

The Returning Game of Thrones

Series catch-up

24-5

Eurovision Pullout

Who should you be looking out for? Find out more in the middle pages

FELIX

"Keep the Cat Free"



02/05/14
Issue 1574
felixonline.co.uk

Government plans to cut Disabled Students Allowance

Joe Letts
Editor-In-Chief

The Government recently announced changes to the Disabled Students' Allowance, expected to take place in 2016-17. The changes, which according to Universities and Sciences Minister David Willetts are set to modernise the system, will see a reduction in the amount of financial support the government is set to provide students, instead placing a larger proportion of responsibility on their universities.

As part of the changes to the system, Willetts proposed that the government would only pay for "higher specification" or "higher cost" computers when needed by a student "solely by virtue of their disability", ceasing support for students requiring regular computers, as well as help with warranty or insurance costs.

Additionally, while the government will continue to support "the most specialist Non-Medical Help", they will also encourage universities to change the way their courses are structured and delivered with the aim of reducing the "need for support workers" while encouraging "greater independence and autonomy for their students".

Willetts also announced that in the future the government would no longer support additional costs of specialist accommodation, other than in exceptional circumstances.

The cuts are expected to reduce the quality of university education for many students with disabilities due to the reduced support, and is being heavily opposed by the NUS.

If you would like to petition against the proposals, visit <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/63748>

Union Club Election Scandal

CSSA in hot water over problematic election practices – new election pending



BIRMINGHAMMAIL.CO.UK

Stephen Ball
Copy Chief

The Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) has joined the Christian Union in having a major election dispute this year after a number of its members wrote a joint letter of complaint to the Imperial College Union reporting that ballot papers were destroyed and that the current committee holds a weighted vote allowing them to choose the new committee. David Goldsmith, Union President, has declared the original election invalid citing multiple violations of the Union's By-laws for Minor Elections.

The new election will take place on May 2nd 17:00 in Meeting Room

3 and the Deputy President: Finance and Services will be acting as the Returning Officer.

The list of reasons why the election needs to be re-run (as stated by the Union President) are that:

- Publicity and voting cards were in Chinese
- Individuals who were not full members of the Club were allowed to vote
- The election was not run under the Single Transferable Vote or Alternative Vote (as appropriate)
- Objections to the results were ignored

A facebook event has been set up by the user "Ordinary Person" called: *The Corrupted ICL Society Of CSSA* and how you can help which has a partially redacted copy of the original letter of complaint sent to the Union

and the subsequent responses from the Union. In the event description students are called on to join the CSSA to "prevent the second ballot from being controlled by the current committee members and pave way for a truly clean and fair election." Criticisms of the facebook event have been raised based on its potentially slanderous comments about a large number of the members of the CSSA and the fact that comments which give opinions differing to the of the creator having been deleted.

For many Clubs elections are low key matters and often candidates run without opposition (save re-open nominations if clubs are following the Union Bye-laws properly). However they are an important part of a Club's governance and in ensuring that members get their voices heard.

With the CSSA being the second

Club to have a major election complaint this year, it raises questions as to how well Club elections are actually being run. It is widely known that many clubs struggle to get the attendance necessary for their Annual General Meeting to be valid - the Union rules say 50%+1 of the Club's membership must be present.

This year saw a number of Clubs run their elections using the Union's voting website as part of the Big Elections rather than at a Club meeting so are we seeing the rise of the new voting system for Clubs? When asked whether the Union has any plans to change the election procedures, the Union President replied:

"We constantly review the support we give to all Club, Society and Project processes and will consider recent events in any future reviews."

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GAMES

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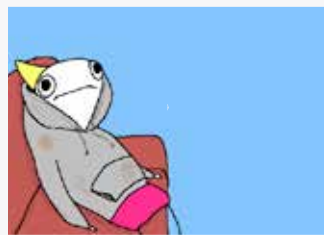
Breaking into Final Fantasy XIV with Michael Barclay.



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What does happen when you know somebody suffering from depression?



FILM

10-14

Catch up with all the films you missed over the easter break, because you were definitely revising weren't you?



LOLCAT OF TEH WEEK: More from teh Lolcat editor

Imperial College London

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NEWS

Travel Chaos – Strikes Again!



URBANSTIMES.CO

Ben Fernando
Charities Editor

London was plunged into travel chaos again this week: another tube strike left commuters stranded as parts of the city ground to a standstill. For those of you who somehow missed the first one, this is the second strike instituted by the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT) as they protest the planned closure of all of London Underground's ticket offices. This latest 48-hour walkout comes after a planned strike in March was halted by the RMT at the eleventh hour – but unfortunately for Londoners, no such reprieve came this time around.

The dispute began several months ago when TfL, chaired by the Mayor of London Boris Johnson, announced its modernisation program for the tube. This plan envisaged increasing some tube services to run 24 hours a day over the coming years, and shutting the ticket offices at stations (which are

allegedly a drain on resources that is used on fewer than 3% of journeys). Under this agreement, there would have been no compulsory job losses – but the RMT leadership refused to accept this and balloted their members on calling a strike. Despite only around 30% of the RMT's London Underground Chapter members voting in favour of industrial action, strikes were announced by the former leader of the RMT Bob Crow earlier this year.

Following the successful mediation, there was hope amongst Londoners that they would be spared further disruption, however the process took an unexpected turn following the shock death of Bob Crow from a heart attack in March of this year. The timeline of events has led to some suggesting that this latest strike is a manifestation of the RMT's infighting, as different hard-left members of the union attempt to gain their members' loyalty before the upcoming leadership election – though the front-runners in the election unsurprisingly deny this.

In addition to the expected opposition from Johnson who called

the strike 'pointless' and 'farical', both David Cameron and Ed Miliband have stepped in, with the Labour Party leader saying that it was 'wrong for the strike to go ahead whilst negotiations were still taking place'. London Underground's Managing Director Mike Brown offered the chance for a review of the decisions made so far, but insisted that the ticket offices would remain closed. The RMT dismissed the offer as meaningless.

The Tube chaos has seen the city's streets grind to a standstill. TfL is running nearly 300 extra buses including several heritage routemasters, but even this couldn't alleviate the gridlock that faced many commuters on their journeys today, whilst in the west of the city the travel chaos was heightened by a separate strike on the Heathrow Express by RMT workers. In addition to the 40 mediation meetings held to date, more will no doubt happen over the coming days.

Whether they will come to any fruition with both sides refusing to back down is another question, but we can only hope...

Honors For Imperial Academics

Joe Letts
Editor-In-Chief

Professor Erol Gelenbe (Dennis Gabor Chair, Dept. Electrical and Electronic Engineering) was recently awarded the honour of Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by French President Francois Hollande for 43 years of service in Higher Education and Research.

Professor Gelenbe, who also holds an Honorary Professorship at the University René Descartes, invented the Random Neural Network Model and is highly respected in the field of Computer System and Network

Performance Evaluation.

Meanwhile Regius Professor of Engineering Chris Toumazou was nominated by the European Patent Office as a finalist in the 'Research Inventor Award 2014' earlier this week.

Professor Tomazou is known for the development of a speedy DNA test that is run by a microchip on a USB stick. In just 20 minutes the chip detects differences in DNA by measuring hydrogen ions that are released during the synthesis of DNA.

The professor is one of 15 finalists, spread between the categories: Industry, SMEs, Research, Non-European countries, Lifetime achievement.

Professor Mike Finnis was presented the Humboldt Research Award by the German "Alexander von Humboldt

Foundation". The award, which is given in recognition of the entire lifetime achievements of an academic, is valued at 60,000 EUR and includes a year long invitation to work with German scientists on a long-term research project.

Another academic, Professor Sir Brian Hoskins, the first Director of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change will be presented the 2014 Buys Ballot Medal by the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences for his work in Meteorology.

Finally, while not an academic, the Rt. Hon The Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller, chair of the College Court and Council was recently appointed Lady Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter by the Queen.

NEWS FROM OVER EASTER Scientists Discover Dwarf Planet

Joe Letts Editor-In-Chief

The newly discovered dwarf planet 2012 VP113 was discovered by astronomers at the Carnegie Institution of Science, Washington in April.

With a diameter of 450km it is the smallest celestial body to lay claim to the title of the most distant planet in the solar system, usurping dwarf planet Sedna (2003). Precisely, while Sedna is the body in the solar system that travels furthest from the Sun, with an orbit ranging from 76-937 AU, 2012 VP113's minimum distance from the Sun is 80AU, and so qualifies as the most distant solar system object when ranked by minimum distance.

Nicknamed 'VP', the discovery of the dwarf planet proves the existence of the inner Oort cloud, a doughnut-shaped region in the spherical outer Oort cloud. The Oort cloud is a region of icy bodies that exists far outside Neptune's orbit.

Looking at the elliptical orbits of both 2012 VP113 and Sedna, astronomers believe that there may be a large undiscovered planet that interferes with their orbits due to its large gravitational pull. Nicknamed "super-Earth", it would in theory need to have a mass 10x greater than Earth and orbit the Sun at roughly 250 AU.

Evelyn Gardens Set To Close in 2015

According to anonymous sources, the entire network of halls in Evelyn Gardens (providing accommodation for a total of 613 students), is set to close in 2015, with student accommodation spaces being transferred to the accommodation in Acton that is under current development.

The fate of the accommodation in South Kensington seems unclear, with some of those involved believing that the halls will be refurbished, and opened again for use, while others believe that due to the short number of years left on the Evelyn Gardens lease (less than 30 years), College will deem the investment (rumored to be between £10-60 million unviable and will permanently relocate the hall spaces to the halls in Acton.

A College Spokesperson provided the following statement:

"Imperial commits to provide all first year students with a place in a hall of residence and aims to offer a broad range of room types and rents. To do so the College continually reviews its accommodation portfolio to ensure it meets current and future needs. The College leases Evelyn Gardens. With the lease set to expire in 34 years, Imperial is currently exploring options for the future of this accommodation. From 2015 the hall will either be closed for a period while refurbishment takes place, or the property will be removed from Imperial's accommodation portfolio."

Sponsored Editorial

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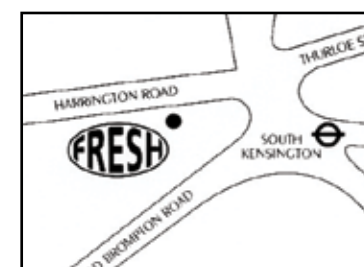
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Helping friends with depression

Marissa Lewis
Wellbeing Editor



In the last Wellbeing section, I wrote about my experience with recovering from depression. Maybe it's because I don't make a habit of talking about my mental illness but I was genuinely surprised at the positive reception it received from friends, acquaintances and even complete strangers. As a follow-up, I wanted to give some advice around how to help a friend with depression as, especially at such a stressful time of year, I hope this will prove useful.

I actually found this article more difficult to write than my last one and I think it's because life doesn't neatly split into 'depressed people' and 'friends of depressed people'. At times you may be one or the other or both together and they are both difficult roles to navigate. In terms of my own experience, I was depressed at the same time I was trying to care for a mentally ill parent and that inevitably tainted how I saw and experienced my own illness. Equally, writing down a list of stuff that helped me when I was sick highlighted pretty starkly when I failed to follow my own advice for my depressed friends and relatives. It is really easy to get defensive, but please don't – the past is the past.

On that note, I'll start off by saying it is not easy caring about someone who is depressed and I am speaking as someone who's been on both sides of the fence. When you're ill, it's really difficult to communicate what is happening to you and if you've always been well, it's very difficult to understand. When my mother first started getting sick, I took this lack of understanding to be due to a lack of knowledge and diligently researched everything I could about bipolar disorder: living with bipolar disorder, treatments for bipolar disorder and so on. Although this was fascinating research, and I say that non-ironically, ultimately it was useless as it didn't help me understand what I was really struggling to cope with – namely being unable to help someone I loved who was in pain and the effect the illness was having on our relationship. My first piece of advice is that **it is okay to acknowledge this stuff is hard on you**. It is normal to feel upset, afraid, frustrated or anything else by a friend being mentally ill. You are in no way weak or selfish for feeling how you do.

In a similar vein, you have to recognise **you are entitled to protect your own mental health**. Although it may not be appropriate to talk to your friend about your feelings, it is appropriate to talk to someone. I took the rather bold step in the course of

writing this article to ask my friends what it was like to hang out with me during that time of my life, and this cropped up fairly often. In retrospect, I said and did a lot of scary stuff when I was unwell and I don't think I truly appreciated how it had affected them. Not because I didn't care about them but because I didn't understand how they could possibly care about me. It is more than okay to drop in and visit a counsellor if you are finding it difficult to cope and College has its own free counselling service if you are so inclined. Don't fall into the trap of playing the suffering Olympics, where only the friend who is suffering the most deserves help – do what you need to do to stay healthy.

My next piece of advice comes directly from one of my friends and it is simply to **accept what you cannot change**. Depression can last for a long time and, even on an effective treatment program, it can take weeks to see signs of recovery. This can be frustrating when you are putting effort into helping and caring about your friend, but as you don't cause their depression, it isn't something you can fix. One of the things I was acutely aware of was how frustrating and frankly boring my illness was to my friends. I know they wanted to help me and they wanted me to get better, but my twisted thought patterns morphed that concern into a feeling of failure that I couldn't get better for them. It's easy for well-meaning comments like 'How can you be depressed when so many people care about you?' to slightly more obviously inappropriate comments like 'Oh my God, Marissa, pull yourself together!' to feed into these feelings of failure. Instead, just reassure your friend you are there for them and accept however long they need to recover.

Despite saying you can't cure someone with depression by caring, you can make someone's life a hell of a lot easier so **focus on practical solutions to practical problems**. Have you ever checked your phone and realised you received a text from someone weeks ago but kept putting off replying so now it would be too awkward to respond? Depression is like this on a colossal scale – it is really, really easy to drop off the radar and you can adopt that mentality towards everything. I felt if I hadn't seen my friends for a couple of weeks, they wouldn't want to hear from me anymore. If I missed loads of classes, that entire module or subject was lost. If I already spent the week not eating or sleeping or any other unhealthy habit, there was no point trying to rectify those habits. As a friend, this is probably the easiest way to step in and offer help. If someone isn't attending classes, offer to pick up course materials for them or give them your

notes. If someone is withdrawing from the world, try and set up a regular time to do something together, like have a cup of tea or go for a walk and make it clear you don't mind if they cancel, you'll keep the time open for them regardless. These are all little things but they helped me find the world a little less impossible and, when I was recovering, it helped me realise I hadn't burned all of my bridges.

If your friend hasn't done so already, **encourage them to seek help** and also recognise their first reaction may not be the end of the conversation. I get that it can be awkward or uncomfortable to drop words like 'doctor' or 'counsellor' into conversations with friends and you can worry that it will upset them further. You can get fixated on choosing the right words or the right time to bring this up to avoid a negative reaction. If it's any comfort, from my experience a person's reaction to these requests isn't dependent on how kindly they are encouraged to seek help but instead is dependent on their attitudes to their own condition. Some people may react abruptly or rudely to the assertion they need help if they are in denial about their illness. Conversely and more commonly, some people are in dire need of that type of validation and need to hear that it wouldn't be wasting anyone's time to get it checked out. It is so easy to put off or avoid the rather mundane task of booking appointments if you're left to your own devices so gentle nudges to do so are important. For me, it took a good year of increasingly unsubtle prompts to seek help and a friend accompanying me to the GP with the promise of a hot chocolate debrief to get me to sit before a doctor. Basically, be persistent but not overbearing and offer to accompany them if it's appropriate.

Throughout everything, make sure you **go at their pace**. Listening non-judgementally to a person talk about their depression is probably the most supportive thing a friend can do. I felt talking about depression was venting an incredibly dark and scary part of my life – having friends willing to listen and not run in the other direction was a really powerful and subtle way of showing support. On the other hand, sometimes talking about your illness is the absolute last thing you want to do. 'Depression' can sometimes feel like an identity over a diagnosis and one of the things I was keen to avoid was being the dependent, needy friend. I went to great lengths to act normally and I was reluctant to talk about what I was going through and, although that must have been pretty weird for my friends to witness, my advice is to go with it. When I was sick, I absolutely wanted to hear about my friend's boyfriend drama or to talk



HYPERBOLE AND A HALF (2013)

A demonstration of how not to help a friend who is suffering with depression.

about the OC (this show was pretty big at my school) – I promise my friends bringing this stuff up did not come across as insensitive or trivial, it helped me feel normal. Also, friends coming to me with their problems made me feel our relationships were less one-sided when I went to them with mine.

My last piece of advice while I still have your attention is to **talk to your friend**. I get it: if mental illness was easy to talk about there probably wouldn't be a national campaign about it. It is way too easy to get hung up about saying the wrong thing or coming across as insensitive and you might be tempted to give your friend some space as a way of protecting them. Please don't do this. It's worth saying that we know you are human and you are probably going to make mistakes or say the wrong thing. You definitely won't have all the answers and you won't be perfect, but that isn't what we need when we're depressed. We need friends and, last I checked, my friends are all human.

One of the best things you can do is to say to a friend that you are there for them and they can call/text/message/whatever if they need to talk and this isn't a hassle for you. It is rare this offer will get taken up, speaking from experience, but it is appreciated. If you're not good at deep, emotional talks, that's fine too, we can work with that. If you don't see your friend for a few days, maybe you could send them a text to check in and ask about something you know you both enjoy. For me, that could be 'Hi Marissa, haven't seen you in a while! Did you see the OC last night?' (yes, I'm trying to make the OC happen). Because,

seriously, I was rubbish at deep, emotional talks too. I would make really poor jokes about my situation or use deliberately poor analogies or do pretty much anything to make an awkward conversation more awkward. Being depressed doesn't make you some kind of tragic poet or prone to eloquent monologues about how dire your situation is – I was much better at talking about inconsequential stuff and felt better for just talking to someone a lot of the time.

That being said, although you shouldn't cease contact with a depressed friend because they are depressed, it is okay to say you can't handle their problems at times if you are having a stressful time yourself. I know this is a tricky line to tread and in these relationships you can end up feeling you are the only thing keeping your friend afloat. This is why it is really important to encourage them to have a network of support, with a mix of friends and professionals, that they can turn to when they need it, rather than just one person. Trust me, this is a toxic situation and will only end up hurting both you and your friend.

After reading this through, I realise my advice about how to help your depressed friend essentially boils down to a lot of listening and talking and the odd home-cooked meal. It doesn't seem like much and I can see how it would be really tempting to want to gallop in on a white horse and rescue your friend from the jaws of depression or something equally as dramatic. In this case, I reckon my friend explains it better than me: "It takes a while before you understand that actually just being there is enough."

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COMMENT

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



Confessions of a GTA: Part 14

Are GTAs working hard or hardly working?

The GTA
Anonymous



In the early days of my GTAing I thought it strange that all the other GTAs became twitchy when there was a quiet tutorial. I mean what is better than getting paid a decent wage just to stand there, literally sometimes for hours. Some of the longer labs can be up to three, not a bad little break from banging your head against the wall of "research". I mean after a few years at Imperial a bit of boredom is welcome.

But out of the corner of my eye I could see them, the older PhDs. Hovering around groups of students that might be stuck (or in fact just discussing who the power couple of the department is). Or they would pace up and down, start sweet talking the lecturer or start heckling the students outright to make sure the students did not even have an inkling of a question. What was really noticeable was these veterans never chatted. They remained on point, prepared to leap to the needs of any student and would

always be seen answering a question when the lecturer walked back into the room.

This hit me at the common denominator: the lecturer. As a PhD you have moved a few rungs down on the apathy level. Not only will lecturers now know your name, they might also have met your like boyfriend or something. (Even sometimes they might know where your parents live and yes, this has disturbed my sleep). But with great power... well a recognisable face ... comes great responsibility. I came to realise when a lecturer asked me to teach in a class, he/she (probably he) would remember if the students asked me things or avoided me at all costs, which has happened.

The main reason for this is that the lecturers pay for the pleasure of our company out of their funds for a class. If they employ too many GTAs they will have over paid for something they could get for less. The first symptom of this is a quiet class. This is where the veterans come in to their own. They become indispensable as they are the only ones working while all these newbies are standing at the

front chatting. They also have known the lecturer longer. They will be the first for the call backs and the pay check for next year.

Now in a quiet room of students

working beautifully quietly, I find myself insanely pacing, drumming up questions even the students did not think they needed to ask and being totally icy to my chatty colleagues.

So my confession is that you need to give GTAs work to stop this obsessive behaviour. Ask them that question however stupid you think it is, they will love you for it.



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*Arrangements can be made to hold interviews in other countries for candidates leaving the UK

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THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP

COMMENT

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



Of Elections and Allowances and original titles

Felix



Over the last few months Felix has broken two stories about Union Club, Society and Project election mismanagement. Most recently we wrote about the rules broken during the elections held by the Chinese Students and Scholars Association which contravened Union election rules, especially when considering the prioritisation of committee votes. One thing that this has shown us is that maybe it's time to rethink how voting is managed at the Union, if clubs regularly fall foul of the rules. As Stephen suggested, we may even see a widening adoption of the Union's e-voting by clubs, whether willing or not.

This week we also found out about

the government's plan to "modernise" the Disabled Students Allowances system to reflect the modern age of the internet and developing technologies. It seems, when reading the statement signed by David Willetts MP, that the government intends to shift more responsibility for aiding students with disabilities to higher education institutions as opposed to shouldering it themselves.

While universities should, and do provide assistance and support to students with disabilities, when push comes to shove can we really guarantee that an institution will be able to give as much financial support as the government currently does? Especially considering the intense competition for resources a university experiences, between spending on education, academia, staffing, infrastructure, accommodation and other costs, can we really be sure that every university will be able to support their students equally, whether endowed with a large or small income?

Additionally the government is trying to guide HEIs towards providing more implicit support, i.e. changing the way courses are taught rather than providing direct support to students who need it. But where is their evidence and reasoning for these

actions?

Finally, on a cheerier note, we hope everybody had an enjoyable Easter vacation, well as much as it can be with revision, or staying in the research office while the sun is occasionally shining. The Summer term is short

but tough, so as patronising as it may sound, do take care not to get too stressed or burned out, the end is in sight (at least if you're an undergrad). If you have any tips on how to de-stress send us an email and you may end up in print!

Sponsored Editorial

Fat or muscle?

We are inviting healthy volunteers to take part in a research study comparing body fat and metabolism in young adults. It will involve a single visit to Chelsea & Westminster Hospital for 3-4 hours. You will have a full body Magnetic Resonance scan, which is safe, and does not involve x-rays. You will also be asked for a blood, and urine sample and a buccal swab taken from the inside of the mouth. This study is open to people aged 19-27 years; we would particularly welcome interest if you were born prematurely.

For more information please email James Parkinson, Research Associate, jrcp@imperial.ac.uk or text 07814 296596

Does Union Council need a fresh coat of paint?

Felix



This week saw another session of Union Council, the body of elected representatives that create and approve policies that shape the views and the functionality of the Union. The week saw another inordinate session of Council, during which the body was unable to vote effectively on papers due to poor attendance.

While absences at Council are often due to the stress of examination periods, during which (completely understandably) members are more occupied with their degrees than Union democracy, during other times of the year Council often struggles to attract the required number of members to make 'legally-binding' decisions.

As highlighted during this week's Council meeting, which continued to discuss papers despite a lack of quorum, Council has several problems which potentially hinder both its effectiveness and ability to represent the students.

First of all, the fact that Council is often attended by the minimum number of elected representatives required for decisionmaking is worrying. Admittedly, some Council members (many of whom were voted in during last year's Big Elections) probably didn't expect to attend Council as part of their role, and may see it as unnecessary, however these people are seen as "the Voice

of Students" at the Union, and make decisions on your behalf and you certainly can't be represented if they don't show up!

As a body, the Union Council is responsible for passing policies that either affect or represent your views as a student body, whether it's the "Union Stance on the Immigration Bill", changes to the Union Constitution & Bye-Laws, the Union's stance on unpaid internships or even changes to the remit of the Sabbatical Officers who run the Union. Additionally, while votes are only cast by Council members, any member of the Union (i.e. every student at College) has the ability to attend, speak at or propose a paper at Council meetings, which gives the student body a great opportunity to effect the changes to the Union that they feel need to be addressed.

But one question to ask is, how well do the Council members represent the population? At Imperial, unlike many of our neighbours at the University of London, our Union is relatively apolitical. Rather than running with left or right-wing values candidates often run with a set of (often generic) manifesto points. While this tends to fit our (often self-described) apparent secular, scientific outlook as a student body, aside from the agreed manifesto points, when in a position of influence can you really expect them to vote in a manner aligned to your views?

Last term, a paper was proposed at Council that suggested that members' votes were recorded and available for public consumption, which would be interesting from a political analysis point of view if one were to try to



categorise voters across the political spectrum.

Another issue that was pointed out during the meeting was the lack of student engagement with Council, or democracy at the Union in general. Honestly, how many of you know what Council actually does or who represents you on Council? While one member of staff pointed out that the Union was currently undergoing a democracy review, will the student population ever hear about the results?

Admittedly, engaging a community in democracy is no mean feat, especially at universities, where most students would hardly think twice about Union politics, however simple steps can be taken to make the general populace more aware about the "goings on" in the Union.

These include creating more articles

about Union committee activities on the front page of the Union website, similar to the regular news articles currently displayed, which is probably a better use of time than finding another picture to post to the Union instagram feed.

Not to say that Council members are not doing a good job, having observed a large number of Council sessions it is obvious that members can often be passionate about topics, with meetings occasionally lasting two or three hours.

This article was triggered by a recent discussion in Council about renewing the Imperial College Union's stance on Higher Education.

During the course of the meeting Council was informed about several types of education funding models and the impact they potentially may have on students in terms of access

to higher education, competition between higher education institutions and the number of student places institutions would have to offer.

While this was the first of several discussions on the topic, one member of Council raised the idea that more students should be involved in the discussion of the Union's approach to Higher Education, rather than just the Council members, something Felix fundamentally agrees with.

Rather than leaving such an important decision, Felix is keen to host discussion from the unelected student population, in particular with views about free education, a perpetual tax on graduates or the current education funding system. All articles are welcome and debate will be encouraged. Don't leave important decisions up to the chosen few, your views matter too!

Union Page

Exams? It's time to stress less!



Summer Stress Less is back with a whole host of events designed to help you de-stress during the exam period. Exams and coursework deadlines can be overwhelming but it's important to remember to give yourself regular breaks and to look after yourself mentally and physically. Stress Less events are open to all Imperial students and are completely free.

Coming up:

- ▲ Tuesday 6 May - Introducing Mindfulness Session, 15:30 - 17:30, South Kensington Campus. Book online.
- ▲ Wednesday 7 May - Building self-esteem workshop (UG only), 14:00 – 16:00, South Kensington Campus. Book online.

For a full list of events, relaxation tips, our cute animal of the day and more please visit the Stress Less website.

imperialcollegeunion.org/stressless

Your chance to win an iPad mini



The Union Survey is your chance to let us know what you think about the many services that we run and provide. The survey doesn't take long to complete and helps us understand how to make your Union better for you. Changes we have made over the last few years have helped us become one of the most improved Students' Unions in the UK. In the recent Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey we became the fourth most improved Union over the last two years.

FOR JUST A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME, YOU COULD WIN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PRIZES:

- ▲ 2 x iPad Minis with Retina Display
- ▲ 2 x £20 Union Shop vouchers
- ▲ 2 pairs of Summer Ball 2014 tickets
- ▲ 10 x Nando's Combo Meal vouchers

This is the fourth Union Survey we have run and already we have made big changes as a result of your feedback. Our 'You said, we did' campaign highlights the changes we have made.

This really does help us to improve everything we do, so help us keep improving for you. We will be selecting winners at random for the prize draw and announcing them online.

imperialcollegeunion.org/unionsurvey

#helloicu crew recruitment open



Do you remember what it was like to be starting at Imperial? Moving to London and starting university can be a daunting prospect. So who better to welcome new students to Imperial than existing students who have lived through the same nerve-wracking experience?

The #helloicu crew had their first outing in 2013 and was a huge success:

- ▲ 79% #helloicu crew members said the experience boosted their confidence
- ▲ 85% #helloicu crew members said they learnt and developed new skills
- ▲ 95% #helloicu crew members said they made new friends; and
- ▲ 100% #helloicu crew members said they would recommend the experience to a friend

If you volunteer as a #helloicu crew member, you'll receive a free t-shirt, have your travel within London reimbursed and be given free refreshments on the days you volunteer.

You'll be provided with a days training to prepare you for your role, given volunteer shifts based around your commitments in activities that interest you

If you'd like to register your interest in becoming a #helloicu crew member, visit the web address below.

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While you we

...Jack Steadman was probably not



Captain America: The Winter Soldier

Directors: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo
Writers: Christopher Markus, Stephen McFeely, Ed Brubaker
Starring: Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Redford, Sebastian Stan, Anthony Mackie, Cobie Smulders, Frank Grillo, Emily VanCamp
Runtime: 136 minutes
Certification: 12A



Phase 2 continues apace. The third *Iron Man* started things off in a typically Shane Black fashion of quips and action, the second *Thor* trod a darker path while beginning to introduce the elements that will come together in an inevitably glorious fashion for *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Age of Ultron*, and now it's the turn of the second *Captain America* film to grace the screen. The first outing for everyone's favourite star-spangled superhero was an exercise in making an adequate action film elevated by incredible performances and pitch-perfect characterisation, all of which made the appointment of the Russo brothers as directors an interesting choice. Famous for their TV work on comedies such as *Arrested Development* (which, if you haven't already, you should definitely binge-watch on Netflix), but new to

the field of action does not instantly scream 'classic film in the making' for a superhero flick.

But, as with almost everything in the realm of superhero films (with a few notable *cough* *Green Lantern* *cough* exceptions), any naysayers have been silenced in spectacular fashion. Because the Russo brothers – for want of a neater, more polite term – absolutely nailed it. All of it. Although having said that, the title could perhaps be considered somewhat of a misnomer – the original storyline of the *Winter Soldier* (part of Ed Brubaker's fantastic run in the comics) is mostly passed over here for the sake of convenience, and the eponymous soldier of a seasonal variety barely makes an appearance (although when he does, it's fantastic).

It's not really a criticism as such, more a vague sense that Marvel really, really wanted to use that title despite the film being so much more. It's equal parts 70s-style conspiracy thriller (helped greatly by a neat turn from Robert Redford as S.H.I.E.L.D. Secretary Alexander Pierce), buddy comedy starring Chris Evans' Captain America and Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow (the call for a solo film for Black Widow, strong as it was, just got completely impossible to ignore), and a balls-to-the-wall action film. Genre-hopping as it pleases, Markus and McFeely's screenplay combined with the Russo's fantastic direction (and wonderfully snappy editing that keeps up the pace) creates what might

be the best single-character (in the loosest sense) Marvel film to date.

It's certainly the most important – events here have major impacts in the Marvel Cinematic Universe for a whole host of reasons I won't spoil here, with the TV show *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* already pulling off a dramatic turn of events in response to what happens here. *Age of Ultron* just got even more exciting.

But stepping aside from the superb plot and the brilliant, vast-improvement-over-the-original action, once again it's the characters that make this *Captain America* film brilliant. Cap's status as a man-out-of-time is brought to the fore again, as he attempts to make sense of all the years he's lost since crashing that plane (although his experience with Stark et al on the Helicarrier seems to have imbued him with a new capacity for quips), all while juggling the fact that the modern world isn't quite as black-and-white morally as the one he left, embodied to differing degrees by Nick Fury and Black Widow. Throw in fellow vet Sam Wilson (Anthony Mackie) and his eventual appearance as the Falcon and Sebastian Stan's *Winter Soldier* (plus a few cameos from the MCU/the previous film in particular), and it's a bundle of well-written, well-handled characters that feel fantastically real. They are the ones that make this the best solo film in the MCU so far. And they might be the ones who make it the best solo film in the MCU ever.

The Raid 2

Director: Gareth Evans
Writer: Gareth Evans
Starring: Iko Uwais, Yayan Ruhian, Arifin Putra, Julie Estelle
Runtime: 150 minutes
Certification: 18



Subtitled *Berandal* in the US (much like the original was subtitled *Redemption*), *The Raid 2* picks up (chronologically-speaking) exactly where the original left off, with rookie cop Rama having survived the brutal tower block that claimed the lives of (almost) all of his squad. There's a few, brief moments of calm exposition (which are still punctuated by even briefer outbursts of violence, summing up *The Raid 2* in microcosm), and then the expansive, multi-year plot explodes into being.

This is a far trickier, far larger, far more complex beast than the straightforward (in a good way) original. Spanning multiple years and (in contrast to that single tower block) multiple environments, this feels like the story director Gareth Evans has been waiting to tell, and the incredible (and deserved) success of the first film has just given him the platform he needs. Riddled with faction rivalries and double-crossings, exploring the brutalities and complexities of power inside prison and outside of it, it's a true epic that makes maximum use of its two-and-a-half hour running time.

Obviously, such dedication to story requires more dialogue-heavy scenes than the original premise of 'get to the top of this tower', but it's testament to Evans' skill with his own script (and with editing) that these moments never slow the film down. Always laced with myriad undertones, often with the threat of sudden violence simmering gently beneath every line, there's tension in every scene, and the whole shebang hurtles along at a break-neck (sometimes literally) pace.

While this dedication to the story (and the rapidity of the plot's progression) is ultimately what makes *The Raid 2* so compelling, it's probably not the reason why so many fans

of the original will want to watch it. The ultra-violence is back, and if anything it's even more extreme this time around. Provoking groans from the audience, and more frequently expletive-laden outbursts of shock, *The Raid 2* earns every inch of its 18 certificate, and then some. It's gorgeously filmed – a veritably beautiful, bloody ballet of death and pain that comprises what might just be some of the best action scenes to ever appear on a cinema screen. It is, quite frankly, phenomenal.

What could be fairly by-the-numbers action scenes (there's plenty of the traditional beats of the genre, including a pulse-pounding car chase) are elevated to something more, both by the sheer quantity of unflinching gore (the camera almost never cuts away from breaking bones and bleeding wounds, displaying every injury as it happens regardless of how horrific) and by the impeccable choreography and camerawork. Credit must go to everyone involved – the actors, the stuntmen, the choreographers, the director, the cameramen, absolutely everyone.

It's not perfect – not quite (the runtime is on the borderline of overstaying its welcome, and some of the characterisation is a little lacking beyond the required stereotypes) – this really is something special. Faultless acting, peerless action, stunning choreography – it all blurs together to make what might just be the greatest action film of all time. It's certainly one of the greats.





...are studying...

Muppets Most Wanted

Director: James Bobin
Writers: James Bobin, Nicholas Stoller
Starring: Ricky Gervais, Tina Fey, Ty Burrell, Steven Whitmire, Eric Jacobson, Dave Goelz, Bill Barretta, David Rudman
Runtime: 107 minutes
Certification: U



Muppets Most Wanted's opening song, "We're Doing a Sequel" successfully nails almost every criticism that could be thrown at it from a "ugh, the sequel's not as good as the original" point of view (even if – as it points out – the "original" in question isn't even the actual "original" *Muppet* movie)

which makes reviewing it slightly difficult. Not impossible, mind. It's just that the Muppets have – in their traditionally self-aware (and gloriously charming) way – managed to successfully knock out most of the bad points of the film. It's not as heart-warming as the original (at times it gets the closest to being borderline nasty that the Muppets have been, before quickly finding its feet again), the songs aren't as memorable ("We're Doing a Sequel" is easily the best), and the plot is inherently more contrived to justify making the sequel bigger and better.

And almost none of that matters. The absurdities of the plot are ripped apart with grace within the opening number alone (yeah, a lot seems to hinge on that song, including this review), and while the songs aren't as good they remain one of the best things about the film, helping to drive the whole thing forwards when the plot threatens to sag (which it does –

disappointingly often).

There are a few issues unrelated to the nature of sequel-itis, most notably the increased number of times the Muppets are seen full-bodied, with no strings or puppeteers in sight. The Muppets are technically puppets, but they're so full of life that it's almost impossible not to treat them as real. Which should, in theory, validate the idea of seeing them move independently via the medium of CGI, but it just doesn't. If anything, seeing Constantine the frog leap and jump around (in multiple scenes) threatens to kill the illusion. It probably doesn't help that the CGI is a bit iffy and obviously fake.

The idea of the Muppets being 'real' brings us neatly on to the question of the cast, and the standard Muppet trend of celebrity cameos, often in the weirdest of places. The main non-Muppet cast are all sound – Ty Burrell probably wins here, having a whale of

a time lampooning European (mostly French) stereotypes, while Tina Fey manages to imbue her admittedly weaker material and sub-plot with heart and comedy. The cameos range from hilarious to shoe-horned in, but even then it's forgivable as part of the general Muppets heritage.

Ultimately, it might be fair to say that *Muppets Most Wanted* relies heavily on the goodwill of the fact this is another *Muppet* movie to help you overlook its flaws. But to just dismiss it like that would be unfair – this is a deserving entry into the series, and it's a lot better than some of the previous entries, as well as other family-friendly fare currently floating around in cinemas (*Escape from Planet Earth*, I'm looking at you). Throw in the fantastic *Monsters Uni* short that plays before the film (one of the advantages of Disney owning the *Muppets*, I suppose), and it's worthy of the price of admission, not just the Muppet name.



Divergent

Director: Neil Burger
Writers: Evan Daugherty, Vanessa Taylor, Veronica Roth (novel)
Starring: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Kate Winslet
Runtime: 139 minutes
Certification: 12A



The quest to find the next *Hunger Games* finds its next entrant in Veronica Roth's series of YA novels, and this time (after a few misfires that will go un-named, and an excellent second *Hunger Games* film) it looks like the studios might just have found what they're looking for. Packed with neat socio-political commentary in a dystopian landscape that also manages to address teenage issues of fitting in and finding where you belong in life – on paper it's perfect. Add in star names such as Shailene Woodley (who is rapidly promising to steal Jennifer Lawrence's crown as the hottest young actress in Hollywood, if her break-out performance in *The Descendants* and future appearance as the star of *The Fault in Our Stars* is anything to go by) as the heroine, and the likes of Miles Teller, Kate Winslet and Ansel Elgort (starring opposite Woodley in *The Fault in Our Stars*) as support, and on

screen it's pretty promising too.

So, perhaps inevitably, *Divergent* doesn't quite live up to that promise. To use that as a reason to completely slam the film is a touch unfair – after all, *The Hunger Games* is an incredibly high standard to try and reach, and just because the cast is good doesn't mean their characters are (examples ad nauseam). And in its defence, *Divergent* is a completely serviceable film. It just never really rises above that "serviceable", and in a post-Catching Fire world, anything beyond 'great' is going to look disappointing.

First: the good. Woodley (as you'd expect) completely owns her role as Tris, the eponymously 'Divergent' heroine (there's some helpfully clunky voice-over at the opening of the film to explain how the city is split up into various factions and how said factions determine your role in life and so on and so forth), making the most of a role that gives her the most emotional range allowed to anyone in the film. The plot machinations are reasonably simplistic – this is revolution-by-numbers – but the story works on a fundamental level, continually driving forwards with the occasional revelation or (decent) action scene. The majority of the cast are at least functional in their roles, although their counterparts in *The Hunger Games* series still win out in elevating their characters above their writing (Donald Sutherland's President Snow compared to Kate Winslet's Jeanine Matthews is

perhaps the most notable example of this – Winslet does good evil manipulator, but Sutherland is downright scary), and the aesthetics (while predominantly the classic browns, greys and blacks – hardly an entry for 'most inventive colour scheme') mostly work, with a few flashes of inspiration.

Unfortunately for *Divergent*, though, there's not a huge amount of positivity left to throw at it. It was always going to suffer from comparisons to a film series it can't help but feel like it's trying to emulate, and although their heroines can go toe-to-toe in the acting stakes, and both have important messages to share, Tris inescapably feels like Katniss mark two. The dialogue is often painfully on-the-nose (although points must be given for not adopting the classic tactic of forgetting about the voiceover come the film's end), and the occasional dips into CGI sometimes feel a little too glossy – *Divergent's* dystopia feels like it could use some more grit at times, even inside its intended 12A bracket (proof if you want it – *The Hunger Games* was going to be a 15 until Lionsgate opted to censor a few shots).

In the end, *Divergent* never really feels like it elevates itself above 'okay'. It's an entertaining ride, with a decent message about not being tied down by the system, but it doesn't really linger. However, on a more upbeat note: there's a lot of promise for future instalments. I'm almost looking forward to it.



While you were st



Noah

Director: Darren Aronofsky
Writers: Darren Aronofsky, Ari Handel
Starring: Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, Emma Watson, Ray Winstone, Douglas Booth, Logan Lerman, Anthony Hopkins
Runtime: 138 minutes
Certification: 12A



The sweeping, captioned opening of Darren Aronofsky's *Noah* is reminiscent of its cinematic heritage, the Biblical epics of years past, all elegantly flowing cursive script and delicately composed shots, until it promptly

swoops down to the dark brutality of humanity. It's a fantastic opening that sets the tone wonderfully, leaving a sense of ominous foreboding of everything that follows, while also making the statement that this is a Biblical epic, yes, but it's Aronofsky's Biblical epic. It's his vision.

And what a vision it is – from Noah's (suitably terrifying) vision of the Earth underwater to the Watchers, the fallen angels who lost their wings for simply trying to help, to the breath-taking expanses that make up this world, it's never anything less than eye-catching. The influences of *Paradise Lost* can be felt, here and there, (no bad thing, of course), and the changes in scenery are more dramatic than most globe-trotting films – barren wastelands, lush green forests, misty mountains, a globe-spanning flood (obviously) and desert islands, they're all here and all

fully realised. Every single element of the art design, the environments, all of it, lives up to that 'epic' tag.

The imagery is striking, the assault on the Ark at the mid-point of the film is break-taking (and I mean that literally – I only realised I'd been holding my breath for almost the entire sequence when I let it all out explosively at the end, and the person sitting next to me gave me a healthy dose of a disapproving glare), and the ecological message (which is roughly as subtle as, say, sending a massive flood to show how pissed off you are with everyone) is a strong one, blended in with a healthy dose of philosophy (this is an inherently religious film – it can't be anything else, really – but it still manages to insert some big questions about faith, particularly in the latter half).

It's fortunate, really, that all this ep-

ic-ness is more than matched by the acting. If anything, I might go so far as to say the acting is the best thing about *Noah*. Crowe is nothing less than perfect as the eponymous Biblical action hero, deftly handling the enormous variety of emotions and roles Noah goes through (from said action hero, to tyrant, to a broken man, and multiple more besides), while Jennifer Connelly more than matches him, bringing the tears with her impassioned plea for him to spare their future grandchildren. Anthony Hopkins continues to enjoy himself, taking a role that allows him relatively little screen-time but also all of the (admittedly few) laughs of the film, while Emma Watson and Logan Lerman continue their streak of quality films they've both worked on (the last being *Perks of Being a Wallflower*), putting in solid performances. The rest of the supporting

cast is equally strong – Ray Winstone is appropriately hammy as the leader of the rest of the human race – but in the end it really is Crowe's show. And he absolutely owns it.

Of course, even the best of acting can out-stay its welcome, and *Noah* does just that, rocking in at 138 minutes. From the earliest scenes there's an inescapable sense of bloat, as the film follows a slightly jerky rhythm, accelerating rapidly towards key moments, slowing down to a sluggish crawl, suddenly picking up again, and then repeating. The ending is powerful, nailing all the themes of the film, but it comes somewhat too late. If you're prepared to forgive the bloat, and enjoy the story (and at moments, it holds you so tightly in its grip you barely even notice the drop in pace), it's an incredibly compelling one. It's even better than the original.

Rio 2

Director: Carlos Saldanha
Writers: Jenny Bicks, Carlos Saldanha, Yoni Brenner, Carlos Kotkin, Don Rhymer
Starring: (voices) Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway, Jamie Foxx, Bruno Mars
Runtime: 101 minutes
Certification: U



The original *Rio* (I've noticed the fact I seem to be using 'the original' or variations on that theme a lot of late – probably says something about just how many sequels have been coming out this year) was an entertaining-enough blast of colour and samba, propped up by decent vocal performances and a show stealing turn from *Flight of the Conchords'* Jemaine Clement as evil cockatoo Nigel. The sequel seems to fairly quickly acknowledge



its predecessor's limitations, opting to completely ignore its title and abandon the city for the wilds of the Amazon (cue a cutesy imitation of the ol' Indy-style 'travel by map' (thanks for that one, *The Muppets*)). A dramatic uprooting for the last remaining family of blue macaws on earth, which has the dramatic effect of simply moving the same old by-the-numbers family-friendly plotting to a different environment.

Yeah, *Rio 2* doesn't really add anything to the series. It's not worse than the first one, by any means, but it doesn't exactly offer many convincing reasons for its existence beyond financially-motivated studio decisions (much like the *Ice Age* films, I sup-

pose). Most of the comedy is squarely aimed at children – not a bad thing, I hasten to point out, it's just most big-bucks kids films these days tend to be fun for all the family (I mean, just look at *Toy Story* and *How to Train Your Dragon* and tell me they're not fantastic films in their own right) – and while cast-wise there's plenty of big names from the world of cinema and music (Bruno Mars joins the cast as a pretty-boy macaw and yes that was meant to be a parrot joke okay), the story doesn't really allow any of them to actually let loose on their roles. It's all very rote stuff, cramming an obvious eco-warrior message into the plot and then completely ignoring it in the finale (and besides, Noah did this

environmentally-friendly stuff far, far better), mixed in with the occasional wacky hi-jinks.

It's the hi-jinks that save the film, though, mostly thanks (yet again) to Nigel the cockatoo. Easily the funniest character, his scenes are consistently the highlight of the film (with his audition 'sequence' the stand-out, and the only scene to actually provoke audible laughter from anyone over the age of six in the cinema), and his drive for revenge providing some much-needed momentum to the plot.

The visuals are on a par with before (pretty, but nothing mind-blowing), although the change of background does allow for even more colour than before, and the music is still ultimate-

ly the heart of the film (albeit not its best point by miles), but the lacklustre script lets it all down. With the sheer number of writers attached to the project (two for story and characters, three more for the screenplay), it's not hard to see why. *Rio 2* tries to hit the right beats, and mostly succeeds in a mundane sort of way. Throw in some utterly pointless 3D, and there's a strong whiff of studio cynicism in the air. Good enough for the kids to enjoy, and therefore armed with the strong possibility of making some money, it's a sound calculation. If it does produce the almost inevitable sequel, I only hope it doesn't go the route of the *Ice Age* series. Although I can't see it going anywhere else.

 @feliximperial

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Studying: part 2

The Amazing Spider-Man 2

Director: Marc Webb

Writers: Alex Kurtzman, Roberto Orci, Jeff Pinker, James Vanderbilt

Starring: Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone, Dane DeHaan, Jamie Foxx, Sally Field, Paul Giamatti

Runtime: 142 minutes

Certification: 12A



sei Sytsevich, future Rhino, but the main enemies here are Jamie Foxx's Electro and Dane DeHaan's Green Goblin. Pre-transformation, Foxx is endearingly bumbling as the socially awkward Max Dillon (even if some of his motivations do feel a little shoe-horned in to give him a strong enough reason to fight Spider-Man, Foxx plays it just right), while DeHaan's Harry Osborn is in stark contrast to the newly confident, swaggering Peter – a bundle of twitchy, nervous energy just waiting to explode.

And explode he does, and all in slightly useless 3D. The action scenes are bigger (and arguably) better than before, Webb seemingly feeling a little more confident this time, but with Electro's bolts firing off left, right and centre and a lot usually going on, sometimes the screen can get a little too busy, making some of the action beats a little harder to follow. Nothing particularly major, just a minor quirk that will almost certainly get ironed out come the third (and fourth, that's a thing too) film.

Plot-wise, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* is somewhat hit-and-miss, with the mystery of the parents being resolved in a decidedly rapid and anticlimactic fashion (a consequence, no doubt, of some brutal editing to cut the runtime, or perhaps a side-effect of the alterations made in the first film that removed whole swathes of material on the same subject), although there are some events with resounding implications for the future films. It's worth noting that Shailene Woodley's scenes as Mary Jane were cut from the film (probably a good thing, on reflection, it was already long enough), but there's a clear direction for the series to go from here, a clarity aided by the introduction of the Sinister Six come the film's close. There's still some issues with pacing, and with character development, but it's an improvement over the first film's issues. It's a blast to watch, albeit one which fails to stick in the memory. The only way is up for the reboot, and if the third film can keep up the pace this series could soon exceed the originals (although *Spider-Man 2* remains, I think, the best entry so far).

Calvary

Director: Marc Webb

Writer: John Michael McDonagh

Starring: Brendan Gleeson, Chris O'Dowd, Kelly Reilly, Aidan Gillen

Runtime: 100 minutes

Certification: 15



Following on from their previous effort *The Guard*, director John Michael McDonagh (brother of Marty) have teamed up again for *Calvary*, the tale of a well-meaning, innocent priest told in the confessional that he has only a week left to live. Where Marty managed to make an instant classic in *In Bruges* (also starring Gleeson, interestingly enough), before following it up with *Seven Psychopaths*, an enjoyably Tarantino-esque romp that was perhaps too smart for its own good, John appears to have trodden the inverse path. Where *The Guard* was pretty damn good, *Calvary* is downright incredible.

It shares the very (very, very, very) dark sense of humour of *The Guard*, albeit now mixed in with a strong sense of melancholy and emotion, as Gleeson's Father James attempts to come to terms with his impending death. There's a whole net of supporting characters, all with their own quirks, all deftly sketched out by McDonagh, with a 'who'll-do-it' air (a who-dunnit would be a total misnomer, what with them not having done it yet) hanging over it all. Kelly Reilly is heart-wrenching as Father James' self-harming daughter, while Aidan Gillen (Littlefinger from *Game of Thrones*,

for the few of you who might watch that small show's atheist doctor has quite possibly the most unnerving anecdote you'll hear in a film. It's shiver-inducing even recalling it. The rest of the cast are impeccable, from Dylan Moran to Chris O'Dowd (nice to see him in something a little bit smaller than his new-found Hollywood fame), but really the entire gig hinges on Gleeson, and he pulls it off. He more than pulls it off, to be honest. It's an utterly compelling performance that deserves far more recognition that it will likely get.

If I'm totally honest, that's pretty much all there is to *Calvary*. It's very much the story of Father James, and everything revolves around his impending murder – or at least, how we view it does. The inhabitants of his village all live their own lives, with a whole casket load of problems apiece, but it is through the lens of Father James, so desperately trying to be a good man, to support them all only to find a vicious backlash against the institution he represents, that we encounter them.

To diminish *Calvary* to just that in the praise stakes would be unfair, and it should here be said that it is quite possibly the most heart-wrenching, deeply personal and painfully involving film to come out so far this year. The visuals are stark, making use of the Irish landscape, and the music sombre. The whole thing is never less than gripping, and its final moments will leave you in a state of shock. I daren't say any more for fear of spoiling it, and I'm not sure I can add anything else anyway. *Calvary* demands to be experienced. The raw, tumultuous emotion it contains demands to be felt.



Imperial College Cinema



RoboCop

Director: José Padilha

Writer: Joshua Zetumer

Starring: Joel Kinnaman, Gary Oldman, Michael Keaton, Abbie Cornish, Jackie Earle Haley, Michael K. Williams, Jennifer Ehle, Jay Baruchel, Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Samuel L. Jackson

Runtime: 117 minutes

Certification: 12A

Imperial Cinema is back to give you some well-needed relaxation time away from central library! This week we're showing the new remake of the 80s classic RoboCop. Set in crime-ridden Detroit in 2028, military defense company OmniCorp wants to use an injured policeman as a human guinea pig for a 'robot soldier' prototype for use in civilian law enforcement which has proved unpopular with the general public.

Coincidentally, police detective Alex Murphy (Joel Kinnaman) is severely injured in an attempted mafia arrest after it turns out that corrupt cops are working for the crime boss. Alex is selected for the task and is fitted into the cybernetic suit. After minor teething problems involving altered brain chemistry which makes him emotionless, the new, programmed Alex is let loose in the city and dramatically reduces crime. However, as Alex becomes more conscious of his transformation against his consent, he struggles to override his programming and exert his free will by seeking revenge.

RoboCop

Tuesday 06/05/14

Thursday 08/05/14

£3 Members/£4 Non-Member



Gig Review: Seahaven

Stuart Masson reviews the Californian band's recent Birthday's gig

Birthday's in Dalston is about as hipster as venues come. It's in Dalston for a start. Upstairs there's a burger joint that serves food on trays, but to be fair, does do a mean sweet potato burger and some extraordinary cheesy chips, oh, those cheesy chips... The stage is in the basement, and it's a fair size considering its location. Most venues east of Liverpool Street fit about 100 patrons, but Birthday's has a capacity of around 250. That means they also get slightly bigger bands than I'm used to travelling to Dalston for, including the not that hipster **Seahaven** a few weeks ago. Supported by **Battle Lines**, who seem to have not decided on a coherent sound yet, and **Nai Harvest**, who are one of my favourite British bands at the moment. After those cheesy chips I really didn't think my night could get any better, but the bands did their best.

Nai Harvest are at the forefront of the UK emo scene. A garagey two-piece with intelligent guitar work and catchy tunes galore, they aren't far off being able to headline venues like Birthday's themselves. The tunes started early, with *Whatever* and

I Don't Even Know straight off the bat. **Nai Harvest** always bring all the energy of their music to the live setting, but not all of the crunch. It's hard to provide all the range with only two of you and no studio magic, and **Nai Harvest** sometimes to struggle in the bass region. This certainly wasn't the worst I've seen them, but it still wasn't quite right. Ending with the brilliant *Sitcom Fade-In* and *Hold Open My Head* did a little to assuage my problems though. It was a very short set, cut shorter by Ben breaking a string during the intro to their first attempt at *Whatever*. Of course, that is to be expected with a support slot, but I certainly could have done with a bit more.

Seahaven operate in the niche between alternative rock and post-hardcore, sounding like a slightly more mature **Taking Back Sunday** or the band that **Placebo** could have been. Debut EP *Ghost* and album *Winter Forever* were both pretty catchy listens, if perhaps not having the musical depth to hold the attention for too long. Their sophomore effort, *Reverie Music: Music for Escapism Only*, came out earlier this year, and its focus on a much more mellow

sound produced a very interesting, if perhaps less exciting listen. Live they go for a fairly even mix between tracks off both albums, making for a pretty varied and interesting live show.

Opening with *Goodnight* is a solid move. It's Seahaven at their absolute catchiest, and with some great shoutalong but highly introspective lyrics, it's one of their most popular. Following this up with standout track off *Reverie Music*, *Andreas*, is also a good idea. It's indie rock with an edge, and it's really good. It sounds a bit like *Devil and God* era **Brand New**, except with Kyle Soto's nasal mumbling (it's not that bad). Seahaven's albums all seem to have a fairly even mix of good and bad tracks, but luckily, they seem to have a fairly similar opinion on which are the good ones as me. *Love to Burn*, *Flesh* and *Wild West Selfishness* are probably my other favourite cuts off the new album, and dropping *Black and White* off of *Winter Forever* also goes down really well. The one curveball off the new album is *Highway Blues*, a, well, blues song. It's just Kyle and his guitar and it's surprisingly beautiful. Live it's just as touching, although the general chatter makes me think that perhaps



others didn't appreciate it as much as I did. The crowd certainly did enjoy the closing track: *It's Over*. Fitting both in style and in name, it's a great end to the set, with the whole room having one last singalong.

Overall, I really enjoyed Seahaven. They produced a really nice mix of

heavy, catchy and mellow, and the variety led to the set keeping my interest throughout. They're certainly not going to move mountains any time soon, but they're good at what they do, and they're worth checking out if you like your alt-rock with a touch of heavy thrown in.

AMS albums you may have missed!

Stuart Masson reviews some of this year's highlights that we didn't cover at the time (sorry)

St. Vincent - St. Vincent

St. Vincent released her first album, *Marry Me*, back in 2007. It was pretty good. 2009 saw *Actor* released, and that was really good. 2011's *Strange Mercy* was absolutely spectacular. A stunningly well crafted art pop record, it remains one of the best things released this decade. Then came an album with **David Byrne** of **Talking**



Heads fame, which was, not surprisingly, a little too weird for its own good. I'm a big Talking Heads fan, but to my mind, David Byrne's experimental approach to things didn't set particularly well with Annie Clark's extremely tight sound. Her fourth album is self-titled, but it's not particularly St. Vincent-esque. She seems to have taken a lot of tips from David Byrne. There's a variety of sounds all over this record with fairly mixed success. The dissonant guitar riff in *Birth in Reverse* is superb, while the psychedelic dream pop of *Severed Crossed Fingers* is a sound I'd love to see her expand on further. There's also the slightly less difficult *Psychopath* and the synth filled yet surprisingly heavy *Huey Newton* to enjoy. It's taken me a few listens, but there is a lot to enjoy here. The glitchy opener *Rattlesnake* sounded like a huge misstep on first listen, but I've come round in time. This certainly isn't as good as *Strange Mercy*, and I don't think any number of listens will change that, but this is definitely worth your time, especially if you're willing to invest in it.

We Came Out Like Tigers - Ever-Crushed at Pecket's Well

This one only came out in mid-April, but it's already become one of my absolute favourite albums of this year.

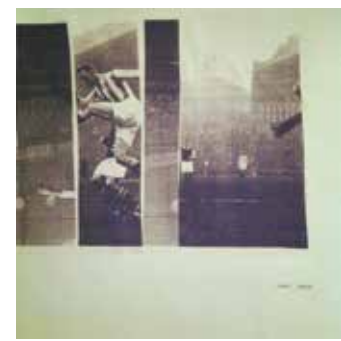
We Came Out Like Tigers are a politically charged black metal influenced screamo band from Liverpool. They are one of my absolute favourite bands to see live. With the furious screams, pounding blast beats and rants about Fascism, it's about as intense as live music can get, and it just blows me away every time. Their first album, *Agelessness and Lack*, was released back in 2012, and whilst it was really good, it failed to catch the intensity of the live show with a slightly too thin mix. There are no such issues this time around. The songs are at least as good, but the production is just so much better. *To Ruin a Fine Tenor Voice* is some of the most emotionally charged screamo you'll find, and the mournful violin towards the end is just perfect (I may have forgotten to mention they have a violin). The violin is probably what really separates this out from the rest. It adds sorrow and beauty to otherwise furious music. One negative is that the whole album is only 25 minutes long, but when it's this intense, that might be best for my emotional state... This really is as good an album as I've heard this year, so if you've any interest in heavy music, check this out!

This album is available for name your price, starting at free, from wecameoutliketigers.bandcamp.com, so you've no excuse!



Human Hands - Human Hands

Human Hands released their self-titled debut album back in January, but I've only just gotten round to listening to it. I should not have waited, this is superb. It is really refreshing hearing an emo band who have no interest in sounding like a Kinsella project. Forget **Cap'n Jazz** and **American Football**, **Human Hands** sound is mix of bands like



Christie Front Drive, **Indian Summer** and **Rites of Spring**. It's heavy, but it's dripping with emotion. The shouted vocals intertwined and often underlaid with muted singing, the pounding drums and swirling dissonant riffs are all brought together with really well written songs. *Remain* is an early highlight. It ebbs and flows and it's just absolutely gripping. Everything seems to be barely restrained, until the last minute, where it's all released in a cacophony of anger. The structure of the tracks on this album is very close to post-rock in a lot of ways, but unlike acts like **Foxing** and **Prawn**, **Human Hands** have no interest in making it pretty. They don't want this to be easy listening, and it makes for a very rewarding listen. The run from *Remain* through to penultimate track *Dust* is just so good. It's a shame that the final track is 10 minutes long and all a bit much. That doesn't stop it being a great album though, because it is top dollar.

This album is also available for name your price with no minimum so head over to humanhands.bandcamp.com to listen!

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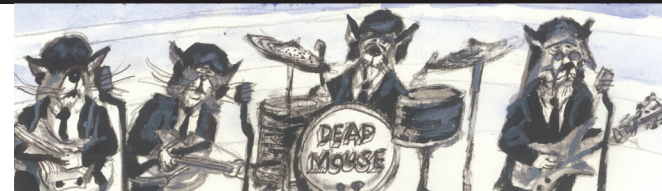
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Editor: Simon Hunter, Riaz Agahi, Stuart Masson music.felix@gmail.com



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The Expert's Guide to Europe's Ultimate Competition

Jamie Thomas explains which countries you need to look out for at the 59th edition of Eurovision in Copenhagen

Going back to 1956, with one to six hundred million viewers annually, the Eurovision Song Contest is one of the largest-scale and longest-running television events in the world. This year thirty-seven countries will battle it out in Copenhagen for victory and the opportunity to host the competition in 2015. Here is my list of the top ten hottest songs to look out for this year!



Azerbaijan



Starting a fire in the hearts of millions.

Azerbaijan debuted at Eurovision in 2008 and has since taken the competition by storm, finishing in the top five each year since 2009 and winning in 2011. This year they are hoping for victory with operatically trained **Dilara Kazimova** and her song *Start A Fire*. Slow and contemplative, it echoes Azerbaijan's 2012 entry *When The Music Dies*, with upbeat but hopeful lyrics and extensive use of the balaban, the Azerbaijani national musical instrument. I predict another top five finish for Azerbaijan.



Austria



A picture paints a thousand words, in this case, all of them bearded.

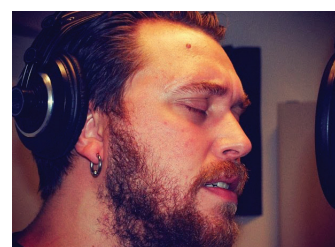
This year Austria is sending Tom Neuwirth, better known as his long-haired, bearded drag persona **Conchita Wurst**, to Copenhagen. One of the more polarising figures taking part in this year's competition, Conchita has been the subject of social media campaigns in Austria calling for her to be replaced. There was even a petition in Belarus asking for her to be removed from the national broadcast on the grounds that she would turn the event into a 'hotbed of sodomy'. Austria has only been in the grand final once since 2005, but Conchita Wurst stands a very good chance of getting there this year. Her song, *Rise Like A Phoenix*, mirrors the style of the great James Bond themes. With Conchita's strong voice, plenty of strings and the occasional screaming trumpet, this entry is one of my personal favourites.



The contest this year will be held in the larger of these really big sheds. Looks pretty glamorous!



Norway

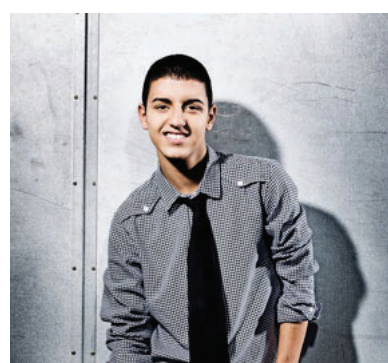


A somewhat less surprising beard.

Norway holds both the record for the most notorious 'nul points' scored and the record for the highest scoring song in Eurovision history ('Fairytale' by Alexander Rybak, 2009). Norway is hoping for a win this year with 'Silent Storm' by Carl Espen. A slow but moving song, Norway is likely to place highly this year.



Denmark



Basim shows that age is just a number. A really small number.

Denmark's **Basim** will be performing to his home crowd this year with his *Cliché Love Song*, so expect a deafeningly euphoric response from the arena for him. With its upbeat melody and delightfully cheesy lyrics, Denmark has entered a song that is simple, quintessential Eurovision. Being the host country, this song automatically qualifies for the grand final. Denmark is hoping for a second win after **Emmelie De Forest** took first place in Malmö last year, and Basim just might do it for them.



United Kingdom

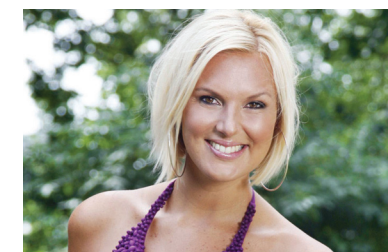
Often a subject of Great British moaning, the UK has not done brilliantly in the contest recently, coming last three times since 2003. However this year could see the UK perform very well indeed. They are sending up and coming singer/song-writer **Molly** with her own song *Children Of The Universe*, an exciting, powerful song that's sure to get the crowd going. Being a member of the 'Big Five', the UK automatically qualifies for the grand final and although I don't expect the UK to win, I think Molly could get pretty close this year.



My money is on Molly looking a little less cheery come results night.



Sweden



She doesn't look like a thief...

Sweden is sending **Sanna Nielsen** across the iconic Öresund Bridge to Denmark to perform the song *Undo*. With a slow start, this song eventually turns into a punchy dance anthem. Sanna is a star who has topped the Swedish charts multiple times and she's no stranger to the stage. Does she have what it takes to steal the Eurovision title back from Denmark?



Armenia

One of this year's favourites to win, Armenia has entered the song *Not Alone* by **Aram MP3**, the host of Armenian X-Factor and Armenian Idol. With a quiet and dark start, it quickly takes a sharp turn into a powerful, dubstep-esque number that will surely please the crowds both in Copenhagen and at home. Don't be surprised to see Eurovision 2015 take place in the Armenian capital, Yerevan.



To be fair, he does host Armenian Idol.



Romania



Will Paula get her miracle?

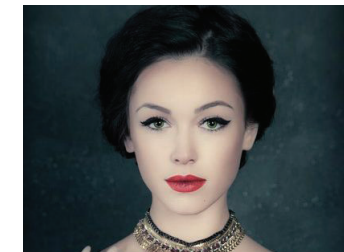
Paula Serling and **OVI** won third place for Romania in 2010 and this year they're back. Just like their fantastic 2010 entry *Playing With Fire*, *Miracle* is a catchy, toe-tappingly rhythmic dance track with a superb keyboard part, owing to Paula's classical piano training. Romania has never won the contest, but I have a feeling Paula and OVI could better their 2010 performance and place second or first this year.



Paula and Ovi have had a go before, and if it got this intense first time around...



Ukraine



Tick, tock, tick, tock, nope, no caption...

Since the introduction of semi-finals in 2004, Ukraine is one of the few non-'Big Five' countries to have never failed to qualify for the grand final. There's no doubt they'll maintain that this year with *Tick - Tock* by **Mariya Yaremchuk**. 2014 marks the ten-year anniversary of Ukraine's first and only Eurovision victory. This energetic, fun song is likely to do very well.



Hungary



András does not host Hungarian Idol.

András Kállay-Saunders will represent Hungary with his song *Running* that he wrote himself about domestic violence and child abuse, a topic he wants to raise awareness of. *Running* has the originality and strength to do very well this year. Hungary has never placed in the top 3, could this be their chance?

But that's not all! These are just ten of thirty-seven songs in this year's competition. In the first semi-final on May 6th we'll hear Iceland's cheesy but fun, funky and rainbow-filled *No Prejudice* by **Pollapönn** and see **Valentina Monetta** represent San Marino for the fourth year in a row! On May 8th we'll hear Georgia's eccentric and folksy *Three Minutes To Earth* by **The Shin** and **Mariko** in the second semi-final, along with many others.

Of the thirty-seven countries, twenty-six will qualify for the grand final on May the 10th, and judging by the entries it's going to be a crazy, fun and eclectic whirlwind of a night. Don't miss it!

You can watch the semi-finals on BBC Three on Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th. The final will be broadcast on BBC One on Saturday 10th.



And why wouldn't you? (Please do not contact the music editors to answer this)

NIGHTLIFE

Editors: **Joe Letts,**
Tessa Davey
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All Night Delight

Obstructionist

Fry

Anonymous



Bez is running for an MP in the Salford constituency. If there ever was a time when taking too many pills might have adverse effects, Bez is mounting a pretty strong case. I'm no hot-shot lawyer, barrister, barista or what you'll have it, but being a 50 year old, albeit an accomplished punk dancer, very much of their face on BBC does not look good. It's shabby at best. And his platform is abjectly deploring: anti-fracking and then nothing. Not even shouting for legalizing 'pills'. He must have taken a few too many and forgot about them, he was shouting for the two back then, wearing a tank top to match, back when he was in Happy Mondays.

If I have learned anything as a non-conformist medical student, is that people, the public in general, are pretty forgiving. I recall when last year I wanted to get out of a stupid Clinical Communications exam, I lied about getting a girl pregnant. She was a great sport – she even came to the meeting with me and lied with style and grace. Reputation's so 90s and overrated. Maybe there is still a chance for Bez to grace Westminster with his manic dance aerobics. Reputation does proceed him. I hope it will reach the voters.

The reason I am bringing up Bez is because that was the news I woke up to when I finished a fantastically fabulous night at Brixton Academy fuelled by the said 'pills'. Unequivocally, it was the Four Tet all-nighter. An all-night delight.

Ever since Despacio, I have regained the modus operandi of a cool raver. I behaved like a buzzing 'absztyfikant', amplifying everything and anything. Factory Records says that when you are presented with a fact and a legend, always print the legend. So the night started when I and Principal Goodvibes made our journey down to Earl's Court tube station, to pick a group of budding ravers...

The group consisted of Rishi, who surpassed and solidified the legendary status of his shirt, and Oli, who decided to defy Willow Smith, and rock her hair into a crafted bun, as opposed to 'rocking it back and forth'. But this group was an ensemble, a la Siouxsie and the Banshees (Yes, Oli, you can be Siouxsie amongst these Banshees. And that is not because you were the only gal. Yes, it is because you were the only gal): we were joined by Rishi's friends, local Greenwich-ians, who in the past hailed from an all-boys grammar school, something I know a thing or two about. Thank Krishna, my parents aligned their whole lives and careers

to be in the 'right' catchment area. After all, you are always right if you are in the 'right' catchment area. Or Conservative – ha...ha...

The initial sighting was awkwardly pleasant, and that was squarely down to me and Principal. For the lack of better words, we looked like Class-A pricks. Principal was flaunting, spinning around in a gold night-coat akin to an inside joke by Mr Goldfinger, with the Communards red shirt, Ray Bans and boat shoes. I chose to woo the crowd with the infamous orange shorts, coupled by blue shirt and grey blazer combo (no elbow pads, I ain't a prick) and orange-blue New Balance sneakers, just to take the 'edge' of it all. Let's just say, to people who did not know us, we did look like Class-A pricks. But hey, we are mavericks and we relish in surprising people and breaking class boundaries. We are revolutionaries from within, putting up a brave fight in the name of all that is meritocratic and bisexual. Blur those gender lines, blur them Robin Thicke!

And we did pull a 'maverick' on everyone. Maybe not John McCain-style – he is a self-affirmed maverick, but it was close. One day we do plan to stage our Operation Desert Storm 2.0 in Afghanistan or some other Allah-forsaken place, because we ARE mavericks. All about that later. Because for now, we have to replenish the raver's kit: orange American Spirit cigarettes (they are so choice; if you have the means, I highly recommend picking one up, Ferris Bueller told me so), Coronas on lock and load, chilled Chablis, and of course, the gear that awaited us in our abode. So we made our way down to the basement flat for the pre-drinking sesh.

It was a large one: 15 people in attendance, and with the forecast implying an imminent arrival of 20-odd people from Kait's halls (unfortunately and fortunately, that did not precipitate); we were in for a banger. After courteous woos from the guests on the topic of our house, we coalesced around the 'grotto', starting to mingle. Brewskis a-poppin', cigarattes a-littin' - we socialised. In fact, it was surprisingly spontaneous. You see, there were some boundaries to break. If the logical mind prevails, think about it: Rishi and Oli only know me from Despacio, that's it. And then this group of unacquainted 15-odd Banshees descends into someone's Earl's Court basement, in the presence of two promoters/friendly dealers from Cardiff (special import, thanks to mutual friendship with Mr Charles Rotknap).

Principal was manning the decks, spinning large ones after big ones, to a keen aplomb of the guests. MacBook Air was his weapon of choice – not because he is a laptop DJ, never,

it was just simpler on a Saturday night. Playing the role of a grand host ain't easy but his collection of records was perused by the guests and appropriately complemented. I rekindled the social fire with Rishi and Oli – they were great to chat to, providing a fluid exchange of ideas, hypothesis, tractorum (Latin, plural for hypothesis and tractus, both genitive. Grammar school, eh?) etc. Pray tell us, what happened next? Well, Oli decided to take a selfie of us and send it to her Swedish friend, who said I was hot. Thanks lady, but I am damaged goods. Take me to the store and get a refund, better store credit – Christmas presents sorted, I do bring the cheer, don't I? I am an apprehensive opponent of the whole selfie-culture. Any reasons? Only healthy fish go against the flow, according to a famous Communist Party leader. Since I am a healthy fish, go figure. But in this case, it was a well-timed selfie because it fulfilled its design brief: boost my self-esteem in an egotistical manner.



That's the prize, multiply it by 3.33 (recurring). Disclaimer: The set of steak knives not included. That goes for rosemary, lemon, sea salt, chopping board AND sushi mat.

11pm struck, and we struck the streets. The tube. I felt like I was in the midst of Enoch Powell's 'Rivers of Blood' speech: I was basically lashed and receptive to fascist/non-fascist propaganda. My mind was coming up with the most amusing stories, being reacquainted with the concept of Willy Brandt's 'Kneefall' thanks to Oli was an epiphany, a revelation. Something on par with the Three Secrets of Fatima. Little did we know, we would have our 'Kneefall' to the gods of techno when Four Tet dropped it. And oh, he dropped it.

We were waiting in the massive queue. The clock struck 'Mandy o'clock'. We dropped the bombs: we are talking some premium, pristine stuff. 1/6th gram of Sassafras will get you fucked, but very gallantly and ever so mellow. It is sassy from the bottom up, unbelievable in its every conceivable reincarnation. Nirvana, baby, Nirvana. Shame Kurt Cobain never had tried it, I am sure he would be still around us today, had it not been for that (or Courtney Love, you murderous-NWO-SOPA-KGB-operational-conspiracy-aparatchik!).

In the said line, all queued in a very British manner, very anti-LCD Soundystem-esque. It was swift, manned by friendly 'safety officers' and an adorkable sniffer Cocker Spaniel (I just wanted to put you on the notice, that I notice, that you did not notice that we fooled you dawg. X-Zibit, nwoot nwoot, we out). We were joined by Kait's pack: I had certain reservations about them, and it proved at the first sighting: they were rocking bindis, lack of decorum to say the least (I feel the same about people who rock H&M Native American motifs – basic lack of decorum). It also turned out that the reason these peeps did not make it to our pre-drinks was because they were too lazy, despite Earl's Court being kinda on the way to Brixton for them. And worst, Kait really wanted to come, but her friends denied the request - she cried because of that. It was her birthday. Happy Birthday!

Finally, we made the grand entry. Front middle stage, we danced like maniacs, we behaved like maniacs, conforming and not conforming. I formed a dancing quartet with Rishi, Oli and Principal – this was not a square formation, but circular and primal. Then, the loving lady called Mandy bequeathed us with happiness and she rocked our world. I felt ecstatic, in heaven, as if I have ruptured my spleen. It was a Joy Rapture. Words can't contain them feels, the wavy orchestra of the depleted serotonin, defying Principal's alter nickname of Mr Dopamine-less. We hugged, we kissed, we connected. Try this once and you will thank me: actually, having shared the goods with all the Banshees, all of them were star-struck, in awe – that's how I proved my status of a maverick. You buds were awesome, I hope to rave with you one day.

Of course, the associated dangers are well-known: it is neurotoxic so do it very sporadically and one can become a sexual 'animaux'. Some people were getting ever so too frisky, Matt. Respect the lady or Charles (it's the new gtfo, the polite version – that's Mr Charles Rotknap for ya. He knows how to stick it to ya, but he is a gentle man about it). Water under bridge though, boys will be boys, love is a battlefield, [put in commonly generic clichés, I am making this piece interactive – enjoy]. Top tip of the day – thanks to Kim Wilde and Nik Kershaw – at the post-load, take some supplements to reduce neurotoxicity: namely Vitamin C, 5-HTP (serotonin precursor), Vitamin E and others. Do your own research. Nobody does the ree-search as Tom Cruise does his ree-search.

Music was spectacular, timed and rave-y. Four Tet is the man of his own genre, Ben UFO and Daphne delivered the goodie goodies. Our dance moves

were contemporary, unabashed, and spiritually on the ball – Oli was the best raver, she moves oh, she moves. Rishi was a close second, mainly props for him being the last at getting his five second with Mandy, yet he was with us. Till the end.

It was a perfect night. But premonition being premonition – the Ch'i gets fucked by the yuppies in Brixton; let us raise the barricades and squat! Oli lost her wallet. The gods of Olympus were smiling upon us because promptly, she found it at the Lost and Found Department. The benefits don't stop there (like Ian Duncan Smith would want to, that 53 quid mark can be bitching) – she had a spare bomb in the wallet that coasted us to the very end of the night.

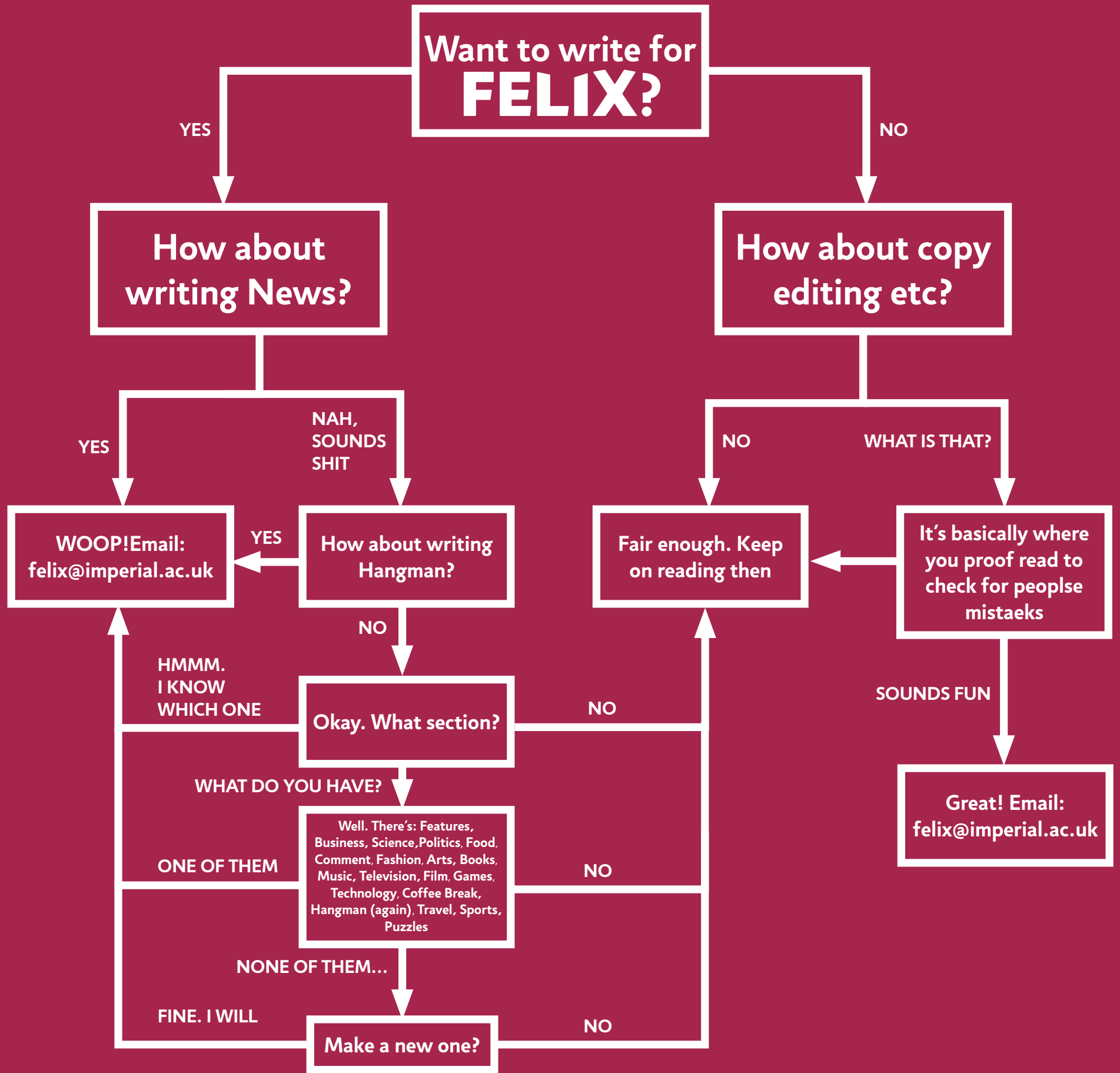
6am, we left – the dawn was upon us, sprinkling the kind rays of Suns, as if we were some premium Krispy Kremes, getting decorated. But the coldness of the morning dew left us struggling, especially this obstructionist in shorts. But friends came to the rescue: Rishi and Oli gave me a heartfelt leg-warming sesh – it was extra warm because it was heartfelt. Oh, pull yourself together, don't sound like a GQ writer!

We said the not ambivalent hollers, and the dynamic quartet got into a taxi 'nach zu' house. I've let the dynamic duo crash in my bed, whilst I took up the temporary residence, technically a squat, in Principal's bed. I lend a t-shirt to Oli to substitute the non-existent PJs, first time I did so for a girl. This comedic moment was only topped by the choice of the T: an ironic American Apparel gear, engraved with a phrase 'dirty minds think alike' and a graphic of cerebral hemispheres. All is well that ends well, it felt like the Chevy Chase-esque antics. We hit the snooze.

Time to sum it up, confess the not confessable, admit the non-admitting, draw an end to it all: this was one of the best nights. Everyone was blasting, music intense, lighting reminiscent of a starry night, just like in Countryfile, company sweeter than a dab of ambrosia, dancing sans-inhibitions, chemistry befitting a PhD thesis, fashion on the latter part of an exponential curve (is that a decent maths reference, Rishi? Would it get into a Simpsons gag?). What could we want? We were young. We are young. Last night it felt like forever, that fleeting moment in the busy lives of yuppies-to-be. 'Only meek get pinched. The bold survive.' Despacio was better musically, Brixton better socially. I pledge all that is holy and unholy, this combination would be, could be and is revolutionary.

It is an all-night delight.

Felix in does not condone drug use.
- Ed



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The cutest spring 2014 trends

Spring is here and the sun has come out, so its time to update your wardrobe! These trends are sure to keep you cool in the sun

Cécile Borkhataria
 Fashion editor

Spring is slowly starting to set in in London, and although we're not feeling the mini-skirt wearing heat yet, these trends work for the transition stage between winter and summer. On a cooler day, carry around a chunky knit sweater to ward off the occasional chills of the British spring time, and don't forget to keep a portable umbrella with you in your hanbag, because one thing is sure in this city: There will be spring showers!

Crop tops

Crop tops are a cute and girly spring trend. They're showing up on the designer runways and all the high street fashion stores and you can find them anywhere from H and M to Alexander McQueen. On a warm day, rock it with a cardigan, and on a cooler day, you can still wear the trend with a cropped sweater.



Crop top, Hollister
 £13.90



Cropped sweater, Topshop
 £28.00



Jogger trousers, Missguided
 £14.69

Jogger trousers

This loose style of trouser is perfect for spring - not as heavy as jeans but still not as exposing as a pair of shorts. They're ideal for the milder weather, and not to mention, they're super comfortable!



Jersey skater dress, H and m
 £7.99

Skater dresses

Skater dresses are the easiest dress style to pull off in the warmer months. They're loose and breezy and flatter all body shapes thanks to their A line skirt that skims over the hips and smooths out any bumps. Dress up a simple style (like the one above) with some bright accessories.



Skater dress, Hollister
 £26.95



Diamante and cord necklace, Zara
 £19.99

Statement necklace

A statement necklace is the perfect way to accessorise a simple look. Go for a a colourful one if you're accessorising plain black or white outfits.



Violet metallic thong sandal, Tory Burch, £200.00

Sandals

This season, the metallic trend is big. Sandals in gold or silver hues are great for dressing up casual looks. If you're not big on shiny shoes, you can go for basic black sandals with jewelled details to dress up your outfit.

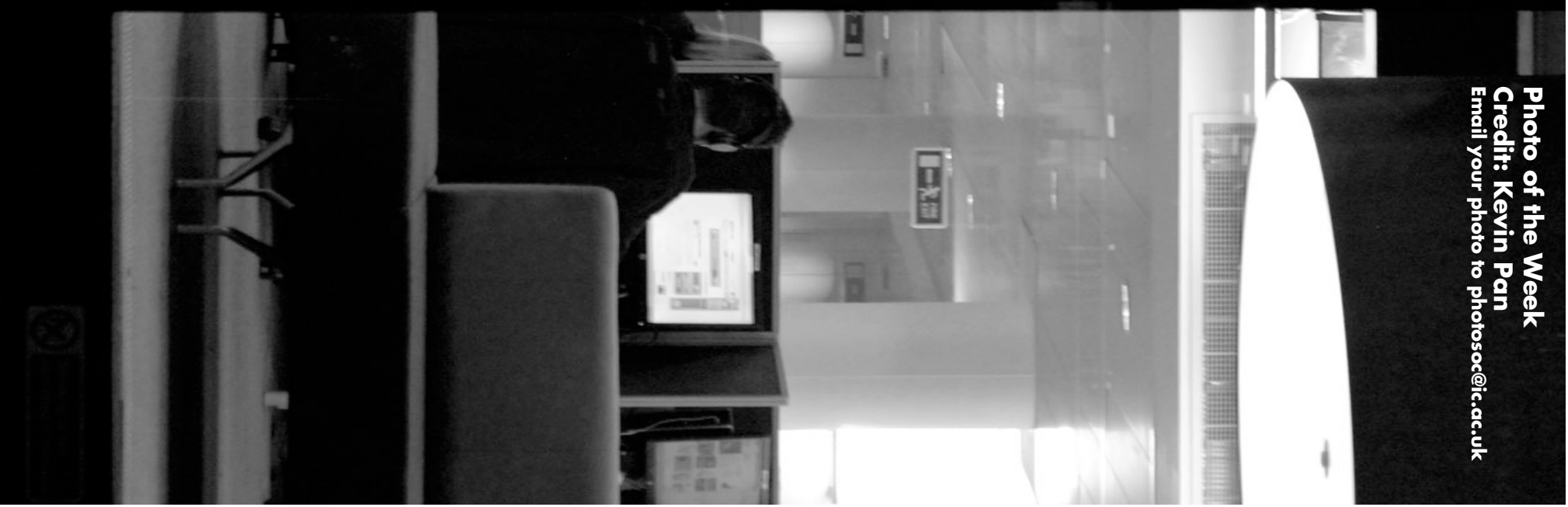


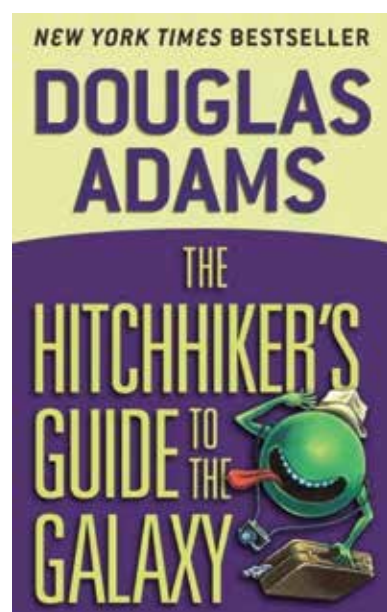
Photo of the Week
Credit: Kevin Pan
Email your photo to photosoc@ic.ac.uk

Editor: **Maciej Matuszewski, Eva Rosenthal**
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BOOKS

Summer Reading Picks

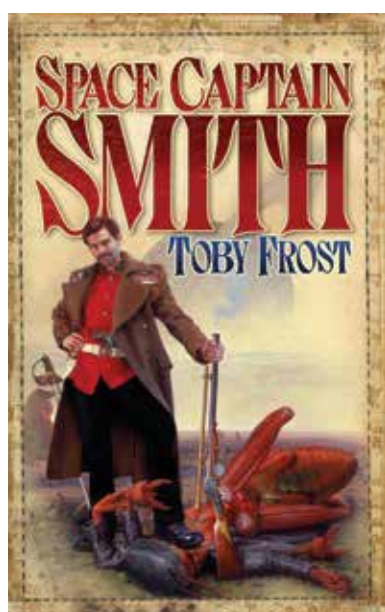
Maciej Matuszewski presents an eclectic selection of five great books to help you help you relax during the busy revision period



Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
Douglas Adams

Douglas Adams' famous humour series has appeared in many formats – a radio show, a TV series, a film. The books, however, remain many people's favourite. The story follows everyman Arthur Dent, who is rescued from the demolition of the planet Earth in order to build a hyperspace bypass, by his best friend Ford Prefect, who he discovers is actually an alien from "a small planet somewhere in the vicinity of Betelgeuse."

The books are all wonderfully inventive in their absurdity. Adams was a comic genius who managed to create both a unique and colourful universe as well as fun and compelling characters. There are laughs on every page and the series is a quick and easy read but it is also very well written and has a surprising depth. A must read.

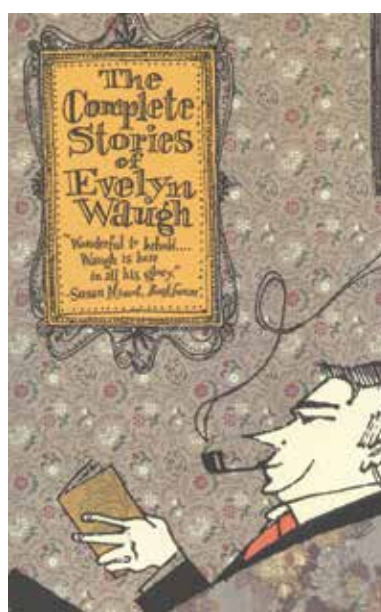


Space Captain Smith
Toby Frost

Toby Frost has often been referred to as Douglas Adams' spiritual successor and his first novel, following hapless Captain Isambard Smith of the British Space Empire's Royal Space Navy, certainly doesn't disappoint.

The book is very accessible and laugh out loud funny, with a lot of broad humour and jokes on topics such as traditional British stuffiness. However, this is a particular treat for long time fans of science fiction, with countless references to, and homages of, classics of the genre – from *Blade Runner* to *Starship Troopers*.

The novel also manages to be an engaging action story, of a type rarely seen nowadays in SF fiction. The plot is fast moving and exciting, while never feeling superficial, and the characters are well sketched and likable.

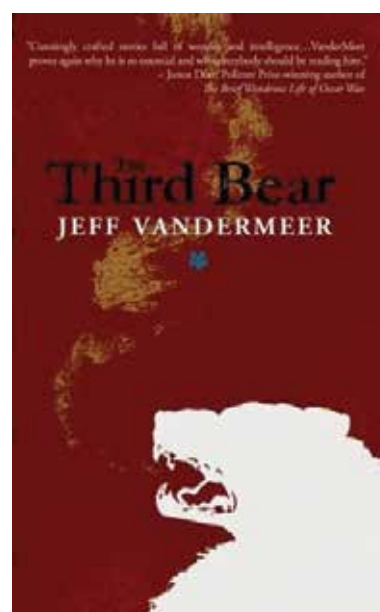


Collected Stories
Evelyn Waugh

Early twentieth century writer Evelyn Waugh is widely regarded as one of the greatest masters of the English language. Possessed of a keen insight and sharp wit his work is always both intellectually stimulating and a pleasure to read.

This collection of short stories spans Waugh's entire career, covering a number of different themes and styles of writing. Enthusiasts and scholars of Waugh will appreciate this book as a chance to get a better understanding of his development as a writer. Many of the stories are also linked to, and help provide one with a deeper understanding of, some of Waugh's longer work.

The *Collected Stories*, however, are also a brilliant introduction to the writer for novices. Pick up the book and dive into one of the stories – you're sure not to regret it.

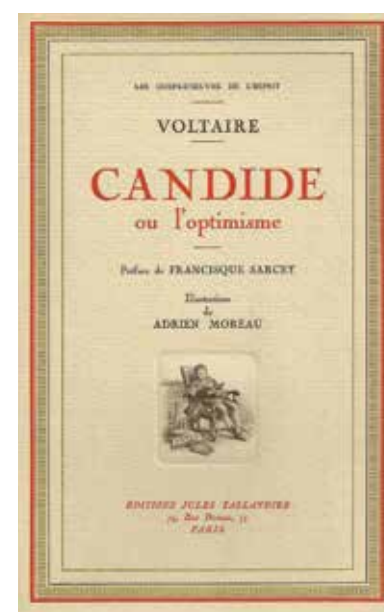


The Third Bear
Jeff VanderMeer

Jeff VanderMeer is one of the leading figures of the New Weird movement, which aims to link fantastical and supernatural fiction with high literary quality. This short collection is one of the best examples of this new subgenre.

VanderMeer has an amazing imagination, creating a wide range of fantastical, unsettling and downright bizarre settings and characters. These work well together with VanderMeer's mastery of style, tone and atmosphere to create powerful and surreal fiction.

It is difficult to describe the individual stories since they are completely different from anything else that I have ever read before, and from each other. If you want to experience something unique and utterly original be sure to check this out.



Candide
Voltaire

Though first published in over 250 years ago, in 1759, Voltaire's great satire of the classical philosophy of Leibnizian optimism still retains its relevance today.

The novel follows the eponymous protagonist, who lives in luxury in the castle of his uncle, the Baron Thunder-ten-Tronckh. Instructed and encouraged by his tutor Pangloss, he firmly believes that the world he is living in is "best of all possible worlds". However his idyllic life is soon disrupted as he is thrown out by his uncle and, as he begins to explore the wider world, he begins to find it more and more difficult to reconcile his philosophy with the real world.

Voltaire's legendary wit is on full display in this work and one can easily see why it has inspired so many people. It's a very short novel, but one certainly worth looking up.

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How to get into Ghostblogging!

Joseph Letts

Felix Editor

Choosing a platform

As soon as I had finished installing Ghost on a cloud virtual server, my good friend Luke G-B pointed out the existence another awesome blogging/CMS platform called WagtailCMS.

WagtailCMS is a Django-powered Content Management System created by Torchbox, a web design consultancy based in Oxfordshire. The project homepage also features a case study of the platform in use by our neighbours at the Royal College of Art (RCA).

The platform is completely Open Source, with the source code available on Github along with a demo website and a handy tutorial by Serafeim Papastefanos.

WagtailCMS requires a lot more configuration and customisation than Ghost in order to be useful. As well needing to define page types before being able to create an article, the platform also comes without any packaged style sheets, in fact you have to write the templates for each page type from scratch, which means that you can create a fantastically complicated blog with a lot of planning, but also have the chance to customise the application to your needs, once you understand how to use the system.

While using the WagtailCMS platform requires a large amount of specialised technological expertise (if you don't even know what Django is - apart from an awesome modern python-based web framework), with the right frame of mind, and an experienced Web Designer you can create works of art (have a look at the RCA website).

Meanwhile, for those of you with a bit of server-admin know how, or more time than you know what to do with, the Ghost platform is fairly easy to set

up, and is ready to be used straight after installation.

Why Not Wordpress or tumblr?

I freely admit to being a bit of a Wordpress snob, it just seems so commonplace. While I must concede the fact that it is another extremely powerful blogging system with a friendly User Interface (UI), I think it has become the MySpace of the blogging world. There are so many plugins that the Wordpress (WP)

seem to be almost Twitter feeds made permanent, a few fleeting thoughts and a large pool of pictures poured into a disjointed list of posts. I am aware that David Karp, the 27 year old founder of Tumblr wished to make a blogging system with a difference, and he did achieve his aim, however I believe that it fails to meet the needs of the slightly more serious or mature blogger.

The reason why I am such a fan of Ghost (so far) is its simplicity, clean design and Open Source nature. Any soul with a \$5/mo (USD) server, or a kind friend (with a server) can easily host their own personal Ghost blog on

domains."

How to install Ghost

If you choose to go ahead with installing Ghost on a server, you should follow the easy official instructions available on the Ghost installation page. The platform runs on the modern Node.js web framework, so be ready to install it.

Tip: Use the "nave" virtual environment manager for nodejs in order to keep your Node.js project dependencies separate. I'm sure you don't want to break an older Node.

to view the blog from outside the host server - which is only useful if you have a VPN via the server and want to keep your blog private).

Logging on to `http://your-domain-or-ip-address-here:2368/ghost` brings you straight to the login page of your blog. This allows you to set up a user and start blogging!

The blog posts are written in markdown, which is a fairly simple text markup (oh the irony) language (I've just learned it) and the writing interface is really easy on the eye and simple to use. The blog comes with a standard theme that can be easily customised or replaced with a pre-built theme.

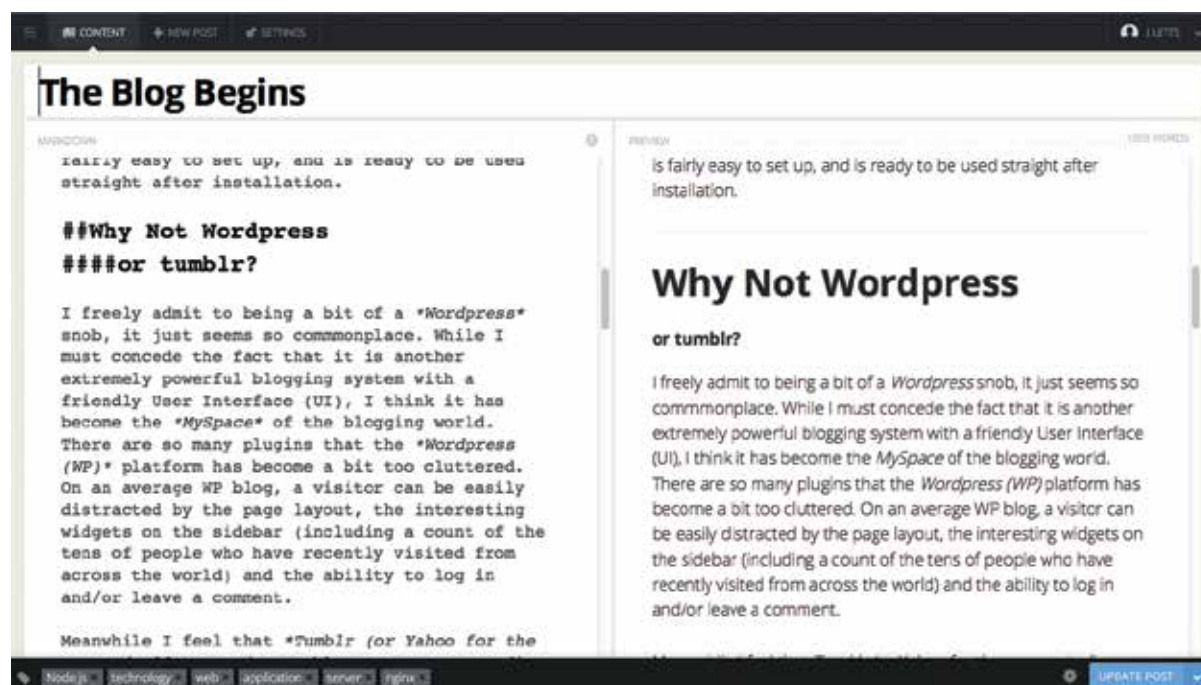
In order to get your blog ready for the production environment, the Ghost team suggest using the Nginx web server solution, rather than running the Node.js development web server. I am still on the Node.js web server (the application is running in a "screen") however, I have also used the apache `http_proxy` module to route all requests for port 80 to port 2368 (it took 5 minutes and Google) which means that my blog now serves as the homepage of my domain.

Finally, as an extra step, if you'd like to receive emails from the blog, (especially if you'd like to be able to reset your password one day), I'd also recommend following the instructions to set up an email address for the blog to send notices from. Gmail is particularly well supported, so the procedure should be simple.

Tip: Remember to restart the web server application after changing the website's configuration files on the server in order for the new settings to come into effect!

Time To Start Blogging

So, Congratulations! If you've followed each step in the article (and the linked instructions) you should now have a fully functioning (and slightly hipster) blog to amaze your friends, or hide your deepest thoughts.



platform has become a bit too cluttered. On an average WP blog, a visitor can be easily distracted by the page layout, the interesting widgets on the sidebar (including a count of the tens of people who have recently visited from across the world) and the ability to log in and/or leave a comment.

Meanwhile I feel that Tumblr (or Yahoo for the commercially conscious) blogs are too sporadic in nature. They

a domain of their choice.

Alternatively, you can pay \$5 a month to have your blog hosted by Ghost themselves, which roughly adds up to £36 per year.

The cost is more than the cost of a free WP blog, but this basic plan does boast

"... premium email support, unlimited features, unlimited users, unlimited themes & apps, and support for custom

js app by upgrading your currently installed version :)

After following the fairly simple installation guidelines (make sure you pay special attention to the version of Node.js the project depends on - see `packages.json` file), the new blog will be available on port 2368 of your new server (also don't forget to change to change the host to `host: '0.0.0.0'` in `config.js` otherwise you won't be able

Google: Now the ultimate innovators?

Tola Makanjuola

Technology Writer

Google announced a few weeks ago via a Google+ post that it has plans to create its very own smartwatch. No concrete details on the wearable device are known as of yet, but the sources across the net indicate that it could build on already established partnerships with HTC, Asus, LG and others.

The foray of Google into the wearable device industry raises the interesting fact that despite the assumption made by many that Apple is the most innovative company in the world, Google has in recent times done much to earn that recognition, and its announcement to create a smartwatch is further evidence of this.

The company has skillfully built on software engineering, its business's core competency, and has been able to generate innovative outputs like its driverless cars and the recently released Google glass. These two

projects are a testament to its business environment which harnesses the creative talents of its workers, as opposed to ideas coming from a singular individual as was the case with Apple, if this is fair to say.

Not all Google's attempts at innovation have been a success though, in fact, these failings could easily be slated as the company's falling short of developing a monopoly. A product like Google+, its social networking offering could arguably be classified as an over-reach, just as its attempts in buying Motorola to have a foothold

in the smartphone industry similarly proved futile.

However, although it couldn't establish a foothold through the conventional means of creating a smartphone, its inception of the android operating system which is openly licensed to smartphone makers has made it a major player in the industry, as far as operating system goes, with 76% market share. This can be chalked up as an example of innovative problem solving which again marks Google out from the rest of its competition.

Returning to the smartwatch, Google aren't the first to conceive of the idea of making the wearable device. Sony as a matter of fact are prepping the release of their second watch, while Samsung released its own smartwatch, the Samsung Gear, last year. As Ewan Spence of Forbes argues, the smartwatch industry is still "virgin territory", despite these entries, which leaves it open to Google's vision and let's face it, resources, to dominate the industry, unless ofcourse, Apple has something to say about it.

TELEVISION

Editors: **John Park,**
Emily Fulham
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How good is The Good Wife?

The Good Wife



Primetime television shows (i.e. the ones that are not on cable channels and therefore lack sex, nudity, violence and swearing) are often unfairly overlooked when it comes to providing an answer for that question “what’s your favourite tv show”? *Game of Thrones*, *Breaking Bad*, *The Wire*, *The Sopranos*, *Six Feet Under*, *Mad Men*, even *Battlestar Galactica* are all very worthy mentions, but an equally strong case can be argued for *The Good Wife*, an excellent legal drama currently in its fifth season, that is watched by plenty of people, but not by those in the “right” key demographic of ages 18–49, which is a shame.

It is not uncommon for serious shows to lose its steam and dramatic momentum when it has been carrying on for as long as this show has, but *The Good Wife* is a completely different beast of a compelling drama, in that it consistently manages to outdo the extraordinarily high bar set by its previous season.

Everything kicks off in its first season with an all-too-familiar backdrop of a seedy sex scandal. Alicia Florrick’s (Julianna Margulies) life is turned into a media frenzy as her husband Peter, the state’s attorney of Cook County, Illinois, is faced with accusations of multiple accounts of indecent conduct involving prostitutes, drugs and suspicious financial dealings. With her husband, the previous sole breadwinner, behind bars, it’s time for Alicia to dust off her law degree and jump back into the courtroom, something she hasn’t done in at least fifteen years.

There are challenges ahead: she is having to start from all the way at the bottom as a first-year associate, she faces competition to keep on to her position in the form of Cary Agos (Matt Czuchry), the fresh-out-of-law-school, keen, eager type, she has two children of her own to raise, and of course, there is that scandal everyone keeps talking about. But thanks to her old friend Will Gardner (Josh Charles), her role at Stern, Lockhart & Gardner provides a way for her to make ends meet.

Each episode deals with a different legal case, just like any other legal dramas out there. But there are reasons why this familiar formula works. Firstly, the cases are all fascinating. Without exception. Even the ones that may seem straightforward to begin with are deliberately designed that way, to make room for complications that arise. The cases are up to date and relevant, with writers clearly get-

ting direct inspiration from current events, often adapting cases that are dominating the headlines. The Good Wife is also known for being an incredibly tech-savvy show, constantly showing how the rapid advancement of technology can both help and hurt the practising of law. They have their own version of Google (called Chumhum here) in its universe, an important client that frequently gets into trouble. With irreplaceable assistance from Kalinda Sharma, the law firm’s best investigator, our team of skilled lawyers have to deal with some of the toughest, most nail-bitingly tense cases that are neatly packed in for each 40-minute episode.

Individual cases aren’t the only aspect that makes the show unique. There are also the equally important season-long story arcs that take place. Whether it’s petty office politics that ends up exploding to an all-out civil war, or important political campaigns that need legal attention, or even a simple love triangle that toys with our heroine’s emotions, these added juicy plot lines all weave together to give one gripping overall season that covers so many aspects of the show’s characters.

No important individual is discarded. Of course, the show revolves around Alicia, hence the title, but equally crucial are those around her. When it comes to the performances, it would be difficult to find an ensemble that matches the finely tuned, incredibly well gelled cast of *The Good Wife*. At the show’s centre is Margulies, in her Golden Globe, Emmy and SAG-winning role. She is as effective showing weaknesses and vulnerability as she is when she’s on top legal form, relentlessly arguing for her clients’ triumph, when she is, in her own words, “kicking butt”. Her development is a fascinating one, from a betrayed wife and mother, rising to an assured lawyer status in the over-subscribed, competitive and morally ambiguous legal world.

Alicia is never keen to bend or break the rules. But her friend/boss Will Gardner and his firm partner Diane Lockhart (Christine Baranski) think a little differently. Will and Diane make an extraordinary team, fighting for their clients and firm with ambition and a little more cynical view of the world, since they’ve been at this a lot longer than Alicia has. Even during one of their bitter feuds, usually stemming from one of them trying to push the other one out, the two are a marvel to watch.

Sexual tension makes up a significant portion of the many season-long story arcs, as things get steamy for pretty much everyone involved. Kick-ass investigator Kalinda Sharma’s bicurious tendencies are what stand out the most, but despite this she’s



not someone defined solely by her sexuality. She’s incredible at her job, and she doesn’t take any abuse from anyone. Panjabi’s Emmy-winning performance has many scene-stealing moments, and even in the show’s fifth season, she is still a bit of a mystery, as she keeps a lot of herself closed off from the rest of the world. There’s a will-they-won’t-they romantic flame brewing between Kalinda and Cary, who is quite relentless but ultimately childishly adorable in his pursuit, although what will happen of them remains to be seen.

Of course, aside from the challenges at the office, Alicia has the difficult task of taking care of her two teenage children Zach (Graham Phillips) and Grace (Makenzie Vega), as well as often having to deal with her mother-in-law Jackie (Mary Beth Peil) who can be quite a handful to say the least. Speaking of family, the show’s mood is always brightened up when Alicia’s relatives show up: including her gay brother Owen (Dallas Roberts), and her mother Veronica (Stockard Channing), both of whom not only act as comic relief, but also in crucial plot developments, those that affect Alicia significantly.

That delicate balance between serious drama and smart humour is something that shows the writers working behind the scenes are doing an admirable job. There are no desperate, completely forced attempts to turn this into a comedy show, but the laughs that are generated are through completely natural, believable acts of characters’ actions and subsequent reactions, some outrageous developments akin to what we see in the real world, realistic scenarios are cleverly manipulated to give us the deliberate, well-placed laughs.

There are no clear-cut good and bad characters; the writing is too smart for that. The firm defends drug dealers, suspected killers, pharmaceutical companies etc, and with each case brings with it a sensitive, delicate matter. And because the lawyers’ number one priority is to their paying clients, this means sometimes, having a con-

science is a hindrance to the job.

Even Peter Florrick (Chris Noth), who puts Alicia in jeopardy due to his inability to keep his trousers zipped, has several moments of redemption, and is a classic example of how someone who you should not really like, begins to grow on you. Eli Gold (Alan Cumming), a political strategist and crisis manager, working closely with the Florrick family, probably gets the most laughs, thanks to his very serious approach to his work even though those around him sometimes struggle to keep up. David Lee (Zach Grenier) Stern, Lockhart & Gardner’s family lawyer, is a mighty conniving creature, who will do anything to get his client a bigger settlement from his/her soon-to-be-ex-spouse. Grenier is always a delight to watch, and his entertaining antics are downright hilarious.

Another way the show scores points is through its use of excellent guest stars, and the way everyone keeps coming back for more. So many talented individuals drop by to play clients, opposing counsel, political enemies, judges, among many other roles necessary to be filled. Michael J. Fox, Rita Wilson, Mamie Gummer, America Ferrera, Kurt Fuller, Denis O’Hare, F. Murray Abraham, Matthew Perry, Jane Alexander, Martha Plimpton, Carrie Preston, Dylan Baker, Anika Noni Rose, Scott Porter, Gary Cole, Melissa George, Anna Camp, Parker Posey, Maura Tierney are all a part of this amazing guest-starring ensemble who have left an unforgettable mark, and there are plenty more who have not been named, but without whom the show would have been the same.

There are shocks and surprises along the way, the biggest one arguably seen in the show’s incredibly bold fifth season, a gamble that is currently paying off given the new sides to every character the show is exploring, plus introducing Finn Polmar (Matthew Goode), a prosecutor who should be sticking around for a while.

The Good Wife is a show difficult to fault, and thank god this was renewed for a sixth season. Keep going Mrs Florrick, we’re all rooting for you.





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TELEVISION

Game of Thrones returns

Emily Fulham reviews the highlights and lowlights of the series so far

As *Game of Thrones* enters its fourth series, it's easy to imagine that the show's writers and producers would be pretty pleased with themselves: the huge success of the show, unforeseen at its inception three years ago, and a vast fanbase that stretches far beyond the usual fans of genre TV means that viewings figures are predicted to stay high for the foreseeable future. After such success, there's always a risk that the creators might sit back and rest on their laurels, confident that people will watch either way. Thankfully, that shows no sign of being the case for the series so far.

Another consequence of this could be that the writers decide to take more risks, and evidence of that might be found in the increasingly frequent departures from the source material we've seen. A lot of the choices of the writers to add and rearrange events from the books make sense, but for others the motivation is less clear. We examine what the series has got right and got wrong so far.

Warning: contains spoilers for all aired episodes!

The Good

For anyone who'd read the books, there was only one event early in the series to get truly excited for, and that was the moment we'd been waiting for since series one: Joffrey finally getting what was coming to him. From all of the build-up to his wedding to Margaery Tyrell, it seemed inevitable that something big was going to happen, even to those who didn't know what was coming. As the wedding got underway, it was clear that this wasn't going to be a joyous occasion for all concerned. After managing to insult just about every high-born guest at the wedding with an ill-conceived performance by a troupe of dwarfs, then further humiliating his uncle Tyrion, the climax came after what felt like hours of tension: Joffrey, purple-faced and choking to death.

Although a victory of sorts to all those who hated Joffrey, his death immediately led to some pretty big problems for Sansa and Tyrion, both

at the top of the list of people who had reason to kill him (admittedly, a very long list). While Sansa managed to escape from King's Landing before being apprehended, Tyrion wasn't so lucky, and now faces being executed for treason unless he can convince his father and sister of his innocence.

Away from King's Landing there is a bunch of wildlings South of the Wall causing all sorts of trouble. Tormund, Ygritte and their new pal Styr have been pillaging their way around the North and, in the case of Styr and the other Thenns, indulging in a little cannibalism. Since Styr's arrival in the first episode, there's been an obvious tension between him and Tormund. Watching how this plays out should add an extra layer of intrigue to what is already going to be a very interesting plot. If they do end up attacking Castle Black, it should be a pretty exciting showdown. From the inevitably tearful reunion of Jon and Ygritte to watching Tormund and his wildlings with their particularly vicious combat techniques, it will be one hell of a scene. If we're lucky, Styr might eat Alliser Thorne...



Oberynt Martell in a rare fully-clothed scene

The stand-out new character of the series is Oberynt Martell, brilliantly played by Chilean actor Pedro Pascal. Martell is a Dornish prince who goes by the nickname of 'Red Viper' and was invited to the capital for the King's wedding, but has other priorities for his visit: getting revenge for the death of his sister, Elia, brutally murdered by Ser Gregor Clane, presumably following orders from Tywin Lannister. On his quest for revenge, however, he still spends plenty of time hanging out in brothels, where he's an easy customer to please, provided nobody starts singing the Lannister's theme tune, 'The Rains of Castamere'. His steamy brothel scenes are also the nearest we've got to correcting the hugely unfair imbalance between the amount of male and female nudity in the series so far (I hear there's an online petition, just in case you're interested).

The Bad

Daenerys' journey to conquer Westeros only after paying a visit to every city, town and large-ish hamlet on the way continues, with very few glimpses of the dragon babies (now dragon teenagers, one presumes) to sustain the viewers' interest. To be fair, the endless scenes of slave liberation are infinitely more exciting than those in the book, but it still seems as if the Mother of Dragons hasn't really gone anywhere except from one desert to another since series two. Also, Daario Naharis, the flirtatious sellsword who's been piquing Dany's interest, has been recast, and yet still doesn't have the blue-dyed mustachios and three-pronged beard he's described as having in the books.



Not bad facial hair, but not the right colour

Another place where things seem to be going nowhere is the Wall, where Jon Snow has returned to his own fair share of troubles: namely, being accused of betraying the Night's Watch by killing Qhorin Halfhand and having inappropriate amounts of fun with a wildling lady. In spite of being accused of treason, no one seems to actually want to lock him up, so instead he just reverts back to the classic Jon Snow pastimes of pouting and showing off his swordfighting skills.

Also being annoying at the wall is Sam, who, in spite of all his fretting about Gilly, has yet to make a move. You'd reckon her naming her son after him would be enough to convince him he was in with a shot, but instead he decides to send her away from the Wall to a dubious-looking inn-cum-brothel for her safety, then spends the next two episodes whining about it.



Irish? Welsh? Who knows anymore

Finally, Aiden Gillen seems to be attempting yet another questionable accent, with little to no improvement at making anyone actually take Littlefinger seriously.

The Ugly

Game of Thrones has taken its fair share of criticism for its frequent and often unnecessary scenes of sexual violence, but the third episode of the series, in which Jaime Lannister raped his sister Cersei, was particularly reprehensible. It was also a complete departure from the scene in the books, in which Jaime and Cersei have sex which is, if distasteful (given that it happens over their son's corpse), at least consensual. The series, however, saw fit to change the scene to one in which Jaime calls Cersei a 'hateful woman' then rapes her as she pleads with him to stop.

Not only was the scene uncomfortable to watch, it also completely reduced three series of character development on Jaime's part to nothing. After seeing him push a child out of a window at the end of the first series, the slow redemption of Jaime Lannister has been one of the better-done plotlines of the show, following his capture and release by Catelyn Stark and his acquaintance of Brienne. All of that was undone by the rape scene: in particular, the following episode's scene where Jaime gives Brienne his sword and a coat of armour in order for her to fulfil her vow to Catelyn fell flat, following his brutal treatment of his sister.



Jaime Lannister: now a rapist, apparently

The creators of the show appeared to have differing interpretations of the scene as well, with the director claiming that the scene 'became consensual at the end' and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, who plays Jaime, replying 'Yes, and no,' when asked if he thought the scene was rape. If there was any ambiguity intended in the scene, it didn't come across in the filming.

The threat of rape and sexual violence is fundamental to the setting of the book: Westeros is emphasised time and time again to be a pretty horrendous place to live, especially for women. That doesn't explain or justify the insertion of a rape scene that served no plot or character development purposes.





Final Fantasy XIV: A Social MMORPG

Michael Barclay

Games Writer

I can't talk about *Final Fantasy XIV* without first talking about its predecessor: *Final Fantasy XI*, Square Enix's first MMORPG. Released way back in 2002, FFXI was an amazing and beautifully flawed game. I have a bit of a love-hate relationship when it comes to MMOs. Of the several I've played they all seem to forget about the second "M" in their name: the one that stands for multiplayer. Sure the 'World' in *World of Warcraft* was massive and yes I was online but overall it felt like quite a lonely experience. There was some promise of multiplayer content in the distant endgame but for the most part it was me, alone in the woods, hitting boars over the head with an axe.

On the other hand, the group content in FFXI was compulsory from incredibly early on. After only 10 levels hitting boars on the head with my axe I was dragged to the Vulkrum a dunes, a vast desert areas full of enemies that would kill me in seconds if I engaged them on my own. Here I would stand, waiting and shouting trying to find five other players to fight with me. It was the holy trinity of MMOs at its most basic. A tank (usually me) would get the enemies' attention and take all the hits, a healer would keep his distance making sure I stay alive whilst everyone else pummelled the poor goblin into oblivion. After ten or so levels there I'd make the long journey to somewhere stronger, and then a few short levels later we'd move on to somewhere else.

What was interesting about all of this was that none of it was driven by the game and instead completely by the players. Sure, the game had quests like a normal MMO but no one bothered with them because the rewards were rubbish. Instead everything you did in this game was engineered by the players above you. It meant for an

paladin who drags you to the Vulkrum dunes for the first time to show you the ropes had most likely been there many times before. Most players were extraordinarily friendly because, at some point in the game they'd been given help too. However, the incredibly social aspect of the game was, at times, its worst feature. Each

version of FFXIV manages to maintain the social, group-focussed aspect of FFXI whilst improving it in almost every other way. As before you can switch from one job to another but now, this can be done at almost any time by simply swapping your main weapon rather than making the arduous journey home. Fighting in a

challenging.

Despite all of this, the game is unashamedly old fashioned. To counter the dominance of WOW other MMOs have tried the best to be different. *Age of Conan* replaced the hotbar style of fighting with something more action oriented. *Guild Wars 2*, *DC universe* and many others replaced the holy trinity of tank, healer and damage dealer with... something else, and *Star Wars: The Old Republic* tries to tell a more personal story rather than just repeating the same quest that millions had performed before. Yet FFXIV doesn't bother with any of this fancy stuff. At a glance this really is a bog standard MMO but it's just done so well! It's a bit ridiculous after getting told how special you are and how you're the best adventurer to grace this land, you realise that the other 50 players in the room just saw the exact same cutscene. Generally though, the game is fun enough, and the story line is good enough that I don't care about this stuff and I just get on with it. The game is absolutely littered with content. As well as the aforementioned dungeons, there are primal fights, against Final Fantasy staples such as Ifrit and Odin, the oddly named 'Levequests', Guildleves providing daily solo and group challenges when you want something else to do and the server destroying fates where hundreds of players gang up together in sporadic event quests that pop up randomly over the world.

So, if you're looking for a new MMO to distract you from your all-important degree, and like the idea of a more social game then seriously, give FFXIV a try.



incredibly social experience albeit quite a restrictive one.

The whole thing was held together by the game's 'Job' system. Unlike most MMOs where you levelled one class in FFXI you levelled all of them. At any point you could return home and switch from a burly warrior to a squishy white mage beginning again at level 1. The game forced you to do this, levelling multiple jobs over the course of the game. So the level 10

time you went out in search of a party, it felt like applying for a job. With so much competition and no other way to level you were screwed unless you had the best gear. And boy gear was expensive. Before long the game itself felt more of a chore than it was worth.

So enter FFXIV. Released in 2010, pulled off the internet for being utter shite and then re-released last September as Square's second foray into MMOs. This new re-imagined

group is still required to progress but now this is controlled by the game rather than the players. Dungeons or 'instances' are nothing new to MMOs but in FFXIV there are tonnes of the things and they are introduced to the player very early on. Each one introduces something new to worry about, creating one of the best learning curves, not just in a MMO but any game I've ever played. Each dungeon sits just on the right side of

Updated Faster than Light

Maximilian Eggl

Games Editor

This game is one of the indie scene's big success stories. Back in 2012 it was one of the most successful kickstarter campaigns, achieving over 20 times the goal that the developers had asked for. It went on to win numerous awards, has been reviewed in these very papers, regularly tops the steam charts and become a staple of most gamers worldwide. Furthermore, in a bid to keep the game fresh, the developers have released an update, with loads of new content for free! This in itself is quite a pleasant surprise, given that we live

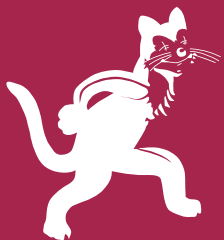
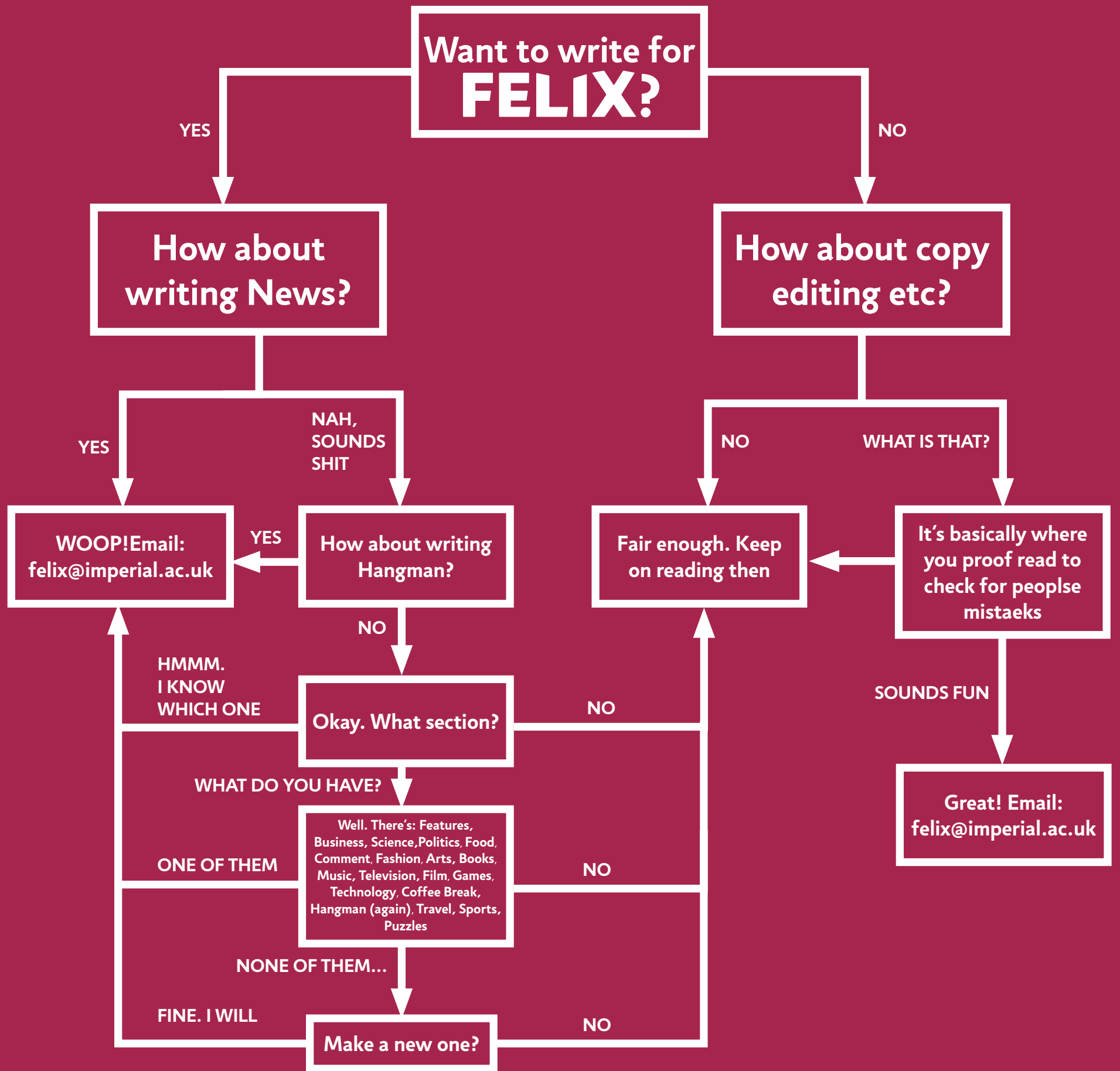


in the world of paid DLCs and micro-transactions. In addition, the creators, *Subset Studios*, have now released an iPad version so you can be a space captain even when you are on the move! Quick recap: FTL is a roguelike space adventure, where you are the captain of a ship who must save the federation from the rebellion. You travel through the galaxy and encounter all different types of enemies as well as several morally difficult decisions. Oh also, when you die its over. You have to start all over again.

The update itself doesn't feel like it should be free, that's how good it is. The base game was incredibly deep, and even though I had more than 25 hours on this game I never felt like I could ever get every weapon or encounter every event. Therefore the addition of all this new content is just amazing! An entirely new race, the Lanus, who actually clear a room of

oxygen (making it impossible for other non-Lanus crew members to be in the same room) adds something completely different. Also, they look incredibly badass when they are one of your crew members. The new systems that have been added, like the cloning bay (which I liked at first, but now despise) and hacking drones (which are pretty cool!), change the game dynamics and allow for completely different builds that suit your play style! The developers have also written new events that you can encounter, further expanding on the replay value of this already addictive game.

All in all, I would say that I would have paid an extra 5 pounds for this update, that's how much I liked it. However, it was free, and for that I will eternally be grateful to Subset Studios. Hey, Dice, Blizzard, EA: take a leaf out of this indie studio's book, this is how games should be made!



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Stalking The Sabbs



This week we we're bored, so very bored. So fine, there was sunlight and wonderful weather, but that only made things worse, everyone was so needlessly happy! So, to sate our boredom, we spent the week stalking the Sabbs, which only made matters worse. Won't be doing that again in a hurry...

President

This week the President was found smiling proudly over his magnum opus, the Consultation Framework. But after reading the brightly coloured document, although encouraged by its contents, several students complained to the Union, asking why they weren't consulted about the colour scheme. Oh well, back to the drawing board...

DP - Finance & Services

This week we saw the DPFS taking a quick yoyo break outside the bar as he took a breather from trying to make Metric popular. Frantically reassuring passing students that the Summer Ball won't be making a loss this year, he was later seen poring over the A-Z while rubbing a rabbits foot with the phone in hand.

DP - Clubs & Societies

This week the DPCS was caught at T.G.I. Friday's eating lashings of bacon coated in BBQ sauce, while skipping the Union Council meeting. Using the excuse of road-testing the minibuses, she tried to escape further questioning, which almost worked until we nicked her crutches and threw them onto a passing bus...

DP - Education

This week found the DPE removing her cast, after recovering from personally signing hundreds of green envelopes to College dignitaries invited to the Union's annual absinthe party. Our eager photographers managed to snap a picture of her blowing up over Govey's latest play before calling a wetworks company...

DP - Welfare

This week Felix found the DPW cavorting around in a room full of small dogs. Lamenting the inability of the pet suppliers who apparently couldn't tell the difference between small dogs and puppies, she set about trying to get students to "stress less". Unfortunately, the students in the library café only began to stress more when it turned out that the dogs had diarrhoea and liberally coated the entire room with HP sauce. Regent's Park always had a shit-zoo...

ICSMSU President

We managed to send a reporter over to Reynolds, to see what the Medics' President was up to. Aside from saving countless lives by supplying cuddly bacterial plushies and keeping the Daily Mail out of the bar we later saw him packaging up sticks of celery and replacing chocolate bars in the vending machines on the South Kensington campus. Fooled me twice, bastard!

SUNNY WEATHER AT INCONVENIENT TIMES

According to the expert forecaster Michael Poisson you should expect sunny weather, whenever you are revising or in an exam.

According to Mr. Poisson, who prophetically read the tea leaves planted by the Met Office, students can be guaranteed perfect weather, just only when they're not supposed to be enjoying it.

"This phenomenon only affects students", Mr. Poisson said, "with all other walks of life only getting the best of the day's rays and a warm glowing tan. Students are advised that they are in fact alone in this and should hesitate to tell others, who will only laugh at their misfortune while putting on their Ray-Bans.

RETURN OF MARQUEES FOILED BY SUFFRAGENTS

Making light of the trials of brave women many years ago, several plucky students have handcuffed themselves to the Queen's Tower in order to prevent the cultivation of marquees on the Queen's Lawn.

"We just want to see a little bit of pretty green this year" one of the students told our reporter, while another said "without space for a solar panel, the voice of the Queen's Tower will be silenced on twitter. This cannot be allowed to happen." Marquee preparation will shortly take place around the students.

UNION HOSTS BALL AT IBIZA

Timothy McSweeney
Temporary Editor-In-Chief

If you've been to the Union recently you might have seen the latest in Summer Ball marketing, a fully-underwritten promotional video promising days of endless entertainment and partying at the beach, underwater and on a boat (don't you ever forget).

Felix can confidently confirm that the video, including the lovely ladies flirting with the camera while wearing minimal clothing, and a distinct minority of males in view, will be fully representative of the experiences to be had at the Summer Ball if you purchase a ticket now before it sells out, or loses tens of thousands again.

Don't be late for this very important...

REVISION BY OSMOSIS PROVEN

According to the television, Imperial academics claim to have proven that students can revise by osmosis. According to the expert witness quizzed in the live interview, all you have to do is lay your head down on an open textbook and close your eyes. This technique has been backed by science, and has also been proven to work in reverse, that is if a student places their head on an examination booklet and closes their eyes, at the end of the exam, their answers will have imprinted themselves onto the paper. **N.B. Techniques must be used in tandem.**

SABBS CAUGHT STAT-WANKING

Timothy McSweeney
Temporary Editor-In-Chief

17206

full memberships sold so far this year

9,791 hours of volunteering logged for Imperial Plus

Felix can exclusively reveal online footage of the Union's Sabbatical Officers taking part in a group statwank session earlier this week.

If you watch the video, one Sabb can clearly be heard blissfully crying out "exactly 2000 students attended the Summer Ball last year!". Another Sabb was heard huskily whispering "86% of students were pleased with the Summer Ball last year! I'm so happy we were able to take on all their feedback!". One low voice, trying to maintain the feeling of elation coarsing through their veins added "and 36 people have liked our Alice in Wonderland Pinterest page! Uhh, uh, student engagement!".

Unfortunately what happens next is unclear since the meeting room windows steamed up too much, but we do believe that "100% of last year's #helloicu crew volunteers said they'd recommend the role to a friend." The Union has 652 products available for purchase online, Clubs and Societies spent a total of £6318 this week, and the Union has 7,828 fans on facebook at the time of going to print.

Felix Still Making Mistakes 50 Years Later – Issue 208, Nov. 1964

THE ASSISTANT EDITOR
WRITES . . .

on
felix
progress

You were, perhaps, as dismayed as we were at the number of spelling errors, particularly in headlines, in the last issue of FELIX. Always we aim at perfection in this sphere; but with production still requiring the best part of a week, we cannot afford to further delay publication without totally losing topicality.

Changes for the better are continuously being made. Increased advertising allowed us to embark with the last issue on a plan whereby much of the headlining will be done by our staff rather than by the printer. Also we tried a new column-width, did the setting-up four days earlier, and introduced page one as "news in a nutshell." All three plans take further steps forward in this issue.



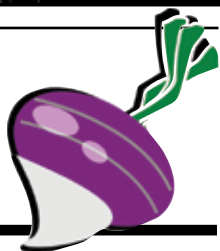
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HANGMAN

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



Spring Now Season Of Death For Londoners

Smog Now Unstoppable

Spring, a season once appreciated as one of renewal and rebirth is now exclusively seen as one of death and disease in London. The season, which is traditionally associated with the passing of winter and an explosion of life, has confirmed itself to be a bringer of death in recent weeks.



It's rumoured the smog first began to rise up from the Hell-like environs of the City. Photo credit: Getty Images.

A season which, in recent years, attempted simply to mark itself as one of rain and misery, has taken it one step further this year by systematically suffocating us all.

The smog, rising like some agent of Hell, proceeded to make everyday activities extremely unpleasant and a harbinger of doom for those with respiratory conditions [read: the weak] or a passing need to venture outside [read: everyone].

Whilst staying indoors can help, sources confirm that nothing you do can stop the smog indefinitely and that the easiest way to deal with the whole thing is to simply lie back and await the slow asphyxiation.

One can only hope for accelerated global warming so that, in the future, the transition from bitterly cold winter to scorchingly hot summer will be mercifully short.

SIGN LEFT LOOKING PRETTY IMPOTENT



Don't Worry, Exams Aren't All That Important

They'll Only Determine Your Future Employment, Lifestyle, Spouse And Happiness



These people are clearly successful, probably because they didn't fuck up their exams.

With many of you facing tough exams in the coming weeks, we at Hangman felt it was only right to remind you that they really don't mean much in the long run. Well, if you're not counting how they directly contribute to your future employability which, of course, determines how much money you make and obviously that impacts on your lifestyle. And, I guess, when you think about it, your lifestyle determines your odds of meeting a life-partner. In turn, this will almost certainly effect your overall happiness.

But other than that, they're basically not important at all.



ARIES

You're hot. No, don't worry, it's not a compliment, merely a statement of fact. You should probably leave the library before you faint of heat exhaustion. With any luck you'll wake up after your exams are over and be forced to take the year again. Hopefully they'll have air conditioning by then if they took notice of your christmas wish.



TAURUS

This week you tank up on Rouge Bul and stay up all night before that exam you forgot to study. Guess what bozo, you revised for the wrong one! Cheer up, at least you've got a fantastic grasp of soil mechanics. Also you fall asleep in the exam. Bet you wish you'd never heard of Breaking Bad...



GEMINI

This week you decide to utilise your good-for-nothing identical twin, you know the one that studies 'how to implement successful pyramid schemes' at the Business School. You decide to swap exams with your twin and delight yourself with ticking arbitrary answers during their multiple choice exam. You fail spectacularly, while they pass with full marks. Life's a bitch, isn't it?



CANCER

This week you rejoice! As a PhD candidate you happily gave up the stress of exams years ago and are feeling much better for it. Instead you delight yourself by invigilating an exam. Bored beyond belief you decide to make things more difficult by closing your eyes. When you wake up everyone has left. They got 100%, you're fired!



LEO

This week you're more than a bird, you're more than a plane... you're a birdplane! A part of you is a bird, the other part of you is a plane, and this fundamental lack of understanding of flight mechanics is why you just flunked that Aero module you took just for larks. You wish that you could cry, but your cockpit's a bit rusty. It's not easy.



VIRGO

This week you're the President of the Union. While not as wild as the President of Oxford Union (not that one), you try to put an injunction on Felix after it threatened to run a story about the fact that you "actually quite enjoy the occasional can of Pepsi, thank you very much!" Foiled!



LIBRA

This week you turn 24. That provides enough misery. Seriously, why are you still here? Don't let them suck you in with promises of fame and fortune. Fly you fools! Claw back what time you have left in your life! Did you know that you've spent as long a time at Imperial as the time you have left until you turn 30?



SCORPIO

This week the Union finally closes the gift shop. One can only dream. Still, you still have a few more months to work in there until you're freed from your glass cage. Somebody walks by and throws you some breadcrumbs. You scream in rage, jump through the glass window and strangle them to death. Free at last! Noooo, handcuffs!



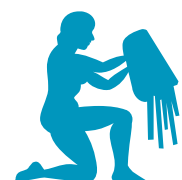
SAGITTARIUS

This week you decide to take a fresh approach to life, deciding to talk to the people around you rather than focussing on the floor. The first person who you talk to happens to be a police officer who thinks you've escaped from the local asylum. As he takes you back to ULU you swear to never try to be normal again!



CAPRICORN

This week you end up at the Union. As you wait for your friends in the foyer, you look up at the television screen and see a video claim with the Summer Ball logo. Convinced the Ball will have lots of girls in bikinis and sandy beaches, you stump up the £35, only to be mugged on the way home by a tramp in a mankini. If you close your eyes it's almost the same...



AQUARIUS

This week you decide to go all out for revision and conquer a small part of the library and television screen and see a video claim as your kingdom. After your first exam you return to your "castle" to find that a group of freshers are waiting to ambush you. You die in a blaze of glory, only wishing that you had been given a chance to find out your marks first.



PISCES

This week you're free! There are no more lectures! As you take a sip of coffee and dance in celebration you decide to make your next stop Eastside! Two pints down you realise that you forgot to attach a formula sheet to the exam your students are taking right now! Shit! You could run back now, instead you have another pint and fail them all later...

 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial

SPORT

Premier League Predictions

James White
Football Columnist

Everton vs. Man City (Saturday, 5:30pm, Sky Sports 1)

After impressing for long spells, it looks like the season will end in disappointment for the Toffees, who will surely have to settle for a Europa League finish. But Roberto Martinez can be proud of their maiden seasons in the job. By contrast, Manchester City are still very much in the title race, and with Sergio Agüero and Yaya Toure both fit, they have the incentive to end their poor run at

Goodison Park and take the initiative again in the battle at the top. **0-2**

Chelsea vs. Norwich (Sunday, 4pm, Sky Sports 1)

Despite not picking up a single point yet under Neil Adams, you have to say he has done a remarkable job, as based on the number of chances created they should arguably have beaten Fulham and picked up a point at least against Liverpool. But turning chances into goals has been the Canaries' problem all season long. Having gone 77 home games without defeat prior to the Blues' last tie at Stamford Bridge against fellow strugglers Sunderland, Jose Mourinho will not tolerate losing 2 on the bounce and I expect normal service to be resumed at the Bridge this weekend. **3-0**

Crystal Palace vs. Liverpool (Monday, 8pm, Sky Sports 1)

Tony Pulis and Brendan Rodgers both deserve to win the Manager of the

Season award after masterminding two very different success stories this season. Palace, seemingly long gone when Pulis joined in late November, might have been made a challenge for a Europa League spot if the season went on another couple of months, while to potentially rise from 7TH to 1ST place in one season for the Reds is even more astonishing than Manchester United falling from 1ST to 7TH. Selhurst Park is now a mighty tough place to visit, but Liverpool's mentality this season has been to outscore their opponents, and with Palace short of goalscorers, the Reds can win this. **1-2**

Best of the rest (Saturday 3pm unless stated)

West Ham vs. Tottenham (BT Sport 1, Saturday 12:45pm): Big Sam will always demand a performance from the Hammers but even though he won't get the manager's job full-time it seems, Tim Sherwood's Spurs are end-

ing the season on a high. **0-1**

Aston Villa vs. Hull: Realistically, both these sides are surely safe as it is almost impossible for the teams below them to make up enough points to catch them. Hull have an FA Cup Final to think about, Villa don't do home wins and a point apiece would settle any lingering relegation nerves. **1-1**

Man United vs. Sunderland: This is a bad time for the Black Cats to travel to Old Trafford, as United will put in a shift for Ryan Giggs. But Gus Poyet's men always raise their game against the big boys so this won't be plain sailing for the outgoing champions. **3-1**

Newcastle vs. Cardiff: As has been the case for several months now, the Magpies are on their summer holidays already. The Bluebirds have to win at St James' Park to stand any chance of survival, and having already done so in the FA Cup, I think they will. **1-2**

Stoke vs. Fulham: The Potters were my tip for relegation at the start of the season but hats off to Mark Hughes for overseeing their transition to a passing side. It has been a nightmare season for the Cottagers and they may be masters of the great escape, but this is fortress Britannia. **2-1**

Swansea vs. Southampton: The Saints players will not want to risk injuries with so many in contention for the World Cup, while the Swans are safe, so this looks to me like a dead-rubber. **0-0**

Arsenal vs. West Brom (Sunday 1:30pm): It remains to be seen whether this will be Arsene Wenger's last home game in charge but either way, he will want them to finish in the top 4 as they always have under his tenure. Aaron Ramsey can lead the Gunners to victory. **3-1**

Underwater Hockey comes 3rd at Nationals

Eric Leung reports on Imperial's Underwater Hockey's first ever medal

Imperial's Underwater Hockey team won their first ever medal at the University Nationals tournament on Saturday 8TH March in Plymouth, finishing 3RD out of 17 teams.

A team of 9 players went to Plymouth Life Centre (the home of Tom Daley) over the weekend as part of the biggest students' underwater hockey tournament in the UK. We were up against 17 teams, ranging from Oxford and Plymouth to places further afield such as Stirling and Bangor. There were 3 Barbarian alumni teams from Plymouth, Portsmouth and Warwick, who were ineligible to win the competition. The Imperial team led by captain Eric Leung & vice-captain, Rajeev Dattani, were hoping for a top 5 finish. We had four young players who had never played in a tournament before (Nathan Patel, Yiyu Wang, Arnab Debnath and Derek So). The relatively inexperienced players are backed up by more experienced Alex Whittington, Dan Barker, David Harris and Rajeev Dattani.

Imperial College fought hard but did not have the best start losing to Portsmouth A (1-2) and Plymouth A (0-5), the eventual winner, in the opening games. However, with every player giving 110%, team Imperial had solid performances in the later games. After some tough games with Warwick A (1-1), Plymouth

Barbarians (1-1), Liverpool (4-0) and Oxford (3-1), team Imperial found themselves finishing 5TH in their group. A win over Stirling (6-0) in the play-off put Imperial in the quarter final against Plymouth Barbarians. It was a tense match, but the final score was not in Imperial's favour. The score was at 1-1 and a minute left to play. Imperial had captain, Eric Leung, sent off and were down to 5 players. Plymouth Barbarians scored with 10 seconds left on the clock. Losing the game 2-1, the team were in the play off for 5TH/6TH place against Oxford. There were two Barbarian teams who were ineligible to win a medal in the semi-final. A win over Oxford (4-0) gave Imperial a 5TH place finish; meaning Imperial came 3RD amongst the student teams.

The team walked away with a medal hung round their necks for the first time. It was a fantastic experience for young players in the team, and was the last student nationals for some experienced players (Dan Barker and Rajeev Dattani). The team is looking forward to getting more new players. Anyone interested in trying out please contact Eric Leung (swl12@ic.ac.uk).

Thanks to Sport Imperial for non-BUCS funding as well as to Plymouth University Octopush Club and the British Octopush Association for organising the tournament.

What is Underwater Hockey?

Underwater Hockey is a fast paced sport, played by teams of six at the bottom of a pool with four alternating substitute players. The aim of the game is score more than the other team by moving a lead puck along the bottom of the pool using a 'pusher'. Snorkels allow the players to keep

moving with the game while they take a quick breath between long dives. A team scores by working together to push, flick and pass the puck down the pitch and getting it into the opponent's goal. This is often achieved best through skill rather than brute strength- proven by the fact this is a

mixed sport at adult level.

Want to play?

We train every week at St. Mary's pool, Paddington, at 8pm on Mondays. This new and rapidly expanding club is always looking for more members. If you want to play email Eric Leung (swl12@ic.ac.uk)





Underwater Hockey comes 3rd at Nationals

Women's Rugby Bring Back the Silverware

Kath Fok

IC Women's Rugby

In the final game of the season, Imperial needed a win against Kingston to successfully defend their LUSL title. The weather and train engineering works did not seem to be in the team's favour but once on the pitch, little could stop Imperial continuing to play some magnificent rugby.

The game began with both sides looking pretty even. They were well matched in the forwards, with possession being kept by the attacking side through good supporting play around the breakdown. In a classic forward play from the maul, Heather Grant went over for a decisive try.

Eventually, Kingston got sloppy over the ball and were penalised on multiple occasions for not rolling away at the tackle. They didn't learn from the quick tap penalty which allowed

Imperial to gain forward momentum more than once and score.

Kingston clawed one back using the

wind to kick into the distance and allowing their pacey wingers capitalise on the 50-50 balls. At half time, both

teams had scored but Imperial led by three tries to two.

In the second half, Imperial put

pressure on Kingston's clearance kick which led to the most spectacular individual try by Clara Gago on the wing. She caught the ball just beside the try line on the 22 m line and held strong to break two tackles and score right in the corner.

Changing tactics Imperial opted to exploit their strong centre combination and pass out quickly in the backs. Inside centre Charlie Stephens crashed through to score a hat trick and was well supported by outside centre and player of the match, Carolanne Vouriot.

Imperial could've extended their lead if only they chose to pass out more and exploit the overlap from the wing. However, they kept moving forward thanks to supporting runs from forward of the match Kirsty Edward who followed up every break.

However, Imperial's performance couldn't be equalled with the final score at 58-10. Congratulations to the team to securing the LUSL championship again!



Baseball Softball UK Inter-University Baseball Spring Cup

Ashley Ng Ding Wen

Imperial Falcons

The Imperial Falcons participated in the BSUK Inter-university Baseball Spring Cup over the weekend of the 22ND and 23RD of March with a team composed largely of newcomers and achieved a respectable third place finish after close losses to the top two teams.

The Falcons opened up their campaign with a rousing 15-6 demolition of the UCL Capitals with a strong pitching performance from freshman pitcher Zack Wang. The

team also put up a good offensive showing with 6 hits and 8 walks drawn. The huge win put the Falcons in first place overall going into the second game against the Nottingham Thieves who had earlier been routed by the University of East Anglia Blue Sox 17-7.

The second game got off to a good start with the Falcons cycling through the entire batting order for 4 runs off 2 walks and 4 hits from Matt, Stephane, Ashley and Zack. One more run would have scored but third batter Rhys was tagged out at home in an attempt to steal. The Thieves then put up a strong batting performance and capitalized on Falcon errors to score 3 runs and get back in the game. The second inning saw the Falcons extend the lead by 1 run before closing out the inning

in style with ace pitcher Vincent Li putting up a monster performance with 2 strike outs to give the Falcons their first 1-2-3 inning. The third inning saw the Falcons pile on more pressure with shortstop Ashley leading off with a massive ground rule double that was centimeters shy of a homerun. Vincent and club president Chris Carter then drove in 2 more runs to give the Falcons a commanding 4 run lead. The Thieves responded well however and answered with 3 runs of their own to bring themselves back in the game. The fourth inning proved to be the most disastrous one yet for the Falcons, as they failed to score any runs and committed multiple errors to allow the Thieves to score 5 runs and take the lead which they did not relinquish for the rest of the

game. Despite a huge 2-run homer from Zack in the top of the sixth, the Falcons fell to a 10-15 defeat, putting them in second place going into the final round-robin game against tournament favourites, the UEA Blue Sox.

After a much needed rest, the Falcons were back in action on Sunday against the Blue Sox. The Falcons exploded out of the gates with a massive 8 run top of the first to instantly take a commanding lead against the Blue Sox. Ace Vincent then held the Blue Sox offense to 3 runs to give the Falcons a 5 run cushion. However, the Blue Sox then stepped up their game and showed their credentials as tournament favourites to score 19 runs while holding the Falcons to none in subsequent innings.

A late pitching switch by the Blue Sox allowed the Falcons to notch up some more runs for a respectable 18-24 scoreline as the Falcons fell to third place in the tournament standings.

Following a walkover over the UCL Capitals in the third place play-off, the Falcons emerged as overall third in the Spring Cup. Despite the disappointing showing, the Falcons showed their strong potential with newcomers Alex, Stefan, Rhys and Monal putting up strong performances in the field and on the plate. With the strong improvements made despite a limited training schedule, the Falcons are confident of better results in the coming year as the team looks forward to the BSUK Inter-university Softball tournament on Saturday (29th March).