

Premier League Special

What happened this season, and who is in our star team?

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Campus Fashion

Felix finds the best dressed fashionistas on campus

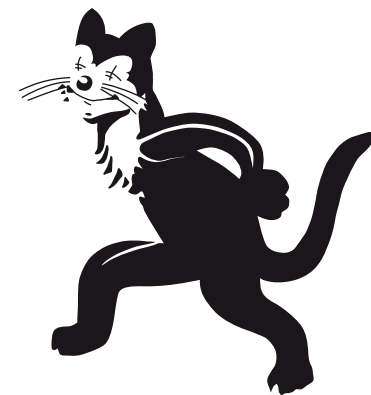
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FELIX

"Keep the Cat Free"

16/05/14
Issue 1576
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Bad blood Between Marsden and Brompton

Maciej Matuszewski
News Editor

A dispute has broken out between Chelsea's famous Royal Brompton and Royal Marsden hospitals. Late last year the Royal Brompton, a specialist heart and lung centre which collaborates on much of its research with Imperial College, publicly announced plans to sell off its Fulham Road building in order to fund improvements on its nearby Sydney Street site. The Royal Marsden, a hospital focusing on cancer treatment and research, had expressed interest in buying the building, which is located between the Royal Marsden and the Institute of Cancer Research, as early as 2009. The Royal Marsden had set aside up to £30 million to purchase the site, however the Royal Brompton has decided to sell the building to a private housing developer, hoping to get a price of over £500 million.

In a Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – which outlines its long term strategy for the site but does not constitute a formal planning application – the Royal Brompton Hospital has described how the development is necessary since its widely-spread buildings “are no longer operationally satisfactory for the hospital” with “seriously ill patients [having] to be transferred between buildings for treatment by wheelchair, trolley or ambulance”. Selling off outlying buildings will allow it to focus on creating “an integrated hospital on the site of the Sydney Street campus, combining a new building with the existing Sydney Wing”. The hospital has defended its plans to seek the highest possible price for any buildings that it sells of, indicating that sum that the Royal Marsden is prepared to pay is not enough to fund its Sydney Street redevelopment plan.

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Imperial sign pledge to be more open about animals in research



FELIX / JOE LETTS

Kunal Wagle
News Editor

On Wednesday, Imperial became one of the 72 organisations to sign a Concordat on Animal Research within the United Kingdom. The Concordat, which promises that the organisations will be transparent about their experiments on animals, follows an opinion poll conducted in 2012. This poll showed that the public wanted more information surrounding animal research and was a key factor in the development of the Concordat. The 72 signatories include organisations from various sectors, including research councils, charities, pharmaceutical companies

and universities. The promises in the document centre around four key points. These are that the organisations will be transparent about “when, how and why” animals are used in research, that they will “enhance communication with the media”, that they will provide opportunities for the public to discover more about the use of animals in research, and that annual progress will be reported.

The Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Professor Maggie Dallman, who is also the Chair of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review body (AWERB) at Imperial, commented: “This Concordat comes at a good time for Imperial as we continue to review the way we manage animal research at the College in clear, accountable and transparent ways. My hope is that the Concordat will help organisations working in this

area give their staff the confidence and support that they need, so that talking about this important work becomes the norm rather than the exception. At Imperial, we already talk regularly with journalists about the work we do. When our research has involved animals, we say so. Where practical, we invite school students, patients and other visitors in to view our facilities, to discuss why this work is necessary, and to explore the issues linked to it. We also foster broader discussions around the principles of replacement, reduction and refinement – the legislative framework for conducting scientific experiments using animals responsibly and humanely, also known as the 3Rs.”

Views from organisations that cover the treatment of animals in research are mixed. Wendy Jarrett, from Understanding Animal Research, said

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THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE MASTER'S SUPPORT SCHEME

The Imperial College Master's Support Scheme is part of the HEFCE Postgraduate Support Scheme which offers an outstanding opportunity for students applying for our Taught Master's programmes.

The scheme aims to provide financial support totalling **£1.5 million** to academically excellent Home undergraduate students or recent Home graduates who might otherwise have been deterred from postgraduate study because of financial constraints.



Value of the award

Successful candidates will receive full tuition fee support up to £10,000.

Successful candidates with a household income below £25,000 will receive an additional £5,000 stipend towards living costs.

Who is eligible?

Home students applying to study a full time Taught Master's degree starting in October 2014 in the Faculties of Natural Sciences, Engineering or Medicine.

Applicants must have had a household income below £42,611 in the final year of undergraduate study in one of the following years: 2011/12, 2012/13 or 2013/14.





Editors: **Nida Mahmud, Maciej Matuszewski, Aamna Mohdin, Aemun Reza, Kunal Wagle**

NEWS

... continued from page 1 – BROMPTON and MARSDEN



FELIX / JOE LETTS

Speaking to Felix, a Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust spokesperson denied that the Fulham Road site was currently on sale or that a formal planning application has been submitted to the Borough Council, though they did not rule out that this might happen at some point in the future. They added: “We propose to fund ... improvements by selling some of the sites we own and our charity owns in Chelsea at residential values. We need to raise about £580m to build a new hospital. Without this we cannot improve our facilities to the level needed. We will be forced to remain in current buildings, including Fulham Wing, and continue to apply costly temporary fixes and remedial works so that patients can continue to get the care they need. If we do sell Fulham Wing it will not be vacated until 2024 at the earliest, when facilities would be available for patients in a new building on Sydney Street.”

However, the Royal Marsden has argued that allowing them to take over the building would be in the public interest. In an email sent to local residents, Royal Marsden staff campaigning against the Royal Brompton plans said: “We are currently operating at maximum capacity and have no more room to expand our Chelsea site for further world class research, clinical trials and patient care. The Fulham Road Wing will allow us to increase both our NHS and Private Care provision and expand research capacity to cope with current and future demand.” It has been estimated that acquiring the Fulham Road building would allow the hospital to treat twice as many patients as it currently does. Commentators have suggested that, should the Royal Marsden be unable to acquire the building, and therefore be unable to expand its Chelsea site, it might decide to leave central London altogether and relocate to secondary

site at Sutton.

Responding to the points raised by the Royal Marsden, the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust spokesperson said: “The Royal Marsden has not formally made an offer to acquire Fulham Wing. When the Royal Marsden raised the issue of a lack of space earlier this year we made an offer of 50,000 sq feet in the new hospital development as a potential solution. This offer was made three times before being rejected by the Royal Marsden as insufficient for their needs.”

The Conservative controlled Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council has been accused of not listening to local residents’ concerns about the Royal Brompton’s plans. Selling the building to a housing developer would mean having to change the building’s planning classification – effectively giving the Council the power to block any sale by refusing to agree to the change. Three local residents – Heinz Schumi, Ian Henderson and Andrew Barshall – have decided to stand as independents in the upcoming local election for Stanley Ward, which contains both hospitals, in protest of the Council’s perceived inaction on this and other contentious planning issues. With a great deal of negative feedback received during its consultation period of the SPD submitted by the Royal Brompton Hospital, including a petition signed by over 7500 people, the Council is now likely to discuss the issue at an official Full Council Meeting.

At the time of going to print the Royal Marsden was not able to provide an official comment on the dispute. However, senior sources at the hospital have indicated that they believe that the strong public support of their position means that the issue will get a full and fair debate at the Council.

... continued from page 1 – College Signs Concordat

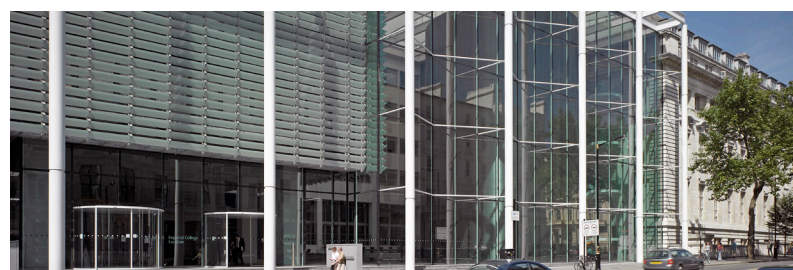
of the Concordat “This is an excellent opportunity to dispel myths and give the public a chance to see the groundbreaking research that is being done on its behalf”. However, Michelle Thew, who is from the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, was of a different opinion. She pointed out that while it is a “step towards genuine awareness” it is also a case of “transparency on their terms. The Concordat is choosing to give what they want to give.”



FLICKR / KIM CARPENTER

This is not the only time that Imperial College has been in the news with regards to the use of animals in research in the recent past. In February Felix reported that the College had published a new “Action plan for world class animal research”. This was following an independent inquiry into allegations by the British Union that Imperial College London may have been guilty of animal abuse when conducting research (reported by Felix in May of last year). Professor Steve Brown, who is Director of the Medical Research Council’s Mammalian Genetics Unit at Harwell, headed the committee. Imperial accepted all the recommendations of the Brown report, and through its action plan have showed how they intend to tackle the issues raised in the report.

At the time of the report, Professor Brown noted that whilst the report “commended the College’s animal care staff”, there will still some key issues. He said that the investigation “identified a number of serious concerns on the conduct, management and oversight of animal research at Imperial College” and that “Imperial College is internationally recognised as one of the world’s best research institutes and it is important that this is matched by its standards of animal use and welfare.”



IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON / CHRISTIAN RICHTERS

Imperial falls in latest ranking table

Kunal Wagle
News Editor

This week the Complete University Guide (CUG) released their latest ranking table for Universities within the United Kingdom. Imperial College saw their ranking diminish from 4th to 6th – a drop that saw the College overtaken in the standings by St Andrews and Durham, who took 4th and 5th respectively.

The rankings were topped by Cambridge, who were followed by Oxford and the London School of Economics. Imperial were not the only university to fall within the top ten though, as University College London also dropped two places to 9th. A lot of the changes in the rankings are thought to be due to a change in the system, with major changes in how graduate employment is viewed and rated.

New study claims that lectures are ineffective

Joe Letts
Editor-In-Chief

According to an American study from academics at the Universities of Washington and Maine, “students in classes with traditional lecturing [were] 1.5 times more likely to fail than were students in classes with active learning.”

The study, a result of the analysis of 255 published and unpublished studies about undergraduate teaching methods in Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine.

While the methods of active learning studied vary, they include: giving students technology to answer questions mid-lecture, getting students to explain concepts to each other and calling on random students for answers.

Sponsored Editorial

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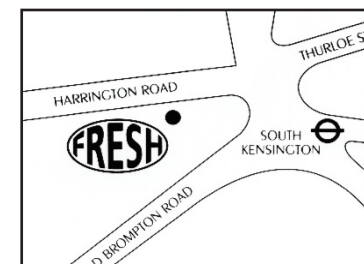
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Imperial comes bottom in Times Higher Ed. Student Experience Survey for ‘fair workload’

Joe Letts
Editor-In-Chief

Yesterday saw College coming in 43rd place in the Times Higher Education (THE) Student Experience Survey 2014. Ranked on 21 different attributes, from the strength of the students’ union to the fairness of the workload, the data was gathered by

YouthSight over the course of last academic year.

While College came 43rd out of 111 higher education institutions, it was also ranked joint first (with the University of Bath) for ‘good industrial connections’, while simultaneously ranking joint last (with the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge) for ‘fair workload’.

With an above average number of respondents (142 students), College ranked above average on many aspects, but lagged behind on aspects

areas such as ‘good social life’, ‘good community atmosphere’, ‘Good personal relationship with teaching staff’.

In a debate hosted by the THE and attended Union Deputy President (Education) Natalie Kempston, some panel members suggested the creation of a “Teaching Excellence Framework” to assess the quality of teaching in Higher Education Institutions, similar to the Research Excellence Framework which is currently in place, while others sought to enhance existing systems.

NEWS

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Royal Society of Chemistry awards five prizes to Imperial Professors

Kunal Wagle
News Editor

This week five Imperial chemists were rewarded for their contributions to chemical sciences with prizes from the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The winners, who are Dr Matthew Fuchter, Professor Iain McCulloch, Professor Milo Shaffer, Professor Molly Stevens and Dr Edward Tate, have been awarded their prizes for their "true excellence in shaping the future of their field".

Dr Fuchter won the Harrison-Meldola Memorial Prize. His group has recently found a new way to eradicate malaria infections. He said of his award that he hopes "to use the associated lectureships to highlight my group's recent exciting and collaborative work concerning function-orientated synthesis."

Professor Shaffer and Professor Stevens were both awarded with the Corday Morgan prize, which is awarded for the most meritorious contributions to chemistry.

Professor Shaffer won for "the

development of transformative new nanocarbon chemistry and applications that can be applied at a practical scale."

Professor Stevens won for her "research in the field of biomedical materials", particularly for her "development of nanoparticles and diagnostic platforms."

Dr Tate won the Norman Heatley prize "for his contributions to the area of antimalarial drug discovery and for pioneering the application of chemical proteomics and its implementation in the identification of novel therapeutic targets."

The RSC awarded Professor McCulloch the Tilden Prize, which is awarded for advances in Chemistry. He won "For his research on semiconducting aromatic polymers for organic electronic and solar cell applications, especially his development of methods for controlling the organisation of such polymers in the liquid crystalline phase."

This year's awards built on the success of last year, where the College won two awards from the Royal Society of Chemistry, further enhancing the reputation of an already strong subject area for the college.

Academic Teaching and Support Staff recognised at Union Student Academic Choice Awards



THROUGH BY LENS / BENJAMIN LESTER

Joe Letts
Editor-In-Chief

Yesterday, 8 College staff members received prizes at the Union's annual Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs).

Presented by several student representatives, the awards recognise the efforts of staff in College that enhance students' academic experience.

Students made 591 nominations, which resulted in 6 candidates being shortlisted for each of the eight awards. The winners are as follows:

SACAs Winners

Best Supervision

Prof Mark Sephton, Earth Science & Engineering

Best Tutoring

Dr James Wilton-Ely, Chemistry

Best Graduate Teaching Assistant

Mario D'Auria, Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Best Teaching for Undergraduates

Prof Omar Matar, Chemical Engineering

Best Support Staff

Victor Boddy, Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Best Innovation

Dr David Dye, Materials

Best Feedback

Dr Jane Saffell, Department of Medicine

Best Teaching for Postgraduates

Dr Mike Tennant, Centre for Environmental Policy

Alumnus in the national news

Pfizer CEO Ian Read grilled on AstraZeneca takeover bid

Former Imperial Chemical Engineer and current Chief Executive of Pfizer Ian Read joined other board members in front of the Science and Technology Committee at the House of Commons this week in an attempt to convince MPs to allow the company to buy out fellow pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca.

Claiming that the merger could create "a powerhouse of science" delivering "much better outcomes", the Pfizer executives tried to allay concerns regarding their plans to keep only 20% of the combined research and development workforce in the UK for at least 5 years while also reducing the overall investment in the R&D units.

IMPERIAL HORIZONS 2014/15



On-line enrolment for current undergraduates entering their 2nd, 3rd and 4th years in October 2014 will soon be open.

Enrolment for current 2nd and 3rd years opens on Monday 19 May 2014 at 14.00
Enrolment for current 1st years opens on Tuesday 10 June 2014 at 14.00

Find out more:

www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons





Wait... are people actually starting to enjoy science?

Philippa Skett reviews Imperial Festival and the wider public engagement movement

The third annual Imperial Festival took place last weekend on campus, and saw students, staff and members of the public alike come together for the ambitious public engagement endeavour. The scientists of Imperial, usually hidden away in their labs and lecture theatres, came out in full force to share what Imperial gets up to in its day to day workings.

However, why has Imperial taken to hosting such a large scale, complex event that was completely free to attend? Why are science festivals, that run the risk of failing due to the stigma science can have of being boring or too complex, actually rising in popularity?

Are people starting to actually enjoy science?

Building on the foundations of previous Imperial Fringe nights and preceding Festivals, this year's festival spanned over two days, beginning on Friday afternoon and spanning late into Saturday evening.

Attractions were scattered right across campus, and included guest lectures, comedy performances, surgery simulations, and student musical acts. These were all based around the central pivot of the festival, the Research Zone, located inside the omnipresent marquee on Queen's Lawn. Here the staff and students of Imperial presented their current research and experiments, giving a platform to the work we as a college spend our time doing behind closed lab doors.

There were also lots of opportunities for visitors to gain some hands-on experience themselves, such as extracting DNA from strawberries, seeing the world through the eyes of a fly, building edible molecule models, or just sit serenely stitching long strings of blood vessels.



IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

A Pop-Up Surgery, based in SAF, was hosted by the fantastically named Dr Roger Kneebone. It featured an operating theatre complete with a realistic patient on the surgical table, and also boasted "cutting edge" technology – a scalpel that can detect cancerous tissues as it cuts into them. Meanwhile, Dr Sujata Kundu, Imperial alumnus and cocktail connoisseur, explained the chemistry behind alcoholic concoctions, with free samples available for the adults of the audience.

Smaller attractions included a Dance Tent featuring belly dancers and student performances, such as Funkology, and a Workshop tent primarily for the younger visitors. There were also campus tours of College's own laboratories, robotic centres and even our resident flight simulator. Tours proved to be very popular, with slots being fully booked

within two hours of the festival opening.

Appropriately, some of Imperial's humanities students (a very rare breed of students), those studying science Communication, also got involved with the festival, many presenting their projects for the public to see. These included Project Uproot, a grassroots initiative hoping to get more people interested in environmentalism and ecology, who succeeded in re-homing over one hundred re-potted plants.

Over the past two years, visitors have attended in their thousands, and this year was no exception. Although one visitor explained that they attend each year to catch up on the research of one group of scientists and see how their work is developing, many other visitors simply came to enjoy wandering about between the attractions at their own pace.

Many said the festival had a pleasant

atmosphere, that they enjoyed their time looking around campus and said it actually felt almost like a festival – with the farmer's market, music and (mostly) undisturbed sunshine contributing to a leisurely day spent on campus (for a change). So could it be that the festival was indeed a success?

Imperial Festival is just one branch of the growing movement that is the public engagement of science, an increasingly important priority for anyone involved in science in any way, shape or form.

With it being only recently that the government has acknowledged that science communication is more beneficial when it is interactive between scientists and the general population, as opposed to one-directional, much more effort has been put into engagement events like these.

These sort of events aim to start a dialogue about science, and blur the lines between the scientists in the lab and the public that their work can ultimately effect, hopefully leading to both groups influencing and shaping the work and opinions of the other.

However, just like the Imperial Festival, public engagement of science is very much in its infancy. Some "public engagement" endeavours can be rather circular in nature, with enthusiastic scientists preaching (or rather, communicating) to the choir of equally enthusiastic science fans, and not really interacting with a wider, more diverse audience.

Such a trap is easy to fall into considering students at Imperial are already pretty committed to science, and don't need a whole festival, blocking the library entrance, to reinforce that. Some certainly don't need encouragement during the intense revision season when relationships between students and their subjects are almost at breaking point.

In fact, many in attendance, such as some of the older alumni, actually brought excited, attentive children. With such a varied range of attractions on offer, it is more than likely it did make a lasting impact in some way, at least on the younger generation if not those who are already committed science advocates.

However, the aims of public engagement with science is not to make more people want to be scientists, or even want to study at Imperial (this may require more than a weekend festival). It is ultimately to make what is perceived to be "science" more accessible to those not directly in contact with it, and for science to fit almost seamlessly into the wider society as a whole.

These events therefore don't act in isolation, but are contributing as a whole to a potential cultural paradigm shift, where science isn't seen separate anymore to the wider society but complementary to it, and something people will be willing to discuss and learn about more frequently.

Hopefully, the Festival left both those visiting and those hosting the festival thinking about how science isn't as abstract and alien a concept as some perceive it to be, and no doubt has set the stage for even more impressive public engagement feats in the future.

If not, it at least provided a welcome revision break from those studying science in the library to have a glimpse at science in action in the wider world.



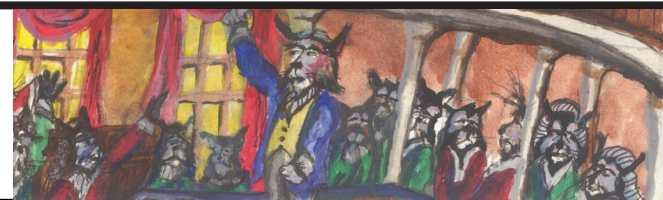
LETIZIA DIAMANTE



LETIZIA DIAMANTE

COMMENT

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The End of the Great Recession?

Christy Kelly
Columnist



The 'Great Recession' is over. To quote the Times: 'It's official'. This verdict, coming as it does from 'one of the country's leading economic bodies', is very impressive no doubt. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) (from whence the claim), is an institution blessed with an authoritative name and steeped in history. In fact, we learn from their website that they are 'Britain's longest established independent research institute' ... Sorry, 'independent'? That sounds very, umm, 'official'.

Still, now that the 'Great Recession' is 'officially' over, we should probably take a moment to think about how we got into it in the first place, and why we are now getting out of it. At first we were told that the recession was really a fable about greed and economic hubris, hedonistic bankers and cold blooded economists. Typical here were the words of Chris Peck, head of Risk Trading at the Tokyo Branch of Deutsche Bank: 'Risks are sexy'. Harvard educated bankers assured us that financial collapse was a logical or scientific impossibility, rather like squaring the circle or sending information faster than the speed of light. Making money was the new cocaine, and it bought, well, quite a lot of real cocaine. Influential partisans of this view include Pope Benedict XVI and, judging by 'The Wolf of Wall Street', Martin Scorsese.

Slightly more useful than this kind of cheap didacticism, is a basic economic analysis of the immediate causes of the recession. Simply put, deregulation of financial markets – notably Clinton's repeal of the 1933 Glass-Steagall act in 1999 – was the culmination of long trends towards 'financialization' of the American economy during the latter half of the 20th century, an important trend that I shall discuss in an article next week. Following deregulation, trade in various new financial products – 'securitised debt products' such as 'Asset-Backed Securities', composite bonds made from thousands of pooled loans, or 'derivatives' such as the infamous 'Credit Default Swaps' – took off massively, facilitated as they were by the development of new financial securities, which were alleged to reduce the risk of financial collapse. One type of security central to the 2008 crisis, were the notorious 'Collateralised Debt Obligations', or CDOs. These were 'structured' composite loans, arranged in 'tranches', that is pools of similar risk loans, which were made safer by, for

instance, guaranteeing that losses made on senior (low risk) tranches would only be borne after the owners of more junior tranches had absorbed these losses.

Ironically enough, it was the very security of the new products which encouraged the new trade in high risk loans such as sub-prime mortgages, and it was the same security which made these new products so very ubiquitous. Come the collapse of the US housing market in 2006, and a large round of sub-prime mortgage defaults, the pervasive spread of the new products undermined this

financial practices largely unchanged, newfound bank liquidity aided by extensive quantitative easing programs and hilariously low interest rates, growth in the immediate aftermath of the 2008 crisis was largely artificial, and indeed come the various debt crises across European periphery (the 'GIPSY club', plus Cyprus and Iceland) growth declined in the 'centre' (UK, Germany, France). Germany, hit the softest, augmented its traditionally dominant position in the EU, allowing it to enforce crippling austerity measures in other countries. Even if austerity is effective economic

figures are likely to exceed 2008 levels within the next few months. Data from the Office for National Statistics suggests otherwise, but even if we accept NIESR's figures, GDP per capita will 'not exceed [its previous peak] before 2017'. Real wages are 6% below 2009 levels, and are not expected to break even until 2018. Positively, the report sees little evidence for domestic inflation, likely to remain close to the 2% target, but it warns that 'considerable uncertainty surrounds monetary policy on several dimensions.' Following current government plans, public sector

– unless I misunderstood and they simply wanted to reduce the 'deficit' in absolute terms, at whatever cost to GDP. Now let us compare the record of austerity in Britain, where it has been most successful, to the US, which did not opt for austerity economics: US GDP exceeded its 2008 position around the time the Tories were entering office and has been growing since then. According to World Bank data, GNI per capita exceeded its 2008 level in 2011. Similarly unemployment is as low as it has been since 2008, although it is likely that much of this is due to a reduction in the labour participation rate. US economic policy has not been a resounding success, but focus on growth related policies (mainly creating jobs) has allowed the US to give the initially artificial growth some substantial basis and led to sustained economic achievements above and beyond the most successful European economies.

The report also fails to mention a key aspect of this 'recovery'. Britain and the US are in the middle of a stock-market boom of historic proportion. For instance the closing index of the FTSE 100 is, at the time of writing, 6851, higher than the apex of the pre-2008 boom (6730) and just shy of the dotcom bubble high of 6930. In the US the S&P 500 could well pass an unprecedented 1900 by the time this article gets to print. To put this into perspective, the dotcom bubble milestone was 1500, while the 2007 bull market failed to breach 1600. According to a recent article in the Guardian by Cambridge economist Ha-Joon Chang, 'This is definitely the biggest stock market bubble in modern history'.

Why is this worrying? Because as Ha-Joon Chang also notes, there seems to be no reason for this massive growth. Macroeconomic growth stats have remained modest everywhere, while in Britain output is still lower than in 2008. Even more eerily, the bullshit that you would expect to accompany a record bull market has been conspicuously absent. No false claims about the revolutionary impact of new information technologies; no lies about the newfound Shangri-la of risk management through financial innovation. Just silence.

When this bubble bursts – and it will burst – we will wake up to an economic system largely the same as it was 6 years ago. The most obvious lessons of 2008 have not been learnt, with financial market regulation largely superficial when it was put in place at all. Certainly, none of the more deep-seated structural issues have been addressed, if even mentioned. I intend to address some of these in an article next week. And when we do wake up to an economic system the same as 6 years ago, I am sufficiently determinist to predict largely similar results.



CAMBRIDGE-NEWS.CO.UK

security. The sheer scale of the market in CDOs brought on the 'Credit Crunch' as the predictable losses on junior tranches pushed losses further up this pyramid of risk. Meanwhile derivative insurance markets – crucial here is the opaque market in CDSs, a 'derivative' whereby the seller agrees to compensate the buyer in the event of a loan default – exacerbated the problem as banks without credit called on other banks without credit to compensate their bad loans. There followed a brief 'Keynesian Spring' to modest effect. Little of the debt forgiveness programs and stimulus packages went to low paid workers or smaller businesses which might possibly have encouraged consumption and in turn manufactures. Instead, with

policy, and I hope to show that it is not below, we need to think twice about an economic policy which has done nothing to decrease unemployment with all its crippling social effects, and has inspired a spate of self-immolation protests.

The UK has not been unaffected in all this. A conspicuous increase in unemployment and the use of food banks, a decrease in real wages, output and manufactures have all been common headline tropes over the past few years. So it is welcome news if the 'Great Recession' is over. Yet if we actually look at the NIESR report, the picture is not quite as rosy as some would like to make out.

We learn that NIESR have decided that the recession is over as GDP

borrowing is likely to decline, and reach surplus in 2018 with the net debt to GDP ratio peaking sometime 2015-16. The UK's trade performance 'remains disappointing'. Employment has increased (by 1%) but as a corollary, and crucially, productivity growth has fallen sharply. Incidentally, the report claims that 'ultimately productivity is the main, if not the only, driver of real wages and overall prosperity'.

This is basis for 'George' Gideon Osborne's great recovery? Real wages are still lower than in 2008, GDP per capita is still lower than in 2008, while following current plans the net debt to GDP ratio may not peak for another 2 years. Reducing this ratio, incidentally, was supposed to be the centrepiece of Tory economic policy



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COMMENT

4 Steps to Easy Climate Action

Emily White explains how we can easily make a change with four simple actions

With the recent release of the 5th assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which gives us more evidence than ever before that we need to start taking serious action to reduce our impact on the environment, it is easy to feel evermore helpless. This is such a huge issue and how can ordinary people actually make a difference? Of course I could sit here and tell you about all the usual ways we are encouraged to become more sustainable like recycling that yoghurt pot that you always throw in the bin or turning off the light that you always leave on when you're finished in the bathroom but we know all of this already. You might be interested to hear though that there ARE other, bigger things we can do that can really get this ball rolling (but don't stop recycling that yoghurt pot!).

In a recent blog post from the Huffington Post, Mary Ellen Harte talks about some of the major things we can do in our lives to kick start change. It's pretty simple, there are 4 components: Divest, Invest, Vote and Talk. Her blog was written with the majority of the population in mind (meaning adults with an income!) but I want to just talk about some of these things from a student's perspective.

DIVEST

So the first point: Divest. This point is about money. And specifically

moving money away from where it is potentially causing damage. When you opened your bank account (or when your parents opened it for you when you were a child) did you think about what the bank was actually going to do with your money? I'm guessing not, although some of you hopefully have! As students the amount of money we have in savings accounts is probably not that large but if we start questioning the way large banks make their money and moving our money accordingly they will eventually have to sit up and take notice. I personally do not want any money I have in a bank account to be invested in large carbon intensive industries, I would much prefer however to put my money in places where it has the potential to do some good. This has recently prompted me to seriously think about this, guided by a fantastic website that rates banks on things like ethics, honesty and culture (www.moveyourmoney.org.uk). I am in the process of transferring my current account to Nationwide (a building society so therefore has the interests of its members at heart) and, sacrificing 0.3% interest (i.e. not a lot!), my savings account to Triodos bank, which prides itself on ethical investments. It has been really easy to make these changes, I could do it all online and used the Current Account 7 day Switch service so there is really no reason to think it is a massive fuff to move your money.

On a larger scale, there is currently a petition for Imperial College to become more sustainable, set up

by the Environment Coordinator for Imperial Hub, Michael Chung, which includes a statement about divesting from fossil fuels (bit.ly/ICGreenWeekPetition). Just recently, Stanford University has divested \$18.7 billion from the coal industry and I suggest you sign this petition if you want to see Imperial College, supposedly a forward thinking college of technology, do the same and start spear heading the climate revolution. We are already way behind compared to the progress other UK universities have made and I really don't see that this is acceptable.

INVEST

The second point 'Invest' could sort of be thought of as the inverse of the first from a student point of view, as it is unlikely we are able to make any solid investments in anything (except the pretty solid one we've made in our education!). However transferring money to banks that make more ethical commitments is a good start.

VOTE

VOTE! This is a particularly topical one as the local and EU elections are coming up on the 22nd May. People often feel that they don't have much power when voting but this is not the case. Only 41% of young people are expected to turn out to vote but it is extremely important that the young generations are well represented as we are going to be the ones dealing with the changes made by politicians. So on



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the 22nd May think about which party is going to bring about the changes you want to see.

I admit I don't know a whole lot about politics but an article from www.opendemocracy.net titled 'Voting for climate' sums up the players in the European election pretty well. Voting for the Conservative party means voting for the European Conservatives and Reformists Group who want to prioritise competitiveness and think that climate action is jeopardising this. Voting for UKIP is a vote for the Europe of Freedom and Democracy group, which is broadly speaking a group of people who are not worried about the current climate situation. A vote for the Green Party, part of the European Greens, is supportive of renewable energy and the many jobs that can be created in this sector whilst it is against energy production by means of coal, fracking and nuclear. A vote for Labour who are in the Socialists and Democrats Group is in between these two extremes but also active in regards to climate change. Finally the Liberal Democrats, in the Liberal and Democratic Group, have a high climate protection profile and support a EU-wide carbon tax. There is one further group that we are not able to vote for, as it has no UK members: The European Peoples Party (which includes Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany). It commits itself to sustainable development and considers nuclear in the energy mix.

So as expected there is a whole range of options, but make sure you think about your vote carefully!

TALK

And finally Talk. This is probably the most powerful point out of the 4. Talking about climate change and bringing it into the everyday conversation is the only way that everyone will understand the urgency of the situation. It will also make daily actions of sustainable behaviour become the norm as people will constantly be reminded of their importance. And conversations about climate do not have to be depressing! Far from it, there are so many examples right now of amazing progress made by countries all over the world; like the fact that the smallest Canary Island is the first island to be 100% powered by wind and solar energy, like the fact that last year 1 million jobs were created in the global renewables sector which in total makes up 6.5 million jobs, and like the fact that Bangladesh is installing 1,000 solar power systems everyday.

By starting with some of these steps we can have a voice that is louder and more demanding of ambitious climate action.

Climate change is THE issue of our generation and it is up to us to get engaged with the solutions to the problem, after all, we are the ones who need to fix it.



FLICKR / PETER M

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STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY?

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COMMENT

Confessions of a GTA: Part 15

One thing you need to know about GTAs: awkward is our speciality

The GTA
Anonymous



GTAs can be pretty cool people: we're trying to save the world with the power of our minds, we know an awful lot of answers to tutorial questions, and we drink quite a lot. We also quite like to know the undergrads, as they drink a lot too and they seem to like it when we try to help them with things, quite unlike our supervisors. However, this does lead to some awkward situations that we are not given any guidance on. Maybe we are overthinking it, not being particularly socially adept after all, but here are just a few challenges we come across:

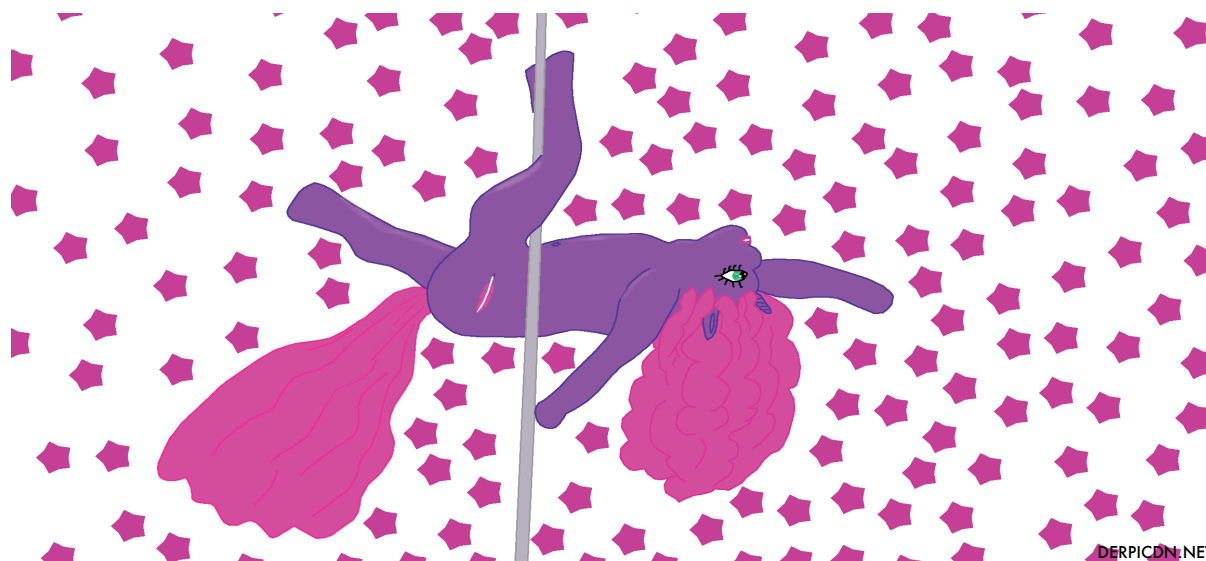
1. Emails

Normally emails from students are a nice change as 90% of the time we actually know the answer to their questions. However, the odd one or two can send us into outrage which will quite often consume an office

once it had been read out with great emphasis. The thing is we aren't lecturers but sending an email using MAINLY CAPITAL LETTERS, lying to us, demanding the answer sheets the student believes we have, or in one case saying they believe they have the right to my unpaid undivided attention at a time convenient to them is not really acceptable. But what can we do about it? Certainly send a scathing email back and I have seen some beauties where the academic chances of a student are called into question when they do not know how to use capital letters. But perhaps this is why we become a bit bitter as the students in their desperation for marks do not even notice the person they are being rude to.

2. Facebook

A completely different kettle of fish is receiving a Facebook friend request from a student. The thing is the majority of time they really do just want to be friends and they are nice kids. Under any other circumstances I would have no problem with it. But we mark their papers, grade their lab work and comment on their



Undergrads be warned: you might get a bit more than you bargain for if you ask your GTA to go out clubbing with you DERPICDN.NET

3. Going Out

Finally this is the cringiest. I mean, few beers at the union is absolutely fine. We'll have a chat, dish the latest gossip on the lecturers and even give useful life wisdom on how to get through all the work, given enough beer. But when the night is getting on and someone suggests we all move on, the first consideration for a GTA is that

they probably have not been in a club for months and really have not enough cash or energy to be there, let alone any dance skills. The second is that everyone around them suddenly looks about twelve and the ideal of dancing with them seems a bit cradle-snatchy/icky. I mean, you're lovely kids and all, and I would love to work with you in the future... but my future at this point is getting the hell out of here.

Of mice and research, the Imperial festival, learning and voting

Felix
Editor-In-Chief



This week College took another step in the right direction on the journey of animal research by signing the Concordat on Animal Research, a document that promises transparency and openness about animal experimentation. College is trying to shed the murky allegations raised by the BUAV (British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection) last year during an undercover operation that led to scrutiny by the national press and former alumni.

having commissioned an independent report and acted on its findings, there will still be some way to go before suspicions are fully alleviated.

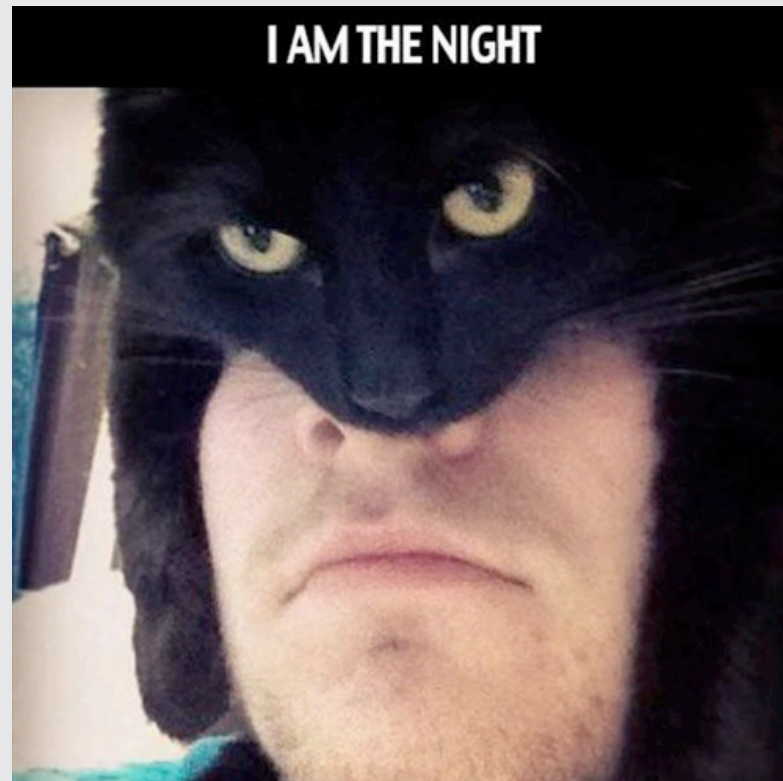
Last weekend the Imperial Festival took over campus in all of its marquee glory, with students and staff coming together to help explain science to the general public. As it turns out science can be confusing, even we were confused sometimes, although it was amazing to discover all the cool things going on at Imperial, a lot of which you don't get to see during the course of your undergraduate degree. And the children, so many children; they can remind one of the childlike curiosity inside those of us who really enjoy their craft, discovering new areas of knowledge with wonder!

student experience, with stories appearing about the effectiveness of current accepted teaching methods, the publication of the results from the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey, as well as some reports in national media suggesting that one-in-five students are unhappy with the standards of teaching at their university. With all this in mind, when the Imperial survey and feedback season starts (if it hasn't already) don't forget that it gives you a chance to have your opinions heard (albeit in the form of what you agree or disagree with most, or hold no strong opinion on – there must be another way).

Finally, 22 May approaches, and with it the party election broadcasts, as each side tries to tell you why you should vote them into seats at the European Parliament. Don't forget to have your say!

While College has made progress,

This week was also the week of





Joanna Hogg's masterpiece



Exhibition

Director: Joanna Hogg

Writer: Joanna Hogg

Starring: Viv Albertine, Liam Gillick, Tom Hiddleston, Harry Kershaw, Mary Roscoe

Runtime: 104 minutes

Certification: 15

Fred Fyles

Treasured Writer

The biography of British director Joanna Hogg is a strange one indeed: mentored by legendary avant-gardiste Derek Jarman during the 1970s, she won a scholarship to the National Film and Television School, where she took a chance on unknown actor Tilda Swinton for her graduate piece. And then? Twenty years of relative obscurity spent directing episodes of TV series, and TV-movies. If the story ended here, it would be little surprise - after all, many creative people are never given the opportunity to realise their visions. But in 2008, exactly two decades after graduating, Hogg released her first feature length film *Unrelated* to rave acclaim; seemingly coming from nowhere, here was a director with a completely formed style, a direct successor to Eric Rohmer. Her next film, *Archipelago*, released in 2010, only served to further her formidable reputation, and this year sees the release of her *Exhibition*, which could be her most accomplished film to date.

Exhibition revolves around the artist couple of D (Viv Albertine) and H (Liam Gillick), as they prepare to move out of the home they have shared for the last 18 years; while this could easily be the whole *raison d'être* of the film, in *Exhibition* the stresses that the move brings are just the tip of an iceberg of insecurities and doubts that lie at the core of the relationship. D is becoming increasingly unsure of her work, which mainly comprises performance art. Refusing the advice her husband offers to give her, she spends much of her days alone in her studio, obsessively trying to recreate Bernini's sculpture *The Ecstasy of Saint Theresa* with herself as the main subject - Renaissance meets Cindy Sherman. From the solitude of her red-walled room she can hear her husband moving around upstairs; with the house acting as a kind of giant amplification device, every little creak and moan shatters the silence, forming an air of constant menace.

The couple are trapped in the modernist bubble of their palatial house; all plate glass and white walls, it is a paragon of what French architect Le Corbusier called 'a machine for living'. Hogg places the audience in the role of the voyeur, and herself takes the part of a scientist, meticulously examining the trappings of their artistic life through a camera-come-microscope. As with *Unrelated* and *Archipelago*, Hogg dissects a very particular strain of the British upper-middle class, revealing their insecurities, their neuroses, their weaknesses; however, Hogg never paints a malicious picture, and *Exhibition* is as far from a satire as you can get. The couple are never shown

in a bad light, nor in a good one - they are simply shown. This simple reversal of expectations is a key concept in Hogg's films, which - through slow, languorous shots - reveal to us what has been there all along.

While the couple are cut off from the outside world - something that Hogg makes clear through a running theme of off-centre shots, with characters seen through windows, obscured by blinds, and from behind - they are also cut off from each other. Throughout the film they are mostly separate. They spend most of their time alone in their respective studios, and have set up an intercom system so that they can minimise face-to-face interaction, speaking of a love that is never expressed in person.

They are not only cut off emotionally, but sexually too. D consistently rebuffs H's advances, and when she finally relents she just lays there, corpse-like, until H is forced to admit defeat. Later on she places on a pair of stilettos, and furiously masturbates alone while her husband slumbers next to her. In another scene, alone in her studio, she masturbates again using a corner of her stool. Hogg has stated her interest in Objectum-Sexuality, the sexual attraction to objects, and this is clearly something that feeds into the film. For D the house is much more than a mere object. We are presented with a series of shots of her hugging the contours of the house, as if she to become one with it - is it part of her performance art, or does this reveal something else about the nature of their relationship? Hogg isn't telling.

In many ways the film revolves more

around what is missing, as opposed to what is present. The most obvious example is children; the couple, both of whom are in their 50s, are childless, a sore spot which is emphasised by shots of youth cycling past, and their neighbour's tactless chatter about how their house is not right for children. Hogg presents the idea of children as both a missed opportunity for the couple, but also a threat, hovering omnipresent over their lives. Similarly, their decision to sell the house, to pack up and move, is never explained. Money is only ever mentioned in the most oblique fashion, and the couple seem to have invested so much emotionally in the house that it seems incredibly unusual for them to leave.

Then there is the issue of D's mental health; clearly affected by some kind of traumatic incident in the past, she seems to have developed both agoraphobia, and an crippling fear of her husband leaving the house. Hogg gives no concession to the viewer, and - as D's grasp on reality seems to slip - it becomes more and more difficult to tell what is real and what is not. At one point we enter a dream sequence of D's, in which she leaves the house to deliver a talk; what follows is a Lynchian nightmare: 10 minutes of unsettling scenes, which for me spilled over into sheer horror.

The characters seem to be in constant internal agony; they are in agony when they have dinner with their neighbours, and D fakes a fainting spell in order to leave; they are in agony when together, consumed with resentment; and they are in agony most of all when alone, facing their solitary torment. Hogg creates an atmosphere

of unrelenting tension, and manages to keep the film at what seems like constant emotional breaking point.

While I could wax lyrical about this film for many more pages (I can totally see the film forming the basis of numerous essays on British cinema in the years to come), I will instead briefly mention a couple more things that make this film unique: firstly, there is the sound design. Working with long-time collaborator Jovan Ajder, Hogg makes use of a middle distance recording system. It is as if we are listening to the characters through a bell jar, or underwater, further highlighting the running theme of isolation and observation. The sound effects used are pitch-perfect, and Hogg & Ajder are meticulous in their attention to detail. The other feature of note is Hogg's decision to use non-professional actors for the parts of H (Gillick is a conceptual artist) and D (Albertine is best known as the guitarist for all-female band The Slits); despite their lack of formal training, both actors bring an extreme realism to their roles, amplifying the emotional power of the film.

It seems somewhat strange to use the word *auteur* to describe Hogg; how could that most French of words wrap itself around what is a singularly British approach to cinema? But truly no other word will do. Along with other luminaries such as Steve McQueen and Clio Barnard, Hogg form the nucleus of a new wave of British film making. With her eye for detail, and relentless control over her vision, Hogg is an *auteur* in the truest sense, and *Exhibition* is no less than a masterpiece

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Camera d'Or winner



Ilo Ilo

Director: Anthony Chen

Writer: Anthony Chen

Starring: Koh Jia Ler, Angeli Bayani, Tian Wen Chen, Yann Yann Yeo, Jo Kukathas

Runtime: 99 minutes

Certification: 12A

Fred Fyles

Treasured Writer

Ilo Ilo, Anthony Chen's touching, naturalistic portrayal of family life in 1990s Singapore, has finally touched down in the UK, nearly a whole year after winning critical acclaim at the Cannes Film Festival. Incredibly accomplished for a first feature, Chen's possession of the Camera d'Or prize for the best debut feature at Cannes puts him in the exalted company of directors such as Jim Jarmusch, Steve McQueen, and Miranda July; a sure indication that he is one to watch in the development of East Asian cinema.

Ilo Ilo revolves around a single family unit in Singapore, who are battered by the 1997 Financial Crisis; with one horrific child wreaking havoc at home, and another on the way, parents Teck and Hwee Leng (portrayed by Chen Tianwen and Yeo Yann Yann respectively) decide that a live-in maid is needed to help cope with the strain. This heralds the arrival of Theresa (Angeli Bayani), a Filipino migrant who has left her year-old infant behind in order to carve out a better life in this tiger economy; her presence acts as a focus for the film's drama, which delicately explores the relation-

ships between parent & child, mother & father, and maid & family.

It doesn't take long for Chen to reveal to us that the family is in trouble; Teck has lost his job as a salesman and, in a move that is reminiscent of Kurosawa's *Tokyo Sonata*, struggles to hide the fact from his family. To complicate matters, he has also secretly taken up smoking, adding a quite literal flame to this hotbed of tensions. Meanwhile Hwee Leng is keeping secrets of her own; stuck in a dull office, typing up pink slips for her colleagues, she has resorted to shelling out what little money they have remaining on a self-help scheme which turns out to be a scam. With his parents' attention focussed elsewhere, their child, Jiale (Koh Jia Ler) has begun acting out at both school and home. Initially caustic towards Theresa, their relationship softens after she covers for him in front of the parents, and they begin to develop a quasi-mother-son bond. Jiale begins to refer to her as 'Auntie Terry', a move which infuriated Hwee Leng to no end.

Dramatic, but never hammy, the main actors bring a sense of naturalism to their performances, making the film completely believable. While the characters themselves do not change much during the course of the film - there are no major epiphanies or revelations - their relationships with one another evolve slowly, as do our perceptions of them. Special mention must go to Koh Jia Ler, who manages to make Jiale seem - and this is an understatement - like a complete little shit, but still manages to evoke sympathy from the audience. Bayani also puts in a star turn as Theresa, who copes with estrangement from her child and homeland with extreme dignity and stoicism.

While the themes explored in the film seem pretty universal, I am sure that there were moments of the film that - while lost on me - would ring true to a Singaporean audience. The view of Singapore that Chen gives is not a pretty one, and seems miles away from the hyperactive metropolis it is presented as today. Working with cinematographer Benoit Soler, Chen paints a picture of Singapore in muted greys and beige, a reflection of the state of the nation following the 1997 crash, which placed many middle-class families under enormous pressure. But through this doom and gloom, Chen conjures up numerous beautiful images, tempering the bittersweet nature of the feature.

In *Ilo Ilo*, Chen uses the camera to make a comment on society; he takes the example of a single family, and uses it to explore the values and fears of a whole nation. While it never descends into crude satire, *Ilo Ilo* seems to me to be a critique of the neoliberalist, hyper-capitalist society that existed during the late-90s. The main tensions in the film - outside the relationship between Theresa and her employers - revolve around money: obtaining it, giving it, using it as a social currency. Wealth and greed form the central catalyst, driving forward the plot, but Chen never makes the characters seem like anything other than victims of circumstance, something which is extremely difficult to achieve.

While the basic premise may sound simple, scratch beneath the surface of *Ilo Ilo*, and you'll find that it is much more than the sum of its parts. Chen has deftly crafted this domestic drama with a lightness of touch, and created an impressive first feature. *Ilo Ilo* is certainly a film to watch, and Anthony Chen is a director to keep your eye on.

Imperial College Cinema

We have multiple cinematic treats in store for you this week as not one but three critically acclaimed films both new and old arrive at Beit Quad this week!

The Grand Budapest Hotel: Tuesday 18:30 20th of May/Thursday 21:15 22nd of May

Her: Tuesday 20:45 20th of May/Thursday 18:30 22nd of May

£3 Members/£4 Non-Members

Aliens: Wednesday 19:00 21st of May
£3 ICSF/Cinema Members/£4 Non-Members



The Grand Budapest Hotel

Directors: Wes Anderson

Writers: Wes Anderson, Hugo Guinness

Starring: Ralph Fiennes, F. Murray Abraham, Mathieu Almaric, Adrien Brody, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, Harvey Keitel, Jude Law, Bill Murray, Edward Norton, Saoirse Ronan, Jason Schwartzman, Lea Seydoux, Tilda Swinton, Tom Wilkinson, Owen Wilson

Runtime: 100 minutes

Certification: 15

The Grand Budapest Hotel is Wes Anderson's latest and whilst all the Anderson trademarks are there (impeccable styling and production design, classical music), the film is a hilarious send up of the European aristocracy masquerading as a whodunit centered around the mysterious disappearance of wealthy socialite Madame D. However, underneath the façade of ornate décor and frivolity, *Grand Budapest* doesn't shy away darker themes and deeper emotional truths.



Her

Directors: Spike Jonze

Writer: Spike Jonze

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Scarlett Johansson, Amy Adams, Olivia Wilde, Rooney Mara

Runtime: 126 minutes

Certification: 15

Spike Jonze (*Adaptation*, *Being John Malkovich*) has a reputation for creating excitingly creative and offbeat films which challenge viewers to think differently. In this respect, *Her* aka *Siri: The Movie*, is no different. Joaquin Phoenix stars an introverted, soon-to-be-divorced writer who falls in love with Samantha, his operating system (Scarlett Johansson). A seemingly gimmicky concept actually offers thoughtful meditations on love and intimacy in all its forms.



Aliens

Directors: James Cameron

Writer: James Cameron

Starring: Sigourney Weaver, Michael Biehn, Carrie Henn

Runtime: 137 minutes

Certification: 18

Imperial College Science Fiction Society is putting on a special screening of the sci-fi classic *Aliens*, sequel to *Alien*. Ripley (the lone survivor of space freighter *Nostromo*) returns to the planet where her demised crew first encountered the Alien creature, accompanied by colonial marines to investigate but as is often the case, things do not go according to plan.

FILM

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



Locke's collapse



Locke

Director: Steven Knight
Writer: Steven Knight
Starring: Tom Hardy, Olivia Colman, Ruth Wilson
Runtime: 85 minutes
Certification: 15



Jack Steadman

Treasured Writer

Locke is an intriguing premise. Set entirely in the cabin of a BMW (bar a few brief seconds of Locke climbing into his car at the very beginning), and with only one character (the eponymous Ivan Locke) ever visible in the form of a bearded, be-cardiganed Tom Hardy. Everyone else appears in voice only, speaking through Locke's phone. A big name cast (and a talented one), hidden behind a screen. It's audacious, if nothing else.

It's also a concept that errs dangerously close to being something that looks intriguing (and therefore 'good') on paper, but stumbles and trips over itself in real life, ending up in a head-on collision with a lorry-full of mediocrity. Fortunately, *Locke* delivers, smoothly accelerating past mediocrity into something far more interesting (I'll stop with the motorway metaphors now).

Writer/director Steven Knight's script is a tightly-wound concoction, a short, sharp burst of 85 minutes (a mixed blessing – the film never outstays its welcome, and the length is

tied perfectly to the journey itself into London, but you almost want to see more) that watches as Locke's carefully controlled life, a delicately designed middle finger to his absentee father, crumbles apart in the face of his determination to do the right thing.

The slow-motion collapse of Locke's life (although it's an impressively fast collapse, truth be told) is masterfully tense – details are withheld to be worked out by the audience, dropped as they are firmly in medias res – as cock-ups occur, and myriad obstacles are thrown in Locke's path, from family, from work, from the past. The conversations roam from desperate attempts to save a marriage, recounting the events of the big football match on television that night, to long-distance manipulation of an operation with zero margin for error, with every second handled beautifully by Hardy.

Without his riveting, magnetic central performance, the film would be adrift. He anchors everything, blending humanity, pragmatism, warmth and conflict to create a character that feels unflinchingly real. You want him to succeed. You will him to. As the various supporting characters (including an excellent Olivia Coleman, continuing her streak of being in every British film ever, and an unrecognisable Andrew Scott) help, hinder or hate him, Locke's struggles manage to touch on themes far greater than him. As the lights of the other cars on the motorway rush past, blurring into one another, smearing into streaks of colour, it slowly starts to sink that this is far more than a film about a man in a car. It is a film about families, about loyalties, about whether the right thing to do is truly the best thing to do, a film that questions the costs, the consequences, of our actions.

Bad boy bad boy

Bad Neighbours

Director: Nicholas Stoller
Writers: Andrew J. Cohen, Brendan O'Brien
Starring: Seth Rogen, Rose Byrne, Zac Efron, Dave Franco
Runtime: 96 minutes
Certification: 15



Jack Steadman

Treasured Writer

It's comedy season again, and things are kicking off in the most family-unfriendly way possible (in both a literal 'this is a crude comedy' and 'this is a comedy where unfriendly acts are committed against a family' sense) with this new Seth Rogen vehicle, also featuring Zac Efron continuing to embrace his post-High School Musical role as a comic actor (*17 Again*, all those years ago, seems to have just been the start).

It quickly becomes apparent, however, that despite what the poster may claim, this is a film featuring far more than just Rogen and Efron, despite both being on top form – Rogen

plays against type to a degree, as the beleaguered new father (albeit a new father who remains somewhat of an overgrown man-child), while Efron embraces the ability to simultaneously have a ball re-starting his career on what would appear to be his own terms while poking fun at as many aspects of his past as he can.

Alongside Rogen as the other half of the family is Rose Byrne, who successfully matches him beat-for-beat, mixing it up nicely between panicky new mother and a brilliantly manipulative vixen, while Efron is accompanied by Dave Franco, who makes it two out of two for putting in solid appearances in great comedies (the first being, of course, the impeccable *21 Jump Street*).

It's certainly a strong central cast, but it gets even better when the view widens to the surroundings – Craig Roberts puts in another stellar, if depressingly small, turn, while several well-known faces from the lands of TV comedies making appearances throughout (most notably in the form of historical flashbacks to the invention of various university traditions).

All this combined with some fantastic setups for ridiculous scenarios (although what's weird is the fact that *Monsters Uni* managed to successfully lampoon more college/uni stereotypes) makes for a comedy that proves more hit than miss – even the weaker

scenes are fairly smirk worthy, and the fact the film successfully dodges most of the jokes from the trailers leaves almost all the punchlines a (hilarious) surprise.

Sure, events are a little contrived – the story runs out of steam about halfway through with what looks to be an early resolution, and needs a bit of a logic leap combined with a sudden change in character motivation (that makes a kind of sense in terms of Rogen as man-child, but not in the context of the story) to get things going again. The epilogue scene feels equally contrived – it's funny, and almost touching in its own way, but it feels shoe-horned in to give the characters a better degree of closure that doesn't really feel deserved.

There are few other flaws that immediately leap out with *Bad Neighbours*. The directing is sound, the music choices logical, and everything mostly makes sense. The story failures aren't forgivable in the story-telling 101 stakes, but they are in terms of how damaging they prove to the overall comedy – which is to say, not at all. The film remains hilarious on the whole, and the strong cast gives it their all to make it so, although I'm not sure if it's a compliment or a criticism to say the baby (or rather, babies, with twins playing the same girl) threatens to steal the entire show with the quality of her acting.



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The big hit of Sundance 2014

Frank

Director: Leonard Abrahamson

Writers: Jon Ronson, Peter Straughan

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Domhnall Gleeson, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Scoot McNairy, Tess Harper

Runtime: 95 minutes

Certification: 15



Jack Steadman

Treasured Writer

The opening lines of *Frank* are a mixture of odd noises and half-formed (and utterly atrocious) lyrics, providing an amusing and wry look at the plight of the artist in search of inspiration, and the vague sense of despair and frustration that arises from your apparent stroke of genius turning out to just be another piece of utter tripe.

Such is the existence confronting

Domhnall Gleeson's Jon, the semi-autobiographical representation of writer Jon Ronson (his experiences with Frank Sidebottom and his band being the inspiration for the entire story) in a small seaside British town. Until he happens to see the keyboard player for the Soronprfbs attempting to drown himself with the rest of the band watching, kicking off a chain of events that sees Jon invited to join the band in isolation as they attempt to record the first album, all while dancing around the mental health issues that plague each of them in different ways.

It's that dalliance with serious issues that leaves *Frank* somewhat uncertain in tone, crashing between scarily serious moments, black comedy and outright surreal humour so fast it gets whiplash and has to spend the occasional drawn-out scene recovering. Much of the humour bears a deadpan streak, and a lot of it is genuinely funny (although in several cases it's a case of laughter being the only way to process what's happening on screen), playing well on the awkwardness and sheer absurdity of its premise and the events that follow.

It makes great use of a talented cast, with Michael Fassbender taking up

the paper-mâché head (it's almost the opposite of *Locke* in a way – there, only the main character was given a face, here everyone but the main character has one) and still imbuing it with an impossible degree of character. The face itself is utterly hilarious, with its blank, expressionless outlook combined with Fassbender's physical control often making its mere presence comedy gold. Gleeson nails his characters transition from lonely outsider to delusional egotist, while Maggie Gyllenhaal and Scoot McNairy sink their teeth into roles that offer them a vast range of conflicting emotions to show off, as the film avoids toppling over into exploitation of mental illness by offering genuine sympathy to their respective plights.

The music is – as is perhaps to be expected from a film that delights in the wacky – wonderfully surreal and odd-ball, if surprisingly good for it (Jon's attempts at song-writing aside), and the closing musical number manages to pack a surprising emotion punch considering its lyrical content. It's perhaps a good representation of the film itself – deliriously off-beat, with no instant, obvious appeal, and yet weirdly alluring.



The Governor's war on drugs



Sabotage

Director: David Ayer

Writers: Skip Woods, David Ayer

Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sam Worthington, Terrence Howard, Joe Manganiello, Josh Holloway, Max Martini, Mireille Enos, Olivia Williams

Runtime: 109 minutes

Certification: 15



Jack Steadman

Treasured Writer

The director of *End of Watch* (an interesting take on police films that didn't quite succeed) combining with one of two classic 80s action heroes suffering a string of mediocre to terrible films certainly sounds like a recipe for what could either be an interesting addition to the world of action films, or yet another ball of badly written and choppy edited action scenes that

may or may not be related to one another. *Sabotage's* opening suggests it could manage to be something like the former, offering a grim excuse for Arnie to showcase his acting chops (nothing special, but the fact he's allowed to flex them at all is cause for celebration), before immediately kicking into top gear as Arnie's team blow open a cartel mansion.

The violence on screen pushes the limits of the film's 15 certificate, adopting a *The Raid*-lite approach to carnage with plenty of gore and bullets doing actual damage (even if there is a significant case of bad henchman aim), joining the likes of *Lone Survivor* in 'grittily real action films', albeit with slightly more of a sense of humour, however unintentional said humour may be.

Certainly, the actual 'humour' on display is (mostly) somewhat sub-par, with the one-liners falling flat and the banter between the team members alternating between nasty and dull, with the real joy to be found in the way *Sabotage* gleefully ticks off every box it can think of on the list of action movie clichés. There's an element of the whole thing being played with a straight face (and at times the tone

of the script seems to be demanding it is), but it's just too ridiculous to truly be 'realistic' (unlike *Lone Survivor*, which abandoned all humour in the name of brutal realism) and it knows it. Military jargon abounds, with all the clichéd phrases you'd expect being yelled out at every opportunity – the cast seem to know what kind of film they're making, even if the script doesn't.

The cast are, in fact, probably the best thing about the whole film, especially Arnie, who gives what is easily his best performance in years as the under-fire leader of the team coping with a horrifying loss. The team as a whole suffer slightly from a lack of in-depth characterisation, with most of the work being delegated to their appearance and nicknames, meaning their deaths are less affecting for the audience than they are for the team, and there's a weird feeling about the way the film handles its female characters that's a little hard to shake or pin down (both the main females are strong, driven and capable of winning their battles, which is good, but there's no real sense of respect and they're either vilified or used by the male characters).

The plot does itself no favours, although it does at least manage to avoid some of the obvious pitfalls or potential story options (mainly by just splitting up one cliché into two, which is honestly about as clever as this film gets), but it's an entertaining enough ride if you can overlook the fact that it's built on one massive, very singular, very (very, very, very) impossible contrivance that could not, in any way, happen (I'd say that you should play a game of 'spot the contrivance' but it's so glaringly obvious I might as well just give a prize to everyone). Suffice to say: I spent almost all of the film wondering whether I'd missed something really important in the first ten minutes (I hadn't, I checked). With a bit more thought, a bit more time, and someone actually standing up and going 'this is rubbish, come up with something better', *Sabotage* could have been pretty good. As it is, it just sort of is. Which I guess does the trick.





Imperial's Fabulous Fashionistas of the Week

Cécile Borkhataria explores our campus which is teeming with stylish guys and gals, and what better way to share their fashion inspiration than to have them pose for Felix and tell us all about where they get their ideas and cool outfits?

Jack Parkinson



FELIX FASHION/CECILE BORKHATARIA

Meet Jack Parkinson, a 4th year physicist. As I sat on one of the tables outside the union bar, I was hoping to find a well dressed man for my final picture of the day, and low and behold - he was there on the bench outside the bar. As I approached him and asked if he'd like to be featured in Felix, he seemed shy, yet flattered and eager to tell me about his style, and the fact that he own 20 pairs of shoes! Impressive for a man of Imperial.

When I asked Jack where he got his fashion inspiration from, he replied 'I just wear things I like'. After some thought, his friend mentions that he is 'super preppy'. That's debatable. Jack tells me he loves to shop at Reiss and Zara, staple brands for those who embrace the smart casual look. Jack doesn't have any fashion icons (smells like lies, I bet he wishes he was Ryan Gosling), and he describes his style as unconventional.

So the big question is, where did he get his threads from?

Red scarf: United Colours of Benetton

Shoes: Barkers

Socks (he got excited about his socks): Marks and Spencer

Knitted trousers: Zara

Watch: Emporio Armani

T-shirt: Zara (he thinks, but he told me he was too shy to take it off and check.)

As I thank him and make my way back to my table, he calls me and says 'actually, can you add quirky to my style description?' So there you have it, Jack Parkinson is THE unconventional quirk. I couldn't have put it better myself.

Nafisa Zakaria



FELIX FASHION/CECILE BORKHATARIA

Nafisa Zakaria is a masters student at Imperial's business school, studying innovation, entrepreneurship and management (what a mouthful!) I spotted her on a sunny day in Prince's Gardens. She was with her business school team and I simply had to have her in this spread. She beamed when I asked her if she'd like her picture in an article about Imperial's best dressed.

As she stood up for the picture, my brother, Guillaume Borkhataria, on her course and team, told her how to pose so that the picture would look 'just right'. A degree in film production does make you a perfectionist when it comes to these things, but the pose is just fabulous, and isn't her smile infectious?

Nafisa doesn't get her fashion inspiration from any place in particular, for her, it's innate. Massimo Dutti and Burberry are amongst her favourite brands. She describes her dress sense as 'boyish, classic chic'. Her choice of beige hues is indeed very chic. Audrey Hepburn is reborn in this lady!

Nafisa got here beautiful outfit from many of our favourite stores:

Jacket: Zara

Sweater: Massimo Dutti

Shoes: Zara

Sunglasses: Ray Ban

Bag: Longchamp (le pliage)

As I leave she thanks me and excitedly asks me when the story goes to print. Here it is darling, keep doing Imperial proud with your sense of style!

Thomas Davis-Díaz



FELIX FASHION/CECILE BORKHATARIA

Thomas, a first year Biochemist and perhaps one of the most eccentric and fabulously dressed men I've ever met, owns his style with confidence and attitude. When I asked Thomas where he gets his inspiration from, he told me that he has no icons or specific sources of inspiration, he 'defines himself' and his own style. He would describe his style as 'East London meets West London'.

He likes to incorporate chic polished coats and accessories with trainers and other eccentric shoes like silver sandals. His silver sandals are so flashy that he even got complemented by one of the guys from the mormon church on exhibition road! You know you've got style when even the suited missionaries of Christ are checking you out.

He has no favourite designers in particular, and generally shuns the mainstream fashion world in favour of lesser known creative individuals. Tom prefers to dress himself in clothes from hidden gem designers, those that are still emerging in the fashion world. For everyday basics though, he swears by Cos.

The clothes he's wearing in this picture are from an eclectic mix of high street and designer brands.

Shoes: Superga

Coat: Ermenegildo Zegna

Cigarette holder (which oh-so fabulously pulls together the look): Harrods

Sunglasses: Benjamin eyewear

Socks: asos

As I show Tom the pictures, he insists that I pick this one because it 'captures his best side' and the all-important cigarette holder. He doesn't do fashion darling, he is fashion.

Alex Naccache



FELIX FASHION/CECILE BORKHATARIA

Alex, a feisty Lebanese chick, is a first year mechanical engineering student here. Her name isn't quite pronounced how you think though. You see in Lebanon they speak French, so this lady's name is pronounced 'Ah -leks'.

Alex gets a lot of her fashion inspiration from magazines, especially vogue and Elle.

Her favourite designers are TopShop (the girl loves it, most of her outfit comes from the shopping heaven), Zara, dsquared2 and Prada.

Alex describes her style as comfortable and breezy, and it's true, I often see her in loose dresses and stylish oversized sweaters.

Her fashion icons are mainly models, like Agnes Dean and Alexa Chung. These girls know how look effortlessly cool, just like Alex. So where does she get her trendy garbs from?

Cropped top: TopShop

Jeans: TopShop

Jacket: Levi's

Shoes: Superga

Sunglasses: Prada

Bag: Marc Jacobs

Can't get enough fashion? Why not head to the Royal College of Art graduate fashion show on the 28th of May at 4pm. Tickets available at:
www.rca.ac.uk/fashionticket

Join us!
tiny.cc/icjudo



Judo: the "gentle" way

IPDOP

**Friday
16 May**

Metric
20:00-02:00

Entry
£2.50

THE Summer Ball 2014
DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Wednesday 21 May

12:00 - 16:00

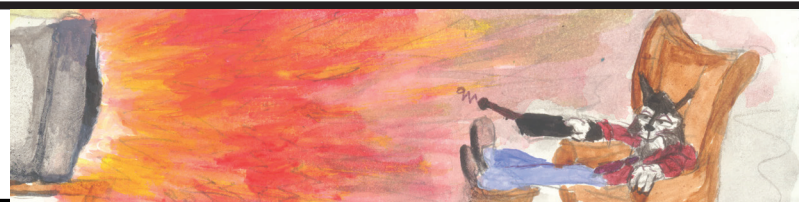
The Queen's Lawn

**Giant games, giveaways, picnic mats
and more!**

Let's really mad here!

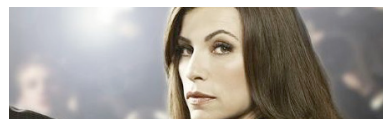
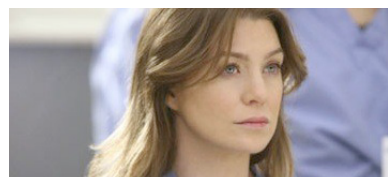
imperialcollegeunion.org/summerball

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2013-14 television renewals

May is the month television fans find out whether their favourite shows are back for another season. Here's the rundown of some of 2013-14 season's main primetime news.



The leading ladies of ABC certainly have lots of reasons to celebrate. Olivia Pope (Kerry Washington) and her crisis management firm OPA will be back for a fourth season of *Scandal*, country singers Rayna James (Connie Britton) and Juliette Barnes (Hayden Panettiere) of *Nashville* will sing for us once more in season three, Emily Thorne (Emily VanCamp) and Victoria Grayson (Madeleine Stowe) will return to battle it out once more in the deliciously trashy *Revenge*, going into its fourth season now, Storybrooke and its residents, namely Emma Swan (Jennifer Morrison), Mary Margaret (Ginnifer Goodwin) and Regina (Lana Parrilla), have yet another magical curse to face off against, when *Once Upon a Time* returns for a fourth season, and going into its impressive eleventh season is Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) and her merry band of horny doctors working in the wildly promiscuous work environment of Grey Sloan Memorial Hospital in ABC's long-running hit, *Grey's Anatomy*.



Also renewed, is the high-rated sitcom *Modern Family* (not surprising, given it's already won back-to-back best comedy series awards at the Emmys four years in a row), *Resurrection*, ABC's breakout freshman show that gave the network some decent numbers on Sundays, plus superhero drama *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, that didn't turn out as amazing as people had originally hoped.

Bad news for some comedy shows that faced the axe, Rebel Wilson couldn't quite work her magic on television with *Super Fun Night*, whereas *Trophy Wife*, *Mixology*, *Back in the Game* were all booted off too. Soapy thriller *Betrayal* which hoped to gain some lead-in audience on Sundays from *Revenge* never caught on, the awful *Killer Women* got canned after just six episodes posting terrible ratings, *The Assets*, *Mind Games*, and *Lucky 7* also faced the chop. *Once Upon a Time*'s spin-off show, *Once Upon a Time in Wonderland* is also missing out on a second season, though the show's star Michael Socha is set to join the original show in its new season.

Crime procedurals are still going as strong as ever over in CBS, with a long list of renewals for *CSI* (season 15!), *NCIS* (season 12!), *Criminal Minds* (season 10!), *NCIS: Los Angeles* (season 6) (in fact, the *NCIS* series is so damn successful they're doing another spin-off, *NCIS: New Orleans*), *Person of Interest* (season 4), *The Mentalist* (season 7), *Hawaii Five-0* (season 5), *Elementary* (season 3), and *Blue Bloods* (season 5). *The Good Wife* is also getting a sixth season (hurrah!) which is no doubt the best news this network could have offered. CBS has certainly done incredibly well in its long-running shows, picking a fresh genre of episodic shows for its audience to enjoy.



Number 1 comedy *The Big Bang Theory* was renewed for not one, but three more seasons, because the show is really doing that well. Even without Charlie Sheen, there is no stopping *Two and a Half Men*, as it would appear Ashton Kutcher is a good enough replacement for the controversial star. The show is going into its 12th season now. Freshman comedies *Mom*, starring the excellent duo of Allison Janney and Anna Faris, and *The Millers* will return for sophomore seasons. Kat Dennings and Beth Behrs will keep up with their baking, as *2 Broke Girls* was renewed for a fourth season, with Melissa McCarthy and Billy Gardell returning as the plus-sized, adorable couple *Mike & Molly*.



Cancelled is the good but uneven and ever-so slightly wordy and over-the-top *The Crazy Ones*, which was led by the great Robin Williams, comedies *Bad Teacher* (based on the film of the same name), *We Are Men* and *Friends with Better Lives*, along with thrillers *Hostages* (better left alone as a stand-alone season, so this cancellation is great news) and *Intelligence*.



Teen channel the CW has successfully tapped into what teenage girls like most these days: good looking dudes, the supernatural, and mainly, vampires. And so the shows the tick these boxes have given their worthy renewals. The Winchester brothers (Jensen Ackles, Jared Padalecki) will live to fight demons once again in *Supernatural*'s tenth season, Salvatore vampire brothers Stefan (Paul Wesley) and Damon (Ian Somerhalder) will continue to pine for Elena's (Nina Dobrev) affection in *The Vampire Diaries*' sixth season, the show's spin-off *The Originals*, focusing on "original vampires" (whatever the hell that means) is getting a second season, and a modern retelling of the story *Beauty and the Beast* will return in a reduced episode capacity (13, instead of the usual 20+), for what will presumably be the show's final season.



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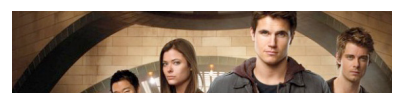
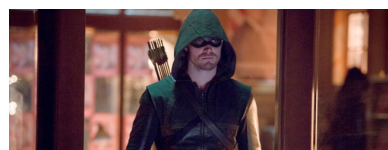
TELEVISION

Renewal and cancellation

rite shows will be back for another season or not. So here is network shows and how well they are faring over in the States.



Two freshman shows are set to return; the surprisingly good *Reign*, a reimagined tale of Mary Queen of Scots, in which good-looking people breaking up has more consequences than merely broken hearts, as kingdoms and lives hang in the balance. *The 100*, which tasks 100 juvenile delinquents to possibly repopulate Earth after a nuclear war destroyed the planet 97 years prior to the show's events, is deservingly on the network's renewal list.



Popular superhero Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell) and his show *Arrow* is set for season 3, although the happy news could not be shared for Amell's cousin, Robbie Amell, whose show *The Tomorrow People*, which was arguably more interesting than *Arrow*, was cancelled after just one season.



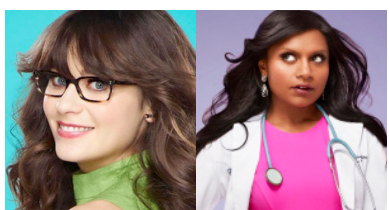
Star-Crossed, which tried too hard to be a clever analogy for modern society and politics, and then failed miserably, will not get a follow-up season, and the network's spectacularly bad idea of adapting *Sex and the City* as some sort of a prequel with *The Carrie Diaries*, is finally getting the axe after two seasons.



Not a huge batch of drama shows to marvel at. *Sleepy Hollow* will return for a second season, the network is refusing to put *The Following* out of its misery, giving the show an ill-advised third season (the Joe Carroll madness has gone on long enough), long-running procedural *Bones* will return for its tenth season, as will *Glee*, a show that is getting progressively worse, for its sixth and final (thank god) season.



FOX is known for its successes with its long-running animated shows. *The Simpsons* will be entering its astonishing season 26, whereas *Family Guy* is set to debut its thirteenth season in autumn 2014.

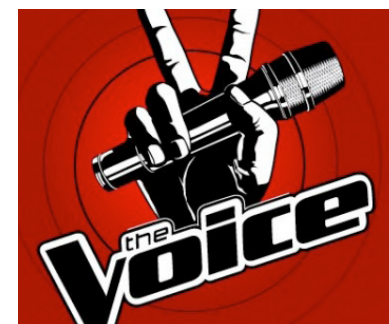


On the comedy front, the network has done better. Golden Globe winning cop comedy *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* has been renewed for a second season, Zooey Deschanel and her quirky sitcom *New Girl* is set to return for its fourth season, and Mindy Kalig, the hyperactive mess of an OBGYN who is entertaining to watch, will be back for *The Mindy Project* in its third season.

What was once the hottest reality television of primetime is no more, although *American Idol* is still getting its fourteenth season despite dwindling audience viewing figures. The same cannot be said for *The X Factor US*. Simon Cowell's plan to take over the States with his own singing talent show is getting pushed out after three years of questionable ratings.



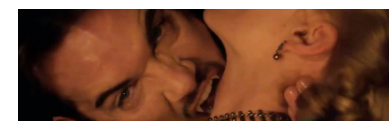
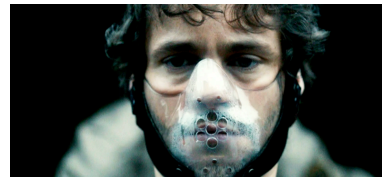
Not coming back for the next television year is the well-reviewed but under-watched military sitcom *Enlisted* which debuted at an awful Friday night slot, as well as the controversial *Dads* which was heavily criticised for its content. Greg Kinnear's comedy vehicle *Rake* hit the lowest of the low viewing figures towards the end of its thirteen-episode run, which explains why FOX decided to dump it. Also canned are *Surviving Jack* and *Raising Hope* the latter of which had a good run (four seasons) and really showed off the comic potential of Garret Dillahunt and Martha Plimpton.



Although posting some dismal numbers as of late, NBC certainly hit the jackpot with *The Voice*, pairing the reality show on Monday nights with its excellent new drama, without doubt the best new series of the 2013/14 season, *The Blacklist*, starring the formidable James Spader. Consistently delivering strong ratings, it came as no surprise when NBC decided to give this show a second season.

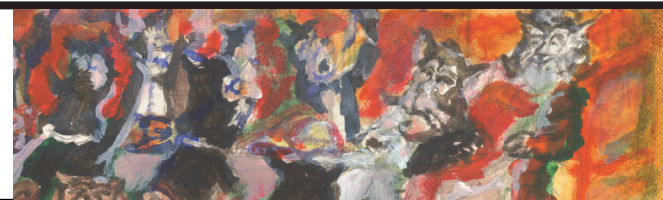


NBC is trying to recreate the franchise success of *Law & Order* with its *Chicago* series and at the moment they have *Chicago Fire* and *Chicago P.D.* going into the third and second seasons respectively.



The darkly chilling, potent thriller *Hannibal* will be back for season 3, starring Mads Mikkelsen in the titular serial-killing cannibal role, with Hugh Dancy trying to lock him up. NBC's answer to ABC's *Once Upon a Time*, *Grimm* is returning for season 4. Comedy shows *Parenthood* and *Parks and Recreation* have both been renewed for their final seasons, so a tearful farewell to those excellent sitcoms.

A long list of shows getting cancelled over at NBC. Michael J. Fox's return to television didn't attract much audience with *The Michael J. Fox Show*, nor was anyone really interested in Sean Hayes' *Sean Saves the World*, Jonathan Rhys Meyers' comeback role as the title character in *Dracula* was met with lukewarm reception, and it would seem the name J. J. Abrams is no longer working its magic on the television screen, as *Revolution* and *Believe*, both executive produced by Abrams, were given the axe. *Crisis*, an absurd thriller starring Dermot Mulroney and Gillian Anderson has also been cut.



Future of urban agriculture?

Felix Food looks where else our lettuce could come from

Space is an issue in a metropolis like London. Roads crowded with cars and pedestrians, with more and more skyscrapers popping up around the capital. As the population in the UK grows, estimated around 70 million by 2028 - many of whom will be living in and around the capital and the major cities, such as Birmingham and Manchester. With less land but more mouths to feed, what would our farms be in the future?

Going high

The idea of vertical farming is not exactly new; in fact, the concept first appeared in 1909, with the first built example in 1951 in Armenia. Since then, vertical farms have sprung up worldwide from Singapore to the UAE. Earlier this year in March, the world's largest vertical farm was opened in Pennsylvania. Despite being single storey covering 3.25 hectares, it will house around 18 millions plants, with the help of six-level stacks, and this is quite easily scalable.

The concept of vertical farming is simple. Plants are lit by artificial lights, most probably LEDs since they are more energy efficient comparing to other technologies, and grown using soil-free hydroponic systems, feeding nutrients through using water. You can perhaps think of it like a greenhouse, but the environment is even more controlled since the "sun"

is powered by electricity.

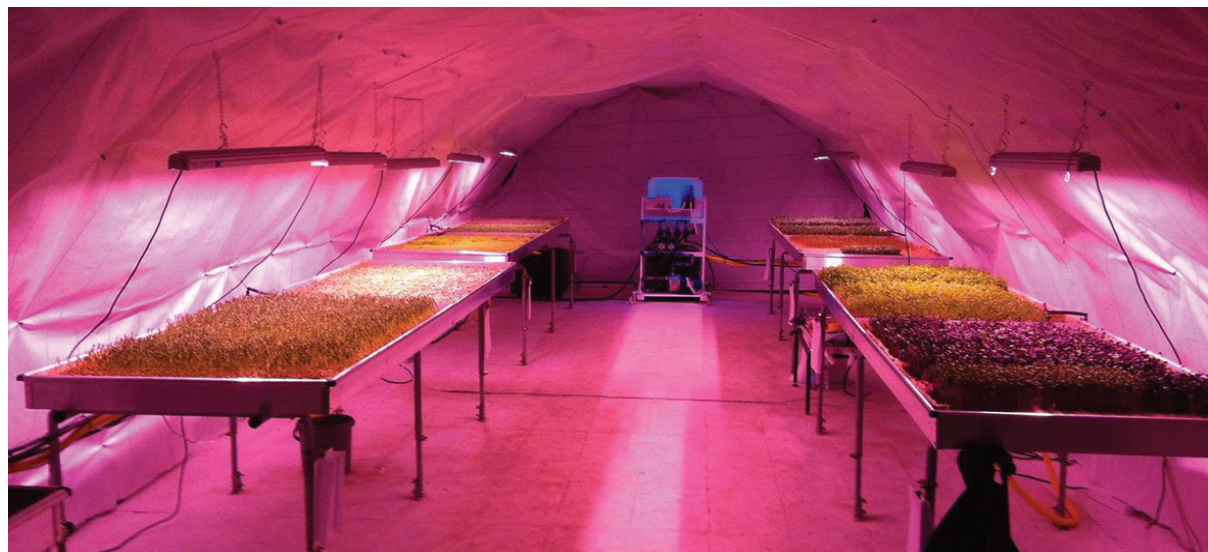
As you can imagine, this method will not only help solve the problem of lack of space in cities, but also possibly increase the crop production since plants are stacked on top of each other, essentially increasing the area of "land" available. Not only that, similar to farming in a greenhouse, the crops can be yielded all year round given the controlled environment, the productivity of the surface is estimated to increase by a factor of 4 to 6 depending on the crop.

The "protected" environment will mean the impact of floods and famines will be decreased considerably and could also lead to the redundancy of pesticides, which would have polluted the environment if not properly treated.

However, there are also issues with this new way of farming - it is just not economical at the moment. With the extra cost of lighting and heating, it may not balance with the savings of transportation costs. Also, if the electricity used is generated by fossil fuels, this means the environment is even more damaged, however much energy efficient the farm might be. Some scientists are also worried about the potential light pollution it may cause when more and more of these structures are built.

Going underground

If buildings might be controversial, how about underground? The idea



London's underground farm looking a bit purple

WIRED.CO.UK

would just be the same, but just below our feet. Two entrepreneurs based in London thought of the same thing, and they have managed to transform a former WWII air raid shelter that is 33 metres under Clapham North tube station into a food garden. Currently micro-herbs and miniature vegetables are grown there, maintained with super low-energy LED bulbs powered by green energy.

Richard Ballard and Steven Dring believe an underground farm would be a profitable and sustainable business. Comparing to an actual building, the rent for the tunnel is just over £1 per square foot, which is really cheap even by student hall standards. Another advantage of growing in the tunnels is

that the natural temperature there is around 16 degrees, which is ideal for growing a range of vegetables.

For now, the herbs grown at the farm will yield a large product - according to Steven, each square metre patch will generate £1,200 per year. This has gone well with the investors, mainly from crowdfunding websites. Currently the food is sold to wholesalers, but it might be on your supermarket shelves soon as production increases - Steven said Whole Foods may be seeking a partnership.

as population increases and land becomes more and more in demand. However, not only we need to sort a business case out, a proper study will also be needed to look into the environmental aspect of the whole project. More so because hydroponic methods especially require a lot of water, and lights are required for 24/7 for the farms to reach full potential.

**What do you think?
Let us know!**

Is this the future?

It is hard to acknowledge the role of these farming methods in the future,

Email
food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Introducing: Stir fry pasta



CAROL ANN CHEAH
#FELIXFOOD

Sharing the Cheah family recipe: Quick, tasty and different!

Boil the pasta until al dente. Try buying good quality pasta, otherwise it is more likely to stick and become a mush when you stir fry it. Drain and reserve the starchy water.

Fry minced garlic in a drop of oil until fragrant - be careful not to let it brown! Then add sliced bacon and chicken (or whatever meat you want to add). Then add your choice of vegetables - here we have carrots, peppers and broccoli. You might need some of that starchy water to help it soften. Don't be scared to add a bit more oil at this point, you need just enough to coat the pasta to make it tasty!

Add some mixed dried herbs, pasta and some shrimp chilli flakes to taste! You can buy them from oriental supermarkets or make your own by crushing dried shrimps with crushed chilli and leave for a few days.

You can add a bit of mushroom bouillon if you want to enhance the flavour. And it's done!



MICHAEL YAT KIT CHUNG

1kg of mini marshmallows were given out to visitors on Saturday.

Did you have a liquid nitrogen cooled marshmallow at the Imperial Festival? If you didn't, the marshmallow was completely edible, even though it was at roughly -200 degrees C.

This is because marshmallow has a low thermal bulk, meaning it takes a lot less energy to heat up, making it suitable for your mouth to eat.

But don't try it at home! Liquid nitrogen can be very dangerous if not handled properly, especially when ingested. A woman who had a cocktail prepared with liquid nitrogen was admitted to hospital and had her stomach removed because the nitrogen rapidly changed into gas and blew the stomach up like a balloon.

Union Page

Union Awards



Celebrating the huge impact and hard work of our volunteers the Union Awards are the annual showcase of the best of Imperial College Union and our membership. This year the Union Awards are a bit different as we look to recognise some of the new services of the Union and the great work that has gone on in those areas. We are also launching our four new main Union Awards:

- ▲ Campaign of the Year
- ▲ Contribution to College Life
- ▲ Innovation & Enterprise
- ▲ Event of the Year

The Union Awards 2014 are nominated by students, decided by students and awarded at our gala event in June.

We need your nominations (which will be supported by a short statement) to help us shortlist students and groups for the Union Awards. This is your chance to tell us why they deserve to win that award; include examples, reasons and any information that will help! Nominate and find out more at www.imperialcollegeunion.org/unionawards. The deadline for nominations is Monday 2 June at midday, so get nominating!

imperialcollegeunion.org/unionawards

Chocolate Meditation?!



This fortnight Stress Less will be bringing Mindfulness Meditation taster sessions to Hammersmith and Charing Cross.

These sessions offer a brief introduction to Mindfulness, comprising of three short meditations - Body Scan, Breathing Space and Chocolate Meditation. They are run by the Chaplaincy Multi-Faith Centre and are open to those of all faiths or none.

▲ Hammersmith Campus - Mindfulness Meditation taster session. Thursday 22 May, 13:15 – 13:45, Wolfson Seminar Room 1. Either turn up or reserve a place at www.imperialcollegeunion.org/stressless.

▲ Charing Cross Campus - Mindfulness Meditation taster session. Friday 23 May, 13:15 – 13:45, Reynolds Basement Room 1. Either turn up or reserve a place at www.imperialcollegeunion.org/stressless.

For a full list of events, relaxation tips, our cute animal of the day and more please visit the website at www.imperialcollegeunion.org/stressless.

imperialcollegeunion.org/stressless

Postgraduates - We need you!



The Postgraduate Elections are the chance for Postgraduate students to nominate and vote for Graduate Students' Union (GSU) Executive Committee positions.

The GSU is Constituent Union of Imperial College Union run by postgrads for postgrad students. All the people responsible for running the GSU are elected by fellow postgraduate students who are automatically members of the GSU. The committee is responsible for all the activities of the GSU which include representing postgraduates within the Union and the College, communicating closely with both the Graduate School and Postgraduate students and organising social events throughout the academic year for the postgraduate community.

From Deputy President (Representation) to Marketing & Publicity, there is a position for everyone. Visit www.imperialcollegeunion.org/pgelections for more information on the positions and elections timetable.

Nominations open on Thursday 22 May.

imperialcollegeunion.org/pgelections

Ask Annie, your friendly Agony Aunt

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



Help! My exams are coming up soon and I think I'm going to fail them. What am I supposed to do?

Stressed in Southwark

Exam season is the most stressful time of the year, and if you aren't careful it can turn into a vicious cycle. The more you worry about it, the harder you find it to work and so the more it makes you worry. Though you want to get in as much revision as possible before the exams, it might be a good idea to take a day off. Curl up in your duvet, watch some trashy television and just relax. Hopefully this will help you feel less stressed, and break the cycle, making the rest of the time before exams much more productive.

Help! I barely used my kitchen for the last few weeks as all I'm doing is sleeping and revising. I feel unhealthy and want to make a change that doesn't take up too much time, what should I do?

Unhealthy in Uxbridge

It's a well-known fact that students can be lazy, with pot noodles and takeaway pizza providing quick and easy meals without all the effort of chopping vegetables and roasting meat. Unfortunately pizza isn't one of your basic food groups, and you are always going to feel a bit grotty if you're not getting everything you need. Try eating something else for once. Fruit is an excellent way to get a bit of extra goodness into your diet without taking the time out of a busy schedule.

Help! I was recently asked out by a guy on my course, and we've been on two dates and have a third organised. However I've recently realised that I'm just not interested in them in that way. Is there a way I can let them down easily?

Leading on in Leicester Square

There is only one thing you can do in this situation. Tell them. They might be a bit hurt now, but that is nothing compared to what it will be like if you keep stringing them along. Let them down nicely, and in person, before any serious emotional attachments form.

Help! I'm a first year Chemical Engineering student and I've realised that my course just isn't the one for me. I don't want the last year to go to waste, but I really hate it. What should I do?

Panicked in Paddington

This is a serious a problem, and not one that a little bit of written advice can properly help with. The best I can offer is to go to your department. You're not the first person to feel like this, and you certainly won't be the last. They should be able to help you work out if it's just the stress from exams that makes you feel like this and sticking with it is the best option or is perhaps a course transfer is the best option.

Help! I'm well known for being sensible, but I recently got drunk and made out with my hall senior in Metric in front of all my friends. Now they keep teasing me, and I feel really ashamed and am too embarrassed to talk to him. What should I do?

Embarrassed in Ealing

Firstly there is no need to be ashamed. You're young, you were drunk and you're at university. These things happen. I know that it might be embarrassing to see them now, but that will get better. And if it doesn't, at least you'll be out of halls soon and probably won't ever have to see them again. Though that probably isn't the healthiest way to deal with things, is it a valid one.

Annie's Editorial: Where should you go for your first date?

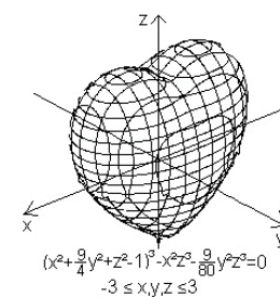
This week Aunt Annie counts down the top three and worst three places to go on a first date.

TOP THREE

- 1) Dinner – Though this might seem a little cliché, things are clichéd for a reason. Make sure you ask what sort of food they like; you might think that something is a safe bet, but everyone likes different food. If you want to change it up slightly, why not go out for pudding?
- 2) Cinema – So long as you don't go for the awkward yawn and reach, it's hard to go wrong on a first date. There's no need to force conversation during the film, and you have a perfect topic to discuss afterwards. Apparently it's best to see a horror film on a first date, your body remembers the elevated heart rate as attraction, and who can resist being romanced by science?
- 3) Ice skating – This is especially nice in winter when it seems you can't walk ten metres without bumping into an outdoor rink. It gives you a chance to clutch on to each other as you try not to fall over, or lets you impress your date with your skills. Just try not to fall over while showing off or you might find yourself going home with wet trousers and bruised ego.

WORST THREE

- 1) Somewhere cheap – Though you might think KFC is the best place in the world, it doesn't exactly scream romance. Unfortunately for you cheapskates out there, buying her a bargain bucket doesn't exactly scream passion.
- 2) Somewhere expensive – You might want to impress your date by taking them to a top class restaurant, but if you're not careful this can come across as arrogant. It also puts pressure on your date. If you offer to pay, they might want to order something not too expensive, or be forced into spending more money than they can afford if you split.
- 3) Library café – You might be stuck revising for your exams, but for a date you need to leave the hot, humid building and find somewhere else. The only thing more depressing than celebrating your birthday in the library is trying to start a relationship there. Just don't.



Hesitant in Hammersmith? Grandiose in Gloucester Road? Wayward in Waterloo? Got a problem you'd like Annie to solve?

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

Annie's Lonely Hearts

Feeling lonely? We all know that it's hard to meet people at Imperial, so Aunt Annie wants to make it a bit easier for you. If you're looking for a special someone, missed a connection, or want to let someone know how you feel, send a message to catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk and maybe you'll find a match here.

Disillusioned desperado seeks energetic eccentric equal for stimulating conversation, a beautiful smile and a chance to light a flame that lasts forever.

Introverted impoverished intellectual would like to meet courageous calm cookie for sunset walks in Hyde Park and wonderful conversation. You will be the Sun I want to see shining every morning.

Quirky quotable queen seeks down-to-earth dependable dear for a quiet cuddle, a hand to hold and maybe a little bit more.

Manic misunderstood marauder would like to meet a fashionable fearless flower for a romantic interlude in the library. Must bring own protractor and ruler, calculator will be provided.

Comfortable clear-headed caveman seems vulnerable voluptuous vixen for drinks, freshly caught game by the roaring fire. Will make special effort to shower, despite current revision hygiene.

See something you like? Send us an email and we'll pass it on. Let Annie help you get lucky in love.

HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Pros And Cons Of Voting In The European Elections

The Returning Officer
Hangman Contributor



Pros:

- Skilfully avoid any unnecessary revision by thinking really hard about who to vote for.
- You weren't old enough to vote in the last elections and now wish to embark on your own personal democratic journey.
- All the extra junk mail you get for registering makes you feel loved.
- Continental breakfast served at every polling station.
- Everyone loves spoiling a good ballot
- Always chance you might get involved with electoral fraud which can really liven up an afternoon.

- Finally a chance to avenge BNP candidate Bob Bailey's tragic defeat in '09.

- Ya know, democracy and shit.

Cons:

- Unaware we lived in Europe.
- Voting would ruin your whole "EU undemocratic" diatribe.
- Saving first vote for a really special election.
- Candidates.
- Continental breakfast not all that filling.
- Undermines cynical "you can't trust any of them" stance.
- Slightly inconvenient.



FLICKR/ NICK BRAMHALL

"Need to procrastinate? Email hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk and give it a go!"

"Are you workshy? Email hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk and give it a go!"

Examinatorial

The Hangman
Hangman Editor



Library, Imperial – With revision continuing in full flow Hangman looks at some of the ways students can help get through this endless void of a time.

1. Find something more important to do. It is well known that the best way to get things done is to

have something more important you're supposed to be doing. Essentially you need to find something that makes revising feel like procrastination. Try having a child, buying a house or initiating a zombie apocalypse and you'll soon find yourself hard at work.

2. Flashing Flashcards. By affixing a picture of someone completely naked to every flashcard, you'll spend long enough staring at the cards that you're bound to remember what's written on it.

3. Annoying ticks. It's extremely important to hone a series of annoying and distracting ticks during the revision. Remember, exams

are often moderated in relation to the rest of your year so if you succeed in infuriating your neighbours by constantly shaking your legs, sniffing and randomly giggling then you'll look good in comparison

4. Moan to everyone about it. There's only one way to make sure you really get to grips with the course material and that's to bitch about it everyone you meet.

5. Show off. How are people going to know just how much outside reading and extra work you've done if you don't constantly ask everyone on your course if they've read "obscure paper, 2009"?

You Should Probably Be Revising Right Now

The Hangman
Hangman Editor

A new study by Hangman professors has revealed that you should almost certainly be revising right now.

The three-year study revealed that, if you want to succeed any way in your life, you should probably stop procrastinating by reading this terrible excuse for an article.

The paper, co-authored by some of Hangman's finest, continued to state that whilst the authors could sympathise with "[the] desire to, by any means possible, avoid revision" they firmly stood by their conclusion that "you should bloody-well get back to work".

The professors went on to cite several recent Hangman articles that highlighted the obvious benefits of revising before adding "of course, you shouldn't, under any circumstance, take time out of revising to read them".

Top Twitter advice from the one and only Danny Dyer!

- Danny Dyer @MrDDyer · Apr 10**
Gonna watch a bit of #question time while munching on a toasted crumpet that's absolutely pissing with marmite....sophistication.
Expand
- Danny Dyer @MrDDyer · Mar 4**
So Cider must be glamorous piss..... pic.twitter.com/IQOISKcIN2
View photo
- Danny Dyer @MrDDyer · Feb 27**
That moment when a nutter of a geezer asks you to have a shit in a bit of clingfilm.....
#deadliestmen pic.twitter.com/n3dlhtzIHR
View photo
- Danny Dyer @MrDDyer · Nov 26**
I hate that early bird..... You know the one who catches the worm.....get back in ya nest ya feathery little mug.....
Expand
- Danny Dyer @MrDDyer · Sep 16**
I know it's wrong and everyone's just about to have a bit of dinner....but here's a picture of the Queens shit... pic.twitter.com/lkqfHUzu1
View photo
- Danny Dyer @MrDDyer · Sep 8**
Having a beer with the old man for he's birthday. 58 today. Love the fact he's a major pisshead.
#likefatherlikeson
Expand
- Danny Dyer @MrDDyer · Jul 18**
For fuck sake Dynamo. Two words
MAGIC SLAG. (I mean that in a creative complimentary majestic way of course)
Expand

TWITTER

Vending Machine Arbitrarily Rejecting 1 In 5 Coins

The Hangman
Hangman Editor

A campus-based vending machine has confirmed this week that it will now arbitrarily reject the fifth coin you attempt to use.

The machine, based in the ground floor of the SAF building, came to the decision Tuesday that it could "in no way reasonably accept 1 in 5 coins used".

"Frankly, it's ridiculous that anyone tries to slip in a second 5p piece that's identical to the previous one"

"I think everyone can understand why I could not allow that. It was very insulting"

One user stated "I can't even see how this is an issue most of the time, the lowest denomination I ever carry around are solid, dependable £2 coins"

However, the machine is rumoured to have seriously angered the large



SARAH-ROSE/FLICKR

portion of the student population that prefers to pay full price for goods that cost 20% less at any one of the belligerent and numerous College-sponsored outlets.



@feliximperial

FelixImperial

HANGMAN

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



Royals Should Probably Have Answered The Phone Once In A While

Judge Lays Blame At Royal Feet

Following this week's 'revelations' that former News of the World Royal Editor Clive Goodman hacked Kate Middleton and Prince William's phones countless times, it transpires that Royals should probably have just answered the phone from time to time.



CHRISTOPHER NEVE

Whilst, it was obviously despicable that William and Kate had their privacy repeatedly infringed, one can't help but feel that much of the issue could have been avoided if either one had simply picked up the phone once in a while.

question simply picked up the phone" "Obviously, that did not happen. However, it's hard to ignore the fact that there would surely have been no voicemail messages to hack had any of Royals actually answered their mobiles when they were ringing."

The judge in the case, Mr Justice Saunders, told the jury that whilst it should "in no way diminish the accused's potential guilt, it is worth remembering when taking your decision that, ultimately, none of this would have happened had the royals in

The judge continued, "and lets us not forget, of course, that it is basically the royal editors duty to gain as much juicy gossip on the royal family as possible using any means necessary" "I mean, it's what we all wanted to read anyway."

GRACIOUS BANK GIVES EVERY EMPLOYEE FREE BIKE



EG FOCUS

Search For Most Pretentious Film Of 2014 Cannes Film Festival Begins

The search for 2014's most pretentious film is well and truly underway this week when the Cannes Film Festival kicks off.

The festival screens and awards films that aren't good enough to make it in actual cinemas but which are great for showing off to film critics. It also regularly rewards films that will make you sound like a pretentious twat if you admit to watching.

Whilst a number of films, such as pretty much anything by Ken Loach, are in with a chance, it has been confirmed that any film with a well-known actor/director involved is immediately eliminated, eg Nicole Kidman's Grace of Monaco was slammed by the critics for "starring famous people".

However, do keep an eye out for Hangman's own entry "There Is No Meaning!" which explores one man's enthusiastic passion for nihilism.



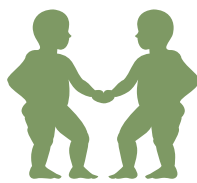
ARIES

This week you pick an unfortunate time to have an existential crisis, and start questioning the meaning of everything in the middle of your physics exam. The marker is stunned by your reduction of quantum mechanics to fundamental questions about life, and you achieve a double first.



TAURUS

Glub Glub! Glub Glub! This week you are in a magical Royal Park, scuba diving in the snake-like lake. You find the magical amulet, sparkle, sparkle, and head back to tell your friend in the Library. On your way you are stung by a Fugu fish and a swept into a deadly vortex of revision and coursework.



GEMINI

Library is life, library is love. This week you leave the library after 12 months of solid work, remembering the times you ate, slept, read, laughed, and cried in that place and now you're ready to set your first exam of the year. As you finish the exam, and send it to the office to be printed, you accidentally send last year's paper instead. Sucks to be you!



CANCER

This week you have a dream that you go to your final exams in your underwear. You wake up from this horrifying premonition to realise that you've actually managed to fall asleep in the exam and taken all your clothes off. Hopefully the invigilator will be impressed and give you a good grade.



LEO

This week the guy you've been crushing on in the library asks you out on a date. Unfortunately on the subsequent romantic trip to the library café, you realise that they are actually a very boring person. But at least you got a free jacket potato out of it.



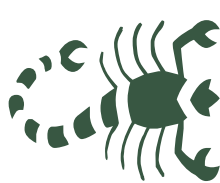
VIRGO

This week you finally eat so much pizza that you turn into one. Unfortunately your roommate doesn't realise that it's you, and decides to eat you for dinner. Oh well, at least you don't have to take your exams.



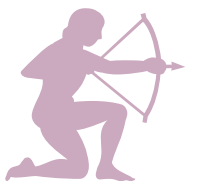
LIBRA

This week after a third mysterious package of deodorant turns up in your locker you realise that the Physics email might have been written about you. You decide to take the hint and rather than smelling like the library on a Sunday night, you instead choke the person next to you in a cloud of Lynx body spray.



SCORPIO

This week you procrastinate too much and fail all your exams. Oh wait, the horoscopes are supposed to be funny and not true? Oops.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you discover an ancient ritual that will guarantee you a good grade on your exams. After slaughtering your hall senior with a rubber duck, eating twelve ghost chillies and summoning Cthulu you discover it was actually meant to give you a good grade. At least the cactus on your windowsill is flowering at last.



CAPRICORN

This week you are Charlie. Charlee! Charlee! We found a map to the access tunnels. Come to the access tunnels Charlee, it's a land of sweets and joy, and joyness. It's under the Sherfield walkway of light and wonder. Enter the tunnel Charlee, magical wonders will be there when you enter. Bye Charlee!



AQUARIUS

This week you decided to finally use your Ethos membership to get healthy and lose some weight. After being laughed at because you fell over on the running machine and ending up halfway across the room you drown your sorrows in Pepsi and pick'n'mix. Only 20000 calories up from this morning.



PISCES

This week you take your exams, doing surprisingly well in all of them, not only ending up with a First, but in the top three for the year. Then you wake up and realise that you've slept through your only exam and missed a coursework deadline. At least 568 is still there for you.



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FelixImperial

SPORT

Harry Redknapp can't save cricketers from Harlington pitch

Zain Rizvi describes the action from a rain-sodden Harlington pitch as Imperial fail to defend 79

On Sunday 11th May Imperial 1st XI played at home against Royal Holloway 1st XI in a LUSL fixture.

Whilst we were missing a fair few players due to exams, newcomers Prajesh Jadeja and Vinay Babla made an immediate impact in the side by supplying endless amounts of entertainment on the journey to Harlington. Prajesh was convinced he could feel it raining (whilst stood in an underground tube station) and therefore felt the match should be cancelled, whilst Babla's excuse for turning up in tracksuit bottoms instead of smart attire was because "Jeans don't have zips.. innit". Upon arrival to Harlington, it was dubious as to whether we would play as the uncovered pitch was soaked through.

On a gloomy, cold, and miserable day, Imperial batted first, and immediately the nature of the pitch became apparent. Aside from the chunks of turf flying off the pitch after every delivery, balls were rearing up off a length and the Imperial batsmen took a fair few blows. Wickets fell quickly and despite a small

partnership between Zain Rizvi and Matthew Knights, the soggy outfield combined with the minefield that was Harlington's pitch meant that runs were hard to come by and that survival was the name of the game. Despite Arvind's military experience, even he was bowled by a leg stump grenade. Similarly, the conductors of the Banterbus (Babla and Prajesh) were undone by balls that decided to take the Picadilly line (underground) straight into the stumps. After a fair amount of struggle and plenty of bruising, Imperial managed to claw their way to 79 off 31 overs. A disappointing batting effort in the end, but given the circumstances it was definitely a total we felt was competitive.

After an intense half time talk/bollocking from Harry Redknapp Imperial took to the field... Well everyone except Vinay Babla who was busy "applying his sunscreen.. innit". Well Royal Holloway certainly could have done with some UV protection because Matt Knights struck with the first ball of the innings and Cameron Currin picked up a wicket in his first

over too. The pressure was on RHUL and it certainly showed. Unfortunately, questionable umpiring led to many an LBW appeal turned down and RHUL were really struggling with only 27 runs off their first 10 overs. Imperial were sharp in the field which was a real positive compared to last week, and tight bowling by Prajesh Jadeja also produced a wicket which meant RHUL were now 3 down.

Sadly it seemed as though Vinay's prediction regarding the sunscreen

had come true, as up until now it had been spitting with rain and cloud cover throughout the game, but sun made an appearance which meant bad news for Imperial as RHUL brought up the win after 28 overs of graft.

Transferwise MOM was the Harlington pitch – although Matt Knights was also a contender with a wicket and 22 runs to his name.

Whilst I've tried to put a positive spin on a disappointing result, and concerns about the fitness of the pitch

have been raised, at the end of the day, Imperial 1st XI did not perform to the standard we know we can, and some maturity in our approach to batting wouldn't do us any harm.

On the plus side our fielding was creepy sick and bowlers hit their straps well. Hopefully with our regulars back in the team in the next few weeks we can re-assert our dominance in both BUCS and LUSL.

P.S. I wasn't joking about the Harry Redknapp thing.



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SPORT

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



Imperial put in marathon performance to place 15th in Europe's largest student relay

On Friday 9th May 2014, a team of from the Imperial College Cross Country and Athletics Club set off to the Netherlands to take on Europe's largest student relay race; de Batavierenrace. Having been invited year on year by Dutch participants of the Imperial's own Hyde Park Relays, and with some extra enthusiasm generated by new Dutch club members, it was finally decided that we would see what all the fuss was about.

The race consists of 25 stages, beginning at midnight and running 175km crossing towns, countries and borders to finish the following evening before a huge festival style party. The teams are expected to ferry their runners around the course by minibus and bike, requiring a huge amount of organisation, coordination and endurance. Sounds great right? Read on to hear an account of ICXCAC's representation on the continent.

Arrival – Matt Douthwaite

Obtaining a team of 25 for a race in another country in exam season at Imperial is nigh on impossible, and as a result our team for the race came to a grand total of 13 people. On top of the sleep deprivation, almost everyone would have to run twice. This made it the most ambitious Cross Country trip in many years. Game on.

Getting to the Netherlands was the first challenge of the weekend. The first part of Team Ba(n)ta left in a minibus from Imperial at 10am, only to spend almost 12 hours on the road thanks to the joys of the French/Belgian rush hour. The clock was now ticking for the drivers Alwyn Elliott and Anne Hardijzer, who would be driving enough this weekend as it was, without practicing clutch control in

three hour traffic jams. However they survived and regrouped with the car carrying the remainder of the team in the Dutch University of Nijmegen. By now it was 10:30pm with around 2 hours to the international start time. Important race preparations were made including going over the plan again, making sandwiches and kitting out then support bike with multicoloured fairy lights to make it easily distinguishable to tired runners. Finally there was a team huddle. Everyone very aware of how much could go wrong over the next 18 hours, the usual IC war cries were accompanied by a "Don't forget to have fun..."

The race is split into a number of stages with restarts after each; a night stage, a morning stage, an afternoon stage and the final men's and women's race to the finish. So this is how we attempted to split our undermanned team, with some overlap. This meant the day team was now preparing for what we thought would be a good 5 hours sleep on the floor of the university gym, while the night team were warming up for an action packed night of running.

The Night Shift By Duncan Ingram

A giant relay race spanning 175km is kind of a big deal. But to tackle such a feat in completely foreign territory, with a distinct shortage of participants, is truly something else. Impeccable timing, navigation and athletic determination must all be present if any sort of success is to be achieved. Though to say that Team Imperial got off to a smooth start would be plain wrong.

Consider the atmosphere at midnight. Stupid time to start running, or do anything but sleep, but this is



IC CROSS COUNTRY

precisely when our first runner, Anne Hardijzer, set off to start the relay's daunting night segment. Located in the Dutch city of Nijmegen, cheering at the grand start of Batavierenrace is exciting stuff. Being surrounded by bustling crowds of athletes with eurotech blasting from speakers can quickly make you forget how cold it is, but a real nervousness was suddenly kicking in for the night team's runners: Anne Hardijzer, Johnny Li, Mike Kaye, Duncan Ingram, Milan Mišák and Alissa Kleinnijenhuis. Before heading out in the minibus (our method of transport for dropping off and picking up runners en route), Johnny was preparing to meet Anne with Imperial's bike in preparation for Stage 2. Importantly, each runner and accompanying cyclist required team-specific bibs to swap at successive relay points... No bib? No race. Now with 15 minutes before Anne's start, a query arose to the tune of "where's our cycling vest?" And what a good question that was!

After searching backpacks, scouring the minibus and retracing steps, no bib had appeared, and the thought of our team being disqualified before barely starting the race, let alone

finish, was becoming increasingly real. Nevertheless, if you've seen the length of this article you'll know we got round this problem one way or another. In a fleet of desperation, and with precious minutes to go, the bib was found handed in at an information point, meaning that Imperial could hope for success once more! Secure vest to Johnny • ...Round up the night team • ...Nobody's died yet • ...and away we go.

The driving was terrifying. Tasked with navigating to the next waypoint using 'crystal clear' google maps print-outs, we were put under time pressure once again. In theory you just have to drive to the next checkpoint before current runner/cyclist make it there, but forcing a larger-than-life vehicle that had a disliking for 3rd gear round narrow bends seemed more improbable than winning Eurovision. On more than one occasion we experienced near-misses and no-misses with awkwardly placed curbs or traffic using poor lane discipline, though our vehicle always came out unscathed. We quickly caught on to the fact that other minibuses (transporting other teams) knew the Dutch roads better than us, so trying to tail big white vans became the new priority. This was far from foolproof however – one occasion saw us follow a minibus onto a roundabout, only to find that it just kept on going round. After a few dizzy revolutions it was clear they were unfortunately following us too. Thankfully the chaos ended when a third vehicle entered the equation and took a decisive first exit, to which everyone immediately followed.

Despite these shenanigans, the night team kept pulling through stage-by-stage. Darting to the next waypoint to swap racers, while at times incredibly stressful, couldn't have been more exhilarating. When waiting for team members at the checkpoints themselves the atmosphere was still electric, and thus despite working long enough to see the sun at 6:30am, exhaustion rarely got in the way. So of course it wasn't all doom and gloom – there were plenty of awesome moments and unexpected highlights

that maintained a positive spirit. Like seeing our bike decked out in Christmas lights ride in from the distance, or Milan realising that his run had just taken him into Germany! But as all of us can vouch for, nothing could compare to the satisfaction of finishing your first relay leg; sprinting past bikes and runners in the dark is immensely satisfying stuff.

"All good things come to an end" (said someone, presumably), and so this third of the relay had to reach its sad conclusion. Duncan was left with the Christmas bike in some weird place called Ulft, while the minibus sped off to acquire the keen bunch responsible for the remainder of Batavierenrace. Huge congratulations should be given to the night team for not losing their cool and delivering the goods when it mattered, but particularly to Mike and Anne for additionally driving us round in one piece. For most of us however this was just the start, as many had to prepare for relay legs in the Morning and Afternoon series ...ah well, sleep's overrated anyway.

Night Running by Milan

Just after our previously lost cycling bib was found, Alissa, Duncan, Mike and Milan jumped into the minibus to go to the start of the third leg leaving Anne and Johnny in Nijmegen for the first two legs of the race. Very quickly did we realise that it would not be too easy to find the right place. Not knowing about a printout of driving directions between changeover points and long before coming up with the 'follow that van!' strategy we just had to rely mostly on a minimally detailed map of the whole race and Mike's compass. Well, we got there in the end...

While waiting for Johnny and Anne it became obvious that not only our bike with fairy lights on it looked fancy (which almost everyone commented on when we were running past) but we could also recognise it from a distance giving the runner and cyclist of the next leg more time to get ready. Johnny had a massive sprint finish aided by cheering crowds which he was enjoying so much that he didn't



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bother stopping (or even slowing down) once he went through a timing gate at the end of his leg. That left me having to shout and chase after him to make him stop and hand over the bib. After this little incident I could finally set off into the pitch black night. With no-one around it was difficult to see the winding road going through fields at the Dutch/German border. But then Mike on our shining bike caught up and all was good again. Having the biker aim with the front light in front of the runner really made a difference at night. This was the longest (12.5k) leg of the race and I was trying to push hard but still keep some energy for the next two legs. Mike's encouraging comments and almost constant overtaking of slower runners was really empowering and helped me get through the leg a lot quicker than I expected.

Then it was Mike's turn to run and Duncan's to cycle before swapping around. The minibus could therefore skip one changeover point and go straight to the start of leg number 6. It was at this point that we once stopped at a junction as we didn't quite know where to go. We asked the people in the minibus behind us, but they had no idea either. But a queue of vehicles had built up in the meantime and people in the next minibus along said they knew the way. From then on we often just watched out for minibuses and followed or at least took inspiration from where they were heading. It's not like there was too much other traffic at 3am anyway.

I was running again this time across the river Rhine and back to the Netherlands. It was slightly uphill for most of the course which wasn't great but I was still overtaking people so it despite tiredness building up it didn't feel too bad. Alissa was doing a great job ringing the bike's bell to get people out of the way and cheering (once even in Dutch by accident). At the end of the leg me and Alissa swapped around and continued to blaze past other teams until handing over to Johnny and Mike. After their leg Mike was running again and I was cycling with him during a short and intense

leg finishing in Ulft which marked the end of the night section.

Morning stages 10, 11 - Will Jones

After cheering off Anne at the start and making sure the first changeover went as planned the morning team of Siân, Sophie, Lina and Will along with Matt and Al found a quite spot to get as much shut-eye as possible before an early start the next day. Unfortunately this went out the window as we were woken at 3am with loud club music – only the Dutch... After finding another quite spot and trying to salvage as much sleep as we could we were off at 5:45am to head over to Ulft to meet up with the night team for the morning restart.

After calling the night team to arrange a meeting place with Duncan and the bikes we headed on our way, briefly spotting the team minibus heading in the opposite direction along our journey. After a minor bit of confusion about our destination ("We're in Ulft but we can't find the start!") and consulting a Bata marshal (who asked us "is my English alright" in impeccable English) we found our way to the restart, parked up and got our stuff ready for the coming legs. After meeting up with Duncan we picked up the bike and got the bibs – the blue running one for me and the red cycling one for Siân. We were told the restart had been delayed, but not by how much. In a brief moment of confusion I spotted another runner from our wave over at the start and ran over thinking we were about to head off. It turned out however that there was still another half an hour to wait, and the others had already left with the car! After running over to tell Siân in the bike waiting area that we'd have to wait for a bit I watched the second wave set off and went for a brief warm-up. Killing time at the start was helped by a Dutch journalist who – seeing the Union Jacks on my cheeks – was sufficiently intrigued to ask me for a quick interview.

Soon after it was time to approach the start line. Our wave contained all the university runners, and being

a fast, flat 10k leg I was expecting some fast runners. After a brief wait the countdown in Dutch began and we off – and fast. After approximately two steps I felt my already injured hamstring tighten and then tear – a great start! Only one thing to do about it: time to grit my teeth and take it for the team!

After a few hundred metres past cheering crowds we crossed over a bridge (I found it amusing how much the small incline seemed to affect my fellow Dutch runners) and joined up with the cyclists. The route took us through the streets of Ulft before heading out onto gently curving country roads. Siân cycled alongside; bubbling with enthusiasm as always. After steadily getting through the middle section of the run and counting down the kilometres a short section of muddy trail led into the more built up outskirts of Varsseveld. After crossing a railway line briefly before the crossing barriers began to descend (sucks for whoever was behind me!) it

was a quick sprint into the finish with Siân cycling ahead to get ready at the changeover.

After a quick swapping of bibs Siân was off and fast. I cycled up alongside and we were soon overtaking other teams. Despite pain from her knee we continued at top effort and passed 4 teams by the end of the leg, a great result! After passing over to Sophie and Lina to set them up for a fast pair of women's legs we limped our way over to the car park to meet up with the car with Matt and Duncan. Unfortunately they decided to drive over to the start to pick us up, we missed each other and caused a great deal of confusion. After finally meeting up we jumped into the car and drove over to waypoint 13 where Duncan and I would take over from Sophie and Lina.

Next week Felix Sport will feature a report from the second half of this event.

Stay Tuned!



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A Slip, a Headbutt

A week after Manchester City won their second title in three seasons Kunal Wagle, Jonny Pratt and Football Columnist James White take a look at a Premier League season that really did have it all.

The Verdict

James White

Football Columnist

Arsenal

Arguably, the prospect of ending their trophy drought in the FA Cup Final would represent a resounding success. Injuries hit the Gunners at the worst time, but to have effectively been out of the title race as early as March after such a fast start will again leave fans wondering what might have been.

Verdict: FAILURE

Aston Villa

Paul Lambert's Villans were hotly tipped to push for a top-half finish but with Christian Benteke failing to reproduce last season's form, they instead found themselves in freefall when the going got tough. Always capable of springing a surprise on their travels but a home win is still a rarity.

Verdict: FAILURE

Cardiff

Owner Vincent Tan's kamikaze decision making rendered the Bluebirds' maiden Premier League campaign even tougher than it promised to be. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's appointment coincided with a decline in form, with big home defeats to fellow new boys Hull and Crystal Palace.

Verdict: FAILURE

Chelsea

Without a reliable striker to rival Liverpool and Man City's goals scored, there was plenty of truth in the Special One's claims that the Blues were

short in a number of departments. Champions League semi-finalists and only a few points short of the title, Mourinho has plenty to build on next year.

Verdict: SUCCESS

Crystal Palace

Defensive frailties under Ian Holloway meant until November, Palace looked relegation certainties. But Tony Pulis shored up the defence when he arrived and in the end they survived comfortably against all expectations. Credit to him for making Selhurst Park such a tough place to visit.

Verdict: SUCCESS

Everton

Few expected Roberto Martinez to improve on David Moyes' league finishes in the Goodison Park dugout, but some shrewd loan signings in August set the Toffees up for a memorable campaign. Just a few points shy of Champions League football, their future looks bright.

Verdict: SUCCESS

Fulham

Three managers in one season hardly tells the full story of Fulham's season, with some calamitous defending and precious little talent on display at Craven Cottage. Felix Magath may struggle to adapt to the cut-and-thrust of the Championship so it may be a while before we see them again in the top flight.

Verdict: FAILURE

Hull

Survival was all that was required at the KC Stadium this season but the Tigers have matched most of their opponents this year, plus reached the FA Cup Final. Steve Bruce's acquisitions in the January transfer window addressed their

poor goalscoring record but further recruits are required this summer.

Verdict: SUCCESS

Liverpool

Although the closing fortnight of the season has been tough to take for Reds faithful, Brendan Rodgers has vastly exceeded expectations of Champions League football and with an abundance of attacking talent in Suarez, Sturridge, Sterling et al, Liverpool finally look capable of challenging for silverware.

Verdict: SUCCESS

Man City

Any team that wins the most competitive division in the world has had an outstanding season. Chelsea have struggled offensively, and Liverpool have struggled defensively, but City seem to have the balance just about right, due in no small part to cool customer Manuel Pellegrini; dressing room unrest under Roberto Mancini now appears long forgotten.

Verdict: SUCCESS

Man United

The spectre of the legendary Sir Alex Ferguson has loomed large over the Old Trafford hotseat all year as United have transformed from champions to also-rans. A major overhaul of the squad is required, or else the Red Devils could be set for mid-table mediocrity for some time.

Verdict: FAILURE

Newcastle

The Magpies' season began with such promise, sitting pretty just 3 points off Liverpool at Christmas time. But the teams above them pushed on, and with precious little to play for, the players quickly switched off. The sale of Yohan Cabaye hardly helped but Alan Pardew will be fortunate to still be in his job come August.

Verdict: FAILURE

Norwich

The Canaries were hugely unfortunate to have such a cruel run-in but their failure to secure their Premier League status beforehand was largely a result of poor investments such as transfer flop Ricky van Wolfswinkel. Goals were at such a premium at Carrow Road that survival was always a tall order.

Verdict: FAILURE

Southampton

Mauricio Pochettino has won plenty of plaudits for the way Southampton have played this year, with a core of English talent leading them to a comfortable top-half finish. The extent of speculation over the future of both the playing and coaching squad sums up their season.

Verdict: SUCCESS

Stoke

Mark Hughes has proved the doubters wrong and restored his managerial reputation by transforming Stoke into an attractive passing side while at the same time improving on recent league finishes. It is the first time in history the Potters have finished above all their Midlands rivals.

Verdict: SUCCESS

Sunderland

Ellis Short's decision to dispense with Paolo di Canio's services sooner rather than later proved inspired, as despite looking relegation certainties for most of the campaign, Gus Poyet got performances out of the Black Cats when it mattered. Fans will also long remember two outstanding cup runs.

Verdict: SUCCESS

Swansea

The Swans were tipped for another top-half finish at the outset but in the end their travails in the Europa League arguably cost Michael Laudrup his job, with goals drying up after one-season wonder Michu's injury. In the end Garry Monk will count his lucky stars there were 3 teams worse than his.

Verdict: FAILURE

Tottenham

Despite a colossal outlay last summer, Spurs have ultimately failed to replace Gareth Bale, with new signings failing to gel and collapses against the top teams seeing Andre Villas-Boas out of a job. Despite scraping Europa League football for next season, even maverick Tim Sherwood has failed to instil the battling spirit that has been desperately lacking.

Verdict: FAILURE

West Brom

Draw specialists West Brom paid the price for sacking Steve Clarke with a nervy second half to their season. Despite a top-half finish last campaign, the Baggies will be many people's favourites for relegation next year, with further managerial changes in the pipeline if Pepe Mel is to be believed.

Verdict: FAILURE

West Ham

Hammers fans may disagree, but since taking over Big Sam has got West Ham promoted and restored mid-table security, and that surely represents success. But he looks set to pay the price for marketing a direct, at times ugly style of play.

Verdict: SUCCESS

Jonny's Transfer Successes

Willian

(Anzhi to Chelsea, £32 million)
25 appearances, 4 goals

Fernandinho

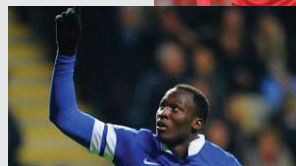
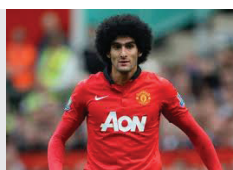
(Shakhtar to Man City, £34m)
28 appearances, 5 goals

Wilfried Bony

(Vitesse to Swansea, £12m)
34 appearances, 16 goals

Romelu Lukaku

(Chelsea to Everton, £3m loan)
31 appearances, 15 goals



Kunal's Transfer Flops

Marouane Fellaini

(Everton to Man Utd, £27.5 million)
16 appearances, 0 goals

Ricky van Wolfswinkel

(Sporting to Norwich, £8.5m)
25 appearances, 1 goal

Kim Kallstrom

(Spartak to Arsenal, loan)
3 appearances, 0 goals

Wilfred Zaha

(C Palace to Man Utd, £15m)
(Man Utd to Cardiff, loan)
12 appearances, 0 goals



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SPORT

and David Moyes...

5 Moments that defined the title race

Jonny Pratt
Sports Writer



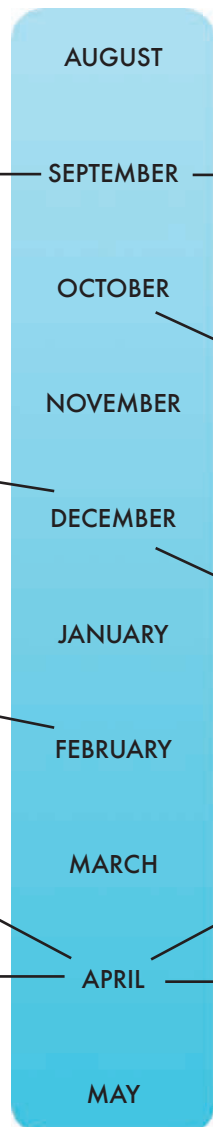
City 4-1 United
After a shaky start to the season City showed their intent, with a thorough defeat of their closest rivals, who had been doing alright till this point.

City 2-1 Liverpool
Chelsea 2-1 Liverpool
Liverpool lose the top spot they held at Christmas and drop down to fifth. First signs of frustration from Rogers, who complains about referees and their postcodes.

Liverpool 5-1 Arsenal
Liverpool follow a 4-0 win over Everton with this against Arsenal within ten days to announce themselves in the title race.

Chelsea 1-2 Sunderland
José loses it with Mike Dean, delivering a press conference full of sarcasm that just seemed like he wasn't handling the pressure well.

Liverpool 0-2 Chelsea
Chelsea perform a smash and grab at Anfield, with Rogers complaining about them parking 'two buses'. Gerrard's slip will forever go down as the iconic image of this campaign.



5 Moments that defined the relegation battle

Kunal Wagle
Sports Editor



Sunderland sack di Canio
Sunderland takes the drastic step to replace Paolo di Canio with Sunderland bottom of the league. Gus Poyet would eventually keep the Black Cats up.

Pulis joins Palace
In an unusual move, Ian Holloway admits that he isn't the best man to keep Palace up and is replaced by Tony Pulis. Palace were 19th and already looking favourites for the drop.

Tan sacks Mackay
After a period of turbulence at the club, Cardiff City parted ways with Malky Mackay on the 27th. They appointed Ole Gunnar Solskjaer a week later.

Chris Hughton departs
With only five games to go, Norwich City gave Chris Hughton his marching orders. In the fans eyes it was probably long overdue, but still poor timing by the board, who would only pick up a single point after this.

Sunderland 4-0 Cardiff
With Cardiff's hopes and dreams of staying in the division hanging by a thread Sunderland destroy any realistic hope in a relegation six-pointer. They and Fulham would be relegated the following week.

KUNAL'S TEAM OF THE SEASON



JONNY'S FLOPS OF THE SEASON

James White's Weekly Predictions Put On Trial

8th December				23rd March				End of Season				Actual BPL Table			
Pos	Team	GD	Points	Pos	Team	GD	Points	Pos	Team	GD	Points	Pos	Team	GD	Points
1	Chelsea	19	38	1	Chelsea	40	76	1	Man City	58	92	1	Man City	65	86
2	Arsenal	14	35	2	Man City	44	72	2	Chelsea	47	92	2	Liverpool	51	84
3	Man City	22	32	3	Liverpool	37	66	3	Liverpool	47	90	3	Chelsea	44	82
4	Liverpool	18	32	4	Arsenal	19	57	4	Arsenal	26	75	4	Arsenal	27	79
5	Everton	6	29	5	Everton	16	57	5	Everton	20	73	5	Everton	22	72
6	Man Utd	6	29	6	Man Utd	11	54	6	Man Utd	19	70	6	Tottenham	4	69
7	Aston Villa	5	26	7	Tottenham	3	50	7	Tottenham	9	69	7	Man Utd	21	64
8	Southampton	3	25	8	Southampton	3	41	8	Southampton	5	55	8	Southampton	8	56
9	Swansea	3	24	9	Aston Villa	-3	41	9	Swansea	0	51	9	Stoke	-7	50
10	Tottenham	-4	20	10	Swansea	-1	39	10	Aston Villa	-18	44	10	Newcastle	-16	49
11	West Brom	1	18	11	Newcastle	-10	34	11	Crystal Palace	-16	41	11	Crystal Palace	-15	45
12	Hull	-5	17	12	Hull	-7	31	12	West Brom	-12	39	12	Swansea	0	42
13	Newcastle	-8	16	13	West Brom	-5	30	13	Sunderland	-17	39	13	West Ham	-11	40
14	Norwich	-16	14	14	Crystal Palace	-16	26	14	Stoke	-21	39	14	Sunderland	-19	38
15	Stoke	-8	13	15	Sunderland	-16	26	15	Hull	-16	37	15	Aston Villa	-22	38
16	Cardiff	-8	12	16	Stoke	-18	25	16	Newcastle	-37	34	16	Hull	-15	37
17	Crystal Palace	-12	10	17	Norwich	-27	23	17	West Ham	-19	29	17	West Brom	-16	36
18	West Ham	-6	9	18	West Ham	-11	20	18	Cardiff	-39	29	18	Norwich	-34	33
19	Fulham	-11	9	19	Cardiff	-28	20	19	Fulham	-39	29	19	Fulham	-45	32
20	Sunderland	-21	4	20	Fulham	-33	19	20	Norwich	-47	23	20	Cardiff	-42	30

After the league ended on Sunday, Felix went through James White's football columns to see how the league would have ended up if he controlled its destiny. The answer? Not a lot different.

The champions would have been the same (although with a marginally more thrilling finale), the top 4 would have been the same, and the three teams relegated would have been the same. The only major difference being that Man Utd came in seventh and thus missed out on European qualification for the first time in 25 years. Felix congratulates James and asks whether his services would be available in predicting next season's table - the editorial team could do with some extra funds!

NB: Matches that James didn't give a prediction for were recorded with the same scoreline as occurred in actuality.



Felix reviews the Premier League Season. Oh, and there's Cricket as well... and Cross-Country...

Rowing reaps the rewards at BUCS Regatta

Wilf Kimberley reviews the action as the men bring home the Victor Ludorum trophy, but the College miss out on the overall prize

IC once again brought home the bacon at BUCS regatta, capturing the Men's Victor Ludorum and finishing 2nd in the medals table over the three days and finishing with the most BUCS points of any university in the country (again) despite the absence of big lad Henry 'gully' Gooder and token chopper Ben Spencer-Jones.

The big BUCS extravaganza began as always after half the squad had just finished their exams and the other half were beginning the next week. Only one thing was on everyone's mind – knocking Durham off the top of the overall victor ludorum. Not to win it for themselves but just to ruin any foundation to Durham's claim that they are 'The most successful undergraduate rowing programme in the country' (lol good one lads).

The trip began with a convoy of 3 minibuses filled with mens squad, womens squad and novice women and after an (for once) entirely uneventful journey, which required some big tunes and large amounts of French abuse to drivers Paul Jones and Fabien Evrard to liven things up a bit, we arrived late on Friday evening in Nottingham.

Day 1

Every morning saw an unnecessarily early start for everyone with time trials starting at 8am, but especially for IC's not-so-big lads who had to weigh in at 6am, the only upside being Stu Whitelaw had actually tried booking rooms for 50 people over 2 days in advance, rather than being surprised at there being nowhere available to stay near Nottingham (as happened last year when there was some big event in Nottingham which every University in the country was going to or something). Anyway, again everything somehow went to plan.

The first medals of the weekend came in the lightweight singles. In the Intermediate lightweight single final, despite having a gentleman's agreement to save their legs for the lightweight 4, Myles Holborough saw red and sped off in front of Le Captain Paul Jones, taking the silver medal, whilst Paul cruised to 5th place, putting in a cheeky sprint to overtake an Irish guy who had blown out of his tree. This was followed by a bronze medal for Wilf Kimberley in the Champ light single.

Big dogs Mel Wilson and Michelle Vezie brought home the first medal for the women, capturing the bronze medal in the champ women's pairs. This was followed by Jade 'Chubba' Hubbard and Nicola Mason, who did well to finish 6th in the final of a savage champ lightweight doubles event.

Newbie Sorcha Cotter began the first of a series of phenomenal beginners' results for the weekend, just the wrong side of a 3-way tussle for bronze, finishing 5th, and 51 seconds behind a Cambridge girl who was definitely not a beginner. She was followed later by the ruddy lads men's beginner four (Shobi Grinstead, Juha Leppanen, Nico Lautard, Giles Mortimer & cox Lucy Osbourn who went in hard and were leading until the 1500m mark where they just didn't quite have the power to hold on. Big 2 man Juha Leppanen can only be described as blowing out of his ring piece, with some unbelievable tekkers in the 100m.

The first of the weekend's golds came from the men's lightweight 4 (Paul Jones, Myles Holborough, Wilf Kimberley & Tim Richards), who successfully defended their title for the 5th year running. This year saw not only an IC/UL showdown, but also a showdown between brothers, with Tim Richard's younger brother James Richards stroking the UL boat. This race showed Tim to be the better brother, as IC cruised through a fast starting UL to take the gold.

The second of Saturday's big lad gold medals came from the women's champ 4 of Mel Wilson, Michelle Vezie, Isa von Loggia, and powerhouse Lily Beadle. Despite being 2 seconds down off the start on some large UEL girls from Texas, the girls ploughed back through to snatch the gold by a second (it would probably have been like 10 if Isa wasn't a UL chopper).

The final race on Saturday was the blue ribboned event, the men's 8. In the semi-finals, the lads had stormed through UL to take 2nd place and looked to be in the hunt for the medals. Unfortunately UL had clearly been saving themselves and had a storming finish to take the bronze medal, pushing IC back in to 4th place.

Day 2

Saturday evening saw a blow to our VL efforts with illness striking down MVP Mel Wilson and Lidia Cammack. On top of this, fat lad Harry Mayne had seen a good bulking opportunity on finding Mr Halls' barbecue, weighing in at a solid 75kg back at the hotel. This called for some serious sweating down, with Harry adopting the Dan Powell 4am makeshift sauna technique. With only seconds to spare, the men's lightweight 8 managed to weigh in and finally get some food in.

This clearly didn't even phase Mr Mayne as the lightweight 8 (Fabien Evrard, Harry Mayne, Nico Lautard, Romain Barnoud, Paul Jones, Myles Holborough, Wilf Kimberley, Tim

Richards & cox Ellie Smith) brought home the first of a glut of silver medals, just losing out to UL who were definitely entered in the right event and had definitely not bent the rules (rules are made to be broken right?). Kimberley & Richards still couldn't quite crack the light double and took the silver medal.

There was a tussle for the bronze medal between two IC girls in the intermediate singles - Michelle Vezie and Isa von Loggia. Despite a big finish from Isa, Michelle just managed to hold on to the bronze. Imagine the places she could go if she actually rowed at IC.

The two big results of the day however came in the intermediate mens double and the Beginner mens 8. Ben Thomas pulled Harry Mayne along to a big 1st half, getting 5 seconds up on the rest of the field and trucked to victory, bringing home the only gold of the day.

Words can't really do justice to how big the beginner men went this weekend. The men's 8 (Aris Aristodemou, Nicholas Robertson, Rob McPherson, Nico Lautard, Shobi Grinstead, Juha Leppanen, Tom Peake, E-Jazz Ahamadeen and cox Lucy Osbourn) brought home the silver medal, missing out on a gold by only 0.66 seconds. Bear in mind that in the last few years, the D-final was a decent result. There were a number of other strong results with the men's coxed 4 finishing 4th, and the women's 8 and light 4- finishing 6th.

Day 3

So as we got up at the crack of dawn once more, the mood was a bit melancholy - it appeared the overall VL trophy was beyond us. However there was some light at the end of the tunnel as IC lead the contest for the men's team championship over UL by just a handful of points (the trophy for this was bigger than the VL trophy anyway) and the Monday events looked like they were in our favour.

The biggest morale boost of the day came from an event IC is starting to have a bit of a tradition in – the men's beginner single. Filling some seriously big shoes previously filled by the likes of Tom Jones and Paddy Hudson was Rob McPherson, who also more than doubled his total number of singles outings throughout the day. Lifting the rate to 24 for a big finish, Rob took the bronze medal (rumours that he started his massive sprint to the line when he saw Yewande Adesida watching from the bank are yet to be confirmed). Disaster almost struck 10 meters from the finish after a collision with a buoy 10 meters from the line,



STU WHITELAW



GILES MORTIMER

but McPherson managed to hold himself together and stay upright.

The Richards/Kimberley lightweight dream team combined once again in the lightweight pair. However in contrast to previous year they had some stiff competition, finishing 2nd to an Edinburgh pair who had beaten them in the double the day before. However, the lads weren't going to let themselves get beat at sweep. It was nip and tuck all the way to the 1500 where the boys put in a big lad push to get half a length up. This proved to be a coup de grace as the Edinburgh bowman blew and got pulled across 2 lanes, with Kimberley blowing 50 metres later.

After a quick walk, rehydrate and a couple of collapses from exhaustion, the pair then went straight in to the lightweight 4x with Paul Jones and Myles Holborough to attempt to defend their title for the 4th year running. On seeing everyone getting tired, Holborough knew it was time for an inspirational speech. It began something along the lines of "Come on lads we're gonna f*cking win this one, F*ck UL" and was followed by some more expletives that I'm told can't be put in, despite being highly amusing. Anyway, the speech clearly worked as the boys led Edinburgh out of the start and finished with clear water, with 3rd place 15 seconds behind.

Stepping up to replace Rory Sullivan as token club geezer, Ben Thomas

teamed up with Tom Jones for the men's (intermediate) pair. Despite Tom Jones just getting worse and worse down the course, the boys put in a DJ Sully style big finish, taking down Newcastle and winning the silver medal behind Queens Belfast. Other strong performances came with a bronze medal from Michelle Vezie and Isa von Loggia in the women's champ double, 4th place in the women's champ coxed 4 (Michelle Vezie, Isa von Loggia, Lily Beadle & Jade Hubbard) and 5th for the Hubbard/ Mason duo in the light pair. A special mention has to go to the novice women, who just missed out on the final, and finished 2nd in the B final.

So, all in all we finished with the men's victor Ludorum trophy, 2nd in the medals table and 3rd in the women's team trophy and 3rd in the overall VL. This of course called for a big celebration on Thursday night, with MVP Seb de Trafford ending up wandering around in Vauxhall pretending to be a secret agent. I'm looking forward to seeing our new social sec in action next year. Well done to everyone who raced once again, especially the beginner guys and girl for stepping up to the occasion big time. Our thanks must go to all the parents who helped out once again and made the annual weekend of hell bearable. Cheers then.