly been my best experience at uni, and I hope the college's attitude does not spoil this for future students.

It's not just the sports facilities. The number of times as a student the Union Bar has been closed to students for private functions (for external non students) or we have been evicted from tables "reserved" for similar is ridiculous.

CHURCH

everynation.co.uk



SUNDAYS
ACTIVITY SPACE 1
STUDENT UNION

Free café – 5:30
LIVE BAND





TURKEY ON THE TIPPING POINT

A special report by **Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto** on the current political unrest in Turkey

This week in Turkey, peaceful demonstrations against the demolition of Istanbul's Gezi Park rapidly escalated into nationwide protests against the increasingly conservative measures enacted by prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The disproportionate dispersion tactics used by the police catalysed an uprising in a population which has grown tired of being ignored and oppressed by the authoritarian mandate of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). Initially an ecological effort to prevent the demolition of the park in central Istanbul's historic Taksim Square that intended to make way for the construction of a shopping mall, the demonstration has come to summarise a general discontent at

Erdoğan's polarised politics. Many feel his policies only represent the views of those who voted for him and ignore the remainder of the electorate. The AKP's direction has recently deviated from its democratic agenda towards a more conservative one which some feel is attempting to impose religious values on a population that prides itself on its secular constitution. Recent laws passed under Erdoğan include banning kissing in public, restrictions on the sale of alcohol and even the colour of lipstick worn by airline stewardesses. Other more intrusive impositions include prohibiting birth by Caesarian section, which Erdoğan views as "unnatural", and restricting women's right to abort. Many feel Erdoğan's policies are a step back from the modern secular current set forth as early as the 1920s

by the first President of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, including his ardent promotion of gender equality. These sociopolitical tensions come as a product of the division between a conservative Islamic majority and a growing liberal population, which aspires to live in a modern society free from religious indoctrination. The peaceful demonstrators in Gezi Park were surprised when in the early morning of Friday 31st May, a convoy of riot police armed with tear gas and pepper spray forcefully dispersed the crowds. These actions attracted more people to the park and soon the campsite grew in solidarity against the heavy-handed government response. The police offensive grew as they began dismantling the campsite, while undercover police set tents ablaze. Tear gas canisters were shot

into the public, driving them out into the streets where they were met by an assault of water cannons from armoured police vehicles. While the Turkish mainstream media refused to cover the protests in favour of cooking shows and penguin documentaries, social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter erupted with news from the ground. Tumblr blog occupygezpics.tumblr.com served as a photographic focus on the police brutality that overcame the streets of Istanbul and began to blow across the country. The blog diffused information on remedies against tear gas and provided telephone numbers of doctors and the locations of makeshift infirmaries. It also issued photos of injuries suffered by demonstrators as a result of baton strikes and impacts from tear gas

canisters shot at point blank range, which resulted in 10 people losing an eye, and the death of 22-year-old Abdullah Cömert on Monday 3rd June. Ethem Sarısülük was severely wounded after being shot in the head with a live bullet by a police officer. After days of intensive care, he was confirmed to have suffered brain death as a result of the injury. Police were accused of hiding the identity of the police officer responsible for discharging his firearm at the crowd. Eventually, amateur video footage revealed the identity number on his helmet. Earlier that day, 20-year-old Mehmet Ayvaltaş became the first casualty of the conflict after being run over by a civilian car, reportedly driven by an undercover police officer. At the time

All photos: occupygezpics.tumblr.com

Turkish mainstream media refused to cover the protests



Police show no restraint against peaceful demonstrators



Water cannons used by the police



A young woman is pepper sprayed as police break up the peaceful demonstration in Gezi Park, Istanbul

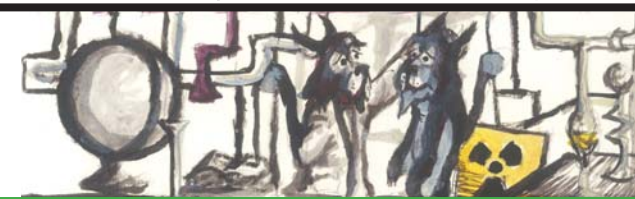
of going to print one woman remains in a coma after head injuries sustained during the police offensive on the first day of peaceful demonstrations in Gezi Park. Police have shown no restraint in their attacks, with photographic coverage showing elderly people being hit with batons and a man in a wheelchair being blown away with a water cannon. Other instances of unwarranted police aggression were filmed showing officers shooting tear gas into apartments, attacking bystanders who were not involved in the protests and even destroying makeshift infirmaries. Minister of Health, Mehmet Muezzinoglu, declared that the makeshift infirmaries around the protest areas are illegal and that legal action would be taken against the medics working in them, though no explicit mention has been made of any prosecution of the police officers who raided those infirmaries. Barricades were constructed around Taksim Square to prevent entrance of armoured police trucks wielding water cannons and, in several instances, driving directly into crowds. One bus driver used his vehicle as a blockade while a group of protesters rode an excavator against police vehicles. Around Taksim Square, police placed jammers preventing internet and 3G network connections, to which local residents responded by providing free wireless access. The square became a hub of solidarity as a 'Wall of Need' was constructed

to gather donations of food and other vital supplies. Homemakers offered food to those in the streets and even to riot police during the calmer moments. On Tuesday, the square burst into music as the so-called Gezi Park Philharmonic united independent and orchestral musicians. Across the country, people began to rebuild the fractured streets that had provided defence munitions the days before. Erdoğan denounced the protests at a press conference: "There is a problem now called Twitter and you can find every kind of lie there. Social media is the biggest trouble for society right now." At least 38 people have been arrested for posting tweets he claimed incited anarchy. He dismissed protesters as extremists and looters or "çalılcu", a term quickly re-appropriated in ironic defiance against the government's disinformation campaign aimed at devaluing their efforts. Turkey currently holds the highest number of imprisoned journalists in the world, surpassing China and Iran, so it is no wonder there has been very little rebellion from the media. The game show 'Word Game' was pulled off air as host Ihsan Varol asked contestants to guess words such as 'gas mask', 'violence' and 'withdrawal'.

Despite the retreat of police forces from Taksim, confrontations continued throughout the country, particularly strongly in the capital, Ankara. Gezi Park has become a festive epicentre of the protest movement with thousands gathering there every day. This relaxation was intended to appease the strong foreign press presence in the city: the police offensive grew ever fiercer in other towns and cities where the local media still refused to cover the events. If anything, violence has continued to escalate, as police has begun using rubber bullets while tear gas launchers are continually used as firearms, shot directly at people. Additionally, different types of tear gas are being used, such that the remedy for one kind of tear gas aggravated the symptoms of another. By the night of Thursday 6th June, the number of casualties had risen to four, now including activist Ethem Sarısülük (due to head injuries, in Ankara) and police officer Mustafa Sarı (fallen from a bridge while pursuing protesters, in Adana). More than 4000 people have been injured since last Friday 31st May, and many protesters have been arrested. One girl reported having been beaten while under police custody, as evidenced by photographs she posted on Twitter. While the deputy prime minister Bulent Arınç apologised for the excessive police response against the initial demonstrators, he spared the sentiment towards those who later joined the protests. Erdoğan assured the excessive police reaction would be investigated, though he justified the use of water cannons and tear gas to disperse the crowds. In at least two

instances, however, riot police were seen to have covered the identification number on their helmets with stickers. Returning from a business trip in North Africa, on which he left amidst blazing protests, Erdoğan announced that the planned demolition of Gezi Park would go ahead. Against accusations of his erosion of democracy, he claimed, "for me democracy is all about the ballot box." President Abdullah Gul disagreed, acknowledging the protester's freedom to express their views. On Sunday 9th June, 73 lawyers were arrested while protesting in the Justice Hall. Later that day, in what was revealed to be an elaborate farce by the government, undercover police posing as members of the opposition Socialist Democracy Party (SDP) threw molotov cocktails at police. Suspicions of the event arose after the mainstream media televised the entire event live. On the morning of Tuesday 11th June, Mayor of Istanbul, Hüseyin Avni Mutlu, wrote on Twitter that police would enter Taksim Square to remove barricades and banners from the area, with no intention of dispersing protesters. However, police began by shooting tear gas into the square and eventually into Gezi Park itself. Clashes intensified throughout the day. The following day, Erdoğan announced that Taksim Square would be cleared of all protesters within 24 hours. In an effort to end the protests,

Erdoğan said in a press conference that he would be meeting representatives of the Taksim Solidarity group to hear their demands. However, leaders of this group said they had received no such invitation and had instead heard about the meeting from other sources. Later it was revealed those 'representatives' would in fact be famous artists, including actress Hülya Avşar, presenter of the television show Turkey's Got Talent, who supposedly has not been in Gezi Park since the demonstrations began. The consensus among demonstrators in the park is that those invited to meet the prime minister are not well suited to represent their views. Erdoğan has refused to hold early elections, reminding of the fair democratic proceedings which have granted him a decade in office. As with many of the Arabic countries which have recently seen popular revolts against their governments, the opposition in Turkey remains too fragmented to convincingly contest the established leadership. Indeed, protesters have united not only over political differences, but in demand of basic civil rights such as freedom of the press, respect for individual liberties, restriction of police power and, certainly, respect for Gezi Park as a place of gathering. As long as Erdoğan refuses to listen to the people in Gezi Park and across the country, the public resistance will only grow stronger in its determination to fight for a dignified democracy.



Banishing your demons

Laurence Pope delves into the world of schizophrenia and iPhone apps

Photo credit: Alex Craven

Statistically, approximately one in every 100 of us will develop schizophrenia over the course of our lifetimes. Schizophrenia is one of the more commonly known mental disorders, but also one that remains somewhat of a mystery to non-sufferers. Whilst the Greek root of the word schizophrenia, literally 'split mind', implies a split personality the condition is much more than just having a second voice in your head.

"You don't just have constant jabbering in your ears," explains Harriet, who has lived with schizophrenia for over a decade. "The worst thing for me is my own jabbering. It can make people look at you funny. You say things that make no sense, and you don't even realise. Stuff like 'cooking on the washing sofa' just comes out. Sometimes you even stop mid-sentence and can't speak. Everything literally vanishes."

The symptoms of schizophrenia can be broadly grouped into negative and positive categories. Negative symptoms are functions which are present in non-sufferers, but diminished in sufferers, such as apathy, social anxiety and reduced attention span. Positive symptoms are those not normally exhibited by non-sufferers, such as visual and auditory hallucinations and delusions. However, schizophrenics are not the only people who experience auditory hallucinations. They can even



Members of the Bergen fMRI group (from left): Prof. Kenneth Hugdahl, Dr Kristiina Kompus, Josef Bless, Magne Gudmundsen, Dr René Westerhausen

occur in mentally healthy individuals, and it's these people who may hold the key to better schizophrenia management.

"In clinical hallucinations the voices themselves are very negative, entirely uncontrollable, and attributed to external causes. Thus, they create fear and are, quite simply, very annoying and cause suffering," says Dr Kristiina Kompus, a psychology researcher at the University of Bergen. "When voices do not have negative content and are under control, then it already becomes quite a neutral, not negative, experience." Dr Kompus is a member of the

Bergen fMRI (functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging) group, headed by Prof. Kenneth Hugdahl. The group is dedicated to the study of a variety of cognitive functions.

Her recent research, published in *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, studied the differences between two types of hallucinators: those with clinical symptoms, and those without. During listening tests those without clinical symptoms were able to maintain regulation over brain areas dedicated to speech-processing, whilst those with clinical symptoms could not, suggesting, in principle, a reduced ability

to direct attention outwards in clinical sufferers when auditory hallucinations occur.

Research by Dr Kompus and other members of the Bergen fMRI group aims to enhance understanding of auditory hallucinations, with the potential to develop a "cognitive training program aimed to relieve the feeling of helplessness when the negative voices start bothering you again," says Dr Kompus. This is somewhat akin to the use of lucid dreaming, the ability to consciously control the actions in one's dream, to combat persistent nightmares. Embracing the digital age, the research group has developed an iPhone app, iDichotic.

iDichotic is the brainchild of PhD student Josef Bless, also from the Bergen fMRI group. The app is named after the listening test it runs, the dichotic listening test. At a basic level the test assesses which hemisphere of the brain is most active during language processing. The information then feeds back to the research team, allowing them to further their work. A paper based off the initial results was published last February in *Frontiers in Cognition*, but according to Josef "there is a lot more to come."

Though the public version of iDichotic currently only collects data another separate version has been developed to help schizophrenics manage their condition by improving their

focus, allowing them to better identify when voices occur. It is pioneering work, and still requires modification, but Josef hopes to "provide a cognitive training tool for patients that can be used anytime, anywhere, without having stigmatizing features when used in public."

If the iDichotic app performs well it may pave the way for future research and management of other mental disorders such as Alzheimer's. Whilst Josef importantly notes that "it does take a strong investigative effort to provide psych apps with a real scientific basis," he also notes that the "potential to use smartphone apps in research as well as in clinical contexts is huge," potentially allowing research groups to both collect data and provide ways to help sufferers like Harriet manage their conditions through a widely available medium.

"I think I've mostly got it [schizophrenia] under some sort of control," says Harriet. "But things can obviously get worse with age, so I'm prepping just in case things go downhill. Maybe a smartphone app can help. It's an interesting idea, since everyone has one [a smartphone]. Support in whatever form is always appreciated."

Find more about iDichotic at dichoticlistening.com

DOI: 10.3389/fnhum.2013.00144

DOI: 10.3389/fpsyg.2013.00042

The hidden secrets of coral reefs

Sarah Byrne

Science writer

Coral reefs are one of the wonders of the marine world: vast underwater structures supporting a large and diverse ecosystem of marine species. It's surprising then that until recently we knew very little about exactly how they form.

Corals are colonies of small marine invertebrates, and it is their calcium carbonate exoskeletons that form the distinctive structures we know as coral reefs. These are made from proteins secreted by the living coral organisms in a process called biomineralization. However, the exact structures and mechanisms involved were unknown.

Researchers at the Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences aimed to solve this mystery by studying the genomes of corals. They were able to identify four unique genes, which

coded for proteins called CARPs (coral acid-rich proteins). These could then be purified and analysed to understand their structure and properties. The researchers also showed that, at least in an 'artificial seawater' environment created in the lab, the CARPs catalysed the formation of calcium carbonate crystals. From these results they were able to propose hypotheses about exactly how the structural elements of the protein cause formation of the particular crystallisation patterns characteristic of coral growth. Similar genes were also found in the genomes of other biomineralizing species, suggesting that there is a common mechanism emerging from the species' shared evolutionary history.

The artificial seawater experiments also allowed the researchers to simulate different scenarios, e.g. what would happen if seawater became sig-



nificantly more acidic – the expected outcome of climate change and increased atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Encouragingly, it appears that the proteins are relatively robust and able to withstand changes in acidity, suggest-

ing that corals might in fact be able to adapt to changing conditions in the future. Of course acidity is only part of the story: we still have rising temperatures and ocean pollution to worry about, and Tali Mass, the lead author of the published findings, warns that we should not become complacent.

Additionally, the researchers suggest a practical application for the findings – that an improved understanding of how corals construct their reefs could help us devise methods to manufacture novel biomaterials ourselves. Coral-derived materials currently have applications from road surfacing to bone grafts, and understanding the mechanisms of production better may allow us to design and customise materials according to our requirements, just as corals have been doing for over 100 million years.

DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2013.05.007

Let's not go Nutts – Imperial Professor speaks about the possible benefits of illegal psychoactive drugs

But is the government suppressing research? **Philippa Skett** takes a look at Nutt's latest paper

<http://www.beckleyfoundation.org/>

Imperial's own Professor David Nutt, Head of the British Neuroscience Association, former chairman of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMA), and frenemy of Home Secretary Jacqui Smith after comparing horse riding dangers to taking ecstasy, isn't one for keeping quiet when it comes to drugs. It therefore came as no surprise when this week his paper on drug legislation and its possible influence in neuroscience research came with an underlying message: it's about time the government got their act together.

The paper, published this Wednesday in *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, outlines how the national laws and international conventions surrounding psychoactive drugs (those that affect the brain) has significantly delayed further research into them, stating, "This hindering of research and therapy is motivated by politics, not science... It's one of the most scandalous examples of scientific censorship in modern times."

Psychoactive drugs such as cannabis, LSD, MDMA, and psilocybin are regularly classified as more "dangerous" than others, including heroin, which result in erecting complex bureaucratic barriers around research that often are impossible to overcome. However, preliminary research suggests such drugs may offer therapeutic treatments for those suffering from mental disorders.

Such classifications are there for a reason though, surely? Nutt argues against this, saying drug classification procedures are flawed. The USA classifies drugs by Schedules, with Schedule I roughly the equivalent to Class A/B drugs and encompassing cannabis, LSD and MDMA among others.

Currently, part of the criteria for a Schedule I drug is that it has no accepted medical use. The fact that, with research severely limited for Schedule

I drugs, there is no chance of finding medical uses for such drugs, Nutt points out that such arguments are circular in nature.

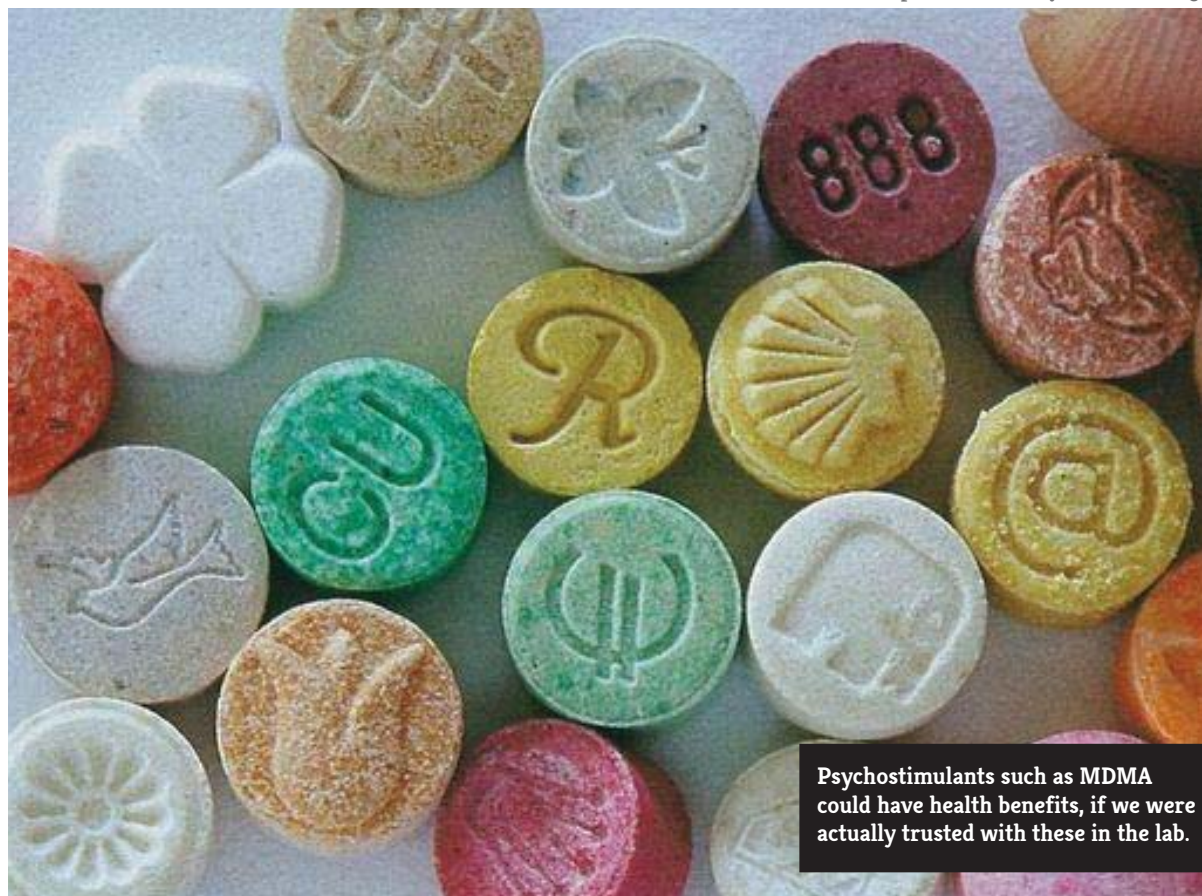
Not only that, but with cannabis having known medicinal purposes and can be legally prescribed in 18 states, it appears that the criteria either are not being adhered to purposefully, or the Americans simply can't understand their own rules.

That is not to say we are faring any better across the pond – the UK too are appearing dismally incoherent when it comes to drug classification. Beyond the Class System used we too indulge in a Schedule-based approach that places cannabis, LSD, MDMA, and psilocybin above heroin in respect to the same sort of criteria the USA use, making heroin more accessible (if only by a fraction) for research than those that possess psychoactive properties.

Research that has managed to squeeze through the bars of bureaucracy has provided a great insight into what we are actually missing. Cannabinoid 1 receptors which respond to cannabis-derived compounds are incredibly widespread throughout the brain, and the inhibition of using cannabis in research is hindering the understanding of these.

Cannabis may also aid alleviation of ADHD symptoms safely, but again with the laws comes little literature published to help develop this idea. Not only that, other products of the plant may be used to treat seizures, anxiety, psychosis and even addiction, but again, since we really aren't allowed anywhere near the plant in the labs by the government we can't really help with any of these any time soon.

MDMA too may provide more highs in medicinal research than it currently does for art students under derelict bridges in East London. With a small trial in the USA managing to prove that MDMA-based treatment may



Psychostimulants such as MDMA could have health benefits, if we were actually trusted with these in the lab.

benefit those suffering from PTSD, replications are desperately needed to develop this, as currently PTSD management is scarce. Pro-empathy actions (the fancy way of describing how MDMA makes you love everything so deeply and emotionally, and, unfortunately, embarrassingly so) may also help those with autism, and its ability to reduce tremors may offer therapeutic options for those with Parkinson's Disease.

Not only that but the spike in use of methedrone, a stimulant similar to MDMA, correlated to a 20% decrease in deaths due to cocaine in one year. However, with the banning of this and its analogues, research into its possible, controlled use as a substitute for cocaine addiction is no longer a possibility.

LSD, before its ban in the 1960s under speculation that its use by American youths was behind the decline of involvement in the Vietnam War, was showing significant progress in neuroscience research too. It had potential to be a treatment for alcoholism, and as an aid in easing those with a terminal illness.

Psychedelics in general were theorised to treat those with migraines, but research on this was hindered when LSD and magic mushrooms in particular were moved to Schedule I status.

Obviously, such findings are not clearly indicative of anything substantial, but nor do they lack the ability to develop into something within the future. Nutt has never been one to shy away from targeting the government about its legislations, which are often based on politics as opposed to science, and during his stint as ACMD chairman, ranked tobacco and alcohol as having greater negative effects due to dependence and physical harm than cannabis and LSD.

His continued rebuttal against legislation using scientific evidence led to his dismissal from the government, but it seems increasingly difficult to

argue against him with publications such as these featuring between the pages of such a respected journal.

Regardless of any opinion about legalisation or declassification of drugs, it does seem that there is a distinct lack of both scientific knowledge and rigour when setting drug classifications, and it is imposing significant hindrances on the progression of neuroscience research. The government may have made a mistake in letting Nutt go – it seems now more than ever a scientist is needed to keep politicians in check.

DOI: 10.1038/nrn3530



Professor Nutt looking down on those making the research laws, in a lab distincting lacking in LSD

Love Science?

(Only a week left to make that lie you told on your CV a reality)

Why not write for us? Get in touch!
science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

We are also on the lookout for a new editorial team for Science too, so if you have what it takes, drop us an email. We promise it's more fun than editing the tech pages.



Silfest 2013, 27th July Silwood park Campus, SL5 7PY

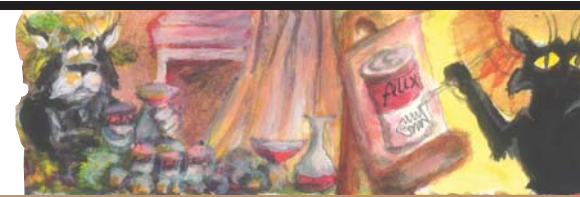
www.tiny.cc/SILFEST2013



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. Felix spotted this ugly mug in the Library Cafe. It seems even College Catering are partial to the doodle.

A life of sex, drugs and pas de cheval



Real men wear
tights and
moustaches

TIRED OF LIFE?

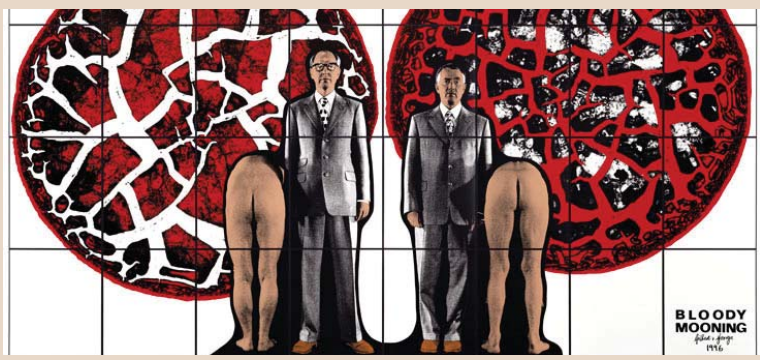
Our pick of what's on in London

Propaganda: Power and Persuasion @ British Library - Supposedly the first exhibition to examine state propaganda from last century the multi-format curation uses posters, films, cartoons, sounds and texts reveal the myriad ways that governments try to influence and persuade their citizens. June 14 - July 12

Regime Change Begins at Home @ National Maritime Museum - This quirky exhibition could almost be said to explore exploration. The struggle to understand and conquer space is described through hand draw sketches up to Hubble Space Telescope and the very latest footage from the Mars Curiosity rover. Now - September 15

Rambert @ Royal Opera House - The Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance is truly world renowned. The school is coming to the Linbury Studio Theatre with a programme intended to introduce the students destined to be the dancers and choreographers of the future. June 24

BLOOD @ Royal Opera House - Again, at the Linbury Studio Theatre, Blood is a show produced by Brazilian choreographer Jean Abreu. Excitingly the performance features a backdrop designed by notorious artists Marmite Gilbert & George. Intriguingly the show is inspired by G&G's microscopic celebration of bodily fluids. June 27 - 28



Rocio Molina Atienza

Writer

Mayerling is dark and majestic ballet which depicts the decadent splendour of the Austro-Hungarian empire. It is based on the life of the tormented Crown Prince Rudolf who after forcefully marrying Princess Stephanie of Belgium is drawn into a spiral of political intrigue, violence, drugs, obsessive love and insanity. This true story of the downfall of the Crown Prince Rudolf drags in everyone around him from members of the Austro-Hungarian Royal family, to friends, lovers and servants. They lived in a time when corruption was rampant, hypocrisy endemic and decadence unavoidable; thus, there is no character that remains untarnished by the end.

Despite Prince Rudolf carrying the weight of the piece, he has a profuse set of characters around him who help portray the decadent circus that the royal court has become. In the first act he insults his bride by flirting with her sister after the wedding, this presents the first of the numerous pas a deux of Mayerling. Chided by his father Emperor Franz-Josef, he visits his mother but finds little relief. Finally he returns to his chambers to terrorise his newly wed bride. Their duet is of an incredible emotional intensity. Seemingly drunk Rudolf threatens to shoot Stephanie. The next instant he flirts with committing suicide. Violently dancing across the whole stage, thrusting Stephanie into the air to then catch her again, grabbing her arms while she tries to free herself to

the return to his arms: their duet is full of dark sexual tension.

The choreography designed by Kenneth MacMillan is an absolute masterpiece. There are plenty of duets which portray the tortuous and obsessive relations that Rudolf has with the numerous women of his life. From the brilliant plea to his mother in the first act, to his violent wedding night to his romantic duets with his mistress Mary Vetsera the choreography exudes a dark sexual tension. Mayerling is one of the few ballets in which the male protagonist carries the weight of the whole act. The role of Crown Prince Rudolf demands from the dancer not only incredible physical skill but also excellent theatrical interpretation and acting.

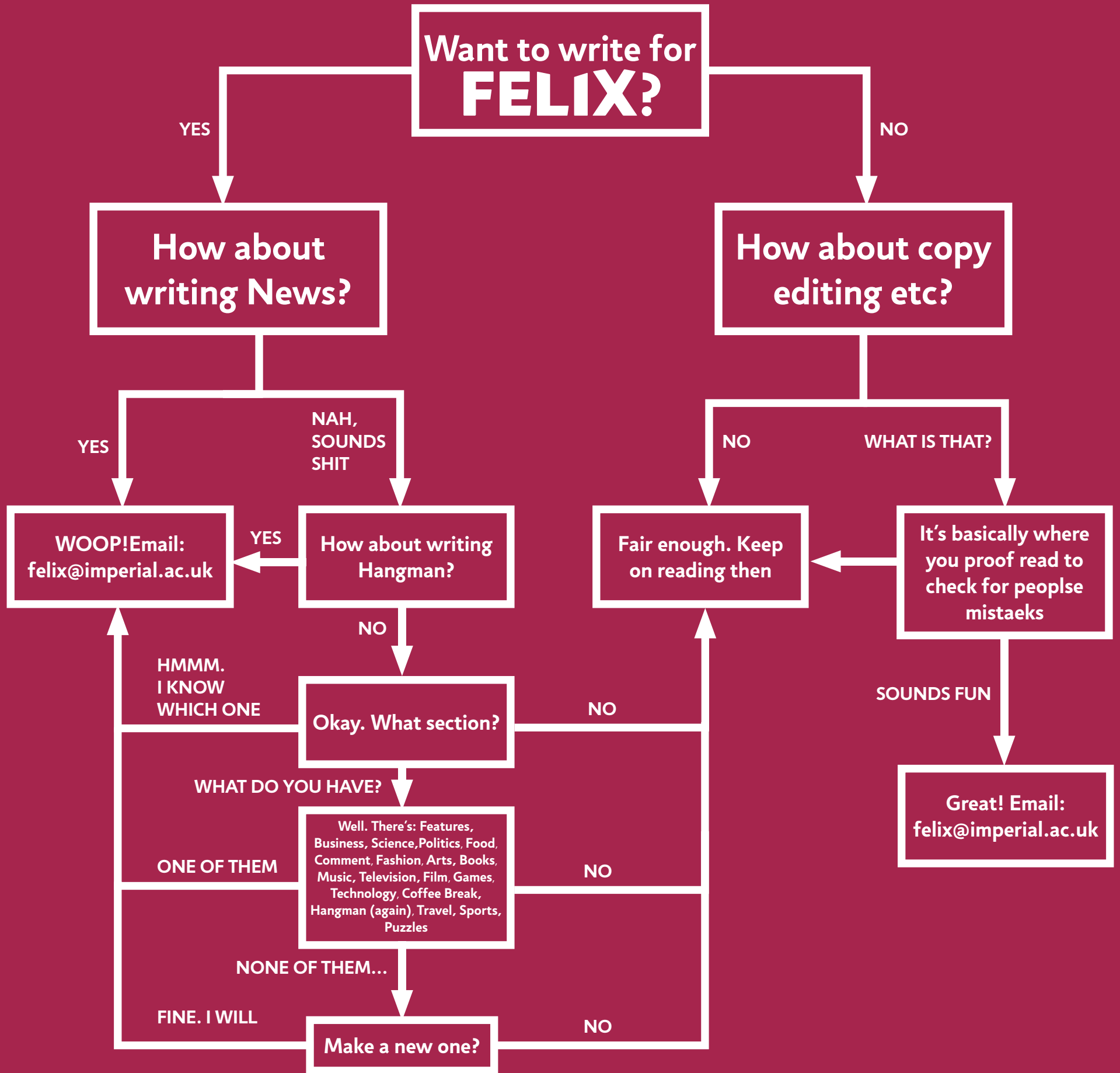
These intimate duets full of emotional intensity are balanced by the large-scale group dances. The pomp and lavishness of the royal wedding from the first act contrasts with the seediness of the tavern in the second act. The numerous changes of scenes are seamlessly tied together and serve as testament to the skill and craftsmanship of the stage crew. From the corridors of the royal palace its boastful and splendid ball rooms and the dark streets and taverns of Vienna the audience will feel immersed in the story. We were guided tumultuously to the final stop, Mayerling, a Viennese hunting lodge belonging to the Empire's Crown Prince Rudolf. Here the drama reaches its peak. A destroyed Rudolf takes a step that will bring pain and sadness to his family.

The ballet is one of the most psycho-

logically complex and packed with political nuances, thus one can feel lost among the complicated relationship between the characters. The second act opens at a Viennese tavern; there Rudolf further tortures Stephanie by introducing her to his occasional mistress Mitzi Caspar. Once Stephanie leaves disgusted, there is a suggestive piece danced by the tavern prostitutes while Rudolf and his friends delight themselves with the spectacle.

Throughout the ballet Rudolf is surrounded by his politically influential friends: murmurings, gossip and intrigue abound and pamphlets are handed out. Rudolf seems distant and lost in this corrupt world, again flirting with suicide.

It is by the end of the second act when he encounters Mary Vetsera. This impressionable and neurotic youth shares Rudolf's fickleness and emotional obsession. Their first duet depicts an intense, obsessive even sadomasochistic love. During their passionate dance Rudolf keeps fantasising about death, constantly grasping a gun but he seems to have found his match in Mary. She rejects him when he is at her feet, ficklely regains the gun from his hands and threatens him just as he did a second before. The smouldering eroticism and the morbidity of this duet echoes that one of the first act. However, Rudolf's partner is now neither scared nor at his mercy but someone as fully tortured and neurotic as him. The curtains fall as this dramatic couple hold each other in an embrace, intensely staring at the gun they are holding.



FELIX

felix@imperial.ac.uk

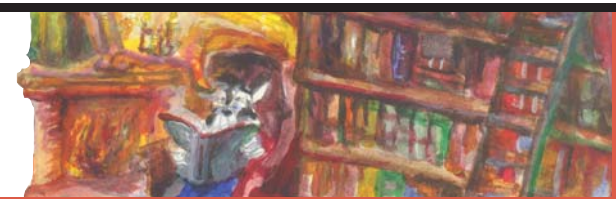
felixonline.co.uk

facebook.com/FelixImperial

[@feliximperial](https://twitter.com/feliximperial)

BOOKS

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



The Space Merchants

Maciej Matuszewski looks at a classic of the SF genre

There is often a stigma attached to early works of science fiction (SF). They are often stereotyped as being poorly written and filled with bad science and bug-eyed monsters. While true for some works this is by no means universally the case. Early SF laid the groundwork for what the genre is today and it includes some of the most imaginative and thought provoking works of fiction ever written.

That is why I was very pleased to hear of the recently released two volume collection of nine classic 1950s SF novels released by the Library of America. Each novel is a brilliant example of the strengths of the genre and one of the best works in the selection is undoubtedly Frederik Pohl and Cyril M. Kornbluth's *The Space Merchants*.

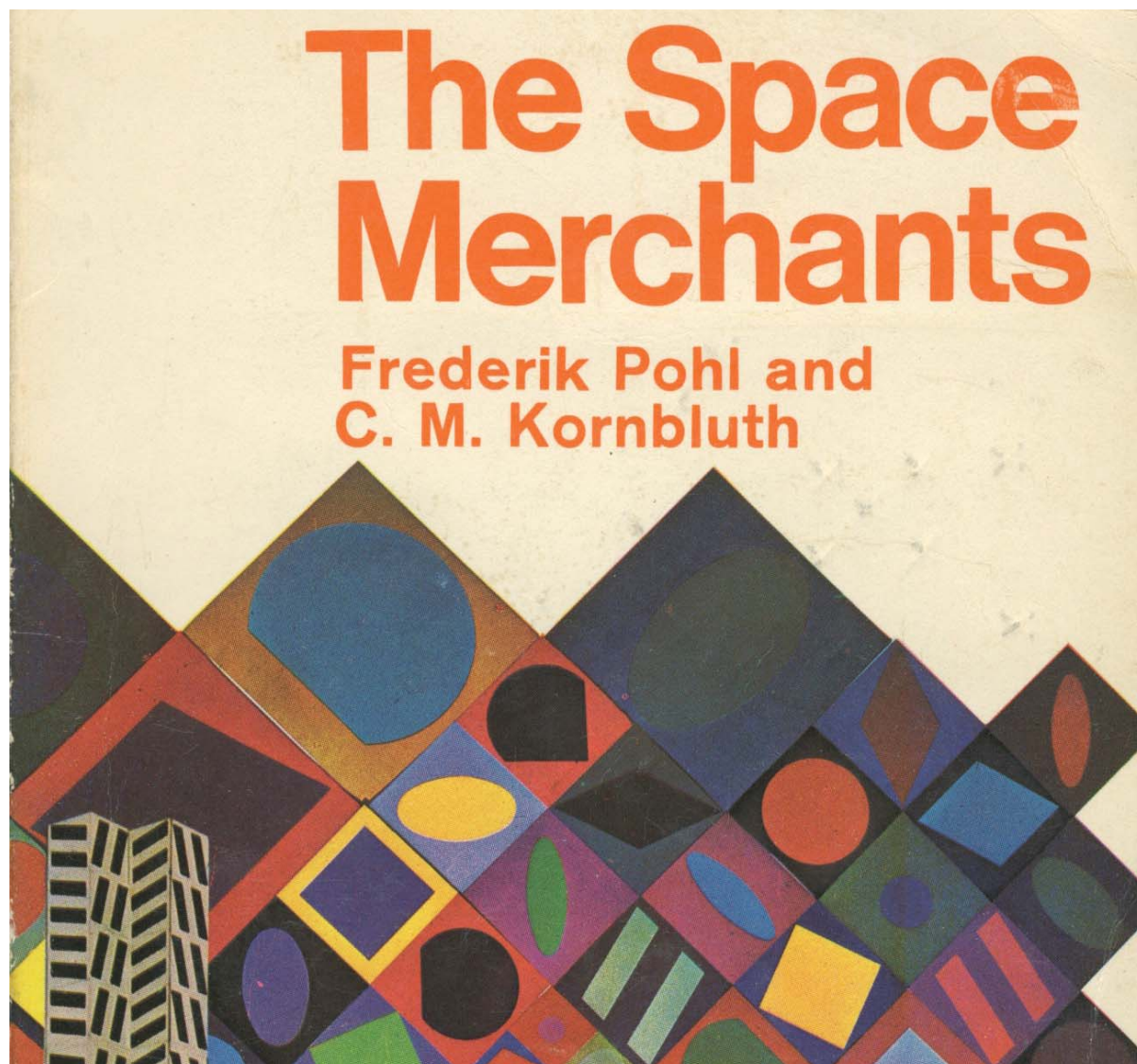
The novel is set in the near future where the world is controlled by giant corporations, and in particular advertising firms. Companies openly buy out and bribe politicians; workers are trapped in menial jobs, in which they are treated like slaves, by unfair contracts and the planet has been ravaged for its natural resources. The "highest ideals" in society are considered to be sales and profit – with anybody who disagrees with this philosophy being treated as either hopelessly deluded or a dangerous subversive.

This is a world similar to those we often see in modern works of cyber-

punk but Pohl and Kornbluth took the unusual step of making the protagonist someone near the top of the corporate hierarchy rather than near the bottom. Mitch Courtenay is a senior executive at the Fowler Schocken advertising agency, assigned to oversee the planned colonization of Venus. He is no subversive and fully endorses the ideals of his society yet he remains a relatable and, at times, even a sympathetic character. He is our guide to this frightening yet familiar world and his growth as a person forms the core of this work.

Through his eyes, we get to understand how the system described in the book works and how strongly entrenched it is. We see how the elite – even those who consider themselves good and moral people – remain committed to their highly flawed model of society. This is not merely as a result of self interest but also because – through societal pressure, wilful blindness and their own propaganda – they honestly believe that current system is best for everyone.

While the prose is somewhat dry – as is common with genre novels from that time – this is more than compensated for by the interesting characters and important issues that form the heart of the work. Despite being written more than 50 years ago the book retains a remarkable relevance. At under 200 pages this is a short yet powerful novel – there's no excuse for not checking it out.



Death of an icon – Iain Banks

Maciej Matuszewski Books Editor

Noted author Iain Banks has died aged 59. In a message released on Sunday, June 9, his wife said: "Iain died in the early hours this morning. His death was calm and without pain."

Born in 1954 Banks first rose to prominence in 1984 with the publication of his debut novel *The Wasp Factory*. Following the mentally troubled Frank Cauldhame the book both impressed and shocked critics by how it managed to make the reader sympathise with the violent protagonist.

A highly prolific writer Banks was also known for his works of science fiction (SF), written under the name Iain M. Banks. The majority of his SF books were set in the *Culture* universe – a highly optimistic vision of

a technologically advanced utopia. While often classified as space opera and known for their high stakes and large scale plots his SF novels, just as his more mainstream work, were also notable for their focus on complex and well developed characters.

Tributes for the author have poured in from both fans and colleagues ever since he announced on April 4 that he had inoperable cancer of the gall bladder. Writing in *The Guardian* friend and fellow author Ken Macleod said that Banks "raised the bar, raised the game, and above all raised the serotonin level of British SF" adding that "his verve and talent will always be recognised, and his work will always find and enthrall new readers".

Banks' final work – the mainstream novel *The Quarry* – will be released on June 20.



WRITE FOR US!

JUST ONE WEEK LEFT

**OR WE'LL SHOW
YOUR MUM THAT
PHOTO ON
FACEBOOK**



FELIX

felix@imperial.ac.uk 

felixonline.co.uk 

[facebook.com/FelixImperial](https://www.facebook.com/FelixImperial) 

[@feliximperial](https://twitter.com/feliximperial) 

MUSIC

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



This Week At Oto: Rushford & Talia

Riaz Agahi speaks to duo and Ambarchi collaborators

Between a live date in Oto as a duo and another in a large ensemble with Oren Ambarchi, I was able to grab an interview with Australian musicians James Rushford and Joe Talia. Aside from my aiming for an inside scoop about the night's rendition of 'Knots' (from Ambarchi's *Audience Of One*), we primarily discuss their work as a duo, and especially their 2013 album *Manhunter*.

Riaz Agahi: How does tonight's version of 'Knots' differ from the record? Is it expanded?

Joe Talia: It's probably not expanded from the record, but it's different. I'm playing drums tonight and I played drums on the record. Oren and I have

played a lot as a duo, without the other guys. So that part of it, the interplay between the guitar and the drums has actually evolved a lot since the recording. The recording was actually done quite a long time ago, before we actually played all the shows. That element of it is definitely changed and has broadened a lot.

James Rushford: For the strings arrangement I more or less transcribed Eyvind Kang's part but there are alterations. There are certain sections that are a little more improvisatory and just the nature of the way those instruments interact with the ensemble is a bit more energetic I suppose in the performance.

RA: How long have you guys been working together?

JT: Since 2009? I think it [was when] first record came out

RA: I haven't really been able to get my hands on any earlier work, and when I turned on Manhunter I was expecting noise to be honest. I thought it was interesting you created a dark atmosphere without going straight to noise which made it more suspenseful. What exactly did you do on the album, as in what instruments did you use?

JR: It's deliberately obscure. So, a lot of things that sound like synthesizers, for instance, are generally really instruments. There's a lot of acoustic instrumentation on the record. We wanted to make something using the studio we had available to us and we also wanted to make something very different to the last 2 records. So we deliberately didn't play instruments that we're usually familiar with or comfortable with.

JT: Yeah, everything's not our usual mode.

RA: Wire's review of the album compared the album to the Twin Peaks soundtrack. Is that something that was in your head at all at the time?

Both: Not at all.

JT: I mean, of course we've seen *Twin Peaks*, but we weren't trying to do a *Twin Peaks* theme or anything.

JR: it's just a shame that people make a reference to *Twin Peaks* whenever they hear any kind of synthesizer with a certain tone or chord progression. I think it wasn't in our heads at all, you know? I think if anything if you wanna make a reference it's closely tied to say, Broken Flag issues like Maurizio Bianchi from the '80s. That, for me, is much more linked to the album we made than *Twin Peaks*. But we do love the *Twin Peaks* soundtrack, like most people.

RA: I think it's just wishful thinking on people's part. But in a way, there's a sort of darkly comedic but also bleak and just all out weird ambience in Lynch's material that also finds some place in your music.

JR: I think that this record more than the other ones is kind of more openly emotional, you know? We let the harmony in the music go places that we probably we would have avoided previously. I think again that kind of relates to the Lynch thing, because (Angelo) Badalamenti's music can be



so emotional earnest at times. Which makes it verge on the edge of being cheesy. That for me is kind of special, how it remains sort of cheesy but sort of austere at the same time.

RA: It does kind of have a cinematic nature to it. It sort of seems to build towards a euphoric synth at the end. Is there a sort of progression in the album or is it like separate suites?

JR: It was originally gonna be over 2 hours long. So it was very much supposed to be one long piece that moved very slowly, and at times was collage based but other times very much on one trajectory.

JT: It was kind of like a film in that way. That we had to edit it down, and find out how we were going to end it and cut out all this stuff. It was always a problem, like how does this all fit together and how does it kind of work.

JR: I think at the same time it was just one big thing.

JT: Yeah, we didn't make separate songs and piece them all together later.

JR: It was really about deconstructing one idea, into the next idea.

RA: I've only in the past year or two been aware

of the amount of great artists from Australia. Is the Australian scene localized to a few cities or is it widespread?

JR: I think it's quite far reaching. People often say that Melbourne is sort of the centre of that scene but I wouldn't necessarily say that's the case.

JT: No, there are big scenes in Sydney and Brisbane as well, and of course other places.

JR: Yeah, I mean there's all sorts of strange noise bands that you hear out in the country towns and things like that. I think it's a really exciting scene and it's also quite all-embracing in the sense that there are people from different practices; people from an experimental tradition, people from more of an improvised tradition, people from a rock tradition, a lot of people are very supportive of each other.



AMS album of the week

Boards Of Canada – *Tomorrow's Harvest*

Boards of Canada, the much respected, secretive and shadowy WARP signed duo are back after a six year quiet period with a new album and an often different sound. *Tomorrow's Harvest*, billed as their most dystopian and gloom-ridden sounding project to date nevertheless has that irascible BoC sound – not IDM, certainly nowhere close to dub-step, but more like a modern day, grittier *Music For Airports*. This album, with their characteristic layered soundscapes and off-beat synth stabs over slowly morphing beats is somehow sparser than their previous offerings, as if everything has been put through an industrial filter. It sounds like an urban sprawl on a particularly thoughtful day, one of the few things the duo themselves have confirmed they were aiming for.

It almost goes without saying that the construction of the album is nigh-on flawless. Not a sample or sound has been wasted or used when not required and even though the early tracks individually remain quite static in their composition, the first half of the album retains a lot of energy and keeps pulling you on. My first thoughts were of Aphex Twin's *Selected Ambient Works 85 – 92*, the album that arguably got me into this genre to begin with, but far more melancholic. The few vaguely optimistic or upbeat tracks like 'Sundown' and 'Split Your Infinities/Collapse' keep the album from becoming too much of a dirge as we enter the second half but you still get the sense of a slight loss of direction. That said I can't listen to any single track and find the cause although 'Uritual' is in my opinion the weakest track on the album, a drone piece which neither goes anywhere or is subtle enough to be of interest.

The stand out moment for me is 'Cold Earth,' a mix of the direction *Tomorrow's Harvest* has taken them in and some of their earlier work with a well crafted drumline and a complexity and pace that makes you want to keep coming back to it. The album as a whole is excellent, and has crucially beaten the massive hype surrounding it. It's a great new direction for the duo to be treading and they've managed to find it whilst solidly remaining Boards of Canada. Get on it!

Eamonn Postlethwaite



DON'T LIKE US?

MAKE IT BETTER NEXT YEAR!

GET INVOLVED

Writing, photography, layout, editing a section, getting naked. We do it all.

Just email: felix@imperial.ac.uk



FELIX

felix@imperial.ac.uk 

felixonline.co.uk 

facebook.com/FelixImperial 

[@feliximperial](https://twitter.com/feliximperial) 



Ice Ice Baby



The Apprentice - 1975

The Iceman

Director: Ariel Vromen

Screenwriters: Morgan Land, Ariel Vromen, Anthony Bruno (book), Jim Thebaut (documentary)

Starring: Michael Shannon, Winona Ryder, Ray Liotta, Chris Evans, David Schwimmer, Stephen Dorff, James Franco



John Park

Film Editor

In some of the marketing used for *Man of Steel* (out in cinemas today - will be reviewed in the next issue), we are told to “kneel before Zod (played by Michael Shannon)”. Instead, we should all kneel before the real Michael Shannon, easily one of the most underrated, under-awarded, and under-recognised actors working today. He’s the anti-hero of *The Iceman*, a taut retelling of the life of Richard “Richie” Kuklinski, an American-Polish mob hitman who was arrested having killed what is believed to be well over 100 people.

We first see how he and his wife Deborah (Winona Ryder) first met. “You’re a prettier version of Natalie Wood,” possibly the highest compliment that could be paid to a woman about her appearance in the 60s, is uttered shyly by Richard. He claims he dubs Disney movies, when in fact it’s revealed he makes his living by pirating pornographic movies. His knack for killing is revealed early in



“You better hit bull’s eye” - Vanilla Ice

the film; after an ill-advised verbal exchange that ends with someone insulting Deborah, that poor sucker gets his throat slit – rather neatly it’s also worth noting, showing that this is far from the first time Richard has done something like this.

After an encounter with a local mob boss Roy DeMeo (Ray Liotta), who is impressed by Richard’s ice-cold demeanour that shows virtually no fear of dying, Richard is privately hired to watch Roy’s back, collect debts, and send “messages”. Long gone are the days he supported his family living in a small apartment – the pay rise is a massive one, and soon he’s living the American Dream: in a sizable house in the suburbs, with his beautiful wife and two daughters who are all oblivious as to what their husband/father gets up to when he goes to work.

Richard is very good at what he does: and in the central role Shannon is simply outstanding. With his

towering frame and a disturbingly calm expression as he carries out the many, many hits required by the mob, Shannon is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to loading the character with quiet intensity. He has a softer side to show for himself when it comes to matters concerning his family – it’s a look of love and devotion, whilst there is also that inevitable cloud of worry that hangs over his head, given the nature of the work that he’s involved in. In portraying a very humane side to someone who appears to lack any sense of “good”, Shannon always has an air of ambiguity that makes his volatile character more unpredictable.

Despite the fantastic performance, it must be noted that his “career” that spanned decades is quickly rushed through by using many frequent time jumps of many years, only showing the few highlights of his killing days. It doesn’t dig deep enough into the

work of a mob hitman, and at times the film seems to be more interested in the less gripping, unnecessarily overblown mafia politics that leads to familiar territory as everything unfolds away from Shannon.

No mafia movie casting is complete without Liotta, and he rocks up in a predictable yet effective role, David Schwimmer (i.e. Ross from *Friends*), barely recognisable with his moustache and ponytail, is a young, ambitious player who steals too much and lies too much. We all know what happens to that kind in films like this. Speaking of barely recognisable actors, Chris Evans, who usually dons the Captain America suit, instead sports grizzly hair and generally greasy appearance here, as a killer who may be as psychotic or perhaps even more so, than Kuklinski himself.

Not a lot is given away in terms of trying to explain why Richard is the way he is, aside from a brief flashback



sequence into his childhood, and also the concise yet hugely effective and informative scene in which Richie visits his brother Joseph (the excellent Stephen Dorff) in prison. Here we see the two estranged, dysfunctional brothers reminisce in their own way, about the disturbing events surrounding their childhood, giving us some insight as to explain their nature.

Throughout there is a lot of focus on the fact that Kuklinski doesn’t hurt women or children, and his domestic life that keeps him somewhat grounded is one of the key themes. It’s nice to see the age-resistant and talented Winona Ryder have a prominent role again, as “the good wife”, always staying loyal to her husband even though it’s obvious he’s keeping secrets. Over the years we see huge changes in wealth in their lives, and like any mob wife, Deborah has no problem accepting the nice gifts her husband buys for her, and yet at times she does wonder just how he’s managing to afford such luxury. There’s doubt, from the more cautious side of her for sure, but also an element of trust, this one stemming from the loyal, affectionate side.

With a calm, but never comfortable score that always lurks around like a troublesome event waiting to unfold, here is a quiet yet by no means a tame thriller, one that centres on a smouldering performance that is simply unforgettable. And for a film that has its ending clearly cut out for us from the beginning, it’s still an immensely fascinating ride.

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

FILM

Too gay for Hollywood

Behind the Candelabra

Director: Steven Soderbergh
Screenwriters: Richard LaGravenese, Scott Thorson (book), Alex Thorleifson (book)
Starring: Michael Douglas, Matt Damon, Rob Lowe, Debbie Reynolds



John Park

Film Editor

Director Steven Soderbergh recently spoke about how difficult it was to make his latest film, as it was deemed “too gay” by most big film studios. But thank heavens for Home Box Office (HBO) for giving Soderbergh his chance to tell the story of Liberace, one of the most celebrated, and highly paid musical figures in the 20th Century, known for his outrageously extravagant visuals on stage, his colourful lifestyle, as well as his ability to put on a cracking show and entertain.

But *Behind the Candelabra*, as its name suggests, is about the wildly eccentric personal life of Liberace (Michael Douglas), his complicated relationship with the much younger Scott Thorson (Matt Damon), his driver, friend and lover. They first cross paths when Scott is invited to meet Liberace backstage at one of his sell-out concerts. Liberace takes an immediate liking to Scott and it's not long before they start a relationship, although given the cranky, unhappy state of Billy Leatherwood (Cheyenne Jackson), a former flame, it doesn't bode well for Scott's future.

Having grown up in a modest foster home, the lavish gifts his boyfriend showers on him is certainly a drastic change, one Scott doesn't quite mind getting used to. There's jewellery, there's never-ending flow of champagne, the immaculately decorated, golden-plated mansion is quite simply out of this world, and in keeping with Liberace's famous saying “too much of a good thing is wonderful,” everything seems to appear in excess. The production design and the art department have created something extraordinary here, going completely overboard, as well they should, to show that both on and off stage, there is very little difference in Liberace's taste for extravagance.

Their relationship is riddled with disturbing content as it progresses – as we soon discover Liberace's rather unhealthy obsession to turn his lover into an adopted son of some sorts, pushing Scott into plastic surgery so that they may share more physical re-



It's okay - we'll be the new Jeremy and Megan

semblance. And so we're introduced to Dr John Startz (Rob Lowe), a hideously disfigured individual who has clearly had a taste of his own medicine a few too many times, with his uncomfortable looking squint, a by-product of many, many face-lifts, guaranteed to shock and make you think twice about plastic surgery in general.

In the lead role designed to be the centre of attention at all times, Douglas is on excellent form, fully embracing the campy, extremely vibrant energy of the star, and with some incredible CGI work it looks as though it's actually Douglas who's playing away at the piano when in fact it's not. Always dressed in the most sparkling, brightest costumes, there are lots of laughs to be had in seeing a hilariously complex man, and yet there are tender moments of real warmth in scenes that show off Douglas' range and versatility.

Nevertheless there isn't a lot to immediately like about Liberace in this film; never looking closely at the stage persona that impressed millions worldwide, just by looking at the film alone it's confusing as to why this man is such a beloved musical icon. A more balanced look would no doubt have further enriched his character, rather than very often coming across as nothing but a creepy, lonely old man with some serious psychological

issues.

History does have its way of repeating itself it seems, as soon, passion sizzles and the two of them start looking elsewhere to fill the void. For Liberace he takes a keen interest in a musical actor who shows promise (Boyd Holbrook), amongst other fresh-faced young men, and with Scott he turns to drugs. Although left with a less showy, stuck-in-the-shadows type role, Damon still turns his role into something more than a mere silent victim, the wronged party. There is nothing new about someone involved in that particular industry face a downward spiral due to drug addiction, but there is so much more to be said in the slow but gradual disintegration of their complicated relationship, one that is convincingly captured not only by the fur-wearing pianist, but also his long-suffering partner.

It's a shame this missed out on its opportunity to screen at the cinemas in the States. Even with real potential to score some Oscar nominations and possibly a win for Douglas, the film is no longer eligible as it was shown as a television movie. So Douglas will have to settle for a possible trifecta of an Emmy, a Golden Globe and a Screen Actors Guild Award, but given the theatrical push it's been getting around Europe, it has a chance to reach a wider public audience this deserves.



Rocking the curtains. How 2003

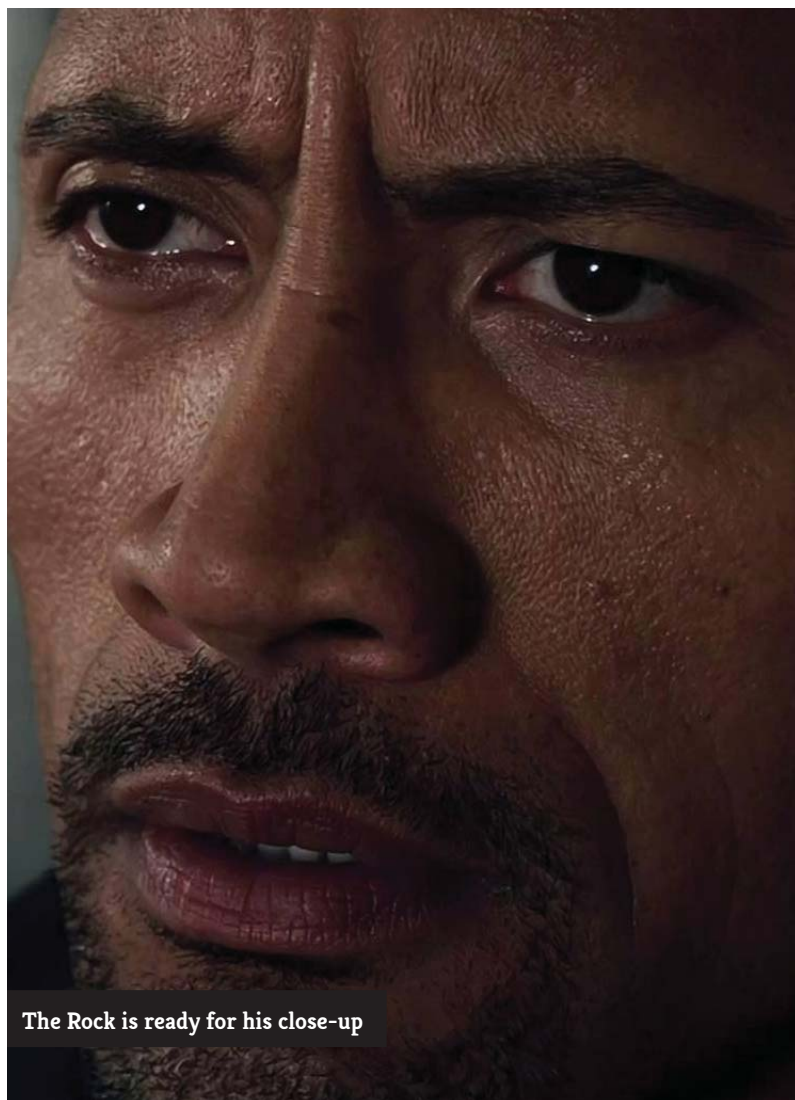


Soft kitty, warm kitty, little ball of furrrrrrrrrr

FILM

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

The Rock is a softie



The Rock is ready for his close-up



Snitch

Director: Ric Roman Waugh
Screenwriters: Justin Haythe, Ric Roman Waugh
Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Jon Bernthal, Susan Sarandon



John Park

Film Editor

Just because Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson is headlining a film that contains the plot of drug-trafficking, doesn’t automatically turn this into an action-packed ride. Which is a great surprise, since Johnson is taken out of his usual comfort zone, and his role here actually requires him to show a range of emotions to sell this story that is based on true events. And it’s certainly a change in gear that he handles extremely well, as with *Snitch*, Johnson shows that he has more to offer than his macho side throwing punches.

As an owner of a construction business, John (Johnson) is leading a quiet life and he wants to keep it this way. This is until his son Jason (Rafi Gavron) makes the mistake of getting mixed up with the wrong crowd and ultimately, drug smuggling. After his arrest, the minimum-sentence law states that faces ten years in jail – seems harsh, but that’s what the local US Attorney Joanne Keeghan (Susan Sarandon) and her tough anti-drug stance is insisting takes place, no exceptions allowed. The way to reduce sentencing is for Jason to assist in making significant arrests of big players in the drug scene. But he refuses to be an informer – so his father volunteers his services. He will go undercover, make some deals that will hopefully end in arrests big enough for the US Attorney to be more lenient.

Perhaps The Rock could be seen as a bit of a miscast here – anyone who messes with The Rock’s family in any standard action vehicle would have around an hour or so before he comes violently knocking. But here, John is an utterly ordinary businessman, with very little skills required to lead a one-man army. In fact we even see the mighty Rock get beaten down by a group of thugs as he unwisely tries to enter the drug world by himself, not knowing what to say and who to approach.

Help is at hand however, as John reaches out to an ex-convict employee of his who has a history of drug dealing. Wanting to stay clean, start



Say something about my beard...go on...I dare ya

over, and avoid his third strike, Daniel (Jon Bernthal) reluctantly agrees, not fully aware of John’s true intentions. John will also receive tactical support from Agent Cooper (Barry Pepper), and so the dangerous assignment begins.

Essentially the message that is repeatedly used throughout is the fact that fathers are willing to do anything for the benefit of their families. And we see several examples of fathers doing whatever is necessary – the most obvious one here is John, Daniel also has a son and wife to support, the same goes for the drug kingpin they’re trying to take down, Juan Carlos “El Topo” Pintera (a very well-cast Benjamin Bratt). Very little time is spent on Pintera, the antagonist, and it’s all about the “good” guys put in impossible situations, getting in way over their heads.

There are tonal inconsistencies largely due to the film not quite being able to balance the thriller side to the more grounded drama aspect. It’s better in giving us the tense excitement even with a relatively tight budget – the inevitable final highway chase involving a shootout is on a small scale, with very little gimmick and yet is able to deliver some quality action. The many stand-offs between the good guys and bad also have effective input in working towards a climax, more so since we’ve already

seen just how vulnerable John is in this unpredictable criminal world.

Less well done is the film’s focus on the individual characters themselves. Even though the ensemble doesn’t look at all crowded, the film struggles to throw in a variety and the running theme becomes very tiresome and repetitive. Yes, yes, the fathers are doing this amazing thing, but what we don’t need is a constant reminder of the struggling children who we start to feel less and less sorry for the more we see them take up the screen time.

More frustrating is the under-use of the most talented member in the cast, Sarandon. With a potentially juicy role as an ambitious, cut-throat political ladder climber who is initially solely invested in this for her gain, she barely features on the screen. Granted, whenever she does turn up she has some ice-cold dialogue to spit out, but given the talent she possesses, this is no doubt a role that is far too simple and underdeveloped, given how much time is given to other less important players.

Overall it’s a film full of pleasant surprises. Most noticeable is Johnson’s transformation and that he doesn’t look out of place in a role that shows a lot more weakness. This goes to show he’s far from the action star one-trick pony we all thought he was, and to witness that alone is worth the film’s running time.



You tried to domesticate...ME?!

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

FILM

The Sundance Kid goes running

The Company You Keep

Director: Robert Redford
Screenwriters: Lem Dobbs, Neil Gordon (book)
Starring: Robert Redford, Shia LaBeouf, Julie Christie



John Park

Film Editor

Robert Redford's standing in Hollywood must be a good one for him to have attracted so much star power and talent for his latest directorial effort that is at best, distinctly average. Marketed as a clever political thriller, it shows a lot of promise from its opening scenes, but what we find is a gradual dip in quality as it becomes clear the film doesn't have too much to say for itself.

After years of hiding out, a notorious wanted fugitive is arrested by the FBI. As part of the anti-Vietnam War militant Weather Underground, Sharon Solarz (Susan Sarandon) was wanted for a bank robbery that resulted in murder a few decades ago. Her arrest leads to the sharp, ambitious young reporter Ben Shepard (Shia LaBeouf) to do his own digging

around the terrorist group Solarz was involved in. His investigation leads to Jim Grant (Robert Redford), a lawyer hiding out in Albany under an alias.

Leaving his young daughter (Jackie Evancho) with his brother (Chris Cooper) who is less than thrilled to be in contact with him, Grant goes on the run, although Ben is determined to get a story out of this due to his pushy editor's (Stanley Tucci) insistence.

What exactly is Grant after? To clear his name, maintain his innocence, and the only person who can do this is the elusive Mimi Lurie (Julie Christie) with whom he shared something special back in the day. This little reunion between the two is delayed for far too long as we see far too much of Ben's investigative journalism. There isn't anything wrong with showing us the methods, the keen reporter doing whatever he can to find a story he can print, but it's often what he discovers that's of little interest. There are children involved, adoption, paternity issues, but these don't contribute to the overall narrative. It only slows down and distracts us from what's truly important.

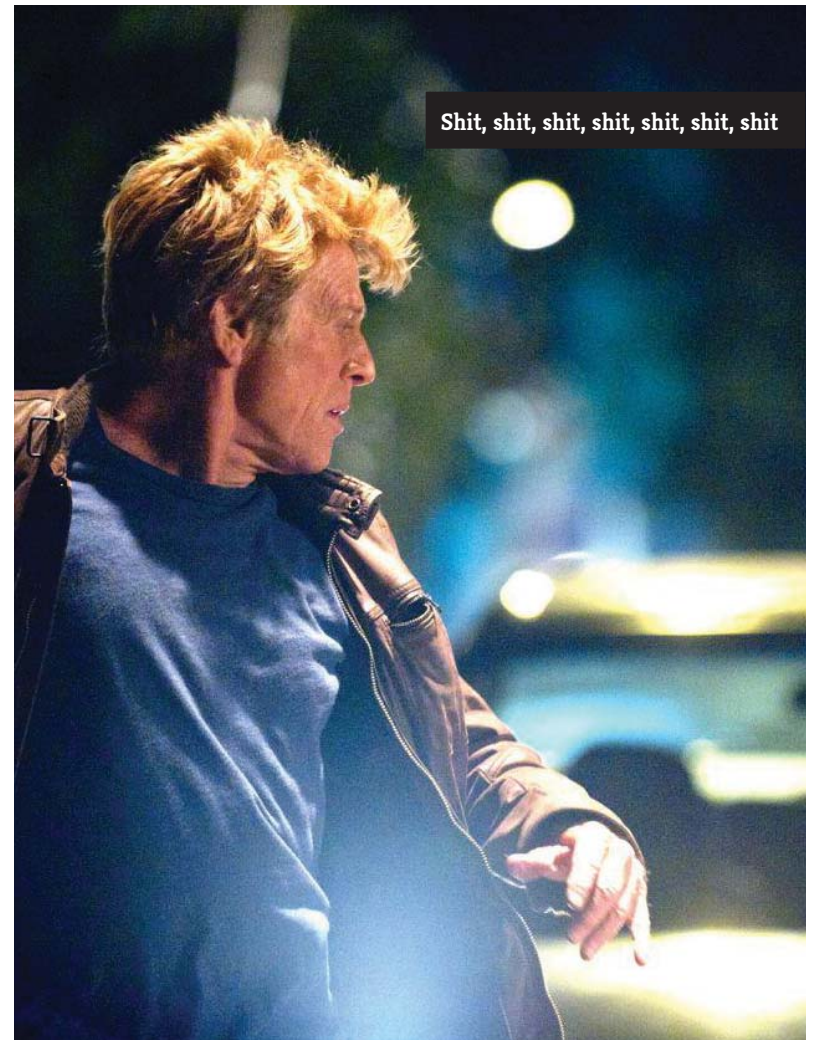
Once Jim and Mimi do end up in the same room, it leads to a heartfelt, intelligent discussion about their values, beliefs and ideals – what they believed so passionately in the 70s don't

quite hold the same weight in the current context. Another theme that crops up is whether there is any regret, remorse or guilt about past actions. Whatever they do or don't feel can't excuse their actions, the characters know this too, and the heated exchange between the two, although brief, is a deep, insightful one: a worthy wrap-up of preceding events.

Aside from those already mentioned, other big names in the cast appearing include Brendan Gleeson, Terrence Howard, Anna Kendrick, Nick Nolte, Richard Jenkins, Sam Elliott and Brit Marling. Do they all serve a purpose to further the story or are they merely a distraction? They end up as a little bit of both, with understated performances all-round contributing to this greatly restrained piece.

It's not as informative or powerful as Redford's previous politically driven picture, the highly underrated and underseen *Lions for Lambs*, but the appeal here is still huge, starting with the stars, its opening, and a neat finish that successfully plays on the chemistry between Redford and Christie.

It's a shame the middle filling isn't quite as gripping as it should have been. It could have been shorter, and the many famous names should have been put to better use.



Girls go camping, things go wrong

Black Rock

Director: Katie Aselton
Screenwriters: Mark Duplass, Katie Aselton
Starring: Katie Aselton, Lake Bell, Kate Bosworth



John Park

Film Editor

There's something almost primeval about the way the characters here conduct themselves. Cut off from civilisation with no technology to help them, the women here need to resort to the bare minimum to stay alive, and here is a gritty, unflinching survival drama that is impressively made, with brisk action and nasty surprises here and there.



When three female childhood friends decide to go away together on a camping trip, they put their differences aside and try their best to have a good time. Something about sleeping with the wrong man put some awkward tension between Abby (Katie Aselton) and Lou (Lake Bell) whereas the one caught between the conflict, Sarah (Kate Bosworth), is

playing peace-keeper among the trio. Despite some explosive verbal arguments, the trio's lives are at least safe, until they run into three men: Henry (Will Bouvier) Derek (Jay Paulson) and Alex (Anslem Richardson), all of them seemingly harmless at first, but when one of them can't take an ultimate "no" as an answer at the end of some full-on flirtation, all hell breaks

loose.

The men have guns (actual firing guns, not referring to their anatomy here), the women have nothing, except possibly some knowledge about the island they're on. It's an impossible situation but the game is on, and they need to fight to even have a chance to get off the remote island alive. Everything escalates beauti-

fully up to this point, and there is genuine worry and concern as to just how the three of them will be coming out on top in this ridiculously out-matched scenario.

And as with many thrillers carrying this kind of synopsis, it's inevitable that some characters make silly decisions and do some downright bizarre things that you know will get them killed at some point. Despite their lives being at risk, they find the time to talk about the unresolved elephant in the room – and manage to find closure whilst covered in blood, cuts and bruises. But with stupidity comes a body count, which isn't an entirely bad thing.

By the time you see the plot resolving, there will have been a decent amount of fun, some brutal fights, and a satisfying conclusion that doesn't offer any deadly last-minute twists, but a wholly acceptable one nonetheless.

GAMES

Games Editor: Ross Webster
games.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Welcome to Esther island!

This week's tour guide is **Sanchit Sharma**. Feel free to ask him any questions

“Dear Esther. The morning after I was washed ashore, salt in my ears, sand in my mouth and the waves always at my ankles, I felt as though everything had conspired to this one last shipwreck. I remembered nothing but water, stones in my belly and my shoes threatening to drag me underwater to where only the most listless of creatures swim.”

In *Dear Esther*, you control a disembodied camera and use it to explore an unnamed and uninhabited island in the Hebrides. A narrator reads out transcripts of letters to a woman named Esther, and sections of these monologues are read out when the camera reaches semi-random trigger points.

Why do I call it a camera, and not a character? I call it this because at no point does it interact with the environment. It cannot jump, it cannot kick pieces of the scenery which seem to be movable, it cannot so much as open a door. It is merely a way for the player to enter this world, as opposed to a way for the player to influence it.

However some people argue that it is actually a character, and to be fair certain points do make much more sense if the game is treated in this manner.

It should be noted that there is no button to jump in game. This can be somewhat annoying when it feels like the ability to jump would give you a little more freedom. If this could be added in such a way to still not increase the area to explore by too much, it would simultaneously be more satisfying for the player and not

much more work for the developer.

“At night you can see the lights sometimes from a passing tanker or trawler. From up on the cliffs they are mundane, but down here they fade into ambiguity. For instance, I cannot readily tell if they belong above or below the waves. The distinction now seems banal; why not everything and all at once! There's nothing better to do here than indulge in contradictions, whilst waiting for the fabric of life to unravel.”

Visually, the game is stunning. The island is mapped out in great detail, but due to the lack of mechanics or general crazy things going on as with most games, it will quite happily run at 1080p on a graphics card that wouldn't normally be able to handle it. The range of environments and textures presented on such a small map puts some recently released major titles to shame.

In addition to this, the soundtrack fits perfectly and complements both the visuals and the monologues very well. It is available to stream or buy from the official website, which is a very good idea on the part of the developers – the soundtrack would be worth the cost of a normal album.

In order to immerse yourself in the game more, I'd recommend playing it with 3D vision not only on, but turned up at least halfway. It really accentuates the feelings created by the game (at least, up until the bridge of your nose starts hurting because nVidia didn't think about people who wear glasses), although there are points where it is a good idea to turn it off. This is pretty much only if you go underwater, however, so it isn't a big deal and does little to damage the immersion.



It's like wearing the Boots of Blinding Speed

“Donnelly's book had not been taken out from the library since 1974. I decided it would never be missed as I slipped it under my coat and avoided the librarian's gaze on the way out. If the subject matter is obscure, the writer's literary style is even more so, it is not the text of a stable or trustworthy reporter. Perhaps it is fitting that my only companion in these last days should be a stolen book written by a dying man.”

The story, of course, is the main part of *Dear Esther*. It is about an unnamed man talking to a woman named Esther, most likely his late wife. The letters and a few cutscenes heavily imply that Esther was killed in a car accident by a man mentioned later on in the game, Paul. The narrator often also mentions a cartographer named Donnelly, who charted

the island in the past, originally coming to the island to find details of a hermit told to have lived here but being unsuccessful in his task and so moving on to write about the island instead.

Due to the fact that on any given playthrough many of the monologues will not be encountered, the story given to the player is incomplete and forces them to draw their own conclusions. There are many minor details that will give an insight into parts of the plot that are never mentioned, and it is down to the player to uncover the truth, though it is never confirmed what exactly that is.

“Donnelly reported the legend of the hermit; a holy man who sought solitude in its most pure form. Allegedly, he rowed here from the mainland in a boat without a bottom, so all the creatures of the sea could rise at night to converse with him. How disappointed he must have been with their chatter. Perhaps now, when all that haunts the ocean is the rubbish dumped from the tankers, he'd find more peace. They say he threw his arms wide in a valley

on the south side and the cliff opened up to provide him shelter; they say he died of fever one hundred and sixteen years later. The shepherds left gifts for him at the mouth of the cave, but Donnelly records that they never claimed to have seen him. I have visited the cave and I have left my gifts, but like them, I appear to be an unworthy subject of his solitude.”

I would be less inclined to call this a game and more inclined to call it a work of interactive art. If this is the kind of thing that you enjoy, *Dear Esther* would certainly be worth your money.

My only complaint aside from the jumping and water issues is that there is no log – being able to read or listen back over what you have previously heard would make the story far easier to get to grips with the first time around, and allow a player to understand and draw their own conclusions with only one playthrough, as opposed to the two or three it took me.

Other than that, this is a truly amazing piece. It is available on Steam for £6.99



Oh God no! The UrbEx itch is back! Probably need some tetanus jabs after though...

War, War Never Changes

Well, maybe we're not exactly in the middle of a war, but the Felix office does feel like a war room. There's only one edition of Felix left this year, and we always need more ~~cannon fodder~~ ~~conscripts~~ writers, to let us make one last grand hurrah!

If there's something you've been thinking about writing, in between bashing some exams out, drop us a line, and we'll make next week the largest games section that has ever graced the face of Earth.

Any questions, comments, war tactics or possible recruits, feel free to email games.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Alternatively, send a pigeon.



Technology Editors: Jason Parmar
Maximilian Eggl
technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TECHNOLOGY

Apple iOS7

Max Eggl coos over iPhone's latest mobile OS



Sexy screenshots from iOS 7: "Control Center", "Notes", "Unlock Screen"



Apple has finally caught up with the rest of the mobile OS world. The keynote at WWDC has revealed a slew of new features, and yours truly has access to the beta to test them out for you, my dear reader. A little disclaimer, since I only have beta access, my experience may not be the same as the final product. I found that the music app is quite buggy, crashing several times. However, all in all, the beta is already quite smooth, with very few major problems. Now to the actual review. Keep in mind I will only be reviewing things I myself used on a major basis and found important.

Design

All previous iOS versions, right from the very start, were dripping with skeuomorphism (i.e. making programs look like their real life equivalents – for example, notes looks like a yellow notepad) a favourite of ex-design chief Scott Forstall. But when he was fired, and Sir Jonny Ive installed in his stead, a lot of critics hoped for a more updated look in iOS 7. Ive, an award winning designer, who was previously solely in charge of the hardware design, was, and still is a known lover of simplicity, straight lines and a "flat" look as is exhibited in the iMac, iPhone etc. Therefore, the consensus on the internet was that Ive would try to apply this approach to the software

that ran the devices he designed. And, boy, did he deliver. Right from the loading screen his influence is felt, all the way to the absence of the felt texture of the folders. However this just feels "right". Apple device's futuristic look clashed with the green felt and faux leather of previous software iterations.

The new lock screen just emphasises the beauty of the retina display, with no more grey bars in the way. Then when the lock screen gives way to the home screen, the animation looks just (sorry for the cliché) awesome. The new designs of the app icons, without the shadowing, are just great to look

All previous iOS versions, right from the very start, were dripping in skeuomorphism ... a favourite of ... Scott Forstall

at and much more modern. An added touch that does speak volumes of Ive's creativity and attention to detail is the opaqueness of various messages and screens. This means that your home/lockscreen really affect the look of your phone as the colours do really bleed through. There is so much more I could tell you about the new design, however I would run out of space and time, so I apologize if I forgot any new design features. However the last thing I have to mention and also the thing that impressed me the most (I know, easily entertained), was the funky 3-D thing. My backscreen that moved depending on my viewing angle was just great! That touch was just something I found to be absolutely stunning, and the first thing everyone asked to see.

One con I just wanted to utter was that I found that when I first saw the actual icons, while nice, I thought that the added colour palette did make it feel a bit less serious. However I guess that was just the new experience of it all.

All in all the design is exactly what Apple needed to do and is a great way to start off the Jonny Ive era.

Utilities

There are several things that Apple has finally implemented features that the world had already a long time ago including a more efficient multitasking, notification center, control center, a new camera app as well as air drop.

Firstly lets talk about the multitasking, in fact it's directly stolen from Windows 8. However it just looks great in iOS 7, and works perfectly. The swiping up to quit apps is just divine and much more intuitive than tapping the red cross. The notification center has been revamped in iOS 7, getting rid of the fake texture, introducing, in black and white, different sections for "today", "overall" and "missed", that should finally (hopefully) add some actual use to the notification center. Till now it hasn't really done much for me. Next on the agenda is the control center. This feature, directly stolen from android, is something that apple users have cried for for a long time. Directly swiping up on your phone brings up a mini settings area where you can easily turn wifi, bluetooth, screen lock etc. on and off, and aids you in avoiding the cluttered and complex settings app. This a great addition to iOS 7 and one of the reasons I decided to update early. Lastly we have the camera and air drop. The camera has been totally redesigned, and now, is just a dream to use. Instead of having to flick a switch, or go into the settings to change camera mode, you just flick from mode to mode. Also Apple have now hipsterized the app with different filters, so for all ya'll instagrammers out there will certainly enjoy this. Lastly the air drop. This feature seems sick! The idea that I can instantly exchange files over wifi is great, however at this point I

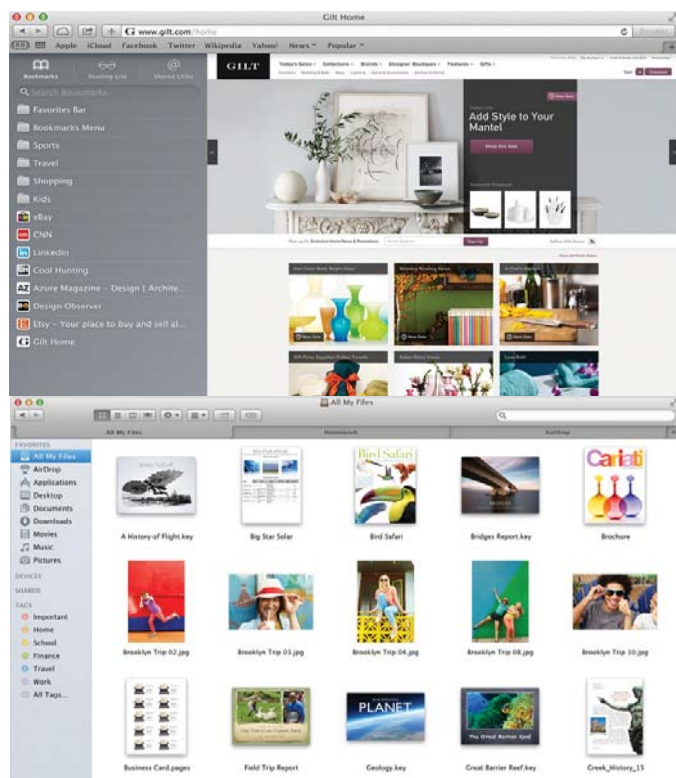
At a time when confidence in Apple has been failing, they have released a much needed boost

couldn't find anyone to do an iPhone to iPhone transfer, so future updates on that.

Conclusion

This is the update that iOS really needed. At a time when confidence in Apple has been failing, they have released a much needed boost. It has given the ageing system a new look while remaining true to the iOS roots. The features are poignant and are what is needed to keep iOS competitive.

Apple Drops Cat Names with OS X Mavericks



Some of the key new features from OS X SeaLion? Clockwise from top left: Bookmark sidebar, Multiple full screen apps, Finder

Fabio Virgi

At WWDC 2013, Apple announced the upgrade to the Mountain Lion operating system, OS X Mavericks. Based on the new features, it seems that Apple have placed a lot of focus on productivity and ease of use with this OS. Amongst hundreds of new features, the key things to take away from the new release are updates to Finder, Safari and improvements for users of multiple displays.

Finder

Tired of having your monitor filled with Finder windows? I know I am, so tabbed Finder windows are a welcome feature announced by Craig Federighi, SVP of software at Apple. As far as productivity goes, Finder can now be maximised in to full screen mode and has incorporated tagging too, making it both easy and fast to access the files you need, when you need them.

Safari

Apple's browser may not have been completely revamped on the surface but under the hood, the tech giants

have been hard at work to optimise the speed and improve graphics acceleration. Amongst the newly introduced features are:

Sidebar

Browsing your bookmarks in Safari was never the easiest or most productive of tasks. I always have to 'open in new tab' to make sure I can quickly head back to my list of bookmarks – but not any more. The newly designed bookmarks sidebar stays put on the left so that you can go back and forth to your bookmarks whilst in the same screen, making it easier and faster to use.

What's more, the reading list now allows you to scroll to the bottom of the web page you saved and keep scrolling on to the next saved page on your list – meaning you don't have to go back to click on the sidebar for a new page. It's fluid, tidy and very efficient.

Shared Links

Integrating Twitter and LinkedIn, the shared links section located in the sidebar displays a real-time feed of content that's being shared by people you follow. This seems to be yet another attempt from Apple to really make the OS a social experience. Mountain Lion pulled this off nicely with the notification centre and Twitter/Facebook integration, so I'll be interested to test out this cool new feature for my self.

Multiple Displays

For power users who enjoy using multiple displays (like me), it gets annoying having to allocate the menu bar and dock to one display or the

Tabbed Finder windows are a welcome feature

other. With OS X Mavericks, you'll have dedicated menu bars to give you faster access to the options for the screen/app you're working on.

In addition, OS X Mavericks now has the functionality to let you run multiple full screen apps on all of your screens without conflicting and in addition, using mission control you can drag and drop apps across screens. You'll even be able to swipe between full screen apps on one screen without affecting the other.

Autumn Release

The other updates included the introduction of iBooks, improvements to Calendar, iCloud Keychain and notifications. For now, visit Apple's dedicated page for a brief look at OS X Mavericks, but that's all you're going to get until you can download it from the App Store in Autumn later this year.

Fabio is the founder of Let's Talk Tech (www.letstalk-tech.com). Raised in London, he's a self-confessed Tech Geek. Also known to some as an "Apple Fan Boy". Reach out on Twitter @fabiovirgi7 or Google+ if you'd like to chat.

The News Bubble

It's the penultimate issue of Felix, sad face :(Look out in next week issue when we'll be reviewing the three major mobile platforms from a fanboy point of view (sorry, no Blackberry).

E3 PS4 & Xbox One

While there were gasps and applause when Sony released the PS4 price, there was a stoney silence greeting Microsoft when they announced the Xbox One price. £80 more expensive and not allowing games to be swapped, Xbox had a hard time. Despite offering significantly more than the PS4 the multimedia console received incredibly aggressive criticism online from the fickle hardcore gaming clique.

Apple weaning off Google

It went mostly unnoticed, but Apple furthered distance from Google in iOS 7. Even considering the Apple Maps fiasco Apple have been trying to drop Google integration. In iOS 7 Siri now uses Microsoft's Bing, perhaps suggesting that Apple considers Google their main competitor these days?

Edward Snowden

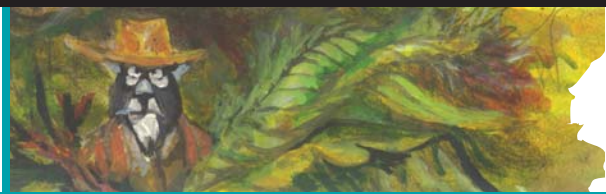
Last weeks leak from the NSA, Edward Snowden, came out as a bit of a hero after his Guardian interview in Hong Kong (despite leaving his partner who the Telegraph focused an article on "how hot she is"). But the whole debate raises a deeper question of our technology. With Snowden claiming that Facebook, Google, Microsoft etc. give backdoor access to the US government it begs several interesting questions, the most prominent: "how safe really is our data"?

#Facebook

It took long enough, but Facebook have finally caved into public pressure and announced they will be introducing hashtags into the social networking site. They'll be following in the footsteps of Twitter, Tumblr, Pinterest, and its own Instagram.

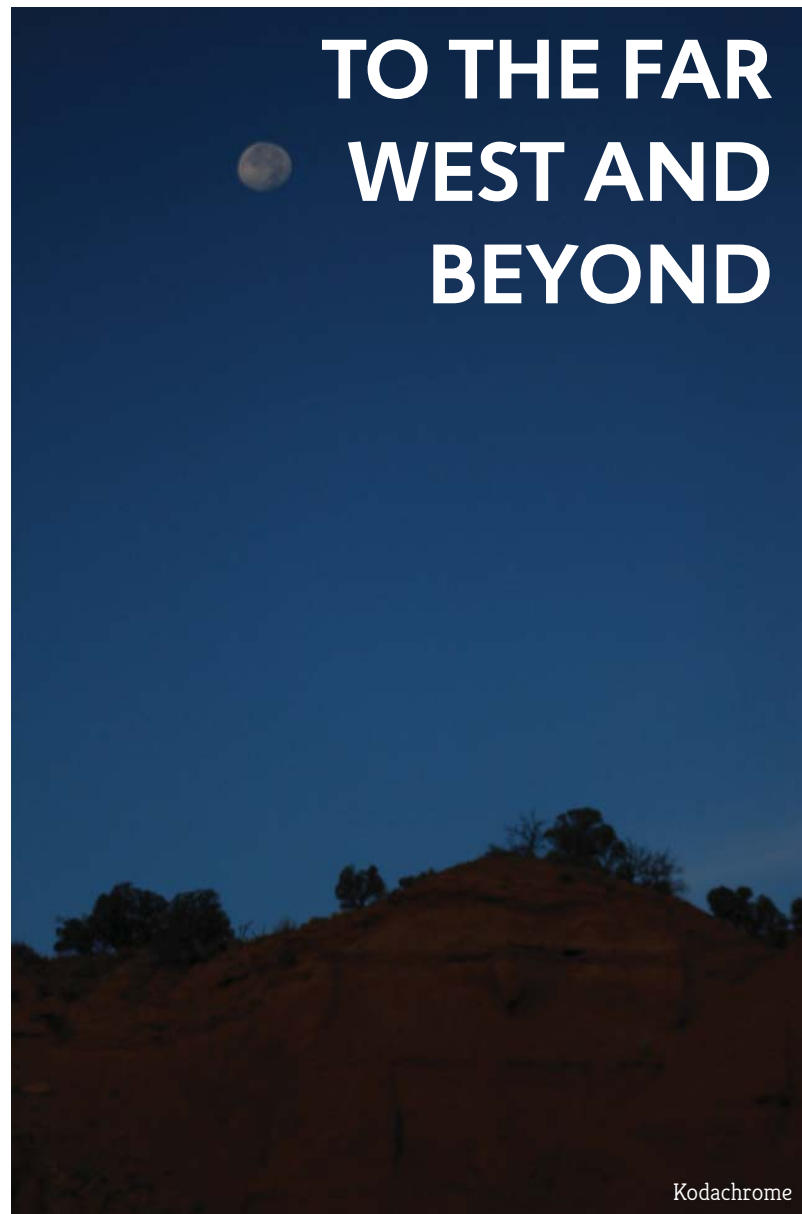
Jason Parmar Tech editor

[The new Safari] it's fluid, tidy and very efficient



Travel Editors: Simon Carnochan, Veronika McQuade
 travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TRAVEL



Kodachrome



Natalia Petrou

Kodachrome



Natalia Petrou

Kodachrome



Loukas Petrou

Zion National Park

Zion National Park

Natalia Petrou

Writer

When listening to those words in the title immediately we all think of deserted cities with one main road, as these places were presented in the Western movies. This might be true for some places, though this article will present some nature's most famous creations, namely the Canyons and the national parks within which they are located.

Yes, most of you I am sure know about the Grand Canyon, that is why I am going to omit it from this article, and will try to shed some light to those least known ones, which I truly admired on my trip there.

The US states where most of these canyons can be found are Arizona, Utah and Nevada. The first one I am going to mention is Bryce Canyon located in Utah within the Kodachrome State Park. At this canyon one has the opportunity to stay within the State Park in the so called "Red Stone" Cabins. You can then admire the magnitude of this canyon throughout different times of the day and notice the change in the colour of the rocks. One can walk through the different designated paths to understand what this place has to offer and admire what nature has created, and see something that is still pretty un-influenced from humans. The scenery is truly majestic.

I am not particularly fond of adventure trips, but this place brought out a different site of me.

The next one on my list is Zion National Park, also located in Utah, which is one of the longest canyons covering a distance of 24 km. The rangers in the park have organised buses that take you from the visitor center to the end of the trail at the so called "Temple of Sinawava". At each stop along the way one can get off the bus and follow the designated trails to experience nature's magnitude first hand. This canyon is the easiest one to reach and explore, especially for a beginner hiker.

The final canyon that has literally blown my mind is the "Antelope Canyon", located in Page Arizona. What is striking about this canyon is that it is located under the ground. One can enter this canyon only with a guide, who also explains how it was created and tries to really integrate you into the scenery. Truth is this canyon is completely different any other canyon that I have visited, and is worth a look. Words really fail me when describing this canyon; I think for once I will let pictures speak for themselves.

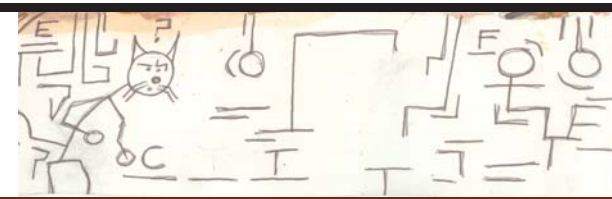
In these places don't expect to find extreme luxuries, but expect to be amazed by nature's luxuries. If you want to escape the humdrum of everyday hectic life, then these places are ideal for you and for your hidden adventurous site...



Loukas Petrou



Loukas Petrou



Rap Lyrics of the Week

The Fugees "No Woman No Cry"



"Everything is gonna be alright,
Everything is gonna be alright,
The gunman's in the house tonight,
But everything is gonna be alright"

Everything will be fine. How relaxing. How reassuring. I feel so safe... Wait. WHAT THE FUCK. A gunman is in the house!? That's terrifying. Is this gunman taking hostages? Has he got any demands? Does he want the release of some people? Will he use us as bargaining chips? Everything is almost certainly not going to be alright if a "gunman" is in the house. When have you ever hear that there is a "gunman" and it is followed by a nice, friendly tale of how everyone was smiling with ice cream in the presence of this person. Unless, of course, it's false smiles and he gives out ice cream as that's his calling card.

I'm locking my door.

Drake: "What's my name"



"It's getting hot, crack a window,
air it out"

Doesn't sound like it's getting hot. Sounds suspiciously more likely that you've just farted and are now embarrassed. I bet you're walking around quickly hoping the smell doesn't follow you and the new air disguises it. You really need to look into that. You should also get yourself checked for amnesia...

Encyclopedia Felix

Hangman's guide to the oft-spotted *Shoreditchia douchum*

Habitat: Most often found on the streets of London. Often mistaken for the docile *Instagrammus spammus*, and the common street hobo.

Etymology: Named after the esteemed British adventurer Alfred Douche-Alley (the first), after his ill-fated expedition over the Sahara, wearing a scarf, bobble-hat and a cardigan.

Pokédex number: #000

Weakness: Normal-type moves

Favourite colour: Sepia

Favourite album: Doesn't matter, you've never heard of it.

Note the pubic-hair on the subject's face, left over from the last Movember. As detailed by Evans and Grivel^[1], this is most likely a defense mechanism, used to artificially increase their apparent age, and to give some semblance of wisdom and knowledge. In the authors own words, their test subjects commonly used "to look edgy" as the reason for actually looking like a pubescent 16 year old.

Here, we can see a trademark sign of the *douchum* – a woollen hat that looks, and smells like it's been fished out of the bins behind Wholefoods. There are many members of the *Shoreditchia* family, each categorised by their headwear. Of note, records exist of a rare species, named *whovius*, after being spotted wearing a fez.

Myths regarding the removability of the headgear run rampant during the summer months, as the majority of *Shoreditchia* are still seen wearing their signature clothing, despite sweating copious amounts.

Even after progressive levels of torture, none of the *Shoreditchia* captured by Simmons, *et al.*^[2] actually claimed to have been near a farm, let alone worked on one. There are no widely accepted reasons for *Shoreditchia* being found, wearing thick canvas jackets, despite a multitude of theories. Many groups believe that the multiple layers of bulky and unseasonal clothing is actually to mask the fact that they've no muscular or skeletal structure, and that the slightest breeze will make them fold in on themselves, in a case of mainstream instability.

Even after the use of PRISM to hunt down all wearers of flannel shirts (see right), many specimens are found to flaunt these rules, sourcing their shirts from underground fabric markets.

The classic hobo-gloves as sported by our subject here, are indicative of no fashion sense, but also horrifically hairy hands. It's like someone strapped wook-tee-starfish hybrids onto some stumps.

A prime example of the skinny-jean philosophy can be seen in figure 1. With no room for pockets, or even your testicles, this stylish denim number provides no evolutionary advantage, and seriously hampers the chance of successful reproduction.

According to our current studies, the most common contents of these paper bags, are organic, gluten-free, BPA-free and BUAV approved carrots. No, really. I'm just as confused as you.

Adding onto increasing the evolutionary disadvantage, these loosely-fitting boots would imply that they're never planning on any sort of strenuous exercise and probably can't even start jogging without looking stupid. They are also likely to be uncomfortable for long lengths of time, and so they will severely hinder any attempts to queue up for the next Apple product.

The authors would like to extend their thanks to the Biology department for the use of their human-sized cages, and the Registry, for their advice on how to perform a slow and arduous torture.

Speical mention goes to 'Grumpy', the cleaner of the Felix office, as there was a lot of blood on the floor. He's a miracle worker.

Bibliography:

[1]:K. Evans and P. Grivel, *J. Hip. Studs.*, 23, 5, 87-95, (2005)

[2]:P. L. Simmons, G. Wei and K. P. Panino, *J. Ana. B: Hip.*, 11, 21-22, (2012)

[i]:Wikipedia. All of it.

[ii]:"So you've killed a man. What next?", T. Arbabzadah, 2012



Figure 1: The wild hipster

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



GOVERNMENT STARTS CRACK DOWN ON LAME FLANNEL SHIRTS



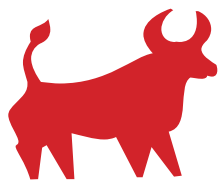
DESPERATE IMPERIAL MALE RESORTS TO STRANGE EXTREMES

NEARLYTHEENDOSCOPES – OH SO CLOSE



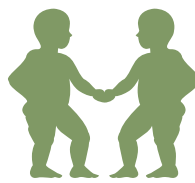
ARIES

This week you turn the Rec-tor on with your big Babylon. Scale model of the ancient city of Babylon that is. He's really impressed by the detailing in the palm trees and suggests that you sculpt Imperial on a similar scale. "We could have a lot of fun with a model of Queen's Tower", he purrs.



TAURUS

This week you spaff all over your exam script. Instead of meaningful answers, you splatter your own natural paint all over your blank canvas. A picture says 1000 words, and your creation is true art. It's just a shame that your distribution of a few sticky blobs doesn't relate to the mark scheme. Enjoy your retakes!



GEMINI

This week you try to get your 5 a day. You stock up on fruit and veg and start the day with a banana. You move on to a courgette, then some light relief with a few asparagus tips. You continue with a carrot then squeeze in a kiwi before bedtime. Your anus feels healthy and satisfied. Fruit is so underrated!



CANCER

This week all your bones dissolve and you become a mass of wobbling skin on the floor. At least you can lick your own genitals now, but it's little consolation when you consider that you will have to be transported around in a wheelbarrow. Also, your eyeballs will rub against your nipples and be engulfed by folds of neck. Pint?



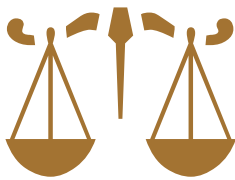
LEO

This week you transform into a spider from the waist down. Having 8 legs is kind of weird but you soon begin to enjoy the bristly feeling against your peachy skin. You can also try so many more exciting sex positions now you can stick to the wall... If you can find anyone who's into that sort of thing.



VIRGO

This week your partner says it's time to take your relationship to a new dimension. However you are not sure whether this dimension is spatial or temporal so are unsure of how to react. You buy a time machine but panic and accidentally send yourselves back 3 billion years. You melt into a primordial soup together – so romantic.



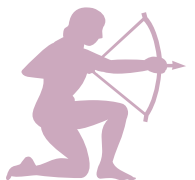
LIBRA

This week you have worms but are really constipated so they start wriggling out through your belly button to escape. You sew up the hole to stop them but they just keep breeding in your intestines and eventually so much pressure builds up that they burst through your stomach and your vagina.



SCORPIO

This week you are sick of eating baked beans. But it's all you have so you try a fresh new way to ingest them: snorting. You mash 'em and sniff like there's no tomorrow. But sadly the permeability of your nostrils does not extend to legumes; the bean puree gets stuck in your windpipe and you choke to death.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you develop an ear fetish. You just can't stop thinking about sticking your penis in other people's waxy ears, and pounding against their tympanic membrane until your cum flows down the Eustachian tube. And oh how you long to nestle your balls amongst the complex curves of the pinna! Any hole is a goal...



CAPRICORN

This week, you're not sure whether your viva examiner is winking at you or just has an eye twitch. You've been in revision-induced isolation for so long that any attention is welcome and you find yourself strangely aroused. You wink suggestively back but turns out he has hay-fever and thinks you're making fun of him. Awkward.



AQUARIUS

This week you think you've finished exams. You swagger round the library smirking at all the people still revising until you see someone on your course. You ask them why they're still revising. They frown and point to page 2 of the exam timetable. Shit, you thought there was only one page and you still have 10 exams left.



PISCES

This week you must choose between having your mouth permanently crammed with slugs or a cactus up your bum. Slugs would be less painful, they'd put off potential sexual partners and you'd never be able to enjoy cheezeburgers again. The cactus would mean a life of excruciating anal haemorrhage. What's it going to be?

PUZZLES

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



A nerdy treat?

	2 17 1 2	2 17 1 2	20 1 2	1 14 1 2	25	1 16	9 4 3	1 1 10 5 3	3 9 4 3	18	25	2 1 3 12	2 1 1 3 1 4 5	1 7 4	6 14 3	4 14 3	2 3 1 4	1 2 2 8 3	2 3 2 8 3	4 13 4	17 5	25	25	24	25		
3 2 6 1 1 1 5																											
5 5 1 1 1 5																											
1 2 4 2 6																											
3 2 2 1 3 7																											
3 2 1 2 3 7																											
3 2 1 1 6																											
11 5																											
25																											
13 2 8																											
13 2 6																											
11 2 8																											
11 1 2 8																											
11 2 6																											
25																											
7 1 7																											
6 1 6																											
6 1 1 6																											
12 3 3 4																											
5 3 2 3 3 4																											
5 3 2 3 3 4																											
1 3 3 2 2 5																											
5 4 6																											
1 3 6 8																											
5 3 6 8																											
5 3 6 6 1																											

Nonogram Instructions:

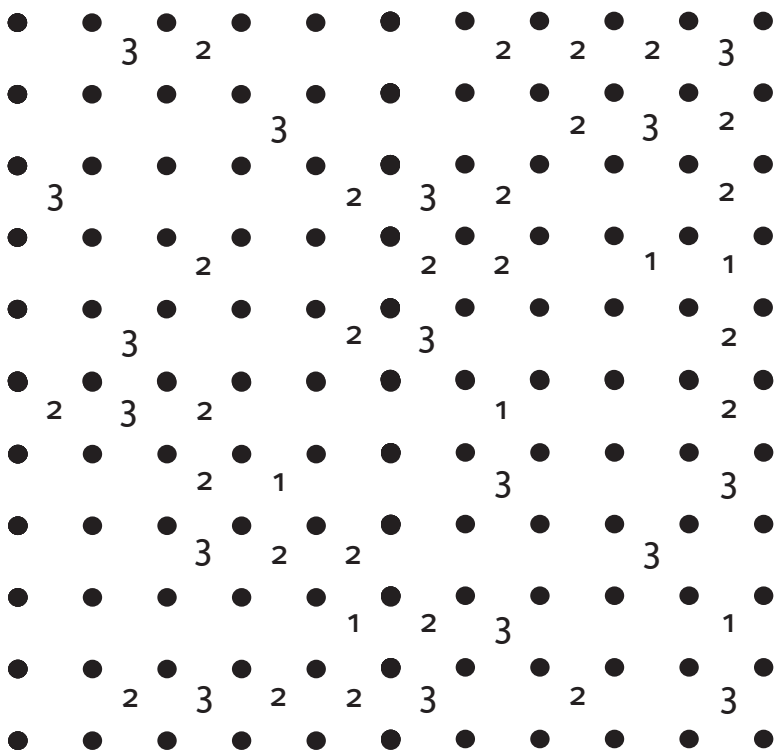
The numbers in each row and grid column tell you how many groups of black squares are in a row or column, as well as how many black squares each group is made up of. Filling in the grid produces a pretty picture, which in turn produces points if you send it in, so get solving!

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

PUZZLES

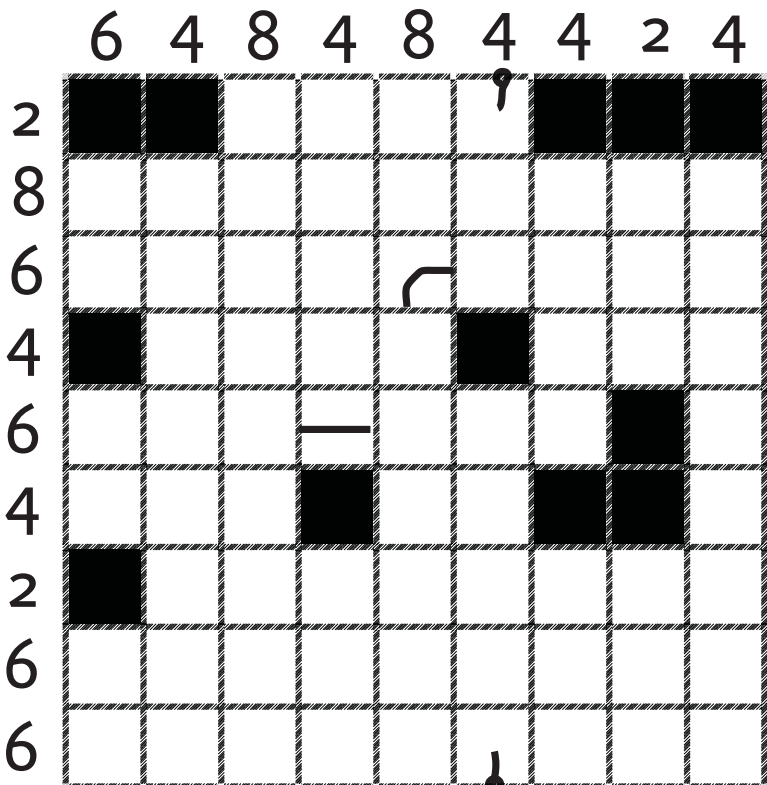
Slitherlink

Continuing the time-honoured tradition of featuring Slitherlink since forever ago. Rules: 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.



Ophis

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



FUCWIT League Table

INDIVIDUALS	
Yufan Zhao	33
Wael Aljeshi	24
Gabriel Quek	3
Tan Wei Jie	3

It's the penultimate issue, but what the hey. Send 'em.

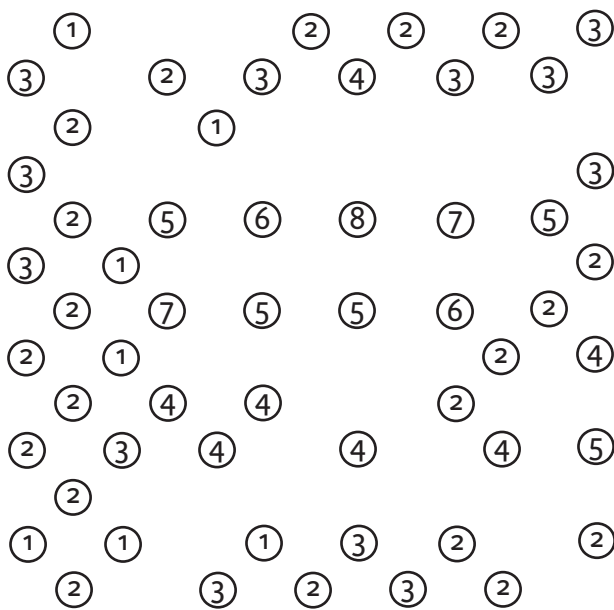
puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Last week's solutions



Answers to Double Trouble: a) Possible combinations are (15, 12), (14, 13). The second one is impossible without violating the requirement that opposite sides of a die add up to 7, so the answer is (15, 12) b) The answer is £70, because who would pay 3 extra quid for a 9 when a 6 is available?

Hashi

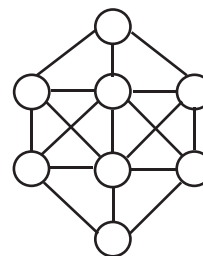


Connect all the islands with vertical and horizontal non-intesecting bridges so that it is possible to get from any island to any other one. There can be up to two bridges between any two islands. Each island indicates the number of bridges starting from it.

Riddle Time

- SIX Decipher
- + SIX the sum.
- + SIX Each letter corresponds to exactly one
- NINE to exactly one
- + NINE number.

Fill in the circles with numbers from 1 to 8 so that any two connected numbers differ by at least 2.



PASSI THE PARABOLASHAPED PENGUIN



2013 Outi



ICUCC beaten by UCL

The pressures of harder exams take their toll on a brave IC team

Jayanth Ganapthy Sports writer

With his 100% winning record as skipper on the line, Vignesh Venkateswaran once again took up the reins of captaincy as he led the ICUCC 1st XI to face off against arch-rivals UCL, in a nail-biting London derby.

Conditions could not have been more perfect; it was warmer outside the scoreboard than inside it. Once again featuring a bowling-heavy line-up, Imperial won the toss and elected to bat first, with the hope of using scoreboard pressure to our advantage. Openers Iain Stobbs and Faris Rehman took a liking to the UCL opening bowler, creaming him for boundaries down the ground. Faris's stay was a short one, however, giving a simple catch, which brought Faris Siddiqui to the crease. The situation unfortunately got the better of him as he fell prey to a rash shot, attempting to heave a 6 to cow-corner off his first delivery, only to find the ball nestle comfortably in the hands of mid-wicket for a golden duck. With the situation dire, the skipper arrived at the crease and proceeded to rebuild the innings with Iain. UCL's opening bowler went through a torrid time, leaking 35 runs off his 6 overs. Boundaries arrived at regular intervals and the situation looked to have been salvaged for a time, until Vignesh played all around a full delivery and was cleaned up for 21 off 30. Siddharth Kohli, so often the unsung hero with the bat, came to the middle, but all he managed to do was starve Iain of deliveries before giving a tame catch.

I was in at no. 6, and the situation became even more desperate when Iain fell soon after to an excellent in-dipper for a solid 38 off 37. This left two new batsmen, Nitin Nihilani and myself at the crease with the bowler in form steaming in. After some poor showings with the bat, I managed to play myself back into some sort of form with a quickfire 14 off 15 including 2 flicked boundaries over deep square leg and a tennis forehand to a slow bouncer, before being run-out attempting a tough single to get back on strike, with Nitin finding it nearly impossible to get bat to ball. With the tail needing to wag, an in form



Claims of UCL using ringers were unfounded

Ganesh “Big G” Kumar walked in. He found the going tough as well, wafting at thin air outside off-stump on multiple occasions along with Nitin. Nitin was eventually put out of his misery, getting bowled by no less than Du Plessis himself for 1 off 36.

A pre-match cigarette and beer didn't help Johan Rekers much as got out as soon as he went in, bowled for a golden duck, bringing debutant Rajan Bhambra to the crease. The fact that he was holding a bat for the first time in years began to show, and he was lucky not to give an edge on his first few deliveries faced. Fortune favours the brave, however, and he managed to streak an edge past slip to the 3rd man boundary. He, too, eventually fell for 7. Farhan Huq was last man in and lasted 4 deliveries before being given out LBW for a duck. At the other end,

Big G had made his way to 17 off 35 before running out of partners. Imperial hence folded for 128 all out, probably around 22 runs short on a turning track.

After tea, the boys took to the field, desperate to defend 128 and the skipper's winning record. Iain Stobbs found himself in the unenviable position of having to open the bowling after opening the batting as well. Out of concern for the opposition batsmen's safety, he decided to forgo pace, instead relying on some nifty swing and a 5-step run up. The plan worked as he immediately produced some healthy edges, with Big G taking a smart running catch over his shoulder at backward point to dismiss one of the UCL openers.

Big G himself came on from the other end, and built up some pressure

with Iain. The batsmen were not letting up, however, and eventually the off-spin of Siddharth was introduced. Vignesh brought himself on from the other end as well, and the 2 spinners set about trying to rein in the run rate. Despite some excellent bowling for most of the over, there was always one loose ball per over that was dispatched to the boundary, which did not help the cause seeing as the asking rate was only just above 3. Barring tough chances being put down by keeper Faris Rehman and Nitin, as well as a few comical moments with Faris Siddiqui allowing a boundary through his legs and Johan diving over a ball a few feet from him, Imperial's fielding display was impeccable, with even clean shots stopped in the in-field, culminating in a massive build-up of pressure on the batsmen.

Eventually they cracked, as Siddharth and Vignesh tore through the UCL batting line-up by themselves. 2 of Siddharth's 4 wickets found Vignesh (at that point looking like he could pluck a fly out of the air) at short midwicket, and 1 of Vignesh's 2 was taken by Siddharth at short extra-cover. Nitin chipped in with a wicket as well. In a tense finish, UCL were 8 wickets down and needed 3 more runs to win, but the returning Iain gifted them with a no-ball full toss off the first delivery of his second spell, which was sent to the boundary, giving UCL the victory by 2 wickets with 12 overs to spare. It was a disappointing loss for ICUCC and a first loss for Vignesh as captain, but UCL will always remember the day when a second-string Imperial team made a 128 target seem more like 328.