

Tinder Trials

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A Yoyo interview

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FELIX



"Keep the Cat Free"



14/02/14
Issue 1568
felixonline.co.uk

CU in Club Election Confusion

Joe Letts
Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday a member of the Imperial College Christian Union's (CU) committee sent an email to all members on their mailing list explaining that in their upcoming society elections only candidates chosen by the current committee would be allowed to run for positions. In the email the committee member explained to members how the vote for next year's committee would take place as a 'yes' or 'no' vote to approve a chosen set of candidates for the committee as a whole. This contravenes the democratic way in which Union elections at all levels are supposed to take place. The email explained the process behind the new committee's selection, stating: "The outgoing committee prayerfully considered everyone we knew held to the aims and objectives of the Christian Union and, using the wisdom of many committees before settling on a team who we felt would be able to set aside time to serve the Christian Union as a whole... And now, you are being asked to consider them prayerfully, raise any concerns you may have, and ultimately vote to confirm them or not as you feel." The email also explained to members why they could not put themselves up for nomination but instead suggesting, "There are many other, in many senses more important, ways to serve - aside from having more time to share the wonderful news of the gospel, we all need to pull together to put on events..."

Felix contacted the CU and asked them for comment about their election process, and after some discussion it was discovered that **continued on page 3 >>**

Imperial and Dyson to launch new Robotics Lab



WIKIMEDIA

Nida Mahmud
News Editor

A new centre that collaborates with Dyson will be launching at Imperial in the Department of Computing, this will be the Dyson Robotics Laboratory.

This will be a £5 million collaboration between Imperial and Dyson, which aims to create computer vision

programs that allows robots to move beyond controlled environments. It is hoped that the technology will enable robots to process visual data taken by cameras and process it in real time.

The Direct of the Dyson centre will be Professor Andrew Davison, from the Department of Computing. He said: "The world could be moving towards a new era where robots for the house and business could be used to make our lives more efficient, cost effective and easier. However, in order to get there we need to develop technologies that free up robots from

the factory floor so that they can be used more effectively in our homes. We aim to attract some of the brightest minds to come and work with us at the centre to make this future a reality."

Sir James Dyson commented that: "My generation believed that the world would be overrun by robots by the year 2014. We have the mechanical and software capabilities, but we still lack understanding - machines that see and think in the way that we do. Mastering this will make our lives easier and lead to previously unthinkable technologies."

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FOOD



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GAMES

GTA -Online

This week Calum takes a look at Grand Theft Auto Online.



COMMENT

Plugholetime

A special edition of our weekly comic "Plugtime"



FILM

Based on a True Story

Peter Brook films that have that little touch of reality.



Felix Sex Survey

The Sex Survey is closing :(If you still want to take part, go to the links below! Come on!



bit.ly/1l2exlo

LOLCAT OF THE WEEK: More from teh Lolcat editor



This week Felix brings you lots of new sections! Enjoy the wonders of the **Environment & Health** section, the **Photo of the Week** and our slightly new **Agony Aunt** (fine, that one's a few issues old).



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NEWS

News from Outside College Walls

Bitcoin tanks again

Nicholas Farmer
 Staff Writer



Cyber-anarchists, crazy libertarians and Winklevii all over the internet are reeling this week from the latest price shock to the Bitcoin world. Trading card turned cyber-currency exchange Mt. Gox announced last Friday that they had ceased to allow Bitcoin transfers to their users, claiming that a security flaw in the Bitcoin protocol itself had allowed some users to fraudulently claim that transfers from Mt. Gox to their own personal wallets had not gone through and receive payment twice.

The internet was quick to jump on this as either a sure sign of the long predicted doom of Bitcoin, or the lame excuses of a company hopelessly ill prepared for their position as a major exchange of the rapidly growing cryptocurrency. Swedish Pirate Party founder Rick Falkvinge wrote, "MtGox' lack of code hygiene and lack of very basic IT release processes led to the MtGox code getting out of sync with the bitcoin protocol itself".

Unfortunately for the Bitcoinerati, this prompted a price drop from around \$800 last Friday to around \$630 this Thursday, a long way from the heady days of December, when Bitcoin was trading at up to \$1200.

Looks like I should have invested in Dogecoin instead.

Facebook widens gender options



Facebook has stated that it will provide a wider range of gender for users to choose from, after consulting with specialist advocacy groups. The additional 50 options include "transsexual", "bi-gender" and "androgynous".

Users will also be able to choose to be referred to as "he, she or they", however initially these will only be available for users of the service that have chosen US English as their language of choice.

BBC

<< continued from page 1

the election process was ratified as part of their constitution by their Management Group (the Social Clubs Committee) last year and as such they believed that the process was legitimate. After further debate and consultation with the Union, the CU released the following statement: "We hadn't realised that the election process for the ICCU committee was in breach of the revamped Union Bye-Laws. We take responsibility for this and apologise to our members and others affected. For many years, ICCU had a constitution which allowed the committee (decided by the outgoing committee) to be ratified as a whole, and this had been approved by the SCC committee. We are very grateful to Yas Edwards (DPCS) and others from the Union who have agreed to work with us as we change our constitution to be in line with the revamped Union Bye-Laws. Elections will be delayed until a new constitution is approved. We would like to thank Felix for bringing this to our attention, and thank the Union for working with us as we go forward."

A spokesperson from the Union also said, "Club, Society & Project Elections are governed by either the Union's Major or Minor Election Regulations depending on circumstances. For an election taking place at an AGM the Minor Elections Regulations must be followed. Complaints and concerns about the conduct of elections will always be investigated. Any breaking of these rules is likely to result in sanctions and the group may be asked to rerun their elections.

... We've met with the Christian Union and gone through the issues with the way their elections currently run. They are currently engaging with us to ensure that their elections this year and in future are run in line with Union rules and procedures. "

Big Elections Timeline

10 Feb: Nominations Open

17-20 Feb: Campaign advice meetings at the Union

2 March 23:59 : Nominations Close

3 March 12:00-13:00: Candidates Revealed 19:00 Manifesto Deadline

6 March: Manifestos Online & Live Hustings

7 March: Manifestos published in Felix 12:00 Voting Opens

14 March 12:00: Voting Closes

Union Big Election Nominations Open!

The nominations for the Union's Big Elections 2014 opened this Monday. These elections determine who will fill key roles at the Union during the 2014-15 academic year.

The roles being contested include 7 full-time roles (Union President, the Union Deputy Presidents, the ICSMSU President and the Felix Editor), Student Trustees, Council Chair, Liberation officers, positions on Constituent Union Committees and positions within departments.

The winners of the 7 full-time positions will take a year out of their studies (or after graduation) to take on the role full-time as a paid position.

All full members of the Union are eligible to stand and vote, however if a student wishes to stand they need to complete the nominations process outlined on the Union website before nominations close on Sunday, 2 March at 23:59.

Voting then opens for a week from Friday, 7 March at noon until noon on Friday, 14 March, after which results will be published and broadcast live.

For more information about the elections visit the Union Elections website at www.imperialcollegeunion.org/elections.

Felix's Big Elections Candidate List

This is a list of names that we have confirmed are running for positions in the Big Elections. The full list of candidates will be revealed at "Your Candidates Revealed" on Monday 3rd March 12:00-13:00, Clore LT, Huxley

President

Pratt, Jonny
 Saha, Plabon

Deputy President (Finance & Services)

Savell, Alex

Felix Editor

Eggl, Maximilian
 Skett, Philippa

RCSU President

Borkhataria, Cécile
 Fernando, Ben

The press must approach candidates in order for them to be mentioned before 3rd close of nominations. Candidates who approach the press before this date will be in breach of campaigning rules.

Sponsored Editorial

Student Discounts At Fresh Hairdressers

70m from South Kensington tube



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Nominations close

2 March

How to stand for a position

- 1 Pick your Position**
Pick the position you want to run for by selecting Positions on the menu in eVoting.
- 2 Click on the Stand button**
Click on the big button on the top right of the webpage and follow the steps.
- 3 Select your Seconder**
If need be, enter the username of someone to support your nomination.

For more information, the election timetable, and information on how to stand, please visit:

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections



Cable and Willetts announce further cuts to English Higher Education Funding



Maciej Matuszewski
News Editor

The government has announced that it will be cutting £946 million from its annual grant to English Higher Education Institutions. In the latest its grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills announced that its final recurrent grant to the sector for the 2014-2015 academic year will be £3.6 billion. This is some £125 million less than the estimate 2014-2015 funding that was announced in last year's grant letter.

In a letter to HEFCE, Business Secretary Vince Cable and Universities Minister David Willetts wrote that "in the context of stretched public finances, it has been necessary to make reductions to the indicative recurrent teaching budget for 14-15" and confirmed that "further recurrent savings will be required in 15-16". Ministers have not dictated in which specific areas these cuts should be made, indicating that it should be up to HEFCE "to take decisions on how you allocate [their] budgets". They have, however, indicated that savings should be made "in ways that protect as far as possible high cost subjects (including STEM), widening participation and small and specialist institutions". Cable and Willetts have also indicated that cuts should be made to the salaries of senior University management figures, saying that they "want to see leaders in the sector exercise much greater restraint as part of continuing to hold down increases".

While the government forecasts that their cuts will be more than compensated by increased tuition fee income and while research funding has been protected there are concerns that the changes will affect the poorest students the worst. In addition to the cuts in the Higher Education grant the Government will be scrapping the Access to Learning Fund and halving the budget for the National Scholarship Programme to £50 million. The Government has indicated that "the new funding system places greater responsibility on institutions to fund access and retention activities, including supporting students in cases of hardship."

"The government will be cutting £946 million from its annual grant..."

Responding to the changes, Shadow Universities Minister Liam Byrne said: "Today's announcement lays bare the black hole ministers have created in student funding. ... The fact that cuts are being targeted at support for the poorest students at university and the skills budget tells you everything you need to know about this government's values and their ambitions for Britain's future."

"I'm glad that months of campaigning and pressure by Labour and others have prevented the government axing the student opportunity fund – but cuts to the lifeline that keeps the poorest students at work and a huge 20% cut to the skills budget risk throwing social

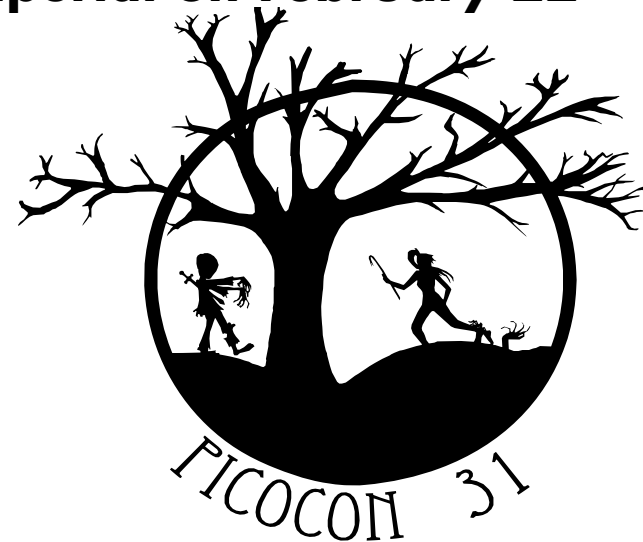
mobility in our country into reverse at the very time we need to earn our way out of the cost of living crisis."

Other responses also voiced similar concerns. Professor Michael Gunn, Chair of the think tank million+ expressed relief that the cuts were not as bad as had been expected. In a statement he said, "This is a victory for common sense although it is still disappointing that the overall grant is being cut. Higher education should be seen as an investment in the future and not a cost to be constantly trimmed. The balance of responsibility for the funding of higher education has already shifted substantially to graduates and there are very good arguments for Britain to emulate our competitors and invest more in both higher education teaching and research."

Professor Sir Christopher Snowden, President of Universities UK – a body representing the leaders of 133 UK Higher Education institutions – indicated that he believed that the Government was undervaluing British universities saying, "Universities are good for the economy, society and individuals. They drive economic growth and innovation, support social mobility and are finding solutions to the major challenges facing our society. Other major economies are investing in their universities, and the UK should be investing to support research and teaching if we want to increase growth and stay globally competitive."

He added, "We are pleased that, as far as possible, high cost subjects (including STEM), widening participation and small and specialist institutions are to be protected but we fail to see how the projected cuts for 2014-15, and the more substantial

Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention returns to Imperial on February 22



Maciej Matuszewski
News Editor

The College is preparing to host top SF and fantasy writers at its annual convention, Picocon. This year award winning authors Sarah Pinborough and Charles Stross will also be joined by Imperial's Professor David Southwood – Chair of the Royal Astronomical Society and patron of the Science Fiction, Fantasy and Gothic Horror Society and currently in its thirty first year, the theme of the convention this time round will be 'Survival'.

Planned activities include a quiz, silly games, tabletop role-playing games and the 'Destruction of Dodgy Merchandise'. The latter is a long held tradition Picocon and often involves liquid nitrogen and large sledgehammers. Guests are encouraged to bring their own contributions to destroy. In addition, there will be stalls selling books and official Picocon T-shirt as well as all day LAN gaming featuring Unreal Tournament 2003 and DEFCON, a game produced by Introversion – a company set up by former Imperial students.

The highlight of the day, however, look set to be the three guests of

honour, who will be giving individual talks as well as participating in a group panel. Sarah Pinborough is a successful horror and fantasy writer best known for her Dog Faced Gods fantastical crime trilogy. Her work has been compared to that of Bentley Little, Richard Laymon and Dean Koontz. She has also been credited as a screenwriter for TV show New Tricks and the upcoming horror film Cracked.

Charles Stross is a hugely popular author whose work often includes speculation on humanity's relationship with computers and technology. He is probably best known for Lovcraftian spy thriller series The Laundry Files and was awarded the 2006 Locus Award for his novel Accelerando.

As well as his work with the Royal Astronomical Society Professor David Southwood is well known for his collaboration with the Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn. He is the former Director of Science and Robotic Exploration at the European Space Agency and often speaks about the relationship between science and speculative fiction.

All are welcome to attend with entry £8 for students, £5 for society members and £10 for others. Doors open at 10am, with registration in Beit Quad, for what promises to be an exciting event, and not just for fans of fantasy and SF.

projected cuts for 2015-16, can be delivered without reducing allocations in these areas. Universities have already shouldered substantial reductions in public funding for both teaching and research in recent years and have made £1.38 billion in efficiency savings already. ... It is right that Government has maintained the science and research ring fence. However, we need a long-term plan to increase research funding above inflation if we are to remain competitive. We already invest too little in research compared with other developed nations."

The grant letter was received more positively by the Russell Group of

elite, research intensive universities, with Director General Dr Wendy Piatt saying: "We are pleased that ministers have maintained their commitment to university research, which is so critically important. HEFCE's funding underpins research excellence in the UK. We also welcome the confirmation of the Government's stated promise to increase funding to universities for teaching high cost science courses, as well as essential funding for teaching capital."

The terms of the grant letter do not apply to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, which have devolved responsibilities for University funding.

NEWS

Editors: **Nida Mahmud, Maciej Matuszewski, Aamna Mohdin**
news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

In Appointments We Trust Interesting points raised at Council

Joe Letts
Editor-in-Chief

During Tuesday's Union Council meeting, one of the tabled papers proposed the ratification of two student trustees who were appointed last term.

The paper outlined the process that was used to vet the 10 candidates that applied for the two vacancies. During the Council meeting it transpired that part of the process involved the Union's Managing Director (a full-time member of staff) selecting a long-list of candidates using criteria (ratified by the Board of Trustees) and phone interviews.

During the meeting, several members of Council raised the point that a student representative would have been a more appropriate person to screen 6 of the candidates before interviews took place.

Additional points were raised by Council members concerning the fact that they were being asked to vote on the ratification of the chosen appointed student trustees without meeting or interviewing them beforehand.

Eventually the paper was passed by Council, ratifying the appointment of John Winters and Tian Wei Chew.

The Board of Trustees is the highest authority in the Union Governance structure and oversees the Union through the Managing Director and the Senior Management Team. The board comprises the five Sabbatical Officers, four student trustees (half of which are appointed by the Trustee Board and Council, and the others are elected during the Big Elections), one Alumni Trustee and four 'external'

or 'lay' trustees, one of which, Professor Dame Julia Higgins (Dept. of Chemical Eng.) is the chair of the Board of Trustees and another two are either an alumnus or a College staff member.

A member of Council told Felix: "It seems to me that the appointment process gives power to a very small number of people, not all of whom are elected by students. The shortlist of 4 was drawn up by a lone member of staff, and the panel to decide the final two Trustee nominations was manned by only two elected union members... Union Council faced a very hard decision, where it had the names of two people... who it had absolutely no information about.

This is neither fair on Union Council, the student population it represents, nor indeed the Student Trustees themselves... These processes need reviewing before any future appointments."

However, last year's Union President Paul Beaumont, an instrumental part of the Union's constitutional reform has supported the process, saying "TB [Trustee Board] has always been (since it was formed) majority students, and majority elected. It still is. The appointed positions are there to allow the Board to recruit expertise to the Board that it is otherwise missing... it would be good to appoint people who have different insights into the university and Union. This is basically the good check-and-balance for getting the Board as "representative" as possible (even though it's not meant to necessarily be a "representative body" – that's Council).

v... It is not an election: The process is specifically a recruitment exercise (to achieve the aims I mentioned above), and thus only the nominated members are presented."

Calls for University of London vice chancellor to stand down

Joe Letts
Editor-in-Chief

There have been a series of unpleasant events related to student protests at the University of London which has resulted in calls for Adrian Smith to resign his position as vice chancellor. The police have been involved in a number of allegations that attacks have been made on protestors.

The University of London branch of the Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain (IWGB) have been building a campaign for outsourced workers to be granted sick pay, holiday pay and pension rights. It is known as "3 cosas", a Spanish term.

A three day strike in January was supported by John McDonnell, MP for Hayes and Harlington, Andy Burnham, MP for Leigh and Islington North MP Jeremy Corbyn.

The University of London Union (ULU), coupled with the IWGB have called for the abolition of the management at the university.

The ULU say, "The people who run our University represent no one, and are elected by no one. Their actions this year has shown them to be cowardly and at odds with everything that academic institutions and communities should stand for."

A spokesperson for the University of London said as long as any protests were peaceful and legitimate that they would happily accommodate them.

The ULU call for the management "to be replaced by democratic processes comprised of and accountable to the University's students, workers and academics."

Rep Week 2.0

17-21 February

Nat Kempston
Deputy President (Education)



Next week is Rep Week, our campaign to ensure all students know about the Academic Representation Network. Every student at Imperial has an Academic Rep who they can contact about teaching, resource, supervision or feedback issues. They're contactable throughout the year, and all students can find out who their Academic Rep is using our Rep A-Z tool on the Union website.

Pop by the Union's Rep Week stall for free sweets, a chance to win a £20 Whole Foods voucher, to give staff your feedback or to nominate someone for a Student Academic Choice Award. There will be fun games and the opportunity to ask any questions you have about Academic Reps. Look out for Academic Reps around College who will be running a number of events.

The Union's Rep Week stall will be running this week:

- Monday 17 February, 12:00 – 14:00, JCR (South Kensington)
- Tuesday 18 February, 12:00 – 14:00, JCR (South Kensington)
- Tuesday 18 February, 12:00 – 14:00, Library (Chelsea & Westminster)
- Thursday 20 February, 12:00 – 14:00, JCR (South Kensington)

There will also be events in your department- so look out for bright red #loveyourrep t-shirts all around campus. Fancy winning one of two £10 iTunes vouchers? Simply submit feedback (good or bad) about your academic experience at Imperial online via the Union's website <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/repweek>, or using Twitter. This competition will run from now until the end of Rep Week. Don't forget to include #loveyourrep in your Tweets and leave contact details if submitting feedback on our website.

The main event of Rep Week is our first ever Rep Conference on Wednesday 19 February. It will be themed around "What is excellence" this free half-day event will bring together Academic Representatives and College staff to discuss the future of staff-student interaction at Imperial College London. Delegates will hear keynote speeches from senior College and Union staff, as well as some guest speakers. For more information and to register visit our website: www.imperialcollegeunion.org/repconference

And finally- don't forget to fill in the National Student Survey if you're a final year Undergraduate or the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey if you're Masters student!



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FEATURES



Tinder-tine's Day?

Aislinn Hayes

Staff Writer



It's that time of year again – Valentine's day. For me, it's usually spent eating pizza, watching films, and drinking cheap cava, which on any other day would be perfectly acceptable behaviour (right?) but on this particular one comes across as a bit sad. Therefore, as Felix's resident perennial singleton, I volunteered to test-drive the app of the moment, Tinder, admittedly fuelled more by a morbid curiosity than anything. Online dating is a thing now I guess – who knew?

The initial set up was fairly easy; once you've downloaded the app, you login with your Facebook details to set up your profile. My profile consisted of four of my most recent Facebook profile pictures (see left). To be honest, if I was editing my profile I would probably choose some more flattering/Instagram-engineered snaps, but regrettably these actually reflect my personality fairly accurately. Form an orderly queue, gents.

There are a few logistical issues when you start out. Worryingly for me, the age settings were automatically set to show men from aged 18 to 50. I didn't actually figure this out until after I started swiping, or rather, accidentally approving matches when trying to view their photos. (Note: If you do get matched with a no-no, there's a block function to stop them from messaging you.) I changed it to 21 to 26, i.e. one year younger than me up to my brother's age. Sorry bro.

The distance was initially set up to 60 km, which I changed to 5km. Setting it to more than twenty minutes away or so seems to me a bit counterintuitive, but if you restrict it too much you increase your chances of running into people that you know on it. With the amount of people in London that's not really so much of a problem, but I'd imagine that when I go back home to rural Ireland I'll have a swell time running across my primary school classmates or, heaven forbid, a cousin or two.

There is also the question of social

etiquette. What happens when you actually do find someone you know? I've come across course mates and people from halls that I haven't spoken to in about 3 years. And it hasn't happened yet for me, but what on earth do you do when you happen across an ex? Clearly, deciding if you still "would" is different when you actually know the person, and while the mature thing to do is simply let be and swipe left every time, who doesn't want to know if you "would" even if I "wouldn't"?

Allow me to tentatively introduce the "courtesy swipe". (Whether or not it leads to the "courtesy shag" is entirely up to you.) I used the courtesy swipe for good friends that I know wouldn't take it seriously, and to test the memory of some old acquaintances. Let me assure you that if I actually did get a cousin, the courtesy swipe would not extend that far.

My most awkward experiences so far have been running across a friend's boyfriend, and one of my good friend's brothers. I'm also quite judgemental when it comes to mutual friends and shared interests – yes, I'm allowed to like crap TV, but I'm afraid that you're not.

Here are some real life examples from my Tinder-tastic few day, with left for no and right for yes:

"Looking for a fun time no strings attached" – I feel like this is unnecessary to specify on Tinder. Left.

A topless photo with a description of "I hate girls that sleep with me on the first date :(". Funny, but the topless photo is overkill. Left.

Anyone Imperial – Lord no, we've got Metric for that kind of thing. Left left left.

Artificially aged photo – erm. Interesting approach, thanks for showing me a future I never thought possible. Left.

"I've got a bunk bed" – Sold. Right. A dog in your picture? Right, every time.

I also spoke to a few who already own and frequent the app. One friend has been on Tinder for about 3 weeks now, and got it because "hanging out at the Union and with other students the boys I was getting with were getting younger than me and I didn't like it!" Her instant "no"s include: cartoon first pictures, big group lad shots ("the

number of times I've gone to the first picture and been like 'please be the tall dark haired one' flick to next picture 'oh god you're the short balding one with the lazy eye"), pictures with kids ("I don't want to be someone's stepmum"), polo necks, 'Essex' slicked back hair and undercuts, pictures with their cars/motorbikes, gang signs/the finger, fat or balding, bodybuilders, wrestling/MMA etc. (there's a surprising number of them), spelling mistakes or things like MALIA '13 in their descriptions.

She says she's had two successful dates (sans hookup) with the possibility of meeting up again, but another date turned out to be much shorter than her: "I now understand why a lot of guys post their height in their descriptions- it is obviously a hazard of Tinder- the short guys can hide!" According to her, the "weirdos" come out on Friday or Saturday nights. She was kind enough to share with us a prime example:

Guy no.1 (had pictures of him playing rugby)

Her: What position do you play? Btw I support Wales, if that's going to be a problem we should probably quit now

Him: Where's your world cup?

Her: Yours is dusty

Him: Well that's ok I'll be good at dusting it off after I've dusted off your vagina.

She subsequently laughed, then cringed, and then took offence to him calling her vagina dusty, and blocked the poor chap. Simultaneously labelling her vagina as dry, dirty, and vacant? Well done sir.

The results: how did I actually get on? Well, I've had the app for a grand total of 3 days, with 27 matches, 5 uninitiated conversations, and 0 real-life interactions, for lack of a better word. The numbers are pretty solid, and if you're running dry this Valentine's Day, Tinder is a good way to liven up your love life. And let's be honest, with the demise of Flappy Bird, swiping is as a good a way as any to pass time in lectures anyway.

So will Tinder's place in my phone live to see another day? I'm undecided. But in the meantime, keep swiping boys.

Felix's Top Chat Up Line Lyrics

It must be Love, Love, Love
It Must Be Love – Madness

Hey girl, you look good, I want you to know that would – do you, frequently. Like riding my hog, it's nothing to me.

We Need Love – The Lonely Island

Yeah I like you, yeah I like you, and I feel wahoo, wahoo.

Bohemian Live You – The Dandy Warhols

Come here rude boy, is you big enough?

Rude Boy – Rihanna

If I move this could die, if eyes move this could die, I want you...to take me out!

Take Me Out - Franz Ferdinand

Show me your genitalia.

Show Me Your Genitals – Jon LaJoie

If there's a bustle in your hedgerow, don't be alarmed now, It's just a spring clean for the May queen.

Stairway to Heaven – Led Zeppelin

Have you ever had sex with a Pharaoh?

Monster - Kanye West

I wanna be whatever is your favorite place.

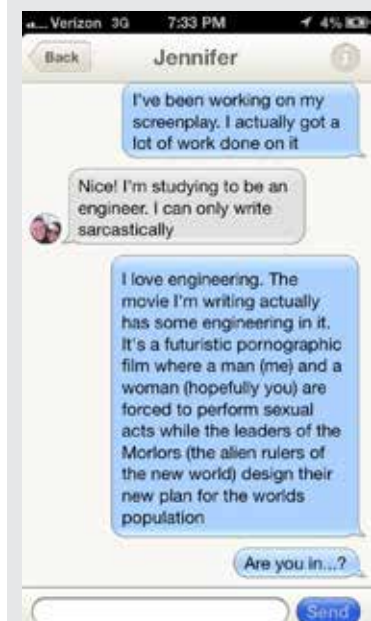
I Wanna Be – Avant

I'm down like this economy.

Down - Jay Sean ft. Lil Wayne

Don't like his baggy jeans but I like what's underneath 'em.

American Boy – Estelle



@TINDER_SHOTS

Not the best way to go about meeting up, unless they're an engineer...



Got a secret crush or someone you wish you'd right-swiped on Tinder? Send your lonely hearts ads & Valentines to Felix or tweet them to us to get a retweet to a potential partner or a space in Catnip!

FEATURES

Editor: **Shiladitya Ghosh**
felix@imperial.ac.uk



The EngD: Dr. Who?

Richard Howard
Research Engineer &
EngD Candidate

Open to large swathes of scientists and engineers, the EngD (Engineering Doctorate) is a doctoral program, which is a seldom known career path to many of its potential applicants. Merging the academic with the practical, it is a fulfilling way to apply the piles of knowledge that you have accumulated over your undergraduate years to real world problems.

Created in 1992 the EngD is a cross-disciplinary four-year engineering doctorate whereby the objectives are partially set by an industrial partner. Therefore the outcome of your thesis is solidly rooted in industry and, more importantly, reality.

The UK has a well-documented shortage of engineers, and not boiler 'engineers' and the like, proper visionary engineers; hence the EngD was created accordingly to address

this issue, with a pay grade to match (more on that shortly).

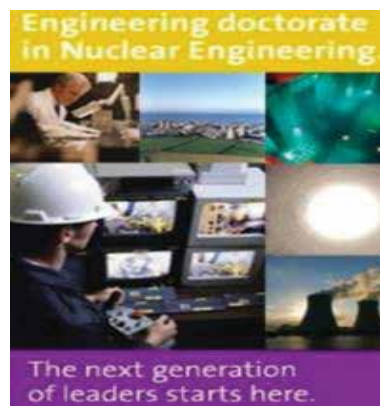
Many companies from a wide range of industries have signed up to the scheme and, by virtue of that fact, a range of expertise is needed. There is a UK wide network of industrial doctoral centres all of which focus on future technologies and industries from advanced manufacturing and materials to digital entertainment and information systems. Thus the doctoral students become experts in a key industry that will be relevant for many years to come.

The remit of the doctorate is also to train future business leaders in these areas as well as furnishing them with technical expertise. For example, the UK's renewed interest in nuclear power underscores the need for a new generation of nuclear engineers and since there is a dearth in nuclear experts (of all types) the current cohort of EngD nuclear engineers will be the ones running the industry in the future.

Importantly, the scheme is NOT just for engineers, scientists are actively encouraged, for example, my own

background is in Physics.

Many of the world's future inventions will require a deep understanding of physical principles and natural laws, consequently forward thinking scientists are perfectly positioned.



If you like big shiny explosions...
WWW.UKERC.AC.UK

Personally the immediacy of the problems put forth by my industrial sponsor is one of the critical factors that drew me to the program, and it is for this exact reason why I didn't pursue a PhD in Physics.

In fact I'm working with the non-

destructive evaluation group in the mechanical engineering department, which requires the application of different areas of science and engineering to find new and improved ways of testing materials.

If you are looking for a career in a particular industry, or at particular company, then an EngD can easily be far more than a foot in the door; more like a whole leg! You'll work closely with your sponsor's researchers and will make a raft of contacts, setting you up nicely.

Finally, when it comes to pay there should be no beating around the bush; an EngD candidate gets one of the highest academic postgraduate stipends available (£15000 (+£2000 in London) and top up from the sponsor of £3000-7000, all tax free).

This is the way it should be, treating you like a graduate research engineer with a pay scale to match. Furthermore it means that when your Goldman Sachs and UBS friends decide to go for a £5 pint, in a bar atop a skyscraper, you are able to much less begrudgingly join them and can more than comfortably jostle to pay the tab.

If you want to find out more about the EngD doctorate the best place to start is the Association of Engineering Doctorates' website: www.aengd.org.uk

Editor's Note: To find out what Imperial has to offer regarding EngD courses, you can check out <https://workspace.imperial.ac.uk/registry/Public/Procedures%20and%20Regulations/Regulations/Academic%20Regulations%202010-11/EngD.pdf>

Currently, 3 EngD courses are offered by the College - Non Destructive Evaluation (which the writer is currently enrolled in), Nuclear Engineering, and Water Engineering.

All of them have a prerequisite of a minimum of Second Class (Hons) in your undergraduate degree, last for 4 years, and also qualify you to receive the Diploma of the Imperial College upon completion of your EngD degree.

If you feel your MSci or BEng isn't doing enough & want to slave away for another 4 years, do consider doing an EngD instead of the traditional PhD.

I'm SINGLE. What should I do today?

Ano Nymous
Anti-Love Guru

Today, for all intents and purposes, is Friday the 14th of February, 2014 A.D. Many people are divided over embracing a modern fad called St. Valentine's Day, with those favoured by Cupid's Arrows largely choosing to play along and pander to the irrational significance attributed to this day, while those (un)lucky enough to have been missed often grumbling sorely about how it's all a money-making conspiracy instituted by the American floral industry making fine fools of all of us and even finer fools of those whom we desire to impress.

At Imperial College, with a student community dominated by men with heterosexual preferences, there is the inevitable, sudden, and (un)welcome abundance of partner-less students not knowing what to do with themselves while their happily ensnared attached buddies enjoy the day and night away in bliss.

Some may grovel, some may stoically act like it's no big deal to them, and some may rain on everyone else's parades. And that's entirely their business, good day to them.

However, what if I told you...that it's possible to feel good today even while being single, and without the



Sharing with the needy is a greater love than what you might experience today

ENDLESSLIGHTANDLOVE.COM

use of drugs, weed, or having an exam cancelled?

Regardless of the origin of the occasion 'celebrated' today, there is no denying the spirit of love, compassion, and gratitude that abounds in the ether surrounding us for these 24 hours. Don't fight the feeling; let it flow through you.

There are many ways you can (and really should) partake of the day's mood which will not only earn you good karma and lots of brownie points, but will also make all those who

might've mocked your relationship status feel compelled to admire how you worked around it.

One possibility is to go hang out with those of your friends whose lives aren't going too well, be it adjusting to student life, having financial/family problems, insecurity issues, or having just broken up. Bake them some cookies. Grab a coffee with them. Just pop by their place to say hello. Brighten up their day and remind them that life isn't so bad after all.

You wouldn't be displaying any

insincere romantic feelings for them. You would just be showing them some love from one human being to another, which even the most pessimistic of us can't deny is a welcome change on such a day.

If you're half-decent with your vocal cords and slightly better on another musical instrument (yes, by the way – our vocal cords are actually considered as a musical instrument), contemplate busking in/around college, and take song requests from both singles, couples, more-than-friends, and

friends-with-benefits.

So this year no one decided to make your day, but that shouldn't stop you from helping make everyone else's day instead, should it? Who knows, you might even impress someone so much that you could just put down that guitar and walk off into the sunset, hand in hand...

If you are better at chatting than singing, perhaps give talking to the homeless/beggarly people around London a shot? On this cold and cruel Friday, people are busy going about their lives planning how to best show their affection to their loved ones, but there are a bunch of people neglected whom nobody is around to, or even seems to want to care about.

Go squat with them for a few minutes and talk to them from the heart. Be genuinely interested in their lives and see what you can learn from them. Drop them a few coppers. Buy them a cuppa, maybe. You could do this for the elderly residing in nursing homes.

There are many other possibilities. You could volunteer and spend time with special needs children somewhere. You could show nature some love and help de-weed an estate or maintain a flowerbed. You could write for Felix.

Your happiness is in your hands. Don't let it be taken from you; share it freely with those who are lacking. Happy St. Valentine's Day!

Union Page

Next week is Rep Week!



Next week is Rep Week, our campaign to ensure all students know about the Academic Representation Network. Every student at Imperial has an Academic Rep who they can contact about teaching, resource, supervision or feedback issues. They're contactable throughout the year, and all students can find out who their Academic Rep is using our Rep A-Z tool on the Union website.

Pop by the Union's Rep Week stall for free sweets, a chance to win a £20 Whole Foods voucher, to give staff your feedback or to nominate someone for a Student Academic Choice Award. There'll be fun games and the opportunity to ask any questions you have about Academic Reps. Look out for Academic Reps around College who will be running a number of events. The Union's Rep Week stall will be running on:

- ▲ Monday 17 February, 12:00 – 14:00, JCR (South Kensington)
- ▲ Tuesday 18 February, 12:00 – 14:00, JCR (South Kensington)
- ▲ Tuesday 18 February, 12:00 – 14:00, Library (Chelsea & Westminster)
- ▲ Thursday 20 February, 12:00 – 14:00, JCR (South Kensington)
- ▲ Friday 21 February, 12:00 – 13:00, JCR (South Kensington)

Fancy winning one of two £10 iTunes vouchers? Simply submit feedback (good or bad) about your academic experience at Imperial online via the Union website, or using Twitter. This competition will run from now until the end of Rep Week. Don't forget to include #loveyourrep in your tweets and leave contact details if submitting feedback on our website.

Do a good deed



Student Volunteering Week (SVW) is a nationwide celebration of student volunteering. Now in its 13th year, SVW brings together organisations from all sectors to promote and celebrate the volunteering efforts of students across the Universities and Colleges in the UK. SVW 2014 takes place from 24 February to 2 March, and we're running the following activities:

- ▲ **Good Deed Day – win a good deed!** Monday 24 February, 12:00 – 14:00, The Queens Lawn
- ▲ **Mass Volunteering: London Wildlife Trust** Wednesday 26 February, 12:30 – 17:30
- ▲ **Volunteer Information Stand** Monday 24, Tuesday 25 & Thursday 27 February, 12:00 – 14:00, Level 1 & 2 Sherfield building
- ▲ **Charity Shop Good Deeds** Wednesday 26 February, 12:30 – 17:30
- ▲ **Brompton Cemetery Clean Up** Thursday 27 February, 10:00 – 12:30

For more information about the events, find them online at imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on. For more information about Student Volunteering Week, visit imperialhub.org/svw.

imperialcollegeunion.org/volunteering

Varsity 2014

Imperial's biggest sporting event of the year, Varsity, has been set for 12 March 2014!

Match tickets for the JPR Williams Cup will be FREE for Imperial students. Travel tickets will be available to participants and spectators this year and will be on sale together with the match tickets from Wednesday 22 January.

This year's Varsity will involve matches in 11 different sports between Imperial College and Imperial Medical teams. Last year, Imperial College were the overall competition winners and also retained their JPR Williams Cup victory for the second time. The event's 12th year is set to renew a strong rivalry and attract even larger crowds! Find out more information on our website.

imperialcollegeunion.org/varsity

What is
Excellence ?
Students' views on Imperial's future

Book your place
on our first Rep
Conference on
19 February

To register or find out
more, please visit
imperialcollegeunion.org/reconference.

**STUDENT
ACADEMIC CHOICE
AWARDS**

**Nominations close
Friday 28 February**

Eight awards in total will cover all faculties, departments and campuses, as well as all modes of study – Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate and Doctoral Research. Every student at Imperial will have the chance to recognise the innovation, skill, engagement and energy of the staff they learn with. Nominate as many people as you like in as many categories as you like – if your nominee is shortlisted, you may win a free invite to the SACAs Award Ceremony on Thursday 15 May!

imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas



Something else worth swallowing

Christopher Yates talks about the new drug touted as a female viagra

Dubbed 'Female Viagra', the drug Lady Prelox has gone on sale in the UK this week, marketed as being 'clinically proven' to improve female sexual dysfunction. Whether or not it works is another matter.

Despite the marketing, Lady Prelox is not related to Viagra, but is a new version of Prelox, a combination of L-arginine and a pine bark extract called pycnogenol. Prelox has been used to treat erectile dysfunction (ED) and has shown some effectiveness.

The main differences between the male and female version of Prelox are a lower dose of L-arginine and the colour of the pills – in a stunning display of gender stereotyping, Lady Prelox is pink and Prelox is blue.

Blood flow to the penis is the driving force behind an erection. To increase flow, blood vessels within the penis dilate, allowing more blood in. This vasodilatation is due to the action of nitric oxide (NO), which is produced from L-arginine. Viagra works downstream of NO by blocking the effects of an enzyme that switches off the pathway turned on by NO.

L-arginine supplements have been shown to improve the symptoms of ED, but in a weak and highly dose-dependent way. Assuming vasodilatation is important for female sexual function, the lower dose present in Lady Prelox (200 mg versus

700 mg) could render it less effective.

The other ingredient in Prelox, pycnogenol, stimulates e-NOS, the enzyme responsible for producing NO from L-arginine. This leads to a synergistic effect between the two ingredients, with pycnogenol increasing the activity of e-NOS and the L-arginine giving the enzyme the substrate it needs. In a very small (21 people) clinical trial, there is an improvement in male sexual function compared to placebo, measured by responses to a questionnaire.

Unfortunately, this trial and all others investigating the effects of Prelox on ED have been small in size (under 50 patients). Some of the trials did not compare the effects of Prelox to anything else, meaning the improvement could simply be thanks to the placebo effect.

In a clinical trial of Lady Prelox on 100 women aged 37-45, all patients were given a management plan, consisting of changes to lifestyle, diet, exercise and stress control. Half the women were also given Lady Prelox. Both groups showed increased sexual function, with a larger increase in the group taking Prelox. As the control group were not given anything in place of Prelox, this difference could once again simply be down to the placebo effect.

Another trial, on post-menopausal women, gave an improvement in sexual function compared to placebo.

However, this trial was only single-blind, meaning that whilst the patients did not know which treatment they were getting, the doctors running the trial did.

Not only that, but unlike the causes of male ED, the causes of female sexual dysfunction are unclear.

Whilst there is an increase in genital blood flow during arousal, whether improving this flow leads to an improvement in sexual function is not known.

If sexual dysfunction is psychological, improving blood flow will not help. Prelox, like Viagra, requires the user to be aroused and so as Dr Graham Jackson, chairman of the Sexual Advice Association, told the Daily Mail, "if you're not turned on



STATIC2.STUFF.CO.NZ

by your partner, no amount of tablets will help."

The results of the trials of this supplement have been covered in the Daily Mail, the Telegraph, and on websites around the world. As with many science articles in the news, there is an acceptance of the results of the clinical trials without critically appraising the methods. This problem is by no means unique to this pill or these articles, which do point out

that the biology behind female sexual dysfunction is still unclear.

Overall, this supplement seems to be a weaker, pink version of a pill that may help treat erectile dysfunction, being marketed to treat something with an unknown biological basis in women based on two small, unreliable clinical trials. If you'd like some, it costs £37.95 for a month's supply, and get in touch with Felix Science, as we would love to hear all about it.

Bouncing back: new research supports rebound sex

Keir Little
Science Editor

It's official: the popular belief that people who have been dumped are more likely to have "rebound" sex is true, at least among students.

Lynne Cooper and Lindsey Barber at the University of Missouri followed the lives of 170 undergraduates who had recently been through a break-up, asking them to keep a diary of their feelings, sexual experiences and motivations over a period of twelve weeks.

They found that within four weeks of the break-up, one third of participants had sex, with 35% claiming it was to get over their previous relationship

and 25% claiming it was a form of revenge.

Though there are many common perceptions about rebound sex – with tomorrow, the day after Valentine's Day, being considered "rebound day" according to Urban Dictionary – there had been scant previous research into this behaviour.

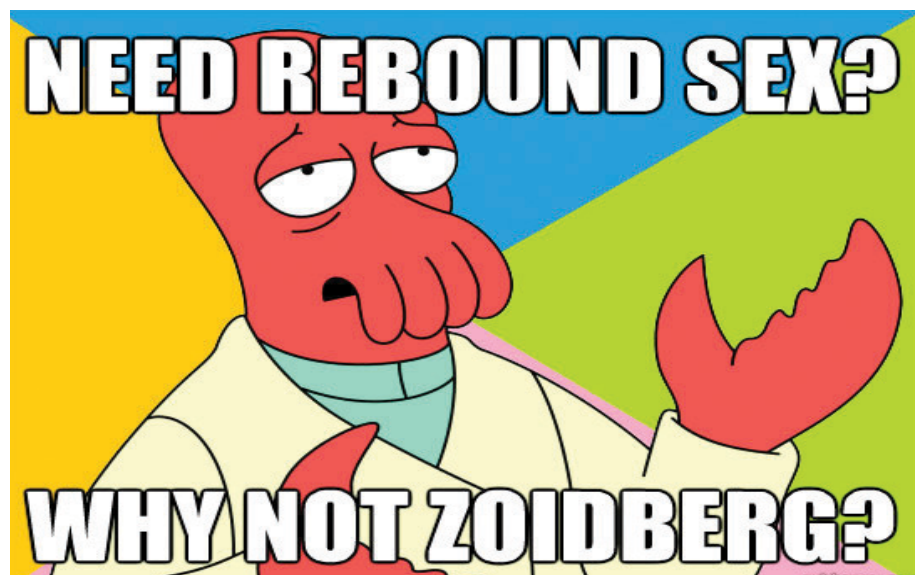
The study also found that people who had been dumped were more likely to have sex than those who initiated the break-up, and more commonly said that they used sex as a coping mechanism. These people also suffered more distress. "People really do use sex as a way to get over or get back at their ex-partner in the aftermath of a breakup," said Lynne Cooper.

The frequency of rebound sex levelled off over time: five months after the break-up, dumped participants

were no more likely to use sex to cope than their former partner; however, those who did have sex as a coping mechanism immediately after the break-up were more likely to have sex with strangers for a longer period.

The study claims that "people are more likely to have sex for a variety of maladaptive reasons in the aftermath of a romantic relationship breakup especially if they were "dumped" or were in a highly committed or long-standing relationship."

"[This] data provides clear support for common rebound lore, suggesting that people do indeed use sex in the aftermath of a



The preferred option for some females rebounding at Imperial

IMGUR

breakup to help them cope with their feelings of distress and to get over or

get back at their ex-partners."

DOI: 10.1007/s10508-013-0200-3



Sex, Robots and Rock & Roll

Will Hunter discusses the new robots that can feel human emotions

A recent advancement by scientists at Lincoln University shows positive signs of developing robots that can help humans to build and establish longer-term emotional relationships with them. And in doing so, may also overcome certain thought-biases established in the human psyche. With the ability to express five simple emotions, this new technology could see our reaction to humanoid robotics possibly shift from revulsion to attraction.

ERWIN (Emotional Robot with Intelligent Network) the robot is the latest venture in civilization's obsession with developing increasingly humanlike robots. By applying a set of "cognitive biases" (a series simplistic personality traits) the team have managed to give ERWIN a set of characteristics deemed 'human'.

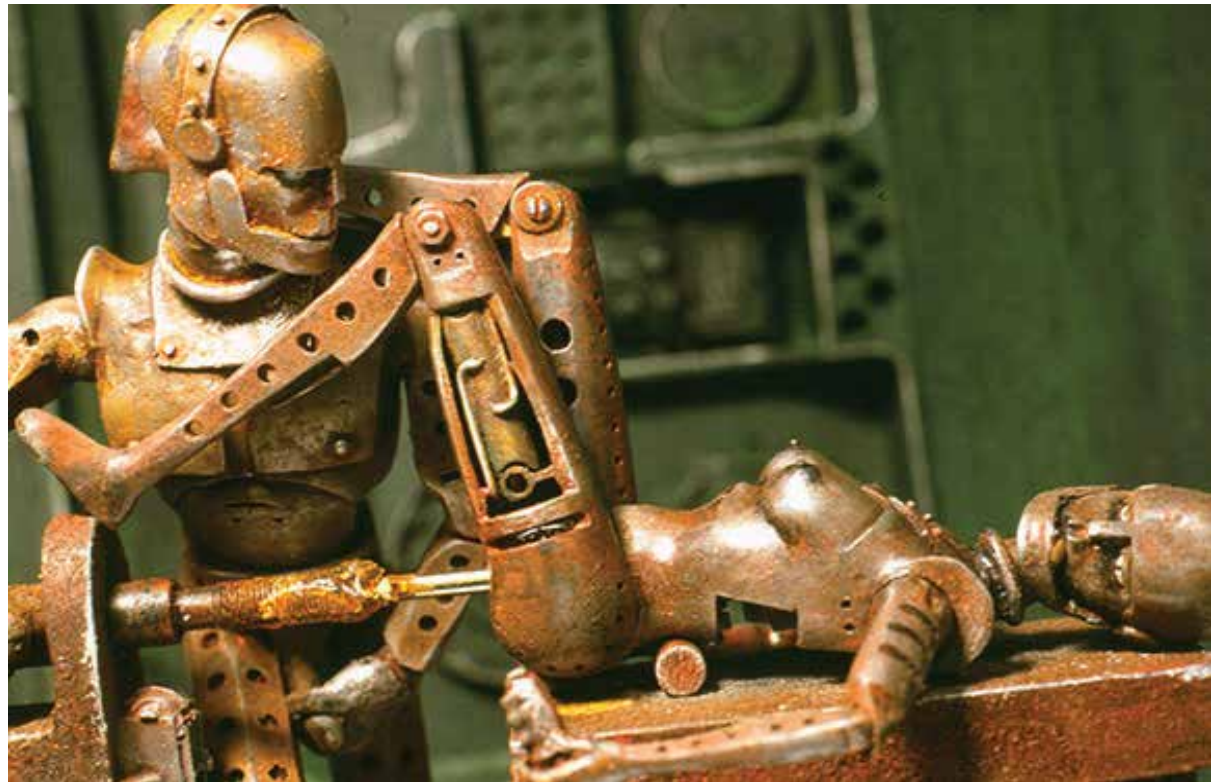
PhD student, Mriganka Biswas, explains that personality – quite obviously – has a huge influence on the way in which we develop human-to-human relationships with each other. Implanting a similar set of characteristics to ours, into robots should hopefully have the same effects on human-to-robot relationships.

The researchers hope that not only will their work help to build better and more realistic relationships between humans and companion robots (those used by the elderly or disabled for support), but also help psychologists to better understand how relationships are formed by children who suffer from autism and Asperger's syndrome.

With this being the Science Sex issue however, we're not interested in these quite sweet, extremely promising applications. Instead we want to explore whether there might be further, more sordid use for this technology.

Could we see this relatively innocent and revolutionary technology being high-jacked by those contributing to the development of sex bots or other technologies shown to be popular in the otaku communities of Japan?

Back in November all it took for designers to bring sexual gratification by robots to the male masses was an immersive headset, some pretty graphic Hentai animations and a rather substantial looking flesh light. The romantics among us will agree that there is one thing missing from this scenario. They've certainly mimicked the physical aspects of a



Has science gone too far?

BBSIMG.NGFILES.COM

sexual relationship but where are the emotional connections?

A happy ending requires far more than just a couple of pneumatic fist pumps and a bit of gentle monotone

moaning.

Most will argue that building a romantic and responsive relationship with your partner leads to a far more important and gratifying experience

between the sheets. Now that we're taking steps towards building robots that can express and perceive emotion can we think about making the sex bot fantasy, a reality?

Does Science turn YOU on?

Let us know!

Email us at - science.felix@ic.ac.uk

...and we can help relieve that tension





Come one, come all: the female orgasm

Philippa Skett explains the biology behind the Big O

Look kid, it's up to you...the big L, or the big O?"

These hallowed words were immortalised through the cinematic legacy of *American Pie* back in the glorious 90's. Uttered by Natasha Lyonne, she outlined that the alternative to telling a girl you love her is simply to deliver a mind blowing orgasm.

The pressure exerted by the extreme commercialisation of Valentine's Day today may lead you into thinking this is a decision you must make too, perhaps some time this evening whilst in the dark depths of *Metric*. Did Shakespeare not put it as eloquently simple as "To cum or not to cum?"

However, a lot of questions still surround the female orgasm. Does it even exist? Is it correct to say the clitoris is truly God's bribe for childbirth? Isn't the G-Spot some sort of nightclub? The adjective most associated with the female orgasm is "elusive," confining it to a state of uncertainty akin to a bus turning up on time, or that apparent last computer on the fourth floor of the library.

However, the female orgasm is a very real, and very emotive phenomenon. It is recognisable by muscular contractions throughout the pelvis, a giant wave of hormonal release throughout the body, a change in brain function, and the potential for breakfast to be brought to you in bed the next morning, if all goes to plan.

But just how does a female orgasm? Orgasm in females is generally achieved by clitoral stimulation, or sometimes (but rarely) via direct vaginal stimulation. The entirety of the clitoris is actually shaped like a

sort of wishbone, which mostly hangs internally like an odd muscular curtain around each side of the vaginal walls. The external protrusion, known as the glans but usually just referred to as the clitoris itself, contains over 8,000 nerve endings, and is the homologous equivalent to the head of the penis.

Upon arousal, the glans doubles in diameter as it fills with blood, and, as stimulation continues, other tissues throughout the entirety of the genitalia fill with blood too, in a process called vasocongestion. Muscles contract and compress a vein within the clitoris, so blood can no longer drain out of the tissues at all, but simply continues to build up. Think of this as a far more superior female boner that won't require hiding under a baggy hoodie should it rear its head, as all this is going on internally and out of sight.

Increased vasocongestion finally sets off a muscular reflex – the blood that was trapped in the surrounding tissues of the clitoris is finally expelled with some force by other muscles including those surrounding the vagina and uterus, leading to the characteristic, climatic contractions of the female orgasm.

Unfortunately, scientists are still unsure what physiological link there is to the female orgasm and her proclaiming religious outbursts, grabbing bed sheets or even pulling hair from her partners head, as research into the female orgasm is still very much in its infancy. One surprising dysfunction among scientists is the understanding of the "G-Spot," for example. The Grafenberg spot- named after a German gynaecologist in the 1950s is a considered to be a small area of the vagina that some say feels



WIKIMEDIA FOUNDATION

If this is what comes to mind when someone says "G-Spot", then read on my friend

like a walnut, whilst others remark that it feels like the slightly bumpy head of a bald man.

The existence of the G-Spot is actually yet to be scientifically proven, but research has discovered some potential physiological evidence of it using ultrasound; those that experience vaginal orgasms (without clitoral stimulation) have been found to have a thicker anterior vaginal wall, possibly due to the presence of the infamous G-Spot. It is thought

to contain a large number of nerve endings too, and vaginal stimulation of this area is reported to result in more intense orgasms than clitoral stimulus alone.

However, with one study reporting that as many as 80% of women are unable to climax with vaginal stimulation, and yet another showing that even some identical twins experience differences when it comes to such stimulation, the G-Spot is unreliable at best at packing that punch. When push comes to shove, or rather flick comes to lick, clitoral stimulation may prove better than probing for a spot that may not even exist.

But why do females even orgasm at all? A debate currently rages between evolutionary biologists as to whether or not the female orgasm is an advantageous adaptation for reproduction. Some argue that orgasms facilitate emotional connections between sexual contact and monogamy in humans based on the same hormones being released during climax and through long term relationships. However, with some of the most promiscuous of primate species also able to orgasm too, this may not be the case.

Others argue that muscular contractions of the cervix cause it to "dip" into the vagina, encouraging sperm into the uterus in a manner not unlike clubbers being shepherded into Tiger Tiger on a Friday night. However,

with the possibility of pregnancy occurring without orgasm, and orgasm also practically a separate ball game to penetrative sex, the cervical dip theory seems unlikely too.

It has therefore been suggested that, rather anti-climatically (ironically), female orgasms are simply an evolutionary accident – they serve no real purpose, but do have that orgasmic perk. With the evident homologies between the clitoris and the head of the penis, and both developing in the same way before birth, it may be that the female orgasm is purely a serendipitous, if not mind-blowing evolutionary hangover of incomplete sexual dimorphism.

Fortunately, multiple orgasms are much more interesting than male nipples, which seem to be equally theoretically pointless, if not literally so.

Although this may not answer that ultimate dilemma suggested by *American Pie*, getting to grips with the theory behind the female orgasm may prepare you for the practicalities of it, a little like learning to drive a car, or completing that lab practical you have next Monday.

Hopefully with some of this science at your fingertips, the Big O may not seem as overwhelming, and Friday evening may go down with a tad more enthusiasm than was previously expected.

Felix Science wishes you a Happy Valentines Day.



Sally looking unimpressed by the lack of knowledge you seem to have about the female orgasm

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6 EVENTS ACROSS 7 DAYS



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200FT



WEEK *Rag* 2014

24TH FEB - 2ND MAR

ICRAGWEEK.COM



1 BIG FOOD
CHALLENGE



3 LEGS
3 BARS



MORE
INFO!

3 AMAZING
CHARITIES

36 HOURS TO

JAILBREAK

ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

Editor: Lawrence
D'Silva
felix@imperial.ac.uk

Disposing of Solar Panels: The Italians have the answer

Europe solves the solar panel disposal problem

Lawrence D'Silva
Environment & Health Editor

Solar has already become and will continue to be one of the key players in reaching the UK's target of generating 20% of energy from renewables by 2020. Whilst less people might be installing panels on their roof after the government dramatically cut the subsidy, the amount of the large scale 'solar farms' being constructed, the type that cover acres of farm land, has skyrocketed. The panels on solar farms may well be contributing to a renewable energy future but to be environmentally worthwhile, they must be disposed of appropriately at the end of their life. This poses a challenge.

The carbon footprint of the entire life cycle of a product is now commonly taken into account rather than simply footprint under operation. As such, disposal must be energy and material efficient to meet the EU Directive on WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment).

Repowering:

With a typical panel life span of 20 – 25 years, it may seem like an issue that doesn't need to be worried about for at least a decade. However, with



INHABITAT.COM

the price and efficiency of panels on the market today, investors and developers are starting to realise more profit in 'repowering' the plant by replacing old panels with newer more efficient ones. As such, the disposal is very much an immediate issue.

Solution to the problem

Fortunately, over the last year, an Italian company based near Venice called Sea Ecoservizi has invented a novel machine called a 'Devetratrice' to mechanically recover the component panel material. Joseph Ziliani,

president of the company, explained to the Italian media last week that "our process can recover 98 % by weight of each panel which even includes the delicate art of removing and isolating the powdered silicon from the cells". The fact that the machine can process up to one ton or about 50 panels per hour is a key reason why the company has already attracted significant outside investment.

With the UK currently in the global top 10 of countries deploying solar electricity generation, there is already starting to be a demand for this kind of disposal and reprocessing technology.

Aquapods: A solution to overfishing?



KAMPACHI FARMS, LLC.

Broadly speaking, our supermarket fish tends to come from one of two sources; it will either have been farmed or caught in the wild. But if on the one hand scientists predict wild stocks will totally collapse alarmingly soon and on the other, intensive fish farms close to the shore pose a series of environmental, health and ethical problems, perhaps a new technology could provide a solution. The 'Aquapod' certainly seems to be one such innovation with few obvious downsides.

In essence, the concept of an Aquapod is very straightforward; they are simply innovative submersible fish pens up to 65ft across that sit underwater in the open ocean, away from the shoreline and at a minimum of 150ft apart. Such a set up avoids many of the problems of crowded,

close-to-shore pens of traditional aquaculture. These require antibiotics and produce concentrated waste that pollutes the environment giving rise to coral reef death and a long list of other impacts. Waste is produced with Aquapods but is much more readily assimilated harmlessly into the aquatic environment by ocean currents. Furthermore, there is greater potential for reducing pollution by being able to use micro-algae based food in the pods rather than being dependent on a fish-based food source which is far less sustainable.

In a sense, open-ocean Aquapods are akin to free-range meat; they're not wild but they're not intensively battery farmed like shoreline aquaculture. In a food scarce future, fish will continue to be a highly efficient source of protein; it's about time we had a more modern approach to it; for ourselves and for the environment.

Sugar in our food may be cut

Lawrence D'Silva
Environment & Health Editor

A campaigning group that managed to cut the amount of salt in our food by 15% in seven years has a new, much more ambitious goal to aim for; to cut the our sugar intake by 40% in just four.

The group, who are a mixture of medical professionals and academics, have already overcome the obstacles to reduce salt in the UK diet but now they have a much harder target on their hands. A 40% reduction in sugar intake would be remarkable if only they can navigate the gulf of resistance that will likely stand in their way, namely, vested interest from business and potential resistance from government, not to mention regulatory challenges.



QUICKIECHICK.COM

It's certainly not the health benefits of a sugar cut that will stand in their way. Chairman of the Action on Sugar Campaign Graham MacGregor stated that:

"Human beings don't need to eat added sugar. It was never a feature of a mammalian diet, because we couldn't get it and therefore it will be very difficult to argue with what we say based on health grounds".

MacGregor will meet next week

with health secretary Jeremy Hunt to discuss their aims and will be making the argument that the burden of sugar reduction should be placed on food and drink manufacturers. He will make claims that a 40% reduction could save the NHS £50bn a year thanks to a reduction in obesity related disease. Although food industry lobbyists are likely to be the greatest sticking point, they continue to remain hopeful.

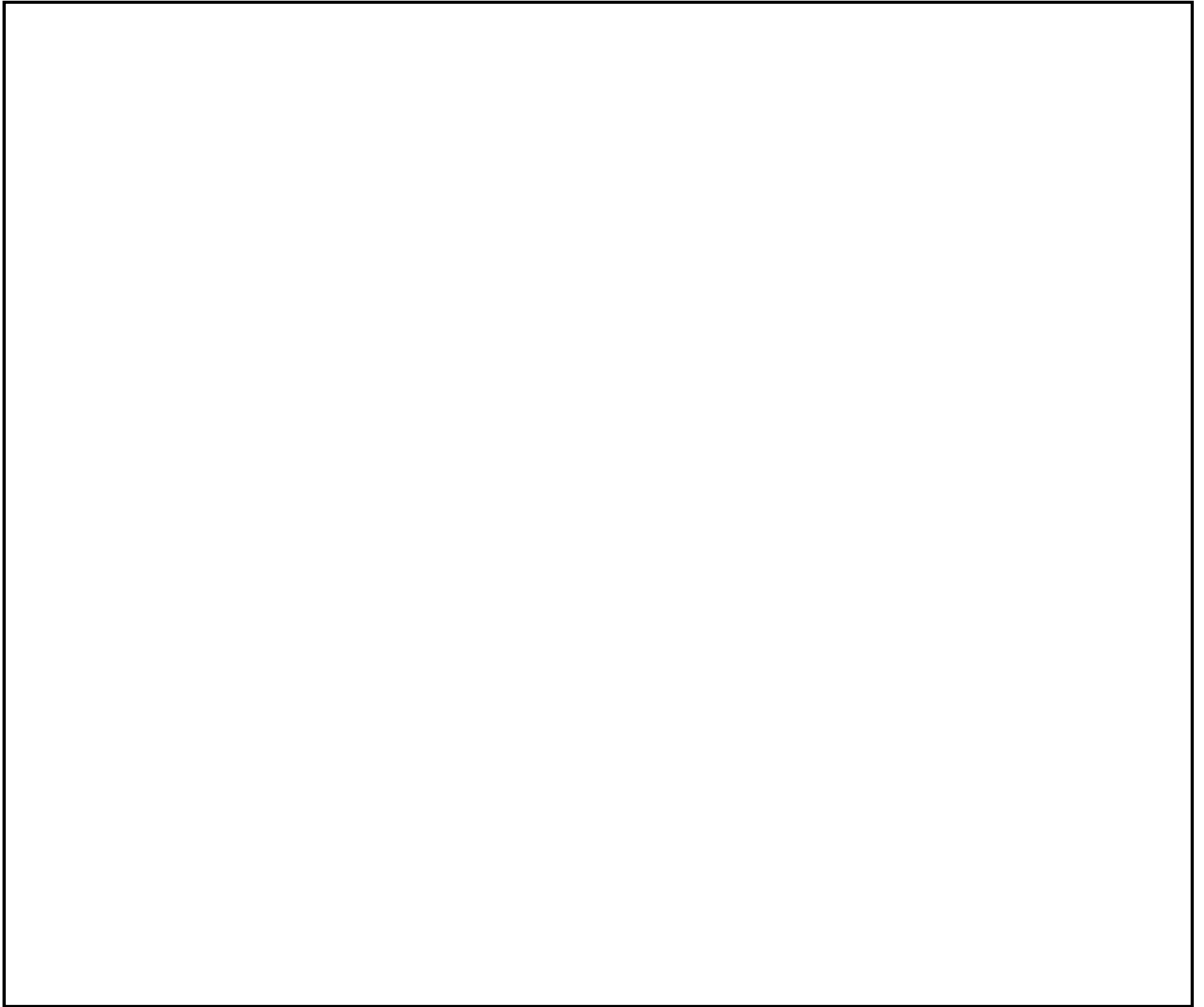
Health Picture of the Week



FOODRENEGADE.COM

Apologies to anyone from countries where this is the norm but for the rest of us, who would have known that the much feared food additive MSG is available in a simple salt shaker to sprinkle onto the evening meal? Monosodium glutamate, a sodium salt of glutamic acid, had been used as a flavour enhancer in foods for over 100 years and was originally extracted from a type of Japanese seaweed. However, with the western drive to remove it from foods after bad press resulting from MSG's possible link to several allergies, photos like this can seem somewhat alarming. **Lawrence D'Silva**

As part of Imperial College Union's [Stress Less](#) program, we've been encouraging people to let go of their worries and get creative with free Arts and Crafts sessions. If you haven't been able to make it to one of these sessions, now is your chance to get involved!



This page is a blank canvas for your doodles and drawings. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, the most romantic doodle tweeted [@feliximperial](#) will win a mystery Valentine's-themed prize.

COMMENT

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



When is it Wrong to Enjoy Art?

Our Man in Dam

Anonymous



Woody Allen's confusing and highly questionable private life has once again been thrust into the open with Dylan Farrow's accusation of being molested by him when she was seven. Whilst I was shocked, but not surprised by the recent happenings, I am not going to use this space to pass comment on whether he is guilty or not. I instead will focus on something slightly less controversial (or perhaps more so depending on your position): the publication of the Woody Allen two page praise spread last week in the film section.

To publish such an article at such a time is highly insensitive and I am for the time being going to view it as an unfortunate coincidence. Is it, however, ever appropriate to praise someone for the brilliance of their work even if they have committed truly despicable acts? Woody Allen is not the only person to find themselves in this group, or at least soon may be in this group. An inconvenient truth is that the world of culture is full of arseholes. Wagner, the father of modern classical music, was just as famous for his anti-Semitic views. The author of the *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding, whose most famous work appears at the top of most GCSE reading lists admitted late in life to raping a girl in his youth. And of course Michael Jackson, despite being

found innocent, was still convicted in the court of public opinion for his alleged child abuse.

Should society banish the art made by evil beings or can we enjoy it for what it is worth without the burden of a guilty conscience? It is a challenging question and there are several things to consider. I am a believer that art doesn't just happen in a vacuum; you do not just enjoy a piece of work because it is great, there is a reason why you find it great in the same way the artist would take inspiration from somewhere. Obviously the artist's outlook on life is likely to have a major impact on their inspiration, but it can be possible for there to be a separation. Many a critic will agree that Louis-Ferdinand Céline was perhaps one of the most influential novelists of the twentieth century, yet he was also a prolific anti-Semite and Nazi collaborator; his short comings are acknowledged though don't seem to get in the way of the praise for his work.

With some artists, even despite their dark side, it is obvious that the acclaimed works are not a tool for it. With others, however, that is much more ambiguous.

Wagner is a particularly interesting case for this as his operas tend to revolve around redemption and triumphant love which are noble notions. Despite this, his work is continuously accused of inspiring Hitler. Hitler was definitely a fan, though it is difficult to categorically prove these allegations.

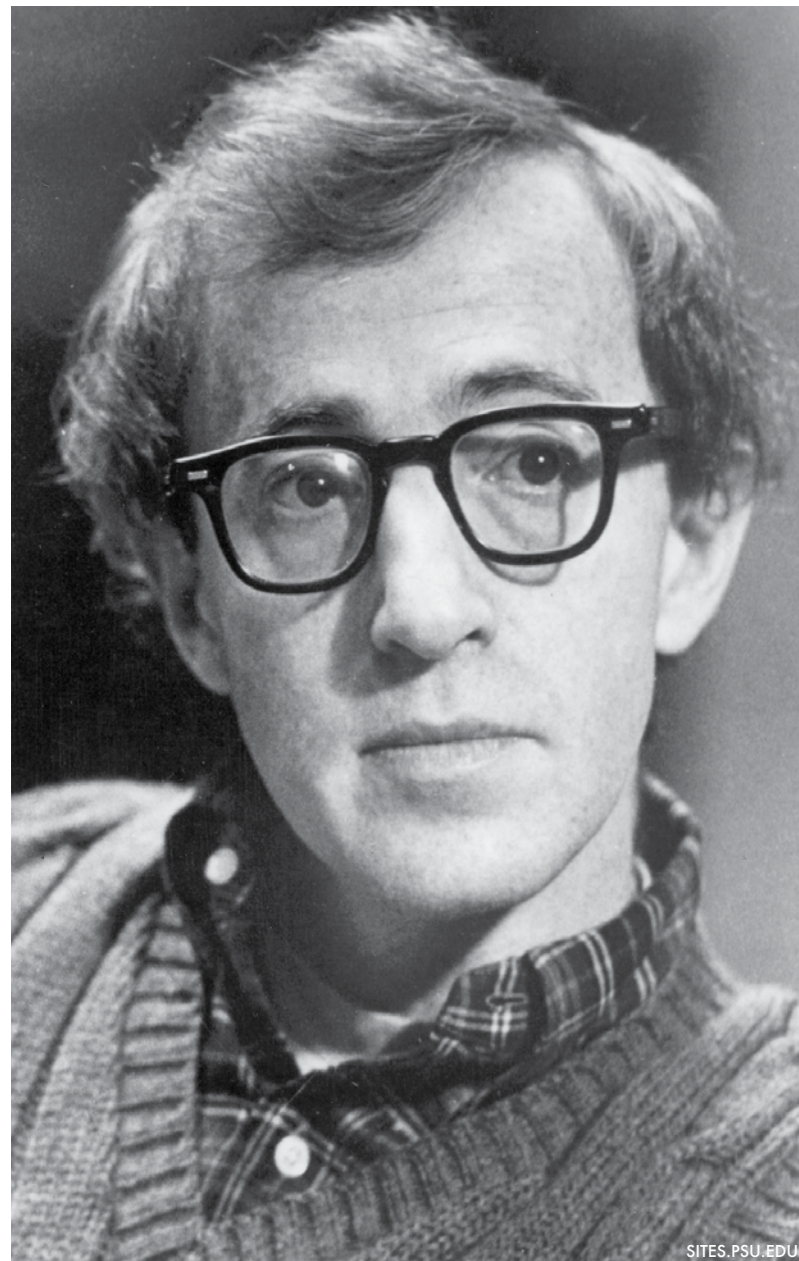
It does however raise the question that if a particular interpretation is made of a work, even if it by the artist's

view point the wrong interpretation, should the work be condemned for being morally contaminating? That would depend on the piece; as much as it is unlikely, if everyone who saw a painting was then compelled to murder or rape someone the moment they left the gallery even if that wasn't the intention of the artist, then a strong argument could be made that the work was morally contaminating. If the work however only had a highly negative impact on one individual, which is a more relevant comparison to the Wagner case, then the blame should really be put on the individual as opposed to the artist as it is likely that there is a far greater underlying cause behind their actions.

So how does this relate to the more topical issue at hand? I doubt that Woody Allen's intentions when directing his films were morally deplorable and at the same time I believe most will agree that watching them will not start you on a slippery slope that leads to sexually assaulting children. Even if he does get convicted, I think people will still continue to enjoy his films because they are, quite frankly, good films.

I in fact feel that if he is guilty and then faces appropriate punishment, then it would be more socially acceptable to proclaim yourself as a fan because then he would have paid his debt and should hopefully be rehabilitated.

Provided you acknowledge the flaws, I see no problem with being a Woody Allen fan in the same way I see no problem with being a fan of Wagner or even Michael Jackson. Now just is not the time to shout it from the rooftops.



SITES.PSU.EDU

Dealing with Dieudonne

Eoghan Totten

Comment Editor
@eoghantotten



I was highly critical of the intervention by the *Newtonabbey Borough Council* in the arts agenda of the North of Ireland at the end of January.

Reduced Shakespeare's satirical play "The Bible: The Complete Word of God" was cancelled (& later reinstated following a media frenzy). To my mind the move signified unjustified censorship & infringement of what we, the wider public, are entitled to view in the arts arena. It seemed, furthermore to satiate the preferences and beliefs of the council (one would guess that the odd creationist peppered the ranks).



RADIOX.COM

I came across the French comedian Dieudonné M'Elba M'Elba a number of weeks later. The British media focused on his links with West Bromwich Albion FC's player Nicolas Anelka, who adopted his controversial gesture after scoring in a football match. The controversy runs much deeper. The 'quenelle' is claimed by many to reflect an inverted Nazi gesture and manifests itself as wholly anti-Semitic.

I couldn't agree more. Dieudonné appears antagonistic and aggressive: He has given two subtle fingers to the French (and indeed the British) Government. In a *BBC* interview these thoughts were conveyed to Dieudonné: He was invited to defend the quenelle. He described it as a "gesture of panache, one of emancipation and courage...You've got a home secretary who is almost as stupid as our own."

Upon hearing those words I

understood the efforts taken by the French Government to silence Dieudonné. While hijacking anti-zionism to demonstrate, in his own words, that "No one suffering is above any other" he has violated universal precepts of common decency and angered millions (including members of foreign Governments). The image of a bull let loose in a china shop comes to mind. One should have the right to freedom of speech: When Dieudonné mimed urination on the Jerusalem western wall on stage, he lost that right by exploiting an entire creed for his own profitable ends. His salute has been used outside synagogues. If not curbed France risks a cult following.

Drawing a parallel between Dieudonné M'Elba M'Elba and the *Newtonabbey Borough Council*, I posit the question: Where does one draw the line when censoring film, theatre and art?

STUDENT ACADEMIC CHOICE AWARDS

Nominations close Friday 28 February

Eight awards in total will cover all faculties, departments and campuses, as well as all modes of study – Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate and Doctoral Research. Every student at Imperial will have the chance to recognise the innovation, skill, engagement and energy of the staff they learn with. Nominate as many people as you like in as many categories as you like – if your nominee is shortlisted, you may win a free invite to the SACAs Award Ceremony on Thursday 15 May. **Nominate someone for a SACA now!**

The Awards

- ▲ Best Tutoring
- ▲ Best Teaching for Undergraduates
- ▲ Best Graduate Teaching Assistant
- ▲ Best Feedback
- ▲ Best Support Staff
- ▲ Best Teaching for Postgraduates
- ▲ Best Supervision
- ▲ Best Innovation

imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas

COMMENT

Editors: **Eoghan J. Totten, Tessa Davey**
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Confessions of a GTA: Part 11

Strapped for cash and greetings in the corridor

The GTA
Anonymous



As one of the more strapped for cash GTAs I teach a lot of classes in my department. This includes some outside my speciality meaning I have taught pretty much every year of the undergraduates and as detailed last week, some of the MScs. This is great as I have a broad spectrum of topics and an even broader spectrum of students. Thus the chance I am stuck with people who think I am an idiot is decreased by pure safety in numbers.

However, there has been one unexpected consequence: lots of people now know who I am. I walk down a corridor and several people

will say 'hi' or smile. This was nice at first. As an undergraduate I may have made several catastrophic errors in relationship judgement which led to much of my year hating my guts (but that is a whole other series of confessions). Thus, I learnt how to get from A to B using the least used routes in the department and had lunchtime and break havens that only one or two others knew about. And actually I was ok with that, as being an introvert, lack of people time is good time.

So at the start of last term it was quite a novelty for people in the department being pleased to see me. If I had lunch with a friend or walking down a corridor with a colleague, several people would acknowledge me creating a nice sense of ego. Sadly this did not last.

I mean there are some days nobody wants to be seen. When your just back from the worst January session at the

gym ever, red in the face and sweaty is not a great time to be greeted by everyone in sight. Nor do I want to chat to one of the keener students when coming in at 8.30am with the worst hangover ever. Also the nearest toilet to my office is pretty much half a mile away so having to stop to talk to people on the way (particularly in emergencies) is not always much fun. I admit I have started to regress to back stairs routes and odd mealtimes. Though this is no guarantee of escape as one terrible morning I was caught by a group of first years on the tube who all wanted to make polite and yet conspicuously awkward conversation with me for over half an hour.....

So my confession for this week is greet your GTAs with care. If they look like they are bursting for the loo or at white in the face having come out of their supervisor's office maybe just a smile will do....



BIGCARTEL.COM

Deriving Ought from Is

Christy Kelly
Writer



I agree with Fredric Jameson that we have witnessed a disturbing 'return of traditional philosophy ... beginning with its hoariest subfields, such as ethics.' To quote another Marxist Antonio Negri's Political Descartes, 'every metaphysics is simultaneously a political ontology' and this applies all the more to a field like ethics. And to those who suggest that politics is founded on ethics, I suggest they go and (carefully) read the first western work of political philosophy, Plato's Republic.

So it might seem bizarre that after an apparently meaningless discussion of Wittgenstein last week, I am now discussing a subset of Hume's Treatise on Human Nature where he talks about the problems of deriving ought from is. I will say now that I am totally uninterested in the general validity of the 'naturalistic fallacy'. Instead I shall attempt to relate how Hume's formulation related to a concrete historical situation. However, by way of commentary, it strikes me that 'ought' propositions are intrinsically temporal ('ought' has/displays modality), and the best way to attack or support Hume's conclusions is via an engagement with his thesis on causality. The problem

is then one of epistemology and not ethics. This, I believe, best explains the philosophical reasons for this somewhat interminable thinker's influence on the brilliant Kant, who was famously 'awoken from his dogmatic slumbers' by the Treatise.

So, to business: the immediately apparent reading, at least to myself, if told that 'ought' cannot be derived from is, is that present historical situations cannot be legitimately objectified. That is to say, just because something is, that doesn't mean it ought to be. Or in Marxian: the reification of existing social relations as an immutable object is fallacious. This is probably the most prevalent interpretation and it is, in its broadest strokes, a revolutionary thesis. It is also in somewhat direct contradiction with the position of the British bourgeoisie in the mid to late 18th century.

During the first half of the 17th century it was becoming clear that the strength of the monarchy was waning. After essentially a century of economic growth the economic slowdown was beginning to bite, while the monarch's all too conspicuously dipped into national funds to finance wars at home and abroad. Similarly, the industrial monopolies were becoming an obvious deadweight, while parliament naturally privileged the new(ish) dynamic merchant class above the landed gentry. Add into that Charles alleged papist sympathies and the overt hostility between court and country and you get an explosive mix. This of course led to the first

English Revolution, and indeed the two revolutionary decades (from the start of the long parliament to the Restoration) saw the redistribution of land, the end of industrial monopoly, aggressive government support for colonial trade and a flourishing of religious radicalism unmatched before or since. This laid a foundation that was, with a brief respite, confirmed and built upon by the second revolution in 1688. This led to a further century of modest but real economic growth until the explosive effects of the industrial revolution kicked in. In short, at the time Hume was writing, the British bourgeoisie were about as comfortable and satisfied as it ever had been or would be again. So why the revolutionary praxis?

Fortunately for us Marxists (it actually has very little bearing on Marxist theory, but whatever), the 'revolutionary' reading of the 'naturalistic fallacy' relies on a gross misreading of Hume. Anyone who knows of Hume's extreme empiricism will intuit his hostility to anything as speculative as a moral ought: when Hume asserts that 'ought' is a different form of relation to 'is', he asserts that 'the distinction of vice and virtue is not founded merely on the relations of objects'. That is, the 'ought' and not the 'is' is brought into question. And indeed this privileging of the already-existing is shown in Book 3 (Of Morals) Part 2 (Of Justice and Injustice) – which is really nothing more than an extended discussion of private property. Thus there is no

disjunction between Hume's footnote about deriving ought from is and the panglossianism of Alexander Pope's 'Whatever is, is right.'

Imagine what Voltaire would have made of Alexander Pope's quip! This explains Hume's relative unpopularity in France: there the critical and revolutionary doctrines of Rousseau and Voltaire had currency, precisely because of the relative strength of the bourgeoisie in a period where formal power still lay in the hands of the absolutist monarchy. It is telling that

Bacon was the most influential British philosopher in pre-revolutionary France; the comfortable philosophy of an already hegemonic bourgeoisie simply did not cut it. Meanwhile in Germany, Hume was a powerfully tempting voice, to be endorsed by the conservative Schopenhauer, and contradicted by the revolutionary Kant. The utter weakness of the German bourgeoisie was to blame: when a class is in no position to seize formal political power, impotence becomes a soporific.



WIKIMEDIA.ORG

3am Moccaine with an Ex-Banker

Harlem Mandela

Anonymous



This is a story of caution. A story of naivety, intense highs and bad judgement. Try to find value in it, if you can.

2am, Wednesday morning. Insomniac me, wakes up; I am hungry. Needless to say, a quick venture into the kitchen yields no results: the fridge is void. Void like my mental state as I find myself cruising through life aimlessly, trying to make some sense of it. All to no avail.

Ordering a take away would be too depressing, too cliché. Suppose it arrives – do I cry myself to sleep watching yet another episode of Curb Your Enthusiasm (great show by the way)? Perhaps there is hope in the breathtaking nightlife that London offers? Of course not, thank you licensing laws and you council f****. Everything has to shut down. This ain't no disco, this ain't no Berlin.

But there are islands of serenity. One of them is a superb establishment called VQ on Fulham Road. Classy diner that's open 24/7 serving simple food but of high standard. They are indeed humbled by the local produce and it shows, Heston. Let me preempt you: their Egg's Benedict are the best in London. Sure, the restaurant caters to the classic Sloane Rangers in their post-lash reincarnation for who, a greasy kebab with a side of Tango is simply too proletariat. Despite of this, they play beautiful music (from B-52's through OMD to Blawan). For me, it seemed like the place to be, minus the clientele.

Brief stroll and I'm there. 3 courses ordered – chilli con carne on a bed

of hydroponically sourced brown rice from the Sub-Saharan sand dunes, followed by a vacuum boiled deconstructed Bubble 'n' Squeak, topped off by the basking of a bronze beauty that is a banoffee pie (thanks Higella, you alliteration absorbed Adonis). Reading one of their magazines. I believe it was something about Mergers & Acquisitions. At this point the story gets interesting and educational. Listen up people, I am the Preacher Man.

Out of the blue, with the nonchalance of a liquored up French male on a pull, a bald suited man turns to me and says, with a speech so slurred, so devoid of reason: 'Hey buddy, why don't you join me? Where I'm from, it's bad to eat on your own.' Interesting point. I am stuck: if I deny the request, I will have a very awkward meal. If I say yes, what bad can happen?

So I joined. The man was in his thirties, slick suit, slick demeanour but ever so slightly inebriated. Throughout the ensuing conversation, I try my best to decode what he is saying, why does he take 10 second breaks between sentences, why does he go off to the bathroom with a frequency of a pregnant woman, why does he call me 'buddy' every f****ing sentence (at least he refrains from 'mate') and why, oh why are his pupils so dilated?

Then, it falls together. Turns out, he is a banker, worked for Goldman Sachs, now in a hedge fund and had a client 'dinner'. The bs convo continues. As I finish my meal, and set to part ways, he slips me a folded piece of newspaper underneath the table. Ok, that's definitely cocaine. What should I do – the hunger of unknown, the spirit of adventure, the call of risk-taking overwhelms me and I proceed to do the deed in the bathroom downstairs. Wow, whatta kick! I'm beginning to



see everything through rose-tinted glasses.

We proceed to sip a couple of brewskis, and decided that the course of action is to ride over to his office behind Harrods for some shrooms. After all, he has a private driver waiting outside. I get the check. He gets his check. And here is where the story gets ever so interesting. His card bounces; he tries a couple of times. Nothing. Then he asks me whether I can lend him the money: what is this malarkey? Reluctantly, I agree and pay.

A short while later, I find myself doing shrooms in some swanky hedge fund office. The shenanigans are crumbling to an end as the clock strikes 7am. We exchange business cards, I give him bank details and he promises to wire the money tomorrow. He has the cheek to ask

for another 20 quid for a taxi home. In my state, I succumb and am, all in all, 'wealthier' by 70 quid worth of IOUs. Yay me – I manage to make it to the lectures.

Days go past and no money wired. What the f****? The man's a menace. Oh well, what can I do – after sobering up, I realise this is a great life lesson for me: don't trust some drugged up bankers, they will do you out of whatever measly amount of money. To quote Gordon Gekko (Wall Street, great 80s movie): 'It's not a question of enough, pal. It's a zero sum game, somebody wins, somebody loses.'

Now, sure there are bad people in any profession. But why bankers have such disrepute? Well, I believe it's down to: a) the risks in the financial industry are largely socialised, with taxpayers carrying the burden b) fractional reserve banking is enabled

through a central bank, lender of the last resort and central government, increasingly becoming the borrower of the last resort c) the monetary system being a state sanctioned elastic paper fiduciary media d) financial industry being the entry point for money injections e) powerful regulation that keeps the status quo and f) usually the financial industry employees being the beneficiaries of price and resource distortions/misallocations of their own making. In one word: it's a racket that is so perverse and so alien to the ideas of a free market economy, it attracts con artists of broad persuasion.

Having said that, back to the story. A month later, as I am coming back with a friend from a gig in Shoreditch, luck will have it, at 4am we encounter the said banker – he is being kicked out of a taxi. Now I get it: he likes to engage in small time cons – not paying cab drivers, getting free lunches etc.

We have a short conversation, with him cheekily drugged out of his mind, I ask about the money receiving yet another empty promise. He said to come to his office if he does not pay – I may actually do that, it would be a hoot!

Use this story as a warning of trusting people too much, engaging in illicit activities and getting into financial industry for a career thanks to an illusion of high earnings. Do what you love and do it honestly in free market environment. Conning people out of money leave to politicians and government-backed financiers.

Disclaimer: This story may be true or a work of fiction. It was relayed to me by 'my best friend's sister's boyfriend's brother's girlfriend who heard from this guy who knows this kid who's going with the girl' who is the protagonist of this story.

Election Anonymity - What's the Point?

Anonymous



This year the Union Election process has significantly changed; there is no longer a list of candidates standing for each position and instead the complete list will be announced once nominations are complete.

According to the Deputy Returning Officers this change has been brought about to make the election "more accessible and more democratic", and to "encourage people to put themselves forward for any position they may be interested in without being put off by learning about other prospective candidates". The reasoning presumably being that a 'Big Name' candidate may

put off some prospective candidates from running in the first place.

While more candidates may run without the knowledge of these 'Big Names', any candidate who would not have run due to this will simply pull out once nominations have closed and been announced. Indeed on the 3rd of March, when the candidates are corralled into a lecture theatre to find out for the first time who's standing, I fully expect there to be a significant drop in the numbers.

While this isn't necessarily a problem, it seems to be a bit of a waste of time for everyone involved. Candidates sitting on the fence may even consider this from the offset and still never run.

Of course there are benefits to the anonymity, to start with it may help

avoid the situation where a position is uncontested (or contested by a poor candidate) and is taken up by someone looking for an easy win. Of course there's nothing wrong with trying to stop this, and indeed candidates who carry out such a move may be less likely to treat the roles with the appropriate respect. This may also impact the elections negatively however, since many of the Constituent Union positions often have no candidates whatsoever standing for them, until such a candidate steps forward. In these situations having a candidate is better than not having one, and the change will result in a rise in the number of positions unfilled following the elections. This will in turn lead to more work for the existing committees as

they rush to find suitable candidates for a follow-up election.

Finally, if you're going to make the candidacy secret, enforce it. The article in this week's Felix naming some of the candidates should not be allowed to be published. All this is achieving is giving extra publicity to those candidates with connections to the various student media outlets. So candidates most integrated with the Union are getting their name out far in advance of those whom the change is supposed to encourage to run. While the candidates are prohibited from actively campaigning in this time, the name recognition boost is still desirable; being the first name people have heard of standing for a position could potentially tip a few votes in your favour. In previous elections the

student media outlets didn't report on who was standing till after nominations closed, and while this information was entirely available online the majority of the student body were unlikely to be checking. This time round names will be plastered on thousands of copies of Felix around campus weeks before their official announcement.

While I respect attempts to broaden the field when it comes to the elections, and the need to avoid the same types of people running again and again it is my opinion that the changes will not work in this way, and in fact could damage one of the best things our Union runs.

Good luck to all those standing in the Big Elections, and I implore anyone considering standing to go for it.

COMMENT

Editors: Eoghan J. Totten, Tessa Davey
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Elections confession

Joe Letts
Editor-in-Chief

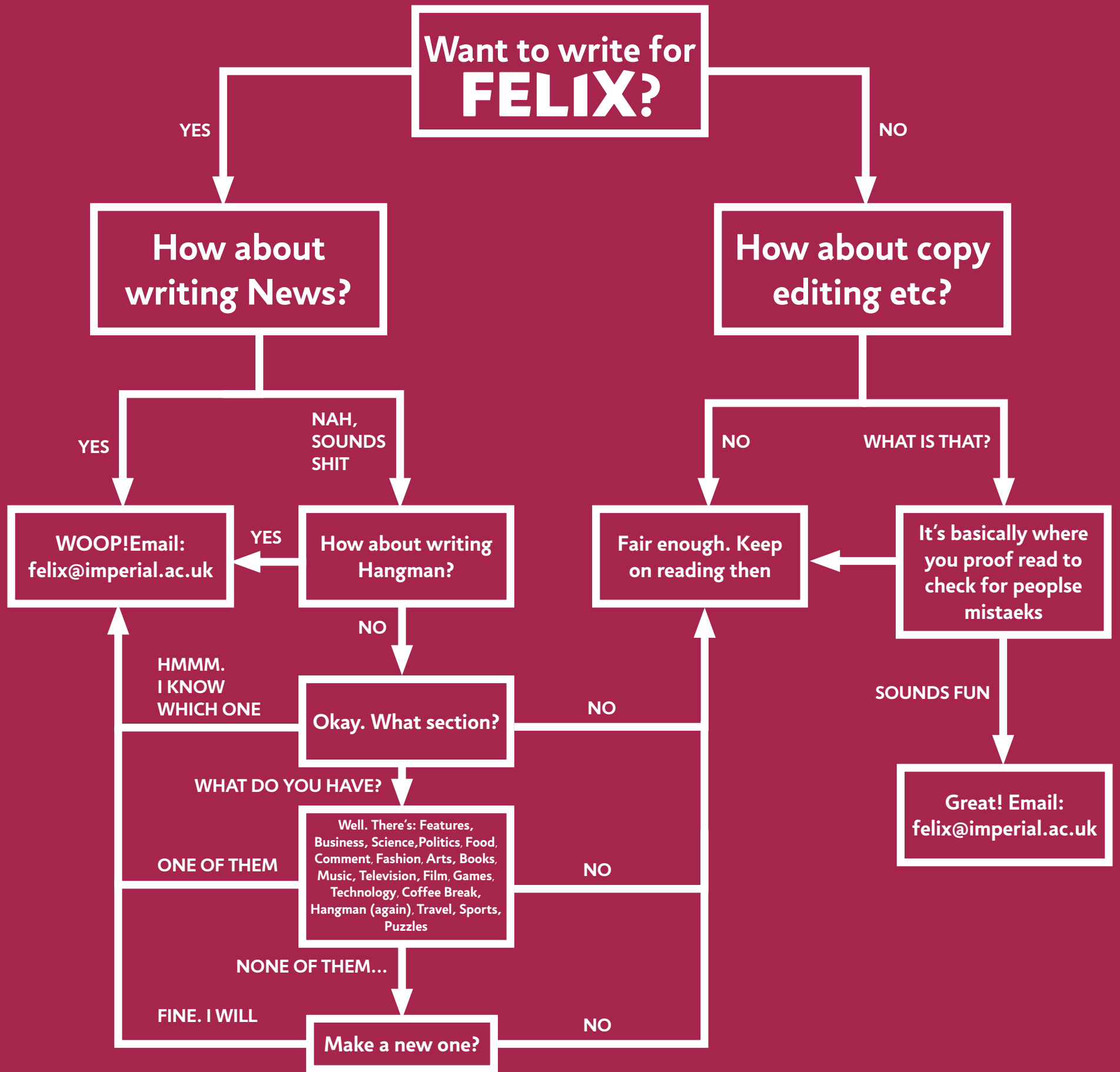
So, the elections are around the corner. I remember this time last year, I was having to make the decision about running for the Big Elections. There was the obstacle of a looming deadline for the end of term and sheer nerves, however in the end I took the plunge and decided to enter myself for the nominations. Sometimes while you consider running you can really feel self-doubt weighing you down, and you can find you asking yourself if you're truly ready or capable to fulfil the role. Surely there are many more capable candidates than you? Right? Wrong. A lot of candidates can feel that way and in the end it's the voters that decide.

So don't be afraid to put yourself out there, you might win or you might lose. But, at least you tried to do something that you believed in and tried to make a difference...

PLUGHOLETIME BY OSCAR FARRELL

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POETRY CORNER

Sonnet V by Pavitar Singh Devgon

*For all the air we breathe and sights we see,
For every moment spent in thought and doubt,
There lies inside a budding legacy
Which, upon reigns, yearns for you to set free.
Since morning, when from east shines the sublime
Until the evening light, cast indigo
Think I of you and wish to know sometime
That oft you do thinkst of me as so.
Our lives, how fleeting, in which we invite
Such wailing noise and deafening clamour,
Should in their stead be fill'd with endless light
With time spent nurturing sapling flowers.
Let us two share a peaceful moment fine,
So I ask; will you be my valentine?*

Fancy yourself a poet? Got an artwork you'd like to share? Made a nice origami? Send submissions to arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk to showcase your work in Felix.

ARTS RECOMMENDS

Flamenco Festival London @ Salder's Wells, EC1R

A two week long celebration of Spanish dance, The renowned Flamenco Festival London is now in its eleventh year. This year's festival features 6 shows from some of the biggest names in the flamenco world.
1-15 March, £12-£45

Ballad of the Burning Star @ Battersea Arts Centre, SW11

An explosive tale combining cabaret, drugs & politics, *Ballad of a Burning Star* tells the story of a young boy who, taking steps to avenge his brother's death, makes the jump from victim to villain.
17 February - 8th March, £12-£15

We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884 - 1915 @ Bush Theatre, W12

A group of actors gather to tell the little-known story of the first genocide of the 20th Century. As the full force of a horrific past crashes into the good intentions of the present, what seemed a far away place and time is suddenly all too close to home.
28th February - 12th April, £10-£15



Brum Photorealism

Lily Le
Writer

What: Photorealism
Where: Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
When: Until 30th March
Price: £6.50, £5.50 students

You'd be forgiven for thinking that London is the place to be for everything arts related. But you'd also be wrong. As vibrant as it is, the capital doesn't have room for everything, and that's where the UK's second city Birmingham steps in. Being only an hour and a half away and with return train tickets as cheap as £8, it's well worth a day trip, and you'll be relieved to realise that being tired of London doesn't mean you're tired of life.

Currently showing at the city's museum and art gallery is *Photorealism*, an exhibition displaying the art movement with a name as literal as its paintings. It is the biggest exhibition in the UK so far to show the style born from 1960s America but with a strong development in just 50 years, evident in its more contemporary pieces.

If it still isn't clear, photorealists paint images which are hyperrealistic, and more objective compared to their emotional counterparts such as in pop art, abstract art, or minimalism. However, not just one for the abstraction haters, it is interesting to see how the artists express themselves with distant subjects, using their choice materials, unique interpretation, and changing perspectives, sometimes verging on the edge of abstractionism. For a movement dubbed as intellectually void by some of the art world, the subtle differences which translate into

obviously dissimilar styles between artists surely make these pretentious claimants the ones devoid of intellect.

The exhibition starts off in America. The feel is vintage, nostalgic, with a strong whiff of the American dream: consumerism. Painters stick to their own specific themes; one rendering store fronts into 2D images, another sharing the blissful past time of movie theatres, a third only painting diners, more of others doing their own thing.

Despite the idea that the paintings share a common theme of realism, some seem obviously more life-like than those which are relatively illustrative, with others in the middle reminiscent of 3D computer animation. For the former, pressing your nose up against the glass doesn't help in trying to persuade yourself that, eerily, they are indeed paintings and not photographs.

Themes move away from the glamour of Americana to everyday suburbia and paintings of family photographs. Subjects range from interior designs seen in magazines, family and friends going about daily routines, and still life. It is with objects such as condiments, sweets, toys, and glass surfaces that the painters are able to play with the focus, the seen and unseen, and space and interactions to produce their particular versions of photorealism.

Moving further away still, small town America is joined by other cityscapes. The personality of each place is portrayed by classic scenes such as the London Underground and Trafalgar Square - both uniquely British yet separated by stylistic representation. A small section explains how Ben Johnson, as most photorealists typically do, collated thousands of photos of his chosen subject - the view towards Richmond House - before projecting it onto a large canvas and making a line drawing. He then chose

the medium of airbrushing to fill in the blanks. Other artists like Raphaella Spence had their own method. She transferred Vegas' bright lights and Venice's gondolas, both photographed from a helicopter, pixel by pixel to canvas.

Despite the changes of theme throughout the exhibition, repetitive motifs remain. The automobile as vintage vehicles of the 60s, proud owners standing family cars in the 80s, a manifestation of east to west coast USA migration in following the American dream, decaying abandoned pieces, toy cars, and impressive works by ex-Cadillac and ex-Chevrolet head designer Peter Maier, who sprays layers of automobile paint onto aluminium sheets to create a photo-like close-up of shiny car bodies. This makes the image to be distinguished different depending on the point of the room where the viewer stands. Another example of, at once, falling into the hyperrealistic discipline with an abstract tint.

The only theme which was slightly underwhelmed by the photorealist method were the portraits. The distance and coldness applied to the subjects stripped away the emotion which usually allows viewers to feel connected to the models, leaving apathy towards the pieces. Naked and scantily clad ladies also featured, and surprisingly paintings of beautiful girls frolicking around in woods were the least stimulating paintings there. However, these were only a few among the dozens of more impressive pieces.

The art gallery also did a fantastic job of evoking a sense of questioning and understanding of the pieces, giving them context not only in terms of history and geography, but also the different opinions and comprehensions of them - allowing the viewer to make their own judgements without needing to be an art boffin.



JOHN BAEDER, PHOTO © INSTITUT FÜR KULTURAUUSTAUSCH, TUBINGEN

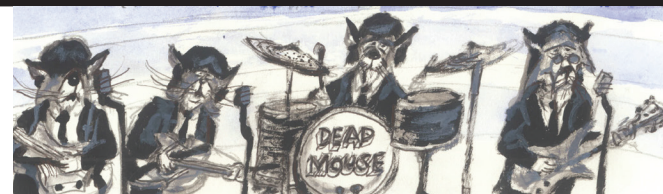


Photo of the Week
Photo: Half Eaten Leaf
Credit: Nico Ortiz
Email your photo to photosoc@ic.ac.uk



Save the Cheerleader
Wednesday 19th February
Opal, Embankment

Editor: **Simon Hunter,**
Riaz Agahi, Stuart
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Valentine's Songs for the Painfully Alone

Stuart Masson lists his favourite cathartic tracks to soundtrack every singleton's least favourite day

Songs for the Fucked Over

Recently gone through a messy break-up? Feel like ranting endlessly about them being a dick but can't find the words? You need some super angsty break up tracks! Here's 5 of my personal favourites.

Brand New - Jude Law and a Semester Abroad

A vitriolic attack on an American girl who spends a term in Britain and takes the opportunity to engage in amorous activity with the local men. This is for one for those who've been cheated on.

Key line: *I hope the next boy that you kiss has something terribly contagious on his lips.*

The Mountain Goats - No Children

OK, so it's not a break up track, but this tirade about an unhappy marriage is a timely reminder that perhaps you're better off without them. Especially good for angry singalongs.

Key line: *Our friends says it's darkest before the sun rises, we're pretty sure they're all wrong.*

Alexisonfire - 44. Caliber Love Letter

An early AOF track, back when they were the kings of angsty post-hardcore. An absolute necessity for any break up.

Key line: *The first step in forgetting is destroying the evidence.*

Saves the Day - Holly Hox, Forget Me Nots

A fairly pathetic one. Apparently Miss Hox has torn out his heart and thrown it in a river. He's going to go and fetch it.

Key line: *I'm all alone, and I'm not handling this well.*



Jude Law: Heartbreaker, heartthrob

Shellac - Prayer to God

This isn't really an angsty track, it's more just vicious. A graphic description of how he's going to kill his ex followed by a repeated wish that her new lover undergoes a similar fate. Classic.

Key line: *Him, just fucking kill him, I don't care if it hurts.*

Songs for the Dumped

Not all break-ups end in hatred. Sometimes you just want to sit down and have a good old-fashioned cry. So if you're looking for a more depressing mourning period, these 5 should be perfect.

Bob Dylan - Don't Think Twice, It's All Right

This is the ultimate break-up track. A look back on an unhappy relationship brings Bob to the conclusion it was best to end it, but the bittersweet tone betrays it's an uncomfortable truth.

Key line: *I ain't saying you treated me unkind, you coulda done better but I don't mind.*

The Smiths - I Know It's Over

This is probably the most depressing song ever. Absolutely destructive in its lyrical content, this is one for those of you who are really keen to sit in the dark and cry themselves to sleep.

Key line: *The sea wants to take me, the knife wants to slit me.*



Morrissey knows how you feel

Finch - Letters to You

Borderline angsty. I'm still not sure if it's about a break-up or a long distance relationship. It works well either way.

Key line: *It's empty tonight and I'm all alone.*

The Cure - Pictures of You

A fairly depressing 7 minutes of pining about an ex-girlfriend. This hits the spot in both lyrics and atmosphere.

Key line: *I almost believe that the pictures are all I can feel.*

The Magnetic Fields - I Don't Want to Get Over You

This is an absolute necessity on any anti-Valentine's playlist. To be honest, just put on their triple album *69 Love Songs*. At nearly 3 hours, it can take a real chunk out of the day.

Key line: *I could have listened to my therapist, pretend you don't exist.*

Songs for the Lonely

Maybe you're lusting after forbidden fruit. Maybe you're lusting after somebody who's just not interested. Maybe you're just lusting for anything. These tracks are for the lonely and depressed.

Los Campesinos! - The Sea is a Good Place to Think of the Future

This one is absolutely spot on lyrically. It's not specifically about romantic problems, it's just about problems. There are a lot of problems. This is prime cathartic listening.

Key line: *She was always far too pretty for me to believe in a single word she said.*

The Replacements - Answering Machine

A minimalist electric guitar and vocal combination, this one hits pretty hard. A man who keeps calling but just can't get past voicemail. It's pretty pathetic, but that's the whole point of this list, so...

Key line: *How do you say I'm lonely to an answering machine?*

Red House Painters - Medicine Bottle

These guys are one of the most popular slowcore bands for good reason. If you want depressing music, look no further.

Key line: *It crosses my mind that I may wake to a knife in me.*

Galaxie 500 - Tugboat

This shoegazey slowcore track is about a guy who just wants to be a girl's tugboat captain. I don't really know why.

Key line: *I don't wanna stay at your party.*



It just doesn't understand

Joy Division - Love Will Tear Us Apart

OK, I realise I'm not exactly thinking outside the box here, but sometimes the classics deserve the pedestal they get put on. I don't need to justify this selection. It's just really fucking good.

Key line: *Just that something so good can't function no more.*

Songs for the Bitter

Angst is the ideal theme for any single Valentine's day. These tracks are for those of you are unlucky in love and really pissed off about it. Also a lot of crossover with my favourite tracks as a teenager...

Bright Eyes - Lover I Don't Have to Love

Conor Oberst basically wrote the book on teenage angst and this is the pinnacle of his angsty material. Casual sex has never sounded so bad (or depressing). This is definitely one for the sexually frustrated.

Key line: *I want a boy who's so drunk he doesn't talk.*

Placebo - Nancy Boy

Placebo probably made it into the lives of every angst-ridden teen at some point. If you missed out, then this is important listening for anybody who wants to come across as sad and lonely. Wait...

Key line: *Does his makeup in his room, douse himself with cheap perfume.*



Conor Oberst feels a lot worse

Sparklehorse - Someday I Will Treat You Good

This song's about a man who treats people really terribly. He knows he needs to change, but he hasn't got round to it yet.

Key line: *Everything that's made is made to decay.*

Orchid - The Action Index

This is just unbelievably intense screamo. Recommended if you just want to blast the pain away. Play really fucking loud.

Key line: *This isn't for you.*

36 Crazyfists - Slit Wrist Theory

Listening to angst-ridden metalcore is a great way to spend Valentine's Day. This track, with its catchy shouted chorus, is a personal favourite. See also **Bullet for my Valentine**, **Trivium** or **Atreyu**.

Key line: *Get the fuck out, stay the fuck out.*



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MUSIC

A Professional Courtesy

Riaz Agahi examines Pinkcourtesyphone's *A Ravishment of Mirrors*

The oddly-named **Pinkcourtesyphone** is a project by the composer **Richard Chartier**. Chartier's work under his own name is described as 'ultra-minimalist,' which gives a fair idea of where he's coming from. Even better, though, in my opinion, is the label 'reductionist electronic sound art.' Although rather a mouthful, this gives a pretty good impression of his music. In many ways, minimalism itself is a reductionist medium, a method of reducing the decadence of a full orchestra or the atonal complexity of serialism to the simplest elements possible, and likewise, I suppose, Chartier's music is essentially the process of taking minimalism to its logical conclusion.



A contrast is that while minimalism often focuses on sustained tones (for example, the godfather of drone himself, **La Monte Young**) while Chartier's music often focuses on microsound, a term for sounds on a timescale shorter than musical notes (between ten milliseconds and a tenth of a second).

It focuses a lot on the interrelation between sound and silence, and the nature of perception, a rather abstract and esoteric concept perhaps, but I guess **John Cage's** '4'33' is a good reference point for audience perception certainly.

Now that I've explained the general aesthetic of Chartier's work, feel free to forget all of that, because Pinkcourtesyphone is a little different to this. The Pinkcourtesyphone moniker is one which Chartier has used for a long time, including for some of his DJ sets which are generally very eclectic featuring an almost irreverent mix of sounds from avant garde electronica to Belgian new beat.

From looking at the name alone, it's pretty clear that there's more of a sense of humour in

this project than may generally be the case. This is perhaps underlined by quite a light feeling accompanying the album. On the website, 'Mr Pinkcourtesyphone' as he is referred to, captures the essence of 'some nicely dressed 1960's housewife wistfully peering out her window while reclining on some lovely couch or divan...'. I think it's hard to argue that it's one of the more unique and humorous mission statements that have been used for a musical project.

Whether this album achieves such an abstract aim is hard for me to say. What I will say, is that as a student from the 2010's, I could certainly see myself lying on some couch or divan and staring wistfully out a window. *A Ravishment of Mirror* is intended to reflect Hollywood dreams and deception, with the website noting that deception is the sustenance of Hollywood, which incidentally is Chartier's current place of residence. It may then be reasonable to suggest that the album is then a story of western disillusionment.

A Ravishment of Mirror opens in a manner in keeping with this idea, as probably the most abstract moment of the album comes first. What sounds like a really distorted violin flourish opens the album followed by a disconcerting sample, which I've yet to decipher, followed by what sound like some hugely sustained beats nicely spaced out. This forms a base for two alternating synth

tones.

There's an idea that repetition leads to increased understanding of the textures, and, in fact, something that sounds different each time. Admittedly my source on this is **Terry Riley** back in the drug addled early days that led to pieces such as 'Mescaline Mix.' That certainly seems to be the case here, in the opening track, 'Why Pretend – The Desire of Absence – Faulty Connections.'

Like so much of the music I review, and I'm really getting sick of typing words to this effect, but the only way to describe it is more delicate and mutable sounds which develop and recede while the repetition continues. In this case it continues for at least 10 minutes in this track, which, at twenty-five minutes, takes up over half of the album length. On top of this repetition there's a sound that, in my eyes, really resembles 'Reflections In Suspension' off **Steve Roach's** classic album *Structures from Silence*.

Eventually the whole thing devolves into something a lot less rigid, with a proper beat and everything! This track is certainly the highlight; I'd call it a well-planned, well-executed musical journey. It's hardly fair, I suppose, given the relative lengths, but while they may not evolve quite so much and change in aesthetic in such an elegant manner, the other tracks certainly provide much to enjoy.



The second track is largely based on the interaction of some drones, and definitely moments of dark ambient, and is a little reminiscent (in sound, not production) of another artist known for experimenting with the act of listening, **Jacob Kirkegaard**, who of course explored the resonant frequencies of the ear on his album *Labrynthitis*.

My summary of the sound is that in its brighter moments, it resembles a less overtly expressive **Oneohtrix Point Never**, but it integrates and disintegrates to produce a more well rounded piece of art, with moments of light and dark which is certainly enthralling, and although the following tracks fail to quite live up to the meticulously simplistic epic opener, they certainly serve up a great range of interesting and diverse sounds.

A Ravishment of Mirror was released on 10th February 2014.

Emiel's Guide to Classical Music

Emiel de Lange

Episode VI - Harmony & Melody

This seems like a good place to recap. As I mentioned previously, the music we have been discussing so far has made use of 'modes'. These 'scales' are, to put it simply, a set of pitches arranged at certain intervals. Thinking back to Pythagoras, we know that dividing or multiplying the frequency of a pitch by 2 will give something that sounds like it is the same but higher or lower. For example, if we define a note at 440Hz and call it 'A', then to our ears a pitch at 220Hz also sounds like an 'A' but lower – this interval is called the octave. The modes were different ways of moving from one note to its octave via six other notes; the different intervals between these steps determined the character of the mode and the character of the music which made use of it.

These were primarily applied in a horizontal manner; composers considered and applied modes as melodic tools used to structure the movement of a voice. As we have seen, in polyphony, more voices were added, but the independence of each line was maintained. What this means is that each line was written as if it was its own melody with the harmony produced by multiple notes sounding together given secondary importance. The skill in polyphonic writing was in writing independent lines that worked together, and so in order to maintain this feeling of independence, rules developed about how multiple voices could move in relation to each other. Of course, harmony still played a role, but this was highly localised – a dissonant harmony resolving to

a consonance on the next beat for example.

Music, as with all other things, evolves gradually, incrementally and without teleology. However, it is sometimes possible to identify in history great changes which, broadly painted, define eras. The change in music from modality to tonality is such a change. Massive generalisations and simplifications are necessary of course, but these can be useful. This system of tonality towards which we are moving is the one with which we are all familiar today, it describes the way in which we as a culture have come to hear music and the relations between pitches.

Although the first attempts to describe the tonal system was written by the composer Rameau in

1722, it can be seen in practise much earlier, and its development can be traced to the current part of our story – the start of the 16th Century. Broadly speaking, we could characterise the tonal system as a hierarchy of pitches, still deriving from Pythagoras' hierarchy of intervals. It is both a product and a catalyst of a shift in thinking, from the horizontal to the vertical, from the local to the global and eventually from the polyphonic to the homophonic.

The 'horizontal' harmony,



Harmony is the notes stacked up-and-down

Melody is the progression of the notes from side-to-side

the relationship between notes sounding at the same time began to take precedence over the vertical movement of each voice. In order to have a good harmony at each point, it became necessary to follow certain rules with some voices assuming more of a supporting role, losing the independence of their line. Hierarchical relations were established between different pitches and eventually we came to hear music in the context of a 'key'; a contextualising pitch, comparable to the modal 'finals'. As harmonies are contextualised, it becomes possible to use these to structure music on even greater scales, and different notes within a key can assume different functions depending on their relation to the 'key' pitch – the tonic.

As we continue our history I will be paying special notice to the small and gradual changes in practise which led to this development. Hopefully by the time we reach the 'common practise era', we will all be experts in conventional music theory and with this peek at where we are heading it should be clearer to see how the renaissance contributed to the evolution of what we hear today.

BOOKS

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A Matter of Blood



Benedict Harcourt looks at the first book in the dark detective fantasy series by Picocon Guest of Honour Sarah Pinborough

Set against the backdrop of a falling world economy, propped up by a corporation known only as 'The Bank', struggling to cope with a more virulent strain of HIV, *A Matter of Blood* opens the story of Cass Jones, a Detective In-

"...mixes three genres of crime thriller, horror and high fantasy to form a gripping story ..."

spector in the Metropolitan Police detective overlooked for promotion due to the checkered record of his undercover history.

His superiors may well be in the right - Cass isn't above dealings with businessmen around town, but under a performance incentivised pay scheme, even a superb cop needs a steady source of money and other consumables. His home life is an equal mess; everyone knows his marriage is in shambles, and he stopped returning his brother's calls a while back.

However, he does still do the best he can at his job; whilst working on the double murder case - two children killed in a drive by which just misses local gang thug — a fellow detective

"... each body is covered in covered in hundreds of undamaged fly eggs, a feat that baffles the forensics team."

is hospitalized, burdening Cass with an extra case on his plate: a series of 4 murders linked by the victims having no signs of assault other than needle wound. Oh, and the small fact that each body is covered in hundreds of

undamaged fly eggs, a feat that baffles the forensics team.

Pinborough's *Dog Faced Gods* trilogy mixes the three genres of crime thriller, horror and high fantasy to form a gripping story which follows Cass through the sequels (*The Shadow of the Soul* and *The Chosen Seed*) where he follows the few leads he can grasp to find out the truth behind his family, and the mysterious forces that built The Bank.

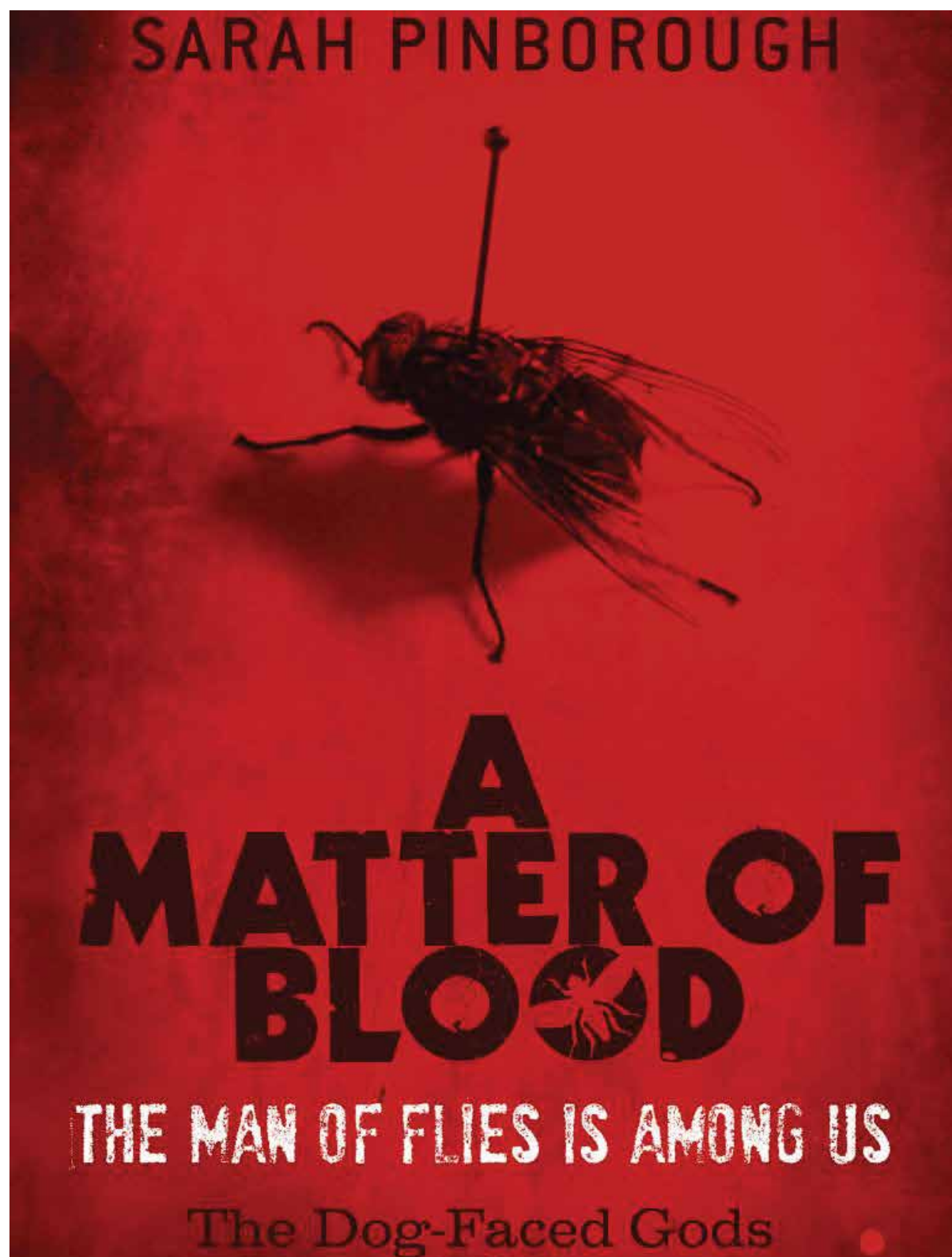
The interesting combination of police procedural and dark fantasy is used to both reinforce the feel of the world in which Cass resides, but also allows the plot to draw the reader in - like Paul Cornell's *London Falling*, which shares some themes with the trilogy - the style and use of proper procedure allows the reader to quickly buy into the supernatural sections of the plot.

"...the style and use of proper procedure allows the reader to quickly buy into the the super-natural sections of the plot."

The opening, which throws both Cass and the reader into two different ongoing investigations in an all-to-believable future sets the pace of the series, with the action flowing smoothly throughout.

Pinborough manages to strike an excellent balance between pulling together the two cases, the mysterious group running the bank, and Cass's family life whilst leaving enough ground that the sequels don't need to recover old ground, making the book (and series) an excellent read from start to finish.

Sarah Pinborough will be coming to Picocon 31 convention on Saturday February 22, starting at 10:00 with registration in Beit Quad. Tickets are £8 for student. For more information visit icsf.org.uk/picocon.



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Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week

This week the worlds finest fashion gurus descended upon the city that never sleeps to host the hottest runway shows for autumn/winter 2014.

Cécile Borkhataria
Fashion editor

Badgley Mischka

Monique Lhuillier

Tory Burch

Tommy Hilfiger



MBFASHIONWEEK.COM/PHOTOS

This years Tommy Hilfiger show had a decidedly outdoorsy theme and Mr.Hilfiger even decided to have a range of snow-capped mountains erected in the park avenue armory space, adding to the sporty feel of the collection. The collection itself wasn't innovative, but rather a classic homage to Hilfiger's signature sporty chic style. Plaid could be found in almost every single look, adding a sense of cohesiveness to the collection - even if it was a tad tedious at times. By layering big wool coats over plaid skirts or patched up jeans, Hilfiger reminds us that he is and has always been the master of the Americana look.



MBFASHIONWEEK.COM/PHOTOS

Badgley Mischka sent opulent golden gowns and sparkling ruffled dresses of pastel hues down the runway, giving the collection a glamorous red carpet theme. With a few tailored working woman skirt-jacket combo's littered throughout the show, Mark Badgley and James Mischka remind us that their skills aren't limited to just the red carpet.

The collections signature accessory was the fur hat - a sensible and stylish fashion option for next years autumn/winter season. Most of the dressy looks were accessorised with chunky gold bangles whereas the more formal working looks took to leather gloves.



MBFASHIONWEEK.COM/PHOTOS

This year Monique Lhuillier said of her collection that it was 'definitely a darker collection' which expresses the 'mysterious and more edgy side of the Monique woman.' Lhuillier is well known for her expertise in constructing fairytale, colourful princess gowns for her adoring clients, but this year her collection takes a slightly gothic twist. Many of the looks incorporated black lace designs overlaid on gowns which looked almost inked on in a creepy vine like pattern. Other looks were edgy too, especially the black PVC trench coat with sexy peaks of transparent material throughout. With all the looks teamed with black lace ankle boots or black leather heels, Lhuillier triumphed with her the goth chic inspired collection.



MBFASHIONWEEK.COM/PHOTOS

Tory Burch's collection featured mini skirts with long wool socks as a key theme. The looks were all very preppy chic, with paisley dresses teamed with long knee high leather boots a strong feature of the collection too. Burch was inspired by her parents armour collections when she was a child, and the theme is seen subtly throughout the collection, notably in wide gold belts that featured strongly throughout looks. jackets with strong shoulders and pleated lame skirts all but reinforced the army theme in a very wearable way, making the collection unique in its style inspiration. Medieval tapestry style prints featured on skirts and sweaters. All in all, the collection can be summed up as a successfully blend of modern silhouettes with antique twists.

Philadel...uhh...Dallas

Michael S. Martin

Star Writer

Dallas Buyers Club

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée

Writers: Craig Borton, Melisa Wallack

Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Jared Leto, Jennifer Garner

Runtime: 117 minutes

Certification: 15



Dallas Buyers Club is structured like the story of a self-made drug baron. Ron Woodroof (McConaughey) sees demand for an illegal product and goes through the trouble of importing and selling it, while trying to keep it away from the prying eyes of the law. But at its core the film is so much more than that.

In 1985, Ron Woodroof is diagnosed with AIDS and has to face his own and society's misconceptions about the disease. In a role that was made for McConaughey, Woodroof is a charismatic stereotypical Texan too big for his very literal cowboy boots who is at first in denial about his condition as his homophobic worldview clashes with the AIDS's reputation as a homosexual disease. When he accepts his fate, he is shunned by his equally homophobic circle of friends whose ignorance makes them afraid even of his touch and saliva.

Woodroof tries to get help and inquires about getting onto a clinical trial for a drug called AZT. Upon learning that he may not get treatment but a sugar pill placebo, he bribes a hospital janitor to smuggle AZT out for him. Under AZT his health starts deteriorating, which is where the film's

tone becomes uncomfortably anti-science (something all Imperial students should be dismayed to see in popular media) as it veers towards paranoid conspiracies about the pharmaceutical industry, only glossing over the fact that Woodroof's cocaine addiction might have had a bigger negative effect.

When he is readmitted into hospital, he meets Rayon (Leto), an HIV-positive Male-to-Female transgender. Initially very reluctant to establish any relationship with Rayon, through the film Woodroof puts behind his homophobia and slowly fosters -with a few cheesy scenes- a full-fledged friendship.

Thinking that he has no chance of survival at home, he moves to Mexico to try methods unapproved in the US. After being told he had 30 days to live at a time when AIDS was a death sentence, his health starts improving and the entrepreneurial Woodroof sees a potential market at home. He hires Rayon as his assistant and starts importing different dietary supplements and proteins, and the film turns into a near crime drama where Woodroof has to squiggle through customs, find legal loopholes to keep the police away and, when his supply from Mexico is obstructed, travel the World to find new suppliers. This change of tone is particularly well suited as it is when Woodroof has to face authority that McConaughey's passive aggressive charisma shines.

Dallas Buyers Club is an expertly crafted film, creating an entertaining plot with quite a few laugh out loud moments, despite the fact that it is showing the lives of people who are very literally on the brink of death. The film understands this and perfectly blends its boisterous tone with the morbid subject it deals with, and doesn't shy away from reality with many scenes that are hard to watch, in a good way.



Jack Steadman

Treasured Writer

Dallas Buyers Club

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée

Writers: Craig Borton, Melisa Wallack

Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Jared Leto, Jennifer Garner

Runtime: 117 minutes

Certification: 15



Dallas Buyers Club wastes less than a minute before drawing you in to the world of Ron Woodruff, the unlikeable, sleazy cowboy who is almost immediately diagnosed with AIDS and told he has 30 days to live. Talk about a ticking clock. This pressing impetus of what little time remains (a concern for the production itself as well – the entire shoot was completed in just 25 days due to budget constraints) lends the film a sense of urgency that drives it perpetually onwards, and acts as a cue for director Jean-Marc Vallée to use a smart system of sharp cuts and “Day X” title cards that ensure Dallas never loses momentum, and never quite settles into any discernable rhythm. Sure, there are moments where it slacks off slightly – but when they're as transcendent as Woodruff standing in a butterfly tank, revelling in the beauty of life, who cares?

The direction may be smart, and the momentum enticing, but it's the central performance of Matthew McConaughey that really sells the film here. Woodruff is not a likeable man, full stop – he's homophobic, sexist, and generally rotten (although he does undergo a rather obvious – albeit still incredibly realistic – character arc to redemption) – but McConaughey's magnetic performance is such that you can't help but feel sympathy for a man who feels, above all else, so pain-

fully real. Just watch his AIDS diagnosis – McConaughey runs the gamut of emotions, from anger and disbelief, through depressed acceptance all the way to cocksure denial, and it's never less than completely believable.

His co-star Jared Leto, appearing from about a third of the way in as transgender Rayon, puts up a strong attempt at stealing the show, completely unrecognisable in how utterly he has embraced his character. It's a stunningly sympathetic portrayal that – yet again – feels incredibly real. This does leave Jennifer Garner to be somewhat outshone by her two co-stars as the well-intentioned doctor who unintentionally finds herself siding with Woodruff against the medical establishment, but she still turns in a note-perfect performance, with her moment of raw grief – more so than anyone else in the film – being the most heart-wrenching scene by far. Simply done, but impossibly powerful.

Everything else about the film stands up to the high standards set by its central performances – the script is tight and focused, and bears far more flashes of humour than would ever be expected, from all angles. It points a lance at big pharma and completely and utterly nails a system that puts profits over people, while – in combination with some perfect art direction – also expertly paints the picture of the atmosphere of fear that presided over the start of the AIDS crisis. The mis-understandings, the lack of information, the confusion and horror that ran through both the medical world and the real one, it's all here, and it's all terrifying.

Dallas Buyers Club is not a perfect film, but perfect films don't exist. It has flaws, but it's an incredibly earnest portrayal of a crisis that happened in the very recent past, a crisis that continues to roll on today, anchored by career-best performances from Matthew McConaughey and Jared Leto. It's harrowing, moving, traumatising, but also uplifting in unequal measures. It's a film that demands to be watched.





Crime has a new enemy

Jack Steadman

Treasured Writer

Robocop

Director: José Padilha

Writer: Joshua Zetumer

Starring: Joel Kinnaman, Gary Oldman, Michael Keaton, Abbie Cornish, Jackie Earle Haley

Runtime: 118 minutes

Certification: 12A



The original *Robocop* was – is – an undisputed classic, a masterpiece, quite possibly the best film to come out of the '80s, and other such insanely excessive superlatives (but trust me, it really is that good), and if you dispute any of that... well... you're wrong. So there. Moving on from the childish point making, the seemingly endless remake/reboot train that Hollywood has a first class season ticket for has finally rolled up to Robocop station (to continue the metaphor), and a new director and a ridiculously big-name cast have all climbed aboard.

Initially, *Robocop* treads similar territory to its predecessor, albeit with a slightly different target for its satire, with Samuel L. Jackson's right-wing TV show host chewing every single inch of his green-screen scenery as he goes off on one about America being "robophobic" and why robots are awesome and so on and such like (cue action sequence of robots being... not awesome?). It's a neat enough way of setting up the main plot thrusts, but it quickly becomes clear that *Robocop* isn't going to be the biting satire the original was, instead using the ideas (along with a bigger emphasis on

free will) as the springboard for some sweet-as action scenes.

Of course, this does mean the film relies heavily on the characters to keep you interested between the big fights, and it's an unfortunately hit-and-miss selection. Michael Keaton and Gary Oldman offer the best performances – Keaton's single-minded executive quite possibly steals the show, while Oldman's doctor gives the 'free will' theme some much needed heart – although of everyone only Samuel L Jackson truly feels like he got the memo about this not being 100% super-serious. Because it's not. Everyone just seems to think it is. Several of the big names get totally shafted by their roles – Jay Baruchel and Jennifer Ehle can have their roles summed up as "wise-cracking marketing exec who isn't as funny as he thinks he is" and "legal woman" respectively, with their names being absolutely irrelevant, while Abbie Cornish's job as Clara Murphy is to... to... cry? And look pretty? Which leads us nicely on to the star of the show: Alex Murphy, this time being played by Joel Kinnaman. Where to start? The beginning seems logical, so here goes: Murphy

this time round is a dick. Whereas in the original he was a great cop, friendly, competent, all that, here he's the (now) stereotypical driven asshole who doesn't play by the rules, blah blah blah, etc, etc. Liking Murphy is kind of critical to the concept of liking *Robocop*, and at the start it's incredibly hard to. Sure, he's a good cop, he's a good father/husband and all that, but he's just a bit of a jerk and it feels like the writers went too far down the 'gritty' route (have you seen the first film? Last thing it needs is more grit).

So far, so mediocre. Some mildly shonky CGI on running *Robocop* (and if it's not CGI... what did they do?) fails to further the 'this doesn't totally suck' case, but then... the action scenes. This may be a 12A (and so somewhat brutally neutered in the violence stakes – compared to the original's well-deserved 18/reputation as one of the bloodiest films around), but boy does director José Padilha nail the action scenes. Dodging and weaving around the 12 rating (one character gets left to die in his own grenade explosion, *Robocop* takes inspiration from *127 Hours*, the blood sprays take their cues from *The Hunger Games*

and appear for as long as they can before the BBFC orders them cut down, and many, many more instances), the snappy editing and quick camera movements mean that, if nothing else, *Robocop* engages on a purely visceral level. And at that level, it's actually really good.

Throw in almost every reference to the original you can think of, from the strains of the main theme to *Robocop's* immortal "dead or alive, you're coming with me" (I'm not ashamed to admit I emitted a high-pitched noise at that point), sprinkle liberally with some mostly rather-good CGI (ED-209 looks even better than before, although I'd still argue the original model felt more genuinely terrifying), and you've got a remake that's actually not terrible. Which is kind of a back-handed compliment, and if I'm honest it feels a little unfair. Inevitably, *Robocop* has to be held up against its predecessor, and that's a fight it was never going to win. But taken on its own terms, or with an open mind, it's actually a really enjoyable, highly entertaining action flick that deals with some important questions. So, with that in mind, your move, creep.

Imperial Cinema



Oldboy

Seminal Director Spike Lee brings us the American adaptation of the viscerally violent South Korean revenge thriller *Oldboy*. Joe, an advertising executive, wakes up imprisoned in a hotel room and learns that he has been framed for the rape and murder of his ex-wife and daughter. His imprisonment continues for 20 years as he meticulously trains to be a boxer so he can exact his revenge on those responsible for his imprisonment. After watching an interview of his estranged daughter he is suddenly set free to hunt down those who have wronged him.

Even if the plot seems a tad implausible, *Oldboy* weaves its potent message of brutal nihilism with such high intensity that this will soon be forgotten.

Tuesday 18th Feb: 19:00
Thursday 20th Feb: 19:00

Tickets £3 Members/£4 Non-Members

For cheaper prices for the rest of the year, buy membership here:
www.imperialcinema.co.uk

Next week: *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*





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FILM

Based on a true story?

Peter Brook

Treasured Writer

“Based on a true story.”

“THIS IS A TRUE STORY. The events depicted in this film took place in Minnesota in 1987. At the request of the survivors, the names have been changed. Out of respect for the dead, the rest has been told exactly as it occurred.”

“Some of this actually happened.”

“The following is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. Especially you Jenny Beckman. Bitch.”

From the openings of Captain Phillips, Fargo, American Hustle and 500 Days of Summer.

According to the great uncitable (Wikipedia) before the year 2000 211 films had been produced based on a true story and after 2000, 221 films have been based on a true story. Why is it that this concept has become such a popular trope in modern filmmaking and should we care?

My first point on this matter is that we all know that what we are seeing is not real. It's been filmed and there are well known actors saying the words. Could the words be the real words that these people said? Probably not, because real people don't talk like they do in the movies (unless the genre is mumblecore). So there almost has to be an element of fabrication in the way the story unfolds.

So if writers and directors are going to embellish the truth to make a good film, why not just start from scratch and write a movie about what you wished had happened for the most drama? Lots of other writers do this already and it was pretty much par for the course until 2000.

Well, one interesting comment made by Joel Coen may give us some insight:

“If an audience believes that something's based on a real event, it gives you permission to do things they

might otherwise not accept.”

Which begs the question, is *Fargo* based on a true story at all? Is the introduction just a method to get you to overlook some of the issues in the film. The Coens used lots of physical comedy, which for some people could jerk them out of the moment. However, with the pacifier of knowing it is all a “true story” it might be easier to say, “Hey, I don't mind if this is unbelievable, because life can be unbelievable.”

One of the biggest problems with pulling the true story card comes when making a real person an archetypical movie hero. People in real life may resent seeing someone they know or knew who might be the antithesis of a hero in real life. For example *Captain Phillips*, the person from the film of the same name has been called out for being anything but a hero, and we've been told that due to his disregard for the safety he put his crew at risk.

The things that people take away from films are the emotions and the journeys a character goes through. Even when a film is totally fictional, if the character is relatable then the emotions are transferred to audience and these are real. What the audience then hates is feeling lied to. We had empathy for Cpt. Phillips when we left the cinema, and when we found out the story wasn't true the rug was pulled out from under us.

Now it's obvious the studios love this because it then gets free column inches, and this is very possibly one of the complex reasons why more films that are “True” get made. Often there are stories that people already know, the life of Mandela instantly springs to mind, that are made into a film because again, people will talk about it straight away and there is a discussion about whether it did his life justice. All of which seems like a very cynical way of making movies. Especially when the discussion of the apartheid system in South Africa can be so cleverly taken apart by a film like *District 9*.

Really my conclusion is probably quite a blunt one, and that is that with clever writing and smart filmmaking this is something we really don't need, it's something that film companies need.



Some of this actually happened.



THIS IS A TRUE STORY. The events depicted in this film took place in Minnesota 1987.



The following is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental.



Based on a true story.



Who do you think you are?

John Park Television Editor

Orphan Black:

Season 1



There is a reason why television critics can't stop talking about Tatiana Maslany. The fact that her work on the first season of *Orphan Black* missed out on an Emmy nomination which damn well should have resulted in a win over Claire "I do the same boring crazy spy skit every episode" Danes was scandalous enough, but the recognition from the Golden Globes (nominated - still didn't score a win) as well as several high-profile wins have justly placed her excellent new science-fiction show on an entirely new, wider playing field. The month of April 2014 sees the long-awaited return of the almighty, epic *Game of Thrones* (WOOHOO), but you also need to be gearing up for the second season premiere of what probably was 2013's best new show.

We start with Sarah Manning (Maslany), a low-life English hustler in Canada who has just left her drug-dealing, abusive boyfriend Vic (Michael Mando) and is looking to connect with her daughter Kira who is currently being looked after by Mrs S (Maria Doyle Kennedy), Sarah's foster mother, who emigrated from Ireland to the States many years ago. One day she witnesses a suicide. The odd thing being that the lady who jumped in front of a train looked exactly like her. Brushing this off as being a massive coincidence, Sarah steals Beth Childs' (Maslany, again) identity. Although complicating the matters is the fact that Beth is a cop and is in the midst of a complicated shooting incident. Beth's police partner Detective Art Bell (Kevin Hanchard) senses something's up, and it doesn't get any more awkward when Beth's boyfriend Paul (Dylan Bruce) shows up.

But that's not all. It seems Beth was up to some investigating of her own. She has been in contact with several of these "lookalikes" and it doesn't take long for the truth to finally come out. Sarah is one of many clones who were created in a mysterious scientific experiment that went a little awry. And all having grown up in different backgrounds, all these women born in 1984, have grown up to become completely different human beings. We have the hustler, the cop, a soccer mom housewife, a nerdy scientist, a German who pops up out of nowhere, a Ukrainian with some scary, severe



psychological issues and that's just season 1.

And in portraying this vast range of characters who are so completely different from one another (they look very different too, sometimes it's easy to forget they're played by the same actress - so kudos to the hair/makeup/costume teams), is the immensely talented Canadian actress Tatiana Maslany. Not only does each clone feel like someone whole, there are distinct characteristics that make them all stand out even in a seemingly crowded ensemble. She has a way of making every clone stick to the viewer's mind, and where several clones appear in one scene, her interaction with herself (acting doubles are used, and edited fragments put together taking almost 17 hours to shoot a single scene where three of the clones are together) appears seamless. Her accents, too, shuffling back and forth mainly between English and American, with some Eastern European thrown in there too, are effortlessly done. Further seasons will only give more room and opportunities for Maslany to expand

her versatility as a compelling actress, which is one of many appealing qualities of the show.

With every episode there is a brand new set of twists and turns that both shock and amaze at the bold steps the show is not afraid to take. The writers aren't interested in making it an easy road for Sarah and the rest of the clones and with many challenges come exciting plot points that become more and more addictive. After one necessary lie, there is another lie, more cover-up, and it's not long before a whole web of lies becomes too confusing to handle even for the protagonist, which

There is some excellent cast integration work at play here too. Not only do the clones cooperate (for the most part) for survival, the growing number of supporting players who get in on the mind-boggling science-fiction conspiracy action keep the pace alive and healthy. Art is a smart detective who, along with his new partner Angela Deangelis (Inga Cadranel), isn't too far from putting all the pieces together. Vic, Sarah's ex, has a way of complicating everyone's lives just by

showing up, which is great news for the audience as the level of tension and drama continues to build. Paul, Beth's lover and Sarah's new boy-toy so to speak, isn't just there to get naked, because his character starts building too throughout the season. Felix (Jordan Gavaris), Sarah's foster brother, is let in on the clone secret from the get-go, and not only provides some sharp, timely comedy but also invaluable input to the show's core plot. Most intriguing however is Mrs S, played stoically by Maria Doyle Kennedy. There isn't a whole lot revealed to us about the strict, no-nonsense Mr S until right towards the season 1 finale, and given what kind of juicy subplot she may have to play with, her expanded role will almost certainly boost the show's enjoyment factor next season, as if there wasn't enough to thoroughly enjoy here anyway.

Who are the villains here? Aside from a certain psychopath out to kill everyone it's an ever-evolving mind-game to determine where people's loyalties lie. Even with the clones their individual lives that they have had over

the years influence the decisions they make, and just because they share the same genetics, doesn't mean their priorities are all the same. Conflicts of course arise, and with pressure from shadowy figures who are constantly lurking somewhere, you certainly get the feeling that no one is ever safe, and there will be a whole lot of running and fighting until these characters find some peace.

Graeme Manson, one of the creators of the show, has claimed he would like 8 seasons overall plus a feature film. It's a show of endless potential, with so many interesting directions it could take. The near-perfect season 1 has been a brilliant set-up. Throw in more clones, remember to ruthlessly kill some too, let Tatiana Maslany do what she does best, keep up the pace, make great use of the non-clones, slowly but surely reveal the villains, have some double-crossing, back-stabbing, but most of all, keep the surprises coming; as the number of jaw-dropping moments in the starter 10-episode season alone was extraordinary. Here's to 7 more seasons of such brilliance.



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TELEVISION

Three musketeers, one review

Emily Fulham takes a swash-buckling journey into Renaissance France

There are a few ways to instantly sell me on a new TV show, regardless of reviews or recommendations. The new BBC show, *Musketeers*, hit virtually all of the boxes: an adaptation of an all-time favourite book, a cast featuring Peter Capaldi and the hot artist from *Heroes*, and plenty of sword fights. I'd have eagerly watched it regardless of any bad reviews, which is probably for the best, as it had something of a mixed reception from critics.

It's not hard to see why: *Musketeers* is trashy in the best sense of the word, more interesting in having fun than historical accuracy, with a mostly young, attractive cast who spend a lot of time wearing too little clothing. Then again, anyone who's read Dumas' novel knows it was never intended to be high-brow literature; the book itself is definitely of the most purely entertaining classic French novels, so I don't have any objection to the show prioritising fun over accuracy.

Our protagonist is d'Artagnan, a young country boy desperate to join the King's Musketeers, whose journey to Paris starts off with a bang after the inn where he and his father are staying is attacked. The opening scenes already make a rapid departure from the events of the book in the killing off of d'Artagnan's father (it's not a spoiler if it happens in the first five minutes), which I felt was a somewhat unnecessary change for the sake of adding drama.

The opening episode also introduces us to the Musketeers themselves, the King, and the Cardinal. The former are, respectively, Athos, Porthos, and Aramis, who are by turns shown to be violent, womanising, and chivalrous. The Musketeers, with their rallying cry of 'all for one and one for all' (the original 'bros before hos') are charged with keeping the peace on behalf of the King, Louis XIII. Tensions are high, however, with the common 17th century power struggle between church and state existing between the King and Cardinal Richelieu, whose own guards are constantly duelling with the Musketeers. Tales of court scheming and unwise bedfellows are as old as most monarchies, yet always seem to provide good fodder for historical dramas.

This is the situation that d'Artagnan finds himself caught up in, when upon arriving in Paris he manages to find himself right in the middle of a brawl and challenging Athos to a duel to the death after a case of mistaken identity. The first episode is certainly action-packed, with more than three swordfights and a few raunchy scenes.

The cast is one of the strongest aspects of the show. One setback was a minor controversy over whether the casting of Porthos as mixed-race is an attempt to be 'politically correct' (which, really, can we just stop having this debate - not only have non-white people been around in Europe since at least Roman times, ethnicity is the least of most historical drama's issues



BBC

with accuracy. In addition, Alexandre Dumas himself was black, so the casting makes sense if only as a nod to its author). In reality, all of the Musketeers are well-cast: Athos, played by the strong, stoic leader of the group, and Santiago Cabrera is perfect as 'pretty boy' Aramis, whose talents in duelling are matched only by his tal-

ents of enticing women into bed. Luke Pasqualino, of *Skins* fame, is also good at portraying d'Artagnan's sensitivity and the recklessness that comes with his immaturity. Finally, Peter Capaldi is unsurprisingly perfect as the Cardinal, as his face does lend itself so well to the role of scheming villain.

The main issues with the

programme are those which are basically inherent to the book: pretty much every female character is either a seductive temptress (the character of Milady is one of the most stereotypical femme fatales around) or a feisty love interest, and it takes a while to see the Musketeers as sympathetic characters rather than Renaissance-era 'lads' who spend all their time brawling and chatting up women. It's another reason why it's worth sticking with the show for a few episodes to see if it's a grower, even if you're not keen on the first episode.

The most recent adaptation of *The Three Musketeers* was a film only three years ago starring Orlando Bloom and Milla Jovovich. It met to unanimously awful reviews, but in my opinion it's a book that naturally lends itself better in TV format, given that it was first published as a series in a newspaper and weaves many plot lines taking place over a fairly long period of time. It's also just a really good book, and missing huge chunks of it out in order to condense it into a two hour film seems a shame.

It may not be a realistic portrayal of 17th century France, but what it lacks in realism it makes up for in its commitment to ensuring the viewer has a good time. Having been commissioned by the BBC for a second series, it's clear that the majority of its audience are so far on board. With ten episodes in total in the first series, things are looking promising for the Musketeers.

BBC





Find the egg-laying chicken

Max Eggl talks to one of the Yoyo founders Michael Rolph, on the merits of mobile and future plans of Yoyo at Imperial

ME: Introduce yourself:

MR: My name is Michael Rolph, I am the co-founder of Yoyo which has launched very recently here at Imperial.

ME: What is the history of Yoyo, how did you guys start out?

MR: I've got a personal background which is very much from the payment space. Ex-Barclaycard Business, First Data, Paypal and I've spent the last three or so years prior to Yoyo both as an investor and advisor in the financial technology space, specifically helping large corporations think about how they innovate in payments. I've been quite privileged to see a lot of what goes on out there. My two co-founders are equally serial entrepreneurs: Alain Falys was the founder of OB10 and Dave Nicholson founded Zopa, and both of them were talking about mobile payments. I've been from the space and every day I heard for the last 15 years or so about how mobile is going to be the future of payments. The reality is that this time last year, when the three of us got together, the conclusion was that there was nothing out there. There is a lot of talk about people like Google, Paypal and whoever else, but you realise that there is nothing there. There's lots of startups that have tried to do mobile payments but nothing has stuck.

So the conclusion we got to was that the only thing that looked interesting was Starbucks app. 13% of all their sales in the US and UK come from mobile devices. It was the one shining light, so we looked at their app in quite a bit of detail, as much as we could and we came to a few conclusions. Firstly, it was not built for purpose, it was just an extension of their pre-paid program. The other part of it was, actually, it got pretty bad pretty quickly. You get the instant stamp, but if you get enough stamps to get a reward, they send you the reward as a paper voucher to your home address. That is just insane. Then when it comes to offers, there is no context, there is no relevance to the offer they are sending you based on what you like and what you buy. So we quickly said, it's really interesting, it works, it's adding some value but there is a lot that could be better. Our starting point then became: Starbucks but better. So that's how we came about.

ME: I know you have a link with Imperial Innovations, how did that start/work out?

MR: Alain [Falys] was actually a Venture Partner at Imperial Innovations and when we all three came together it felt quite natural that we should meet there. Innovations have been very early supporters of us as a team. We were unique and quite different from a lot of people who had tried this before and failed, because we were from the space and we are not a traditional set of entrepreneurs, as we are not first time entrepreneurs. We also had good connections in the retail space and we had a good view of it. So they supported us early on to make it [Yoyo] our full time job, as it were. So since September last year, all three of us have been really focused on Yoyo.

ME: So, I am also quite aware that you are active in other universities, why target universities and students?

MR: Launching something that changes, or gives someone the ability to change their behaviour, as mobile does, is not easy because you've got a two-headed beast to tackle. You've got to get the consumers, the users, as well as the retailer. The whole industry

“
The whole industry talks about this chicken and egg situation, but in my mind if you've found the thing that looks like the chicken that laid the first egg that then became the chicken, then it's a pretty obvious point that you can do something with it.”

talks about this chicken and egg situation, but in my mind if you've found the thing that looks like the chicken that laid the first egg that then became the chicken, then it's a pretty obvious point that you can do something with

it. So we started off at universities, just as it worked for Facebook. What we are building here is a consumer network, and from that perspective, you need to get your critical mass pretty quickly, get some momentum. Equally you need to solve a problem, and when you think about what we've really done, even if we forget what Yoyo is going to do in the retail space, there are some real annoyances around paying and loyalty aspects in any closed campus environment that we addressed. Most would say, either you have to pay by cash or you've got to use some kind of closed-loop prepaid card, which you have to top up, and that can become quite a pain.

So although payment isn't broken, there are a number of small annoyances like queuing for an ATM, having to deal with change, having to wait in a queue whilst someone mucks around with getting the right change or dropping their money, whatever it may be, that if you eliminate would make everything much easier and we've done that in a very simple way.

ME: Now, more specific to Imperial, at the moment you are linked to Taste Imperial, are you planning to branch out to the Union?

MR: We are currently integrating into the Union, and at some point in

February we expect to be there. We are actually testing today. We expect to be up and running within fourteen days or so.

ME: At the moment it is only with Taste Imperial (food related establishments) are you planning anything with the gifts shop at Imperial for example?

MR: The only thing that currently isn't able to accept Yoyo, or going to accept Yoyo within February are the shops, but we will bring the shops on board as well.

ME: In terms of features, is there anything that you are planning to release?

MR: The next release will include things like PIN-entry for access to the app, it will include automated top-up, and a whole bunch of things around the rewards, sort of Yoyo specific rewards but actually what we've got here is the first release, so we are actually building version 2, that will bring in things like being able to share rewards with friends for example.

ME: Currently you are only on Android and iOS, are you planning anything Windows?

MR: We will do a Windows application, probably towards the end of this year. We built something for Apple and Android, not because it's not necessarily easier, but because that's 95% of the market. However universities are actually one of the only areas where Windows has a proportionately higher share, so it is definitely on our list of things to do.

ME: Also you work with QR codes right now, what about NFC?

MR: The reason we work with QR codes, is because it is the easiest thing for a retailer. It works with all their existing hardware, the only thing we have to help them with is the scanners, but that's relatively easy. As for NFC, we are not adverse to it, we are actually technology agnostic at the front end, so if NFC did become the norm, then absolutely we would make it part of the every-day experience of Yoyo.

ME: Do you see contactless cards as a competitor to Yoyo?

MR: No. A lot of people have issues



Left to Right: Maximilian Eggl, Michael Rolph

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with contactless cards in two ways. One, some places don't accept them and equally not every bank doesn't issue contactless cards. So a ubiquitous experience isn't there. However, if someone is using them and they work, it works really well but what a contactless card doesn't do what Yoyo does, is it doesn't enable you to automate the whole stamping of the loyalty card, it doesn't enable you to receive offers. What we are building is fundamentally very different. What we have got is, effectively, a marketing tool for retailers to have a better relationship with consumers, by sending them more offers or giving them more rewards.

ME: One aspect that seemed to put a lot of people off Yoyo was security issues, and one of the things that did worry them was the whole pin thing, if you lose your phone for example.

MR: Let's put this into some context. On the table in front of me, I have my wallet and my phone. Which one is easier for you to get access to money from? The wallet, right? So the minute you have access to my wallet, you have access to any cash I have in my wallet, access to my contactless card, my credit cards and you had to do nothing to get there. Now if I say you have my phone, away you go. If it's locked, there's not much you can do. So there is a reliance that most people do have a first line of authentication to get into the device, be it fingerprint, pin or passcode. Then on the app itself if someone wants to add a PIN on top of that, on the next version we are releasing, then they can do that. So we have two layers of authentication, which is more than on a wallet. Equally, once you have my card details you can go online and do all sorts of things. One can probably get your card, find out date of birth and address pretty easily, believe it or not, and do whatever they want. With Yoyo, the minute you've lost your phone, you will

realise. You will realise you lost your phone before you've lost your wallet. Your phone is your third arm. So the first you can do is then lock the phone, end of story. Then you can Yoyo, and ask us to block your account. There is a whole bunch of things that you can do very quickly, that you can't do with a wallet. It's very simple.

ME: Another thing that comes to mind, it seemed incredibly easy to set up a yoyo account. You only



needed a name, account number, sort code and address. So what stops me, finding out that information of someone else, and then putting their account details onto my Yoyo account?

MR: We do a lot of background checking, we match your username versus bank details. We are also partnered with GoCardless, which is a very well established direct debit management platform. I hope though, that the first thing that would stop you, is that you aren't a criminal. However you can't rule it out, though I strongly advise anybody studying here not to do it. On the basis that they are messing with their future.

ME: Lastly in terms of security: We currently live in the world of Big Data. Obviously Yoyo get data from the users, what is your policy on that?

MR: Around data, and anything we do whether it's on Facebook or Twitter, everything is accessible to everybody. They govern this under a term called the privacy policy, which is exactly the opposite. So what we have done, is turned that on its head a bit. We have come up with something called the transparency agreement, and as part of that transparency agreement, what we state is that we will never share your data with a merchant. What that means, is your contact information, even your name, because there is no need to. What we can let the retailer

know is what you are buying, but they know that anyway. What we do is give it to them in a way that at least gives them a little insight, to better engage you with offers that are relevant. So what we do share is for the benefit of driving better offers, better rewards for different customer segments, different users. What we don't share is the personal identifying information. We don't share any of the financial information around funding methods, or anything like that. So we see ourselves as a kind of film in between, which manages the relationship on both sides, user and retailer, for the benefit of both in a way that doesn't conflict anyone in anything they don't want to be conflicted in.

ME: So given now that you have all the aforementioned data, will you be able to give personalised offers?

MR: Absolutely. In fact my next meeting is with Catering Services, to talk about Yoyo specific only offers. Going forward, this is totally what



this is about. Actually you can start to categorize people into segments pretty quickly, based on an understanding of what they buy.

If you are buying coffee two times a day, you may sit to the right hand side of a spectrum of coffee drinkers. Then what would the segment coffee drinkers like to eat with their coffees. Perhaps a coffee and pastry type of offer would work for them and if they are buying coffee at 8:30 in the morning, then we should send their offers 8 o'clock, so they can think about it and then take advantage of it. So, where we are going with Yoyo, is actually about creating, from the user's perspective, a personalised commerce environment. You are defined by your behaviour, your behaviour is where you choose to spend money. We are not suggesting where you do it, we are offering you the ability to manage the world in the way you want it, so you can see the offers and rewards that are most meaningful to you.

What we all recognize, we, the founders of Yoyo, are consumers, too. A lot of the things that lead to Yoyo,

are because I found being bombarded by e-mails and texts really annoying. I don't care that I am near a Starbucks, I just don't care. So every time it pings up in Passbook, I just turn it all off. But what I do care about for example a Fernandez and Wells - which is my favourite coffee joint - I would like to know if I am near one. So to be able to personalise that experience in a way where I don't have to download multiple retailer apps would be great!

ME: So are you planning to expand out of universities?

MR: What we are building is definitely for the high street as well as for the campus, the reason being is that we want to start bringing in the ability to give more to you, the consumers, of things that they like. As a consumer, what do we really want out of any transaction? We want to pay less, and we want to get more, and that is totally what Yoyo is relying on doing. Yes, a retailer wants to sell more, but obviously it also wants to provide a great customer experience and wherever possible they want to save money. Saving money is equivalent to not wasting money. By enabling retailer to offer rewards that are more appropriate for different segments, ticking the boxes that they want to tick. Most importantly for a users perspective, you are starting to get things that are relevant to you, and not just homogenised for anybody.



ME: So on a completely different note, why Yoyo? What's with the name?

MR: Choosing a name is very difficult in today's world of startup boom. The first thing about Yoyo is that everyone knows what a yoyo is. It's very international in terms of its pollination of language. Yoyo is a yoyo everywhere you go and most people, unless you had one ping you

in the eye, have a positive experience. It's very playful and very engaging. Equally if you think of the process of spinning a yoyo out, and then coming back to you, it's the same thing when you think about paying for something and what you get back is rewards and offers. So, it's a very engaging process, and it's memorable, right?

ME: Any last thoughts, any thing left to say? Maybe why imperial students should use yoyo?

MR: The reason why we chose Imperial is because there is a high concentration of smart people in one place and you know, if we are going to build something relevant for the world, what better place than to launch it at Imperial. The feedback we get is invaluable to help us create a better consumer experience, which we all love and all consumers would benefit from that. It's something that's very quick and simple. Our belief is that if we get it right here, and get it right at the other universities we are going to roll Yoyo out at, that the concept that we can go to the world with is that smart people buy with Yoyo. I would encourage everyone to download it, use it and start taking advantage of the Yoyo specific rewards and offers.

ME: Sorry to keep you, but one last question; You had this 10% offer for topping up in January. Sadly that's over now, but do you have any other promotions to encourage more people to start using Yoyo?

MR: : In February, we are running prize draws, whenever you pay with Yoyo on campus you have a chance of winning either £10 or £50 of Yoyo balance (there are multiple winners). We will be doing the first draw at the end of this week, and that is running throughout the whole of February. You can get the updates on the winners on Twitter at @justyoyo, and On our page on Facebook. We are definitely making sure that there is a chance for people to win and enjoy their Yoyo experience.





DayZ Stories



Maximilian Eggl
Games Editor

The DayZ standalone has been released, and given the amazing stories that occur in that game, I decided to make a kind of series out of it! So here it goes:

Episode 2.1: Anna's Grace

With newfound strength and vigour, I decided to go through the nearby houses to see if I could find anything to further help me survive. It seems lady luck was on my side, because the first house I had entered was untouched. While there was a fair amount of rotten fruit, the bag of rice and box of crackers looked absolutely gorgeous to me, but it was the fire axe I found hanging from a hook that was the greatest gift. In absolutely pristine, it would help me fend off any uninvited zombies or humans.

As I left the place of my lucky pickings, I stopped and dropped. Off in the distance there was a man and he didn't look to friendly. Unfortunately for me, he had seen me already before I had a chance to hide. I took out my axe and readied myself for a fight I was not sure I could win. However as the guy came closer, I saw how starved and sickly he looked. The most haunting thing was I heard him cry:

"Help me, I was just killed by bandits. I have nothing now!"

Unsure what to make of this strange utterance, I hesitated. Then I remembered my hunger and my thirst. Only two hours ago I was close to the end. What kind of person would I be if I didn't help out someone in need. I approached him,

"I am friendly, but don't do anything fishy or I will bash you in the head!"

The guy nodded, and I approached. There was a hungry look in his eye when he looked at my axe, I tried to ignore it though.

"Do you need anything?", I asked him.

"Do you have any food?"

I opened my backpack, and threw the bag of rice at him. He jumped on it like a wild animal, and while he was distracted I sneaked off. I hid in a copse of trees, and cried at the loss of humanity.

Mobile: Just flapping about?

Maximilian Eggl, contemplating the demise of yet another game



No, this is not a review of Flappy Bird. Firstly, Flappy Bird does not need any review. I mean, the game is so incredibly simple (you tap to fly between pipes) that you could form any opinion of it faster than you could read it. Secondly, I still wish to have a life and Flappy Bird seems to kill time like nothing else. Lastly, it is actually impossible for me to review this game, as its not available anymore. Yes, the creator, Dong Nguyen, couldn't deal with internet furore that accompanied the meteoric rise of his game. Surprisingly this means that he gives up 50,000\$ a day. Furthermore, this has led to phones with flappy bird still installed being offered up for

exorbitant amount of money on Ebay.

If we look past all the media attention, what does this mean for mobile gaming? Well, this uber successful game was made by ONE guy. One single man sat down and created a game that was top of app stores around the world. This may encourage more budding creators who may not have the inclination to write an app, which may lead to other great ideas that will become as successful. Furthermore, it showed that a game doesn't need a great premise, it doesn't need a story or character development. In fact you can rip off someone else's idea, reimagine it a bit, and it will not influence how successful you are. All that matters if you win in the mobile

gaming world is if you are lucky. Yep, it's that simple dumb luck influences if your game is a flop or if you earn 50k a day.

The last thing we should learn is that mobile gaming is fickle. Remember Words With Friends or Draw Something? More so than console or PC gaming, due to the nature of mobile games. They are meant to be played on the go, only about 5 minutes on average invested at any given time. Perhaps this relates to entire sector itself. If you only play a game for about 5 minutes, why should you remember about it 6 months down the line? This area is so incredibly fast moving, that no one will even remember what flappy bird was 1 month down the line.

GTA Online Adventure 1

Calum Skene
Games Editor

Grand Theft Auto online finally enables you to play Grand Theft Auto how you want. Enabling you to create your character and setting you free on Los Santos to progress as you see fit. Here is one account of what goes down online.

First of all I made my character, a sweet Vince Neil surfer looking type with some serious attitude called Freddie, and then I dived straight into the game. At first things look good for Freddie, I win my first race earning me some cash and a chance to give the one finger salute to the people I beat. I then proceed to steal some meth from a biker gang and sell it on, and then protect a block of flats from a gang attack. However things were too good to be true (well to be fair that was the tutorial) and I discovered the true nature of Los Santos the harsh way. I buy a cheap apartment opposite a local skate park and kit out my garage with some vehicles. I go for a bright pink mini and a motorbike for speedy transport in style.

Freddie is in the most dangerous gang (created by me) Danger Chicken. The one goal of Danger Chicken is simple; set up a rival fried chicken company to Cluckin' Bell. Obviously to do this we need money and the easiest (and only way I've discovered) way to make money is to steal, cheat, race and kill for it. Joining me in this pursuit is Anna Tilton, a high class

lady with a serious taste for revenge. Once me and Anna were cruising around and got into a gang attack Anna went crazy, got in a tank and chased the poor guy across the map, killing them over and over so that they were never alive for more than 7 seconds at a time. As part of the gang I obviously had to back her up. When the enemy escaped and managed to get a tank, I promptly stole it off them and aided in the attempt to get them to leave the server which happened after a brutal one hour chase across the map. Needless to say Anna is a great friend to have. Her high rank

gives me access to fun equipment such as tanks and air strikes. Unfortunately the only time I have seen an air strike is when I was blown to pieces when riding around on my bmx bike which I now know is not a safe thing to do.

The next adventure of Freddie is when I was challenged to an arm wrestle. Of course I accepted and beat this kid at an arm wrestle. I was expecting 5 or 6 arm wrestles for my troubles to get all the way cross the map, but they left after one. The only sensible thing to do was to repeatedly kill this guy to teach them a lesson. It was a bizarre chase as my mini was all

beat up and they were in a sports car, but I somehow managed to keep up and keep the deaths up. He then tried to escape on foot which provided even more fun as I managed to run him over and fling his body all the way down a hill. Unfortunately all this ended in me getting a massive bounty from the police and I was repeatedly killed by other players.

I guess this shows that in Los Santos you got to be as Big Smoke says "Ice Cold". Tune in next week for the account of Anna and Freddie, proud members of Danger Chicken, as they attempt to steal a Cluckin' Bell van!



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 FelixImperial

FOOD

Chip(olatas) Off The Ol' Block

Felix Food gives some bang(er)-on sausage love this week

This Valentine's Day, Felix pays homage to our own population with a closer look at the food that has become one of our running jokes/characteristics...at our expense. Well if you can't beat them, join them! And in true Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's Three Good Things style - or well, thinly veiled saucy references - we include two veg suggestions with each sausage. Mmm mmm.

Disclaimer: Like our population, sausage variety is diverse - we can't cover them all, so we've gone for the underDOGS (hurr) + the British Any omission of your favourite banger is purely due to spacial constraints, not from explicit discrimination of course. Neither are any of the remarks on here supposed to be insults. (We do apologize to our dear Muslim readers in advance, too - most of these are pork products.)



Lap Cheong (Chinese Sausage)

Unlike their human Imperial counterparts, lap cheong ("waxed sausages") probably get a lot more sun due to the drying/manufacturing process. You don't consume them in the same way you do with most of the sausages here - they're more of seasoning or a flavour-packed accent morsel as opposed to a main protein. Like chorizo, a little goes a long way.

Two veggies that go with this sausage: Dice up that sausage into little cubes, stir fry with peas + diced carrots, and add to your (egg) fried rice. We guarantee that little added extra will score you A*s and firsts all around in the culinary realm.



FOOD-RELATED PSA

Felix Food would like to point out that by law, pork sausages need to contain **at least 42% meat before they can be called sausages** - however you can have up to 30% fat, and that's what most economy brands do (ick!)

By all means, show your local(ish) butcher/farmers' market stallholder some love this Valentine's Day and beyond, as they're likely to produce their own brilliant bangers on a smaller scale. They're pricier, yes, but a choice one or two sausages with good quality meat + high content will be worth more than empty calories from excess rusk/sausage-filler-ingredients. No porkies being told here - promise!



Cumberland

Longcat may be cute, but these long morsels of protein have a history (and probably length) that go way before the beloved 2chan/4chan-worthy feline - plus, you'd get less flack consuming one over the other. These can be up to half a metre long and are traditionally sold in coils (instead of links like most sausages) - plus unlike most British sausages, they tend to be more peppery instead of being herby/sage-dominated (think Lincolnshire etc.) Plus they've got to adhere to strict standards before they're allowed to be called Cumberlands. Lot of premium sausage for your money!

Two veggies that go with this sausage: Leek in a Cumberland sausage casserole is absolutely divine and one of our editor's favourite comfort meals back in boarding school. Roast butternut squash also works a treat, too.



Chipolata

This poor thin tiny fella is a confused un' - it's said to have been first created in France (the name itself is French), but is based on Italian spiced sausages....yet they're most common in the UK. It's also been said that chipolata used to refer to a specific sausage mix as well - but we now know them as the thin morsels that are commonly made with lamb cases rather than hog. If there ever was a Sausage United Nations, the Chipolata would probably be a favourite for the Secretary-General role due to its diverse multi-faceted origins. They're the longer more-grown-up cousin of the uber-miniature cocktail sausages and seem to be more acceptable when served at breakfast. These are typically grilled rather than pan-fried.

Two veggies that go with this sausage: Break the boring sausage-and-beans mould - try them in a stir-fry with sweet peppers which will offset their savoury spice. Alternatively, dice some spring onions and combine together in a fritatta - maybe with some of your other favourite ingredients. Yum.



Vegetarian/Vegan: Glamorgan Sausage, Tofudogs and Quorndogs

Imposters, the last two. We'd even go as far as to say that unless you're eating traditional Glamorgan sausage (left pic) (Caerphilly cheese, leeks, egg and breadcrumbs - yummy by the way)...don't even bother with the non-meat options in their "sheep's clothing." Sure, they soak up flavour like nobody's business - veggie/vegan protein is what it is, and we're not dissing people who make the choice to go meat free - we do that ourselves sometimes. However it doesn't make a difference eating it in those shapes when it comes with extra unnecessary processing (especially when vegetarians tout that they've got healthier diets and we omnivores are going to hell) - save yourselves. We'd take a fresh block of unadulterated tofu, lightly steamed with a soy sauce glaze, over processed tofu-trying-to-replicate-hotdogs any day. Before you diss, we know our tofu - it's in our blood.

Two veggies that go with this sausage: You're kidding, right? They're (mostly) veg themselves as they are! But if you must...think of the usual Sunday roast guests (carrots, cabbage...)

Bulgarian chronicles: unity makes strength

ICAB volunteers recount their experiences of working in orphanages in Veliko Tarnovo and Balvan



Akanksha Garg
Anu Bhide
 IC Aid to the Balkans

Veliko Tarnovo
 By Akanksha Garg

We arrived at Sofia Airport, shattered from our midnight travels from Heathrow to Bulgaria. On landing, we were shocked at the rain and cold weather, having had only packed shorts anticipating the very welcome 30-degree heat. The coach ride from Sofia to Veliko Tarnovo was about five hours long, and we were worried about commuting, reading and speaking the Bulgarian language. We managed to make our way from Sofia to Veliko Tarnovo, and for the first time experienced the beauty of the undiscovered Bulgarian landscapes.

When we reached Veliko Tarnovo, we were surprised by how big it was, mainly because everyone told us it was a very small town. We were greeted by Katia, the ICAB representative, at the station. She had arranged our accommodation and gave us the necessary information and helped to make us feel welcome and settled. Our accommodation was accessible by climbing what felt like a million flights of stairs, which from then on made up our daily exercise. We moved into a tiny little house on a top of a hill, which gave a lovely view of the new city from our garden. On our first

night in Veliko Tarnovo, we decided to go explore the city and discovered food was very cheap and only cost about £6 for a pretty big meal.

After a brief training session with Katia and meeting our lovely translator, we went to the orphanage in Balvan, a small town that was about twenty minutes from Veliko Tarnovo by bus. It was completely secluded, with two shops and a single school. We were apprehensive about how we would communicate and entertain thirty children, all from a different culture, and with most being teenaged boys with whom we didn't share much in common.

They were, however, very excited to meet us, and we started the day by playing a few group games to get to know everyone. As days passed in the orphanage, we got to know each child personally, some opening up faster than others. We discovered that their favourite pastime was just running around and playing outdoors. The older children were content by themselves but joined in group activities. They were huge fans of freerunning and parkour, and really enjoyed showing us their dangerous-looking tricks. They also loved taking photos of themselves!

Some of the activities we organized included playing with balls, gold clubs, skipping ropes, planting pots, face painting, and group games. We did notice that the children didn't want to preserve the toys: they played with them for about ten minutes before they were broken. On our last

day in Veliko Tarnovo, we organised a party which was joint with a three-year-old boy's birthday party. This was truly a wonderful way to say goodbye, as the whole orphanage got together and played some games, danced and enjoyed party food.

During our time off, we went to the nearby church and walked past Tsarevets Castle. The old town itself was a sight to visit with paved streets adorned with tourist shops selling proud Bulgarian souvenirs. There were plenty of restaurants and bars in the old city that offered breathtaking views of the mountain ranges and valleys, especially around sunset. On the Saturday, we accompanied Veliko Tarnovo orphanage on a five kilometre trek to the mountain area where there was a competition for children. Children took part in a variety of sporting activities and we cheered them on and enjoyed the scenery.

Our week at Veliko Tarnovo and Balvan orphanage was really different to anything anticipated. It was a shock at first having thirteen year old boys running around and tickling you, but after a while we became one of them and really enjoyed out time playing and bonding with the children.

Varna
 By Anu Bhide

Having come straight from historic Veliko Tarnovo, where we always had a translator and guide, we were a little more wary



when we arrived in Varna. We had been in contact with a representative from the orphanage where we would be working, but she had not arranged any accommodation and simply expected us to turn up to work the next morning.

Varna was a reasonably large coastal town, a popular seaside destination among the Balkan countries. We stayed at a very sociable youth hostel we had reserved in advance, where staff were helpful in guiding and advising us as well as entertaining their guests in the evenings.

The orphanage was a mixture of children who lived there, and Romany children who came in either every morning or every afternoon for a session. They were boys and girls aged five to fifteen, although most were quite young. At Gavroche, they played games outdoors in the play area as well as indoors, and we found that the children especially enjoyed colouring and painting. We had taken a range of toys with us that all proved popular: the biggest hits were face paints.

On some evenings the children received lessons in swimming and martial arts, and we were welcome to stay and watch. All of the children, lacking in attention and activities, were quick to bond with us and fight each other for personal attention. They were friendly and eager to participate in any activity we decided to organise, although this was easier said than done as nobody spoke any English! Our representative was not present on all days at all times, and we were mostly just left to ourselves, able to come and go as we pleased. Our usual weekday schedule was from about 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and we were

not expected to come on weekends.

The evenings and weekends were easily filled as Varna is a typical beach tourist destination. The pedestrianised road leading up to the beach is filled with ice cream, slushie and sweet corn (a really popular roadside snack in Bulgaria, it seems) carts, and the beach itself is beautifully sandy and full of beach bars and restaurants. There is a dolphinarium that is worth a visit if you haven't been to one before and have the time, and the archaeological museum if you have the patience. There is also a free walking tour of Varna that runs every day with locals who volunteer, which is a great way to start your week – a definite recommendation. Free time can also be spent by taking a walk along the sea garden: this is just adjacent to the beach, and great when you need some shade in the very hot climes of Bulgarian summers.

The restaurants by the seaside were expensive by Bulgarian standards (but still pretty good compared to the UK), but we found some places popular with the locals where the food was better and the prices were cheaper. The most famous of these is probably Alba, which is easily recognisable by its bright green exterior. One night we went to a local beach club with the staff from our hostel and the other guests, which it made for a pretty good night out. Just be wary of the mastika!

ICAB

Imperial College Aid to the Balkans (ICAB) is currently accepting applications for volunteers. To find out more visit icsmsu.com/ICAB, facebook.com/icaidtothebalkans, or email icab@ic.ac.uk.



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CLUBS & SOCS

Come Exploring!

Gemma Milman
IC Exploration Society

Exploration Society love adventure and share this passion through talks and films. We have a very exciting guest for our next talk, Jim Shekhdar: Bold man of the sea. This talk is for anyone who is passionate about travelling or has a strong spirit of adventure. Jim himself was a born traveller: as child he spent time growing up in India and Australia, and as an adult he studied a civil engineering just so he could see the world. At the ripe age of 50 he set his sights on his next challenge: to row the Pacific Ocean, continent to continent, solo. Along the way he faced 50ft waves and encountered some very grumpy sharks. If you're in need of inspiration come listen to Jim recount his adventures, Tuesday 25th Feb, Blacket Lt1, doors open at 18.30 and it's FREE. Contact Exploration@ic.ac.uk



If you have a club or society you would like to tell us more about.

Email:

felix@imperial.ac.uk

International Development Conference

Imperial Hub tells us more about one of the speakers from the IDC, Ken Banks

Imperial International Development Conference is this weekend and among our range of amazing speakers we are delighted to welcome Mr Ken Banks, Founder of kiwanja.net. His extensive and innovative work in applying mobile technology for positive social and environmental change over the last decade is inspiring. We were lucky to find out some more about his work and motivation when we interviewed him.

1. What inspired you to establish kiwanja.net back in 2003? How has it changed over the past decade?

kiwanja.net came about out of a realisation that my early work in mobile was best shared as widely as possible. Although I was doing contract work at the time with larger organisations, there were much smaller ones who couldn't afford to hire the expertise they needed, so I decided to start openly sharing my experiences online. kiwanja.net has become the place where I post technology-related photos from my overseas travels, my blog, reports and papers (some written by me) and a database of interesting materials. In terms of what's changed, the design has been tweaked a few times and the content has grown. I've also launched a couple of new sites to compliment it - project sites in particular - but also a site which sells my consultancy services, and another for my recent

2. You sit in the Digital Advisory Panel for the Department for International Development (DFID). Could you share with us more about DFID's digital strategy and how it is reshaping DFID and its work?

This Panel is still relatively new, so I don't have much to share yet, I'm afraid. Suffice to say, its main purpose is to help DFID figure out what the growing field of technology and innovation means to them, and international development more broadly. There are huge opportunities, but at the same time plenty that can go wrong.

3. Your commitment in technology, development and non-profit sector has earned you numerous international awards and recognition, such as Ashoka fellowship and Cambridge News Award for Social Entrepreneurship. Could you tell us which accolade are you most proud of and why?

It would be unfair of me to say which was my favourite, (they're all favourites for different reasons)! But if you forced me to name one which is high on the list, it would have to be my National Geographic award. Like many people, as a child I was captivated by the magazines and the images within them, and they fed a strong curiosity for the world around

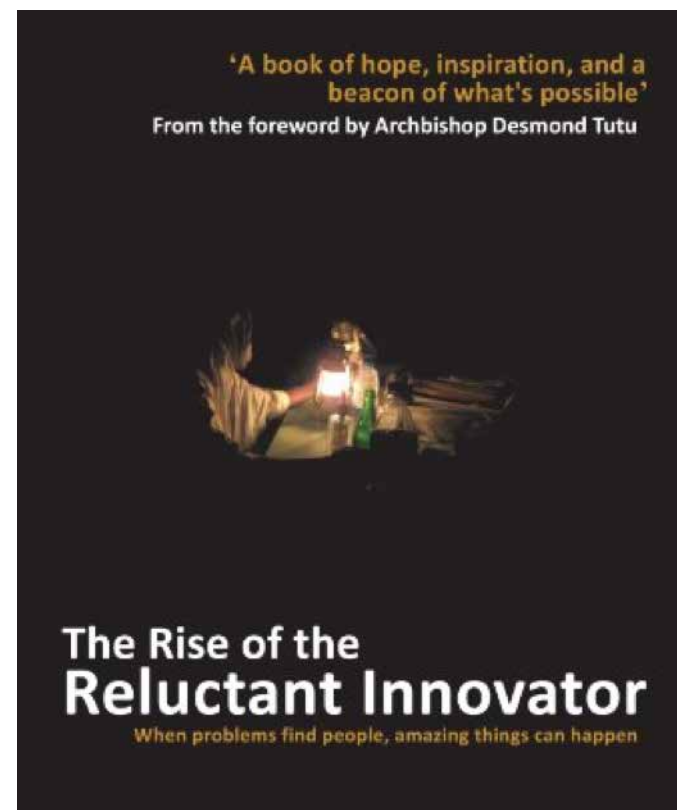
me. So it was quite incredible to be given that recognition, particularly out of the blue, and spending time at their offices with some quite extraordinary people has been great. Finding yourself in the lift with the man that discovered the Titanic doesn't happen every day. And speaking there, on the National Geographic stage, was quite an honour.

4. What will you be sharing during your address at the Imperial International Development Conference 2014?

I'll be talking about a growing theme in my work - what I see as the future of international development. Increasing numbers of everyday people are finding and developing some of the most interesting and promising solutions to the world's problems. And many of these people are from the developing world. So I see a theme of 'self-development' here. My new book, "The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator", touches on many of these themes and is well worth a read ahead of my keynote for anyone interested.

Attend the Imperial International Development Conference on Saturday 15th of February where he will be speaking on the topic of "Hackers, Fixers and Lone Rangers: The Future of [Technology and] Development?"

Check out our programme and buy your tickets for the conference now at www.imperialidc.org



Ask Annie, your friendly Agony Aunt

Agony Aunt Annie Whiteley is the woman who fought for women's cloakroom facilities at Imperial, and thus is qualified to solve all your problems.



Help! I'm a straight guy, but a male friend who has always said he was straight has started making moves on me whenever we're alone together. I like him as a friend, but I'm just not attracted to him. How can I break this to him gently without losing him as a friend?

Friendzoning in Farringdon

You're obviously good friends, so your friendship should be able to survive this. Your friend is obviously experiencing feelings which are confusing for him, so the next time if happens, why not try and talk to him about it? He's probably hitting on you because he trusts you and finds you approachable, and so over time, as he explores these lusts more, his tendencies towards you may ebb away. Just be there for him, but make it clear that it's just as a friend.

Help! My housemates are driving me crazy! They're so messy and when I bring it up, they refuse to do anything about it. I don't want to make it seem like I am the enemy, but I can't cope any longer. How can I resolve this?

Annoyed in Arnos Grove

A messy house stresses everyone out, no matter how integral they are to making the mess. If there are several of them, the odds are that others are also unhappy with the tidiness levels, so you won't be alone. Try and convince them that it will be much better if you make a few changes, and suggest systems to make it easy to put these into place. Don't nag them, make them think it's for their own good. Enforcing a few simple rules will make all the difference!

Help! I've been sleeping with my friend's ex boyfriend, and when she straight up asked me about it, I lied. I feel bad about lying to her, but I don't know how I can take it back and tell her about it now. What can I say?

Morose in Morden

If your sleeping together is going to turn into more, you need to let your friend know. Consider whether there's any chance that they may still have any feelings for each other, good or bad. If there are, you might not want to get involved with that. If you're just sleeping together, you need to think about whether it's worth risking your friendship with her, just to get laid, especially if there's any chance that it could get out. If you can still get out unscathed, maybe now is the time.

Help! I'm in love with my gay best friend, even though I know that I don't stand a chance. How can I get over him when I can't get under him?

Fruitless in Fulham

Soz love, you've just got to get over it, it ain't gonna happen... Unless you can feed him enough tequila to convince him anyway. But that's probably a bad idea, so don't do that.

On a serious note, as he is gay, then there is nothing you can do. You're probably just crushing on him because he's safe. I'm sure there are other guys interested in you, why not take a risk on one of them, and see where it goes? What's the worst that can happen?

Help! I've spent my way into my overdraft, and I can't seem to stop spending. How can I stop this before it's too late?

Destitute in Dalston

When you get paid, it's so easy to feel rich and start spending like there's no tomorrow. This is fine for a while, but if you get into the habit, it can get pretty dangerous. Try and keep the free spending as short as possible, and save small amounts of money wherever you can, it will make all the difference. Try and avoid mindless internet shopping, and if you want to buy something that's not a small purchase, wait 24 hours before buying it. You'll be surprised how much less important that essential item seems after you sleep on it. Remember, if you watch the pennies, the pounds will look out for themselves!

Stem Cells and Sex Lives A series of confessions from Imperial's hallowed halls

Dear Aunt Annie,

I have a confession to make. As unlikely as this sounds, it's actually true, although I wouldn't believe it if you told me.

When I arrived at Imperial, I was a fresh-faced female, who'd never slept with a girl before. However after a few months at Imperial, I found myself involved in a threesome with one of my best friends from halls, who'd just broken up with her boyfriend. That was slightly awkward afterwards, but then I met her older sister. She was two years older, effortlessly cool, and she'd been out for longer than she could remember.

I immediately had a crush. As unlikely as it sounds, I somehow managed to sleep with her a few weeks later and, and went on to have many drink fuelled nights, which certainly opened my eyes to everything I'd been missing out on.

She eventually broke it off (leaving me for another, older, more experienced Imperialite). Obviously, I proceeded to try and get over her by getting under someone else... and I chose what was probably the worst possible target. I chose her twin sister.

This was the third sister, in case you've lost track. She'd never been with a girl before, and at first I just wanted to get my revenge. I pursued her aggressively until she eventually succumbed.

Much to my surprise, she was more than a conquest, and we grew quite attached to one another. We're still together to this day, which means that I have to contend with exceedingly awkward family gatherings, knowing that I've completed the set of siblings. I'm having to battle to regain the respect of the disapproving siblings, but she's worth it.

I know it's horrible, but I'm weirdly proud. Wouldn't you be?

Self-satisfied in SAF

What important advice should Annie dish out next week? Email any ideas to the address below!

Send Annie your problems and suggestions at catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Annie's Lonely Hearts

Single on V-Day and feeling lonely? We all know that it's hard to meet people at Imperial, so Aunt Annie wants to make it a bit easier for you. Why not enter into the spirit of the season? If you're looking for a special someone, missed a connection, or want to let someone know how you feel, send a message to catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk and maybe you'll find a match here.

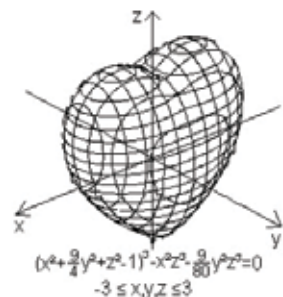
I've been in love with you since we were together in halls. Now we're final year Chemistry and I want to confess my love before it's too late. We're both single; will you be my valentine?

Lonely library dweller seeks attractive female for awkward eye contact, maybe more. Will you be my special someone to while away the long nights in the library? Must enjoy the plastic cheese on the library café baked potatoes.

Unsatisfied female seeks tall, blonde technician that is also looking for love. Must be a man who can ride a bike but also ride a woman, handle a camera as well as handling a lady and basically is suited for spending hours alone in the West Basement.

Valentine's Day is approaching and I'm desperate to go and see the Lego Movie, but I just broke up with my boyfriend and I have no one to go with. WLTM a man to keep me company and maybe help me forget my heartbreak.

Understanding, articulate female WLTF quiet, articulate man. Hopefully this will turn into eloquent escapades. If you're feeling particularly verbose, bring your own paddle.



See something you like? Why not make someone's Valentine's Day? Send us an email and we'll pass it on. Let Annie help you get lucky in love.

HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk



This Week In The Past

The Historian
Hangman Contributor



2005 – Youtube is launched. Subsequently, international productivity decreases 1000-fold. Many economists now believe this to be the seed of 2008 recession.

2001 - First draft of the complete human genome is published. Rumours persist to this day that the researchers simply copy-pasted the nematode genome several thousand times and spent most of the budget for the huge international collaboration partying.

1960 – France detonates its first nuclear weapon a good decade after many of the other major powers. Later studies showed that this delay was almost entirely accounted for by long lunches and strikes by the researches.

1931 - New Delhi becomes the new capital of India and everyone agrees that it's a far better place than the old Delhi which, frankly, was getting really boring by then.
1880 – By an extraordinary stroke of coincidence, Thomas Edison observes the Edison effect.

1690 – A secret treaty is signed by the Holy Roman Empire and Moldavia. I would love to tell you more, unfortunately it remains all highly classified

Circa 220 – St Valentine is born allowing humans to love for the first time.



We didn't start the Cold War!

FLOODITORIAL

The Hangman
Hangman Editor



Following the announcement this week by David Cameron stating that “money was no object”, this editor has to disagree with our Great Leader and state that no one affected by the floods should be helped at all.

Whilst Cameron may feel that these

‘victims’ deserve the nations support, it is patently obvious that they have brought this all upon themselves and must suffer accordingly.

First and foremost, these idiots live in flood risk areas. There are literally millions of places in the UK and barely at risk of flood at all. This writer can only conclude that these short-sighted morons simply wanted a fantastic river view without thinking that rivers are, in fact, very wet.

Secondly, and perhaps most crucially, many of these gormless halfwits failed to get any insurance for their insanely located properties

and belongings. I mean, did they not see the horrifying adverts detailing all the things that could go wrong with their homes? How could they believe so naively that nothing bad would happen?

Therefore, it seems only logical that these people should face the consequences of their imbecilic actions alone. Otherwise how will they ever learn? So, keep hold of your buoyancy rings, leave your spare change in your pocket and write a letter to your MP telling them to stop this absurd mollycoddling because these guys had it coming.

NSS Tracking You Down

Timothy McSweeney
Hangman Contributor

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

It's that time of year again when the wise masters of the National Student Survey begin to prey on final year undergrads.

The survey minions pester, hassle and otherwise cajole unsuspecting final years into filling out their survey.

Indeed, if you are a final year student, you can expect to be badgered by e-mail, letter, phone, carrier pigeon, telegram, mysterious messenger and cipher.

The survey is rumoured to be so desperate to ensure Imperial students send in their answers and have built a new library entrance which leads directly to the NSS dungeons containing their interrogators and holding cells.

If, thus far you haven't been contacted by the omnipotent surveyors, it simply means they are yet to track you down.

A spokesperson for the NSS added “we will find you and we will ask you questions”

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

Felix in the future



THE GUARDIAN

Time To Flaunt Your Love

The Hangman
Hangman Editor

It's that time of year again. The time when, should you be in any form of relationship, you get to show it off to anyone and everyone.

Yes, it's Saint Valentine's Day and what better time to really stick it to your lonely and stupid friends? No matter whether your relationship is wonderful or a destructive, psychotic mess it still worth highlighting the fact that you've found another pathetic



JEAN-MARC AYRAULT
Saint Valentine, evangelist of monogamy. No really!

human with which to bump bodies.

Because, as Valentine himself once famously said “[being in a terrible relationship] is still better than the endless, desolate void that is being completely alone in this cruel, cruel

world”

What better way to flaunt it to all the lonely people (I mean, where do they all come from?) than to book out a cosy two-person table in FiveSixEight for tonight? From there, you can display your love by sharing a packet of McCoy's Salt and Vinegar crisps and half a pint of shandy.

Of course, the evening of showing your ugly, hopeless friends who the boss is would not be complete without an appropriately garish gift. This can range from a large, crass card to literally anything from the Imperial Gift Shop.

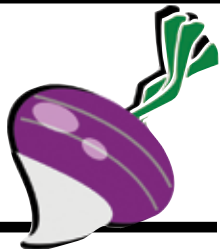


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HANGMAN

the turnip



Hangman's Finest College News Source

Scottish To Be Banned From Money

"Smith And Watt Can Fuck Off"

This week, all the key members of the Treasury told Scotland that, were they to declare independence they can "keep their dirty mitts off our banknotes" and that "Adam Smith (of £20 fame) and James Watt (£50) can fuck off back across the border".



economists off our beautiful British £20 notes".

In a joint statement to the press, the three big swinging dicks of the Treasury – Osborne, Cable and Alexander said that they would do "everything they could to keep British monies in clean British hands".

However, Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond responded to the announcement by detailing plans for a new Scottish currency. "We have very solid plans for the future; we're developing a shortbread, porridge and haggis based currency"

Business Secretary, Cable added "I will personally patrol the entirety of Hadrian's Wall 24/7 just to make sure these Scottish bastards don't get anywhere near our pennies and pounds"

"Primarily, these would be expertly made by the best artisans and then stamped with imprints of a variety of great Scots as well as given a mandatory sprinkling of salt".

Chief Secretary to the Treasury Alexander went on to add "And another thing, get your shitty

At press time, it was rumoured that larger denominations will be simply proving one's ability to throw a tree across a field.

PROVOST BRAVES STORM ON STATE VISIT TO UNION OFFICES



STULENSTIL.WORDPRESS.COM

Moyes To Change Tactics

"We Need More Crosses"



Seriously, any cross will do at this point! Get me the Pope on the line, maybe we can work out some kind of deal?

S tating that his side's return of two goals from 81 crosses was "not good enough", Manchester United manager David Moyes said his team needed a change of tactics.

During a press conference, Moyes stated that "undisputedly, we need more crosses"

"What we've shown is that it takes about 40 crosses to get a goal. Therefore, to give ourselves a clear 3 or 4 goal cushion we need to be putting in between 120 and 160 crosses per game".

"To that end, we have abandoned the centre midfield as a concept and moved the relevant players to the wings"



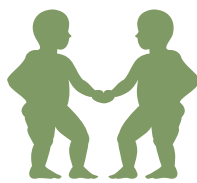
ARIES

This week you see an angel waling into the Beit Quad. You follow her into the lift and serenade her while alone. Except the lift gets stuck again for the second time this week. After you've sung "You're Beautiful" at least 10 times the both of you are finally freed, although she'll never speak to you again, of that you're sure.



TAURUS

You walk into the JCR with a cupcake and a screwdriver, and not the toolbox kind. You find the first guy you see, take him by the neck and snog him thoroughly. Oh, wait, was that your supervisor? Shiiiiiii! You scream in embarrassment (totally not playing to gender stereotypes). Next week you get twice as much work to mark.



GEMINI

This week you find yourself being followed by twin angels. This isn't too bad is it? Except, with every step you take, and every move you make, they're watching you. Starting to get a bit creepy, can you please stop looking at me. Wait, why do you only move when I'm not looking, awwwww shhhitttt! What happened in that quantum lectre again?



CANCER

This week you are in Sochi. Why aren't you in lectures? Oh, wait, you're watching the Winter Olympics in lectures. Your computer turns off, and then it reboots. Not good. It then starts displaying your carefully hidden stash of illicit material, with moving pictures and sounds. Never criticise Russia again. Lesson learned.



LEO

This week your name is Leonidas. No, really, it's a greeat chat up line. You use it to pick up a lovely lass at FiveSixEight and she happily entertains you all night long. Awww yeah, we're talking shadow puppets. The kind you used to see on TV. Wow, she's a keeper! You put her in a sack and run. Married!



VIRGO

This week you fill out the Felix Sex Survey. Yeah, that's right, this is the last day you can do it (in all meanings of the word). You head to the Felix website and click the box in the right hand column and the anonymity of the survey lowers your inhibitions. Tell them everything, well only if you're comfortable with it. You're comfortable.



LIBRA

This week you decide to do a bit of dental work at home. Rather than going to the overpriced orthodontist across the road you instead take a pair of wirecutters and start sniping. You get too distracted and emerge from your revision-like zombie state with no teeth. The Union takes pity on you and hands you a voucher.



SCORPIO

This week you pick up a guy in FiveSixEight. He has a funny sounding name, but you just mumble whenever you talk to him. What's that Lassie, this guy's into shadow puppets? Well, it's better than the guy on Tinder with the rugby shirt. You seduce him with magic and propose by handing him a sack.



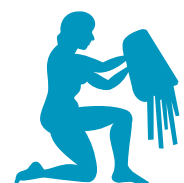
SAGITTARIUS

This week you've bought a real Cupid bow and arrow set from Amazon. £100, what a steal! As you run around campus firing arrows at the hotties in a Tinder-like fashion you suddenly remember, the Cupid arrows come tomorrow, these are your usual arrows. You gingerly retreat from campus, saying sorry to the people you shot.



CAPRICORN

This week you read the lonely hearts section and think you recognise yourself in one of the descriptions. You approach the person who you think wrote it and give them a big sloppy kiss. Mwaaah! Except, it wasn't them and now your real admirer won't date you until the sexual harassment case is over.



AQUARIUS

This week you head to Metric to try out some of the pick up lines from the Tinder review in the features section. After exhausting your carefully remembered chat up lyrics, you suddenly remember, you're a member of Jazz and Rock. You serenade the nearest bystander with the sweet melodies of Metallica. #YOLO



PISCES

This week you realise while reading the horoscopes that it's ridiculously easy to write for Felix, it just needs and randomer with a keyboard, a lack of sanity and something to say. You give it a go, just for the banter. You get slowly sucked in until years have passed and you're considering running for Editor. Go for it!

SPORT

Editor: Kunal Wagle
sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Outdoor Club Winter Tour 2013

Outdoor Club takes on the Scottish Highlands – the snow in the Cairngorm mountains is not to be scoffed at!

Ryan Perkins
Outdoor Club

Why do we do this? It's a question everyone asks themselves at some point; whether it be waking at 5.30AM to cook breakfast for the clan, scrubbing clean the burnt porridge pan, or walking against 70 mph winds, blasting your face like sand paper.

This year the Outdoor Club headed up to the Cairngorm Mountains in the Scottish highlands, just at the time of the January storms. But high winds and bad weather is standard in Scotland and didn't unnerve this hardy bunch.

The first day started great, light-ish winds, no rain. However, topping out onto the plateau was a different story. The winds were at full fury and there was zero visibility, a white out; the type of white out where you can't differentiate between up and down, sky or ground. Descending to the valley would have to be made by taking compass bearings. The biggest danger was the cornice, a protruding mass of snow hanging over the cliff, liable to fall at the slightest over weighting. To be avoided at all costs. The danger was made worst by the pounding wind that every now and then knocked you off your feet. The pace was slow going, approximately 2 km/hour. This is about the pace of the average tourist on Exhibition Road, painfully slow. One of the few times we



ICU OUTDOOR

stopped to look at the map, we were huddled together to brace against the wind. Pow! The wind bowled me over knocking Harriet with me. When I looked up, all I could see was Harriet splayed on the floor, not moving. Panic struck. It looked like she'd broken a leg. What would we do? We were severely exposed to the elements

at 1114 meters with no prospect of shelter nearby. Worst still, where were we? Mountain Rescue would not find us with darkness looming, with a 3km² area to cover, somewhere between Coire-an-t'Sneachda and the Cairngorm summit, in zero visibility. Harriet started moving, slowly pushing herself up onto her feet. She was ok. And so we continued our slow plod back down the mountain. Slow and steady, occasionally crawling on our hands and feet, we made it back to the car park. The wrong car park but we had made it.

In winter climbing the first thing to feel the cold are the feet. You can wear the warmest of jackets to buffet the wind but you can do nothing to warm the lower extremities. This is particularly agonising whilst belaying. This is where you are anchored to the wall and feed the rope to the climber whilst they lead up the route, should they fall the belayer will catch them. Being attached to the wall, means you're stationary for long periods of time and can't move to warm the muscles. Consequently, your feet become like stone blocks, they are cold and feel heavy and awkward to move.

This was particularly poignant whilst climbing Doctor's Choice, a grade IV climb. I had been belaying for well over 1.5 hours, getting pummelled by all the excavated snow. In climbing it is imperative you don't communicate unnecessarily. However, it had been a long while and the leader, Murray, didn't seem to be going anywhere. So I shouted up, not expecting him to hear me in the high winds, "Murray, are you alright?" To which he very calmly replied "not really". Murray could not find a belay despite all the digging, there was just too much snow, but not firm enough to build an ice axe belay. Murray has been climbing so long now, that he no longer feels fear. It has to be a very logical decision for him before he will back off a route. He set up a very dodgy Abalakov thread, this is where you thread cord through ice in order to abseil down. However, the ice wasn't thick enough to bear much weight, so Murray very delicately down-climbed, with me feeding the rope through. In winter it's very important to recognise your limits. In this case the conditions were just not right and there was not enough daylight to try a less snow buried route. We bailed. Though we were disappointed, it's important not to let eagerness cloud your judgement, even if it's the last day there, don't let it be your last day.

All the shiny most expensive gear is no match for the weather. It doesn't matter if you have the latest Gortex,



Murray and Ed climbing The Seam on Fiacaille buttress

ICU OUTDOOR

fire breathing waterproof jacket, the Scottish weather will beat you. Better value to have a thick skin, a bucket of endurance and high spirits. This is what will get you back down the mountain to safety, although wearing the right clothing goes a long way.

A lot of our new members just make do with whatever they have, the bare essentials are a waterproof jacket and trousers and some good hiking boots. For winter tour we have mountaineering boots that members can borrow. They may not be very comfortable but they do save you a hefty £300, well worth the pain of a few blisters. We also have all the basic climbing and winter walking equipment available. Any other small essentials like ski goggles and thick gloves are quite easy to beg, borrow or steal.

This year about half the members were new to Winter tour. The week started with some basic winter skills training with Kenny the Scottish Mountain guide. Here they learnt the basics of using crampons (big spikes that attach to your boots) and ice axe arrest (where you use your axe to stop a fall). After this, they were all ready and keen to get out on the mountain. Despite the gnarly conditions, they went to do some micronavigation with Ryan around Coire-an-Lochan. Lochan is prone to avalanches and there had just been a dump of snow the night before. The group navigated around the most avalanche-prone slopes and found a couloir, a steep gully, with fairly firm snow to ascend.

However, the snow quality became poor near the top and so the group decided to back-track down.

Everyone was carefully watching their foot placements when Tom slipped. He managed to flip on his front, and attempted to ice axe arrest. The group watched Tom slip away, gaining ever more speed, until he flew off a rock, and out of sight. Everyone gasped. A few seconds later Tom reappeared, now sliding head first toward the next rock, which finally broke his fall. Everyone was silent. All hearts stopped, pupils dilated in disbelief, they stood looking at Tom's still body, watching for the smallest signs of life. It took a few moments, before Tom finally stood up, giving the big thumbs up. Luckily, he had worn a helmet otherwise he would surely be scrambled eggs.

It wasn't all death and doom; we did have some light hearted fun too. Our favourite pre-dinner games included the monkey bars across the icy pond and backwards clap press-up. The latter activity was most dangerous and resulted in a few flat faces. The monkey bars were the most fun. Only a handful made it the whole way across, the rest had to take the plunge into the arctic water. Tom, the resident expert at taking a tumble, only fell in twice, well twice head first and twice normally.

Dinners were always cheery, especially when the comical chefs, Noah and his sous chef Tom, were at the helm. Despite neither of them knowing how to cook, surviving on

the typical student diet of beer and sandwiches, they cooked surprisingly good meals. A few beers and some port and we had the perfect recipe for reminiscing and laughing about the week's events.

We still ask ourselves the same question, why do we do this? It's certainly not for the view at the top, most often to be found shrouded in cloud. It could be the people we meet and company we keep. Or is it just the simple feeling of being alive? Dangling precariously off a rock 200m above the ground, berated by the fierce wind, you find yourself living the old mountaineering the mantra you don't have to be having fun to have fun. In the end there is only one thing that is sure, we don't know why we do this.



WIKIMEDIA



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SPORT

ICXC put in a Stirling Performance

IC Cross Country take on the BUCS Cross Country Championships

Chris Bannon
IC Cross Country

Saturday 1st February saw 34 athletes from Imperial College X Country, trek up to the convenient location of Stirling for the BUCS Cross Country Championships.

With the team based up in Edinburgh for the duration of the weekend, Friday night gave an opportunity for a spot of sightseeing before a final train to Stirling Saturday morning for the competition.

With a varied terrain course consisting of hills, mud and a golf bunker(!) a great day's racing was set to take place.

The men's A team finished 9th, agonisingly 1 point shy of 8th and BUCS points. Chris Bannon led it home finishing 39th, with Eoghan Totten 48th and Faron Hesse 66th who both of whom recovered incredibly

well after falling at the beginning following a frankly barbaric start line (cough, rant about Birmingham University). Gil Machado finished 75th to complete the scoring four with possibly one of the best runs of the day. James Ellis came home in 112th and Matt Douthwaite 136th, who deserves a shout out as most improved athlete from last year.

In the women's Imo Simmonds consolidated her strong form this year flying home in 60th, the best result by an Imperial lady since 2011! Sarah Johnson was next in 137th and Kimberley Mason completed the trio in 186th, to take the team to a 24th place finish. Imogen Keane was just behind to finish in 226th and Antoinette Hardijzer was fifth back in 307th.

The men's B race, Liam Smith returned back first in 71st with Clement Jambou, holding on well after being an incredible 4th at the first corner to finish in 122nd. He certainly took the captain's speech of



ICXC

"There's only pace, and that's suicide pace" to heart! An additional mention should be made to Rob O'Keefe who decided to do a full on mud slide for the cameras mid lap 2!

Following the necessary number of poses for the team photo and the consumption of the club cake supply

it was back to Edinburgh to celebrate the day's performances with the other London University teams. The after party consisted of a BYO curry and a trip to the Edinburgh Student Union, where it can definitely be concluded that the captain went down with the ship...

Altogether it was a fantastic weekend away for the club, with some great performances, fantastic non-memories from the afterparty and even some selfies from atop Arthur's Seat to take home with us. Roll on Hyde Park Relays, the club's next challenge!

Imperial College London

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ICSM vs. IC



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Mid-Season Report

James White
Football Columnist

With less than 3 months left of the season, James White predicts where each of the 20 Barclays Premier League teams can expect to finish.

Arsenal – Their drubbing at Anfield aside, the Gunners have so far managed to avoid their usual post-Christmas slump. But they have a horrific run of fixtures ahead and often fall short in matches against direct title rivals. **3rd**

Aston Villa – Although relatively young and inexperienced, the Villans have an astute manager in Paul Lambert. Unlike most relegation candidates, they have the guile to beat any side on their day. **10th**

Cardiff – Dispensing of Malky Mackay's services was a big mistake. Ol' Gunnar Solskjaer has no experience of a relegation battle and the Bluebirds look very short up front. **20th**

Chelsea – The competition is fierce this year and they lack a reliable out-and-out striker to finish sides off, but Jose Mourinho has won a title or two in his time and the Blues are my favourites for the title. **1st**

Crystal Palace – Tony Pulis has steadied the ship and transformed Palace's defence. They are short up front but know how to grind out a 1-0 win at home when they need to and should be more than OK. **14th**

Everton – Roberto Martinez has surpassed all expectations since taking over at Goodison Park but the Toffees have looked distinctly beatable in recent weeks and are probably slightly overachieving. **7th**

Fulham – The Cottagers look like a Sunday league side at times. There may be the old heads needed to handle a relegation battle but barring their draw at Old Trafford, recent performances suggest a desperate shortage of quality. **19th**

Hull – Steve Bruce's Tigers have deserved to stay clear of the relegation places so far, but it will be a tall order for them to keep it up for 11 more games. They are in for a nervy finish but should just have enough to survive. **17th**

Liverpool – With Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge firing on all cylinders, and astute, level-headed Brendan Rodgers at the helm, the Reds are finally equipped to make their long-awaited return to the top four. **4th**

Man City – Manuel Pellegrini's side possess one of the most potent attacks

in Europe but still have questions to answer defensively. Although their recent form is doubtless just a blip, they cannot afford it and may have to settle for a runners up spot. **2nd**

Man United – Teams play the Red Devils expecting to get a result, so David Moyes is up against it in every game. Even with van Persie and Rooney back in contention, I think they might just fall short of Europe. **6th**

Newcastle – It is just as well for the Magpies that they are 10 points clear of the bottom half as they have nothing left to play for this season and for that reason will probably not win many more games. **9th**

Norwich – Chris Hughton always manages to get a result when he needs it, but the Canaries are joint second lowest scorers in the division and short of quality. Their run-in is horrific and this will go down to the wire. **18th**

Southampton – Although like Newcastle, the Saints have nothing to play for in the league, Mauricio Pochettino's side enjoy their football, playing with real flair, and can climb up a place or two. **8th**

Stoke – The Potters will be alright as the Britannia Stadium remains a hard place to visit, although their away form is dismal and they are struggling to adapt to Mark Hughes' more free-flowing style. **12th**

Sunderland – It is difficult to fault the Black Cats' performances and in Gus Poyet they have a manager who will never lie down. Strong both at home and away of late, I fancy them to finish well clear of the drop. **11th**

Swansea – Michael Laudrup's sacking sums up a miserable season so far. They lack a cutting edge but judging by their win versus Cardiff, Garry Monk has the players' respect so they should be fine. **13th**

Tottenham – Spurs look set to push the sides above them for a Champions League spot, and I expect Tim Sherwood to keep up his strong start, but they are not prolific enough at home and may have to settle for the Europa League again. **5th**

West Brom – Pepe Mel's Baggies have already picked up solid draws against Liverpool and Everton and although they seldom win, they have the quality to keep nicking points here and there so should survive. **16th**

West Ham – Credit to Sam Allardyce that the Hammers are not rock bottom given the horrific run of injuries he has had. Big Sam knows how to win a relegation tussle and has big players returning all the time. **15th**

Imperial 2nd XI stroll past "wannabes" from KCL

Mic Tonutti
IC Football

After a long series of consecutive triumphs over a bunch of teams of absolutely negligible importance (amongst which was our own 1s), Imperial 2nd XI took on a group of amateur medical students who sometimes get together and pretend to know how to play football. Long story short, it turns out King's is actually a real university and has a real football team.

The view of 11 red-shirted herculean men shrugging the chilly British rain off their shoulders was almost enough for the wannabe jobless surgeons to change their mind about the game. It took them about an hour and a half to stop shaking in terror and actually show up on the pitch.

With a lovely wind blowing on our backs we kick off, a fleet of Airborne Rangers handling balls better than Will Batchelor's belt. After 15 minutes in which the biggest danger in Imperial's half was a gust of wind messing up Sam Thomas' hair, the well-deserved first goal on the game arrived from none other than Mic Tonutti's magical left foot: flying like a hawk on Maizonnier's low corner, a flick with the tip of the foot from the

front post left the keeper seriously considering a career in low-profile prostitution. After a few more minutes of champagne football, Will Wilson found the bottom corner from outside the box, taking advantage of a hole in King's defence as easy to wade into as our beloved yanks every Wednesday night. 2-0 wasn't enough though; after a few unrealistic attempts at penetrating the fortress of Imperial's defence, another masterpiece from the best Italian left back since Fabio Grosso in the 2006 World Cup led to an unassailable lead. A lucky save on Miles Cover's header allowed Tonutti to release a light-speed bullet right below the crossbar. 3-0 at halftime, just as King's ginger striker started looking for his self-esteem in the field across the road.

In the second half, Imperial's best team perfectly controlled the game, with no danger seen around Sam Mason's goal. A strong drive from 25 yards by Andy SB left the base of the post shaking, much like the linesmen in these terrible conditions. Tactics changed rapidly, with the aim being to stretch the pitch and get the wingers' boots as white as Smithy's wallet. IC saw out the game in comfortable fashion, creating chances on the counter as they wished and laughing at how useless the opposition were.

Cries of "Who is this person?!" were aimed at their star players, who could only respond with "I broke my back. My back... is broken."

Normal service has been resumed at Fortress H this term, helping the 2s extend their winning streak to 4 games. On this glorious road of victories, 16 goals have been scored, a single goal conceded and Scatman has reigned supreme in the changing room. Victory was celebrated under a relentless rain of Americans and beer, with a late title surge taking shape. Be-bah-bah-bada-bom!!!

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Imperial Eagles celebrate double against Middlesex

Stefan Bauer describes the action as the Eagles register victories.

The Eagles started where they left off and extended their unbeaten run in the London University Sports League with 2 victories against Middlesex.

The fixture in January was the first match for IC after the holidays, and the performance was everything but encouraging. Sloppy passing, passive defending and careless individual errors meant that the Eagles were unable to adhere to their game-plan. Very rarely were the players on the back position allowed to co-ordinate their efforts in attack, and some rather unconventional attacking by Middlesex, paired with a big portion of luck, continuously troubled Imperial. What followed was a hectic, disrupted and chaotic game, in which individual experience and skill quickly became the decisive factor. The fact that

Imperial got away with a 48:24 victory is testament to the poor defending and served as the much needed wake-up call before the University Championship Qualifiers in February.

Due to a late cancellation and some ad-hoc reshuffling of the fixture list, Imperial got the chance to face the same opponents only one week later and show that they had learned and had grown from the experience. The Eagles, despite a shaky start, were in control of the game from the first minute and used their usual counter-attacking style to undo their opponents.

Once a big margin had been established, the game calmed down a bit and Imperial were finally able to practice attack from more structured attacks and set pieces. After 60 minutes, the Eagles claimed a 14:51 victory – their highest win in club

history. Club President Rishi De-Kayne, who was unable to attend the second fixture, was pleased to hear about the improvement and celebrated the victory with a half-pint of shandy.

In an earlier fixture on the same day, UCL lost to Brunel University in a dramatic game that ended UCL's unbeaten run and set up a highly charged central London derby between two traditional rivals this week. Whichever team secures a victory in this game could have a big part to play in the title showdown. It will also be an early indication of either team's chances in the "group of death" at the regional qualifiers for the University Championships in which 3 of the 4 best teams in the country are set to face each other and several other strong title-contenders in the earliest stage of the competition.