

FELIX

"Keep the
Cat Free"

04/10/13
Issue 1554
felixonline.co.uk



Imperial's TSU moves to UCL

Despite pleas by students College transfers Translation Studies Unit

THIS ISSUE...

Nida Mahmud
News Editor

On Wednesday 2 September, Imperial and University College London officially announced that the Translation Studies Unit (TSU) at Imperial will be moving to UCL.

The TSU will be moving to UCL's School of European Languages, Culture and Society, within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The school is well known internationally and it encourages interaction and exchange amongst specialists across the Arts and Humanities.

A spokesperson from Imperial said the move of the unit will "capitalise on its existing long-term collaboration with translation experts from [UCL], allowing it greater scope to develop its research and education activities in the future".

Earlier in February of this year, the College declared that the activities undertaken by the unit would be reviewed, as they were thought not to be "integral to the delivery of Imperial's academic strategy". Therefore the TSU has dodged the worst case scenario of closure.

The TSU was founded in 2001 and primarily deals with science translation and has over 50 MSc students and 25 PhD students.

The Head of the TSU, Dr Jorge Diaz-Cintas commented: "We are very excited about the opportunities that this move to another world-class institution like UCL will bring for us. UCL has a great track record in translation and we have been collaborating with them for many years. We are really looking forward to working with our new colleagues to make sure that translation continues to be as highly successful in our new home as it has been at Imperial during



GOOGLE PLUS

The move to UCL comes despite continued petitions by TSU students which were supported by the Union Council

the last 12 years."

The Dean of UCL's Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Professor Jonathan Wolff, stated: "I'm delighted to welcome the Translation Studies Unit to UCL. We have been long-standing admirers of their work, and believe that together we will provide world leading expertise in audiovisual, technical and literary translation."

Professor Debra Humphris, Pro Rector (Education) here at Imperial responded with: "This move draws the TSU into a greater critical mass of translation expertise and enables it to go from strength to strength in the future. We wish all of the Unit's members the very best in their future work."

At the time of writing the Union had yet to release an official response.

However in a meeting on the twelfth of February students from the TSU presented a paper to the Union Council detailing their concerns about the way the decisions were brought about and the impact College's actions would have on current TSU students. This led to the Union Council officially supporting the student run campaign against the proceedings.

CAREERS



The international
IAESTE experience **37**

TRAVEL



Death-defying
activities in La Paz **28**

ARTS



Looking at the
Fourth Plinth **16**

EDITOR'S PICKS

FOOD - 30

Farmers Market

Daas Kaluvan reviews the new South Kensington Farmers' Market on the Imperial campus and cooks pan-seared pigeon breast. Yum!



CLUBS & SOCS - 32

USA! USA!

Our champion Chess Team (who new we were British Uni Champions) takes over the American Chess scene in style with their trusty steed.



PUZZLES - ?

Missing :(

Looking for some puzzle commanders with a cryptic gaze and a love for mystery. Also, why haven't you solved last week's word search? Huh?



Mingle Moments

Are you a Fresher or someone who just wants to see Freshers' being slightly tipsy or silly? Have you seen the Mingle Moments videos? STOIC (Student Television of Imperial College) filmed both nights of the Mingle which can be seen on youtube, along with their previous productions like last years televised "Big Elections Hustings", the College vs. Medics Varsity match and several episodes of IC News.

youtube.com/stoictv

Erratum

Felix would like to apologise for an error in last week's print edition. Due to a mistake in the editing phase we accidentally printed a truncated title. What was "As Hitler once said: Execute" we meant to print "As Hitler once said: Execute Plan Z!" Felix would like to apologise for the mistake both to the author our readers.

LOLCAT OF THE WEEK: I've been told to bring these back...



First Week Back



Joe Letts
Editor-in-Chief

So, who knew that preparing for the Freshers' Fair would only leave two days to produce and send off a newspaper? Certainly not me, despite my Imperial education, sometimes it makes you wonder what I actually did.

There's an interesting paper for you to read this week with an update about the Translation Studies Unit's move to UCL despite student campaigning and the Unit's profitable performance. Additionally on the opposite page there's an interesting article about the shocking conditions at Fisher House. You would think that students at such a highly regarded university would be treated a bit better and at the very least not be left to walk along a corridor with exposed wiring, surrounded by electrical equipment that hasn't passed safety tests in several years and heaters that have the curious power of bring able to set off fire alarms. There are some serious concerns about student welfare that need to be addressed by Campus Services, regardless of whether these problems have been fixed since the pictures were taken in June.

However, this issue also contains more pleasant content, live pictures from the Mingle and the new Alternative Mingle. The Alternative Mingle was a new concept developed by the

Union this year as a free alternative for people who didn't want (or were too young) to drink during their first event out for the year. The event was quite successful (with music organised by IC Radio), with over 500 attendees and live performances from Jazz 'n Rock, Crystal X and a band composed of wardens from Beit hall. However Felix believes this has accompanied a noticeable increase in vigilance by the Union at events that contain alcohol, especially in regards to events where minors might show up. As it stands the Union has released a new Alcohol Code of Conduct for Clubs, Societies & Projects this week that explicitly states that a number of new undergraduates are underage and warns Club, Society and Project chairs that they have a responsibility to ensure that U18's do not break the law during CSP events.

We've also launched the new Careers section in this edition, go and have a look, go on! We've managed to get a guest column about effective networking from the helpful staff at the Careers Service, an alumnus profile (thanks Androula Alekou) and an article by a former Imperial student about the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE), an exchange scheme celebrating it's 65th anniversary since it was founded by Imperial

in 1948. Since its start after World War II as a way to encourage academic exchange between universities IAESTE has gone on to host over 300,000 students in over 80 countries. For those of you considering applying for a Paid Summer internship you should consider going to IAESTE's London welcome event this Sunday. You also have until December 10th to register for the scheme, so if you're keen I'd stop reading and do it now!

While you're reading this issue, you might see things that you think could have been done better or viewpoints we've completely missed out. That's great, we're still looking for more people to join the Felix team and if you email in I won't mind adding your name to our mailing lists, it will seem simple after I've upload the names from the Freshers' Fair this weekend.

Looking forward we hope to get some more features in the paper, including a look at College's exciting Horizons program for first and second year undergraduates and some interviews of unsuspecting individuals I've been planning for some time

Finally, as this is my second issue, I should really thanks the people who made it all possible, including Tim Arbabzadah (who helped immensely with Issue 1) and Rory Fenton the man in the cat suit.

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 Joe Letts **News Editors** Aemun Reza, Nida Mahmud **Features Editors** VACANT **Business Editor** James Tsim **Science Editors** Philippa Skett, Keir Little, Fiona Hartley **Politics Editor** Kartikeya Rana **Food Editors** Carol Ann Cheah, Michael Chung **Comment Editors** Eoghan J. Totten, Tessa Davey **Arts Editor** Arianna Sorba **Books Editors** Maciej Matuszewski, Eva Rosenthal **Music Editors** Simon Hunter, Riaz Agahi, Stuart Masson, William Stocker **Television Editors** John Park, Emily Fulham **Film Editor** John Park **Games Editors** Maximilian Eggel, Calum Skene, Imran Rashid **Technology Editors** Maximilian Eggel, Yong Wen Chua **Travel Editor** Chris Richardson **Sports Editors** VACANT **Online Editors** Philip Kent, Annina Sartor, Stephen Ball **Puzzles Commanders** VACANT **Copy Chief** Annina Sartor **Copy Editors** Annina Sartor, Stephen Ball

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

NEWS

Fisher Halls are Fishy

'The Jail' halls get secret inspection

Ben Fernando
Reporter

Aemun Reza
News Editor

Much of last year's #AgainstAction campaign focused on the impending closure of Evelyn Gardens' Fisher Hall. The huge campaign lasted months but the plans to create the halls were continued.

In 2011, the college announced that the Fisher Hall was no longer required. This was due to the completion of Prince's Gardens halls, which means that there was a surplus of bed spaces. As a result, they and the Wellcome Trust (the owners of the building) submitted a proposal to convert Fisher Hall into a care home.

A couple of years later, in 2013, the college surprised the Union by announcing that more bed spaces were now needed as they would be closing Garden Hall too. To make up this deficit, they put forward a proposal to build a 700-bed accommodation-only campus in North Acton, which is a 40 minute commute each way from South Kensington.

The College claimed that it would cost around £10 million to refurbish the hall for students, and thus the conversion into a care home was more financially viable. It is well known that Fisher Halls' current state is less than adequate and could be seen as unsuitable for the elderly and disabled.

The director of Campus Services, Jane Neary, told Felix in 2011 that the reason for the closure was 'not that [the hall isn't] good enough, it's completely legal [in terms of upkeep]'; adding that 'we've done all the urgent work'.

Upon inspection by an Imperial student, it was noted that there was a large area of exposed wiring on one of the stairwells. A large number of electrical components did not appear to have been tested in line with these regulations. The testing certificates indicated that they were due for testing in August 2012, but as of June 2013, the certificates had not been replaced. Some appliances were three years past their due date. The college states that "all college owned appliances are tested annually and all wiring is tested every five years".

Asbestos is another concern in Fisher hall. A second year Physicist explains that he is uncomfortable with the asbestos-filled fire doors. "You push them and they bang against the wall and then hit you in the face" he says, explaining that he's not sure that

the asbestos is safe in doors which receive such strong knocks and are damaged in places.

In addition, the lack of central heating means that many of the rooms are heated with wall-mounted fan heaters, which are past their PAT

testing date. They become extremely hot to the touch and when left on, smell distinctly smoky and are even reported to have set off the fire alarms. Sometimes, they tend to fail in the winter, which leaves the room at a temperature below the 20°C that

the college states halls will be kept at whilst occupied.

When a Hall Supervisor inspected one room, the only flaw in an otherwise sub-par room was the origami birds hanging from the fire tube. She stated that they were 'very dangerous' and 'must be removed immediately'. All other serious issues with the room went by unnoticed.

In addition to not adhering to the college's promises on electrical safety, Fisher Hall currently presents a poorly kept environment for students to live in and is a completely different image from the immaculate rooms in Prince's Gardens that are shown to prospective students on Open Days.

(As of June 2013)

Update from Campus Services

The College routinely carries out maintenance to ensure students' accommodation meets required safety standards.

Updates on some of the issues identified in the photographs:

The date shown on the 2012 sticker is a recommended timeframe. It is

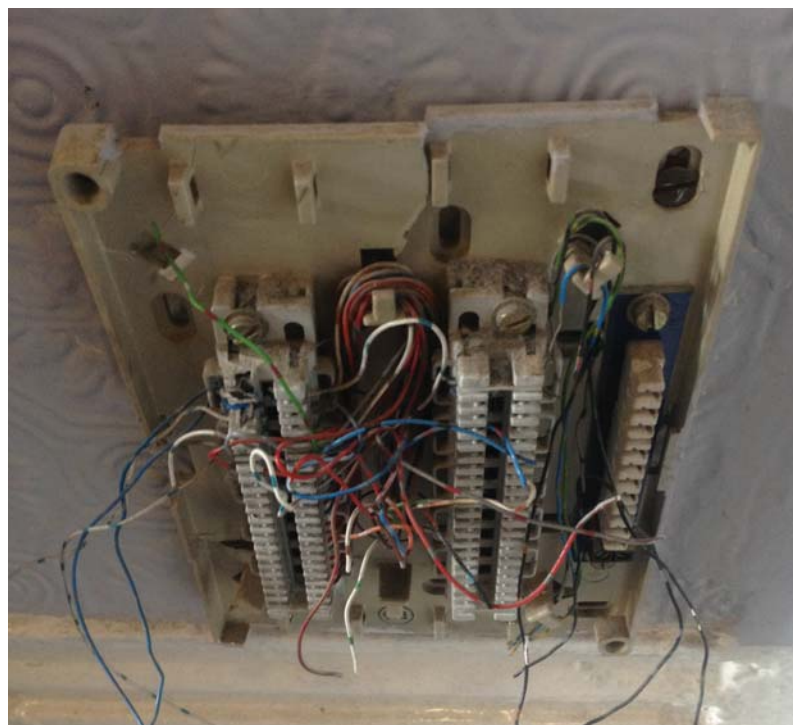
not currently unsafe despite the date having passed. All circuits and fuse boards are scheduled to be tested this term, and any remedial work will be carried out as required.

Fixed appliance testing was carried out in Fisher hall in September 2012, including on the wall mounted heaters shown in picture 2. The next test is due later this month. It appears that the heaters have not been stickered correctly. Imperial's electrical contractors now tend to keep electronic records/registers rather than apply stickers, which tend to fall off. The accommodation team should have arranged for old stickers to be removed, however.

There were a number of telephone junction boxes in the Hall that are redundant (photo 6). These have already been removed or are in the process of being removed, as per picture 4.

Damage to the window frame pictured is due to condensation. Accommodation staff continue to monitor the situation and students with any concerns can contact their Hall Supervisor if they have any concerns. Similarly damage to the ceiling, as shown in one of the photographs, was due to a defect on the roof, allowing water through. That defect has been fixed, the peeling paint removed and the accommodation team are closely monitoring it.

College Spokesperson



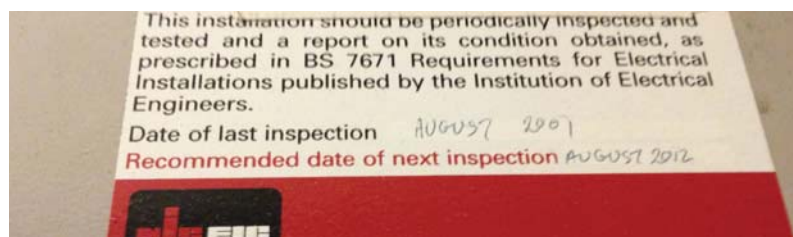
BEN FERNANDO

This looks quite like the inside of an Imperial engineer's brain



BEN FERNANDO

The expiry date is older than the milk in the fridge of Felix Office



BEN FERNANDO

Maybe the engineers were too busy volunteering at the Olympics?

Sponsored Editorial

Student Discounts At Fresh Hairdressers

70m from South Kensington tube



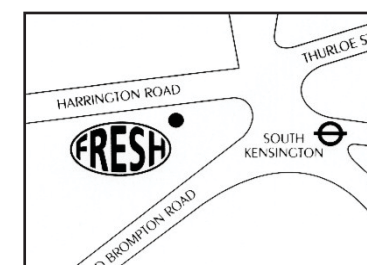
Men's cuts £22 (normally £35)
All over clipper cuts from £10
Women's cut and rough dry £28
Women's cut and salon finish blow-dry £38 (normally £55)
Highlights from only £40

Sorry CASH only!

FRESH hairdressers are offering the best haircuts, prices and service in South Kensington.

Please call **0207 823 8968** to book an appointment and ask for a student discount. Please bring your student ID we look forward to seeing you.

We use the best styling products from Wella, Moroccan Oil, L'Oreal.



Appointments available Tuesday to Saturdays 9.30 to 6.30

We are only 70 metres from South Kensington station at 15a Harrington road, South Kensington, SW7 3ES 0207 823 8968.

Check out our website: www.freshhairdressers.co.uk

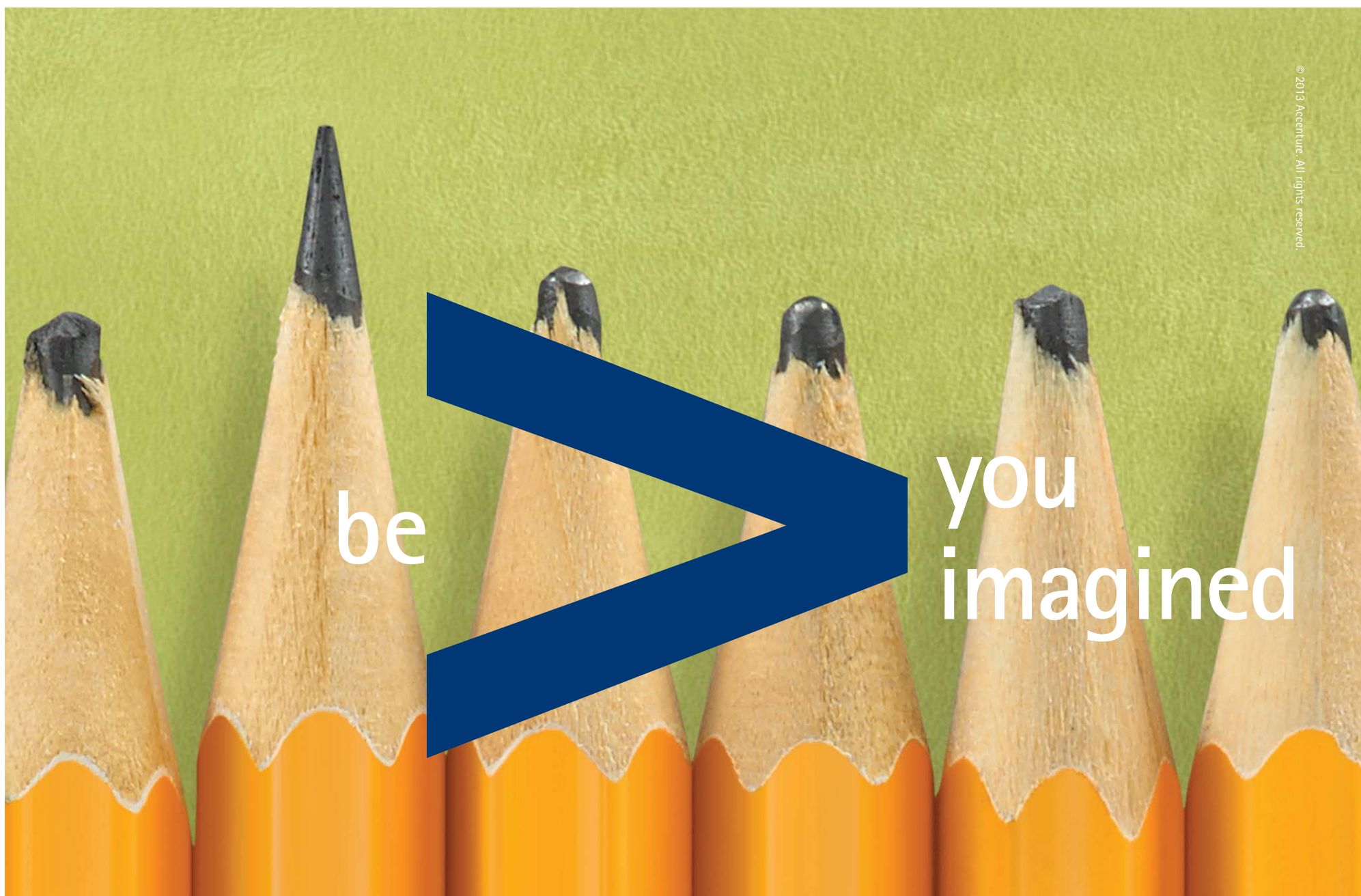
FEATURES

Editors: **VACANT**
felix@imperial.ac.uk



Felix @ the Mingle





Bring your talent and passion to a global organisation at the forefront of business, technology and innovation. Collaborate with diverse, talented colleagues and leaders who support your success. Help transform organisations and communities around the world. Sharpen your skills through industry-leading training and development, as you build an extraordinary career. Discover how great you can be. Visit accenture.com/ukgraduates

Be greater than.

consulting | technology | outsourcing

Graduate opportunities in Consulting and Technology

We are in business to help our clients achieve higher performance. It's why we're recognised as one of the leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies in the world today.

To us, transforming businesses, charities and governments across the globe means helping clients get better at what they do – and that gets us excited. We also believe that helping people evolve themselves and their careers depends on us equipping people to learn, grow, innovate and inspire those around them.


By joining us as an Analyst within our Analyst Consulting Group (ACG) or as a Software Engineer with Accenture Technology Solutions (ATS), you'll discover this firsthand. As a guide to help you decide, our Analysts must have a strong interest in technology plus good commercial awareness, and Software Engineers will need a technical degree.

We believe that experience is the best teacher and so a lot of your growth will come from getting stuck into live projects. Throughout, you can rely on getting the training you need, when you need it. Wherever you join us, you'll work with inspiring people who are passionate about what they do – and you'll find their passion is infectious.

Find out more by visiting our graduate website.

Visit accenture.com/ukgraduates

Be the first to know the latest news:

 'Like Accenture Careers UK'

 Follow [accentureukjobs](https://twitter.com/accentureukjobs) on Twitter

 Watch us on YouTube [AccentureUKcareers](https://www.youtube.com/AccentureUKcareers)

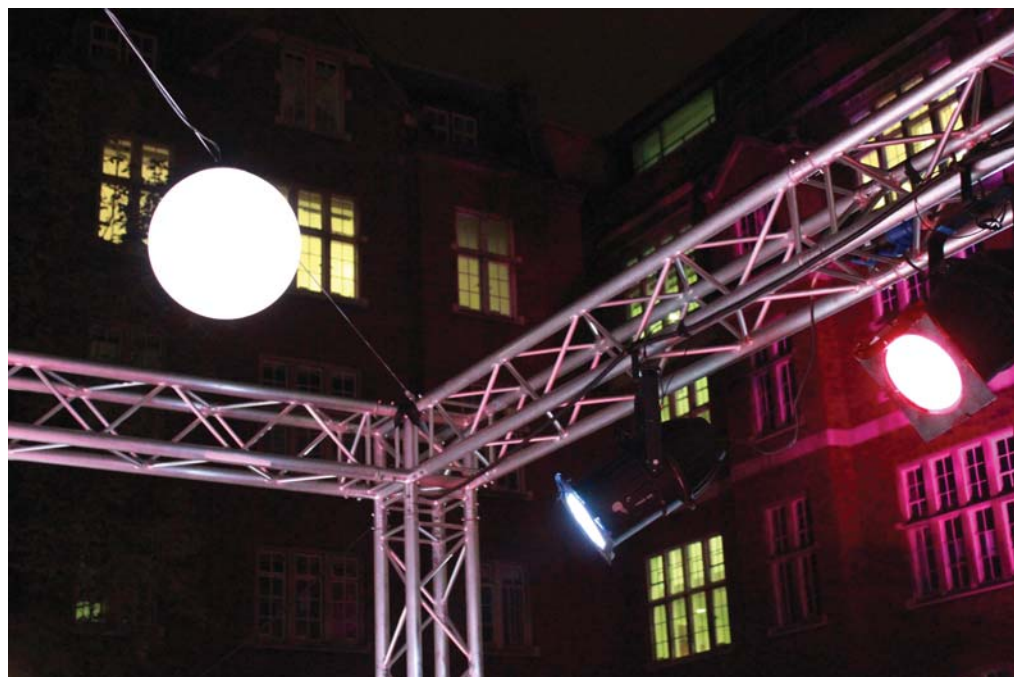
accenture
High performance. Delivered.

FEATURES

Editors: **VACANT**
felix@imperial.ac.uk



...& the Alternative Mingle





@feliximperial

FelixImperial

WHAT'S ON

Coming this week...

Saturday 5th

Graduate Student's Union
11:00 @ Queen's Tower
Free guided walks around Central London

Postgraduate Mingle
19:00 @ IC Union
Tickets Buy One Get One Free

Sunday 6th

IC Union IKEA Trip
12:00-17:00 Meet @ Beit Quad
Coach transport provided to IKEA Wembley.
Tickets (£7.50) available from the Union website.

Free Boxing Club Taster
16:00-18:00 @ Union Gym
Two free taster classes for all abilities.

IAESTE Welcome Event
19:00 @ The Vault Bar, EC2M 4NR
A chance to meet IAESTE alumni and learn more about it.
Free, apply online

Monday 7th

Careers Service
Seminar: Intro to Assessment Centres
16:15-17:15 (Book Via JobsLive)

Workshop: Preparing for Assess. Cntrs.
12:30-14:00 (Book via JobsLive)

Pop-up CV Check @ JCR
12:45-13:45
Bring a paper copy of your CV, first come, first served.

RCSU
RCSU Presents: A Very British Tea Party
17:00-19:00 @ Union Activity Space 2
Enjoy a free cup of tea and some cute cakes at the RCSU Tea Party.

Tuesday 8th

Careers Service
Workshop: Group Mock Interview
12:30-14:00 (Book Via JobsLive)
Careers Talk: Opportunities in Investment Banking
13:00-13:50 (Book Via JobsLive)

Careers Service
Seminar: Create a Winning CV
16:15-17:15 (Book via JobsLive)

Imperial Cinema
18:30 @ IC Union
World War Z
20:45 @ IC Union
Man of Steel
Tickets available online or at the door.

RCSU
21:00-03:00
RCSU Autumn Ball
Tickets at £12 online, inc. 3 FREE double mixers

Wednesday 9th

Careers Service
Workshop: Preparing for Assess. Centrs. - Group activities
12:30-14:00 (Book Via JobsLive)

Careers Talk: Daiwa Scholarships: Language Learning, Homestay and Work Placement in Japan
13:00-13:50 (Book Via JobsLive)

Employer-led Skills Workshop: How to Crack a Case Study (Oliver Wyman)

13:30-15:30 - Book in person at Careers Service - £10 deposit required (correct change only)

STOIC
15:00-17:00 @ Media Studio, Beit Quad West Basement
Live filming of IC News

Thursday 10th

Careers Service
Workshop: Preparing for Assess. Centrs. - Presentation skills
12:30-14:00 (Book Via JobsLive)

Careers Talk: The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme
13:00-13:50 (Book Via JobsLive)

Seminar: Create a Winning CV
16:15-17:15 (Book via JobsLive)

Careers Sector Forum: Energy Industry Forum
18:30-21:00 (Book Via JobsLive)

Space Society Introductory Event
18:00-19:00 @ Skempton 164

Friday 11th

Careers Service
Pop-up CV Check @ SAF (Foyer)
12:45-13:45
Bring a paper copy of your CV, first come, first served.

Seminar: Interview Skills Seminar
16:15-17:15 (Book via JobsLive)

Snooker & Pool Club
12:00-14:00 @ Snooker Room, Beit Quad
Free drop-in session to talk about the club and play some snooker

“Want to advertise your event in the **What's On** page?”

Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk”

DESTINATIONS	GATE	ARRIVAL
INDUSTRY IMPACT	OW	FASTER
GLOBAL ASSIGNMENTS	OW	FASTER
SENIOR CLIENT CONTACT	OW	FASTER
CAREER DEVELOPMENT	OW	FASTER
MAKE PARTNER	OW	FASTER



invites you to

DISCOVER OUR WORLD

and learn about the unique opportunities at Oliver Wyman that will accelerate your career.



DISCOVER OUR WORLD

Oliver Wyman is a leading global management consulting firm that combines deep industry knowledge with specialised expertise in strategy, operations, risk management, and organisation transformation. With offices in 50+ cities across 25 countries, Oliver Wyman works with the CEOs and executive teams of Global 1000 companies.
An equal opportunity employer.

PRESENTATION

OLIVER WYMAN, 55 BAKER STREET, LONDON
WEDNESDAY, 16TH OCTOBER
6.30PM FOR A 7PM START

To pre-register for the event please visit www.oliverwyman.com/LondonPresentation

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Now accepting applications for full-time consultant and summer intern positions.

10th November for December 2013 offers

15th December for February 2014 offers

19th January 2014 for summer internships

Apply online at oliverwyman.com/careers



YOUR REPS

ELECTIONS

AND UNION COUNCIL

Get involved in making your student experience the best it can be.

STAND

28 September - 13 October

VOTE

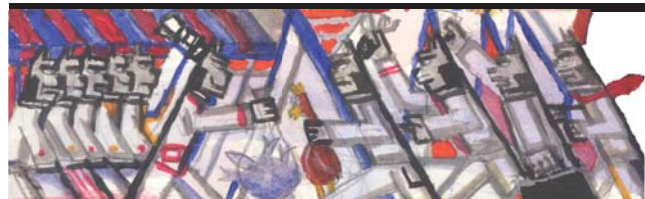
18 - 22 October

Find out more online



imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

imperial
college
union



Axe VAT for the hospitality industry

Pushing for cheaper food and drink in pubs and restaurants!

James Tsim
Business Editor

How can reducing VAT help the economy?

With high unemployment levels and increasing difficulty in finding jobs, the job market in the UK along with the economy needs boosting. One method suggested by the VAT club founded by Jacques Borel is that a reduction in VAT would increase sales and employment, bringing long term benefits to the economy. VAT (Value Added Tax) is the tax on the purchase price of goods. This is an indirect tax, which is enforced on all people regardless of their wealth; a poor person would be taxed the same amount on a product as a rich person would be.

According to Jacques Borel, one sector which would benefit widely from reduced VAT is the hospitality sector. This particular sector mounts an incredibly strong argument for the reduction of VAT. The total number of jobs in the hospitality sector in the UK is approximately 2 million and the industry is particularly important in providing financial stability to young, unskilled, and disadvantaged workers. The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers job tracker research showed that licensed hospitality created 1 in 6 jobs for 18-24 year olds. The expansion of this sector is relatively easy, with pubs, bars, and cafes with low barriers of entry. Lower VAT rates would be able to stimulate the creation of new businesses and jobs in the sector. On top of that, the VAT reduction would lead to lower prices in food,

**WE ♥
VAT
(YEAH RIGHT!)**

What do you think about VAT?
In 1974 VAT was reduced to 8%.
VAT currently stands at 20%.

possibly higher salaries for employees and better training, therefore increasing the quality of service.

Another argument for the reduction of VAT for the hospitality sector is to keep it fair and in line with supermarkets. Currently pubs and restaurants pay 20% VAT on food and drinks, whilst supermarkets pay 0% VAT. This has led to many people, especially students deciding to eat in rather than out, meaning fewer people supporting the on-trade and the jobs created there. They claim that it is not fair that supermarkets pay a fraction of the tax pubs pay per pint.

However, a reduction in tax would lead to a direct decline in income for the treasury via VAT receipts. Jacques Borel suggests however that this difference would be made up for by higher income tax, National Insurance payments, higher corporation tax receipts, saving in unemployment benefits and through the fact that more businesses will end up paying tax. This is because there will be less incentive for small businesses to stay below the tax threshold of £77,000 per

annum, there would be less under-reporting of cash receipts ('Tax Gap') and as such higher income tax yields as a result of less under-reporting.

The question we must ask is: How much will a reduction in VAT cost the economy?

A reduction in VAT from 20% - 5% would result in a direct loss of £5.5 billion (excluding alcohol). However, the research suggests that once the indirect gains from the reduction of VAT has been taken into account, the net fiscal cost would be between £0.7 and £3.1 billion. The research also suggests that the reduction in VAT would create between 290,000 and 670,000 jobs. An example of this was in early 2012, when President Nicolas Sarkozy declared the VAT decrease had saved 30,000 cafes and restaurants that were struggling financially.

One other sector which could benefit enormously from the decrease in tax is hotel accommodation. As of January 1st 2012, 22 European countries had a reduced rate of

VAT for hotel accommodation, while 13 countries had a reduced rate to cafes, pubs, restaurants and catering services. The cost of living in hotels is a danger to the UK tourism industry and we must keep prices competitive with those abroad.

In order to bring this campaign to light, the VAT club organised a Tax Parity Day. This was held on the 25th September 2013, where over 44 businesses (15,000 outlets) across the country took part in campaigning and participating in Tax Parity Day. These included JD Weatherspoons and Punch Taverns. All businesses (40% restaurants, 60% pubs) which took part in the event lowered their prices by 7.5% in support of a VAT cut. Borel claims "If we compare with what has happened in Germany, Finland, Belgium and France, if you make a 7.5% price cut, you will have 25% more clients, which is very significant." Borel also says that 10,000 pubs have closed and many others are suffering through insufficient investment." This project however has not had much reception by the treasury.

In short, we should all consider supporting lower VAT for food and drink in the hospitality industry, as

this promises to boost the size of the industry whilst lowering the cost to us customers. So join supporters of this campaign such as Pret a Manger, Weatherspoons, Subway, and TGI Fridays, Pizza Hut etc, and campaign for fair VAT rates.

**Join the
Felix
Business
Team
Today!**

**Are you
interested in
finance or
business within
journalism?**

**Send an email
to:
felix.business@
imperial.ac.uk**



Imperial Plus

Developing your skills

Get recognition for your volunteer achievements. Any student volunteering with or via Imperial College Union can count the hours they volunteer towards the Imperial Plus Volunteer Certificate or Volunteer Accreditation.

For more information and to register, visit
imperialcollegeunion.org/imperialplus





Skett's science corner

Philippa Skett
 Science Editor



Welcome to Felix Science! If this is your first time reading these pages then congratulations are in order; managing to tear your eyes away from the centrefold and pursuing something a bit more academic, and so early on in the year too, is no mean feat. To all our regular science enthusiasts (we know who you are, all ten of you) welcome back - we are hoping to hit harder than ever this year and make sure we deliver up to date science with a minimum of one pun per title.

I'm Philippa and I make up a third of the science editorial team alongside Keir, a charismatic chemist and Fiona, a bubbling biologist like myself. If you are a physicist, a mathematician or even an engineer, get in touch and start writing for us! Otherwise it is going to be articles alternating between the ecology of guppies and scandals involving titration curves.

My top science story this week is that of the chemist who was recently jailed for killing her husband. Akin to the Breaking Bad storyline in that basically lab supplies were stolen and someone then dies, Tianle Li from New Jersey slowly poisoned computer engineer Xiaoye Wang when their marriage disintegrated. Unlike Breaking Bad, this chemical crime did not pay off in thousands of dollars and hundreds of Emmy nominations, but instead resulted in a life sentence for the mother-of-one after a science-savvy nurse worked out that his symptoms pointed to thallium exposure.

Thallium ions are chemically similar in size to potassium ions, rendering the cellular channels for potassium useless in distinguishing between them both. Thallium is able to enter cells and disrupts the normal ion movement of potassium, causing a whole host of biochemical issues. Only one gram of thallium can kill a human, and as it causes a large range of symptoms, poisoning may not be diagnosed until it is too late.

Although Li pleaded not guilty, the research she conducted with biopharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb was centred on the effect of thallium on humans, so accessing the banned substance would have been just too easy. Thallium is soluble in water, so administration would have been straightforward, too: a slip of the wrist by seemingly innocent Li would have been all it took to get the substance into her husband's drink with dinner.

Since it can be difficult to diagnose, by the time Xiaoye's symptoms were linked to thallium poison there was no time to get the rare antidote, Prussian blue, and the damage was done.

So if writing about that latest pathogen pathway doesn't float your boat, consider diving into the decidedly dark side of science instead. Get in touch, write about your favourite toxin and share your science stories: anything that packs a punch is sure to be printed.

Want to write for us?
Email to get involved:
 science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

"It's not an inapt analogy to compare this to light sabers"

Blood, snot and students

Fiona Hartley tells us why scientists will soon be adding a new weapon to our arsenal against flu

I'm sure several of you are suffering with freshers' flu by now, as I am, because sharing your germs via sniffing and/or coughing on your unfortunate peers in lectures is akin to physical intimacy here at Imperial. You'd rather be healthy, or at least in bed, as you sip your Lemsip Max and wish that you hadn't shuffled through crowds of virus-laden students in the QTR at Freshers' Fair.

While Freshers' flu is basically a bad cold that makes us feel a bit shit right when we want to be out on the town enjoying ourselves the annual flu epidemic is a much more serious affair. Influenza always poses a potentially serious risk to our health and that remains a fact despite sensationalised news reports claiming the latest pandemic will kill millions of people. (I do realise that I'm guilty of the same thing, referring to war in the title of this article - but how else do you make a future flu vaccine sound exciting? Please tell me...)

A vaccine that is effective against all strains of flu is described as the 'Holy

Grail' for influenza researchers. Last week Imperial demonstrated its dedication to this goal when Professor Ajit Lalvani and his team published their conclusions from a two-year long study of the health of 342 staff and student volunteers in Nature Medicine.

The study began in the autumn of 2009 when the swine flu pandemic was starting. Previous models had suggested that T-cells, the little lymphocytes which are crucial in the cell-mediated immune response, could recognise core proteins within the influenza virus and perhaps confer some protection against symptoms of flu. The team used the pandemic to explore this theory. Once the volunteers had donated blood samples and nasal swabs, they were sent a health survey ever three weeks and asked to donate another nasal swab if they suffered from any symptoms of influenza.

The group found that the volunteers who suffered from milder symptoms of flu when infected had a greater number of CD8+ T-cells in their blood at the beginning of the study.

Professor Lalvani called the findings a "blueprint" to guide future vaccine development. Their study contains precise information about the characteristics of the protective T-cells and this can be incorporated into the testing of novel influenza vaccines, as well as potentially leading to a vaccine that stimulates a T-cell response large enough to have the desired protective effect.

So your nasal secretions contain more value than you might first think. And while I'd prefer a greater number of volunteers to have been part of the study, I think it's great that students were indirectly involved. Imagine being one of them, smug in the knowledge that the disgusting river which dribbled out of your nose four years ago influenced the advancement of science...

This is good news for the future of flu vaccination and our general health. It will be many long years before influenza is a thing of the past, however; I suppose it will be even longer before we see the back of freshers' flu.

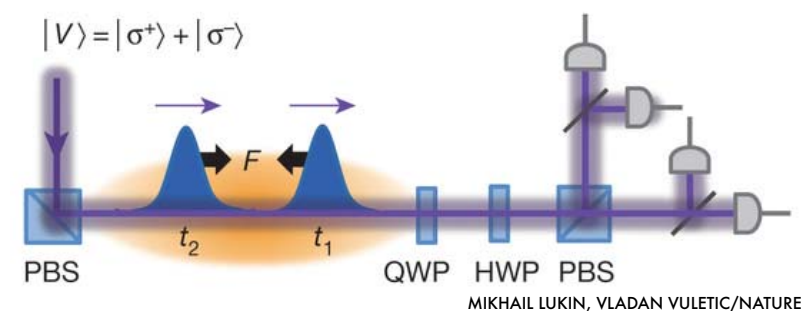
New form of matter created from photons

Keir Little
 Science Editor

The Harvard-MIT Center for Ultracold Atoms has created "photonic molecules" by binding photons together, as published in Nature last week.

The team, led by Harvard's Professor Mikhail Lukin and MIT's Professor Vladan Vuletic, first cooled an extremely rarefied gas of rubidium atoms to a few degrees above absolute zero, then used weak laser pulses to fire single photons into the gas.

In this medium, the photons are slowed considerably by interacting with and giving energy to the rubidium atoms. "When the photon exits the medium, its identity is preserved," Lukin said. "It's the same effect we see with refraction of light in a water glass. The light enters the water, it hands off part of its energy to the medium, and inside it exists as light and matter coupled together, but when it exits, it's still light. The process that takes place is the same, it's just a bit more extreme - the light is slowed considerably, and a lot more energy is given away than during refraction."



When two photons are fired in, they exit joined together, as if in a molecule. This is due to an effect called the Rydberg blockade, which disallows atoms near to each other being excited to the same state. When two photons are in the rubidium cloud, one must move forward after exciting an atom so that the second one can move in and excite other atoms nearby. Thus, the photons pull or push on each other as they move through the medium.

"It's a photonic interaction that's mediated by the atomic interaction," Lukin said. "That makes these two photons behave like a molecule, and when they exit the medium they're much more likely to do so together than as single photons."

"We do this for fun, and because

we're pushing the frontiers of science, but it feeds into the bigger picture of what we're doing because photons remain the best possible means to carry quantum information. The handicap, though, has been that photons don't interact with each other."

The effect could be used to make photonic switches or logic gates for use in quantum computers, or for laser cooling and information transfer applications in current computers.

"It's not an inapt analogy to compare this to light sabers," Lukin added. "When these photons interact with each other, they're pushing against and deflect each other. The physics of what's happening in these molecules is similar to what we see in the movies."



@feliximperial

FelixScience

SCIENCE

Link found between HIV and cocaine

Phillipa Skett writes about the latest findings in HIV research

It is a drug whose users come from across all walks of life; from traders in the big cities to celebrities in the bathrooms, cocaine is a substance commonly associated with excess, confidence, and power. This week scientists also drew links between this Class A drug and something far less desirable; research conducted by University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) has found that cocaine use may increase the possibility of successful HIV infection, and not just due to lifestyle choices alone.

The report, published by the Journal of Leukocyte Biology, demonstrated that CD4 T-Cells, key immune cells found throughout the body, become more susceptible to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus when in the presence of cocaine. Because of the overlapping lifestyles that can be associated with both cocaine use and HIV infection, this is a particularly worrying new piece of research, and indicates that cocaine users are more at risk than previously thought of contracting the deadly disease.

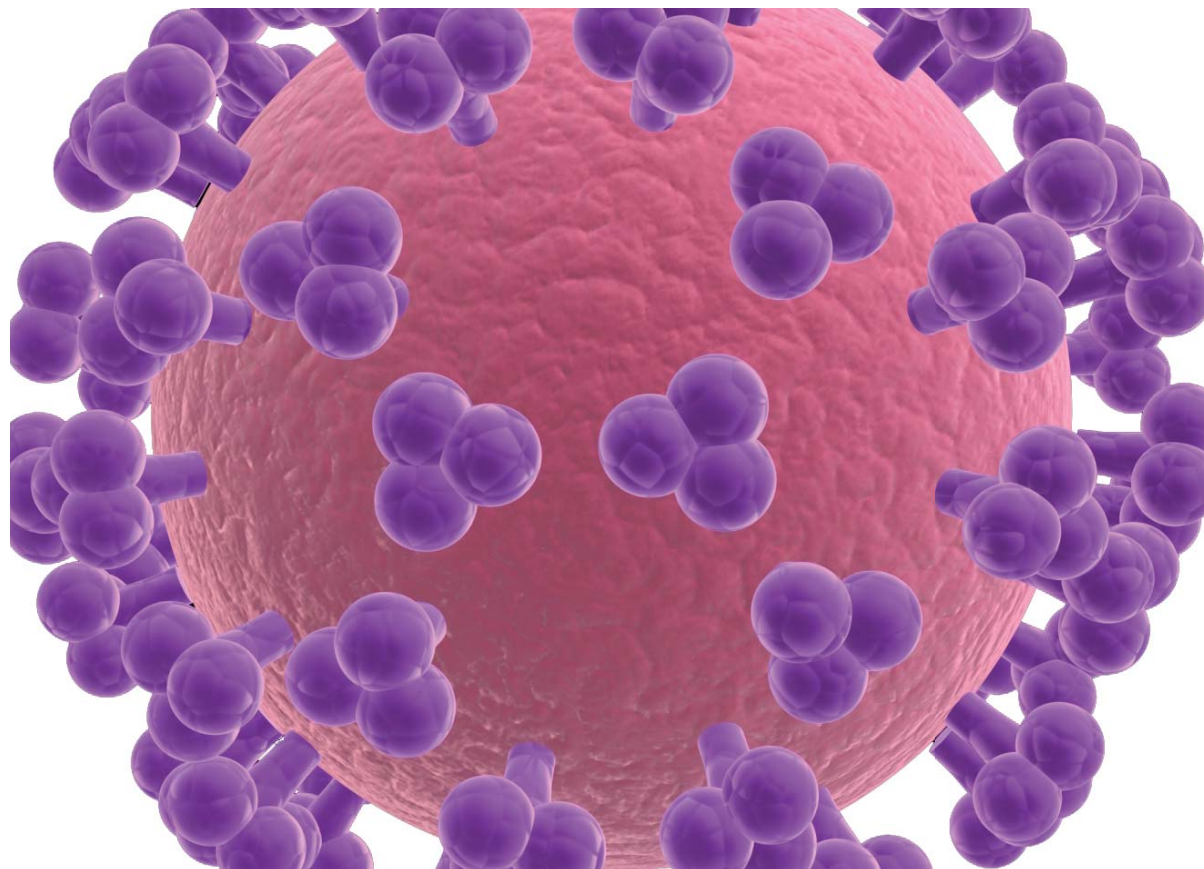
Usually, HIV functions by infecting CD4 Cells, which are a type of T helper cells. T helper cells are white blood cells that, upon detecting infection, activate other immune cells around them by releasing chemical messengers known as cytokines. They trigger a cascade of immunological activity, bringing together other components of the immune system to remove any

threat as efficiently and as successfully as possible. They “help” the immune system in getting its act together, to combine forces and tackle the infection head on.

HIV is so potent because it breaks down the prime defence mechanism the body has against infection, effectively bringing the enemy down from the inside. HIV infects the CD4 T-Cells, causing them to burst or be targeted by other cells for degradation.

This causes the number of CD4 Cells to decrease, weakening the ability of the different cells within the immune system to join forces together and fight off future infections. This is why HIV doesn't kill patients directly. Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is when the CD4 T-Cell count drops so low the patient has, as the name suggests, a deficient immune system and cannot fight off infections. These opportunistic infections can be caused by a whole host of microorganisms, and lead to adverse symptoms when there is no immune system to stifle them.

The scientists who conducted the study collected blood from human donors that were healthy, isolated the CD4 T-Cells and then exposed them to cocaine over a period of three days. Then it was simply a case of watching and waiting- the researchers monitored the progression of the HIV life-cycle, and saw that in cells bathed in a cocaine-derived solution, there was a



FORCOLLEGEANDCOMMUNITY

The HIV virus.

significant difference in infection rates and subsequent new viral production to those that remained cocaine free.

This may be facilitated by receptors on the CD4 cells that are agonists for

cocaine, rendering cells more susceptible to HIV infection, but as is the case with many of these things, more research is needed. Worryingly, these receptors are agonists for a plethora

of other drugs too, and as of yet it is unknown if these too may increase the possibly of HIV infection for such essential immunological cells.

DOI:10.1189/jlb.1112566



imperial college union

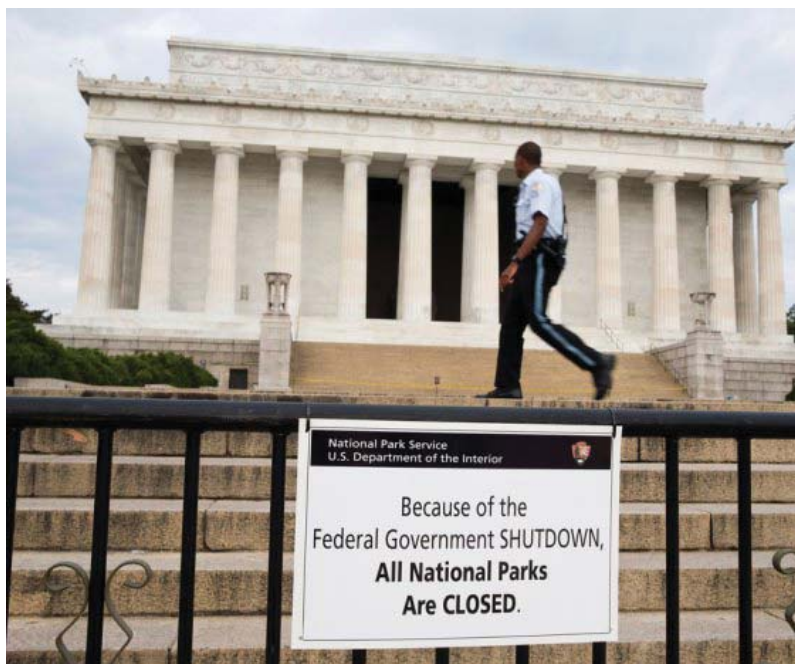
ICRADIO.COM
IMPERIAL COLLEGE RADIO

Want to get involved? Email us! programming@icradio.com



US GOVT. SHUTDOWN

Disaster strikes as bipartisan talks break down



Kartikeya
Rana

Politics Editor



The non-essential services provided by the US government have grinded to a halt as there is disagreement in Congress about the current budget. This not only weakens the country financially but also shows the inefficiency US congress has to deliberate and compromise in situations where ideologies clash.

The main cause of the budget not being passed is Obama's new health care reform which has been abbreviated to 'Obamacare'. The official name of this reform is *Patient Protection and the Affordable Care Act*. The act is designed to give those Americans who are not covered by private health insurance coverage. By doing so, the government plans to prevent malpractices of various insurance companies. The plan is also meant to provide coverage that could not be provided with privately bought health insurance. These include plans to provide yearly check-ups and maternity care. People who are part of Medicaid (poor and disabled) have added benefits from this law. Anyone earning less than \$31,000 per year receives free Medicaid.

However, people who do not qualify for Medicare (senior citizens) and Medicaid, and don't have private insurance have to pay for Obamacare. This is the part of the reform which had to be passed through the 2013-2014 financial year budget. Even then, 20 million people will not be covered as the law exempts those who are incarcerated, who belong to certain religious groups, illegal immigrants and

those who are willing to pay the penalty for not subscribing.

Why are the Republicans against Obamacare?

The opposition has given a number of reasons as to why they are against this new Law. Firstly, they believe that the passing of the bill will increase health care spending for the government. This will mainly be caused by the coverage provided for the poorest 18%. Furthermore, they believe that it is not right for the government to force people to subscribe to something that they may not particularly want.

However, supporters of Obamacare state that the Republicans are opposed to it because they fear that it may actually work. The people who benefit the most from Obamacare belong to red states such as Texas.

As a result, the opposition has shown serious outrage towards the budget and has prevented it from passing through the Senate. Since the deadline for passing the budget was missed, the government has been put through a partial shutdown as per the American constitution. This has resulted in various non essential services being closed. These include museums and national parks.

An estimated 700,000 people will face unpaid leave if a compromise is not met on the budget. Senior officers of American spy agencies have shown some fear due to this shutdown. About 70% of intelligence workers will lose their jobs. This will cause, they believe, a grave danger to American national security.

President Obama can decide on a 'stopgap' budget to prevent such a shutdown from taking place. This will be a one-week spending bill which will allow the non-essential services to function. However, he refused to go with this proposal when he stated that the 'stopgap' budget will only delay the

inevitable fighting.

This shutdown not only affects the US but also the international community as a whole. As a result of globalisation, economic problems faced by the US has had the tendency to cause trouble elsewhere as well. A lot of countries have shown fear as a result of the shutdown.

My take:

I am disgusted to see how the US congress has dealt with the budget. Just because of an ideological standpoint, congressmen seem to be ready to allow a large part of their population to be rendered jobless. I don't believe that the Republican Party has provided any concrete reasons to be fuming about the health care reforms. If they feel that the scheme will cost too much, they should provide with effective measures to reduce such costs. Asking for a further delay on this issue, however, is simply a means to prevent a solution. They already had a year to provide effective alternatives to the so called- 'high cost measures' but decided not to provide them.



Does **Politics** interest, fascinate or downright frustrate you? If yes, then felix needs you! If you would like to write for us then contact us at :

felix@imperial.ac.uk

WHO ARE AL SHABBAB?



Kartikeya
Rana

Politics Editor



A devastating attack in a shopping mall in Nairobi took place on the 23rd of September. Gunmen killed 67 people, according to government sources, in the Westgate Mall. These militants were said to belong to the extremist group originating from Somalia called Al Shabbab.

But who are these peddlers of terror? The Al Shabbab is the political wing of the Somali Council of Islamic Courts, which took over much of Somalia in

2006. The government and other interim forces eventually defeated these forces but the group still remained as a terrorist force. They have planned and successfully executed various insurgent and other suicide attacks.

According to various sources, they recruit people, sometimes forcibly, to take part in these terrorist attacks. Some claim that young men are forced by circumstances to join this group to conduct their operations rather than because of an ideological support.

The Al Shabbab is more nationalistic in nature than other terrorist organisations. They tend to have most of their operations against the TFG (Transitional Federal Government of Somalia). The Al Shabbab has bitter sentiments against the KDF (Kenyan Defence Forces) for being present in Somalia. This animosity has led them to attack innocent civilians in Nairobi. In fact, they have promised to intensify their attacks in Kenya if the KDF does not budge from Somalia. "There will be pools of blood", one spokesperson for the Al Shabbab stated. President Uhuru Kenyatta stated that the KDF would stay in Somalia until there is order restored in Somalia.

Imperial College
London



**STUDENT
BLOGGERS
WANTED**

Join our team of award-winning student bloggers!

Simply send us 600 words about your start of term experience, whether you are a fresher or a returning undergrad or postgrad. Alternatively, submit a photo-blog entry about Welcome Week – don't forget to add captions!

Send your submission by **noon on Monday 14 October** to studentblogs@imperial.ac.uk

→ www.imperial.ac.uk/studentblogs

FRESHERS' BALL

Friday 4 October 20:00 - 03:00



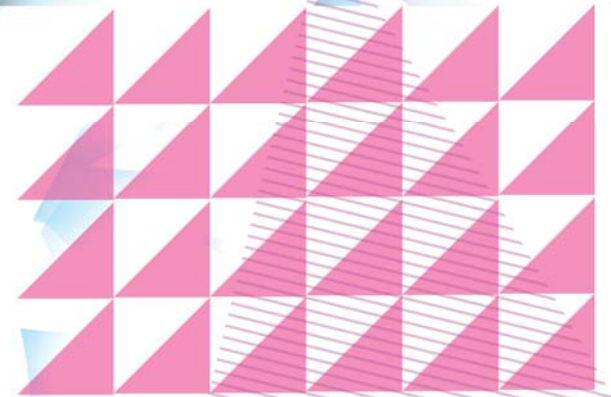
Featuring

B.Traits

& Juma MC

Gemma Cairney

Nick Thorne
Sid Batham
Bo Keeney



£10.00 in advance £13.00 on the door

The *Postgrad Mingle*
2013

Saturday 5 October
19:00 - 02:00 £10 in advance

DJ
SEMTEX

**BUY ONE
TICKET GET
ONE FREE!**



imperialcollegeunion.org/welcome

imperial
college
union

COMMENT

Editors: Eoghan J. Totten, Tessa Davey
comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Ed Miliband: Ethics Over Dogma?

Eoghan J. Totten

@eoghantotten
Comment Editor



This article was catalysed by the recent conference of *The Conservative Party* held in Manchester, where voluminous Government policy was proposed and discussed. The 'Work for Benefits' plan proved to be a topic of discussion as Chancellor, George Osborne, revised the criteria for Jobseeker's Allowance Qualification.

His proposals (in relation to long-term unemployed British citizens) were threefold. First off, he intends to galvanise candidates towards work placements, including roles such as "cleaning up litter". Secondly, provided that this measure failed to be embellished and augmented, daily Job Centre visits would become compulsory. The final proposal encompassed participation in compulsory skills training. To cite George Osborne,

"There is no option of doing nothing for your benefits, no something-for-nothing anymore."

"They will do useful work to put something back into their community; making meals for the elderly, cleaning up litter...and for those with underlying problems, like drug addiction and illiteracy, there will be an intensive regime of support."

To my mind the Chancellor's comments appeared condescending to the many millions of people beneath the breadline across the UK. While honouring the mantra of *The Conservative Party* ('For Hardworking People') they unilaterally demonise those people receiving benefits. There is no mention of the thousands of overly-qualified denizens (with infinitely many prefixes to their names) who, locked into the benefit system by circumstance, find that there is no place for their skills within a fragile British economy. George Osborne has instead chosen to uniformly denigrate the financially unfortunate, caricaturing them as unskilled and debauched; all because they are dependent upon the State.

Where unemployment benefit was once conveyed as a compassionate, humanitarian safety net, it is now misconstrued as a burden to the British taxpayer.

Meanwhile the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, addressed the *Forty Group* (MPs with slender majorities in their constituencies), putting forward a five point plan for 'routing' the opposition. To quote Mr. Randeep Ramesh of *The Guardian*,

"The most striking thing was the

Tory recasting of Ed Miliband...the message of the labour leader had to shift from him being 'hopeless to dangerous' as the public has sympathy for 'hopeless' people because they are seen as underdogs."

It could be argued that the meeting's focus typified the crux of modern Tory politics, where voters are regarded as pawns on a political chessboard. This is evident in context of many initiatives spearheaded by the coalition. David Cameron's veto of the recent European Treaty, attempts to redact the Human Rights Act, zero-hour contracts, the bedroom tax and the trimming of disability allowance convey to voters that there is always someone beneath them, burdening both themselves and the UK fiscally, even morally.

The efficacy of these initiatives can also be called into question. *Department for Work & Pensions* figures demonstrate a 10% success rate for the 2011 'Compulsory Work' scheme. It is possible that intricate layers of bureaucracy serve as a buffer, preserving the true wealth among the few. By adhering to the party and not to the people, politicians may be perceived to be laying the seeds for a British plutocracy.

In my opinion this provides a crucial opening for *Labour* politics and its leader Ed Miliband. With twenty months to go until the 2015 general election his opinion polls are beginning to gain momentum. Despite many accusations that he is unfit to be the next Prime Minister, he continues to weather the political storm.

In spite of this one cannot ignore the severe implications of the Falkirk seat row regarding *Labour's* crucial link to trade unions. Allegations that the *Unite* union recruited upwards of one

hundred members in an effort to install Katie Murphy as party candidate resulted in a major rift between *Labour* and *Unite*. The comments of union General Secretary, Len McCluskey, cemented the rift. He announced that he was, "obliged to uphold the integrity of *Unite* and I can no longer do so on the basis of...*Labour*...in which I can place no trust."

Ed Miliband's speech at the recent *Labour* party conference in Brighton also sparked controversy. His pledge to impose two year energy price freezes from 2015 to 2017 kick-started a welcome surge in opinion polls (*Labour's* UKPR polling average of 39 with respect to the Tory's 32). Indeed when commenting to *The Guardian* the chief executive of *Lightsource Renewable Energy*, Mick Boyle, commended Ed Miliband's efforts to rumble the oligopoly of 'the big six'.

"We don't agree with his price-freezing proposals...but a breakup will see more investment in the UK, not less." Similar sentiments partially assisted the Labour leader in evading the anti-business label stamped on him by the Government. It proved insufficient to stave off the scepticism he received from many quarters. Many pragmatists, including students of *Imperial College London*, will be acutely aware of the projected energy surplus of the UK (marginal, less than 2%) by 2015/16. Some may even harbour a grave concern for impending 'black-outs'.

In sum, it is Ed Miliband's evasion of concrete statistics that may prove to be the fatal wound to his election campaign. On the flip side his ethics, combined with his academic background, may prove to be his saving grace. This was highlighted by the recent slander of Ralph Miliband (prominent Marx-

ist thinker and father to Ed) by *The Daily Mail*. They released an article entitled "The man who hated Britain". Ken Livingstone and Alistair Campbell (former Director of Downing Street Communications under Tony Blair) were among the politicians to jump to his defence. Ed Miliband's anger was plain to see in a televised interview with the *BBC*. It harmonised with his letter to *Labour* newsletter subscribers. He stated,

"This isn't about me and my family – this is about doing what's right." Ross Hawkins, a *BBC* political correspondent reported that there was no "sure-fire way of knowing...how many voters share his outrage."

For me, it was good to see some genuine emotion from a politician; if anything, I found it endearing. Recent political developments on the global platform, capped by the shutdown of the US Government, prove that politics is a delineated and complex collection of catacombs where an individual is hard pushed to adhere to his or her fundamental principles. This is an accepted reality and one that fuelled Ralph Miliband's pioneering 1972 work 'Parliamentary Socialism'. He believed that *Labour* was rendered ineffective by the confines of Government, forced to adopt increasingly empirical politics.

Ed Miliband, differing from his father by moving towards the centre left, accepts this empiricism as a good thing. Time has told us that an individual entering politics will always succumb to compromise and, ultimately, disrepute. If Ed Miliband can continue to reveal his ethics at a distance from politics and display genuine concern for the needs of the UK electorate, *Labour* opinion polls may further surge.



Freshers week The great equaliser

Tessa Davey
Comment Editor



I've had a pretty typical freshers week.

I've attended about a million welcome talks that go along the lines of "You're the best. You're going to have to work fucking hard. But YOLO!" I've spent days without a swipe card, struggling to tailgate into every building, because I'm avoiding the queue at the ID card office. I've signed up for dozens of mailing lists that I'm only going to unsubscribe from (if I ever figure out how), and woken up in a nest of leaflets with details of the available pastoral care, and even the times for the men's rugby tryouts. Where did that even come from?!

I worried way too much about what to wear on my first day that would convey that I had more important things to do than worry about what to wear (but show that I'm effortlessly cool anyway, of course). And then I berated myself the next day for not being bothered to wash my hair. I overslept on my second day, meaning that I probably missed something important, like finding out where I'm supposed to be.

I met the people who I'm going to spend the next three years with, and tried to resist the urge to wrap my arms around them and whisper needily in their ear, "You're stuck with me now, you have to be my friend!" Okay, that's not (quite) true, but I have made a lot of slightly awkward, stilted conversation, and in nervous hysteria told a few too many stories that might have made me come across as a bit strange.

I failed at cooking spaghetti, although that's probably due to all the free beer I picked up somewhere along the way, and I displayed an embarrassing lack of public transport smarts by narrowly avoiding getting my bag dipped in a major station while I managed to make the automated ticket machine not sell me a travel-card.

Hi, my name is Tessa, and I'm a first year PhD student. This is the beginning of my sixth year at Imperial. It turns out that no matter how together you had everything last week, things never change when it comes to starting something new.

Do you think you can write better than me? Do you have a lot of opinions? Email us at comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk to get involved!

 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial
COMMENT

Imperial Men: How To Talk About Gender

Rory Fenton

Columnist



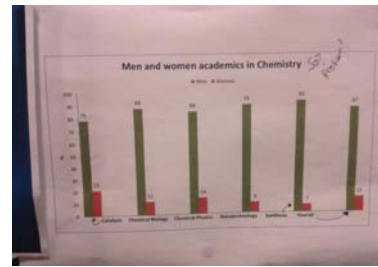
Most students at Imperial are men. I don't imagine this comes as much of a surprise to most Felix readers. While this gender imbalance is obvious from the first day of Freshers Week, what it means and how to talk about it can be more challenging. Whispered remarks about "The Ratio" can be heard on most courses and jokes abound about the sexual frustration of Imperial's males; the straight ones at least. But beyond this, any serious discussion of gender among students can often be dismissed. We can be pretty poor at talking gender and it's we men who seem to do it worst.

The low proportion of women students at Imperial is not the College's fault and in fact when

compared to the science, engineering and medicine departments in the rest of the UK, we have slightly more equal gender ratio than average. This does not mean, however, that there is nothing to be discussed. When posters went up last year in the chemistry department showing the proportion of female researchers in the different groups, it was graffitied with "So? Problem?" Posters inviting female physics students to a female-only event were graffitied with comments calling the event "sexist". These comments are massively unhelpful and entirely miss the point. It can be tempting to think that simply removing legal barriers to female academics is sufficient to right historic wrongs. A glance at the progress of African Americans since the end of legal segregation in 1954 suggests otherwise. It is quite right that we make a particular effort to encourage schoolgirls to be interested in science and for women undergraduates to pursue their subjects further. When we men are dismissive of the idea, we serve the status quo.

Last week a mini Twitter storm broke out over an upcoming science event in the Excel Arena of Olympic fame. The event features 6 panelists including Richard Dawkins and Bill Bailey, which is a very cool and original combination. Less original is the gender makeup of the panel, all 6 speakers are men. As with Imperial, it is not the fault of the organisers if these were genuinely the best candidates. Where they messed up was with the FAQ on their website, which addressed lack of women. They said; "I am a fanatical, misandristic 'feminist'. May I drone on about the lack of women in the line-up and despatch bigoted, misspelt, ungrammatical missives to the organisers and presenters?" "No. Please save your talents for Twitter

"Men of Imperial, we can do better"



Graffitied Gender Stats In Chemistry

and Facebook, that's what they're for. We're actually very disappointed that none of our female invitees accepted, but that is just how it was. As scientists we have no choice but to accept reality. Wanting something to be otherwise does not make it so."

Yes, this is supposed to be comically exaggerated language but even ignoring the labelling of those who complain of the lack of women speakers as "bigoted" and "misandristic", the FAQ's message is quite clear; put up and shut up. We should do neither. It is quite right and reasonable to wonder why the organisers failed to find a single woman panelist. It may indeed be the case that

they really did try, but this is hardly the first panel event on science to be all male, and maintaining the status quo allows a self fulfilling prophesy whereby men gain higher profiles from speaking at events which leads them to be invited to more events. It may not be up to this particular event to "fix" this, but to brush it away as a non-issue is wilful ignorance.

Men of Imperial, we can do better than this. To question why the gender imbalance is as it is not to question whether any one of us deserves to be here or to suggest that College discriminate in favour of women students and employees. Students are right to challenge the status quo and make active efforts to encourage women scientists in College and further afield. Dismissing these efforts as "sexist" is lazy. The Excel event told us that "as scientists we have no choice but to accept reality." This is a strange definition of science. Rather, as scientists we examine reality, come to understand how it works and find out how to change it. Scientists do not simply accept reality.

IMPERIAL HORIZONS



New courses to broaden your education and enhance your potential

Make sure you enrol by 2.00pm Monday 7th October 2013

For all first year undergraduates. Find out more:

www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons





Six Ideas for Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth

Really Good – David Shrigley

A 10m tall elongated thumbs-up sign, cast in bronze. What's not to like? *Really Good* is a brilliantly sarcastic idea from David Shrigley, a Glaswegian artist known for his deliberately naive deadpan humour. Apparently Shrigley hopes that the sculpture, if made, will become a self-fulfilling prophecy, and "make Trafalgar Square, London, the UK and the world a better place". But there's always something a bit unnerving about aspects of the human body taken out of proportion that means it might not be popular. It's also possibly, for the younger generation at least, a bit too 'Facebook'.



Arianna Sorba
Arts Editor

The fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square has been a source of controversy practically since the day it was built. After sitting empty for over 150 years due to "insufficient funds", since the late 1990s it has been home to some of the most talked-about contemporary artworks that Londoners have ever had the joy (or despair) of witnessing, from a life-sized figure of Christ to a giant ship in a bottle. The Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group announced last week the 6 piece shortlist for the 2015/16 display, from which two will be selected.

So which is your favourite? Do you prefer Leckey's surrealist structure or Lijn's dancing duo? Or perhaps you'd give Shrigley's idea the thumbs-up? Visit the website or scan the QR code to cast your vote now – results announced in next week's Felix!

tinyurl.com/ofqfwhn



Models of the six proposals are on show in the crypt of St Martin in the Fields church in Trafalgar Square until 17th November. Admission free.

Unmade Monument – Marcus Coates

The seemingly random rock formation proposed by Londoner Marcus Coates is in fact an exact replica of a stone outcrop that the artist spotted in Yorkshire. The outcrop, formed over hundreds of millions of years by natural processes, would contrast with the rigid, man-made stone structures in the square. Although abstract, it is practically impossible not to see features or figures in the rock, as it is human nature to search for such patterns in an attempt to make sense of the natural disorder. The sculpture would be a monument to creativity and power of nature, outside of a human context. Or perhaps it would just be a lump of rock.



The Dance – Liliane Lijn

The Dance is the only work in the current shortlist created by a female artist. The brainchild of American-born artist Liliane Lijn, *The Dance* would involve two identical aluminium cones powered by motors, their sections slowly moving and rotating towards and away from each other, as though dancing. The faux-futuristic materials and slick space-age design make it oddly beautiful to watch these two beings engage with each other in such a peaceful way. But there's some tricky logistics to consider. For example, what happens when one cone inevitably breaks down and – heaven forefend – the other ends up dancing on his own?



Moon Mask – Ugo Rondinone

'Our connection to other people is our face. Our alternate self is a mask', says Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone. That's why he proposes a giant mask, modelled by hand, as a universally recognisable icon for Trafalgar Square. The mask is intentionally abstract and basic, with no specific cultural references or origins. Viewers are free to identify any artistic associations or personal emotions in the mask's blank steel face, from African tribal masks, to Cubist influences, to their own individual projections, as they peer through the window-like apertures. However this simplicity is also possibly its greatest failing, as it may render the structure bland, and rather uninteresting to view from behind.



Gift Horse – Hans Haacke

Some critics are calling German-American artist Hans Haacke's horse the most suitable idea, as it references the statue of William IV astride a horse that was originally intended for the fourth plinth all those years ago. Meanwhile the electronic ribbon tied in a bow around the horse's front leg displays a live ticker of the London Stock Exchange, bringing the sculpture firmly into the 21st century and turning it into a gift for the nation. Haacke's works are often political, as he examines the relationships between art, power and money in his art. It seems this *Gift Horse*, with the somewhat grave and lonely imagery, is no exception.



Larger Squat Afar – Mark Leckey

For *Larger Squat Afar*, Turner Prize winner Mark Leckey has combined aspects from across Trafalgar Square to make one single structural entity. Details from the James II and Admiral Jellicoe statues, the central fountain and the plinth itself have all been incorporated into the absurdist design. Even the title is actually an anagram of Trafalgar Square! Leckey has often used elements of collage in his artwork, but more usually in video and music installations. However here he has attempted to create an actual physical structure, that is visually and emotionally greater than the sum of its parts.





@feliximperial

FelixImperial

ARTS

The Artistic Influences of Mountain Sitting

Clara Clark Nevola reviews the latest from Imperial's art gallery

What: Sitting With The Qualities of a Mountain Exhibition
Where: Blyth Gallery, Sherfield Building, Imperial College
When: 2nd Oct - 1st Nov 2013
Price: FREE

Next time you've got a 20 minute break around college, head up to the 5th floor of the Sherfield Building, to the Blyth gallery.

In case you are unfamiliar with it, the Blyth is Imperial's very own art gallery, and holds exhibitions and workshops throughout the year.

The small collection currently exhibiting there is titled *Sitting With The Qualities of a Mountain*, and at first sight, there is really very little to see. The ten artworks showcased are all slightly underwhelming, the most eye-catching piece being a microphone caked in clay wired up to a speaker (*What Can Clay Hear?* by Rita Evans).

However, I urge you to take a closer look. Viewed as a collection, rather than individual artworks, the pieces give a coherent view of the human qualities that we attribute to natural materials. It is human nature to anthropomorphise the world around us, and the soft organic shapes of clay, mud and stone lend themselves perfectly to being rendered human.

Damien Meade's *Structure III*, a painting of entwined rolls of clay, suggests the intimacy of an embrace without any human reference – a double vision of a pile of mud and a human gesture.

Annabel Elgar's *Companion (4)*



BLYTH GALLERY

A painting of a lumpen knot of thumbed clay maps out the awkward spread of entwined figures, alluding to the charged emotions that such an embrace could induce... Or something like that.

comes out and boldly says what the exhibition is actually about: we, as humans, would actually like the inanimate world around us to have feelings, and willingly imagine the earth from a flower pot springing

to life to gaze longingly out of the window. Also exhibited, on the other side of the room, are Rita Evans's three small installations. Rocks (geologists rejoice!) are placed against pretty colours and mirrors, thus taking on a

pleasing, almost feminine quality.

Framing the two sides of the gallery are also Stuart Cumberland's large black and white oil paintings, seemingly random black lines which swim into focus as human body parts.

And bang in the middle of the room is Patrick Guns's *YHVH. H.O.O.Q.* - can't really help you with this one but apparently the bones are meant to be bonobo bones. Do let me know if you have an insight on it.

Arianna's Offers

More sweet deals from world-renowned dance and theatre venues that can get you cheaper tickets, better seats and more. Sign up for free!

The Old Vic "PwC Under 25s Club"

Under 25s can get £12 tickets for seats across the auditorium for every performance, plus the exclusive opportunity to attend Q&As and backstage tours

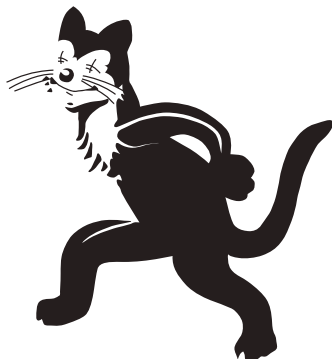
English National Opera "Access All Arias"

16-30 year olds and full time students can book a discounted ticket for themselves plus a guest of any age to any performance at the London Coliseum

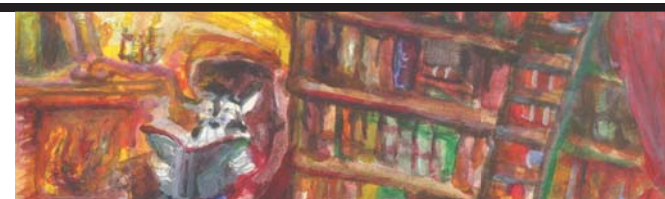
The Barbican Centre "50% Wednesdays"

Like Orange Wednesdays only with more class. Students get 50% off any advance tickets bought for a Wednesday performance

Coming next week, a review of the TEDxAlbertopolis event, a look at the union between the worlds of science and art in our everyday lives.



FELIX arts.



Soho Literary Festival

Maciej Matuszewski discusses an entertaining and interesting event

Notes from my first literary festival

Rather embarrassingly for the editor of the books section, I had never before been to a literary festival. I therefore jumped at the opportunity to visit the Soho Literary Festival, a small event being held, for the third time in as many years, at the Soho Theatre.

Having never really been that much into modern literary fiction I stuck mainly with the more historical and political talks – see the other side of the page for more detailed reviews of the events that I attended. The programme, however, had a far greater breadth – with events ranging from Quentin Blake's talk on *The Uses of Illustration* to John Sweeney's investigation into the Church of Scientology.

I was greatly impressed by enthusiasm and eloquence of all the speakers. Most of the events that I attended were packed with people and seemed to go down well with the audience – I found them all both engaging and informative.

I am sure that the general atmosphere of this event was very different to that of larger literary festivals. There were certainly fewer high profile guests and side events than at, say, Edinburgh or Hay-on-Wye. An advantage, however, of being small is that Soho Literary Festival was far friendlier and more intimate than you would expect such an event to be. There was a very refreshing air of informality and the speakers were more than happy to mix with the audience in the bar before and after the talks.

All in all, this was a very pleasant experience – one that I would be very keen to repeat next year.



The Age of Profumo: Sex, Class and Power

Panel Chair: *Piers Brendon*

Panelists: *Richard Davenport-Hines and Christopher Hampton*

The Profumo Affair is now regarded by many as a little more than a historical footnote. However, when it broke, the scandal had a profound and long lasting effect on the political establishment. In 1961 British War Secretary John Profumo began a sexual relation with the socialite – and alleged mistress of the Soviet spy Yevgeny Ivanov – Christine Keeler. Profumo would later explicitly deny the relationship before Parliament but when the truth came out he was forced to resign and the public's confidence in the Conservative government was fatally wounded.

The panel discussion was a fascinating look at the Affair. All of the participants were keen to stress its importance – not only in helping to bring down the beleaguered Conservative government, which had already been weakened by the earlier Suez Crisis – but also as a start of a new, less deferential era towards the political establishment. The discussion also pointed out parallels to contemporary events – both police corruption and press sensationalism greatly helped to exacerbate the Affair.

This was a fascinating panel – making an event that took place long before I was born seem fascinating and relevant.



The History of Syria

Dan Snow

Tragic recent events have turned the eyes of the world on Syria. However, as historian Dan Snow – fresh from making a BBC documentary on the country – explained, the roots of the conflict are deep and complicated.

Syria has always had an advantageous geographic position. Boasting much fertile land and located at the crossroads of several trade routes made it, for several millennia, an extremely rich land. However, this has led many empires to see the region a valuable prize – leading to much strife and political instability. The region has been ruled by countless powers but Snow traced the most immediate cause of the recent problems to the British and French colonial efforts in the Middle East. Both countries deliberately created unstable conditions in the region to benefit their own interests and, after decolonisation, Syria was left with no legacy of self-governance or democracy – a recipe for disaster.

This was a very complicated topic to cover in an hour and, by his own admission, Dan Snow is not an expert in the region. However, in my opinion, he performed admirably. The talk covered, in a clear manner, all the most important points of Syria's long history. It gave me a new perspective on the current conflict and made me want to learn more.



The Classics Quiz

Questionmaster: *William Fitzgerald*

Team Captains: *Harry Mount and Rachel Johnson*

I was somewhat apprehensive going in to this event – having not studied Classics for over five years. And while it did turn out that I had forgotten almost all of my GCSE Latin it was still a lot of fun, and probably the best event that I attended at the Festival.

The quiz consisted of two teams of four answering questions on the Latin language and ancient Roman history. It was, however, a very informal affair with wit, both on the part of the questioner as well as the contestants, counting for at least as much as the facts.

A particular highlight was the Latin motto's round, in which contestants were asked to identify, among others, the motto of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry; and in which I found out that the motto of the Carlsberg Brewery is "laboremus pro patria" – "let us work for our country". Another highlight was the round asking contestants to identify the unpleasant means of death of Roman Emperors. While Rachel Johnson was unable to provide the answer to which Roman Emperor was eaten by worms she was able to give the Ancient Greek for the phrase "eaten by worms".

This was a great event, reigniting, for one hour at least, my passion in the Classics.

Want to see your name in print?
Send your book reviews to books.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Editor: **Simon Hunter,**
Riaz Agahi, Stuart
Masson, William
Stocker
music.felix@gmail.com

MUSIC

A Punky Reggae Party

Simon Hunter reports on the band keeping Bob Marley's legacy alive

On Monday night I spent the evening in the Millennium Dome and came to the conclusion that it should be levelled. It may no longer be called the Millennium Dome and it may now have an array of soulless bars/restaurants, but the fact remains: it's a large tent with the character to match.

This was rather unfortunate as the Wailers played here (in the IndigO2) on Monday, and a band with such history really deserved a venue with a bit of soul. Last time I was at the IndigO2 I saw **Westwood** play about 30 seconds of lots of songs at a student radio awards show. Continuing with the bizarre range of musicians that the venue attracts, both **Hanson** and **Chas & Dave** are to grace the stage before Christmas.

The Wailers originated as the band

behind **Bob Marley** but over the decades the band has morphed, with only the bassist, Aston Barrett, remaining from the original line-up. This isn't necessarily a bad thing; there's little more awkward than watching a gang of septuagenarians holding themselves up with mic stands while crooning breathlessly.

We arrived in time to catch the last few chords of the support act and take our place at the bar. Unfortunately, our spot prevented any sight of Barrett, or 'king of the reggae bassline' as we were frequently reminded by Bob Marley's 2013 replacement. On the plus side, we had a great view of the audience. I don't think I've ever been to a gig with such a range of ages in the audience; a testament, I suppose, to Marley's music. Having said this,

the median age upstairs where the seats are located was definitely somewhere north of 50.

The show started slowly with renditions of *Is This Love* and *No Woman, No Cry*. It wasn't until the bassline of

Could You Be Loved sprung from Barrett's guitar that the crowd began to rise from their seats. Up stood a girl, dancing away but watching the show through an iPad that was held 5 inches from her face. However, at least when she occasionally put the thing down she knew how to dance.

By half way through the show, most people were on their feet. At least, the people round the edges were. Those that had obviously been online, hammering F5, when tickets went available and had bagged themselves nice, central seats didn't budge for the entire show. Bizarrely, it seemed that a cross-section of the most rhythmically challenged people in London had decided to turn out. From a lady who looked to be undergoing some kind of vertical electric shock treatment, to a guy who was flailing about like it was 3am in TigerTiger. iPad girl, they were not. But who am I to judge? They were loving it.

Regardless of what you think of reg-



The Wailers, including original member Aston Barrett (front).

gae music, it's impossible not to find it infectious. *Buffalo Soldier* had me bouncing along, but the highlight of the night really was the encore. There was an energy in those last few songs that for some reason didn't seem to pervade the rest of the performance. *Exodus* and *Punky Reggae Party* were particularly good. A mention should also go to Cegee Victory, the female vocalist who added some beautiful harmonies to the songs, but who I

thought should have been used more, such were her obvious vocal talents. I still believe that the IndigO2 isn't a great venue for the Wailers. The level of corporate bullshit that comes hand-in-hand with the O2 seems to detract somewhat from what Bob Marley and his music stands for. However, at the end of the day, it may be what is needed when a large proportion of their fans now prefer a comfortable seat over a beer and a blunt.



On tour with the National Youth Choir

Daniel Marx
Music Writer

I spent the first two-and-a-half weeks of August singing. Well, not constantly, but almost. Now, this was not just a very long rave, although I certainly did have a lot of fun. No, this was perfectionist music making with the National Youth Choir ('NYC' amongst friends) where singing a note with the wrong vowel placement was just as bad as singing the wrong note. I have been involved in this organisation for a long time now, but what was special about this course is that it was truly national. During our 19 days together as a choir of about a hundred, we explored York, Londonderry, Belfast, London, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Suffolk, performing in seven concerts.

For our first few concerts, we combined forces with a couple of Irish choirs and the National Youth Orchestra to perform the monumental **Beethoven's** Ninth Symphony and the slightly-easier-to-sing *Toward the Unknown Region* by **Vaughan Williams**. We performed these both in Northern Ireland and in the BBC Proms at a packed Albert Hall. If these concerts were characterised by their energy and excitement, the next few concerts were all about intimacy and blend. Without the Irish choirs and with no orchestra, we were a much smaller group and we set about achieving our characteristic 'NYC sound'. This abstract concept is one we are always trying to chase and we literally spend hours trying to reach this goal. It is not unknown for us to spend an hour or so just working on a couple of lines of music,



The NYC singing during the Royal Albert Hall's summer Proms

but at the end it really is transformed.

There was a lot of work, but plenty of play too. I recall with fondness a great evening at a funfair in Cardiff bay. Banter was abundant, both in

our free time and in rehearsals, and there were far too many in-jokes to keep up with. I have no doubt that I shall remember the great time I had for many years to come.

"Want to write for music? email us at music.felix@gmail.com with a review and we'll get in contact!"



THE TECHTONICS: ALL MALE A CAPPELLA



Music stripped down to just the voices

TELEVISION

Editors: **John Park, Emily Fulham**
television.felix@imperial.ac.uk



2013 Emmy Awards

Who were the winners and losers?

Drama category



Best Actor: Jeff Daniels - *The Newsroom*

Breaking Bad fans, look away now your favourite meth dealer didn't win this year. Daniels did, for beautifully handling Aaron Sorkins' complex screenplay in the new HBO drama.



Best Actress: Claire Danes - *Homeland*

Booooooriiiiiii; after what was less than a stellar season of *Homeland*, the bipolar Carrie Mathison wins again, when it really should have been Kerry Washington (*Scandal*)



Best Supporting Actor: Bobby Canavale - *Boardwalk Empire*

Breaking Bad fans, look away again - this man beat not one, but two of the cast members of your show. In his speech he gave a shout-out to Rose Byrne calling her the love of his life...



Best Supporting Actress: Anna Gunn - *Breaking Bad*

Breaking Bad fans, it's safe for you to look now, as one of your beloved cast members took home the gold for acting- she even triumphed over the mother of dragons- a class act.



Best Drama Series: *Breaking Bad*

Sad that your favourite show ended? Let this be somewhat of a consolation-winning the top gong at this year's Emmys, toughing through some stiff competition from cable channels only.

Comedy category



Best Actor: Jim Parsons - *The Big Bang Theory*

Predictable winner? Yes. Repeat winner? Yes. The most deserving? Absolutely. Not even Alec Baldwin in his final season of *30 Rock* can come close to what this man does.



Best Actress: Julia Louis-Dreyfus - *Veep*

This marks Dreyfus' 4th acting Emmy win, and I stopped trying to count how many nominations she'd garnered over the years (so 10+). This woman is a comedy goddess.



Best Supporting Actor: Tony Hale - *Veep*

Perfectly complementing the incompetent Selina Meyer, i.e. *Veep*, is Gary, her loyal assistant, played to perfection by Hale - and the two of them are an invaluable asset to the show.



Best Supporting Actress: Merritt Wever - *Nurse Jackie*

And the prize for the shortest, sweetest, and downright best speech of the night? Wever's, who finally got recognition for single-handedly delivering the funny scenes of her show.



Best Comedy Series: *Modern Family*

Four seasons, four Best Comedy Series wins, America's favourite family mockumentary comedy has the perfect score when it comes to winning - your luck will run out soon enough.



 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial

TELEVISION

A bewildering journey into Ancient Greece

Emily Fulham reviews the latest fantasy offering from the BBC

With the demise of *Merlin*, the BBC were clearly in the market for a new family-friendly fantasy drama to fill the Saturday evening slot. Enter *Atlantis*, a retelling of the legend of Greek hero Jason, best known as leader of the Argonauts and slayer of the minotaur. Well, 'retelling' is perhaps a slight exaggeration: in reality, *Atlantis* features a bizarre mish-mash of Greek mythology with real historical figures, with an extra dash of time travel to keep things interesting.

If the above sounded confusing, then welcome to my reaction as I settled down to watch the first episode. We open in the present day, with our young hero Jason preparing to journey underwater in search for his father, lost at sea in a submarine accident. As the underwater vehicles ventures into the depths, Jason finds himself sucked into an oracle (helpfully labelled 'Oracle') which is apparently a portal to the ancient city of Atlantis - before it sank into the sea, that is. This portal has the additional feature of stripping its user of all clothes, leaving Jason washed up, stark naked, on an empty beach.

Jason, although having a body

sculpted by angels, is apparently not too bright, as upon entering Atlantis (now, unfortunately, clothed) he manages to piss off a two-headed lizard into chasing him around the marketplace, leading to much unnecessary destruction and disruption. He's finally rescued by a young man his own age, who introduces himself as Pythagoras.

It's at this point that the show's decision to conflate the entirety of Greek mythology with actual ancient history becomes jarring: I'm completely on board with magic underwater portals to legendary cities, but Pythagoras was a real historical figure born circa 560 BC, whereas the story of Jason and the Argonauts is set around 1300 BC, a generation before the Trojan war, and was already being told as a bedtime story in 800 BC. Any further semblance of adhering to historical accuracy is thrown out of the window when Pythagoras introduces his housemate, the demi-god Hercules - now a washed up, chubby alcoholic, played by *Game of Thrones*' Mark Addy.

Jason and Pythagoras become best mates after a Hunger-Games-style ceremony to select the an-



nual sacrifices to the local minotaur results in Jason volunteering in the young mathematician's place. After slaying the minotaur with some help from a beautiful princess, Jason is accepted as

the hero and saviour of Atlantis, showing remarkably little concern with getting back to everyone he's left behind in the modern world.

Presumably, at some point the show will build up to Jason's epic

quest sailing around the Mediterranean in search of the famed Golden Fleece which will restore his rightful throne. Personally, I'd like to see the episode where, according to legend, Pythagoras goes mental and kills a load of his followers because he can't get his head around irrational numbers (to be fair, I struggled with the concept as well), but I have a feeling that this is another part of ancient Greek history which will be shelved.

For anyone who watched *Merlin*, the similarities are plain to see - lots of talk about destiny, a vaguely homoerotic friendship between two young men from different walks of life, some less than stellar CGI monsters - and at times, *Atlantis* does seem to be lacking in originality. Perhaps I'm being too harsh on what is, after all, the first episode of a family show designed for light entertainment; *The Iliad* it ain't, but *Atlantis* is entertaining enough, if you're prepared to throw logic out of the window and go along with the ride. For that reason, the show may be worth sticking with for a few more episodes to see if it picks up; if nothing else, to see how many other Greek mythological figures they can fit into the one show.



A friendly conversation takes a sudden turn for the worst when Pythagoras gets asked to find the square root of two...

FILM

Editor: **John Park**
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



The Blue Woman Group

Michael S. Martin
Writer

Blue Jasmine

Director: Woody Allen
Writer: Woody Allen
Starring: Cate Blanchett, Sally Hawkins, Bobby Cannavale, Louis C. K., Alec Baldwin
Runtime: 98 minutes
Certification: 12A



Jasmine French (Blanchett) is a hard character for Imperial students to relate to: she's rich, she wants to go into interior decorating, she knows nothing about finance, and she's a woman. The film intercuts scenes from two periods of her life; one shows the ostentatious life she leads paid for by her banker husband Hal Francis (Alec Baldwin). The other happens after her husband is sent to prison for fraud and Jasmine finds that she is useless without him, or rather his money. She's then forced to move in with her sister Chili (Cannavale) and live modestly while she tries to get her old life back. Meanwhile, Chili has trouble with her many relationships (something Imperial students will also have trouble relating to).

It's one of Woody Allen's best abilities to make the audience identify with a character who would normally be overly irritating. Impressively, he does

this here with every character. This establishes an interesting problem for the audience as we sympathise with everyone despite the fact that they all hate each other. Woody Allen directs a good cast, but in this case it's his fantastic script that has to be credited for establishing convincing relationships between the film's many characters quickly enough that the story keeps moving forward.

But the film's success lies squarely on the strength of Cate Blanchett's performance. She's vapid, elitist, and self-absorbed and it's these traits which make her entertaining to watch, but they aren't so overpowering that it completely dehumanises her. In the end we -maybe not like her- but tolerate her and want her to turn her life around. It's this subtle balance which makes the film. There are times though when the film feels like it is stuck and the characters' development isn't progressing, something that's crucial in a film that's exclusively about character development. Not that the film is too long but a couple of scenes, particularly in the last third of the film, could've been cut.

Quirky characters (like a loveable sound engineer played by the brilliant Louis C.K.), funny dialogue, upper class white people drinking martinis... it's a very Woody Allen film, but it's also accessible. After a very bumpy ride with him over the past decade, his fans will appreciate it as one of his recent best though I fear that the level of his earlier work is sadly behind him now. For someone who isn't familiar with his work, this is a very good place to start.



Runner Runner, this film is a mess

Michael S. Martin
Writer

Runner Runner

Director: Brad Furman
Writers: Brian Koppelman, David Levien
Starring: Justin Timberlake, Ben Affleck, Gemma Arterton
Runtime: 91 minutes
Certification: 15



I was reasonably hopeful going into the cinema. Ben Affleck has been very cautious choosing which films he acts in lately; since 2010 he has only been in films he directed himself and a Terrence Malick drama. Justin Timberlake hasn't quite had a breakout performance, but he's been consistently solid in every film he's been in. And director Brad Furman had previously directed the very well received thriller *The Lincoln Lawyer*. There was nothing to suggest this film was going to be as awful as it turned out.

Runner Runner is the story of Richie Furst (Timberlake), a savvy university student who tries to win enough money playing online poker to pay for his tuition fees. But then it isn't. Then it's the story of how he is cheated out of his money and has to go to Costa Rica to find the poker website's shady owner Ivan Block (Affleck). But then it isn't. Then it's the story of him having to work in the corrupt, Costa Rican gambling-based economy. But then... you get the point.

With seemingly no focus on anything resembling a plot the film trudges along, scene after scene in which stuff happens but none of it matters. Characters jump in and out

of the plot, relatively important events are either forgotten or postponed to accommodate another scene of Richie and Ivan having a party. The one plotline that stays consistent is one of the dullest romantic subplots ever put on film, between Richie and Ivan Block's colleague Rebecca Shafran (Arterton).

There is at one point a small sliver of hope that Ivan Block will turn out to be a sociopath, which would make it somewhat interesting to see how a sociopath would operate within the extreme corruption and brutal policing of Costa Rica. But then he doesn't. Meanwhile, Justin Timberlake plays the same character he played in *The Social Network* without the sharp, Aaron Sorkin dialogue that made his scummy persona entertaining. Without it he puts on a performance so wooden he should've been credited as Justin Timberocean.

In the end, while some bits of it are abysmal, nothing in the film is offensively bad. At least in that case there would be some reason to recommend it. Instead it is just very, very dull. I have a soft spot for gambling films, even ones that are admittedly not good. But at least those films have a clear idea of where they start and where they want to go. *Runner Runner* starts everywhere and goes nowhere.





@feliximperial

FelixImperial

FILM

BFI London Film Festival: it's a New World after all..

Even from its opening scene, *New World* means business. An already bloodied man gets further beating whilst being interrogated. Those holding the hammers and crowbars are convinced that he's a snitch, reporting their gang's activities to the police. And herein lies the film's main premise - shifting loyalties between good and bad, and a lead character reluctantly stuck in the middle of an impending war.

A cross between *Infernal Affairs*/*The Departed* and *The Godfather*, this highly sophisticated and stylish gangster film is the latest offering from South Korea, a part of the Asian market that excites the international movie industry with some excellent new offerings - of which this is certainly one.

Ja-sung (Jung-jae Lee) is an undercover police officer who for the past eight years or so, dedicated his life infiltrating one of the biggest, most dangerous crime syndicates in Korea. His handler Chief Kang (Min-sik Choi) promises an end to this delicate nature of his job - but everything turns upside

John Park
Film Editor

New World

Director: Hoon-jung Park
Writer: Hoon-jung Park
Starring: Jung-jae Lee, Min-sik Choi, Jung-min Hwang, Sung-woong Park
Runtime: 134 minutes
Certification: 18



down when the syndicate's boss dies in a sudden traffic accident.

With no clear sign of leadership or guidance, an internal power struggle soon ensues, something the police are also interested in - as they also have a stake in who they can control more conveniently with whatever leverage they have up their sleeve.

Suddenly Ja-sung is thrown into



even more backstabbing and betrayal than he is prepared to handle, as even the good guys appear rather shady with their own intentions and mind-games with the syndicate members.

The two big names eyeing a potential takeover for power are Jung Chung (Jung-min Hwang) and Joong-gu (Sung-woong Park), and this competition is headed for disaster from

day one as old rivalry resurfaces, one that can only be settled when blood is spilled.

And yes, plenty of blood is spilled throughout, but the film is more interested in dialogue between these fascinating, layered characters played by some of the top acting names in Korea.

Min-sik Choi is excellent at keeping

his cool even in the most unfavourable scenarios for his character, and with his suave demeanour he rattles the criminals - he is an actor of pure charisma, something he puts to good use here. Jung-jae Lee also shines in the lead, as a man ready to crack under the enormous pressure.

But the actor taking the acting cake is without doubt Jung-min Hwang - his unmatched knack for handling the outrageously hysterical as well as the deadly serious in one clean swoop, is a talent showcase for Hwang who consistently steals every scene he's in.

When it comes to the action that no doubt got its 18 certificate from, director Park dreams small, but is always intricate in his design and set-up. Even the briefest moment of stand-off is a hugely tense one, a gun-fight of a few minutes is extraordinary, and a knife-fight in a parking lot is a sight to behold.

The closing scene is one that is hugely reminiscent of *The Godfather*, and much like its inspiration, here's a gangster/crime film that delivers much of its power through words.

Come see the hunks in action



Imperial Cinema

This week we have two more massive films for you all to see over at Imperial Cinema: the newly rebooted *Superman* flick *Man of Steel* produced by 'Batman Saviour' Christopher Nolan featuring hunk of the month Henry Cavill and Brad Pitt VS. zombie apocalypse in *World War Z*

Man of Steel explores the making of Superman/Kal-El/Clark Kent from his auspicious arrival in Kansas from Krypton, his adoption by Jonathan and Martha Kent and his gradual journey

towards acceptance of his identity and his destiny. We also see familiar faces from Superman folklore such as Lois Lane (Amy Adams), General Zod (Michael Shannon) and Jor-El (Russell Crowe). Along with stunning cinematography and special effects, what elevates *Man of Steel* from being a formulaic origins story is the excellent casting. *Boardwalk Empire's* Michael Shannon is perfect as the malicious Zod and Amy Adams' Lois Lane is brilliantly feisty (a welcome break from previous incarnations).

World War Z stars Brad Pitt as a UN do-gooder trying to defeat a global zombie pandemic. Director Marc

Forster puts the film's astronomical budget (reported to be \$200 million) to spectacular use; depicting scenes of anarchy and carnage on a colossal scale, they feel chillingly authentic. Whilst the film may require a little 'cognitive estrangement' there is an overpowering sense of suspense lacking from many summer blockbusters.

Tuesday 8th October

18:30-World War Z
20:45-Man of Steel

Thursday 10th October

18:30-Man of Steel
21:15-World War Z

Tickets for individual screenings

are £3 for members and £4 for non-members, buy on the door.

Tickets for a double-bill are £5 for members and £7 for non-members.

£5 Membership includes one free film and cheaper ticket prices all year! Buy it here:

tickets.imperialcinema.co.uk

Autumn Line up:

15th/17th October: Despicable Me 2

22nd/24th October: Pacific Rim

29th/31st October: The World's End

5th/7th November: Elysium & The Wolverine

11th November: Kick-Ass 2



Awesomenauts! Awesomesauce!

This side-scrolling sci-fi adventure shooter is amazeballs!

Calum Skene
Games Editor

For a long time Awesomenauts had a lonely existence in my Steam library. I picked it up in a sale and then there it sat unplayed. One day prompted by fellow editor Max I finally played it and realised the mistake I had made! Straight from the opening titles I knew I would love this game so sit tight for my "AWESOME! AWESOME! AWESOME!" review.

Awesomenauts is a side-scrolling multiplayer battle game developed and published by Ronimo games. This is a game unlike any I have played before, but immediately I am a fan. The premise is that you are a mercenary hired by a drilling company to mine solar. However another drilling company has also hired mercenaries so it quickly escalates into a battle for control. It combines strategy with some real time fights, and does so successively,

In each battle the goal is to destroy the turrets of the other team, with your 3 teammates, while defending your turrets. Drones are also spawned to help you out. As you destroy and kill the other team you will earn solar which you can use to upgrade your character. Once the turrets have been destroyed you work to destroy the drill core of the other team which wins the game for your team.

There is a short tutorial which teaches you the basics, after that you can choose to play against AI, but the

real fun is online. Finding a game is short! I hardly had to wait anytime at all. The game gives you a lot of options for personalisation. From choosing your character (and skins that you can purchase for them) to special abilities you will be able to spend solar on in the game you can really find that perfect combination that works for you. Completing games earns you XP which enables you to level up which unlocks more characters, options for your characters and maps. This helps you to not feel

overwhelmed at the beginning by all the options. As you learn by playing games you also get better characters and more options. Besides all this levelling up is always a satisfying experience. Visually Awesomenauts is a very pretty cartoony game. The music, also great, helps to give it a kids TV battle programme kind of theme which really works well!

Where this game really stood out for me was playing with your friends. Three people on each team means you can easily get two other people to game with you and this will provide hours of fun. I enjoyed a very eventful session of being shouted at on Skype, sadly a game experience I am used to when playing with this particular friend, while being killed in increasingly embarrassing ways. It doesn't matter whether you are winning or losing, Awesomenauts is always hilarious. Even when my keyboard broke I was able to keep playing thanks to the controller support. Playing with a controller is intuitive and easy despite the fact that aiming is done with the same

controls as walking. I'm not usually a fan of multiplayer battle games but Awesomenauts is both casual enough for me and competitive enough for my critical friend that we both enjoyed it.

I would recommend this game to anyone who wants a fun multiplayer experience. It's a great game to have for just killing 30 minutes here and there or for an evening of fun. For the price of £6.99 this game is a steal!



Win something

Felix Games has 2 copies of this game, so do you want to win a copy of Awesomenauts for yourself? Describe in 300 words your most interesting game experience of the summer. Send it in to games.felix@imperial.ac.uk and get yourself published as well!

Felix Games Team

Gaming by creating games; deep!

Max Eggl discovers that, woah, he can totally develop games

Every so often a steam discount/sale comes along and I see a game for a price I cannot refuse. Surprisingly enough this happens more than I wish it would, and so I end up with a boatload of games that I have absolutely no time or energy to spend on them. Game Dev Tycoon was one of these games. An absolute bargain at the time (£7), I had seen lots about this game on the internet and so I decided to buy it. However it was lying around in my library for about a week before I even had the chance to start it up.

Game Dev Tycoon is an indie game created by Greenheart Games last year, and revolves around you creating a successful games studio. Starting out in your parents garage in the 80s it is your mission to make a successful company that can withstand pretty much anything. Pretty much everything is up to your imagination, you can name your company, the games you want to develop, etc.

The gameplay itself is very simple and intuitive. I did not need any sort of tutorial to figure out what was going on from the start. The game creating

process is very clear and enjoyable. You basically just click on your sitting guy, get some options and then choose from those options. You can choose anything from the name to the layout of the quests for your game. This lead me to create some really hilarious games (e.g. A time travelling adventure called "Save Jesus", for some reason it bombed...I still haven't figured out why!). Furthermore this complete modifiability allows for a lot of replay value, for if you want to go through each different combination (let alone come up with names) it will take you a very long time!

The "story", if I may call it such, is quite immersive and the releases of actual real consoles over the years really does make it feel like you are a game developer who is struggling to make a mark. The progression of research is also brilliant, as it makes you work for something as well as allowing for a goal. I mean the moment you

are able to release your own console after your humble



beginnings is one of the most satisfying things I did!

I do have to say though that the reviewers criticism seems a bit random, in the sense that I had two games with all the same options however one bombed, and one succeeded. There was only minimal variation between the two and yet they apparently totally differ in success. However once I checked out the wiki (there is an entire wiki!), it made a bit more sense to me. There are some neat algorithms behind the reviewing process.

However since this game is quite repetitive, in the sense that you are pretty much doing the same thing over and over again, I can see a limited amount of hours that you can pour into it. Furthermore with no updates or DLC planned, the original is what you are stuck with. Therefore I don't see myself pushing

20 hours, if even that. However considering the price I paid for the game, it was completely worth it.

The graphics of this game are quirky and cartoony, meaning that while you will not see anything that will blow your mind, it will run pretty much on any computer without any problems or lag.

On a positive note, this game runs on PC and Mac and is available on steam, so it is easily accessible and downloadable.

It seems that Felix Games editors fall to the curse of the indie game addiction, and I can already see the first symptoms. This is already my second indie game review, and to my dismay I am hoping it is not my last. Indie games like this blow originality and new ideas into this stagnating field, where only certain formulas seem to be released annually. Anyway, if you are a fan of the indie game community check it out. Otherwise, have a look anyway and you may be pleasantly surprised! I mean, when are you ever going to get the chance to create a game, name it whatever you want (and I mean WHATEVER you want) see it become ultra successful?

 @felixgames

 FelixImperial

GAMES

I've forgotten why I like Amnesia...

This world is a Machine. A Machine for Pigs. Fit only for the slaughtering of Pigs.

Calum Skene
Games Editor

A low drone sounds. "Daddy, daddy, please don't kill me." Children begin to sing and a great machine starts up. "Daddy! Daddy!..." You awake in your bed, and go off in search of your children.

Thus begins the 5-6 hour horror experience that is Amnesia: A

Machine for Pigs, an indirect sequel to Frictional Games The Dark Descent. After a short period in which you learn the games only controls; crouching, picking up items, opening doors and running (which you will do if crouching fails), you are immediately thrust into a world of terror. Unlike the original this game is developed by The Chinese Room (who previously did Dear Esther). This is probably responsible for the difference between the two games. Many of my favourite

game mechanics from the original are not present in the new one. Even mechanics that I thought made The Dark Descent the great game it is! A Machine for Pigs offers very little in terms of puzzles and gameplay. Gone are The Dark Descent days of having to light candles, and fill up your lantern to keep your sanity levels up. Your inventory is gone, and now you must carry around various items much like you would in Portal. You can even use your lantern as much as you want without worrying about it running out (although you will want to turn it off nearly as much as you want it on!) A Machine for Pigs does not satisfy my needs for another The Dark Descent, but it does provide a gripping interactive horror story that will keep you entertained, terrified and, at times, a little disgusted.

This game handles very smoothly, which is important for a game that relies almost solely on you experiencing the world. Everything from opening doors, to turning wheels and picking up fuses feels intuitive and simple. There is even has controller support should you want to use it. The



world is as beautiful as it is horrifying which keeps you immersed and keeps you with a feeling of unease. Not once in this game did I feel safe. I was always expecting things to jump out at me but was never ready for them when they did. You will jump and more than once! Nearly everything about this game is terrifying, down to the amazing music which suited the game perfectly. From creepy orchestral music, to children singing nursery rhymes, the organ in the chapel and the sounds of the great machine (which you spend most of the game interacting with), it all adds to the experience. Throughout the game you travel through many locations; your house, the attic, the roads of Victorian London, and then the meat processing factory that hides a terrible secret as you descend into it and come to meet the machine. The story is told

through voice acting, which is superb, and hidden diary entries which slowly illuminate you to the terrible things you've done but can't remember...

A Machine for Pigs is a very story driven game. None of it is particularly hard gameplay wise, but when you are scared it's very easy to panic and make mistakes. The story is excellent and alone is enough to make you want to play on despite the challenge. For one play through the price of £12.99 is good, although I'm sure most people will play through it more than once which makes the price even better. I would get this game if you are a fan of horror, and like the idea of an interactive terrifying experience. From a gameplay point of view, this game isn't challenging at all. If you are looking for a challenge I would recommend the original, which also has user made stories and the mini expansion Justine.

Did you brave Amnesia without screaming? Then contact games.felix@imperial.ac.uk and tell us how much of a badass you are!



My dear chap, There seems to be something wrong with your barbeque!

European Bus S(t)imulator 2012

Calum Skene learns the differences between GTA and real life

Being games editor is a new job for me. Part of my expectations before agreeing to this role was that I would get games given to me to review. I didn't mind which games, but thought it would be nice to not have to pay for every game I review. I accepted the role and on my first trip to the Felix office found the pile of free games that could be reviewed. To my surprise, I had not heard of even one of these games, but this is probably because I have never played a Simulator game before. I didn't know

that there was a demand for games such as Chemical Spillage Simulator, Stone Quarry Simulator or Truck Simulator. Keen to dive in to this new world of Simulator games, I picked up European Bus Simulator 2012 and began my educational journey.

The premise of European Bus Simulator is that you are a bus driver in a large German town. This game succeeds at being a Simulator as everything to do with the bus is very realistic. You'll be required to walk over to it in the garage, type in your driver

codes and passwords, select a route and which direction you will drive it in, partake in the complex setup of turning on the engine and on board circuitry, take the parking breaks off, change gear and drive off... Sadly this is where I met my first difficulties. For half an hour I sat, refusing to open the detailed 30 page pdf that comes with the game. Why wouldn't my bus drive off? After all, I had completed the in-game instructions, which currently told me to accelerate. I had a look around my bus and eventually

realised the door was open. OK, I say, all I need to do is close the door, that's num pad 1, which my laptop does not have. So I change the binding to left click as there seems no other key that isn't bound to a control in the bus. Only later would I realise that whenever I clicked on a button in my bus the doors would open. Nevertheless, doors closed, I drive my bus away, which I have chosen to be a school bus. After driving around the German town I run into more difficulties. I can't seem to find any children or anyone in the game that will in fact get on my bus. This problem took a significant amount of time to fix; however, 2 hours into the game, and no longer a school bus, I was ready for my first route as a bus driver.

As you might be able to tell, every detail to do with the bus can be controlled, down to the air conditioning which needs careful control so the windows don't fog up. I didn't know much about bus driving before this game but I've come away feeling educated. Driving around my route and picking up passengers while wearing my pyjamas (in real life), gives me a

sense of achievement. European Bus Simulator is a relaxing game once you get the hang of it, but is not without some pretty major faults. The first glaring mistake for me is that you can choose your name, your age and your gender, but once the game starts my character really doesn't strike me as a 1 year old girl called Frank Schmidt. In fact I look like a 40 year old man. While driving the bus I got points off for being early, and also points off later on for being delayed, but I didn't get points off for running over my passengers, driving on the wrong side of the road, flipping over a car in a pretty severe car crash, charging my passengers the wrong amount or giving no change from 20 Euros. I would have thought a game which relies on accurate simulation would have paid close attention to these details. Also it's a German town and so all the console controls are in German, but all the passengers speak perfect English to me. Since when did German people say "Good Evening Sir"? Since when were bus customers so polite?

Overall all I can say is, it's been an experience.



Dazed, Mary decides to call the police after the bus driver refused to give her a ticket

Some guys just can't handle La Paz

Dismantling the death-defying activities on offer in Bolivia's capital

Chris Richardson
Travel Editor

Bolivia isn't exactly a fresh addition to the Latin American gringo trail – it features heavily in countless itineraries (indeed, I even ran into an old Felix editor whilst there) – yet it's managed to retain an essence of individuality whilst neighbouring countries have started to subside. The population of the entire country is barely larger than London's, with 60% of the population calling themselves indigenous: it is a vibrant place bursting with culture and epic, Martian landscapes.

Close to the northern border with Peru sits La Paz, the world's highest administrative capital. The city is situated in a crater, the surrounding hills of which are sprinkled with suburban dwellings, and framed by massive, snow-capped peaks, which one can climb if one is so inclined. As with most cities, La Paz gets an incredible range of reviews, depending on who you're asking, and how bad the weather was when they were visiting. Personally, I found that it sucked me in, until I eventually had to throw myself on a bus just to get out and see more of the continent.

A discussion of the city would be impossible without at least a passing reference to cocaine. San Pedro Prison, situated in a beautiful plaza in the centre of the city, rose to notoriety thanks to Rusty Young's book *Marching Powder*, which outlines the life of convicted trafficker Thomas McFadden, highlighting the extreme levels of corruption, as illustrated by the fact that he was able to offer tourists excursions inside the jail. More recently, Route 36 has been dubbed "the world's first cocaine bar", allegedly offering backpackers the sort of service you could expect from any of the pretentious west end London clubs, but with even more cocaine. But one would hope that for the seasoned traveller, the endless legitimate attractions on offer would be incentive enough to visit.

Love to travel?

Well drop us an email. We'd love to hear about it. We'll even teach you how to score plenty of freebies when you're planning your next big trip.



Like Peter Parker, but with no powers

Urban Rush

I feel obligated to go beyond a glowing TripAdvisor review and give the guys at Urban Rush a special mention here. If you're in the neighbourhood, put this on your to-do list. And if you're not in the neighbourhood, get rerouting. The concept of Urban Rush is simple: dress up in a ridiculous costume, clip yourself to a rope, and throw yourself face first from a seventeen storey building. The owners assure me that nobody has sustained any injuries to date, but I'd highly recommend getting your eight hours before giving this one a go.

The costumes on offer cater to most tastes, whether you fancy yourself as Spider-Man or a deranged patient from *Amityville*, but if you're not fixated on travelling light you could even pack your own and add a bit of variety to your photos. After a quick but informative training session, you suddenly find yourself dangling from the building, about to embark on your forward-facing abseil. And when you get to the tenth storey, it's time to leap out from the wall and let go of the rope, putting your life in the hands of a stranger as your plummet to your death. The sensation is pretty bizarre, but it's perfectly safe and makes for some pretty sweet photos (as well as boring stories to share with strangers in the smoking area of your next night out).



It's way more terrifying in reality

The death road

Of course, no trip would be complete without mountain biking down the world's most dangerous road. Dubbed so because of the hundreds of travellers who would fall and die annually whilst using the road, it now mostly serves as a tourist attraction that still has its fair share of fatalities, which is why again it's important to get your eight hours, and even more important to identify a reputable company with solid equipment that won't fail you as you zip along the cliff's edges.

The whole trip takes a day, starting with an early morning bus ride that dumps you at the top of a huge, continuous downhill stretch that begins in the cooler altiplano before descending into rainforest. The majority of the route is single-lane, and runs alongside drops of hundreds of metres, all without the protection of guardrails. That said, most people who avoid excessive recklessness manage to complete the route without as much as a graze. Most tours conclude at Senda Verde, an animal refuge where volunteers can work with a variety of animals including several species of monkey, and/or a booze-fuelled pool party where revellers bask in the fact that they've actually managed to survive the day.



"I have no idea what I'm doing"

Huayna Potosi

If jumping out of buildings or downhill biking isn't your sort of thing, then you probably won't be keen to tackle Huayna Potosi, the 6110 metre mountain situated just north of the city. The peak has been dubbed "the easiest 6000er in the world": not a reflection of a lack of technical difficulty, but due to the ease of acclimatisation thanks to La Paz's staggering altitude. In any case, it's certainly not for the faint-hearted. The only reason I bothered was because I was waiting on a custom-made leather jacket from the blue market and had three days to kill. Not that I regret it, but I definitely should have looked into what it entailed a little more.

The entire excursion takes three days. Day one is strictly for training: getting accustomed to using your crampons and pickaxe on a glacier close to the lower base camp. Day two involves lugging all of your equipment (travel light) to the upper base camp in time for sleeping at the upper base camp at 6 p.m. Day three begins at midnight, when you wake up and climb in order to summit for sunrise. The views were spectacular, and there's a certain credibility about completing a 6000 metre peak at a time when too many people are raving about Kilimanjaro.



Like a tiny baby carrot in gravy

Stannum Boutique Hotel

One of the fantastic perks of visiting an up-and-coming destination like La Paz is that there are still priceless gems to be found at ridiculous prices. Forget the hustle and bustle of the city's dingier hostels and opt for Stannum. Despite being in its infancy it's already the top rated hideaway on TripAdvisor, and boasts elegant contemporary design combined with classical details, not to mention outrageous views over the beautiful city from its endless glass panels. The rooms are comfortable, the staff are friendly, and the bartenders serve up some truly lethal concoctions (especially at that price). Check out stannumhotels.com for more details.

La Paz rocks. Too many people marginalise it as a stopover between Uyuni's salt flats and darkest Peru, but it's great in its own right. Admittedly the handful of activities described here are a limited selection: I haven't even discussed the colourful markets offering everything from high quality crafts to llama foetuses, or the availability of Michelin-starred restaurants that'll set you back as much as an Orange Wednesday at Pizza Express. Get it on your list, and give it the time it truly deserves.



Editor: Maximilian Eggl, Yong Wen Chua
 technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TECHNOLOGY

The crippling effect of Technology

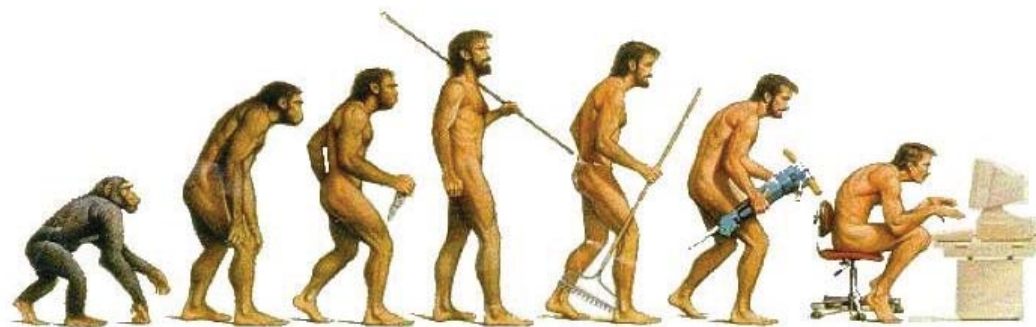
Max Eggl ruminates on the repercussion of our device addiction

This is a very interesting question I found myself talking about with a friend recently. Is technology really making us weaker, mentally and physically? If you consider that technology is part of the human condition, then you would disagree and I would be on your side. All the brilliant things that humans have invented really do make everything better (or do they? Sorry just had to put that cliché in). However if we only consider the human as the biological entity that makes him, is there a different story?

Anytime new technology has come along, it has eased the segment of lives it affects, otherwise it would not really have been invented. Through making pretty much everything easier and doable, some people say that it has expanded the human border as well as enhanced the every day persons capabilities. Airplanes and cars have revolutionised travel, Internet has changed the way we communicate and exchange information and tablets have changed the way we interact with media. These are just a few examples of how certain areas that are a fundamental part of the average human life have been affected radically. In fact most of these effects have been very positive, giving us the possibilities to travel, talk and do things that would not have been possible in such scale even 50 years ago.

The big question I always have in mind though is that, has technology on its own made the human being fundamentally weaker, more dependent on the devices and machines that surround them?

Probably one of the most obvious ones is probably the effect that cars have had on the human body on the whole. There have been some interesting studies that seem to show a link between driving and obesity. Overlaying a map of obese adults



Somewhere, something went terribly wrong

in the US as well as the map of the percentage of commuters that drive, shows some striking trends. Is it then that perhaps due to the ease and speed of driving a car, that exercise (e.g. biking, walking) is shunned and this leads to a negative impact on the human body? I think that most of you would agree. However driving cannot be solely credited with causing obesity. Other factors also often linked with obesity like eating habits and lifestyle. However there also other technology factors that I could have mentioned instead, which would have shown similar trends!

Given that nomophobia, a now recognised phobia that can lead to stress and anxiety in those that are without their phones, was prevalent in roughly half the population sampled by YouGov, implies a interesting trend, since the smartphone as such only really exists only about 10 years. The smartphone has become such a useful appendage that, even though it really does not add anything new to our lives, the lack of it is very apparent.

Another interesting aspect of the smartphone with respect to our dependency on tech and perceived resulting weakness is related to how

easily everything is accessible from literally everywhere. Some studies claim to show that this leads to a lower attention span. When you have instant access to anything you want, games, blogs, facebook profiles etc., as well as it being short and snappy, then when you really have to concentrate on something that may not be done in a similar manner may be very off putting.

The last thing I would like to point out is the effect that the internet, and its easy sharing has had on our communication skills. Firstly, due to a rise of text speak, which I know all of us use, this current generation is more accustomed to using these abbreviations than the correct English. I have stopped counting how many times I actually had to correct my "you's" from "u's" in proper emails etc. . Maybe this is just the evolution of the English language, but it does seem to be leading to a weakening of the beautiful vocabulary that each language possesses. Another aspect of being on the internet permanently, is the fact that avoiding confrontations, is so much easier. If you want to escape a fight you just leave the site. This can lead to an erosion of real conflict

solving skills, I mean if you never actually have to resolve anything, why would you ever learn how to?

In contrast to confrontation, also normal conversations seem to have suffered. Recently I haven't had a single conversation that wasn't interrupted at some point by a text, tweet or facebook notification. I mean, its a form of comfort zone when you are sitting at a party on the

couch, no one talks to you, and you pull out your phone. However how much is that really going to help you socialize? Without even trying, you are never going to learn anything!

All these points are unstudied or at least unproven, and yet when I look at them they do seem to have some ring of truth. Even if they are not true, what would be the problem with putting your devices and gadgets once in a while? Do something that our ancestors have managed over thousands of years!

What I am not saying is that we should do away with technology completely. Technology itself is a very useful tool that really does help. It has enabled humans to do so much. However the tool itself is not intrinsic good or bad, it is only as good as the purpose that it is used for and therefor what the human intends to do with it. In our society of instant gratification, humanity has fuelled its addiction for pleasure with the easy way out. However as always humans do it without any kind of restraint. As the saying goes, too much of anything is never a good thing

The News Bubble

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

Shocking! Lighting powers phone

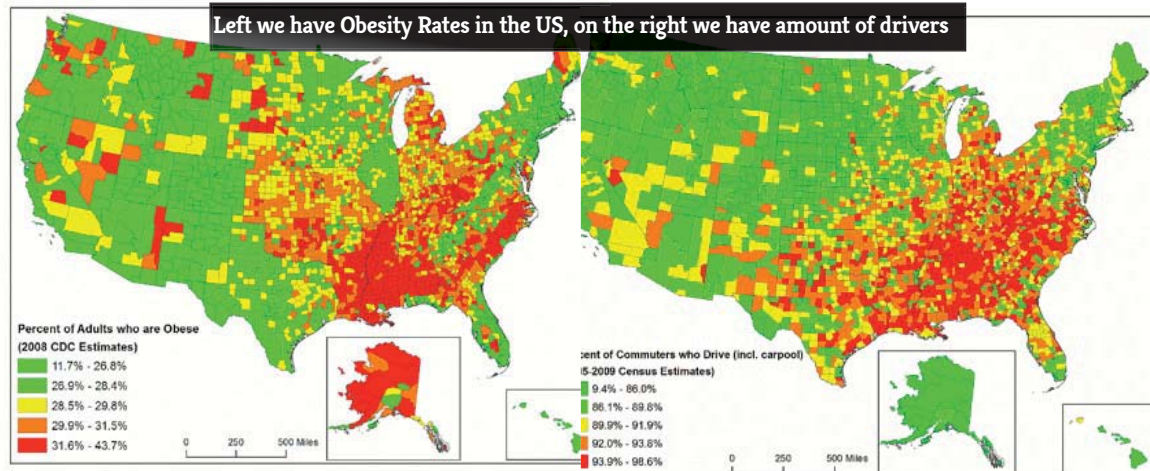
Researchers at Southampton with Nokia engineers have managed to charge a telephone using lightning. Similar to creation of the monster Frankenstein and powering of the DeLorean in Back to the Future, the scientists created a lightning bolt at the telephone. Surprisingly enough the phones battery manage to do something with the high voltage, and was charged! Lets hope this electrifying discovery will actually come to some use in the future.

BlackBerry goes private!

After several unsuccessful attempts, BlackBerry has finally bitten to the bullet to the glee of this editor. On the 23rd September this failed technology giant announced that it will be bought by a consortium of investors at a value of \$4.7 billion. Considering that at its all time high this Canadian company was once worth \$84 billion, this is rather cheap. The only thing that still remains up BlackBerry's sleeve is its wealth of patents, which it could use to potentially use to either license or sell on in a bid to remain relevant. However one thing that seems sure, the hey day of this once powerful manufacturer seems to absolutely grounded.

Maximilian Eggl
 Yong Wen Chua
 Technology Editors

Left we have Obesity Rates in the US, on the right we have amount of drivers





Farmers' food at the doorstep

Daas Kaluvan proves that quality food exists outside supermarkets

You might have seen the signs around campus already – there is a new farmers market on Queens Lawn every Tuesday. You will be surprised by how much fresh vegetables and fruits this is. Apart from the expected English strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, plums, apples and pears, there are also Downland Pigs famous free range hog roast, Brambletye Farm's organic eggs and sweet and savoury goodies from Queen of Cakes. None of which you will be able to get from your local Sainsbury's.

And with my goodies from the market I made something special for dinner:

Pan-seared Pigeon Breast with Stuffed Courgette Flowers and Oven Roasted Potatoes

It's simple, yet it looks restaurant-level gourmet due to the not-quite-common ingredients - you get amazing flavours and a mix of colour. You also get to experiment a bit with pretty cheffy techniques, so this recipe is perfect for those who've never tried stuff like deglazing pans to make gravy, etc. We're in-between seasons at the moment, so sadly courgette flowers are sort of on their way out (they're a summer thing) - but gamey pigeon breast is perfect for the autumn/winter.

The beauty of this dish is its flexibility - there are no food police! If you can't find courgette flowers, sub with your own veggies (preferably the stuff that's more in season) - no need to pan-fry with egg wash necessarily. Or for something just as impressive, blackberry and game are known to go quite well together so you can toss blackberries and salad leaves, dress, and serve with this dish. Adjust amounts for a starter or main, tweak it to make as filling or as light as you want depending on how in-between-seasons you feel.

Ingredients

2 potatoes
4 small pigeon breasts
4 courgette flowers
1 egg, beaten
Plain flour for egg wash
A tart berry jam (we used IKEA's Lingonberry, but raspberry works)
½ ball mozzarella
Red wine for gravy
Salt and pepper to season

Preheat your oven to 200 degrees Celsius, popping a tray of olive oil in to heat through. Peel and dice the potatoes into medium chunks, then parboil in salted water to give a headstart on cooking, but not until fully tender. Drain and toss with



Bloomsbury Marina O Connell talking to customers at the stall. Probably about all the yummy food on offer!

the heated oil + desired seasoning on your tray to give a nice light coating, then return to the oven.

While waiting, lightly season the pigeon breasts with salt and pepper, then place skin side down on a hot pan and cook for a few minutes. Don't move it about after it first makes contact with the pan; you want it to develop a nice sear and colour. Like duck breast, pigeon should not be cooked to death/greyness - you still want it pinkish, and it's not going to take long. Turn over after a few minutes and cook the other side in the same way, then remove from pan and let rest on a plate.

Deglaze the pan with a splash of red wine, then add a bit of the lingonberry/raspberry jam and stir until well combined. Continue to heat on medium until it reduces, adding some of the resting juices from the pigeon breast midway through (you'll see them seep out - just throw them back into the pan.) You want the gravy to be a bit tart and thick, so adjust jam amounts with care. While your gravy slowly reduces, rinse and dry the courgette flowers. Cut up your mozzarella ball and stuff, then dip in beaten egg wash, drip off any excess and dust with seasoned flour (it's easy - just mix plain flour with salt and pepper.) Heat a second pan with a bit of oil and pan-fry the courgette flowers until the coating

is golden brown. Cheese should be heated through and somewhat melty-ish, but don't cook these veggies to death! Remove and arrange on plate.

By this time the potatoes should be ready as well - you should time the courgette flowers to be cooked a few minutes before the potatoes are done. The sauce should have sufficiently reduced as well, so turn off the oven and the stove, take everything out and just plate up - then tuck in!

With special thanks to Wild Country Organics for providing the courgette flowers. Pigeon meat from the South Downs Venison and Game stall.

Share your
yummy recipes
with fellow
Imperialites!

Email
food.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Mmmm....
If this doesn't make you want to visit the market I don't know what will!

 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial

FOOD

What does Gousto mean?

Carol Ann Cheah got the answer through the post

It's not everyday that the Felix Food crew gets to review something that was featured and acclaimed on BBC's Dragons' Den. Back in August I was trawling through FEAST at Battersea Park with the just-as-much-of-a-foodie (if not more) boyfriend (in fact Battersea was his idea, I was busy revising for resits and UROP-ing at the time to think of Food-related press.) Prior to that we'd heard of Gousto being mentioned on the interwebs a few times, and decided to drop by the stall to leave our contact details. They soon got in touch, and we agreed to a review box - not long after, we were watching Duncan Bannatyne display his cooking prowess with one of the recipes we'd picked. Talk about striking gold, we say!

Food delivery boxes - be they snacks a'la Graze or fresh fruit/veg/meat boxes by the Riverford crew - seem to be gaining quite a bit of traction with us Brits. Now I really should use "us" loosely, not being actual Brit myself; but I digress - when you've lost count of the number of friends using such services (a former Food editor being a Riverford customer, and a bajillion mates including your housemate being massive Graze fans), it's hard to not pay attention to this concept mushrooming about.

Gousto (pronounced goo-stow) is one such company, but instead of just giving you a ton of purely fresh produce like Riverford, they've gone the extra mile of portioning it up with other ingredients/seasonings - and giving you recipes to cook it with. The best part? Little to no food waste, so good for those of you who are clueless on portion sizes and need a bit of hand holding (new fresher cooks, I'm looking at you.) You don't need to provide much apart from salt, oil, pepper and maybe a bit of milk/butter depending on the recipe, but they'll tell you if you need to have anything extra (and it won't be a huge ingredient.) It's quite simple - you go on their website, order your box by picking your 3 recipes for the week (they list ingredients so if you don't eat meat/fish you can avoid those) and Bob's your uncle - just wait for your box. Like Graze, you can pause deliveries if you're away, or stop altogether whenever you feel like it.

It seemed after that Dragon's Den episode the excitement over our box's arrival was infectious - when we collected our box from the Felix office, it was already open...a certain Union staff member had been too eager to see what was inside that she got our ed-in-chief to open it and let her have a peek. Nevertheless the packaging was impeccable - produce and ingredients arrived pretty much intact, all

the fresh stuff stayed nicely chilled until I managed to fridge it up, and we all agreed it looked fantastic. It was only after bringing the box home that I'd noticed one of the Dijon mustard mini-containers had somehow come apart and left some mustard inside one of the ingredient bags (boo!), but it wasn't the end of the world. Everything came nicely labelled (with the odd bit of wit, not unlike Innocent juices), so there was no reason to goof up with the wrong ingredient - or wrong portion sizes for recipe, as two of our recipes shared a few ingredients like potatoes.

We had a 2-person box and picked three recipes: Bavarian Fleischpflanzerl (fancy way of saying meatballs) with sauteed rosemary potatoes, rump steak with roasted potato wedges and Italian gremolata, and *that* famous honey mustard glazed trout fillet with summer salad, a'la Duncan Bannatyne/BBC. All the portioned-up grub came with their corresponding recipes in the form of lovely cards, which can be kept and re-used should you like the recipes enough.

On day 1 I was alone, so I made the trout salad in one go and decided to test how well it kept the next day. Sure enough Duncan and the fellow Dragons weren't amiss when they lapped up the salad, and I discovered with this recipe that I actually like beetroot (having never tried it before, how odd!) That and Dijon mustard - the recipe broke whatever misconceptions I had about crappy yellow mustard, as I didn't like it much when younger. It should also be said that the salad tasted just as great (if not better) the next day, as the flavours had more time to mingle - I had fridged it and brought it with me to get through my UROP lunch hour. The salad itself was fresh, zingy and appetising, full of yummy stuff to hit your 5-a-day without making you feel like a wannabe WAG pushing a lone leaf about on a plate. It's actually a salad for salad-haters.

A few days after we test-drove the Bavarian Fleischpflanzerl, with my housemate Phil as a willing guinea pig. Now Phil eats a bit more than I do (and I can eat quite a bit), but we're happy to report that the portion sizes were just nice. I do wonder how they'd cater for customers who are bottomless pits of huge appetites, but I suppose these customers have their ways! We're not too sure what we could've done about the meatballs falling apart a bit, but they were still yummy - and the recipe did get you making them from scratch, which is a nice therapeutic plus.

Not too long after we had the final meal of the pack - rump steak with gremolata. Phil likes his cooked a bit more towards medium/medium well, but I like mine medium rare or rare; the instructions only covered cooking till medium rare. Luckily this wasn't quite my first steak, and I do cook quite a bit of it with my boyfriend (well he cooks it more), but it would've been nice to see a bit more detail on getting different levels of steak doneness. Can't however fault this being a great recipe to introduce steak virgins to cooking and prepping it.

All in all we did come away with a good impression of Gousto, and we think it's a great product - but it might not be for everyone in our readership due to cost (students, I'm looking at you.) Some of us would also like to see some one-person boxes happen in the future, though personally as a "cook ahead and eat leftovers for lunch" person (and because cooking for one produces just as much mess) I'm not sure how feasible that might be. Below we've made a bit of a pros and cons list/recap, but it's up to you. We'd love to see where the Gousto boys - Timo and James - take this concept to...g'luck, chaps!

What we loved

- Little to no food waste. It's probably the key selling point here.
- Quality produce and ingredients. They just speak for themselves - I'm not a food snob, I'd happily eat not-quite-organic/free-range produce (I know my budget, but I buy as local

and as not-chemically-laced as I can); but this is a major plus.

- Great balanced recipes that change with the season - extremely well-written, concise, but doesn't skimp on detail like prep/cooking time + background info to help you plan ahead.

- Nothing crazily fussy, so they're not forcing you to use insane cheffy techniques or spend hours in the kitchen (30-40 mins most from start to finish, then however long you take to eat). Just the kind of food that's simple enough to get you cooking regularly, yet great tasting to keep you from a rut.

- Good way to try something new, be it an ingredient or recipe or technique. There's always something new to learn!

What we didn't dig

- You only get 3 meals for 2 people (6 portions) per week (there's a 4-person option though) - though if you're willing to fork out a bit more, you can privately arrange for a 5-meal box

- It's 42 quid a week for the above box (vegetarian boxes cost 3 quid less), which comes up to 7 quid a meal - quite a hefty tag, though the premium is because all the ingredients are organic/free-range and you're also paying for someone to do the legwork of portioning/thinking what to cook for you.

- It's not as spontaneous (Kelly Hoppen, you read my mind) - you have to decide by Wednesday night what you want for the next Tuesday, which doesn't help if you then change your

mind - but it's only because they need time to source and prepare ingredients. Understandable, but if there were some way to reduce how far ahead people need to decide (even if it was a few days less), it would be even better. You can't have it all though, which is fair.

- Not every recipe is next-day-friendly, but they're operating on the impression that you're cooking for two and eating it all there and then! However if you're buying the box just for yourself, that's the only thing you can do atm. They're hoping to offer single-person boxes though, so watch this space...

General verdict

Would heartily recommend, but not for everyone. Perhaps ideal for busy Imperial staff who don't like thinking about food shopping or portioning things up, but still want to cook. For students, maybe a once-in-a-blue-moon thing only because of budgetary reasons (it's cheaper to do your own food shop and put a bit more forethought/learning) - Carol will however certainly be on the lookout to see if something unique comes up on the weekly recipe rotation...

Disclaimer: Gousto sent us a complimentary box back in Sept 03 for review and consideration - special thanks to Aidan Willcocks at Gousto for arranging this for us! All opinions however are our own - our duty is to you, the reader.

Learn more: www.gousto.co.uk



Extra points for environmental friendly box and the lovely message!

CLUBS & SOCS



Volunteering @ Imperial

Ben Fernando

Charity Editor
RAG Treasurer

So no doubt you've been accosted by various charities at the Freshers' fair. If, like me, you signed up to all their mailing lists and are completely lost as to who does what and can't decide what to do because you're not sure what they do and don't do, then this is article is for you.

Broadly speaking, there are three types of not-for-profit work that go on at Imperial. I have about 400 words left to describe them all so apologies if I miss anyone out!

1) RAG

RAG is the largest student group at the union – you're all members! (we don't give you a choice - we just sign you up, muhahaha). We're responsible for the fundraising at the Imperial. We do this through the traditional pounce-on-you-in-the-street-until-you-beg-for-mercy-and-give-us-your-change method, but most of our funds come from our events like the Freshers' Ball, the Bungee Jump, Rubix Cube party and so on. We also take care of a number of smaller groups on campus like Save the Children and UNICEF, and the challenges abroad (like Kili). If you're interested in what we call FUN-raising then drop us a line at rag@imperial.ac.uk.

2) CAG

Community Action Group is responsible for the volunteering at Imperial, that is, things that don't explicitly involve raising money. You can volunteer to do just about anything through one of their projects - from gardening, teaching, helping refugees, teaching kids to code to building schools and designing solutions to environmental problems. Lots of their activities are similar to the Imperial Hub's, so contact either of them at iccag@imperial.ac.uk or president@imperialhub.org

3) Everything else!

There are a huge number of miscellaneous not-for-profit activities that go on at Imperial. Some are run by departments (i.e. Physics's 'Communicating Physics' course); others by faith groups (Islamic Society are insanely good at raising money!) and a few are run by random individuals. We're planning to put together a full database of these programs in the coming year.

In short you can do just about anything. The various groups help people from all over the world, ranging from Kensington to Kenya and from El Salvador to East London. If you find that something that isn't supported, no worries! Anyone can set up a society or project at Imperial, and there is funding to help worthwhile causes.

I suspect that many of you have got to the end of this and have decided that it sounds really cool but you're just too busy. Or not! You can't get away that easily! Both RAG and CAG can take people for shorter volunteering stints, from half an hour a week for the super-busy up to about fifteen hours a week (yes, that's how long I was spending on RAG in the run-up to RAG week!).

Next week I'll go through some of the reasons why it's worth joining in the volunteering at Imperial, but until then email me if you have any questions! rag.treasurer@imperial.ac.uk – I promise I don't bite. There's a brief guide to charity at Imperial in 529 words. Do get involved!

"Are you a part of a club or society? Or do you go clubbing? Are you sociable? Do you like projects? Yes, Yes, Yes? Then write in with something interesting about your club, like a two page report on a Chess Tour! Who knew these guys were so good?"

Hardcore Pawn: IC Chess

Max Eggl tells the tale of Imperial Chess Ho

After a very successful year dominating British chess, the British Uni and London Uni Champions (your resident chess team) decided that they needed a new challenge. So when ex-President Sam "Sporter" Porter began organizing the trip to the US, a lot of excitement and anticipation started to arise. With big names like Princeton and Columbia on the menu, Imperial Chess was really looking forward to making a name for themselves out there in the land of opportunity. In fact we set out with a very strong team with big ambitions, including our own FIDE Master (FM) Ryan Griffiths and El Presidente Arijit Gupta.

The night before was spent in preparation, with a gathering of half the team: Sporter, Baron Luke Barron, FM Ryan and myself playing exchange (a very enjoyable variation of chess which allows even the weakest players to beat extremely strong players) and drinking in the Union, and generally just bouncing strategies off each other that we would use to destroy our opposition. However since our flight was relatively early on the next day, we decided to call it a day and reconvene in the airport.

The next day dawned rainy and cloudy, however that did not dampen the spirits of the Chess team as we all arrived early (or perhaps not so early in some cases) and without much hassle we all boarded the plane. Soon the inflight entertainment system was discovered, with its option of multiplayer chess and movies, and the flight was soon played away.

Once we arrived in the US things quickly became more complicated. Due to a very absent-minded border security guard, Sporter, El Presidente, Aditya (Adi) Gupta and Akshaya Ahuja all took at least 30 minutes to pass through, while the rest of the team slowly got more and more worried that they had all been interrogated. However after that slight complication, (plus a few more), we finally made it to our monster of a minibus which was subsequently named the Knight Rider. With some trepidation we approached the twelve seat, 4 meter beast, and, as I was the one who had to drive it, with a lot of fear. A lot of trouble was had getting out of the parking lot, however once all the start-stop crap had been overcome it was as smooth as a pawn's top. Thus the knight riders were born!

We duly arrived in Princeton, after having our first real American meal, namely McDonald's, and were met by Austin and George, two members of the Princeton chess club. We were put into different dorms of various hosts, as well as the house of one of the student's chess tutors Johnny (who turned out to be an absolute legend).



ICU CHESS

Did I ever tell you about the time I was arrested in the USA for graffiti?

The morning after, still influenced by severe jetlag (at least some of us), we found each other and recounted of our nights escapades, for me this included a surprisingly comfortable evening spent next to Luke, who went as far as calling it romantic, on a sofa bed. We spent the day chilling, chilling Princeton style. A breakfast of pancakes (which were amazing), a visit to Walmart, as well as some games of footie and chess on the beautiful Princeton campus were all used as welcome relaxation and were drumming up quite a lot of local interest. After a rather filling burrito and an introduction to the triangle game (which to my absolute delight has still not been solved by some), we once again separated to return to our beds/sleeping bags.

The second day saw the Knight Riders take on New York. After some initial difficulty parking the Knight Rider (resulting in a \$115 fine, YOLO), we started our tour of Manhattan. We did do the obligatory walk through Central park, however the two things that were on every Chess geek's mind were: 1) Chess Hustlers of Washington Square and 2) The Marshall Chess Club. Therefore without much further ado (and with the cliché panorama picture), we made our way to the Chess Hustlers. What we saw there did not disappoint. We were pretty much overwhelmed by a circle of Chess tables with various people in different states of disarray sitting at these tables crying out: "Chess Plaayyyers, 3 Dollars a game, 5 for 2!" nicely complemented by some soft jazz playing in the background.

So with quiet confidence FM Ryan sat down and destroyed his opponent, upon whose face you could slowly see the dawning realisation that he had absolutely no chance. Next Baron Luke decided to give a chess hustler a try. While his win was less asser-

tive (he was shaking and with less than 30 seconds on the clock) he nonetheless managed to beat his opponent. However once El Presidente tried to win some actual money, his chosen opponent decided to meditate instead of lose his money! What an outrage! Another benefit of our stay at Washington Square was the fact that Alex (Gandalfiano) Galliano (our second board) managed to join us. Without any hesitation he sat down at one of the tables and superbly checkmated one of the hustlers.

After our dominating display, none of the hustlers wanted to play the Knight Riders anymore, so it seemed like the time to leave. Luckily Baron Luke had met and talked to (as he does with every stranger) the president of the Marshall chess club, who luckily enough invited us to a tournament there.

The Marshall is a world famous club which boasts several famous personages throughout its illustrious history, including Stanley Kubrick, Hikaro Nakamura and Bobbie Fischer. In fact it is also the location where Fischer contested the game of the century!

Sadly we were not able to make the beginning of the tournament itself, after failing to park the Knight rider in the busy New York streets. However we did manage to see the last two rounds, and in fact there were 4 Grand Masters in attendance, so we were not disappointed! Since it was getting late though, Princeton was a bit of a drive and the fact that we were going to play the current Ivy League champions, the big match of the tour, the next day led to the decision that the knight riders should call it a day. And without much further ado (however a stop for greasy New York pizza was included), we made our way back to Princeton and split up once again.

The next day arrived duly, and even though some people (Adi and El Presidente) had problems getting up, the



@feliximperial

FelixImperial

CLUBS & SOCS

Chess Takes the Americas by storm

'Knights' campaign in the land of Freedom. Ah, 'Murica

rest of the team was up bright and early to face the day. After being given a tour of Princeton, attending a BioChem lecture and pretty much stealing everything possible at a careers fair (I am looking at you Alex Gandalfiano), we then made our way to Philadelphia to meet our first adversaries. Overcoming traffic and parking difficulties we finally met the president of the UPenn Chess club as well as Anup, one of our team mates and old ex-presidents of the clubs, who was living on his own in New York, and commenced our first game of the tour. In a very tense match with a very strange time control (1 hour plus 5 seconds for each move), Imperial managed to edge out the Ivy League champs 5-4. Highlights of this match include Gandalfiano "grinding down his opponent, until he was in an utter desperate and hopeless mess"; Sporter coming from completely lost with a few pawns down, to swindling himself up a rook and winning the game in the end and Luke beating his opponent in 18 moves, saying: 'she basically couldn't play'.

The general consensus after the game was that we had been dominating, and in fact should have won pretty much on all boards. This conclusion and the fact that we were now North Atlantic Chess champions allowed us a heightened sense of achievement and were looking forward to our next opponents.

Since our game took quite a bit of time we arrived returned rather late to Princeton and missed out on their club night! However this was no biggie, as we would be meeting them the next day in the match that was billed



MAXIMILIAN EGGEL

The Knight Rider stands tall as the Chess Champions destroy American Chess step by step. Well, mostly.

as the one to end all Chess problems.

After a good night's rest, and a hoagie (an absolutely better version of a subway sandwich) we were ready to play Princeton. However it seems we became overconfident. Losing something embarrassing like 12-6 over two matches, we were quite down after this episode. When asked about their games Baron Luke remarked: "Not enough time to press home an attack against the 'thug lyfe'" and Adi attributed his loss to "The women's charm"... ohh Adi!

However we quickly had to prepare ourselves for a bigger loss, because it was time not only to leave Princeton, but also to give up the Knight Rider. Our big baby couldn't and wouldn't fit into the New York parking spots, and so with some reluctance we gave the Knight Rider back to Hertz, and then made our way to Columbia University, for our second stage of the tour.

Very well organised and friendly, we were met by Matthew, the Columbia Chess President, at the Columbia

Cafe, and then were split up once again. The Guptas (El Presidente and Adi) stayed together, and the rest all slept in Matthew's Dorm. Before we hit the hay, we had a pretty amazing time chilling and playing Chess.

The first thing on the agenda on the next day was waiting for the Guptas to finally wake up. Once they did we had a very enjoyable breakfast consisting of pizza provided by Columbia before we commenced our game with two time Ivy League champions Columbia. Sadly we lost 7-2 yet, however given the nature of the games, we can say we actually did rather well. I myself was playing a much higher rated player, and, until I started having time problems had him very well contained. All our resident FM would say though is: "Banter right...?", which pretty much sums up his game.

After this somewhat disappointing loss, where the result belied the actual performances, we rushed over to Washington Square to play NYU. However on the train, Sporter got

a message that they could not get a team together, and thus conceded defeat against the superior British opposition! In actuality this was a blessing in disguise as we were still knackered from the previous match so we made our way to Times Square to do some good-old fashioned site seeing! Congratulations should go to Alex and Luke for remaining unbeaten throughout the whole tour.

Times Square, while very impressive, was extremely packed for some festival, so after a quick stroll and peak around the area we decided to vacate it and look at other things. At this point Sporter (actually the Chess club) was feeling very generous, so it was decided that \$10 would be subsidized to every player for their dinner. The chosen venue was Applebee's and we were not disappointed! With pretty much the entire table ordering the 1800 calorie Mac and Cheese with bacon, as well as another diabetes inducing dessert, we were pretty much all very sated!

Since the next day would be our

last in the beautiful US of A, everyone agreed that we should get up as early as possible (AKA 8 O'clock), so we could see as much as possible. However that plan was shot, when everyone decided that 8:00 was way to early, and the Guptas decided that in fact 10:30 itself would be too early as well. After several threatening Facebook messages, as well as going off without them, they managed to sprint and catch up to us at the amazing Bagel place we went to for breakfast.

Things we did on that day included: Brooklyn bridge, Wall Street and Ground Zero. However it was the Staten Island Ferry (free by the way) which stood out. However on the journey back, most of the team decided that a game of Secret Queens was in order (which Baron Luke won against Akshaya) or some much needed nap time, instead of having a second look at the Statue of Liberty! What an outrage!!!

Anyway, after this really outstanding, yet tiring day we had our last meal in the US, which was none other but some classic McDonalds yet again! Thereafter, we trudged over to Newark Airport once more. Without much hassle we boarded the plane, and commenced once again in using and abusing the in-flight entertainment! Before you knew it, the Knight Riders had touched down in Britain again!

Much thanks goes to Matthew, Austin, Johnny and all the other hosts and organizers of the US Universities as well as Stu from the Marshall chess class! Lastly I would like to thank all my brilliant tour mates, as well as Sam Sporter Porter who did so much to make this possible! Till next year folks!

Oranges and Lemons say the bells of St. Clement's

Sophie Middleton

David Phillips

University of London Society of Change Ringers



TOM SIBLEY



DAVID PHILLIPS

You find yourself in the library; you have an exam/deadline tomorrow that has made your stress levels reach a new high. Hyped up on pro plus and red bull, a heavenly chorus drifts in from Queens Tower and the melodic chiming of the bells makes everything seem alright... Who am I kidding? Anybody with Facebook or Twitter is accustomed to the tirade of complaints about 'noise pollution' and their suddenly sensitive ears. But ever wondered what is really going on up there? What is change ringing and who are the mythical bell ringers?

The ancient English art of campanology involves bell ringers pulling ropes. These are attached to wheels to turn bells through 360 degrees, not like the Mars advert. This mechanism allows the ringers to control the bell, allowing them to ring the mathematical permutations that form change ringing.

Most towers have 6 or 8 bells though some, such as Queens Tower, have 10. They are arranged from smallest ('the treble') to largest ('the tenor'), usually in a diatonic scale. The more

bells you have, the possible changes and methods grow exponentially; as anyone who has done statistics would know. This means that even though bell ringing was started in the 17th century there are new methods discovered every day and many, many more yet to be realised.

Founded in 1945, the University of London Society of Change Ringers (ULSCR) is the only bell ringing society available for students in London. And yes, even though it is UoL, Imperial students can join.

We practice on a Thursday evening at the Church of St Olave's, Tower Hill, though there are constant weekday and weekend quarter peals organised throughout the year. If you are wondering, a quarter-peal takes approximately 45 minutes, 1260 changes to be precise, and is rung for important occasions. A full peal is 5060 changes and is usually reserved for very special moments, such as the Royal Baby, due to the colossal stamina required to concentrate for 3 hours. However, it's not all about ringing!

Practises are always followed by visits to a variety of pubs (sometimes consecutively) and Sunday morning ringing is usually followed by a 'Spoons breakfast and more drinking. We also hold several ringing tours and social events over the year, the climax being the swanky annual dinner.

So do you find ringing a-peal-ing? Interested in learning the ropes? If you like it, why not put a ring on it? Okay, I'm all out of puns. For further information about the society and events please visit www.ulscr.org.uk

HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk



The Hangman's Week

The Hangman
Hangman Editor



Dammit! After my article last week it seems as though the Editor is keeping an eye on me this week. He let the kids from "The Turnip take over and gave my editorial to Captain Takeout. Also I must take the time to pledge allegiance to our all-powerful President Godsmith, may his rule reign forever. Seriously, the dude is scary with a baseball bat!

Were you at the Freshers' Fair this week? Did you see the Felix stall? No? Good! It was kinda embarrassing, we had these sweets that literally nobody wanted. It was all OK in the end though, the Editor needed dinner so I handed the sweets to him and told him they were dieting pills. He lapped it up like a cat in a milk factory. Let's see if the Copy Editors spot that one!

So I also made it the Alternative Mingle last weekend to see what the Union's latest jaunt had to offer. I can see why it was "Alternative", having an event with no alcohol can only be seriously proposed if you're high on some kind of substance. Nevertheless despite my misgivings it was pretty popular, even I got into the mood and had a cracking time (no pun intended).

Surprisingly the "main" Mingle had a slow start on the second day, must have sucked more than (insert standard University of London reference here, default: UCL) for the bands that performed to an empty room. Well does the sound crew count?



Scumbag fresher: Goes to Mingle, misses live music

Look, I'm sure you can tell I'm starting to get bored with being bloody nice, I'm starting to get the shivers and the dog in the corner is starting to laugh at me. Instead of boring you with my tired ramblings as I try to fill up space so the Editor won't try to take my guts for garters I've instead decided to end my post with a meme from the defunct *Imperial Memes* facebook group.



GUEST EDITORIAL

Captain Takeout
Hangman Guest Editor



Hello, my name is the Captain. I eat twenty horses for dinner and ride eggs every day before breakfast. After writing an exclusive guest editorial in an American newspaper the Hangman took the liberty of inviting me to discuss the plans for the upcoming Homophobic Games that I'm hosting in my domain. That's right, I said it out loud, there's nothing you can do about it.

The theme for the Winter Homophobic Games 2014 is of course hatin' on people with sexuality I just can't understand. Now don't get me wrong, I do enjoy a bit of Supermarket Sweep and the Graham Norton Show is simply divine, however I strongly believe that we should make sure that these people do not influence our children while they are growing up and developing. Instead I believe the best policy is to give them strong gender roles to learn from, which is one of the reasons I like to publish

"Think you can make up a better horoscope? Email hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk and give it a go!"

topless pictures of myself doing very stereotypical male things like riding horses, chopping down trees and fishing.

In order to reinforce these gender stereotypes I plan to release new pictures of my topless body surrounded by other men dressed in the uniform of traditional male workers, such as a police officer, a cowboy and of course a construction worker. In this way I plan to guide our children towards a more "normal" perception of human sexuality. Eventually our children will grow to understand to see a "harmless" male couple holding hands as dangerous while they will grow to look forward to seeing bigger and better pictures of me in various poses, occasionally covered in oil.

I also had the opportunity to come along to the Freshers' Fair in your institution (I have to admit the name is fantastic, "Imperial" presents a very strong presence) and I was surprised to see some of my old Stonemason friends. We had some great times, I remember the time I visited their Lode with a bottle of champagne, a toothbrush and a sock. They ran with

it and we ended up gallivanting around the streets of London wrestling with our muscles oiled and shining in the city lights. Of course the next day once I realised that they had tricked me into spending the evening with some actors they had hired I was annoyed, but eventually I realised that they were just playing around, the ultimate Lads!

It is unfortunate that the female Lode couldn't join us, but we still had a lot of fun on our exciting adventures around London. Seeing them again made me realise how much my life has changed in the last 15 years since I stopped wearing my dungarees and straw hat while going clubbing to those specialist all-male clubs. It's a shame those times had to end, but it's all part of the experience I want for the next generation: A strong sexual identity and an ability have a lot of fun with your peers, both in a physical and emotional sense produces mentally healthy adults who are able to engage in fulfilling lives flavoured with the insecurity and sense of unease that has helped me become the person I am today. Oh, and I also believe that your country is small and insignificant so tell your boss to stop calling...

First black Felix Editor awarded Nobel Prize for Literature

The Hangman
Hangman Editor

Only a few weeks into his tenure as Felix Editor, Joe Letts (Pictured) has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. The awarding committee cited his 'inspirational leadership in restoring confidence in student journalism'. Mr Letts announced that he will be using the entire 10 million

Swedish kroner prize to pay down the debts incurred by erstwhile sabbatical officers over the past year. In his speech Joe stated that he feels "extremely surprised and deeply humbled" and that this was a huge part of his Bucket List checked off. "Now all I have to do is get sued for libel. Seriously, I won't have made it as a journalist without a libel suit to pin on my lapels. On that note, I would like to tell you all that I was once spent a night with Harry Styles. I think we both had a fantastic time, I've even got some pictures if you're willing to pay enough."



MILEY CYRUS ENSURES FUTURE OF MTV

The Hangman
Hangman Editor



BUSINESS INSIDER

For centuries, groups of people have gathered together to sacrifice young girls to Pagan gods in order to ensure a good harvest. This year was no different, as MTV thrust a dancing girl into the centre of a baying, cheering crowd in order to appease the ancient Celtic god of attention, #Hashtag. The girl, identified by many as Miley Cyrus, was drunk on honey-wine and dizzy from inhaling the thick incense backstage in the temple's inner sanctum.

Within minutes, the world exploded in a furious torrent of empty words and poorly thought-out opinions, as part of the greatest attention harvest since the Beatles. MTV Chair Akash, High Priest of the All-Engrossing One, made a public statement:

"We are delighted that the sacrifice of Ms Cyrus has yielded so much attention. With any luck, we should be able to channel this into an entirely new TV channel. This one is just going to be about music. For a while, at least. I hear there's an up and coming LA fashion designer who's just been arrested for assaulting her husband, so naturally we're going to have to give her a slot in peak time"

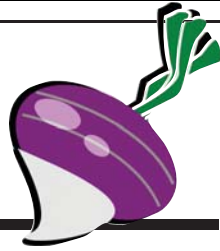


@feliximperial
FelixImperial

HANGMAN

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



US Government to Treat Itself to Autumn Getaway



MIKE SEGAR/REUTERS

Following months of debate about the federal budget, the entire US government has today decided to take a much-needed autumnal holiday. Instead of agreeing to a bill to fund the state, every one of the 100 Senators and the 435 Representatives decided to simply let the October 1st deadline run out. "We realised we were becoming obsessed with the new budget. It was unhealthy" said speaker of the House, John Boehner. President of the Senate, Joe Biden was similarly effusive "It's easy to get all het-up about these things. Taking a step back and letting the current deal expire will re-

ally allow us to chill out". "I think we really deserve that" he added. Whilst, there has been a split amongst elected officials as to whether to go on a holiday or simply lounge around at home, all were agreed that the downtime was well-earned. "You know, we can't agree on all the details" said Minority Leader Mitch McConnell before adding "the important thing is that we all get a decent rest". At press time, President Obama has been seen taking some time to mow the White House lawn. Vice-President Biden, however, has been sighted getting off a plane in Ibiza.

Alternative Mingle Misses the Point



As the traditional IC Union Mingle was going on, so was a so-called 'Alternative Mingle', for people who don't like the sort of music played at the Mingle, hosting a series of live music acts instead of a DJ who still insists that he is 27 despite his grey hair and faded tattoos. The Union was not best pleased with the presence of the Alternative Mingle. A Union spokesperson said, "This is completely missing the point of the Mingle. The Mingle has been carefully designed by a team of sociologists to create an environment in which people can make as many friends as possible." "This is achieved by making the night as awful as we can so that people have no choice but to buy drinks and talk to one another." Our Hangman journalist Timothy McSweeney asked one of the

organisers of the Alternative Mingle exactly how a separate event encouraged people to mingle, and we received the following statement: "The Alternative Mingle is for people who don't want to go to the Mingle because they might not like it. We understand that it's all about meeting new people, but really, who wants to meet someone that likes different things?" "Next year, we're hoping to have several alternative alternative mingles so that people can only go to things they like with people that like the same thing. It's the best way to meet people" "The long term goal is to have an individual mingle for each person, one that is tailored to their favourite activities. You know, a bit like the Mirror of ERISED from Harry Potter."

EVERYONE TOO AFRAID TO TALK TO FRESHERS

After months of heady banter, second and third year students have set their targets for just how many freshers they plan to sleep with during fresher's week. Unfortunately, the Hangman can officially report that every single one of these students has failed to hook up with a fresher despite their Shakespearean chat-up lines:

"So, what do you study?"
"You look foreign, where are you from?"
"What hall do you live in? Does your window face the street?"

Britain's leading expert, Dr. Tom Perignon from the Institute for Pretend Sociology says that this is to be entirely expected. "Our latest research shows that even a few months at Imperial is enough to cause a person's social skills to completely atrophy. Like a muscle, social skills waste away if they are not used often enough. Interestingly, many students develop a coping mechanism known as 'Nerd Elitism' where they refuse to talk about anything that does not interest them. In severe cases, these students arbitrarily hate those that do not know how to play all of the songs from Ocarina of Time on a touch-tone phone."



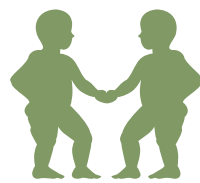
ARIES

This week, being the crazy fresher that you are, you decide to steal a traffic cone. Whilst heavily intoxicated you carefully select your roadside trophy, drag the dead weight back to halls and triumphantly pass out. You wake up searching for your prize, only to find you dragged home a dead tramp in a sleeping bag by mistake.



TAURUS

This week you go to Reynolds for the first time. You find yourself actually enjoying sitting on vomit stained floors, chanting in unison with other air-headed "medical students," as some guy downs a litre of Tesco value vodka. Expect to be hated by hall mates for the rest of the year when you fail to shut up about it.



GEMINI

This week, you're a super awesome RAG committee member welcoming fresher students. As you hug some drunkard, he slowly gurgles snakebite-tainted puke down your back that blends in perfectly to your violently pink polo shirt. You don't realise until two days later when you feel a pigeon pecking chunks of it from your shoulder.



CANCER

This week you're too shy to talk to people so start chatting to your illegal rice cooker instead. You name it Wilson, and tell it the hopes and dreams you harbour of getting that first. A Subwarden finds you dry humping it four days later, whilst it boasts a face made out of your blood...



LEO

This week you return from your year in Industry, flashing your easy-earned cash from being the Goldman Sachs coffee bitch. You attempt to pay for your coffee (espresso) with a fifty in the library cafe, only to have some PhD student steal it from you, manically cackling after not eating properly all summer.



VIRGO

This week, you find the fabled fresher on your course that "totally rejected Oxford," and listen to how he just can't wait for the awesome London party scene that Oxford could only dream of. You find him later after a night in Metric, slowly sobbing into his framed acceptance letter as he tries to transfer back last minute.



LIBRA

This week, you proudly hang a red lanyard around your neck. You've made it! You can fully buy discounted coffee! Imperial is the best place ever! A cynical second year student jumps you and cuts it off, severing your carotid artery in the process. Red spreads from the lanyard through that freshly ironed shirt.



SCORPIO

This week you form vapid, empty, temporary friendships with the people in your kitchen by bonding over A-level exams and failed Oxbridge interviews. You change your profile picture to one of 200 group photos from a night out, with the caption #Freshers2013, whilst secretly hoping to meet better people and dump this group of airheads



SAGITTARIUS

You read out the previous horoscope to your kitchen as you predrink for another wild night at Fabric, and you all laugh at how untrue it is and how you are all going to be friends forever. An awkward pause follows, whilst you all contemplate the utopia of true friendship you desperately hope to discover one day.



CAPRICORN

This week finally met the Doctor at the Freshers' Fair! Go you! You ask him to take you away to a distant place and time only to find out that you have to do him a favour first. After you climb out of the Heart of the TARDIS, remove your pink tutu and stop shivering he takes you to the future. Welcome to Exam Week!



AQUARIUS

It's been a long week and you've almost done an all-nighter. As you walk back towards your room at 7 AM you see the eager Sabbs arriving for work. Oh wait, they're going home as well, having been kept awake all night by their pink t-shirts. They jump you and fight over the scraps of your fashionable shirt.



PISCES

This week you search in earnest for the Masturbation Soc at Fresher's Fair, after some second year told you it was a key part of the Imperial way of life. After asking everyone you meet where the stall may be, you finally realised you misunderstood just what that student said, and shuffle sadly to your bedside drawer instead.



IAESTE - A journey without

Enrico Fantoni

IAESTE London Vice-President
Imperial Chemistry Alumnus

Marc Sloan

IAESTE London

Sarah Thickett

IAESTE London

It was something as innocuous as an online search where I discovered the *International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience* - or IAESTE (eye-ee-es-ta) - during my second year reading Chemistry at Imperial College London. I'd already considered a number of similar schemes, all offering undergrads the opportunity to work abroad for 6-12 weeks during the summer (sometimes a year) with full pay, but often only in business, language assistance, the tourism industry or with some other caveat or restriction.

IAESTE on the other hand, which is run by the British Council in the UK (the same folks who manage the well-known ERASMUS) is focused on science, technology and applied arts placements i.e. exactly the kind of work experience that is relevant to me. IAESTE has been running for 65 years, operates in over 80 countries and organises more than 4,000 student internships every year at over 1,500 companies and institutions globally. Many of these organisations are leading universities and industrial firms.

Fast forward a year, my plane is departing from Copenhagen airport and my eyes are glazed over thinking about the summer I've just had. Two months earlier I had started at the Danish Technical University (DTU). My project concerned molecular modeling of the energetics of the interaction between an enzyme and a variety of lipid substrates. It was my first exposure to working in a research group, to interdisciplinary collaboration and to the challenges posed by approaching a new research field. It introduced me to Computational Chemistry, a field that I knew little about. I had the opportunity to compare the British university system with the Danish one, to converse with local PhD students about their motivation and ambitions and to make friends with students from around the world.

My accommodation was in the university student halls, which were conveniently located on campus. I was surprised to find that Danish halls of residence provided every kitchen utensil that a professional chef could dream of. And that all students enjoyed en suite rooms for a very reasonable price.

One of the biggest challenges of



IAESTE LONDON

living abroad is the isolation one can face upon arrival. I was certainly disheartened during my first couple of days and I experienced culture shock, but it was a challenge that IAESTE helped me to overcome. The Danish and UK IAESTE officers were on hand for any occurrence and every other international trainee in Copenhagen was only alone for as long as it took to discover one another.

In each major IAESTE city there is a Local Committee (LC) made up of local students, typically IAESTE alumni, and Copenhagen was no different. Every Tuesday the DTU LC organised a social event for the 20 international trainees to mingle and meet with local students. Each weekend involved a Danish-inspired activity, ranging from a stroll through the capital, making the most of the flat landscape to cycle or visiting the museums around town. The rain never stopped us from attending the many festivals which Copenhagen is famous for: we listened to everything from live jazz to punk-rock beats, learned how to dance to the rhythm of salsa and stood silently before the beauty of the moonlit Kronborg castle.

The person that landed back in London was not the same one who had left eight weeks earlier. This person had a newfound understanding of other cultures, a clearer idea of the path they wanted their academic career to take and the knowledge that IAESTE could offer even more. My experience was unique, yet not singular. I discovered that a group of like-minded IAESTE alumni were setting up a Local Committee in my very own city. The group shared the same IAESTE spirit and I've since found myself carried away by the ambitious project of setting up the group in London, expanding it in size and endeavoring to instill the

same IAESTE passion in UK students and those international trainees lucky enough to land on our shores.

If you're interested in experiencing a new culture and applying yourself, then look out for us at your next career's fair or on our website. During the autumn term we allow students to register their interest on our website before the December 10th deadline. Then in February, we contact those who have registered with a list of available overseas job placements, and applicants submit a complete, formal application including CV and references. Finally, those who succeed in their application are helped with any visa, travel and accommodation issues and given pre-departure training prior to their placements.

Local Committee: an experience worth a thousand internships

I like to refer to my involvement as a volunteer in the London Local Committee as my IAESTE Plus experience. My internship was the tip of the iceberg; the organisation itself holds an enormous amount of potential for a person. The scope of the LC is wide-ranging. Our immediate role is as an 'on-the-ground' outpost of the British Council IAESTE office, being the faces and smiles of IAESTE in welcoming new students and preparing those who are leaving to go abroad. During the summer, we take care of the international trainees resident in the UK, arranging summer trips, weekly socials and cultural events. For the remainder of the year, you'll find us at careers fairs promoting IAESTE, networking with employers and institutions trying to secure new placement opportunities and working in collaboration with the British Council. Joining the LC is a flexible

commitment. A big reason to be a part of it is that committed members are rewarded with a guaranteed IAESTE internship the following summer, which is significant given how competitive securing placements can be. However, the majority of our members are drawn to the LC simply because the experience is fun: besides being rewarding, the spirit of the group - the "IAESTE spirit" - is openly social. Last year the London LC organized exchange trips ("twinning") with Istanbul, Zagreb and Split; we held barbecues, a New Year's Eve party, a Christmas dinner, attended festivals and concerts and many more events. *The LC is first and foremost a group of friends that is open to everyone.*

What's more, the London LC is an international organization. It has a worldwide reputation and is proud to attract members from other LCs globally, giving all of its members endless opportunities to experience different cultures, to challenge stereotypes and to obtain first-hand global experience. This results in an LC that is dynamic, rich in perspective and ideas and a skills-enhancing, international working environment.

Building a network, building skills

Part of the package that comes with LC involvement is the gargantuan number of *international contacts* that one builds: from peer students across many disciplines to IAESTE alumni that are now leaders in technical and non-technical fields; from the British Council staff to many academics and industrial employers around the globe. We speak to people, we work with them, we exchange ideas and build trust. On top of that, those of us involved in raising placement opportunities gain valuable *experience in selling*



IAESTE to potential employers.

In the London LC we are heavily committed to improving the skills of our members. A training weekend is held in October annually, introducing attendees to the organisation of IAESTE and the London LC and teaching them how to communicate with employers. Moreover, we fund our members' attendance at international seminars throughout the year - last April we were in beautiful snowy Oslo courtesy of the Norwegian IAESTE team and in September we'll be sunning ourselves in Malta. Aside from the fun, cultural activities that these trips involve, their purpose is also to instruct attendees on how the international organisation IAESTE is run and to help foster international relations. Upon returning from these seminars, members are highly energized and ready to get hands-on experience building IT platforms, promoting, marketing and raising placements in a time and cost-effective manner, organizing large events, budgeting, recruiting and selecting a strong team of volunteers and so on.

The LC is a volunteer-led organisation that is run professionally, requiring a talented team comprising a number of different skillsets. Being part of the LC leads to numerous chances to practice public speaking and presentation skills, it teaches how to report and to draw statistics based on one's actions, how to account for expenses and to plan a budget. The LC uses modern IT systems to exchange information, plan meetings, keep records and to communicate transparently.

Being a member of the LC isn't just about improving your internship chances or fleshing out your CV, we are an ambitious group that does real work that shapes our members and their futures. Ultimately,



@feliximperial

FelixImperial

CAREERS

an end



IAESTE LONDON

“Did you know that IAESTE was founded at Imperial in 1948 as part of a post-war effort to promote culture and learning exchanges between universities?”

“IAESTE has exchanged over 300,000 students in more than 80 countries”

the sense of working towards a greater understanding of the world, empowering other students and allowing people to create bonds across international boundaries is what makes it worthwhile.

To get involved, contact one of the UK Local Committees:
 London and England (info@iaestelondon.org.uk)
 Wales (info@iaestelondon.org.uk)
 Glasgow and Scotland (info@IAESTEGlasgow.co.uk)
 Edinburgh (abi.johnston@iaeste-edinburgh.co.uk)
 Belfast and Northern Ireland (iaesteni.lc@gmail.com)

Visit www.iaestelondon.org.uk and find out how to join our Welcome Event at the beginning of the new academic year.

For more information on the IAESTE programme, both if you are a student or an employer you can also contact: iaeste@britishcouncil.org

If you would like to find out more about IAESTE's paid internships why not go to their London welcome event this Sunday (6th Oct)?

Details available online.

Alumnus Profile



**Dr. Androula Alekou, Physics PhD
Accelerator Physicist at CERN**

What did your PhD involve?

Simulations and R&D of a future project (cooling channel of a Neutrino Factory). I had to learn many different programming languages and softwares. Also had the chance to participate in other experiments (like MICE) that were ongoing and thus had the chance to participate in shifts and work on hardware, in addition to data analysis

Describe the career path you took to your current role.

I had my BSci in Physics in Cyprus (that lasts four years). For my final year project I was chosen to go to Fermilab for a few months and worked on a particle physics experiment (finished the project back in Cyprus). I have no Masters. Then I applied for PhD's in the US/UK/Italy and chose to come to Imperial. There we (my classmates and I) started with MPhil (6 first months, this is why a Masters is not required) and then got into research. My research partially involved accelerator physics and partially particle physics. Before the end of my PhD I started applying for post-doc positions in the US/UK/EU and was hired as a CERN fellow at CERN (i.e. I am not affiliated with any university). Here I work as an accelerator physicist on a future project called LAGUNA-LBNO (i.e. working on R&D and simulations) while at the same time getting involved with other small projects that require me to do some shifts and data analysis.

How has what you learnt at Imperial helped you in your career so far?

During my PhD at Imperial I learnt not to give up no matter how hard a project seems/is; that I should keep working until a problem is solved. My self-motivation skills were improved significantly and this had a direct impact at my work now; many times you feel you are at a dead-end and you need to find ways to get out. Having a PhD is completely different than having a BSci. You are required to work alone, to come up with ideas, to be motivated and organised without necessarily having someone telling you what to do. You don't have one text book that you have to study from in order to do well at the exams. You have to think on your own what steps are needed to find the solution to a problem that has not been encountered before. The PhD experience in total was very beneficial as it helps you become stronger, work well as a team-member and deliver what you are required to by a specific deadline. What I learnt that has been the most useful to me is that no matter how difficult things seem to be, you have to keep swimming with the head outside the water and you will (sooner or later) find the shore (or a rock to relax for a bit before starting to swim again).

NETWORKING FOR SUCCESS

Yo Yo, listen up! We got the Careers Service in to give you some hints and tips for essential networking practices you can use to land that new job or competitive internship. Remember who got you that Lambourghini... -Ed.

It pays to prepare

Always read the programme for an event as soon as it is available, usually a week before the event in hard copy or on the careers website. It will usually give you some background information on the companies attending, what they do, what graduates they recruit and into which roles. It is also a good idea to check out their website, especially their graduate careers pages. When approaching a company representative at a fair it doesn't give a great impression if your opening gambit is "what does your firm do?" or "so what kind of jobs do you have?" Getting this basic information in advance means that when you do speak to the representatives you can have a more meaningful conversation and come away with the added detail to help you with any applications. This background research can also help you to decide which companies you really want to target. At very large events it may not be possible to speak individually to every company so a "hit list" is a good idea so that you maximise the time.

On the day

- Remember that first impressions count.
- Think of some questions that you can ask the company representatives.
- Avoid questions that you should already know the answers to.
- Remember the company representatives are often recent graduates themselves so now is the ideal time to find out what their experience has been so far, what the training programme was like, what support were they give, what is it really like to do that role, work for that company etc.
- First impressions also include appearance so if you are serious about a company or are in the middle of an application process with them it might pay to turn up at the fair looking smart and presentable.
- Remember fairs are not a university version of a supermarket sweep. They are not organised for you to see how many freebies you can grab in the shortest space of time.
- Even if you haven't started to actively job hunt you will be surprised how well recruiters remember names and faces. Making a good impression now could make your job hunting easier in the future.

Careers Service Imperial College

There are some common misconceptions about networking, such as that it's difficult and only works for charismatic personalities who are good at schmoozing, or is basically a back door process for asking influential contacts to give you a job. Wrong. Networking is all about creating a mutually beneficial web of relationships, which is transparent, honest and allows you to refine your career ideas and help you find suitable opportunities. Simply, it involves developing your own personal brand and raising your profile, and connecting with professionals in your field of interest to learn more about your sector, career paths, qualification routes and potential vacancies.

Make the most of campus events

Making contact and networking with employers couldn't be easier on campus, where a wide range of careers talks, skills sessions, presentations, fairs and forums are organised by the Careers Service on a daily basis. Employers are actively targeting and specifically interested in networking with Imperial students:

'Imperial is one of the top universities in the country, it makes sense to build a relationship with students, go to the careers fairs and presentations, where those targeted group of students are'
 (Luisa Dunn Graduate Recruitment at Cisco).

It is vital though that students approach employers in a way that is both constructive and professional when attending a careers fair or forum:

'We recommend that students do their research and find out what the companies do so you can spend your time wisely at the event'
 (Emma Britton, Graduate Recruitment at Citi)

'It is imperative that you have questions ready when networking so that it is obvious to the employer that you're interested'
 (Steph Ahrens, Graduate Recruitment at Morgan Stanley)

So, think about the type of information and insights you're hoping to gain, as well as the impression you want create. Plan your questions in advance and make sure present yourself as professional, confident, engaged and positive.

For a full guide on networking with employers, tips on what to ask them and advice on how to build your personal brand, visit our Quick Guide to Networking at:

www.imperial.ac.uk/careers

WHAT IF...

YOU COULD WIN THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME?

Enter this global ideas competition and win the exciting opportunity to explore the world on a National Geographic Expedition.

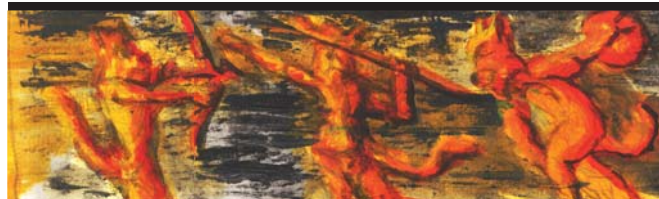
Even the simplest of ideas have the power to transform lives and positively impact society. At Shell, we believe human ingenuity holds the key to unlocking innovative thinking across our society, now and for the future.

Shell Ideas360 is our way of fostering innovation to turn your ideas into reality. So here's your chance to work with Shell mentors and experts, be part of an international community of like-minded innovators and own your idea that could change the world.

Shell
Ideas360

Register today. Submit your ideas now.
www.shellideas360.com/food





Editor: **VACANT**
sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

SPORT

BREAKING BAD: ICU

Snooker & Pool 2012-13

Cue sports club cooks up a storm at national tournaments



ICU SNOOKER

ICU Snooker & Pool have an interesting array of jumpers. We really need a few sport editors, can you tell?

Max Chalmers
ICU Snooker & Pool

The 2012/13 season for ICU Snooker and Pool, which brought about the big name change from ICU Snooker, sparked to life with our annual fun-filled Freshers' Pool Party at Rileys Victoria. Many new stars burst onto the scene including the 'Shermanator' (aka Yi Xuan Zhang), for his ambidextrous snooker prowess, and eventual Internal League runner-up and prolific pool player Rob "Rob-ot" Speller.

After a tight team trial, our 8-ball English team was sent to the first tournament of the season, the English Universities Pool Championships in Nottingham, where we improved considerably on our debut performance in the perpetually competitive tournament. Although we didn't escape our group the club can take heart from this showing when we take part in the inaugural Southern Universities tournament in October, which this year we aim to win!

Cometh the first major snooker event of the season, Midlands Snooker Championships 2012/13 in Coventry, cometh the "Shermanator". The man from Shanghai took down some of the most high profile names, including the now notorious Ben Parslew (Manchester 2) who has dismissed many of Imperial's finest stars in the past! Overall, it was a strong showing from the team, with

Imperial 2 topping their group and securing their progression to the knock-out stages. Undoubtedly the star of the weekend though was Mr Speller who reached the semi-finals of the Individual Championship only to be beaten by the eventual runner-up, Jin Foulger (Exeter 1). Many of these star performers will be returning for the coming season so the team can take great confidence into next season's competitions!

The same month brought a trip to a bitterly cold Great Yarmouth with the Vauxhall Holiday Park providing both the venue and accommodation for the 8-ball team competing in the BUCS 8-ball English Pool Championships. This proved to be a surprise-filled weekend with the narrative of the tournament dominated by missed clearances, tactical errors and pot luck. When the tale of the tournament was finally told, Imperial had narrowly missed out on a place in the knock-out stages of the Team Shield, finishing 3rd in their group. However, a young side with a much improved performance from the previous season gained invaluable experience in the BUCS format. For the guys involved, it was an unforgettable experience (although not necessarily for the right reasons!) filled with great banter. This proved to be a necessity to survive the freezing cold caravans, as most of the team cozied together by the warm fire in the living room, while only the elder statesman of the club, Elwin Carlos, braved the unheated bedroom!

Onto an enthralling weekend in Leeds for BUCS Snooker Championships where Max Chalmers, making his snooker debut for Imperial 2, had the longest run of all Imperial players in the individual event. His eventual elimination came at the hands of a player from Kent, a side who we enjoy a good relationship with having played a friendly against them at our snooker room, in the Union building, earlier in the year. This match proved to be great practice in preparation for BUCS - whilst the experience was relished by both sides - Imperial 2 losing out to Kent 2 but Imperial 1 victorious over Kent 1. Sadly, neither Imperial team carried this success into their respective team events at BUCS but, make no mistake, the club is in a good position this coming season to ensure that this is an anomaly.

Our continued investment in beginners' and advanced coaching sessions for the 2013/14 season will play a vital role in this. There are many new and exciting opportunities on the horizon including the usual Freshers' Party, where we will have 3-time European pool champion Rico Diks teaching fun trick shots, along with playing BOTH snooker and pool and free food! An Imperial Women's 8-ball English pool team may also be formed this season and competing at BUCS so watch out for that! If you'd like to be a part of this exciting and dynamic club, you can see our FREE Freshers events at: union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/snooker_billiards/events/calendar.php

Cross Country and Athletics run around Wales



ICU CROSS COUNTRY & ATHLETICS

ICXC&A grinning in the scorching Welsh summer sun.

Isabel Holding
ICXC&A Social Secretary

On Saturday the 7th of September twenty-two members of the Cross Country and Athletics Team gathered outside the Union to depart on a week-long running adventure to Pembroke. As a group of keen runners, we naturally considered jogging there, but soon decided to travel the 240 miles by minibus instead. The van, effortlessly navigated and driven by Matt Douthwaite, was loaded up with trainers, sports bags, games and twenty odd obligatory contributions of home baked goods.

Upon arrival we were welcomed by a spacious, seven bedroom house; with two sitting rooms and two kitchens, attached to a backyard with a terrace, a lawn and a pond. Not to mention the pool, optimal for resistance training and the hot tub, ideal for muscle recovery. All this and only minutes away from coastal running paths!

Although the focus throughout the week lay with running, we had many activities unrelated to XC on offer too. Everyone was keen to contribute in whatever way they could to fill our time with fun and new experiences. Vicki Solly held an introductory yoga class, in which she had us bending and stretching in ways previously unknown to many of us. As relaxing as it was at the time, this session left most of the participants sorer than after the 12 km run from the previous day - proving to all sceptics that yoga is not just posing as a sport.

James Ellis conducted hill reps and Alwyn Elliot taught some basic Kung Fu, as well as the vital skill of lighting a log fire. Sophie Kirk planned the dinner menu for each day of the week and it goes without saying that we were very well fed!

It is always fantastic to see the level of commitment and enthusiasm that

goes into a club tour. Cross Country and Athletics captain Chris Bannon, who was unable to run, came along regardless of his injury and his upcoming exams. Harriet Nerva and Antoinette Hardijzer, both also had other important commitments that week, but didn't want to miss all of tour and so ended up staying for half the time. Despite having to make their way back on their own, they are both insistent that the long train journey was worth it!

There was so much hype about this tour, we even had triathlon committee members, Siân Morgan and Ed Hallett, join us. Peter Spence also deserves a special mention here.

As our designated cameraman, he was bold enough to take his camera everywhere we went and even faced runs along the steep, rocky coastal paths, with only one free hand.

However we witnessed another type of commitment on tour too, namely the commitment to the sport. While the rest of us were playing beach volleyball; or in the case of Richard Bennett, who was merrily letting himself be buried in the sand, Liam Smith was engaging in interval training alongside the water. Similarly while some of us were having a lie in and recovering from a late night, Laurence Tse and Matthias Knop were already tying up their trainers and getting ready to head out on a morning run.

In total six out of the twenty two tour participants were freshmen. Andreas Ekholm and Duncan Ingram both joined XC&A at the start of autumn term 2012. Equally Harveen Hayer, Oliver Ashe and I joined at this time and have now all taken on committee positions. This goes to show how quickly one feels integrated in the club and just how welcoming the members of XC&A are! Having said all this, it would be great to see some new faces at our runs. Give XC&A a go and who knows, come next year, it may be you eagerly putting down your name for the XC&A Summer Tour 2014 sign up.

Game to edit? Be Sports Editor, email felix@imperial.ac.uk

SPORT

Want to edit the sport section? Help an Editor out, yo!

"Keep the Cat Free"

04/10/13
Issue 1554
felixonline.co.uk



Canoe Club Summer Tour travels to 3 countries

President Reece Blunt reveals all



ICU CANOE CLUB

The affless foursome (Alby, Tom, Reece and Patrick S.) had arrived in Bovec at 2PM and had already proceeded to buy beers and paddling permits, paddle a grade 3 river, and make a start on the first and certainly not last conspicuous looking meal, just in time for the minibus to arrive later

that night.

The next few days in the beautiful Soca valley of Slovenia were savoured by all, as they brought a real relaxation and joy to some of the kayaking that would ensue. On day 2, a four man mission to take on a section of the river the locals regarded as deadly,

gave us our first chance to see what these parts of Europe had to offer, and notably this early success had to have repercussions, as only later that day, a bandy group of wanderers went loco and walked several kilometres down a road, notably never heading towards the river. When we had finally reunited, carnage commenced, and alongside early face plants, we also managed long swims of rapids (Helen) and not one but two losses of paddles, which inevitably meant more swims further down.

Before heading off on leg two of our adventure, it has to be noted Jake Reynolds had an awful time caught on a branch underwater after he swam, and our efforts on rescuing him seemed to cause more distress, until, man of the hour, Alby Roseveare live baited himself out to perform a rescue. I myself can't wait for the GoPro footage.

We left Slovenia with warmth in our hearts, with its only setbacks the language barrier, and its odd choice in road signs. On arrival in the Isel valley in Sud Tirol in Austria, a surreal encounter with the campsite owner who was clad in lederhosen, red faced

and stumbling around with alcohol on his breath lead to a great camping deal being struck. This also marked the welcome arrival of the Clissold's. It was July the 4th, and an overly patriotic Joe Bibby seemed to be the only one in the party mood as his annual celebrations began. Not forgetting his Yeti costume. The next day can only be described as one of the most exciting of the tour for most people, since it was their first experience of the truly big and bouncy white water that this part of the world is known for.

After another day of boating and adventure, the car of Alby, Ally, Rachel and Rik, came across the minibus left vulnerable to attack in the car park of a Spar, seeing that the only sensible thing to do would be to use their spare keys to manoeuvre it to another more suitable location, a marvellous joke that left half the club in tatters, others in stitches, and the local Police laughing and mocking us in their native tongue, after it had eventually been found. We moved to the Innsbruck area to paddle the well-known section of the Inn, the Imst gorge and other tributaries, but left after two short nights after finding it not very viable

for club paddling.

We drove to Switzerland where we came to a crossroads in our journey, with the minibus preparing for its final few days in the Alps, and Messrs, Ralph Evins and Alex Robinson coming out to meet us for the extra week of gnarl that was set to follow.

Engadine, an area filled with gorgeous gorges of differing variety, was the scene for the end of the trip, and boy did it deliver. An epic adventure down the 4+/5 graded Garsun Gorge set the mark for some of the most committing rapids the country has to offer, followed by the S-Chamf Gorge past the campsite, a stunningly scenic gorge with technical rapids, and beautiful overhead rocks, before our final section on the Schuls section of the Inn. With some short grade 4 rapids dotted throughout before a final serious grade 4 rapid 'against the wall' that demonstrated a real testament to club paddling, and showed how ICCG once again pushes the boundaries. A hugely successful end to the trip and 12/13, yet it opens the door for next year to go one further.

Did I forget to mention Mo Farah?



Want a fulfilling career that rewards *energy and fresh thinking?* That's what we want too.

Looking for a career where your ideas could really make a difference? UBS's Graduate Training Program and internships are a chance for you to experience for yourself what it's like to be part of a global team that rewards your input and believes in succeeding together.

To find out more about UBS and how to apply to one of our programs come along to our skills and networking session, where you can put your questions to UBS employees in a relaxed, enjoyable environment.

Skills session and networking
Time: 18.00
Date: Monday, October 7, 2013
Location: Sir Alexander Fleming Room, G34, Imperial College London

Investment banking – an introduction to life as an analyst and transaction case studies
Time: 18.00
Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013
Location: Lecture Theatre 201, Skemp Building, Imperial College

Application deadlines:

Graduate Training Program: Sunday, November 10, 2013

Summer Internship Program: Sunday, December 29, 2013

First Year Programs: Sunday, January 19, 2014

You can also find out more about our programs via the website ubs.com/graduates

UBS is proud to be an equal opportunities employer. We respect and seek to empower each individual and the diverse cultures, perspectives, skills and experiences within our workforce.

