



Felix

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Medic Party hits national headlines

Felix discusses the fallout from BoatGate

News, page 2

CAROL ANN CHEAH
NEWS REPORTER

Following the completion of its inquiry into Imperial's animal research and testing practices, the Home Office has declared the allegations of widespread animal abuse and cruelty made against Imperial College London in April 2013 as [not having] been substantiated."

The inquiry was put into motion after a damning report released by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV), which conducted an undercover investigation in 2012 at Imperial. The BUAV alleged, among other things, "appalling animal suffering" on a "very large scale" and widespread breaches of the law taking place in College laboratories. A graphic 9-minute clip featuring footage taken by hidden cameras was also uploaded to the union's campaign webpage.

Out of the 180 allegations made by the BUAV against Imperial, only five were upheld, with the five leading to formal technical non-compliance cases. These resulted in sanctions to eight individuals, which included letters of reprimand and further training. However the Home Office says these non-compliances with regulations were "of a persistent nature" and "could broadly be traced back to failing in management structures", classifying them as "minor".

The majority of these were in Category B, which meant that while there may have been "some animal welfare implications", it [did] not involve significant, avoidable or unnecessary pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm", and there was "no evidence of intent to subvert the controls of ASPA [the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986]".

The Home Office report, published on the 2nd of October, cites that "there are a wide range of managerial tools in place at [Imperial], which should have the effect of supporting compliance



BUAV: allegations of animal cruelty at Imperial dropped by Home Office

with ASPA and encouraging a good culture of responsibility and care for the animals used in scientific procedures[...][there have been positive efforts by the Establishment at managerial and Named Person level to address a number of issues, both

before and since the exposé." The findings and recommendations made by the Home Office are in line with the independent academic inquiry ordered by College last year following the BUAV report. Chaired by Prof Steve Brown from

the Medical Research Council's Mammalian Genetics Unit, the independent panel reviewed Imperial's culture and approach to animal care and welfare.

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This week's issue...

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Felix Editor || Philippa Skett

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What's on this week:

Dri Night

Oct 13th, FiveSixEight

Alcohol can only be bought up until 5pm, and these need to be consumed by 7pm. Entry is free.

Union Council

Oct 13th, 6.30pm onwards
Union Dining Hall

This is when all the Union bigwigs meet together and discuss things like pizza toppings and Higher Education Funding policies.

CURRENT VACANCIES

Centrefold photographer
email felix@imperial.ac.uk if you are interested in this role.

Don't forget to get all social with Felix:

 @felixImperial
 /FelixImperial

We promised to be 100% more entertaining than those Sabb videos in the Union building.

I guess Rome wasn't built in a day...

Some of you more seasoned readers of Felix may remember that usually Felix is published on a Friday, and appears bright and early(ish) for your end of week lectures. And yet here we are, Monday morning (potentially wet, although I hope the weather stays dry for tomorrow, I hate delivering papers in the rain), with a new Felix around campus. What gives?

This is actually the first issue of Felix to have been borne from our completely new office. Nestled away at the back of the West Basement, this "Newspaper Office" as it has been branded by the Union, is now our permanent home. We have already moved in, put posters up on the walls, littered the floors with coffee cups and used it as an impromptu changing room.

However, just like Rome, the West Basement refurbishment didn't happen in a day. It didn't even happen in a month, but has taken the best part of this last year to complete. Even on Friday, as we had our first team of excited section editors in to lay out the pages, contractors were still putting up blinds and messing with cables.

This issue almost didn't happen too. At one point we decided to miss out this issue, and power through into next Friday, restore ourselves back to our usual routine and take a well-deserved break after the first issue that nearly killed our team. Apparently, making a paper using only one computer without an office is a



THIS WEEK'S EDITORIAL

nightmare. Who knew?

But after an inebriated Alex Savell stumbled down to the office just under a week ago now, and convinced me that skipping an issue is a stupid idea, we were back on track. Savell stumbled away, and I hastily pinged emails out to everyone, calling them to arms (or rather, to Issue 1583).

We even managed to visit a few balls, interview a few celebrities, and make a few new friends at Freshers' Fair at our very first meet and greet. We've welcomed a host of new section editors, writers and copy editors to our team, which is exciting!

Our new home would have been impossible to inhabit if it wasn't for the great work of the students who have spent the last few weeks down here in the basement, setting everything up. Massive thanks to Max Hunter, George Butcher,

Luke Granger-Brown, Cem Hurrell, Henry Whittaker, Philip Kent, Ethan Haley and everyone else who has come down and sat soldering, moving boxes, unpacking hundreds of records and CDs and everything else that needed to be done to get in here on time.

It's been a crazy fortnight and we can't rest yet: Felix will be going to print twice this week. We are out today, on Monday, and if all goes to plan again on Friday. Don't say we never do anything for you guys

Enjoy this issue, be gentle if you spot some last minute errors, and let us know how you think we did. In the meantime, send coffee donations to the basement, as once this issue hits the stands, we are straight back into the office to make another.

PHILIPPA SKETT
FELIX EDITOR



Wondering where our website has gone?

FelixOnline currently under construction. Our new site is due to launch:

FRIDAY 17th October, 5pm

So check that out at the end of the week!

Want to get involved with Felix?

We are always looking for more:

- Writers
- Editors
- Designers
- Photographers
- Copy editors
- Drinking buddies

Drop us an email at felix@imperial.ac.uk to find out more.

Or, if you are feeling brave, come and say hi to us in the Felix Office, based in the west basement of Beit Quad.

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News

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News Editors || Aemun Reza and Cecile Borkhataria

Inquest into death of Imperial academic comes to a close

PHILIP KENT
DEPUTY EDITOR

Imperial academic Dr Sean Barrett's inquest finally came to a close earlier this week. Dr. Barrett's death occurred in Perth, Australia in 2012, however legal proceedings and the need to transfer documents to England had delayed the outcome up until now.

A post-mortem into the death of Dr. Sean Barrett, a former academic at Imperial College London, concluded last Monday in Manchester.

Dr. Barrett died following a "non-survivable" car crash caused by Mr Antony Fogarty - described as being "high on cannabis and amphetamine" - was jumping multiple red lights at 100mph and drove straight into the taxi being used by the academic.

Coroner Fiona Borrill recorded a conclusion of unlawful killing, saying the risk of death was "almost inevitable" when Fogarty got behind the wheel.

Borrill said: "This must have been a tragic loss of a very special person who had a massive amount to give and so much more to achieve."

Dr. Barrett's mother condemned Fogarty, calling him a 'monster.'

"He could have got 22 years to life yet he only got 11. I don't understand it. He killed two people. It was two counts of manslaughter but he will out in no time unless somebody blocks his parole. He will come out and kill somebody else."

"They thought he would have gone

on to win a Nobel Prize. The fact he had been awarded a Royal Society fellowship allowed him to do what he wanted to do. He had a brilliant mind and he was a special person."

Fogarty, was noted to not possess a Western Australian driving license, and has a history of drug addiction. The car he was driving was stolen, and he had previously jumped two red lights before hitting the taxi Dr. Barrett was riding in.

Mr. Fogarty was jailed in 2013 for 11 years, pleading guilty to two counts of manslaughter. A second man, Kuldeep Singh, was also killed having shared the cab journey to the city centre from the airport with Dr. Barrett.

Dr. Barrett was a distinguished academic at Imperial, having been awarded a Royal Society Fellowship. His research was in the fields of quantum physics and quantum computing, and he also taught a popular postgraduate course in the Centre for Controlled Quantum Dynamics.

"Over his career Sean demonstrated an extraordinary versatility in understanding deeply the physics of very different physical systems including quantum dots, cavity quantum electrodynamics, trapped atoms and ions, superconducting qubits and nonlinear optics." Said colleagues Professor Myungshik Kim and Dr Terry Rudolph in 2012.

"Working with Sean was a joy. He organised Wednesday breakfast meetings for the Controlled Quantum Dynamics Group for two years, and his hugely charismatic personality



Dr Sean Barrett was a highly regarded member of the Imperial College community. Photo: Cavendish Press

was a crucial part of their success.

"Sean cared deeply about the careers of his graduate students and those he taught. He was an energetic, extremely clear and pedagogical lecturer, and we have heard many

stories from people he greatly inspired."

"We will miss Sean's humour, his reliability, his basic 'mateship' and his fundamental decency as a human being."

Home Office denies claims against Imperial made by BUAV

CAROL ANN CHEAH
NEWS WRITER

...Continued from front page

While separate, the remit of both reports is largely complementary, though there is overlap in the recommendations made with regards to general management and strategic work at Imperial.

In a statement released by College concerning the news, Provost and Establishment Licence holder Professor James Stirling said: "We welcome the publication of the report about this extensive Home Office investigation, which shows that the vast majority of the allegations made against Imperial by BUAV have not been substantiated.

"We are pleased that the investigation recognises the quality of care provided by our staff and the work of our researchers in refining procedures where possible."

"We recognise that there have been problems with the culture and management around our animal research."

"We are sorry for these shortcomings and we have addressed them through considerable efforts and investment in our animal research infrastructure, to improve our culture of care and to ensure that we meet the very highest standards in our animal research."

Reynolds appoints first full-time manager

Reynolds bar, described by the Union as "the heart of the Imperial College School of Medicine", has hired a new full time bar manager.

Carl Salton-Cox, the new manager, was hired following an advert on the Union website for a new Reynolds manager at the beginning of the Summer break. Having previously worked as a student bar manager, operations officer and assistant venue manager at the University of Sussex Students' Union, it is hoped that he has the experience to see both sides of situations and improve profitability in keeping with what the Medics and other students want.

The Union declined to arrange an

interview with Carl for *Felix*, instead they offered an interview with Alex Savell, Deputy President (Finance & Services).

On interviewing, Alex Savell explained that the idea is to make Reynolds a sustainable bar is still here in 20-30 years.

Referencing the recent incident involving an ICSM boat party, Alex acknowledged the need for change.

"I certainly hope that the nature of the media coverage we get is going to change. I think there's gonna[sic] have to be, slowly over time, a change to make sure we don't get that kind of media coverage, and that we are doing our duty to protect... our students, particularly

our younger students."

"Changes made at Reynolds will not be instant, and will take place in conjunction with ICSM Exec and the existing bar staff. The new management is there to ensure that we keep access to Reynolds and the use of the space."

In terms of the changes to be made, the Union is keen to make sure that the Medics retain a stake in the bar, and that it should not stop being a loud and fun environment to be in. It was also noted that the more the bar makes, and the more students to whom the bar caters, the more likely it is that the space will remain open.

Reynolds came under fire from

the Daily Mail in 2011, and was likened to "a hostel for down-and-out alcoholics". The bar has a reputation for raucous, uncontrolled nights amongst students as well, with "rank" being one of the kinder descriptions used.

More widely across the Union, Reynolds Bar fits into the spectrum of Union-run bars with its own branding and a character that is not visibly associated with anything else at the Union. The building of this brand, without losing the sense of ownership felt by the medics, puts it alongside h-bar, which caters exclusively to postgraduates and staff.

The Union are currently hiring

casual duty managers for all three Union venues to support the permanent staff, with applications welcome from students and non-students alike.

Reynolds is open from 18:00 to 23:00 every weekday, and opens late on Wednesdays and Fridays - the first sports night of the year will take place this coming Wednesday.

Carl was also unavailable to comment on the management of the vomit usually associated with these events, but we here at *Felix* would like to wish him the best of luck with the new position.

BEN HOWITT

Boatgate: medics hit the headlines

Philippa Skett talks to ICSMSU following their Freshers' Pirate Party

Imperial College Medics hit the headlines this week after The Evening Standard reported on a first year student being drunk during a boat party, forcing the boat to moor early and hand the student over to paramedics. The article, "Lifeboat crews warn Thames revellers over safety after student passes out on freshers' week pirate party boat," was published the following day.

It is uncertain as to why the story was picked up by the Evening Standard, although it is thought to have come to the attention of journalists via the Twitter account of a coastguard.

The President, alongside other Union representatives and members of staff, were contacted via a vague email from the Standard the following day.

The email wanted to speak to someone about "the welfare of students at a freshers' event." The subject of the email was simply "Story" and no-one from the Medic's Union representatives responded.

The boat party, held last Monday evening on the Thames in central London, was organised by the entertainment team within Imperial College School of Medicine Student's Union (ICSMSU). Around 375 people were on the boat at the time.

The Evening Standard reported that the student in question was found "almost unconscious" and only "mildly responsive to pain."

Felix spoke to Dariush Hassanzadeh-Baboli, ICSMSU president, and Jennifer Watson, the ICSMSU Welfare Officer. Both were present on the boat on the night of the incident.

They told us that it was quite late into the night when the student started experiencing difficulties, and was throwing up over the side of the boat.

Despite the best efforts of the ICSMSU team, the boat staff intervened. "The boat staff came over and ask what is going on, and we wanted to put [the student] in the recovery position... but the boat people basically said no. They asked the student to sit on a chair inside instead."

Upon the Captain deciding to return the boat to shore prematurely, staff called ahead to order an ambulance. However, Watson thought this was unnecessary, and told us that the article exaggerated what followed. "The Evening Standard said she was taken in as priority, but the ambulance was [at the dock] for a

"The ambulance didn't move for a good twenty minutes, and we took an almost leisurely drive to the hospital."



Boat parties are common ideas for events, in Freshers' Week and throughout the year. Photo: Creative Commons

really long time. They just kept an eye on her pulse and her stats."

"The ambulance didn't move for a good twenty minutes, and we took an almost leisurely drive to the hospital. They didn't use sirens or anything. It was easily a good 45 minutes or more between getting off the boat and being put into a bed in hospital."

Watson continued, "She had little experience drinking and hadn't actually drunk that much at all. She just hadn't known her limits. The next morning she felt a bit rough, she had a bit of a headache and was fine."

So what did they think of the coverage?

Dariush said, "A lot of publications like student bashing as they have nothing else to write. I also find it really odd that the police are tweeting stuff like this."

Watson added, "That article did nothing but bash students, they did nothing to mention the [Medics'] SU's efforts." Dariush continued, "On the whole, the Faculty of Medicine were happy with the way we dealt with it. We didn't offer any free drink tokens. Essentially it is the licence holder that is responsible."

With alcohol banned from being brought onto the boat from outside, Dariush stressed that "it is very possible what she drank came from the boat's bar. At the end of the day, when a dangerous substance is legal, and is unregulated, we can't control what people do."

The story, reminiscent of the 2011 coverage by the Daily Mail of a (then) typical Sport's night at Reynolds bar which attracted a lot of attention, and triggered a debate over the behaviour of students, drinking during the beginning of term and also the behaviour of Medical Students in general.

The 2011 coverage resulted in the banning of use of jugs to serve alcohol in the bar, alongside the removal of orange buckets usually placed around the venue in case a student should become unwell.

Unruly behaviour on boat parties is not uncommon either; one boat party organised by the Royal College Science Union (RCSU) back in 2012 was terminated early as a table was thrown into the river. The boat also had to return back to the shore around half an hour after it initially departed to put an inebriated student back on shore. As far as Felix is aware, this story did not hit the national headlines.

Regardless as to why this particular story has been published, the fact that it is in the media could exasperate the repercussions of the incident.

Dariush refused to comment on whether or not the Faculty of Medicine is responding to the incident, although they confirm that if the story hadn't got into the press, no-one would have found out about what had happened. Said Watson, "In my head, it is not a big deal. As a one

"The situation was handled in an exemplary manner, such that the welfare of the student was protected."

off, you can't rule out her drink was spiked. Most Medic Freshers' will get into that state in their first year."

"I don't think it is a Fitness to Practice issue, as getting drunk and passing out once is not uncommon."

"The only reason she went to hospital was because the boat staff called the ambulance. She would have been just as fine if she had taken a cab back to halls."

The Faculty of Medicine doesn't know the identity of the student involved, and Watson said that she wouldn't be telling them anyway. "I'm bound by confidentiality."

Deputy President (Welfare) Christopher Kaye spoke to Felix and stated his displeasure in such a "non-story" hitting the headlines. "It doesn't highlight any underlying problems. The situation was handled in an exemplary manner, such that the welfare of the student was protected."

"The only lapse in judgement came from the Evening Standard reporting on the matter."

"The student shouldn't beat him/herself up too much. We've all been in a similar situation at some point, but we're not all unfortunate enough to end up on a boat when it happens."

Will there be a boat party in the future? Dariush finished, "I don't see why not. We will review Freshers' Fortnight, which we do anyway, and will always put the relevant precautions in place to make sure our students are kept safe."

Imperial students attend Hong Kong protest

Ben Fernando attends the protests for democracy taking place in London

A group of Imperial students, mostly from Hong Kong, have been challenging the preconception that Imperial is politically apathetic by taking part in the protests that have struck the city in recent weeks.

When Hong Kong was returned to Beijing's control in 1997, there was an agreement that a high degree of autonomy would be retained for at least fifty years, and it was hoped that this would involve free elections for the post of Hong Kong Chief Executive in 2017.

However, the Chinese Government has stated that it will vet candidates before the election, only allowing two or three candidates whose views are in line with those of the People's Republic Government. Protesters claim that this is a violation of previous agreements, and have launched protest actions in cities across the world to raise international awareness of what they say is evidence of the government riding roughshod over the people's wishes.

As well as the Occupy Central protest in Hong Kong City, supporters have organised action in Singapore, London and Manchester.

Felix spoke to some of the Imperial students protesting in Hong Kong, as well as members of HK Pass, a Union Club that is run by students from Hong Kong that promotes awareness of Public Issues and Community

Service.

Jo Leung and Brian Yeung are two such students, both from second year. They explained to *Felix* that they were outside the Chinese Embassy in Portland Square on Tuesday night to "support the advancement of democracy, the right of people to speak up and to freely express their views", though wanted to be clear that these were their own views and not those of HK Pass.

The protest itself was far larger than expected, with organisers estimating that over 3,000 people, mostly students, had shown up to stage a sit-in whilst various speakers made announcements about what they were doing and how democracy in Hong Kong needed to be developed.

Although the largely peaceful protest attracted a fair amount of attention on social media, some of the protesters were under no illusion about the effect that this would have on the Chinese government, noting that they were likely to play it down or perhaps pretend that it had never happened.

There appeared to be no shortage of people at the protest who were not ethnically Chinese, suggesting that the reach of the 'Umbrella Movement' as it has come to be called is growing.

It will be interesting to see how the situation in Hong Kong develops.



Students protesting in front of the Chinese Embassy in London Photo: Ben Fernando



Students being proactive for the one day of the year they are obliged to do so. Photo: Ben Lester, from Through Ben's Lens

Freshers' Fair takes over campus

The annual extravaganza of Freshers' Fair took over the entirety of the South Kensington campus last Tuesday, and, despite weather forecasts warning otherwise, remained dry for most of the day.

Over 330 clubs are thought to have taken part in the day, alongside the Queen's Tower Room playing host to a number of external stalls, and it is thought that over 2 billion email addresses were taken down from overeager freshers hoping to try everything new in a bid to get involved – this may be a lie. Only 22% of these were estimated to be hotmail addresses and of these, only 4% of these were thought to be misspelt or containing multiple underscores or the number "69." (again this may be a lie).

The day, organised by Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) Abi de Bruin went very smoothly. The only hitch was for the RCSU who had their mascot, Theta, stolen by a group from the CGCU led by Sam Oxley and Pari Singh. James Badman, the sole defender of the 60kg of aluminium thermometer at the time of its theft, was seen sporting a sling but still managed to put on a brave face whilst giving out thousands of pounds worth of freebies afterwards.

Theta has now been returned to the RCSU after they paid the ransom demands.

PHILIPPA SKETT

Loras Tyrell spins disks and melts hearts at Freshers' Ball

XUAN CHEN
NEWS WRITER

The 2014 Freshers' Ball boasted a headline act from an actor/DJ Finn Jones, who is most well known for playing the bisexual Knight of Flowers, Ser Loras Tyrell from Game of Thrones.

Just before his set started, Finn gave some excellent fan service by coming to the front of the stage to take selfies with his admirers. One girl cheekily poked Finn's nose, to which he replied playfully "You bitch! That's the only good part of me, and you're trying to flatten it."

The set lasted a full hour and a half because Finn stayed on well past his scheduled time, probably to make up for being slightly late. Upon leaving, Finn stopped to chat to the students, asking what they study and signed a copy of "A Clash of Kings" for one.

Felix caught Finn as he was leaving the Union and managed to sneak in a few words before he left via taxi.

We asked him how Season 5 filming is going, to which he replied that it was going amazingly well. "I grew this beard for filming actually. I don't actually know what happens to my character beyond the books, but I can tell you that Season 5 is very different!"

He also told us how Kristian Nairn, who plays Hodor, first got him into DJ'ing. "I've always loved music and I've always loved making my own music but he got me into [professional DJ'ing]. I've been doing a lot of tours around the UK and playing in clubs around London too."

Hodor was unavailable for comment.



Oh my fucking God he could knight me with his sword anytime - Ed. Photo: Ben Lester/ Through Ben's Lens

LSE disbands rugby club after sexist publicity material controversy

LSE, the prestigious school of business and humanities, has been in the public eye this week after an embarrassing incident involving its Ruby club.

On Monday, members of the University's Rugby Club handed out offensive and sexist flyers at their Freshers' Fair, which referred to women as "mingers", "sloppy birds" and even "beast-like" women.

The seven page flyer largely boasted about the society and the social lives of its members, with the aim of enticing the new cohort of freshers to join the club.

The General Secretary of the LSE Student's Union, Nona Buckley-Irvine, announced in a statement on Tuesday that the club would

be disbanded for the full academic year, following the distribution of the flyers.

Ms. Buckley-Irvine has said of the decision that "after considered deliberation and a wide investigation, LSE Men's Rugby Club will be disbanded for the rest of the academic year and not be allowed to represent LSE or LSESU. They will be withdrawn from any competitions already entered into."

The flyer made a number of outrageous references about women who play sports, referring to those who play hockey, netball and rugby as "beast-like women who play sport so that they can come out with us on Wednesdays." It also referred to zoo bar, a venue the society regularly fre-

quents, as a place where "nowhere in the world can so many minglers look so appealing."

The flyer does not stop at making sexist remarks; it also goes so far as to boast its superiority over fellow London University, King's College London. The flyer refers to the University as the "Strand Polytechnic", claiming that "they are scum and they will all work for us one day".

The statement by Ms. Buckley-Irvine took the derogatory references to King's College very seriously, saying that "This snobbery towards students from other Universities is unacceptable" and that the society's attitudes of "elitism" and "classicism" were inexcusable.

Although the Club released a

statement of apology for the flyers, saying that its members had "a lot to learn about the pernicious effects of banter", it seems that this was not enough to appease the wider LSE community and the student's union.

The LSE Student's Union chose to disband the Society after none of its members took responsibility for any of the comments made in the flyer, and thus responsibility fell on all the members as well as the society as a whole.

On Wednesday, the LSE Athletics Union released a statement on the disbandment of the Men's Rugby Club, saying that the decision "shows that the Student's Union are refusing to tackle the issues of misogyny, racism, sexism and homophobia in a

productive and proactive manner."

One could argue that the actions of the Student's Union were merely a way of brushing the issue under the carpet and ignoring it, but Imperial College Union would also take on a similar stance if faced with a similar issue.

The Union president, Tom Wheeler, has said in a statement "I believe that the disregard for the mutual respect of others that was demonstrated by the incident at LSE should not be tolerated. Firstly, because it is not something a decent human being would do and secondly, because it totally disagrees with the principles of Imperial College Union."

CECILE BORKHATARIA

Ebola update: UK airports and stations are now screening passengers

XUAN CHEN
NEWS WRITER

This week, two UK airports and Eurostar stations are to commence screening passengers for Ebola.

However, in a leaked government e-mail circulated to doctors, it was said that the extra security measures would not be likely to provide any sort of real public health benefits.

The UK government's Chief Medical Officer, Dame Sally Davies, has said that even though screening at airports was only a "blunt instrument," it could still save lives.

Although screening usually doesn't pick up any cases, the measure is beneficial in that it will educate people as to what the symptoms of Ebola are

and what to notice if they feel sick.

The screening will commence this week at Gatwick and Heathrow airports as well as some Eurostar train stations.

These airport screening are becoming increasingly common, particularly in the US, where screening is already taking place at New York JFK airport, with other US airports are due to start checks this week.

A number of concerns have been raised about the screening procedures, notably if whether or not someone wanting to enter the UK would be honest if they had been exposed to the virus.

The UK's health secretary Jeremy Hunt has said he is reassured that the government has devised a robust set of plans in case there were to be an Ebola case in the UK.



Screening includes checking temperatures and taking previous medical history. Photo: AFP

It can be difficult to identify if someone has the disease because the symptoms; usually headache, vomiting, fever and bleeding, closely resemble colds, flu's and even stomach bugs.

As well as having started screening

in the UK, the UK government has provided aid to West Africa to help contain the outbreak. This week, 750 military personnel and a medical ship will be sent to Sierra Leone to help give patients vital care, since many

hospitals in the afflicted countries are filled to capacity. So far, the UK has contributed 125 million pounds in support of the West African outbreak, which has now resulted in 4,024 deaths.

TeachFirst

Some scientists make important breakthroughs everyday

Claudia Williams
Teaches: Science

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Comment

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Comment Editor || Tessa Davey

It's time the news started to treat us fairly



GEORGE BUTCHER
COMMENT WRITER

In my sixth form, one student noticed two things: (1) A river boat which did river tours by day had a bar and (2) Durham Police don't have a marine division. Putting two together, they began to organise boat parties where 150 sixth formers would cram onto a boat to be ferried up and down the river listening to bad music and enjoying the lax bar.

With this in mind, I was quite sympathetic to the news this week, where a Medic fresher had a few too many drinks and finished the night with the RNLI life boat picking her up. Best wishes to her, I hope she's suffering nothing more than a bad hangover and fair amount of embarrassment.

I read about this in the London Evening Standard. Newspapers like to hold students to a higher standard than everyone else, "random person taken ill from too much alcohol in Soho" doesn't really hit the papers. Older students will remember the infamous Daily Mail report, "Pass the sick bag: The antics of these Imperial College medical students should worry us all" where a Daily Mail reporter crashed Reynolds bar and wrote all about it. It wasn't obvious

whether students were more annoyed by the biased article, or the line "The average A-level requirement for students is a brain-stretching AAB." AAB? I needed A**A*A*A I'll have you know.

It's not just students the media tends to pick on, it's teenagers and young people generally too. Remember Paris Brown, Youth Commissioner at Kent Police who was forced from her job by The Daily Mail after being 'exposed' for some inappropriate tweets she made two years previously? They quoted Keith Vaz MP who called for her resignation, despite himself not resigning when he was exposed for claiming £75,000 for a second home, despite his family house being 12 miles from Parliament. I'd say that was more inappropriate than some mildly offensive tweets.

In the media's defence, we do occasionally get the heart-warming story of the 'geek done good'. The "Teenager comes up with best-selling app whilst bored in school" kind of stories. I hate those stories. They always seem to patronise the inventor, to be written by reporters who obviously have no idea how the



Unruly medics or students being students? Photo: Daily Mail

thing works and are filled with the same dull questions. "What do your friends think? How come you're so clever? Are you socially retarded?"

I like to think as the media gets younger/more diverse this will begin to change. It has to, otherwise younger generations will just get their news and analysis from elsewhere. Let's hope that news starts to treat young people more fairly, or at

the very least that younger news organisations can start to pick on older people too.

Next week Felix should trace through the tweets from college lecturers and print the juiciest, or maybe we'll invite a few on a pub crawl then print pictures of them drunk with traffic cones on their heads.

You have been warned.

"Newspapers like to hold students to a higher standard than everyone else."



Comment

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Comment Editor || Tessa Davey

Should the West intervene in Iraq to fight ISIS?

Bruce Weaver argues for military action, but Niall Jeffrey thinks we should stay well away

YES

We should send troops into Iraq to fight ISIS because, if we do not, ISIS will win.

The terrorist group controls large parts of Syria and Northern Iraq and will soon take over the key border town of Kobani. Kurdish fighters armed with western weapons and supported by US airstrikes have not stopped ISIS's advance as we hoped they would. Letting ISIS win the war in Iraq would mean death and displacement for the religious minorities in northern Iraq and would destabilise the entire region. Iraq needs a larger, more advanced army and only the West can provide that. The West should send a multilateral task force into Northern Iraq to fight with the Kurds and push back the advance of ISIS.

This will work because, although ISIS are strong enough to win a war against Kurdish and Iraqi fighters, they will crumble when faced with a better funded force such as the British or US army. For a group such as ISIS, their support relies on them continuing to win. The romance, as it is to some, of an Islamic State will fade when they start losing battles to the 'infidels'.

This is not the same as the Iraq War 10 years ago. We are not invading to remove an established leader like Saddam Hussein, we are intervening to expel a foreign threat.

The people of Iraq do not want ISIS, and minorities - such as the Yazidis - see them as an existential threat. ISIS has no major allies to come to

its aid and scant support amongst the civilians they now control. A liberation force would be welcomed as long as it was made clear it was a temporary measure.

Expelling ISIS from Iraq would deliver the kind of defeat to the terrorist group that would destroy its momentum and cause its members to lose faith in the leadership. A defeated ISIS would descend into infighting within Syria that would stop it becoming a serious external threat again.

Some may argue that it is the job of the Middle East to solve its own problems. However the powers that exist in the Middle East are not ready to solve this problem.

Iran is the only military force powerful enough to tackle ISIS, but an intervention from Iran without the support of Saudi Arabia would be seen as provocative. However support from Saudi Arabia is unlikely, especially in the short term. The situation calls for fast action and only the West can provide that.

If ISIS are allowed to advance thousands more civilians might die by their hands and even more will suffer under their rule.

As a nation partly responsible for creating conditions in which they could thrive we must intervene to prevent further atrocities. Furthermore, we are unique in the world in our capacity and willingness to combat ISIS. It is for all these reasons that we should intervene in Iraq.

The years of wars in the Middle East has led to a less than warm feeling towards the US and European

NO

The self-declared Islamic State is clearly an enemy to the life and liberty of people across the world. They are most directly a threat to those who live in Iraq, Syria and neighbouring countries. They clearly need to be stopped, but not by western military intervention.

In the most perfect outcome for any intervention in Iraq, ISIS will still exist in Syria. If ISIS is somehow removed from civil-war torn Syria, it will still exist in Algeria, Libya and Lebanon. This thriving organisation, against the backdrop of perceived US led attacks on the Middle East, will doubtless have a far easier task of recruitment.

Despite having the intent of aiding the Iraqi government, the US and European presence in the conflict galvanises the anti-western ideology that is needed for ISIS's survival.

It is clear that ISIS want a military response in the region. The tactic of kidnap and murder is coupled with an online media strategy that begs for western reprisal.

ISIS wants a US military intervention. At the point where the conflict is no longer with the democratically elected Iraqi government, but instead against a foreign aggressor, ISIS can portray itself as a movement of the people.

The Iraqi government army can beat this opponent, but is currently losing more and more troops to propaganda.

The years of wars in the Middle East has led to a less than warm feeling towards the US and European

governments among most people. Additional foreign airstrikes do not bestow any trust on your would-be allies. They give ISIS even more opportunity to portray the elected Iraqi government as being in cahoots with invaders.

Airstrikes that aim to strategically destroy the ability of ISIS to continue, also destroy the ability of civilians to continue to live their lives. Targets of strategic importance are things that ISIS need to travel, support and supply themselves. Depots, roads, and communal buildings are all destroyed in airstrikes.

Innocent civilians are also killed. Islamic State troops integrate themselves and their equipment within towns. It is impossible to attack the strategic targets and troops without endangering the lives of innocent people.

It is true that strategic airstrikes hinders ISIS at this instant. It may, at best, stop ISIS from returning to these areas. But the real fight is against an ideology. When a community loses the infrastructure it needs, there will be those from that community who do not blame ISIS, instead many will buy into the tales that they are being told by ISIS themselves.

Troops on the ground lead to even more chance of catastrophically fatal errors, especially when the enemy is not clearly noticeable amongst the local populace.

Our experience in Iraq that led to the creation of ISIS shows that troops alienate and anger many people.

"A liberation force would be welcomed."

"ISIS want a military response in the region"



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Features

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Features Editor | VACANT

Alex Savell, Deputy President (Finance and Services) talks bars, burritos and what he *really* thought of his predecessor

Bernedett Tildy interviews
the man behind the money

Bernedett: What's your academic background?

Alex: I started at Imperial in 2006, doing Physics. I did the 4 year course, then I did my MRes in 2010/11. And since then, I've been doing my PhD.

B: Where are you from, and how has it affected your outlook on Imperial?

A: I'm from Bath. Yeah, I think it did influence my outlook on Imperial. It's quite a posh little town. The culture shock was somewhat less - the booze price increase when moving to London was less pronounced... However, the change in diversity was large and experiencing different cultures coming together in London was great.

B: Do you think the international aspect of Imperial is sufficiently represented in the Union?

A: We obviously try and represent everyone, but I don't think engagement with international students is good enough. The sabb

team is usually white British, and that's not what we are as a student population, so it'd be good to improve it. How we'd go about doing that is an interesting question.

B: How are you going to be held accountable at the end of this year?

A: We're asking Union Council to be far more critical of us, to give us stronger feedback and more scrutiny.

B: I've been told that the sabb hierarchy has recently changed. Is the President no longer the boss of the other sabb?

A: Yeah, now there is a more equal, democratic structure. Tom still chairs things, but he isn't our boss. The President also maintains responsibility.

B: Abi, the DPSC works with non-sabb, do you?

A: I probably work less closely with them than she does, but they are there as a point of advice, and staff members generally make sure we're



Photo: Thomas Lim

"A lot of what I do now is sorting clubs problems regarding finances."

asking the right sort of questions. I also get to work with the commercial services and the finance team. A lot of what I do now is sorting clubs' problems regarding finances.

B: Do you know how you're going to achieve the main policies you said you wanted to achieve?

A: My policies were - clubs and society policy review - which we've started, more light music in metric, and postgraduate engagement in H-bar. But right now, sorting out Welcome week for Freshers is our main priority.

"B: Do you think Kieron did a good job last year?"

A: No comment."

B: Are you actually busy? What do you do day to day?

A: Yeah! I get 50-60 emails a day! And I thought summer was supposed to be relatively free! Replying to the requests takes a long time, it's very hard to clear some time in a day to achieve the things I set out to change. I tend to work 10-6pm-ish, but there have been days where I've done more (9-7pm).

Yeah, most of my time is eaten up answering emails and going to meetings. I'm currently looking at is what stance College will take on Higher Education fees.

Features

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Features Editor | VACANT

"I'm a massive nerd, I like sci-fi and riding horses."

A: The Union has been my favourite aspect of Imperial. I've been involved in clubs and societies from my first year. I've enjoyed seeing how things have worked and having influence over how things work. I've found some aspects frustrating and I wanted to come in and improve it.

B: How come you only considered it after so many years at Imperial?

A: I considered it before, I just never felt it was the right moment. I'd been on other boards in the Union, but I wanted more experience before becoming a sabb. This year was theoretically the last year I could have ran in the elections.

B: What are you going to do next year?

A: Finish my Phd, then get a proper job!

B: What do you think about Chris donating a third of his wage?

A: Has he actually done it?

B: Yeah!

A: Oh really?! It's very noble. I think it's a good cause. I personally don't think that I would do the same. It maybe makes me a worse person! But it does highlight a debate we should have. We are forced to do a lot more work than some other student unions.

And Imperial grads are some of the highest paid graduates in the world, so you need something to attract people to do another year at the Union.

So we can't necessarily compare ourselves to other student unions, without at least baring that in mind.

He's doing it for the message that sabb are overpaid, but I don't think that's true, but he's doing a nice thing for donating.

B: You said you liked the Union as a young student, but there anything you dislike about the Union?

A: Yeah, there are plenty of things which are frustrating, especially how long it takes for things to get done as a club officer. There is a lot more to be done. Everything if I didn't think there were things I didn't like, I wouldn't have ran for a sabb position. I'd love to see the bar play music every night.

B: Okay, I have some fun questions!

A: Oh thank you, I must sound like the most boring person ever!

B: What's your biggest online timewaster?

A: Oh that's difficult, I've got lots of them. I've been good though, I haven't

been on Facebook that much lately! I spend a lot of time on GPRO, which is an online racing management game. In terms of websites, my favourite one is Neko the Kitty.

B: If you were trapped on a desert island with the other Sabbs, who do you think you would collectively eat first?

A: I'm not sure we'd reach a collective decision! I think we'd all try and kill each other!

B: Who do you think would be the last person to survive?

A: Me! Nah, I think we would probably gang up on the medic president, Dariush.

B: If you had to have tinder, what bio would you have?

A: I've never thought about it, I don't have tinder. Playing on other people's tinder it is fun though. I'd probably include that I'm massive nerd, I like sci-fi and riding horses.

B: If you had to have a first date on campus because you were so busy with all your sabb duties, which Imperial establishment would you go to?

A: It depends on the person. I don't think I should say a College venue, because the commercial services staff will hate me. But never mind - Eastside bar!

B: Can you recommend any places or any places to avoid?

A: I'm in charge of Metric, I have to say Metric!

B: Oh come on, not an Imperial one!

A: Electric Ballroom in Camden. We went to the Ultimate Power night there a few weeks ago. It's like goth-cheese, ie - very cheesy goth music.

B: If you had to eat one meal from 568 for the rest of your life, what would it be?

A: Probably the burrito! Better than expected.

B: Favourite alcoholic drink?

A: Amaretto.

B: If you were allowed to name a Union drinking hall, what would you name it? Can you think of a pun quick enough?!

A: I would probably turn them back into what they used to be called! I can't think of one now, but I still think my suggestion of ICUtube is better than STOIC's change to ICTV!

"I still think my suggestion of ICUtube is better than STOIC's change to ICTV!"

your plate that day and not achieve anything else. It's hard to judge someone.

With DPFS, positive changes aren't that visible to others, stuff just goes slightly faster or transactions are slightly more secure.

If I achieve anything positive, chances are no one will notice at all or the net benefit will come in one or two years down the line.

It's the danger of being a sabb - your positive changes aren't immediately visible.

B: Why did you run for a sabbatical position?

B: Do you think Kieron did a good job last year?

A: No comment, it's hard to tell. You get a very different perspective when you're doing the job itself and that's going to change in term time as well.

I think there are things he did well and some he didn't, I know sometimes he wasn't the easiest person to get along with.

But I know that I have similar problems, I am trying really hard to not piss anyone off. It's really hard to say - I can see how it's easy to just adequately get through what's on

"I am trying really hard to not piss anyone off."

Science

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Science Editor || James Bezer & Lauren Ratcliffe

Tripping on acid – not just for hippies?

Lauren Ratcliffe takes a look at the latest LSD research at Imperial

Dr Robin Carhart-Harris and Professor David Nutt, alongside other researchers at Imperial College University, are treading on relatively unknown territory and breaking long-held preconceptions about the therapeutic potential of Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) to treat patients with mood disorders and addictions.

The 50s and 60s was a golden era for LSD research, with a total of 1,000 academic paper investigations into its effects on a total of 40,000 people by the mid-1960s. However, LSD research plummeted after the introduction of the UK Misuse of Drugs Act in 1971, the start of the governmental campaign for the outright ban of drugs in an attempt to tackle illegal trade, and arguably one of the most spectacularly misinformed and failed policies ever introduced given on-going debate as to the effectiveness of outright prohibition.

Under the UK Misuse of Drugs Act LSD is a Class A drug, giving it a foreboding reputation that is more the result of a historical misdemeanour rather than a true calculation of the drug's relative risks. Now, Carhart-Harris is set on breaking this 50-year taboo surrounding the use of psychedelics in research and is the first person in the UK since 1971 to have legally administered (albeit very minute) doses of LSD to 10 human volunteers.

This recent study conducted various imagery tests on the volunteers whilst tripping on acid to test the effect of LSD on suggestibility.

The theory goes that acid puts the brain in a more supple state of mind, with room for manipulation and a higher susceptibility for change. "Depression and addictions rest on reinforced patterns of brain activity, and a psychedelic will introduce relative chaos... new things can be learnt and at the same time old things can be unlearnt", explains Dr Carhart-Harris.

The team of researchers are following a more logical and cautious methodology compared to the hit-and-miss approach to LSD research pre-1960s and have had promising results which indicate that the influence of suggestion is enhanced by LSD, especially amongst volunteers with more conscientious and organised personality traits.

Professor David Nutt in his book *Drugs - Without the Hot Air* (a must read if you haven't already) even suggests that more scientists should try psychedelics as a tool for finding solutions to difficult problems by looking at them from a different perspective.

Which is not as shocking a suggestion as it may first seem considering that back in the 1950s Francis Crick, along with co-researcher James Watson, were both under the influence of LSD when they



Research led by Dr Robin Carhart-Harris reveals LSD's mind-altering powers Photo: Creative Commons

made their discovery of the double-helix structure and that led to the path of modern genetics. However, Dr Carhart-Harris also remarks on the dangers with psychedelics when

taken without the proper caution and in an unsafe setting.

Despite funding setbacks, Dr Carhart-Harris continues to carry out pioneering research into

psychedelics with results indicating that LSD holds great potential for the psychotherapeutic aid in the treatment of anxiety, depression and addiction.

Nobel Prize Winners 2014

PHYSICS

The Nobel Prize in Physics for this year has been jointly awarded to Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano and Shuji Nakamura for their invention of the blue light emitting diode (LED), which can generate more energy-efficient white light to illuminate houses, offices and even billboards. A relatively new invention discovered less than 20 years ago, blue LEDs are so efficient that if we switched over to this type of lighting it has been forecasted to cut down the UK's electricity bill by 10%. That been said, this year's Nobel Prize in physics is definitely more of an invention-based prize rather than the usual discovery-based prize.

MEDICINE

The Nobel Prize in Medicine has been awarded to British-US scientist John O'Keefe and married couple May-Britt and Edvard Moser from Norway for their work and contribution to neuroscience research. The prize was awarded for work in underpinning particular cells in the brain called "place cells" and "grid cells". These specific cells act as an inner GPS making it possible for our brain to identify where we are by firing neurotransmitters that are specific to a particular environment. It has been said that these findings will be particularly useful to understand the mechanism of spatial memory loss in Alzheimer's patients.

CHEMISTRY

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to three scientists: Eric Betzig, Stefan Hell and William Moerner. Together they harnessed the fluorescence of molecules in order to monitor individual molecules within living cells. Dubbed the 'nanoscope', this new technology has enabled scientists to study molecules smaller than 0.2 micrometres, a scale previously off limits to researchers. This new breakthrough will have a major role to play in the studies of disease related molecules as well as enabling researchers to witness events such as cell division at scales much smaller than previously possible.



AMRITA GHOSH

Science

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Science Editor || James Bezer & Lauren Ratcliffe

Greater access to drug trial data announced

Emma Wills sees whether new European rules go far enough

This month, the European Medicines Agency has announced its policy to make open access all clinical trial data given to it from 2015 onwards. The Agency decides which medicines can go on sale in countries in the EU, and at first look, this policy seems completely sensible.

Clinical trials need to be analysed and available for researchers and doctors, to let us know if the medicines we use actually work. It may come as a surprise then, that around 50% of all the trial data for medicines currently in use has not been published. This figure comes from a systematic review done by the NHS NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme in 2010, and also found that trials with positive results are twice as likely to be published as those with negative results.

In this way, drug companies can hide trials that demonstrate nasty side-effects and that their medicines may not always work effectively, leading to disastrous results for patients.

However, the EMA's policy has been criticised by Members of the European parliament and the AllTrials campaign, which is dedicated to getting trial results published, for not going far enough. As it will apply only after 2015, it will not make a difference for the vast majority of the drugs currently in use, most of which came onto the market more than ten years ago.

The terms of use of EMA's policy that must be signed up to by researchers also includes a statement



Simulated Photo: Creative Commons

that allows trial sponsors to take legal action against them if they are suspected of misusing the data. According to the AllTrials campaign this introduces a significant risk of researchers "being made vulnerable to protracted legal battles with large companies which will introduce a new and unpredictable risk of high legal costs into routine academic work".

On top of this, the information in the reports is not as transparent as it appears—the EMA still reserve the right to take out any information that could be of "confidential commercial importance" to pharmaceutical companies, and not indicate where or what information has been removed, potentially leaving it open to the kind of concealment seen in the lack of publication of negative results.

Despite these shortcomings, the policy is at least a significant step forward by a major organisation to shift focus onto more open-access clinical data. This current version has also come a long way since it was initially proposed earlier this year, with a ridiculous caveat that researchers would not be able to annotate, print off, save, copy or share any of the information

contained in these, sometimes thousands of pages long documents.

Although many pharmaceutical companies are nervous about this increased transparency, some are actually for it – GlaxoSmithKline, for instance have said "the more eyes on our data the better for us". Hopefully the success of this policy will lead to more transparency in the future.

Imperial research sheds light on cancer gene

UTSAV RADIA
SCIENCE WRITER

Researchers at Imperial have taken pictures to show how a protein made by the gene BRCA2, which has long been implicated in the development of many types of cancer (including breast, ovarian and prostate), works to repair damaged DNA.

Around 1 in 1000 people in the UK can potentially harbour a mutated form of the BRCA2 gene, with the lifetime risk of breast cancer for women with BRCA2 mutations being 40-85%, compared to 12% for women in the general population who do not have the mutated form of BRCA1 or BRCA2.

BRCA2, a tumour suppressor gene, was first identified by scientists funded by Cancer Research UK in the 1990s. Since then, we have known how the gene helps to prevent cells from growing and dividing too rapidly in an uncontrolled manner. BRCA2 does this by producing a protein (the BRCA2 protein) that is directly involved in the repair of damaged or faulty DNA. The BRCA2 protein is also known to interact with proteins produced from several other genes, most notably RAD51 and PALB2 genes, to mend breaks in DNA. Such breaks in the DNA could be due to natural causes (such as environmental exposures) or artificial causes (medical imaging or nuclear radiation exposure); but, by helping repair of

the DNA the BRCA2 gene plays an important role in maintaining fidelity of a cell's genetic information.

The research project led by Professor Xiaodong Zhang, from the Department of Medicine at Imperial, and Dr Stephen West, from Cancer Research UK London Research Institute, has used electron microscopy and protein purification to reveal the structure of the BRCA2 protein and show how it interacts with the RAD51 protein and DNA.

The study unveils that the 3,418 amino acid BRCA2 protein facilitates the nucleation of RAD51 filaments at multiple sites on single-stranded DNA. Furthermore, 3D electron microscopy reconstructions also reveal how the BRCA2 protein exists

as a dimer and two oppositely oriented sets of RAD51 molecules bind to this dimer; this complex then searches out matching strands of DNA in order to repair the break. This gives us a better idea of how exactly the homologous-recombination repair works and also opens new pathways for possible further research as well.

Professor Zhang, co-leader of the study, explained how "this study improves our understanding of a fundamental cause of cancer [and] gives us a platform to design new experiments to probe its mechanism in greater detail." Hopefully, we are not far off from translating this knowledge into tangible benefits for patients.

DOI: 10.1038/nsmb.2899



Simulated image of the BRCA2 protein Photo: Wiki Commons

Games

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Games Editor || Max Ettl & Calum Skene

Me, Myself and my Game

Maximilian Ettl on the benefits of playing with yourself

I just moved into a new house. That involves all the usual bullshit of updating your address with an almost uncountable number of different companies. The thing I dreaded the most however, was the lack of internet/the pain it would be to get it installed. Given that I play a lot of games online, I felt that my inner gaming dog would not be able to survive.

So before my old internet was shut off, I got in as much online interaction as possible so steel myself to the great silence that would be an absence of 10 year olds, flamers and trolls.

Then the day came around when I was finally disconnected from the world wide web, a great emptiness set in. All the games that I played almost religiously were now unattainable. Instead, I turned to an old friend, single player gaming.

When I was younger I was almost exclusively single player. Admittedly, I did occasionally play some *World of Warcraft* or *Counter Strike*, but 95% of the time was spent on my own doing my own adventures and I was better for it. I could either be found creating huge armies in *Battle for Middle Earth*, trying to take over the world in *Rome: Total War* or running around *Grand Theft Auto*. I could immerse myself totally into the game because I had no outside influences who could ruin it.

When I did start playing online, it seems I forgot that what I wanted

from gaming was that glorious feeling of total immersion. Instead I valued communication and a variable environment that could only be achieved with the non-scripted interactions with other players.

However, to really get good and be able to meaningfully play these games and access end-game content I had to invest a serious amount, meaning that I rarely was able to go back to a non-online game.

Thus when I was forced to rediscover these old haunts of mine, I was surprised I had unknowingly missed them. I spent hours in *Minecraft*, *Skyrim* and many more, with the linking feature being that they all did not need another player to play. Even now that I have internet again, I still play these games more than the online games I did before.

Now don't get me wrong, I think that multiplayer is super important. Some of the best gaming sessions I have ever had were multiplayer with my friends in all playing *Halo* on the Xbox together. The emphasis is on the word friends. What the current generation of online play has done has made it easier for us to play with thousands of people online, and with that ease has come a laziness to actually work on playing with your friends.

What this changes is how you interact with the game, as well as how the game interacts with you. Firstly, depending on who you play with you, may have

some douchebag who will ruin the game for you by trolling, just not caring, or being an asshole. In fact, for a good gaming experience you are dependent on other people, which should not be the aim of a game. Single player games can only entertain you with the content that they are made with, so creators have to try that bit much harder to make creative stories, interesting characters and a generally fun game.

My second big problem with MMOs is your inability to inherently change anything. Everything in the game in its accompanying world that you experience, everything that you change has been experienced and changed by somebody else before you. You saved the world? Wow, nobody has done that in that world as well? In fact they probably did it exactly the same way as well. At least in single player games you have your own little story, you can do it your own way and create your own little world.

Basically what I am trying to say in a roundabout way, is that people seem to believe that online gaming is all that there is. The emergence of purely online games like *Dota 2* and *League of Legends*, seem to suggest that just being able to sit down on your own and play through a story without someone yelling how they will bang your mom is somehow not fun.

Now, I am off to turn off my internet and have a date with one of my games. Just me, myself and the game.



Photo: Dorkly

At last, can we outlast Outlast?

CALUM SKENE
SECTION EDITOR

Outlast is a game I'd wanted to play for ages. I was playing a lot of *Slenderman* and *Amnesia* at the time it came out, but as I had just bought *Machine for Pigs* I couldn't justify to myself the cost of yet another horror game. Fortunately, I recently found *Outlast* and its expansion, *Whistleblower*, on sale and I was able to pick them up and finally play *Outlast*.

On the surface *Outlast* is a pretty simple game. You play as a journalist who has heard of some shady goings on at Mount Massive Asylum. Armed with your trusty camera with night vision mode you sneak into the Asylum and quickly realise that it was

a really, really bad move. The main objective of *Outlast* is to escape the Asylum which is hard as events make it so you can't go back and pushes you further into the darkness. The game itself, on normal difficulty, is not difficult: the controls are easy; the puzzles are often simple; and the game seems to always push you in the right direction. *Outlast* is fun because it is the most terrifying game I've ever played.

When I first started I didn't know what to expect, but 20 minutes in I had jumped out of my chair, paused the game and nearly turned my computer off in a panic. After that I was very wary of every door, every turn in the corridors and every button push. Even by being careful, being on high alert and expecting to jump *Outlast* catches you out every time and creates an

"It's this constant fear of an enemy jumping that makes Outlast so enjoyable."

atmosphere in which you are never safe. You could run through the game never looking back, but you can't help but walk around slowly and peep round corners.

It's this constant fear of an enemy jumping out or the lights turning off and having to use the night vision on your camera only to realise its run out of battery and you are plunged into darkness anyway that makes *Outlast* so enjoyable.

Outlast has some collectible documents as well as the insane mode in which dying sends you back to the start to appeal to the more hardcore gamers. For everyone else it's a horror experience that draws you in just a little bit more than it scares you away.

It is a great game that will keep you entertained for hours and I would recommend it to all horror fans.



Oh, hey there...ahmm....selfie? Photo: Creative Commons

DRI

OUR FIRST ALCOHOL
FREE CLUB NIGHT

MONDAY 13 OCTOBER

19:00 – 01:00

FIVESIXEIGHT AND

METRIC

FREE

DRI is Imperial College Union's non-alcoholic club night. From 19:00, FiveSixEight, Metric and the Union Bar will be serving only non-alcoholic drinks for the rest of the evening.

DJ Sue headlines the night with **great games and inflatable rides** to try your hand at. Entry for DRI is free.

BFI London Film Festival: Part 1

John Park takes you through the openings and closings of the LFF

October is a dreary month. Summer is officially over, the sun will stop shining in the afternoon, the holidays have come to an end and it's back to work for students, none of whom feel as though they have had a long enough break. But studying in a London university has its perks for film fans, as the British Film Institute's (BFI) annual London Film Festival (LFF) is an event unlike any other.

Boasting a selection of more than 200 films from countries all over the world, this year's LFF promises once again to be a star-filled, jam-packed 12-day event, one that cannot be missed for those interested in the world of cinema.

The LFF has a long, distinguished tradition of introducing to the public, months before their official release dates, quality films that then go on to win all sorts of awards throughout the months of the Oscar season. Previous years have seen premieres of *12 Years a Slave*, *The Artist*, *The King's Speech* and many more, all of which were awarded the Best Picture awards at the Oscars. London, armed with a Leicester Square full of cinema screens, is the place filmmakers and actors descend upon, to promote their work and build up the hype.

Public participation is a major part of the festival, unlike many other events that like to class themselves

as more prestigious, in which case it is virtually impossible to get ahold of tickets. The LFF opens booking for members of the public and the full programme is at your disposal. But it is advisable to act quickly, as tickets are of course limited, and given the high level of anticipation surrounding certain films (mostly those that star the biggest names in the industry), the spare seats do not hang around for long.

So best of luck in getting your hands on the tickets, and jump at the opportunity to watch what will be some of the best films of this year, way ahead of anyone else in the country.

The Imitation Game: Opening Night Gala

The Festival officially kicks off in **Odeon Leicester Square** on 8th October with the European premiere of *The Imitation Game*, starring the nation's favourite Sherlock, Benedict Cumberbatch, as Alan Turing, in a biopic that highlights his work in cracking Nazi Germany's Enigma code during the Second World War. Reception from Telluride and Toronto Film Festivals has mostly been positive although not exactly ecstatic.

The film has already had its fair share of controversy, notably the casting of Keira Knightley as Turing's

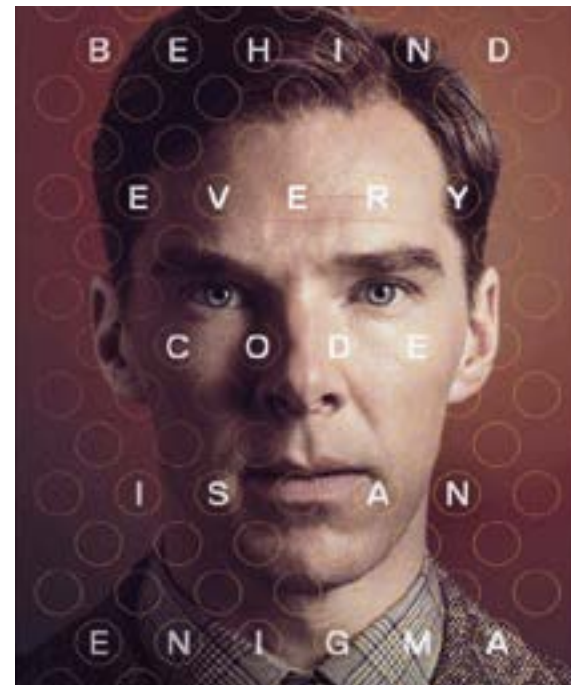


"London Film Festival is an event unlike any other."

one-time fiancée, with Knightley being deemed too pretty by some, whereas the film's alleged toning down of Turing's homosexuality has also been highlighted.

Fury: Closing Night Gala

Closing the festival is just as important as opening it, and the honour of the final night feature goes to yet another film set during the Second World War. *Fury*, the David Ayer-directed World War II drama



"The spare seats do not hang around for long."

starring Brad Pitt, will be having its European premiere on 19th October. Very little is known about the film's quality as of yet, given how the film is missing out on any festival action prior to coming to London.

All we have to go on for now, is the intense trailer that has been released, understandably putting as much emphasis and focus on Pitt and tank action as possible. It has a similar vibe to *Lebanon*, a rather excellent war film also set primarily in a tank.

This week at Imperial Cinema

Guardians of the Galaxy

Director: James Gunn

Screenplay: Nicole Perlman

Cast: Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista, Vin Diesel, Bradley Cooper

Ever since *Iron Man* in 2008, Marvel Studios have shown themselves to be one of the heavyweights of the film world, throwing out blockbuster after blockbuster of exceptional quality, and this year has had some of the best. Both *Thor: The Dark World* and *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* did fantastically, and whilst riding this high, you get the release of the rather obscure *Guardians of the Galaxy*. And somehow this unknown became by far the best of the bunch.

Take Peter Quill (Chris Pratt), an Earthling raised in space, throw in a green skinned assassin, a thug who doesn't understand metaphors, a

talking racoon and a sentient tree, mix in some stunning visuals, a plot that loves to remind you not to take it too seriously and a genuinely wonderful soundtrack, and you come out with *Guardians*. If you've seen it before, make sure to watch for things in the background, there is a lot that you miss on the first viewing, And the second. And the third.

Showing 18:30 Tuesday 14th and 21:00 Thursday 16th

Godzilla

Director: Gareth Edwards

Screenplay: Max Borenstein, Dave Callahan

Cast: Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Elizabeth Olsen, Bryan Cranston

Sixty years after he was initially created by Tomoyuki Tanaka, Hollywood's favourite *kaiju* is back for his thirty-second film, and he's

bigger than ever.

After the less-than-well-received 1998 version of the film, a reboot had been on the cards for a while, but it wasn't until director Gareth Edwards impressed the world with his low budget flick *Monsters* that he was brought in to finally get the thing in production.

Whilst watching you can tell that Edwards is a lover of monster films. Though he gives you time to get to know the characters, and have some truly human moments, he never forgets that most of the people come to watch these sort of films to watch giant monsters destroy things and fight. And with that he absolutely delivers. There isn't much in this world more satisfying than watching a 300-metre-tall ancient monster punch things in the face.

Showing 21:00 Tuesday 14th and 18:30 Thursday 16th



Money can't buy happiness

John Park tells all about *Maps to the Stars*

Director: David Cronenberg
Screenplay: Bruce Wagner
Cast: Julianne Moore, Mia Wasikowska, John Cusack, Robert Pattinson



One can only hope that the Hollywood we see in David Cronenberg's *Maps to the Stars* is not an accurate depiction of the film industry in any way. We hear stories of abuse, but mostly Hollywood is a place that likes to keep up its appearances. But writer Bruce Wagner is not exactly in the mood for holding back. What is portrayed in *Maps to the Stars* is bizarre and downright horrendous. The level of desperation characters sink into for what they want is an uncomfortable sight, and when it is portrayed in such a graphic, straightforward fashion, the events here become all the more shocking for the audience.

To describe fading star Havanna Segrand (Julianne Moore) as unstable would be a big understatement. Doing whatever she can to salvage what seemingly little she has left of her movie career, this ageing actress is eager to play the same role her late mother starred in. But it never helps when you are not the director's first choice for the lead role. This, coupled with Havanna's hallucinatory, nightmarish haunting from the ghost of her mother (Sarah Gadon) makes matters worse.

Not being good enough, young enough, to survive in the tough industry are the paranoid thoughts that plague her mind, and in her Cannes Best Actress-winning performance, Moore brings out the tragically fragile, vulnerable, insecure desperation out of Havanna, as she blunders through life and career.

Havanna goes on to hire a 'chore whore' a charming term used to describe her personal assistant, Agatha (Mia Wasikowska). It becomes quickly clear that Agatha, the quiet, obedient young woman is not quite as innocent as she seems. Like everyone in this town, Agatha has her own goal to achieve, which forms a part of a storyline that turns more shocking with every little reveal.

Who else is involved in this dark, twisted tale? Havanna's therapist, of course, Dr Stafford Weiss (John Cusack), who uses some rather odd, unconventional methods to help the actress work through her problems. Havanna cites childhood abuse as a root of her problems, an accusation her ghost mother vehemently denies in one of her freak entrances. The

"Not being good enough, young enough, to survive in the tough industry are the paranoid thoughts that plague her mind."

Weiss family shows us the definition of a reality show freak family gone horribly wrong. They may not have cameras following them around recording their daily activities, but they might as well have a show of their own, because the skeleton in their closet is too juicy not to be rattled out.

Stafford's son Benjie (Evan Bird) is a teen star sensation who has been in and out of rehab for substance abuse, his mother Cristina (Olivia Williams) acts as his manager, taking ambitious control of her young brat's money-making career. This is a family formed on egos and dreams, which can be healthy in certain circumstances, but not when there is an unspeakable secret looming that will threaten to destroy everything they have built to preserve.

Cronenberg's newest film is a collection of nightmares characters endure. Everyone has something troubling that truly takes over their psychological well-being, and when their world comes crashing down in one way or another, the struggle to hold on to anything normal is clearly easier said than done. The baggage each character is burdened with is substantial, and it is a wonder that they have all made it this far in their lives. Setting up the problems, essentially what covers the film's first half or so, is where the film excels. There is plenty of excellent build-up, utilising unique characters portrayed by actors skilled enough to play them.

But it is towards the film's final act the plot begins to lose its grip. It becomes so focused on shocking the audience with gasp-worthy reveals that it stops being about the characters. The Weiss family, Havanna, and Agatha are all heavily affected by their personal crises, but what we see is only the immediate result, never the long-term consequences. The film leaves all too much hanging in the air, with very little explanation to wrap up each storyline.

The handling of Havanna's plot strand is a cop-out, and how Agatha and the Weiss family end can hardly be described as satisfactory. This is a shame, because the finale never quite does the cast justice.

What starts off promisingly as a dark, wickedly funny satire into the lives of Hollywood stars quickly turns into a game of which plot development can have the most gasping impact, and through that it loses its way. But the performances are uniformly spectacular, which does make it all the more bearable to hold on until the madness comes to an end.

Gone, baby, gone

Jack Steadman tries not to wince at *Gone Girl*

Director: David Fincher
Screenplay: Gillian Flynn
Cast: Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike, Neil Patrick Harris, Tyler Perry, Carrie Coon



Right out of the starting blocks, *Gone Girl* screams that it was made by David Fincher. The 20th Century Fox logo plays out without its usual fanfare (an echo of its corruption at the opening of *Alien 3*), before the film lays out its trump cards very clear: this is not what you were expecting (unless you've read the book).

Eerie shots of an empty town at daybreak, a voice-over from Ben Affleck's Nick that almost immediately starts discussing cracking open his wife Amy (Rosamund Pike)'s head to get at the secrets inside, and a perfectly pitched score from Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross - it all builds to make an opening that leaves you feeling grimy, dirty, even before it all starts going wrong.

Then, when it all starts going wrong, the film refuses to let you settle. This is no straight-forward tale of abduction - it's something far more complex. Flashbacks so cute you want to punch them in the face (to paraphrase a line from Amy on her relationship with Nick in its early stages) riddle the gloom, punctuating the relentless drive of the investigation with a look at the circumstances preceding it, a breath of happiness and joy amidst all the horror.

Powered by Amy's narration, the flashbacks give the film context, allowing you to care about a character we barely see in the modern storyline - and then using that to hurt you. The flashbacks take a turn for the ugly, the darkness infects the light of those early, special moments, and all is not as it seems. Twists hide behind every dark corner, and just as it all threatens to build to a climax, to spill over into the truth: the film pulls the rug from under you. And it is masterful.

Fincher really gives his actors space to breathe in a film that is otherwise clinically precise as it relays the story in a *Crime Scene Investigation* style. He does this by forcing his actors to undergo multiple hundreds of takes and has previously said that if you spend millions on building sets, hiring cameras, and buying rights to a story, you might as well spend a long time with your actors getting each take totally perfect.

This has really paid off as each

cast member is able to show their character's flaws whilst remaining totally believable.

The film's twisty-turny plot is sold by the cast - Ben Affleck continues his trend of excellent movies, managing to make the mostly unlikeable Nick weirdly sympathetic (and also either relatable or understandable, with each word becoming more relevant at various points throughout the film). As the eponymous girl, Rosamund Pike finally makes her (ridiculously) belated step up to leading lady, and it's nothing short of magnificent.

Despite being - obviously - 'gone' for much of the film, she still makes an undeniable impact, selling the film even when it sometimes verges on the ridiculous. The supporting cast make an impact here, too - notably Neil Patrick Harris, in what is possibly the most against-type role possible as Amy's stalker-ish, obsessive ex-boyfriend. In part, it's this willingness on Fincher's part to toy with our expectations - and to go on to subvert them so maliciously, that really helps push the film past the occasional leaps of faith it is forced to demand in the name of pushing the story forward.

Despite said leaps, Gillian Flynn's adaptation of her own novel is mostly an exercise in adaptation done right, as she takes to the opportunity to nip and tuck here and there, finding ways to ensure the book's style seeps through, while also seizing the chance to alter the ending from the original.

Having failed to read the book, I can't confirm just how different it is - but it works, regardless. The tension refuses to let up - mostly in part due to the fact that every time a new answer is given, it creates a spider's web of questions that - when combined with Fincher's directorial flair - draw you further into the seething cauldron of lies and deceit that sit at the heart of *Gone Girl*.

It's that combination that elevates *Gone Girl* to become something more - the script is strong, but it isn't perfect, so what truly pushes the film up is how it comes alive in Fincher's hands. It always felt like the perfect film for the man, but there's no sense of him just being on auto-pilot here. It's the complete opposite - there's a sense of Fincher having the time of his life, gleefully using the tale to take potshots at several targets. The media are among those hit hardest - the film is an evisceration of almost everything they are and do - but in the end, it's marriage that truly suffers. *Gone Girl* is the antithesis of a date movie. Which is pretty much why everyone should see it.

"Flashbacks so cute you want to punch them in the face riddle the gloom."

Television

television.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Television Editors || Guilia Gabrielli & John Park

Summertime sadness and autumn bliss

Guilia Gabrielli discusses the new shows hitting your screens this term

Summer 2014 will probably not be remembered as one to watch, or at least not as one for TV watching. When I was young, summers used to be an endless series of screaming matches and compromises so I could get to take advantage of the warmest season while still enjoying an unhealthy amount of television. However, this year it only took a couple of weeks to realise that summer really is not the season to binge-watch anymore.

Remember early July? We would tune in to catch football matches and tennis glories and, even better, do so with a cold pint at the local pub. With the English team's hopes being cut disappointingly short and Andy Murray out of Wimbledon before we'd even started to get the Pimm's out, it didn't take long for that excitement to disappear. Soon it was evident that TV was as much on holiday as we were, except for property shows and countless episodes of *EastEnders*. The States faced a similar predicament, submerging us with reality TV shows such as *Keeping up with the Kardashians* and *America's Next Top Model*, but evidently thinking that nobody is going to be watching good TV when there are iced teas to be drunk and barbeques to be fired up.

There were some exceptions. In July, Showtime brought back the second series of the period drama *Masters of Sex*, a shows so intense and well-crafted it could rival *Mad Men* if it wasn't for the painfully slow interactions between some of the most emotionally repressed characters in TV history.

June saw the return of HBO *True Blood*'s seventh season, for those who didn't already get put off by werepanthers and vampire gods.

For those who like it short and sweet, the show *You're the Worst* was maybe the most interesting newcomer.

Following the love lives of two disillusioned and maladjusted twenty-somethings, the show pulls off sex-jokes and hipster-bashing remarks with surprising ability. Eventually August came, signifying the return of hit shows *The Great British Bake-off* and *Dr Who*. With a brand new Doctor and baked-Alaska scandals that made us see the ugly side of Mary Berry, these did not disappoint, unlike the new *Made in Chelsea* spin-off in New York City that features the same SW7 youngsters, who have given up cricket and cream tea in favour of hot dogs and baseball caps.

Fear not, however! Autumn is here



"Get me the fucking Prime Minister on the fucking phone!"... "Wrong show Peter." Photo: Peter Capaldi News

and it's been a long time coming (and I stress, in television terms alone). With it comes the return of several beloved series, as well as new ones to look out for.

Tuesday nights (for the American public, and only later for us Brits) will become girls' night in, with Fox's double whopper *New Girl*/*The Mindy Project*. Although the first may have exhausted its main character's relationship fuel, the second still has a lot to give thanks to Mindy Kaling's brilliant writing.

On Wednesdays, the Dunphys are back in *Modern Family*, which can be consumed whenever and wherever by anyone feeling a little homesick at the start of the new term (although, spoiler alert, nobody's family is that lovable). And if glitter and cowboy boots are your thing, which they really ought to be, watch out for the new season of *Nashville*, coming back after the ultimate cliffhanger finale.

"Summer really is not the season to binge-watch anymore."

As usual, Thursday nights are the real deal, with all time favourites such as *Bones* and *The Vampire Diaries* returning, and although some may argue that the producers of these shows are milking the plots a little, I'm sure many of you can't wait. Producer Shonda Rhimes, of *Grey's Anatomy* fame, is working hard this year, providing us with the most followed medical show on TV, even after the departure of fan favourite Dr Christina Yang, as well as coming back with *Scandal* and brand new series *How to Get Away With Murder*.

If the past is any indication, with attractive and complicated main characters, gripping moral dilemmas and dirty secrets, we are sure *How to Get Away with Murder* will become everyone's new TV obsession. Another newcomer that will keep us watching is *Red Band Society*. Its characters are normal adolescents off to discover adulthood and sex,

"If you see a fellow student streaming on level 4, don't judge, he's probably just seeking fast broadband and cheap heating."

only difference is they are doing it from the wings of a hospital, also dealing with love and loss. The series is a remake of a Spanish hit show produced by Steven Spielberg for American audiences and promising to deal with teenage angst and drama in a less preppy and stereotypical manner than *Glee*. Other classics like *The Big Bang Theory*, *American Horror Story* and *The Walking Dead* are also back to make keeping up with lectures slightly less appealing.

Finally, if you, Fresher, thought that your Imperial days would be full of hard study sessions at the library and challenging tutorials, don't worry: they will.

However, there is still plenty of TV to be watched and fun to be had. And remember, if you see a fellow student streaming on Level 4, don't judge, he's probably just seeking fast broadband and cheap heating, long forgotten since the days of student halls.

Television

television.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Television Editors || Guilia Gabrielli & John Park

ICTV: The Television Station of Imperial College London

Pete Brook tells us how you can get involved and get yourself on screen

I originally joined ICTV (formerly STOIC) two years ago with the intention of arriving, borrowing lights and cameras for a film, then never returning.

This plan backfired and since I have since entered and run film competitions, vision mixed the Varsity Rugby (which got watched live in 10+ countries), run around insanely during the live Union Election Hustings Show and have filmed countless events including TEDx talks and awesome society shows!

Last year we took some first time filmmakers who barely knew which end of a camera to point at the action (that might be an exaggeration, they were really quite good) and turned them into award winning filmmakers (2 Commendations in National Student TV Awards isn't bad!)

This summer has been all systems

"This summer has been all systems go in ICTV."

go in ICTV (found in the West Basement in Beit with all the other media folk). We have had a complete redevelopment, with all new studio space, lights, editing computers, 4k screens, jazzy new cameras and every other things you could possibly need to start a high end production.

We have a plethora of shows we need feet on the ground for. Whether you want to write, present, direct, produce, hold a camera, set up live broadcasts or just about anything that involves a moving image on a screen.

We've got news, sports, film shows, music shows, science shows and we want you to come up with ideas for your own shows, as this really is the point of having the tech here.

We are particularly looking for reporters for both our news coverage and sports coverage. There are so many competitions and matches going on, from ping-pong to

"we want you to come up with ideas for your own shows."



Last year's ICTV after winning the ARCS Sports Media of the Year for their coverage of varsity. Photo: Max Hunter

rugby and we need people who are passionate about any sport you can think of to go to film them and get interviews afterwards.

Basically if you think you can make some awesome shows or films you

should come and join us! We are in the Media Hub in the West Basement of the Union every Wednesday from 18:00 for you to come and say "Hello", or instead you could email us at ICTV@imperial.ac.uk.



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IMPORTANT DATES

- » **Parthenon Information Session:** Thursday, October 16, 2014, Time: 18.00, Imperial College London Campus
- » **Application Deadline (Seniors, Full-Time Associate Position):** Thursday, November 6, 2014
- » **Application Deadline (Juniors, Summer Intern Associate Position):** Friday, January 9, 2015

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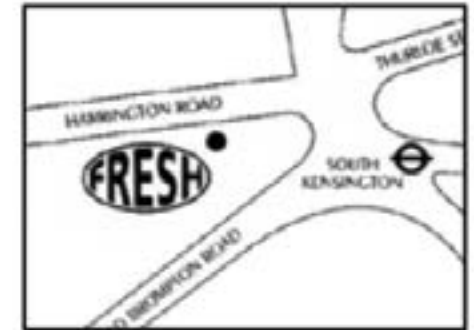
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For more information please email James Parkinson, Research Associate, jrcp@imperial.ac.uk or text 07814 296596

Arts

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Arts Editor || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

My Art: *The Cholmondeley Ladies*

FRED FYLES
SECTION EDITOR

In the Tate Britain, among the historical portraits and seascapes, the Van Dyke's and Van Eyck's, there is one picture that never fails to catch my eye. Entering the 1540 room, marking the beginning of British fine art, four pairs of eyes glare out at you from a single panel. An oil painting on wood, *The Cholmondeley Ladies* depicts two women, dressed in bleached-white finery, and resembling pieces of bone china, who each carry an infant swaddled in a blood red christening gown.

An inscription in gold provides some context, telling us they these two women 'were born the same day, Married the same day, and brought to Bed the same day'.

It is a Daily Mail story, captured in oils; a Ripley's Believe It or Not for the 1600s.

I don't know why I love the painting so much. Perhaps it is formal rigidity of the painting style. These two ghostly apparitions and their crimson bounties are starkly flat. No attempt at depth has been made, which, as well as giving the painting an otherworldly feel, confers a sense of modernism about it. Painted some three centuries before Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger*, it seems to predict the radical geometry that would become so popular during the 20th Century.

There is a beautiful symmetry about the painting too, as if painted by a forerunner of Wes Anderson, which would suggest that the two women were twins, and yet there are subtle differences between the two - their clothing differs, and their eye



The Cholmondeley Ladies, British School 17th Century Photo: Tate Britain

"A Daily Mail story, captured in oils; a Ripley's Believe it or Not for the 1600s"

colours don't match - clearly they are not identical twins.

And perhaps this is why I like it. The air of mystery that envelops the painting so tightly has a great attraction to me. We have no idea who these ladies were, and no other historical record exists of them. The rigid poses of the women, who cradle their babies indifferently, is not found in any other work of the same period, apart from tomb sculpture, so perhaps this is a tribute to women who have died?

The painter is unknown, lost to the annals of history, and the person who donated it in 1955 remained anonymous. Virginia Woolf said, in her polemical book *A Room of One's Own*, 'I would venture to guess that Anon was often a woman', and this is something that I dearly hope

"We have no idea who these ladies were, and no other historical record exists of them"

against hope is true, since I am yet to find a more beautiful depiction of motherhood.

At its best, art attempts to describe the human condition, and I feel that *The Cholmondeley Ladies* does just that. It is a depiction of maternity, of pride. It is a history lesson in miniature, showing us how throughout all of human existence we have been attracted to the unusual, the bizarre.

Just look at the role that twins have played throughout art, from the tales of Romulus and Remus, all the way through to Diane Arbus' disquieting 1967 portrait of twin girls.

The Cholmondeley Ladies is just one small part of this canon, and just one small part of artistic history, but to me it will always have a special place.

Welcome to the Arts pages

Hello, and welcome to the Felix Arts section from this year's awesome editors, Fred and Kamil. We hope to make this section a lively community of discussion with a wide range of articles designed to intrigue, inform and offend. Here, we provide you with debates, reviews and insider's insight into the capital's art scene.

This issue we have a host of great articles to share with you. We start off by introducing our new column *My Art*, in which people talk us through their favourite work of art; this week Fred tries to unpick the mystery behind a 16th Century portrait, and Kamil explains his passion for ceramics.

This is followed up with a couple of reviews for two of the hottest shows in London - Barbican Centre's *Constructing Worlds*, an exploration of the relationship between architecture and photography; and the Royal Academy's retrospective of Anselm Kiefer, the legendary post-war German artist.

We know it can often prove daunting to find like-minded art lovers at Imperial but hopefully we can provide you with a springboard into the uni's art world with your weekly dose of culture and conversation; starting as we mean to go on, we have commissioned articles from some of the leading artistic societies at Imperial, so you can find out what they get up to.

If you have any arts submissions, drop us an email at arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

My Art: The V&A Ceramics Collection

KAMIL MCCLELLAND
SECTION EDITOR

Tucked away on the sixth floor of the V&A, the ceramics section is my little artistic idyll in London. Even on weekends it is virtually empty, so you can sit back and enjoy the craftsmanship without the hassle you get with the better known art establishments. Huge glass cabinets filled to the brim with ceramics extend the whole length of hallways, ensuring totally immersive experience. It is little wonder then that one can spend hours utterly transfixed!

As you follow the collection

around, you are taken on a tour through the history of the artform, from the Far East through to Europe.

But don't despair, it's not just row after row of Ming vases and Wedgwood tea sets, there is also an excellent collection of modern ceramics from the 20th and 21st centuries that is unlike anything you have ever seen. One artist in particular, Ryoji Koie, is a favourite of mine in the way he gives the clay such a fluid and dynamic feel that makes you doubt whether the clay has been fired at all!

The argument is often made of the V&A that it can feel a bit stale, more a catalogue of artifacts than something thrilling. But this cannot be said of



Teapot and Jug, Lucie Rie and Bowl, Lucie Rie. Photo: V&A

the ceramics section because every time I visit, the same sense of magic and excitement returns to me as

if it were my first time visiting. And such is the breadth and depth of the collection that you do see

something new to fascinate you every time, leaving you with a child-like wonderment.

Arts

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Arts Editor || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

The Most Modern Machines for Living

Fred Fyles checks out *Constructing Worlds* at the Barbican Centre**Constructing Worlds
Barbican Centre**

25 September - 11 January

The relationship between the architect and the camera is symbiotic: as a uniquely modern medium, photography is perfectly suited to capturing the environments in which we live.

From shanty towns in Soweto to the towering skyscrapers of Manhattan, photographers have long been obsessed with the built world that surrounds us. **The Barbican's *Constructing Worlds*** draws on the seemingly endless supply of architectural photographers, as well as the discerning tastes of curators Alona Pardo and Elias Redstone, providing us with a wide-ranging overview of this fruitful history.

We begin with Berenice Abbott, whose five year project, *Changing New York*, documents the rapid expansion of the city during the 1930s. These sumptuous black and white images contain the germ of modern city photography, and alone stand as testament to Abbott's genius. In these stark, angular constructions girders and pipes burst out of the Manhattan bedrock, twisting up like vines to form a modern metropolis. Although a contemporary and friend of Abbott, Walker Evans' photos could not be more different in tone. Hired by the Farm Security Administration to research rural America, Evans documented the

debilitating effects of the Great Depression on sharecroppers. Using a mix of portraiture and architecture, the links between buildings and their inhabitants are subtly revealed: between vernacular churches and decaying plantation houses overrun with black mould, Evans creates a heady combination of rot and ruin that matches any Southern gothic written by Tennessee Williams.

Evans' methodical approach mirrors the work of Hilla and Bernd Becher, whose quietly powerful documentation of German water towers reveals the unseen design that surrounds us every day. Meanwhile, Lucien Herve explores a slightly more ostentatious piece of design - Le Corbusier's master plan of Chandigarh, built as a shining beacon of Indian modernity. Used to help communicate Le Corbusier's artistic vision, Herve's work is exhaustive in its volume. Thankfully some of his best pieces have been singled out: explorations of shape, light, and volume, they don't resemble buildings so much as constructivist compositions.

Julius Shulman continues this theme of documentation with his photographs of the Case Study House Program, in which aggressively modernist houses compete with retrograde mid-century furnishings to paint a picture of American convenience. In Case Study House #22, his most celebrated photo, two women in elegant ball gowns are lounging on tasteful sofas, suspended in a glass cube above a panorama of the downtown LA sprawl.

As the exhibition continues to the

"The links between buildings and their inhabitants are subtly revealed"



Former Soviet-era 'Palace of Culture', Kabul, Simon Norfolk Photo: Simon Norfolk

lower galleries, we experience the work of architectural practice Office KGDVS, who have transformed the space into a series of interlocking shapes, highlighting the dramatic impact architecture and design can have on the viewer. As the focus moves away from America, and becomes more modern, the work looks less at the built environment and more at social fabric.

Some artists featured are unabashedly conceptual, such as Luisa Lambri, who reduces the vast masterpiece of Frank Lloyd Wright's *Fallingwater* into a single shaft of light, completely ignoring the impressiveness of the original structure. Helene Binet has more success with her studies of Daniel Liebskind's *Jewish Museum*; but then again, it is near impossible to take a poor photo of a building steeped in such deconstructivist drama.

Luckily, we also have a selection of Hiroshi Sugimoto's work; by far the best conceptual work in the gallery, Sugimoto reduces famous buildings down to a mere black and white impression, obscured and out of focus, as though viewed through a thick fog. Rather than reducing the impact these buildings have, this instead highlights the architect's original intentions when it comes to form and shape.

Ed Ruscha and Stephen Shore provide a much needed hit of wry humour with their work, which explored the unsettling banality of everyday America. In Ruscha's case, this translates to vast photographs of car parks, taken from helicopter, the repetitive blocks building up a pattern on the ground; a modern day shopping-mall Nazca. Shore's work centres around small towns in the American South, which could easily all be called Uncanny Valley, and highlight the mundane. Underneath the bright, saturated colours, lies an air of menace, as if Twin Peaks had been relocated to Texas.

"Nadav Kander's exploration of urban growth is both awe-inspiring and horrific"

Towards the second half of the exhibition, the focus broadens in scope, moving away from America, instead looking towards the new megacities springing up in Asia, Africa, and South America. Guy Tillim's exploration of modernist urban decay in Southern Africa - named Avenue Patrice Lumumba, after the murdered Congolese politician - is particularly interesting, showing us a view of Africa that is far from typical. Sadly the same cannot be said for Simon Norfolk, whose series *Chronotopia* and *Burke Norfolk* portray Afghanistan as largely a land of terror and ruined buildings, a rhetoric spouted on a near daily basis in any national newspaper.

A highlight is the work of Nadav Kander, whose exploration of urban growth and massive construction along the Yangtze River in China is both awe-inspiring and horrific. A mighty river, which once ran turbulently for nearly 4000 miles, is now placid, thanks to the construction of the Three Gorges Dam during the late 1990s; as enormous bridges are erected in the background families sit and picnic on the banks; fishermen haul in their catch, seemingly oblivious to the high levels of pollution and industrial run-off.

The task of curating a retrospective on the link between photographers and architects was always going to be difficult, and Pardo and Redstone have done well to select just 18 artists. While the quality and depth of the work displayed somewhat varies - with a strong North American start gives way to a more scattered international reach - the exhibition is unmissable for anyone with even a scant interest in either medium. What with the Barbican's architectural beauty (although some would contest this), there is hardly a more perfect place for a study of this most natural of relationships.

Arts

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Romance and Ruins at the Royal Academy

Max Falkenberg explores Anselm Kiefer's enduring influence



Heroic Symbol V (Heroisches Sinnbild V), Anselm Kiefer Photo: Collection Wuerth

**Anselm Kiefer
The Royal Academy of Arts**

27 September - 14 December

Anselm Kiefer is not an artist to approach in half measures. When I read that, in 1992, he turned his 35 acre studio in Barjac, France, into a giant Gesamtkunstwerk comprised of storerooms, installations, paintings, underground chambers, corridors, striking glass structures and huge lead sculptures, I thought that maybe, in the pretty, well presented halls of the Royal Academy of Art (RAA), a certain undertone of Kiefer's work may well be lost on me. It wasn't.

Even without the magnificent structures in which Kiefer originally presented his works, the full spectrum of Kiefer's creations do not fail to completely shock and awe its audience with horrific, twisted motifs and dark philosophical stories, creating an overwhelmingly powerful critique of Kiefer's chosen subjects.

In this first major retrospective of Kiefer's work, the RAA has collaborated closely with the artist to present some of his most famous works, alongside installations created specifically for this show, and some of his lesser known works in books and watercolours.

A truly spectacular experience, this retrospective beautifully presents the full breadth of Kiefer's work and shows the intricate and philosophical development of his inspirations and motifs over the years in an intelligent and powerful exhibition.

Curated by Kathleen Soriano, the

show is largely chronological and opens with Kiefer's earliest work in the late 1960s while he was studying under the realist Peter Dreher. Right from the get go, the exhibition's vision and purpose is clear and almost each piece links in beautifully with the next. Almost poetically, Kiefer stays faithful to a handful of motifs which crop up in almost all his work. Two of these motifs explored in particular detail are the German forests and Germany's Nazi past, present in both his oldest and newest works.

In Kiefer's series of paintings *Heroic Symbols* (Heroische Sinnbilder), Kiefer depicts himself in a typical German landscape performing the *Sieg Heil* alongside classical figures, drawn from Nazi Propaganda.

Originally produced as his final exam piece while studying in Karlsruhe, the piece shocked the establishment then and still provokes an extreme emotional response in some who see it. The collective lack of consciousness that had befallen Germany is directly confronted in this series and remains just as relevant now as a critique of nationalist movements.

As is often the case with artists who radically confront such difficult issues, Kiefer's earlier years saw him frequently labelled as an anti-Semite. For the 1980 Venice Biennale, Kiefer first presented his painting *The Paths of World Wisdom: Hermann's Battle*. On a dark textured forest background, Kiefer has pasted the black and white images of people depicted in Nazi Propaganda, surrounding a small white fire. Based on the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest where Germanic tribes defeated the Roman legions, Kiefer's work addresses the birth of German nationalism and the ground on which

German traditions were built, with the fire expressing the opportunity for the rebirth of a nation.

Dark and overwhelming, the painting draws on the darker side of German history and directly confronts the silent Germany of Kiefer's childhood. This general feeling runs through the whole exhibition and leaves you in complete awe by the end.

Up to this point I've only really spoken about Kiefer's earlier work, and since talking about specific paintings or sculptures never quite satisfies what I want to say about a piece, I will leave you with one last observation. The week before the exhibition opened to the press, Anselm Kiefer came to the RAA and set out to produce a sculpture specifically for this exhibition.

Ages of the World is a story about man's inability to comprehend geological time, the romantic aspirations of art, and the poetry of ruins. Constructed from dozens of broken Kiefer Canvases, photos from his past work, and lead structures,

the artwork encompasses the whole room in which it has been created and touches on the frailty of Earth in the Universe.

Kiefer's obsession with the cyclical nature of time and the idea that science can answer everything and nothing can be seen throughout every crevice of this monstrous creation. The lead mushrooms again draw on the idea of the rebirth of a ruined Earth with Kiefer having stated often in the past that lead is the only substance which can hold the weight of human history.

Together these elements join to create a sculpture which not only draws in the audience but leaves them completely mesmerised, and this happens over and over again in this exhibition.

Every artwork in this retrospective seems to fit perfectly in its surroundings and as a whole, the exhibition tells a beautiful story. Whether you like Kiefer's work or not, he is undoubtedly now one of the world's greatest living artists.

"Dark & overwhelming, [it] confronts Kiefer's Germany"



Interior (Innenraum), Anselm Kiefer Photo: Collection Stedelijk Museum



Torre David #2, Iwan Baan Photo: Perry Rubenstein Gallery

POETRY CORNER

To A Dear Friend

An inch! An inch!
My soul for an inch.
All new Shakespeare now skimmed and (!) reduced
for an age gagging on empty stomachs.

Politely, and with token cheeky smile,
(all teeth still present)
my offer of a meagre supper limps dejectedly into memory
to gnaw away at my stomach.

I would scream
"The measure of you comes not from the tape that binds you!
The weight of your actions is not so simple as mass!"
But it would pass straight through her hollow form.

It would not fill her,
save with a grimmer determination
to fight (flee)
the edible enemy.

It would not warm her,
or restore to her any vigour,
or heal her cracking skin,
or return her lost dimensions.

It would not rekindle her many joys,
each consumed a little more,
as she a little less.

Indeed even as she refuses the act,
she is being salivated over and swallowed whole,
a mere tasty morsel, and by necessity
only one of thousands.

I wish I could eat for her,
so she could get on with digesting the committee of vultures and scum
called high society.
I wish she would sniff up the beauty of wild flowers,
rather than endless contours of cocaine
(it leaves her feeling thin)

Nature cannot be denied,
and yet she soldiers vainly on,
for each new note on her xylophone makes her grin.
(some teeth missing, thin hair)

And so empty girl,
next time you find yourself free,
wander trance like through the British Museum,
to fill yourself with culture if nothing else.
But notice Aphrodite.
Even motionless and hewn from old cold stone,
she is more alive.
Not merely big boned now, but gruesome, sickening, fat!

Now I want to vomit.

Eamonn Postlethwaite

What's On: This Week's Top 5

This week is art fair week in London and none of them is more of a must-see than **Frieze Art Fair**. Yes it's over commercialised and can be pretty hit and miss but you do get a good idea of where contemporary art is now and, maybe, where it is going.
Frieze London, 15-18 October, Regent's Park

Piggybacking on Frieze Week is a quirky but no less worthwhile art fair. **1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair** returns for a second year and promises to display the best of what young artists on the continent have to offer.
1:54, 16-19 October, Somerset House

If you want to escape some of the fair mania, head to the **Late Turner** exhibition at Tate Britain. It is a truly unforgettable experience. In his later works, Turner abstracted his technique much more, resulting in mesmerising fields of colour

that were decades ahead of their time.
Late Turner, Until 25 January, Tate Britain

If abstract is your thing, **Malevich** at the Tate Modern explores the life of an artist who took avant-garde to its limits. The showcase helps explain the philosophy behind his Suprematist movement, making it seem less incomprehensible and more incredible. Long Live the Black Square!
Malevich, Until 26 October, Tate Modern

Finally, if you're sick of traipsing around galleries and want to explore what London's stage has to offer, head down to the Old Vic to see an adaptation of the classic story of **Electra**. The play, starring Kristin Scott Thomas in the leading role, has received rave reviews and so it may be a bit tricky to secure tickets but it's worth a try!
Electra, Until 20 December, The Old Vic.



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Fashion

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Editor || Cecile Borkhataria

The essential winter trends – on a student budget

Cecile Borkhataria has the latest catwalk trends that won't break the bank

Want to look on trend this season without breaking the bank? Look no further. These looks are inspired by designer catwalks, and luckily, they won't leave you with an empty pocket.

Sixties Silhouettes

Sixties style shift dresses with knee high boots were spotted on the fall/winter runways of Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent and Louis Vuitton. To tone down the look for a less "I just came out of the sixties with a time machine" appeal, pair this white Missguided shift dress with a pair of ballet flats or ankle boots and a long cardigan for a polished daytime look. To work the trend for dinner or on a night out, wear this black halterneck number also by Missguided. Pair it with red lipstick, simple black heels and a single statement bracelet or bangle to complete the evening look.



White dress and Black dress, both from Missguided.com, £24.99

Oversize Coats

Actually, oversize everything.

This season, oversize coats are a big trend everywhere. Spotted on the Prada, Chanel and Schumacher runways, this style is easy to pull off and effortlessly chic. This kind of coat can be worn everyday with casual wear and even on a cold night out. Pair it with skinny jeans on a cold day or wear it with a mini skirt on the milder autumn days. By night, wear it with your favourite heels and a dress for a polished evening look. Try this ecru version by mango, its muted colour will make it easy to co-ordinate with any outfit.



Left: Schumacher coat fall/winter 2014. Right: Mohair blend coat, Mango, £44.99

"oversize coats are... easy to pull off and effortlessly chic."

Gold Rush

Gold featured heavily on the Autumn/Winter designer runways, and the trend is a great way to brighten up a chilly autumn day. It's easy to incorporate in your wardrobe, and if gold garbs aren't your thing, then you can rock the trend with gold accessories, like this gold bangle by Tory Burch. If you want to incorporate the look in your wardrobe in a not-so-flashy way, try out this golden sweater by Zara. Its subtle golden finish will brighten up your wardrobe.



Above: Tory Burch bangle, £85.00. Right, Zara sweater, £25.99

Anoraks

Thankfully, this season's trends have reflected an appetite for practical fashion. A stylish wool coat is all well and good, but with the Autumn showers in full swing, an anorak is the perfect transitional piece. Light and breathable for mild days whilst still protecting you from pesky autumn showers.

The anorak has been seen on the runways for MiuMiu, Stella McCartney and Christopher Kane, just to name just a few. The trend shows that high end fashion is changing, becoming less formalised than it has been in the past. Fashion is no longer embarrassed by function!

For a sporty chic vibe, pair an anorak with a dress on milder days. On those gray, wet days, wear it with your favourite jeans and wellies and you'll be kitted out to brave the elements! Uniqlo offers a great range of anoraks for just £24.90 in a rainbow of different colours. At that price, you can't go wrong, and you may as well pick up one or two in different shades.



Uniqlo parka, £24.90

Extreme Turtlenecks

How do you make a boring knit sweater just a little more interesting? You add a turtleneck of course! This trend, popular in the 1960's, has been making a strong comeback recently. Thankfully, much like the anorak trend, this speaks to a paradigm shift in the fashion industry. Elements of practical fashion have been embraced like never before this season. Armed with knitted turtlenecks and oversize coats this winter, you'll be nice and toasty and ready to brace the cold. To tone down the dramatic look, pair a turtleneck with a thick scarf and minimal accessorising.



River Island turtleneck, £30.00

"The gold trend is a great way to brighten up a chilly autumn day."

Mount Kinabalu: the trip to the peak

Aditya Narayanan tells us all about her summer adventure



The majestic mountain peeking out from behind the clouds on a bright summer's day. Photo: Aditya Narayanan

For seasoned mountain climbers, Mount Kinabalu is considered an entrée; a quick practice hike to prepare for tougher tests. Despite the fact that no serious mountaineering equipment is necessary, it remains an intimidating venture to the first-timer, and one that is not to be underestimated.

The route to the summit is 8.7 kilometres and a constant, reliable supply of energy is the order of the day. Athletes may swear by jelly sweets, Skittles or glucose tablets for a sugar hit. I'm putting my faith in blueberry Cream-Os, an ersatz local variant of Jammie Dodgers (although Malaysians may justifiably claim that Jammie Dodgers are an ersatz local variant of Cream-Os).

Fifteen of us have booked through the same lodge, an eclectic bunch

ranging from a group of Filipino mountain climbing enthusiasts, to some Kings College Medics away on an elective, plus a few lone wolves like myself. Most of us had met for the first time at dinner the previous night, but a good day of climbing is more than enough time to forge friendships.

The minivan enters the park, which is humming and swirling with tourists from all parts of the world. Some are here to visit the nature reserve at the foot of the mountain and some are fellow climbers, either ready to embark upwards or triumphantly returning from the top.

The van speeds on past them to the first checkpoint at the start of the ascent, where IDs and climb permits are checked to prevent interlopers sneaking in without having paid the

requisite fees. This climb is a must for visitors to Borneo and although it is comparatively benign, the mountain has proved dangerous to the lackadaisical traveller. Indeed, it is mandatory to apply for a licence/permit to climb, and to have a local guide lead the way to prevent these kinds of calamities from happening.

The first 500 metres are, somewhat bizarrely, downhill - as if to lull you into a false sense of security. As the gradient changes to an upward trajectory, I feel a stab in my groin and remember having pulled a muscle two days ago playing five-a-side football in the jungle. I instantly regret that decision.

A UNESCO World Heritage site since 2000, the Kinabalu National Park has an astonishing level of biodiversity for any location in the world, let alone one encompassing an area of its size. This includes a scarcely believable 800 species of orchids and more species of ferns than the whole of Africa, not to mention the infamous Rafflesia flower, known for its alluring scent of rotting flesh.

Within the first kilometre or so we spy a few tiny pitcher plants; there are larger, more magnificent ones further up. Meanwhile, monkeys, squirrels and birds collaborate unseen to serenade our advance up the slope, and we are surrounded by a kaleidoscope of floral colour.

And yet, much of this remains unnoticed. Bursts of intense, heavy rain punctuate the slow trudge upwards like artillery fire, nearly tearing through the cheap, plastic poncho I am wearing. The further we go, the less I notice the environment; I focus solely on the uneven, orange path ahead.

The regular rest stops offer some refuge from this tunnel vision, where we watch the mountain squirrels, shrews and an assortment of small birds playing about in the undergrowth, occasionally venturing out to forage for crumbs dropped by some careless climbers.

On and on we go, step by step up the man-made stairs cut into the path. Greetings are murmured to the intermittent streams of people descending, their weary grins of satisfaction the only thing keeping us from quitting. But into the afternoon this counter-flow reduces to a trickle.

Ascending groups have dispersed into individuals or duos, constantly overtaking each other in a race that no one has the energy to win.

My injury has cut me adrift from my comrades, and I'm starting to feel every step reverberate through my body. The terrain has become more

rugged and rocky, with coniferous trees increasingly bordering the path, which seems to wind ever steeper around the mountain.

The vegetation is sparser, and frequent gaps in the tree line uncover a window looking out onto the landscape further down and a carpet of green (this is the jungle, after all).

It is now more than 3000 metres above sea-level, parity with the cloud level. A fine mist hugs the skin and the altitude faintly suffocates. I curse having over-packed for this trip; "You must be a very strong guy" my guide Eddie smirks with bemusement.

The bright white blocks of the base camp appear, thrust out of the side of the mountain, and I somehow drag myself to the dorm and throw myself into bed. The time is now 16:30, and we will make our summit attempt in eight hours.

black night; we must now use a rope to pull ourselves up.

I find it surprisingly easy to haul myself up the slope, a feeling shared by those around me, although I suspect this may just be adrenaline pushing us forward. After what feels like only ten minutes, we come up to a small porta-cabin, and for the second time I must get out my climbing permit. Only 2 kilometres left to the summit.

The slope is much less steep at this point, and progress is smooth despite the rarefied air. After a while the first lights of dawn appear on the horizon, and I quicken my pace slightly. I see a cluster of lights circling in close proximity to each other like a swarm of fireflies; it can only be the summit.

The dawn seems to sense my approach, for it delays, breaking just as my foot reaches the uppermost ridge.



A spectacular view above the clouds atop the rugged mountain that has now been conquered. Photo: Aditya Narayanan

We are up by 01:50 for an early breakfast. The sleep has done its job and I feel refreshed and full of energy. At 02:45 we head off from the base camp along with a hundred or more others, forming a single file caravan distinguishable from afar only by the pinpricks of light from our head torches.

There is one more checkpoint to reach by 05:00 or we will be turned away from the summit. Helpfully, the park management committee have constructed a series of wooden staircases up the lower reaches of this stretch. Progress is slow, this time because of the sheer volume of traffic moving uphill, and we can see nothing except the heels of the person in front.

A solid rock face looms out of the

There are maybe 30 people along this narrow strip of rock, bordered by a rope fence which cordons off a dizzying drop.

The sun's rays unfurl onto a blanket of white cloud. For a moment it feels like an anticlimax, as if the famous view at sunrise will be kept. Then the morning cloud clears, opening up the jaw-dropping expanse below.

For a fleeting second, I know what it feels like to be on top of the world.

To those who want to climb, Jungle Jack's Backpackers provides the best rate, which is approximately MYR 600 and includes two night's accommodation at his lodge near the park and all meals. Unlike other agencies/lodges (which are grossly overpriced anyway), you can book climbs at short notice i.e. a few days in advance.



The obligatory photo next to the peak sign, marking the triumphant trek through rain and sweat. Photo: Aditya Narayanan

Food

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Editors || Carol Ann Cheah and Michael Chung

New ideas aplenty...
starring YOU!

CAROL ANN CHEAH
SECTION EDITOR

Eh-up, Imperialites – welcome back to another instalment of Felix Food! The weather's turned turtle and it seems all of us in my flat have fallen victim to some form of Freshers' Flu (despite not being freshers, pah.) That said, however, it's perfect weather for all the comfort foods we associate with winter: stews, mash, soups... and dare I say it, hot puddings (obviously with more than a side of custard!)

This week we're trying out something new where we feature a profile of one of the die-hard foodies here at Imperial every fortnight/month. It's called Foodie InSight just because you can read it both as "insight" or "in sight" – yes, I do love my lame dual-meanings and puns, if you haven't realized by now. I know there are loads of you foodies out there waiting to have your say, and it's nice to have a look how everyone's tastes differ throughout the student population. Our featured foodie this week (Mich) is great with curry and making almost all her own meals; however, maybe there's another foodie out there who's better at European food and eating out cheaply? We'd love to hear from you, and what tips you have for us!

In other foodie-related happenings, I went to a coffee cupping event (cupping's just a fancy word for tasting) for the first time ever at Pact Coffee HQ – most who know me will know that they're my favorite coffee wing(wo)men. Some of you may already be of the opinion that specialty coffee tastings are "as pretentious" as wine tastings; I have very little knowledge of that, so I can't comment. I can say however that the atmosphere of this cupping was anything but snobby, and most of us were just lay coffee drinkers (not experts with super-refined palates).

It was Brazillian coffee on offer so we learned a lot about its characteristics, and what was happening there... apparently there's a serious drought that's wrecked a fair bit of the harvest and caused production for the year to drop about 25% or so. Coffee's one of those finicky things that's very easily affected by weather and disease, which has quite a far-reaching humanitarian effect on the farmers and their families. Really sad, so next time you have that cuppa do spare a thought for the farmers that work so hard!

On that note, I'm going to sign off this editorial. Hope you enjoy some of Mich's tips and recommendations for curry and a GLP (great little place) to visit here in London! Look out for something a bit more up the cocktail-themed alley next week...

Felix Foodie InSight: #1

Michelle Tan talks curry & being a Third Culture Kid

Hey, my name is...Michelle
I'm from...Malaysia, but I've never lived there! Right now home is Bangkok, Thailand.

And I study...Chemistry

My university meal habits...I usually cook all 3 meals a day. Cooking for me is less of a chore; it's more an opportunity for me to try out all the recipes I have stacked up in my bookmarks folder. On the weekends I take a break, and I like to pick out a café/restaurant I have on my never-ending list of places to try in London.

I get most of my food inspiration from...my mum and grandmother, for Malaysian food and Asian food in general. They have taught me how to make the standard curry, *rendang*, *kaya* (coconut jam) and *kueh* (traditional sweets) but with their own personal twists. I'll admit it is a bit difficult to find some of the ingredients here and sometimes I'll need to make substitutions, but if I ever crave food from "home", I'd be able to whip it up quickly. Thankfully, I've stocked up well on curry pastes and packet sauces from the local supermarkets in Malaysia for any emergencies.

Foods/foodie gadgets I can't live without...I can't live without my blender! I'm a huge fan of making my own green juices as they can be pretty expensive from juice bars in London. But that's not the only thing you can make in there, though! From soups to salad dressings, even quick pestos and hummus...the world is your oyster.

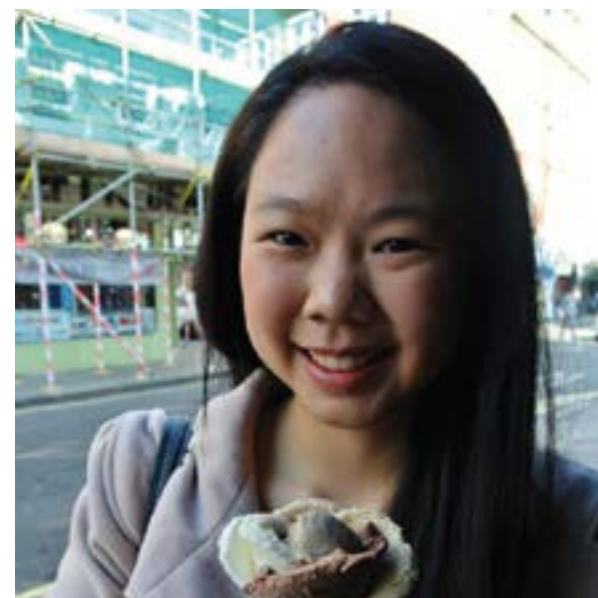
A fond childhood food-related memory...Whilst I was still living in Hong Kong (you can tell I'm a true Third Culture Kid by now) we used to frequent the rainforest café at Festival Walk. The theme of the restaurant is just so kid friendly and

when I walked past the Piccadilly Circus branch the other day; it brought back all my happy memories as a kid growing up in Hong Kong.

My biggest food vice...I cannot say no to bread! The smell of it wafting through any bakery in London just draws me in. I can never find the same quality back home. If I have time and temperatures permit my bread to rise, I like to bake my own. An added bonus is my house smells amazing afterwards!

Someone famous I'd like to have a lunch date with...Jose Andres, who is a Spanish avant-garde chef and one of the first few chefs to bring molecular gastronomy to America. He earned his fame caramelizing olive oil and even turning potato chips into foam. I'd love to ask where he got his inspiration from to change people's mindset on food, and to discuss how food consumption isn't just for the sake of providing nutrition but providing customers with a unique experience.

My funniest food gaffe...I was being ambitious and wanted to make myself some Thai green curry with some curry paste I brought from home. Little did I know that this one little sachet had the potency of like...15 small green chillies. Without tasting the paste I decided I needed about half the pack to make a portion for myself. When I took the first bite I had a flashback to when I had bitten into a small green chili thinking it was a vegetable, the pain and the heat is indescribable. No matter how much water I downed I could not get rid of the burning sensation. I just laughed at myself, all the while downing multiple cups of milk, water or just any cold liquid I could find. Lesson learnt – taste while cooking and never underestimate the Thais' ability to



We all scream for ice cream, obviously! Photo: Felix Food

tolerate spice!

What I love about (good) food...

How it has the ability to bring back old memories from when I used to eat certain foods as a kid, i.e. McDonald's apple pie (my absolute favourite) or baking a lemon meringue pie that I used to bake often for my best friends back home.

I don't just love cooking for myself, I like cooking for others. It makes me happy to be able to share the joy of food with others and I love how it always brings people together. I'm a huge fan of Christmas and Christmas dinner is my favorite meal to make. Whenever it nears that time of the year I'm just eager to get in the kitchen and start cooking. Thankfully I have my housemates to help share the joy, especially when it comes to making and eating the desserts! I'm always open to trying new things and (sneakily) getting tips from other people when I try their food.

"I love...
how [food]
always
brings
people
together"

Quick curry-basics cheatsheet

MICHELLE TAN
FOOD WRITER

All good curry starts with a base that includes fragrant bulb veg., chillies and some aromatics. To make mine I blend together onions, lemongrass and dried chillies, then fry it all together with curry leaves – a mainstay of Southeast Asian curries – until fragrant. Then add to this mixture chili and curry powders, to taste/tolerance levels.

It's easy to scale this up in batches and then separate into your desired portion sizes before freezing. A cheap compact blender will do the job – no

need for a fancy Vitamix – and you can use it for so many other things as well. I own a lovely turquoise one by Breville which costs about £40.

I prefer not to salt this mixture unless I'm going to use this straightaway, as I usually pre-season my meat before I add it to the curry base. This gives more control over the level of saltiness, and I can then use the same base for many different types of meat.

After you add your meat to the base and mix thoroughly, top it up with liquid (usually water) and simmer until the meat is tender. Add a bit more water if you like your sauce thinner, less if you prefer it thicker; just make

sure you check the seasoning. Most curries get their creaminess from the addition of some coconut milk – use a little less than you think you'll need, as it'll reduce and then thicken up. Remember you can always add, but ye cannae take away!

Malaysians tend to eat curries with flavored rice, such as *nasi biryani* (with cardamom, cumin and turmeric) or *nasi lemak* (creamy rice with coconut milk/oil.) They're super-easy to make; just add the spices to the cooking water before you boil your rice on the stove (or flick your rice cooker switch.) For *nasi lemak*, just swap out some of the water for coconut milk.

"You can
always
add, but
ye cannae
take away!"

Mich's Great Little Place



Fresh Healthy Eating Café, 51 Lexington Street

Underground: Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square

I was pleasantly surprised by the large array of salad boxes, wraps, sandwiches and juices. There's also a huge blackboard with over 40 juice combinations to choose from. I always find myself needing to stare at their menu for at least 5 minutes before ordering, as I'm so spoilt for choice! They are reasonably priced, so if you are ever looking for a cheap, healthy meal out this is definitely the place I would recommend.

Imperial College
London



STUDENT BLOGGERS WANTED!

Are you a keen and creative writer?
Want to tell people what it's really
like at Imperial?

Whether you are a fresher or a returning undergrad or postgrad, you can apply to join our student blogs team by:

- sending us 600 words about your start of term experience, or
- submitting a photo or video blog about Welcome Week – don't forget to caption your photos!

Send your submission by noon on Monday 27 October to studentblogs@imperial.ac.uk

→ www.imperial.ac.uk/studentblogs

Accredited by
Imperial Plus
Developing your skills

IMPERIAL HORIZONS



Broaden your education and enhance your potential

**On-line enrolment for first years is open throughout Welcome Week.
Make sure you enrol by 2.00pm on Monday 13th October**

Find out more:

www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons

Union Page

Your Rep and Council Elections - nominations close 16 October



Get involved in making your student experience the best it can be.

This year we are electing Year and Course Representatives, the 16 Ordinary Members of Council, our Campaigns Officer, our Disabilities Officer and the Graduate Students' Union Reps simultaneously.

This is a brilliant way to get involved and be part of ensuring student views are expressed to the right bodies to make changes for the benefit of students.

Nominations close at 23:59, Thursday 16 October 2014. To find out more about the positions up for election, visit our website at the address below.

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

Join us at our Volunteering Fair, Tuesday 14 October



The Community Connections Volunteering Fair returns on Tuesday 14 October 2014. Taking place in the Great Hall, Sherfield Building this is the place to be if you are interested in finding out more about volunteering alongside your studies! Come and visit between 11:30 - 14:30 to meet with Union Projects, College departments, charities, and organisations who are offering exciting volunteering opportunities here at Imperial, across London and even overseas!

You can see a full list of all the organisations attending at the address below.

imperialcollegeunion.org/volunteering

Check out our new food menu at FiveSixEight!



We've got a new food menu in FiveSixEight! You can enjoy new dishes such as meat and vegetarian sharing platters, sausage and mash, and jacket potatoes with a range of fillings and desserts, alongside our homemade burgers, burritos and pizzas. You can also vote for guest pizzas every month, as well as enjoying new food and drink combos – grab a burger and a drink on Tuesday lunchtimes or all weekend, enjoy our Curry Night every Monday, or grab a meal on the go if you're in a hurry. Visit the Food & Drink section on our website, and visit the FiveSixEight page to see the new menu online.

imperialcollegeunion.org/food-drink

DRI

**OUR FIRST ALCOHOL FREE CLUB NIGHT
MONDAY 13 OCTOBER
19:00 – 01:00
FIVESIXEIGHT AND METRIC
FREE**

On Monday 13 October, FiveSixEight will be open as normal from 12:00. **At 17:00, we will stop serving alcoholic drinks from the bar.**

If you have an alcoholic drink to finish at that time, you are welcome to stay and finish it until 19:00 when DRI starts. We hope that you will stay for the evening's entertainment and activities.

Welfare

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Welfare Editor || Diba Esbati

Let's talk about mental health

Diba Esbati discusses the stigma behind mental illness

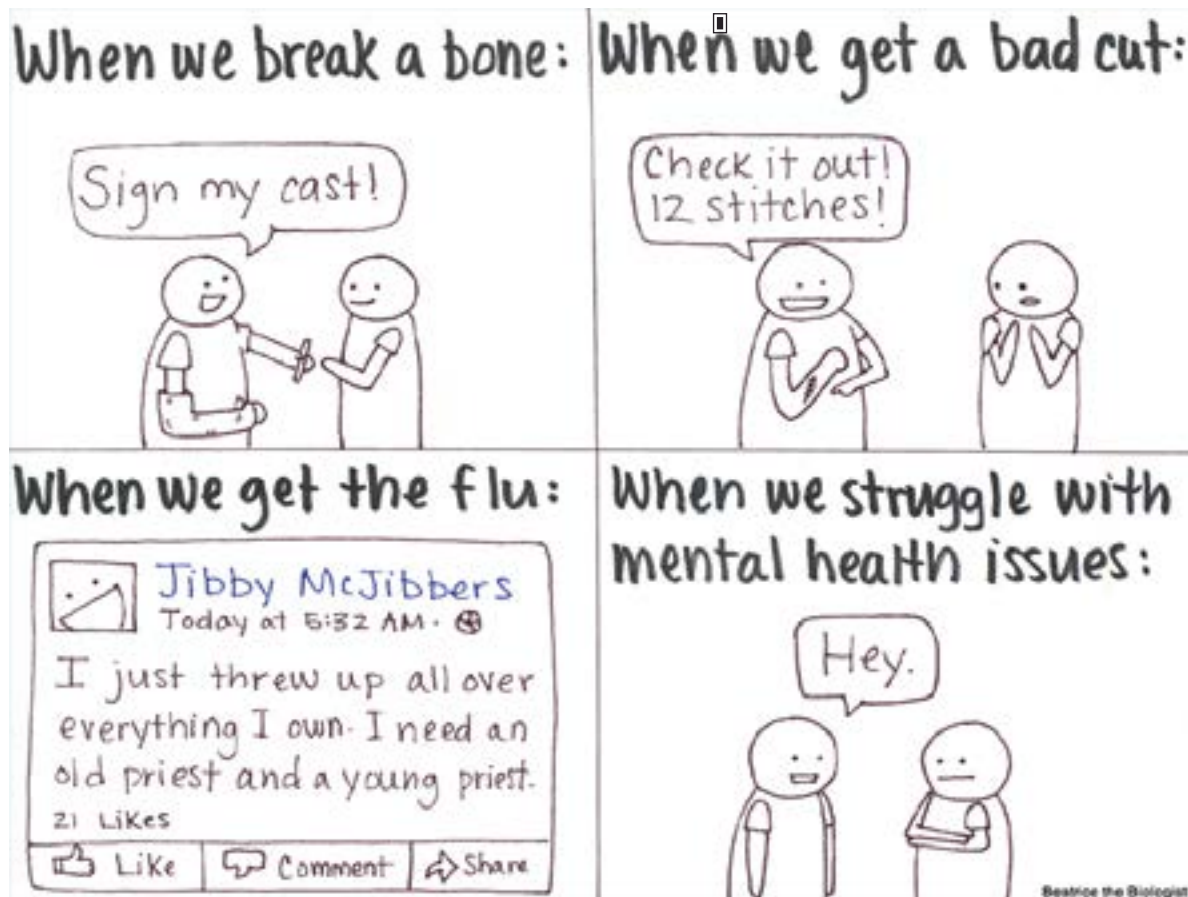
What's up, Imperial? In the spirit of Mental Health Awareness Week, I think it's high time we had a quick chat about mental illness. First of all, I want to come right off the bat and say that I am in no way an expert, or a mental health professional of any kind, and everything I write about is based purely off of my own experiences, and those of others who have felt comfortable enough to share their experiences with me. That being said, you shouldn't need to be an expert to talk about something that affects approximately 1 in 6 adults at any given time.

"Diba, surely if it was that serious, more people would be talking about it!" You'd probably be saying right about now if this weren't a written article, and I would be inclined to agree. The reason, hypothetical person in my head, is because unfortunately, thanks to gross misrepresentation of mental illness and those suffering from it in the media, and just a generally poor understanding of various mental health problems, there is huge stigma attached to them.

This stigma makes it very difficult for people to openly discuss mental health problems without the fear of being judged or even jeopardising their friends, family, and careers. When we don't feel safe enough to discuss such critical matters, then things tend to just get worse and worse, and the stigma never disappears.

Stigma is bred from common misconceptions held by a frighteningly large number of people, such as those who accuse people of 'making it all up for attention', or classify mental health sufferers as violent. Not only is this extremely sad, it's also so incredibly inaccurate that I want to slap each and every one of these people across the face with a copy of the largest psychiatry book I can find in the hopes that some of the information will seep in.

Now, joking aside, as much as I would love to take the moral high



I'm so annoyed at how true this is, I can't even think of a funny caption. Photo: Beatrice the Biologist
www.beatricebiologist.com

"[mental health issues] affect 1 in 6 adults at any given time."

ground and say that I've always been some open-minded, enlightened, progressive advocate of social justice (or something potentially less controversial), it just wouldn't be true. Because I was also bombarded with countless accounts of people with schizophrenia or bipolar disorders "committing acts of violence" on TV, or heard people with depression being told to just "get a grip", as if those three words would magically cure them. I was never exposed to open dialogue about mental health, was only ever told that some people are just crazy and should be avoided, no questions asked. That's neither true nor is it acceptable behaviour, and it needs to stop!

What we need to do is stop avoiding the issues of mental health and talk about the facts as candidly as we can,

"What we need to do is stop avoiding the issues of mental health"

because suffering from a mental illness doesn't make you any less of a person, nor does it suddenly render you incapable of leading a normal life.

Now that we've established that, and listened to my little, probably one-off, rant, let's get down to business. What do I hope to achieve from all this? Well, I simply want us to start talking about it, and to spread accurate information about mental health issues.

By sharing both facts and real-life experiences (if and only if you feel safe doing so, of course), we can slowly eradicate what seems like centuries of stigma, to allow those of us in need of help to come forward and receive the support we need without the added fear of judgement on top of everything else.

Mental health helplines and resources

If you are concerned about your own mental health, or that of a loved one, there are people out there you can talk to who can give you advice, or will be there to listen.

Helplines

If you are distressed and need someone to talk to:
Samaritans (24 hr helpline):
Phone: 08457 90 90 90
Website: www.samaritans.org.uk

Anxiety Help :

Anxiety UK
Phone: 08444 775 774
(Mon-Fri 9:30 - 17:30)
Website: www.anxietyuk.org.uk

No Panic

Phone: 0808 800 2222
(daily, 10am - 10pm)
Website: www.nopanic.org.uk

Eating Disorders:

Beat
Phone: 0845 634 1414
(Mon - Thurs, 1.30pm - 4:30pm)

Addiction:

Alcoholics Anonymous
Phone: 0845 769 7555
(24 hour helpline)
Website: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk
Narcotics Anonymous
Phone: 0300 999 1212
Website: www.ukna.org

College Resources

Student Counselling Service
Phone: 020 7594 9637
e-mail: counselling@ic.ac.uk
Imperial College Health Centre
Telephone: 020 7584 6301
e-mail: healthcentre@ic.ac.uk

You can also go to your academic or personal tutor regarding pastoral issues, especially if you think your mental health might be affecting your academic performance.

Want to talk about mental health and other welfare issues? Why not try writing for the brand new welfare section!

Send in your ideas and articles to felix@imperial.ac.uk

Anonymous submissions are more than welcome if you want to share your experiences without having your name attached to them

Coffeebreak

catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Editors || Ellen Mathieson & Tessa Davey

Ask Annie, your approachable Agony Aunt

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

Hello to all you new freshers! This time of year is hard for everyone. The sudden reality of Summer is over, bringing the reality of studying, and the end of the whirlwind of sun soaked hormones. No matter what you're worrying about, Aunt Annie is here to help. Send any worries to catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Returning students too, you know the drill. Don't be afraid to keep sending in your problems!

HOW TO SURVIVE FRESHERS

Help! I've just left my girlfriend (who's in the year below at school) behind at home, and I'm scared that I won't be able to get the 'full university experience' if I'm constantly worrying about keeping her happy and answering her phonecalls ten times a day. What should I do?

Pressured in Pembroke

First of all, don't be a dick. Don't cheat on her, and don't try and get her to break up with you. It's completely normal to feel this way; and if I'm honest, the Christmas break up is way more common than you'd think. You don't need to sleep your way around campus to have a complete University experience, you can easily have fun without doing anything that would worry your girlfriend. That said, everyone inevitably changes a lot when they start University, and it is understandable if you feel that you don't have the same connection by the end of your first term. Honesty is always the best policy, and always works out better for both of you in the long term.

Help! I'm new to the UK and I want to make friends with people from all over the world, not just from my own country, but I'm worried that it'll just be so much easier to stick with people who speak my own language. How should I go about it?

Foreign in Falmouth

You have an incredible opportunity at Imperial. You have thousands of people from all over the world, and everyone speaks English at least well enough to make friends. When

making friends from completely different cultures, the hard part is finding common ground, but here, you're all in the same situation. Everyone's studied STEM subjects, everyone (in halls and on your course) is a fresher, and the vast majority of people are new to London. Use that as a starting point to bond, and go from there. Making friends is the best part of University, and you'll be surprised to find how open people are to doing this.

Help! I'm coming from an all-boys school, and I've never really had any opportunity to spend any time with, or be friends with girls. I don't know how to talk to them, how can I make friends?

Terrified in Tizard

Do you like music? Guess what? There are probably girls that like the same type of music. How about films? Yup, there are girls that like them too. Or are you a gamer? Gaming isn't a gender specific activity. What I'm trying to say is that you are thinking too hard about the differences, and you need to think more about what the similarities you have with each person. A girl-you-don't-know is no more scary than a guy-you-don't-know. Why not ask what their hobbies are? You're bound to have something in common, you just have to find it.

Help! I don't have a room in halls, so I'm living by myself in a flat further out, but I'm really worried about not having anyone to go to events with. Am I missing out?

Alone in Acton Town

Imperial have events for new students who aren't living in halls, so make sure you get yourself along to them to meet other people with the same concerns as you. You also might want to make friends with people who do live in halls, and the easiest way to do this is to make the extra effort to talk to people on your course, and join plenty of societies. Hint: grinding on someone in a club doesn't count as getting to know them. It might be a bit harder for you to meet people, but if you push yourself to talk to people wherever you go, you should have loads of friends with no trouble at all.

Help! I've been given a double room. I've never shared a room before and I've hit it off badly with my roommate! What should I do?

Socially awkward in Southwell

Roommates can be really hit and miss, and a lot of it depends on your attitude. While a lot of people get on fantastically with their roommate, it's quite common to treat it as a business arrangement, being civil while not being BFFs, which can sometimes make it easier to say things like: "please stop leaving your bras everywhere". Sharing a room needn't be scary, and the main trick is to be really open about problems between you. You both have to live there, so you need to make the best of it. A lot of roommates end up having beautiful friendships, and very few end up hating each other, so don't worry too much, be friendly, and most of all, be honest and don't be a dick.

HOW TO COPE WITH COMING BACK TO IMPERIAL

Help! At home over the summer, I ended up getting back together with my ex-boyfriend, who I broke up with when I started Imperial last year. Now term's started, I'm looking forward to getting back to my single life in London, but he thinks that we're going to stay together and keeps making plans for when we're going to see each other. How do I break it to him gently that it was just a summer fling?

Sassy in Sheffield

Truthfully, if you knew you just wanted a summer fling, you should have been honest with him from the start, instead of leading him on. We're all grown ups here, it's okay to just want a bit of fun over the summer. But it's too late for that now. When it comes to telling him, the sooner the better, especially before any plans become finalised. You don't want him to break the bank whilst you're breaking his heart.

Help! I'm just starting my fourth year, but all of my close friends have left, having finished their three year degrees. How do I put myself back in the frame of mind to make new friends?

Friendless in Fulham

You're not going to be the only person who suddenly finds themselves with far fewer friends going into your final year. With a lot of people gone, courses are smaller, and so there's a lot less pressure on going up to them and saying hi. If you see someone sitting

by themselves in lectures, they're probably in the same situation as you, and would welcome a bit of company. Even if you never become as close as your old group, you'll still have people to discuss lectures, lab reports and life with.

Help! I'm about to move into my new house with some of my best friends from halls, which I'm really excited about, but I'm nervous about moving in with one of my friends, who confessed to having a crush on me over the summer. I'm really not interested, how do I stop it being awkward?

Worried in Warwick

So long as you've already made it clear that you aren't interested in them then there is no reason to worry. Maybe this crush will have faded over the summer or maybe it won't, but either way it's no reason to make everything awkward between you. They are one of your closest friends for a reason, so don't be an idiot and deprive yourself of their company because you're worried they are going try and get in your pants. Act natural, don't worry about them creeping at you in a towel and everything will be fine. A situation is only as awkward as you make it.

Annie's advice for this week is: Don't Be A Dick. Listen to Annie, and you won't go far wrong.

Lonely Hearts

Are you lonely in love? Why not let Aunt Annie help you get lucky? If you're looking for a special someone, missed a connection, or want to let someone know how you feel, send a message to catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk and maybe you'll find your match here.

HANGMAN



hangman@imperial.ac.uk

A Fresher's application to the Imperial branch of Mensa leads to confusion

A fresher reportedly this week attended his first social of IQ, whilst under the illusion that it was a society associated with Mensa. Brandishing his calculator in excitement, the fresher in question headed to Heaven on a Friday night for a fresher's week social.

Despite initially feeling indignant in having to check in his rucksack containing his geometry set into the cloakroom, the fresher was pleasantly surprised when one member of the supposed club threw glitter into his eyes whilst Lady Gaga played in the background. We spoke to the fresher the next morning, who was still cleaning neon body paint off of his chest and nursing a rather spectacular sore head.

"I don't remember much, but at one point I was definitely elevated in some manner on a type of platform, waving my shirt around my head. I remember cannons exploding at one point and foil flakes showering from the ceiling, but little else after that."

When asked if he would attend in the future, the fresher responded "Yeah definitely, although I am still upset over the fact that I lost all my maths notes."

In the heat of the moment, Imperial Lib confirms plan to add a whole new door

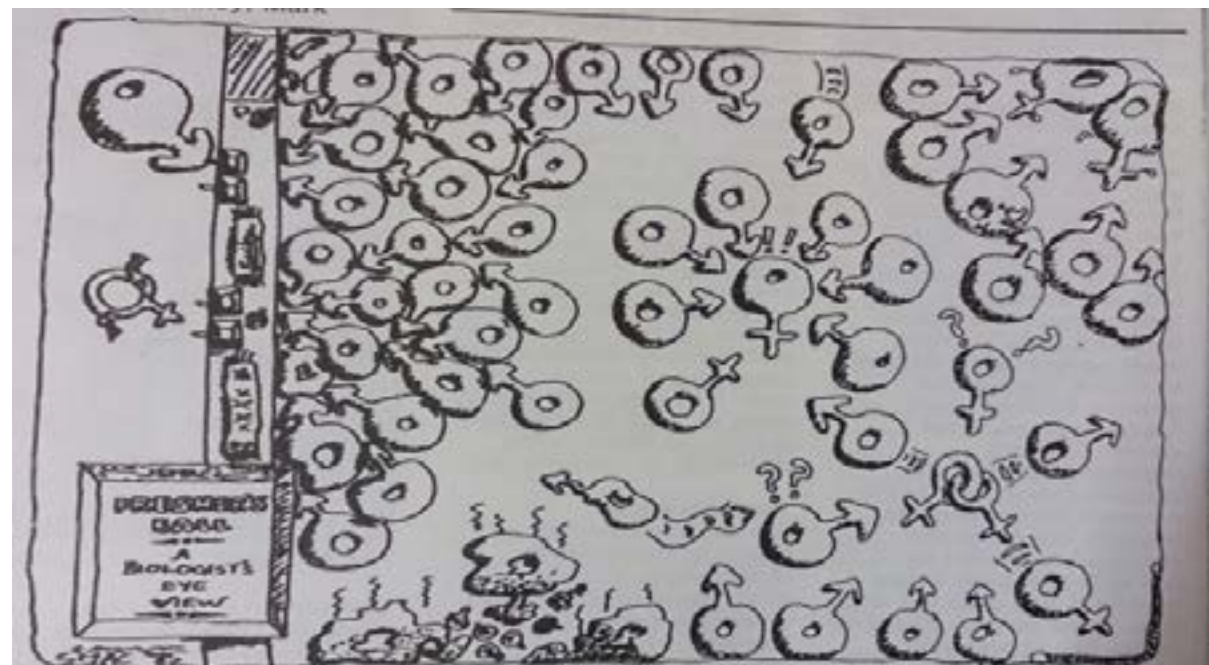
This week, Hangman has one up'ed our Supreme Overload Editor-in-Chief Shilippa Pkett and have got our hands on an even better library related news scoop. (See page 3 of last weeks issue for her coverage of the Grand Library Air CON).

Entrance Scheme. Using the money saved from the cancelling of the air conditioning installation, a new door will be added in front of the current entrance.

When asked if building an extra door was an appropriate use of funds, Melvil Dewey, Head Librarian, said "As we all know, the Library is the Social Hub of Imperial College, and as such we need to be able to get our

students into the library quickly. Some of you may have experienced the 10am Saturday Morning rush, and know how deadly it can be, and this extra door will help improve customer flow. And besides, our current door is always broken. " As of sending to print, the Library would neither confirm nor deny whether said door would actually open, or be another fire exit.

The ratio - Somethings never change at Imperial College Hangman from the past - 1985



Think you are funnier than Hangman?

Well, you're not, so don't bothering emailing Hangman, we'll ignore you if you're lucky, and tell you to piss off if you're not!!

President Gast's confusion with Grindr updates in email inbox

This week, our New President Alice Gast was infuriated and confused when opening her newly transferred email inbox. For years president@imperial.ac.uk belonged to the Union President, but now belongs to our new College dictator.

President Gast was reportedly heard yelling and cursing for hours whilst clearing up her inbox. Security had to be called when Gast was heard throwing stationary across the room while sobbing uncontrollably.

When Hangman contacted her for comment, her autoreply read-

"I cannot reply at this moment, I am currently busy removing Grindr notifications, Narcotics Anonymous updates, and requests for child support for a 4 year old from an anonymous Imperial Student."

Hangman then tried to contact her on her IC extension. When we suggested that these emails were intended for our past Union Presidents, she questioned the activities of the Union's past CEOs.

She is now reportedly questioning the College's relationship with the Union. There was talk of repossessing the newly refurbished West Basement and removing the Union President's BNOC status.

News without the news - Career's Fair



Queue spotted on Queen's Lawn for investment and consultancy careers fair. Credit: AP / Denis Farrell

HANGMAN



hangman@imperial.ac.uk

Diary Of a Fresher, aged 18 3/4

Monday 8th October, 2014

Woke up late for my first lecture today. Had to run across campus. Totally worth it though, still managed to get a seat on the front row. It's great being on the front row. I get to ask sooo many questions. Tonight is a halls trip to Ministry of Sound. Going south of the river for the first time. I hope I don't get stabbed.

Tuesday 9th October, 2014

Should have listened to the DPW's advice. Ministry is scary and a little bit shit. He wasn't joking about being treated like a terrorist. When I finally through the metal detectors, some guy came up to me and pulled my red lanyard off my neck and called me a twat. What am I going to keep my College ID card in now? Going to CSP80's tomorrow night. Don't know what CSP means but I've been told to call it sports night. I'm not in a sports team though?! I have my afro and leg warmers ready. The Student Room told me to bring costumes from every decade for freshers. Thank God for TSR.

Wednesday 10th October, 2014

Why did we only have half a days worth of lectures today? What am I going to do with all my free time this afternoon.. Decided I would try Skyping my girlfriend Jennifer in Newcastle again. She answered with another guy in her bed, she said to stop calling her, and then called me a geek. I'M NOT A GEEK! My spiderman sheets ARE cool!!! I'm gonna get ready for sports night and find myself a date in Metric (note to self, not Metrics).

Thursday 11th October, 2014

Got really drunk again last night. This time managed 3 Jungfrau bombs and a pitcher of Purple Rain. On the way back to Southside Halls, I took a traffic cone and put it on my head. HA! Jennifer, look how cool I am!! Made it to bed but woke up covered in sick and piss, just as my roommate finally showed up. It was a tad awkward to say the least. Missed all my lectures today, will have to post in the MechEng Fresher's FB page to see if I can photocopy anyone's notes.

Friday 12th October, 2014

Roommate and I have been arguing already. He keeps eating really smelly food in the room and leaving the light on when I'm trying to sleep. Threatened to tell the Warden but she said he'd tell him about the traffic cone. I managed to sneak the traffic cone out of halls, I hope without anyone seeing. I really don't want to be fined!! Fresher's Ball tonight!

Saturday 13th October, 2014

Went to the Fresher's ball last night. Managed to get Finn Jones from Game of Thrones to sign my book. He was soo cool. I might have accidentally burped in his face though....

HOROSCOPES



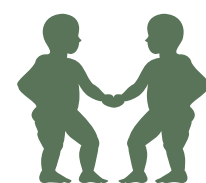
ARIES

This week, your roommate finds out about drinking your ejaculate. He returns the favour by shitting in your Nutella. You only find out why your toast tasted funny 3 breakfasts later. It's pretty safe to say that you have a shit week. This means war. #SHITELLA



TAURUS

This week, you are horny in the library. You head over to the Spotted - Imperial College Central Library to see if there has been any activity since last term, while also searching for compliments about yourself. All you find are comments about your body odour. You decide to wank in the toilets instead.



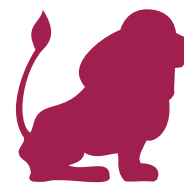
GEMINI

This week, you are still the DPW. Upon hearing that UKIP has got it's first Member of Parliament, you hire out Metric to celebrate. The only people that show up are Jebediah Rat, a Labour gatecrasher and some randomer called Nigel Farage. You drown your sorrows in Eastside, a real bar.



CANCER

This week, you spend several hours removing yourself from all the societies you signed up for at the Freshers Fair. Just when you thought you were done, the societies add you back again. Looks like your inbox will be filled with SPAM for the rest of your University life.



LEO

This week, you are the RCSU Executive committee. While crying over the loss of your giant pole dancing pole/thermometer, you realise that you've lost it for the second year in a row. You therefore decide that it is time to throw it into the Kensington Round Pond and declare that the other 5 Unions are better.



VIRGO

This week, after reading an article about saving water by peeing in the shower, you decide to follow the advice attempt to save on bills. Regretfully, you hadn't warned your girlfriend about your plan beforehand, and she is less than impressed at your impromptu golden shower.



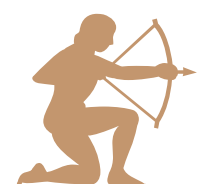
LIBRA

This week, in an attempt to avoid a repeat of last week, you take Mr Flopsy to the Union with you. Unfortunately the girl you've been hitting on all week catches a glimpse of him, so you decide to hurriedly throw him in the bin. By the time you get him out, he's covered in curly fries and several pints of Fresher vomit. Poor Mr Flopsy.



SCORPIO

This week, being the cheap scrounger you are, you bring your hip flask full of Glen's Vodka to Picadilly Insitute. The bouncers see you and kick you out. Your friends refuse to help you home and continue clubbing. You end up in Brixton after falling asleep on the wrong night bus. Taxi?



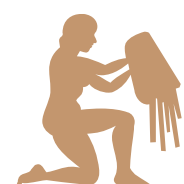
SAGITTARIUS

This week, you are the Felix Editor. After claiming you won't pull for the duration of Fresher's Fortnight, you get with the Medics President during Mingle on the first night of freshers. It turns out it only takes one or two of gin, soda and limes to overpower your self control. #SABBLOVE



CAPRICORN

This week you wake up feeling a bit under the weather, and because you were in Heathrow recently, decide that you have ebola. After starting a state of national emergency where the World Health Organisation is called in, it turns out it was just Freshers Flu. Oops?



AQUARIUS

This week, you decide that it's best to go the the STI clinic after a few mistakes at the first sports night of the year. You end up being told that you have 4 different STI's. Maybe it wasn't a good idea to try sleep with someone from every sports team. Nice going you manwhore.



PISCES

This week, you pass out on a boat during the Medics Boat Party. The life guard has to be called. Once again you ruin everyone's fun by putting Imperial in the National Press again. Fuck you, Medics, learn how to drink.

Puzzles

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

Puzzles Editor || Kingshuk Dasadhikari































Nonogram

Each row and column must consist of a series of shaded and unshaded boxes. The number of shaded boxes is mentioned beside and above each row and column (e.g. 1, 2,... might mean some unshaded boxes, 1 shaded box, some more unshaded, 2 shaded, and so on). Solve the puzzle to reveal a pretty picture or a coded message.

	3						2					3				1			1	3
	1						1	1				1	1	1					1	1
	4	1	2	3			4	1		1	1	1	1		3	1	4		1	4
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Cat Sudoku

Just like a normal Sudoku, but with cats instead of numbers. You might say the cat had 9 lives, in fact! Each row, column, and 3 by 3 square must contain every one of the cat's 9 postures. Good luck, and happy doodling!

Now Recruiting...

More **Puzzles Editors** for Felix! Do you want to take a chance **stumping some of the best minds at Imperial?** Or perhaps you just want to see your name in print? Jump aboard the Puzzles team at Felix and help make a **creative contribution!**

Special interest in those well-versed in crafting **Slitherlinks, Killer Sudokus, Cryptic Crosswords...** (or anything else really)... Contact Felix Editor Philippa Skett to register your interest at **felix@imperial.ac.uk**

Clubs and Societies

felix@imperial.ac.uk

C & S Editor || VACANT

Four Days Below with IC Caving Club

Tanguy Racine explores the depths of Migovec, Slovenia.

Hey ho! Silence. We know what it means. Cavers returning. The kettle lets out a hisssss and gurgles. A tackle bag falls heavily on the floor and we all look up. “Hey ho!” And conversations resume, “Yes this word fits”, “What about fifteen down?”, “Does it go?”, “Tea is up!”, “Where’s the cow?”

I am sat in the bivi, a large depression with an overhanging rock bridge on the Migovec Plateau in the Triglav National Park, Western Slovenia. From the Sunset Spot, one can gaze all the way to Italy and during a clear sunset one can even spot the Dolomites rising in the distance, shadows crowned with russet light. West of Migovec is the Krn massif, former Soča front during WWI, sometimes wreathed in storm clouds while stars twinkle upon Migovec.

Those are the first things I learnt as an expedition Fresher. Then come the more prosaic rules: when and how to use the toilet facilities (a dignified pit), not falling into M10 (a 30 metre open pitch) when leaving the bivi at night, where to pitch the tent, how to successfully manufacture a ‘dwarf pine sofa’ etc...

Living for five weeks at 1850 metres of elevation, three hours from civilisation is almost as remote as you can get in terms of summer expedition. Water? Collected with tarpaulins into barrels. Electricity? Collected via solar panels. That’s the problem with a ‘hollow’ mountain: there are no overground streams for water collection or electricity production. Food? Hunted for in British supermarkets and cooked on petrol stoves. There is always the latest teaspoon spinning device available and a myriad of other ingenious contraptions to make mountain life easier. To quote the expedition veterans “they must invent not just explore”.

I am sat in the bivi, discussing possible leads with the old lags and the returning cavers. I book four nights in the underground camp and start preparing my kit. Tomorrow, another caver and I are going to explore at -700m with a chisel, crowbar, and hammer. We have a 600kg rock to shift in order to squeeze past. I hear tales of the chamber beyond, and the roar of a waterfall afterwards. As excitement builds up, so does apprehension. I’ve been down at underground camp, I’ve been at the southern most point of the cave, a good three hours from camp and from there five hours to the surface. But I’ve never slept at

camp X-Ray more than two nights in a row, and I’ve never done more than one pushing trip. There’s no knowing what you sign up for when going pushing which is either thrilling or sobering.

The next day we set off in pair and walk to the cave entrance, a few minutes off the bivi. We enter the cave. 98 hours later, we make it out, exhausted and elated. It is four in the afternoon and we enjoy the smell of dwarf pine mixed with earthy fragrances we were starting to miss. The temperature is a delight after the ubiquitous 1°C of the cave. Twenty minutes later we arrive at the bivi.

“Hey ho!”

Silence.

“Does it go?”

“Do you want some tea?”

“Yes”

“Cow?”

“No”...

“Yes the cave goes, it always goes, the mountain is hollow after all.”

After the rock was shifted - it took us three hours - we found a small chamber, at the end of which a pitch head awaited us. So we rigged it the day after and descended into an active streamway. Not the roaring torrent we were expecting but some water nonetheless. From then we crawled into an oblique rift and found another pitch head. Whilst clearing it of unstable boulders, one rock shifted into the gap and obstructed the way on.

The day after, with a chisel and crowbar we attacked it until it yielded another chamber, more rift and a third pitch. This we descended on the last day, and walked down more tight rift, free climbing over pristine pools of water until we were faced with a last circular shaft, seven metres deep. We surveyed our finds, slept at camp and got out.

“Shall we enter the survey data now?” “Of course”. And little by little the 150 metres or so of passage are added to the grand survey. What a joy to see four days worth of work take shape before one’s eyes! Where does it head to? Is it blank mountain? As ever we raise more questions than we actually answer.

There lies the thrill of exploration: more people have been to the Moon than in the passage we found. Tomorrow though is the expedition D-Day. This is the final caving day when we will put the cave to sleep for another year by packing up camp X-Ray and finally head down to Tolmin the nearby town in the valley before the long journey home. Migovec, I’ll be back.



A view of the Krn Massif from Sunset Spot. Photo: Imperial College Caving Club



Rhys Tyers in a passage at -820m. Photo: Imperial College Caving Club

"There's no knowing what you sign up for when going pushing"

Clubs and Societies

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C & S Editor | VACANT

Abi de Bruin speaks to Bernadett Tildy about Teddington, clubbing and the president's survival skills

B: What clubs and societies are you currently involved in or have you been a member of?

A- Last year I was in Muay Thai, Karate, Ju-Jitsu, Sinfonieta Orchestra and I used to be involved in the 2 clubs my friends were setting up- Comedy and North American society.

B: Did you always want to become a Sabbatical officer?

A- Well, I've only been at Imperial 2 years, so it wasn't like a long-running thing. It wasn't something I came to university to do... But being largely involved in clubs, it was definitely something that I started wanting to do towards the end of first year.

B: Did you consider Deputy of Clubs and Societies to help clubs run smoothly?

A- Yeah, I just really enjoyed having support from the Union, and I wanted to be a part of that.

B: Is there anything you want to change?

A- I want to try and make everything run as smoothly as possible, to make sure everything is working. To make sure people who are running a society for the first time know what they are doing. The other thing is to look at the management group structure and see how we can make that work

potentially a bit better. It clearly does work, but it can maybe be improved.

B: On the issue of accountability, Chris mentioned having a student vote to decide if each Sabb has done a good enough job. Do you think with the work of Deputy Clubs and Societies, the work you do is directly visible to the students, ie: if all societies run smoothly throughout the year, students can take that as evidence that you've done a good job?

A- My job day-to-day involves replying to a lot of requests by all the different clubs; management-type stuff.

How I handle that is very obvious to the clubs directly. Hopefully lots of people will see me do a good job this year, but the people who don't see the direct impact may be the ones who actually vote - because people who are unhappy tend to want to voice their concerns, as opposed to satisfied people not bothering to vote.

B: Are you involved in deciding how much funding each club gets?

A- Yes.

B: Do you think open office sessions are needed? Do people have valuable opinions about the running of clubs?

A- Yeah. I think students' opinions should be taken into account. I'm



Photo: Thomas Lim

not sure about hot desk-type sessions though, because last year's were not well-attended, I think.

B: I think they were badly publicised though! Anyway, do you have any comments about your predecessor?

A- Yas was amazing, she also gave a fantastic handover.

B: It's interesting that you're doing a sabb year in the middle of your degree. Do you think the fact that you'll have to go back to being a student after this year will affect

what you do this year?

A- Yeah, I think it serves as motivation to do a good job, because I want to continue to be heavily involved in clubs when I return. If I change something, it will directly affect me!

B: Can you run me through your day to day tasks?

A- I tend to get in and spend a couple of hours replying to emails. Then I'll have a meeting with a club; either an event budget or a room booking. There's always something, I

generally have a couple of meetings with different clubs every day! Probably a meeting with someone at the Union; a catch-up or planning and executing a task. Most days there is also a meeting with College, eg- about power outlets on Queen's Lawn, or clubs Open Days.

B: Are you consulted about the sports grounds Imperial owns?

A- Commercially-sensitive things are generally just decided by College and dealt with by the Union President, due to the high level of confidentiality. But in terms of how

Clubs and Societies

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the decision that is reached.

A- Yeah. These places are owned by College, so we can only inform College about the impact it will have on students.

B: But even then, College don't have to listen?

A- (awkward silence)

B: So your job is to represent the student view, but in the end what they do with that is up to them?

A- Yeah, basically...

B: I'm only asking to clarify, because there are loads of students who are really angry with the Union for not doing a good enough job with regards to doing what the students want. But in reality, it isn't the Union's fault!

A- Yeah, there are many meetings and decisions which are made solely by College, and they don't communicate anything to the Union, so it's really hard to organise a rebuttal.

So with Teddington, now we know for sure that the medics can't have it any more, we can only try and do everything we can to make sure that they are properly represented at Heston.

B: What about the people you work with in the office? The non-sabb full time workers?

A- I've got the 3 student activities workers (manager, administrator, coordinator) and someone who supports the sports partnership.

B: Who hires them?

A- The Union hires them; I sat on the panel for some of them. There is input from the sabb about who gets hired.

B: So do they work under you?

A- -Ish. Technically the sabb are in control of the way the Union is run in certain respects. But their day to day jobs are not determined by us. They report to the Managing Director, who is below Tom.

We're not exactly in charge of them, but they do answer to us. We determine the direction we want the Union to go.

B: Okay. But in the end, what the Union does this year IS decided by the sabbatical team?

A- We give an idea of the aims and goals we want to achieve. But in the end, there are things which have to be run every year, like the finances of the Union.

But we can propose the changes we want to make.

B: Is Heston further away?

A- Yes, it is further, and it is less accessible by public transport, which is a bit of an issue. But having it next to Harlington, it's much easier to have two grounds next to each other. The benefits of Heston though is that not only does it have sports fields, it has indoor space, including a theatre. So hopefully we can get more involvement from Heston than just use of it as sports grounds.

B: Things like this makes it seem like the Union has little impact on

clubs go to the sports grounds and how they use them, that's part of the sports partnership the Union has with College. I do have some involvement in it, but not a great deal.

B: What do you think about College closing Teddington sports grounds?

A- There were a weird couple of months where we didn't really know what was going on, but College then clarified things for us. I don't know much about the loss of Teddington grounds, but it is to the benefit of gaining Heston, which is fantastic.

"I think students' opinions should be taken into account."

B: What's the thing you most like or dislike about the Union?

A- I like the atmosphere. The fact that we're students but we can help in the running of the Union. In terms of dislike- not having enough time. I get so many requests that need answering, but I have meetings and so much other stuff.

B: In terms of Press, does College influence the Union? Or is there a clear separation between the Union and the College?

A- The Union has its own Communications department. They make sure that everything we say is representative of the Union and what the students think. College Comms runs separately and they often get one of our representatives to give a statement.

B: Alright, you can have some fun questions. If you were trapped on a desert island with the other Sabbs, who do you think you would collectively eat first? Or: who do you think would be the last person to survive?

A- Tom would definitely outlive us all. He's got outdoor survival skills. I'm not sure who we would eat first. It would depend on how useful people prove themselves to be.

B: Did you go out a lot in your freshers year? Can you recommend any places or any to avoid?

A- I did go out a fair bit in my first year, but I was also in a lot of clubs, so I didn't have that much time. I would not advice going to Propaganda too much- as much as you think it's amazing in first year, it is never that good. I haven't been out for quite a while, but I quite like Roxy's and some places in Vauxhall too. In terms of pubs, you can't beat a good 'Spoons,' B@1 or a decent cocktail bar.

B: If you had to eat one meal from 568 for the rest of your life, what would it be?

A- The halloumi salad is pretty good. And you wouldn't be disgustingly unhealthy.

B: If you were allowed to name a Union drinking bar, what would you name it?

A- I feel I would be letting the student body down if we didn't name it a science pun... But I can't think of one right now!

"I want to try and make everything run as smoothly as possible, to make sure everything is working."



Volleyball expecting great season

MIREILLE RACK
ICVC PRESIDENT

The women's team began last season with less than optimal conditions; only few players from the previous year remained, and the Saturday trainings in Brixton not only clashed with our coach's timetable, but also made it difficult to attract new members.

However, the effort and encouragement from many of the club's members quickly resulted in a new coach being appointed for the women's team as well as great overall enthusiasm. The amazing spirit and atmosphere helped the players train and bond as a team. Unfortunately, many more challenges were to follow, including a crucial match against Portsmouth ending in a 2-2 tie when time ran out at their venue (which they strongly argued should give them a win - fortunately following weeks of rescheduling problems - the match was re-played and won 3-0 by us!), or the day of the match against Brunel University, which, after pre-

paring an elaborate route to get out of London during the infamous tube strikes, was cancelled two hours before the scheduled start time. Despite these and a number of similar complications, the team pushed through with determination (and with weekly nights of antics at the Eastside Bar), collecting enough points to win and finally advance back into the 1st division of the BUCS volleyball league!

Volleyball is definitely still an up-and-coming sport in the UK, as explained by Emily Lehtonen, last year's women's team BUCS captain. "For a long time after I started playing on the Imperial College Volleyball team, my friends would ask "How was netball practice?" Although well-intentioned, this does not go down well when you dedicate a significant portion of your time to training for the said sport. Especially after your coach has had you diving across the court to receive exceedingly tricky serves twenty times in a row.

This, in addition to the general stereotype of 'babes in bikinis' on a beach, which is so often attached to volleyball, makes running a serious



Photo: ICU Volleyball

volleyball club somewhat challenging. However, when you play as technical and teamwork-based a sport as volleyball three times a week with the same people, you get to know them well and share some fantastic experiences, such as playing matches at a London 2012 Olympic venue and experiencing the exhilaration of a 3-0 win in the match that determines the top-placing team in the league!"

Following last year's successful and, more importantly, fun season, the club is looking forward to welcoming

new and returning members.

Last year's members are keen to return to the court as well as continue the off-court excitement; with social events ranging from dinners to ice skating, bar nights and bowling!

The club is open to players of all levels and we therefore hope to see many of you at one of our training sessions or social events.

The Volleyball Club wants to welcome all Freshers to the university and wish you all the best as you start your journey at Imperial College.

In case you missed it...

In Formula One, Lewis Hamilton won the Japanese Grand Prix to extend his Championship lead over Nico Rosberg. However the race was overshadowed by a serious injury to Marussia driver Jules Bianchi. Bianchi crashed into a recovery tractor and is at the time of writing in a critical but stable condition.



Photo: Getty Images

In Cricket Kevin Pietersen has released his autobiography, in which he makes assertions about "bullying" by the bowlers in the England team. On the field, the Chennai Super Kings won the Champions League in a one sided final.

World number 792 Oliver Wilson managed to beat World number one Rory McIlroy at the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship to win his first ever title. Meanwhile Darren Clarke is the early favourite to be Europe's next Ryder Cup captain.



Photo: Getty Images

The FA has suggested that England could play its games away from Wembley if a NFL team is made for London.

In a move similar to that of the (now) MK Dons, London Wasps have announced controversial plans to move to Coventry.

Sam Burgess helped South Sydney to the NRL title in Rugby League. The amazing part? He broke his cheekbone after six seconds of the match and yet carried on for the full game.



Photo: Getty Images

Keeping the Ball Rolling in Basketball

CEDRIC COLLE
PUBLICITY OFFICER

Did you know that basketball was randomly invented on a rainy day in New England? Because of the bad weather, students couldn't play outdoor sports. A fitness education teacher thus decided to put two baskets on opposing ends of a court and a football in between. As simple as it sounds, the game of basketball was made. Here in England, we do not fear bad weather (but we don't really like it either, do we?). Yet, basketball is growing considerably. And to see this, what better place is there than your dear university?

The number of people joining the Imperial College Basketball society has doubled over the past two years. From 50 people in 2011 to 100 last year, IC Basketball has asserted itself as one of the key sports societies at Imperial. Things were taken to another level last year with the establishment of a new partnership between the London Lions and IC Basketball. The Lions compete in the British Basketball League (BBL), the top men's basketball league in the UK. Among the many crazy benefits from



Photo: ICU Basketball

the partnership, IC Basketball played their varsity game at the Copper Box, home court of the Lions and Olympic venue for basketball.

IC Basketball is divided into 3 teams: Women's (BUCS 1st Division), Men's 1st (BUCS 3rd Division), Men's 2nd (BUCS 4th Division). Noticeably, the women's team enjoyed an outstanding season last year, winning both BUCS 2nd Division and LUSL Cup titles. Nonetheless, this division between the 3 teams does not hinder the society from coming together for many sports and social events. For in-

stance, IC Basketball organises weekly development sessions for students to work on their game, or simply learn all the basics. On a personal basis, I was a near beginner last year. Attending these sessions throughout the year has dramatically helped me to improve my game. This year, I am confident that I can potentially join one of the teams. In addition to the sessions, IC Basketball has previously taken part in international tournaments in France, Holland and Germany. For 2014-15, the society plans a year full of 4v4 mixed tourna-

ments, All Star Competitions (with dunk, three-pointer, and free throw contests), monthly socials, ACC sports nights and many more.

Outside of LeBron's return to Cleveland, that's definitely something to look out for this year!

Finally, here are two facts about basketball.

Fact One- 7-foot tall American males have a 17% chance of playing in the NBA.

Fact Two- Imperial students, whatever their size, have a 100% chance of having fun with IC Basketball.