

# Open Letter from RCSU

RCSU President Plabon Saha gives an introduction



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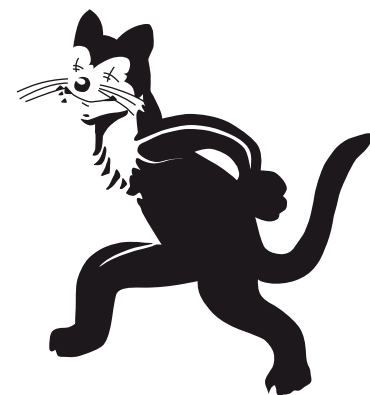
# Erasmuser

Giulia Gabrielli on a year abroad in France

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# FELIX

"Keep the Cat Free"



11/10/13  
Issue 1555  
felixonline.co.uk

## Mascot Showdown

Faculty Unions mutually hold mascots at ransom

Joseph Letts  
Editor-in-Chief

Two of Imperial's Faculty Unions, the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) and the City & Guilds College Union (CGCU) have recently been involved with various "mascotry" activities over the last month. The activities began when the RCSU President Plabon Saha was escorted to the RCSU office in a slightly inebriated state before the start of term. One of the escorts, an engineer took advantage of the RCSU President's state and was able to remove the RCSU mascot, Theta the Thermometer, from the office.

Several days later the RCSU received a note from CGCU attached to a bag containing a rubber bolt with the message: "This is the closest you will get this year". Eventually the CGCU sent a list of ransom demands to RCSU shortly before the Freshers' Fair including the donation of £350 to RAG, for the RCSU President to take part in the CGCU "slave auction" and for the RCSU to advertise the CGCU Welcome Dinner on social media.

During the Freshers' Fair the CGCU antagonised the RCSU by sending people over to their stall to enquire about the whereabouts of Theta. However, towards the end of the event a large group of RCSU Exec committee members approached the CGCU table in order to steal the CGCU's Spanner and Bolt mascots. The CGCU stand was only attended by two members of CGCU which allowed the RCSU to use the "outnumbering" rule whereby if one party outnumbers the other by a ratio of four-to-one the smaller party has to hand over their mascot voluntarily.

RCSU's list of demands included a £500 donation to RAG (initially £750), a Faculty email from CGCU



Members of the RCSU posing with the CGCU's Spanner and Bolt mascots.

apologising for the theft of Theta, for baiting the RCSU with the rubber bolt, recognising the superiority of the RCSU and apologising for their poor defence of the Spanner and Bolt during the Freshers' Fair. The RCSU also demands that CGCU President Lejon Chua, the CGCU mascot bearers and the student who stole Theta are all pied for charity,

and that the "thief" also embarrasses himself at the next RCSU Bar Night.

The standoff between the two Faculty Unions is slightly overshadowed by the long history behind the current version of Theta the Thermometer. The current version of the mascot, Theta IV has remained "inviolable" a whole (i.e. has never been stolen in one piece) since its creation in 1975 representing

the longest period an Imperial mascot has ever been inviolate. However during the past history of the Theta mascot, if a version of Theta has been "violated" the RCSU committee has dunked the mascot in Hyde Park's Round Pond and commissioned a new version so that the RCSU mascot stays "virgin". Felix awaits the decision of the RCSU President.

## THIS ISSUE...

### COMMENT

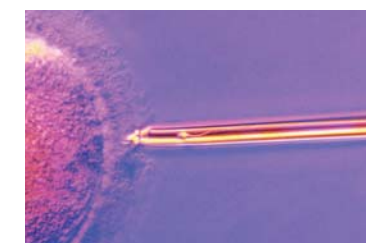
**Head to Head 5**  
Integrated vs Catholic Grammar school education, two different points of view.

### SCIENCE



**Vicious Hornets and horny marsupials 8**

### SCIENCE



**Are private clinics driven by commercial interest? 8**



# EDITOR'S PICKS

## BUSINESS

### Be a Mentor!

Schoolchildren in Zambia producing handmade bags.



## POLITICS

### This week

America commends capture of suspected Al Qaeda leader.



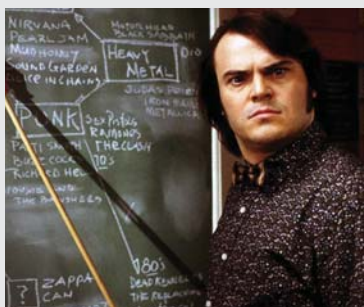
## PUZZLES

### Puzzles are back!

We've got two awesome new puzzles editors who are ready to give you some cerebral exercise. We're also introducing the new comic, Plugtime!



## COMMENT



So you think you could be a better GTA? Think again! Like riding a bicycle it's not as easy as it looks!

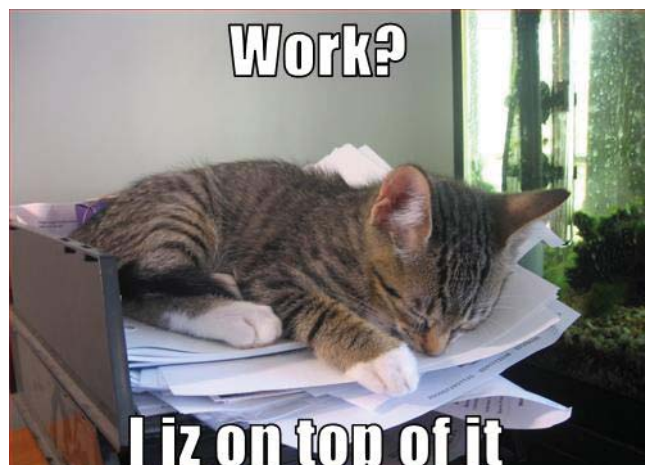
#### Teach First!

Do you want to change live and make society better?

## Erratum

Hey, so last week we had errors in our erratum. We're sorry. This week we're bound to have some more. If you find some errors, want to complain or just want to have your name on non-printer paper, why not send in a letter to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)?

## LOLCAT OF THE WEEK: More from teh Lolcat editor



## Technical Difficulties



### Joe Letts Editor-in-Chief

So, we had a some perfectly timed technical difficulties this week, much like when the printer breaks down just before you're supposed to be handing in an assignment. I'm praying that this arrives on Friday, so if you see it when you're out getting lunch you'll know that today is a lucky day!

Anyhow on with the week's news. One of the unexpected parts of the news this week is the upcoming visit to Imperial by Prince Harry, of Royal and tabloid fame. The Prince's visit marks the opening of the Royal British Legion Centre for Blast Injury Studies, a new centre created to improve treatment and recovery for personnel serving in the military. I'm sure security will be tight but who knows, maybe he'll stop by the new College Café for one of those handmade sandwiches?

Another interesting topic is the resurgence of mascotry in the Faculty Unions, something I've certainly missed out on as a member of CGCU. While investigating the story, as well as interviewing the RCSU President Plabon Saba I also stumbled upon College's blog dedicated to our collection of mascots. Hopefully after one of the mascots was taken while the person in the office was literally sleeping in the job, we might see some more mascot activities taking



place of the course of the year. It will also be interesting to see what the RCSU decides to do with the violated mascot, after all the current Theta cost more than £10,000 at the time of creation. They might be forgiven for not commissioning a new version! Felix is also starting a new feature as part of the *Clubs & Socs* section, a full page from a different Faculty/Constituent Union each week, starting with the RCSU (I've already seen Plabon too many time this week). Hopefully you'll be able to keep up with events and activities of your union on an almost monthly basis. We've also got a wide range of interesting stories

this week, from our short snippets of higher education news (including a rather worrying call from the Oxford Vice Chancellor for even more fee increases), an interesting head-to-head about religious integration and separation in schools and an insightful features piece about studying abroad on the Erasmus scheme.

Finally, keep an eye on the Union elections happening this month. If you'd like to stand for a position you still have until Sunday to enter. As well as Year Reps and Liberation officers there are also positions available on the Union Council, a body where you really can make a difference.

# THIS WEEK FELIX WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

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Printed by Iliffe Print Cambridge, Winship Road, Cambridge.  
Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711.  
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**Nida Mahmud**  
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# NEWS

## Higher Education News

### Imperial College



Last week Kensington Palace announced Prince Harry will be visiting Imperial College London on October 17 to open the Royal British Legion Centre for Blast Injury Studies. The palace press release stated that the Prince will be given a tour of the new centre for blast studies. He will be given 3D demonstrations in the labs on the effect of simulated blast impact on cells, and how the blast shockwaves can be used for research, as well as the simulation of an under vehicle explosion. The aim of the centre is to increase understanding and awareness regarding blast injury.

### Royal Holloway SU



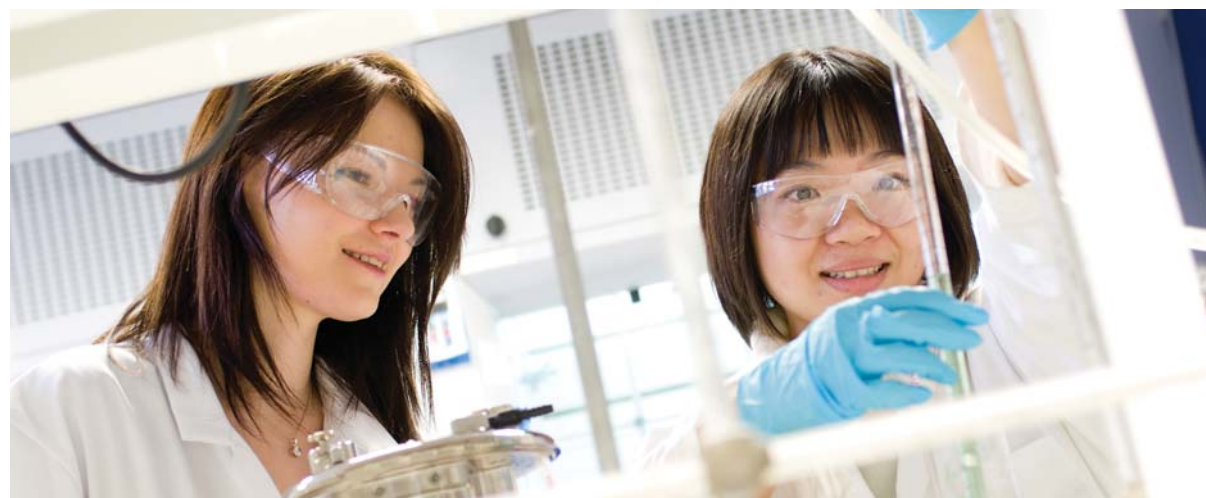
Last week Freshers' at Royal Holloway Students Union were alarmed by a police raid during a Freshers' Week event. The students were stopped and searched for narcotics. A 19 year-old student was arrested on suspicion of possession offensive weaponry while ULU Vice President Daniel Cooper was detained and later given a caution when he tried to intervene.

### Oxford



The Vice Chancellor at Oxford University wants to increase their tuition fees in comparison to other universities with an aim of making up for a £7,000 per student deficit in funding. Professor Andrew Hamilton believes a university should charge students relative to what it offers, and the cost of education at Oxford costs more that £16,000 for each undergraduate every year.

## College Chemistry department wins Athena SWAN Gold award



IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

### Nida Mahmud

News Editor

**T**he Imperial Department of Chemistry has won an Athena SWAN Gold Award, making it one of the four departments in the UK to win one.

This is the first gold level award for Imperial. The award acknowledges success in the increasing numbers of female students in science, which improves equality in career progression and encouraging others to do the same.

Numerous reasons have been given for the award to the Department of Chemistry. These include multiple examples of the department showing national leadership in encouraging diversity. Imperial and the University of Warwick established the Irene Joliot-Curie national career conference for women that work in science.

Imperial College London has already won an institutional silver award, six departments have been awarded silver and four departments have been awarded bronze. The Athena SWAN scheme is managed by the Equality Challenge Unit, which is a charity that backs diversity and equality for staff and students in universities.

The Athena SWAN Manager at the Equality Challenge Unit, Sarah Dickinson stated: "The department's approach shows that they have been thinking about and working towards achieving broader cultural change for some time. The progress they have made with regards to gender and diversity more easily comes when the principles of the Charter are well embedded in the department, and this was evidenced by the submission."

The Head of the Department of Chemistry, Tom Welton commented on this achievement: "I am absolutely delighted at this fabulous result! When I became Head of Department in 2007, I realised that the future

success of the department would depend, not only on the scientific excellence of our individual members, but on how well we work together. We freely give mutual support when things go wrong for those around us. I made it my challenge to create a culture where we can all do this for each other on a daily basis; making 'fantastic' ordinary, rather than an exception. This benefits everyone in the department, but women especially. Winning an Athena SWAN Gold not only recognizes the progress that we are making on transforming the Department's working

environment, it also provides impetus to help drive the next phase forward."

Imperial's Provost, Professor James Stirling commented: "Gender equality is one of my personal priorities as Provost. Attracting, promoting and developing outstanding female scientists is crucial to our efforts to remain a world-leader in science and innovation. The whole College is proud of the Department of Chemistry for doing so much to promote opportunities for women in science. Staff at every level in each department are now working to build on and replicate this success."

### Sponsored Editorial

## Student Discounts At Fresh Hairdressers

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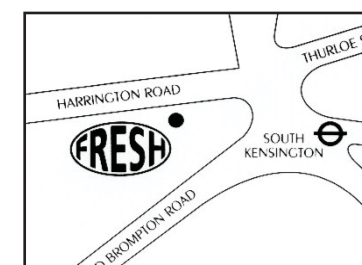
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# FEATURES

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## So you think you're an Erasmuser?

Giulia Gabrielli on the Erasmus experience

It may seem strange stuck on level 4 of the library, turning pages as silently as possible to avoid any evil stare of doom, but there are some Imperialites that leave for the mythological Erasmus year; and I am one of them. Last year I packed up my stuff in three bags and five boxes and left for Montpellier, France. I'm back in London now, new flat, new year, but I am still haunted by the memory of those wonderful days. Every French tourist on the tube makes me want to jump on a plane and every mention of cheese, wine or garlic makes me more than acceptably emotional. The truth is I've got Erasmus blues. I met some lovely people, saw new places, lived in a foreign country, learnt a different language blah, blah, blah... Really I did all of the things it says on the brochure. I also made friends with people with names like Pierre-Etienne and Delphine, and spent an awful lot of time playing board games with the best group of French nerds ever. I made friends from all over the world and found couches for all my future interrailing plans across Europe. Even so, happiness is a question of timing, and more than once I have heard fellow students describing their Erasmus experiences far less enthusiastically than me. For an unlucky Erasmuser, the French aren't sophisticated, they're stuck-up, the Spanish aren't friendly they're loud, the English aren't... well I don't know what positive things they say about us, but add your own disgusting food-bad humour stereotype at this point. In order to avoid any disappointment, here is a list of some major pointers to think about if you are considering whether or not you could be an Erasmuser:

### Did you enjoy group holidays as a child?

Erasmus, especially in the first few weeks, involves a lot of mingling and travelling to places with large groups of people. Usually your host university will organize some form of meeting or, if the institution isn't very hands-on, you can join your local Erasmus Facebook page. There is usually a lot of souvenir buying, queuing together for things like banks and phone shops and generally awkward interacting (if you are unlucky). If childhood experiences like scouting and school trips to the zoo didn't traumatize you, it's more likely that you will enjoy visiting a church/random Roman theatre/weirdly shaped cave with total strangers. But be aware that this is part of the process.

### Do you have your mind set on what you want to do after university?

Erasmus is an academic and professional experience, but don't be fooled, it isn't a year in research or industry. You will grow on a personal level and you will learn things about yourself and what you want to do "when you grow up". But if you already know these things, why bother? For some people Erasmus just isn't the right choice, if you're eager to finish your studies and are scared to lose your friends as they graduate and leave you to reach all their goals of wealth and fame, you don't have to do it. On the other hand, if you are so determined, a welcome break before you start your lifetime of achievements could be a good idea.

### Did you miss your parents so much when you came to university that the P&G advert for the Olympics made you cry?

Again, I am not saying that you shouldn't go abroad if leaving your parents the first time was a bit of a trauma. Some years will have passed when you eventually leave, and you will be older and wiser. But if you enjoy the comfort of your home and the people you've known all your life, there is no need to leave, you can make new friends anywhere, and new experiences are new and exciting no matter what country you're in. The same thing goes for your boyfriend/girlfriend. Most students take a year in another university to "get to know" another culture... one member of the opposite sex at a time. Possibilities are endless as well, because Erasmus students (and I am sorry to say this but English ones in particular) have a bit of a reputation. But if you have someone to snuggle up to while watching TV, then well done! You've earned the chance spend as much time as possible with them! Go be a smug couple if you are so inclined, because no one will be very tolerant of your endless pining for a far away loved one once you leave Britain.

### Are you comfortable drinking large quantities of local alcoholic beverages in order to improve your foreign language abilities?

This is probably the least worrying of the considerations: I left London a lightweight drinker who couldn't have a pint of cider at the union without stumbling home afterwards, and I return with the drinking stamina of a small Australian rugby team. However, feeling uncomfortable about the language is a hard part of going on an Erasmus. The truth is that one never really feels like the same person when speaking a foreign language: jokes seem lamer; feelings appear impossible to translate into phrases, and occasionally, or very often, people laugh at your mistakes. This is something to consider because, if you are a naturally shy person, it is unlikely that you will discover your inner lion while talking German to a group of Bavarian footballers from the local club. Even so, at the end of the time you spend abroad you will have achieved some goals from a linguistic point of view, and anyway, there are always other Erasmus students, and chances are that you might be able to sneak a few cheeky English phrases here and there.

Having considered all these things, you should now consider this: nobody is, ever, ever again going to sponsor you for meeting lovely people, seeing new places, living in a foreign country, learning a different language and, yeah, doing all the things it says on the brochure. You might get the occasional feeling, reminiscent about the time you were picked last for the volley team in PE, but those passed then, and now the odds are all in your favour. You came to Imperial a scared fresher, and now you're a cool, easygoing Imperialite and full of friends! It's time to do it again and become an Erasmuser! If you're really lucky you might even meet a group of lovely nerds and spend the best few months of your life.

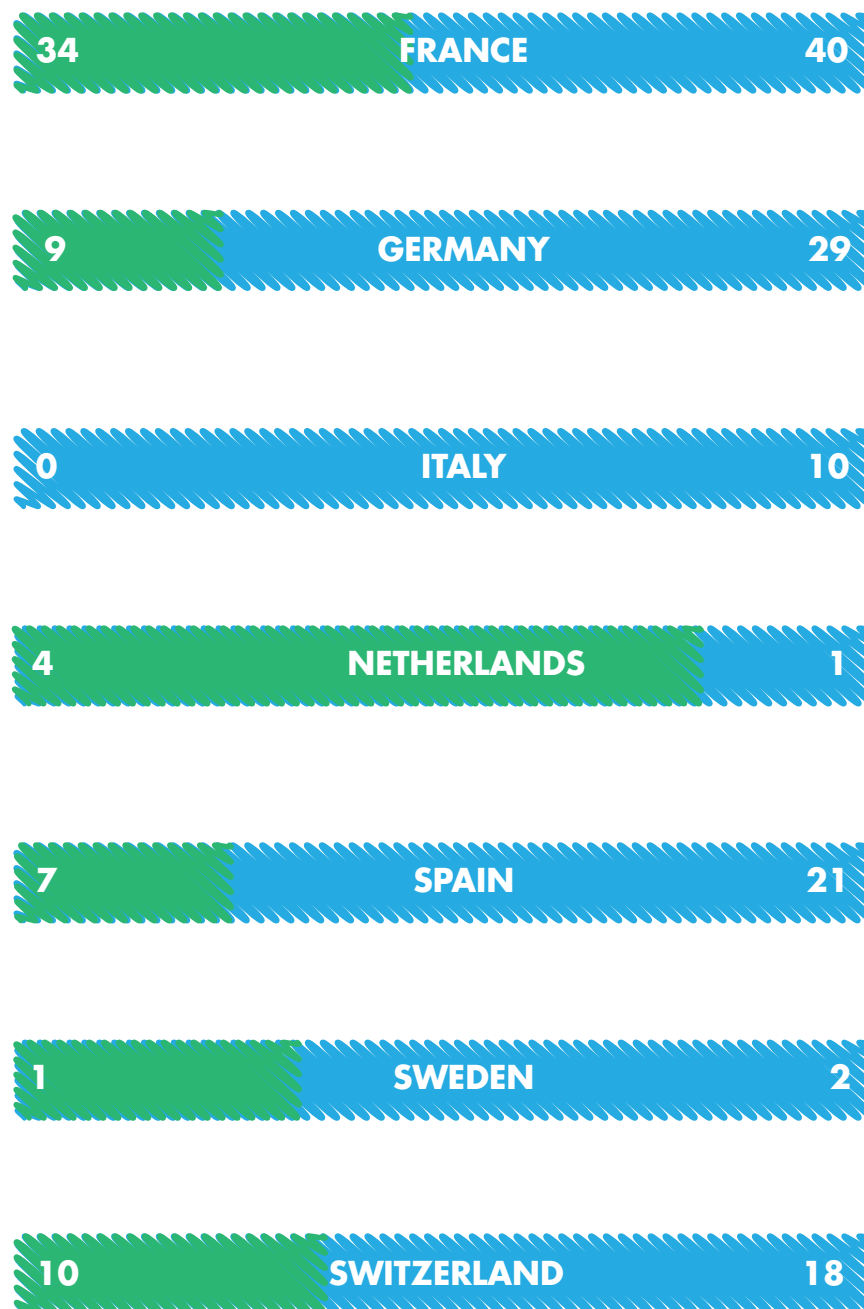
**Disclaimer: students are advised to check out the situation in their own department**

## Imperial's Erasmus Mobility

Every year Imperial sends students abroad to study with a large number being sent via the Erasmus scheme.

### FROM IMPERIAL

### TO IMPERIAL



If you think that you'd like to get involved with the Erasmus scheme or even meet some Erasmus students, why not contact the Erasmus club?

Otherwise if you think you could have made a better infographic, contact felix@imperial.ac.uk



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

# WHAT'S ON

## 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](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/studentblogs)

## Careers - What's On

We need a What's On editor to design this page, so please do email in to apply. No experience necessary. In the meanwhile we've picked up some careers events for you to go to (most of you will find these most helpful out of this week's events).

### Careers Seminars

#### Interview Skills Seminar

Monday 14 October, 16:15 – 17:15  
(Book via JobsLive)

#### An Introduction to Assessment Centres Seminar

Tuesday 15 October, 16:15 – 17:15  
(Book via JobsLive)

#### Create a Winning CV Seminar

Wednesday 16 October, 16:15 – 17:15  
Friday 18 October, 16:15 – 17:15  
(Book via JobsLive)

#### Effective Applications Seminar

Thursday 17 October, 16:15 – 17:15  
(Book via JobsLive)

### Careers Service Workshop

#### Preparing For Assessment Centres - Presentation Skills

Monday 14 October, 12:30 – 14:00  
(Book via JobsLive)

#### Preparing For Assessment Centres – In-tray/E-tray Exercises

Tuesday 15 October, 12:30 – 14:00  
(Book via JobsLive)

#### Group Mock Interview Workshop

Wednesday 16 October, 12:30 – 14:00  
(Book via JobsLive)

#### Preparing for Assessment Centres – Group Activities

Thursday 17 October, 12:30 – 14:00  
(Book via JobsLive)

### More

#### Accenture (Recruiter in Residence)

Monday 14 October, 11:00 - 15:00  
(Book via JobsLive)

#### Unilever (Recruiter in Residence)

Thursday 17 October, 11:00 - 15:00  
(Book via JobsLive)

#### IPG MediaBrands (Recruiter in Residence)

Friday 18 October, 11:00 - 15:00  
(Book via JobsLive)

#### Consultancy Careers Forum

Thursday 17 October, 18:30 - 21:00  
(Book via JobsLive)

#### Pop-up CV Check – Queen's Tower Room

Monday 14 October, 12:45 - 13:45





# Interested in enterprise?

## Imperial Hub Project: Become a mentor for school businesses

Lily Le  
Writer

Imagine you are not at Imperial. You have never heard of *Felix* and you are not sitting here reading this article. What a dream. No dull lectures, ridiculously difficult coursework, or seemingly un-passable exams. But imagine that it wasn't out of choice – imagine you never obtained the opportunity to study here, or to do any studying at all in fact. According to UNESCO, this is the reality for 57 million primary school-aged and 69 million lower secondary school-aged children as of 2011 around the world. There are huge efforts to try and get these figures down to 0, but it is still a long way off.

It is difficult to identify the contribution that each barrier has on impeding these children's rights to education. Nevertheless, this is not a reason to sit back and wait for the statistics to flow in before we make a move.

In line with the Millennium Development Goal that "by 2015, children everywhere will be able to complete a full course in primary schooling", and even beyond, charities all over the world are working to change the current situation.

One example is the Paraguayan Foundation for Cooperation and Development an organisation which aids schools in Latin America to improve access to education for young people.

By showing the San Francisco school in Paraguay that they do not need to

solely depend on external sources of income, the Foundation has managed to facilitate it from being previously dependent on decreasing government subsidies and facing high dropout rates. The San Francisco School is now a 100% self-sufficient model that was able to generate \$300,000 in five years.

How? The solution, when expressed aloud, seems so simple and obvious – successful school businesses!

Thanks to this approach, students at the San Francisco School pay only \$10 a month in fees. All school leavers are now working for successful businesses, are self-employed, or enrolled in higher education.

This innovative method has been spread around the world by the Foundation's UK-based sister charity Teach a Man to Fish. "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime."

Teach school children how to set up and run their own socially-responsible and environmentally-friendly enterprises and not only will they gain real-life, hands-on skills, and the business experience required to succeed after leaving school; but they will also help their schools to generate sustainable income. Education that pays for itself.

Teach a Man to Fish work closely with La Bastilla Technical High School in Nicuragua with the aim for it to become fully self-sufficient within the next two years. Currently only 20% of young people in the Jinotega Department, where the school is located, attend secondary school. By setting up and running a touristic Ecolodge,

chicken and egg production, managing dairy, pigs, and a vegetable garden, students are able to gain technical skills and business experience in a range of enterprises, as well as know that their efforts are paying for their own education.

It is a great step-forward to empowering students, teachers, and whole communities to alleviate themselves from poverty and educational disadvantage.

In order to reach out and encourage even more schools to set up successful businesses Teach A Man To Fish run the annual School Enterprise Challenge. In this global business planning competition, schools are guided during the first stage to think of a business idea and write business and financial plans. During the second stage they set up and run their own enterprise. At both stages schools are able to win cash prizes which can be invested in their businesses. They range from textiles, to recycling, vegetable gardens, arts and crafts, and furniture-making.

What if a school is already running a successful business? No problem, the School Enterprise Challenge has a section to encourage these schools to keep going.

To support schools to get the most out of the competition, they are offered the opportunity to form partnerships with other schools taking part and apply for a business mentor.

"Mentors play a vital role in encouraging the pupils through challenges and acting as a sounding board to

bounce creative ideas" explains Susannah Morcowitz, a School Enterprise Challenge Programme Fellow at Teach a Man to Fish.

"They can be the pivot for launching the school enterprises into excellence thanks to the confidence students and teachers gain from their encouraging words."

The talent and drive of Imperial College students does not go unnoticed and is something the organisation believes could make an enormous impact on schools around the world.

"Mentoring is a great opportunity for Imperial students with an interest in enterprise to gain experience working on a global business planning competition," states Morcowitz.

"Not only is it a chance to gain skills in communication, leadership and mentoring, but it is also a huge benefit for schools around the world who are looking to provide pupils with the soft skills to succeed in future employment."

At Imperial Hub, a project is being run for students interested in or studying business-related subjects to be an inspirational role model for such schools in a disadvantaged position. This is carried out in the form of two hours a month of mentoring via e-mail at times to suit the mentor in order to provide feedback and support to school businesses.

If you would like to spend a small amount of time developing your professional skills but make a huge impact, checkout more information at [www.imperialhub.org/teach-a-man-to-fish](http://www.imperialhub.org/teach-a-man-to-fish).

**"These are the views of the writer and not the organisations"**

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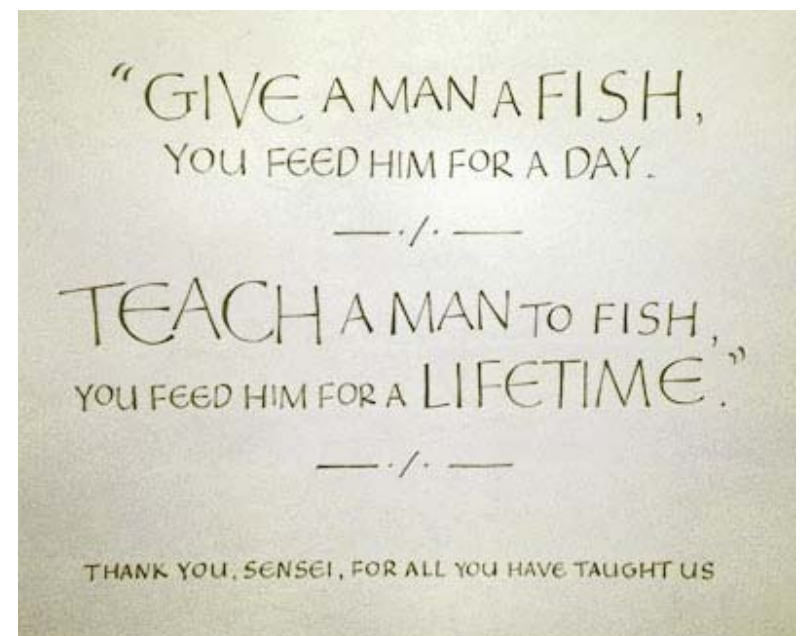
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Indeco School in Zambia - developing their tailoring business and producing handmade bags! Here's a picture of the students having fun as they sort out the materials.

"by 2015, children everywhere will be able to complete a full course in primary schooling"



Text to World: Don't give a man a fish



# Can I have a banking career without being a mathematician?

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You don't have to be a mathematical genius to have a future at Deutsche Bank. While numerical ability is certainly essential, the sheer scale of our organization means that we need graduates from a wide range of disciplines. Graduates with the intellectual curiosity and the determination to deliver innovative solutions for our clients. If that's you, there could be an exceptionally rewarding future for you here.

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## Fiona's science corner

Fiona Hartley

Science Editor

Here we are at the end of the first proper week and here's a new spread of science to educate and hopefully entertain you. Philippa introduced me as a 'bubbling biologist' last week, which is an exaggeration, but true to form this week's news story that has struck me is a biological one.

I strongly dislike common wasps. So it's not difficult to understand that the concept of gigantic, venomous, aggressive wasps that can kill you make me glad that I live in Britain. Inhabit a place where a species whose queens can grow to be over 5cm long? No thanks.

Despite this, reports that hornets are responsible for over 40 deaths and at least 1600 injuries in the Chinese province of Shaanxi this summer have me weirdly enthralled. Hornet attacks are a fact of life in the area, but this year's attacks are unprecedented in number and severity. It's not hard to find photographs of unfortunate victims on the Internet. Their wounds look like small necrotic bullet holes.

Deaths are being attributed to both the Asian giant hornet and the Asian predatory wasp. The Asian giant hornet's sting is the most venomous wasp sting known. The venom is capable of destroying red blood cells and thus causing kidney failure and death. Even if one hasn't received a fatal dose of venom many suffer an allergic response and may die of anaphylaxis. The Asian predatory wasp is smaller but incredibly aggressive – people have described being chased for hundreds of metres by swarms of these hornets.

There is a lot of blame going around regarding the high number of attacks. The authorities have pointed to a prolonged period of dry and warm weather that has allowed hornet colonies to thrive. Environmentalists blame urbanisation of habitat where hornets build their nests. Others have cited additional ecological factors like a reduction in the numbers of hornets' natural enemies.

The combination of these issues has surely led to the situation the Chinese people find themselves in this year. Unfortunately it cannot be fixed peacefully. Hornets have their numbers and their venom. Humans have hospitals and flamethrowers.

Who will win? Well, in the end humans always win. As a biologist that saddens me. Yet I can't help it; the instinctive and selfish part of me looks at an Asian giant hornet and thinks, "Good riddance."

# Hype, hope and headlines

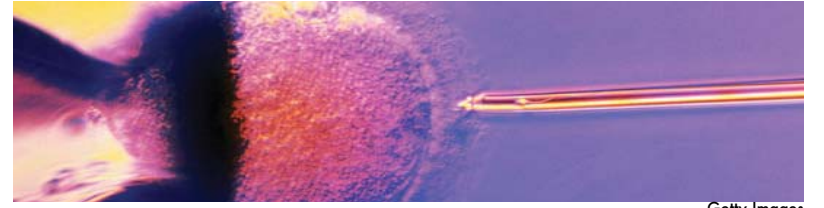
Jamie Rickman

Science Writer

The relationship between scientists, the media and the public is fraught with the dangers of miscommunication and exploitation. The question of where the responsibility must lie when a patient becomes a victim is not easily answered. This is particularly true of fertility research, an area that touches on one of the most profound aspects of all our lives.

While some of us may be more impatient than others for the dawn of quantum computing, the wait is unlikely to have any personal cost. The same is not true of fertility research where the cost is the chance of parenthood and the temporal window is not even a lifetime, but the reproductive cycle of a woman.

New technologies can take decades to be developed from concept to finished product, for some families waiting for the gold standard of proof in clinical trials, randomized controlled testing, this is not an option. The urgent nature of fertility treatment demands a more nuanced evaluation of evidence. The question is then, who is responsible for this? Should scientists and doctors withhold unproven results? Is it the role of a science journalist to identify bad research? Or is the patient ultimately responsible for their own decisions?



Getty Images

Some argue that all scientific research should be open access, we shouldn't patronise the public through censorship. The minimum requirement is factual, well referenced reporting. It is the patient's role to undertake their own research and weigh up evidence against potential risk and cost utilising public guidelines such as those issued by NICE (National Institute of Health and Care Excellence).

However it is doctors who have the access to treatments and the expertise to best advise their patients, putting them ultimately in the position of power. An uncomfortable tension then arises between scientific integrity and good business. Is it exploitative for a clinician to offer an expensive but unproven treatment to a desperate family? Or for a research group to portray their results in a favourable light in order to garner more funding?

What's more private clinics driven by commercial interest offer many treatments unavailable on the NHS. This creates a consumer-led industry that knocks scientific progress off course, to the detriment of future generations. If the newest treatments

can always be demanded, there is no body of patients to undertake large clinical trials and evidence for existing treatments will get weaker and weaker.

There is a disjuncture between the conception of the general public of science as an orthodox body of knowledge and the reality that clinical trials are extremely sensitive and interpreting results is not straightforward. Journalists, hungry for heart-pounding stories of miracle babies and with deadlines to meet, often widen rather than resolve this gulf. A good science journalist must take some responsibility, as mediator between expert and lay-person, to report tentative results with caution. It is perhaps the duty of the science writer to report all progress, however incremental. But small steps can too often translate as a 'breakthrough new technology' in print.

These issues were all discussed at a recent debate held by PET, the Progress Educational Trust, who seek to influence policy on ethical issues in science. The debate concluded that accountability must be held by all in the information stream. The take home message - pause before you publish.

# Marsupials don't stop until they drop

Are you dying for sex? **Philippa Skett** tells us that if you compare yourself to male marsupial mice, you really aren't

The Imperial male is very much a wonder to behold. What this population lacks in female companionship is made up with a multitude of complex social rituals; whether it is the drinking circles of the rugby team, the LAN parties of the computer scientists or the Friday night pizza fest down in the sci-fi library.

It may not come as a surprise that the mating mannerisms of the Imperial male contrasts with a sexual ferocity recently discovered in a much smaller, usually more docile species - the marsupial mouse. A study published this week and conducted by the University of Queensland, Australia, found that marsupial mice were mating with such vigour and intensity that they then died due to disease or even just from exhaustion. Known as suicidal reproduction, or semelparity, these marsupials were observed keeling over simultaneously in large

numbers after the breeding season.

Semelparity is often a mechanism adapted for organisms with short breeding seasons or those that experience fluctuations in food availability. Females are thought to time breeding sessions to correspond to peaks in certain insect populations, to ensure both the maximal survival of the mother and her undeveloped young that will require weeks of care. They therefore are only available for mating once a year, and for these mice a year can be a long and perilous road for survival.

The male mice therefore put all they have (literally and figuratively) into mating during this temporarily open slot (again, literally and figuratively). They may mate continuously for 12 hours or more until passing out from exhaustion - the parallel to this behaviour is often seen in Imperial males as they study throughout



Cathy Wilcox

the night in the Wolfson suite. The difference is that the efforts of the mouse are more likely to be much more fruitful - producing offspring, despite risking death is more rewarding than the low 2.2 the Imperial male may be laundered with after handing in that subpar lab report.

Due to such a short fertility

window, female marsupial mice are also highly promiscuous to ensure the production of offspring for the future. Coupled with the competition of a whole host of horny suicidal males, this breeding season leads to a sexual frenzy, something akin to that only seen at seasonal balls with gregariously large bar tabs and no 9am lectures the next day.

The marsupial males only have one shot, and pour everything they have into making it truly deliver. They concentrate all biological efforts into producing particularly potent sperm at the cost of their immune system strength, resulting in an increased susceptibility to disease after mating season. This is not experienced in the female population, so males will inevitably suffer and die in large numbers whilst females may live for a number of years and breed again. For these male mice, with there

being no selectional pressure for prolonged survival, this pattern of semelparity is set to continue long into the evolutionary future. Fortunately, the same cannot be said for the Imperial male, as once they leave the confines of the university community, they generally metamorphose into a more respected, social member of the wider population and can use humour, charm, looks and a large city wage to secure a mate instead.

It is debatable as to which male of either species is more successful, as although the marsupial mouse seems to have a sex life that is more exciting than an average imperial male, their lives in general are very much shorter. Personally, I think that until a marsupial mouse secures a graduate scheme placement at Goldman Sachs, the Imperial male still triumphs overall.

DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1310691110





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**POLITICS**

# THE WEEK IN POLITICS

**Kartikeya Rana**

Politics Editor



A summary of the key issues from around the world

## UK e-borders scheme deemed ineffective:

Reports have suggested that the £500m 'e-borders' programme propelled by the Home Office has not been very effective in dealing with migrants who are said to be potentially dangerous. This scheme, which took 10 years to develop, was made to ensure that 'high risk individuals' such as criminals and terrorists would not be able to re-enter into the UK. The idea was for the passengers to provide their personal details to the airlines such that the individuals would be prevented from boarding the planes themselves. However, only 2 airlines have signed up for the pre-departure screenings which are essential for such a system to work.

The scheme was meant to track the movement of 100% of the passengers moving in or out of Britain but only manages to track about 65% of such passengers. To ensure the movement of terrorists and other non-state actors, the tracking of all passengers is essential. The report also expanded upon the 'poor quality of data' collected from the e-borders system. The UK Border Agency is said to be the most technologically advanced in



Europe but has clearly shown areas where improvement is necessary.

The main reason for lack of data collection is said to be because of a lack of tracking on European routes. Also, the lack of e-borders system at sea and on trade routes has made the system seem more ineffective. The full report is, however, not in public domain.

The people who have published this report have also put forward some positive findings. They state that the e-system has been effective in capturing criminals who have serious charges such as those of rape and murder on their heads.

## Libya intensifies pressure on USA:



There is anger in Libya over the US capture of a suspected Al Qaeda leader. The man named as Abu Anas Al-Liby was wanted for his connection in the bombings in Tanzania and Kenya of US embassies in 1998. US defence secretary, Chuck Hagel, commended the raid and stated that this showed how America would spare 'no effort to hold terrorists accountable.'

The family of Al-Liby, however, calls the raid 'an act of piracy'. They say that when Abu was coming back from Morning Prayer, he was met with 'at least 10 men'. These men allegedly were Libyan and had forcibly put this man in a 'white Mercedes'. They also demand that if Al-Liby has done something wrong then he should be prosecuted within Libya itself. The Libyan government appears to have had no knowledge about this raid and asked for further explanation from the White House.

However, the chances of a prosecution in Libyan soil seem bleak. A spokesperson from the BBC stated that he was being 'lawfully' detained under the 'law of war' in a secure location outside Libya. He is also being prosecuted in the New York court for the 1998 bombings, which has caused the likelihood of his release from the US authorities to be very low indeed.

The Libyan government, however, feels that this event will not erode relationships between Libya and the US. One leading spokesperson from the ruling party stated that the US played a key role in the revolution and therefore feel that this event would not deteriorate relationships. He also added that although the maintenance of relationships was important, the safety and security of the Libyan citizens was of greater importance.

This raid has angered terrorist groups who have asked for some retaliation.

## Hamid Karzai criticizes NATO forces:



NATO combat forces are planning to leave Afghanistan in 2014. There are still 80,000 NATO forces in Afghanistan that will be gradually retracted. Hamid Karzai does not seem to see these forces as being beneficial in his country.

A large amount of resources provided by NATO members were also applied towards maintaining peace in Afghanistan. However, President Hamid Karzai claims that not only have the NATO forces been ineffective but have in fact ended up being damaging for the country. He claimed that the NATO had a role to play in the loss of life of Afghan people. He further stated that he did not want a partial victory over terrorism but a 'clear-cut' war on terror. In the same interview he also said that he would open talks with the Al Qaeda, as they are also Afghan citizens.

This view, however, has brought forward criticism from people around the world. Some say that it is unfair to the soldiers who had lost their lives towards the cause as well as the nations that had committed their resources in Afghanistan through the NATO forces. The NATO itself is yet to release an official response to Karzai's claims.

This is not the first time that Karzai has made such controversial claims. He has tended to show animosity towards western forces in the past in various speeches and interviews.



## EU proposes Mediterranean Sea patrols:

On October 3, a migrant boat was shipwrecked off the coast of Lampedusa in Italy. The incident resulted in the death of 274 people and the captain of the ship being detained. This has resulted in the European Commission requesting the EU to undertake search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean. Italian Interior Minister, Angelo Alfano, supported the proposition and stated that more has to be done to save lives.



"We have saved thousands and thousands of people", she said, "now we are asking EU for a hand in strengthening border control". However, there is growing concern that this scheme may fail as the migrant boats may flee as they see the patrol approaching. EU states have not been able to come to an agreement on their policies on migrants and asylum seekers. A growing number of asylum seekers from Syria and elsewhere has put pressure on European nations to reach a concrete solution to these issues.

## Corruption in China

Bo Xilai is the former secretary of the Chongqing party in China with popular support. He was, however, found guilty last year on charges of corruption. He has furiously denied all the charges that were laid before him. Bo was a popular politician who was seen as a capable candidate for the top job. When the new leaders came in power, his downfall began. His wife, Gu Kailai, was found guilty of killing the British businessman, Neil Heywood. This led to a further investigation into Bo Xilai's conduct as a politician and consequently charges of abuse of power, embezzlement as well as bribery being put on him. A Chinese court has recently agreed to consider his appeal but the likelihood of the charges placed him being dropped are low as the ruling Communist party controls the courts. His supporters still claim that he is a victim of political vendetta and has done nothing wrong. It would be interesting to see how the trials play out.



**FELIX** politics.

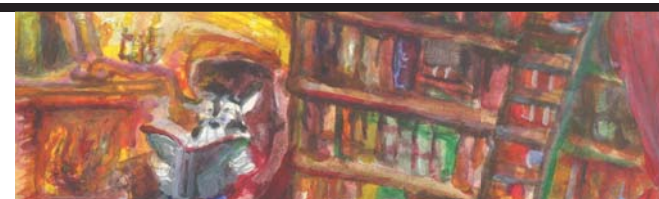
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# COMMENT

Editors: **Eoghan J. Totten, Tessa Davey**  
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## Rory Fenton on Integrated Education

**Rory Fenton**  
@roryfenton  
Columnist



**P**ublic services should be open to all people, regardless of their beliefs. That so simple a statement should need to be shouted is madness and yet this is exactly what is needed in the UK. The truth is that for all our advances in other areas of human rights, when it comes to religious and belief discrimination in public services, the UK has scarcely changed in 100 years. Nowhere is this clearer than in our state schools.

Religious schools make up a third of all state schools in the UK and are granted astounding privileges. If they are oversubscribed they can ensure that only pupils of a certain religion, or more precisely, pupils with parents of a certain religion, can attend. They are also allowed to discriminate in the hiring of teaching staff. Not just RE teachers; history teachers, science teachers, geography teachers... Such

grotesque discrimination would be illegal in any other workplace except, of course, in a church. The principle of employing people according to their ability is thrown out of the window.

Religious schools are also deeply socially divisive. Giving schools the ability to select along arbitrary lines means they use this as an excuse to select wealthier pupils. Middle class parents are more able to “game” the system in knowing which religious buttons to push and being more likely to be free on Sundays to go to church. Remember I said that a third of state schools are religious? Of the 20 most socially exclusive state schools in the UK (comparing pupils who receive a free school meal to those who do in the catchment area) 18, that’s 90%, are religiously selective.

Lastly there is the issue of preventing children from mixing and meeting with children from different backgrounds of their own. Philosopher A C Grayling likes to say that the argument against faith schools can be summed up in two words: Northern Ireland. I went to a Catholic school in Belfast. Despite this being a majority Protestant city, I didn’t meet a Protestant of my own age until I came to Imperial, aged 18 (incidentally, he

is now the editor of this paper). Northern Ireland’s devisions go much deeper than our schools but to argue that deliberately keeping the two communities apart hasn’t contributed to tensions and lack of empathy between them is ludicrous. In England, too, cultural tensions are heightened by “faith schools” which can de facto select according to race. The current government allowing new Muslim

and Evangelical Christian “Free Schools” can only be a recipe for disaster when it comes to integration.

While my children won’t be brought up in any religion, I want to see them educated alongside Jewish kids, Muslim kids, Christian kids, Sheikh kids and all other kinds of kids. I want their teachers to be the best teachers in their subjects, not the ones

who ticked the most denominational boxes. I want them to learn alongside poor kids and rich kids. I want them to be a part of their communities. For as long as we allow such desperately divisive institutions as religious schools to operate, at the taxpayers expense, this vision of education, this shared vision, is hopeless fantasy. Religious schools are an awful idea and an even worse reality. We are better off without them.



**Fenton: “While my children won’t be brought up in any religion, I want to see them educated alongside Jewish kids, Muslim kids, Christian kids, Sheikh kids and all other kinds of kids.”**

## The Platonic Merits of a Religious Education

**Eoghan J. Totten**

@eoghantotten  
Comment Editor



**I**mmanuel Kant, perennial philosopher of the 18th century, once made two key distinctions. Firstly, objects act in accordance with fixed rules. The latter distinction clarified that rational agents (you and I) formulate actions with flippant regard to mere conceptions of those rules. One would therefore conclude that certain elements of humanity prove to be flawed. Many would concede that Roman Catholicism, in recent decades, serves as a fitting allegory. Be it the sex abuse scandals portrayed to perpetuate ad infinitum or the Vatican’s dogmatic condemnation of contraception, the church has received its fair share of criticism (as has religion as a whole).

It must be made clear, however, that these seeds of imperfection were not sewn in the classrooms of

Roman Catholic schools; indeed I believe that faith-oriented academic institutions share a common thread, having been buffeted, tarnished and ultimately engulfed by recurrent waves of vitriolic demagoguery, which frequently (and often surprisingly) remains unchallenged. Having been educated in a Catholic Grammar school I feel that the dualism between a religious ethos and education can stimulate plurality, empathy and tolerance in the mind of a student.

Many claim that faith-oriented schools are, paradoxically, aligned (particularly in England & Wales) with elitism. Anecdotes of the middle classes forcing their children to attend mass and other religious services in an effort to secure a place in desirable schools are innumerable. I will concede that some parents may do so in a vain and conceited manner, exploiting the educational conduits provided by religion. Despite this, parents cannot be condemned for harbouring aspirations for their child. It

might furthermore be debated that the skewed abundance of faith schools in “affluent” areas is but one of a plethora of imperfections in the approach of Government to education as a whole.

One might care to consider focus as the desirable crux of a religious education. In context of Roman Catholic schools mathematics, science, humanities and languages are bolstered by an ethos of morality and religiosity. Students are encouraged to challenge the Raison d’être for both their hopes and efforts. On a regular basis in England and Wales, parents send their children to Catholic Grammar schools regardless of their secular background. For these people religiosity is no longer the chief focus; rather, it is the moralising framework awarded to their children, which may in turn act as a cornerstone for the evolution of their academic and moral framework.

I attended a Saint Patrick’s, Downpatrick in the North of Ireland. People regularly claim that the regional school system (based on Catholic and State schools) has sectarianized and corrupted the

minds of our youth, concentrating the embattled mentality between nationalist and unionist factions. In line with my experience I vehemently disagree with Rory Fenton’s view.

For many, like it or not, the justification for our school system is a question of identity over religiosity or faith. The nostalgia invoked by my time at school makes it difficult for me to fashion a cogent counterargument...but I stand resolute on a number of points.

Primarily, I find myself at Imperial College London as a direct consequence of the ethos of my school. My teachers convinced each and every pupil (in many cases subconsciously) that their endeavours were for the betterment not only of themselves but their family, friends and (most fittingly) their community. This extended to interfaith relationships.

Secondly and to conclude, I suspect that integration does not need to be institutionalised or labelled and find nothing sinister in that. While my reservations may be platonic, I am convinced that the retention of a religious school system can aid conflict resolution

in Northern Ireland. We must be careful not to debase the complexity of the problems in the North to religious disparity. If things are to move forward all parties must work together. This will fail if we are not confident in our own creeds, values and beliefs. In the fitting words of Seamus Heaney, valued Nobel laureate, we need ‘room to rhyme.’

Note that I disagree with Mr. Fenton’s depicted demographics of Belfast.

**Totten: “These seeds of imperfection were not sewn in the classroom.”**





@feliximperial

FelixImperial

# COMMENT

## Teach First – Investing by Making a Difference

Mathilde Monestes

Teach First

Ever since I was little I dreamed about becoming a teacher and taking care of kids within and beyond a classroom. I strongly believed that good teachers were the leaders of tomorrow and that they were a key element to a strong society. Ask yourselves this question: Would you be here without the one inspirational teacher who believed in you and pushed you to the top? I know that I would not. My parents moved me around a lot when I was little and I was educated in French my whole life. When they decided to put me in an International school aged sixteen - where the main language was English - I started to give up on my big dreams of making it to a prestigious university in France. I was convinced that I would never have sufficient grades to apply where I wanted (as my English was really poor). My

literature teacher believed in me from the start, pushing me to apply to even more prestigious universities; they were not the best in France. They belonged to the best in the world. He was an exceptional teacher, the kind of person that does not look at your academic record alone, seeing much more in you than a nondescript kid with 'such and such' grades.

Somewhere along the line I grew up, became realistic and went off to university convinced that I would end up working in a fancy corporate bank like my mother. I decided to give up on my dream to become, one day, one of those inspirational people.

Despite this, when you really believe in something, no matter how hard you try, you will never be able to push it away and pretend it does not exist. I tried to forget about all this until one day, when I met Sophia, the Teach First graduate recruiting officer on campus at the time. She seemed so passionate about her job and Teach First's vision that my drive for teaching immediately resurfaced. Her message was simple: the British education system is unfair and children with a disadvantaged

background are clearly left behind others who are more fortunate.

I could drown you with numbers to support this claim but let me just leave you with a few notable statistics: 16% of children eligible for free school meals make it to university. Contrast this with 96% of children coming from independent schools! Really? Teach First's mission is to change those numbers and turn around the current situation. How do they do that? They empower people like you and I to take action and join their movement.

There are many ways in which you can participate and make a difference. You can become a Brand Manager like me (and write articles about your life at 10pm!), apply for their Leadership Development Programme (if you are into teaching or fancy working for their partners after the programme...or both!). Furthermore, you can raise awareness of all of Teach First's good work. Do you want to change lives and make society better? Are you interested in the corporate world but feel like you want to do something that takes precedence?

Take up the challenge. Teach First!



If you would like to find out more about Teach First sign up to the Employer Presentation on Monday 28th of October at 6 pm in The Read Lecture Theatre, Sherfield Building via JobsLive.

Take up the challenge. Teach First!

## Confessions of a GTA: Part One

### First impressions are probably correct

The GTA

Anonymous



I've always wanted to be a GTA. It wasn't because they were doing amazing PhDs on their own desks, in which they cured cancer or published ground-breaking articles which they presented at world conferences. This was all pretty cool but actually, it had a lot to do with them being rubbish at teaching. As an undergraduate I saw them turn up late to lectures they were being paid to help with, chat with their colleagues and completely ignore any student of a different nationality from their own. They would stand right behind you in an exam breathing heavily, or when questioned on how to do the most impossible problem conceived by man, they would ask, "What do you think?" I always thought that it was startlingly clear that, at this point, being so confused and exasperated by this stupid question, that all I cared about was them telling me what I

should be thinking. If there was one thing I was going to get right on my PhD it was being a good GTA.

Thus, on my first day I duly signed up for the most appropriate courses for my skills which all commenced after the training dates. I carefully considered my timetable so that I'd have time to read through all the lecture notes and do each tutorial from scratch. Feeling pleased with myself, I headed out for 'just one pint' with my new world famous and cancer curing colleagues.

The next morning seemed very early... and loud. The e-mail ping was painfully pitched; the e-mail turned out to be worse. "Thanks for agreeing to help with my lessons last night. It is the first tutorial so the students will probably only get onto questions 1-6. See you in an hour."

An hour! Training was in a week! I clicked on the attachment. Problems vaguely reminiscent of three years past appeared on the screen. Well, the obvious thing to do was neither to start from scratch nor go through the lecture notes but to read the solutions of questions 1-6 on the sheet. These seemed fairly self-explanatory although I placed an asterisk beside a couple of harder parts for good

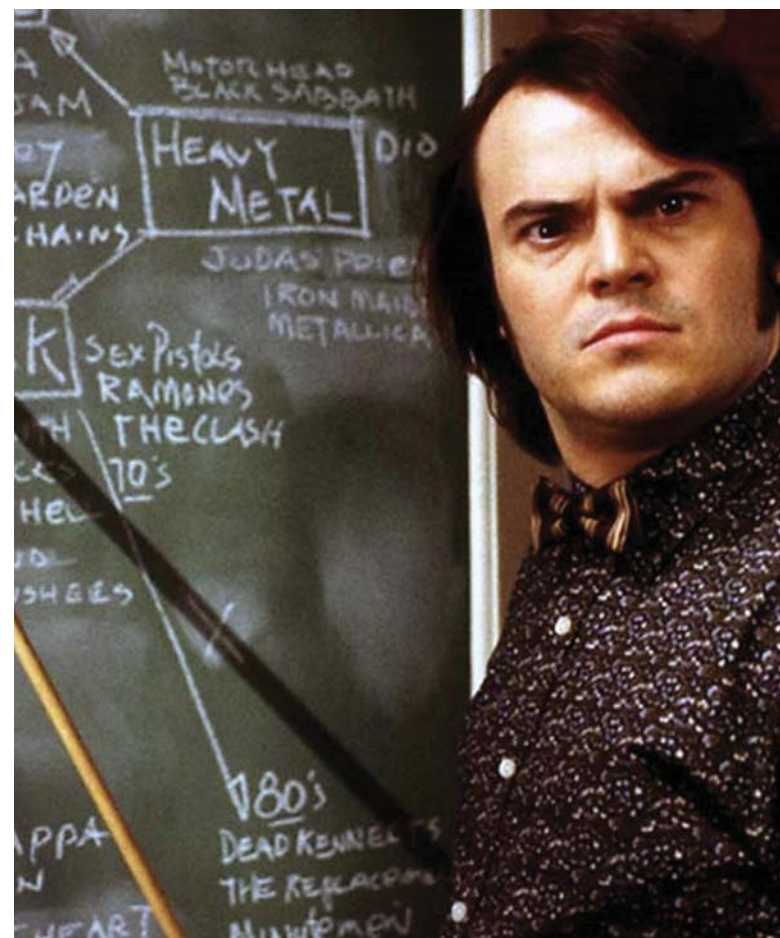
measure and ran up to the teaching room... I only two to five minutes late.

I was greeted by the overbearing person who had taken advantage of my drunken state; they turned out to be one of my favourite lecturers and we had a nice conversation about the summer. I heard a loud "Harrumph" from behind me. A number of obscenities occurred to me as I realised that I had been caught chatting and rushed over to my first student. He asked me about something beside which I had placed an asterisk, which was ideal. At no point did I ask him his opinion.

Avoiding the chatty lecturer I circled the room, trying not to stand behind anyone. I wandered over to some nice but slightly foreign looking students, to see how they were getting on. They were on question 7, having breezed through 1-6. I retreated rapidly to the corner of British students, who were struggling with all my asterisked points. Here I remained. After all they had loads of questions.

GTAing: It seems it is going to be harder than it looks.

The GTA







# Promenade theatre at its best

Fred Fyles gets punchdrunk in an abandoned sorting office



TRAVIS HODGES

building is made up to look like the town around the studios, including a forest, a saloon, and a cinema where the horror classic 'Eyes Without a Face' plays silently, while the other half of the building is the studio itself; a world of seedy dressing rooms and resentful production artists.

Through brief snatches of interaction between the cast members, the audience begins to pick up the plot; a modern adaptation of *Woyzeck*, Georg Buchner's classic tale of jealousy, power, and murder, *The Drowned Man* tells two parallel stories: outside the studio gates William watches as his wife Mary is seduced by Dwayne - after catching them in the act, William kills Mary in the wilderness. Meanwhile, inside the studio, Wendy is shooting a film and suffering from violent hallucinations, and when her husband Marshall falls in love with the studio's queen bee Dolores Grey, Wendy murders him. These two tales intertwine, and loop back around each other, with parts being repeated throughout the evening, conjuring up an unnerving atmosphere of fear, paranoia, and confusion.

However, while the atmosphere may be intuitive to those attending, the plot proved difficult to penetrate. Punchdrunk doesn't make things easy for the viewers, forcing them on a wild goose chase around the studios in order to track down the fragments of the story, meaning that most people will not see all parts of the production. Combine this with minimal dialogue and a large dose of interpretive dance choreographed by Maxine Doyle, and you have a pretty impenetrable story.

I must admit that the plot didn't make much sense to me until I read the programme in retrospect. Whilst in a traditional theatre performance such a confusing plot would go down like a lead balloon, in Punchdrunk's world it is the experience that matters, and what an experience this is.

The set design team, led by Felix Barrett, form the cornerstone of Punchdrunk's spectacle; quite literally thousands of props have been brought in to transform the abandoned building into the desolate studio. The themes of decayed Americana, combined with the masks, give the whole thing a Lynchian air, and the attention to detail makes me feel like I've stepped into an actual film. From vast forest wilderness to love letters hidden in drawers, it feels like nothing has been overlooked, giving every object a sense of importance. This is spectacular, but slightly overwhelming - you could easily spend a whole day just looking through the rooms, never mind following the story.

Being a relative late-comer to the



TRAVIS HODGES

Punchdrunk party, I don't know how their previous productions have differed to *The Drowned Man*, but I do get the sense that the shows have lost some of their surprise element. It is clear that a large proportion of the people at the show have been to a Punchdrunk experience before - determined not to miss anything, they chase the actors around in packs, making some scenes impossible to see.

**"combine minimal dialogue and a large dose of interpretive dance and you have a pretty impenetrable story"**

Perhaps the company are overfilling the space - and who can blame them when the financial status of British theatre is considered - or the anonymity provided by the masks allow members of the audience to live out their anti-social, voyeuristic fantasies, but the behaviour of those watching ruins some of the magic. Some of the best experiences I had in the show were the ones where there were very few people, and the most memorable part for me was watching

a shrouded figure perform a strange ritual in a tiny chapel. When you watch a scene like that, it feels like you have stumbled across something hidden, that many other people will miss, and these experiences are few and far between.

While previous Punchdrunk shows have met with near-universal acclaim, this show has left the critics and audiences more divided, and it is not hard to see why. A dazzling level of detail in the set is belittled by the lack of attention to the audience experience - I get the feeling that this is the company at their most introspective, and it could be argued that this is theatre at its purest, where the participants play their parts irrespective of the audience. It should also be noted that, while any review of a piece of theatre relies upon a single person's experience, with this show that is intensified; it is entirely likely that I had an experience not only slightly dissimilar, but probably completely different to some other viewers - such is the nature of Punchdrunk. But at the heart of this production, underneath the stunningly sumptuous production design, lies an incomprehensible plot and a rather uncomfortable viewing experience. I would recommend going simply for the experience - I leave the building feeling bewildered, astonished, and ever so slightly Punchdrunk.

BIRGIT &amp; RALF

**What: The Drowned Man: A Hollywood Fable**  
(in association with Punchdrunk and the National Theatre)

**Where: Temple Studios, Paddington**

**When: Until 30 Dec 2013**

**Price: £39.50 - £47.50, concessions £19.50**

From *dreamthinkspeak's* nocturnal wanderings underneath Somerset House, to the burgeoning popularity of Secret Cinema's awe-inspiring screenings, you'd be forgiven for thinking that the traditional theatre format is dead.

But this year sees the return of Punchdrunk, the company that started it all, as they bring their immersive world to London for their 'Hollywood Fable' *The Drowned Man*. Punchdrunk's founder, Felix Barrett, became an early champion of 'promenade theatre' when he founded the company in 2000, and since then they have been taking over abandoned buildings, making visitors don black masks, and leaving a trail of glowing reviews in their wake.

The Punchdrunk formula is a relatively simple one; a building is converted into an interactive theatrical space, and visitors are invited to wander around, explore the environment, and - driven by

their curiosity - discover what has happened. In this case, the company inhabit an abandoned Royal Mail sorting office just outside Paddington Station, and have transformed it into 'Temple Studios', a 1960s film studio with a sinister underbelly. Stripped of their belongings - phones and cameras are forbidden - visitors are given masks that obscure their identity before entering the service lift, and being taken down into the bowels of the film studio.

**"The company stress that The Drowned Man is a show that should be explored alone - whether by choice or by force"**

The first surprise comes before we have even left the elevator, as the attendant splits our group into two, dropping half off at one floor, and taking the rest of us to another level. The company stress that *The Drowned Man* is a show that should be explored alone - whether by choice or by force.

Once we have been freed from the elevator we are allowed to wander around their creation. One half of the

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ARTS

# Charles Saatchi's (Divorce) Paper

Mario Lepore visits the latest exhibition in Saatchi's gallery

What: Paper Exhibition  
Where: Saatchi Gallery  
When: Until 3rd Nov 2013  
Price: FREE

If your most recent memory of Charles Saatchi is seeing the photographs of him in the Daily Mail allegedly strangling his ex-wife Nigella then you are definitely missing out.

Despite his unfortunate relationship issues, the Iraqi born advertising mogul and art collector has an ideally located gallery that definitely warrants a wonder.

Best known for his eccentric and somewhat controversial taste in art, Saatchi's current exhibition 'Paper' may seem a little backward in nature, but in a world of ever advancing technology and digitalisation it is refreshing to see such a basic material used in such diverse array.

Known by many as a shy and reclusive man, Saatchi has the power to make or break a contemporary artist's career. He helped discover the likes of Damien Hirst and Jeff Koons as well as giving considerable support to Tracey Emin, all of whom have had massive success in the contemporary art scene.

He is a man who knows what he likes and this is made apparent in his

exhibition that includes the works of 43 artists spanning 10 galleries.

Highlights from the exhibition include Eric Manigaud's *Portrait Clinique* (graphite on paper) – a collection of life-size drawings documenting photographs taken in a medical facility in Weilmünster, Germany. They poignantly depict physically and mentally ill Jewish patients who were starved or sterilised under the Nazi regime. Although harrowing in nature, Manigaud's exceptional skill brings the drawings to life helping to provide an insight into this terrifying world.

Another memorable piece is Marcelo Jácome's *Planos-Pipas #17*, literally meaning 'Kite-Planes' in the Artist's native Portuguese. Taking up an entire room, it seemed to spread weightlessly across the space whilst most certainly shouting "look at me". A bright and colourful piece, constructed from bamboo triangles and tissue paper, it was structured yet chaotic and definitely drew the most attention from visitors.

Worth a mention, solely for the fact that you cannot walk around the exhibition without noticing it, is Lerma and Madera's *Bust of Emanuel Augustus*, a giant sculpture made of scrunched, coloured paper. "Eye-catching" to say the least, but at over 8 foot high how could it not be?

It could be a little uninteresting



Couch for a long time (2009) by Jessica Jackson Hutchins

SAM DRAKE/SAATCHI GALLERY

at times, but all in all this exhibition deserves merit for the fact that such simple materials were manipulated to create such inspiring pieces.

The gallery is ideally located on the

King's Road, Chelsea, just a 20 minute walk from the South Kensington campus, and its large, bright and airy rooms provide an ideal escape from the frenzy that is London. Some

may find it a little pretentious, but whether you are an art fan or just want something to do to occupy a lunch break, head down to SW3 for an interesting afternoon out.

## Figaro gets married, everyone's happy

Clara Clark Nevola  
Writer

What: Le Nozze Di Figaro Opera  
Where: Royal Opera House  
When: 2nd - 15th May 2014  
Price: Various

"For here they talk of nothing but Figaro. Nothing is played, sung or whistled but Figaro. No opera is drawing like Figaro. Nothing, nothing but Figaro."

Modest Mr Mozart himself wrote this shortly after the premiere of *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, and though it sounds rather big headed, it still holds true today. *Le Nozze di Figaro* is one of the most performed, established and well-loved pieces of opera repertoire and the current Royal Opera's production

(the fourth re-run of the 2006 version) perfectly showcases this.

The plot is a mix of two classic narratives: the clever servant and stupid master, and the husband and wife deceit themes, with a good sprinkling of bawdy humour, cross dressing and proposed weddings.

Sounds like a panto, right? Wrong.

Set to Mozart's score, this stiff, predictable sounding story rollicks along, by turns funny, gripping and in many cases truly touching, making for an enjoyable and gripping evening out.

The opera starts with Figaro and Susanna, the servant couple, preparing to marry, struggling with the dowry money and the Count's pervy lust for Susanna. The Countess meanwhile is feeling lonely and abandoned and to add to the mix, a teenaged servant is running around the castle getting into steamy situations with the maids. Figaro, with the help of Susanna and the Countess and the hindrance of the Count and many secondary

characters, manages to wriggle out of all the situations he gets into, and the story ends with a triple wedding and the Count reconciled and in love with his wife.

*Le Nozze di Figaro* is based on the Beaumarchais' *"La folle journée, ou le Mariage de Figaro"*, a play that received much attention on account of the censorship it was subjected to. Embarrassing monarchs was a bit of a sensitive subject in the 18th century (though possibly Prince Harry is trying to revive this) and the play's emphasis on Figaro's intelligence was considered inappropriate. The operating version played down Figaro's socialist impulses, thus allowing it to evade censorship, though a few royal eyebrows were raised at the moral content.

Despite this, Figaro has remained indelibly connected to the French revolution. The real strength of this production is its ability to transcend all of Figaro's cultural and historical baggage and to revive it as what it was



Maria Bengtsson as Countess Almaviva and Christopher Maltman as Count Almaviva

MARK DOUET

originally intended to be: a funny yet touching human story.

Add this to the Royal Opera House incredibly high production standards

and brilliant cast, and it makes *Le Nozze di Figaro* a real must see - whether you're a hardened opera lover or a total newbie.



# BOOKS

Editor: **Maciej Matuszewski, Eva Rosenthal**  
books.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Student picks

Eva Rosenthal picks:

*The Social Construction of Reality: a treatise in the sociology of knowledge* by Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann

Have you ever wondered where your most mundane thoughts come from? Whether any feeling has even a smidgen of individuality?

How does this absurd western world, our reality, exist without self-destructing; with people seemingly unaware of the great hypocrisy that makes our lives easy and in many respects, beautiful?

I worried about these silly questions for some time and, short of considering something like the 'Matrix' a possibility, found few helpful answers. That is, until I came upon a book with a mouthful for a title. *The Social Construction of Reality: a treatise in the sociology of knowledge* postulates that societies are themselves, through complex, unconscious processes, the builders of their subjective reality. We are all thought to participate in the various artful – and really quite cunning – techniques whereby society maintains its smooth running order. For one (very simple) example, practically useless conversations about one's day, the weather, or about so-and-so's cat, are thought to be a simple but effective way of reaffirming the existence of our subjective universe. Very few things escape the tendrils of mundanity and system stability ensues.

Although the book contains many technical sociological terms, it is nevertheless intended for laymen. Moreover, despite the serious nature of the topic, it is written with a degree of reassuring wit.

This book did not answer all my questions and I found many of its conclusions a little terrifying. However, what it did lead to was my begrudging acceptance of reality as a fluid and ever-changing object.



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# Scalzi's Old Man's War

Maciej Matuszewski  
Books Editor

John Scalzi is one of the highest profile science fiction authors alive. A prolific writer, he was also President of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, consulted on the hit TV show *Stargate Universe*, maintains a hugely popular blog and is an outspoken activist for many good causes. It was therefore with high hopes that last year I picked up *Redshirts* – one of his latest novels, which recently won the Hugo award. Unfortunately the reality did not live up to the hype – it was, effectively, a single *Star Trek* joke stretched out to fill 300 pages, with uninspired characterisation and insipid prose. Over time, however, I began to suspect that I might have judged Scalzi too harshly and that it might be worth giving a writer of his reputation another chance. Therefore, I recently read *Old Man's War* – his first ever novel.

The book is set in the distant future – with humanity having finally reached the stars and found out that we are not alone. The various species of the galaxy are caught up in a near constant state of conflict – in many ways the reminiscent of 19th century colonial wars. While Earth itself is isolated from the fighting, as well as the greater galactic community in general, by its colonies the planet's citizens when they turn 75 may join the Colonial Defence Force and receive a rejuvenation treatment before

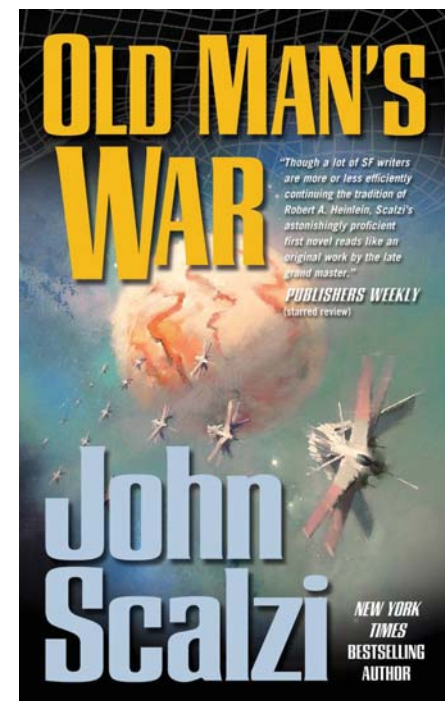
getting the chance to see the universe. The novel follows John Perry, who makes this very choice, and his fellow new recruits as they go through basic training, have their first taste of combat and learn how, in the current conflict, there are no real 'good guys.'

In many ways this book has many problems similar to those in *Redshirts*. The main issue I have with Scalzi's characters in both books is that they are all essentially the same person. The protagonists may be differentiated by gender or ethnicity but they all have the same personality – smart, outspoken, generally nice but often sarcastic – in short, people very similar to Scalzi himself. Don't get me wrong – Scalzi knows how to write this character type very well but seeing it half a dozen times in the same novel gets really tiring, really fast. Scalzi's prose is, to put it nicely, very utilitarian. It is clear and readable but nothing more. There is no beauty in it – it is used merely as a tool to get the story across.

All this leaves are the plot and themes – and here is where my opinion of the two novel diverges. While *Redshirts* was just, in effect, an extended parody, *Old Man's War* is something more. While focusing mainly on the personal experiences of John Perry it also subtly conveys the far larger and deeper story of galactic conflict and, by the end, it manages to ask serious questions about the nature of war and colonisation. All the while it remains very exciting – both in the fast paced combat scenes and in the tense moments in between them.

These positives don't cancel out the

negatives, but they do help me forget them and make the book a very enjoyable read. There are novels which explore similar themes in more depth and with greater skill but few which do it in such an engaging manner. I do believe that Scalzi's popularity as a person has artificially inflated the popularity of his books and *Old Man's War* is certainly not a masterpiece but the fact is that I read it in a single day and its sequels are already on my reading list.



# Best of Henry James

Eva Rosenthal  
Books Editor

In Henry James' *The Figure in the Carpet*, several unlucky people become obsessed with painstakingly unearthing the meaning concealed – literally – in the works of a brilliant novelist. The story plays easily with the reader; it dangles a something sweet – the promise of ultimate knowledge – in front of us and ultimately disappoints. The after effect is wittily insidious: one may start to think that there could be, that there definitely is, a golden key, to decoding James' entire body of work. If one were to look carefully enough, obsessively enough, perhaps it could be found... James cautions us throughout with his sad and unhappy characters but it is hard to resist his riddle.

This dilemma, to me, exemplifies the power of James' short stories. More than just a writer of impossible syntax, James will drag the reader along with subtlety and stealth until they emerge, albeit fully

submerged in the Jamesian world.

Within 50 pages – and sometimes far less – humans are exquisitely drawn up. The characters feel heavy and tangible from the moment they appear; their actions, however strange, are precisely what they should be. As can be seen from the few examples below, James' stories cover a wide range of subjects, which he treats with equal care and brilliance.

*Daisy Miller* tells of the problems that a young American girl faces when travelling through Europe. Her personality is lost on the Europeans, whom she sometimes understands but who rarely understand her. Her desire for freedom and, in many ways, for simply flitting through life, are misunderstood by even her closest friends, who carelessly and cruelly criticise and abandon her.

In *La Pension Beaurepas*, caricatures of rather empty ladies-who-shop, bankrupting their hardworking caretaker in the process, are juxtaposed with everything beautiful and delicate about desire.

James' *In the Cage* has the feel of a detective story; here the voyeuristic tenden-

cies and the imagination of a young, unnamed telegraphist, stuck in both a literal and a metaphoric cage, combine to conjure up an unexpected adventure. From her position as a 'nothing', she achieves a remarkable level of knowledge – perhaps real, perhaps fanciful – about the extravagantly rich people she comes into contact with. This is a tale which, ultimately disheartening in its outlook, nevertheless encourages extravagant daydreaming to deal with the greyer hours.

Short stories are perfect if you don't have the time or energy to concentrate on a longer novel. You can pick the book up whenever you want, sure in the knowledge that you won't have to leave something unfinished for weeks while you work towards your next deadline. James' tales are also something of a 'language workout'; they require a little effort but the rewards are copious and the reader's English may become much improved.

*Selected Tales* by Henry James; published by Penguin Classics ed. 2001.





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MUSIC

# Armchair Techno

## Simon Hunter reviews Nicholas Jaar's Barbican Spectacular

For a guy who has had such a spectacular rise to musical prominence, **Nicholas Jaar's** choice of the Barbican as the venue for a one-off gig last weekend should perhaps not be too surprising. In many ways the concert hall is perfectly suited to Jaar's delicate, jazz-infused melodies and masterful productions. Indeed, the Barbican is no stranger to hosting musicians strongly rooted in the electronic music sphere; the night before had seen **Pantha du Prince** grace the stage. I was expecting an evening of Jaar's more laid-back music, hopefully with some guest musicians to fill the acoustic slots from *Space is Only Noise*. For these regions, along with the promise of a trippy accompanying light show, I was hyped.

The night kicked off with support act, **Evian Christ**, weaving the audi-

ence through shifting clouds of ambient electronica. The visuals, projected onto a huge screen along the stage, added the perfect ocular accompaniment, entrancing much of the crowd. Unfortunately, after a while the audience began to get somewhat restless, presumably due to the lack of any beat to focus the mind. Their prayers may have been answered in emphatic style when, halfway through his set, **Evian Christ** began laying the jungle and rap samples on thick. For me, the whole thing was slightly too long, with the aggressive drum and bass samples becoming jarring towards the end.

After the interval, Jaar took to the stage and the performance was kicked off by a young girl sporadically saying "mama". After the slightly bizarre opening, she was whisked off and Jaar began.

The first half of his performance

was a mixture of songs from *Space is Only Noise* and other pieces that are presumably unreleased. Jaar manoeuvred between his laptop, keyboard, microphone and, extremely briefly, a grand piano. Half-way through, the young girl returned to the stage with three others to lend their vocal talents. This was one of the highlights of the show, and it was a shame that more musicians weren't present to add an extra dimension to the performance.

The second part of Jaar's performance involved the guitarist and other half of the **Darkside** project, **Dave Harrington**. Together the two create music very much in line with Jaar's other productions, however Harrington's effects-laden guitar work definitely adds something new. The duo played a few tracks from their recently-released record, *Psychic*.

Throughout the show a team of visual artists worked behind the screen, projecting analogue visual delights. Different effects, such as projections of mixing coloured oils with water, were layered upon one another creating an authentically analogue and unique visual experience. This was good, as watching a man play with his laptop and fiddle with a keyboard isn't particularly entrancing.

By the encore people had been teased enough and (myself included) wanted to dance. Gradually the crowd stood up and danced as well they could between rows of seats and to one of Jaar's less danceable numbers. Just as the crowd were really getting into it and anticipation was growing for a finale that would transform the Barbican into a club, the performance ended. Disappointment was fairly tangible.

And this was my problem with



the concert; Jaar neither performed his more delicate work at its' expansive best - with live instruments; nor did he whip the crowd up enough to turn the Barbican into a dance floor. Instead, I was sat in some middle ground, with my leg frantically tapping the beat and wondering how good it could have been had Nicolas Jaar stuck to one or the other.

## AMS album of the week

Janelle Monáe – The Electric Lady

**Janelle Monáe** recently released her latest offering; a double album consisting of two so-called "suites", expanding on the Metropolis conceptual series of her first two releases. After a rise in fame due to her barely-there feature on **Fun's** abysmal hit 'We Are Young', *The Electric Lady* is a wonderful journey through the past, present and future of R&B, with a nice sprinkling of afrofuturist tinged intersectional feminism! Try saying that with your mouth full.



The double album features R&B giants such as **Prince** and **Erykah Badu** as well as newcomers **Miguel**, **Esperanza Spalding** and **Solange**. Despite this, each song remains entirely in Monáe's domain, stylistically and lyrically. However, *The Electric Lady* is less of an obvious concept album as with 2010's *The ArchAndroid*, and I found had to dig deeper to find the context of the world within which Monáe writes. Interspersed are the hilarious radio show skits, which give further snippets of the man vs. android concept.

A personal highlight of mine is Monáe and Miguel's take on the traditional 90s slow jam 'Primetime', featuring a crafty and well utilised **Pixies** sample. It seems only fitting that the album has moments that harp back to the classic 'Miseducation of Lauryn Hill', as Hill has just been released from prison for tax-evasion. Even 'Electric Lady' sounds just like a **TLC** song, if **TLC** was two parts Monáe and one part Solange.

'Ghetto Woman' is perhaps the only low point of *The Electric Lady*. I think the jumbled Stevie Wonder-esque production really lets the song down, as the lyrical content is socially significant. Aside from this, the production work courtesy of funk act 'Deep Cotton' is pretty awesome.

I have so much more to say about this great double album, but I really recommend you give it a listen. "What an Experience" indeed.

Yasmin Malik

## Help The Aged

Stuart Masson watches No Age at the Dome

**No Age** descended on North London last week to showcase their new album, "An Object". The LA two piece were originally scheduled to play at Koko but the gig was downsized to the school hall-esque Dome in Tufnell Park. This is definitely a band on the way down. The new album, unlike its predecessors, has received little hype and a fair amount of criticism. I think a lot of the criticism is over the top, but the live performance doesn't exactly help my point. There's no energy in any of the new stuff, and there is a lot of uninspiring shoegazey bollocks.

The lack of drums on a lot of tracks takes all momentum out of the songs in the live arena and, perhaps even more importantly, **Dean Spunt** cannot sing for shit. That's all fine when you're belting out noisy punk classics, but without the raw energy it just doesn't fit. Luckily, they still brought out some of the noisy punk classics. "Eraser" and "Teen Creeps" were met with rapturous approval by a suddenly energetic crowd and old



favourite "Boy Void" went down a treat too.

The undoubted highlight of the night for me was a storming performance of "Fever Dreaming" that left me almost dead (freshers' flu and

energetic gig going are not compatible) but damn happy about it. **No Age** definitely still have the ability to entertain live, it's just a shame they don't write the songs to do it any more.

**Listen to music? Dance to music? Sing music? Want some free tickets? Then write for music!**



# Union Page

## Last chance to stand in Your Rep & Union Council Elections



**Year Representative (Undergraduate) and Course Representative (Postgraduate) nominations close this Sunday 13 October.** If you're interested in getting to know students on your course, developing new skills and increasing your employability, why not become a Year Rep?

Reps are the first point of contact for students with course issues, sit on the Staff-Student Committee and get involved with initiatives such as Rep Week, our annual Rep Conference and the Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs).

Being a Year Rep takes no more than one-and-a-half hours a week, is term time only and work is flexible, meaning you can easily fit it around your workload. Being a Course Rep takes on average one hour a week and work is flexible.

Being a Rep is a fun and varied role, and you can gain an Imperial Plus certificate recognising the hours they put in over the year. No previous experience is required.

Find out more information on our website or get in touch at [elections@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:elections@imperial.ac.uk) to talk more about becoming a rep.

[imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections)

## Free Sexual Health Clinic Thursday 17 October

Imperial College Union will be hosting a free sexual health clinic run by the Terrence Higgins Trust. Services available include rapid HIV, chlamydia and gonorrhoea tests, condoms, lube and advice. The clinic welcomes all students regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, study type or country of origin.

Appointments are bookable on the day and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. We will release appointments at 10:30 and 13:30. The last appointment will be at 16:00. If you have any questions please contact Zoe Richardson, Representation Coordinator ([z.richardson@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:z.richardson@imperial.ac.uk)).



## Try something new with Give It A Go!



**Imperial College Union's first Give It A Go scheme is launching this month!** There are lots of free or cheap opportunities to try new things during October with our Clubs, Societies & Projects. Sessions include synchronised swimming, American football, yoga, msuci technology and much much more.

Find out more about from our Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) on her blog at [imperialcollegeunion.org/blogs](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/blogs). The What's On calendar on our website also has more details and even more events and activities that you can take part in. Have a look at [imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on).

[imperialcollegeunion.org/giag](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/giag)





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FILM



# "Only do what your heart tells you"

**John Park**  
Film Editor

## Diana

**Director:** Oliver Hirschbiegel  
**Writer:** Stephen Jeffreys, Kate Snell (book)  
**Starring:** Naomi Watts, Naveen Andrews  
**Runtime:** 113 minutes  
**Certification:** 12A



If it was ever Naomi Watts' intention to pull a Streep or Mirren and score an Oscar win by playing an iconic English female, she should have paid closer attention to the script that was handed to her.

For what it's worth, *Diana's* failure isn't down to Watts' brave performance. At the centre of it all is the impeccably dressed, wigged, and made-up actress (they've really gone all out in trying to match the appearance), who nails the (in)famous Panorama interview word for word, and really captures the essence of a woman trapped, constantly hounded by the press who can't get enough shots of her, as well as her desire for helping those in need and most importantly, for this film, her search for love.

It's this love angle that puts such a drab spin on the narrative, as her "love at first sight" with brilliant cardiotho-

racic surgeon Hasnat Khan (Andrews, surprisingly good) is played out in such ridiculous scenes of utmost unintentional hilarity that the film fails to sell a single thing it has to say about the lovebirds who could have had it all had it not been for Dr Khan's strong disapproval and distaste towards the media invasion of his privacy. The romance's low-point comes when Diana can't stop talking about how an actual human heart cannot really be broken. Hilarity and embarrassment ensue.

Sudden awkward time-jumps play an important part in doing some shallow digging into the big achievements of Diana and her charity work, but these scenes seem to serve the one single purpose of recreating some of the famous pictures captured of the Princess of Wales. Most notable is her walk in the Angolan minefield - inspirational sure, but when it translates to the film with very little context to back

it all up, none of it feels as powerful as it should have done.

That's the problem with *Diana*. As much as everyone tries to give an intimate portrayal, it plays too safe and neat with the subject at hand, never steering the narrative to more interesting territory. It goes through the last two years of her life like a history textbook, this happened, then a few months later this, then she made a speech here etc - which explains why the film feels as dull as reading one.

Perhaps it is too soon to expect someone to properly tackle this internationally celebrated figure. There must be a biopic underway, something like *My Week with Marilyn*, not hugely ambitious timeline-wise, but a suitably poignant and sentimental exploration of an icon's life. This is sadly not that film, and Watts has quite severely burned herself out of this year's Oscar race with this one.

# Bring her hoooooome

**John Park**  
Film Editor

## Prisoners

**Director:** Denis Villeneuve  
**Writer:** Aaron Guzikowski  
**Starring:** Hugh Jackman, Jake Gyllenhaal, Maria Bello, Terrence Howard, Viola Davis, Paul Dano, Melissa Leo  
**Runtime:** 153 minutes  
**Certification:** 15



What kind of demons can parents really turn into when something happens to their children? According to *Prisoners*, Denis Villeneuve's new gritty, dark, and twisty thriller, anyone pushed to the limit can be capable of pretty much anything - which sends quite the chilling, disturbing message at the end of its lengthy 153-minute running time. The eternal question of "What are we really capable of in desperate circumstances?" is explored here, as a number of characters are thrown into impossible situations.

It was supposed to be an ordinary Thanksgiving dinner for the Dover and Birch families. Keller (Jackman), Grace (Bello), Franklin (Howard) and Nancy (Davis) are friends who get together for the annual celebration with their children. However when their daughters disappear, it sends everyone into panic, then despair, as everyone unravels at the thought of the worst case scenario.

An obvious suspect is immediately apprehended, a mentally stunted young man (Dano) who cannot be

interrogated fully due to his lack of general understanding. Keller, not satisfied with the limits of the law, decides to take matters into his own hands, starting with kidnapping, then imprisoning, swiftly moving to violence and torture. The cold, grey setting certainly help set the tone of what is to come, and what follows matches up with the bleak build-up.

In what must be the best performance of his career so far, Jackman shines in the lead as a regular family man gone wrong - as darkness takes over, his presence becomes more and more gripping by the frame, and if he could score an Oscar nomination with *Les Mis*, he certainly deserves one for his work here.

Equally effective is the rest of the cast: Gyllenhaal, the fiery and determined detective who tries to keep a clear perspective of what's legal and what's not, Bello, Jackman's quietly grieving wife who looks sleep-deprived, Howard, one of the other fathers who reluctantly gets roped into Keller's extreme methods, Davis, his steely wife who encourages her husband to look the other way when it comes to what needs to be done, Dano, ambiguous in the centre of the did-he-or-didn't-he mystery, and Leo, as an elderly lady who knows more than she lets on.

The plot becomes more and more complicated as it goes on, and it's a shame the credibility of it all soon drops along with it. The final reveal is one that shocks but perhaps not quite fully explains.

It's not an easy film to watch by any means, and the film isn't afraid to show some of the frank brutality displayed by the characters, but this is one that will linger in the mind and spark debates. "What would you do?", "What do they deserve?" will be interesting questions to answer after the credits start rolling.



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# FILM

Editor: **John Park**  
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## Fasten your seatbelts... it's going to be a bumpy night

**John Park**  
Film Editor

### Rush

**Director:** Ron Howard  
**Writer:** Peter Morgan  
**Starring:** Chris Hemsworth, Daniel Brühl, Olivia Wilde, Alexandra Maria Lara  
**Runtime:** 123 minutes  
**Certification:** 15



There is something so intensely vigorous and exciting about Ron Howard's Formula 1 biopic *Rush*. Focusing on British driver James Hunt (Hemsworth, excellent) and his rivalry with the German Niki Lauda (Brühl, a worthy opponent), here is a winning film that concentrates on having fun as well as staying on course to develop its characters.

In portraying Hunt and Lauda, that they're the complete opposite in nature works to the film's advantage in creating a fun dynamic. Hunt is the boozy, womanising, vomits-before-every-race kind of playboy, whereas Lauda, who seems to know everything there is to know about cars, is a much more grounded, serious, hardworking type, whose only romantic streak with the opposite gender can be hilariously summed up in his "proposal" for marriage: "it might as well be you" he says to his future wife. So we're all quite shocked when she says yes.

Together they start on the lower end of the racing world. But slowly working their way up, they eventually reach the Formula 1 racetracks. And through the first act or so it feels as though a lot of the deep-rooted personal histories of the two drivers leading up to this point have been glossed over, most possibly in favour of the adrenaline-fuelled race sequences to come.

But a lot can be forgiven when the technically sound, highly watchable and entertaining scenes hit the screen. The engines start roaring, the tyres start rolling, and backed by the thundering score of Hans Zimmer, off they go, risking their lives on the deadly tracks, and it's this sense of uncertain danger that adds an unbearable amount of tension, particularly more so for individuals not familiar with the sport in the first place. The cars move at an immense speed, and with each curve, each near-fatal-crash, the awe-inspiring wow factor is without doubt the film's highlight. Howard places his cameras accordingly for maximum viewing experience, sometimes within the driver's seat as well, so the audience gets a first-hand glimpse of what it's like inside the helmet.

A major life event the film wisely chooses to spend some time on is Lauda's catastrophic crash at the 1976 World Championship in Germany. With significant burns and multiple serious injuries, Lauda is left fighting for his life. And in a gut-wrenching series of scenes that quite graphically shows this struggle, it's impossible not to sympathise for the helpless man, more so when his devastated wife Marlene (Lara) looks on from a distance. But without ever milking the

dense, heavy emotions, the film carefully explores what must have been Lauda's most painful, difficult weeks, whilst also reminding the audience of the races that are still happening without the German driver.

Hemsworth and Brühl don't share as many scenes together as you'd expect – and frankly there isn't a lot of dramatic showdown between the two other than on the racetrack itself. The behind-the-scenes rivalry between the two isn't well captured initially, mostly due to the fact that the film also has their personal lives to juggle once the drivers' fame and money kick in, but their love-hate bromance-type relationship does build up eventually, which leads to some very genuine heartfelt scenes in which we realise perhaps they did need one another for that extra drive and push.

The two women standing by on each of the driver's side is the aforementioned Marlene and English model/socialist Suzy Hunt (Wilde, sporting a mighty fine English accent), who catches Hunt's eyes. Together they further shape the personal lives of the drivers, injecting some fiery drama and at times, some well-placed humour stemming from events occurring away from the tracks.

In the end with both their likable qualities, it doesn't matter a huge deal when it comes to who eventually takes the trophy home. Lauda is ahead on points prior to his accident, and during his stay at the hospital for recovery, Hunt gains in on the ranks. The deciding race at Fuji in Japan, under frighteningly harsh weather conditions, is a final race worthy of putting a close to such an electric, exhilarating "based on a true story" biopic.



### Turbo

**Director:** David Soren  
**Writers:** Darren Lemke, Robert D. Siegel, David Soren  
**Starring:** (voices) Ryan Reynolds, Paul Giamatti, Samuel L. Jackson, Michael Peña  
**Runtime:** 96 minutes  
**Certification:** U



For Theo, aka Turbo (Reynolds), being a snail is hardly something that will keep him from dreaming of becoming a successful, celebrated racer. Staying up night after night watching his idol human driver Guy Gagné (Bill Hader, effectively laying on the cheese) spew out inspirational monologues, Turbo too, wishes to compete in the annual Indy 500 race.

And of course, due to exceptional circumstances that involves Turbo drinking some dodgy nitrous oxide from a sports car, he finds a way to enter the competition, which puts him in direct competition with his hero.

Of course, the plot is as preposterous and laughable as they come, a tiny little snail whizzing past Ferraris to actually compete in the real world, but once you can take in the fact that this is a DreamWorks Animation's movie aimed mainly for children and hopefully the more open-minded adults, the film succeeds in creating a vibrant, colourful atmosphere for audiences of a wide demographic to enjoy.

When the race is on, it marks the film's finest moment - as Turbo dodges obstacles, slides under cars, and skillfully navigates his way around the track - the camera moves at a rapid pace to keep up with all the action that is happening, and with all the noise and excitement, it's impossible not to be swept up by the sheer level of en-

ergy that turns out to become more infectious than you would have ever imagined.

Turbo gets a friendly little support gang together prior to his big showdown: snails he meets at a taco truck, owned by kind-hearted Mexican Tito (Peña) who makes it a hobby to collect snails (and no, never inhumanely so) and race them with his friends at a struggling run-down strip mall. And voiced by the excellent supporting cast that consists of Smauel L. Jackson who never disappoints, as well as Michelle Rodriguez and Ken Jeong, *Turbo* finds room for humour as our lead character finds friendship and playful dialogue when he isn't showing off his new skills and his snazzy blue glowing shell (a side-effect of the nitrous oxide).

Less fun is the family aspect the film focuses on. Turbo has an older brother Chet (Giamatti) who constantly tries to put a stop to his younger brother's crazy dreams. This same fraternal re-

lationship is further echoed in Tito's life story, as he too, has a disapproving older brother who is the sensible realist having to shout at his younger hermano for not selling enough tacos. When the message of following your dream, your passion, and your heart is hammered home, it's at times difficult to have any sympathy left for the characters when it truly matters.

But in the end the message is a healthy, supposed-to-be-heart-warming one, something that can be taken in by both children and adults alike, with a voice cast diverse and funny enough to entertain throughout, lead by the always-reliable Reynolds.

Aside from turning the table on how one of the slowest creatures on the planet ends up as one of the fastest, there are very few original ideas and imaginative developments to make this extra special - but to pass the time with a visually thrilling feature, there's nothing safer than a harmless bit of no-thoughts-required animation.



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# BFI London Film Festival

John Park  
Film Editor

## Adore

**Director:** Anne Fontaine  
**Writers:** Christopher Hampton, Anne Fontaine, Doris Lessing (novel)  
**Starring:** Naomi Watts, Robin Wright, James Frencheville, Xavier Samuel  
**Runtime:** 100 minutes  
**Certification:** R (USA)



Roz (Wright) and Lil (Watts) are best friends. Roz's son Tom (Frencheville) and Lil's son Ian (Samuel) are also best friends. So far so good right? Now here's where it gets weird. Ian starts sleeping with Roz first. Then Tom starts sleeping with Liz. Yes, the two female best friends are engaged in romantic relationships with each other's sons. It doesn't take long for them to find out about all of this, and even when they do, their reactions are shockingly tame. They don't mind, as they want each other to be happy, which is fine for now, but we all know this arrangement is one that cannot possibly have a happy ending... right? More definitely so since Roz is actually married.

But the way everything keeps its peace and quiet for quite some time is what's remarkable. The four of them are still as chummy as ever, and it's back to their old routines of going to the beach; the two beautiful mothers lying in the sand soaking up the sun, and the two good-looking sons going surfing, exactly the same picture they've been painting over the years. And for a good hour the pair of relationships goes on without a single noticeable hitch. And with the four actors sharing convincing enough



chemistry, it's easy to buy into their love, despite how inappropriate and preposterous it all may have seemed at the start.

Having spent so much time on how happy they are, there is an ill-placed time-jump that fast-forwards two years of their lives in which we find that they're still hopelessly in love and devoted. With hardly any details or significant happenings to back this all up, the narrow scope through which we view the characters does limit how much of this the audience can actually find believable.

All good things must come to an end however, after more than an hour or so, leaving only 40 minutes to come to some kind of conclusion for this complicated situation. Reality sinks in for the characters, and one sensible person of the group decides to call it quits. What looked so picturesque and felt perfect as the four of them frolicked on the beach not caring for one moment about real-life problems, must finish on a bitter note as the film to moves forward. But what should have been the most intriguing part of the story turns into a surprisingly dry and tepid re-treading of familiar themes for a film that started out boldly in its opening.

There's jealousy, younger women involved, some weddings, and even an introduction of a new generation. The mothers officially become grandmothers. Even all this however, can't liven up the drama or inject any passion to the narrative. It gets more and more ridiculous as the film refuses to address the uncomfortable questions in the room, instead showing us endless pretty scenes at the beach that start to have less meaning the more we visit the same thing over and over again. The fact they all remain age-defying is one of many distracting features, as well as the continued use of the aforementioned time-jumps that breaks any fluidity in the storytelling.

Much like what everyone goes through in the film, the audience may find themselves hooked and intrigued in the beginning, only to be left disappointed and empty towards the end. The actresses in particular give it their all, in playing the indecisive women of a certain age who simply try to embrace love and life for what they are, but there is simply not enough going on here to keep you interested throughout the entire film, which is a shame, given the highly unexpected, unique nature of the film's core romance plot.



John Park  
Film Editor

## The Spectacular Now

**Director:** James Ponsoldt  
**Writers:** Scott Neustadter, Michael H. Weber, Tim Tharp (novel)  
**Starring:** Miles Teller, Shailene Woodley, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Kyle Chandler  
**Runtime:** 95 minutes  
**Certification:** R (USA)



Here is a delightfully charming high-school drama in which the characters talk, think, and look like teenagers. Every now and then we are lucky enough to be treated to some excellent films that involve coming-of-age stories (*Clueless*, *10 Things I Hate About You*, *Mean Girls*, *Easy A*), so it was about time we had another one of these, and *The Spectacular Now* certainly fits the bill.

It starts with Sutter (Teller) having to do what all high-school students must dread: the college application essay. He's supposed to write about any difficulties and hardship he's faced in life. With plenty of examples to give, he starts typing away, giving us plenty of humorous insight into his life that has so far been far from ordinary.

He thinks he's happy with his current girlfriend, and he thinks she's happy too, until he finds that she's been going to parties without him and instead with the high-school quarterback. Already quite the big fan of booze and having a constant light buzz wherever he goes (he has a handy little metallic flask he carries with him), Miles goes through one night of particular drunken debauchery that ends with him passing out on a stranger's front yard, to be awoken the next morning by Aimee (Woodley).

So now the boy's met the girl - and the subsequent development of their relationship is quite simply the most

adorable thing you're likely to see this year. It naturally progresses from a slightly awkward friendship stemming from the boy's need to have geometry explained to him, to something more, then to a more romantic one, with first kiss, sex, the prom, planning for the future, all thrown in there.

Also helping are the spot-on performances by the two young actors who appear so natural and comfortable in their roles. Every minute they're together, they seem to be enjoying each other's presence, as is the audience. They laugh, share jokes and family stories as they bond, and every minute of their blossoming romance feels heart-warmingly genuine.

Yes, family is another aspect that plays an important part in fully drawing out Miles' character. Raised by his single mother who works as a nurse (Jason Leigh) and isn't always necessarily there, he wonders where his father may be and what he's getting up to. Finding his father, and having a decent conversation is what he longs for, and when he does turn up in the form of a scruffy-looking Kyle Chandler, the result is far from something he wanted. The adults surrounding Miles, including Mary Elizabeth Winstead as his married older sister who he barely sees, all pitch in brilliant performances that further shape the film with touching drama.

Aside from being told that she has an overbearing mother who wants her daughter around forever to help with her newspaper route job, Aimee's family life is talked about but barely seen, an aspect which should have been explored more, to give an even balance in the two leads.

The bittersweet nostalgia of having to grow up and face the world out there is the inevitable theme the film must address, as Miles is quite happy enough sitting back and relaxing in his little town that everyone else cannot wait to leave behind. It's of course a familiar message we've seen many times before, but ending the film is a brilliant closing montage with an effective voiceover from Sutter, beautifully weaving together everything he's learned over the course of the film's running time, which is plenty.



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# FILM

Editor: John Park  
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# McAvoy's filthy habits

John Park  
Film Editor

## Filth

**Director:** Jon S. Baird  
**Writers:** Jon S. Baird, Irvine Welsh (novel)  
**Starring:** James McAvoy, Jamie Bell, Jim Broadbent, Imogen Poots, Eddie Marsan  
**Runtime:** 97 minutes  
**Certification:** 18



Welcome to Scotland: where we are greeted by Bruce Robertson (McAvoy), a coke-snorting, alcohol-addicted, sex-loving detective who's gunning for a promotion to the position of detective inspector. In order to get there, he needs to eliminate his competition. And by eliminate we don't mean kill, but rather publicly humiliate so they'll be out of the running. He's racist, sexist, and every kind of -ist you can think of, and as we find out more about this troubled man, you begin to question



the narrator's mental state as he has distressing visions that get in the way of his boozy, dopey life. That someone like Bruce is in the law enforcement line of work already provides some solid groundwork for the film to build on.

Robertson's visions of disturbing animals (pigs, sheep, you name it) don't even begin to cover how energetically bonkers this film is. Why is the narrative interrupted at times by Bruce's wife Carole (Shauna Macdonald) who constantly breaks the fourth wall talking to the audience about her married life to Bruce? Why does Bruce keep seeing a tar-stained boy in the corner of his eyes? Or how about the nightmarish therapy sessions he imagines being a part of, where Dr Rossi (Jim Broadbent), with a grossly enlarged

sci-fi alien head, keeps hounding Bruce with unsettling questions?

A Japanese student who turns up dead sets off the motion of events, as taking the lead on this case could effectively get Bruce a step closer to the promotion. But the film's plot never remains solely on solving the case, nor does it concentrate on Bruce's sly and devious plans to take down his colleagues. *Filth* is really all about Bruce, and every single detail of his personal and professional life is laid out for the audience as we try to piece together just what on earth must have happened to create such a person.

McAvoy is startlingly good in his mentally unhinged role that becomes more and more unpredictable and outrageous as time passes by. With every nervous twitch he shows, captured closely by so many uncomfortably zoomed-in close-ups, his extremely physical performance is one thing that carries the movie and keeps everything together despite the many off-beat strands that don't quite gel very well. Arousal of sympathy for a character like Bruce is not the easiest task to convey, but with McAvoy showing a softer, more vulnerable side to his unsteady self, which plays a pivotal role in selling the big reveal in the final scenes of the film.

The supporting roles are largely unmemorable (Jamie Bell, Imogen Poots both have relatively thankless roles even with their big names), aside from Broadbent putting on a performance twice as creepy as the one he showed us in *Moulin Rouge*, and Eddie Marsan, the kind-hearted, rich best friend of Bruce who is constantly manipulated and pushed around by his detective friend. Being a sensible, insecure softie suits Marsan, as he is responsible for bringing out both the best and worst in Bruce who, quite frankly doesn't deserve a friend like him.

Although starting with a cynical, black comedy view of Scotland, the film winds up in places you never thought would go. Word is, the novel of the same name the film is based on is more daring with even less clear boundaries. It feels as though that given the film's title, the overall content could have been more edgy or darker, and not perhaps relying solely on the talent of the film's leading man.

The structure is no doubt a mess, but anchored by a superb performance from an actor whose extreme volatility screams mental breakdown, *Filth* is a wacky, unmissable ride, one that is guaranteed to shock and offend and quite possibly make you think twice before visiting Scotland.

## Imperial Cinema



This week, bald, furrow-browed super villain Gru and his posse of Minions are back in *Despicable Me 2*!

Following on from the first *Despicable Me*, Gru is now a devoted father of three and a reformed supervillain. But happy families don't last long before Gru is recruited by the Anti-Villain League to investigate the mysterious disappearance of a top-secret laboratory in the Arctic. Turns out the lab was producing a dodgy chemical with a bullshit Hollywood Science name which makes indestructible monsters out of anything, so shit has hit the proverbial fan. On top of this Gru also has mayjah romantic woes as well as parenting struggles. Come along to find out how Gru and co. sort this mess out! *Despicable Me 2* is a delightful follow up to the franchise, watch this space for the upcoming *Minions* spinoff.

### *Despicable Me 2:*

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Next Week: *Pacific Rim*



# Let's talk about sex addiction baby

John Park  
Film Editor

## Thanks for Sharing

**Director:** Stuart Blumberg  
**Writers:** Stuart Blumberg, Matt Winston  
**Starring:** Mark Ruffalo, Gwyneth Paltrow, Josh Gad, Alecia Moore, Tim Robbins, Joely Richardson  
**Runtime:** 112 minutes  
**Certification:** 15



Everything that *Shame* was, *Thanks for Sharing* is not. Whereas we saw Michael Fassbender spiral wildly out of control in Steve McQueen's harrowing sex-addiction drama, Ruffalo and Paltrow star as the couple to root for in this light and often fluffy ro-

mantic comedy dealing with the same subject matter.

Adam (the effortlessly good Ruffalo) has been "sober" for five years now: and in sex addiction terms, this means no pornography, no prostitutes, and no one-night-stands. His sponsor Mike (Robbins) encourages him to start dating again, given how much change he's shown over the years in their 12-step recovery programme, which is when he meets Phoebe (Paltrow), a fitness freak, at a bug-eating party (no joke).

Their relationship develops, and eventually the dreaded time comes for Adam to come clean about his secret to the unsuspecting Phoebe who describes herself as a sexual person and wants to give him a cringe-worthy lap-dance showing off her impeccable figure. Will they survive this and will Adam be able to keep his sobriety going and not resort back to his old habits when there are so many distracting triggers around him in everyday life?

Phoebe and Adam's romance is the "sweet" part of the film. Elsewhere

in the recovery process is the porn-addicted, stress/guilt-eating Neil (Gad, of 'The Book of Mormon' fame), whose friendship with fellow sex addict Dede (Alecia Moore aka the singer P!nk- who, if she ever needs a career transition, should definitely give acting a go, given her impressive debut performance here) is where the film finds its space for most of the humour.

Mike, Adam's sponsor, also has his share of drama to handle mostly stemming from his family. His recovering addict son returns out of the blue claiming that he has truly kicked the habit this time. His mother, Mike's wife Katie (Richardson, who looks so much like her mother Vanessa Redgrave that it's almost scary in certain shots) believes him, but Mike refuses to let his son back in. This strand deals with the moving drama as family tension escalates and goes to all the familiar places of loud drama and harsh words.

Overall the three main plots that we follow achieve what they originally set out to do. They generate an adequate



number of laughs and they move. Sure it's often contrived, and doesn't delve too deep into the real issue at hand, aside from Ruffalo explaining a thing or two about his addiction. There are even a couple of scenes that step away from the breezy atmosphere to portray something more honest and painful about being a sex addict but it's clear from the get-go that this isn't something the film wants to spend too much time exploring.

Ultimately everything means well, and by addressing a taboo subject the director has done well not to make light of a serious condition people suffer. It provides a very optimistic, hopeful view for those involved, and whilst the actual recovery process cannot seriously be as sugar-coated and colourful as what is shown here, the certain element of a feel-good factor delivered by the stellar cast is worth getting invested in.



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TELEVISION

# Dark Days in Downton Abbey

## Latest episode demonstrates how not to tackle a rape storyline

Emily Fulham Television Editor

At the beginning of this week's *Downton Abbey*, there was a warning for "violent scenes which some viewers may find upsetting", leading me to wonder what the cause could possibly be. Given the most significant crisis thus far this season has been a matter of inheritance tax, it was difficult to imagine anything too disturbing: an emergency over the spillage of hot tea, perhaps? A tear in Lady Mary's dress which leaves her unable to meet some viscount or another?

Yet after an otherwise standard episode, featuring a tense scene involving a misplaced gramophone, and a truly heart-stopping moment in which a footman drops a jam jar, the final few minutes depicted a fairly graphic rape scene. As the rest of the household sits watching an opera singer perform, downstairs, ladies' maid Anna is dragged screaming by her hair, and raped by a guest servant staying the house. It isn't an easy scene to watch, but it was more than just the content of the scene that left me feeling uneasy, leaving me to question whether storylines such as these really have a place in a show like *Downton Abbey*.

Regular viewers of *Downton* will know that it has a track record of making miserable things happen to its characters. The third series had one of the main characters dying in childbirth, which was shortly followed by the Christmas special in which the heir to the estate is killed in a car crash whilst his wife is giving birth (the take-away message being, apparently, don't get pregnant in *Downton*). Even Anna's character has already had her fair share of difficulties, with her husband Bates being sent to prison for a crime he didn't commit, so perhaps this latest twist shouldn't come as a surprise. However, storylines about rape have become something of a lazy plot device, an easy way to shock audiences and get viewers talking.

I'm not suggesting that the subject of rape shouldn't be tackled in TV programmes. Only, it has to be handled with



a degree of care and sensitivity above most other topics, given that a not-insignificant number of viewers will have been affected to some degree, and I'm not sure *Downton*, which is little more than a glorified period soap opera, is best placed to do that.

The thing is, there's no way of dealing with the issue with the gravitas it warrants, whilst also following the otherwise mundane storylines in the show. No matter how much it likes to pretend otherwise, *Downton* isn't a gritty, high-brow drama. It gained its fans through the will-they-won't-they romance of Lady Mary and middle-class solicitor Matthew, the sharp witticisms of Lady Grantham (played by a fantastic Maggie Thatcher), and the glorious fashions of the early twentieth century. It's therefore not surprising that viewers were shocked after the episode aired on Sunday evening; ITV apparently received over 60 complaints regarding the scene, with headlines about the episode appearing in many newspapers the next day.

The fallout from the rape will presumably be one of the themes of this series, with Anna so far determined to keep her assault a secret from her husband, fearing he will be sent back to prison

if he attempts to take revenge. Although it's too early to tell, it's not a stretch to imagine that the main purpose of Anna's rape will be to add a new source of drama to the show, in particular to force

a confrontation between her husband and her rapist. This sits even more uncomfortably when considering the other storylines of the series so far, which include Lord Grantham being

condescending to his daughter by expressing doubt in her ability to manage the estate, and the Abbey's youngest resident, Rose, portrayed as flighty and reckless after daring to dance with a man before asking his name. Sometimes, *Downton* veers dangerously between evoking a rose-tinted nostalgia for 'the olden days' and pointing out, heavy-handed, at how far we've come since then. It's easy, whilst watching, to get a self-congratulatory sense of 'but look how things have changed' (see also: *Mad Men*), and yet rape, sexism and debates over women's sexuality are hardly issues relegated to the past. And there's enough gratuitous rape in 'edgy' drama as is, without the likes of *Downton* deciding to join in.

For once, there appears to be a consensus that, this time, the writers have gone too far. It seems this may be a misstep from the show's creator, Julian Fellowes; by attempting to be hard-hitting and controversial, the show has alienated its core viewers. It will be for them to decide whether the show is worth saving, but until then, let's hope Fellowes has learned from his mistake.

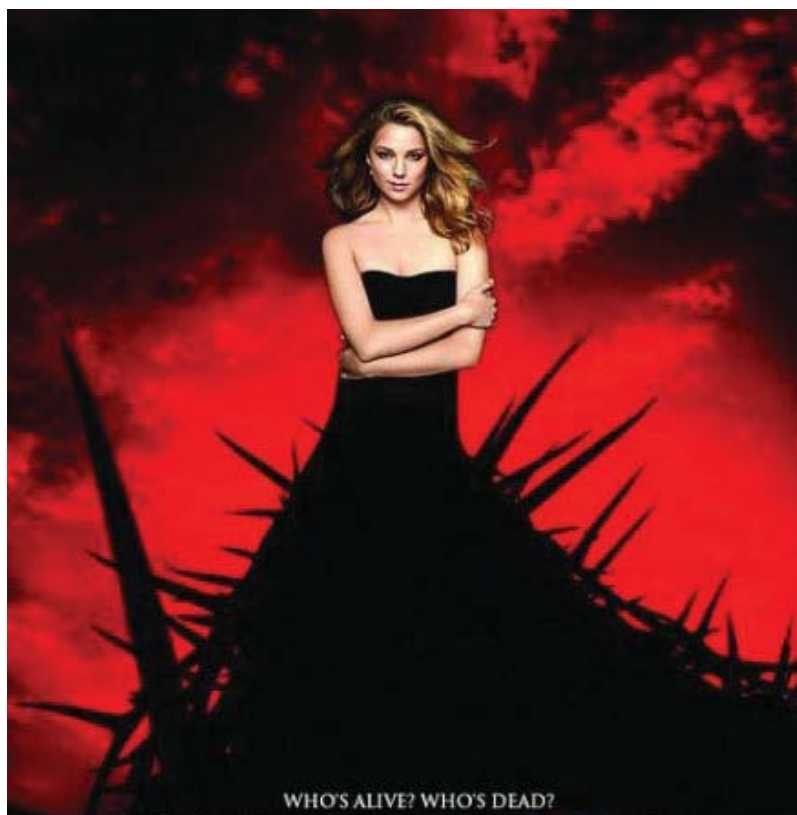


Woman dies in childbirth: just another cheery day at the Abbey





# 2012-13 Television



## Revenge: Season 2



John Park Television Editor

Previously on *Revenge*, Emily Thorne (Emily van Camp) was a kick-ass vengeful heroine who would have scared Count Monte Cristo's socks off...in season 1. When the show debuted, Emily's goal was to take down anyone and everyone who played a part in her innocent father's (James Tupper) unfair downfall and his eventual death - and at the heart of this conspiracy was the Graysons, a wealthy Hamptonite family who would lie, cheat, manipulate and kill anyone to score an extra buck or two. There were mindgames between Emily and the Grayson matriarch Victoria (Madeleine Stowe) as Emily worked her magic wrapping Daniel Grayson (Joshua Bowman), the Grayson son, around her fingers. With an explosive season 1 finale, *Revenge* was supposed to have an even better follow-up season.

So where did it all go wrong? Season 2 has ended, and the third season is well under way, but unless there

is a serious creative reboot, *Revenge* may as well call it quits, as the sliding ratings show the audience wasn't a huge fan of the second series.

The problems started when characters with potential were written off with barely a chance to speak. Most notable was Jennifer Jason Leigh's embarrassingly brief stint on the show as Emily's biological mother. As a mentally unstable character, there could have been more drama to play around with, but sadly after one brief hostage situation she went away for good. Much anticipation and hype surrounded what Emily's mother would bring to the overall narrative and what chemistry she would share with the cast but alas, this was not meant to be, and an actress of Jason Leigh's calibre should have gotten more.

Exhibit B of more useless characters: the men. That is, of course, with the exception of Conrad Grayson (Henry Czerny) whose pure evil nature makes him awesome as he gets more deserved screen time. Nolan (Gabriel Mann) is also invaluable to Emily's quest, and is excluded from this category. Plus, he's loaded and is a genius. Who can hate a man like that? So "the men" include Jack Porter (Nick Wechsler), his often-invisible younger brother Declan (Connor Paolo), Daniel Grayson, and a new entry to the cast, Aidan Mathis (Barry Sloane). Jack the lost puppy in search of a connection only delays

and derails Emily's agenda, which makes for more sappy minutes, Declan goes to a fancy posh school and finds that he's not fitting in so well (oh god), and Daniel is stepping up to the challenge of becoming a bona fide Grayson, plotting and scheming although still looking like an oversized immature 14-year-old way over his head. The worst offender of all however is Aidan - an old classmate of Emily. The two of them met whilst they were both in the Japanese Revenge Academy (not a real place). Their sensei saw romance developing between the two, and decided to tear them apart. It's been years, they reconnect, and he wants to help Emily. Help her how exactly...? All Aidan does is create another side of a love-shape Emily's rapidly building up for herself, and with another eligible bachelor comes at least a few episodes of mopey sulking, when people should really be getting their act together and launching an attack on the smug Graysons.

Want more needless characters? Charlotte Grayson (Christa B. Allen) should have stayed dead with the overdose from the season 1 finale and Amanda Clarke (Margarita Levieva), Emily's "best friend aka the girl Emily swapped identities with" wants the audience's sympathy when it comes to the mid-season climax, and to that I say too little too late. Only Ashley Davenport (Ashley Madekwe), the Graysons' live-in

slave (not being racist here, she really IS a slave), shows potential with her duplicitous, selfish side emerging, only for that to go nowhere too (she's also being written out for season 3 - bye bye Ashley, be a dear and poison Charlotte on your way out will you?).

Things take an even more drastic turn for the worse with the introduction of The Initiative, a collection of bad guys ultimately responsible for everything bad that's happened in Emily's life. The name is ridiculous in itself, and when we get a glimpse into their offices, oh what a treat we're in for. They sit in their sci-fi futuristic set, one that would most likely find its place on the Starship Enterprise, they stare at screens and make decisions to kill people. Yes there may be people in the world who do this kind of thing for a living, but given how *Revenge* started, this marked a serious step down for the show.

Putting a face on The Initiative are Helen Crowley (Wendy Crewson) and Mr Trask (Burn Gorman), two villains so over the top they make Disney baddies look like a real-world possibility. Helen eventually clashes with Victoria, the protective mother, who has one highlight episode of actually doing something memorable. That's right...ONE...out of 22.

Victoria, as always, is craftier with her verbal threats than she is when it comes to actually getting things done. She fancies herself as quite the schemer and backstabber, but she al-

ways finds herself on the losing end. But on the plus side, she always looks so damn flawless and outshines her younger co-stars which is a real visual treat.

Coming back to the character who started all this in the first place, Emily looks as lost as the writers. She dilly dallies with her revenge idea, a huge let-down for everyone who's been rooting for her since day one (i.e. me), and with a drewwwwwary pace that is more interested in her love stories, Emily has very little time to flex her action muscles and put her tacky martial arts moves to good use in dodgy choreography.

Are things looking better for the third season? Well...to start with, two of the aforementioned good-for-nothing roles were given the brutal axe (not literally - although this is an absolutely just cause for celebration: hurrah), but to put a damper of things is the announcement that two new actors have signed on for recurring roles. One, a character close to Victoria and another who may or may not have something going on with Daniel. Only time will tell on whether there are enough people still invested in the show to keep those all important 18-49-year-olds' ratings/share, but to not haemorrhage viewers, the show needs to go back to where everything kicked off so well, and lose all the fancy wannabe plot lines to keep everything taut and focused.





# Sophomore Slumps



Once Upon a Time: Season 2



John Park Television Editor

Previously on *Once Upon a Time*, characters from the most beloved fairytale stories were brainwashed, ripped away from their home the Enchanted Forest, and forced into a modern-day hellish locked down town called Storybrooke run by the evil witch queen and self-appointed mayor Regina (Lana Parrilla, still looking as dark and controlling as ever) who wished to punish everyone for lifelong feuds she had with various people. As more of the characters' complex, intertwined past was revealed, the more enriched everyone's background story became. With enough flashback sequences to explain and unmask various people's true intentions, Season 2 was setting up as though the residents of Storybrooke were finally ready to move on with their lives.

With a flash of mystical-looking purple smoke, magic re-entered Storybrooke in the Season 1 finale, along with everyone's memories, and soon after we find that the inhabitants are rightly out for blood: Regina's blood. But hold on, we're not just interested in Storybrooke here.

Back we go to the magical fantasy kingdom to be introduced to Princess Aurora (Sarah Bolger), aka Sleeping Beauty, who, as her name suggests, doesn't do anything, Mulan (Jamie Chung), aka the Chinese Princess, who you'd think would be able to put up a decent fight, but doesn't, and Prince Philip (Julian Morris), aka Aurora's boyfriend, who's as useless if not more so, than his narcoleptic girlfriend. These are the good guys, although at times it's hard to see how

exactly they contribute. The new bad guys? Cora (Barbara Hershey), Regina's witch mother who's twice the bitch her daughter is, and Captain Hook (Colin O'Donoghue) - these two are plotting a comeback, eager to transport themselves to Storybrooke to wreak havoc.

With two parallel narratives to juggle, did we really need a third? Yes, we absolutely did. Piling on to the overlong, overly complicated structure, the writers clearly felt there was a need to link everyone to everyone else, making *Lost* seem like a trivial, small-scale drama. With season 1 the characters, along with the audience, had no idea who they were. Now with everything restored back to normal, as well as the audience getting a firm grasp on who's loved/kissed/betrayed/killed whom, the writers could have dialled it back on all the highly irrelevant flashbacks.

The show never seems to know when to leave the past alone. It would appear Regina and Snow White (Ginnifer Goodwin) are constantly trying to kill each other over what feels like a hundred years, with Charming (Josh Dallas - dull, corny, and hardly ever heroic) popping by for a few showdowns; but that's not all, Regina's past with Cora complicates things, and so does the entrance of Snow White's mother. Regina has a past connection with Captain Hook, he holds a grudge against Rumpelstiltskin (Robert Carlyle), who has a thing for Belle (Emilie de Ravin), who is also a target of Hook, Belle also met Mulan and Red Riding Hood in the past, etc, etc. You think you get the full picture? Look again, and you'll realise as long as this show goes on, you'll never know for sure just who is involved with what when and where. Whereas season 1 took very neat, clever approaches to linking various characters together, now everything seems far-fetched and a touch desperate in an attempt to squeeze absolutely everyone into the plot.

Emma Swan (Jennifer Morrison)

and her mother Mary Margaret/Snow White have some quality mother-daughter bonding session when they inadvertently find themselves away from Storybrooke, although after some horrendously bad, childish "action" scenes they're back where they belong united with their family; which is when they really start laying on the cheese. The whole "I see good in you", "there's good in everyone", "you have a good heart" "be a good person no matter what" angle grows more tiresome than *Glee's* endless weekly message of "be yourself", as residents of Storybrooke show they need a big reality check when it comes to life in general.

On the plus side the one character the show could do without, Rumpelstiltskin/Mr Gold, has every chance to flourish in his self-centred, duplicitous schemes. Although standing by his side is the irritating Belle, who acts as the lead spokeswoman of the "be good" campaign.

Cora and Hook, who are up to no good, add some fresh dynamic into the otherwise dull narrative. Hershey absolutely nails her role as she channels hints of her similar "mother-from-hell" character from *Black Swan*, and O'Donoghue shows he's more than just a pretty-face eye-candy with a different accent for the ladies who make up a large percentage of the demographic.

It's a show full of ups and downs, but given the abundance of material, it really should be better. Be bold and kill off a few characters, less focus on the past, more driving forward with the present storylines, and who knows, some flashforwards, which served *Lost* so well during its mid-series struggle, might do some good for a series that is growing stale very quickly. The season 2 finale promises adventure into a new realm, with a super-villain (who can fly, who can fly, who can fly) who is bound to be a cunning, conniving man-child (hint, hint). So here's to hoping some magic will be brought back into the world of OUAT.







# Dumped Planetside (2), time to get revenge

## Like a good meal, steak as the main and planets on the side

Max Eggl  
Games Editor

Ever wanted to take part into a continent wide battle for control of an entire planet? Planetside 2 (released November 2012) the revamp of the succesful MMOFPS Planetside allows you to do exactly that! It revolves around the control of the mysterious planet of Auraxis.

Featuring a gigantic map, which is divided into hexagonal areas where the three different factions vie for control. While in effect you can spawn anywhere on the three continents, you will only be wanting to spawn in to where the actual action is taking place. This is easily done using the direct spawn in (which has a 2 minute cooldown), or spawning in from your local base. This allows for quick entry to gaming which is quite satisfying. The maps themselves are beautifully crafted and even on the lowest settings, quite detailed. This makes flying, driving or just walking through the world very enjoyable.

When joining the game for the



first time, you are confronted with a choice of a faction that you will represent. There are the Terran Republic (the industrial faction, which uses bullets and heavy metal stuff), the New Conglomerate (a freedom fighter faction, using a mish mash of technologies) and the Vanuu Sovereignty (the high tech faction, which utilise laser and plasma tech). While gameplay is virtually the same within the three factions, the developers have made enough changes to look and feel, that you do feel like there is a significant difference.

The different classes themselves are also really fun, and each individual one makes for a completely different gaming experience. I myself

preferred the Light Assault class due to the addition of the pretty useful jetpack! However due to the modifiability of each weapon and ability, it is possible to play one class almost like another and do so quite successfully. The most fun class is the MAX class, which is basically a Iron man type suit which you can add different loadouts to. This suit is quite overpowered, meaning that if you do it right you can mow down enemies!

The gunplay in this game is quite realistic, meaning that for the bullet based guns you will have to account for gravity and the like (however the laser based tech of the Vanuu does not have this factor). However I found that due to the size of the map as well as the large amount of people on the server at the time that it was actually quite laggy. That meant at some points I would die even after I had killed my opponent. This was very frustrating, and even setting the graphics settings to the lowest didnt seem to solve that problem. I really hope that this is solved soon as possible, because when the game play is actually lag-free it is really good and fun. However there are pros to there

being so many players on the server. Since this game is a multiplayer game, there is the reasonable expectation that you will be spending quite a bit of time playing online with others. However it is perfectly fine playing solo, and it will not really impact your gaming experience. On the other hand, it is when you join a squad that stuff goes really well. Usually you will be added to a squad on a random basis (e.g. some random dude will invite you to join a squad), and the quality of them can vary but when it goes well, it goes really well!

This game follows the fremium

model, meaning that you can play for free, however have to pay for additional content. The developers have pledged that you will not be disadvantaged if you do not pay, as the content that costs is for the most part cosmetic/time saving. At no point in the game did I really feel that I needed to pay money, and it did not really hamper my ability to play.

This is a well crafted game that is quite fun, and the fact that you can enjoy the most of it for free is excellent. If you are a fan of Halo type games, you should really look into this. I mean, you might as well!



# Lara Croft dies. Tomb Raider is born.

## Tomb Raider 2013 provides the long awaited origin story

Imran Rashid  
Games Editor

The Lara Croft we see in this game is very different to how we might usually perceive her: confident, strong, comfortable with diving into dark caves or putting bullets into enemies. Instead, our main character starts off as anxious, afraid and averse to violence. This game takes us back to the beginning of the metamorphosis from Lara Croft to the Tomb Raider.

Initially the game has cinematic scripted sequences that can be frustrating to sit through with minimal involvement, but it sets the scene very well and allows you to understand that you are about to play a very different game to the one you might have expected. Lara is attacked, stabbed, exposed to the

harsh elements and the game focuses on her pain and fear. She shivers, sobs, and throws up as she tries her best to survive her situation, and this makes her more than a character in a game. It makes her human, and our sympathy goes out to her. If you fail, there are graphic and gory sequences of her death, further increasing your incentive to keep her alive.

However, as you play on she becomes stronger, both emotionally and physically, and the game slowly turns into a more familiar adventure that is exhilarating, albeit a little typical. Weapon and skills upgrades are translatable into good advantages in gameplay, and not prohibitively difficult to acquire. Traversing the areas is fast-paced, and finding 'tombs' where you can solve puzzles and earn goodies is rewarding

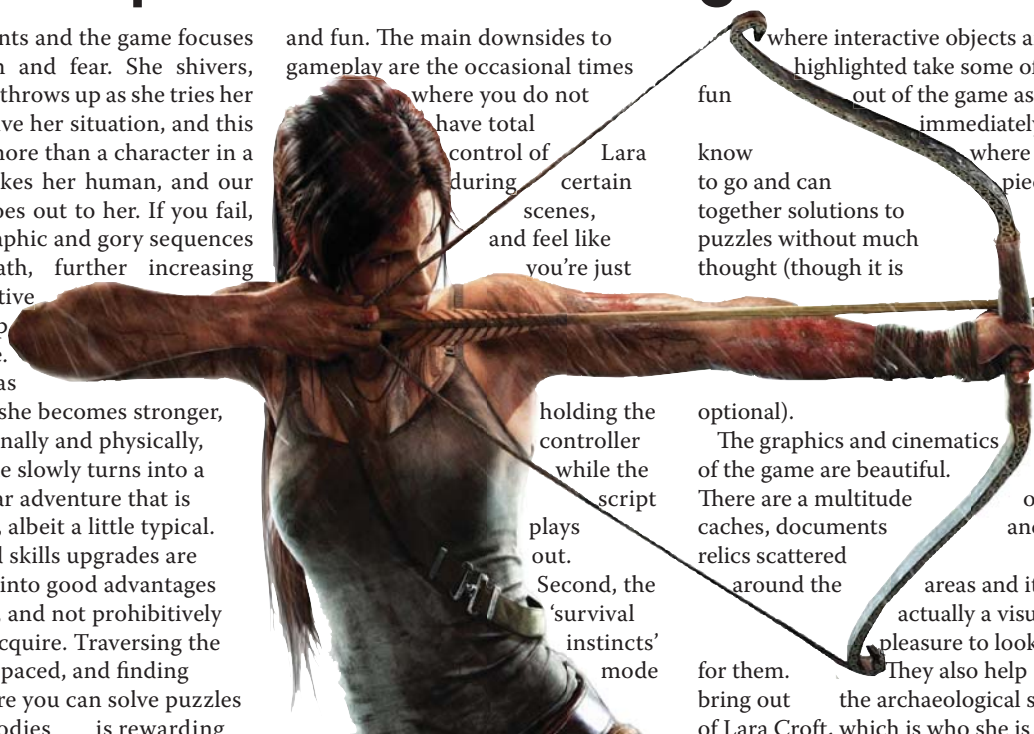
and fun. The main downsides to gameplay are the occasional times where you do not have total control of Lara during certain scenes, and feel like you're just

where interactive objects are highlighted take some of the fun out of the game as you immediately know where to go and can piece together solutions to puzzles without much thought (though it is

heart, even from the beginning of the game. The overall plot of Tomb Raider is also fairly engaging, though the supporting cast are not quite as well-developed as Lara (something the game attempts to fix by having Lara randomly finding letters that reveal their back-stories).

The completion of the story is as anticipated, and not entirely satisfying. However, once it's over, there are still mini-quests to complete and various bits and bobs to go find, which you will actually still want to do because it's quite fun! Overall the main strength of this game is the peek into Lara's early history and the vivid scenes of her development into the Tomb Raider, but it has enough of the good old shooting and puzzle-solving to please the more traditional gamers too.

Tomb Raider 2013 was released on 5 March 2013. It can currently be bought for around £9.99.



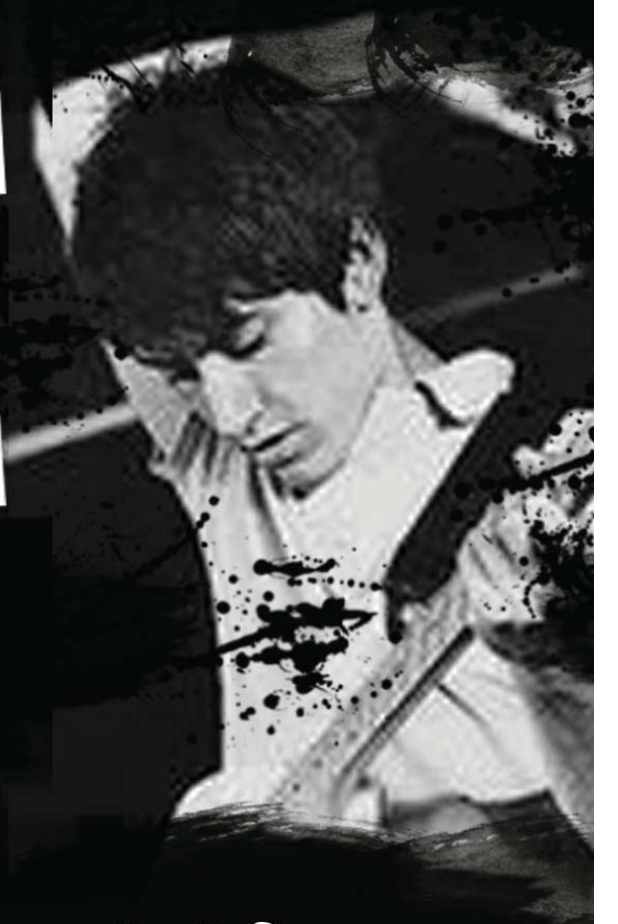


# INDIGO

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# Nexus 7 Review!

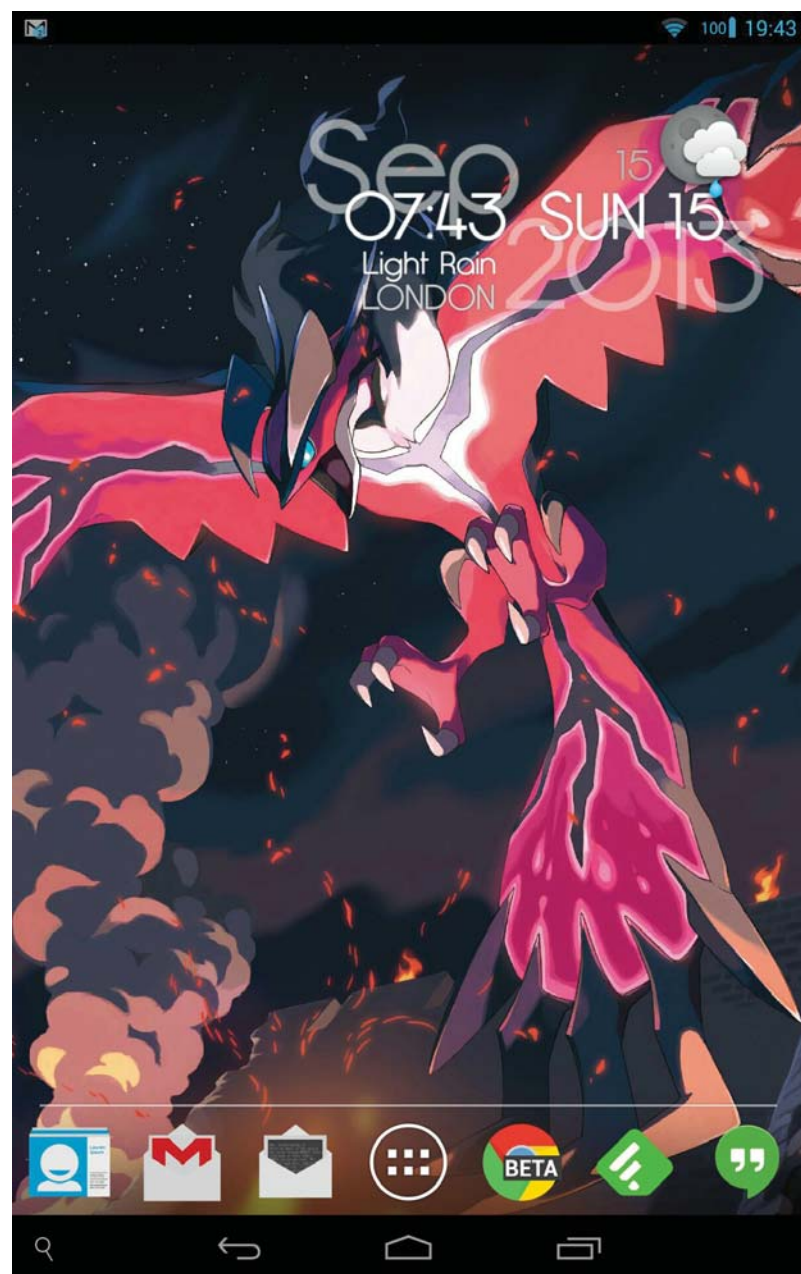
Apparently, the best 7-inch tablet you can get

Yong Wen Chua  
Technology Editor

The Nexus series of devices released by Google is now a staple amongst many Android users' arsenal of devices. Initially touted as a benchmark setting niche series of devices, the Nexus series has spawned off its own fanbase for users who are interested in always having the latest version of Android free from any custom manufacturer's skins. The original Nexus 7 released in 2012 was lauded as one of the best tablets upon its release. However, one year on, the Tegra 3 System-On-Chip (SOC) in it has shown its limitation with sub-par performance and battery life. Combined with the cheap flash memory used in its manufacture, the original Nexus 7 now feels like a sluggish monster to use. Google has sought to rectify this with the new Nexus 7 model. Starting at £199 for a 16 GB model, the Nexus 7 is one of the most affordable 7-inch tablets in the market, if you discount the recently released budget £119 tablet called "Hudl" by Tesco (which apparently does not suck at all!). The Nexus 7

touts an impressive screen resolution of 1920 x 1200 pixels at 323 pixels per inch (ppi). And thankfully, it has ditched the Tegra series of SOC for the Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 Pro, and comes with a hefty 2 GB of RAM. The display is an absolute treat. With such an impressive ppi, I can hardly tell the pixels apart from each other. Text looks absolutely crisp and a joy to read. With a PDF of my report zoomed out to display an entire page on screen, I could read the text on it without needing to strain my eyes. The colours do seem a bit yellowish, but that could be due to the poor colour calibration on Google's part, something which could be fixed with some manual user calibration if they root the device, (then again, this is highly subjective.) The high resolution seems to also have taken its toll on the animations of some unoptimised applications. Scrolling through an article on the Guardian application is janky, and the page flip animation of my PDF application is simply unusable. Although the battery is smaller in size than the original Nexus 7, the battery life is much better on this new model. Turning on the screen for prolonged usage, however, still destroys the battery life, although at a slower rate. The tablet boasts an amazing standby power consumption. I left the tablet overnight with WiFi

turned on and woke up to find that it has drained less than 5% of the battery life. Pretty impressive! On the number side of things, I can only say unscientifically that the device feels fast. It is a joy to use. If you are looking for the numbers on the device, I would point you to the excellent review that AnandTech (<http://www.anandtech.com/show/7231/the-nexus-7-2013-review>) has done. My only concern with the device is how it does not try to exceed the current hardware norm, and break the mold. While the price is really great for its hardware, the hardware is simply what is current at the time of its release. This means that the hardware will become outdated rather quickly. While it is inevitable for devices released today to become outdated tomorrow, I was hoping that Google would try and set a higher standard with its current line of Nexus devices, much like how the original Nexus One did. The Nexus 7 is an excellent device. If you are in the market for a 7-inch device, and are unwilling to pay the price that Apple has asked for its iPad Mini, the Nexus 7 should be at the top of your list. It has a good price, with excellent hardware. The device is also guaranteed to always run the latest version of Android, unencumbered by the lengthy delays that Android devices are infamous for their software updates.



# The Torrid State of the Onion

Kier Little on the shutdown of the web's biggest drug dealership

It was something like a 90s cyberpunk's dream: an anonymous, hidden marketplace on the "deep web" where everything from research psychedelics to stolen credit card details could be bought. The Silk Road, considered by some a bold experiment in libertarianism, by others the biggest online hotbed of illegal trade, was finally shut down by the FBI last week after over two years of successful operation.

Tor, The Onion Router, sends connections through several relays around the world, hiding users' IP addresses from websites they visit. It also allows websites like The Silk Road, known as hidden services, which are only accessible via Tor and have a .onion domain name. Tor is widely used by journalists and activists to hide their identities and circumvent censorship in oppressive countries, but its hidden services are infamous for piracy and criminal activity.

The Silk Road takedown is the latest

in a recent spate of developments on the Tor network: two weeks earlier, another marketplace called Atlantis shut down, seemingly voluntarily. In August, the hidden webhost service Freedom Hosting, which served child pornography, was seized by the FBI. Later that month, millions of new clients connected to the Tor network, far more than natural growth in the service's popularity can account for, most likely a criminal botnet. These events have raised concerns for Tor's users, especially in light of the recent NSA leaks: is the network as anonymous as it claims, or has it been compromised by law enforcement agencies?

The Silk Road's operator is known

to its users as Dread Pirate Roberts. In real life, he is 29 year old physicist Ross Ulbricht, who lives in San Francisco, and who had earned around \$80 million from the site. He was arrested last Thursday and charged with narcotics trafficking, computer hacking and money laundering, but it was human error, rather than any flaw in Tor's anonymity, which led to his arrest: at the time of Silk Road's launch in January 2011, a user called Altoid appeared on several forums advertising the site. One post contained Ulbricht's personal email address, which led to his being investigated.

In the Freedom Hosting case, the owner attempted to set up a bitcoin-dealing company using his

real identity, which the FBI linked to the hidden services. The FBI took control of the servers after his arrest. Both of these show that Tor hasn't been compromised; however, Tor doesn't protect from old fashioned cracking, an unsecured hidden service, while anonymous, is just as susceptible to attack as something accessible from the internet.

Tor's software is open source and extensively vetted, and the Tor Project say, "nothing about this case makes us think that there are new ways to compromise Tor (the software or the network)". A recent leaked presentation from the NSA claims that, "we will never be able to de-anonymize all Tor users all the time",

going on to say that with manual analysis they can reveal a very small fraction of users, but not on demand.

Still, the confidence of Tor's users, many of whom are attempting to evade snooping by the NSA, has been shaken. When the FBI seized Freedom Hosting, they installed javascript code exploiting older versions of the Tor Browser Bundle which revealed many users' IP addresses, not so much a chip in Tor's armour, but a complete sidestep around it. The exploit was quickly fixed, but raises deep concerns that similar vulnerabilities could arise in the future.

While Tor is certainly still safe for its intended purpose, hiding your IP from websites, these recent events show that Tor alone isn't enough to protect you when hosting criminal activity. Paranoid users are looking towards alternatives such as i2p and Project Meshnet, but for most, the onion router's anonymity hasn't yet been peeled away.



**Silk Road**  
anonymous marketplace





 @felixtechnology

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# TECHNOLOGY

# 3-D Printers take off!

**Osama Awara**, new tech editor, informs you about 3D space printing!

Launching a rocket into space is in itself a tricky business; well after all it is rocket science!

Being able to repair one or a space station for that matter is a different ball game altogether. NASA has plans to launch their very own 3-D printer by next year, and for those of you who aren't familiar with this novel way of printing, it basically involves making a 3-D object of your choice and having a machine spew it out for you by simply adding layers of material together. NASA has been looking at ways for many years to make the lives of astronauts easier, as if having to chase their food around isn't trouble enough, astronauts have to worry about repairing faulty components in and around space craft/stations which can potentially be life threatening if not attended to. A perfect example of this was in 1970 when astronauts aboard the fatally struck Apollo 13 were forced to jerry rig a carbon-dioxide filter using scrap materials such as a plastic bag and book cover and the old classic of DIY: duct tape. If it were not for the ingenuity of crew members and engineers on ground control, this could've potentially been a disastrous return mission. What NASA aims to do with 3-D printing is allow astronauts to build their own repair tools and replacement parts so incidents that happened back in the old '70s NASA era aren't repeated. "Imagine an astronaut needing to make a life-or-death repair... Rather than



hoping that the necessary parts and tools are on the station already, what if the parts could be 3-D printed when they needed them?" Aaron Kemmer, CEO of Made in Space, a company which is one of Silicon Valley's new members and are contracted to oversee NASA's 3-D printing space programme (pretty impressive for a start-up to say the least).

Now of course it's not just space safety that 3-D printers will improve but also making the availability of space (if you'd pardon the pun) a hell of a lot better. Imagine eventually being able to launch a printer into space that allows you to make virtually anything, all you'd need to take up with you is just the printer and some plastic, obviously I'm exaggerating a wee bit but you get my point, 3-D printers will make sending a rocket into space a lot

less heavier which for NASA is a big bonus because fuel prices just aren't in the favour of anyone these days, apart from them Saudi oil lords. Scott Crump, one of the first developers of 3-D printing said, 'The good news is that you don't have to have this huge amount of inventory in space, but the bad news is now you need materials,' and I get his point: you' will need to be able to store large quantities of different types of material (namely plastic and metal) but at the end of the day storing them is a lot easier and convenient than storing already built and functioning equipment. What is more amazing than printing tools and parts, is miniature 3-D satellites, 'what!?' I hear you shout, yes, NASA engineers are also trying their hands at 3-D printing these little bad-boys that could shoot out of the space station and transmit signals to earth. Of course space printers are going to have to be made slightly different from their earthly counterparts as they'd have to operate under zero gravity and survive the ridiculous amount of vibrations during take-off in order to land in one piece, so in terms of cost it'd be more than your average \$2000 3-D printer but knowing NASA's outrageous budgets investing in one of these would be like us going into a supermarket and buying a kilo of tomatoes. All in all for any remaining sceptics out there, 3-D printing is a sustainable method for bringing with you what you need when you need it.

## The News Bubble

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

### Samsung curved screen

The first ever curved smartphone has been launched. Called the Galaxy round, it is made by Samsung as you may have guessed. This comes just days after a rival in the smartphone market announced its own curved smartphone. At the moment this strange novelty is only available in South Korea. How much this bendy trend will catch on is unknown

### 1 millionth Raspberry Pi

The Raspberry Pi, the mini computer that is available for £25-£32, has known been produced 1 million times in the UK. Let this not mislead you, actually this little wonder has sold over 1.5 million units. This makes it the most successful british computer since the BBC Micro (yes, BBC did make a PC a while back). We all expect a lot from this credit card sized Brit!

### New apple event

News reports suggest that Apple will be holding an event on October 22. Rumours on the interwebs suggest that new iPads, general info on pricing of Mavericks as well as the dandy new Mac Pro will be revealed. The big iPad is set to be redesigned falling in line with its smaller brother with a cleaner finish and portrait size bezel. Furthermore there are suggestions that the mini will get the same colour palette as the iPhone 5C. Hopefully this event will not be quite as disappointing as the last one.

### BBC iPlayer 30 days!

The popular online service provided by the BBC is set to get an update. Viewing windows will now be increased to 30 days for some shows, as well as some being viewable before the official broadcast! Furthermore, music is taking a step into the foreground with Radio 1 being introduced into the iPlayer as well!

### HTC One Max

One of the only serious competitors to the Samsung dominance of android, HTC is on the verge of announcing the HTC One Max. This giant of a phone (even bigger than the galaxy note) will look much like the HTC One, and will feature a fingerprint scanner in the same manner that the iPhone 5S does.

Maximilian Eggl  
Yong Wen Chua  
Osama Awara

Technology Editors





# Hangzhou: a forgotten pearl from heaven

Get the lowdown on a fresh UNESCO site in the heart of China's Zhejiang Province

Zhuoqi Shi  
Shukai Wang

## Event details:

### Hangzhou Cultural Week, 17th - 21st October

A series of events celebrating the culture of Hangzhou. All are welcome to attend.

For more information and to register your interest, contact **Shukai Wang (sw2711)**.



FRANY ZHANG

## Hangzhou

Hangzhou is the capital city of and largest city in the Zhejiang Province, Eastern China, with 3.56 million people living in its six urban core districts. Lying on the Hangzhou Bay, just southwest of Shanghai, Hangzhou has great economic power. It has been one of the most renowned and prosperous cities of China since Qin Dynasty, due in part to its beautiful natural scenery. Hangzhou is at the southern end of China's Grand Canal which extends to Beijing.

The city first appeared in written records as *Yuhang*, meaning 'Yu's Ferry', and was incorporated into the Chinese empire as a part of the Kuaiji Commandery during the Qin Dynasty. In 589 CE the city was renamed Hangzhou, and a city wall was constructed two years later. In 923 CE Wuyue Kingdom was founded, and for the first time Hangzhou had become a capital of a regime. Hangzhou was also the centre of politics, the economy and culture in Southern Song. It also gives Hangzhou the prestigious status of being one of the Seven Ancient Capitals of China.

We cannot talk about Hangzhou without mentioning West Lake, a freshwater lake located in the historic area of Hangzhou. The lake is divided by the Bai Causeway, Su Causeway and Yang Gong Causeway, which made significant contributions to Hangzhou's prosperity. Marco Polo once came to Hangzhou and famously praised it as city of heaven.

There are numerous temples, pagodas, gardens, and artificial islands within the lake. It was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2011, and was described as "an idealized fusion between humans and nature." Almost all of the natural parks and museums are free to visitors from all over the world.

## The West Lake

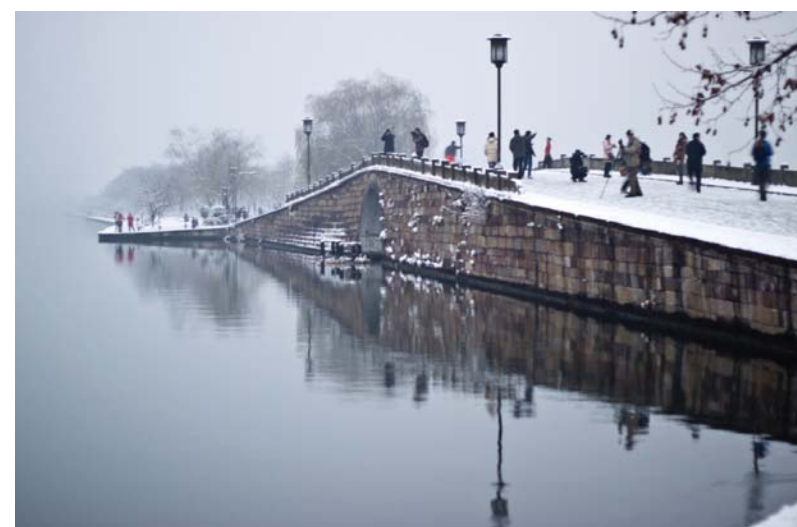
It was a lazy, breezy autumn afternoon. The blue flagstones were still a little wet after the light rain at noon. The smell of perfume hung in the air: *osmanthus* was blossoming. Hangzhou, the great city, was like a young graceful lady. A thin layer of fog penetrated above the West Lake, as if the elegant lady was wearing a veil. Small boats scattered on the lake and dangled gleamingly in the fog. Sometimes, big dragon barges passed by before disappearing back into the mist again. On the horizon, continuous hills merged with the sky and the lake. Willows kissed the water. A few dilapidated lotuses were whispering about how they had just culminated the summer. Crewmen and teahouse clerks were calling for business.

Hot spring water ran into a glass. The green tea leaves opened their curled bodies, stood up and danced in the water. Tiger-dug spring with Dragon Well tea: the most perfect match in Chinese tea history. I held the glass and tasted a drop. A fresh smell tinged my tongue, and the hot steam blurred my glasses. I just closed my eyes, to feel the vitality and the spring locked within. Pieces of sweet Osmanthus cakes, lost words, and fond memories were with me throughout the afternoon.

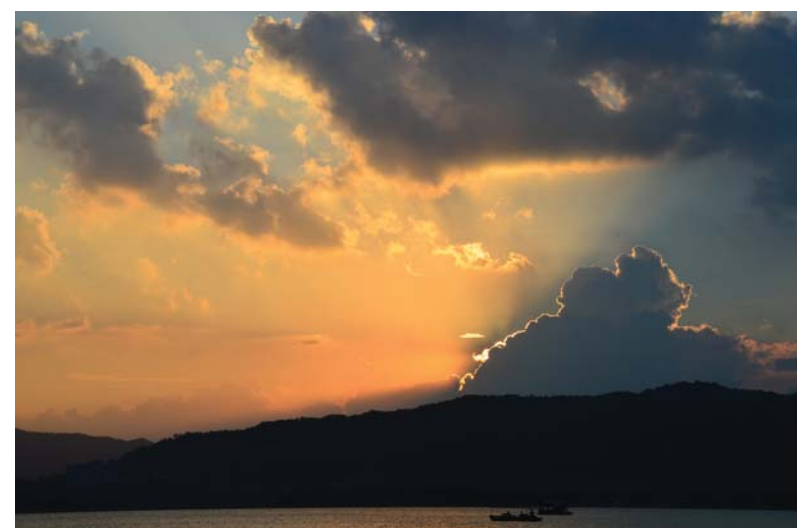
Hangzhou is my beloved hometown. I sometimes think it is not blood in my vessels, but the water of the West Lake. I had been told countless fairy tales about the West Lake since I was a little girl. The most popular one was a love story between a mercy snake banshee and a human. The broken bridge on the West Lake was where they met, although it has not been broken down until now. I guess it is not the bridge, but the heart that broke, as the snake was not permitted to be with a real man. In the end she was locked under a tower, the Leifeng Pagoda, and separated from her husband forever. When I grew up, I had read many



FRANY ZHANG



FRANY ZHANG



From Top to Bottom: 1) Tulips in Taiziwan Garden, 2) West Lake in the Snow, 3) Broken Bridge, 4) a Hangzhou sunset

poems about Hangzhou and the West Lake: great poets have not only given us beautiful poetry, but have kept the West Lake a unique treasure that will continue inspire for generations.

Night began to fall. Small boats were back and streetlights were on. Bars, cafes, clubs and teahouses began to get busy. As I was cycling around the

lake, a musical performance began: the Impressive West Lake by Yimou Zhang. Music fountain performances were bravura and passionate as well.

Hangzhou: her beauty, elegance and vogue sweep the world from her feet, and The West Lake is a forgotten pearl from the heaven.

## Scenic spots on the West Lake

Top ten scenic spots on the West Lake:

Known as the 'Ten Scenes of the West Lake', each is remembered by a four-character epithet written in the calligraphy of the Qianlong Emperor:

Dawn on the Su Causeway in Spring (蘇堤春曉)

Curved Yard and Lotus Pool in Summer (曲院風荷)

Moon over the Peaceful Lake in Autumn (平湖秋月)

Remnant Snow on the Bridge in Winter (斷橋殘雪)

Leifeng Pagoda in the Sunset (雷峰夕照)

Two Peaks Piercing the Clouds (雙峰插雲)

Orioles Singing in the Willows (柳浪聞鶯)

Fish Viewing at the Flower Pond (花港觀魚)

Three Ponds Mirroring the Moon (三潭印月)

Evening Bell Ringing at the Nanping Hill (南屏晚鐘)

Zhuoqi Shi  
Shukai Wang



Editor: **Carol Ann Cheah, Michael Yat Kit Chung**  
 food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

**FOOD**

# The self-catering cheatsheet

## Sage(!) advice on how to shop, cook and eat smart - fresher's 15 begone!

Understandably everyone reading this article will have a different view or preference/budget when it comes to eating or food shopping. Even within Carol's household, the boys prefer to bag everything from Sainsbury's (everything's in one location), whereas she doesn't mind scouring the North End Road market and butcher's for cheaper produce.

However there are some universal rules that most savvy food shoppers/cooks will agree with, so we've listed them here for your convenience. Think of it as a bit of a springboard if you're new to or still have kittens when it comes to self-catering!

### PLANNING AHEAD

Unless you've got immense supermarket-fu, get into the habit of making a shopping list and corresponding food budget AND stick to it. It's very easy to go over your budget when you see temptables masked as "oh-actually-I-want-some-of-these" items.

Some weeks you'll need to stock up on some dried/tinned goods (rice, pasta) and that'll mean you spend a bit more in those weeks during the month, but that's okay. Adjust the

budget for future weeks accordingly... plus pasta isn't a heavy expenditure.

We recommend doing a food shop weekly and with at least one shopping buddy. BOGOF/BOGOHP (Buy One Get One Free/Half Price) deals are great; but sometimes if they're on fresh produce you may not use it all in time so having a food shopping buddy means you get to enjoy the deals but without as much outlay. It works for online food shopping as well get a few more buddies, split the delivery cost or try and hit free-delivery spend amounts.

Whatever you do, don't head off shopping on an empty stomach. Many of us can testify that you'll end up spending more...

### SAVVY CHOICES

You don't always have to be a food/label snob. Sometimes own-brand/value-brand stuff is on par or perhaps better than the name-brand stuff you find in supermarkets (Basics digestives and smoked salmon trimmings are Felix Food favourites). However there are times where you do get what you pay for, so you might have to have a try for yourself. Do keep an open mind though!

Sometimes a simple swap in the cut of meat can save you pounds. We opt for chicken thigh/drumstick meat instead of breast meat sometimes chopped up, it's more sumptuous in stews and has a richer flavour. For protein fiends with little to no time, eggs and fish are a great and cheaper way to keep going.

Buy seasonal fruit and veg. We're sometimes guilty of violating this as a certain editor is a sucker for clementines whatever month of the year we're in, but it's a lot better to stick to the produce that comes with the seasons. Leeks and potatoes for Autumn/Winter, light summery veg for the warmer months... your wallet will thank you, and no one wants to eat a dense casserole in summer so your stomach will too!

Make it a point to try something new in terms of fruit or veg (or maybe even cuts of meat) once a week. It's a great way to broaden your horizons and prevent you from being stuck in a food rut. You never know, you may end up liking it, Carol found out that way with beetroot! The internet is a great place to find out what to do with novel (to you) foods/ingredients.

### MAKING THE MOST OF IT

Cook two portions in a go, don't bother with just one, as you'll be making and washing up the same amount of mess. Keep one portion for lunch the next day, or share with a mate (and get them to cook the next day!)

If you're short on dosh, all-in-one meals like soups, one-pan dishes or stir-fries are great to save on the cost. There's still a way to eat cheap and healthy without having to resort to pot noodle (okay, we've made pot noodle gourmet before in a previous issue but you get our drift!).

Don't chuck out sad-looking fruit, give it a new lease of life by blitzing it up for smoothies/yogurt sauce, or maybe use it in a pudding/cake (banana bread, we're looking at you). To keep it fresh for longer though, we recommend storing bananas away from other fruit, their gases make fruit go off faster.

Similarly for older veg, they tend to make great soup or sauce-bulking ingredients. Or just cook them for longer in a winter stew.

Invest in a decent grater, for cheese, it boosts flavor and aerates it a bit so you'll use less and save money. A good

grater helps create interest in dishes as well: grated carrot and cucumber in a tossed salad, anyone?

Measure out pasta/spaghetti to cut down on waste. As a handy guideline, a standard mugful of pasta is enough for one person. For spaghetti, we love the spaghetti measure from Joseph Joseph (check out John Lewis) that can be adjusted to measure out portions 1-4 servings. It's 8 quid, but you'll recoup the cost in terms of spaghetti (and other sauce) not wasted.

And of course, the most basic time-saving tip (for you chronic on-the-rush freshers)... food cooks faster if you chop it up into smaller bits instead of larger chunks (e.g. carrots and potatoes for roasting/boiling/stir-frying). No one's going to be judging you on whether you've presented your veg in cubes or matchsticks, so unless you're cooking for Gordon Ramsay it really doesn't matter.

Got a few protips of your own for us? We'd be happy to make a compilation. Send them over to [food.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:food.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

## Prime Meat Soc Meet

Helen Pennington with a meaty (groan!) review



On Tuesday Oct 1, Meat Soc held its primary trip this academic year to the Green Door Steakhouse, on Gloucester Road. It was great to meet new members, and to ketchup with some of our older ones. We felt that we should begin in style, dining on really good food. The food and the service at the restaurant were excellent; and the price of the vast majority of the main courses was reasonable. The steaks were high, but the restaurant

rose to the challenge. The food portions were generous, the waiters were attentive (appearing and disappearing quietly at intervals), and they brought the bill in good time.

Rather oddly for a food review, I have nothing negative to say, and we had no bones to pick with the restaurant. All of those present at our first meeting would recommend the Green Door Steakhouse; all of the meals ordered looked excellent (especially the beef ribs); and

everyone looked as though they were having fun. To not have gone there would have been a missed-steak. It may not be appropriate for a student on a tight budget, but if you are looking for a really good meal with good service, we highly recommend it.

For our next trip, a chicken wing eating contest...

*Green Door Steakhouse  
 152 Gloucester Road  
 SW7 4TD  
 Mon-Sun, 11am-11.30pm*

## CHECK IT OUT: ICU CO-OP



ICU Co-op is a new stall on campus that sells Organic and Fairtrade foods on Thursdays. They are normally on the Sherfield Building, and everything is sold at cost-price, so you can buy good quality, feel good food without breaking the wallet. Most food on the stall will be directly comparable to the supermarket brands, so why not give it a go?

Goodies include (but of course aren't limited to) vegbags from Sutton Community Farm, snackables like nuts, and coffee/tea.

For more info or to find out what's on offer every week (stock changes from time to time), drop [coop@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:coop@imperial.ac.uk) a line...

**Carol Ann Cheah**



# CAREERS



## Confused about your career choice?

### Careers Service Imperial College

It's the time of year when all around you fellow students are busy getting ready to make applications to graduate roles, internships and further study. Does it feel like everyone apart from you has their future planned out? Don't worry, hopefully this article will give you some pointers about how to make that all important career decision and start planning for your future.

### It pays to understand you!

A career is most likely to be satisfying if it enables you to use your preferred skills and personal qualities. You will need to reflect on your strengths, attributes, skills and experience so far to enable you to build a clearer picture of yourself. Think about all your qualifications, and also the skills you have developed through your studies, extra-curricular activities and any work experience to build a picture of what you would like to use in your work and also perhaps which skills you would prefer to avoid.

As well as thinking carefully about what factors are important to you and what skills you want to use and develop, it is also essential to consider what interests you and what it is that you would like to achieve in your career. You might like to consider how much you wish to use your degree subject in your chosen career. Jobs for graduates can be roughly divided into three categories: those where the degree discipline is an essential element of the job; those where the degree discipline provides useful background knowledge but will not be used directly and finally careers which are open to graduates of any discipline. It is worth noting that about 45% of all graduate roles are open to students from any subject so that really opens up your choice. Your leisure and other interests outside your degree studies may also give you an indication of the type of career that might attract you. The clearer you are about what will challenge and satisfy you, the easier it will be to select the career ideas with the most potential.

Whatever your interests are – from your degree, extra-curricular activities or elsewhere – consider whether and how you might wish to use them. Do you want to focus your career on this area of interest or

knowledge, or would you simply like to have it as a context for your job?

But it not just your skills and interests that are important, motivation and values are just as critical when thinking about your career direction. A job that meets your motivational criteria is most probably going to be a fulfilling job. For some people, a high status and significant salary will be key factors when they are choosing a career. Other people may place great importance on having a good balance between their work and home life or in a career that will continue to challenge intellectually. You may want to “make a difference” in your job – what does this phrase mean to you? Is it about having a commercial impact, making a scientific discovery or helping a child to learn? Thinking through how you feel about work will also help you in your final career choice.

### Next step – find out what is available!

We are very fortunate at Imperial College, with many companies interested in recruiting Imperial students. As a result you will get lots of exposure to different industry sectors and types of companies during

your degree. There are plenty of opportunities to investigate career roles, and potential employers throughout the year by attending Fairs, Forums, Lunchtime Careers Talks, Recruiter in Residence Days, alumni networking sessions and much more all designed to allow you to research and make contact with potential employers. JobsLive is also a great source of information with a database of over 7000 employer profiles searchable by industry sector and location. Because it tends to be the larger organisations that physically come onto campus JobsLive is a great way to begin to research smaller companies and start-ups who may well offer a perfect way to start your career.

Remember not every job is going to be clearly advertised. The ‘hidden’ job market describes those vacancies which employers don't advertise yet still want to fill. Advertising a job can be costly and might generate more applications than they really want making it a time consuming to process for the employer. Some job sectors are so popular that employers may receive enough speculative applications to fill any position without advertising. It is estimated that the 70% of jobs are filled through the hidden job market. To discover how to make the most

in this area check out information at <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/careers/ug/grad/hidden> for help in breaking into these ‘hidden’ roles.

Considering further study as your next step? Yet again it pays to plan early and to think through what you hope to gain from the course you choose. Masters, PhD, vocational qualification, specialise from degree or change direction, funding and location all need to be considered. There is information on further study at <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/careers/ug/consideringfurtherstudy> to help you work through your choices.

To start with it might seem as though your research into you is generating more questions than answers but it pays to take the time to build this picture of yourself and how your future might look. Understanding what is important to you will hopefully make you more confident when it comes to making decisions, researching opportunities in the job market and it will also make it much easier to eventually market yourself to employers.

To get further help with career decision making go to:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/careers/ug/plan](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/careers/ug/plan)

# Find your new career here

## Monday 21 October 2013

11:00 - 16:00 | Queen's Lawn | Imperial College London | South Kensington

[imperialcollegeunion.org/careersfair](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/careersfair)







 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial

**RCSU**

# RCSU Freshers Fortnight: Legit review from the RCSU Office

Someone told me today that you shouldn't write reviews of your own events. I obviously didn't listen to their advice; after all, who can know better what went down at the RCSU events than people within the RCSU?! My sincerest apologies to the other constituent unions who are obviously lagging behind.

## Freshers Fair:

Three words. Wheel of Fortune. You know how Nando's always has a prize wheel at the freshers' fairs? Well, this year they weren't the only one as we hired in a massive plasma screen and ran our own giant wheel of fortune. Prizes included Autumn Ball tickets, drink tokens, an 8GB RCSU USB stick, pint glasses, shot glasses, mugs, RCSU lapel badges and RCSU Scarves. Given the crowd at our table throughout the day, it's fair to say the gimmick was more than successful, especially when the CGCU - who were opposite us - got so mad at their empty stand they had to keep shouting to attract people. To top that miserable day off for them, we also nicked the Spanner and Bolt! We also had tons of RCSU sweets for the masses alongside lanyards, notepads and the highlight of them all, RCSU condom cases. These double up as a key ring and are a discreet way of making sure you are always prepared. We were very happy to see so many eager faces on the day and are looking forward to seeing you all again in this coming year. RCSU Made in Chelsea Pub Crawl: We started Freshers' Fortnight off on Thursday the 3rd with our trademark Made in Chelsea pub crawl. As always, our beloved 1916 Dennis N-Type fire engine Jezebel was there to transport freshers from pub to pub. Some would say it was quite an expensive pub crawl, but with student loan cash spilling over in everyone's pockets, there was hardly a problem with £4 pints for a night. The night ended at JUJU's, a cocktail bar on King's Street to end the night on a high. At one point, MIC stars showed up and decided to buy everyone drinks at the bar - wait, never mind, that might have been me on a different night out. Oops.

## RCSU Bookshop:

On Friday morning with hangovers in full force, we set up the RCSU second hand bookshop in Sherfield Foyer. The bookshop was an excellent opportunity for students to buy second hand books from other students at a reasonable price. After a big rush in the morning the rest of the day was spent quietly behind the stand by various committee members. Rumour has it that someone started



TOP: Jezebel, the RCSU's Mascot; BOTTOM: RCSU Committee Members

to eat their own hands in boredom.

## RCSU Tea Party:

The second week of Freshers started off in a truly British manner with the RCSU Tea Party. There were various types of tea on offer which were procured from a specialised tea house. With free scones and cakes on offer it was of no surprise that there was a great anticipation amongst students. In fact, a queue built up before the start of the party and hoards of scientists piled in as soon as the doors were open. Union jacks were flying high and the tea kept flowing as people relaxed after a day of lectures. Even if they weren't awake for lectures, the tea ensured their evening got off to a good start.

## RCSU Autumn Ball:

Perhaps the most prized event of them all was the RCSU Autumn Ball which took place on Tuesday at Ruby Blue in Leicester Square. There were 3 free double mixers on offer alongside a scoop of nitrogen ice cream. The Ball managed to sell out a day in advance and there was great anguish amongst the people who missed out on the tickets. But for the people who managed to grab hold of one before time ran out, they were in for a treat. The nitrogen ice

cream proved to be very successful as evident by the long queues that were forming. Some would say that the ice cream was so good, it made them completely forget about the hardships of grinding a degree out of Imperial. Priced competitively at £12, the ball was organized to ensure it doesn't cut a deep hole in people's pockets. Student drink prices were in full flow to ensure that even the hard boozers were kept satisfied. It was a perfect night for the awkward one night stands during freshers to turn into a full blown romance. Near the end, Black Eyed Peas showed up and started singing. Maybe.

**"I've had the time of my life  
And I've never felt this way before  
And I swear this is true  
And I owe it all to RCSU"**.

## Family Bar Night:

In RCSU, it's all about community and to ensure the sense of community is fully integrated amongst the incoming freshers, a family bar night was held at the Union Bar on Thursday the 10th. With free drinks on offer for people in their families, some hardcore family bonding was definitely on the cards.

It is definitely a great start to the year for us and it's bound to get better.

## Open letter from RCSU

**Plabon Saha**  
RCSU President



### Open letter from the Royal College of Science Union

Dear all,

The start of the new term is here and it gives me great pleasure to see everyone back on campus. And of course I must not forget to welcome the freshers who will be joining this brilliant institution and especially the scientists who are lucky enough to be part of the best constituent union on campus. Whether you are old or new, everyone loves a good welcome letter.

For those that do not know, the RCSU is one of the four constituent unions at Imperial and was founded by famous Sci-fi writer H.G. Wells in 1881. We exist for two reasons; social activities and representation. Representation wise, we have officers that look after student welfare to help you even out any bumps you hit during university. There are also year reps and departmental reps who keep the lecturers on their toes to ensure you get the world class education you deserve. The Year rep nominations are currently open and I would urge the keener ones amongst to get everyone's voice heard and stand for election.

University is of course more than just about a degree and we organize a range of social events such as our seasonal balls, bar nights, pub crawls, guest lectures and an essay-writing competition called the *RCSU Science Challenge* which boasts a prize pot over £4k.

This year, I am also looking to revive RCS Sports clubs, rugby and football in particular. I am hoping that we can re-ignite some of our old rivalries and put the various trophies behind the union bar up for competition again. If this is something you are interested in, please e-mail the RCSU Sports Office Oscar Farrell at [Oscar.farrell12@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:Oscar.farrell12@imperial.ac.uk).

End of the day, university is what you make of it. The relationship between the union and its member is a two-way one. If you don't put some energy in, you are unlikely to get a lot out of it. So, get to know the union officers, come to the RCSU office for my weekly drop-ins and check what we are up to on [www.rcsu.org.uk](http://www.rcsu.org.uk). Our website is currently being re-designed by our webmaster Philip Kent and we hope to get an all new interactive site rolled out in the near future.

The best way to keep in touch is to read my e-mails and newsletters as they will be full of important tidbits about what's happening and the opportunities we provide for you. I swear they won't be as boring as they sound!

Here's to an amazing year,

*P. Saha*

**Plabon Saha**  
RCSU President

**"RCS What?  
We don't know  
who you are!"  
If this resonates  
strongly with  
you, you are  
either a) an  
engineer, or  
b) in need of a  
friend**

**"RCS Ha!  
You say? Then you  
must either a)  
have Theta,  
b) be crying  
as you cradle  
the empty spot  
Spanner and  
Bolt used to  
reside, or c)  
are probably  
several  
"responsible"  
pints down and  
raring to go!**



# CLUBS & SOCS



## Why Volunteer?

**Ben Fernando**  
Charity Editor  
RAG Treasurer



**S**ome people think that charity should be done as a completely selfless pursuit. Perhaps it should be! But the reality is that we're all busy and want to enjoy our free time at Imperial, so why bother to do not-for-profit work? Here are a few reasons. Some of them are obvious, some are not...

1) You can make a contribution to people who need our help –whether it's refugees or drug addicts or people in extreme poverty; the charitable groups at Imperial offer you an opportunity to make a difference. And what's more, you'll always be given the opportunity to see what the difference that you've made is, whether that means going to Kenya to see the Orphan Project work, or going out to see Richard House's amazing work with terminally ill kids.

2) You will meet some pretty cool people. Some people see it as a networking opportunity, others just like the socialising. I find that talking to other people at RAG helps me stay sane! If it gets you out from behind your desk and your laptop at Imperial, then it is good.

3) You never know, you might end up finding out that you want to go into not-for-profit work. I started my first year wanting to go into Physics but now I think something along the lines of science for development could be interesting. 'Social Entrepreneurship' is one of the new big things in the world, and there's a huge amount of funding for people interested in such ventures. Charity work can be a great introduction to the field and can help you find a product that needs developing.

4) You can travel loads. RAG organises charity trips to Kilimanjaro; I've just got back from an attempt at climbing up Everest. That... didn't go so well... but it was still a great experience! Friends of mine have been off to Kenya, South Africa and there was even a team that went to El Salvador to volunteer this summer. If you want to see the world and make a real difference too, then sign up for one of these trips now.

5) Volunteering recognition – not-for-profit work is something that people are sometimes uncomfortable being rewarded for, but you can work towards an Imperial Plus volunteering certificate or a National Volunteering Qualification. Whilst these are just bits of paper, they recognise the development of important skills like communication and delegation that are key to not just charity work but also jobs in general.

6) It will make you more employable! I hate to use the 'CV' word but you don't want to be one of those people that end up sitting behind a desk at their first job and can't communicate with their office mate to save their life. Volunteering will expose you to all kinds of situations that are unfamiliar and will force you to develop your own skills. I don't think I would be nearly as confident writing for Felix if I hadn't done any charity stuff!

Feel free to email me if you have any questions!  
**Ben**

rag.treasurer@imperial.ac.uk

# Skateboarding & BMX

## Bart Andrews provides an SB & BMX update

**A**s some of you may already know, Imperial has sadly lost its 'Skateboarding and BMX' society this year. However, this does not mean that Imperial has lost its skaters and BMXers! This is a quick update as to what is happening with the Imperial skateboard and BMX scene this year.

Imperial SB is currently an unofficial group of riders that session a variety of different skate parks across London. In contrast to the Skate society, which mainly focuses on ice skating and roller skating in and around public parks, Imperial SB is for those who want to session skate parks for 'tricks-based' activities, such as skateboarding, BMXing or rollerblading. If you enjoy riding, use to ride or are looking to start, then don't hesitate to contact us on Facebook ([facebook.com/ImperialSb](https://www.facebook.com/ImperialSb)), Tumblr ([imperialsb.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/imperialsb)) or Gmail ([imperialskatebmx@gmail.com](mailto:imperialskatebmx@gmail.com)). We are looking for new riders, photographers, filmmakers, artists and anyone that's interested in the local skatepark scene.

London already has a large and diverse range of skateparks with many more opening every year. The biggest and arguably the most famous skate park in London is BaySixty6; now sponsored by Nike SB. This park has recently had a complete overhaul and reopened in August this year. The new and improved skate facility is fully resurfaced and redesigned, complete with new gaps, hydraulic ledges and a bowl. The park is still open daily, with a full day pass costing around £10 and there are, of course, concessions for beginners and for shorter sessions. BMX riders unfortunately still have restricted access. Check the park's Facebook page for further details (<http://www.facebook.com/BaySixty6>).

New to the scene this month is the council-funded £170k concrete skatepark in King George's Park (on the Southfields/Wandsworth border). We had the opportunity to quickly session this park before the start of term and the verdict is unanimously positive. Next to the site of the previous skatepark and youth centre, Wandsworth Council has decided to invest money in constructing a new concrete skate plaza and BMX track. This park has pretty much anything you could ever want, including: flat banks, quarter pipes, rails, ledges, gaps and really smooth transition. To top this all off, the council has left the old skatepark in place, which further adds to the variety on offer. To ensure that the park has a successful induction into the local community, two members of staff are on site permanently until the end of this year. This park is free to ride and already has a great community of skaters and BMXers.

If you would like to be kept updated on openings like this and what's happening in the local skate and BMX scene then contact us or follow us on Facebook or Tumblr. We hope to ride with you all soon!



BART ANDREWS

“  
£170k concrete skatepark in King George's Park  
”



ED BRIAL



ED BRIAL





 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial

## CLUBS & SOCS

# Imperial College Design Collective

## Guillaume Valla on IC's hidden group of designers

**A**s I walk below the Queen's Tower, before an evening in Central Library, I look up at the surrounding buildings (you guessed it... I'm a civil engineering undergrad!) and the environmental conscience inside me is thinking: "What are all these rooms doing lit-up? We should be turning the lights out as soon as students leave their lectures and tutorials..." Little did I know that within these rooms, there are students. Some of them are studying, but others are doing something even better! They've just decided to create a new society at Imperial!

During the Summer Term of 2012, several Mechanical Engineering students decided to start the Imperial College Design Collective. Design was something that was touched upon in some of their classes, and actually in most engineering degrees. However, students often have to give it a second priority compared to the wave of workload of Mathematics, Mechanics, Dynamics... well a lot of 'ics' essentially. They saw beyond this wave and realised that their engineering skills were valued in the design world. Product design needs people with hard knowledge to manufacture and

prototype the idea. And in the wide range of design, there is always a place for the ideas of pragmatic and educated scientists, medics, and engineers.

You'll ask me: "Why did they call it the Design Collective?" That's quite simple actually. These entrepreneurial students decided that although this design society was born out of the Mechanical Engineering building, they knew they wanted to involve as many students as possible from all possible degrees and backgrounds. They wanted a collective of students that could bring a variety of background knowledge and skills in order to inspire each other in the design process!

The Imperial College Design Collective (ICDC) had an amazing first year following its genesis. Coming from all over Imperial College of Science, Medicine and Technology, and even the Imperial Business School, 56 members were inspired by the themes of Enhancing Cycling in London, Sustainability, Toys, and Interactive City. Even more attended the talks by architect Andrew Waugh, brand designer Simon Manchipp, engineering designer Peter Childs, and urban designer Kathryn Firth. With two office visits to IDEO in Clerkenwell and Pentagram in Notting

Hill, members were immersed into a universe of brilliance in creating processes, objects, projects that enhance the human experience.

This year, the committee has prepared new themes for the collective to build upon. Some members may come to an interesting talk by a guest, others will favour the Wednesday afternoon workshops, and some will be privileged with a visit to a London design office.

I first came to Andrew Waugh's presentation of his battle to build the first multi-storey residential timber building in London, and I recognized my need for alternate activities to my degree and sports. I loved attending the evening talks and being inspired by the passion of entrepreneurs who used their educational and professional background to create something that they thought could benefit society. And that's really why I encourage everyone to join this energy-fuelled society that will add a spice of creativity and a dash of entrepreneurship to your Imperial experience.

Join the mailing list or email [icdcollective@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:icdcollective@imperial.ac.uk) for more information.



# STOIC: Imperial's student run tv station

**Jonathan Pratt**  
STOIC  
Station Manager

**"S**TOIC, you're the philosophy society right?" Is a question I receive many times throughout the course of the year. The latest being at Freshers' Fair while standing in front of a large AutoCue, professional video camera and a TV playing a showreel of our best bits. While I do have a particular love of 3rd century BCE philosophy that isn't what the club is about. STOIC in fact is an acronym of Student Television of Imperial College, and that's exactly who we are. From our studios in the West Basement of Beit Quad we write, film, present and produce a wide variety of television shows that get broadcast online.

Our longest running show is IC News, which has existed in various forms for as long as the society has, but that's far from all we produce. Last year alone we had interviews,

documentaries, short films and even some Eastern European political satire. This year is looking even more exciting than the last, with a few exciting press opportunities coming up this term alone. The most popular show we currently produce is the infamous Metric Moments videos, which I'm sure many of you have seen or even starred in. If not then head over to our YouTube to find out what some of the brightest minds in the country think of the important issues in the world, ranging from Barack Obama's re-election to "brown nipples", "cross-fucking", and "American 'gine".

In the Spring term large amounts of our time is devoted to our two biggest events of the year; The Big Elections and the JPR Williams Cup match at Varsity. For The Big Elections we produce a live hustings show, where all the candidates for the sabbatical positions get a chance to convince you why to vote for them. Hearing 20 people talk about "transparency", "accessibility" and "contactless payment" never gets old. The JPR Williams Cup is contested with a rugby match between Imperial and Imperial Medicals, and last year we



filmed this with a large scale 4 camera shoot for the first time. This then got released as both a highlights package and a full match reel complete with excellent commentary from IC Radio.

Getting involved with STOIC is really easy; absolutely no experience is required to jump right in. Whether you're interested in filming,

presenting, acting, editing, writing or just want to see what goes in in a student TV station you're more than welcome to join. As well as being helped to improve in any field you're interested in you'll also be able to get involved with some incredible opportunities; last year we had a phone conversation with Sir Roger Moore

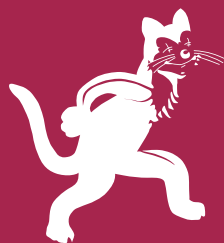
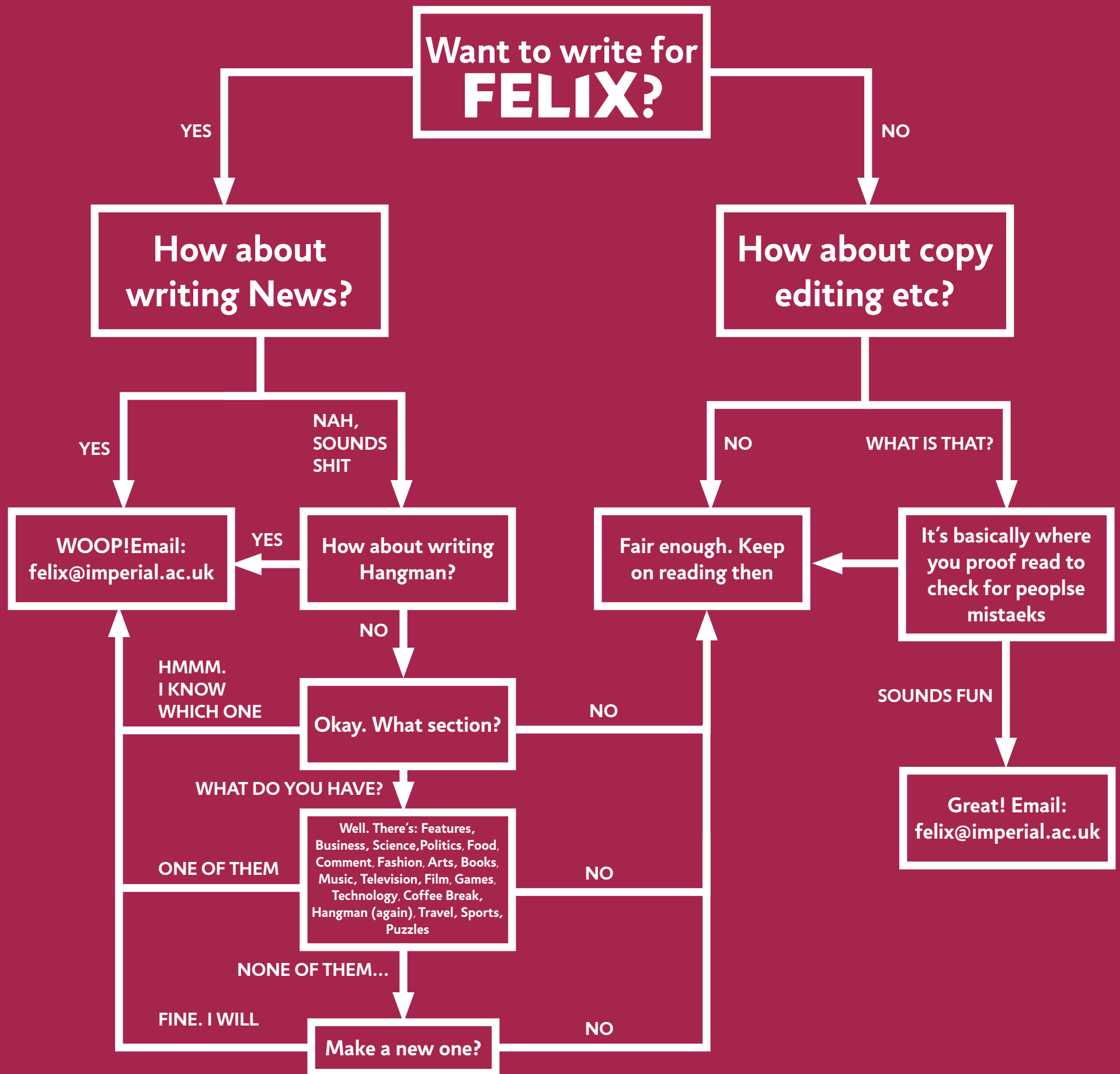
while trying to set up an interview.

So if you think STOIC is something you might be interested in visit our website at [www.stoictv.com](http://www.stoictv.com) or [www.youtube.com/stoictv](http://www.youtube.com/stoictv) and you can get involved with (probably) the only society at Imperial to have interviewed Mark Hamill, Carol Vorderman, and Chuck Norris.









# FELIX

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# HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## This Week In The Past

The Hangman  
Hangman Editor



**2006** – North Korea's first nuclear bomb test is met with extremely firm line from the UN. The non-proliferation treaty is thoroughly upheld proving, once again, that international treaties are ALWAYS highly effective and never bullshit.

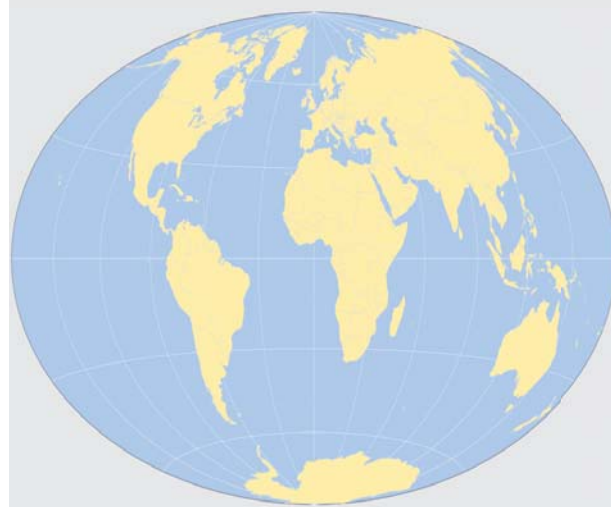
**1989** – Another UFO lands in Soviet Union giving unequivocal evidence of what we all suspected: the Ruskies are all aliens from outer space hell-bent on spreading pan-global, anti-human ideas.

**1979** – Lowest recorded non-tornadic atmospheric pressure. A fact you'll definitely want to repeat all the time to everyone – with your friends; people you're chatting up; bank managers; in-laws; the Pope etc etc. Seriously, everyone will find this fascinating.

**1942** – In a coup for world peace/alcoholics the Soviet Vodka Union establishes diplomatic relationships with Australfostersia.

**1582** – The implementation of the Gregorian calendar means this week is skipped. I bet you wish you could skip the miserable, embarrassing loneliness that is your week. We'll here's the truth – you can't, you terrible excuse for a human being.

**1492** – Christopher Columbus lands in the Bahamas. The fucking moron thinks he's in fucking India. He even failed to realise that if he was in India (which he clearly fucking wasn't), he would be fucking East India. What a fucker.



They're over 8000 miles apart. I mean who makes that mistake? Frankly, I'm glad they didn't name the Americas after him. Amerigo Vespucci, now there's an explorer worthy of a large continent. *Picture Credit: freeworld-maps.net*



Didn't he see the fucking flag?

*Picture Credit: dilemma-x.net*

## Editorial Coup

The Hangman  
Hangman Editor



Felix Office, Wednesday 9th of October.

In a coup widely described as "violent, angry and uncompromising", Hangman was this week viciously overthrown and replaced with Hangman.

Hangman, along with a large group of assorted mercenaries, was able to break through the high security perimeter set-up around the Felix offices. After which, Hangman then proceeded to question all remaining sub-editors on the whereabouts of Hangman.

Whilst many were stoic in their responses to hard-line questioning, enough information was gleaned to confirm that Hangman had received an anonymous tip-off just minutes before the arrival of Hangman. It is rumoured the former sub-editor and their entourage were able to get out through a back window and are now in hiding somewhere on campus.

Hangman declared "peace, liberty and freedom of expression" for all writers and readers of Hangman. Hangman also assured their followers that [former sub-editor] Hangman would be "hunted relentlessly" and be dealt with "ruthlessly" should their location become known.

However, information has emerged that any opposition to Hangman's coup has been met with brutal violence. This has inevitably sparked concerns that coup would merely be replacing one dictatorial rule with another. When sought for interview, a Hangman spokesperson stated "rest assured, all force used during this liberation has been directed exclusively towards

"Think you can calculate a more accurate horoscope? Email hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk and give it a go!"

## Life on Mars: IC in 1978 Felix Issue 479 - I kid you not!

Page 13

### Movement against Sexual Corruption - MASC

THIS SOCIETY is currently seeking acceptance onto SCC. Contrary to the rumours circulating round Imperial, we are not a troop of intolerant Nazi gay-bashers, but a society set up to oppose the more unpleasant aspects of the 'Gay Rights' movement. It is also being formed to warn incoming freshers of the dangers of joining the 'Gay Society'. A significant percentage of the population go through a phase of homosexuality around the age of 18. Under the right social pressures many will revert to heterosexuality. If, however, they join the 'Gay Society' this could lead to their forming unnatural relationships, condemning them to social ostracisation and a life of misery. For similar reasons MASC opposes the campaign to get the age of consent for sodomy from 21 to 16 or 18.

There is a considerable feel-

ing of laissez faire amongst the students at IC. But how many, I wonder, would be prepared to sit next to a known homosexual in lectures. It is this fashionable liberal notion that is being used by the gay society and its associated political groups who have as their common aim the complete reshaping of the country's social and economic structure. Would these people have any scruples about corrupting a few freshers; I think not. Therefore it is our belief that anyone who experiences homosexual inclinations would do far better to keep it to himself and seek advice from his tutor or perhaps Nightline. If you want information about MASC you should contact one of the following:-  
Martin Siaddin Blochem II  
Simon Fanshawe EE.III  
Shlomo Godsí M'E I  
Robert Gould Mines I  
See Editorial, back page

Stay tuned for more ridiculous crap from the past including floppy disks, Simon Cowell's haircut and that thing you used to play with as a child.



The Hangman tanks roll into Beit Quad, crushing all who would oppose them.

those who deserved it". "The former regime must be punished".

Hangman justified the bloody and vicious coup by stating that Hangman had been a "stooge for the

West" and full of "relentless capitalist propaganda". Hangman went onto accuse Hangman of corrupting the paper and suppressing its articles.

## "Britain Exceptionally Dangerous And Scary" Public Warned

The Hangman  
Hangman Editor

Stating this morning that "every aspect of your life is dark, dangerous and you should be constantly shitting yourself" MI5 chief, Andrew Parker, warned of the general terror of life.

Speaking for the first time since he took over in April, Parker added that "Terrorists are watching you - especially YOU - all the time".

"Be they Islamic, Irish or even something a bit weird like Chechnian, they're all out to get you".

Whilst the Director General focussed on terrorism, he also warned of the numerous other dangers faced by the British public on a daily basis.

"There's cancer, that's never very far away and it's scary as balls".

"And then there's benefit cheats - those guys will go for you without any warning".

"And, of course, who can forget the Russians? They're never more than an umbrella-tip away. Despite saying that such fears shouldn't stop people living

their day-to-day lives, the director was keen to emphasise that it's "fucking scary out there".

"I mean, you could just get run-over, just like that".

At press time Parker was rumoured to have sprinted to the nuclear bunker under GCHQ, irreversibly locked the doors from the inside and sat their waiting for the food to run out and for it all to end.

Meanwhile, this reporter has protected themselves from the fear through the acquisition of a gun.

No World, you put your hands up.



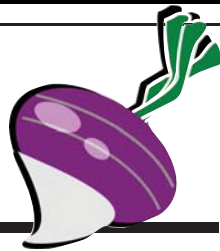


@feliximperial  
FelixImperial

# HANGMAN

## the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



### Cameron Decides Against Major Cabinet Reorganisation

"It's already exceptionally tidy"

**S**tating that it was already "exceptionally tidy", Prime Minister David Cameron took the decision not to change anything in his cabinet. Saying that his beautiful set of George Osbournes still complimented the old family William Hagues perfectly, Cameron left the senior government ministers safely under lock and key. "I mean, who would risk moving the precious Philip Hammond?" said Cameron, "Especially given how good it looks next to my matching Michael Goves".

The Prime Minister makes a particularly tough decision on whether to move the Osbournes  
Picture Credit: The Press Association



Alistair Carmichael. "Nothing screams 'Scotland' more than a classic Carmichael". He added "To be honest, I'll just wait until next year and get it professionally cleaned on expenses. That's definitely safer".

Whilst he accepted the need to clean from time-to-time, the Prime Minister was unwilling to take everything out just to get to the musty corners. "I don't want to break anything and anyway, several of Ian Duncan Smiths are stuck there". He did, however, get rid of his old Michael Moore and replaced him with a vintage piece of

Leader of the Opposition, Ed Miliband was more ruthless, however. In getting rid of his Diane Abbott and throwing out his rusty old Liam Bradys, he managed to buy in a shiny new Rachael Reeves and stunning pair of Andy Burnhams. "Sometimes, you've just got to through the old stuff out, even if it does hold a lot of sentimental value".

### ABANDONED PRINT-OUT STILL HOLDING ONTO HOPE OF AUTHOR COMING TO COLLECT IT



Picture Credit: Sarah Kolb-Williams

### Union Tells NUS "We've Moved On, Stop Calling"

**A**fter a surprise encounter in the street, the National Union of Students told Imperial College Union: "You're looking well"

ICU, after pausing to remember their name, replied: "Thanks, so are you"

"I've actually got a lot societies now, but you know, I'm not ready to settle down"

n u s Debate 2008  
*Should we remain affiliated to the NUS?*  
Apparently not... (Sooo two thousand and late)

The NUS then asked if ICU was willing to come back, but ICU pretended to receive a phone call from its mum and crossed the road to safety.

"Pheeww" the Union exclaimed whilst double-checking the NUS had gone before putting the phone away.

### Imperial Union Bans LSE Student Union LSE offensive Union finds



The "London" "School" of "Economics"  
Picture credit: The Telegraph

**F**ollowing the recent incident at LSE Union Fresher's Fair, at which the Atheist Society was asked to remove their T-shirts, Imperial College Union has formally banned anybody wearing an LSE Union T-shirt.

A spokesperson for Imperial College Union said that the t-shirts could offend others by creating an offensive environment to those students who believe in the right to free expression. Our source said,

"We had received a number of complaints from our students. The LSE Union students were asked to cover the t-shirts in the interests of good university relations, but they declined.

Imperial College Union is committed to promoting freedom of expression it was felt that these LSE students were undermining what should be a welcoming and inclusive student union."



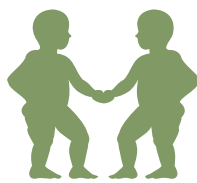
ARIES

This week, you decide to go to your first ever sports (CSP) night. Go you, young fresher, making friends with other people who like the same physical activity as you- this is going to form the best foundation for everlasting friendship! One forces a pint of Jager down your throat whilst another cheers, and you puke repeatedly and responsibly through Thursday.



TAURUS

This week you visit the Library, and accidentally stroll in the Science Museum bit on floor three. Unsure of whether you are still in Imperial or not, you slowly take out your "magic wand" and gently rub it along the bookshelf, moaning. After no-one blinks an eye, you decide you are definitely still at Imperial.



GEMINI

This week you are idly watching those 30 second Sabb videos in the Union, when one suddenly locks eyes with you, and begins to mouth "help me!" You prise the frame from the wall and find that they are actually trapped behind the glass, made to forever act out 30 seconds of repeated, horrific awkwardness. They cry softly upon their release.



CANCER

This week marks the second week into your love affair with your rice cooker, Wilson. After realising that dry humping him would compromise his ability to pass the rigorous electrical safety tests for appliances in halls, you stop. The urge doesn't go away however, so you transfer into Fisher instead and hump to your heart's content.



LEO

This week you are awarded the Nobel Prize in the new category of being a complete dick. As the Wanker Laureate that you now are, you decide to raise the price of fizzy drinks by 3p on campus, and then use your new fortune of penny coins to jam all the keyboards in the library. Chaos ensues.



VIRGO

This week you are at the Union pub quiz, and some undergrad tries to tell you that the largest human organ is the liver, not the skin as you well know by having completed a legit degree in this sort of shit. You mouth off at him, feel triumphant and then suddenly depressed as you realise you are a postgrad in FiveSix-Eight on a Tuesday night.



LIBRA

This week the ecologists bugger off to Uganda for a field course, so Facebook becomes devoid of certain egotistical morons mouthing off about the apparent ever-traumatic faults of the Biology department. You welcome the change wholeheartedly, and privately hope that someone gets trampled by an elephant.



SCORPIO

This week you go to the RCSU ball and are given liquid nitrogen ice cream. In your alcohol induced haze, you accidentally drop the cone on your thermometer and it slowly freezes into an icicle of perpetual hardness. You get the RCS President to rub it warm again, and he obliges, being the great Union hack that he is.



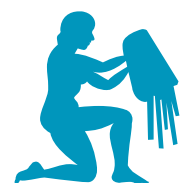
SAGITTARIUS

This week, you finally move into your tiny, decrepit London flat, with two Polish students you found online. They buy a live eel to fatten up in your bath in time for Christmas and you shower with the gelatinous monster circling your feet. You decide it could be worse- you could be in Fisher Hall.



CAPRICORN

This week you wake up to find you are Miley Cyrus. This horoscope ends here as that is horrific enough for one week.



AQUARIUS

This week your housemate has sex with a screeching female student, who thinks it is appropriate to shout Pokémon names every time she orgasms. You start using it as a verbal version of the new Pokemon game, and endeavour to catch them all. She catches herpes instead and no longer visits, and sadly you don't get your second gym badge.



PISCES

This week you wake up to find you are a humanities student, and cannot look at yourself in the mirror as you prepare for your two contact hours of the month. You discuss your feelings, deduce meaningless facts from nothing and read the Daily Mail. You pass your course with flying colours and wonder why you tried to study science in the first place.



## SPORT

# If only you knew how easy (well, relatively) it is to edit Sport...

"Keep the  
Cat Free"

11/10/13  
Issue 1555  
felixonline.co.uk



## Triathlon Club make a splash at Aquathlon

James Ellis documents TriClub's trials on land, buses, and water in an epic battle against their competitors



ICU TRIATHLON CLUB

The first event of the tri club racing calendar brought nine athletes to London Fields, competing in the swim-run combo known as an aquathlon. This early season competition was an opportunity to blow away some of the summer cobwebs for returning members, whilst for a couple of others it was an opportunity to get a first taste of the multi-discipline action. Myself in the latter category, I was so full of enthusiasm when signing up, that little things like start times didn't really seem important enough to check. Surely it can't be too early, they do realise we were students right? Wrong. Alarms set for between 4.30 and 5 o'clock, we made our way bright

eyed and bushy tailed (okay that was a slight lie) to catch the first of our two buses to get to the venue. Now normally bus journeys don't make it into match reports, but ours makes a brief appearance for two reasons; firstly in memory of the much missed Jean Claude, the 'porridge-in-a-pot' made several appearances and secondly for the adventures of Sophie Kirk. Normally the most organised of people, we found it slightly surprising when she missed our arranged meeting time and thus the 211. Fear not, she will get the next bus and catch the subsequent one to London Fields? Wrong again. Due to the Royal Parks half marathon taking place that

morning (shout out to Harriet, a Tri member competing) diversions were beginning to take operation and time was beginning to get short. Having pulled a sprint out the bag that Bolt would have been proud of, Sophie just missed catching us in the walk between stops and was now in danger of missing the event. At this point she hailed down a cab and uttered the line in true film fashion – 'follow that bus!'

To cut to the chase; one cab driver doing a good Lewis Hamilton impersonation, a quick-fire bit of transition practise between cab and bus at one of the stops and a round of applause later and the team was finally complete. Drama over, for now at least, we progressed to the venue and completed the registration process. The swim went off in a staggered start, with the first of the 200 competitors taking to water just after 8 AM with swimmers entering at 20 second intervals. Done on a 'fastest-first' basis, Sophie was the premier member of TriIC attacking the 400m outdoor pool swim. She was swiftly followed by Charlie Houston before the trio of Vicki Solly, Marcel Admiraal and Fran Capel all in one after another. With the cluster demonstrating some smooth technique, a bit of intra-club rivalry helped to spur them on to excellent performances. Dropping down the order a bit to our slightly less gifted swimmers - I can write this as I'm very much a fish out of water in the pool (that sounded better in my head) – Ed Hallett, American newbie Alejandro Baez and myself were underway. By this point Sophie was coming to the completion of her 5 x 1km loops, all of which was able to be caught on camera by Mike

Kaye who was timetabled to enter the water 135/200 of the competitors. At this point the starting order system should be explained; during the online registration process you had to give your estimated time for a 400m swim and everyone was then ranking accordingly. Not knowing his 400m time, Mike – a PhD student – scaled down a time from his 750m swim at the BUCS sprint triathlon. Slightly surprised at his position on arrive Mike rechecked his estimate and realised the 10mins should actually have been more like 6mins 20 which would have him right at the front of the race. Thank goodness Imperial isn't a university which relies on numerical competency... It should be pointed out Mike did give a masterclass when he eventually entered the water!

Moving onto the run section and different strengths of the athletes began to show through, with some much better runners than swimmers. This, combined with the five lap nature of the course, meant everyone gets well and truly mixed up making it hard to know your true position in the race. Thus it was simply a matter of grinding it out and making the most of a crisp Sunday morning. Everyone showed remarkable grit and determination, with the likes of Charlie seeming to get round looking relatively (or you could say annoyingly) untroubled. I'd like to say I joined him in this, however I took a liking to the pool water and managed to swallow quite a lot of it, which then made the run rather challenging! Ultimately we all crossed the line in various states of disrepair, managed to grab a handful of complementary cake and stumble over to join the rest of the TriIC

crew. Marcel even managed to grab a free massage at the finish too, which appeared to go down a treat, before we all did the mandatory club photo. Whilst staring into the sun caused a few eyes to be forced open, the smiles were not, due to the satisfaction of completion and the legendary Tri club atmosphere.

Still not complete with our day, we headed off to the pub where the prize giving was to take place – and no we did not have a tippie, we're elite athletes – with Sophie in particular in the running for medals. Alas it didn't turn out to be the case, although some hiccups had already surfaced with the results, which as of writing have not been released outside the current top three. So I think this should really go down as a TBC. Everyone is eagerly awaiting the results so we can analyse our times in each section (we're Imperial students after all, what else would we do with a load of data?), but either way I can safely say on behalf of everyone it was a fun event to be part of. As a Tri club first-timer I was more than welcomed into the team (ignoring the blatant segregation on the bus) and we are very grateful to London Fields Tri Club for organising what was a very successful event.

Appetite suitably whetted for the year, I for one can't wait to kick on with training and throw myself into more races over the coming term – as such, anyone who has ever thought about triathlon, come and try some of the sessions out! The club is a very welcoming one, Ed as chairman is doing a wonderful job developing it and ultimately it's a great laugh with a great bunch of people. Email [triath@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:triath@imperial.ac.uk) to find out more!

## Summer camp success for ICU Shorinji Kempo

Emma King reports back from the British Shorinji Kempo Federation camp

A lot of hard work, multiple bruises, a devilish pub quiz and one broken nose... Imperial's Shorinji Kempo club organised this year's highly-successful BSKF (British Shorinji Kempo Federation) summer camp in Chiswick. The two-day event in early September was attended by more than seventy Kempo practitioners (kenshi) and some top Kempo Senseis from Britain and Japan. Participants

enjoyed some quality Kempo instruction in sparring (rاندoori), soft techniques (juho), hard techniques (goho), healing massage (seiho), set moves (kata) and philosophy (howa). As well as kenshi from Britain and Ireland, we were joined by a contingent of Czechs from Prague dojo, which was set up by Imperial alumnus Tomas Bystron who gained his black belt (1st dan) at Imperial

Saturday's training included teaching on how to do a perfect ninja forward role (mae ukemi) amongst other techniques. There was some bloodshed as one instructor suffered a broken nose that was quickly tweaked back into place by Sensei Mizuno (8th dan), the BSKF's chief instructor. Sensei Mizuno's later philosophy session talked about the healing powers of seiho (kempo's healing massage techniques) and kenshi were invited to perform some leg seiho. Only on one leg, though, as a test to see by comparing leg aches and pains if seiho really works! Reports differ... Saturday night was (of course) spent in the pub. Sensei Sean from Imperial had devised a fiendish martial arts pub quiz, including a picture round (Can YOU recognise a picture of Chow Yun Fat at fifty

paces?) and some very obscure trivia. The winning team received a bottle of Sake for their efforts. Sunday's training involved punching practise using pads for full-force blows, rاندoori practise and kata practise. That afternoon, kenshi were treated to some demonstrations including three-against-one fighting and a skilled pairform demonstration (embu) using bo staff (shakujo). Kenshi departed on Sunday evening feeling tired and bruised, but having learnt some great Kempo. Imperial kenshi left safe in the knowledge of a job well done. Done so well, in fact, that Imperial dojo has been asked to organise next year's BSKF 40th anniversary celebrations, too! The success of the summer camp for us at Imperial completes a great year for ICU Shorinji Kempo. The club's

baking raised over £400 for charity, and we attracted more new members than ever before. Eight new kenshi gained their yellow belts and three of our instructors, including Imperial alumnus Aled, gained their 2nd dan in Shorinji Kempo. Former captain Maks gained his black belt (1st dan) alongside fellow 'flying moustache' and treasurer Aditya. You may remember this dynamic duo from the BSKF national demonstration (Tai Kai) last November, where their pairform demonstration (embu) won first place. Imperial Shorinji Kempo is also now (based on the number of paid-up BSKF members) the biggest BSKF dojo. All in all a fantastic year, let's hope for more of the same. Shorinji Kempo trains on Saturdays 1-3pm in the Union Gym and Thursdays 6-8pm in Activity Space 1