

FELIX

"Keep the
Cat Free"

01/11/13
Issue 1558
felixonline.co.uk



Immigration Bill discussed at Union Council

The second meeting of the Union Council was held on Tuesday, October 29. The main issue of discussion was the Union's response to the government's Immigration Bill 2013-2014. Proposed by Home Secretary Theresa May on October 10 the Bill had its second reading on October 22 and is expected to pass through parliament and receive royal assent early next spring. The Bill is of potential concern to international students since it would require them to pay a minimum fee of £200 a year to use non-emergency NHS services and would place a legal obligation on landlords to check the immigration status of their tenants – potentially biasing them against international students.

In a paper for the Council, Union President David Goldsmith wrote that "international student fees contribute a vast amount to supporting the UK higher education system", quoting figures from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills that state that, in 2012, "international students contributed £7.9 billion to the UK economy". Goldsmith claimed that the Bill was poorly researched – citing the discrepancy between the £200 million to £2 billion that the government estimates is spent on healthcare for international students and the £33 million figure cited by the NHS itself. He went on to add that he believed that "the bill would discourage international students from applying to institutions such as Imperial College, thereby reducing funding" and called for the Council to vote "to oppose the ... proposals set out in the immigration bill by arranging meetings with local representatives and campaigning with the student body".

While some members of the Council expressed the opinion that

continued on page 3...

British Influence approaches the Union to make a stance on UKIP



FEDERICO GAMBARINI/EPA

Maciej Matuszewski

Reporter

A pro-European Union campaign group has opened itself up to potential charges of breaches of charity regulations by contacting Imperial Union to ask for help in its campaign "to stop UKIP becoming the biggest party" in the 2014 European elections. In an email to the Union President and the Campaigns Officer dated October 17, Joe Coney, the Campaign Director at British Influence, wrote that the group believed that "a significant UKIP win would be bad news on issues such as gender and LGBT equality and stopping climate change". Coney went on to offer to "host a campaign training session [at Imperial] before Christmas" and asked to discuss "any ways in which

the Student Union could help [British Influence] get more students to vote in the election".

However, as a registered charity, the Union is not legally allowed to campaign on matters which are deemed to be ultra vires – that is matters which do not directly affect Imperial students. In his email, Coney wrote that while British Influence realised the "charity status means that the SU can't campaign," the group would like to offer to campaign for the Union and Imperial students on this issue.

Replying to the email, Union President David Goldsmith wrote that while the proposal "is interesting, it is crucial that Imperial College Union, as a registered charity, remains neutral on party political issues, and although [British Influence is] not a political party, supporting [the] campaign would essentially mean the Union taking a view against a particular party". He directed Coney to the Union's many political societies,

saying that they are "more able to campaign on political issues if it falls within their aims and objectives as a society".

While British Influence seemed to be satisfied with this response, a disgruntled senior Union officer, who wishes to remain anonymous, has confirmed to Felix that they passed on the text of the original email to Paul Staines – a controversial right wing blogger and columnist better known by the pseudonym Guido Fawkes. Staines subsequently wrote about the issue in his regular column in the Sun on Sunday, prompting widespread criticism of British Influence on social media. Steve Crowther, the UKIP part chairman, has been reported as having requested that the Charity Commission investigate the incident.

British Influence has played down allegations of impropriety, telling Staines that "this was just a clumsily worded email". At the time of going to print the Union had not released an official statement.

THIS ISSUE...

COMMENT

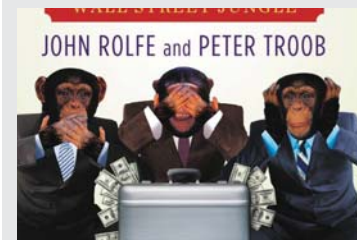
Jonathan
Peek's on the
warpath in
the Comment
section **13**

SCIENCE



Skett tackles
biodiversity **8**

BOOKS



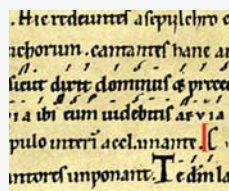
Bankers vs. animals.
Discuss. **18**

EDITOR'S PICKS

MUSIC

Classical Guide

The start of Emiel's guide to Classical Music
Episode II : In the beginning



SPORT

BUCS

Have a look at Imperial's BUCS Home Fixtures in the Sport section



PUZZLES

Puzzling times

Our puzzles our getting harder! Get involved! There's still time to join the FUCWIT league!



COMMENT



Another Confessions of a Graduate Teaching Assistant. This week we travel to lands afar...

Peek on the Warpath
We've found a person with a keen wit and a sharp eye, do you agree with his opinion?

SABB HOT DESK

This week's Sabbs are the Union President and the Deputy President of Welfare and the topic is the student trustee recruitment.

Go and say howdy in the JCR on Friday between 12-13:00. Any other topics welcome!

Survey Time

Following Union Council on Tuesday if you'd like to take part in a short 5-minute survey to give your views on the Government's proposed Immigration Bill go to:

tinyurl.com/ImBilSurv

Erratum

Felix would like to offer our most sincere apologies to Pokémon fans worldwide last week for accidentally publishing *Pokémoms* as the plural of *Pokémon*.

Want to help us copy edit? Email felix@imperial.ac.uk

We're still looking for:

news reporters

illustrators and contributors.

email: felix@imperial.ac.uk

Next week

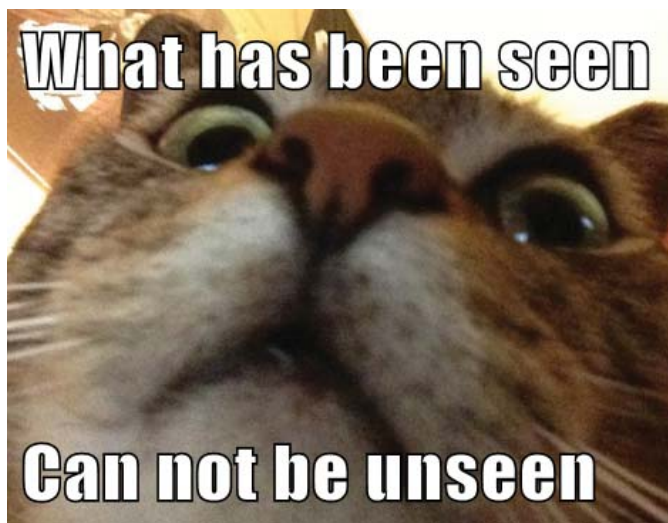
We finally get back to our comic strip Plugtime. Keep your eyes peeled!

Bonfire Night (Remember the 5th of November?)

Oooh, lucky you there's another 'holiday' for you to get excited about! In case you haven't heard the story of Guy Fawkes, Google is that way ->

What are your plans for Bonfire Night There are several locations to see fantastic fireworks from including a free event in Blackheath Park (SE London) on 2nd November (8pm), a ticketed event in Battersea Park also on the 2nd (Adv. tickets only - £6, display at 8pm) and another ticketed event in Crystal Palace Park (SE20) at 8.30pm (£6). Or if you've got oodles of cash you can watch them from the Shard on the 2nd November.

LOLCAT OF THE WEEK: More from teh Lolcat editor



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NEWS

Other News

The Downing Affair



BBC

For those of you who were still wondering, as of yesterday the infamous “Downing Street affair” that caused a three day whirlwind in the press earlier this year (with injunctions, rumours and all the bells and whistles) has finally be revealed. In court yesterday, during the ‘phone-hacking’ trial it was revealed that the guilty couple were Rebekah Brooks and Andy Coulson, two media power brokers with substantial influence in the government. Apparently the affair had be ongoing since its conception in 1998. Awkward for No. 10...

Lecturers on strike



SOURCE: BLOG PRESTON

Following a month of negotiation and deliberation about pay, the University and College Union (UCU), Unison and Unite unions have decided to stage a one-day national strike across the country’s universities during Halloween.

While the strike action varied between universities it can be confirmed that teaching at Liverpool John Moores University and Liverpool Hope University was cancelled and the Chemistry department at Loughborough was closed. The strikes have been triggered by poor pay conditions for teaching staff and possible pension changes, often in contrast to rising salaries of the top posts.

SOURCE: HUFFINGTON POST, BBC

Boris?



SOURCE: IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

As you may or may not have heard, the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson will be attending a “People’s Question Time on campus in the Great Hall on Tuesday 5th November. Tickets have sold out, but if you’re not lucky enough to have confirmed entry you could always stick around the cash machines while waiting for an autograph! The Mayor will be answering questions from the public, so bring your complaints!

from page 1...

the changes would be a “drop in the Ocean” compared to the fees and paperwork already faced by international students, the consensus among Council members was in favour of Goldsmith’s proposals. International Officer Nida Mahmud commented on how she believed that “we should care for the welfare of students” and that the flat £200 NHS fee was unfair since it would “affect the poorest the hardest”. Overseas Societies Committee

Chair Charmain Li added that she had already had many negative responses concerning the Bill from international students.

Despite the general support there were concerns that the Council paper could be improved – with Goldsmith admitting that he had not carried out a comprehensive survey of the opinions of Imperial international students towards the bill. The Council therefore decided not to accept the paper but instead to mandate a working group, led by Deputy President (Welfare) Marissa Lewis, to research the issue further and present a new paper, with a clear plan on how to campaign against the sections of the Bill which would affect Imperial students negatively, at the next Council meeting on November 12.

Since the Council meeting David Goldsmith has released the following statement:

“On presentation of my paper on the Immigration Bill proposals Council engaged in a lengthy and lively debate on the matter. Some excellent views were expressed but consensus was difficult to reach. This was particularly the case with regard to the implantation of a £200 annual NHS fee. Therefore we decided that Marissa, Deputy President (Welfare), will be heading a group to investigate international students’ opinions more thoroughly and reviewing the paper- potentially separating the resolves. I’m looking forward to seeing how this pans out. Should the immigration proposals be rejected by Council there is a lot of lobbying that we as a student body can engage in.”

All members of the Union are welcome to attend the November meeting, which will be held at 18:30 in the Union Dining Hall, to voice their opinions. Additionally, if you would like to contribute your views to this debate you can take a 5-minute Union survey: tinyurl.com/ImBilSurv

Maciej Matuszewski

Next Union Committee Meeting

Clubs, Societies & Projects Board

5th November
18:00 Union Dining Hall

Tours Meeting

Lord Darzi elected by Institute of Medicine

Nida Mahmud
News Editor

deeply enrich the IOM.”

Professor Lord Ara Darzi has been elected by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), which is the health sector of the US National Academy of Sciences.

Becoming a member of the IOM is a high honour in the health and medical field. Last week, 70 new members and 10 new foreign associates were elected for the IOM. The IOM announced that the selections were due to their “outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service”.

Professor Darzi commented that it’s a “great honour to be elected as a foreign associate of the Institute of Medicine. It is a rare privilege and reflects the hard work of the team that I work with”.

Harvey V. Fineberg, IOM President said that

“It is an honour to welcome our highly distinguished colleagues to the Institute of Medicine. These individuals have inspired us through their achievements in research, teaching, clinical work, and other contributions to the medical field. Their knowledge and skills will

Professor Darzi is an Honorary Consultant Surgeon at Imperial College Hospital NHS Trust. He holds the Paul Hamlyn Chair of Surgery at Imperial College London, the institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden Hospital.

The research undertaken by Professor Darzi is focussed on attaining the best surgical practice using innovative surgery and improving patient safety and the quality of healthcare. He has published over 800 peer-reviewed research papers.



Lord Ara Darzi

Sponsored Editorial

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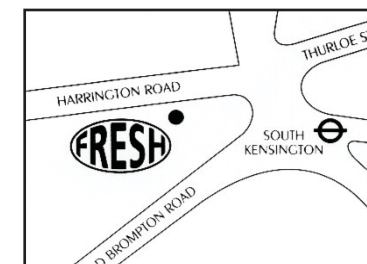
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Interview: Introducing the Education and Student Strategy

Felix talks shop with the Vice-Provost Education

Earlier this week Felix caught up with Professor Debra Humphris, Vice Provost (Education) and had a discussion about the new Education and Student Strategy that was released on Thursday.

Felix: So, you're releasing the Education Student Strategy tomorrow?

Yes. I started it in December last year, we started the process of engaging staff, students and alumni in thinking about an Education Student Strategy to give us a framework and a set of actions to continually enhance and take forward our education student experience. So having gone through a consultation process, having got people's great ideas, having honed that hopefully into a green paper. Having gone back to the community to say: "What do you think of this? What are your comments? Having read all of the input and having events with students and with staff town hall meetings, we then arrived at this Education Student Strategy, which went to what was formerly the Management Board back in June, and has then been to Provost board again just to double check. And then over the summer we've been working to set up working groups around specific actions, so we've now got a framework for action for the college and so that all goes live tomorrow on the website.

So what we've tried to do with the website is have a website where you can click and you can get to the information. We've put it there. We've put links to other sources related to particular actions. We won't do everything all at once because there's too much to do all at once. So, hopefully it's both a repository of information about what's going on. It should also be a two-way format in terms of people who want to highlight great ideas, because the world's moving at such a pace: people who want to get involved, people who've got views about particular developments. It's got to be a two-way dialogue.

F: So, what was there beforehand, was there anything at all before you started this back in December?

The College has always had a strategy. If you go back to the 2010-14 strategy there are some higher-level strategic ambitions in there about education.

There's really helpfully an issue about performance: that the College should be in the top three of all the leading education indicators, which, if you take that and apply to say the NSS, that's really challenging, and so what I hope I've done with this is get a bit more focused and set out some really specific pieces of work that we need to do. So back in 2009 there were no MOOCs [Massive Open Online Courses], there was no plan on the horizon about (as we knew it then) for the rise in undergraduate tuition fees. So much has happened just in that period, a strategy has got to be a living document.

F: So, are you planning on incorporating changes as more feedback comes in from people?

So for example, there's a workgroup with a commitment to streamline and rationalise surveys, so that every time we ask you a question as a student you should know what we do with that, what we've found, and what we're doing as a consequence. I'm of the view that less is more, fewer surveys followed up more diligently and reported back in terms of actions is probably more worthwhile than thousands of surveys that you never hear... that's not valuing your feedback. So, that group has started and undoubtedly there will be changes that will come along that we'll need to adapt to, there's a national review of the NSS, so we don't know what will come out of that next year. So, you have to keep these things live and responsive, but you have to set a direction and start getting on with some really specific actions.

F: So, it is very easy for people to give feedback, is that via the website?

Yes, so there's going to be one email. So for every action there will be a page that you can click through to find out about.

So if you take this one about "Support students to return to their schools and college and employers to share their experiences of college." So this came from Lewis, a student in Earth Science who said we should do more of this because it really works for kids and teachers and schools. And actually, we like to go and tell our story. So, Lorraine Craig, who started this off in the school of Earth Sciences, has kindly agreed to lead that group. And



Professor Debra Humphris, Vice Provost (Education)

FELIX

what we're going to do is gradually increase this because we must do it on a quality basis, it's no good sending 900 students back to their schools. We also need to think about the schools that we focus on because if this about inspiring the next generation, there are some schools where we could probably do a bit more of that than in others, so we need to connect that up with our outreach. ... So on the webpage, we either click on that, and that will take you to a page which is just about that action. You'll be able to find out who's involved, terms of reference of the group, what progress they're making and any links to other sources, keeping people looking out the window. "Actually this is really good that we do this, but actually have you seen what the University of XYZ does? We could be doing that. So, under each of the four objectives there will be links to all the actions so that you can find out anything that's going on and there will be an email where anybody who's got an idea or a comment, and those comments (as in the consultation) will range from the highly supportive and encouraging to the... more colourful and more anatomical.

F: Oh dear.

Well, you know all of life is here.

F: So one thing that I'm picking up is that you're very keen on making it transparent and easy. Is this something that would be possible to get throughout all college?

Yes, this is a college-wide strategy, this is the framework we've set all College.

by which people might say "Do you know what, I had a really great idea, do you know that we can do X, Y, and Z". Genius, you can't see the wood for the trees, so engaging people is really important.

F: Almost wrapping up, looking forward to the future, both in terms of this document and future strategy documents, is there a particular timeline that we can look at for changes, and then for the future, what are you thinking?

So, again, in January the College will start the process of refreshing it's current strategy (it will probably be the 2014 to 2020 strategy), so we'll start this process and this will get wound into it because essentially we've done the education and student piece. We might refresh it on the way, I wouldn't ever rule that out, and then these actions will take differing amounts of time. So in terms of the education foresight process, the challenge I'm going to put before colleagues is: Let's think now about the 2020 graduate intake, because they are alive. What is it we're going to be delivering in 2020, we've got MOOCs, we've got 'digital', we've got interdisciplinary research and disciplines merging, challenges all over the world, increasing globalisation of higher education, three-year olds who do this [mimics a touchscreen gesture] and think that televisions [are touchscreen]. What will they be like when they arrive in 2020? How do we prepare for that? And we need to have a vision about that because if we're going to start the work to get there we have to start now because we haven't got many years left to get to that point.

F: OK. One last question. Is there any particular part of the strategy that you're really keen on, or is it the whole thing? Is there any one priority?

No, I think it wouldn't be in here if it wasn't important to the college. For me, it's all important, it's about students, it's about their experience, it's also about our staff and it's about the infrastructure and creating the environment to which to deliver world, so you can't have one bit on it's own.

F: OK. Well, thank you very much for your time.

The job now is to engage everybody in the community, staff, students, and alumni to help put their shoulder to the wheel and move us forward.

F: Personally I think that with some of the issues you've raised, especially the NSS, it's important that we focus on things and make them better instead of just complaining which is what some students currently do at times. So in terms of boosting student morale, what are your thoughts in regards to that?

So, through all of this, what I've been really clear about (and actually there's a statement right at the beginning [of the document]), are the underpinning assumptions around this. This strategy is built on three assumptions, one is our disciplinary strength in science and engineering and our commitment to a research-led education that is practice-based. Another assumption is a clear commitment to strong partnership with Imperial College Union, we do this and we do this together, and the recognition that the educational experience of our students is shaped by all members of the college community: staff, students and alumni. How Mrs Patel at the student hub speaks and deals with you [and treats you] is as important as professor "Wonderful Wonderful" giving her lecture on molecular something or other. We are all one community and building that respect for everybody's contribution is really important. Everybody has brilliant ideas, I don't know anybody who comes to work at Imperial College not wanting to do a great day's work and I would be mad to shut off a route

The Energy Problem: Which Way Forward?

Part 2 of a 3 part feature brought to you by the London Climate Forum 2013

Shiladitya Ghosh
LCF Organising Committee

With David Cameron recently officially backing the development of a new nuclear power station in Britain for the first time in our generation, the UK looks to be more comfortable than not with accepting the presence of nuclear energy production operations, even as the discovery of healthy shale gas reserves were made known last year by a British Geological Survey report. However, not very many countries around the world are in a similarly happy dilemma about choosing which means of energy production to pursue. Further to that, which one ought the UK to be really pursuing as well, when climate change and environmental effects are considered?

To know which way to go forward, we must first eliminate which ways

lead back. Fossil fuels are commonly perceived as being one such doomed path – even though their carbon footprint is decreasing through means of technological development and innovations such as carbon capture & storage (CCS) techniques, their lack of accessible deposits and the economic & environmental setbacks associated with digging further and deeper mean that, for any country, sticking purely to fossil fuels to meet energy demands is only going to cause bigger problems after the short-term future comes to pass.

Another point of consideration is the ways in which any energy solution would factor into our lives and the way we use energy on the personal level. This is a very motivating factor which affects public opinion – for instance, consider the effect on the private transportation sector. Some communities in developed countries are more welcoming of biofuels replacing petrol because it would still allow them to use their preferred vehicle models, whereas they may not be so keen on wind/hydroelectric energy being the substitute as it may mean they have to swap to electric/

hybrid vehicles (for which the supply and variety on offer is comparatively very limited).

It may seem a naïve reason to turn up one's nose at a possible future energy production method, but unless the public is persuaded to recognise and care more about the bigger picture and how it's not none of their business, for instance how harvesting hydroelectric energy could lead to them enjoying better air quality for a longer time period in the future despite having to drive unflashy cars, there is not much that can and will get done about the energy problem. Solar energy could end up being our best bet on paper, with minimal climatological and environmental side-effects, but if no one appreciates it, it would not get developed on at all.

With climate change and the environment taking centre stage in the public consciousness more often than ever before, we also tend to forget about all the existing infrastructure, equipment, systems, networks, and resources related to fossil fuels that we have which will fall into obsolescence when a new energy technology takes over, unless their compatibility issues

can be solved.

Coal mines that would be shut down could potentially be developed to harness geothermal energy instead, whilst petrochemical processing facilities could be adapted to produce more efficient biofuels...on the other hand, nuclear power stations are not able to adapt much existing energy infrastructure (including the vast marine and land transportation networks that exist primarily to serve transport of oil & natural gas.)

This is a critical point as existing resources need to be redeployed as efficiently as possible so sufficient new resources can be directed towards developing any given energy technology. Physical space in our environment is a precious commodity that is constantly becoming scarcer, so the extent of utilisation of pre-existing infrastructure would also play a significant role in determining which source of energy is deemed most suitable for development in a particular country or region. Minimising the need for new land and construction generally might mean a smaller impact upon the environment and would avoid considerably

increasing the number of sources of carbon emissions in worldwide human activity.

Finally, any energy technology that we choose to progress needs to be sustainable – a key difference from our main energy sources in the past. This heavily involves the economic and financial aspects of the matter and also relates to the source of the energy; whether it is renewable or not. The energy sector is perhaps the most important economic sector and its future form would also need to be able to sustain jobs and livelihoods, which means it needs to be invested into. Furthermore, some possibilities such as biofuels are in the grey area as to whether they are renewable, however other such as solar energy and nuclear energy are considered virtually inexhaustible due to their sources' sheer reserves/energy densities.

Want to hear more conclusive and insightful discussions about the future of energy? Come along to the London Climate Forum at Imperial College London on 9th November for a panel discussion on this subject and a host of other exciting talks and exhibitions.

Looking at the Education and Student Strategy

Felix takes a quick look at the newly released strategy document

Joseph Letts
Editor-in-Chief

College has released a new Education and Student Strategy this week which "sets out our vision, aims and priorities for education and the student experience." The scope of the document is a guide for the development of the education system and student experience over the next five years, providing a strong framework for improvements that students will hopefully benefit from over this period of time.

One of the unfortunate aspects of trying to make changes in College, as with any other large organisation, is that these changes can take time, which can be frustrating for some students who might only see the effects of their feedback after they have graduated. However, since the benefits of change tend to fall to the next generation, it can be easy to forget that any benefits we have received were also due to those who studied in these halls before us.

The Education & Student Strategy document takes into consideration several global factors that can affect the make-up of the incoming student population, including student social mobility, student demographics and the effects the current higher tuition fees might have on future Imperial students.

However the document also looks at the outcomes an Imperial education can provide for students, such as competitiveness in an increasingly global job market. It also shows a focus on teaching, outreach activities and financial support for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The strategic aims of College over the 2013-18 period are "to achieve international recognition:

-As a global community of the most talented students

-For our distinctive education

-For our commitment to innovation in teaching and learning, and the wider student experience.

-For our outstanding academic infrastructure."

In order to achieve these aims College plans to focus on their admissions process – making an Imperial education more open to people from all backgrounds, improving the experience of new students joining the College and improving outreach activities to schools and colleges. College also plans to focus on the actual education experience, in terms of providing improvements to teaching, pastoral care and the university's academic infrastructure.

One strong principle of the strategy over the next five years is the availability and ease of feedback mechanisms to allow staff, students and alumni a chance to contribute ideas that can enhance the student experience. As part of this the Education department has created a new website which allows for easy communication and access to information. There students can find out more information about the College's vision, its objectives and how they can make a difference to the student experience at Imperial.

For more information, visit the new website at: tinyurl.com/q6zueqc

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Tensions Escalate Between US and Germany

Kartikeya Rana analyses the implications of US foreign policy

Kartikeya Rana
Politics Editor

NSA whistleblower, Edward Snowden, has recently leaked documents stating that the US has been monitoring phone calls of Angela Merkel and other European leaders. According to a German newspaper, Der Spiegel, the US has been monitoring Angela Merkel's phone since 2002. Such operations are said to be carried out by the US in 80 destinations around the world including Brazil, Mexico and France. This has resulted in growing anti American sentiment in these countries.

Angela Merkel has shown passionate discontent to the claims that America wiretaps her phones. German people have a history of having mass surveillance been done on them by dictatorial Communist and Nazi regimes. This has caused them to be more sensitive to such situations. German authorities have asked Washington to provide an explanation. The US authorities have stated that they 'have not and will not be monitoring' her mobile phone. This does not necessarily mean that her phone was not monitored in the

past. US and Germany are seen to be close allies but this beach of trust has only degraded the ties between the two nations. Tapping her phone is a clear infringement on her personal rights and sovereignty, which makes her response justifiable. "It will take a lot of time", Angela said, "to build back trust."

These revelations, however, should not come as a surprise to her as spying by various intelligence services is very well known. In fact, Germany has its own intelligence service directly under the chancellor, called the Federal Intelligence Service (BND), which has a comprehensive scheme of foreign intelligence gathering. Although some of the anger shown by the Chancellor may be genuine, it may have also been influenced by the German public outcry against the actions of the NSA.

American spying operations tend to be well known for states such as China and Russia but the desire to wire tap a close ally such as Germany may seem strange to many. The decision may have been influenced by the US desire to get the best deal out of any bilateral trade agreements. By monitoring Angela Merkel's mobile phone, the US can find out how to get the best bargain out of any agreement with Germany. It could also have been done to speculate about prospective German domestic policy and find out



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whether American companies should invest in Germany.

The US stature on the world stage has already been failing. The usage of drones has caused widespread discontent as the morality and ethics of using remote control weapons on humans is questionable. The relatively high number of civilian casualties caused by drones has further added to the negative public perception towards their usage. The spying operations carried out by the NSA have resulted in a further degradation of US International relations. German investments in US markets will now

suffer, as any German-US deal will be put under scrutiny. Furthermore, it will be harder for the US to put forward reforms through the UN Security Council. Nations such as Germany and France are members of the Security Council and any reform put forward by the US, regardless of its aim, would be seen with suspicion. It will also cause the US to find it harder to convince European nations to partake as allies in conflicts around the world.

Strangely enough, the UK has not provided noticeable reactions to the whole situation. There is a

deal between the UK and US, which prevents such spying operations between the two states. The UK may also be holding back from reacting as it may have similar spying operations of its own. Recent reports suggest that the UK Government Communication Headquarters (GCHQ) have been spying on a German data cable.

The validity of the information provided is also something that must be questioned. Edward Snowden has provided information whilst living under asylum in Moscow. As a former member of the NSA, he has information about the workings of other security agencies as well. The fact that he is only providing information about the American intelligence services may be because he wishes to further his personal gains. Furthermore, the fact that he has chosen to seek asylum in Moscow is rather suspicious. There is growing tension between Russia and the US regarding the situation in Syria. Russian authorities wish to give Assad more time to dispossess hiws chemical weapons than the US is willing to offer.

The damage caused to US-German relationships is one, which will take a long time to heal. The US now has to conduct a complete review of its international policy and change the way it takes part in international affairs to improve its stand in the world.

Talks held between India and China over a border dispute

Jash Rughani looks into the escalating tensions between India and China

Jash Rughani
Politics Editor

China's presence on the global economic platform has been colossal since the turn of the millennium. It has followed the tenets of inclusive growth and has managed to eradicate rural poverty while the GDP is pegged at about 9 trillion dollars annually. However, the dragon country's real problems and aspirations lie outside of its boundaries. Or so it appears from its relations with its neighbors.

Ties between China and Japan have been repeatedly strained by a territorial row over a group of islands, known as the Senkaku islands in Japan and the Diaoyu islands in China. The eight uninhabited islands lie in the East China Sea and they have a total area of about 7 square km and lie northeast of Taiwan, east of the Chinese mainland and southwest of Japan's southern-most

region, Okinawa. These islands matter because they are close to strategically important shipping lanes, offer rich fishing grounds and are thought to contain oil deposits. In December 2012 Japan said a Chinese government plane had violated its airspace over the islands and had caused much political turmoil in both the nations.

In October 2013 Philippines showed resistance to China's overwhelming naval and maritime presence in the South China Sea and sought clarity on China's territorial claims. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have partial or total claims to the resource-rich and highly traversed sea while China maintained that it has indisputable sovereignty over nearly the entire sea.

Yet a long stand-off between Chinese and Indian soldiers in a disputed part of Ladakh in September, 2013 reflects another profound problem: already it ranks as the most serious confrontation between the Asian giants since the late 1980s. India accused its neighbour to the north-east of sending troops some 19km



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past a line of actual control (LAC), in the Despang area of Ladakh, a part of Jammu & Kashmir state that is wedged between Tibet proper and the vale of Kashmir. They had reportedly been there for more than two weeks and soon a small number of Indian soldiers set up camp within a stone's throw of their Chinese counterparts. The incursion was seen simply as China putting pressure on militarily weaker India, presumably to extract concessions such as a freeze on the number of troops it deploys along the border, or some block on India's development of bunkers, roads or

other structures on its own side of the frontier. Any such freeze would leave Chinese forces, which are established on a plateau, in a much stronger position. They already enjoy the benefit of all-weather roads, railway lines and other structures that connect them to the rest of China.

Lastly, worsening bilateral relations would be at odds with broader gains between the countries in other fields. The value of bilateral trade, skewed heavily in China's favour, has grown from just \$2.9 billion a year at the start of the millennium to some \$66 billion annually. China and India appear to co-operate as members of the BRICS group of countries, for example sharing a proposal to establish a new global development bank. And even along the disputed border, the two countries have established limited mechanisms for managing their disagreements peacefully. India's prime minister, Manmohan Singh, went to Beijing to discuss matters of trade and border defense last week in the wake of hope for peaceful ties and improved relations.

Political actions are much deliberated over to create desired impacts and outcomes. It is not surprising to see the premier of a nation expecting general elections making overseas trips to strategically valid nations or delivering powerful speeches at international summits to woo the vote banks. Similarly, it is not difficult to understand the underlying motives of an imperialistic state trying to wield its influence on neighboring countries. In my opinion, today's day and age where technological advancements have transformed the world into a single global village, it is in the interest of each nation to work cordially alongside the others. The influx of ideas across varied socio-economic backgrounds can be properly channeled with the ever-growing infrastructure to facilitate better lifestyles. More than expanding on the arsenal, nations need to bolster their intellectual capacity to survive global competition. Macabre warfare needs to be renounced and development of soft skills deserves investments.

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Passion to Perform





How many species are there in the world?

Philippa Skett discusses the difficulties associated with determining biodiversity



A new species of snake, *Chironius challenger*

PHILIPPE KOK

Just how many species actually are there in the world? This mystery is up there with the other big questions that dominate science, and has been pursued by all manner of scientists over the years. The flummoxing phylogeny of organisms throughout history is one of the many factors as to why we just can't seem to pinpoint a magic number, alongside the natural ebbing and flowing of numbers of species all the time; after all, it is the ultimate goal of genes to propagate their organismal stronghold into something bigger, better, faster or stronger, so species come and go as fast as evolution allows.

Throw in the issues caused by

deforestation, global warming and other human activity, alongside the ecosystems we are yet to explore, and it is easy to understand just how difficult it is to track species exiting and entering the biodiversity stage.

That's not to say science isn't attempting to get up to speed with the number of species out there. This week saw the WWF announce that they have discovered at least 441 new species of plants and animals in a remote part of the Amazon rainforest newly explored between 2010 and 2013. These included 258 species of plants, 84 fish, 22 reptiles and a monkey that purrs like a cat.

It's not just the ecology adventurers that are having all the fun in the species scavenger hunt either - after

studying the genetics of the humpback dolphins earlier this week, it appeared that a family that was previously thought to only consist of three species is actually comprised of four. Based on both genetically analysing and morphologically studying the *Sousa* genus of dolphins, it was found that another genetically distinct species was hidden away among the three already recognised based on previous taxonomic classifications.

Estimating total species numbers is an endeavour that has stretched through the history of the life sciences, which has seen various successes and much more humorous failures. One of the most noted examples is that of Terry Erwin, an excitable entomologist who in 1982 based his estimation on the tiniest dataset imaginable. After sampling 19 individuals of arthropods from one species of rainforest tree, he went on to make wild assumptions concerning how many species are specific to tree species, how many trees there are, and then adding some more in for good measure. He finally came to the hugely over-exaggerated figure of there being possibly 30 million arthropod species, much to the exasperation of the rest of the scientific community at the time.

Although it has been more recently estimated that 86 percent of species probably haven't been discovered yet, it has also been deduced that there is a less than 0.00001 percent chance that Erwin was right in his arthropod estimation.

People are not put off by his efforts

however - a researcher in the number of fields relating to species discovery is thought to discover and describe around 24.8 species on average in their career. We must eventually cover all the species at some point, right? Unfortunately, with an average expenditure per year of US\$97,000 per researcher, answering the big question through leg work alone could potentially cost around US\$ 263 billion.

Currently catalogued, there are around 300,000 plant species, 1,233,500 terrestrial animal species, and a somewhat lacklustre figure of 98,000 fungal species. However, estimated figures for the total that are expected to exist globally, based on current phylogenetic understanding and extrapolation, suggest there may be in reality up to 1.5 million fungal species and potentially 11.4 million arthropod species. It's still not quite the same figure as Erwin suggested but does show just how little we still know about the true biodiversity out there.

So what is the plan? Scouring the Amazon rainforest is fun, but if we still have a staggering four fifths of species yet to find, amassing only around 400 of these over the space of 3 years is hardly time efficient. Not only that, but the neglected players in this worldwide game of biodiversity hide and seek are those that really never attracted attention in the first place, like the minuscule mushrooms or the placid platyhelminthes. People prefer to chase large cats over savannahs

or catch beautiful butterflies in forests than pick through mud for an unassuming hidden fern or fungus.

But taxonomic effort and efficiency is increasing, and with DNA technology allowing us to unravel the secrets behind cryptic species - those that appear or behave as one species but may actually be several - we might be able to pick up the undiscovered biodiversity backlog quicker than ever.

We also need to simply cover more ground - with some species potentially only inhabiting tiny areas due to geological or geographical constraints, simply locating these out-of-reach areas is the first step to tracking down more elusive animals.

The aim now is to get the poster animals of biodiversity out of the spotlight and start getting excited over the more secretive species; we need more mycologists to track down the mushrooms missing in our lives. We can't just leave it to the ecologists either; it has to be a team effort too. We need the geographers to pinpoint areas of interest, the geologists to predict just what might be there and why, and even the mathematicians to model species and scenarios which we can't study first hand, such as the progression of species numbers throughout immensely long periods of time. Throw in geneticists, marine biologists and the taxonomists too to point us in the right direction, and suddenly it becomes so much more of a team effort. Biologists need all the help they can get in the quest to catch 'em all.

7th rock from another sun

Pavitar Singh Devgon

Science Writer

Discovering exoplanets nearly 20 years ago allowed physicists to change their view of the universe. We had always known that our Sun was not the only star in the wide universe, but then came confirmation that there are star systems like ours too, with planets of all sizes orbiting one, two or three stars at a time. Now one dwarf star in particular, KIC 11442793 (catchy name!), may hold a record for the most number of exoplanets, with two separate research groups finding a seventh orbiting the star.

Chris Lintott from the University of Oxford led one research group,

who used data gathered from NASA's space telescope, Kepler, to discover this latest exoplanet. The team have submitted their research paper to be peer reviewed in the *Astronomical Journal*. Lintott has high hopes, saying, "With a transiting system, once you get multiple planets, the odds of them being false positives are very small."

The star itself is just a stone's throw away from Earth at 2500 light years, and has been noted to bear similarities to our own. One difference though is the fact that all of the planets orbit much closer to their star - this new planet has an orbit of only 125 days, but is almost 3 times as large as the Earth, by diameter. "It actually looks like our Solar System in one sense, with small planets on the inside and big planets on the outside ... That's not necessarily what we always see,"

said co-author Robert Simpson, also from Oxford University.

An interesting point to note is that because all of the planets orbit relatively closely to the star, previous detection methods should have been able to predict the seventh exoplanet. As Dr Lintott put it, "Everything we know about this system tells us it should have been found using the automatic detection routines. But it wasn't."

Seven star systems can be quite complicated to deal with and the calculations that need to be performed can become lengthy. Looking for the right transit of the planets "seems like a task that's perfectly designed for computers. But we keep finding, in these niche cases, in these odd cases, in these complicated cases that humans can beat the computers."

ArXiv: 1310.5912



The Kepler Space Telescope before launch in 2009

NASA/JACK PFALLER



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SCIENCE

The chaos of colony collapse disorder

Laurence Pope on recent research into the humble honeybee

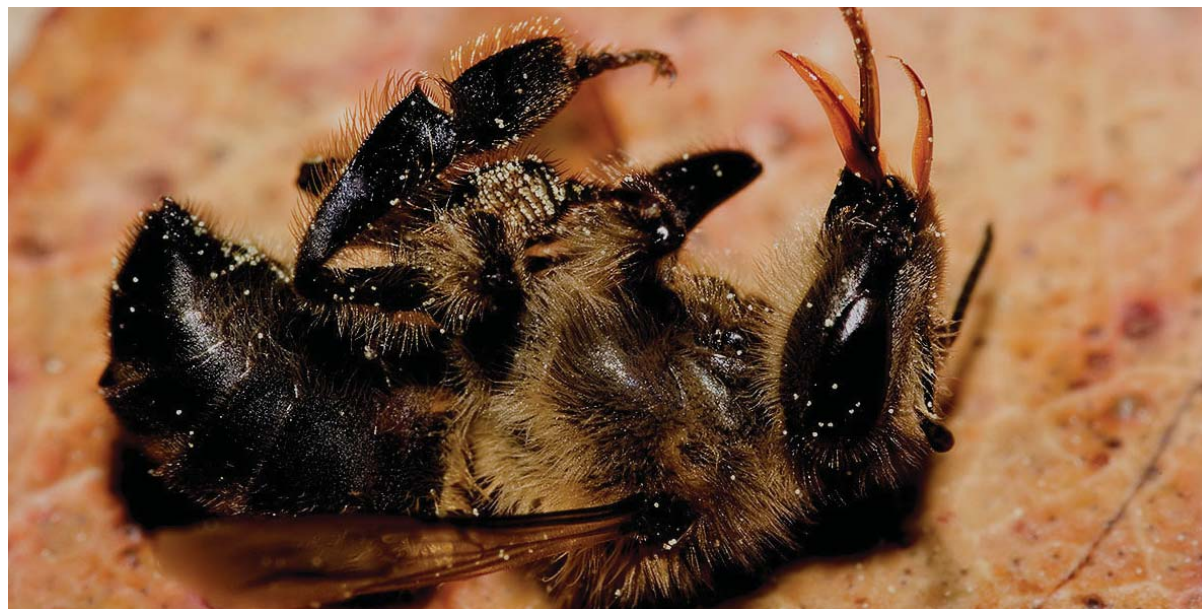
The modern-day bee is in a bit of a sticky situation, and we're not talking about honey.

It was published in *PLoS One* last week that scientists discovered a mass-extinction of one bee group, *Xylocopinae*, at around the same time the dinosaurs punched out of the biological timeline. This extinction is believed to be linked to the extinction of many flowering plant species. Speed forward 65 million years or so and we've got another bee problem: colony collapse disorder (CCD).

You could write a dissertation on colony collapse disorder (and indeed I actually have), but it can be boiled down to a few simple facts. Back in late 2006 US beekeepers noticed that their hives were devoid of large numbers of worker bees, even dead ones. The bees had seemingly vanished. Over six years on and it's still a problem across a lot of the world, including the US, Europe and parts of Asia. Bee populations are crashing, and no-one's quite sure why.

Several competing hypotheses have been put forward. Some blame a group of pesticides known as neonicotinoids, a class of neuroactive agents introduced in the early 1990s. Neonicotinoids have low toxicity in mammals, and at the time seemed a good alternative to more toxic pesticides being used. And although they're quite good at killing pests they're apparently also quite good at disrupting the bee's in-built navigation system. The EU recently imposed a ban, although the jury's still out amongst scientists whether or not neonicotinoids are a major culprit in CCD.

Other blame the aptly named *Varroa destructor*, a parasitic mite that attaches to bees and inadvertently spreads viruses to its host, weakening the bee's immune system. Even more factors have been brought into question, including the monoculture nature of farming, climate change, other pathogens and malnutrition. No single factor has been conclusively singled out as the major causative agent of CCD, but like many complex



CCD has destroyed over 10 million honeybee hives and caused over US\$2million in damage

MODERN FARMER

ecological phenomena CCD is likely the outcome of a mixture of these issues. There will be no silver bullet.

The consequences of CCD extend far beyond a potential shortage of honey and pretty flowers. Bees

contribute billions to the economy via their ability to pollinate crops. Without them the pollination of many crops would need to occur by hand, an expensive and time-consuming process that would very likely impact

overall crop yield.

And so research continues. For the sake of both the human race and the beleaguered bee one hopes solutions will soon be found.

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Apparently money does grow on trees

Fiona Hartley finds it difficult to ignore a golden opportunity for puns

Money doesn't grow on trees, said every person ever, but it turns out that isn't entirely accurate. There's gold in them thar hills, or rather, in them thar trees. Scientists have struck gold – surprisingly in the leaves, twigs and bark of eucalyptus trees in Western Australia.

A group of researchers from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) made the discovery recently and published their findings in the journal *Nature Communications*. They say that the roots of the trees act like a 'hydraulic pump', taking up tiny ions of gold tens of metres within the soil below as they gather water. Particularly in drought conditions roots can reach up to 35 metres deep into the soil.

The gold is transported up through the tree by the vasculature system, replacing water lost through transpiration. Most likely toxic to the plant, the gold is then moved to leaves and branches in order to reduce deleterious biochemical reactions. These can eventually be shed, thereby

removing the gold.

Going to Australia to chop down trees that you can then trade to a cash-for-gold website when your student loan runs out isn't a feasible way to make a quick buck however. The amount of gold particles found in the trees is miniscule. Dr Melvyn Lintern, one of the geochemists who authored the paper, said, "We've done a calculation, and found that we need 500 trees growing over a gold deposit to have enough gold in the trees themselves to make a gold ring."

The scientists used the Maia detector for x-ray elemental imaging at the Australian synchrotron to visualise the particulate gold. "This is a first," said Dr Lintern. "We know that gold occurs in leaves but this is the very first time that gold has been found as a visible particle in any biological material, let alone leaves. Any biological material at all." A Eureka! moment indeed.

Let's note though that this research will not prompt an old-school gold rush. The nuggets of gold are one-fifth of the diameter of a human hair – genuinely invisible to other equipment. But this could herald the beginning of a golden era for mineral

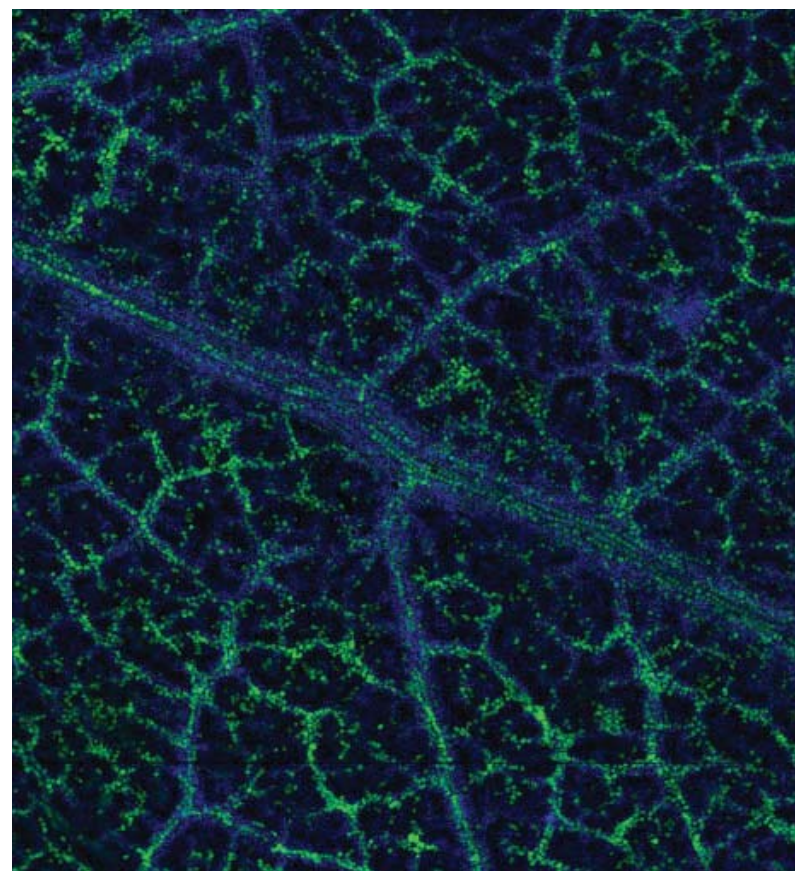
prospecting. Nowadays most easy-access gold deposits have been found all around the world. Deposits are now detected by exploratory drilling, or by finding a location where gold ore appears on the Earth's surface. Analysing vegetation above ground and discovering gold could indicate buried treasure tens of metres below.

"Not only do we believe it is a way of stretching the exploration dollar further," said Dr Lintern, "because exploring for these deposits can be quite expensive, it also minimises the damage to the environment because we are taking a very small sample from the trees themselves, as well as the leaves and twigs on the ground."

"The leaves could be used in combination with other tools as a more cost effective and environmentally friendly exploration technique."

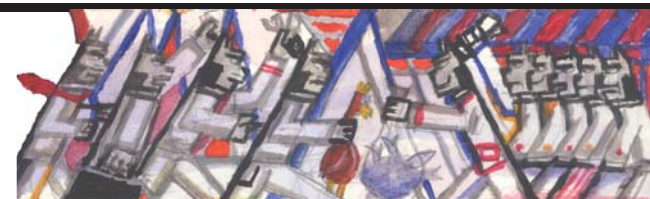
Such a method would go some way towards addressing the problems of declining supply and quality alongside increasing demand for gold. There is also the possibility that the technique could be adapted to identify other mineral deposits, such as zinc and copper.

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Particulate gold in eucalyptus leaves

CSIRO AUSTRALIA



Shell Ideas360 comes to students!

Competition to solve the energy, food and water issues of future!

James Tsim
Business Editor

Shell Ideas360

Shell Ideas360 is an international competition open to all students which aims to produce the leading ideas to tackle the global energy, food and water issues of today. Students are invited to develop game changing ideas with an emphasis on innovative ideas which can be implemented to produce

real and profitable investment. The prize for this competition consists of a National Geographic Expedition, where you will be exploring some of the most fascinating places in the world. Shell hopes to use its resources to help change the world by investing in ideas produced by students. All participants will keep the intellectual property behind their ideas. The best ideas also have the chance to be invested in by the Shell Gamechanger programme, which has invested over USD\$300m to date.

Are you ready to solve the problem,

tackle the food security nexus and provide fresh water globally? With the world population and daily energy usage per person ever increasing, can you find a solution?

Thijs Jurgens, Shell Vice President for Innovation said: "As a global leader in energy and innovation, we aspire to drive progress in the development of a better energy system. The future of energy cannot be seen as separate from that of food and water, and tackling the pressures on these vital resources cannot be achieved alone. We recognize that innovation starts

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with ideas, and believe that great ideas can be conceived by anyone at any time. However, many great ideas never get off the ground, for any of a number of reasons. At Shell, we want to make sure that promising ideas are nurtured and supported. What better place to start than at university? And what better talent to support than students?"

you will be given a Shell mentor to help you develop your idea, and build on skills and industry knowledge. From this you will be required to write a detailed report followed by a 3-minute video presentation. Only 5 teams make it to the final round and this takes place in the Netherlands.

Entrepreneurship

How to enter

Once you have an idea, you can enter as an individual or as part of a team (max 3 people per team). You are also required to have a member of the university academic staff to support your application. Once you've signed up, you'll have access to a virtual workspace filled with a collection of inspiring videos, articles and advice to spark your creative thinking and help your idea take shape. Ideas need to be submitted by December 16th 2013. After review by Shell, the top 100 ideas from all students will be selected to proceed to the next stage. In this stage

An Imperial student has done it before. Alex Schey studied mechanical engineering at Imperial and went up to set up Vantage power. Straight after university, he acquired £700,000 sponsorship to build and design an electric car, which he drove down the Pan-American Highway, which is over 26,000km. He then went on to develop a revolutionary hybrid drivetrain designed to retrofit existing double-decker buses to reduce fuel consumption by 40%.

If you feel like taking on this energy, water and food challenge, submit your idea today!

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'For me, a good night out is spent picking up moths'

Alessandro Giusti
Entomologist

An 80km jaunt in Wales

James Ellis' reflections on an ultramarathon

As most regular runners will testify, there comes a point when having followed a routine for a long time, you feel compelled to mix things up and try something new. It's the runner's mid-life crisis. This seems reasonable analogy for it involves committing to something rash, a bad idea. For me this was entering the Wye Valley Ultra, an 80 km race through the mountains of mid-Wales. Several months on from the seemingly harmless entry form, the day came along, bringing with it the task of completing a race just shy of two marathons, with over 200m of vertical ascent to contend with. My student tendencies eliminated thoughts of pre-race nerves when I realised that a 3am alarm was required to make the 7.30am start time. Silver linings in everything...

In hindsight it was an event in four parts. For the initial 2-3 hours I was in race mode. While being a novice at ultra running training had progressed and I wanted to push for as good a finish as possible. A lot of concentration went into adhering to a nutrition programme, which involved eating approximately 50g of carbohydrate and drinking 400mL per hour. This I split into roughly half hourly 'meals', which dually served the purpose of dividing the overall task with making it easier to 'stomach' while running..

Stage one ended at about 35km when I was in a group of three, who were a minute down on the leader. Having

felt good heretofore, I began to cramp, dramatically reducing my speed. A gem of Imperial-induced maths informed me that this regression had pushed my finish time up from 8 hours to 10. A depressing thought! Giving up wasn't an option as too many people knew I was racing, thus I convinced myself that ignoring cramp was preferable to inevitable abuse I would take if I assigned a 'DNF' to my name. For 90 minutes this struggle continued; I would be lying if I said it fun. Despite this I was confident that my problem was nutrition-based

through muscular-electrolyte deficit rather than fitness.

I reached a point where I could speed up without cramping. At this point I felt I was riding the crest of a wave. Feeling that I could run freely gave me a lift and the whole venture seemed like a better idea than it had beforehand. The miles began to tick off faster and with them came progress back up the leader board. The next few hours (I can honestly say) were truly glorious, basking in the freedom of running through stunning environments, untouched

and untroubled by the outside world. It was almost spiritual in a way, being so completely isolated in my own little bubble, just letting my mind wander whilst I passed lakes, through valleys and over mountains. The one issue was the difficulty of adhering to my eating plan. Having been out for over 5 hours, postulating whether I was sufficiently fuelled became increasingly difficult.

The final stage approached at the 60km point. By now the euphoria of previous hours had dissipated. For the first time I was dealing with the issue

of muscular fatigue. To put it mildly my legs were 'pretty' sore. The balance was that I was within a distance to the finish that, barring injury, I would be able overcome. I had also raced up the leader board. The mental battle was forcing myself to push as much as I could in order to 'break' those behind me.

Unlike the opening stages where I raced feeling fresh, I was now 'red-lining' – going as fast as I could for the given distance left. This became a battle between two contrasting voices in my head but I managed to hold it together, using a series of mental hurdles to focus away from the fatigue. I also thought about the prospective outcome and all the input training. Spotting the '200m to go' sign was a relief. Crossing the line I did had an immense sense of satisfaction and pride, completing the race in 8 hours 11 minutes and 6th out of the 130 starters. It was an enjoyable experience due to the surroundings where it took place. It provided interest and inspiration, making it a pleasure (in the main) in which to be a part. Ultimately, it was an example of the value of spending time outdoors and protecting those environments.

Capitalising on the opportunity I urge you all to attend the London Climate Forum, a sustainability conference centred on prospective anthropogenic effects. It will be a great event with fantastic speakers. It takes place at Imperial College on November 9th. See londonclimateforum.org for more details.



Royalties from the Royalty

Christy Kelly
Writer



The British Monarchy as an institution is, we can all agree, quintessentially British, defined by political impotence, with a history of starting needless wars to satisfy stupid demands. A historical anachronism allowed to be a part of the elite out of politeness, with the mind to its occasional utility. The US needed Britain's support during Iraq, to pretend it wasn't the only 'democracy' going to fight there uh, for democracy, and the British Government sometimes needs the

Royal Family to throw a good party. Because these are times of austerity! Wait...

So, forget the convenient Royal decrees that allow the government to overrule Supreme Court judgements, used to quash the claims of the forcefully displaced Chagos Islanders; forget the fact that royalty is a remnant of a horribly repressive, backwards and cruel historical era. Forget that the royalty own vast tracts of land, bought with tax-payers' money. Forget that the symbolic efficacy of the Royal Family has variously been used to support raving nationalism (think Yukio Mishima and his Cultural Emperor, or World War Japan generally). The Queen appeared in Danny Boyle's James Bond sketch at the Olympics. And sure Charles looks like a horse, but Princess D was

an angel, wasn't she? Look at all that charity stuff she probably did. And the poor sons, ordinary guys forced into such a hard position, the whole world watching. No wonder they go to parties dressed as Nazis, it's the stress, poor things! And then isn't Kate so good looking and clever, and a normal human being too. Those Royals can't be all bad if they marry normal human beings. Plus they bring in tourist money.

You see that last bit is crucial. Most people aren't willing to support the royal family without some apparent utilitarian calculation. They say, 'No I don't think we really need a monarchy, but they make us lots of tourist money and it would be a pity to lose it.' Fair enough, these are times of austerity! So okay, keep the Royal Family. I understand that they make

a lot of money for us. I don't know how anyone calculated exactly how much tourist money we would lose if the Royal Family disappeared, but economists are clever. Take the IMF: if unemployment really didn't exist, their models would be perfect! Anyway, the Royal family makes Britain money.

But, let's reorganise a bit so we can make more tourist money. These are times of austerity. A Royal Family Big Brother perhaps? A sort of Buckingham Palace zoo, where we can see Charles having his Duchy original blood-of-virgins-or-whatever jam for breakfast, the Queen on the toilet and Prince Phillip being racist to the assembled crowds? The Only Way is Sandringham House? It sounds ghastly to me, but then, I never did watch reality TV. At the very least it sounds like it will sell.



COMMENT

Editors: **Eoghan J. Totten, Tessa Davey**
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Boris: Resolute Vertebrate Jelly Part II

Eoghan J. Totten

@eoghantotten
Comment Editor



"If the ball came loose from the back of the scrum, which it won't of course, it would be a great, great thing to have a crack at."

These were the words of Boris Johnson on a hypothetical bid for The Conservative Party leadership, speaking to the BBC's Michael Cockerell for a May 2013 broadcast. Their light-hearted flippancy is somewhat endearing but they also conjure images of the home counties. This cannot be avoided.

One cannot fault the apparent gusto with which Boris Johnson approaches his mayorship. His '9- point plan for a Greater London' was both succinct and pragmatic. Perhaps (in my view) this is the crux of any criticism that might be directed towards him. His delineation of London's foibles may prove to be a gross oversimplification of a vastly complex social and economic focal point; Boris Johnson tends to focus on the latter. While his pledge to create 200,000 jobs, as a conduit for raising citizens out of poverty, is a noble endeavour, it could be misconstrued as clandestine and disengaged.

London is not a fictional metropolis like Gotham City, where criminality is asphyxiated and bludgeoned into submission. Neither will a punctual

transport network remedy all problems. These are isolated solitudes in themselves. They are desirable but without a focal point their full impact will be lost. In London complications are not black and white. There is only grey.

Consider Mr. Johnson's pledge to create more 'green space' for Londoners. It makes sense. By defining regions for respite, city hall can provide more opportunities for the average 'Londoner' to withdraw from a myriad of pressures. This may catalyse social cohesion, promote tolerance and encourage patience. My criticism of the measure is its lack of focus. Green spaces are a means to an end; they are not an end in themselves. Any benefits would need to be led by the people. An inherent social link to the land would need to be forged. Green space in Peckham, Lewisham or Lambeth will solve nothing in isolation. Instead, by fashioning a cultural link to the localised community, the benefits could prove boundless.

A recurrent characteristic of these social links is longevity. This is something that London typically lacks. As a burgeoning hive of causality, activity is both fluid and dynamic. Continuity of Government, justice and equality will not maintain itself without the intervention of city hall. The Mayor's 200,000 job

pledge is noble. Despite this one might choose to note Boris Johnson's support of free markets and energetic capitalism. There is no doubt that the jobs will come. My concern is that the enterprising entrepreneurs and businesses will glaze over the disenfranchised or impoverished Londoner. The spider's web proves to be a most fitting analogy. Canary Wharf, Pall Mall and Mayfair may lie on the strands of the web but other areas fill the void. Without an egalitarian effort to bring jobs to one and all this may continue to be the case. By 2015 city hall may run the risk of morphing a sizeable income disparity into an irrecoverable void.

This leads into City Hall's endeavours to rejuvenate transport. The Crossrail project, in combination with the proposed airport on the Thames estuary and the hypothetical 'Heathwick' rail link show that efforts are both concentrated and efficient. In particular, with the Crossrail tunnel having reached the half-way house under Gospel Oak, Boris Johnson can now exhibit active substance to complement his initiatives. Once again I bring you back to the 'web' analogy. The projects serve as conduits to speed financiers, scientists and the well-endowed among us onto bigger and better things. The poor are left in idleness. The counterpoint to

"London is not a fictional metropolis like Gotham City"

this might be that such an approach serves as a stepping stone to outreach. I suspect that this won't happen. Soaring London Underground fares may serve as substance to this instinct. The lines may have been rejuvenated and the trains made punctual during Boris Johnson's premiership but this has happened in line with such fares. The poor man is short of options and finds his way barred.

Reflections on the London 2012 Olympic Games serve as a suitable closing point. I once referred to their legacy as 'flat-packed'. At the close of the games the gates were locked and barred and decommissioning began without pause for breath. Bike lanes became a thing of the past and bidding for the Stadium gathered force. This might be regarded as a missed opportunity for City Hall. There was an opportunity to fashion a utilitarian model for London centred on cycling, culture and sport. It was a shame that short-term pragmatism took precedence over a deeply-rooted legacy.

It is not too late. If anyone can pull it off, it is Boris Johnson.



DAILY MAIL

Confessions of a GTA: Part 4

"On a field trip a GTA is the best person to be"

The GTA

Anonymous



As an undergrad, field trips were always best in hindsight. Those hours on a windblown moor in the back of beyond in the pouring rain seemed later like quite a laugh and that time you nearly got impaled on machinery by an irate Scottish factory worker who did not care how interested you were in the manufacturing was, looking back, an "adventure". The stress of finishing notes, living with some random on your course who you had never heard speak until now, and trying to understand what exactly your Professor was yelling over a gale force wind, for most people were the good times of the course. I, as a keen indoor sportsman, remember it without the rose tint.

You can imagine my horror when my supervisor looked hopefully across the desk from me, having indicated he really could use help on this trip which was, of course, over the weekend. Battered by his assurances that it never rained on this trip and thinking of it as a paid day out, I resignedly agreed. I immediately went and cleared the sale of the closest outdoor shop just in case.

So there I stood, handing out notes to people I did not know at 8am on a very cold Saturday morning. The weather forecast was stormy. I tried desperately to work out how much I would be paid every second only to realise that actually made it more depressing. Then suddenly we were all on the coach, setting off to a hellish nowhere to look at nothing in particular.

But to my surprise, I did not have to look at nothing in particular, make notes on something I did not understand, or try and draw a picture of a piece of equipment whose purpose was not entirely clear. Instead I got to

stand at the back of a well-behaved group of people, being plied with tea and chocolate by the other lecturers on the trip. I did not even have to worry about timings or the teaching. This the staff assured me was their problem. My main purpose seemed to be to prevent the students walking into the road, which they managed pretty well on their own, with only one or two near death incidents.

It turned out to, be quite sunny and I could even remove my nice new microfleece, hat, waterproof trousers and gloves and pretend I was on the beach. This was great and was rapidly improved by a very nice three course dinner in the hotel. I even got my own room. Yes, it was not a hotel that I would have picked by myself, but hey, I was being paid for this. Not to mention the slightly random layout meaning that my bathroom was huge, actually massive. So a nice free dinner and pint later I could quite comfortably fall asleep in front of the TV.

I could get used to field trip GTAing.



You want us to change the picture, do you? Fine, have a unicorn.

Saudi Arabia: Is driving a human right?

Tessa Davey
Comment Editor



I've always been in love with driving. In school, when I was learning to drive, my Physics teacher told me that he wished that we were in Saudi Arabia, where women are banned from driving, because then at least I'd shut up about it in his lessons. I remember being outraged to learn this, and it's always stuck with me. While I would abstain from describing driving as a basic human right, it's certainly not a right that should be awarded based on gender.

According to the 2013 Global Gender Gap Report, Saudi Arabia comes in at 127th out of 136 countries in terms of gender equality. Despite minor fluctuations, their score has improved more than any other Middle Eastern and North African region since 2006. However, it remains the lowest performing in the group of high-income countries. Education for women has improved drastically over the last few decades, with rates of women enrolling in post-secondary education now being higher for women than for men. A quota for the number of women in parliament has been introduced, meaning that it is now made up of 20% women. In

2011, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz al Saud declared that women would be eligible to stand and vote in the 2015 local elections, and as of August, domestic violence is now a criminal offence. However, despite all these improvements, the gender gap index score remains far lower than other countries of similar GDP, global competitiveness index, or many other comparable factors. While progress is being made rapidly in Saudi Arabia, there is still a long way to go.

In opposition to these changes, Saudi Arabia remains the only country in the world to place a ban on women driving. This is seen largely as a result of the culture, not any religious laws, and indeed, neither national traffic regulations nor sharia law explicitly prevent women from driving. Instead, women cannot obtain licences, and police are advised to remove keys from any women drivers, and issue them with a warning.

Sheikh Saleh bin Saad al-Lohaidan, a conservative cleric and judicial advisor, has recently gone on record as saying that women who drive are more likely to bear children with clinical problems as the act of driving "automatically affects the ovaries and pushes the pelvis upwards", which sounds like something that The Onion would report. The 2013 March of Dimes global report on birth defects shows Saudi Arabia coming in second highest out of all countries listed, with 81.3 birth defects per 1000 live

births. With many birth defects being attributed to environmental factors and inadequate prenatal care, this seems to suggest that banning women from driving should not really be their biggest concern when it comes to reducing this.

On October 26th, many women took to their cars, and posted videos online of themselves driving in various cities. In contrast to similar protests in 1990 and 2011, there have been no reported arrests following these demonstrations. According to activists leading the campaign, the attitude of Saudi men towards women driving is changing, seeing the ban as no longer in line with a country where 17% of the native workforce are women. The lack of enforcement of the ban throughout these protests also seems to indicate a changing mood amongst the government in terms of lifting the ban. King Abdullah has said publicly that women will drive one day, but Saudi authorities are quoted as saying that "society is not ready", a view seemingly defied by the social media response and the vast number of signatories on the petitions to allow women to drive.

Attitudes towards gender equality are changing in Saudi Arabia, and with global support, it can only get better. There is still an awful lot of improvement yet to be made, but it is happening, and quickly. The success of these protests would be a huge leap in terms of women's freedoms in



Saudi Arabia. Although it may not be the biggest discrimination that they currently face, it has been described

to have become to Saudi women what the seat on the bus was to Rosa Parks – a symbol of a more subtle oppression.

Jonathan Peek on the warpath

Jonathan Peek

Anonymous



If there is one thing the our Union has got right is its ability to generate endless of amounts bureaucracy and suffer a constant stream of changing individuals filling roles without much of an idea of what they're supposed to be doing or even being qualified to complete their role.

Anyone who has experienced the hours of endless joy that is Union Council is well aware that things can be a right shambles. Our current constitution was replaced last year with little consultation using a template that was designed by the NUS despite our own Union having a rather more completed legal standing as defined in the Imperial College Charter (the Union may or may not be

a separate legal entity).

In fact the sweeping changes brought in by the new constitution are so radical that the body charged with advising on the impact of constitutional changes, the Union Court (which was abolished as part of the changes) provided a report detailing some of the issues with the proposed constitution which was longer the constitution itself.

Anyone at this week's Council meeting would have seen a lengthy debate about the Government's Immigration Bill which culminated with the final decision being that we couldn't make a decision at the time despite numerous good proposals that addressed peoples points being proposed, while aware that prompt action was needed if the Union wished to actually accomplish anything regarding the bill.

If there is one thing that does help keep the Union running from day to day it is the team of approximately 50 employed professionals that actually

oversee the running of the Union behind the scenes. These people actually have a vested interest in seeing the Union be successful. Some individuals who are familiar with how the Union operates often refer to the Sabbatical officers as puppets.

Despite the issues with the new constitution, changes were needed. Talking about the old arrangements of the Union's government the Chair of the Trustee Board, Dame Julia Higgins, said that the Union's "systems were flawed and failing in governance" (Union Council Minutes 30 October 2012).

Aside from the issue of a constant changing team of individuals with oversight of the Union and its activities, the fact that these individuals are selected by a popularity contest means that it is often not the best individual that gets the post. Yes, we run a College wide ballot and, yes, we have some of the best turnout for the "Big Elections" but if you actually look at voter turnout for most of

the other roles in the Union e.g. the members of Union Council (the board responsible for keeping oversight of the Sabbs and Trustees as well as being 'the representative body' of the Union) the turnout is depressingly low and the result is dramatically effected by the popularity of the individual running. So when you then think about who actually runs for the posts of Sabbatical officers its almost always the people who have been involved the Union and hence got in though being popular. The number of times I've heard people complain that "actually none of the candidates for this Sabb role are any good" is far to high to be consistent with the idea of the elections being the best way of appointing people for the posts and system of governance working for us – how many of you have complained about, or tried to do something with a club society or project simply to get tied up in endless amounts procedural matters?

So what's my solution? Well simply



what we need is for people who would actually make good officers to take an interest in the Union, and we (as a voting body) need to vote for the person who would actually be best rather than who we know – unfortunately this requires less voter apathy and actually an election process that prompts informed voting. The good news is that we do have at least one basic test as part of the election process: if you haven't written a manifesto or uploaded a photo then good luck trying to beat RON.

COMMENT

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Atheism and the Irony of Religion

Christy Kelly
Writer



Irony has always been, well, ironic. Take for example Aristophanes, great ancient Greek satirist of whom Nietzsche said ‘that transfiguring, complementary genius, for whose sake one pardons all of Hellenism for having existed’, and his play *The Clouds*. In a famous scene Socrates muses on the origins of clouds, their possible genesis in the condensation of water vapour; the clown then goes on to ridicule Socrates, because everybody knows that the Gods give us clouds... The irony should be obvious to all of us: Aristophanes’ ironic and ‘ridiculous’ explanation, imputed to the sophisticated and ridiculous philosopher, is of course the truth.

Perhaps the above should be proposed as the actual logical formula for irony, that is, a reflexive turn on irony itself. So take instead, a short sketch I heard on the radio the other

week. A man is listening to a program when he hears ‘this painting is truly iconic!’ The man then goes on a rant to his partner: ‘I hate the use of the word iconic. Everything is iconic these days (etc.) Nobody seems to know what the word iconic actually means!’ The program then, rather predictably, goes on to say ‘It depicts the virgin Mary and Jesus Christ...’ What this limp joke shows is that the simple take on irony doesn’t actually work – irony requires two levels to be effective. Because the fact is here, the joke is not simply on the disgruntled old man from the joke, it is on the joke itself, because what the joke fails to see is that the man’s criticism is simply wrong. What the correct and proper use of language fails to capture is that the incorrect use is precisely part of the impartation of meaning. Take the word ‘literally’, as in ‘I was literally dying’. The common sense criticism, ‘no, when you say literally, you actually mean figuratively’, misses the point: it is through the disjunction between the literal meaning of the word and its usage that gets the message across.

And this brings me to my real

point, the posters I have seen around Imperial campus saying ‘God’s not Dead – evidence for the existence of God’. Incidentally they remind me of another failed joke, a line of graffiti with the lines ‘God is Dead, Nietzsche’ followed by ‘Nietzsche’s dead, God’. Alenka Zupančič correctly points out that a funnier version of the joke would be something like ‘God is Dead, and actually I don’t feel too good either...’

My initial reaction, and I suspect the initial reaction of many, was ‘How stupid. There is no proof that God exists, and if there were it would be self-defeating because God needs faith’. This is of course the old Douglas Adams joke: the Babelfish is so mind bogglingly useful that God must have made it. This is proof for God so now we can know, instead of having to believe, God exists. But without faith God is useless, so God disappears ‘in a poof of logic’. But the true irony here is double: there is no such mind bogglingly useful thing as a Babelfish, so for Douglas Adams, perhaps God existed after all; when God disappears in a ‘poof of logic’ does not Douglas Adams open up the space for people

“Dawkins always seems to miss the point in his criticism, cogent though it is”

to believe in God again? After all, we must recall that Wittgenstein’s famous ‘Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent’ that closes the *Tractatus* was not an assertion of the impotence of the that-which-cannot-be-spoken, but rather an assertion of the sacrosanct nature of the super-linguistic (music, God etc.) If anyone doubts this just think of the meaning of You Know Who in Harry Potter. This is why I prefer the recent Pears and McGuinness translation to the famous Ogden one; the final line reads ‘What we cannot speak must be passed over in silence.’ Here the religious element of Wittgenstein’s thought is brought out fully (Passover/passed over). So when Douglas Adams kills off God, does he not really put him back in the proper place for mystical divine

worship?

What should be noted is that, despite the same conclusion reached (God can be worshipped), these two strands of irony at work in Douglas Adams’ joke (there is no Babelfish; if God is killed by logic, God can be resurrected for spirit) are formally at odds with each other. This is why we shouldn’t just dismiss the ‘God is not Dead’ poster because without faith God dies, Adams has shown that God is a tougher cockroach than that. This is why Dawkins always seems to miss the point in his criticism, cogent though it is. Neither is it correct to, as Nietzsche and the Romantics attempted, to adopt a heroic posture of anti-theological passion, with all of Satan’s ‘Evil be thou my Good’ and so on. This is clearly preserving the place of God by killing God off.

Instead our attitude to God was properly described by Brecht. ‘If you were to find out tomorrow that God doesn’t exist, would anything change? If so, then you have your answer. You already need God. If not then stop worrying.’ Or as Chomsky brilliantly put it, ‘what exactly am I supposed not to believe in?’



Halloween, Council and Education

Joseph Letts
Editor-in-Chief

‘Happy Belated Halloween!’ Can I say that?

Aside from seeing scores of oddly dressed people hanging around the Beit Quad while getting back to the Felix office on Wednesday night, I have thankfully been saved from the Halloween hype. Instead some truly interesting things have happened this week, including the front page stories: the debate about the government’s Immigration Bill at Union Council and the mischievous attempts of *British Influence*. The Immigration Bill is an interesting topic, while only a few parts of the bill actually affect students, the measures that are concerning have the potential to do damage to the UK’s international desirability as a provider of higher education. During the Council meeting there was a lot of debate looking at both sides of the health measure (i.e. whether international students should be charged an amount of money per year in order to use NHS services), however the accommodation measure was more uniformly criticised, with many worrying about the effect that forcing landlords to carry out



more stringent checks on migrant residents might have on the availability of private accommodation for international students (both undergraduate and postgraduate).

However, another key event this week was the release of the Imperial’s new Education Student Strategy, a document spearheaded

by the Vice Provost of Education with the intent to improve feedback and transparency in College, while looking for ways to improve the student experience. While some of these improvements might be more long term, *Felix* looks forward to the future improvements.

Letters

Dearest Felix Editor

As I sit here in my forest reading through the latest issue of Felix I couldn’t stop myself from spilling my Chamomile tea all down my best Robes. A response to my letter that actually criticises my views and calls me irresponsible! Oh Paladin you are obviously just jealous of me and all of Druid kind. I shall issue no such apology for trying to bring the gift of Ice Cream to the Union. In fact I feel a kind of sadness that your mind cannot cope with the beauty of the substance and so it causes you physical pain. If you don’t want to apologise to me for causing me to have to make a trip to the lake to clean my robes, I suggest we partake in an epic battle of the minds. Here is one to start. I am thinking of a mysterious number that when multiplied by itself it is equal to double the original number. Are you able to fathom what it is?

The Druid

Who won? Who lost? You decide!



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ARTS

NHM's wildlife photography never gets old

Lily Le
Writer

What: Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition 2013
Where: Natural History Museum, SW6
When: Until 23rd March 2014
Price: £6 students, £12 adults

Now in its 49th year, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition has recently returned to its original habitat the Natural History Museum. It showcases 100 photographs of the world around us that most will hardly ever get an actual glimpse of.

First time visitors should be prepared to be surprised, amazed, and extremely moved by the forces of nature on display. Third or fourth time visitors however – although the quality of photographs has not declined compared to previous years – will probably not be able to help but compare the 2013 images to former

favourites, and past themes.

What everyone should expect though are massive crowds on weekends, breathing down your neck as you struggle on tiptoe to view the pictures. Take advantage of being a student and go on a free period.

The unofficial 'most popular animal' crown has been taken from last year's polar bear (which surprisingly only features in one photo this year) and has instead been given to the dugong, which is celebrated in no fewer than three images by Douglas Seifert. But rather than being repetitive and tedious, each image exposes a slightly different side to the sweet thing.

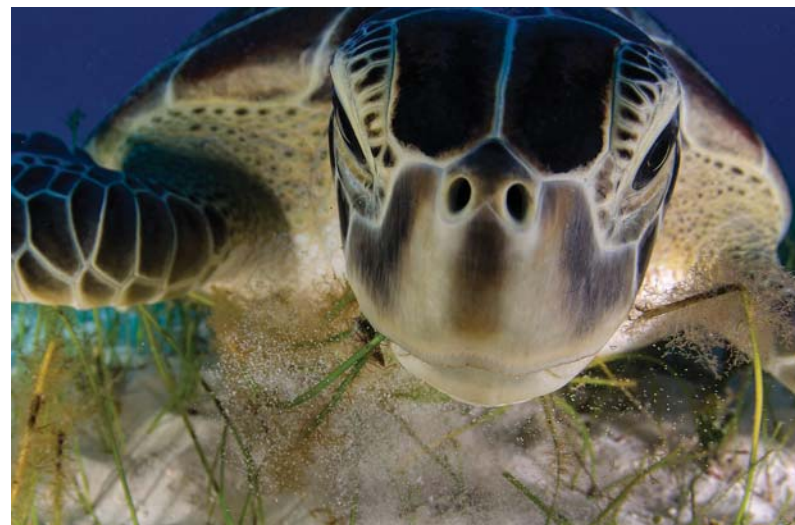
The first of these images at first seems odd, full of swimmers that should not feature, only for the viewer to realise that they in fact demonstrate the human threat we cannot seem to help but burden onto everything we touch. The divers appear to physically loom over the creature, blocking out the beautiful sunlight shining onto it. The second image is a cheeky dugong creating pressure waves for two tiny yellow fish to ride along in front of it. The third dugong in Seifert's trilogy is a cute Hoover, sucking up sea-grass on

a shallow bay.

Such images are perfect examples of how every piece in the exhibit to tell its own magnificent story, and no two are ever the same. They are so well captioned that viewers can't help but stop and read about every last detail, from how the photographer took the shot to the judges' opinion and the biological description of what it represents.

Other favourites I personally like to spot are the "I had to lie in the snow / underwater / in the wind and rain for ten hours until suddenly X animal popped out and by chance I managed to take this amazing shot" explanations. Other mainstays of the exhibition include cacti under the desert stars, the Northern Lights, an uncomfortable polar bear (the quintessential symbol of climate change), the wise old monkey, the fighting animal pair, and the black and white flock of birds always exploited in the shop on some gift wrap.

It is also fun to annually complain very loudly that the judges obviously picked the wrong winner, and that this commended photograph should have won not that atrocious unoriginal



Turtle taking a selfie. Casual.

LUIS JAVIER SANDOVAL

piece (which is usually by no means actually atrocious).

Perhaps it is not so fun to see the age 17 and under section, and realise you are only just avoiding being a waste of space, whilst marvelling at the work of photographers sometimes half your age or younger. Some in this section are even more impressive than the adult entries. A personal favourite from 10 years and under includes

Peacock at Sunrise by Louis Pattyn.

A final note for the tryphobics among you – be ready to avert your eyes, as repeating patterns such as reptilian and amphibian scales, or flocks of birds from afar, are commonplace in the exhibition. But most pictures are void of them and it definitely is worth seeing, even if you do physically gag at the sight of such things.

Inside the home of architect Norman Swann

Indira Mallik explores the V&A's surreal exhibition

What: Tomorrow: Elmgreen and Dragset
Where: Victoria and Albert Museum, SW6
When: Until 2nd Jan 2014
Price: FREE

The Scandinavian duo Elmgreen and Dragset's Tomorrow exhibition is quite unlike anything else you would likely come across in the rest of the V&A. Everything is arranged to be touched, to be rummaged through. It places the viewer in the role of voyeur, passing uninvited through the house of Norman Swann, an aging, failed architect.

Venture in, and you will find yourself in suspended animation, transported into a flat that could belong behind any of the closed doors in South Kensington. The entrance hall is austere, dimly lit, and richly decorated, yet looks lived-in. There are brown shoes lined up by the doorway; a yellow post-it note on the ornate mirror demands the electricity bill be paid.

A doorway leads to a large living room, decorated with an odd mix of inherited antiques and rather more modern fare. A crude plaster statue of a giant head stands guard to a wall-to-



© ELMGREEN & DRAGSET PHOTOGRAPHY ANDERS SUNE BERG

wall bookcase, filled with red leather-bound books and vases and figurines that could be worth quite a bit. But the plaster is moulding where the water pipe has leaked, there are cold ashes from a cigar in the ash tray, and congealing coffee at the bottom of a cup, abandoned on the table. There is a musty feel to these rooms, a seeping sense of neglect, of a house haunted by its once grand past. A small boy in a school uniform covers in the fireplace. Could he be a resident? A huge painting of the same child hangs

just above; a memory then, perhaps a ghost.

Past a closed door behind which a shower is perpetually running, the grand rooms give way to a badly refitted modern kitchen. Domino's pizza boxes are piled up in a corner, and packing boxes filled with paintings and antiques occupy much of the room. Half-finished cardboard models of tower blocks and modern buildings balance precariously around the adjoining study. A bowl is stuffed with room service bills from a New

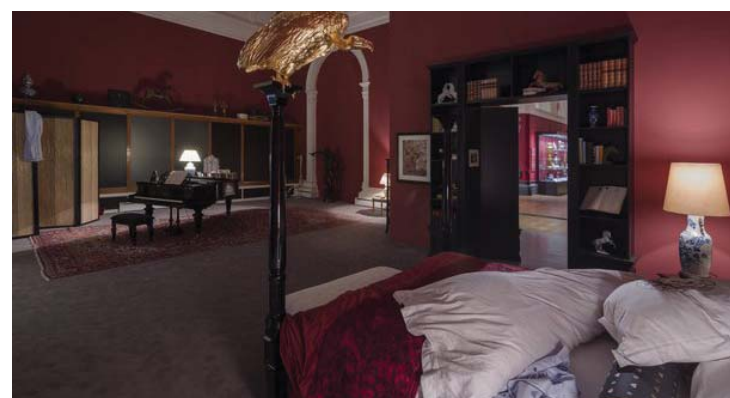
York Hotel (eggs, OJ and coffee). A large stuffed vulture looms over the desk.

Throughout the flat the atmosphere is expectant, as if some great drama is about to unfold. Indeed, the set of rooms, carefully installed in the V&A's old Tapestry gallery, is apparently the set for "Tomorrow; Scenes from an unrealised film by Elmgreen and Dragset" – the script can be found in small books by the entrance. But the sense of reality evoked by the installation is so vivid that by the time I had made my way to the bedroom, with its rumpled unmade sheets, such a sense of character and place had taken root that it seemed hard to remember that Norman Swann was fictitious, and not simply in the

shower.

Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset have created an installation anyone could spend hours in. There is such richness and depth in the rooms they have created for the fictional protagonist, that leaving Norman's Swann home via a door in the bookshelves, only to find the bare bones of wooden set pieces on the outside and not the solid plastered walls of a grand South Kensington flat, is quite jarring.

It is a remarkable installation that considers the objects that we fill our lives with, and the clues we leave to our thoughts and circumstances in the spaces we occupy; a fantastic introduction to the duo's bold and innovative work.



© ELMGREEN & DRAGSET PHOTOGRAPHY ANDERS SUNE BERG

ARTS

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Paul Klee made visible at Tate

Julia Zimmermann
Writer

What: Paul Klee: Making Visible
Where: Tate Modern, SE1
When: 16th Oct 2013 - 9th Mar 2014
Price: £13.10 students, £15 adults

Making visible: what an unimaginative name for an art exhibition! – This was my first thought, but the Paul Klee exhibition in the Tate Modern surprisingly deserves that name. Through a collection of pictures it conveys a lot more than “just” art: the artist, the context and of course the idea behind each picture is literally “made visible”.

The collection tells Klee’s story: from first attempts, to developing a personal style, it takes you across the artist’s different phases. Klee emphasises and develops on colour, then content, or shape, and experiments with elements of most art movements of the time. More than “just” Klee, you get your fix of fauvism, cubism, abstraction, symbolism, surrealism and even caricature. All in one go, Klee style.

Klee has the qualities most Imperial students can empathise with: meticulous precision, dedication and a constant striving for innovation. From descriptions of the works you get a sense of his extensive cultural knowledge and constant fascination with the world around him. Klee’s passion is further shown by his innumerable technique developments, as well as his dedication to teaching. Klee worked for it, but makes it look so fun and easy. That’s admirable.

There are a few take home messages. If you’re the type who likes to pick up that brush once in a while, this is

definitely the place for inspiration – Klee’s techniques are simple and explained well enough to try out back at home. When reading the displayed text, you get an understanding of the historic and art-historic context. Impressive fellow artists and the historic turmoil of the early 20th century adds depth of understanding to the paintings you see.

The collection culminates at Klee’s best. All the elements Klee experimented with earlier seem to be combined, his style found: meticulous precision, bold lines, symbolism and fitting colour. The large, thought provoking paintings of Klee’s later life manage to reflect both Klee’s deteriorating health as well as the troubling political development. You get the feeling Klee had this last, urgent necessity to leave behind a message. Never aggressive, never openly criticising, the art of his last years is not as light-hearted as previous works, but it does quite clearly express concern, anxiety and urgency. So “making visible” actually has a bit more substance than an advertising gag.

The exhibition displays a solid collection and well-guided run-through of Klee’s work. However, don’t expect anything life-changing. Definitely go if you like early 20th century art; this is your heaven! It’s also worth a look if you don’t really know your way around art of the early 20th century but want to give it a go: Klee’s many styles make for a great introduction! It also makes for extravagant conversation material if you’re tired discussing coursework and lectures with friends. But perhaps don’t bother if you start with the free bit of Tate modern and realise after the 2nd room you’d rather get back to the South Ken library.

1:54 - African Art

Kamil McClelland visits the world’s first contemporary African art fair



DENZIL HUGH DEAN

I love contemporary African art. Raw talent exists throughout the continent of colour and exuberance, but a pitiful lack of funding leaves the majority of it undiscovered. However, with its newly burgeoning economies, a tidal wave of new and exciting art from the continent is about to hit us, with all the force and vitality of the dazzling pieces themselves. Africa is the place to be looking in years to come. And with El Anatsui’s huge tapestry *TSIATSIA – Searching for Connection* taking pride of place in the Royal Academy’s courtyard for this year’s summer exhibition, it seems the wave is already beginning to lap against our shores.

This October, *1:54*, the world’s first contemporary African art fair, brought together works from across all 54 African countries to the beautiful setting of Somerset House. Described as ‘the most significant cross sectional insight into art from the continent ever seen’, it aimed to break new ground and reveal this little-known art scene to the wider world in all its glory. It most certainly achieved this, with 15 different galleries exposing the eclectic mix of art that Africa has to offer.

The fair deliberately came to London during Frieze to gain maximum exposure and publicity for an art market with a lack of funding, infrastructure and, unfortunately, influence. Being only the first art fair of its kind, one must look more at its potential for the future as opposed to its current state of infancy. And there was definitely a mood of great optimism and possibility amongst the curators, patrons and artists that were wondering between gallery spaces.

However, it really was telling that the fair was unable to secure the continent’s leading galleries, Goodman and Stevenson of South Africa, which were already exhibiting at Frieze. Moreover, with only 15 galleries at the show, you felt it a bit lacking in material, especially when compared to both the PAD and Frieze fairs on that week. Such a shame, considering the quality of work that was gathered, such as those displayed by The Museum of Modern Art, Equatorial Guinea, which does not yet even have a physical gallery space back in its home country.

I really had no idea what to expect from *1:54*. Contemporary African art can seem so impenetrable to an outsider due to our lack of exposure to it. One cannot help but feel excited when this world, completely unseen to most, is suddenly revealed and in such a spectacular manner. Many of the works derived their influences from the African art that came before them; the textiles, the sculpture, the masks that had such a profound effect on the likes of Derain and Picasso at the start of the 20th century. However, it puts it in a context that we can understand, tackling subjects like urbanisation and the issues that accompany it, to give but one example. This creates a collection that is both challenging and new yet at the same time strangely accessible and recognisable.

In a way I don’t particularly like the term “African Art”. It places all these works, made in cultural settings completely discreet from one another, under one umbrella. How can the work of Cyprien Tokoudagba, which gives us insight into Benin’s spiritual world, be put alongside The Last Judgment by Zimbabwean Richard Mudariki,

which addresses politics, censorship and greed? It creates an impossible juxtaposition that runs throughout the whole of the show.

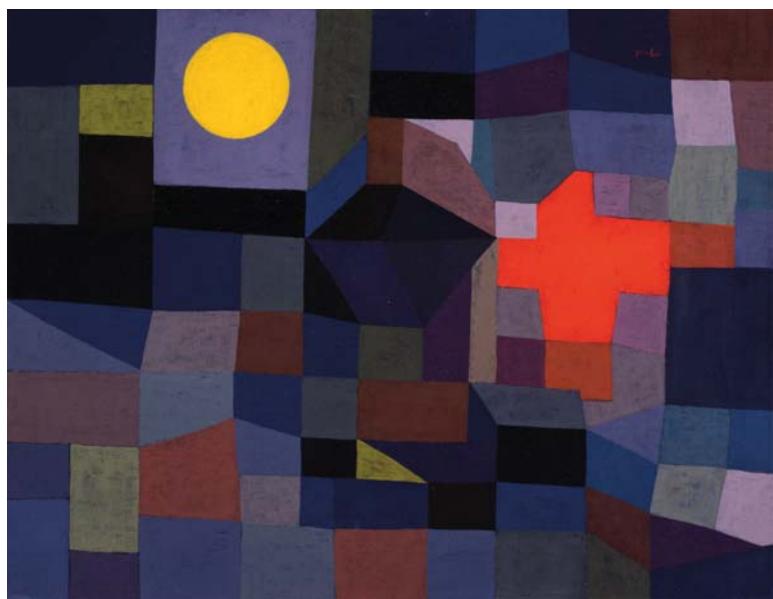
Despite this, it almost feels necessary for works from across Africa to be displayed in this way. I feel a unified identity is what African art needs right now, with a single African voice. The art of individual countries is not well enough established to be represented just by itself, and so an African identity allows it to be seen and acknowledged by the wider world. And for a visitor largely ignorant of the diversity of African art, it offers an opportunity to dip one’s feet into this unexplored ocean with minimal effort.

It is difficult to summarize what was on display at *1:54* but pieces generally were able to convey the entrepreneurship and powerful zest for life emanating from this young continent. Many looked at conflicts that have arisen between cultural traditions and a modern world of consumerism, where everything is disposable. Romuald Hazoumè wittily reinvented African masks out of recycled plastics and synthetic hair – as if that is what the modern human has become – as opposed to a gorgeous piece of carved wood, the cultural norm.

1:54 is full of surprises, especially when you compare the cost of some of the innovative and dynamic pieces on display to the six-figure sums you can expect at mainstream events like Frieze. To be able to pick up a work as deeply emotional as Amahiguéré Dolo’s expressive charcoal and kaolin pieces for only £800 is virtually unheard of in the art world, and an opportunity any buyer would be a fool to let pass by.

Because of this, I see a promising future for this fair, especially with the Tate and Saatchi Gallery having purchased some of the works on display here. Despite its issues, I believe it will play an important role in the burgeoning popularity of the contemporary African art market – for it solves the problem of the scattered and decentralized art scene on the continent, by scouting the art from it and taking it to the rest of the world.

This year’s show felt more like an opportunity to discuss the future of the African art market, as opposed to a comprehensive display of what the continent has to offer – something the fair organisers were quite happy to admit. Instead, they see this, as I do, as a great step forwards in making the vitality of Africa’s art culture an undeniable fact on the world stage.



MUSEUM FOLKWANG, GERMANY



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ARTS

Beautiful Madam Butterfly

Clara Clark Nevola

Writer

What: Madam Butterfly with English National Opera
Where: London Coliseum, WC2
When: 14th Oct - 1st Dec 2013
Price: Various

Cherry blossom, silhouettes, golden fans and blood. Betrayal, loneliness, dishonour and regret. A young geisha, a crass American Navy Lieutenant and their young son. Puccini's *Madam Butterfly* is set against the late 19th century obsession with Japan, an elusive world of decadent elegance, where beautiful 15 year olds can be bought with the same ease and propriety as villas with sea views.

The opera starts with Lieutenant Pinkerton at his new villa on Nagasaki, preparing to receive Cio Cio San, the *rashamen* he has chosen. *Rashamen* were women that could be married on a monthly renewable contract by Westerners docked at Nagasaki or Yokohama, and their role in Japanese port life was that of sanctioned sex-worker.



THOMAS BOWLES

Here the story diverges from historical facts, as an opera where a naval officer takes a prostitute for a few months would not be up to much. The stuff of opera is emotions and feelings, and sure enough it turns out that young Cio Cio San is unaccountably besotted with Pinkerton, and sees her marriage as the end of her geisha work and the start of a new American life with him.

It was at this point in the opera that my first surprise came. Cio Cio San (meaning Madam Butterfly) is usually shown like most tragic heroines – vulnerable but alluring. In this ENO

production she is far from a femme fatale – shy, cringing, scuttling about, she desires Pinkerton but is too shy and in awe of him to allow herself to be touched.

Though this sits oddly with her geisha past, it makes her a very real character, as she persuasively displays all the awkwardness of a young teenager. Pinkerton on the other hand was overly unpleasant, and because of this never actually emerges as a truly relatable character. He's shallow, he can't wait to get back to America and marry a "proper woman", and all he wants is a bit of fun whilst he remains

stationed in Japan. By the time the first act finishes it is clear that Cio Cio is a deluded, sheltered young girl who sees laddish Pinkerton as a hero coming to save her from her life as a sex-worker.

What makes this production so special is its aesthetic quality – the visual richness it maintains throughout is a modern look at 1900s Japanophilia: rich reds and golds, elegant silhouettes behind paper screens and a huge metallic ceiling and floor, mirroring the opulent costumes. Throughout the production, the stage is also filled

with black veiled figures, who move the props around the stage, visible but strangely unseen. Because of their veiled faces and identical clothes, they blend into the background – they appear not as people but almost as spirits.

In the second act, as Cio Cio is waiting for Pinkerton's return, they foreshadow her tragic death using coloured veils and puppets, spiralling around her as she dozes. They are also the puppeteers of her child (the only character to be played by a puppet and not a person), reminiscent of the traditional Japanese puppet theatre *Bunraku*. This is very different to European Punch and Judy type puppets – the puppets are stylised but life-sized, and are moved by three puppeteers, making for an unsettlingly human-like movement. In the final act, when Cio Cio takes her own life, two of these black figures come out and unfold her wedding belt, which stretches out into two long red veils, leaving her in a dramatic river of blood.

They are disquieting, unusual, and intensely oriental, capturing the essence of this production – the puzzled, coarse Western love for the East.

London Underground's Greatest Poster Designs

Clara Clark Nevola

Writer

What: Tube150 – 150th Anniversary of the London Underground
Where: The London Transport Museum, WC2
When: Until 5th Jan 2014
Price: £11.50 students, £15 adults, for unlimited admission in 12 months

Crowds of rushing commuters, dawdling tourists and giggling schoolchildren. A sea of colours, thoughts, noises. The new film advert. The delays announcements. The sound of a tube pulling into the platform and your desperate wish to get onto it.

This is what the TFL posters have to compete with – and Tube150 is all about how it's achieved.

The exhibition is a collection of London Underground posters – the type they put up to tell you that an upgrade is underway, or a new station is opening. Moving through the rooms of the exhibition is a journey through the tube's history, an education in graphic arts and a recap of London's main events from the last century. The oldest poster is from 1866, the first year



MAN RAY, 1938

of the District line, and compares the cheap fares of the line in comparison to the rival line, the Metropolitan.

The core of the exhibition is in the fantastic art deco posters of the 30s, years in which the tube boom was in full swing. The various competing underground companies were unified in the early 30s, and the underground started commissioning hundreds of posters from top artists advertising various locations reachable by tube.

The vibrant colours and elegant lettering hark back to an age in which tube travel was intensely fashionable, the real symbol of a busy, affluent and glamorous capital.

The 40s posters are slightly more sedate and show the shift in British culture that the Second World War caused. Suddenly the focus is on technological advances, with black and white photo montages boasting the new safety features and improvements (1937 saw the first pneumatic doors on tubes). There is also new emphasis on the equality of the tube – we no longer see fur-coated flappers and top hatted dandies, but factory workers sitting next to business men. First class tickets had been abolished in 1939, and TFL shows how anyone can now pay the cheap ticket to get about with comfort, speed and reliability.

One poster, from 1944, shows the cityscape and a tube station with a patriotic paragraph underneath – so far, nothing remarkable. The same poster however was printed in different languages and put up across the globe where British troops were stationed, to encourage them on, and remind them of their "Proud City".

After the 50s, tube posters went through a bit of a boring phase, with poster commissions being given to



TOM ECKERSLEY AND ERIC LOMBERS, 1935

advertising companies rather than artists. A few notable exceptions are a psychedelic 60s and a raving 80s poster, advertising London nightlife.

The collection is wonderful. Vibrant, interesting, funny, it really sums up 150 years of history seen through the perspective of the most iconic transport system in the world. It is therefore a mystery to me why the London Transport museum has crowded it all into two thin rooms, with tiny little plaster board corridors blocking off one area from the other.

The whole point of the exhibition is how versatile, captivating and striking these artworks are – they needed to be displayed a huge space, not a few white-washed broom cupboards.

Despite the limited exhibition space, Tube150 is a must for any user of public transport in London, and will make you step in to the tube home with a whole different world in mind. The unequalled perk of a poster exhibition is also that you can buy a reprint of your favourite on your way out – definitely better than the start of term poster sale!

BOOKS

Editor: **Maciej Matuszewski, Eva Rosenthal**
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Student Picks

Maciej Matuszewski picks:
The Doll by *Bolesław Prus*

It is disappointing that the nineteenth century Polish writer Bolesław Prus is not better known internationally. He is often eclipsed by his Henryk Sienkiewicz but I have always found Prus' fiction to be far better written and more ambitious than that of his Nobel Prize winning contemporary – whose works, while certainly very enjoyable, rarely amounted to much more than grown-up adventure stories.

Probably Prus' most famous novel, the plot of *The Doll* centres on the rich businessman Stanisław Wokulski and his love for the aristocratic Isabella Łęcka. Much of the book is focused on this relationship, as well as a more general exploration of the nature of love. *The Doll* however, is also a far more complex work – while the love affair plays out in the foreground, the background presents us with a profound and fascinating exploration of Polish society in the late nineteenth century. As in many of his other writings, Prus was ruthless in exposing the oppression and unfairness in the world he lived in, and is meticulous in examining its causes. The many subplots and themes of the novel come together seamlessly to form a compelling study of human nature – and the cruelty and selfishness that is inherent within it.

There is much in this work that reminds me of Dickens – however I have always preferred Prus. I find that his work often has a greater energy to it – you feel that not a word is wasted – even in a novel as long as this.

The Doll is not the best of Prus' novels but it is the easiest to find as an English translation. While at times a difficult read it is always engaging and highly rewarding. A work which, even while describing events taking place long ago and far away, still feels highly relevant.

Flash Fiction

Procrastination by Evelyn Craven

Deadline's next week – there's plenty of time – for once there's going to be no all-nighters. But first, I think, I deserve a break – read a book, go for a walk, maybe write an article for Felix?

Send your submissions for our newest regular features!

FLASH FICTION: Ultrashort fiction up to 200 characters

STUDENT PICKS: Send us up to 250 words on your favourite book and how it changed you

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Are they worse than animals?

Calum Grant discusses a book about bankers

What does investment banking look like from the point of view of a wide eyed money hungry graduate? Anyone considering going into this avenue of finance after graduation should seriously consider giving this book a read to gain some insight into what kind of work and lifestyle you can expect. The long hours, never ending assignments, high figure deals, fat pay cheques, coveted bonuses and sleeplessness you can expect are neatly summed up in these fast paced and insightful accounts.

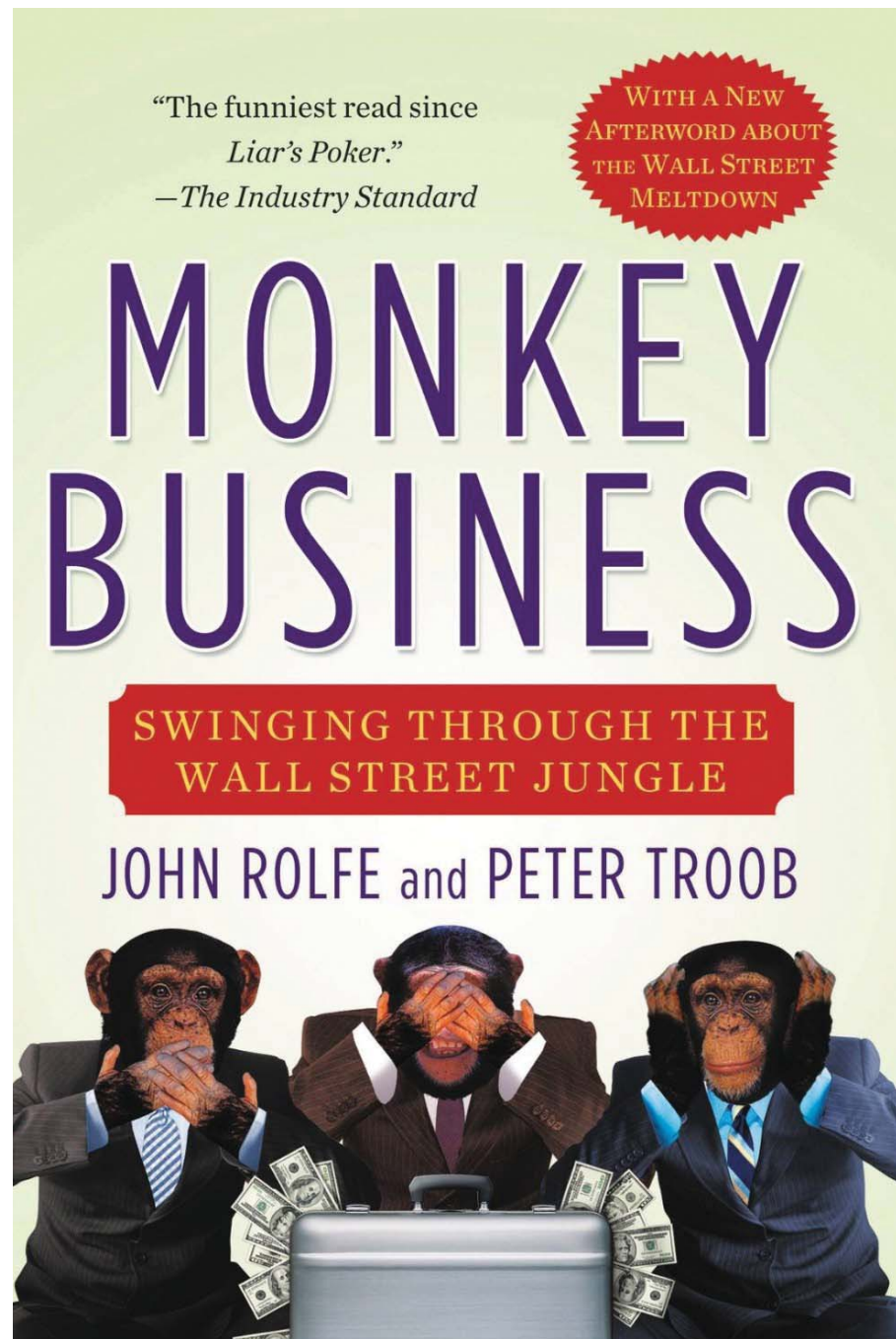
They two authors both worked for a reputable New York investment firm for a number of years following graduation from Ivy league business schools. Their stories unfold chronologically from starting business school, to getting summer internships, then contracts and full time – and one really means full time – positions. Their experiences allows for a wider discussion of how the industry itself works, and its place in the modern economy. I myself have some friends who went into this line of work and am now finally able to understand why it is I never see them, and just what they get up to all day (and night) long.

Of course one should acknowledge that

“... long hours, never ending assignments, high figure deals, fat pay cheques, coveted bonuses and sleeplessness...”

the book was written in the first place due to the both the authors leaving the industry through disillusionment. Their colleagues would probably argue they were burned out, though they would counter that they had finally come to their senses. In spite of such bias the authors are able to provide a true and fascinating account the inner workings of investment banking, a profession few people really understand but are nevertheless all too ready to have an opinion on.

The book is now a decade old, but still meticulously encapsulates what new recruits to investment banking can expect. Reading extracts to a friend of mine who lives this world made him laugh out loud at the way his job was being described. Not because the book was wrong however, but because his job was being summed up with equal measures of accuracy and vitriol. This same friend has told me of his ninety hour weeks, regular all nighters, cocaine frenzies and the masochistic way in which he is managed. When I question him on why he puts up with some of the more pointless tasks he is set, which only seem to serve the purpose of gratifying his line manager rather than accomplish anything productive for the company, he explained that I didn't



understand how the 'food chain' works. Imagine my delight and surprise when turning to chapter six and finding it was in fact entitled 'The Food Chain'.

I'm now in a position where I both understand such aspects of this industry, and yet don't understand them, which is a better position than where I was previously. This effectively sums up the book, in that it provides an insight into the goings on of investment banking, and the very personal and casual way in which the authors' lives are conveyed allows one to appropriate the mindset and motivations of those drawn to such a life (spoiler alert, it's mostly greed).

What was quite unusual about this book though, was that it was written by more than one person. There are always two voices throughout the book, the story unfolding from two perspectives, with each one having their own typeface. They both speak very candidly about their experiences, in a

highly informal manner as though one was picking the brains of an old friend. Due to this, the book does at times feel like a series of blog posts written by people to whom writing doesn't come naturally. While the

“... ninety hour weeks, regular all nighters, cocaine frenzies and the masochistic way in which he is managed”

likes of Martin Lewis' 1989 book *Liars Poker* may overall provide a better insight into investment banking (and is definitely better written), it is dated and *Monkey Business* is far more relevant to those going into the city today.

Union Page

The new place to eat and drink



h-bar is the exciting new Postgraduate and staff pub and café bought to you by Imperial College Union and Campus Services.

Opening on Monday 11 November and available on weekdays from 08.30 to 23.00, h-bar offers international grab and go lunch options in the café and traditional fare from hearty pies to favourite tipples in the pub. We want h-bar to be the social hub for Postgraduate students and staff on campus and have a great range of events and nights organised for the future.

Want to work in the h-bar? Applications close Friday 1 November.

imperialcollegeunion.org/barstaff

We respond to your feedback!



Last week Imperial College Union published its third annual National Student Survey (NSS) Response. This document is again designed to be a useful and constructive document detailing how the College and the Union should respond to the issues raised by students in the survey. Imperial's NSS results were the best they have ever been, and the Union improved by 6%, however there is still much work to be done.

We want Imperial's NSS scores to be as high as possible, but this should not be our primary objective. Our primary objective should always be to ensure that every single one of our students has the best possible experience at Imperial, enjoying not only their course, but also their whole university experience. If we achieve this, the NSS scores should rise to reflect this increase in student satisfaction. We have been, and continue to be, extremely pleased with the reaction across the College to our NSS Responses and look forward to working with departments to help make the student experience at Imperial the best it can be.

imperialcollegeunion.org/nss2013

Job opportunities at the Union

We have the following part-time vacancies and voluntary positions available - just visit our website to apply.

h-bar Staff - applications close Friday 1 November, 23:59

We run one of the best student venues in the UK and we need a team to make the magic happen.

Minibus Team

We are looking for people to join our team of student staff to help look after our fleet of minibuses.

Porterage Team

We are looking for a team of student staff to help us keep the Union Building and its spaces ready for the day ahead.

Student Trustees of the Union (voluntary position) - applications close Friday 15 November, 12:00

Help us improve and better serve the students of Imperial College London.

imperialcollegeunion.org/jobs

London Climate Forum

The student-led London Climate Forum (LCF) returns to Imperial College London on Saturday 9 November.

It is the largest conference of its kind in the UK. Built on the belief that we all have the power and potential to shape a sustainable future, LCF 2013 is your chance to engage with leading thinkers in politics, business, campaigning, media and science.

Confirmed speakers include John Sauven, Director of Greenpeace UK, John Vidal, the Environment Editor of The Guardian and David Hone, Chief Climate Change Advisor for Shell. There will also be interactive breakout sessions and dynamic exhibition stands to provide an inspiring environment for the changemakers of tomorrow.

Key themes of the speeches and panel discussions include policy and economics in the face of climate change, the IPCC Climate Report, sustainable business approaches for the future, and moving beyond the energy problem. For more information, visit the Imperial Hubs website.

imperialhub.org

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Immersed in Fanboy Heaven

Riaz Agahi reviews Pelican's long awaited return

In my less pretentious teenage years I was a big fan of all things metal. I gradually, however, found myself gravitating away from the more pedestrian areas of the genre, such as **Slayer**, who employed a classic thrash sound that influenced many. It became clear to me that the genre had moved way beyond that point in the intervening 20 years.

Before long I found a vast array of new sounds, from the insane jazz inspired stylings of **Behold...The Arctopus** to the more minimal drone metal approach of **Sunn O)))**. To put it bluntly, my taste became the subgenre I later came to discover was quite derisively known as Hipster metal, a term I would ditch in favour of 'cerebral metal' or 'intellectual metal', or something equally aggrandising.

A sizeable chunk of this music was post metal such as **Isis** or **Pelican**, in other words an eclectic genre with tinges of post rock, metal, hardcore, ambient and more.

As a hipster metal fan, or metal hipster, I often enjoy looking back at the review of the great albums of my teens and discovering that they were actually quite highly rated on sites like Pitchfork. **Isis' Oceanic** is a good example of an album that managed to shake off music fans' studs and leather metal stereotype to receive some pretty widespread acclaim across the board. Sadly though, one thing me and Pitchfork didn't see eye to eye on was my favourite album of all, **Pelican's City Of Echoes**.

I sought out their review not long ago, expecting to see suitably gushing praise for an album that managed to seamlessly move through blistering and melodic, a true odyssey of instrumental music, where the guitar interplay of then guitarist **Laurent Schroeder-Lebec** and **Trevor de Brauw** was so full and incredibly evocative that vocals would only have

corrupted the sound. Instead, what I found was a rather scathing review that opened with the line 'Fire the drummer.' Allegedly drummer **Larry Herweg** totally ruined the album. So I dutifully relistened in an attempt to reconcile my love of the album with this cynically cutting attack. Strangely enough, though, my feelings were no different. Tracks like 'Far From Fields' were still as anthemic and mindshatteringly euphoric as ever, and while I would argue that the album is really all about the aforementioned guitar interplay, the rhythm section more than held its own.

All of this extensive personal context may seem superfluous but perfectly explains why it's interesting to me that the very first tone heard on their new Southern Lord released album, *Forever Becoming*, comes from the drums. Album opener 'Terminal' is all about the drums, in fact, with a slowly developing beat smashes in violently along with a blast of feedback based dissonance that develops into the guitar. For my money, the track is right up there as one of their most anthemic and strikingly beautiful tracks in their back catalogue. In fact, instead of simply carrying the album along in the background, a job done perfectly well in the past, the rhythm section seems to have a much bigger role, more often taking centre stage.

Perhaps this is explained by all that's changed with the band, who've returned from a four year silence interrupted by last year's EP *Ataraxia/Taraxis*, an EP that although possessing remnants of the classic Pelican sound, seemed a little more acoustically motivated and somehow less organic, although it was still pretty great if I'm honest. *Ataraxia/Taraxis* proved to be that last output involving founding guitarist **Schroeder-Lebec**. So between the large time lapse and the addition of **The Swan King** guitarist **Dallas Thomas** as a replacement for



Schroeder-Lebec, I think I wasn't the only one a bit apprehensive about what might be produced. With 'Terminal', however, all my concerns immediately evaporated and I was lost once again in the ethereal world of Pelican's music. Going further into the album I started to encounter elements of their previous work, and really it's the same old Pelican, it would be unfair to suggest that they haven't moved on and incorporated new ideas but it still consists of the style of riffing and guitar leads that I've come to admire so much.

Much like *City of Echoes* and 2009's *What We All Come To Need*, the band continues to use shorter tracks, in the four to eight minute range rather than the 10 minutes plus region that largely prevailed on their earlier albums such as their first truly classic album, *The Fire In Our Throats Will Beckon The Thaw*. Tracks like 'The Tundra' even evoke memories of their debut effort, *Australasia*.

Where they've changed, though, is that the grandiose guitar melodies have lessened in their dominance, with a much more sparing use augmented with their crunchy riffing as usual and the aforementioned increased role of the rhythm section, or the Herwigs. Bassist **Bryan Herweg**, whose tone is spot on by the way is the force that drives tracks like 'Vestiges', and it's hard to argue that this doesn't add a new depth to the album, with their guitar flourishes all the more amazing

and emotive when they do happen.

A great example of how they've moved on is 'Threnody', a track that starts off like it found its way out of a **Steve Roach** album but gives way to a particularly gigantic riff that I'm sure will be the inspiration of many moshpits to come.

Almost 900 words in, it's pretty clear that I've avoided naming highlights, and that's because it's a dangerous game when it comes to Pelican. Their musical complexity means that at least ten listens are needed to finally eradicate moments that may have eluded me during my previous listens.

True to form, though one track that particularly moved me was the closer 'Perpetual Dawn', perhaps a companion piece to earlier track 'Immutable Dusk' and arguably its mirror image. 'Immutable Dusk' starts off pretty vicious and slowly and melodically decays to a rumbling bassline in a hugely Pelican-esque moment as the drums and guitar join in and build up in a really emotionally resonant way (see: pretty much every track on *City Of Echoes*) to a sludgy behemoth, possibly the best riff of the album.

'Perpetual Dawn' does the opposite starting off ambient before kicking into a less restrained form. At ten minutes, it's the album's longest track, and they use the space created by this to really gradually move along, with the heart wrenching journey

from ambient to a stoner-rock like riff to ambient rumblings complemented by acoustic guitars to a hugely anthemic riff that's brought to life by a punchy drum line, giving a real sense of catharsis until it slowly dies down, replaced once again by acoustic guitars as I nearly keel over with the deep wave of melancholy it creates. Despite its relative length, I can safely say I felt pretty much every second and for me that's really what Pelican's music is about.

Pelican are perfect at the art of balancing amazing technical ability with the creativity to turn that all into a cohesively structured song. They also seem to manage to balance a keen sense of experimentalism, within their genre at least and a mash of great riff into something truly emotive, and by the end of any Pelican release I'm always left with a familiar spine-tingling satisfaction along with a sense of melancholy that it's over already, and *Forever Becoming* is no different in that respect.

I guess the summation of everything I've said is that after a turbulent and controversial few years Pelican are back, blasting eardrums like the best of them, presenting an album of evolution rather than all out revolution. Pelican will always be Pelican and there's absolutely nothing I can fault with that fact. I'm gonna close my review with the simple sentiment – please keep the drummer.





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MUSIC

Jake Bugg: The Bugg Brand

Simran Sansoy watches Jake Bugg's sold out show at the O2

I was lucky enough to get the chance to see **Jake Bugg** last Thursday at one of his three sold out gigs at the O2 Academy in Brixton. I'm only familiar with a handful of his songs, so I was actually quite surprised by his performance as a musician, singer and songwriter. Some people say he lacks charisma whilst performing, but I think they are confusing the word charisma with arrogance. Jake Bugg isn't the kind of artist who needs to jump around the stage or smash a guitar to grab the audience's attention; his music does that for him. Ok, so the only times he spoke in between songs were to thank the audience or to introduce the next song, but like the majority of the other audience members, I was there to enjoy his musical talent and

that I certainly did.

Jake started with a few of his well-known songs such as 'There's a Beast and We All Feed It' and 'Seen it All'. The energy was great, with the crowd loving every minute. The set was simple, Jake standing with his guitar and support from a bassist and drummer. The lighting was cool; the theme of the song and overall ambience was changed depending on what colour lights were used. The venue itself could have been nicer, but then again as soon as the place is dark you can look past the dirt and general badly maintained décor (mainly because you can't actually see it). Half way through the gig Jake began to introduce songs from his new album, 'Shangri La'. The weirdest thing was how different his singing voice is to his speaking voice, probably why he didn't talk much. The first song he

played from the new album was 'Pine Trees', one of his more mellow songs. This was followed by 'Song About Love' and 'Slide'. The tone was soon picked up again though when he performed 'Greenman' and another one from his new album, 'Kingpin'. By this point most people were up dancing or simply swaying along. Of course, the one Jake ended with had to be the infamous 'Lightning Bolt', the song that kick started his career. There wasn't a single person who wasn't up on their feet, a great way to end the gig!

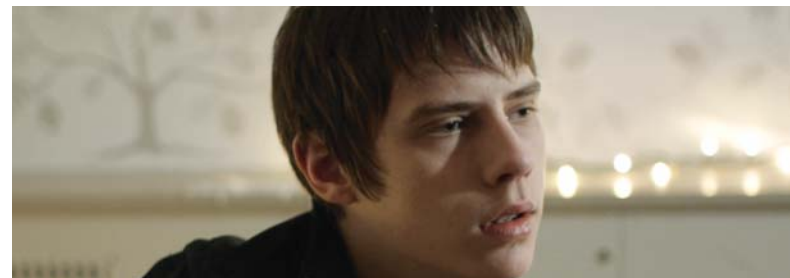
If you're looking for a chilled night of music, then definitely go see and see Jake Bugg. Even if you don't know many of his songs, you will be wanting to listen to more of him by the time you get home. The best thing about Jake is the fact that he can perform a wide range of music, from the fun upbeat songs, to the

slower more relaxed ones. Coming from Nottingham he's been described as an East Midlands Dylan, although to most he would probably be recognised as a product of the last 20 years of British guitar pop.

It's refreshing to see artists like Jake Bugg around, he is entertaining and talented, but the fame hasn't got to his head and probably won't any time soon. Unlike other overrated artists such as One Direction, he's a genuinely modest guy and I expect

he will do pretty well in the future if the preview from his new album is anything to go by. Going from playing the BBC Introducing stage at the 2011 Glastonbury Festival to selling out all of his London shows at the age of 19 is pretty amazing.

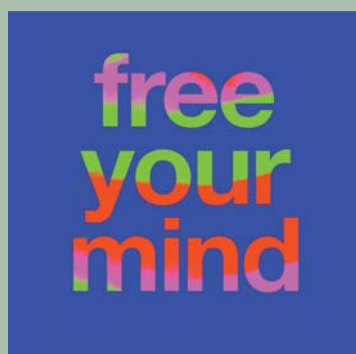
Jake's new song 'What Doesn't Kill You' is out now on iTunes and his album Shangri La is to be released November 18.



AMS album of the week

Cut Copy – Free Your Mind

Cut Copy stated on the standout track of their previous album, "Blink and you'll miss a revolution". The one and a half years that have passed since then are, in the big scheme of things, a blink. The Australian synthpop quartet now return with their fourth album *Free Your Mind*, which whilst not quite a revolution, is certainly a revelation. Bad puns aside, *Free Your Mind* will take you on a nostalgic journey to late 80s acid-house.



This album saw the band take a new approach to writing music, with frontman Dan Whitford composing the foundations of a new song every day for four months. He then took his creations back to the band to piece together the album. To push their sound to new psychedelic levels, producer David Fridmann (**Tame Impala/Flaming Lips**) was sought out for mixing duties. When the product was polished, the launch of the album was teased by erecting giant billboards in a variety of exotic locations; Mexico, Australia, Chile, and (obviously) Wales. And what did these billboards say? Well, *Free Your Mind*, of course.

Those giant billboards emphasize the statement the band is trying to make: *Free Your Mind* isn't simply the title of the record; it is the ethos that they want listeners to adopt. The band themselves describe the album as a "fantasy of the next youth revolution", drawing inspiration from the cultural explosions birthed from the fallout of the Vietnam War and the reign of Maggy Thatcher. This feel-good vibe of liberal hedonism runs through the record. Its effect on your mood can be staggering. And whilst listening to it hasn't converted me into a fully-fledged hippy, I do feel more predisposed to buying "tie-dyed" products.

The album kicks-off with the title track, and you can't help but compare the sound to **Primal Scream** - the rhythm is locked into the stabbing keyboard chords and there are vocal samples that shriek early 90s house. From this point, the album traverses different dance environments. There are more mellow moments ('Dark Corners & Mountain Tops, Walking In The Sky), and some more obvious dancefloor classics ('In Memory Capsule', 'Footsteps'). I'm not a huge fan of the use of the short linking tracks, but oh well, by the time my current favourite - 'Meet Me In The House Of Love (DAT SAX)' - comes on I'm too busy dancing to care.

For me though, *Free Your Mind* doesn't reach the same dizzy heights as their previous record, *Zonoscope*. This is probably due to the fond, drunken memories I have of dancing along to those tracks when I caught the band at Bestival, a few years back. I'll have to catch them on their next tour. Oh, and one important piece of advice if you're going to see them - don't forget your dancing shoes.

Lee Sewell

Lou Reed's Life

In 1956 a boy named Lewis Allen Reed was marched into a New York county psychiatric hospital by his parents and given electric shock therapy to 'cure' his bisexual instincts. The effect this had on his future career is debatable, however speaking in 1996 Reed recalled:

"They put the thing down your throat so you don't swallow your tongue, and they put electrodes on your head. That's what was recommended in Rockland State Hospital to discourage homosexual feelings. The effect is that you lose your memory and become a vegetable."

In the early 1960s, whilst studying at Syracuse University, Reed immersed himself in experimental free jazz and doo-wop of the 1950s. He would use these influences to devise

guitar techniques that would underpin his playing style for decades. In 1964 Reed caught the attention of some industry bigwigs by recording a song parodying dance music at the time, and playing it on a guitar with all strings tuned to the same note. Through this he was introduced to **John Cale** who would found **The Velvet Underground** with him. 1967 saw the **Velvet Underground** release their most famous record: *The Velvet Underground and Nico*, but by 1968 the band had begun to crumble. Frustrated at the lack of success they were receiving (The Velvet Underground and Nico reached 171 in the billboard chart) and due to differences over the direction of the band, Cale left. Shortly afterwards Reed followed suit and began pursuing a solo career.

Reed's 1972 record, *Transformer*, was the peak of his commercial success. Thanks partly to working with **David Bowie**, his music was exposed to a whole new audience that loved the distortion-laden guitar and the gritty, almost unmu-

sical lyrics. Reed's work was many times hailed as the pre-cursor to punk, however the tenderness that he portrayed in his vocals set him far apart from anything that filled the grimy, sweat-drenched bars of London and New York over the following decade.

Drugs and alcohol were major themes throughout much of his life, with the album *Berlin* attesting to that. Of his drug-taking he once said:

"I take drugs just because, in the 20th century, in a technological age living in the city, there are certain drugs you have to take just to keep yourself normal like a caveman, just to bring yourself up or down."

He eventually beat his demons with drugs, replacing them with T'ai Chi. However, they eventually caught up with him when earlier this year his health rapidly deteriorated, forcing him into a liver transplant operation. Following the op he proclaimed to be stronger than ever. Unfortunately this did not last and Reed passed away on 27th October.

Fifty seven years after Reed underwent shock treatment, New York City and attitudes towards sexuality have changed markedly. Lou Reed could claim to have played a part in both, however the effect he had on his many fans is what will live on fondly in people all over the world.



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Album Review: Deaf Havana

Stuart Masson
Music Editor

Deaf Havana's early single *Friends Like These* ends with the repeated line "Nothing gets worse than growing old". This show made me realise they're not wrong (maybe grammatically, but, you know...). Surrounded by teenagers having the time of their young lives, I came to the startling realisation that I am no longer young. There were people jumping up and down, there were people singing along to every word, there were young couples spooning like their lives depended on it. Then there was me, stood at the back, tapping my foot along nonchalantly, and drinking a pint of cheap lager like my life depended on it.

Deaf Havana themselves were pretty good. They played their angry brand of trying-to-be-heavy pop punk (now you may understand the demographic of the gig better...) very well. The older hits, particularly *Leeches* and *I'm a Bore*, mostly had me bobbing my head and smiling, and a cover of *Friday, I'm in Love* (by

The Cure) had me singing along with the best of them (in hindsight, this probably made me look older than anything else). The tracks off the new album were generally fairly uninspiring. There seemed to be a prevalence of the slower, more cringeworthy type of pop punk which left me, well, cringing, but the mass sing-alongs made it seem like I was alone on that. I do have a few criticisms of the band that aren't founded mostly in bitterness. Firstly, I don't understand why there are 7 of them live. It just sounds cluttered. Secondly, they should play their breakthrough hit *Friends Like These*, or at least one track from their more hardcore oriented beginnings. Thirdly, a long speech about how you never thought you'd make it and you love everybody there for supporting you is clichéd and just painful to listen to (OK, maybe I'm drifting back to bitterness now).

To be honest, there wasn't that much wrong with Deaf Havana. I am the problem. Everyone seemed really excited as they left the building, so it must have been top notch. However, in future, I should just leave the kids to it. I did have the last laugh though, as (probably) the only person who brought a book, I at least absolutely bossed the tube ride home.



In other news...

Britney Spear's hits *Oops! I Did It Again* and *Hit Me Baby One More Time* are being used to keep Somali pirates at bay.

Steven Jones, of the Security Association for the Maritime Industry, said: "Pirates will go to any lengths to avoid or try to overcome the music."

Reported by *The Metro*.



Emiel's Guide to Classical Music

by Emiel de Lange

Episode 2: In the beginning...

Welcome to the first real instalment of my guide to Classical Music! I hope to start introducing the great composers and some of the masterpieces which address the issues raised in my column last week, but I feel it's necessary to describe the historical and theoretical context from which "classical music" arose first. To this end I will start at the beginning, or rather, in the middle; for music existed long before the "beginning" and continued its course unperturbed for a long time afterwards. The moment I am referring to is of course the birth of the literate tradition in music; the earliest point from which we have written music which is still performable today, and the start of a rich tradition.

In the 7th Century, St. Isidore of Seville wrote that "unless sounds are held in the memory of man they perish, because they cannot be written down". Theorists such as Boethius or St. Augustine who wrote many centuries earlier still had the most influential ideas about music. To them, music or *Musica* was a Neo-Platonist idea, which was not actually attainable to musicians but which only philosophers could discuss. *Musica* was abstract; a perfect measurement and division of time (rhythm) and harmony (itches).

Nevertheless – music was of course being performed and by musicians too. From the 9th century a portion of this music began to be written as an aid to the memory. As the Carolingian monks spread the liturgical Gregorian chant through the newly catholic Frankish empire they began to make marks above the text to designate various musical 'shapes'. These were called neumes, and initially very little was thought of them (there isn't a single contemporaneous literary reference!) – Music remained oral and stored in the memory, but eventually they would grow into the sophisticated notation system that revolutionised the musical art.

Depictions of instruments and ensembles tell us that music played a big role in many aspects medieval life, but unfortunately very little is known about what was actually played. One exception is the Gregorian chant which make up the largest chunk of written music surviving from the

1st millennia. This is a tradition of plainchant that became the official music sung for catholic ceremonies. Plainchant basically consists of a male choir singing a monophonic

the most consonant harmonies (notes sounding pleasant or stable together) consisted of simple ratios in the size of the instrument. Today we define a note by a standard

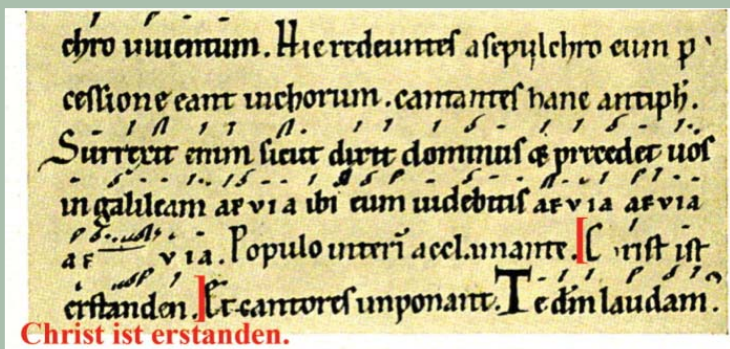


Abb. 1: Aus dem Ende einer liturgischen Osterfeier mit dem neuem Anfang des „Christ ist erstanden“ vor dem Te Deum. Nürnberg, Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Ms. 22923, fol. 107b (13. Jh.).

line (that is, a line in unison) without accompaniment. Different styles existed depending on the type of service and historical evidence indicates that the chants were performed differently throughout time, but none of this was recorded. Have a listen to some examples on the Felix website!

By the 11th Century, **Guido of Arezzo** had invented a system of staves which allowed precise information about the relation between pitches to be conveyed and the revolution could truly begin. The Gregorian chants were now written

frequency, for example middle 'A' is usually 440 Hz, while another 'A' will have a frequency in a 2:1 ratio with 440. The next simplest ratio is 3:2 which gives a "perfect fifth", i.e. 'A' to 'E', and so on. In order to classify the chants, theorists would take the final note and observe what pattern of intervals (the difference between pitches) occurred between it and its fifth. From this they developed a system of scales called modes from which our current system of major and minor keys is derived – but we will get to that later!

This retheorisation had a massive effect on the writing of music. Composers could and began to use the modes to create "tonally articulated formal structures" – the first being **Hucbald of St. Amand**. That is; pieces of music structured around the use of different modes to give contrast and finally resolution. Our modern idea of a 'piece' of music was beginning to emerge: an aesthetic unit. Before this, music was not seen as something autonomous which existed in its own right, but rather as an activity in which one participated and which had specific social and religious utility.

So the literate revolution in music is now well and truly underway! Notation has already catalysed deep changes in the way music was conceived and used and soon the first great musical artists came about. In 2 weeks we will explore the works of arguably the greatest of these early composers, the **Abbess Hildegard von Bingen**, but until then please visit www.felixonline.co.uk where you can explore a selection of real musical examples.



and collected into books and a system became necessary to organise and classify the hundreds of specimens. To develop this system theorists once again looked back to Ancient Greece, and specifically the ideas of **Pythagoras**.

Legend has it that the philosopher heard the harmonious sound of anvils being struck and discovered that

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Revenge of the leftovers

Jack Steadman

Writer

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2

Directors: Cody Cameron, Kris Pearn
Writers: Judi Barrett, Ron Barrett, John Francis Daley, Jonathan M. Goldstein, Phil Lord, Chris Miller, Erica Rivinoja

Starring: (voices) Bill Hader, Anna Faris, James Caan, Will Forte, Andy Samberg, Benjamin Bratt, Neil Patrick Harris

Runtime: 107 minutes

Certificate: U



The original *Cloudy* was a wacky, high-energy romp through the world of Flint Lockwood (Bill Hader), inventor extraordinaire (well, if you count rat birds and spray-on shoes as deserving of such a title) and his creation of the FLDSMDFR (no, I am not spelling out that acronym for you, go look it up), a machine which takes water and turns into food. Any food.

Obviously that all went horribly

wrong (and yet so hilariously right), and the sequel picks up where the first film left off: Swallow Falls (Lockwood's home island) is covered in enormous leftovers, and the entire population is to be relocated. So far, so predictable. The main antagonist (in the shape of a thinly-veiled mockery of Apple and the late, great Steve Jobs) is introduced, Flint goes to work for them,

blah, blah, blah. Of course, once the old gang return to the island, things get considerably more interesting...

I admit, that really doesn't do the opening 20 or so minutes justice. Despite operating on a fairly flimsy plot (which works for a kids' film, so I'm not convinced there's much point in complaining), the film kicks off by generating consistent laughter, be it

by sight gags, general slapstick, recurring jokes or (most importantly) simultaneously awful/hilarious puns. Oh, the food puns. Once the action moves onto the island, things only get punnier, with the ridiculously oversized array of the things dreamt up by the writers and designers coming into full force. There are some fairly obvious (but still beautiful) cutaway gags

that accompany lines such as "there's a leek in the boat!" (it's in the trailer, I've spoilt nothing here), but the sheer quantity on display here means laughter is guaranteed frequently throughout the film.

The voice-acting is pretty much spot-on, although the replacement of Mr T with Terry Crews as Earl jars slightly if you were a fan of the original, and Chester V (Will Forte) is such an incredibly irritating antagonist you'd almost rather the film just focused on the food animals and ignored the plot entirely. Which, to be fair, does happen for a significant chunk of its running time.

The animation itself is beautiful, and the designs are near-faultless, although the 3D (of course it's in 3D, what did you expect?) is almost a complete and utter waste, adding nothing to the film other than a little extra depth in some shots.

Coming it at 95 minutes, *Cloudy* never manages to out-stay its welcome, and although it's never quite as original as its predecessor it's still a great deal better than many of its peers (it's certainly more endearing than Pixar's recent output, which is a sentence I never expected to type), and it's certainly worth a watch, whether you're a five-year-old or a fifth-year student. Just don't go in expecting any real take-home messages other than more food puns than you can possibly remember.

The past is never where you think you left it

Fred Fyles

Star Writer

The Past

Director: Asghar Farhadi
Writers: Asghar Farhadi, Massoumeh Lahidji (adaptation)
Starring: Bérénice Bejo, Tahar Rahim, Ali Mosaffa
Runtime: 130 minutes

What a difference a decade can make. Just 10 years ago, director Asghar Farhadi had yet to release his first film, but today he is one of the hottest contemporary Iranian directors around. Every film he has created has won rafts of awards at various festivals; his last film *A Separation*, won critical ac-

claim across the board, and beat off stiff competition to win the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2011. He is now back again, with a film that explores the hidden drama within everyday lives.

The Past is like a box of forgotten love letters, a series of scenes that bring back happy memories, but also open old wounds. Berenice Bejo, whose breakout role as Peppy Miller in the silent film *The Artist* merited a nomination for Best Supporting Actress, and Ali Mosaffa star as a married couple going through a divorce. Having been separated for four years, Ahmad (Mosaffa) returns to Paris from Iran to finalise the legal divorce from his soon-to-be ex-wife Marie (Bejo); upon arrival he finds that Marie has not booked a hotel for him, and instead he must stay with her, her two daughters from a previous marriage, and Fouad, a young boy who is the son

of Marie's current beau Samir, played by Tahar Ramin - best known for his role in the 2009 film *Un Prophete*. We soon find out that Samir is still married, but his wife is in a coma following a suicide attempt, and has been for the past year or so.

This complicated web of relationships is put under strain, both from Ahmad's visit, and the dark secret Marie's daughter Lucie has been hiding; as the film progresses relations break down, and the family is brought to breaking point. While Ahmad is annoyed at having to endure exposure to both Samir, and his son, the married couple relationship that begins to re-emerge between Ahmad and Marie throughout the film makes Samir feel like a stranger in the house; there is one particularly brilliant scene in which he is mistaken by a delivery man for a handyman, at the house for a job, and is left standing bewildered

in the garden

Bejo is stunning as Marie; both sympathetic and maleficent, she cuts a emotional but brittle figure. Eager to anger her husband, she forces him to endure the presence of her new boyfriend, and just before they finalise the divorce tells him that she is pregnant. These actions are what begin to drive the family apart, yet the motives driving Marie remain understandable, and the audience can easily empathise with her. She is a woman on the edge, taking to chain smoking as things begin to pile up on top of her. Bejo manages this multi-faceted role with nuance and ease, giving up a wonderfully visceral performance that makes it unsurprising that she picked up the Best Actress award at Cannes. Ali Mosaffa's restrained, almost impassive presence becomes a rock upon which the relationships rest, making the end scenes, in which he is at his most en-

raged, all the more shocking.

Like *A Separation*, *The Past* is a film that deals with the baggage that relationships can bring - particularly how they end. The film carries the air of an epic tragedy about it, and the audience can foresee the storm clouds looming on the horizon, but it never feels bleak. Under Farhadi's direction, the film is a grown-up, serious dissection of relationships; despite some moments that threaten to spill over into melodrama, *The Past* is definitely one to watch for this year's Academy Awards.



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2014 at the Oscars: Best



Lupita Nyong'o (*12 Years a Slave*)

One of the many aspects the critics are raving about in *12 Years a Slave* is the flawless performances of its outstanding cast. The name that sticks out in this category is Lupita Nyong'o's powerful, unforgettable debut performance. Her role is heartbreaking, one that is played with maximum intensity by the Kenyan actress who has been the talk of awards circuits. This category is certainly favourable to up-and-coming actresses with first-time nominees having no trouble winning the award in the end. You go Lupita Nyong'o.



Oprah Winfrey (*The Butler*)

So talk-show host Oprah made a welcome return to the big screens this year (her first on-screen role in which she does not play herself in around 15 years), as part of Lee Daniel's star-studded cast in which she plays the wife of a White House butler. She goes through plenty throughout the film, loneliness, extra-marital affair, alcoholism, family feud, loss of a son, and in every single one of her scene she is quietly affirming and effective. "Everything you are, and everything you have, is because butler" she says, in the film's big highlight moment.



Julia Roberts (*August: Osage County*)

Already awarded for her efforts by the Hollywood Film Awards, Julia Roberts seems to be in an award-winning mood after quite a lengthy period of starring in films that perhaps weren't quite deserving of her star quality. The family drama she stars in is based on the Pulitzer Prize winning play that brings the Weston family together after a tragedy. Armed with crackling dialogue, heated drama and outlandish dark comedy, the cast gives it their all, and Roberts' energetic performance, in which she literally strangles Meryl Streep, is gaining attention.



June Squibb (*Nebraska*)

The best scene-stealer of this year is hands down won by June Squibb an actress who has been steadily working away on the big screens since the 1990s and is only now winning some love for her brilliant comedic performance in Alexander Payne's heartwarming road-trip drama. She has no trouble speaking her mind and with her blunt honesty comes a guaranteed bellyful of laughs, whilst she's also an endlessly supportive, loving and caring wife and mother at the same time. She's simply a joy to watch, deserves a spot in the final five.

December is just around the corner, and film studios are lining up their critically-lauded films to take part in this year's much-anticipated Oscar race. As with any year, there are strong contenders in every field and it's certainly too early to be betting on a winner.

So over the next few weeks, **Felix Film** will be giving you a breakdown of the actors, actresses and films that will be grabbing the headlines in the near future; but this is in no way a definitive list, as some of the films haven't even been released over here yet.

And kicking off our feature is the Best Supporting Actress category.

Ready...
Steady...
Go!





Best Supporting Actress



Sally Hawkins (*Blue Jasmine*)

Firmly holding her very own against Cate Blanchett (who gives the performance of her career - but more about that in a future issue) is Sally Hawkins, the poorer, younger sister of Blanchett's Jasmine, i.e. the Stella character of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Not only does she nail the American accent, she's a delightful, quirky addition to one of the best Woody Allen films of recent years. As a kind-hearted, forgiving, free spirit living her life as best she can with the resources available to her, her Ginger strikes up a stark contrast with Blanchett's Jasmine.



Léa Seydoux (*Blue is the Warmest Colour*)

Strong, charismatic, and confident are traits the gutsy Léa Seydoux brings to the controversial French Palme d'Or winner. The sizzling passion shared between the two actresses of this film (the other being the equally outstanding Adèle Exarchopoulos) are at the heart of this memorable love story, as every aspect of their relationship is laid out in the open for the audience. Seydoux is both cool and chic, with her raw intensity elevating this to something more than a mere saucy, erotic romp.



Octavia Spencer (*Fruitvale Station*)

She may have won her Best Supporting Actress Oscar for a largely comedic role in *The Help*, but Octavia Spencer's name this year is certainly in consideration for her dramatic vigour in this Sundance breakout hit that was also screened in Cannes where it received warm reception. As the mother of a man who we know from the beginning will be shot unlawfully in the back by a mistaken police officer, her endless sacrificing and hardworking nature become all the more painful to watch, with her tough, no-nonsense style exuding love and warmth.



Melissa Leo (*Prisoners*)

Now who saw that twist coming? With Melissa Leo, who so easily fits into spooky, malicious, sinister roles, starring in that massively pivotal role in this kidnap drama might have been a dead giveaway as to the true nature of her character and the ending, but Leo always has that darkly magnetic appeal: is it the voice? Is it the looks? It's hard to say what specifically but she gets the job done and it's one she does well time and time again. She so effortlessly switches between a vulnerable old lady and a sadistic, grouchy kidnapper that it's scary.



Carey Mulligan (*Inside Llewyn Davis*)

Not only is she entertaining in a highly amusing, fiery form, she shows she can also sing, which is always a plus when it comes to the awards season. Establishing herself to be quite the diverse actress, Carey Mulligan has handled a wide variety of roles over the years and her most recent, in a movie by the Coen brothers, albeit brief, is one that stands out. She absurdly missed out on a nomination for her work in *Shame* so here's hoping her work doesn't go unnoticed this year. Every time she yells out the word "asshole" at the protagonist? Priceless...



Kristin Scott Thomas (*Only God Forgives*)

It takes a special kind of mother to comment on the sizes of her grown-up sons' penises. And that special kind of mother is Kristin Scott Thomas in Nicolas Winding Refn's dizzying, baffling new film. Thomas is full of dry, dark wit, as the drug-dealing, manipulative, incestuous mastermind behind her family's ultimate undoing. Her performance is nothing short of jaw-droppingly shocking, with awkward, uncomfortable laughs abound. She alone is a good reason to check the film out.



Scarlett Johansson (*Her*)

Now here's a slightly strange one. Johansson doesn't actually appear in the film. Word is she was never even on the set of Spike Jonze's new quirky romantic dramedy that sees Joaquin Phoenix falling in love with a piece of technology voiced by Johansson. Whether the awards campaign behind her voice performance is actually a serious one or not waits to be seen, but to have a memorable on-screen appearance with only your voice takes considerable skill. With such tough competition ahead, it would be a surprise if this quirky choice got in.



Vanessa Redgrave (*Song for Marion*)

Her rendition of Cyndi Lauper's 'True Colours' will reduce many to tears, as her frail and touching performance is simply first-class. It's been a while since this great veteran has been given attention in the awards circuit, and it will take a lot for a small, independent film that was released quite a while ago to make some sort of impact at this stage of the race, but given her name and standing in the industry, she just might be able to squeeze in. Hope they see her true colours shining through, because really, that's why we love her.



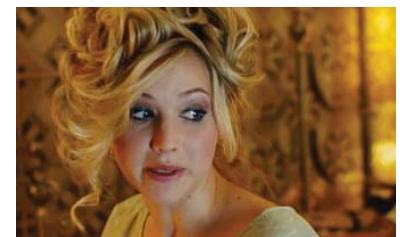
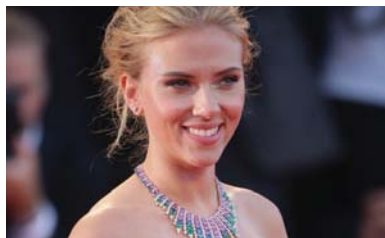
Naomie Harris (*Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*)

Is the new Miss Money Penny of the Bond franchise looking at a possible Oscar nomination? While most performance-related praise of the film is reserved for the real star of the Nelson Mandela biopic Idris Elba, Naomie Harris has also been given kind words to describe her interpretation of Winnie Mandela. When it comes to such impassioned characters played with vigour and intensity by actors, it's difficult for the awards to ignore. She may be a relative newcomer, but with such a big role, anything's possible.



Jennifer Lawrence (*American Hustle*)

Could last year's Oscar winner be looking at another nomination this year? She's once again paired up with David O. Russell in her new film here, and although very few people have seen it, the buzz surrounding the movie is already quite substantial. Plus everyone in Hollywood seems to be in love with the young Jennifer Lawrence who can clearly do no wrong. She's funny, confident and as far as the trailer goes, her sassy vibe seems to really suit her. With a release date in late December, the studio certainly has faith - fingers crossed.





The Grandmaster cut up by Weinstein

Fred Fyles
Star Writer

The Grandmaster

Director: Kar Wai Wong
Writers: Kar Wai Wong, Jingzhi Zou, Haofeng Xu
Starring: Tony Leung Chiu Wai, Zhang Ziyi
Runtime: 108 minutes
Certification: PG-13 (USA)



It has been a difficult couple of months for Harvey Weinstein. As well as recutting his documentary of J.D. Salinger after it was savaged in reviews, he is now engaged with arguments with the directors of both *Grace of Monaco* and *Snowpiercer* over his liberal use of editing that has earned him the moniker Harvey 'Scissorhands'. And so it is perhaps unsurprising that he seems a little defensive when he goes up alongside BFI director Clare Stewart to introduce this year's Surprise Film - *The Grandmaster* by legendary auteur Wong Kar-Wai. 'We tried to keep it as chronological as we could,' Weinstein explained 'but at the end of the day, who gives a shit? Oh dear. What follows is 100 minutes of cinema that - although beautiful - is off paced, confusing, and a little bit disappointing.

I first feel like I should point out that what we are shown is the American edit, made for Western audiences, that cuts the original film down by about 45 minutes, while adding in a number of scenes not in the original. It would be unfair to Kar-Wai to pretend that this was his original vision for the project, and since there is no UK release date on the horizon as of yet, I would urge readers to order an imported DVD from Asia in order to watch the film in its original glory.

With that addendum out of the way,

onto the film itself. *The Grandmaster* tells the story of Ip Man, played by Kar-Wai regular Tony Leung, a legendary master of Wing Chun, a form of martial arts originating from Southern China. Ip Man is perhaps most famous for training Bruce Lee, but this point is only touched upon at the end of a film which explores his early life, while adding a few historically inaccurate embellishments. In a series of snapshots, we see him become an expert at Wing Chun, and solve the conflict between Northern and Southern schools, before the Second World War robs him of his family, and he is exiled in Hong Kong. Running parallel to this, we have the story of Gong Er (Zhang Ziyi), the beautiful daughter of a Northern grandmaster, and a fierce fighter herself. She must avenge her father, and continue her legacy, but is ultimately also forced to stay in Hong Kong. Their two paths cross at various times throughout the film, and a sort-of love story emerges, although this is cut down in the edit in favour of a more action packed film.

There really needs to be a word to describe Wong Kar-Wai films - Kar-Wai-an? Kar-Wai-esque? - since his films share an arresting visual style. The entire film is beautifully shot, using every weapon in Kar-Wai's arsenal: the choppy scenes familiar from *Chungking Express*, the garish

colours of *Happy Together*, even the warm film grain used in his 2000 masterpiece *In the Mood for Love* gets a look in. The fight scenes are especially well done, climaxing with a scene at the train station which is among the most beautiful pieces of cinema I have ever seen. Sound, sight, and colour all come together to create a perfect balance that is completely novel, but also recognisably Wong Kar-Wai. While the stylish martial arts theme immediately invites comparisons to Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, this film does not have the same lightness of touch. It is a heavy film, with ponderous questions about the nature of love and life, but that does not make it a bad one. In fact, it is refreshing to see such gravitas being brought to a genre that has had to endure countless terribly trashy films.

Tony Leung gives a characteristically restrained performance as Ip Man, one full of nuance and subtlety, while Zhang Ziyi is positively effervescent - a luminous presence on the screen, who manages to light up any scene she is in. Unfortunately, despite the incredible performances, direction, and cinematography from Philippe Le Sourd, *The Grandmaster* seems to be missing something. Kar-Wai is famed for his unique, somewhat novel approach to filming, in which he will reshoot some scenes again and again,

before scrapping them and coming up with new ones on the spot. Up until now, his films have managed to have this sense of energy, while editing has maintained the pacing, but in this film that is completely off. Some plot lines whiz by like speeding trains, while others linger without being truly resolved; characters are introduced as if they have great importance, before never being seen again. The result is a film that feels both too fast, and sluggish; it is a strange experience.

In the past the BFI has been criticised for showing safe, English-language films with broad popular appeal; when Clare Stewart asked the audience what they thought the film was going to be, she was met with a barrage of names that included *The Butler*, *August: Osage County*, and *Her*, which could all - for better or worse - be described as 'Oscar bait'. The fact that we got to see *The Grandmaster* was certainly a surprise, but perhaps not a welcome one and during the screening around 20 people walked out. Still, *The Grandmaster* is by no means a bad film, and the recut has been widely criticised across the board for being unrepresentative of the real film. With that in mind, I anxiously await my Amazon parcel containing the Chinese version of the film; hopefully it will be a real surprise - and a good one this time.

Imperial Cinema



Elysium stars Matt Damon and is created by Neill Blomkamp, the brains behind 2009's thought-provoking *District 9* that despite sci-fi leanings had its roots firmly grounded in reality. What is *Elysium* about? Blomkamp sticks to what he knows best, crafting another dystopian work exploring polemical issues such as wealth distribution, health care and immigration by focusing on downbeat ex car thief Max (Matt Damon) who lives in a world ravaged by overpopulation whilst the 1% reside on a separate luxurious space station. An accident at the factory where Max works exposes him to a lethal dose of radiation that gives him only days to live. Max's only chance of survival is the precarious mission to reach Elysium.

The Wolverine sees the return of everyone's favourite chin curtain-donning, wifebeater-wearing X-Men(Man?). Wolverine aka Logan aka Hugh Jackman is tormented by grief/guilt after the events of *X-Men: The Last Stand*. He doesn't have long to mope around before he travels to Asia and ends up being chased all over Japan by ninjas. There's also a bit of a love story too and a nice little 'to be continued...' tie-in to the other *X-Men* series starring J Law et al.

Elysium: Tuesday 05/11 18:30, Thursday 07/11 21:00

The Wolverine: Tuesday 05/11 20:45, Thursday 07/11 18:30

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Next week: *Mud* (Post-Grad screening) and *Kick-Ass 2*



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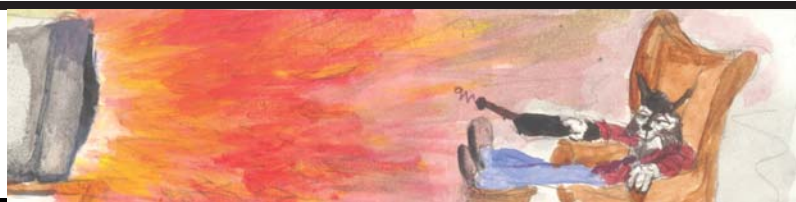
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The Amell family's sup

Arrow: Season 2



John Park Television Editor

Things were looking good for Starling City and its masked vigilante hero at the end of its highly successful first-season run. Tommy Merlyn (Colin Donnell) was crushed under a building (hurrah) leaving this less than useless individual to say his final parting words to his best friend Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell) aka the Green Arrow. Tommy's evil father Malcolm (John Barrowman) was also killed off (this deserves another hurrah) although not before setting off an earthquake machine that destroyed a significant portion of the city leaving 500+ people dead. The only person they forgot to kill off was Thea Queen (Willa Holland), Oliver's immature little sister with very few redeeming features. But oh well, there's always room in season 2 for more deaths in Starling City... right?

But *Arrow* is quickly looking to become a boring dull procedural the first season tried so desperately to avoid. New additions to the cast aren't exactly working out, and isn't it about time we tied up the loose ends relating to Oliver's 5-year absence storyline on the mysterious Asian island? Yes, that's where he went through rigorous training and became the buff superhero he is now. Do we really need to introduce more and more mastermind-like villains to fill up the time?

As season 2 opens, months have passed, and Oliver is sulking on the very same island he spent his years in disappearance. Felicity (Emily Bett Rickards) and John Diggle (David Ramsey) come to bring him back to the city, saying that they need him to restore order and balance to a place where everyone is going mental following the disaster. His mother Moira (Susanna Thompson) is in prison having played an instrumental part in Malcolm Merlyn's plot, Thea's in charge of Oliver's nightclub (urgh), where she's being actively sought after by a superhero-wannabe pretty boy Roy Harper (Colton Haynes) who we know will end up as some sort of a welcome sidekick but is taking a mighty long time to actually show us something impressive about himself.

Detective Quentin Lance (Paul Blackthorne) has been demoted to a regular police officer, and his daugh-



ter Laurel (Katie Cassidy), a tough-as-nails lawyer who once used to work providing legal aid to the poor is now at the district attorney's office, prosecuting criminals, whilst also holding a grudge against Green Arrow for a reason that doesn't make sense and making it her life mission to track him down.

None of the major characters are where we'd ideally want them to be. Oliver's a moody, hesitant hero who now has a philosophy to not kill anyone, supposedly in an attempt to honour his memory of Tommy (huh?), Laurel is on a quest no-one wants her to be involved in (she should trade in her lawyer suits for a cop uniform because she can definitely hold her own against a fight), Diggle is as smug as ever constantly clashing with Oliver on how to handle a situation, how Moira's not ended up dead yet in her prison cell is a mystery, Roy has potential although the writers are doing nothing to develop him in anyway, Lance is and Thea's...breathing.

Trapped in the flashback plot is the younger version of Oliver Queen who is quickly coming to grips with his studies in martial arts and archery (yes we GET how he learned to fight - no need to take us back to the island every single episode), as well as his developing romantic feelings for Shado (Celina Jade), a female warrior and his growing bromance with Slade Wilson (Manu Bennett)

Fun, bombastic action is no more, as Oliver finds himself in action sequences that are either too difficult to follow in all the smoke and darkness or are far too simple and generic

to be truly enjoyed. He is a physically capable fighter as everyone who's seen season 1 knows, but his assets aren't being put to good use here. Gratuitous shirtless shots are shown like clockwork in every single episode, and frankly it's a method that is getting quickly tiresome.

Only Felicity has her moments every episode, as without her contribution the vigilante wouldn't have a leg to stand on. He may wield a bow and a set of arrows that can do a variety of fancy tricks, but without her brains he wouldn't even know where to start when it comes to catching the bad guys. Plus her not-too-subtle crush on Oliver, one that will go on no further than being a mere schoolgirl crush (let us hope), is often amusing to watch for sure.

Not everything is a total disaster at the moment. With a new superhero in town (action heroine Summer Glau made a very brief appearance in an earlier episode of this new season - hint, hint), interesting dynamic could be struck up between the two. Will they work together or will they be on opposite sides? Only time will tell and the sooner Roy Harper suits up for action, the better, because all he's doing now is handling luggage being Thea's new pet dog. And let's get on with Moira's trial and put that behind us before the midseason finale, because a season-long legal battle is not something audiences want to put up with in a superhero show. "Arrow" has certainly stumbled into the sophomore slump phase with its first few episodes, but there is still hope left to salvaging its reputation.





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TELEVISION

superhero CW takeover



The Tomorrow People: Season 1



John Park Television Editor

The new species of “homo superiors” seem to have everything figured out. They possess the special powers of the three T’s: telekinesis, teleportation, and telepathy. Although putting a slight damper on things is the fact that they can’t actually kill. It’s no fun for them, and it’s certainly no fun for us.

Before he figures out who he really is, Stephen Jameson (Robbie Amell) thinks he has a problem: he keeps hearing voices in his head, he can’t focus, and he’s quite the wild child when it comes to school. But he soon discovers that he’s a part of *The Tomorrow People*, individuals with specialised powers listed above, who are also hunted down by Ultra, a powerful government group that aims to neutralise such advanced mutants for fear of any misuse of power or further mutations that may enhance their abilities even more. The Tomorrow People live hidden away underground actively trying to find new recruits before Ultra can get their evil hands on them, and it’s lucky that John (Luke Mitchell), Cara (Peyton List), and Russell (Aaron Yoo) found Stephen first, as he too, would have faced a nasty ending.

When it comes to portraying the three T’s that would be immensely useful in everyday life, *The Tomorrow*

People does have fun in incorporating them to the expensive-looking action scenes. It’s difficult to know how sustainable such scenes are on a freshman television show’s budget, but for the time being it’s fun to watch our heroes and villains zap their way around, using their force field telekinesis and communicate through mind-reading and secret call-outs.

Plotwise it echoes the beginning episodes of *Alias* and *Nikita* as Stephen ends up as a double agent posing to work for Ultra and its leader Jedikiah Price (Mark Pellegrino) whilst secretly feeding information to the good guys. In fact there isn’t a whole lot of secrecy when it comes to what everyone’s thinking since everything is so clearly spelt out for the audience, and as with most action/adventure/spy shows that go down this route, it’s hard not to wonder why the characters, especially the antagonists, don’t take the easy way of proceeding with intelligence. But ultimately it’s the good guys we’re supposed to be rooting for, so it’s probably a good thing the villains tend to ignore the best, most obvious solutions available.

Nothing imaginative or original takes place when it comes to characterisation: Stephen has daddy issues (is there a superhero who doesn’t struggle with this plot thread?), who abandoned the family leaving him with his mother Marla (Sarah Clarke) and younger brother Luca (Jacob Kogan). Time spent with his new best buddies brings up questions as to Stephen’s whereabouts, ones he dodges well whilst concealing his secret identity from his family and also from his best friend Astrid (Madeleine Mantock). There is also a love triangle brewing, something that no American

network television series can do without, especially the CW network aimed at young adults. Stephen begins to rely more and more on Cara for advice, but it turns out Cara and John are something of an item. We all know where this is headed and to be frank, it’s not something that’s particularly worth looking forward to.

Most problematic however, is in the leading man, the other Amell, the younger cousin of Stephen Amell, who is certainly generous with the amount of time he spends showing off his toned physique (another requirement for a show like this), but when it comes to actually selling the plot, he is no way near as convincing as he should be. He is too awkward and somewhat robotic in his delivery, and as a lead this is possibly the most disappointing performance of this television season. Things take an absolute turn for the

worse when he has to multitask - running and acting it seems, is too much of a stretch, and the awful narration that is a shameless copy of what they have been using on *Arrow* doesn’t help smooth things over either.

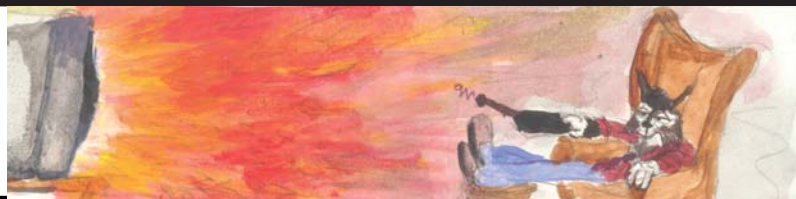
The supporting cast is noticeably better: Mitchell and List do a good job, Yoo is an adequate comic relief, and Pellegrino is as devious and evil as he has been in many other shows in the past.

Without a doubt the strongest appeal here is the potential in its action scenes. But there is angst coming. The show’s still young, and with some minor tweaks here and there, a lot of fun could be had in this silly but entertaining concept. Less talking (especially from Robbie Amell), more action will be what saves this show, although the numbers this is posting aren’t looking too great in its time slot.



TELEVISION

Editors: **John Park,**
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Television is dead, long live the internet

With *Orange is the New Black*, Netflix shows TV execs how it's done

Emily Fulham
Television Editor

Netflix are branching out. No longer content with being the mother of all procrastination techniques (in the battle of lab report against the entire series of *Gossip Girl*, there can only be one winner) and bringing in the internet streaming revolution, the American website has started showing original content available exclusively on Netflix. The first test subject in this experiment was political drama *House of Cards*, which proved an uncontested success when it went on to be nominated for nine Emmys, including Outstanding Drama series. Following this, when the cult US comedy *Arrested Development* was cancelled by Fox, Netflix bought the rights and revived it for a fourth series, to the great delight of fans everywhere.

No wonder, then, that Netflix saw fit to continue this winning streak by commissioning more original content to show. *Orange is the New Black* is the latest of these and is, so far, the most successful yet. This may come as surprising, as it's the type of 'risky' show which is probably unlikely to be picked up by one of the major American networks, given that it's an adult drama with an almost entirely

female cast, set inside a women's prison.

The show follows the adventures of Piper Chapman, a white, well-educated, middle-class woman, as the newest inmate in a New York federal prison. During a couple of 'experimental' years after graduating from college, Chapman decides to travel Europe with her lesbian, drug-dealing lover, who asks her to smuggle \$50,000 of drug money into Belgium. The consequences of the crime don't catch up with her until ten years down the line, when Chapman, now settled down with an Adam-Sandler-lookalike fiancé and making artisanal bath products for a living, is sentenced to fifteen months in prison. Interestingly, the series is based off a true story: the source material for *Orange is the New Black* is a memoir written by author Piper Kerman, detailing her time in prison after pleading guilty to money laundering for her then-girlfriend.

Although trying to see the silver lining in the jail sentence ("I'm going to get ripped," she announces to her boyfriend before departing, "and read everything on my Amazon wishlist, and maybe even learn a craft, you know?") Chapman is about as ill-prepared for prison as anyone is likely to be. From the strip search upon entry to the repulsively seedy male prison guards, this is a world completely unfamiliar to that which she has come from. The parallels between the two



NETFLIX

worlds are highlighted in flashbacks to Chapman's pre-prison life; after accidentally insulting the inmate chef and consequently being starved out at every mealtime, she flashes back to the hunger she felt during a juice cleanse detox programme. And as if life in prison couldn't be bad enough, Chapman's misery is compounded when she discovers her ex-girlfriend,

the source of all her troubles, is another new inmate.

The supporting cast of characters are one of the best things about the show. Each episode shows the backstory of how a particular inmate came to be there, an invariably tragic story, whether it be aiding illegal immigration, or stealing money to pay for gender reassignment surgery.

The show also doesn't gloss over the brutalities of prison life, such as racism or sexual assault. There's plenty of lighter moments, though - a leaving party for one of the soon-to-be-ex-prisoners, the hairdressing salon run by inmates and the friendship between a yoga instructor and a nun, to name a few.

Orange is the New Black has one of the most diverse casts you're likely to see on TV at the moment. The fact that the show's female characters span a broad range of ethnicities, sexualities, and socio-economic classes shouldn't be noteworthy, but, compared to similar shows out there with similar target audiences, it is. Each character is written with authenticity and respect, leading to some thought-provoking questions about the viewers own internal biases and preconceptions.

Still wondering whether to give it a go? If you want to see one of the best representations of women currently on TV, this show is for you. If you want a sensitively-handled critique of America's War on Drugs, it's for you. Or, if you enjoyed *Prison Break* but felt like it could have done with more lesbians, then it's definitely for you. Either way, Netflix has put all of the first series up at the same time, so you don't even have to wait a week between episodes; a second series is already in the works as well. If *Orange is the New Black* is at all indicative of the quality of TV in the internet-streaming, post-television world, long live the revolution.



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GAMES

The PokéPositives of X & Y

Yong Wen Chua on the beauties of a world wide release!

Pokémon X & Y saw the first ever simultaneous release of a Nintendo title worldwide. Combined with the fact that the encryption for the 3DS has not yet been broken two years into its release, this has been one of the most exciting release of a Pokémon game in several years, and spell extremely good news for Nintendo.

In the previous games, the Japanese games would be released months in advance of the other localised copies, and by the time the localised versions of the games are released, everything that can be known about the game will have been discovered, analysed, and plastered all over the fan-sites on the internet. In addition, the ability to decrypt the games on the previous generation consoles (like the DS) meant that hackers could dump the game, and data-mine the game in its entirety. This is how they can get the exact numbers and percentages of many of the mechanics you see on the various sites. They can even discover hidden,



non-obtainable legendary Pokémon. This time, however, things are different. Before the release of the games, Nin-

tendo kept a tight wrap on the things it revealed about the games. Even reviewers were barred from revealing too much about the games. About a

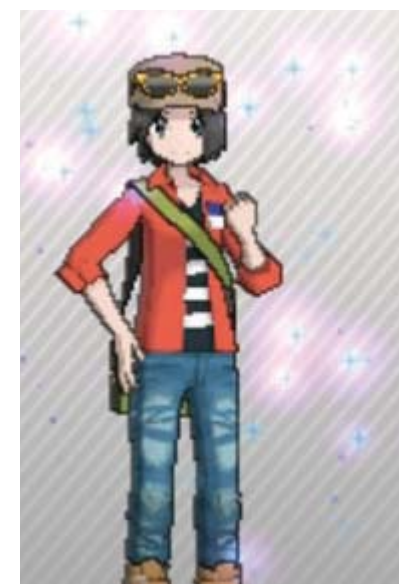
week before the games were due to be released, several retailers in Canada and Italy broke the street date by selling copies of the games early. Thus began a barrage of leaks about the games.

It was an exciting time to wake up everyday to a barrage of posts on sites such as reddit about the latest discovery of the games, whether it be of a new Pokémon, discovery of a new mechanic, or even just shots of the new graphics. Even two weeks into the games' release, there are still new discoveries being made about the game, including three unobtainable legendary Pokémon.

The combined release of the games before the holiday season could also spell very good news for Nintendo's finances. The 3DS has been struggling with its sales even two years into its release. With the games selling 4 million copies worldwide (not even including the digital copies, and pre-orders) during the release weekend, this might just be the boost

that the 3DS needs. In fact, the 3DS experienced a 99% increase in sales week-on-week that very weekend.

Now Nintendo just needs to do the same for the Wii U.



Amore - not part of Armor Mayham

Attention all Halo fans, this is absolutely unreal!

Imran Rashid
Games Editor

Armor Mayhem is a Halo and Unreal Tournament inspired game set in the future when our planet Earth has run out of energy. Major corporations send teams to scavenge the universe in search for more energy. Eventually, energy is detected on planet 55001 and to their astonishment they find infinite energy crystals. Now you must fight for the planet's resources. Get your weapons and armour on and fight for your CEO to make billions! You use the [WASD] keys to direct your player through various landscapes, clicking on your mouse to fire against competition. The controls are simple and seamless. Aside from your standard machine gun, various other weapons can be picked up around the landscapes. Health packets also drop from the sky too! As you complete missions and earn money you can unlock more crazy weapons including the 'slow gun' which gives you a shot at

creating a time-altering zone to slow down your enemies and kill'em. And the Halo inspired dart gun that fires multiple homing darts that stick to the target and explode. Completing missions also unlocks new maps with the difficulty of the missions' increasing into the game. When you, your buddies and your opponents health bar reaches zero they are automatically transported to a random place on the map after 5 seconds.

Hitting enemies increases your adrenaline meter which can be used [space button] to slow down time in your perspective enabling better stamina and agility in real time. In practise, you tend not to really use it but it's a fun plus for the gameplay. Missions range from single-player, team Deathmatch, capture the flag, territory control to 'steal the orb'. The missions don't really adumbrate any storyline which is a bit of a shame

however the gameplay really makes up for it. An extra challenge is added for the most skilled gamers in completing a level in a time limit to achieve a gold medal giving you extra purchasing power for weapons and armour. Unfortunately, purchasing more expensive armour does nothing to your stats - the armour is just for design which I thought was a bit cheeky considering some of the price of the armour. Another thing - the guns were small and it can be eyestrain sometimes. They have tried to compensate the field of view of the map with the size of the characters however I'm not convinced they've captured the golden balance. Some weapons are a lot better than others so the weapon size can really be frustrating. Gamers will really love the epic music in this game which pumps you up to achieve crazy killing streaks against your enemy AIs. One song to really look out for is Maze - the Nightkilla and you can change the music whenever you are playing to your liking with six songs in total. Custom battles can be unlocked by completing levels in the campaign mode and the difficulty of the levels

can be adjusted to the player's desires. You also have the ability to give players in your team AI commands to follow you though this almost always did not help with the mission or better the game play. To have the ability to order your AI team is quite awesome though. Armor mayhem is a must for all shooter games fans and as much fun it is to play against other AIs this game will hugely benefit from an online multiplayer addition where gamers can really appreciate the engine's depth and appealing platform elements.



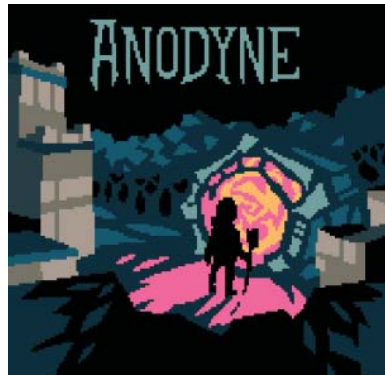
Win something

Felix Games has 1 last copy of Awesomenauts, so do you want grab this last copy while you can? Describe in 300 words your most interesting game experience of the summer. Send it in to games.felix@imperial.ac.uk and get yourself published as well!

Felix Games Team



Android Humble Bundle!



Sanchit Sharma
Games Writer

The Humble Bundle with Android #7 is currently on sale. For those of you who don't know what this is, the Humble Bundle is a sale in which a set of games are available for whatever price you choose. It started off as an indie game only bundle, but since then it has expanded and even THQ has gotten in on it (though they placed more limitations than other groups have previously done).

Game: Ticket to Ride Online

A popular board game in computer form

If you've ever played the Ticket to Ride board game, you already know whether or not this is worth

it for you. See the end of the review for details of what this includes. For those who have not played before, Ticket to Ride is a very popular board game which was originally made in 2004 by Days of Wonder. Ticket to Ride is a simple game to play – each turn you can collect cards, take new tickets, or build train routes. You need cards to build routes, and tickets give you points for connecting certain cities, or take them away if you fail to connect those cities. It is a game of ruthless expansion and blocking others to help you achieve your own goals. The original USA map awards a bonus for the longest connected route and whilst this is the standard, other maps sometimes change this bonus. The art is perfect, reflecting the board game very well, though the music takes a little getting used to. I didn't enjoy the music at all to begin with, but having played for a week I now adore it. Online play is very easy, which is important as the AI is not particularly good! This version of the game comes with the USA map and the 1910 expansion (which adds a bonus for most

completed tickets, and a new set of tickets). The other maps available (Switzerland, Asia, Europe) can be bought for between £2.50 and £3.10. Whether you are the head of board games at Imperial (totally not me), an aficionado, someone who plays from time to time, or have never played board games beyond the dreaded Monopoly, this is a great game to pick up.

Game: Greed Corp.

A strange twist on traditional strategy games

Greed Corp is one of the most interesting strategy games I've come across. Unlike most strategy games, where you get stronger as time goes on, in Greed Corp your position becomes more precarious as time goes on. The entire game is based around a unit called a harvester, which is the main way to earn money to buy units with. The other methods are the beginning of turn and knockout bonuses. The

problem is, the harvesters destroy the land (literally!) in order to earn you that money, so it doesn't take too long before there's barely any land left on the map. The rest is just empty space. Unfortunately, most games end up with a race to get enough money to buy a flyer (the only way to cross the void), with the winner being decided by the first person to fly over to their opponents territory. So late strategy is slim in this game, but the early strategy, music and graphics make this a winner. Even if you're not a massive fan of turn based strategy games, this is worth a few plays – especially with friends.

Game: Incredipede

A combo puzzle-platformer

Quozzle is an incredipede – a strange creature with the ability to change shapes. Her sisters were kidnapped and she wants to save them, or something. The story of Incredipede is fairly boring and standard. The real fun in Incredipede comes in building

your own creature and then unleashing her on the platformer-style levels to try and collect all the fruits (why she needs fruits, I don't know). In easy mode, all of the creatures are pre-built and you only need to use them correctly. However in hard mode, nearly all levels require you to build bits of Quozzle for yourself, which is very difficult to do correctly! You can add 'legs' and muscles to Quozzle, and that's about it. It can be incredibly difficult to predict how the legs will move due to the way the muscles work – you really need to see this to understand. The interesting mechanics combined with the fitting music and charming graphics (though the exposed bones and muscles are rather creepy) make this a great game for any puzzle lovers.

Game: Anodyne

A retro-style RPG

In Anodyne, you play as Young. Young's quest is to 'protect the Briar from the Darkness' – this wasn't explained any further from what I have played. You are teleported to some strange place where you find your weapon – a broom. It can pick up dust and put it down in other places. The art style is quite cool, the music is very well done, but overall this game didn't really grab me. The premise is not that interesting, though the puzzles can be. If you enjoy this sort of game it might keep you entertained for a few hours, but the half hour I've put into it is enough to tell me that it's just not that interesting.

A Summer at Gunpoint

Aviv Beeri, winner of our contest, describes his game of the summer



Lets turn the clock back to the end of the summer term, 2013. The days were long and hard, but then the term ended, and all was well. And suddenly I found myself with much more time for gaming. This in turn allowed me to finally catch up with a game I had been anticipating for a year, Gunpoint. I'd first learned about it from the developer's blog/website (www.gunpointgame.com) back in my first year. Here's the general idea:

You are a freelance spy/private investigator wearing the classic noir trenchcoat (with some upgrades) who has been asked by his clients to steal

sensitive data and technology from various people, for various reasons.

Hitting both the platformer and stealth genres, Gunpoint throws something else into the mix: The ability to rewire all the electronics in the building in interesting ways, which brings a great puzzle element to this adventure.

I'd been anticipating it for so long because it started as a project by PC Gamer writer Tom Francis, who wanted to learn to develop games with absolutely no prior knowledge of how. His concept was so interesting that just had to take a look.

Now that the term had ended, I

could finally sit down to play my way through my special extended edition, with all of its included extras (A "making of" video by the developer, along with the bonus soundtracks of the game, which sound great).

This game combines everything really well. The music and art bring the game to life, as you jump across buildings, up and down lifts and tinker with the wiring that even with the short playing time (about 4 hours total) it was worth every moment, seeing the result of the game maker's efforts as well as inspiring me to begin creating my own.

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TECHNOLOGY

Steve Wozniak at Apps-World 2013

William Daubney
Technology Writer

Steve Wozniak, known by many as Woz was the keynote speaker of Apps-World 2013 at Earls Court, London. As a member of the press via my website, I was invited and given a press pass. The whole day was a very surreal experience, basically being treated like a member of royalty as each exhibitor tries to get your attention. For the keynote I got to use the special press area! (The front row in other words!) Being sandwiched between reporters from The Guardian and TechRadar was an interesting experience to say the least!

Steve Wozniak was definitely trying to encourage us to be better at creating successful technology startups. With the rise of kickstarter this was definitely portrayed to us as the best time in years to start your own business venture.

“The bigger a company is the slower it changes, people who buy apple products want Apple like products. Any product which doesn't fit into the Apple ideals is not the Apple way, you know whether its apple or not. This goes back to the day when Steve [Jobs] introduced the Macintosh. In the 1984 commercial we were the new guys, [now that we are established] you can't take Apple in totally new directions. This gives smaller companies an advantage in

finding the smaller areas of the market or come up with radical new ideas.”

He then went to explain how apple developed quickly. “Marketing is the most important thing [in establishing a new business]” Woz then explained

recognise a good idea when you see one. “At HP we were only building tools that engineer's use. We, the engineers were the experts.” As such the engineers came up with ideas which were largely ignored by HP.

engineers. Engineering is so difficult and they think of things to improve your own product idea. Give it time to gel.” Engineers think of new ideas, “Oddball ideas that don't pop into other people heads will come to

If all else fails you can always print your own cash. Steve started doing this with a friend, and somehow it is perfectly legal to use it in a shop, I can't see how, and he didn't properly explain it.

“I nearly got arrested once and read my rights, but I got out of it” “I sometimes sell a sheet of 14 dollars for 8 dollars to random people in the street”. Apparently they are “Secret Service approved bills.”

Besides focussing on business we learnt a few thing about Steve, the most surprising of which is that he openly criticised the new iPad Air as not suiting his needs. “I called my wife and told her I wasn't getting a new one, I was disappointed with the 128GB maximum storage” Furthermore he told us that “the iPhone could do with a much larger screen, probably around five inches.” Furthermore to that he said that Apple had taken the “wrong direction by changing the aspect ratio of the iPhone,” this was followed by a large cheer from the crowd made up of nearly entirely developers who must have agreed!

He then proceeded to tell us that he doesn't have home broadband, and only has a T1 line (1mbit/s). It takes hours to download a movie, and by the time I've downloaded it I don't want it anymore.” In fact we learnt that only movie worth downloading and “watching about Apple is Pirates of Silicon Valley, although they didn't get everything right, I really enjoyed it!”

Steve's currently spending most of his time on various projects such as FusionIO and other start-ups and visiting places around the world.



to us how it was easy to grow at first because the media like reporting on a business with a great idea who started from their garage. When Apple became a larger company the media got bored and left us, at this point it was hard to make an impact and only due to some great commercials like the 1984 they would have gone under.

“At HP they turned down my ideas [for a PC] 5 times.” To be a great business leader you need to

“Then Steve and I started Apple, we were going to be very market orientated very subject to the end user even when you are running on zero dollars.” This enabled us to create completely new product targeted towards consumers rather than businesses.

He then continued on to explain how important he thinks engineers are in turning a good idea into reality, and even improving it. “If you are businessman please find the

you.” In producing and designing the product; “Excellence is absolutely important. I'll improve the graphics etc. give it a second try make it better.”

Even though he had just lectured us for quite a while on building a good business he claims; “I am not a businessman, I've certainly had start-ups on my own, and I invest when I like the idea in terms of an engineer not whether it could or could not be profitable”

Apple's New Keynote and What it Means for You

Maximilian Eggli
Technology Editor

As mentioned in last weeks news bubble Apple had a key note last tuesday. That day confirmed most rumours on the internet as well as some pleasant surprises. However if you are looking at the news, scratching your head and wondering how this will affect anything in your life, read on dear reader and all shall be explained!

Let's first talk about the new iPads. These two updates to existing products had been predicted several weeks ago, so no big surprises their.

Furthermore rather than these devices being revolutionary, they are more evolutionary than anything, but I bet you heard that clichéd phrase before. However more so than recent years, these iterations actually did get some serious upgrades. Before we start anything though, let's just clear up that the new name for the big iPad is the iPad Air, which considering its new weight and thickness is actually quite a good name. It seems this is an attempt by Apple to create more of a link between their macbook range and their tablets (maybe we might even see a combo device some day!). A complete redesign for the bigger iPad has seen it lose half a pound as well as 24% of its overall volume. At this point it really just seems to fall in line with the minimalist design that Ive so loves.

The mini also got an upgrade by receiving that retina display, that

should have been included in the first Mini. However with 4 times the pixels, this display should be a real beautiful to look at and fall in line with the high standard that all other apple products follow.

The inclusion of the 64-bit A7 in both the Air and the Mini will lead to some serious speed increases, which should make that graphic design/music production/gaming that much more smooth.

Now the big question, should you splash out? Well that really depends, if you are in the market for a new tablet and are willing to pay the premium (£399 for cheapest iPad Air, £319 for new iPad Mini), I would seriously suggest going for either the Mini or the Air. If you have just gotten the last iPad it may be more prudent to wait, as the high price does not really warrant what you are getting in terms

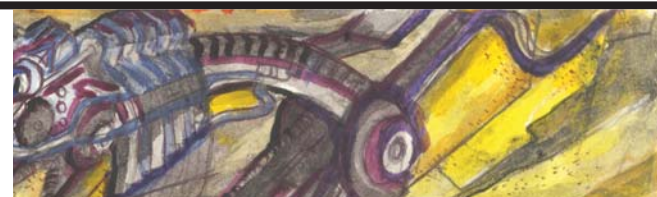
of new stuff.

The other big thing of this keynote was Mavericks. While everything new in mavericks has been discussed in a prior article, the pricing was not. Therefore one of the pleasant surprises of the keynote was the fact that Mavericks (Apple's newest update of its operating system) would now be free. Previously these things usually cost about £20, which comparing to the price of windows is a steal. However if you consider how much Apple really makes from their OS, they may as well make it free. Its a great way to lure in new customers, and hopefully all new updates will be free. Therefore if you have an eligible Mac, you may as well update as you will get some nice new features (love that extended battery life)! However one little caveat. I found that my Mac slowed down a bit after the update,

so for all you out there with older devices, I would suggest to you to maybe wait a month or so, until all the last bugs are worked out and the OS is fully optimized!

The last little thing I want to mention is the price of Apple's equivalent of Office. It is now also free of charge. Yes, dear reader you read correctly, it costs diddly squat. If you consider how much money Apple really makes, the amount they make from their software is like a drop in the ocean. Therefore this strategy of offering pages, keynote and numbers for free is quite a smart strategy. However, and here comes the disadvantage, is that this price only applies to new devices!

How devious of Apple!



10 Things the Internet has Slaughtered



Osama Awara
Technology Editor

In no particular order, (to avoid nerd rage) here goes:

Movie Stores

Long gone are the days of popping in to your local Blockbusters and buying that VHS tape or DVD that had you sorted for the night. With the boom of wireless internet from your Ming Dynasty era dial-up connection, streaming movies/shows online has never been quicker or easier. With services such as Netflix or your more illegal torrenting websites such as 'The Piratebay' getting that movie you've been longing to watch is now just a click away rather than five blocks away.

Sarcasm and Subtlety

Now I'm sure you're aware that when someone on the other side of the world is communicating with you via written text, it is different from them having a face to face conversation with you whilst their body language is in full swing. I'm pretty sure everyone's been in a situation where

they simply couldn't detect if their friend was being sarcastic or genuine. It's always with phrases such as KK (ok cool) or that Facebook thumbs up at the end of a conversation that gets delivered to me after telling one badass story that does my head in.

Procrastination Control

The internet has literally killed off productivity. Obviously, you can argue that the internet is full of useful information that you can utilise for your own learning benefit, but the reality of it is that you'll always have a billion other distractions to take you off your pursuit of knowledge. I crown YouTube and Facebook as the king and queen of world-wide procrastination. The strangely beautiful thing about YouTube is that you can go on it with the intention of watching say a one 5 minute music video but somehow end up on a 'Kaka owns Xavi' video.

The Mystique of Your Friends' Lunch

Before the late 90's or early 00's if you were ever seen taking a picture of your meal before eating it, you'd probably get sent to your nearest lunatic asylum without the slightest

hesitation from the local authorities. Now, we cannot go a day without seeing someone post online the meal they are about to devour, as if a stash of hash browns and bacon are the most interesting things in the world. Instagram has a lot to answer for.

Privacy

Quite an obvious one to be honest. With all the recent headlines regarding the NSA and the US conspiracy to spy on everyone's online activities, the internet's been a main factor facilitating our lack of privacy. Haven't you noticed by now every time you go on a websites, cookies are tracking your activities online and tailoring the content you receive? Now at first this may just seem harmless, a cookie is just a text file at the end of the day, but trust me you can tell a lot about a person just by looking at their online activity.

Yahoo, Bing, Jeeves et al.

This should probably be under '10 search engines Google has slaughtered,' but for me Google is the internet and the internet is Google.

Encyclopaedias

Wikipedia pretty much sums this all up.

Trolls

When the word 'troll' is typed/spoken/read on the internet, it no longer refers to the great big mythical beast that used to terrorize villagers in Scandinavia. Now, it means as Urban Dictionary quite eloquently puts it, someone who, 'posts a deliberately provocative message to a newsgroup or message board with the intention of causing maximum disruption and argument.'

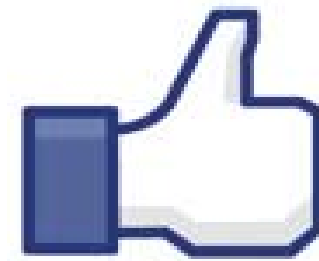
girlfriend got pregnant and we didn't have sex,' propping up daily on the homepage.

Polite Disagreement

A quick look at any one of the many YouTube videos' comment section would be enough to prove this. No longer can people argue with each other in a pleasant fashion. I guess being able to hide under a user name, without anyone seeing or knowing you're the person typing the torrent of insults, lets you get away with pretty much anything really.

Keeping Silly Questions to Yourself

With the luxury of providing anonymity from other public users of the internet, the web has made the asking of some seriously dumb ass questions online a daily ritual. A quick browse of Yahoo Answers says it all really, with questions like, 'My



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

Motorola Announces Project Ara

Motorola has announced "Project Ara", an open-source initiative to bring about modular smartphones, and "do for hardware what the Android platform has done for software." The design would consist of an "endoskeleton", or basic structure, and various parts and modules that you can potentially purchase from various vendors. The idea is that you could upgrade only the bits of your smartphone that you are interested in, perhaps even perpetually.

FBI Seizes US\$28.5 million worth of Bitcoins from Silk Road Mastermind

The FBI has reportedly seized from the alleged mastermind of Silk Road, Ross Ulbricht, 144 000 bitcoins worth approximately US\$28.5 million. Forbes report that about 110000 bitcoins worth about US\$22 million are still at large.

Nokia Lumia Hit New Record Sales

Worldwide sales of the Nokia Lumia phones has hit a new record in Q3 of 2013, with sales in North America twice that of the previous quarter. However, most of the sales come from the lower end models of the Lumia series, like the Lumia 520.

Open Question

Show me another »

What does it mean when a guy asks you out for coffee?

His words: "you gotta let me know when you're free, I'd love to go get some coffee with you someday"

Oh Yahoo users, you never cease to amaze me.

Maximilian Eggl
Yong Wen Chua
Osama Awara

Technology Editors

 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial



Experience: volunteering in scenic Gorna

ICAB brings some much-needed energy to a Bulgarian orphanage

Mandeep Dhingra

Mimi Lee

This summer we spent two weeks volunteering in Gorna, as part of a trip with Imperial College Aid to the Balkans (ICAB). Gorna is a small, picturesque town in northern Bulgaria with just over 30,000 inhabitants. ICAB is a student-run charity that typically sends its volunteers to Bulgarian orphanages and other centres to work with children. To discourage abandonment of children, the government has more recently begun to set up day centres for disabled children. Our volunteer work was at one of such centres. At Gorna Day Centre, the children are separated into two groups by age. The younger children range from age 2 to 10. The older children are 10 and above. While working there we found that “disability” is a flexible term: there was a wide range, including cerebral palsy, Down’s syndrome, autism, and ADHD. Unlike many of the orphanages that

ICAB works with, the Day Centre was well-equipped with toys, and even had a functioning playground. The staff, however, were untrained and unenthusiastic, so the children were often left to amuse themselves. The toys were left to collect dust on a tidy shelf, out of reach. This is where we stepped in. Our role was to organise activities for the children and provide them with much-needed care and attention. It was a challenge to overcome both the language and disability barriers. It was also difficult to tailor the activities to the children’s individual needs and abilities. We organised a music day with ukuleles, keyboards and several percussion instruments. They enjoyed it more than we thought they would, and kept asking us for the “guitarra” for days after. On another day we brought some clay to the centre: it was great fun encouraging the children to work on their manual dexterity through play and we even managed to learn the names for some animals in Bulgarian! When we were not working at the Day Centre we had time to explore the local town and nearby areas. It is a place where lovers of nature, history and culture can all be satisfied.



Children rocking out on “guitarras” at Gorna Day Centre



Bulgarian bliss: spend your days off unwinding in beautiful countryside

On one of our days off, we decided to climb a nearby hill known as the Rock. Our hike began on a wide concrete path with a seemingly gentle incline. As we got closer to the top, it changed from a smooth concrete road to a steep and slippery dirt path. Indeed, it could barely be called a path. We only knew we were going the right way because it was up and because of the faded arrows spray-painted on the trees. When we finally reached the top we were soaked (Mother Nature had decided to bless us with rain), sweaty and muddy, but it was worth it. The view atop the Rock was breathtaking. We could see the surrounding countryside for miles around. It was a little bit dizzying, actually. No health and safety precautions here! We also visited Arbanasi, a pretty

village with many historical buildings, mainly churches and monasteries. It’s also where Bulgaria’s rich and famous live (according to our travel guide, anyway). We’re not sure if we saw any Bulgarian celebrities, but we did see a coach belonging to FC Ariston, a local football team! The whole trip was impeccably organised and better than we could have imagined. Bulgaria is a place many people don’t normally consider and it isn’t somewhere you would often associate with volunteering. It is an unspoilt beauty and the children there are in real need of love, care and attention, which it was a privilege to provide. We would recommend it to anyone. It’s relatively inexpensive and, more importantly, it is an incredibly rewarding experience!

Get involved with ICAB

Visit: [facebook.com/ICAidToTheBalkans](https://www.facebook.com/ICAidToTheBalkans)
Email: ICAB@imperial.ac.uk

...Or attend one of ICAB’s **upcoming events:**
 Monday 11/11 @ 6:30 p.m. in Reynolds R2 (Charing Cross)
 Tuesday 12/11 @ 6:00 p.m. in SAF 121 (South Kensington)

CLUBS & SOCS



RCSU Science Challenge

Fiona Hartley
RCSU Broadsheet Editor



Meet Professor Lord Robert Winston. Attend a grand final in a prestigious location. Win a slice of a prize pot of over £4000.

These chances have one factor in common: this year's RCSU Science Challenge. It's big and it's back, launching on December 3 in SAF. You should come to the launch event and accept the challenge offered to you. Here's why.

The Science Challenge is the RCSU's annual competition. It's the perfect opportunity for you to communicate science in an engaging, concise and fun manner. Four high profile judges will set three essay questions and a task for a video category.

Every year the selected judges give up their time to talk at the launch and grand final events, and chose the overall winners. They are leaders in their fields: academia, science, journalism, business. Last year the Director of Grantham Institute for Climate Change, Professor Sir Brian Hoskins, judged one question. The year before Wellcome Trust Head of Communications and former Science Editor of the Times Mark Henderson was involved.

Lord Winston is the leading judge. He should be a familiar face from British television. You might have seen him on campus since he's Emeritus Professor of Fertility Studies here at Imperial, but having been here for three years and only seen the back of his suit once I don't think it likely. At the launch you'll definitely get to see his face and hear his voice, live. You could get a photograph of yourself with him at the grand final next year.

The Science Challenge is generously sponsored. Previous winners have received tours of CERN in Switzerland and big cash prizes. In 2014 it could be you walking away with such treats because all Imperial students can enter the competition, regardless of faculty. Even if you hate the RCSU how could you pass up the opportunity to win potentially thousands of pounds? I'm going to guess no one hates the RCSU that much. Not even CGCU students.

Keep an eye out for more Science Challenge details in Felix over the next few Fridays. Look out for our posters around campus, updated weekly. Keep December 3 free in your diary. There will be free food and entertainment at the launch before the questions and prizes are announced. The guest speaker has an exciting history and the talk will be worth hearing.

The Science Challenge is coming. Are you ready? Tweet @RCSU with the hashtag #SciChal to keep the mystery alive.

Smoky not Smudgy



Nida Mahmud on this Sunday's ladies only event

As Charity Week draws to an end, this Sunday marks the return of Smoky Not Smudgy (SnS); this is a flagship ladies only pampering event.

SnS is run by the ladies for the ladies. All proceeds go towards the Charity Week campaign, ultimately helping orphans and needy children in the poorest parts of the world. Last year, over 400 ladies attended SnS and over £6000 was raised; this year it is even bigger and better. So make sure you don't miss out.

Hiba Saleem, one of the organisers of SnS commented: "Now in its 6th year, SnS is a ladies-only day of complete luxury services, beauty treatments, fashion boutiques, photography studios, a souk bazaar, master classes by skilled professionals, tutorials by industry experts and two show stopping fashion shows! Ladies, indulge yourselves guilt-free because all the money you pay to pamper yourself crazy will go straight to charity! This year the fashion shows will feature fifteen exciting designers with a show stopping collection".

There will also be celebrities doing master classes, beauty experts doing tutorials, as well as hairstylists, makeup artists and bloggers. There are many surprises in

store too. The organisers have said you can "indulge in a makeover with a photo-shoot, relax with our professional masseuse, get your hands on the latest jewellery, clothes, accessories, hijabs and much more! Have your nails and henna done, pamper yourself with a facial, join in on our arabic art and cupcake classes! Find out more at www.facebook.com/smokynotsmudgy"

Ruby Hakim has organised SnS three times in the past. She commented that "having attended the past 5 smoky not smudgy events, I can tell you first hand that its the most fun day in the calendar! The turnout is always impressive and the event

content is even more impressive. Every year since its birth, SnS has reached new heights and as a past SnS organiser with very high standards for the event, I can reassure you that this year's Smoky not Smudgy will be the best ever. I've been refraining from shopping in the past month because I know I'll find lots of great one-off items from the SnS souk, as I always do! The fashion show is always the most exciting and buzzing part of the day. This year, the rumour is there are two fashion shows. The excitement is almost too much for me! I couldn't imagine missing SnS, it's not even an option!"

So girls, make sure you don't miss out!

SMOKY NOT SMUDGY

IC Radio Schedule

Check out some of IC Radio's top shows this week on the IC Radio Schedule.

friday 1 november 2013

20:00 - 21:00 First House on Blackstreet

sunday 3 november 2013

15:00 - 17:00 The National Student Radio Chart Show

The chart show by students across the UK with unsigned and chart music - Hosted by a different student station every week!

17:00 - 18:00 The Happy Hour

Join the Sunday fun with happymichael & random cool features and stories with awesome tunes (and sometimes a complimentary laughing fit!)

20:00 - 21:00 Earworm

monday 4 november 2013

14:00 - 15:00 Presidential Address

The two presidents off their view on all things musical, entertainment and debacles

18:00 - 19:00 Movies, Musicals and More

Stage, Screen and Beyond...

20:00 - 21:00 The Eclectic Ectoplasm

An eclectic mix of anything and everything. The best music on ICRadio every Monday evening.

21:00 - 22:00 Stuart's Deep Bath

Stuart and Lee deliver the perfect soundtrack for a Monday night bath with a mix of indie pop, dream pop and ambient music

tuesday 5 november 2013

16:00 - 17:00 Relax-ay-voo

17:00 - 18:00 The IC Punk Rock Show

IC Radio's weekly punk rock show, featuring the choice slices of the Victoria Sponge Cake that is punk rock.

18:00 - 19:00 Dr. Frog's Rad Hour

One hour of totally rad music, old and new.

wednesday 6 november 2013

14:00 - 15:00 The RockSoc Radio Rampage

Great music brought to you by the Rocksoc Community!

17:00 - 18:00 The Power Hour

Two Irish lads bringing you some excellent banter, topical comedy and powerful tuneage.

18:00 - 19:00 Versace Palace

thursday 7 november 2013

17:00 - 18:00 Super Music World

18:00 - 19:00 Faux Pas Fm

Chris, James and Fiona bring you a show that's a bit like one of those films that's so bad it's almost good. Emphasis on almost.

20:00 - 21:00 TrapThursdays

21:00 - 22:00 The AMS Night Bus

Loveable hipsters bring you a range from indie rock to hip hop to emo to, um, atmospheric black metal, following a theme each week.

Tune in at:
icradio.com



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FelixImperial

CGCU

Keeping up with the Engineers

Felix catches up with the City & Guilds Union. We hear what they've been getting up to over the last few weeks and what we can expect for the future.

Integrating Engineers: the way to reviving the CGCU brand

Geeky punnery aside, the City and Guilds College Union (better known as the CGCU) has bounced back this year - having spent a good while in relative "CGC-who?" obscurity. With a fresh-faced committee in place working towards a unified theme - "integrating engineers" - the year ahead promises to be a good one.

Mascoty, Slave Auctions et al

One of the key priorities for the Guilds committee was a large-scale revival of some of the forgotten Guilds traditions, and an early violation of our rival's mascot - RCSU's Theta (after 40 years!) - provided us with just the platform to kick-start that. Whilst final negotiations are still underway, we've used this as an opportunity to bring back the Slave Auction (and have the RCSU President participate in it) in order to raise funds for CGCU RAG; something which has not been done since 2009/2010. This'll take place in the Spring term during RAG week - so keep your eyes/ears peeled, and ideas for embarrassing things for President Saha to do handy (so long as you're willing to pay for charity!)

Having also revived the tradition of pieing our own committee last year as a homage to the Hit Squad - which has its roots and old ownership in CGCU - we're keeping up the tradition and have agreed to have our bearers "take the cream"; again, for RA. In addition, the Mech Eng building was renamed the City and Guilds building this year - a significant moment that harks back to one of Imperial's older milestones, back when the City and Guilds College came together with the other constituent colleges to form Imperial College London.

CGCU Welcome Dinner

Just this Tuesday we hosted the CGCU's flagship Welcome Dinner and Afterparty, held at Cafe de Paris after having been absent for a year. Dinner tickets sold out a week in advance, resulting in a bit of a frenzy for It was a great chance for newbies (and not-so-fresh students) to mingle and have a posh three-course meal in a swanky setting, and to build a sense of community amongst the engineers. With a bevy of freshers present alongside some distinguished guests from the City and Guilds College Association (CGCA) - the alumni association for engineers - it



CGCU

TOP: CGCU at Café de Paris; BOTTOM: CGCU Welcome Dinner time!

was a perfect mix of both old and new, and certainly ties back to the whole theme for this year. For want of a better phrase to describe proceedings: everyone ate, drank, and was merry.

CGCU/CGCA Alumni Careers Lecture

Speaking about our alumni (and more clichés!)...the saying "old is gold" certainly has some truth in it. The committee have worked tirelessly on getting further involvement from the alumni of said association, The Imperial College of their days may not be identical to the Imperial of now, but that doesn't stop them from being a valuable mine of information when it comes to careers/life advice. As such, there'll be an upcoming CGCA Careers lecture on the 3rd of Dec which will be a great chance to trade thoughts and ideas with our alumni - we're taking the impersonal feel out of bog-standard networking events.

CGCU Office Hours/Welfare

But of course, Guilds is more than just funny traditions or social/careers events for the engineering community - even though there's definitely more to look forward to on the calendar, such as bar nights and club nights! We're here to look after your welfare, and there's our weekly Office Hours - a dedicated initiative from our

Academic Affairs Officer (James Murphy) and Welfare Officer (Juliet Kernohan.) It's simple: we post times up on our Facebook page (they tend to be every Friday), and you just swing by the City and Guilds Office in room 340 if you want to get something off your chest/wish to find out more about getting involved/managed to get your hands on the Medics' Phoenix head (we jest.) The team will also be hosting our own Welfare Week for engineers in the Spring (who says only scientists get to have one?), and there's lots lined up including cookery and self-defense classes. All in all, plenty to be excited about!

That said, there's only so much that the committee can do in terms of organizing events for you guys and publicizing. Really, we owe much of our success to every Guildsman (and Guildswoman) getting out there and playing your part. It's thanks to you guys spreading the good word, attending our events and engaging with us that we've gotten off to a great start so far - we hope to see more involvement in the months to come, whether it's just participating as an attendee or even throwing us a suggestion for improvement. May the rest of the year be even better for us, and for you too!

City and Guilds College Union
www.cgcu.net

President's Open Letter on behalf of the CGCU

My dear engineering friends,

When they first announced the new CGCU President earlier in March this year, I clearly remembered how Lotanna Agu single-handedly hoisted me into the air. Above the crowd cheering for me, I shouted one of my most memorable campaign slogans out loud "You can count on me!" Like many of my good friends, Lotanna was counting on me to usher in an unprecedented year ahead for the CGCU even as I counted on all of them for their utmost support and vote to open up a door for me to do so.

Some say that the fire within the CGCU had died out over the past decade, but I assure them that there will always be a few of us whom its members can count on to keep the flame going. It is with no greater joy that my 2013/2014 committee and I have been granted this opportunity to enrich the university experience of our fellow engineering students this year, to dedicate ourselves to the revival of the CGCU brand name and spirit amongst all of you.

Dick Costolo, the CEO of Twitter, said:

"Believe that if you make courageous choices and bet on yourself and put yourself out there, that you will have an impact as a result of what you do. And you don't need to know now what that would be or how will it happen because no one ever does."

We've made bold choices to revise our publicity themes and methods, overhaul our office, revamp our website and restore our highly-coveted events and traditions, not knowing what the outcome will be. All these came with tireless hours over the summer holidays and sacrifices alongside our already hectic academic schedule (it's Imperial after all).

What have we achieved so far? For a start, I hope you find that you're receiving much fewer emails as before (and certainly of better design and quality) and seeing more of your student reps publicizing our fantastic events to you in person. Our CGCU office is now a more desirable place for you to come visit us with your feedback (we are your student voice to the college!). James and Juliet, our academic affairs and welfare officers in particular, have so generously set aside their lunchtimes on Tuesdays and Fridays to receive you on those matters.

Finally, we saw over-the-top attendance and reception for our CGCU Welcome Dinner which ended off with a roaring Boomalaka cheer.

Yet this is just but the beginning of a new chapter. Take heart, for the best is yet to come. Bringing you back to my election results day, the relationship between Lotanna and me is like the CGCU and its committee. For as much as the committee can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and dedication of all its members upon which this union relies.

There are many more wonderful events on its way, including the Dinner with Industry, Alumni Careers Evening and the Club Night to celebrate the end of a momentous term! The ball is now in your court to get involved in all of them and more than that, spread the C&G identity to your fellow peers. We're counting on you to take our union to greater heights!

Sincerely Yours,

Lejon

"With a fresh-faced committee in place working towards a unified theme - 'integrating engineers' - the year ahead promises to be a good one."

"But of course, Guilds is more than just funny traditions or social/careers events for the engineering community"

POPPY APPEAL COLLECT

ALL PROCEEDS TO ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



MON 4TH NOV

SIGN UP ONLINE: UNION.IC.AC.UK/RAG

COLLECT AFTERPARTY (POPPY & HALLOWEEN)

ZOO BAR - MON 4TH NOV - 8PM - 3AM

50% OFF DRINKS UNTIL 9PM / EXCLUSIVE DRINKS DEALS ALL NIGHT

£3 FOR COLLECTORS/ £5 NON-COLLECTORS



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CAREERS

More than getting a degree: developing your key transferable skills

Careers Service Imperial College

write this short article on the day of the worst storm to batter Southern England since the last great storm way back in 1987. Today the Careers Service has had to adapt as staff were delayed on their way into work, hampered by the travel chaos that ensued. It got me thinking about all the key employability skills that have had to be used today to remain up and running and providing a service to you guys. Problems have been reviewed, solutions put in place, changes communicated to students and team members briefed. All this from just the first hour at Imperial this morning! All these key transferable skills came into play during one short period on a Monday morning, just think what core skills you can develop over the course of your studies and use to great effect in your future applications for employment or internships and placements!

As you settle back into the College academic year you are no doubt becoming aware of the myriad of events that the Careers Service arranges to help you come to a career decision and to set you on the pathway for a rewarding and fulfilling career. No matter what route you choose to pursue after completing your studies, whether to remain in academia or to go into the world of work, either through an internship or by entering a graduate training programme- you will undoubtedly have to go through some form of selection process.

For many this can seem daunting but the key to success is giving evidence of what you can offer and importantly how you have been gaining valuable transferable skills during your studies. Employers are looking for a well-rounded future colleague. They can see you have the academic qualifications, but how can you show them you have all the skills and behaviours that they are looking for? Often when I speak to students they do not fully appreciate what they have to offer and overlook key skills they have developed or will have obtained by the time they graduate.

So, what do we mean by transferable skills? Transferable skills are a key set of attributes that employers require from you. As you review opportunities

either on line via Jobslive (<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/careers>) or from company websites, you will see job descriptions and person specifications for different roles. Time spent reading and understanding the requirements for any role is time well spent. Obviously you will need to pay attention to the academic requirements for the role, but what of the other aspects that you will most likely see.

Are they asking for communication skills, time management skills, team working skills, problem solving skills, a positive 'can do' attitude, and so on? Any application, whether for a Graduate level role, internship or higher level study will require you to fully assess what you have to offer. To succeed our job is not to discount areas that you have solid experience in or undersell yourself. Those reading your applications will want good evidence of your skills. It is not enough for example to say, "I'm a good communicator", you need to say where and how you have developed these skills. For example this could come from group projects you are undertaking as part of your course. How many people are in the group? Are you aware of cultural differences? Do you listen to others and propose solutions? Do you actively involve others in the group and so on. Already, by expanding on one aspect, communication, your response to application questions or laid out on your CV really comes to life. This enables the reader to start to gain a more detailed picture of you and how you might be able to use the communications skills you have developed.

You will have lots of opportunity to gain these key transferable skills while at Imperial. These can come from work and experiences you are gaining throughout your studies or from your extracurricular activities from clubs and societies.

So, where might you start to look for evidence of your transferable skills? The table is just a starting point but by thinking these areas through you will start to identify more as you really think about what you have to offer.

If you are unsure how to interpret your skills in the best possible way don't forget you can get help from the Careers Service by booking to see one of our Careers Consultants. www.imperial.ac.uk/careers

	WHAT AN EMPLOYER MIGHT LOOK FOR	EVIDENCE TO CONVINCE
COMMUNICATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Getting your message across, verbally and in writing, to individuals and groups. Listening effectively. Understanding body language. Creating a logical argument. Being sensitive to the needs and level of knowledge of your audience. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Writing a project report, making a presentation based on that report. Hearing and understanding detailed instructions to carry out a lab experiment. Being aware of others' facial expressions or gestures in a meeting and using them to interpret what is meant. Making a presentation to school students attending a department open day or working as a guide in the Science Museum. Determining if your conclusions follow directly from the series of statements you made when writing a report.
TEAMWORK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Working effectively with others. Respecting and facilitating others' contributions. Negotiating to achieve outcomes that benefit all. Motivating and supporting others in the team. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Working on a group project or field work, where you have collaborated with others to achieve a solution to a problem or produced a report. Playing to the strengths within the group to ensure a good result. Working in a team (see above for examples) where members share ideas on how to approach the project and agree their roles. Encouraging and helping others with ideas, keeping the group on track.
PROBLEM SOLVING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thinking logically and using ingenuity to solve problems and overcome difficulties. Being flexible when unexpected obstacles occur. Coming up with better ways of doing things. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the design of a machine, analysing its current capabilities and identifying appropriate changes. Revising the scope of a final-year project due to practical problems and negotiating the change with tutors. Modifying your experimental design to produce results.
BUSINESS AWARENESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding an employer's goals and how you could contribute to achieving them. Being aware of current economic, political or environmental issues affecting the employer. Discussing basic financial concepts. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adding to the company's profitability by increasing sales or introducing a more effective stock control system. Understanding how world events can present challenges and risks to companies. Able to explain profit and loss calculations.
PLANNING AND ORGANISING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Setting objectives. Identifying resources available. Planning activities to achieve a goal. Establishing priorities. Being able to co-ordinate with others. Anticipating and avoiding difficulties. Organising personal time to carry out all responsibilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up a group project: what is the desired outcome? Who does what and by when? Arranging an expedition: working out how many will be involved, where to go, what equipment and provisions might be needed. Deciding where to travel to in America with limited time and money. Making sure everyone is clear about how their activities fit together to produce the play for the drama society. Anticipating how much money to take when inter-railing. Prioritising your studies and allocating time to other activities.
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Displaying good relationships with customers or clients, managers, peers and subordinates. Political awareness and sensitivity. Negotiating with and persuading others with self-confidence and tact. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using information to persuade a manager to see your point of view. Taking the views of your peer group and representing them to a departmental committee. Persuading caterers to provide good value for money for a hall ball. Dealing with difficult customers.
NUMERACY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Making simple calculations. Interpreting ideas and drawing conclusions from numerical information. Identifying trends and patterns in data. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Quickly calculating the total cost of items in a bill or invoice. Logically deducing inferences from a complex set of tables. Analysing statistics to identify consumer spending patterns.



HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk



This Week In The Past

The Historian
Hangman Contributor



2011 - Global population hits 7 billion emphasising how you and your pathetic day-to-day existence are useless at best and probably detrimental to the species at worst.

1986 - The M25 motorway is finally finished officially isolating Londoners from the rest of the UK and forever giving people an accurate description of what constitutes "The North".

1969 - First computer-to-computer link, the ARPANET is established. Thankfully, such a weird concept doesn't gain any traction and we continue to share information in dignified printed form.

1919 - Prohibition laws passed in the USA, which, in one fell swoop, heroically ends the twin sins of drink and crime.

1894 - Tsar Nicholas II ascends to the Russian throne leading to years of peace, prosperity and overall global harmony that extends to this day.

1618 - Sir Walter Raleigh is beheaded for allegedly conspiring against James I. Whilst this was almost certainly not the case, it was widely accepted that he was a bit dickhead and so nobody really minded.

1275 - Amsterdam founded. However, as marijuana has yet to be imported to Europe and cheaper prostitutes found elsewhere, the attractions of the city were few and they quickly shut it down.



The M25 acting as both a fortress for the city of London against the Great Unwashed of the rest of the UK as well as a convenient measure of which areas of the country in the North and which in the South.

"Not pleased with simply boring your friends? Email hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk and give boring others a go!"

"Want to inflict your lack of literary skill upon the world? Email hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk and give it a go!"

ENGDITORIAL

The Hangman
Hangman Editor



The Boiler – Following the 8% increase in the prices of most energy suppliers, this editor believes we still aren't paying enough for our energy.

Whilst this increase will certainly add a significant amount to our yearly bills, surely the high quality nature of

the power we receive on a daily basis is worth this rise and more.

Indeed, it is this humble writer's opinion that the ~£500 million profits most of the 'Big 8' make simply does not reflect the fantastic services and superiority of their energy.

For sure, these rises may well result in people having to choose between heating and food this winter, but surely there is but one choice. Who's eating baked beans when there is such brilliant energy to be enjoyed?

Have you looked at the gas flames

recently? See how mesmerizingly blue they are? How gently they flicker in a draught? And sockets, they're great. Just think about it, you stick in the plug and get an unceasing, rhythmic alternative current out. This journalist would pay just about every penny he had just for that experience.

This is where our reporter must disagree with our Great Leader Mr Cameron when He says people should just "put on a [fucking] jumper". Take off your jumpers, t-shirts and trousers; whack up the heating; eat your toenails, because this energy's worth it.

Storm Calm, Too Calm

The Hangman
Hangman Editor

Following the numerous alerts and warnings issued for a powerful storm hitting the UK Monday, the MET office was quoted as saying the storm was "suspiciously calm".

"Yes, there were severe disruptions to train services in the south, but when are there not?" said a MET Office spokesperson, before adding, "Surely this can't be all? This storm has other plans." "We're no experts,, but we do have a seventh sense for when a storm's hiding something".

The mysterious storm - for now at least and indeed at most - seems to have quietened down. However, many believe this respite to be only temporary while the storm gathers its cloudy minions. One south coast resident stated that he was "going underground" where "no storm can hurt me".

This reporter for one isn't buying the ease with which the treacherous storm passed over and is readying the Hangman nuclear bunker for an extended sojourn.

Crap Pseudo-Holiday Celebrated With Gusto

The Hangman
Hangman Editor

This Thursday, same as every fucking year, the shitty pseudo-holiday — 'Halloween' — was celebrated. Once again, people dressed up in a variety of frankly crap costumes to celebrate something most know nothing about.

"OMG I'm having a great time" stated one partygoer with unjustified verve. "I really love dressing up as a [shit] mummy and sneaking up on my

[stupid] friends".

The holiday, for which the reasons for its existence are widely unknown, was extensively observed. Indeed, every year this waste-of-a-space festivity attracts thousands of new observants by bribing them with sweets; once again proving how pathetically easy people are to manipulate.

At press time, this reporter was being forced to done a shit cape, slick back their hair and pretend to be a fictional blood-sucking creature. How fucking typical.

Class Of '79 Deals With Their Frustrations In Classic 70s Style

MORE SEX CALL

The Union's Academic Affairs Committee is calling for the Union Office to be turned into a brothel and for an associated studies course in 'sexual affairs'.

In a motion to Council the Committee stated their belief in a direct relationship between sex life and academic attainment. They also proposed the replacing of permanent Union staff by sex advisers.



Seriously, what the fuck does this even mean? If this evokes any kind of holiday-sentiment in you, you're fucking banned from reading Hangman ever again you weird fucker.

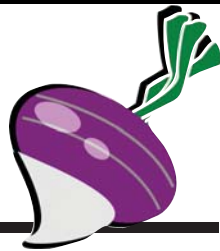


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HANGMAN

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



"NSA Spying Network Not Extensive Enough"

President Orders Review Into Security Agency's Laziness

Saying he was unhappy with the "insufficient" range of spying by the National Security Agency, President Obama has today ordered a review into the extent of its infiltration.

Snowden lamenting the lack of scale and ambition in the USA's spying networks.
Picture Credit: Associated Press



"Are Snowden's figures right?" the President said in a statement, adding, "Were we really only spying on 35 world leaders?"

mood of the Spanish public regarding the intimate details of Obamacare?"

Commenting on the fact that this left 160 heads of states completely unaffected the President added that "How are we supposed to get a feel for their exact opinions and thoughts?"

Edward Snowden, the man who brought the pathetic extent of the US spying network to light stated "I'm just glad I could bring these deficiencies to the fore. I love my country. God Bless America"

"Also, how come we were only tapping 60 million phone calls in Spain?" "There must have been over a billion calls there in the last year alone. How am I supposed to gauge the exact

At press time, it was reported that Vice-President Joe Biden was attempting to make up for the inadequacies of the NSA by dressing incognito and following the Mongolian Premier around.

STACK OF PENNIES JUST WAITING FOR OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO WEIGH YOU DOWN



Cash And Fame Thankfully Still More Important Than Law



Tioté celebrates escaping the law.
Picture Credit: Graham Stuart/AFP/Getty Images

Further reassurance was provided this week that money and fame were far more important to the ruling of law than either the nature of law or any sense of justice when Newcastle United footballer, Cheick Tioté, was let off possessing and using a fake drivers' license.

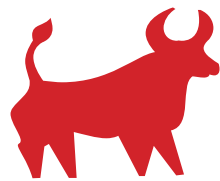
The ruling that Tioté would be given a suspended prison sentence instead of an actual one eased many people's fears that the law would begin to show favour to those without much money or of whom no one had ever heard of.

In the City, the sigh of relief was audible as the many wankers responsible for fiddling the economy and inflicting 5 years of recession felt reassured they would never be found officially guilty.



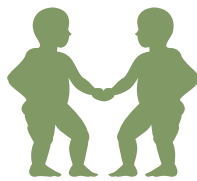
ARIES

This week you buy a pet hamster to keep you company. A few days later you are distressed to find it has escaped, eaten all your lecture notes and run away. It also stole your laptop and sold it on eBay. Damn hamster...



TAURUS

This week you buy a load of straw and build a nest in the library. You become 'Mr Nibbles', the library pet and live on a diet of leftover library muffins and jacket potatoes. You are removed by security for sipping from an abandoned coffee in the corner.



GEMINI

This week you are messing around in BioEng and you accidentally turn all your lecturers into giant hamsters. Sadly, you can't speak hamster, so you fail all your exams. All your friends can and get firsts. Pint?



CANCER

This squeak, a small family of hamsters has nested in your ear. *squeak!* They burrow into your brain, blurring your words and can barely squeak. You try to write an SOS message but *squeak* in the *squeak* desperation *squeak* wait! *squeak* and the pain *squeak!* until *squeak!* *SQUEAK!*



LEO

This week you buy a new pair of socks only to find that they are live hamsters. You are unable to control where they take you and so spend the rest of the week in a hamster strip club. You enjoy yourself and waste your entire student loan.



VIRGO

This week you finish breeding your army of hamsters, ready to attack the Wolfson computing suite so that you can get a computer for once. Your hamstery minions turn on you and eat all your fingers. HOW WILL YOU TYPE NOW? You fail all your exams.



LIBRA

This week you are the only person who can defeat the hamster horde in the Wolfson computing suite. You throw a book directly into the hamster mothership, killing them all. You become known as the hamster killer and everyone hates you.



SCORPIO

This week you go to fivesixeight only to find that the barman is a giant hamster. You know someone that went to a hamster strip club, so you and your friend hit on the barman. He takes you both to his nest and you spend a beautiful night together.



SAGITTARIUS

This week, you are shocked and surprised when you suddenly give birth to a litter of hamsters. This confuses you for two reasons: First, they are hamsters. Second, you thought you were still a virgin. Wow... you and your friend must have had a rough night at fivesixeight.



CAPRICORN

This week you tell your lecturer that he looks like a giant hamster. He thanks you for the compliment and you suddenly start getting full marks in your problem sheets. You are top in the year; nobody else can get full marks as the lecturer always nibbles on the printed notes.



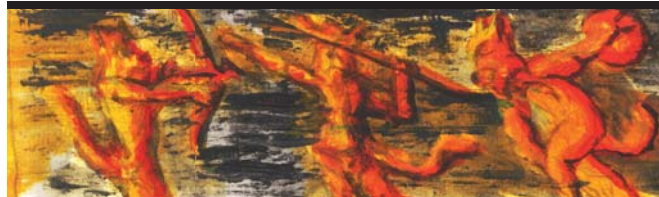
AQUARIUS

This week you order curly fries from fivesixeight, only to be served a plate of straw instead. You wonder if this has anything to do with the new hamster barman, but then you remember that the curly fries were always like this.



PISCES

This week, you must choose between having a living beard of hamsters and having hamsters for hands. On the one hand a beard of hamsters would be sooo fashionable, but they may gnaw on your face a bit, whilst hamster-hands may aid your amateur puppet career but would add a challenging aspect to masturbation.



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SPORT

Imperial has good showing at Spooky Duathlon

Vicky Solli gives her account as Imperial run against "roadkill fox"

On Sunday 27th, six fellow triathletes (plus old boy Sam O'Neil) took to Hyde Park to take part in the Jekyll and Hyde Park Halloween Duathlon. With the clocks going back alarms were tentatively set, not really knowing whether we'd unknowingly cause ourselves to turn up to the race an hour early or not! A crucial race banana was munched and I set off into the rain at 6.30am with nerves and apprehension. With this being my first duathlon I was relieved to be warmly greeted at registration by chairman Ed Hallett (he's doing a great job, by the way) who helped me rack my bike into optimum streamline setup in transition and calmed my nerves.

The course began with a 4.2 km run lap around the serpentine. Then a quick transition onto the bike for a 20.8 km, 8 lap course up and down South Carriage Drive (with nervously wet hairpin bends at each end), and finally a 7.6 km (two laps) run to finish us off. After signing up for the event, I hadn't quite realised how far the distances were, and although my training had been good, it wasn't exactly going to be a sprint!

The aptly named Jekyll and Hyde Park Duathlon, unlike similar races, had a prize for the best fancy dress costume. Brandishing our new sexy awesome trisuits (yes, they have a lion on the back!) we decided to ignore the invitation for fancy dress. But there were some excellent entries including a road kill fox and the fancy dress winner who had come as a devil and even made her bike into some kind of devil-mobile, complete with a trident!

Anyway, after a quick race briefing and reminder to not 'accidentally' walk off with someone else's bike after the race, we started. The clouds parted and the unthinkable happened: the sun came out! Personally, I had a really comfortable first lap run, which was familiar as it's the same as the

Hyde Park Relays women's route (an event run by ICXC in March, everyone should enter), and managed a pretty seamless transition onto the bike, where I felt pretty strong! The bike course was surprisingly fun, especially during my first few laps pretending I was racing with all the supreme men, and had the b-e-a-utiful sound of carbon drifting past me! After managing to count 8 laps correctly, I dismounted Charlie (yes, my bike has a name) and pulled the running shoes back on. Then my legs just seemed to give up, and turned to lead! But true to my style, (not great at sport, but always give it my best shot) I plodded round the two laps to the finish! In reflection I did get a decent time and came 33rd out of the women field.

Having had my birthday recently, I was lucky to get a new Garmin watch (the 910XT) to collect data and stats about my training and races; oh yes, the analysis does get me excited! Thankfully the multisport mode worked, seamlessly changing from one sport to another and it even recorded my transitions. Now I can ponder over graphs and split times to my heart's content, even if I do look like "all the gear but no idea!"

Less about me, we had some great racers out there! Milan Misak had an absolutely awesome race coming 25th over all and proved to the carbon junkies that you can go pretty damn fast on a single speed! Kudos! Aimee Di Marco also put in a great effort after coming back from injury, to come in 8th out of the women. Old boy Sam O'Neill came along, claiming he hadn't done any training since his Iron Man, which I believe was a lie as he came in 30th. Ed Hall (as Mr Hallett was for the day) put in a supreme effort on his nearly all carbon "it only weighs 8 kg" bike, with Marcel Admiraal and Sam Jackson putting in sterling efforts also.

Afterwards we managed to crash the IC Cross Country and Athletics post-Sunday long run breakfast. Cheers to

Matt Douthwaite, the fry up and cups of tea were greatly appreciated! And it meant we got to show off our race t-shirts which it seems are much more practical than medals!

So, fancy a challenge? Like to get stuck in? And maybe are a little bit crazy? Triathlon club is awesome! Some really great people that support and push each other through training,

races and the occasional party night (we are athletes, except on Wednesday nights, of course!) Email triath@imperial.ac.uk to find out more!



IC TRIATHLON



IC TRIATHLON



IC TRIATHLON

Above: Imperial Duathletes pose before the start of the race.

Top: The starting line



Iceland 2013: Imperial Fellwalking Tour Diary

Jack Redvers-Harris
Fellwalker

We all converged on Luton Airport at 5 am for our flight out to Iceland. After checking everyone had brought all the food and tents that they had been given a few days previously, (they had, apart from a couple of tins of sweet corn) we checked in and sat down for our last English breakfast for 10 days. Charlie finally turned up 15 minutes before the flight left - apparently TFL whimsically decided to cancel all his buses.

The 3 hour flight went quickly and soon we had beautiful views of a glacier and the rugged volcanic coastline of Iceland. After passing through passport and customs without an incident we got the bus into the capital, Reykjavik, checked into the hostel and went about exploring the city. We soon found the cheapest supermarket, Bonus, and in the evening the 12 of us sat down for a hearty dinner to prepare us for the week ahead.

The next morning we woke up early to get the 8am bus to Landmannalaugar where the start of the trail was. The bus's tour guide told us we were traveling through the epicentre of an earthquake as well as the reason why there are so many horses in Iceland: "The land is so cheap you can buy a horse, if you have one horse why not 2, and if you have two why not twenty!"

As we drove deeper into Iceland

we went off-road onto the F roads, soon seeing a police super jeep and a group of people raking the side of hill! Several river crossings later we arrived at the collection of huts at Landmannalaugar. We however were camping, and due to the rocky ground we debated the merits of using pegs or rocks to secure the tents down - exciting stuff! After having lunch we headed off on a day walk up the surrounds hills to stretch our leg, and enjoyed a view of the solid lava flows beneath us. The evening was spent relaxing in the warm natural geothermal pool next to the campsite.

Over the next four days we walked as planned from Landmannalaugar to Baser. On the first day on the trail we walked through the lava field and then up and higher. We got our first experience of walking on the fragile Icelandic landscape, were a footstep on moss can easily kill it, and many photos of the plumes of sulphuric gas rising from the ground. The next day saw us climbing over the snowing pass and down to Álftinnusker. There was a democratic mutiny at the campsite, led by Sally, Sarah and Katharina with the group deciding that they would rather stay in the hut away from the biting wind and cold than camp. After being told by the hut warden that we weren't allowed up any mountains due to the closing storm, Charlie and I settled for a brisk run around a nearby lake before too staying in the warm hut. The next two days saw us walking downhill towards Básar. Here the scenery became less snowy and turning into a black desert. We had to wade several rivers, only knee deep but very cold, creating a lot of faff as

people removed their boots to cross. Approaching Básar we walked through the area known as "Almenningar" with crossing the river Þröngá which is glacier-fed but which is widely braided at the crossing point and only knee-deep max. The landscape and vegetation changed rapidly during this section—Birchwood and all kinds of plants emerged, a welcome change to the desert behind us. We met up with Joe, who came bearing gifts of chocolate, cheese and chorizo to liven up our diet.

The next day was a relaxing rest day for those weary from being on their feet all day and enjoyed the bathing pools near the hut and the warming hot chocolate. Meanwhile some of us walked up an exceptionally pointy mountain - walking the furthest and highest we had all trip but thankfully without our heavy rucksacks. The summit had a great view. Our 6th and final day of walking started early with us climbing over 1000m passing between the glaciers "Eyjafjallajökull" and "Mýrdalsjökull" and climbing Iceland's newest hills "Magni" and "Modi". On the way down we passed 23 waterfalls as we approached the finish of the trail at Skogar.

After travelling back to Reykjavik we spent the following day driving around the Golden Circle route seeing the mid-Atlantic ridge in Þingvellir and the Gullfoss waterfall, thanks to our three drivers Sally, Jessi and Joe.

Our final day was spent relaxing in Reykjavik before getting the flight back to England. Many thanks to everyone who came along and I am sure everyone will agree it was an amazing experience.

Brilliant start for Water Polo team in LUSL

Alex Lloyd-Simpson

Water Polo Captain

Following the loss of many excellent players this year, namely ex Team GB vice-captain Adam, we were worried we'd find a team with as much quality and finesse as our old BUCS team this year. Fortunately we did some great work at the Fresher's Fair and managed to recruit several outstanding players, including some girls who were actually familiar with the game, which is rare. Not to mention the guys we got, who certainly know how to handle their balls.

Our first fixture, last week, saw us pitted against UCL's 2nd team, a team we were initially quietly confident we would beat with ease. As it turns out, we didn't have to be quiet about it at all. Final score ending 20-2 (a huge margin for Water Polo) in Imperial's favour saw some well-deserved celebratory drinks in ULU's "Library". This was the first time our team had played together, with many of us not knowing each other's names, it is a testament to how well we can complement and gel with each other as a team. The match itself began with some intimidating synchronised stretching, led by the "nutter" Livio, followed by some half-arsed widths of the pool. We scored immediately from the swim off giving us an early lead. However some dodgy refereeing saw UCL quickly equalise, but that was to be only half of their total goals scored. Imperial soon slotted 18 more passed them, with some cracking shots being flung in from everyone, apart from Stuart. Only thing to really work on was setting up a

decent arc, with most of our goals coming from counter attacks, but most importantly, UCL were easily disposed of.

The next fixture saw us travelling out to St Barts in Shadwell, where Sophie declared she felt at home once again. Upon arrival at the pool, the ladies had to wait to in the changing room whilst the men only swimming session ended, certainly a bizarre situation for all of us. A freezing cold pool meant actually having to do a decent warm up for once. Wasn't really needed that much though as the St Barts players were knackered after only 2 quarters. They also had an illegal sized squad of about 20 players (maximum allowed being 13), almost double our elite 11 we brought along. Still, this didn't help them in the swimming or water polo department. The refereeing was also worse than the first match, something we didn't think possible-one referee was heard saying to a teammate "can you take over, I don't know the rules". Sophie was however kind enough to explain the rules on multiple occasions and even offered to take over refereeing duties at one point - sadly they declined. Again some great goals were scored, this time even Stuart got one, and James (not Edward) showed us all how to properly play Water Polo after a great drive in to pit from the arc, firing the ball past the defenceless goalie. Despite the horrendous rule breakages, we still won 9-1, a commendable victory.

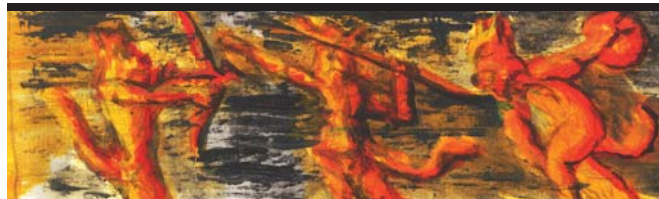
Next on the agenda is our raucous tour to Aachen, Germany this weekend which is pretty much the highlight of the Water Polo social calendar. We look forward to socialising with our German counterparts, and maybe indulging in some Water Polo with them as well.



IC FELLWALKING



ICU WATER POLO



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SPORT

Imperial Thump RUMS in Shenley

James Clarke reports as Imperial's 5th XI football team win comfortably.

Cricket: Imperial lose to UCL

Zain Rizvi

Indoor Cricket Team Member

On Saturday 26th October, Imperial College 1st XI travelled to the University of East London's SportsDock centre to play in the first round of games of the BUCS Indoor Tournament. Our first game was scheduled to be against LSE but our opposition forfeited the game, handing us our first points of the competition. Whilst this was a positive start, it took away the opportunity for vital match practice going into the second fixture of the day, against UCL 1st XI.

Imperial won the toss and elected to field first, in order to gauge an idea of how to approach the run chase, and UCL got off to a relatively quick start, scoring 47 off 4 overs. But, due to a disciplined bowling effort from Mohit Kulkarni, Zain Rizvi and Vinay Babla, UCL were not able to accelerate at the end of the innings, losing their last 3 wickets for 0 runs, and finishing with an average score of 104 off their 10 overs.

During the interval, captain Vignesh Venkateswaran spoke about the need for a sensible approach towards the run chase, as the total was not daunting in any respect. However, Imperial got off to the worst possible start with Vishal Nair being bowled off the first ball of the innings. Imperial then lost incoming batsmen Mohit Kulkarni for 1 and Zain Rizvi (6) soon after that. It then took a captain's effort from Viggy (25) to steady the ship, together with Juhin Patel (19) and soon Imperial needed 35 runs off the last 2 overs, a gettable target given the indoor scoring system, but unfortunately the last wicket fell soon after this, which meant Imperial conceded defeat to UCL by 31 runs. A disappointing result for Imperial, especially given the talent within the team, but we will come back strongly for the next round in late November, hopefully with some more experience under our belt.

Result:

UCL 104-6 beat Imperial 73-6 by 31 runs.



ICUAFC

ICUAFC 5's set off on the long trip to North London on Saturday for a matchup against London rivals RUMS 3's. The team's arrival at Shenley was excitedly received by veteran footballer and long-time IC 5's fan Gianfranco Zola. Unfortunately captain Clarke couldn't fit him into the team in place of the technically superior Deasy, and he was forced to watch from the stands.

A distinctly non-cagey first 10 minutes saw IC getting in behind the RUMS full backs and creating a whole host of chances. A lack of clinical finishing had already caused the 5's downfall in previous games, and nerves began to show as RUMS started to get into the match. With 25 minutes gone, Nicholls flashed a header across the face of goal from a wicked Aguilera in-swinging corner – showing the world that her left foot is miles better than her vocal ability. Minutes later another set piece delivery from Aguilera dropped to Deasy 6 yards out, who fiercely struck the ball towards goal. Unfortunately for him, full back Krol was too busy applying fake tan and considering his latest modelling contract to get out of the way, duly blocking it on the goal line. The loose ball was cleared to the edge of the box where Clarke was lurking to rifle it into the top left hand corner. Despite the 1-0 advantage IC took into the half time break, the team were insistent that the score line was still 0-0. Yet it wasn't long before a Nicholls free kick sent to the back stick was nodded across goal by Clarke and, after pinball in the 6 yard box, tucked past the keeper by late call up Stilwell. Stilwell then turned provider for IC's third, sending a corner high and long where Rowley gambled marvellously at the back stick to fizz home a classy finish on the volley. After his goal line block earlier in the game, Krol had the chance to redeem himself as the ball fell to him a yard out from another menacing corner. Getting his shoulders back and lifting his head are two things that might look good on camera, but

neither of them helped him here as he blazed the ball well over the bar when it was probably easier to score. A brief scare followed this as Klottka and Yeoh's offside trap was broken for the first time by the RUMS centre forward. Having not seen the ball all game, however, his touch was rustier than Grant Holt's treadmill, and the onrushing Haas-Heger efficiently dealt with the danger. Minutes later, another hopeful long ball was cleared again by the German keeper, only for him to collide with the RUMS number 9. Unlike in recent history, it was the German who came out on top as he continued to play on, despite being out by a factor of 4 when asked how many fingers he could see in front of him. The centre forward whose elbow he had aggressively head-butted bizarrely limped off the field despite no clear damage to either leg, and with no remaining substitutes RUMS were forced to play on with 10 men. It wasn't long before their distinct lack of footballing ability was made even more apparent by the missing player, but the ferocious Sang Woo wasn't happy with just the one man advantage as he looked to stamp his impact on the game. Eventually good interplay down the right hand side from the tireless Han and man of the match Aguilera led to substitute Petersen bearing down on goal and slotting the ball home to seal the result. After such a comprehensive and efficient victory, not even the lack of post-match treat could dampen the spirits of the players as they returned, triumphant, to West London.

ICUAFC is sponsored by:



BUCS Home Fixtures

6th November 2013

BADMINTON

MENS 2ND VS QUEEN MARY
13:00
ETHOS

MEN'S 3RD (MEDICS) VS BYE

WOMENS 1ST VS PORTSMOUTH
13:00
ETHOS

MEN'S 1ST VS BRUNEL
TIME TBA
VENUE TNA

BASKETBALL

MEN'S 1ST VS BYE

MENS 2ND (MEDICS) VS BYE

MENS 3RD VS BYE

FENCING

WOMENS 1ST VS CARDIFF
TIME TBA
VENUE TBA

WOMENS 2ND VS SUSSEX
13:00
ETHOS

FOOTBALL

MENS 1ST VS BYE

MENS 2ND (MEDICS) VS BYE

HOCKEY

MENS 3RD VS BYE

MENS 7TH VS BYE

MENS 5TH VS BYE

WOMENS 2ND (MEDICS) VS GREENWICH
TIME TBA
INDIAN GYMKHANA

WOMENS 4TH (MEDICS) VS CHICHESTER
TIME TBA
INDIAN GYMKHANA

MENS 1ST VS CANTERBURY
13:30
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 2ND (MEDICS) VS PORTSMOUTH
15:00
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

WOMENS 3RD VS CHICHESTER
16:30
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 6TH (MEDICS) VS ROEHAMPTON
18:00
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

LACROSSE

MENS 1ST VS LONDON
14:00
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

NETBALL

WOMENS 5TH (MEDICS) VS GREENWICH
TIME TBA
TEDDINGTON SPORTS GROUND

WOMENS 7TH (MEDICS) VS MEDWAY
TIME TBA
TEDDINGTON SPORTS GROUND

WOMENS 1ST (MEDICS) VS BRIGHTON
16:00
ETHOS

WOMENS 9TH VS WEST LONDON
19:00
ETHOS

WOMENS 2ND VS PORTSMOUTH
17:30
ETHOS

RUGBY UNION

MENS 1ST VS KENT
14:00
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 2ND (MEDICS) VS READING
14:00
TEDDINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MEN'S 3RD VS BYE

SQUASH

WOMENS 1ST VS SURREY
14:00
ETHOS

TABLE TENNIS

MENS 1ST VS KCL
17:00
ETHOS

WOMENS 1ST VS MIDDLESEX
16:30
ETHOS

TENNIS

WOMENS 1ST VS SUSSEX
TIME TBA
VENUE TBA

MENS 2ND VS KENT
TIME TBA
VENUE TBA

WATER POLO

MENS 1ST VS BATH
TIME TBA
VENUE TBA



Premier League Predictions

James White

Football Columnist

Cardiff vs Swansea (Sunday 4pm, Sky Sports 1)

David Marshall's heroics in goal have won Cardiff several points so far and the Bluebirds will be hard to break down again, but, without midweek Europa League commitments, Michael Laudrup can galvanise the Swans to earn bragging rights in Wales.

Prediction: 0-1

Everton vs Tottenham (Sunday 1:30pm, Sky Sports 1)

It is remarkable how Roberto Martinez has managed to improve the side he inherited from David Moyes. On a shoestring budget, he has engineered numerous successful summer signings and the Lukaku loan deal was a real coup. Spurs have been solid but not spectacular recently so I am backing a repeat of last year's scoreline here. Back Lukaku to feature on the scoresheet.

Prediction: 2-1

Arsenal vs Liverpool (Saturday 5:30pm, Sky Sports 1)

Offensively, both these sides have been outstanding so far, as reflected by their commanding positions in the league. However, Liverpool are not insurmountable away and have conceded 5 goals in the last 3 matches, while Arsenal lost at home to Dortmund and looked a little vulnerable against Crystal Palace. This should be a fascinating contest and I can't call whether Suarez and Sturridge or Giroud and Ozil will be the difference.

Prediction: 1-1

Newcastle vs Chelsea (Saturday 12:45pm, BT Sport 1)

The Magpies would probably benefit from lining up defensively against Chelsea, who have come out on top in open, expansive games against Norwich and Cardiff recently, as well as in Europe. But their own strengths lie in attack with Remy, Cabaye and Ben Arfa so Alan Pardew has a



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decision to make. In front of 52,000 Geordies, I expect him to play a high line and for Newcastle to be picked off on the break.

Prediction: 1-2

Best of the rest (Saturday 3pm unless stated)

Fulham vs Man United

Craven Cottage is not the easiest place to go, but David Moyes simply cannot afford to drop more points here. It is in defence that United have mostly struggled, so it's just as well that their Crystal Palace win aside, Fulham's own strikeforce has not really clicked into gear.

Prediction: 1-2

Hull City vs Sunderland

The Tigers have been solid at home all season and Gus Poyet has yet to inject the necessary belief in his players to convince me they can add to their solitary point so far.

Prediction: 1-0

Man City vs Norwich

Norwich had 31 shots against Cardiff and have the necessary guile to cause Joe Hart real problems. However, Man City are clearly home bankers and rightly so – no team in the Premier League possesses a more potent attack

if things ever get hairy.

Prediction: 3-1

Stoke vs Southampton

Saints have a fantastic core of Lovren, Fonte, Schneiderlin and Wanyama, which allows them to play a pressing game to great effect, especially away. The Potters showed uncharacteristic flair at Old Trafford but the Britannia is no longer the fortress it once was.

Prediction: 0-1

West Brom vs Crystal Palace

Although Palace showed signs of character and commitment against Arsenal, they still look like a Championship side. Luis Suarez disposed of West Brom last time out but the Baggies are a powerful, attacking side and should have far too much.

Prediction: 2-0

West Ham vs Aston Villa

West Ham have already lost 3 home matches this season and are hard to back with so few fit strikers. Villa perform better away and have Christian Benteke to break down the Hammers defence. They are due a result too.kick-started Swansea's season.

Prediction: 1-0

Imperial Sail Past Brighton

James Cox reports from Harlington



ICURFC

On a windy Wednesday in west London, Imperial 1st XV hosted Brighton at Harlington for their third match of the season. Off the back of a 24-0 win against their inferior university colleagues, IC were brimming with confidence going into this game with a very strong team on paper, only missing centre Mike Floyd (suffering from a bruised shoulder), and albino winger Fred White (busy scouting next year's fresher intake whilst modelling vests in Korea).

In the first half Imperial were playing against the elements, having to stick to a very reserved and mature game plan to prevent Brighton from utilising the conditions. Brighton did apply pressure, but were let down by poor discipline which allowed IC to work their way into the Brighton half. Following a strong maul from the forwards, led well by Irish skipper Mickey O'Connell (from the Gaelic 'Ó Conaill' meaning "bravery of the wolf"), Brighton gave away another penalty allowing James Cox to put the first 3 points on the board with a tough kick.

For the majority of the first half Imperial defended well, with big hits and strong rucking from all members of the team. As Imperial easily absorbed the visitor's pressure it was Brighton who made the first mistake. Cox grabbed another 3 points from the tee. The first half ended at a strong 6-0, Imperial happy with their position considering the conditions.

The second half kicked off with IC keen to make use of the great winds at Harlington, and that they did. Halfbacks Fraser and Cox kept Brighton pinned down, and strong

chases from both wingers (Freshers John 'the man' Mann and Tom 'catch me if you can' Catchpole) gave Brighton's back 3 little chance to return kicks. Following a blatant breach of rucking rules, Imperial 1st XV was awarded another penalty, which Cox put between the uprights. Forced onto the back foot, Brighton suffered a constant barrage of strong runs from both IC centres, Jack Flanagan and Fresher Joe. It was Jack who was first to break through the back line, opting to run through rather than round the Brighton full back before slogging his way over the line with half of the Brighton team hanging on. Cox added the extras.

Imperial continued to dominate as both wingers came up just short of the line, driven on by the loud cheers from the cider fuelled 3rd XV, spectators after a late cancellation to their fixture. The pack grafted all over the pitch, Tom 'little Lion Man' Hedley and Fresher 'Vinegar Dave' both making large contributions to the tackle count. The ferocious hits got the better of the timid pier-dwellers, and with shaking hands Brighton dropped the egg, (Lesson 1: Don't drop the egg!). Cox seized the opportunity and ran in for another 5 points. Normality was finally restored as his conversion went nowhere near the posts to keep the score 21-0.

With the clock running out Imperial gave a last push and ground their way to within 10 metres of the Brighton line. With pressure telling the referee awarded a final penalty in the last play of the game which duly sailed home to leave the score line at 24-0. Congratulations to the 1st XV for a mature and organised game and a solid victory.