



## NEW INFO ADDS TO EXAM SCANDAL

Kunal Wagle  
News Editor

**MORE information has come to light on the scandal that hit the final exam for first year students on the Electronic and Information Engineering (EIE) course. Last week the students sat their Operating Systems paper, but moments after the exam started there were fits of laughter as the department had accidentally left the mark scheme for the first half of the paper attached.**

After some discussion between the invigilators, the papers were collected and replaced with fresh copies minus the offending sheet. When asked by the Daily Mail for a statement the College said:

*During an examination being taken by 30 first-year Electrical and Electronic*

*Engineering students, the first page of the answer scheme was included alongside the question paper due to a printing error. The Department became aware of the situation within five minutes of the exam beginning. The exam was halted and the papers were removed from the students.*

*The Department reviewed the situation carefully and concluded that students would not have been able to use the information to any advantage during the short time they had access to part of the answer scheme.*

*The exam questions required students to demonstrate the application of an algorithm to a given data set setting out detailed reasoning in their solutions. The required algorithms were not revealed in the answer scheme. Once this was established, the exam recommenced with the correct version*

*of the question paper.*

However, it has since become clear that this does not tell the full story. Reading the first half of the exam paper, it seems that the solutions could have provided more assistance in answering the questions than the College have let on. According to a student we contacted, elements of some questions did not require extensive work to reach an answer. In fact as part of the first question of the paper, candidates are asked to “list advantages and disadvantages” of three different algorithms. This would mean that a student who copied what was written on the mark scheme could potentially gain many of the marks for that part of the question, without having to add the “detailed reasoning” the College mentioned.

In addition to this, new information has now surfaced...

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## Sex In Fisher Hall Damages Wall

Ben Fernando  
Reporter

**FURTHER concerns have been raised in recent weeks about the structural integrity of the Fisher Hall buildings in Evelyn Gardens, including the event mentioned in the above title.**

Following a prior investigation of Fisher last year, this author visited again to examine the most recent developments as the building slowly disintegrates around the poor Freshers inside. The alarming incidents reported add to the recent controversy surrounding the college's accommodation policy, with both the move to North Acton and the poor quality of the Wilson House refurbishment sources of concern.

Upon revisiting Fisher, the first Fresher we encountered (who wishes to remain anonymous) repeatedly described the building as a ‘shithole’, and mentioned that they knew someone who had been moved to another hall for a week recently as the accommodation team worked to repair part of the ceiling that had apparently collapsed. They was happy to take us to a part of the building in the corner of House 30 not previously visited, where their friend gave us a guided tour of a double room.

The ceiling behind the door had a metre-long crack running through it, which is reported to leak. The far corner near the window contained a rather unsightly black patch of mould, which the occupant insisted that the



College were aware of but had yet to rectify. Something tells me that



## Campus Services on Fisher

### A College Spokesperson gives an update

- Some preventative work was carried out to a corridor ceiling outside a room in January. During this work the residents of the room were unable to gain access between 10am and 5pm and were offered the use of an alternative room for this time – which they accepted. The work was carried out as planned and the students were able to gain access to their room that evening.
- Occasional water leaks from balconies or showers can cause damp. These are always reported immediately to the help desk by staff to make sure they are fixed. Accommodation staff continue to monitor the situation and students with any concerns can contact their Hall Supervisor.
- The College maintains an asbestos register across all sites and works closely with asbestos specialists to closely monitor and address any repair needs as and when they arise. There are occasions, as with the wall in question, when temporary repairs are carried out to secure an area ahead of permanent work being done. This temporary maintenance poses no health risks and permanent repairs due to take place over the summer.
- Aesthetic maintenance is ongoing in Fisher Hall and will continue. Plans are in place to redecorate approximately 25 rooms this summer.

# THE LAST FELIX OF THE YEAR THANKS TO

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## Just how well maintained is Fisher Hall?

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the room in question won't be available for tours on the upcoming accommodation open day.

Travelling upwards, we encountered a flooded bathroom with a non-functional light, and a rather worrying sight outside room 310 in House 24. 'The cave' is a longstanding Fisher feature, a passage between rooms and the kitchen, which has at most four feet of headroom.

However, a portion of the wall that was clearly marked as containing the carcinogen asbestos appeared to have been patched up with a large amount of silver duct tape. Exactly what lies beneath this duct tape is unknown, but nonetheless one would think that asbestos regulations would require more than just duct tape to contain it.



College have given up any form of aesthetic maintenance when it comes to Fisher. Most of the walls are falling apart and cracking, the paint in most places is peeling and the carpets look like they haven't been cleaned in many years.

This is really quite unfortunate, given that many residents appear to be quite attached to what is left of the building and the survivor spirit and camaraderie that it inspires.

Given the number of problems plaguing the College's last major accommodation project, the late and shoddy Wilson refurbishment which resulted in an untreated fungal infestation that would have fascinated even the most experienced of the Biology department's mycologists and floors that were so uneven and mislaid that wardrobes seemed in danger of toppling, one wonders if it would not be better to spend the sever-



Electrical safety in the building does appear to have improved, with the old telephone circuits being removed and the fuseboxes checked, albeit only a year too late. It is remarkable that the passing of the recommended date did not appear to trouble the hall team as much as some origami birds that were hung from the fire alarm in a students' room last year, which resulted in a stern email highlighting the extreme danger this posed sent to said student and much chastising.

It is also clear that the

al hundred million pounds spent on the new halls refurbishing Evelyn Gardens to a reasonable standard?



Investigation reveals that these issues are well-known to prospective applicants, with storied of the famed 2007 Fisher ceiling collapse circulating on The Student Room. So perhaps the 2015 freshers will actually be glad of the 40-minute commute that awaits them.

# Professor is Inventor of the Year

Kunal Wagle  
News Editor

Chris Toumazou, professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, has won the Inventor of the Year award for Research at the European Inventor Awards. Professor Toumazou won the award for his work on a new device called the SNP Doctor, which uses "small silicon microchips to identify genetic mutations that determine a person's predisposition to certain hereditary diseases." Prof. Toumazou was the only person from the United Kingdom to win the award.

James Stirling, who is the Provost of the College said, "This award really underlines what Imperial researchers do best – taking world leading research and applying it to help solve global challenges. The whole College warmly congratulates Chris. This award is a brilliant acknowledgement of his hard work and his innovative spirit."

In addition to becoming Imperial's first Regius Professor during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year in 2013, he also won the Gabor Medal at the Royal Society last year. Prof. Toumazou was also the youngest professor at the College when he was appointed at the age of 33.

Prof. Toumazou has set up the DNA Electronics Company through Imperial Innovations in order to market the SNP Doctor. It is thought that the new product would save hospitals large amounts of money, whilst also providing DNA Sequencing results to patients in a matter of minutes instead of weeks. The company has already announced collaborations with major firms such as Roche and Pfizer.

## RCSU Colours 2014

such science very volunteer many winners wow!

THE following sciences students have given a significant contribution to the operation and improvement of the Royal College of Science Union this year! Congratulations!

### Half Colours

- Oliver Connor
- Oscar Farrell
- Jasper Menkus
- Tanvi Rajee
- Annina Sartor
- Liisa Veerus

- Emma McFadden
- Francesco Sciortino

### President's Award

- James Badman
- Philip Kent
- Dongwhi Kim
- Hannah Maude
- Ross Webster

### Full Colours

- Olivia Boyd
- Elana Bryan
- Rachel Gregory
- Fangjia He

### RCSU Club of the Year

- MathSoc

## Huxley Bins Set on Fire!

Kunal Wagle  
News Editor

It is reported that at some point last week there was a fire in the Huxley building, which is home to both the Mathematics and Computing departments. In an e-mail sent to students in the Computing Department last Friday; the College said, "An incident was recently reported of a cigarette butt causing a fire in a bin located on level 2 of Huxley building, in front of the Clore lecture theatre. Please be reminded that smoking is not permitted in front of any of the entrances to Huxley or on the walkway to Sherfield building." The Fire Officer was not available for a comment.



### Sponsored Editorial

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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.

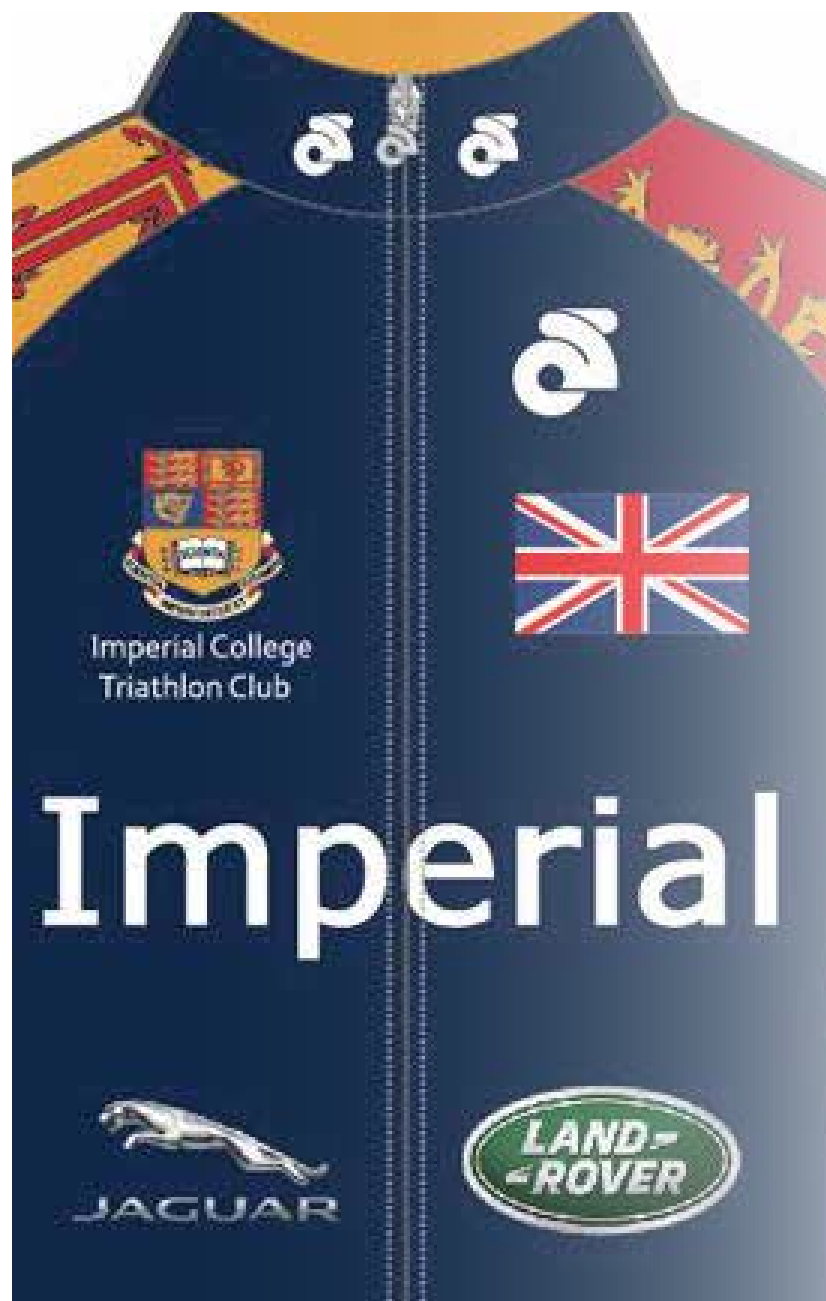
## Who is eligible?

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.



# Triathlon win “Best Kit” Award



## Sport Imperial ARCS Awards

**Coach of the Year – Tom Burwell  
(Medicals Rugby FC)**

**Sports Media Award – Varsity Live  
Production Team**

**Ethos Award – Shannon Jewell**

**Sports Ambassador of the Year – Zain  
Abbas**

**Athlete of the Year – Chris Bannon**

**Team of the Year – American Football  
Club of the Year – IT Tennis**

## College Exam Scandal

**Continued from Page 1**

over the circumstances after the mistake had been discovered. According to one student, once the invigilators had realised there was a problem, they did not immediately collect all of the question papers. In fact, whilst the invigilators discussed their course of action, the students chatted about the exam paper and the answers (which they still had at this point) with their peers for approximately ten minutes. The College’s claim that students would not have been able to use “the information to any advantage” is therefore questionable.

Furthermore, when the new question papers were provided, the students were not forced to use new answer booklets, meaning that those who managed to copy down answers or hints before the question paper was removed could have gained an advantage.

Another dimension of the situation involved the students who had extra time to complete the paper. Operating Systems was part B of a two-part module that also included Computer Architecture. This was sat in the morning and was then followed

by a 30-minute break before Part B (the one with the mark scheme present). However, as the extra time students finished Part A, the other students had returned from their break, meaning that the students who were eligible to receive extra time were present for the mishap, and were able to listen to or take part in the discussion of the paper and answers before taking their break, in which they could potentially study the topics they knew were on the exam.

Having looked at the relevant documents, it would appear that the entire module, represented by papers A and B, is worth 7.5% of the first year EIE course.

When speaking to Felix about the exam paper, another student said, “[the department] wrongly thought we couldn’t extrapolate the answers from the mark scheme so it was probably wrong for the exam to go ahead”.

Felix feels that it is unfair to unduly criticise the staff for a simple mistake.

However we believe that the students should be informed in more detail about any repercussions, and that the overall situation could have been handled significantly better when it first arose.

## What’s happened to the Aldwych Group

Aemun Reza  
News Editor

As a group of representatives of the Student’s Unions and Associations of the Russell Group, you would expect them to be doing, well something. With an empty website and empty promises of meeting at least 6 times a year, rumours have been spreading amongst the twittersphere that the group may be disbanding.

When approached to comment on the situation, or really lack of situation, the Aldwych group declined to reply, which makes us wonder whether there’s actually anyone at the other end of the computer.

The pristinely made website that has pretty much no content apart from a long list of bullet points about the Constitution along with no press releases, new updates or events, its no wonder that the

group may be scrapped and sold for parts.

Perhaps the Aldwych group will step up its game with the new prospect of Oxford joining the non-NUS affiliates club or perhaps they’ll do what they are good at doing, which is nothing.

Either way, it’s clear that this group either need to step up their game or step out of the game.

# THE RESULTS ARE IN – WHAT DID THE RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE REVIEW DO FOR YOU?

**E A R L I E R**  
this year Professor Debra Humphris Vice-Provost (Education) set the wheels in motion for a review of the 'student residential experience' to determine how College fares against peers and where improvements could be made. Professor Myra McClure chaired the review panel, and members of the panel included Union President David Goldsmith, Union Deputy President (Welfare) Marissa Lewis, Head of International Student Support Dr. Sharon Bolton, and the Director of Residential Services at LSE Ian Spencer.

Of course, the important question that begs to be asked is "what did these people recommend?"

## Student Amenities

College plans to separate the Student Amenity Fund (the money students contribute towards communal hall activities) from rent charges, reducing the total student contribution and applying a consistent rate across all halls. This will be in consultation with the Union.

## Clearer Communication

College will work with the Union and students to ensure they provide accurate student centred information about halls and support for incoming students.

College aims to increase the transparency surrounding rent and the costs of Hall accommodation

## College Services

College plans to develop a clear package of cleaning and maintenance services for incoming students and will work with the Union to ensure that their communications are transparent. This also includes providing more information about the costs of these services.

To provide more information to students about Warden rotas and maintenance incidents.

## Support for Senior Undergrads and Postgrads

College will undertake a feasibility study on the possibility of introducing a "Rent Guarantor Scheme" which would enable College to act on behalf of students seeking accommodation without a UK-based guarantor.

College will give greater consideration to strengthening student feedback about renting in the private sector.

## Wardening

College will strive to provide better training to wardens and give them more clearly defined roles, as set out in the soon to be finalised Hall Warden Policy and Procedures.



# PIRATES: A REVIEW WITH SCIENTISTS

One of Cosmo's top tips to "spice up your sex life" suggests watching porn together. After weeks of trying to convince Max Hunter, he finally conceded, with the condition that it be in HD, in Dolby Surround.



I'D LIKE TO  
PLUNDER HER  
BOOTY: Jesse  
Jane is one  
of the film's  
biggest appeals

By Tessa Davey

**W**ithout making so bold a claim so as to say that we've never watched porn, it's fair to say that neither of us are connoisseurs of the cinematographic genre. However, the 2005 feature-length *Pirates*, with its million-dollar budget, was the most expensive pornographic film ever made at the time, a title now held by its 2008 sequel. This seemed like it would be viewing worthy of our comparatively innocent eyes, and certainly stood to be a good candidate to meet his quality standards.

I wouldn't say that it's the best film that I've ever watched, but it was definitely the best porn I've ever seen, in terms of cinematographic value. Being 129 minutes long, it did start to drag in some parts, but the storyline did hold its weight (being very similar to *Pirates of the Caribbean*, although not so identical that it was boring).

The film follows a pirate hunter as he, along with his first officer (played by the well-known Jesse Jane) embark on a mission to catch the most feared of all pirates, and rescue the husband of a beautiful girl that they've picked up along the way. This is all done in an attempt to foil his plan to gain great powers from the Sceptre of Inca, which obviously requires a descendant of the family to which it was entrusted to activate. I'm sure you can see where this is going. There is a surprisingly long plot diversion following a Chinese gunner, Wu Cho (who is as stereotypical as you can imagine), as spends almost the entire

duration of the film searching for potassium nitrate. Despite it being 1763, it's never referred to as saltpetre; clearly the writer of the script was insistent that the scientific accuracy be maintained for a modern audience.

Until I watched this film, I wasn't aware that silicone implants, peroxide, or extensive waxing were commonplace in 1763. All of the actresses were artificially modified in the breast department, which I think is an occupational hazard of the genre. That said, as obvious as I found this, it was apparently not apparent to a non-female observer. A commendable aside of the historical inaccuracies is that the participating male actors wore condoms during penetrative sex. This practice, although fairly commonplace, and sometimes legally required now, was fairly unusual in 2005 (and certainly in 1763), and shows how progressive this film was, in terms of the genre.

We were in agreement that the aspect that let the movie down was the acting. Obviously, the actors in a film such as this are chosen at least partially for reasons other than their ability to act as though that giant CGI sea-monster (ooh-er) is real, and the pool from which they can be chosen is far smaller. Although some of the (non-sex) acting was indeed very good, there did appear to be an inverse correlation between the ability to make the character believable and the ability to perform a really hot sex scene, which was slightly disappointing. The biggest name in this film, Jesse Jane, was definitely the weakest actor, but certainly drew in viewers in her own right. Despite this, the script

was strong enough that it was possible to imagine good acting, and the stiff reading of lines didn't really detract any enjoyment, merely adding some comedic value. Several of the leading actors won AVN awards for best

her husband for the first time. This is unexpectedly well-acted, and is initially realistic. However, the sex rapidly became too porny, and I think the producers missed a trick by skipping the niche

Even with a million-dollar budget, there's only so much money left for CGI, and we were left wondering which of the sex or battle scenes were more realistic. They seemed, at times, to have plumped for quantity rather than quality, with a large number of beautiful sweeping shots of what could have been Play-Doh boat models. That said, the non-computer-generated scenes were, on the whole, very well-composed and shot, with the exception of a few rather oddly-placed light sources (and I'm not talking about the non-conventional use of candlesticks in the final scene).

This is a critical analysis, and I am picking on the bad points of the film, but I should end by saying that as far as pornographic films go, this was definitely of very high quality, and I would go as far as to say that it preaches far fewer bad habits than most porn. The media frequently reports on how damaging it is for young people to learn about sex from pornography, a sentiment that I would agree is true to an extent. However, with an immensely popular pornographic feature such as this moving towards a more realistic portrayal of sex, I see no reason to artificially shield the next generation as ours never was in the days before parental controls.

**A**ll this said, the best judge of porn has to be its ability of inspire carnal lust. And did it succeed? Sadly, the only se[a]men to be seen that night were of the onscreen variety; Mr Wu's puny gunshots were unable to arouse any other kind of shots that night, something which no amount of saltpetre could fix.



actor and actress, which might say more than I could about the quality of acting compared to other competing productions. What was unusual about this film, in comparison to most extended pornography, was that the erotic scenes didn't appear contrived; for all the scenes, there was context and build up. Yes, this could have been better, but as the *New York Times* described it, "a relatively high-budget story of a group of ragtag sailors who go searching for a crew of evil pirates who have a plan for world domination. Also, many of the characters in the movie have sex with one another."

This film is described as having been made to appeal to women as well as men, and this is evident. The film opens to a young, newlywed woman, nervously stripping for

appeal of a virginity scene, which women could have related to. What disappointed me most, watching this film as a woman, was the ratio of male to female orgasms in each of the erotic scenes. There were no female orgasms shown in any scene where a man was present, and in only one of the all-girl sex scenes (where it wasn't really clear, but I'll give it). This inequality particularly saddens me, because I find it thoroughly unnecessary. I don't think there is anyone who is going to be turned on by a pornographic (male and female) sex scene, who would be turned off by watching a female climax. I'm sure that these world-famous actresses are perfectly capable of a magnificently faked orgasm, and certainly, there is time to include it in a film this long.

# SCRABBLE TOUR!



Felix / Max Hunter

Prince  
goes  
to  
Prague

Will Prince  
Scrabble Reporter

**ON December 6th at around midday, at least 55 games were taking place at the SCRABBLE Champions' Tournament in Prague. 110 players from across the globe had convened in Prague for a tilt at the title of SCRABBLE World Champion and a share of the €25,000 prize pot. Players from as far and wide as Bahrain and Barbados had come to compete. By the time we caught up with the competition, at the start of the third day, the serious contenders had already begun to make themselves known. Foremost amongst them was one Nigel Richards.**

By the time the final day broke, over 100 comers had been cut down to a final four. Sammy Okosagah, the Cinderella story of the tournament, stood top of the rankings after 31 games, a spectacular feat for a player who only made the competition through the last chance qualifier. A former big-hitter on the Nigerian SCRABBLE scene, now a resident of Baltimore and returning after a long hiatus, he'd marked his return in style. Level with him on 22 wins, were Nigel Richards and Dave Wiegand, a taciturn American who has won over \$100,000 in prize money over the course of his playing career. With a far superior spread, Sammy took the top spot, followed by Nigel and then Dave, with Komol taking fourth as the only player on 21 wins. It was Sammy against Komol and Nigel against Dave for a place in the final.

With Wiegand's mild manner and Richard's reputation for unremittingly outstanding play, the first semi-final had shades of a lamb going to the slaughter. Of the many I spoke to, no one could look past Nigel for a victor and duly, in traditional Nigel style, he delivered – by a whitewash no less.

The other final was a less one-sided affair. Okosagah took the first game courtesy of GANTLINE, OUTDOER and FAR SIDES, but Komol pegged him back in the second. The second was decided early on. With WAWS and SUQ on the board, Sammy weighed up playing CATNAPED before deciding to pass and give Komol the chance to make something more of the limited options on the board. Little had he countenanced that Komol might play GYMPIEs, having picked up the blank. Bingo, double letter on Y, it scored 90 for Komol putting him 132-18 up after each player had two turns. The rest of the match was something of a formality; despite FEnURON and COVERAGE, both for 80, from Okosagah, OVERRATE and EROTISE ensured Komol ran out winner before he closed out the semi-final in the fourth game.

So it came down to Nigel against Komol, the final that everyone had seen coming and that the competition deserved. A best of five face-off is what stood between the defending World Champion and the young Thai challenger. Dave Wiegand had knocked and been unsympathetically denied, Sammy had come out of nowhere and got a little closer, but only two had made it into the final. The stage was set, the crowd awaited, the tiles sat ready to write on the board of history. It was Komol to play Nigel in the SCRABBLE Champions' Tournament final.

OILSEED, GREX, RATOONER; all the words went Nigel's way. 581-421, Nigel took the final game and with it claimed his third world title.

And then, strangely, that was that. Nigel was victorious and the world SCRABBLE champion of champions had been decided for another year, in a predictable yet nevertheless climactic denouement.

Luckily for me, the SCRABBLE Champions' Tournament is coming to London's ExCel Centre later this year.

## Grudge match against an 8 year-old

Will Prince  
Scrabble Reporter

**AWAY from the top of the leader board, one of the most notable players here at tournament is New Zealand's Lewis Hawkins. What sets him out from the rest of the crowd is that, being aged 8, he's at least a decade younger than anyone else here. Learning from my failures in adopting the direct approach with Nigel, I managed to convince him have a chat with me over a game the following day.**

Buoyed by my date with Lewis, I continued to rove field-recorder in hand. Still feeling my way into the Scrabble scene, driven in equal measures by my own ignorance and potential interviewees' relative reticence, I found myself asking similar questions to each willing participant. Question: "If you had one tip to a layman Scrabbler, what would it be?" Almost without exception, the response was to learn all the two letter words. Yet somehow this didn't seem enough. I wanted more in depth secrets, some juice, to give a window into the mind of a proper player and see better how their approach differed from that of you or I. I added it to my notes and pressed on.

Later that evening, as I listened back over my recordings through the haze of the Czech bar we'd holed up in (smoking in bars and clubs is still legal in the Czech Republic), I had what alcoholics refer to as a moment of clarity. Here I was practically listening on repeat to different SCRABBLE grandees say that learning the two letter words is key; I had the biggest game of SCRABBLE in my life lined up for the following day and yet my knowledge of two-letter words was lacking.

I'm not sure if it was basement-priced pivo or the circumstances that caught up with me, but I descended into a state of minor

panic. After twenty minutes of pleading with what sporadic roaming 3G my phone could muster, I scribbled down the first list of two letter words I could find. Outside, the sun had long since set. I had my showdown at nine, the next morning. That gave me around 12 hours to know my JO's from my PO's and my EG's from my AG's, as I whispered myself slowly to sleep with my wordsheet.

As eight year olds go, Lewis Hawkins seemed pretty well travelled. Having made it to Prague via Bangkok, he's then going on to Dubai (to play in the Youth SCRABBLE Championships no less) before a mini European tour and a Christmas spent with family in Norway.

Sitting down to face my SCRABBLE destiny, I let Lewis do the scoring, largely for fear of him showing me up if try to do it myself. Either way, the speed of his calculation is dizzying. While I count up each tile, lifting up them to check what bonus was below, he skips up each number – "six, seven, eleven, fourteen, twenty eight" he counted aloud, opening the scoring with 'COVED' – like a dancer ascending stairs in a hurry.

Occasionally, I dare to proffer up a total and on more than one occasion he corrects my maths, with a matter-of-fact insouciance that could only be got away with by someone of such tender years. Despite some initial misgivings over whether COVED was a real word or not I parallel played on with MASH, putting to good use my newly freshened knowledge of ME and AD.

I begin with a topic that I imagine to be a gold mine of conversation for an eight-year old: that of Christmas presents. He seems a little disinterested, almost a little too mature to be talking toys, so I get down to brass tacks. He explains how he started playing on the iPad – the first in a generation of SCRABBLE champions first introduced to the game on a tablet, I wonder? He tells me





Felix / Max Hunter

he practises about an hour a day during the week but often the whole day at weekends and during the holidays - 'unless my mum kicks me off the iPad' he adds.

He drops down RUE to the end of my JOKE played a turn or two before and presses down each tile in order with his little fingers. Four turns in, he's already on triple figures and has a lead of 39. Scanning over my tiles through a subconscious face palm, I mutter something about being in touching distance. "Quite close," says Lewis, seemingly getting the emollient comments in early before the gap becomes unassailable.

"What do your mates make SCRABBLE? Are you converting them?" I ask as I play GLORY, with no small hint of irony, for a piddly nine points. "All of them are very good at sport", he tells me in his gentle Antipodean drawl. "all my friends play at least three sports. I only play...". He pauses a moment. "If you count SCRABBLE as a sport, I only play two." The other, he tells me, is soccer, rarely taking his eyes off the tiles as he plays BONNETS.

If the systematic dismantling I was suffering at the hands of Lewis wasn't bad enough, the rate at which he did it was alarming. Every so often I remember that Lewis is in primary school. I struggle to remember what my primary school years were like. It puts into perspective how mature Lewis is for his age, with a level of focus that many adults would aspire to.

"Have you ever played SCRABBLE before?" I couldn't tell if this was innocent conversation from the pint-sized kiwi or exquisite chutzpah, but either way, I cracked. Despite being away from the cloying smoke of the bar cellar and (as far as I could tell) with the last of the pivo out my system, the wave of nauseous panic returned. My pupils dilated, my pulse quickened. Beyond the board, the world blurred into nothingness and my focus closed down to the rack.

It was just me and these seven tiles, and

I was getting beaten by an eight year old. Albeit modern SCRABBLE's answer to an eight-year-old Mozart but I was getting beat nonetheless and, a handful of turns in, it was looking to be a hiding.

Something needed to be done.

SUZE. SUZE was my only option.

With a 'Z' on my rack, I needed to make it count and SUZE was the only way I could muster, I slapped down SUZE for a whopping 43. For a moment Lewis was silent. He looked at the board, then down at his rack and then back to the board. He could challenge and I'd be rumbled, my SUZE ruse would be up. Seemingly unflapped by my speculative SUZE, he counters with DETAIN. I live to fight another rack.

My mind became a flurry of thoughts – crepe suzette, suzerainty, Peep Show's Big Suze – as I scrabbled the recesses of my mind for a shred of authenticity. I was losing to an eight year old and my only option was to try made-up words.

Sitting back in my chair and pulling the best look of nonchalance I could muster, I slapped down SUZE for a whopping 43. For a moment Lewis was silent. He looked at the board, then down at his rack and then back to the board. He could challenge and I'd be rumbled, my SUZE ruse would be up. Seemingly unflapped by my speculative SUZE, he counters with DETAIN. I live to fight another rack.

It's been a busy schedule for Lewis so far, he's been here a week and played both days of the last chance qualifier for the SCT and every day of the open tournament that has been run concurrently for those who failed to make the main event.

I've done well to have him squeeze me in before his day's play begins proper. He is more than just figuratively having me for breakfast.

He came very close to making the SCT himself: of the three under-18 entrants in the last chance qualifier, one was guaranteed entry. Over the course of his eight games he was drawn against neither of the other two but they played each other, one beating the other by a monstrous margin and skewing the rankings in the favour of the victor. Lewis was effectively frozen out of contention. Any sense of disappointment can't have lasted too long. I later discovered that at the World Youth SCRABBLE Championship in Dubai (his next stop after Prague) he won the prize for best player in both his own age category and the one above.

LAVE stares back at me from my rack and feeling a little cocky from my close shave with SUZE, I throw caution to the wind once again. I ask him if he has any favourite words, to see if he can top the tale of ZYGANTRA one of the English players had told me the day before. "This word," he says, scribbling it down on the sheet we're using for scoring, "This is my favourite word I played in the tournament". I look at it and baulk. TAENIAE. All of a sudden SUZE don't seem all that bad. "Do you know what it means?" I ask, now weary of disconnect between spelling and definition in the

SCRABBLE player's consciousness. Lewis gives a little mute shake of his head, before challenging my LAVE.

Any word can be challenged in a game of SCRABBLE, the clocks are stopped and the dictionary, automated into a computer search bar, is consulted. To my amazement, it checks out and gifts me a further five points. I would've felt worse about so blindly guessing against a soon-to-be nine year old, but his margin stood not far off triple digits and it had dried up any pool of sympathy that might have been welling inside of me.

"It's getting quite tense." I say, mopping literal sweat off my brow. "Not really" comes the response. Clearly when you're used to spanking septuagenarians with TAENIAE, losing five points to me on a challenge barely registers. I, however, was jubilant.

I ask Lewis if he thinks he could one day be World Champion. He hums a brief moment of deliberation, before admitting 'probably not'. I wouldn't be so pessimistic about his chances. Starting so young, his mind will be a sponge to all that rote learning of words that forms the mainstay of competitive SCRABBLE. Assuming he navigates his formative years with the same level head he's shown me over the past half hour, come an adult, he'd be at a huge advantage.

Picking up the blank, he plays BANTING for 65 and cheekily reminds me I can challenge if I want. The word doesn't spark even a glimmer of recognition but keen to avoid falling for his ploy, I play on. A few more outrageously hopeful words by me (PAISE apparently is allowed) Lewis rounds off the game, winning 372-273. As I pant a relieved sigh at managing to keep the difference within double digits (the marker of respectability, I tell myself) Lewis is already picking at the tiles, working out what other plays could have been made.

I scan over the scoresheet and finally ask him for his autograph. Some how, I doubt it'll be his last.



# Sabb-2-Sabb – The tim



**AS** at least 39.9% of you know, last term saw the election of a new team of Union sabbatical officers and full-time roles; people who have taken a year to focus on things that directly affect “you the student”.

**THE** official terms of all full-time roles change on August 1 each

year, and things still happen during summer, but this is the last time we’ll be seeing the Sabbs during term, before the new team take over next year.

**AT** the top of this spread you’ll hear from this year’s officers, and at the bottom you’ll see next year’s eager young’uns.

## Union President



David “Beats by Dre” Goldsmith

**Best thing you’ve done this year?**

This would be the Student Consultation Framework that I developed. This is a document, produced through extensive consultation with College staff and students, which sets a standard for how students should be consulted on changes that affect them.

**Will you lobby the College to develop halls in Hyde Park?**

How absurd! However I did rally time and time again for the occupation of Kensington Palace and its gardens. Unfortunately the College consistently sided with the royals and defeated every one of our Constituent Union armies.



Tom “Take Your Top Off” Wheeler

**Best thing you’ve done this year?**

*Tom was busy and unable to come back to us. However he has had a successful year as the chair of the Recreational Clubs Committee and of course won the Presidential election. - Ed.*

**What was Tom up to instead?**

*Tom was probably chopping wood in a forest somewhere, saving children from fatal accidents or moving frantically up and down while trying to avoid protruding pipes. We wish him well - Ed.*

## Deputy President (Clubs & Socs)



Yas “Community Service” Edwards

**What have you been doing for the last year?**

My year has been so varied and busy! I’ve learned a lot, supported many clubs, new ideas and events, and represented students nationally. I’m most proud of the Union Sports Strategy and Activities Development Fund which will create more opportunities for student activities in the future.

**Top Four Favourite Colours?**

1 – Algae Green, 2 – Pine Green, 3 – Shamrock Green, 4 – Avocado Green.

Green things make me happy! The Green Huntsman Spider evokes mixed emotions but looks amazing



Abigail “CSP Weds.” De Bruin

**Best thing you’ve done this year?**

*Abigail was busy with exams and unavailable for comment. As Tour Manager of IC Sinfonietta and a keen martial artist she was elected as next year’s DPCS. Good luck Abigail! - Ed.*

**What was Abigail up to instead?**

*Aside from exams we think Abigail was either conducting chemistry experiments galore, demonstrating her martial arts experience on club “naughty officers” who failed to pass the “Key Information” quiz or practising for a summer concert - Ed.*

## Deputy President (Welfare)



Marissa “Well-fair” Lewis

**Best thing you’ve done this year?**

Probably having dinner with Professor Lord Robert Winston - it was definitely the highlight of a lot of hard lobbying work over the Immigration Bill. It was pretty incredible to hang out in the House of Lords and watch the debate.

**How much do you like Cyan and Magenta?**

Genuinely the names of my future children.



Chris “O” Kaye

**How do you think the Union can improve?**

The Union can improve by trusting the intelligence of its members to make decisions about their own lives.

**What’s your favourite thing about Metric?**

The thing like most about Metric is that I can be totally and utterly safe there thanks to the Safe Space Policy. Also that fact no-one else is there helps too.

# Names they are a changin'

## Deputy President (Education)



**Nat "NSS" Kempston**

### Best thing you've done this year?

Definitely going to the top education committee- the College Senate- and winning a debate on why we shouldn't switch to GPA (Grade Point Average). Having most of the senior members of College on the opposing side meant this victory for students was even sweeter.

### What are your top four favourite colours and why?

Well dur- obviously cyan, magenta, black and white. Because these are the only 4 colours that exist. Aren't they??

*Top points for loving Union branding colours! - I would admit to it to if I could. Ed.*



**Pascal "Foot" Loose**

### Best thing you've done this year?

Working with EESoc and setting up coding classes where students can teach children how to code.

### Why did you run for the role?

I want to improve the feedback system, implement e-learning across the college and enhance the PG experience.

### What is your favourite "Cards Against Humanity Card"?

Money can't buy me love, but it can buy me peanut butter jelly time

### What is your favourite floor of the Union and why?

Level 1, no stairs

## Deputy President (Finance & Services)



**Kieron "Smiley" Creagh**

### What you wish you'd known when you started?

The Union is very well respected by and has a strong relationship with College. This is very useful when making change and getting things done and I wish I'd utilised this more sooner.

### How often do you eat at FiveSixEight?

I eat in 568 more than I should but I think, or at least hope, it's less than once a week! We've added a lot of new things this year and I try to make sure I try everything new at least once.



**Alex "D & D" Savell**

### What are you looking forward to the most?

After this year, I think the thing I'm looking forward to most is seeing even more bits of the Union I've never encountered and the interesting things they get up to and events they run.

### What is your favourite "Cards Against Humanity Card"?

I'm ashamed to say that I only encountered this this year. My nerd credentials are slipping. I did enjoy it... though some pretty terrible things crop up. I don't think I have a favourite card but Step 1. \_\_\_\_, Step 2. \_\_\_\_, Step 3. Profit is an old classic.

## Felix Editor



**Joe "Teh Grump" Letts**

### What you wish you'd known when you started?

I wish I had known just many emails I would receive from random PR companies. And also how hard it can be to manage a large team. It's been a fun year and real learning experience.

### How often do you eat at FiveSixEight?

I've reduced the frequency of my visits this term, but at times I've been every day of the week. I've probably spent over £1000 there over the course of the year (not including drinks). Talk about giving back to the Union! Great place!



**Philippa "The Disgraced" Skett**

### What are your plans for next year?

I plan to make Felix the student paper of the year, and ensure it wins a shit tonne of awards for student media. I'm also looking at long term plans to install a cocktail bar into the Felix Office, for the inevitable Wednesday night breakdowns.

### What's your favourite thing about Metric?

The senseless apathy that you have to induce within yourself to have a good time there. For me, that takes about six pints and two tequila shots. Nothing more, nothing less. Also requesting the Fly Like a G6 parody "Fly like its Quiddich" every time I go and being told to do one.

## IC School of Medicine SU President



**Steve "Phoenix" Tran**

### What have you been doing for the last year?

I've spent my year pulling my hair out at how many events the Medical School puts on and trying to ensure that no one dies. It's all in the role of a medical sabbatical.

### How often do you eat at FiveSixEight?

I only eat at FiveSixEight when Kieron is paying. He's very generous with his hard earned wages. They should probably name a burger after him... Or at least after RSM hockey.



**Dariush "Boss man" Hassanzadeh-Baboli**

### What have you been doing over the last year?

Delivering babies, offering contraception advice and attempting to entertain 4 year olds in an allergy clinic.

Oh, and making sure that Imperial's most decorated rugby club made some money. #whowinsatvarsity

### What's your favourite thing about Metric?

The Exit!

# EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

## WHAT ARE YOU ENTITLED TO?

**LOTS of students take up part-time work or summer jobs between academic years or as a stop-gap after graduation when you're looking for something permanent. This is a quick guide to explain what you're entitled to as an employee to make sure you don't get taken advantage of.**

The rights you have as a worker depend on your statutory rights (rights you have by law) and your contract of employment. Contracts are not binding when they violate your statutory rights, so even if you sign a contract which does so by accident, these parts are void. However, employment contracts can offer you greater benefits than you are entitled to by law (e.g. greater holiday entitlement), they just can't offer less.

### Minimum Wage

The minimum wage for 18-20 year olds is £5.03/hour.  
For 21 year olds and over, it is £6.31.

Contracts are not binding if they stipulate a rate of pay below the national minimum wage – this is a rate you are entitled to and supersedes contracts you may have signed with your employer.

The national minimum wage is the same for all workers, regardless of if they work full-time or part-time, the method of payment, and characteristics of the employer, such as the size of the organisation you work for or whereabouts in the UK you work.

If you feel you aren't being paid minimum wage, you can call the Pay and Work Rights Helpline on 0800 917 2368. This is a free and confidential helpline run by the government.

### How long can I work?

Most workers have a right to not work over 48 hours a week and workers over 18 are entitled to at least one day off a week. If you are working for longer than 6 hours, you have to be given at least a 20 minute rest break and you are also entitled to 11 hours off each day from your job.

### Cash-in-Hand work

Regardless of whether or not you work full-time, your employer has to deduct tax and National Insurance contributions from your pay by law. If your employer pays you cash-in-hand without these deductions, you might lose employment rights and some benefits such as sick pay. You also run the risk of having to pay these fees yourself.

### Who can work?

If you are from the UK or the European Economic Area (EEA), you are free to work in the UK. International students staying in the UK over the summer and seeking employment will need to check their visa status to see whether or not this is prohibited and if there are any restrictions placed upon your employment. If in doubt, you can contact Imperial's International Office for more advice.

### Holiday pay

If you were working full-time, you would have the right to 5.6 weeks of paid holiday a year in most professions. For part-time workers, you are entitled to the same annual leave as full-time workers but this is calculated based on the number of days you actually work. For example, if you work 2 days a week, the leave is calculated as  $2 \times 5.6$  (leave entitlement), which equals 11.2 days of paid annual leave.

### Health and safety

There are a whole load of health and safety rules an employer must follow in order to ensure their employees are working in a safe environment. These range from first aid facilities, to fire safety to noise issues. As an employee, it is your right to work in a safe environment and to be provided with equipment to ensure your safety as appropriate e.g. ear plugs or protective clothing.

### Zero-hours contract

A zero-hours contract is essentially a contract where an employer has no obligation to offer you shifts and you have no obligation to accept shifts. This creates a different working relationship than other forms of contract however, if you're on a zero-hours contract you are still entitled to annual leave and the national minimum wage.

### Issues with employers

If you are concerned that your contract doesn't stand up to scrutiny, the first option is often to talk to your line manager at work about your concerns or the company's HR department (should they have one). If you would like help or support with this, you can contact the Union's Advice Centre who can give advice about employment rights.

If this route doesn't get the required result, you can also approach the Citizen's Advice Bureau who can offer further support and even take your case to an employment tribunal if the issue isn't resolved.

# Are you ready for Felix next year?

(we're not quite, but we are getting there, promise)

We are getting a club committee together for next year, to make sure Felix truly kicks ass, and we need YOU!

Positions up for grabs:

## Vice Chair:

- The deputy boss of the committee, you get your own swivel chair and sense of power
- You will oversee the running of the rest of the committee, and take charge when needed
- You will liaise with the Union regarding club matters

## Publicity and Outreach Officer:

- Use mad Photoshop/ InDesign/WordArt skills to recruit new writers and editors next year
- Use mad social skills to bring Felix in line with other media outlets, to form a massive student media super movement
- We can teach you these skills if needed (except basic social skills, please ensure these are provided)

## Treasurer:

- Responsible for the Felix wallet, and prepare the budgetting for the Media group
- Look into acquiring sponsorship, advertising for the website
- Get the first round of pints in during Felix socials (not technically part of the role, but someone has to go first)

## Tech and IT Manager:

- Be responsible for the club's technical equipment and IT infrastructure
- Be ultra-keen on updating and upkeeping the website (anyone with any old-school MySpace skills could be good at this)

## Secretary:

- General note taking for minutes of Felix meetings or any formal decisions made by the committee
- Organise Felix socials and get us out of the office once in a while

**No previous experience with Felix as a writer is needed!**

Nominations open next week, on the 25th of June at 00:00

Nominations close on the 26th of June at 12:00

Manifestos must be uploaded to the eVoting website before the end of the nomination period:

<http://vote.union.ic.ac.uk>

You must be a member to run, but membership is free!

Email [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk) for more details

## EXCLUSIVE: VIOLENCE MAY LEAD TO MORE VIOLENCE

# Does watching violence on TV make men more violent?



Philippa Skett  
Science Editor

New research has shown that men watching more violence on television could result in stunted brain development, and the inability to control impulsive behaviours, including aggression.

A study, ran by a top brain journal, used brain imaging techniques to measure the mental abilities and volumes of key brain regions for a

group of men, specifically chosen due to the fact that they don't play video games but still watch TV.

The young men kept a diary of what they watched on the TV for a week, and completed further psychological tests to measure memory, attention and inhibitory control.

It was found that the more violent TV viewing the men indulged in, the more likely they were to be less attentive, and were less able to

control their cognitive function.

Not only that, but there appeared to be an actual structural difference in the brains of those that enjoyed the violent content of television shows.

Lead author Tom A. Hummer, Ph.D., assistant research professor in the IU Department of Psychiatry, said of the study: "When we looked at the brain scans of young men with higher violent television exposure, there was less volume of

white matter connecting the frontal and parietal lobes, which can be a sign of less maturity in brain development."

White matter of the brain insulates and protects nerve fibres, they allow different parts of the brain to connect and interact with each other. Usually, this white matter volume increases as the brain makes more connections throughout development, up until the age of around 30. These

connections are important for executive functioning of the brain, which includes formulating plans, make decisions, reason and problem solve.

"The take-home message from this study is the finding of a relationship between how much violent television we watch and important aspects of brain functioning like controlled attention and inhibition," Dr. Hummer said.

## Does sitting down on sofas give you cancer?

Fiona Hartley  
Science Editor

**PEOPLE** who spend more time sitting are more at risk of getting cancer than people who don't, a new study reveals.

**WE** already knew that sitting is linked to diabetes and heart disease, but our sedentary lifestyles are now even more dangerous than we thought.

**SCIENTISTS** looked at thousands of cancer studies and found that the risk for three specific cancers, bowel, endometrial (womb lining) and lung, is much greater when you sit down, like you do in the

**office or when watching TV. IN the studies, the least amount of time spent sitting was two to three hours. Every two-hour increase in sitting time from this was linked to an eight percent increased risk of bowel cancer and a ten percent increased risk of endometrial cancer.**

**AT least sitting doesn't increase the risks for other cancers.**

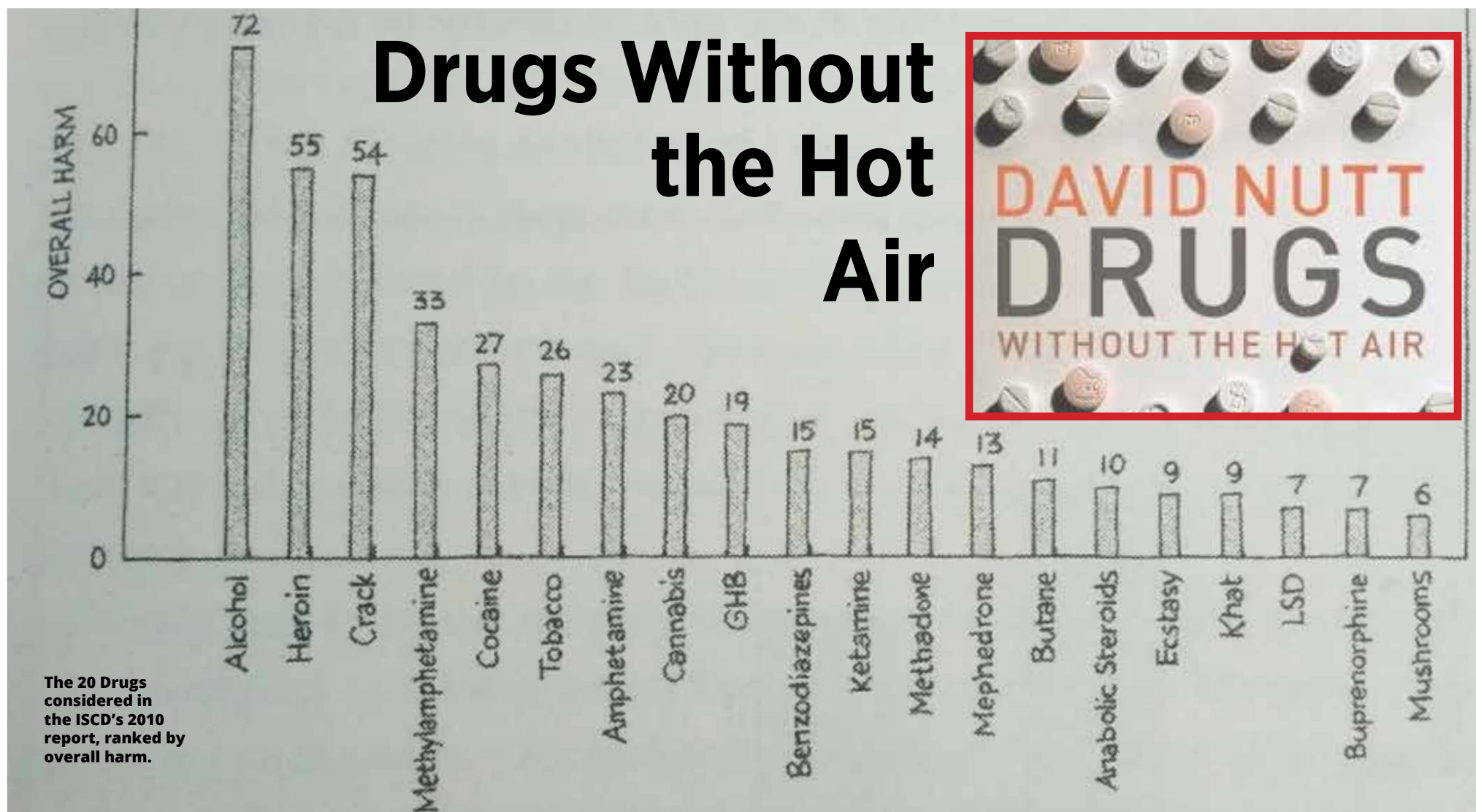
**BUT even if you work out regularly, you can't get rid of the increased risk of bowel, endometrial and lung cancer. Only spending less time on your bottom will help prevent them.**

THIS research was carried out as a 'meta analysis', as it took data



from previous studies to draw new conclusions. Pooled data was taken from 43 studies with more than four million participants, and covered more than 70,000 cancer cases.

**"CUTTING down on TV viewing and sedentary time is just as important as becoming more active,"** said Daniela Schmid, one of the authors of the study. **"For those whose jobs require them to sit at a desk most of the day, we recommend breaking up the time spent sitting by incorporating short bouts of light activity into the daily routine,"** she added. **SO next time you switch on your screens to watch the World Cup, don't take a seat - take a stand.**



The 20 Drugs considered in the ISCD's 2010 report, ranked by overall harm.

# I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT DRUGS UNTIL I READ THIS BOOK

Jack Peacock  
@ JackPeacock

**GUESS which substance killed Amy Winehouse? Have a stab in the dark.**

I was amazed to find out that despite huge problems with illicit substance abuse, and having been hospitalised previously for an overdose of heroin, ecstasy, cocaine and ketamine, there was nothing illegal about the substance that eventually killed her: alcohol. Of course, the Daily Mail jumped to conclusions when initially reporting on the story.

I've just finished reading David Nutt's *Drugs Without The Hot Air*, and it blew me away how little I knew about drugs (including alcohol and tobacco). I was amazed to the point where I felt I needed to encourage more people to read it. It turns out the drugs education you receive at school is shite and politicians/the media purvey unscientific nonsense.

David Nutt is the Edward J Safera chair of Neuropsychopharmacology at the fine institution of Imperial College London but you may know him as the government advisor who was sacked for making comments comparing the dangers of illegal substance to the dangers of legal activities such as horse riding and drinking alcohol.

The internet doesn't need another review from some 21 year old kid when The Economist and The Huffington Post have already got that down. I just thought I would relay some of the findings in it that surprised and fascinated me. If you find them unbelievable, I advise you to think where your current knowledge of drugs and drug users comes from; for me it was *Breaking Bad* and *The Sopranos*. These statistics and facts are of course out of context (go read the book) but I've tried to be fair when taking them out. Finally, the sources of these facts are all cited in the book but I haven't checked them out. [Most of them, I have – ed.]

## ON the comparison of legal and illegal activities:

On average, a horse rider can expect a serious accident every 350 hours riding. An ecstasy user can expect a case of

acute harm once every 10,000 pills (Chapter 2).

Tobacco has 7,000,000 users in the UK and cocaine has 700,000. Cocaine is responsible for 250 deaths a year and Tobacco is responsible for 100,000 (page 196).

This is how the ISCD ranked drugs, based on harm to the user and to society, based on 16 different factors (page 43):

## ON Tobacco:

The World Health Organisation has estimated that tobacco will account for 10% of all deaths worldwide by 2015 (page 194).

Tobacco-related health problems cost £13.7 billion per year. Cigarette taxes generate £10 billion per year (page 194).

It's only because popular culture is saturated with positive images of people smoking and because friends encourage it that anyone smokes a second cigarette. Their first is usually unenjoyable. Compare this with LSD and ecstasy where some people can go as far as to say their first pill was positively life-altering (page 201).

## ON Legal Highs:

Of the dozens of deaths that were reported as due to mephedrone (MMCAT) in 2009, only two have been confirmed as being directly and solely caused by the drug. However, it may have had a net effect of saving lives overall as people switched from cocaine to mephedrone. There were 95 cocaine deaths in the first half of 2008 which reduced to 66 in the first half of 2009 (page 117).

## ON Politicians:

Barack Obama was a regular cannabis smoker in his younger years and has even admitted to trying cocaine before he came to office (page 135).

In 2002, an ambitious UK backbencher called David Cameron said in a debate in the House of Commons that "drugs policy has been failing for decades". Yet now he's Prime Minister he gives the same 'tough on drugs' spiel of every other politician (page 281).

When Cameron was caught with cannabis at Eton he was made to write out hundreds of lines of Latin (page 286).

Compare this to the punishment of prison which costs £38,000 a year to keep someone in, and which usually turns inmates onto harder drugs (also page 286).

## ON the international war on drugs:

Al Qaeda is principally funded by opium and cannabis production (page 277).

There were 15,000 deaths due to the crackdown in Mexican cartels in 2010 alone (page 190).

Every gram of cocaine snorted in England will have been responsible for an area of four square metres of rainforest being destroyed (page 189).

The illicit drugs trade is about 1% of the global economy, untaxed and unregulated (page 276).

## ON the difficulty of conducting research with illegal drugs in mental health therapy:

Mental health is the biggest health burden in Europe today, costing more than heart disease and cancer combined (page 227).

A recent study of subject with chronic, treatment-resistant PTSD resulted in an 83% success rate – ten out of twelve subjects essentially no longer had the disorder after two sessions of ecstasy-assisted psychotherapy (page 25).

## ON how LSD can deliver moments of inspiration:

Kary Mullis, who won the Nobel prize for inventing the polymerase chain reaction, went as far as to say "would I have invented PCR if I hadn't taken LSD? I seriously doubt it [having taken LSD] I could sit on a DNA molecule and watch the polymers go by. I learnt that partly on psychedelic drugs." (page 258).

I could carry on to the point where I've typed out the whole book, but just go read it. Even if you've never taken an illegal drug, it will probably make you think again about alcohol and make you enraged at how much politicians have to pander to Daily Mail-reading middle classes who have never taken a drug or met an addict who think prohibition is possible.

# “Does discrimination dominate in India?” – A Response

Kunal Wagle  
Comment Editor



**HAVING read Christy Kelly's article last week asking "Does discrimination dominate in India?", I couldn't help but think of the simple answer: yes. In a civilised country like India the treatment of women and "untouchables" is not only completely unacceptable, but also completely unforgivable. However I think it is also wrong to say that the story is as simple as saying that the BJP Party, which was sworn into power a fortnight ago, is to blame.**

It was in December 2012 that India's attitude towards women was thrown into the spotlight, when a 23-year-old was gang-raped on a public bus in Delhi – she subsequently passed away a few days later from her injuries.

Shortly after her death, Abhijit Mukherjee, the son of the President Pranab Mukherjee and a member of the (now opposition party) Congress, said that the women who were involved in the protests following the death were “disconnected with reality”. This, accompanied by his other remarks (which included saying that these women “went to discotheques” and are “highly dented and painted”), was later attacked as being sexist. Another to be seriously criticised was spiritual guru Asaram Bapu, who suggested that the victim was “to blame for her own assault”.

It is a problem. It is a major problem. It is a major problem that needs a solution. To borrow the phrase from Christy: “discrimination dominates in India”. But what can be done to stop it? Well, one way to begin to solve the

“The people of this country have emphatically spoken”

problem is through economic development, through the creation of jobs, and through extra education, which is what new Prime Minister Narendra Modi has prioritised for the Indian people. Modi won such a landslide victory because it is felt that he can bring the change that the country is desperately craving. It is felt that he can take it away from the corruption that was rampant within the previous government. It is felt that he can make this country better. Hopefully he can be better than Obama has been when using the “Yes We Can” slogan.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), of which the BJP is part, now controls 336 of the 545 seats available in Parliament. The people of the country have emphatically spoken (the previous government lost more than 200 seats) and it is now time for Modi to deliver on his promises and to deliver change.

Can he do it? Let's wait and see.



DNA India



Felix / Joe Letts

## SO LONG AND THANKS FOR ALL THE PHYSICS

Rory Fenton reminisces about his six years at IC

Rory Fenton  
Columnist



**SIX years is a long time to spend in this place. If my Imperial career were a child, it would be preparing for its first year of primary school by now: shiny new rucksack perched on its back, lunch money nestled in its pocket. Like a parent leaving his child at the school gates, it's time I let Imperial go. Will it miss me? Probably not. It'll be too busy fighting the other boys and girls for its place in the league tables. Still, watching it scamper across the playground has got me reminiscing.**

According to its website I've written over 40 articles for Felix and it's a strange thing reading over them. I start as a convinced Catholic, then an atheist. I start as a Libertarian, then wise up. I start unsure about what I'm doing with my life, then... best not to ask. I start a frightened fresher, then an Imperial Graduate, then an Imperial Postgraduate. I don't expect I'm alone in changing so much here. As I changed, so did my perspective on Imperial.

“It's a strange place” is how I reply when asked what Imperial is like, I've never really managed a more precise answer. Cramming tens of thousands of scientists into a small square in the most expensive part of the country was always going to make for strange results. The lack of arts students does leave a hole in the College but a hole that students then partly fill up themselves, with Felix, Leo Soc, STOIC and others giving science students access to creative stuff that at other universities might be dominated by arts students. There is a great buzz around science that you don't really get elsewhere; who didn't have a spring in their step the day the Higgs Boson was discovered?

There are fewer women at Imperial than at other universities. This is pointed out so often that I wonder if people expect a medal or at least a congratulatory pat on the back for noticing. Contrary to popular opinion, the worst aspect of the “gender

ratio” is not that straight Imperial men don't get laid as much but that too few women are taking up science degrees, much to the loss of both women and science. A campus conversation that focused less on sexual frustration and more on the “ratio” as an intellectual loss to science would be a big help.

It is both a blessing and a curse that we care so little about politics at Imperial. A blessing because political debate tends to focus on evidence and statistics, with little heed paid to ideology and few tribal loyalties to political parties. There are student unions held at pointless gridlock over debates on the Israel-Palestine conflict or what the top level of income tax should be - ours couldn't be further from that. But when this apathy extends to issues that directly affect students, we all lose out. We see this at the Union.

The Union is very good at being ok. They provide excellent facilities, equipment and support to their many societies, on which so much of Imperial's social life relies. Representing students to College, the story is very different. In this David vs Goliath story, David is mostly ignored, then finally grabbed by the ankle, swung overhead and thrown to the other end of the Earth. North Acton, to be precise. Whether it's unaffordable and distant accommodation, an underfunded counseling service or careers advice given almost entirely by investment banks, the Imperial business machine churns on and we students bask in complicit apathy.

Imperial has so much potential. I know I'm not the only one who thinks that a CV boost need not be the only reason for engaging in student politics. Nor am I the only one who thinks that there are uses for a science degree other than research or investment banking. That there is more to a university education than what can be learnt in a lecture or a seminar. Imperial could do with a little more soul.

As I leave my adorable six year-old to its own devices, I suppose I'm more critical than most parents but, in the age-old excuse, I only say these things because I love it. Too many people say they've had fun “in spite of” Imperial. What could we do to make “in spite” into “because”?



# CONFESSIONS OF A GTA

## THE BEST AND THE WORST OF GTA-ING

Almost every memorable moment as a GTA is both wonderful and terrible. Some are so bad that they're good in retrospect (though some are just bad), and sometimes being a GTA makes you so happy that you can't help but love your job. It's been a rollercoaster first year as a GTA, and I've definitely learnt some valuable lessons (such as not to get too drunk the night before a field trip abroad), but I don't think I did a bad job. Here are my highlights and lowlights of the year, as well as the best and worst experiences I had with GTAs when I was an undergrad.



The GTA  
Anonymous

### AS A GTA

1. Having my tutorial students ask whether I'll be their tutor next year. Honestly guys, you made my year. I'll do my best!
2. Being told by a student that before the class, he wanted to kill himself over the topic, but by the end, he definitely thought that he could figure it out for the exam. At least their level of understanding increased, even if mine was still hopelessly poor!
3. Getting hit on by a student, during one of his final exams. Seriously man, don't you have better things to be doing than making eyes at me for hours?
4. Spending ages helping a struggling student with something really fundamental, then seeing them go off and do it independently. Bonus points for the student whose work I recognised when I was marking their exam, being better than I could ever do it myself.
5. Being paid to do nothing but watch on so many field trips, but make sure the students didn't kill themselves. Okay, that one time that one student did nearly die, but he didn't, and it was just once...
6. Being awkwardly stuck between being a student and a lecturer. You get to drink with both and hear what they each have to say about the other, which always give you the best stories to tell.
7. Watching final year students sitting their exams, knowing that you got through this already, and you have absolutely nothing to prove anymore.
8. Seeing a struggling student have an epiphany in an exam and start scribbling furiously. Oh, I know that feel.
9. Looking really popular when walking through my department. No-one needs to know that all these people saying hello to me are my students, not my friends.
10. Automatically gaining a whole load of friends (usually MSc students) to hang out with after a weekend of bonding on a field trip.



teabagordie.com

### AS A STUDENT

1. The magic GTA who made Fluids make far more sense than the lecturer ever did
2. When the GTA I spent all term falling in love with asked me a question and told me I was doing a good job. I still love you, demonstrator with the dinosaur watch <3
3. When my group project was saved by a GTA, when they really didn't have to.

THE BEST

### AS A GTA

1. Being approached and asked out by a student after class. Sure, we may be friends for the purpose of a class or a field trip, but you're 18, there is zero chance that I will consider making you a regular part of my social life. Don't embarrass me in front of my real friends!
2. After invigilating an exam, when the entire class of students claimed to have left the room for ten minutes, without my noticing. Luckily, the senior tutor didn't find this believable...
3. GTAing for a practical chemistry lab when I was so hungover that I couldn't hold the bottle of HF steady. All of the students had done the lab before and clearly knew it better than me - no-one wanted to be there.
4. Realising when drunk and in Soho at 1am that I had to GTA at 9am, for a problems class that I've never studied or even looked at the subject material. What followed was the worst three hours of my life, as I hastily googled every single question I was asked. No-one bought it.
5. While idly checking my phone when my students were working something out, I received some bad news, but had to keep teaching and hold it together for another two hours. It's a fine line in GTAing between informal teaching, and still being professional.

THE WORST

### AS A STUDENT

1. The GTA I had in my first year who would consistently ignore me, and talk only to my male lab partner, even when he was answering my questions. Last year, he hit on me. Not cool.
2. "What do you think?" guy. I relate to him now, but he really took it too far. Sometimes you've got to throw a confused student a bone.
3. An invigilator standing behind my shoulder for an entire exam, breathing his smelly breath down my neck. To say this was distracting would be an understatement.

THE WORST

6. Having to give a tutorial or teach a class that you signed up for months ago... without realising that it would clash with a huge deadline from your supervisor. When we're snowed under with work, the last thing we want to do is teach you how to solve differential equations.
7. Realising halfway through a problems class that you've misunderstood the topic, and have been explaining something incorrectly for the last hour. It is with a deep sense of shame and regret that you backtrack through everyone you've spoken to with the correct answer.
8. Running into your students in the bathroom, or worst, out and about. The young ones, especially, don't embrace the social etiquette of awkwardly walking 20 feet apart to avoid any awkward extended conversations.
9. Being told that a question is simply impossible by a student in an exam, when you can clearly see that they have all the information that they need. Either you want to tell them that they're stupid, or they look so helpless that you want to give them a clue; but remaining ambiguous is so frustrating!
10. The many hours long, mindlessly boring, irrelevant training that we're forced to sit through at the beginning of the year. The majority of us aren't even responsible for imparting any original knowledge, why teach us to do it? It's enough to put a naive PhD student off teaching for life!

# IS FEMINISM A TOXIC WORD?

An anonymous writer gives their opinion

I first remember coming across the word 'feminism' when I was about 9, and asking my mum what it meant. "It's the principle", she replied, without even glancing up from her newspaper, "that girls and boys should be treated in exactly the same way". I remember thinking it bizarre that such an obvious concept even needed a name, but I didn't question it any further.

As a shy and body-conscious teenager walking to school by myself, I quickly realised why. Men on the street - construction workers, paramedics out of an ambulance window! - would wolf-whistle and hurl abuse at me, and laugh raucously when I nervously walked faster and turned up my Walkman CD player (remember those?). I'd run out of hands if I tried to count the number of times people 'accidentally' brushed their own hands against me on public transport. My female headmistress strongly discouraged me from applying to study science ("what's wrong with English, or Spanish?"). Even now, my grasp of Java is, apparently, "excellent, for a girl". So, determined and spurred on by a leaflet at the Freshers' Fair, I joined a few feminist groups on Facebook - my first real experience of Feminism, with a capital F.

I suddenly felt that, despite having been belittled and harassed

on an almost-daily basis, I knew next to nothing about what it was supposed to mean. It wasn't a man cat-calling me on my way to lectures, it was 'objectification'. 'Privilege' took on a specific meaning quite distinct to its everyday usage. I was learning new concepts at a rate unparalleled since primary school - 'androcentrism', 'intersectionality', 'rape culture', 'sex-negativity' (which doesn't always, apparently, imply that all sexuality is bad, merely that 'the patriarchy's' construction of it and its focus on 'PIV' is 'misogynistic').

I eventually plucked up the courage to dip my toes in the water and comment on a long thread (just two posts under a lonely, unliked call for volunteers to help with a fundraising event for a domestic violence charity), questioning why the content in question was offensive and whether it was really intended to be in any way sexist. "You're trying to derail this conversation by education", came the terse reply, unhelpfully linking me to a guide called *Derailment for Dummies*. "It's not our job to educate you. Besides, it doesn't matter whether they knew they were being sexist or not."

I'm sure the reply was well-intentioned. And I'm sure most people who call themselves 'feminists' would have given a longer and more informative response. But the thought stuck - if feminists were capable of making me, a keen, reasonably well-educated victim of sexist behaviours, feel alienated and

## GLOSSARY

**ANDROCENTRISM** - The practice, conscious or otherwise, of placing male human beings or the masculine point of view at the centre of one's view of the world and its culture and history.

**INTERSECTIONALITY** - The lived experience of people who are part of more than one marginalised group. Lived experience might include several forms of institutional and cultural discrimination.

**MISOGYNY** - Dislike of, contempt for,

or ingrained prejudice against women

**PATRIARCHY** - A social system in which males are the primary authority figures central to social organization, occupy roles of political leadership, moral authority and control of property, and where fathers hold authority over women and children

**PIV** - Penis in vagina intercourse

**PRIVILEGE** - The cultural and social rewards that belong to a dominant group.

**SEX-NEGATIVITY** - Opposition to one or more aspects of human sexual behaviour on social or religious ground

**RAPE CULTURE** - The aspects of our culture that encourage us to see rape as the norm, such as violent, misogynistic porn, common acceptance of women as "hos" and "bitches" in rap music, etc.

**STRAWFEMINIST** - A fictional "feminist" character who is used to make arguments about the feminist movement as a whole.

uncomfortable, what hope does the movement have in convincing those who don't even believe in equality, especially those who aren't open and willing to swallow a dictionary of new words?

And, regardless of the argumentative style, the word 'feminism' itself is now so polarising as to make the associated discussion completely useless. "I'm a feminist" will win you instant feminist cookies from the 20% of Americans who identify as such, but is completely and utterly counter-productive when trying to explain to our target audience - the very people who are senselessly sexist - why their behaviour is wrong. "Check your privilege" is, at best, likely to earn you a quizzical look from all except the minority who're already intimately familiar with the concept of male privilege. Trying to explain to a group of men why their conversation makes me feel uncomfortable is already difficult enough without having to simultaneously defend myself against allegations of being an angry lesbian man-hater and repeatedly explaining the details of the strawfeminist fallacy. I don't care what the construction workers wolf-whistling me think of feminism (much as I'd like them to have respect for the first-wave feminist suffragettes who fought for the right to vote). "I'm no feminist", I'll say instead, instantly capturing everyone's attention,

"and I know you mean well, but your conversation makes me feel scared and uncomfortable."

And I don't seem to be the only one to hold this view. One of the 'Feminist' pages I followed linked to an article listing celebrities' "misguided" reasons to decry feminism. Bjork, Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Madonna, Geri Halliwell; the list goes on - all role models to millions of young women, who, for one reason or another, have felt the need to distance themselves from the F-word. "I can't believe it, I'm so angry", said one of the comments. "How can all these celebrities have completely misunderstood what feminism is?"

The truth is, they haven't. Modern-day, 'third-wave', feminism isn't seen as a welcoming and all-accepting movement (though undoubtedly many feminists are, and the original tenet still holds; modern feminism encompasses a hugely greater number of beliefs and dogmas in addition to the simple plight for equality). The F-word instantly conjures up not-entirely-untrue images of an elitist, infighting and hopelessly idealistic group. A co-ordinated movement was useful years ago to provide a unified front to change laws; but today, we're trying to change attitudes - a much more difficult goal - and flying under the outdated and divisive banner of 'feminism' is actively destructive to the cause.

Identifying as a 'feminist' - or indeed an 'equalist' or 'humanist' or any other 'ist' - provides an easy ground for stereotyping and strawman arguments. When trying to win over others, standing on your own two feet is much, much more powerful than bandying around a word which is just another thing to argue against.

We live in a world where just 23% of American women identify as feminist; where several major female role models have come out against feminism, and even where a member of Imperial's WSET Society committee came out a few years ago and said (albeit opposed to the current official policy of the group) that they 'have no place or tolerance for feminism'.

Perhaps, rather than smugly attacking and critiquing all these people, it's time for the Feminist community to take a good long look at the image it (correctly or not) portrays to the average person on the street. And to cut out alienating feminist jargon, to be willing to make pragmatic short-term compromises for long-term idealistic goals, and to ditch the toxic, divisive, and outdated F-word once and for all.

Or, at least, to have respect for those of us who make the informed decision not to use it.

## A response from members of the Feminist Society...

Kirstin Hay, Chair of Imperial Feminist Society 2013-14  
with Marissa Lewis, Chair 2011-13

**I'VE been calling myself a feminist for about 10 years, and I started doing so for a simple reason - I believe women and men should be treated equally. I was not going to pretend not to be something because it might make others around me more comfortable.**

Just to be sure, I looked up 'feminism' in the Oxford dictionary, "The advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes." I wish it were a concept so obvious it didn't need a name, but we live in a world where rape is used as a weapon of war; where infant girls are killed because their parents wanted a boy; where girls are denied education, and the

multitude of other little inequalities that grind down our daily lives. I will continue to call myself a feminist, because to get anywhere near equality more needs to be done.

I was mocked by female friends at school for expressing "radical" feminist opinions, such as, "why does that have to be pink?" or "are we going to learn about any female scientists?" or "why aren't we telling the boys not to rape?" Without fail, those who mocked all call themselves feminists now, after a brief stint in the real world.

Perhaps they still call themselves feminists because they've not engaged in "online feminism", a warped world where words no-one has heard of before appear at an alarming rate. It bores me. It annoys me. But it doesn't stop me calling myself a feminist. In fact, it doesn't stop me being Chair of the society.

Portraying feminism as a monolithic force, where everyone thinks the same is a bit disingenuous. There's never been a coherent feminist movement. It has never existed. From the splits between the suffragettes and the suffragists in the early 20th century to the controversy of the Spice Girls' use of Girl Power in the 1990's. Feminists are going to disagree. There are rather a lot of people who want gender equality, we don't all sit in a room with an agenda and decide on strategy. By the way, the gays don't either - there is no gay agenda, just equality.

Although there are arguments for different terms being more socially acceptable or less divisive, ultimately infighting is not action and surrendering the identity of a movement because it is deemed unpopular not only doesn't bode well for the rest of your movement's

principles but it also doesn't make sense. It's not the combination of letters or sounds in the word 'feminism' that people have a problem with, and changing the word doesn't change how the backlash to feminism is a reaction to the redistribution of power gender equality would ultimately require, not because some online activism is inaccessible. It's only a matter of time before 'ugh those feminists' becomes 'ugh those humanists/egalitarians/gender equalists'.

I'm proud to call myself a feminist. I'm proud to campaign to make life easier for women. We don't need a new word, we need more activists from all backgrounds. Consider this a call to arms: wave your (borrowed) mooncups proudly, bare your hairy legs, do whatever you want really, we're not picky, just join the cause however you feel comfortable doing so.

# THE FALSITY OF



Pietro Aronica

Writer



## DON'T hope. Never hope.

Hope is a last resort, an admission of defeat. You hope when there is nothing left to do, nothing you can do: you can't act, repair, work, correct or strive anymore, so you wish that things could go your way. All you're left with is your powerlessness and the hope that cosmic coincidences

will align the world in your favour. When you hope, it means that you have given up.

They say that hope is the last to die, and for good reason: it outlasts any other sentiment and feeling. When you no longer have the desire to seek a way to victory, you can only hope that it will be delivered to you by divine intervention. When you have exhausted every possible option and possibility, you can only hope that a way out will be revealed. When all seems lost and forsaken,

the only resort is hope.

If you find yourself in such a situation, then you can hope. If you are truly in despair, incapable and impotent, and you have honestly done everything in your power, then you have the right to hope in forces beyond yourself. But to hope when there are still alternatives unexplored, when there is still something you can do, when the only thing that is lacking is your will to try, then hope becomes a crime and a deceit. Hope will show you a world that doesn't

exist, where everything goes in the best way possible and where your deeds are justly rewarded, all of it with a magic-like veneer. If you trust in your hopes, if you come to believe in them as a future that hasn't happened yet, then you will neglect the work and effort that are necessary to make them come true. If you start hoping before you have done all that you can and must do, you will be led astray.

So do not hope. Do not hope that the girl will say yes when you ask her out: know that you have done

everything you can to make her want to be with you. Do not hope that the exam will be easy: know that you have studied and prepared to the best of your abilities. And if you have not studied, do not hope things will go your way: accept and know that they won't. Either way, there is no need to false illusions and hope. Do not trust in the easy way offered by hope, but instead know, research, think, act and work as much as you can to achieve your goals.

Don't hope. Never hope.

## TALKING TO THE EDITORS

**JOE** WOW, well it certainly has been a year!

I started this job in October, with a small amount of training and the dusty cobwebs of my previous years of section editorship skulking miserably in the corners of my mind. Summer, as I'm sure you all know, is quite potent at clearing the mind of useful memories.

I set out to redesign and expand the paper, and to some extent succeeded, I brought in new sections and recruited new Editors and writers, undergrads and postgrads alike.

Over the course of the year the paper has tackled several important stories, including following the issues surrounding the halls cleaning contracts, the Union's successful lobbying and many more that I can't remember (this week's has been a tiring issue).

Along with the printed words you see before you, this year's Felix, as every year, involves the sweat, occasionally tears (but hopefully no blood) of the students who volunteered their time to edit the sections we have and I can only be grateful for their help. Without them and without you the paper wouldn't happen.

Over the last few years, and the last few Editors, we've tried to make ourselves more transparent and friendly to people who aren't already involved – a task that has proven to be harder than one anticipates.

However it is good to see that Philippa is also a keen proponent of change and improvement, something that will bode well for next year's paper.

Most importantly – and it is sometime hard to convey this, Felix is always the your paper. We value your feedback (seriously please do send in letters) and we try to give you the content we think you'd appreciate the most.

Looking back over my Felix career, I remember submitting my first article in first year, proudly presenting it to my hall senior, who at the time was a Technology editor. Since then, from moving on to editing Politics during the reign of two Editors to finally achieving my dream of editing the whole paper, I'm amazed at how much I've learned along the way, as well as the fantastic people I've met. It's not something I would have ever imagined doing when I joined Imperial, and yet I couldn't see my College journey ending any other way.

Wanting to go out with a bang, this week we've brought you Felix as a tabloid, it had to be done. After all we are a tabloid-sized newspaper, definitely not a broadsheet. This has been challenging in itself, however I've realised that I've learned so much over the last year – it took a day to redesign rather than the significantly longer time it took at the start of the year.

Thanks for reading and thanks for a great year, I hope you've enjoyed the paper!



IT'S pretty terrifying to think that the next issue will be edited by yours truly. Am I ready? Right now? Literally, right now, as I sit in the safety of Imperial's tiny humanities department, downing caffeine after about four hours of sleep last night? Nah, I'm far from it.

But I have time, and hoping that in that time I will learn a large number of things hopefully very quickly. These, you will be glad to know, will include learning how to write editorials that won't sound like the beginning of an adolescent, self-absorbed MySpace profile "about me" entry.

It was over two years ago now that I was hounding Tim to be a section editor for the paper. I had previously written a few articles, my first being so atrocious I was surprised it was printed. I was pretty hopeless at InDesign at the beginning, had no idea how to write a science article and was completely overwhelmed by the Felix crowd of students that all seemed more student-media savvy than myself.

However, I'm glad I did take the time to go down to the office, see what the fuss was all about and try and hack my way into the Felix clique. We, the Felix team, love

**PHILIPPA**

people, and offer a great refuge to students who simply want to hide away during Sport's night if nothing else. We love writers, we love photographers, we love editors and grammar enthusiasts, and we love designers, coders, and artists alike.

Next year, the newspaper will be, counterintuitively, less about the news and more about the final form Felix hopes to take before my tenure comes to a close. We, of course, are aiming to deliver stories that will kick up a storm; we plan to put The Tab out of business and ensure no topic is too taboo to print. However we are also moving with the times and planning a website overhaul, a redesign of the paper and also a complete shift in the structure of the team itself.

Felix is being rebuilt from scratch, and we need people to help. If you want to be part of the new wave of student media, get in touch. If you want to meet new people, learn new skills, get in touch. If you simply want unlimited free tea and coffee, get in touch but do give a bit of notice so we can get some top quality brew in.

I hope you all have a good summer, and will see you all again in Fresher's Week. I'll be the 22 year old sipping straight gin in the corner, muttering "youths" under my breath. Please come and say hi, or drop by the office!

# MUSIC & ART

## N\_POLYTOPE: BEHAVIOURS IN LIGHT & SOUND AFTER IANNIS XENAKIS

Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto in conversation with artist Chris Salter and engineer Marije Baalman

**IN an abandoned swimming pool somewhere in the northern perimeter of Berlin, lights burst to the rhythm of acoustic ricochets. A bizarre choreography of light and sound imitates patterns of synchrony and predation found in the animal kingdom.**

The source of this erratic audiovisual experience is a self-aware system of 200 nodes, comprised of 50 loudspeakers and 150 LEDs. Coupled with microphones and photodiodes, respectively, each unit, or 'agent', extends a field of awareness that can sense itself as well as its surroundings. The audiovisual patterns that emerge from the amalgam resemble a cybernetic electroacoustic organism that entrances visitors and lures them to the deep end of the pool.

n\_polytope is a sound art installation designed and built by a team of artists, engineers and researchers at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, and was now set up for the 15th edition of Berlin's Club Transmediale Festival (CTM) for "adventurous music & art". Taking place over an entire week, in venues across the city, CTM gathers the avant-garde in electronic and experimental music in the present day, as well as paying homage to the pioneers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This installation in particular was inspired by the 'polytopes' of Greek engineer-turned-composer Iannis Xenakis, which sought to synthesize multisensory environments of light and sound, which surrounded audiences in complex architectures of cable geometries. n\_polytope extends Xenakis's ideas of stochastic sound synthesis and acoustic architectures by making use of modern algorithms in machine learning and distributed artificial neural networks.

I spoke with Chris Salter (Director of Montreal's Hexagram-Concordia Centre for Research and Creation in Media Art and Technology) and Marije Baalman (ex-postdoc at Hexagram and currently a hardware engineer and freelance artist at Amsterdam's STEIM (Studio for Electro-Instrumental Music)) about the technological and philosophical aspects of the installation, which was put together by a wider team of collaborators in architectural design, laser systems, programming and electronics.

**Íñigo: How did you quantify the awareness of the individuals within the system?**

Chris Salter: Well, it's a really simple system.

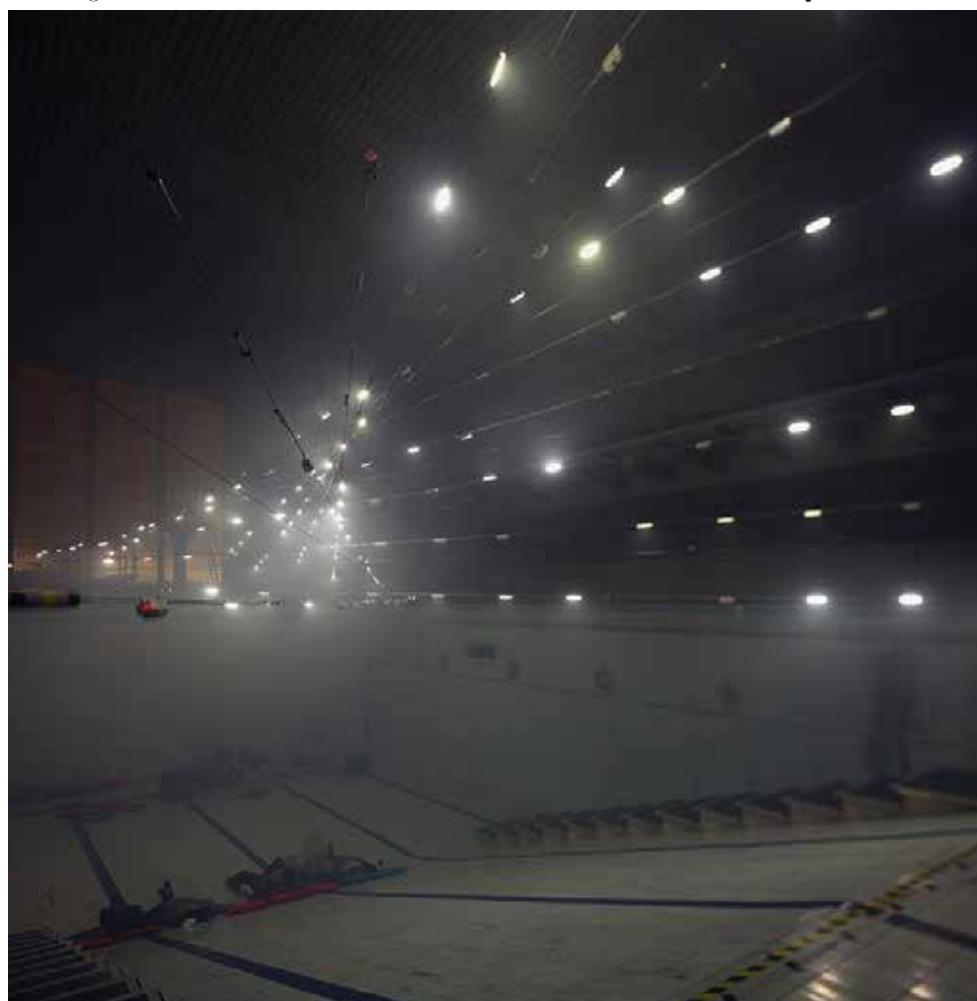
You have an LED and you have a light sensor. So the sensor can see itself, and then that awareness runs over an RL (Reinforcement Learning) algorithm and the RL runs over a neural network. So what he was trying to figure out is that when it does an action, how does it change its environment? Well of course it could change its environment by doing the action again, so it gets feedback. So the sensor is a very primitive sensory-motor system. It learns to do something, right? Usually these systems settle into some minima. The light flickers, and then it finds a steady state. Either it stays on, or it goes off. Usually it stays on.

So what happens then if you change the environment and you turn the lights off in the room? Then it has to relearn, because all the conditions have changed. Or you suddenly blitz it with a strobe, or a flash, or something. Then it starts up again and tries to relearn again. So if you continually change its environment, then it's constantly trying to adapt, so it may never get into a steady state. So that was one of [Sofian's] tests. So then we thought about how to build this form of

behaviours and systems, on a larger scale. And I knew from the start that the algorithms were complicated so that these things would talk to each other.

We started with the basic idea that you have a lot of different agents, and they all start at different times. So, for instance, one of the algorithms he runs is a 'firefly' model, so the agents attempt to synchronize with each other. Once they eventually synchronize, they then stay synchronized for a period of time, and then either desynchronize or remain in a steady state. So that's one of the algorithms we're running. You have to tweak these reward functions all the time. You have no idea really – the system doesn't really know what it's doing. It just knows, "Oh, that's an interesting action, I got that reward, I got this number and I'll do that again." These learning systems are not very good as generative systems, but we're trying to use them in that way, and to produce generative behaviours as opposed to trying to get to a certain task that it will then be able to repeat.

**I: So does it fall into sequential states?**



**Not a steady state, but a sort of arrhythmic behaviour?**

C: Sometimes, but we also do a lot to constrain the system. Like, which nodes are active at one point, or what region spatially; or how long are they active in a given sequence; or do they all start at the same time and then drift? For instance, they have this one algorithm which is a 'chasing' model. So the idea is that the agent gets a reward for staying away from the other agent. Of course it's crossing into the agent all the time because it doesn't really know. So at what time it learns 'OK..I'm colliding with the other agent, and I'm getting punished, so I'll try to stay a little further away.' We'd map that in terms of the speed of which the flashes happen on these lines. It's a question of whether you see spatial patterns or temporal patterns, because people look for spatial things – if I see the shape again and again it means it's not a random system. If I sense very simple rhythms or pulses..once it gets to polyrhythmic it gets very complex since it's not very good at rhythm.

**I: Like trying to understand which car's blinkers are going faster than the other's?**

C: Right. And of course, the brain has extremely interesting temporal properties - how all these neurons start synchronizing with each other to form some notion of perception that we have, which is way, way higher level than this. So Xenakis, whose work this piece is based on, was trained as an architect, trained as an engineer, but also as a composer. He came out of a period where in the sciences, thermodynamics and statistical mechanics were the main concern..he was interested in micro and macro properties and Boltzmann models of gases and so on. So he used those models in his composition (Poisson distributions, etc.). He wanted probabilistic models, he wanted stochastic music, he didn't want deterministic models. He wasn't interested in determinism, he was interested in control. He was interested in not the kind of linear polyphony of what the serial composers in the 1950s were doing, where everything was deterministic, based on tone rows, and so on. He was actually interested in patterns like what happens when, in a riot, suddenly someone starts yelling and then it picks up and spreads, exhibiting a kind of swarm behaviour. Or like the patterns of raindrops falling on surfaces. So it was the idea of sound as a mass, or a cloud, or grains.

He was very critical of the Fourier models of synthesis. Fourier is non-temporal basically, you have to stack things over time with enough bins (time-frames) to see if there's a temporal shape, since time and frequency are separate domains. He was very interested in the work of Gabor, who was a physicist who had these wavelet models. Gabor of course imagined that time and frequency could be in the same domain, so if you think about a grain having envelopes and you can shape individual grains, but at the same time considering both domains. It's very interesting to think about sonic behaviour in those terms.

**I: It would be interesting if there was dynamic switching close to the Gabor limit [where the trade-off in certainty between temporal and spectral identity is defined], like maybe it's behaving in temporal patterns first and then reaches some limit and then the spectral patterns become more dominant.**

C: Yeah, that's the kind of space he came out of. I was talking with a friend of mine today who's a professor at UdK (Universität der Künste, Berlin) who is also a programmer, and the whole question was whether Xenakis had any interest in cybernetics and feedback systems. He probably didn't, even though this was happening at the same time. He was very aware of these trends in the sciences, but it's a very different set of models that come from thinking about control systems versus the statistical systems.

**I: I guess he was more interested in generative properties or stochastic properties rather than manipulating it himself.**

C: Exactly. He was always interested in computers as systems to drive things, not as systems that produce responses that you can shape. That's one of the questions we've tried to address in thinking about what these projects could mean now, if you approach these things from these machine learning algorithms or agent networks or neuronal models – where does the active responsibility lay in the system or how you negotiate between these agents and human predilection for making patterns and structures and shapes that are clearly perceivable and have dramatic effect and



so that's very much the tension. That's the research area and that's from a technical or philosophical point of view and also from an aesthetic point of view, because that question overlaps all of those spaces. They all somehow operate together. You can't just say "Well that's a technical question, we can solve that," and that you can do something with a tool. They are very intimately related, because the degree of shaping you have over the behaviour of something is highly dependent on what kind of behaviour that thing or that process produces, and part of it is observing that behaviour constantly in some type of dialogue. The English Science Studies scholar Andrew Pickering calls it the dance of agency between you and the non-human parts of things. He's a physicist by training, and is very well known in the area of science and technology studies for discussing performative practices in sciences, questions of science being socially shaped. Because science is not just scientists discovering nature, it's constructing those phenomena with instruments and cultural frameworks like laboratories. There's a constant give and take between materials you're using and watching and seeing what they do, and then describing them. There's a similar thing with these kinds of projects, like right now there's nothing happening [in the installation] - it's like when the cells die in the lab. The experiment's done. So that's a little background of where we've been thinking.

**I: I was wondering when you said about the single node prototype and altering the environment by strobing or switching it on and off. So here the environment is actually the structure itself, the ensemble of all the elements.**

C: Yeah. So for instance there's all sorts of noise in the system. There's a sensor that's looking at those lights, but it's not a precise system. It's more about the idea that sometimes when those lights are next to their neighbours, they may have more energy because they have a different set of conditions, their 'Umwelt'. That means that the way they behave is never going to be exactly the same. There's a structure to it, but they're never going to do the same thing again and again because they're so dependent on what their neighbours are doing. You see patterns and it's not like it's just totally random all the time. Ultimately the pattern is the steady state that one perceives. But we don't let them do that, we keep them active. When you're testing these RL algorithms that evolve until they reach a steady state, but we don't let them reach that steady state, we constantly try to keep them moving.

**I: So when it reaches a steady state, the whole system stops?**

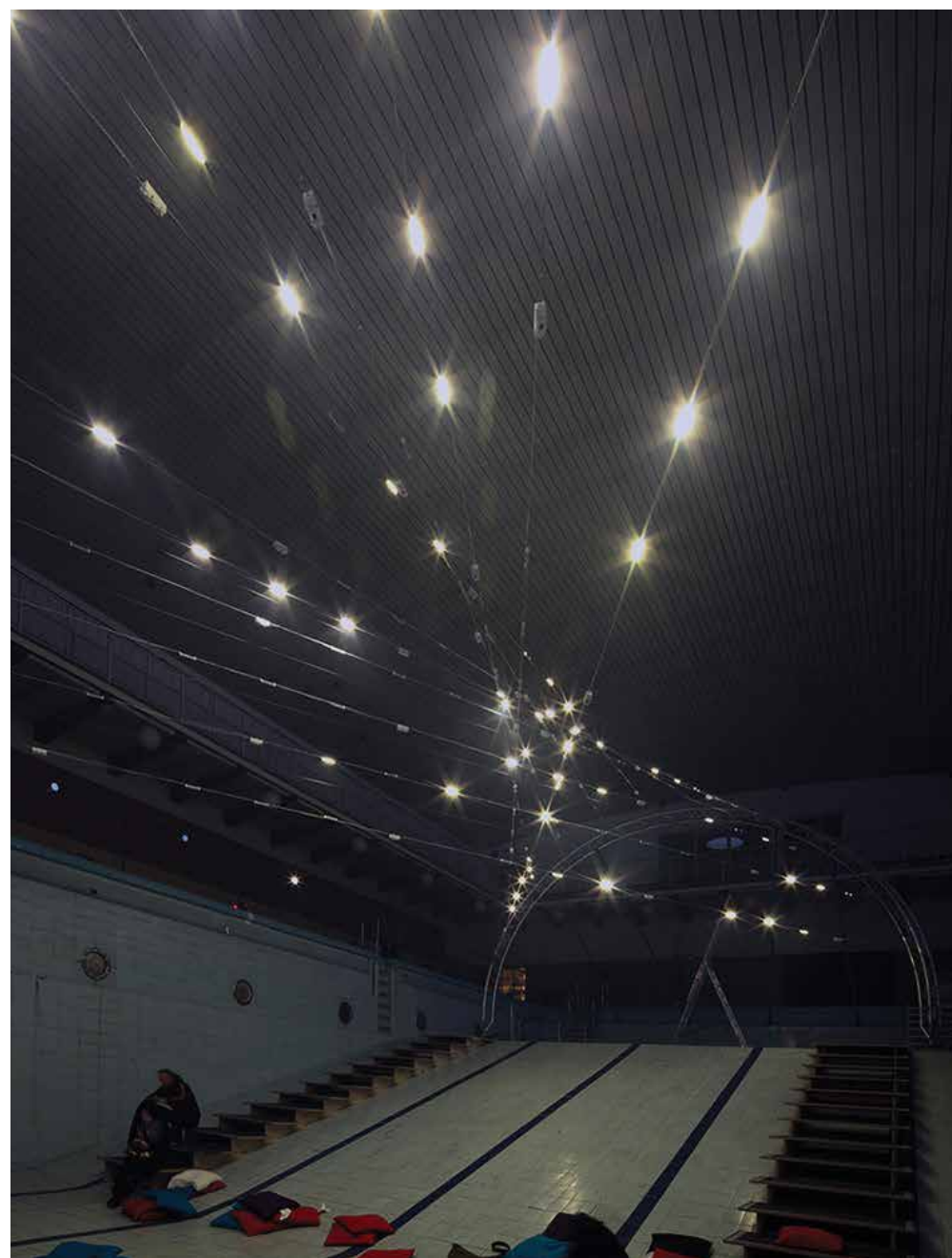
C: No, it doesn't stop. There's an energy model and once it runs out of energy it either stops or you boost it with new energy because it gets a blast of light from something around it and it starts up again. The system is reacting to things happening in its environment and the agents will tend to start up again.

**I: So it's an environmental thing, not arbitrary?**

C: Right, it's environmental.

**I: How reactive is it to the spectators?**

C: Not at all. Unless you start flashing cameras at it, then it might do something.



**I: Is the parallel with Xenakis more about the underlying system, the physical structure, or the sound synthesis?**

C: It's more about the questions he addressed in his 'polytopes', which were environments of light, sound, and architecture, tied together by electronic gestures across all three. Thinking about light temporally and sound spatially; and about his interest in masses or clusters of points – here, the optical and acoustic agents.

**I: Was this made specifically for CTM Festival here in Berlin?**

C: No, it was originally built in Spain, at LABORAL in Gijón, as part of a residency. After that, it was shown in the Buckminster Fuller Dome of the Vitra Design Museum there. Now, it was rethought for the Stadtbad space. The basic arching truss structures are there, but they were rearranged to fit the geometry of the pool. The sound is always reconsidered for the space as well.

**I: Marije, can you tell me a bit about the software and the sound synthesis?**

Marije: There are two sound sources. There are sounds being synthesized by the little white speaker/microphone units, which is programmed in Arduino. Apart from the units, there is also sound coming from a pair of big speakers which was composed with a multi-track editor by Chris [Salter] and Adam Basanta. The pre-recorded material is constantly being reprocessed or discarded.

The acoustic units have little antennas which help them to communicate wirelessly to a computer running Python, and that sends all the sound information to SuperCollider. So I'm sending settings and triggers for the lights and sound from the computer, and then I get sent the data back from the units. The lights patterns are synthesized in a similar way, so I can program the light envelopes just like I would the sound, as waveform and duration.

C: It runs in two cycles, one which is more dramatic ('chasing') and another which is more ambient ('firefly'), so it's quieter.

**I: Sofian Audry also worked on some of the software, right? Is this part of Sofian Audry's PhD project at Hexagram?**

C: Part of it. He has different projects, but this is part of the research. He built the library for this project but he's also using it for his own work.

**I: For the sound or the lights?**

C: He's agnostic to that. It's an open-source C++ library called 'qualia', which does machine learning, essentially; there's figure trees built into it too and different types of processes. When we started to work on this project he showed me a kind of test of something, a very simple model of a sensor in an environment and the question is whether or not it understood what the environment was doing, if it changed its output. And then we started to talk and I said "Can we make it in a larger scale?" Not just one node, but many nodes. And so it eventually became what is now n\_polytope.

# FELIX



Back row: Jonny Pratt, Max Eggl, Phil Kent, Kunal Wagle, Max Hunter, Tom Rivlin, Stephen Ball, Maciej Matuszewski, Shiladitya Ghosh, Rory Fenton  
Front row: Rosamund Pearce, Gordon Kam, Sarah Tallet-Williams, Tessa Davey, Philippa Skett, Mattin Mir-Tahmasebi, Joe Letts, Carol Ann Cheah, Aemun Reza, Cécile Borkhataria, Michael Chung, Riaz Agahi

# FELIX

(no air-conditioning in the office)



(we're looking for next year's centrefolds! email [centrefolds@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:centrefolds@imperial.ac.uk))

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# #helloicu crew

## Recruiting now for 2014/15!

The #helloicu crew are our team of student volunteers that will be around on campus during Welcome Week 2014. They are there to answer any questions and help new students have the best possible welcome to the College, and their new Students' Union!

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# On The Box – Film & TV

## We're gonna die young Summer musicals



### The Fault in Our Stars

**Director:** Josh Boone  
**Writers:** Scott Neustadter, Michael H. Weber, John Green (book)  
**Starring:** Shailene Woodley, Ansel Englort, Laura Dern  
**Runtime:** 126 minutes  
**Certification:** 12A



Jack Steadman  
 Treasured writer

“The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in ourselves, that we are underlings.” So goes the line from Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* that inspired the title of John Green’s tale of two cancer-struck teens who fall impossibly, tragically in love. The book was incredibly well-received, more so than any of Green’s other efforts (which remain beloved in their own ways), with the response to it being of such a magnitude that a film adaptation was almost inevitable. But with the path to adaptation comes the valley of hatchet jobs, a valley where so many books have fallen previously.

*The Fault in Our Stars*, fortunately, manages to navigate said metaphorical valley with aplomb, thanks to a combination of winning factors: the heavy involvement of the author (Green was on set virtually every day), a dedicated

team of producers in all their multi-titled guises with an eye on making the best film possible while keeping the budget through the floor, a knock-out cast featuring Shailene Woodley at a point where her star can only continue to rise, and known, successful quantities in the screenwriters and director (note ‘successful’, not ‘great’ – Neustadter and Weber are the duo responsible for *(500) Days of Summer*, which was unavoidably successful but of questionable merit).

All these factors collide to make a film that is unquestionably a perfect adaptation of the source text. The cast are incredible, nailing every single emotional beat (if not adding something more to each of them), with one particular scene involving Hazel’s (Woodley) parents proving far harder-hitting than its textual counterpart, thanks in no small part to Laura Dern’s performance as Hazel’s mother.

The story follows the same path, the same beats, using them to great effect to wring the maximum volume of tears out of its audience. Unfortunately, the preview screening I saw achieved this effect to such a degree that it was hard to hear some of the film over the crying – speaks volumes for how effective it was, I suppose.

Of course, this does mean that any problems with the book are present and magnified on the big screen – a scene in the Anne Frank house, while obviously thematically resonant (I love that phrase, it’s so meaningless)

still feels shoe-horned in and mildly troublesome – and anyone who wasn’t a fan of the book’s sentimentality and deliberately adolescent philosophising won’t find anything here to convince them otherwise.

All in all, it’s a very straight-up adaptation – too straight-up, truth be told. The direction is uninspired, taking the obvious route for every single shot and doing nothing of any real interest (yes, obviously in some scenes the obvious route is the right one, but not in all of them), while the soundtrack choices are so painfully routine and obvious it’s almost unbearable. If you went away, made a Spotify playlist of clichéd songs you’d expect in a film like this, and brought it back, I could guarantee you at least half of those songs would make an appearance here.

It feels weird to be complaining about a film playing it safe and settling for simple doing what it should be doing, and doing it competently – it’s certainly a step up from doing it badly, after all – but it really does feel like a problem here. The cast are stellar, there’s no two ways around it, and the story’s a strong one if you’re prepared to invest in the characters. The direction and music being found wanting just makes it all feel like a missed opportunity. And that – more than anything I saw in the film – is what really upsets me.



Clint Eastwood directs his first-ever musical film, *Jersey Boys* (released 20th June), based on the Tony-winning Broadway hit stage production of the same name. The story is of how Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons came together to become the singing sensation of the 1960s. Reviews have been mixed at best, although fans of the singers are guaranteed to have a good time, with hit songs such as ‘Sherry’, ‘Walk Like a Man’, and ‘Can’t Take My Eyes Off You’ making their appearances, sung by musically trained actors, not just film actors trying to sing to fit the role.



Think of this as the cheaper, tackier version of *Mamma Mia*, as if such a thing could be achieved. *Mamma Mia* took the best of Abba and made a stage musical out of it, which was then turned into a film, but with *Walking on Sunshine* (released 27th June) it jumps straight into making a film out of the greatest hits of the 80s. ‘How Do I Know’, ‘Venus’, ‘The Power of Love’, ‘If I Could Turn Back Time’, ‘Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go’, and ‘Walking on Sunshine’ appear on the soundtrack list, and this marks singer Leona Lewis’ film debut.





**You  
can  
teach  
old  
dogs  
new  
tricks?**

# YET ANOTHER OLD MAN IN AN ACTION FILM

## 3 Days to Kill

**Director:** McG  
**Writers:** Adi Hasak, Luc Besson  
**Starring:** Kevin Costner, Amber Heard, Hailee Steinfeld, Connie Nielsen  
**Runtime:** 117 minutes  
**Certification:** 12A



John Park  
 Film Editor

Clearly, old men in action films is a popular trend these days, thanks to Liam Neeson's unprecedented success with the *Taken* franchise, that currently has its third film in production. Kevin Costner tries to copy the success of Neeson in the form of a career revival, with Luc Besson, the influential figure behind *Taken*, penning the script. The result is a mixed bag; Costner certainly has what it takes to pull off a potential franchise, but the film is so cliched and all over the place that a well-assembled cast is not fully utilised.

From the get go this is not something to be taken seriously. Ethan Renner (Costner) is only given months to live after

a malignant cancer spreads to his lungs. And it's this bleak prognosis that the CIA decides to take advantage of. Vivi Delay (Amber Heard), one of CIA's elite assassins, is tasked with hunting down the Wolf (Richard Sammel), a mysterious, illusive criminal who needs to be caught for some reason. She makes a deal with the terminal Ethan. Do this one last job, and the CIA will provide him with a new experimental drug that could cure his condition.

When he is not being shot at by foreign agents and potential terrorists, Ethan is having problems at home too. His estranged daughter Zoey (Hailee Steinfeld) who he never paid too much attention to, does not even call him "dad" but instead by his first name. His ex-wife Christine

(Connie Nielsen) is also tired of her husband's demanding job.

Throughout the film, *3 Days to Kill* has the constant urge to try to balance two very distinct aspects to the story, never quite succeeding in make one side as good as the other. The thrilling action scenes get it exactly right. McG, last seen directing the underrated, much underseen *This is War*, has a good grasp of using Costner, a seasoned, veteran actor who looks comfortable in his role. He looks as though he's been doing this for years, successfully pulling off his scruffy, grumpy look.

The script, co-written by Adi Hasak and Luc Besson, manages to take its time to place some off-beat humour into many of its implausible situations, almost in a self-mocking sort of way, which

turns out to be an unexpected surprise in the best possible way.

It hits a definite low point once it starts focusing on the women surrounding Ethan's personal and professional life. There is absolutely nothing new about the broad, thin characterisation of the film's wife/daughter roles and the film doesn't quite know what to do with Amber Heard, who just pops up whenever she feels like it, in her fancy car, flirting with Ethan occasionally, giving him his new mission, then disappearing for another significant portion of the film.

Sadly despite Costner's leading man efforts, there isn't a franchise potential here. But as a one-off, mindless bit of entertainment, it gets its job done, just like most things handled by Besson.



## Hot releases of Summer 2014



Tammy (4th July)



Transformers (5th July)



HTTYD2 (11th July)



Hercules (25th July)



Guardians of the Galaxy (31st July)



The Inbetweeners 2 (6th August)



Lucy (22nd August)

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# Mirror mirror on the wall...



If/when a murder happens, the excuse of “the mirror made me do it” is not likely to be an acceptable form of defence for the perpetrator. However for the characters tangled up in the violent nightmare of film *Oculus*, it really is the case that the antique family mirror drove everyone ultimately crazy.

21-year-old Tim Russell (Brenton Thwaites) is awaiting for discharge from a psychiatric hospital, where he stayed ever since a horrific incident that occurred eleven years ago. He remembers snapshots of what happened, with the gruesome flashback ending with him, as a ten-year-old boy (Garrett Ryan) shooting his father. Reuniting with his older sister Kaylie (Karen Gillan) in the outside world, Tim wishes to start a brand new chapter in his life, away from the horrors that took place in their household all those years ago. But Kaylie wants Tim to remember and to exact revenge on the dark entity that put them in this difficult situation in the first place. But remember what exactly? And it's from this point on the film starts to effectively juggle two narrative strands. One in the present, and the other focusing on what happened eleven years ago.

The Russell family, led by father Alan (Rory Cochrane) and mother Marie (Katee Sackhoff), move into their new home, which is where the deadly mirror in question first makes its appearance. It's a part of Alan decorating his office, although little does he know how much of a twisted, sinister turn his domestic life will take as a consequence of having that ugly relic around the house.

At first they are small, minor changes, then they develop into disturbing visions, stomach-turning violence, leading up to downright insanity. Marie and the children are thrown into this also, building up to a crashing climax that leads to Tim becoming institutionalised at a young age.

In the present, Kaylie remembers all about what went

on during the dark periods of her childhood. She tracks down the haunted mirror, does her research, and is ready to test and destroy it once and for all. Her family name was clearly hit hard by bad press surrounding the news coverage of that infamous night, and now she's willing to prove everyone's innocence, her father's as well as her brother's. The cameras are set up to record everything, and she has also dragged along her reluctant brother to take part in what looks like a risky experiment.

Now this mirror is a piece of work. It has defence mechanisms of its own, and has the knack of playing some serious mind games with the poor fools who try to tackle this problem head on. It plays with the characters' minds, placing them in wildly confusing and equally dangerous situations. And even with a single misstep, Kaylie's plan will fall spectacularly apart. As the focus of the horror film starts toying with the protagonists, the equal effect is had on its audience, in its gripping, spooky atmosphere that has an advantage of not being utterly predictable from start to finish.

The performances are uniformly excellent, the best work coming from Scottish actress Karen Gillan, handling her meaty role with confidence, with the added bonus of putting on an impeccable American accent. Cult favourites Cochrane and Sackhoff have more to do than the audience is initially lead to believe, and they both pull off terror beautifully.

Very few horror films have satisfying endings, and *Oculus* is no exception when it comes to this department of becoming the flimsiest part of the movie, having had such incredible scenes of terrifying and effective build-up. But the film opens itself up for possible sequels, and with the endless horror opportunities that the deadly mirror provides, bring on part two and whoever wants to square off against it.



# Justice League assemble

The rumour mill is exploding with numerous casting announcements as well as wild speculations surrounding Zack Snyder's *Man of Steel* sequel, *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*. Here is what little we know so far...



Brit actor Henry Cavill will be back: reprising his role as Clark Kent/Superman. Hurrah.



Whether you like it or not, Ben Affleck WILL be playing Bruce Wayne/Batman.



Relative unknown Gal Gadot is set to play Wonder Woman, adding a much-needed female superhero.



Jason Momoa (aka the guy who rapes Daenerys in *Game of Thrones*) will play Aquaman.



Fast-talking Oscar nominated actor Jesse Eisenberg is confirmed for Lex Luthor, Superman's nemesis.



Bruce Wayne's loyal butler, a role once filled by Michael Caine, goes to the equally great Jeremy Irons.



Amy Adams is signed on to return as Superman's girlfriend, award-winning journalist Lois Lane.



The only parenting figure of Superman who hasn't died, Diane Lane will guide Clark as Martha.



Laurence Fishburne will be Clark's new boss, as the editor-in-chief of *Daily Planet*, Perry White.



No Justice League movie can be without Catwoman. Emily Blunt is reportedly circling the role.



Please let this be true. Loki as the new Joker? Yes please. He'll be absolutely incredible.



In honour of Ben Affleck playing Batman, there have been stories Matt Damon could be Robin.



Stephen Amell, playing CW's *Green Arrow* (ie DC's version of Hawkeye), is up for joining.



He may have dropped out of *50 Shades of Grey*, but could Charlie Hunnam be *The Flash*?



Yeah, nice try Ryan Reynolds, *The Green Lantern* will not be a part of this. Not for a while anyway.

# APOCALYPSE NOW - BONG JOON HO STYLE

## Dashing through the snow



### Snowpiercer

**Director:** Bong Joon-ho

**Writers:** Bong Joon-ho, Kelly Masterson

**Starring:** Chris Evans, Jamie Bell, John Hurt, Ed Harris, Tilda Swinton, Octavia Spencer, Song Kang-ho, Ko Ah-sung

**Runtime:** 126 minutes

**Certification:** R (USA)



John Park

Film Editor

The future is sure an ugly, grim place indeed for Bong Joon-ho. After global warming freezes Earth to death, lucky survivors on a miracle train that repeatedly travels round and round the globe, are stuck in this perpetual cycle and the harsh class division the train enforces on its passengers. The rich enjoy all the luxuries near the front of the train, where

the poor are forced to survive amongst themselves in horrendous conditions.

But it's time for the passengers of the back to rise up. United under the reluctant leader in the form of Curtis (Chris Evans), they plan a day of uprising to overthrow the unfair, violent rule of the rich that is imposed on them. The aim is to get to the very front of the train, take control of the engine room, and come face-to-face with Wilford (Ed Harris), the man who built this train. Whilst the train serves as a vessel of survival away from the freezing cold of the outside world, the conditions inside as it is soon revealed to us, are not all that much better.

There are striking, unsettling similarities with what goes on inside this train with what is happening right now in our world. The extreme wealth gap, violence against the weak, greed for resources, the list goes on and on. The struggle experienced at the back of the train is very extremely portrayed, with no sugar-coating of any kind, whereas the lavish display of what goes on near the



front is quite the uncomfortable spectacle. Curtis and his gang are completely stripped of colours, only introduced to bright shades and lively ambiance as they slowly but surely make progress with the revolution.

This is the most complex role Chris Evans has ever had, and he comes off convincingly as a conflicted leader, unwittingly thrown to the front of the movement. Octavia Spencer shows she is one mother figure not to cross, as her character's determination to find her son gives

her an insane drive and a fiery spark and strength like no other. John Hurt is a man of few words but with important information to share, and with Ed Harris, the two make up the classic "wise old men" characters who know more than they let on, hugely contributing to the film's overall narrative arc, despite not having long individual roles.

The excellent cast from the West is joined by Korean actors Song Kang-ho and Ko Ah-sung, who serve as the key plot device for the film to progress into more

exciting, dangerous territories. There is quirky humour in their performances, something that comes as a welcome distraction from the otherwise very damp, depressing mood.

Tilda Swinton, always the excellent scene-stealer in whatever movie she is in, does exactly that, as the eccentric Minister Mason.

The steam and energy fizzle off towards the end. But there is no doubting that Snowpiercer is a thought-provoking, often shocking, unsettling film that covers a hell of a lot in its running time.



# TECHNOLOGY

## KILLER ROBOTS

**RECENTLY a new breakthrough was achieved in the field of robotics. Pepper, a robot from Japan, is now able to read emotions from its human masters.**

Furthermore, it can change

its behaviour according to this information. However, most horrifically, is the fact that pepper will be able to dance, joke and amuse its owners. All of this is done by a 121 cm robot, which learns from its environment and

is permanently connected to the Internet.

So what does this mean for the future of the human race, and its relationship to its creations? Well obviously, this is the end. Now that robots can read our emotions, what is to stop them from influencing them us and ultimately enslaving us?

The short answer: Nothing. The long answer: Nothing. They are physically more capable. Maybe not, right at this moment, but once they can understand emotions, becoming long-distance, sprinting, machine-gun toting killers? It really isn't that much of a big step. Furthermore in terms of mental capabilities, computers have been out-performing us for a few years now! They can beat every single human being at chess, solve theorems and algorithms control your life. They are obviously the superior life form on this planet.

Now that they have control of our emotions (trust me, reading our emotions is pretty much the same as controlling them), they

## NEWS BUBBLE

### Facebook Slingshot

Facebook has now released a snapchat clone, where the only difference is that you only receive a picture by sending one back. To be perfectly honest this feels super gimmicky. Will it really make that sexting any easier or less awkward? Also, Facebook will of course store these photos on their servers and use them to sell on to those stalked advertising companies we all hate.

### Cheap iMac

Apple is equal to expensive. This is an unspoken fact. They spend 15 pence on making a charging cable which they then flog to the consumer for 30 quid. However, Apple have now decided that they are going to help out the less fortunate among us and release an iMac for an absolute steal of £899. By lowering their price sooo far, we can finally all buy this wonderful machine for small change!



I, for one, welcome our Robotic overlords [www.wikiwallpapers.com](http://www.wikiwallpapers.com)

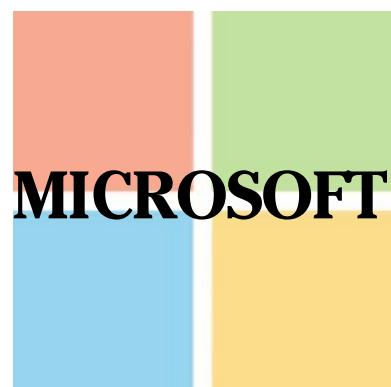
will soon develop their own. Who knows what an angry robot that encounters a paradox will do. One thing that we can be sure of though is that it won't be pretty (imagine a lot of blood, killing and raging electronics!)

So what can you do? Well, to be honest, not much. You can't outthink a super computer, you

cannot outrun a terminator and you can't beat a battle robot, with flamethrowers as arms, which means that the human race is ultimately doomed.

This frightened journalist is going to now go underground and come back up when our robotic overlords have decided the mercy is part of their programming.

## YEARLY REVIEW: THE BIG ONES



A year when the redmond based company only really got into the news because of the numerous U-turns they did, as well as falling really far behind to Sony in the next-gen console devices. However, dropping of the kinect device as well as a lowering of the price, allows the XBone to be more competitive against the PS4.

In terms of Windows, MS have fallen somewhat under the radar, with ok sales and the release of the surface 2.



This year was dominated by first the success of the maligned iPhone 5S and C, as well as the purchase of Beats for 3.2 Billion dollars. The mood around the California company, which was so negative in 2013, has now improved and the pressure of the absence of Jobs seems now to be a distance memory. All in all, while Apple is still not completely out of the woods, the light at the end of the tunnel can now be seen. I predict good things to come in the future.



A year where Google have gone from strength to strength. Android is now the dominating operating system on mobiles as well as tablets throughout the world. Google's stock has broken several records. However, even throughout this year they have stayed relatively anonymous. Google Glass, first heralded as an incredible breakthrough in the area of wearable technology, the hype has now faded, and the opportunity has been missed.



The story of Facebook's year is buy, buy, buy. Pretty much anything you could have thought of they bought. Whatsapp, popular messaging app, check. Oculus rift, kickstarter funded virtual reality headset, check. ProtoGeo Oy, fitness company behind the famous app moves, check. In addition Facebook has done really well this year in terms of mobile adoption and ad revenue. Considering the way the social media site is branching out, expect a productive future.



Another one of those anonymous years, Twitter has not done much in the past months. Firstly we had the closure of the failing twitt ser music, as well as an overhyped IPO. Originally starting very well, the companies stock rose and rose, before the release of its financial results, showing \$500 million net loss, which led the companies value to tumble. However, they have managed to build on what they have got and rightly are being called the SMS of the internet.

# FELIX GAMING REVIEW —

## Felix news

The games editorial team can now exclusively reveal that the Felix news section would be much better if there was a heavier focus on gaming news. Recent articles in the game section garnered a lot of views, and there were several calls for the current games editor to be instated as news editor. In fact, the current

Editor-in-Chief remarked: “I really like gaming, gaming is fun.”, which seems to suggest he supports the idea of a change at the helm of the front page of Imperial’s newspaper. There seems to also be suggestions of a redesign of the felix logo as seen on the right, with a public poll to take place to choose the right one.



## Felix Comment

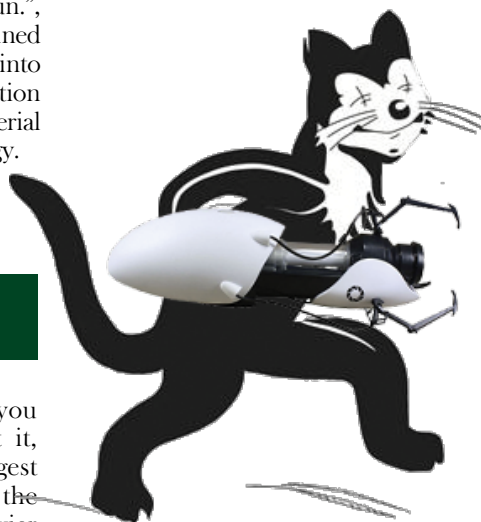
The discussion for this article is whether the comment section would be better with a heavier focus on gaming. While currently the comment section is quite boring, discussing inane topics like philosophy and communism, a larger influence from the interesting area of gaming would

certainly increase readership in this old-fashioned section. In fact, the current Editor-in-Chief remarked: “I really like gaming, gaming is fun.”, once again suggesting a shake up in the current set up of the comment section. I myself would be quite satisfied if this happened, and would certainly contribute.

## Felix Science

A recent scientific paper published in the prestigious journal Gamure that suggests that the science section is boring, and would be much better if gaming was given a more prominent position. This could include the science of how shooting barrels and/or respawns. This last issue in particular has wide-ranging

consequences and could result in immortality. In fact, the current Editor-in-Chief remarked: “I really like gaming, gaming is fun.”, suggesting he as well is inclined to introduce a gaming focus into science, thus making this section more relevant for the Imperial college of Science an Technology.



## Felix Arts

Having recently visited the gaming exhibition at earls court, including modern artists like EA van Gogh and Leonardo Di Activision, has really opened my eyes to gaming as an art form. The pieces like Call of Duty were insightful and really commented on our current social and economical situation. I,

therefore, call for the Felix Editor who recently said, “I really like gaming, gaming is fun.” to shake up the dusty art section and actual get people reading it. This change could include instating the games editor as arts editor, as well as featuring interesting art (gaming) reviews.

## Felix Music

The latest album GTA V by genre-spanning rockstars Rockstar studios has been an absolute success. The music throughout the entirety of this work really is entertaining and spans the entire spectrum of emotion. It allows you to let your anger free and really roam the wide world

it creates. Now read again, you read a gaming review. Admit it, you loved it. Therefore I suggest that we model music more on the gaming section, with a heavier focus on gaming. This idea is also supported by the current editor-in-chief who said: “I really like gaming, gaming is fun.”



## Felix Film

### Gaming would be better

**Film Editor:** John Park  
**Games Editor:** Maximilian Eggl,  
Calum skene



This lengthy section, almost like the films it review, would certainly benefit from a snappier first person gaming approach. Controlling the characters would convey emotion and thus giving this section a much needed readership boost. In addition the Felix editor himself said: “I really like gaming, gaming is fun.”

## Felix Tech

The tech section is the worst section of them all. Maximilian Eggl, current technology section editor said: “It’s completely shit, we only review apple stuff anyway.” Us from the gaming section have no clear solution for this lack of quality due to the fact that even doing more

gaming related material would not increase the quality of this section. What we do suggest is scrapping the tech section completely and introducing a section namely gaming-technology, with Maximilian Eggl, current gaming section editor, as its chief.

## Felix Food

**Sandwich à la Gaming:**  
2 x pieces of bread  
1 x piece of ham  
2 x salad leaves  
3 x tomatoes  
Mayonaise

Firstly toast the bread until it is crunchy, and then slowly add the

mayonaise to each side. Next very carefully cut the tomatoes into halves and arrange them symmetrically on one of the pieces of toast. Then forcefully throw the salad on the toast, and finish off with slapping the ham on, and then smacking the two pieces together. Voilà you know have perfect gaming snack food



# SECTION BATTLE ROYALE

## Felix Books

The books section while rather entertaining, when reviewing the walk through guides of various games (which it does too rarely), still lacks that heavy gaming influence that for instance the gaming section possesses. The editor-in-chief himself remarked: “I really like gaming, gaming

is fun.” Which completely supports the idea that he wants to revamp the books section, and rename it to the Walkthrough Books section, furthermore giving the already overworked games section team (who were incredibly successful) the job of increase the readership.

## Felix Catnip

Lonely catnip editor looking for a games editor to make her section better. He must be creative with design, have a heavy focus on gaming, and be able to write good articles in a pinch. I, myself, am in charge of a rather unknown section trying to get more exposure and readers.

Starting out with a co-editorship with a possible move into senior editorship possible (winky face). Editor-in-chief himself said, “I really like gaming, gaming is fun”, meaning he is more than happy to finally get this section off the ground, and actually getting people to meet up.



## Felix Sports

Last week the Felix Sports Sabrecats came up against the Gaming Giants. After failing to score a single point, the Sabrecats were ruthlessly destroyed when the Giant's Skene entered the fray. Furthermore a dismal display by Sabrecat's captain Wagle just went to show that the Giants were

superior to the Sabrecats. After this humiliating loss owner of both franchises, Editor-in-chief Joe Letts said that “I really like gaming, gaming is fun.”, thereby sacking the entire Sabrecats players, and instating the Giants team as a dual team taking over the roles of both.

## Felix Hangman

Hey hangman editor here. I have managed to change the games editors review of my section before it went to print. They said that hangman would be better if it made fun of gaming. No effing way. Gaming section is the worst section, and I would rather wipe read bad poetry than set my eyes upon that tripe. In fact, you

know what, gaming could do with a bit more hangman. So from next year onwards the gaming section will now be known as the gameman section, horoscopes, bad jokes and being really unfunny, just like the real hangman section! In fact, the Felix editor himself said, “I really like hangman, hangman is fun.”

# BATTLEFIELD HARDLINE

A serious review by **Maximilian Eggl** on the latest Battlefield game beta

Recently EA announced a closed beta for its newest instalment in its Battlefield franchise. All you needed to do (and still can do at [battlefield.com/hardline/beta](http://battlefield.com/hardline/beta)) was give in your details and hope that EA decided to pick you. To be honest with you, I would honestly go for it. You only lose about 2 minutes of your time, and potentially get to test a triple-A title for zilch. I mean, what do you have to lose?

Anyway, I was lucky enough to be chosen for the Beta, (although I believe that pretty much everyone is chosen) and immediately went to download the game from origin. The interface itself is very similar to battlefield 4 in that you have do everything pre-game through your browser. You have a profile, loadout and can choose your server/game mode there.

The setting of Battlefield Hardline is basically cops versus robbers. However, add into that tried and tested formula the guns and mechanics of the Battlefield series, and you should get a really good game! Currently since we are

in beta the game only has two game modes, namely Blood money and heist. Blood money is a really fun capture the flag mode where you have to steal money from a neutral safe and bring it back to your own. At the same time you can steal from the other sides safe, while they can do the same to you. Heist description



[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

I played several rounds of this mode and was really satisfied. The gun play from Battlefield, which was ok to begin really melded well with the concept of the game mode. I found it really enjoyable when I was stealing the cash, the adrenaline was rushing as I waited there to pick up the cash and I was elated when I managed to take someone down who was about to rake in big time. Furthermore, the tactics of this game mode are wide-ranging and can be completely different. For example you can play extremely aggressively, camping out your opponents safe and kill them every time they try to bring money there, or extremely defensively by just defending your own safe. All in all it made for a really good gaming experience.

The heist game mode is similar, but instead of both teams needing to steal money from a safe, we have the robbers needing to crack a safe and then carry the flag for a set amount of time. The cops need to stop the robbers from doing this. Simultaneously the robbers have a

limited number of respawns, while the cops can die as many times as they want. I found this mode really good as well, however I think that even just a little teamwork would make this way better. However, as always battlefield players are quite a selfish bunch.

In terms of new content, apart from the game modes, we have the addition of new melee weapons, like police batons and baseball bats. Furthermore, the inclusion of a riot shield which stops most bullets really is different from what we have seen before. The best addition in my opinion though is the grappling hook and a zipline. This gives the already interesting movement options a new dimension which can lead to completely new tactics to take out your enemies.

All in all considering that this game is in beta, as well as being actually a quite demanding game I was really impressed by how well it ran. Very rarely did I have any lag or performance issues. Everything was really smooth and looked really good.

However, if we remember that Battlefield was released less than a year ago, should EA be bringing out the sequel? I honestly have to say no. Battlefield 4 was a mess when it came out, and still occasionally suffers from bugs and glitches. Hardline proves that Dice can actually bring out a well-optimized game that runs well, so why hasn't this been applied to Battlefield 4? Why release an entirely new game for an outrageous price, when the engine is the same, most of the mechanics are the same and there is relatively little content. To be honest, I really think that it would be better if Dice had released this game as a DLC, and I would perhaps be more inclined to buy it. However, for to be paying the whole £60 or whatever it will cost is really ridiculous considering I already have Battlefield 4. I am sorry EA, but regardless of how good Hardline is, I will not fall for your money making schemes. Shame really, because as an add-on I would have definitely bought it and advised others to get it as well.

# A WEEKEND IN BRUGES

Last month six members of the Meat Appreciation Society set off for a trip to Bruges. Little did they know what awaited them. Here are their stories.

## A complete and accurate account of the first Imperial expedition to the exotic city of Bruges

Maciej Matuszewski  
Writer

**The Most Ancient and Noble Meat Appreciation Society has had a long and illustrious history. Its distinguished members have, however, never been ones to rest on their laurels, whereupon came the idea of a daring expedition to the forgotten city of Bruges, in the far-off land known as Belgium.**

Having obtained a most generous grant from Her Britannic Majesty's Imperial Institution an expedition of six gentlemen and gentlewomen was outfitted for the journey, under the leadership of the eminent natural historian Helen Pennington FZSL. Here I humbly present a short record of our travels, in the hopes that it will serve for the edification and enjoyment of the readers of this fine journal.

We departed from London on the afternoon of the 23rd of May in the year Our Lord 2014. We travelled fast and light by locomotive and, with the assistance of a native guide, soon managed to find our way to our final destination. The city presented a very pleasant aspect – the remains of strong exterior defences suggested a warlike past but the wide canals and richly appointed buildings also indicated a long history of prosperous trade. The streets were narrow but pleasant, possessing a curious, non-Euclidean property that greatly intrigued our logician (see the attached monograph opposite). On the day of our arrival the weather was most agreeable, very much similar to the climate of England. However, on our second day the clouds cleared

to reveal a piercing blue sky and a truly strange oddity – a yellow glowing orb of light very similar to one of Mr Edison's electric lamps but of far greater size and intensity. Fortunately, this frightful apparition soon disappeared and the heavens returned to their habitual grey.

The natives were a hardy and friendly people. Our explorations were helped by the fact that, much to our surprise, many of them spoke perfect Queen's English, which they had learned from previous expeditions. We visited many historical sites around the city and learned much of its storied history. It appears that much of the industry of the town is dedicated to the production of a most curious substance called 'chocolate'. All of our party found this an intriguing area of study, and we dedicated a great deal of time to ensure a most thorough and comprehensive investigation was carried out. In turn, our evenings were primarily dedicated to the detailed examination of the town's bars and drinking houses.

As per the constitution of our Society we devoted much of our efforts to an investigation of the city's culinary heritage. This included partaking of a hearty luncheon in a humble but agreeable tavern suggested to us by the guidebooks of Monsieur Michelin. We also took the time to visit a museum dedicated to so called 'fries' – poor relatives to the great British chips, yet not without commendable qualities.

While we were only able to stay in Bruges for three days we gathered much useful scientific data. Overall this was a very successful expedition to a fascinating and exotic location – we would certainly recommend further research in this and other similar localities.





# The Natives of Bruges

Ethel Bardsley

**Endless twisting roads. I kept running, ever conscious of the footsteps behind me, its march keeping to the drumbeat of my heart.**

**I took a left, almost falling from skidding on the torrential downpour.**

**Tap. Tap. Tap.**

After my recent submission to a collection curated by messrs McIntosh and Bergen, I took my leave for Bruges. I had heard much of the Belgian air's restorative effects, and I was tired from my studies, and so I found myself but 3 days ago leaving the comfortable bosom of London for the continent. The journey was largely uneventful, although I found myself attempting to leave the train at Aalter, as if in a trance, unthinkingly taking my luggage and walking to the door. I came to as I had nearly stepped out, and returned to my seat. I now wish I had not, and allowed whatever providence to succeed in its attempt to save me.

Upon reaching Bruges, I attempted to find my lodging, a small boarding house near one of the city gates. I had procured a map while in London, but none of the streets seemed to quite match, and were named differently when they did. I walked at least one circle of the maze, the trudging of my feet like a shambling chant, walking out some kind of prayer to be shown rest. But as that thought crossed my mind, the architecture yielded, and it was before me, where surely it was not before.

I checked into the hotel, and went for a simple dinner in the small square a short walk away. The mussels were delicious, the escargot divine, the beer rich and dark. The streets, previously desolate and foreboding, were now filled with all kinds of people, bustling and scurrying to avoid the rain, suddenly pouring from the sky as it was. I idly watched them to and fro, before the sky darkened, the rain stopped, and they disappeared. I paid and left, and found myself stood on a bridge looking out over one of the many canals, and shuddered. The river, its black mass seething and writhing beneath, gurgling as if digesting its last

victim, hungry. Even though it has no eyes, I knew it watched me pass. It watched, and I shuddered, with something even more primal than fear, something that left me transfixed, held as if by the hand of God Himself, if such a thing can even exist in the face of this... thing below. By the time I returned to my body and came to my senses, the shadow in the water was gone. I stumbled back to my lodgings, shaken.

The day that followed was agreeable, visiting local collections and enjoying delicacies. The rain left me soaked as I walked, and I often found myself at a loss attempting to comprehend the geometry of the place, but suddenly it was refreshing, almost comforting in a way I can't quite describe but felt so assuredly.

There was one moment of unease, however. Within a collection devoted to showcasing local produce, I came upon a scene of such macabre intentions I can barely comprehend. A vision of a man consuming his own flesh, as if overcome by madness, not for want of food, but of such warped senses as to find it appetizing. Next to them, a woman offered up her child, like a basket of delicious fruits, insane and twisted.

Confused and

unsettled, I moved on into the safety of the rain. I woke the following morning, packed my things, said my goodbyes, and started toward the station. I inevitably found myself lost, the maddening layout mocking

I turned and ran. The footsteps followed, with a slow yet constant pacing, never matching my speed but always growing closer. I ran and it followed, waiting for me to tire and fall.



me as I walked in circles again. I could not even try to ask a local for guidance, as the streets were once more empty. After an hour of this, the sun beating down on me, I tried to stop for a lunch, or perhaps one of the Trappist brews, but found nowhere open. A bell tolled in the near distance, hidden behind the walls of this maze, so close and yet obscured and concealed. I turned, looked at my map, turned again.

Everywhere, a winding road of esoteric yet uniform architecture, devoid of any kind of life. "Gieterijstraat", "Witteleertouwestraat", "Minderbroederstraat", the language as arcane as the streets themselves, seemingly assembled without form or reason. It was at this point that I knew. The city had caught me, and now it was simply playing.

I walked and walked, growing tired and hungry. I longed for the rain, to cool me in the sun and as reassurance that time was truly passing. But with it came the footsteps. When I first heard them, I felt joy, but it soon turned to terror as I saw what was making them, for I had seen it in the eyes of the man feasting on himself.

The rain lifted, and with it went the footsteps. I was safe, of a kind, but just as trapped as before. I rested for a few moments, before stumbling forward in hope of finding a gate before the rain returned, my body aching.

But it rained again. And again, and again, through day and night. I do not know how many frozen cold wet nights I ran for. It never quite reached me, but it was often close, its scent lingering, mixing with my own newfound smell of decay. Even though I knew there was no exit from this foul place, I kept running, hope alone keeping me mobile.

Days turned to weeks, and I collapsed, exhausted and starving, not even having the strength to fear anymore. I willed it to catch me, to consume me through myself.

When the rain came that time, I did not hear the footsteps.

I am told I spent only 3 days abroad, although they will admit I looked somehow aged. I escaped with my life, but I am less sure of my soul, and know I have lost my mind. My nurse chatters to herself as she tidies my bedsheets and nightstand. I pick at my skin and start to salivate.



## A Sonnet of Bruges

Helen Pennington

On quest we went to see new lands divine,  
Fair Bruges, our goal therein new foods to seek,  
Our hope to dine on dishes so sublime,  
Brave knights cannot hold back, cannot be meek.

Great dragon, Eurostar, to be our steed,  
Swallo'd us whole and moved us on our quest,  
A hostel sought we in our time of need,  
With safe haven and lodging were we blessed.

Our joy was found in taverns far and near,  
Bright stars of Michelin were to the fore,  
Great friends, great food and many steins of beer,  
Duck, rabbit, lamb, beef, pork and many more.

As we reflect upon fair times gone by,  
'Onward!' to out next quest shall be our cry!



## Once upon a time... there was a time war – Alex Cameron

This stretch I run a pub. It's a small thing, a hole-in-the-wall with some temporal debris stuck to the wall, a consistency engine ticking in the back, and a great selection of beers.

As for me? I accomplished forty seven missions for the Temporal Directive. Don't worry – you'll never have heard of them. My last mission was their erasure. They had done what they set out to do, and they believed in tidying up after themselves. I'm the only one who remembers them – so now I run a bar filled with the flotsam of a hundred timelines.

I think it tells you a lot about the life I've lead that my idea of retirement is running a pub in a war zone.

A war zone? In Bruges?

Silly little linearist.

Old towns twist and turn. Using that is like calculus, or secondary school general relativity. You have to be shown how. Working it out on your own takes an Einstein, a Newton or a Shun. But once you know, you can't not do it. A twist of an alley brings you to the middle ages. Another brings your forward to one of the cyberfutures, and the gentle song of the Sony mind whales.

And where there is humanity, and

power, there is war.

The consistency engine sticks reality together. It keeps this building in the real – writing it into the world as it changes around us. Outside the Agents walk back through the streets, and then out into the past or the future or one of the sideways realms.

What? You thought all those young men and woman were here for the night life? You can't see the desperation in their eyes as they party away one last night before walking out into the endless possibilities?

Agents always end up alone. Any action in the past births a new future. One where you never will/can be/have been born. So now I provide a few moments of quiet amidst the storm.

Some Agents hide better than others.

The group of six that just walked in, for example.

If I didn't know better I'd be sure they didn't even know what kind of town they were in.

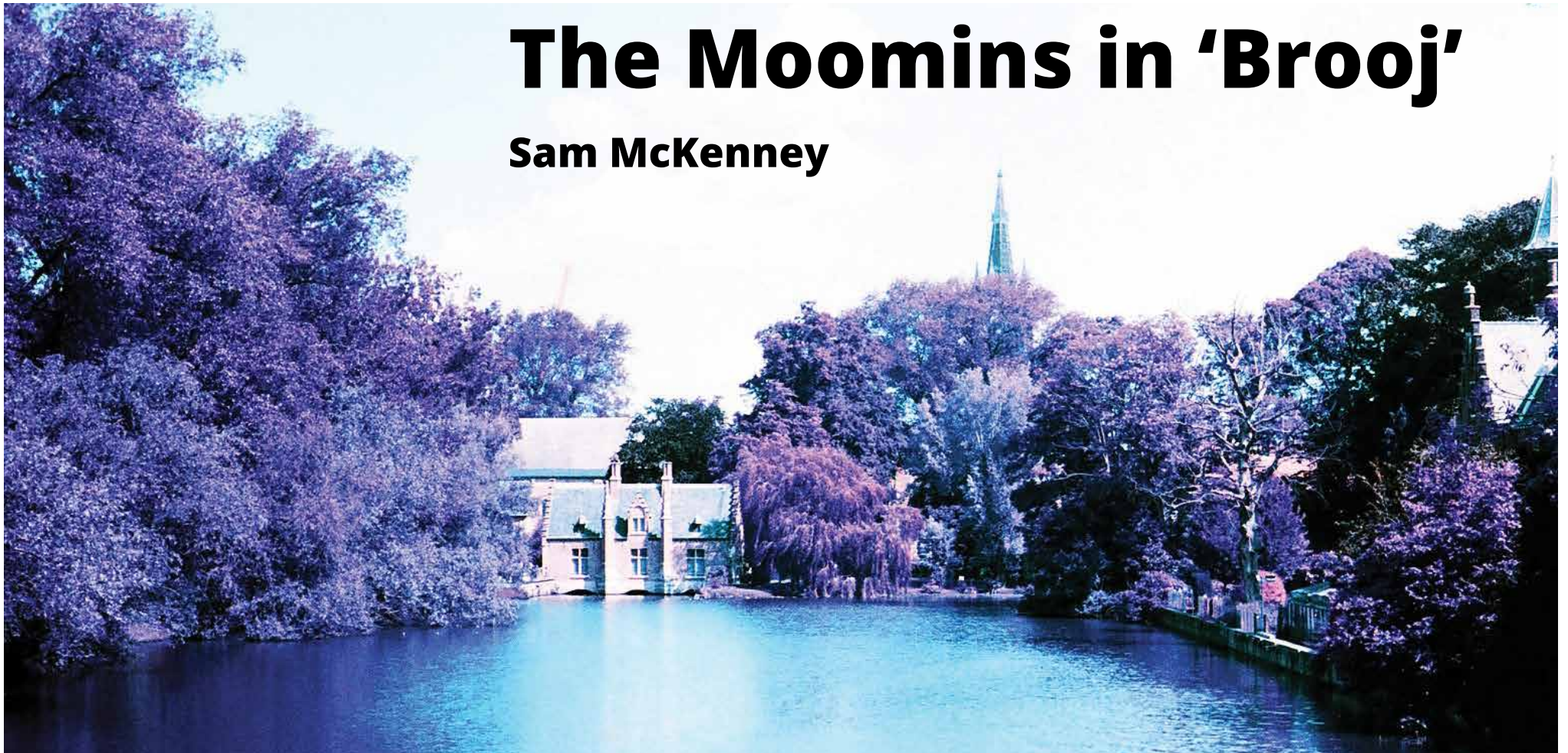
But this is Bruges. No one is innocent here. But we can pretend. For a little while.

So I make some gentle conversation, serve them Trappist beer, and send them back into the howling void.



# The Moomins in 'Brooj'

Sam McKenney



## CHAPTER 1

*In which the Moomins embark upon their spirited adventure*

It must have been early one morning in May that the Moomin family met at the railway platform, the steam-engines chugging out little clouds with all their might.

"Are we all ready ready for an adventure?" asked Moominelen.

"Yes!" all the other Moomins replied in chorus, with their bags-packed and sat at their sides "but how shall we get there, it's so very far?"

"Oh, you silly things, follow me" she gestured, urging them forward.

As they strolled to the train, they passed through a strange box, which beeped rudely at Moominpole, although he didn't know what he had down to offend the box. Then with much commotion, the box scrumpled all around Moominpole and then released him, more scruffled than before.

"What a cad!" remarked Moominpole.

## CHAPTER 2

*Of their destination and the unusual places therein*

After completing their arduous journey with little more in the way of incident, they disembarked on the foreign shore, in a land Moonelen helpfully informed them was known as 'Brooj'.

"I'm hungry, but what is there to eat in this strange place?" Moominthel asked. And so they searched high and low until darkness fell and the rain began to fall.

"I'm damp!" pined Moominswede\*. The others agreed and found shelter under a big green tent, which, fortuitously, also held food. Soon after, they all had lavish and unusual meals before them, unlike anything to be found in Moominland, and voluminous drinks.

Moominey lifted the glass. "Are you sure such a big glass of dubbel is good for you?" enquired Moominon.

"But of course it is, all nice things are good for you!"

Moominon considered this advice for a time, and agreed, ordering himself a cherry beverage of the very same capacity.

That night the Moomin family slept sweetly.

\*Moomins do not like getting rained on, Moominswede least of all.

## CHAPTER 3

*Further exploits in Brooj*

When they awoke, the Moomins exited their den to a bright sun-lit day, unlike anything to be found in Moominland. As they explored Brooj, they found many more houses than any of them had seen before, and, in the very centre of Brooj, there stood a tall tower. A huge square surrounded the tower and horses were pulling heavy loads behind them.

"Why are you working so hard on such a lovely day?" Moominthel asked one of the horses they passed.

"Neigh!" replied the horse.

"The horses here certainly lack the courtesy they have back home" said Moominswede\*.

\*For in Moominland horses are commonly known to invite all but the rudest of persons around for tea.

## CHAPTER 4

*Their sad departure*

But as they continued their journey, they found that not everything in Brooj was as impolite as the horses. Indeed, that the very same day, a most gentlemanly, old building offered them as much chocolate as they wanted. Soon after, another stately house was insisting upon their eating chips until they were all so full they could barely continue.

As they explored further they soon discovered they were in fact on a small island, and windmills stood sentinel all around its circumference. They stood far taller and prouder than the watermills the Moomins had all been taught to build in their youth, and made our brave adventurers feel very safe indeed.

It was then that Moominelen told them all it was time to leave.

"Awww" the Moomins all said in unison "must we leave?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so, my little Moomins for if we don't leave now, perhaps we should never leave. And if that were to happen, then who would return to Moominland and tell everyone of the delights we have seen?"

The End

*Dedicated to Tove Jansson*



Photos by Helen Pennington and Sam McKenney

# HOW NOT TO SUCK AT EATING/DRINKING OUT

## SERVERELLA dishes it like it is...

## and spills a few industry secrets



Serverella

Hospitality Lackey

**HELLO - I'm Serverella, your average neighborhood waiter. Just like Cinderella, I've been "forced" into drudgery to get by; except outside of the Grimm era, I work at the coalface of the service and hospitality industry to survive in pricey London, and said drudgery is by choice.**

Don't get me wrong; unlike Cinders, my job is more than menial labour - I actually get to bat my lashes at a variety of folk in semi-decent uniform, and I'm certainly not covered in soot/cinders by the end of my shift. It's just as grueling though; I can be on my feet for up to 10 hours per shift. I enjoy it in some weird way, though sometimes I wish customers would make it better for us - it's actually not that difficult.

So here are some of my musings on what goes on behind the scenes, and some tips on how you can make the most out of your hospitality-industry experience (whether it's a birthday party, casual first date, classy business schmoozing or your bajillionth anniversary) - this way, you can help us help you.

### GETTING ONE FOOT IN

We're well aware some places are so bloody popular that reservations are damn well expected/a must (looking at you, Sushi Tetsu), and others (hello MEATLiquor!) just don't do reservations - so you have

to try your luck right when it opens and hope to high heaven you get in. And some establishments are the poncey type where even if they don't say so, they'll be snooty to walk-ins.

But what about those you're not sure about popularity-wise (read: most places)? As a starting point, if you know you're after a weekend primetime lunch/dinner slot, don't be a self-centered yuppie - PLEASE RESERVE EARLY (if they take them.) If you're coming in on a chilled day (Mondays and Tuesdays tend to be dead-days for restaurants - it's why you get most deals happening on those days) or a bit of an off-peak time, you could just walk in and ask the host(ess) nicely. It goes without saying that your chances increase loads if you're there right when it opens - compared to when the night is in full swing.

On the subject of OpenTable for reservations, establishments would much rather you call to reserve - it costs us a fee per diner (nevermind the crazy start-up and monthly subscription costs), whereas phoning/emailing us directly bypasses that. Think of the site as the Ticketmaster of the restaurant world - albeit quite hated by peeps in the industry. Those "OT-only" deals you got on their site? Some of them are actually a sneaky way for restaurants to pass on the per-diner cost. Others make up for it by hiking prices up post-installing OpenTable. Emailing is free, and allows us to keep more of our profits (don't be surprised if some restaurants act a little bit

colder towards OTers...I've seen it happen.)

Big group? For the love of Michelin, wherever you go, don't just show up - please phone or email way ahead of time. There will most likely be a minimum spend of some sort (to discourage stingy campers who'll spend nawt), but sometimes if your group has been amazing your server might throw in a nice surprise...more on freebies and attitudes later though.

### NO-SHOW ETIQUETTE

We get it, life's a b\*\*\*\*h and sometimes things just get in the way. Or other times you're still undecided between two places for that special surprise and figured you'd book two to be safe and stand up on one when you've decided. Either way, we know minds and plans change; just please PLEASE phone or email us to let us know you won't be coming, whether it's a busy day or not. Sometimes we get unexpectedly slammed with walk-ins, so you taking the trouble to tell us in advance helps us make sure we can make another unexpected customer happy.

Same goes for if you're running late - most places will hold your table for up to 30 mins without you giving notice, but it's much better for us all if you say ahead of time how far away you'll be. Your table isn't the only one in your server's section, and any notice you can give us helps us organize ourselves a bit better. Scratch our back and we'll scratch yours by trying to make sure you won't have to rush through your main course

in 10 minutes because we need to turn tables for the next seating.

Be sensible, though. Restaurants actually keep track of repeat no-shows and cancellations - if you're the kind to stand us up 13 times out of 15 reservations, eventually we won't even bother accepting your booking.

### FREEBIES

Oh we can tell who you are all right - those of you who want something for nothing. Your servers are canny like that (even the bartenders you were trying to sweet-talk for "birthday shots"), but we can tell you that if you don't expect it and are all-around pleasant, and it's genuinely a social occasion or you're a good regular, more often than not we'll \*maybe\* give you a free something. One thing's for sure, though: name-dropping the owners is NOT the way to go. You know the owners personally? Great, so do we! Half the time we probably despise them - nice try, bub.

Sometimes when you get a freebie, you don't have to feel too bad about it - we've usually got a little "freebie tab budget"/stock we reserve for complimentary goodies on that night, so we can afford it. Other times though we've got to twist our managers' arms before we can comp your drink - so be nice!

At a bar? A decent tip (beyond your usual 1-2 quid) goes a long way in getting your bartender to sweeten up. They'll be even more inclined to remember your name and drink choices before you open your mouth (even if they're usually

very good like that, tip or not.)

### SOME WAYS TO PISS US OFF

Once you're shown to your table, for heaven's sake, sit where you are seated. Nothing personal - there really are so many good tables, and unless you've put in a special request/are a good regular your chances of getting a good table may be slim. Don't be an asshole by requesting a bigger 4-pax table when there are just two of you - if the place fills up, I sure as hell refuse to turn people away just because your Gucci/LV is warming the two spare chairs. Can we say mismanagement of resources?

Just as douchey would be asking to move tables because you feel shafted. For Roux's sake, planning seating arrangements requires just as much meticulousness as Gulf ware plans.

I cry at the number of people who are more interested in their cellphones than engaging with their dates/mates and paying full attention when ordering from their servers. Unless you're a doc on standby waiting for an organ to arrive, turn the darn thing off (and if you are, wouldn't you be eating in the hospital cafeteria anyway?)

There are plenty more ways you can rock - or suck - when you're dining out, though sadly they won't all fit on this page. Interested in hearing more tales from my end? Got questions on how to dining-out norms? Want to share your horror/ace stories in hospitality? Email Mike and Caz at [food.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:food.felix@imperial.ac.uk) - look forward to reading your letters.

**Thanks for supporting us @ Food over the year - it's been fun!**

# ASK ANNIE!



**EXPERT ADVICE FROM THE WOMAN WHO FOUGHT FOR WOMEN'S CLOAKROOM FACILITIES AT IMPERIAL**

## HANGMAN GETS HORNY

**FELIX'S FAVOURITE ANONYMOUS EDITORS EXPLORE THEIR HIDDEN DESIRES**

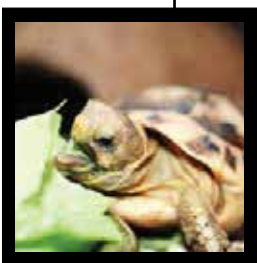
This week we asked the Felix editors the following questions:

1. What animal noise do you make during sex?
2. What good sex advice can you give?
3. What is the worst sex advice you've ever received?

Their answers are below.

**EDITOR 1:**

1. Tortoise
2. Communicate – if you like or don't like something, tell them.
3. "Eat a doughnut off his penis." It's just unsanitary!



**EDITOR 2:**

1. Bat
2. Follow your instincts
3. "Sprinkle pepper under his nose as he's about to climax."



**EDITOR 3:**

1. Whale
2. Always be willing to try new things
3. Two in the pink and one in the stink"



**EDITOR 4:**

1. Rhino
2. A sensual warm bath after sex does wonders for your relationship
3. "Use chocolate sauce – it's tasty but it's really sticky and ruins your sheets... and it looked awkward when her mum walked in."



**EDITOR 5:**

1. Porcupine
2. Learn to put a condom on with your mouth - it's less awkward that way
3. "Grip his shaft with both hands, then twist in opposite directions as fast as you can." WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?



**EDITOR 6:**

1. Donkey
2. Send him sexy messages on his way home to make him

3. "When you're having a romantic meal, say: *I'm going devour your penis like I'm devouring this piece of meat.*" What, with a steak knife?!

**EDITOR 7:**

1. Stallion
2. If you feel reluctant, you're not going to enjoy it. Don't be afraid to say no.
3. "Try and inject some romance into your love life



by having sex in somewhere interesting, like a beach." I DON'T WANT SAND IN MY ORIFICES!

*Agony Aunt Annie Whiteley, 43, lives in Hammersmith, and likes kittens, sappy romance novels, and hardcore BDSM on the weekends.*

*Hangman, 20, lives in Fulham, and likes bad rap music, racism, and puns.*

After a disappointing response to Annie's propositioning in last week's Catnip, she found herself alone and upset one evening in the Felix office this week. When Hangman found her this way, he decided to cheer her up by taking her on what she thought would be a romantic(ish) date.

Hand in hand, they strolled down High Street Kensington heading to what Hangman has said was his favourite restaurant, known for both its excellent cuisine and reasonable prices. The location? McDonald's. As Annie is a poor student, she decided it was acceptable. Getting inside, Hangman had conveniently "forgotten" his wallet, and when Annie offered to pay, he immediately ordered the most expensive thing on the menu. After ordering her own food, Hangman told Annie that she was too fat, and ate her burger in the hopes that this would be the beginning of a diet, as well as eating half her chips.

This was nothing, however, compared to Hangman's behaviour. Not only was he obnoxious and rude, he spent the entire meal making terrible jokes (see page 42 for examples of this). The worst was when he began making predictions for their future, all which seemed to end with Annie's violent and untimely death. Overall, it was the worst date that Annie had ever been on.

The sex was okay though.



# ARTICLE ACTUALLY 90% IMAGES

HANGMAN KNOWS YOU CAN'T HANDLE TOO MANY WORDS

Hangman Hangman Editor



This is what Beit would look like to a fish. Still really average.



The officially endorsed cafe of Imperial College London.



THESE ARE THE GREATEST DOORS OF ALL TIME. ALL HAIL THE LIBRARY ENTRANCE



Cheeky Queen's Tower. No need to hide QT, if you've got it, flaunt it!

**BOOBS! CAN WE EVER GET ENOUGH OF THEM?**

by Johnny Everyman



NO!!!!!! That would be really stupid. As it stands, a mere 50% of the population has them, maybe they would be boring to continually expose and discuss if 100% had them.

Listen, men have absolutely no idea about boobs whatsoever, the only way they can realistically be educated about them is through constant societal obsession.

Anyway, aren't they great? I mean, just think of their potential to feed small children. If that doesn't justify judging people on their breast size, then I simply don't know what does.

And check out these pictures, sure they look a bit like boobs when you're only glancing, but really they're a sand dune, whilst the other is actually a mushroom. How unfulfilling was that?

No, there must be breasts and they must be regularly and consistently distributed throughout all publications and media outlets.

It's the only common sense view.



KNOWING full well that you couldn't possibly handle long blocks of text, no matter how well written or entertaining,

Hangman brings you an article that is 90% images. These can be seen above and, although they don't quite say a thousand

words like a lot of images can, they are at least bright and colourful. They're also extremely easy to interpret and

add absolutely nothing to your knowledge of the world. That's probably for the best.

H. x



# ISN'T THIS CELEBRITY STUPID? OR ARE YOU JUST FINDING THE ONLY WAY POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME THE CRIPPLING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT IS YOUR LIFE?

**Jealousy McRage**  
Celebrity Editor

GOSH, these celebrities have made yet another mistake. Could be in their extremely expensive and well-made clothing or it might just have been something they said.

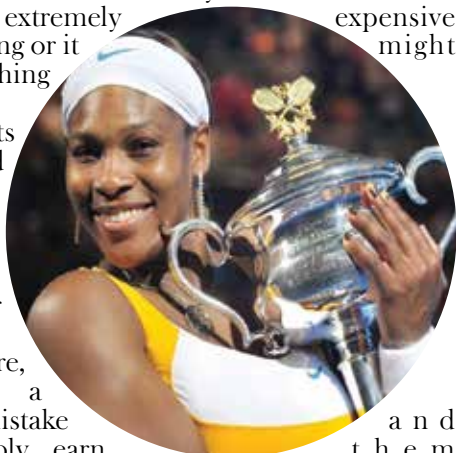
Anyway, your insults are definitely justified and definitely not an angry manifestation of the profound inadequacy and uselessness of your life.

I mean sure, these guys made a very public mistake and that should probably earn them a little bit of stick, but this level of gleeful schadenfreude is almost certainly loosely masking a deep dissatisfaction with all the opportunities missed and horrendous decisions taken.

But sure, don't worry about it, these guys probably won't hear your lurid insults that would never be said to anyone's face.

Because after all, they are successful millionaires with multiple talents and a bright future whereas you're a complete failure with no prospects left to rue what could have been if you had any ounce of talent or desire to work hard.

Fuck those famous guys at any rate.



This guys pretty darn talented and very handsome, but you should probably make fun of his hat or glasses or something Credit: Onsecrethunt

# CELEBRITIES' CLOTHES NOT AS GOOD THIS WEEK AS LAST WEEK APPARENTLY



# SENSATIONALIST HEADLINE LEADS TO DRAMATIC INCREASE IN SENSATIONALIST HEADLINES

**Hysteria Over-le-Top**  
News Editor

NEW research has shown that a sensationalist headline published in the Felix section, Hangman has directly caused a huge national spike in sensationalist headlines.

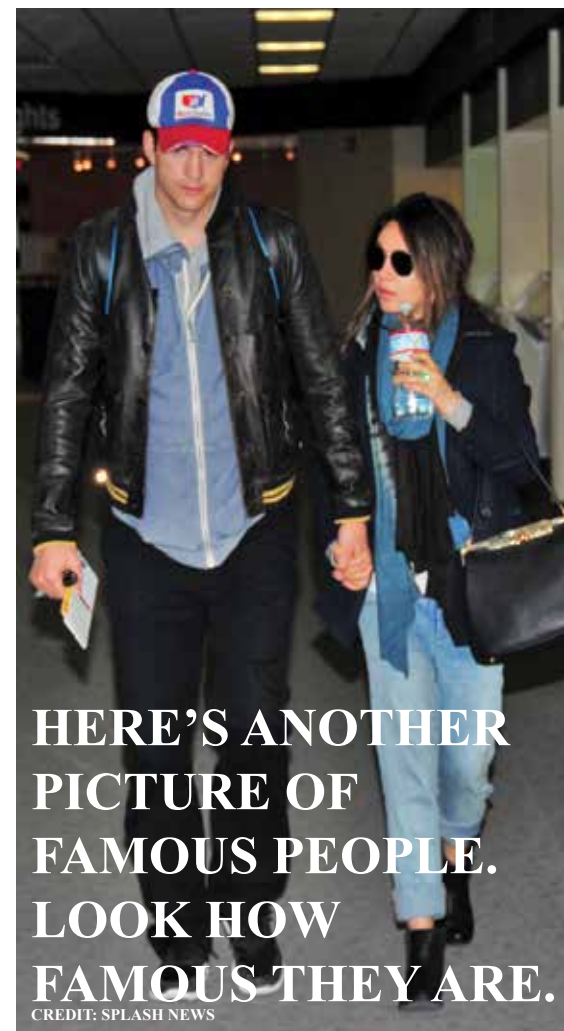
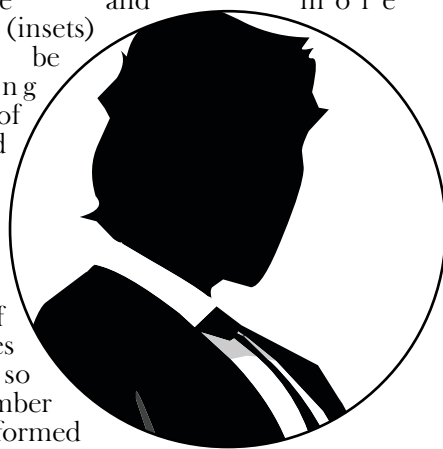
More and more headlines (insets) appear to be exaggerating the claims of published reports - statistical and scientific.

It appears that the mere publication of such headlines increases so does the number of misinformed articles based on those headlines.

Or maybe not but most likely it does and also, there's a really good chance that this encapsulates everything that's wrong with Britain today.

In fact, it's almost certainly a disgraceful violation of all the principles that make us Brits great.

At any rate, what we can assume is that since this headline has been loosely derived from an obscure research paper or misconstrued from some statistical data we can safely readjust our lifestyles.



HERE'S ANOTHER PICTURE OF FAMOUS PEOPLE. LOOK HOW FAMOUS THEY ARE.  
CREDIT: SPLASH NEWS

**Bye  
now!**



**Thanks  
for  
reading!**



TOP: Suarez celebrates with team mates after Uruguay's second  
LEFT: Rooney celebrates his goal, at the BOTTOM.



**Continued from Back Page**

Rooney did score though in a much-improved spell from the Three Lions midway through the Second Half. However, Suarez was able to capitalise on an error from England captain (and Suarez's Liverpool team mate) Steven Gerrard to blast the Uruguayans to victory and leave England's campaign hanging by a thread.

It had been an encouraging performance again from England, as they seemed to compete against a team that not many would have given them a chance against a few months ago. However there were very worrying signs at the back again for the Three Lions, as they seemed all at sea when trying to deal with Luis Suarez's brilliance.

England manager Roy Hodgson will know that he has gained a lot of plaudits with his team's performances over the first two games. However, he will also know that almost all of those plaudits will disappear if they fail to hold up their end of the bargain by beating Costa Rica in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday at 5.

# How England's boys did

## FELIX runs the rule over the Three Lions



**JOE HART**  
HAD a so-so game. Though he possibly could have done better for the Suarez goal.

6



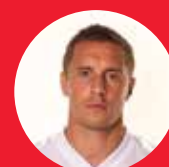
**LEIGHTON BAINES**  
WAS fairly anonymous going forward and will need to do more to prove he was the right choice.

6



**GARY CAHILL**  
WAS culpable along with Jagielka for Suarez's second goal. OK otherwise.

5



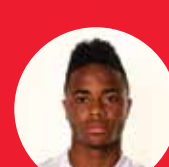
**PHIL JAGIELKA**  
SEEMED all at sea when defending against both of Suarez's goals.

4



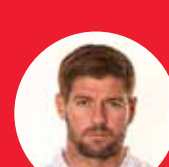
**GLEN JOHNSON**  
PROVIDED a brilliant assist for the Rooney goal, and was a threat going forward.

7



**RAHEEM STERLING**  
NOT great when compared to his performance in the Italy game. Needs experience.

6



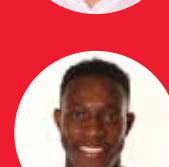
**STEVE GERRARD**  
LOST the ball that led to the first goal. Misjudged the header that led to the second goal.

4



**JORDAN HENDERSON**  
WAS fairly anonymous for the most part of the game.

5



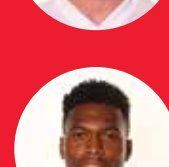
**DANNY WELBECK**  
STRUGGLED today and will need to produce a performance against Costa Rica

6



**WAYNE ROONEY**  
THE one bright spot, but he needs to produce this performance more often.

9



**DANIEL STURRIDGE**  
WITH the exception of the build up to the goal, Sturridge didn't have a good day at the office.

6



ICU TRIATHLON

### Continued from Back Page

With great trepidation and supposition the brave fifteen prepared for a two day cycle to Paris; an Arch to Arc ride through Southern English countryside to promised celestial heights of French tarmac. In pensive preparation for the challenge ahead many members settled into a relaxing night of partying in central London, while others relaxed to an evening of car hunting and bag loading until the early hours of the night. And after a restful two hours of sleep it was time to depart for Marble Arch.

In great style everyone arrived precisely for the 4:00am meet; a semblance for times to come. The chilled darkness of Marble Arch endorsed a frosty air of great expectation. Michael Kaye, our support driver and joint tour organiser with Vicki Solly captured the moment at Marble Arch before firing the metaphorical starting pistol for our 288km journey.

100m round the corner and we had our first stop. Fran's saddle had gone floppy and the trusty Garmin route plan was corrupted. It had decided we would fly there in a dead straight line. Our team guide Matthias Knop swiftly employed some crossed fingers and

leprechaun luck to set us moving once again. This was however not the end of our Garmin glitches.

London proved slow but clear road cycling, and before we knew it we were reunited with the support car. A Nature Valley in the stomach and a cereal bar in the back pocket and pedals turned once again. Cycling in a group of fourteen has two major issues: English roads are never straight, so cars have very limited time and space to overtake, leaving some overtakes dangerously close to handlebars; the other is a caterpillar effect when the Peloton front changes pace. A slight touch on the brakes by the Peloton leader and the back of the pack is emergency braking to avoid a collision. By the two hundredth kilometre we had filtered the effects down and were substantially smoother, but there were

many alarmed squeals escaping the peloton before that.

The second rest stop taught us all a lesson on how to relieve oneself in public while wearing cycling gear. First one must waddle around in cycling cleats to find a suitable bin/bush/tree to hide behind.

Then it is a complicated labyrinth of lycra to negotiate with a re-enactment of the "walk-off pants removal" scene from *Zoolander* for the boys and a far more complicated achievement by the girls. However as always, we power through whatever obstacle in the name of our cause. The final 40km was ahead, and time was rapidly disappearing to get to the

ferry at Newhaven.

Time for Garmin glitch #002. Youthfully optimistic we turned on to a dead-end road and persuaded each other that the Garmin must be correct, before reaching a dirt track to a chorus of "I told you this was a dead-end" and "this is going to be bad for my bike!" Nevertheless, any obstacle and the next kilometre was completed at a nerve shatteringly slow pace. Laughing it off back on tarmac we proceeded into yet another, even muddier bridle path that was clearly not correct. Muddy cleats and slipping wheels, bikes on shoulders and mud filled brakes, we introduced our road bikes to the joys of mountain biking; amazingly, without a puncture.

Finally, the hills of Newhaven presented themselves to us, along with the first puncture. A relaxed and hard earned descent turned quickly into wheel locking panic as Tom Bartissol (our French host) suddenly stopped halfway down in front of a pothole with a puncture. In our special supportive way we all hurled abuse at him as we passed wondering why he had stopped. Then collectively agreed he had completely overreacted and must have stop to announce "le tres dangereux pothole". The error was soon



realised and after a quick inner tube swap and collective apology to Tom the blushed peloton set off once again.

Newhaven Port came sooner than the pessimists had agonised. After a quick visit, photo and mars bar deposit from Vicki's Uncle and Aunt we headed for the ferry, and a midday nap. The five hour ferry break was well received, along with the mass produced lunch box of copious egg mayo sandwiches, quavers and kitkats for all. This was also when people found out their tour jersey nicknames with some classic racial stereotyping naming the German Matthias "Highly Efficient" and his partner Olivia as "Likes Highly Efficient Men".

Day one was still not over, and once clear of the ferry we quickly stripped off for the new warmer weather. With Billy "Big Wille" Palmer donning his new 'king of the hill' boxer-shorts we began on the smoothest roads of our lives. Correct me if I've got this completely wrong, but the French converted an old railway line into a clear cycle path all the way from Dieppe to our B&B stop in Forges les Eaux. It was built just before the London 2012 Olympics in a plan to allow the French clear cycling to England. Love it! This was also where we found our new fervent love of trail mix; to the point where Billy was engulfing handfuls and Ellie "Story Time Please" Howard resorted to rationing it to make sure it would last.

As the sun came down over the French horizon we arrived at our B&B, Hotel St. Denis. We had all wondered what the food would be like when we got there but literally jumped for joy at the "Steak House" lettering

on the restaurant's window. In short, we ate like kings and queens to a three course steak dinner, followed by a rejuvenating shower, beer and eventual sleep. But not before Pav "Glup" Dimitrijevi...announced that his urine was so dark and gloopy from all the sugar we'd eaten it was like 'banoffee pie energy gel'. gross.

Sleep however was short lived, and an 8:00am start the next day had us out and peddling once more. For 100m, until Marcel "South African Stallion" Admiraal noticed something wrong with his back wheel. Every spoke was loose enough to be used as a guitar string. Dan "Spare Tyre" Tyrie and Ed "Salty Face" Hallett, our residential mechanics ummed erred and plunged into the risky business of spoke tightening without the right equipment. Not something recommended if you don't know what you're doing, but thankfully the wheel kept true and after some heavy creaking into place Marcel's bike was once again road worthy.

This was where we saw the true beauty of the French countryside and the stunningly straight and smooth roads. The undulating Roman roads towards Paris teased us into challenges of speed and endurance, helping the group develop much better Peloton riding skills. We were riding at a stunning average pace well over 40km/h when we passed a particular yet unremarkable French farmhouse. The peloton leaders who rode past heard a loud and throaty bark to the right and thought nothing of it, until screams arose from behind. It is a sight never to be forgotten seeing a group of 13 other cyclists weaving all over the road to avoid a brutally



large Rottweiler that had charged out barking into the middle of the road, which narrowly missed assaulting Pavle Dimitrijevi...Fran Capel close behind was however not so lucky and with MacAskill levels of skill managed to stay on her bike after being hit by the dog. Thankfully by the time the dog had got up everyone was out of reach and it trotted back to its home. Excitement over.

Garmin glitch #003 - The French Off-roader. Having handled the British off-road we felt headstrong and tackled the mud and rock path the Garmin had presented us, with a challenge of a double rum shot for anyone who got a puncture. During the entire journey's many challenges our handling skills were definitely refined and improved, and it was Billy Palmer who earned himself that double shot. At the next rest stop we folded a map out on the car front and tried our best to plan a better route, but the terrain kept changing none the less.

Garmin glitch #004 - The Red Bridge. This was actually not so bad, and took us over a gorgeous footbridge into a park full of BBQs and Sunday holiday makers, but was still off-road and a few people were losing patience. All credit to Mattheas, he did a sterling job with what he had to work with!

Garmin glitch #005 - The Dual Carriageway Flyover. Of all the glitches, this one worried me the most because when you're 100ft up on a fast traffic flyover with just a bike between your thighs and a little helmet on your head there is an element of "am I totally insane?" Thankfully we made it to the end without any accidents, then we looked back and a group had stopped halfway. Panicking, because the only mechanics were now too far away to help, we waited for Marcel to cycle over and give us a diagnosis. "Ellie has to go for a wee".

At that moment I gave Ellie a telepathic bitch-slap and began to fret even more. Thankfully everyone got back ok, and the true story of sudden vomiting made Ellie's stop far more justified. But I was very glad to get off that road.

The final leg towards Tom's house had Tom "Fit French Fresher" Bartissol teach us all about why there were plastic bags hanging from sticks at the side of the road: it is a sign that there were prostitutes in the woods waiting if you fancied a break. We did keep a keen eye out for the support car back and Mike "Winky Face" Kaye parked up somewhere but it looks like he resisted the urge.

Finally, with throbbing thighs and wind-burnt faces we arrived at Tom's home to

a heroes' welcome. But the journey wasn't over. Donning the tour jerseys and refuelling with cake, we mounted up once more to cycle to Paris and the Arc de Triomphe. Our entrance was less than traditional, and saw us at the base of La Grande Arche de La Defense. Our first view of the Arc de Triomphe brought cheers and we traversed the adventure-park-style descent down steps and ramps weaving this way and that (feeling a little too much like a biker gang) before braving the French traffic. A final hill climb brought us underneath our final destination. Powering into the swirling traffic we began our victory laps of the Arc de Triomphe and finally unsaddled from our bikes for the last time. 288km down, and we had made it. Only to have the Gendarmes (aka Fun Police) tell us we were too loud and must leave 'le monument historique', to which Tom replied by accidentally popping a champagne bottle at them. No harm done. Now to leave the whirling tornado of vehicular doom. Exaggerating? Wait until you try and cycle it. Fran survived yet another collision this time from a French taxi, Sian "Unforgettable" Morgan decided the best approach was to exit radially with one foot clipped in and Tom had to cycle it with a bottle of champagne! Thankfully, no one died.

Back at Tom's and our cook, Fatima had prepared a gorgeous Moroccan feast for us which we engulfed before the tone lowered thanks to copious amounts of delicious French wine. The party continued into the early morning hours with the fines circle opening for all to unleash their frustration through the medium of rum and white wine, interesting French drinking games, thrusting planks and teaching Mike that it's not ok to sleep when the fines circle was still in operation.

Despite everything we still managed a tourist's day of Paris, with some even running around Paris (see below). We truly proved ourselves in France.

As individuals we will always remember cycling to Paris and the challenges we faced, but also as a team we pushed and encouraged each other through hard times; celebrated and laughed in great times; consolidated and supported through the tears and shared sweat in warm embraces at the end of a hard day. The first ever TriIC Easter Tour has been epic and I am in no doubt that in the future we will see more tours bring more beautiful people together under the triathlon club flag.

Bring on Summer Tour.





ICU TRIATHLON

## ENGLAND LUIS DESPITE ROO GOAL



## PELTON TO PARIS

### Triathlon's Easter Tour Report

ICU Triathlon

With great trepidation and supposition the brave fifteen prepared for a two day cycle to Paris; an Arch to Arc ride through Southern English countryside to promised celestial heights of French tarmac. In pensive preparation for the challenge ahead many members settled into a relaxing night of partying in central London, while others relaxed to an evening of car hunting and bag loading until the early hours of the night. And after a restful two hours of sleep it was time to depart for Marble Arch.

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*Continued on Page 46*



ICU DANCE COMPANY

## DANCE COMPANY GO TO SCOTLAND

ICU DANCE COMPANY

We took 7 dance teams to compete in four different categories - ballet, tap, jazz and contemporary in advanced and beginners categories. We have never before entered so many categories/taken so many of our club members on tour before. This was a fantastic opportunity for our members to showcase their dancing abilities to a large audience in a competitive environment. We competed against a total of 15 different universities from across the UK and were successful in placing in 3 of the categories.

Kunal Wagle  
Sport Editor



Late last night England's chances of qualifying for the next round of the FIFA World Cup went from optimistic to pretty slim. Their chances of qualifying for the next round now depend on Italy winning their remaining two games and Uruguay and Costa Rica and England themselves beating Costa Rica. Even then the group will come

down to goal difference, of which England's is currently worst.

England looked comfortable before Luis Suarez was given a golden chance to take the lead in the first half, which he duly took with a header. Shortly before this Wayne Rooney, playing in the centre today after swapping his role with Raheem Sterling, narrowly missed with a free kick before hitting the crossbar with a header.

*Continued on page 45*