



# Felix

Keeping the cat free since 1949

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**An artist's guide to London**  
The Arts Editors introduce us to the cultural side of the capital  
Arts, pages 17 to 24



**Students left in the dark over cuts to amenities funds**  
Felix investigates as to why the funds for halls have been slashed  
See pages 4 & 5

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Never go in Dri: we review the Union event



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Rugby Lads on tour: ICURFC hit Argentina



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The Apprentice hits Imperial College



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New diagnostic technique for ovarian cancer



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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:

### Elections

Voting opens at noon on Monday 20th and closes Friday 24th at noon.

Results will be announced online on the 24th

### SKETT'S BOX OF SHAME

Apologies for the many mistakes in issue 1583. These were:

- Putting "DPCS" instead of "DPFS" next to the photo of Alex Savell on the front page
- Citing XUAN CHEN as author on the "Ebola Update..." article in World News, page 7. This was written by CECILE BORKHATARIA
- All of the grammar and spelling mistakes in my own editorial
- Spelling my own name wrong at one point. So shameful.
- Calling it the Ruby club, not the Rugby club in "LSE disbands Rugby Club" article on page 6
- Sometimes apostrophes were printed as boxes. We have no idea why this happens still.

# There are two sides to every story

This week, Felix has been investigating the changes to the Amenities Fund for Halls. These funds, used to cover the costs of events put on in Halls, have been reduced in size. The fallout has been particularly noticeable during the past two weeks.

We've spoke to a lot of Hall Seniors, Sub Wardens, Wardens and Freshers themselves to see their side of the story. We have also been in contact with the College to hear their reasoning behind the changes too. It seems that College, for the most part, are well meaning, or at least, this is how they have come across to Felix in emails and telephone calls.

However, facts and figures don't lie. We've taken the funds allocated per Hall this year, and then compared them to last year, and the change seems startling. Although the College reasons that these cuts are to put money back into the pockets of new students, we have yet to receive figures that confirms this. Some preliminary models have suggested that this may be the case, but at the time of print, we have heard nothing to back this up despite several emails asking for the figures to be sent to us.

It comes down to transparency again, a buzzword thrown around by staff, students and sabbaticals alike. This new move, to transfer the financial responsibility to Hall Committees and let the students see how their money is being controlled, is fantastic. The sad part of the story is that Halls have been given only half (or even less) of the money they have



## THIS WEEK'S EDITORIAL

had in previous years, and the knock on effect this has had during this fortnight has been particularly tangible.

Felix has tried to put both sides of this story across; we've published a statement from Debra Humphris, the Vice Provost of Education who was on the Residence Experience Review panel and a driving force behind the change. We also gathered many different quotes from those who have been affected by the change in funds. For the most part, it seems like a lot of the issues have stemmed from an issue in communication between the College and students, and hopefully our coverage can clear up some of the misconceptions surrounding the whole issue.

We've also covered the first non-alcoholic event of the year that the

Union have organised, known as Dri. We had sabbaticals and college staff alike visiting the office to "have a look" at the article, and then, moments before we are to go to print, the Union released a blog post on their website about the event, in an apparent attempt to "beat us to it."

The blog, allegedly written by Chris Kaye, Deputy President (Welfare), stated that "Whilst the Union ran, organised and delivered tens of events in the last two weeks that have almost entirely been a sell-out, beaten budget and been received well by our members, our fine newspaper has decided to report on this event only."

We chose to report on this event because it was the only event that was actually newsworthy. The Union runs Freshers' events every year, and every year they are a success. Every year freshers' turn up, buy alcohol, socialise, and then leave. This year was no different. The Dri night was the first time the Union tried something new, and credit to them, but we are here to hold them to account as much as to herald their praises, which I think our rather semi-serious, tongue-in-cheek article manages to do.

As the union showed on Thursday evening, they have their own channels to communicate to students outside of Felix, and we would suggest that if they want to use us that they send us pictures and articles in time for the deadline.

**PHILIPPA SKETT**  
**FELIX EDITOR**



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# News

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News Editors || Aemun Reza & Kunal Wagle

## Food outlet 'Fusion 54' opens on campus

**THOMAS LIM**  
NEWS REPORTER

On Monday, Fusion 54, a new food outlet opened its doors on the Sherfield Walkway.

Unlike all other food outlets within the campus, it is run privately and not affiliated with Taste Imperial or Imperial College Union. Members of the Imperial community will be familiar with its owners; the Bhasin family have run what us commonly referred to as 'The Sandwich Shop' on Gloucester Road for twenty-five years.

We got to speak to Sunil and Ash, the brothers behind the new store.

They have been interacting with the Imperial community since they have been based on Gloucester Road. Many student societies and organisations rely on good value and quality sandwiches they provide from Gloucester Road. Whilst Paul Beaumont was Union President, he

was known to be a great supporter of their business.

It was felt that the natural extension of the relationship with Imperial's students would be to open a stall on campus. Analysis of the food market for students in other cities such as Cambridge indicated that the range of food available around Imperial was lower than it should be - which is where the concept of 'Fusion' was born. They want to ensure the vegetarian market is well served, and will be expanding their gluten free range shortly.

They are targeting this type of food to give themselves a unique selling point in what is undoubtedly a market otherwise drowned out by Taste Imperial outlets. To this end, they will (to the disappointment of many) not be selling baguettes.

The Bhasins are proud of their food: nothing is stored overnight (everything is cooked on the day itself), resulting in what they believe is a better and more authentic



Photo: Johannes Hoenigl

experience than would otherwise be the case.

Getting to this stage has been no mean feat: over a year of detailed negotiations, including scrutiny of their business plans and menu have taken place with the College before a deal was struck to open the outlet.

They thank Paul Beaumont who pushed for them to open on campus, providing support along the way.

Student response to Fusion 54 has been positive - one student said "it's nice to see a food outlet that isn't Taste Imperial", with another adding "As long as there aren't any pigeons

inside, I will be buying food from here".

In their first week of trading, they have sold out of most items before the end of the lunch rush, with queues extending beyond their outlet, overflowing to the Sherfield Walkway.

## FelixOnline launches tonight



The new website  
launches tonight,  
**5pm.**

Log on to tell us about  
our **formatting errors**,  
our **spelling mistakes**  
and leave annoying  
comments about **non-  
alcoholic events...**

[www.FelixOnline.co.uk](http://www.FelixOnline.co.uk)

# News

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News Editors || Aemun Reza & Kunal Wagle

## College cuts amenities funds for halls

**PHILIPPA SKETT**  
**THOMAS LIM**  
**KUNAL WAGLE**  
NEWS REPORTERS

College has slashed the Amenity funds available to Halls of Residence by a quarter of a million pounds, sparking fury amongst Hall Wardens and Seniors.

The amount allocated to all halls this year was just over £150,000, down from approximately £373,000 in previous years. From this £150,000, around £42,000 comes from the Education Office, whilst the rest has been derived from the rents students are paying to live in halls, approximately £1 per week per student.

The reasoning behind the cuts according to Imperial College was to “put money back into the pockets of students” and that rent prices will not have risen as highly as a result.

However, at time of print, the exact rent figures have still not been released to Felix so we cannot verify if this is the case.

It has been suggested by those affected that the money has gone “back into the pockets of commercial services”, although this is not certain.

The cuts have led to a reduction of £220,000 in the funds available to all the Halls to cover for events and pastoral care provisions.

The decrease in Amenities Funds has resulted in a knock on effect for both the Freshers’ Events and the provisions for Hall Seniors, who moved in a week before the new intake in September. There was less funding available for Hall Senior training, and nor was there allegedly enough money available for welfare provisions which are usually paid for using this fund.

Hall seniors have also come forward to say that because events can no longer be as heavily subsidised, ticket prices have to increase as a result and may deter students with less disposable income in getting involved.

One senior said: “Essentially a 50% cut in your budget has exactly the effect you’d imagine. Either we halve the number of your events or reduce the quality of them.”

“This Freshers’ Fortnight we’ve had to strike a balance between the two; we’ve reduced the budgets for party nights and had to host more ‘film nights’ in the common room to replace events we can no longer afford to run.”

Another Hall Senior says: “We’ve managed to keep our calendar for Freshers’ Fortnight intact but it

will come with a reduction in future events; nights like Halloween are highly unlikely to have parties now.”

It is not just events that are suffering from the cuts. One Hall Senior told us how they usually could afford to produce and print a help manual for students using the funds, but this had to be cut because of the lack of funds. “It is the Freshers that are missing out.”

One Assistant Warden told us, “We have had to cut back events such as trips to London Eye or London Tours. Such trips are more expensive, but aren’t alcohol related so aren’t particularly exclusionary. Not all events halls do are actually about alcohol, although it seems that College has this impression that alcohol is all that halls spend their money on.”

“These cuts mean not being able to put on the events we usually provide, which arguably detracts from the student experience.”

“Campus services should not exist to make money out of students.”

The Warden Discretionary Fund has also been cut down to £200 per Hall. This cost was previously used for pastoral costs, such as “welfare cards”, that provide essential welfare contacts on them and before now were given to all students. This year the College no longer supplied these, so some Halls had to use the Warden Discretionary fund to pay for these instead in.

Hall senior motivation has also dropped as a result. Said one source, “There were no funding for team building and training during the week before the students moved in, and it has led to a drop in morale.”

“The litmus test will be to see who still wants to be a Hall Senior next year.”

In some Halls, Wardens themselves have been reportedly known to cover the costs of such provisions, although this is beyond their remit and responsibility.

The decision to cut the funding was made as a response to the Residential Experience Review, undertaken earlier this year. The Review, conducted by senior members of staff in College, along with the then Union President David Goldsmith and Deputy President (Welfare) Marissa Lewis, also scrutinised the Wardening system, residential staffing and the College services.

The Residential Experience Review then produced recommendations for changes, which were then discussed with various other college staff members and the Sabbatical team.

Recommendations for the fund included that it be reduced to a flat



Southside Halls are amongst those that have felt the cuts the most. Photo: Imperial College

rate of £1 per student per week, and that “It should not be used to subsidise high cost trips or events, but should focus on activities that... should include a high proportion of activities without alcohol.” The then Union President and Deputy President (Welfare) successfully appealed for this to be increased to £1.50 to the panel conducting the Review.

The Amenities fund was in previous years taken from the rent paid by students, at a rate determined by Halls based the rent they paid the

halls they lived in and the type of room they had.

However, Senior College sources were unable to pinpoint exactly how money was allocated per Hall before now. Said one source, “Knowledge of how the funds worked had been lost at some point.”

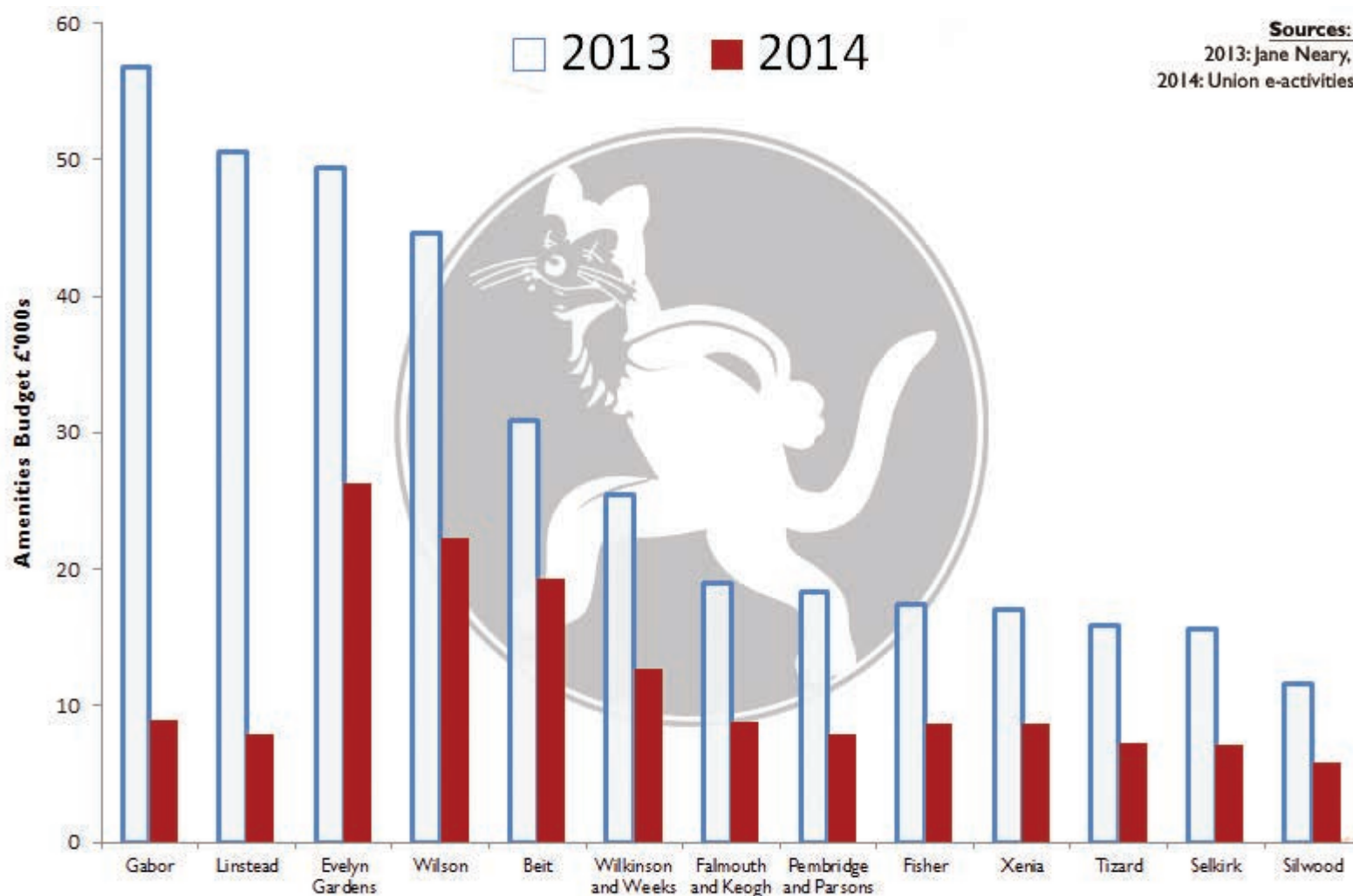
It was because of this uncertainty, and in a bid to aid transparency, that the decision was made to put the cost of the fund at a flat rate of £1.50 per person per week.

The reduction in funds has been coupled with some benefits.

Financial control of the funds has been transferred to elected Hall Committees, who are then able to claim back VAT on any expenditure. The financial system that the Union runs, eActivities, has also been heralded as easier to use compared to the previous College-based system the amenities fund was previously managed by.

Deputy President (Welfare) Chris Kaye said: “Reviewing this is a top priority and the Union looks forward to working constructively with College on this issue.”

# s, but where has the difference gone?



Everyone loves a graph, right? Graph: Matt Allinson

## Professor Debra Humphris, Vice Provost (Education)

Debra Humphris, the Vice Provost (Education) has overall responsibility for educational strategy and the quality of the educational provision and across the College. She presented recommendations for changes as a result of the Residential Experience Review, which resulted in the initial proposal to assign £1 per student per week. Professor Humphris spoke to *Felix* about the changes in the amenities fund:

In 2013 College set up a review of the residential experience, that involved a Independent panel of staff and also included David Goldsmith, the Union President of the time, and Marissa Lewis, the Deputy President (Welfare). This was to look at the issues around the residential experience, including evaluating the amenities funds.

Before this year, amenities funding was different for different halls, based on historical decisions and the basis these differences has been somewhat lost. As part of the Residential Experience the panel were keen to make the way the funding worked more transparent. The fund should be uniform per student, so students know how much they spend and what it is spent on for

hall activities.

The move of amenities funds from college to the union is rather positive: hall committees now control the money and the funds, with the support of the Hall Warden. Whilst the funds are collected by the College, they are transferred straight into a pot that the union then distributes across halls. Students are involved in the decision making when spending the money.

The motivation was to leave money in students' pockets, and we are always mindful of students who have a household with an income of less than £20,000 and for whom coming to a university in the most expensive area of the country is a challenge.

The panel originally decided that

a flat figure of £1.00 per student per week would be acceptable, but Marissa Lewis and David Goldsmith said around £1.50 would be better. Given that the accommodation costs had already been published, the Provost's Board accepted this change and agreed that the funds to make up the difference, £42,500 would be found from the Education Office as a one off.

There will now be a review in January each year involving students, the Union and the College to define what the fund should be the following year.

Hall committees now have full control of the money and they need to ensure that they use the money for events that appeal to as many residents as possible. Working with the wardens the Hall

Committees manage their funds across the year. Given that much of the fund is used on the Welcome Week, it would be really helpful if hall committees could help shape the welcome for the next intake. Using the Union's online services to manage the fund, this provides greater transparency, which has been received positively.

Another outcome of the review was the encouragement of greater transparency about rents and work on this is being taken forward by the Chief Financial Officer and Vice Provost (Education). Rent increases year on year are influenced by inflation and costs including bills for energy, cleaning, depreciation.

Before now, there was no student input in the rent costs, we want to change this.

"It's the freshers that are missing out..."

"Hall seniors were only told about the cuts two weeks before..."

"College's attempt to improve the student experience has not been well received."

"College doesn't know what is going on in the halls..."

"It has become increasingly apparent to me throughout the three years I've spent as a subwarden that the College could not care less about students."

# News

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News Editors || Aemun Reza & Kunal Wagle

## NUS rejects motion to condemn ISIS

**KUNAL WAGLE**  
SECTION EDITOR

The National Union of Students (NUS) has rejected a motion condemning Islamic State after a stirring speech by Black Students Officer Malia Bouattia, in which she asserted that passing the motion would be akin to “a justification for war and blatant Islamophobia (sic)”.

The motion said that the NUS would “support unity between Muslims, condemn the bloody terror of ISIS, and support a boycott on people who fund the militants”.

In response, leading proposer of the motion Daniel Cooper said that he has “looked again and again at the contents of the motion, yet I cannot track any Islamophobia or racism”.

Bouattia was quick to add that the NUS Black Students’ Campaign “stand[s] in complete solidarity with the Kurdish people against the recent attacks by ISIS and join many others in condemnation of their brutal actions”.

“The NUS Black Students’ Campaign will be working with Kurdish students and the International Students Campaign to raise this issue within the NUS. A motion will be taken to the next NUS National Executive, which truly reflects the situation. This motion will pose a condemnation of the politics and methods of ISIS as well as unequivocal support for the Kurdish people.”



**A video released a fortnight ago purported to show Islamic State beheading British hostage Alan Henning.**

## NBA legend Abdul-Jabbar joins diabetes campaign

**KUNAL WAGLE**  
SECTION EDITOR

NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar announced this week that he will be kicking off a diabetes week in the United Arab Emirates. Imperial College London’s Diabetes Centre (ICLDC) is the title partner of the Take a Step for Diabetes Week, which this year will start on the 28th October.

CEO of the ICLDC Bashar Al Ramahi said of the announcement, “We are very excited to have Kareem visit the UAE in support of ICLDC’s healthy lifestyle campaign. His participation in various community events hosted by our centres in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain will really help re-enforce the message that a balanced diet and regular exercise are the smart, simple steps needed.”

The event forms part of the ICLDC’s awareness campaign, Diabetes-Knowledge-Action, which was launched in 2007.

Imperial College London Diabetes Centre is a “state-of-the-art out-patient facility” that specialises in



Photo: Associated Press

diabetes care.

It has two centres, one based in Abu Dhabi and the other in Al Ain, both in the United Arab Emirates.

Abdul-Jabbar is considered an NBA legend, especially during his fourteen

seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers. He was a record six-time winner of the NBA’s Most Valuable Player award and was chosen in the NBA All-Star nineteen times, another record.

## UCH Redev “rather better than expected”

**BEN HOWITT**  
NEWS REPORTER

In January 2014, Felix reported on the award of a £220,000 Harlington grant to redevelop the Union Concert Hall, where Imperial Cinema and various performing arts societies present shows, films and concerts.

We interviewed George Goldberg from Imperial Cinema about the redevelopment, who characterised the end result as “rather better than expected”.

The Harlington application, it results, was written over the space of a month and submitted in October 2013, but the broader plan has been being discussed for a number of years.

DramSoc and Imperial Cinema tendered the application, with MTSoc, Medics’ Drama and Medics’ Light Opera supporting the document.

The ceiling has been raised and extensive rewiring has taken place, as well as repainting the interior and rebuilding the projection booth.

The aim was to allow the space to be used as a multiplex – with Cinema showings and shows, conferences etc. taking place in quick succession.

The project has managed in consultation with representatives from the Union’s Central Services, DramSoc and Imperial Cinema – which seems to have ensured that appearing problems were dealt with promptly.

“What did happen [to the application] was the initial vision wasn’t well communicated... but since then, [it’s] got much closer.”

In addition to the Harlington grant, the redevelopment was funded by the Union, with some additional items being purchased by the societies who made the application. It is unclear as yet whether the budget has held, but the costs seem so far to have been true to predictions.

In terms of the work left, George assures us that they have reached “the final push”. There is work to be done before the space will be accessible to newer users of the Concert Hall, but George hopes to have the facility ready for Spring Term.

The original plan included the installation of raked seating. It turns out, though, that significant structural work would be required to strengthen the floor prior to installation, and the plan was (at least temporarily) shelved. George reassures us that “The work that’s been done... doesn’t preclude a Phase Two.”

Post redevelopment, the hall’s use has been restricted. ACC Cheerleading and Dodgeball both used the facility for regular practices last year, but have now had to find alternative space, allegedly owing to the risk of damage to the new fittings. There will also be an ongoing maintenance plan, to ensure that the facility does not deteriorate.

When interviewed in January, Yas Edwards (then the DPCS) stated that the redevelopment should allow drama and music groups to make regular use of the space.

It is unclear how this will be administrated, with large portions of the term already booked out for DramSoc, MTSoc and Imperial Cinema events.



Photos: George Goldberg

# News

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News Editors || Aemun Reza & Kunal Wagle

## Lesson learnt: never go in Dri

**Oliver Benton** covers the first non-alcoholic Union event of the year

The Union held its first ever alcohol free club night – “Dri” on Monday 13th. Unlucky for some; most likely the bar manager’s profit margins, and anyone who turned up.

A full complement of security staff were on hand to deal with the rowdy non-crowd of non-drinkers, and with lime soda priced at 20p to lubricate the masses, the chance of breaking even was always going to be slim.

An anonymous Union source said: “We literally had to turn people away, and people kept asking if this was a regular thing?”

On offer throughout the evening were several giant games, a selection of mocktails and the kitchen was also open an hour later.

However, when customers found out they couldn’t buy alcohol, “they literally turned around and walked out.”

The budget for this year’s event was £3000 less than a normal Monday night when alcohol is available, although the Union never intended for the event to make a profit in the first place. It is reassuring that the Union aims high when organising events however; Alex Savell, Deputy President (Finance and Services), said

that the event was ran as “not for profit; we ran it as a service.”

Around one hundred people are thought to have attended the evening in total.

The highlight of the evening was easily DJ Sue, who, in fairness, spun out some absolute classics across FiveSixEight. Despite her smooth grooves at one point it was “literally the bar staff and the DJ.”

With Metric empty apart from those who had just served time on the Union Council and FiveSixEight populated by those few who live in Beit and can’t cook for themselves, the atmosphere allegedly “left a lot to be desired.”

Chris Kaye spoke to *Felix* about the event afterwards. As one of his manifesto pledges to provide events for non-drinkers, Chris was a key driving force behind Dri. “I personally think this night was not unsuccessful. We were able to provide an event that was suitable for not just non-drinkers, but those students that are under 18s, which, due to licencing restrictions, couldn’t previously enter the Union bars.

It is difficult to get people into Metric at the best of times, especially without liquid lubrication.”



An artist's impression of how the night panned out Photo: Thomas Lim

## RCSU Ballin’.. in moderation

**JASPER MENKUS**  
OFFICIAL FELIX BALLER

In my ancestral Tennessee, we have a saying. “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”. Certainly this appears to be the approach the RCSU has adopted in regards to their entertainments over the last few years. The recipe goes something like this: 1) Take a dark room in Central London. 2) Add some loud music. 3) Fill with scientists soaked in inexpensive (or free) alcohol. Shake and serve over ice with a garnish of mint leaves.

The mixture is simple but effective – in some cases crippling so. Details do change: Monday’s DJ was probably the worst in recent memory (seriously, who mixes Don’t Stop Believin’ with Who Let the Dogs Out? Who does that? Who? Who?). Opal is a pretty uninspiring venue, being essentially like Metric but with nicer seats. But on the whole, the formula is a tried-and-tested crowd

pleaser: despite a nasty suit-ruining downpour, so many students turned up that at times Opal’s dancefloor threatened to burst at the seams. The number of no-shows and nappers in Tuesday morning’s lectures testified to an enjoyable night, and the most common complaint was, “I can’t believe they rickrolled us!”, after Rick Astley’s one-hit wonder filled the sound system shortly after midnight.

Decrying student drinking as ‘dangerous’, or ‘irresponsible’ appears to be something of a national pastime these days. I think the critics don’t realise how healthy it is to have the occasional raucous night with old friends and new faces alike. RCSU Welfare Officer Akash Jyoti later mentioned that RCSU’s balls would be good for student welfare on the whole (although this is far from being official RCSU policy).

It’s true that this was one of RCSU’s less extravagant events (what, no vodka luge? No chocolate fountain? Outrage!), and to those



Photo: Benjamin Lester

of us outside the RCSU committee, ‘business as usual’ may seem a little disappointing. But it’s worth remembering that events like

this never happen by themselves: organising an event that is a) well-attended and b) where everyone goes home happy is a major feat in itself.

Congratulations are due to RCSU President Serena Yuen and her team – we look forward to many more such events over the next year.

# News

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News Editors || Aemun Reza & Kunal Wagle

## Heston opens as the new home of sport

**OLIVER BENTON**  
NEWS REPORTER

Heston, the new home of Medic sport, was unveiled on Wednesday the 15th of October, to a nibbles and 'BUCS' fizz reception. Debra Humphris, Vice Provost (Education), launched the day with a short speech commenting on the "continued evolution of our sports facilities" and the revealing of a plaque honouring Teddington and a piece of the hallowed Teddington grass.

The planes are as close as at Harlington, indicating quite how far West the new sports ground is.

However, it took only 30 minutes by minibus to reach the new centre, a large sprawling complex that backs onto the swathe of sports grounds. Alex Savell, Deputy President (Finance and Services), has already scoped the ground and thinks at least two polo pitches could fit on the site, such is the expanse.

Teddington was also honoured by the renaming of one of the bars (there were three open and operational on Wednesday) as the Teddington Bar. The lack of Medic trophies and memorabilia from the last 130 years of Medic sport is unlikely to change in the near future: an ICMSU source said they were keen to consolidate most of their memorabilia in The Reynolds Bar, (the home of ICSMU bar within Charing Cross Hospital) to ease the loss of Teddington.

The small piece of turf lifted from Teddington did stand out, initially because it was on a plaque, and secondly because the surrounding grass is in excellent condition.

While much has been made about the complete disregard for student input, the groundskeeper at Heston obviously knows his stuff; the pitches are, in the words of an anonymous Medic Footballer, "excellent".

Not only was the grass in excellent nick and the pitches reasonably flat, there was the correct adornment of Phoenix flags, much to the medics' delight.

The sports facilities were in full use all afternoon, with all pitches (6 football and 2 rugby), all the netball and all the tennis courts being used during a damp and overcast day in West London. Even the Medics President, Dariush Hassanzadeh-Baboli, managed to dig out a rugby shirt for a cameo seconds appearance, claiming he might even play at Varsity.

IC Cheerleaders were also in attendance as were representatives from ICU Dance who gave demonstrations to College and Union staff.

The day was rounded off by a compelling speech from Tom Wheeler, Union President, and Abi de Bruin, Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), extolling the virtues of the new sports ground.

Tom Wheeler said, "It was fantastic to see sports teams using the new facilities at Heston and performance teams using the new space in the theatre that is also on the site.

"It is important we don't forget the history and tradition of Teddington and the significance of its loss. We are looking forward to celebrating Teddington this weekend at the Teddington Alumnus Day, as are excited for the future of sport at Heston."



Photo: Oli Benton



Photo: Oli Benton



Photo: Oli Benton

## "The future of College bursaries in your hands"

**TOM WHEELER**  
UNION PRESIDENT

I agree this is weird, what is someone from the Union doing writing an article in *Felix* about a College decision? But please keep reading because this really matters. If you are a Home Undergraduate student and receive an Imperial College Bursary (i.e. your household's income is <£60k), then I really want to know what you think of the bursary support package that College provides. Remember, that this is only talking about the bursary that College provides, and not the Student Finance one.

As a disclaimer, I'd like to reiterate

that unfortunately for the majority of students who might be reading this, that this precise discussion only affects Home Undergraduate students with a household income of <£60k. Also, please don't think that we don't know that there are serious financial support issues affecting a large number of the rest of our members; however, this funding package is only targeted at Home Undergraduate students. Remember that if you are ever in need of help and advice then you should ask the Union's Advice Centre to find out if there is money available to help you.

I sit on a working group in College that focuses on ensuring that everyone who is capable to study at Imperial, can. Imperial College

provides a bursary package that is quite a bit bigger than pretty much every other University that I have managed to look into. It should, as South Kensington is (unsurprisingly) really expensive, but how expensive?

Imperial College is proposing changes to the distribution of the amount given in bursaries for the 2016/17 first years so that every student who is offered a place to study at Imperial can afford it. They are not looking at reducing the amount it spends on bursaries, but distributing it as fairly as possible. The most challenging thing that I'm trying to figure out when looking through some of the options proposed is: what is fair? Here are some (exaggerated, and generally rhetorical) questions

to show you what I'm getting at (and by the way, I don't have an opinion/answer to these).

How much money does a student need? Is it fair to assume that students from a £40k household are financially supported by their families? Is it fair to assume that the number of dependents in a household is irrelevant when distributing student funding? Is it fair that students from a £24k household receive nearly twice as much as a £40k household? Does every £40k household have the £2k a year to bring a student up to a 'living wage'? You get the idea.

College has proposed some

options ranging from "keep the same model" through to "give everyone the same amount". I have had a lot of conversations and meetings in the last 5 days with the Sabb team, as well as staff and students in the Union about the different options that College has proposed, however nothing is as representative of what students want as an actual discussion with students. Therefore, I'm inviting you all to come and find out what options are proposed, ask questions, and give your opinion. We are holding a meeting in Blackett Lecture Theatre 1, this Thursday at 1pm. If you want to get in touch, please email me at [union.president@ic.ac.uk](mailto:union.president@ic.ac.uk).



# News

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News Editors || Aemun Reza & Kunal Wagle

## Leicester's paper censored by Union

PHIL KENT  
DEPUTY EDITOR

Controversy has broken out at the University of Leicester over an attempt to censor its student paper, The Ripple, by the students' union at Leicester. In an editorial posted on the paper's website, Editor in Chief Jess Buckley expressed her disappointment with the Leicester union's decision to hold back publication by 72 hours whilst the executive committee determined if a story on the front page violated a number of rules.

Unlike at Imperial, media groups at Leicester are required to have their output approved by the Union prior to publication or broadcast following the introduction of a "Media Constitution". The article in question related to criticisms of the ongoing elections at the university, asking whether "there is a lack of engagement". According to the Ripple, the union accused the paper of writing a number of inaccuracies and violating the constitution. Upon probing as to what exactly the offending text was, no concrete

**"One reader argued... 'No wonder the tab is so popular.'"**

answer was provided. The issue was then ultimately authorised for publication with no changes 72 hours after being first sent in for authorisation.

According to rules at the union, a media publication or broadcast can only be pulled if it contains content which is illegal, libellous, or unconstitutional. Where a student paper is not its own distinct legal entity (both Felix and the Ripple fall into this category), legal challenges against the first two points would fall to the union's trustees and not the paper; whereas constitutional matters are a purely internal affair. The requirement for authorisation could be seen as an attempt for the Union to 'cover its own back'.

Students have reacted angrily to the attempt to censor the paper. On the Ripple's website, one reader complained against the "draconian" nature of union authorisation for articles; arguing "no wonder The Tab is so popular".

A group have students have now started a campaign for a referendum to prevent the union from banning publication.

## Imperial Professors win awards

PHIL KENT  
DEPUTY EDITOR

Two Imperial College academics have recently been awarded honours by their professional bodies, recognising outstanding achievement in their fields. Honorary Fellowship of the Institute of Physics (IoP) has been awarded to Professor Sir Peter Knight, an Emeritus Professor in Physics, while Professor Chris Toumazou has been awarded with the Faraday Medal.

Sir Peter's award has been made in recognition of his contributions to Physics throughout his career. His research has focused on quantum physics; specifically optics and information science.

The Fellowship was also made in recognition of both his work with the IoP, and also a number of other responsibilities he has held. These responsibilities include being Head of the Physics Department, Deputy Rector, and playing a key role in setting up a number of research centres within the College.

Honorary Fellowship is the highest

honour that the Institute of Physics can award to its members.

Meanwhile, Prof. Toumazou's Faraday Medal was awarded for this research into semiconductor DNA sequencing. This work is significant as it allows for the medical profession to eventually move away from treating illnesses in the traditional sense to targeted treatment and prevention. Additionally, there is the potential for semiconductor DNA sequencing to save costs, being much cheaper than conventional equipment.

Prof. Toumazou, who works in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering department, has also been involved in the creation of a 'while you wait' DNA testing retail shop, where 'customers' can have their genes analysed in 30 minutes.

This has not been Prof. Toumazou's first award in recent years. In 2013, he was presented with a Regius Professorship on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee. At 33, he became Imperial's youngest professor.

Prof. Toumazou was also named European Inventor of the Year in June, as reported by *Felix* at the end of that month.

**"This has not been Prof. Toumazou's first award in recent years"**

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# Comment

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Comment Editor || Tessa Davey

## Yet another nail in the coffin of the student experience



**GEORGE BUTCHER**  
COMMENT WRITER

What does £220,000 a year get you? It's more than the combined rent of the 22 new beds in Beit Hall over a calendar year, two-thirds of the former rector's salary of £364,000 (Times High Education Supplement) and 0.22% of Imperial College London's £97 million endowment.

£220,000 is also how much has left the amenities fund for halls events and activities this year.

Most of us went through the Freshers' halls experience, but that's now changing. Hall seniors and wardens are best placed to provide pastoral care to first years and budget cuts are making it harder for them to do this.

For example, many residences' hall senior training allegedly could not given any budget this year. Fewer

events are reducing the time spent between seniors and freshers, making it harder to encourage integration. Motivating hall seniors to organise events is also harder; organising a film night isn't quite the same as a boat party.

£220,000 is fully affordable for college. What is a small amount to them makes a huge difference for the hall seniors and wardens. It helps them to do their job and make Imperial welcoming and a enjoyable place. London can be seen as an unfriendly city for many - hall seniors do a fantastic job of stopping this and supporting us all when we begin our Imperial careers.

They are the unsung heroes of the Imperial student experience and they should be encouraged to do more and continue their fantastic work.



There could be a reduced number of events in the social spaces.  
Photo: Imperial College

"[Hall seniors] are the unsung heroes of the student experience"

Sponsored Editorial

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# STUDENT BLOGGERS WANTED!

“

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## Artificial spleen could treat blood poisoning

Indira Mallik on how to clean blood using magnets

Imagine a condition that affects 18 million people world-wide. Imagine a condition with a fatality rate of up to 60%. Imagine that 37,000 people a year die in this country because of it. There is no specific cure. What treatment there is can take weeks to come into effect and can often cause problems of its own. Every year, 100,000 people in the UK (and their families) don't have to imagine this terrible scenario. The condition, sepsis, is very real and very deadly.

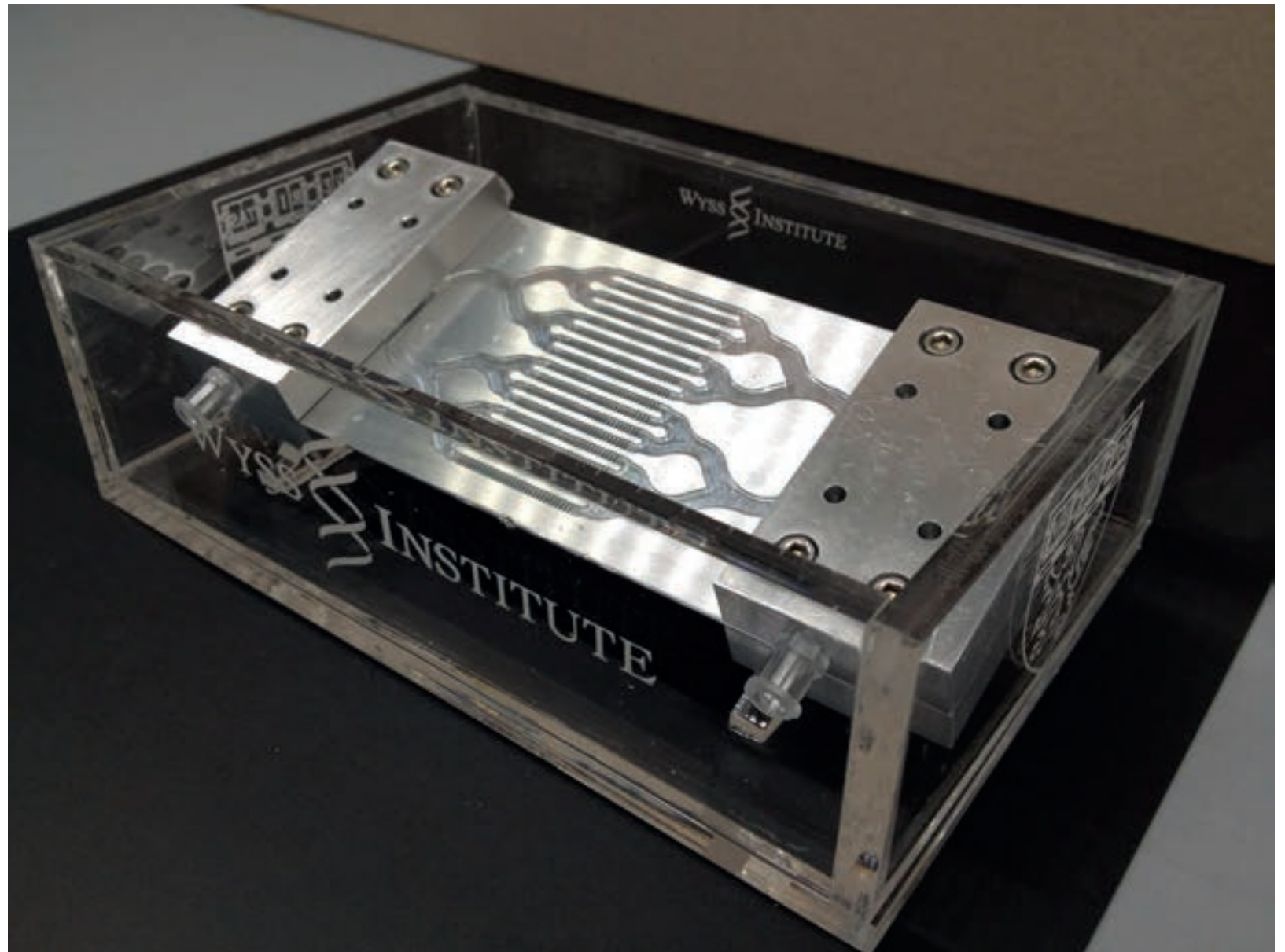
Sometimes referred to as septicaemia, sepsis is a severe condition that results in more than 100,000 people in the UK being hospitalised annually. Commonly known as blood poisoning, it occurs when microbes (usually bacteria) invade the bloodstream, causing inflammation and organ damage. It can quickly develop into septic shock, in which blood pressure drops to a dangerously low level. 60% of patients are likely to die.

The most effective way to treat severe sepsis is using antibiotics specifically targeted against the bacteria in the blood. Unfortunately, it can take several days to determine the best drugs to use, and, with the patient's condition deteriorating rapidly, treatment must begin immediately with less effective broad-spectrum antibiotics.

Now imagine that sepsis had a seemingly miraculous cure. This too, is now becoming reality. This year, scientists from Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering, Boston and Harvard Medical School have collaborated to produce 'the bio-spleen'. Their design is simple; to employ magnets to remove the sepsis causing bacteria from the blood in just a few hours.

Their inspiration came from within the body itself. The device acts as an artificial spleen, which can automatically remove toxins and pathogens from the blood without identifying the infection first. The artificial spleen's design is as elegant as its concept. It works by attaching the device to the veins of the infected individual and taking the blood out of the body, much like a dialysis machine, then extracorporeally mixing the blood of the infected individual with magnetic nanobeads coated with an engineered human opsonin-mannose-binding lectin (MBL).

MBL recognizes carbohydrate patterns found on the surface of a large number of pathogenic microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, protozoa and fungi. When



The artificial 'biospleen' is designed to treat sepsis by filtering out pathogens using magnets. Photo: Wyss Institute

**Sepsis kills 37,000 people each year in the UK alone**

the offending toxins and pathogens have been captured they are removed from the blood by magnets, the 'clean' blood is then returned to the patient's body.

In the group's experiments, rats were infected with *E. coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. After the blood cleansing treatment, more than 90% of the bacteria had been removed. Furthermore, bacterial infiltration to the organs was also significantly reduced. The team has postulated that patient survival rates may improve in the event of a septic shock after a treatment of only 5 hours.

So far the biospleen has only been tested in animal models and in vitro samples of human blood. So what can we expect from the device in a clinical scenario?

The scientists are clearly optimistic. In human blood models, the team controlled for various factors such

as multiple infections, and found the removal rates were consistently above 90% after a single pass through the device. Sepsis develops so rapidly and is so devastating because of the huge pathogen loads involved. The biospleen acts to reduce that.

Some patients may balk at the idea of being hooked up to a machine for 5 hours but currently there is no specific drug treatment since Xigris, the only targeted drug developed for sepsis, was taken off the market in 2011.

With further development, the biospleen could well provide a more effective treatment in the future. We are entering an era in medical science where antibiotic use, especially that of broad spectrum antibiotics is to be cautioned against because of a rise in antibiotic resistance. Broad spectrum antibiotics also have the nasty habit of producing severe side effects in

already very unwell individuals. Many sepsis patients could benefit from such a device but it could prove life saving for those especially at risk: those suffering from antibiotic-resistant infection, the immunosuppressed such as transplant patients, and babies suffering from fungal infections. Most importantly, from the patient's perspective, the treatment is quick and relieves the patient from staying in intensive care units for days and suffering long term organ damage that may lead to dependence on dialysis machines.

The biospleen may take some time to become available to the general public as *in vivo* trials still need to be carried out. But one thing is certain: the chance of treatment won't be a day too soon for the millions of patients that contract sepsis each year.

DOI: 10.1038/nm.3640

**After the treatment, more than 90% of the bacteria had been removed**

# Science

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Science Editors | James Bezer & Lauren Ratcliffe

## New diagnostic technique for ovarian cancer

Lauren Ratcliffe reports on the latest test to help doctors choose best treatment

The correct medical assessment of women with ovarian cancer is essential to ensure they receive effective, targeted treatment. Currently, a significant gap in the efficiency of care for ovarian cancer patients is due to accurate diagnosis of the exact stage of their tumour. If the stage is known then appropriate surgical procedures can be performed minimising the risk and potential impact on fertility. A more accurate method for diagnosing ovarian tumours before surgery would therefore help doctors prioritise patients for treatment based on the severity of their condition, improving the overall efficiency and flow of care.

Existing models can help doctors discriminate between benign and malignant tumours but a lack of accuracy and the ability to further sub-classify tumours into their different classes doesn't exist.

This is all about to change, with research from an international team led by Imperial College London and KU Leuven, Belgium. With their combined efforts a new test, called ADNEX, has been developed that is able to discern between not only

benign and malignant tumours, but also reliably distinguish between more specific stages of benign, invasive and metastatic ovarian tumours.

Professor Tom Bourne, from the Department of Surgery and Cancer at Imperial College London, said: "At the moment, the way we assess women with ovarian cysts for the presence of cancer and select treatment lacks accuracy. This new approach to classifying ovarian tumours can help doctors make the right management decisions, which will improve the outcome for women with cancer."

The ADNEX test is based on details of patients such as tumour marker blood tests and features that can be determined on an ultrasound scan, giving not only an accurate identification of the type of tumour but also gives the confidence of diagnosis as a percentage.

The research looks sound, having used an extensive data set from 3,506 patients from over 10 EU countries between 1999 and 2007 the team has determined which information available before an operation could be used to predict the diagnosis and then



Researchers at Imperial College London are developing a more accurate test for diagnosing ovarian tumours Photo: Creative Commons

**"Correct medical assessment of women with ovarian cancer is essential"**

tested the model on a further 2,403 patients between 2009 and 2012.

Incredibly, doctors can even enter the patient's details into a smartphone app - giving a futuristic efficiency to the medical procedure. The test is available online from [iotagroup.org](http://iotagroup.org).

The results from this extensive

study, published this week in the British Medical Journal, signify a huge medical advancement in the way doctors treat ovarian cancer patients and will hopefully give more reliable diagnoses and further reduce the risks associated with such diseases.

DOI: 10.1136/bmj.g5920

**"New approach to classifying ovarian tumours"**

## No change to understanding of radioactivity

JAMES BEZER  
SECTION EDITOR

Good news for authors of physics textbooks! As we've long believed, the decay of radioactive isotopes doesn't fluctuate depending on the time of year.

So why is this news? In 2012, a paper was published by a group at Purdue University that seemed to show the rate of decay of Chlorine-36 varied periodically over the course of the year.

Based on the times when the decay was fastest, the authors speculated that neutrinos emitted from the Sun could be causing this variation: if the earth is closer to the sun, more neutrinos will hit the chlorine nuclei and this will cause more decays and more radiation to be emitted.

Neutrinos are produced when radioactive nuclei decay to release beta particles. On the face of it then, it seems reasonable that they could be used to provoke a nucleus to decay and emit radiation.

The trouble with this theory is that neutrinos are notoriously unwilling to react with anything at all. Just detecting their presence requires

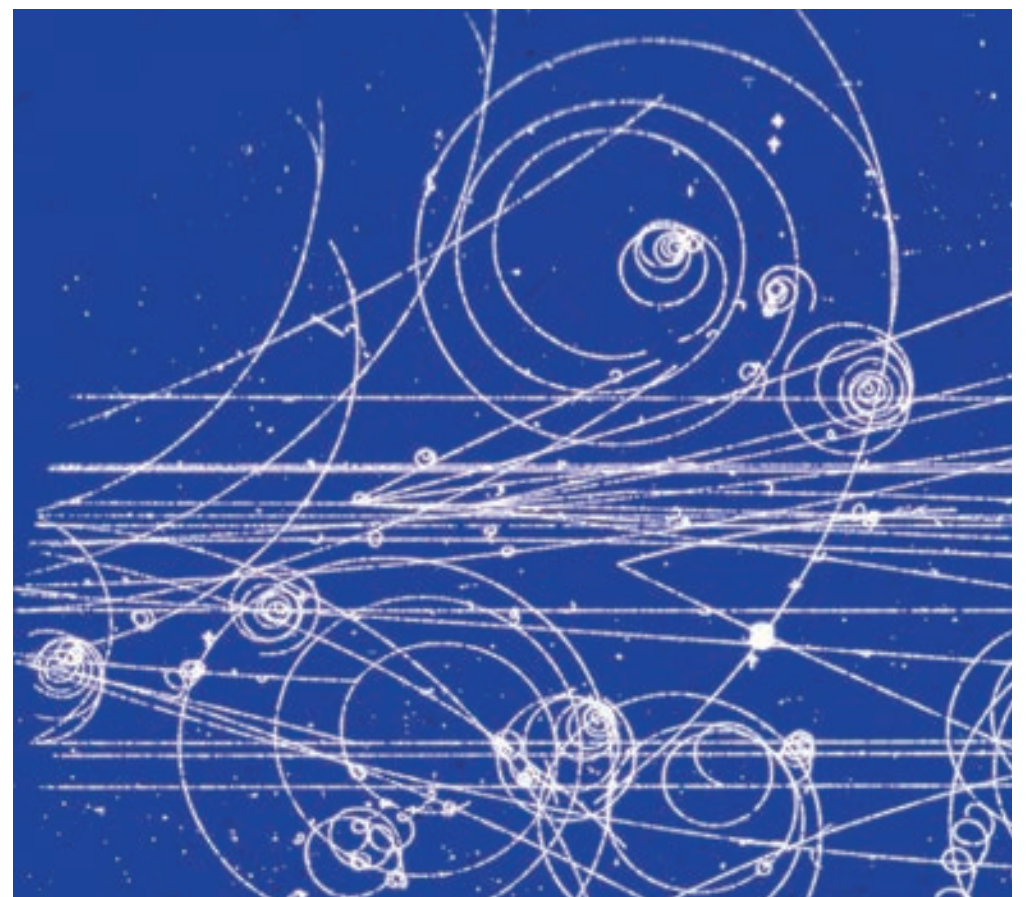
huge underground caverns filled with detectors, and even then, only a tiny handful of the trillions that pass through each minute will ever be picked up.

A team of physicists in Germany have used a different equipment set up to see if they could replicate these apparent fluctuations. Their results, published in the journal *Astroparticle Physics* showed that the differences between measurements are an order of magnitude smaller than those seen in the previous research. What's more, the variation was completely random, showing no relationship with the time of year and casting further doubt on the solar neutrino theory. The same group has also produced similar results for Strontium-90 which showed no seasonal variation in its rate of decay.

While this new research may not seem quite as exciting as a ground-breaking, textbook-rewriting new discovery, it is a rather nice demonstration of the scientific process, and does confirm that what we think we know about radioactivity does still seem to be accurate.

DOI: 10.1016/j.astropartphys

**"Decay of radioactive isotopes doesn't fluctuate depending on the time of year"**



Giving old research a new lease of life Photo: Discover magazine

# Television

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Television Editors || Guila Gabrielli & John Park

## *The Apprentice* comes to Imperial

Giulia Gabrielli takes us through Lord Sugar's visit

**E**xciting times in the corridors of our university this week, as the alpha-wankers from *The Apprentice* come to visit. Before this eventful occurrence, I was an *Apprentice* virgin (I know, shocking), but here is what my extensive watching of the show has taught me.

Whereas most reality TV relies on archetypal characters to stir up drama, this programme is more of a social experiment: What happens when you make twenty identical, money-driven, Lord Sugar wannabes interact?

After waking the contestants up at 05:00 to reach Imperial College London - obviously not understanding that early rises go against the official student philosophy - Lord Sugar sets them a task inspired by our institution's scientific reputation: To design a fashionable item of wearable technology. Fashion at Imperial? Well, I guess we do wear clothes.

At this point the contestants, very originally divided into boys and girls, run off in a panic to create this incredible garment.

And thus ended the College's fifteen minutes of fame, as the planning is not done here but in a swanky office that you are made to believe is on the top floor of some amazing City skyscraper, but is probably in a basement in Haggerston with panoramas of London sellotaped to the windows.

It is in this office that the teams come up their items: essentially a grey sweater and an M&S jacket, with lights and buttons. This may



Photo: BBC

**"Fashion at Imperial? Well, I guess we wear clothes"**

seem easy to us technologically-gifted nerds, but considering that the women are unaware of the importance of exposing solar panels to the actual sun, the results are impressive.

On their side, the men create a slightly creepy Big Brother sweater with a hidden camera to sneakily

**"One admits he would never wear it in public."**

record friends and family in compromising positions and flashy Christmas tree inspired decorations.

None of the possible buyers seem interested in the products (despite the women's extensive market research based on a sample size of one) and one of the men actually admits he would never wear his own creation in public.

Then Lord Sugar is forced to pick someone to fire, something that evidently still fills him with immense pleasure after all these years. He picks Wanker 1 and Wanker 2 (no, I don't remember their names).

All in all some pretty unsatisfying watching but, hey, did you see how shiny we looked on TV?

## The Great British Bake Offsession

**GIULIA GABRIELLI**  
SECTION EDITOR

**S**o let me set the scene; I'm sitting on my couch, with a few friends and a healthy supply of wine at my side.

As the weeks have progressed we've all become more and more addicted to the pastel-coloured, innuendo-ridden spectacle that is Great British Bake Off.

And here it is; the grand finale! However, despite the high degree of anticipation in the air, as the last episode progresses all I can think is

"meh..."

This year, Paul and Mary decided to test the finalists on their core baking skills.

First off was a Danish pastry challenge which saw the contestants experiment with various flavour combinations including raspberry and chocolate, pear and chocolate, and apple and lemon.

No, we weren't that inspired either. The only exception was Manchester-based Spaniard Luis, who tried to raise the bar with his cheese and apple pastries. And despite Paul's judgemental gaze, I would have happily given them a bite.

The technical bake was an even less exciting combination of three baking staples. Despite the time pressure (three bakes in three hours) and the ever-looming threat of a soggy bottom, there is really nothing that can make watching a scone rise riveting; even without getting raisins, the most disgusting food known to man, involved.

The showstopper challenge was supposed to be a grand and festive pièce montée, a massive edible centrepiece of choux pastries, biscuits, macarons and cakes.

This grandiose concept somehow inspired two contestants to go back to

their roots and pay homage to their hometowns.

Contestant Nancy - who evidently didn't think her birthplace, Hull, was sufficiently exciting - followed the French theme and opted to fashion a sugar sculpture of the Moulin Rouge.

This made her creation essentially an edible brothel; which wouldn't have been my first choice.

As all good things must come to an end, the winner had to be announced. Beloved builder Richard was the favourite, having achieved star-baker status on a record five occasions.

However you can't win Bake Off with a runny jam, and by the end of

the episode his chances seemed pretty low. So maybe Luis? Thanks to his extraordinary graphic design skills, shown from day one, most people expected him to pull this one off.

And they were all wrong! Because - spoiler alert - it was Nancy, Queen of the Backcombed Barnet, who actually took home the prize.

Admittedly we were all a bit disappointed, especially as the husband of the winner joked "I had no doubt she would win, she always gets what she wants". Great, a real underdog. I guess we will patiently have to wait for 2015 to satisfy our new cake cravings...

# Television

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Television Editors || Guila Gabrielli & John Park

## Cartoon Corner: How *The Legend of Korra* became legendary

Tom Rivlin marvels at *Avatar's* baby brother

**T**he *Legend of Korra* is a rare breed – a sequel show to *Avatar: The Last Airbender* (broadcast in the UK as *Avatar: The Legend of Aang* because ‘bender’ means something else over here). *Avatar* is my favourite show of all time, so I could easily spend the next 1000 words gushing over how amazing it is. Instead, let’s talk a bit about *Korra*, whose final season is airing right now.

But first, context: *Avatar* was an animated show that ran for three seasons on Nickelodeon from 2005-2008. During its run it gained a small but dedicated fan following, my teenage self among them (good times).

After its run the original fandom remained, but grew in number thanks to word of mouth, Tumblr, streaming on Netflix etc. There may have been a movie at some point. Let’s move on.

*Korra* is set 70 years after the events of the first show. It features all new characters, a new setting and a new villain, whilst retaining the art style – with improved animation quality – continuity and world building. In particular the main character, Korra, was written and designed to be the exact opposite of the previous main character, Aang.

Whereas Aang was peace-loving, spiritual and carefree, Korra is boisterous, aggressive, and headstrong. Where *Avatar* flew its characters to various places inspired by ancient Asian architecture (Chinese, Korean, Tibetan, Japanese and more), Korra initially takes place in one city inspired by a blend of 1920s Hong Kong, Shanghai and Manhattan.

Most importantly though, whereas each season of *Avatar* (called a ‘book’) lasted 20 episodes and had a somewhat loose structure with plenty of room for ‘filler’ episodes (allowing for more character moments, world building and thematic stuff), *Korra's* seasons look more like a mini-series each, with around 13 tightly-written, highly structured episodes flowing almost continuously. This led to a much larger focus on plot and various narrative twists and turns. The whole thing seems to be an exercise in making your sequel as different to the original as possible.

It’s fair to say that *Korra's* first ‘book’, which came out in 2012, was very successful; people liked the new direction in which the creators were taking their world. The fight scenes – a high point of *Avatar* – were elevated

**"The fight scenes were elevated to indescribable levels of awesome."**



Photo: CC

to indescribable levels of awesome and the new setting simply looked really cool.

There were, however, inevitably going to be criticisms. There was less time for character development (necessitated by the small number of episodes, of course). There was an annoying subplot about a love triangle (or would that be a quadrangle?), and some people found the characters annoying.

Many people also thought the ending was rushed, and resolved all of the loose ends too neatly. This was probably because the creators didn’t expect the show to be renewed and felt they had to wrap it all up.

Overall, was it a ‘worthy successor’ to *Avatar*? Most thought so, to a degree. Was it as good? Most thought not. But how could it be? How could they make a near-perfect show twice in a row when they took so many risks and changed so much?

Thankfully, the show did get renewed. Amazingly, Nickelodeon ordered three more seasons at once – 40 more episodes in total (for reference, each episode is estimated to cost about a million dollars to produce). Suddenly, the creators had to create three new stories from scratch after perfectly resolving it all at the end of the first *Korra* story. And that’s where things started to go wrong.

Whilst I wouldn’t go as far as calling

Book Two of *Korra*, which came out in 2013, ‘bad’, by the exceedingly high standards set by *Avatar* (and indeed by *Korra's* previous season) it certainly wasn’t very impressive. In any other context it would be dismissed as a generic Saturday morning cartoon, really. The plot was all over the place, the villain was very one-dimensional, his evil scheme was confusing, and the characters seemed to have regressed and forgotten all of their previous character development.

The animation quality was also reduced, since the studio which worked on all of the previous episodes of the franchise couldn’t do it at such short notice. Save for two exceedingly good episodes which told an ‘origin story’ for a lot of the show’s lore and myths, a lot of fans were very disappointed with it all.

Thankfully, there’s almost a happy ending here. This summer, Book Three was released online. Not only was it a massive improvement on Book Two, many fans seem to think that Book Three represents the first time *Korra* has been as good as *Avatar*.

A new team of villains were introduced who were menacing, badass and yet somehow still quite human. This new team pushed our heroes to their limit, and seeing the protagonists struggle to face them was an immensely satisfying experience.

There was no annoying romance subplot like in the previous

two seasons and the characters remembered their character development whilst staying true to what makes them unique, plus the animation and action scenes were easily some of the best the entire franchise has seen.

It was also pleasing to see that not everything was neatly resolved at the end and, in a great finale, the last shot makes it clear that things are open ended, and there’s still a lot of loose plot threads. In short, Book Three is where the show finally lived up to its name and became legendary.

What’s next for *Korra*? In a surprise move a month ago, the creators announced that the final book would begin on the 3rd of October, so it’s out now! That does, sadly, mean that *Korra*, and probably the whole *Avatar* franchise, will be ending this year.

After the drama it took to get *Korra* released I doubt that Nickelodeon will go for a third show in this franchise – though in-universe comics will probably continue to be published.

This time next year both shows will probably be on Netflix, so one will be able to watch all 113 episodes back-to-back. In some ways I envy those people, not having to go through the drama and the waiting. Then again, it’s been a pleasure to experience it piece by piece as part of a wonderful fandom. But I haven’t lost hope. I still believe that somehow a new *Avatar* show will come to save the franchise.

**"Book Three represents the first time Korra has been as good as Avatar."**

# BFI London Film Festival Part 2

John Park takes a look at some of the most exciting gala's of the LFF

## Mr Turner: Festival Gala

Timothy Spall won the prestigious Best Actor prize at Cannes this year, for his masterful work in Mike Leigh's *Mr Turner*. The film looks at the last years of eccentric British painter J. M. W. Turner's life. Also co-starring Mike Leigh's regular collaborators, Ruth Sheen, Dorothy Atkinson, Marion Bailey, Martin Savage and Lesley Manville. This is certainly a must-see for fans of one of the greatest British directors currently working.

## Foxcatcher: American Express Gala

The true story of paranoid schizophrenic John du Pont (Steve Carell) murdering Olympic champion Dave Schultz (Mark Ruffalo), brother of wrestling champion Mark Schultz (Channing Tatum), has been winning rave reviews ever since its debut at Cannes. Critics are singling out the performances, Carell's in particular, and the film is looking to be a frontrunner in this year's awards race.

## Whiplash: Accenture Gala

Already a big winner at Sundance earlier this year, both with the critics and the public (they don't always see eye to eye), as well as enjoying some excellent publicity at Telluride and Toronto, this indie hit tells the story of a gifted young jazz drummer (Miles Teller) and his ruthless mentor (J. K. Simmons) who pushes his student

to achieve greatness. Get ready for a wholly original music drama.

## Men, Women & Children: Virgin Atlantic Gala

Critically-acclaimed director Jason Reitman returns with *Men, Women & Children* this year, focusing on the challenges of raising a family in today's world run by technology. Regardless of age or gender, there are problems that affect us all, as Reitman explores the difficulties of keeping it all together, starring an ensemble cast of Adam Sandler, Jennifer Garner, Judy Greer and more.

## Wild: May Fair Hotel Gala

Reese Witherspoon is hoping for a comeback, given how a string of unremarkable roles have taken over her career post-Oscar-win. Directed by Jean-Marc Vallée, *Wild* finds Witherspoon as a reckless, destructive addict going on a self-healing solo hike across the Pacific Crest Trail. The film itself is receiving mixed reviews, but Witherspoon is winning praise for her performance.

## Testament of Youth: Centrepiece Gala

Based on Vera Brittain's first installment of her memoir, *Testament of Youth* is being brought to the big screen. It will cover the period of 1900-1925 in Brittain's life, in which she describes the impact of the First World War on women.

Swedish actress Alicia Vikander (*Anna Karenina*, *A Royal Affair*, *The Fifth Estate*) stars as Brittain, with Brit talent Kit Harington playing her fiancé, Roland Leighton.

## Rosewater: Debate Gala

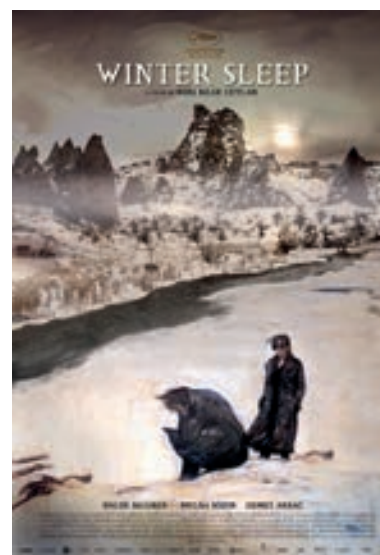
Jon Stewart, perhaps best known for his work in the United States as a talk-show host, makes his directorial debut: portraying the story of Maziar Bahari (Gael Garcia Bernal), an Iranian Canadian journalist, who was incarcerated by the Iranian government for 188 days. It promises to be a well-crafted, tense political drama with some powerful performances from the cast.

## Mommy: Dare Gala

Xavier Dolan is somewhat of a critical darling, given how successful his films have been in the festival circuit. His films are certainly not for mainstream audiences, dealing with complex, controversial issues. His latest feature film, *Mommy*, is his best-reviewed work yet, dealing with a widowed mother trying to raise her violent son alone, when a neighbour enters her life to help out.

## A Little Chaos: Love Gala

Director Alan Rickman also stars in this period piece, playing King Louis XIV, who hires a gardener in the form of Sabine De Barra (Kate Winslet) to transform his garden at the Palace of Versailles. There is initial resistance from the strict garden chief (Matthias



Schoenaerts), but with her fresh new innovative ideas she starts to charm all those around her.

## Wild Tales: Laugh Gala

Brought to you by producer Pedro Almodovar, this comedy offering seems to live up to its name of being outrageously hilarious. As six separate wildly funny tales come together for the final climax, critics at Cannes were clearly pleased enough with the result. It is a dark comedy for sure, with its humour focusing on the troubles of modern life.

## The Salvation: Thrill Gala

Set in the Wild West where the rules are - there are no rules; the charismatic Mads Mikkelsen is off



on a quest for vengeance (aren't they always?), tracking down the murderer of his family. Things don't end just with hunting down that one man however, as there are more betrayals in store for him, setting up a tough, bloody mission with a rising body count.

## Winter Sleep: Journey Gala

This three-hour long (196 minutes to be more precise) epic was a crowd-divider when it debuted at Cannes earlier this year, although that did not stop it from walking away with the festival's top honour, the Palme d'Or. Love it or hate it, this Turkish epic is one for the more inquisitive cinema-goers, to see if you can appreciate it in any way or not.

## This week at Imperial Cinema



This week, for your viewing pleasure we have genre-bending double bill in the form of Tom Cruise's latest thriller *Edge of Tomorrow* and coming of age dramedy *The Fault in Our Stars*.

### Edge of Tomorrow

**Director:** Doug Liman  
**Screenplay:** Christopher McQuarrie, Jez Butterworth  
**Cast:** Tom Cruise, Emily Blunt, Brendan Gleeson, Bill Paxton

Ever since that couch-jumping incident left him a bit of a laughing stock, Tom Cruise has worked hard to re-establish himself in his rightful role as one of the most influential movie stars.

The last few years have seen him star in plenty of thrillers with mixed results but he finally returns to form

with Sci-fi caper *Edge of Tomorrow*, which if reduced to the sum of its parts is sort of like *Groundhog Day* meets *Call of Duty*.

In the near future, a race of aliens called Mimics have taken over most of Europe and Major William Cage (Tom Cruise) is assigned in a combat mission to defeat them.

When things go awry, Cage is quickly killed and soon discovers that he is stuck in a time-loop, doomed to repeat the same mission each time until he is killed and winds up where he started. This carries on until he meets Sergeant Rita Vrataski (Emily Blunt) who trains him to become a better soldier so that together, they can defeat the alien invasion.

Like most big budget films, *Edge of Tomorrow* is laden with stunning

visual effects but more impressively, never loses track of the very human narrative at its centre.

Showing 18:30 Tuesday 21st and 21:00 Thursday 23rd

### The Fault in Our Stars

**Director:** Josh Boone  
**Screenplay:** Scott Neustadter, Michael H. Weber, John Green (novel)  
**Cast:** Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista, Vin Diesel, Bradley Cooper

Adapted from the best-selling Young Adult novel of the same name, *The Fault in Our Stars* tells the love story of two teenagers who meet at a cancer support group.

When Hazel Lancaster's (Shailene Woodley) thyroid cancer suddenly worsens, she is forced by her mother to attend a support group for teens

with cancer. After years of doctor's appointments and hospitals, Hazel is understandably cynical about yet more attempts to 'help'. At the session she meets Augustus Waters who is in remission and has a decidedly more optimistic outlook on life. They quickly bond over their love of books and their shared experiences with cancer and soon enough they fall in love.

Amidst the ecstasy of young love, Hazel's health deteriorates and both must learn to confront their fear of dying and losing each other.

Despite its bleak subject matter, *The Fault in Our Stars* expertly combines comedy and tragedy, in no small part aided by excellent performances from its two leads. Showing 20:45 Tuesday 21st and 18:30 Thursday 23rd.

# Green goes crazy Run, baby, run

John Park takes a look at *White Bird in a Blizzard*

Ellen Mathieson gets lost in *Maze Runner*

**Director:** Gregg Araki  
**Screenplay:** Gregg Araki  
**Cast:** Shailene Woodley, Eva Green, Christopher Meloni, Shiloh Fernandez



There is no one like Eva Green who can play crazy as well as she can. Known for playing slightly unhinged, potentially dangerous women on the verge of having a complete meltdown, Green is spot-on in any role that requires her to be dark and disturbed. Whether portrayed as a villain or a victim, the fundamental common theme that runs through most, if not all, her characters, is that you should prepare yourself for a captivating turn.

Here, Green plays a mother who mysteriously disappears without a trace. Her daughter Kat (Shailene Woodley) takes centre stage in trying to piece together just what the hell happened. She reflects on the past, one that includes many instances of her mother's erratic behaviour.

Brock (Christopher Meloni) and Eve (Green) Connor were supposed to live out the perfect little suburban American dream. And to give them some credit, their early years were blessed with happy memories. This is until Eve realises the repetitive, frustrating nature of her existence as a bored housewife who is only concerned with keeping the house tidy. With very little sex in the marriage, Brock turns to magazines and Eve turns to her daughter's boyfriend.

Yes, Kat, having reached that certain age, starts seeing her neighbour Phil (Shiloh Fernandez): the-boy-next-door-type who also takes an interest in her. Their intensely sexual relationship catches the envy and bitter disdain of Eve who stares as Eva Green does best; with her no-nonsense, piercing gaze that sends chills down spines. This is the turning point for Eve. She starts dressing more provocatively, speaking more resentfully towards her husband and daughter and she begins to drink more, much to the shock and annoyance of her family members.

It is in the midst of this madness Kat has her growing-up to do. *White Bird in a Blizzard* is a coming-of-age story of Kat. A police investigation gets underway, although it is difficult to pin-point exactly what happened. Was Eve taken against her will or has she done her absolute best to get

away from her monotonous life? After some digging, there is very little evidence to support whatever theory anyone might have about it, so gradually, Eve becomes a forgotten figure. The only thing that comes from the police intervening is Detective Scieziesicz (Thomas Jane) who lets himself be seduced by Kat then proceeds to satisfy her voracious sexual appetite.

Woodley is conquering all sorts of genres to add to her impressive resume; she can tick the box titled 'twisted little indie', proving she really can do pretty much anything that is required of her. Despite there being an age gap of only 12 years between them, Green and Woodley have a fascinating chemistry. They can be seen as competitors when it comes to their search for love and sex, and when Green exerts her maternal pressures and powers on her pubescent daughter, the tension between the two escalates even more.

Green, as mentioned before, is a force to be reckoned with. Her performance is most effective when she is using her English accent, as her American one has a hint of an awkward twinge in there, but it does not stop her from giving yet another emotionally draining, completely gripping, unpredictable turn. Eve's slow descent into madness is undeniably entertaining because Green does it so well, but at the same time heart-breaking, because the two sufferers, Brock and Kat, must deal with the consequences of such behaviour.

The story moves on with Kat going on to college, making new friends and a new boyfriend, but the past comes back to haunt her when she returns home. Now the loose ends must be tied up and the questions answered. And with not too many realistic suspects involved, it does not become a tricky game of whodunnit. Kat is almost too blind to see something that is quite apparent from what is left behind. But the way the final scene unfolds sends the feeling that the film is trying too hard to be unpredictable. There is such a sudden change in the way some of the characters are portrayed that the final twist becomes too implausible. It rushes through its ending with the jaw-drop finale, not quite thinking through the fact that the characters we have known throughout the film's running time do not quite match up with what we see in the ending. There are ways to do a smart, unexpected ending, the way *White Bird in a Blizzard* goes about achieving that is not quite the most effective.

**"Brock turns to magazines and Eve turns to her daughter's boyfriend."**

**Director:** Wes Ball  
**Screenplay:** Noah Oppenheim, Grant Pierce Myers  
**Cast:** Dylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Will Poulter



Teenagers are big business. Due to the success of franchises like *Harry Potter*, *Twilight* and the *Hunger Games*, production companies are desperate to find the next big hit to empty teens' wallets, and to be the ones that do it first. This has led to a spate of second-rate films that haven't quite made the cut. Look at the *Golden Compass*, *Mortal Instruments*, *I Am Number Four* or *Stormbreaker*. All of these took books with large fan bases, enjoyable plots, twists, turns, and lots of sequels, and in making them into a film, managed to take away what made them good in the first place. It's easy to make a film. What is much more difficult is to make the franchise, and that is where these films fail. Not a single one in that list did well enough to get a sequel.

*The Maze Runner*, based on the bestseller by James Dashner, is the latest of these attempts. And finally, for what is the first time since perhaps the *Hunger Games*, it has succeeded.

Imagine you wake up in a strange place, surrounded by people you don't know and you can't remember anything, not even your own name. Then you might have an idea how our protagonist feels at the start of the *Maze Runner*. So what do you do surrounded by all this? The film title may give you a bit of a hint. You run.

The film starts some pretty speedy exposition after this. The strange place our characters are in is called the Glade. It looks like a fairly idyllic place, apart from the fact that it is surrounded by immensely tall walls. The people are known as Gladers, and they live by three rules. Everyone does their part. Never hurt another Glader. Never go outside the Glade.

The reason for the last rule? The Glade is surrounded by a maze which changes layout every night. Every day Runners go out into the Maze to map it and try and find a way out. But only the strongest and fastest of the Gladers can do this, as at sundown the doors to the Maze shut, and no-one has ever survived a night in the maze before. There are monsters in the Maze, known as Grievers. But of course, no-one has even seen a Griever either.

The leader of the Glade, Alby,

takes our main character under his wing, and after a convenient blow to the head, he remembers his name as Thomas. But almost as soon as Thomas starts to feel at home, things start going wrong. A Glader is attacked by the Grievers during the day, sending him into a craze where he tries to kill Thomas.

At this point the plot, which had been very exposition heavy, starts to pick up pace. Mazes are explored, monsters are battled, and lots of people fight about lots of things.

One of the major things that can make these type of films sink or swim is the acting from the understandably young cast. The *Hunger Games* has an Academy Award winning actress in the lead role. The *Mortal Instruments* – not so much. Many teen franchises try to counter this by having well respected actors in the adult roles (think Kate Winslet in *Divergent* or pretty much any of the Professors in *Harry Potter*). However as almost all the characters in the *Maze Runner* are young males, this film cannot use this to distract from potentially poor performances.

Thankfully the *Maze Runner* manages to avoid this problem. In the main role is Dylan O'Brien, in his first major film role since he rose to fame in TV's *Teen Wolf*. He is very good at managing to balance between scared and confused teen to bold and confident Runner with ease.

The best performances of the films however, belong to Thomas Brodie-Sangster and Will Poulter as Newt and Gally. Though they could easily come across as the generic 'Good Guy' and 'Bad Guy' respectively, they bring heart to their roles, especially Poulter in the climax of the film, proving what he has only hinted at before – he has the ability to go far in the acting career.

The look of the film is another point in its favour; though the Grievers are a little silly in concept, they still manage to be the correct level of scary. The bright greens and blues of the Glade are juxtaposed with the dank greys of the Maze, helping to create very different moods in each space.

Overall, though it suffers from a slow start, the *Maze Runner* builds and builds to a fantastic conclusion, managing to surprise from what could easily be predictable. It's helped by some excellent performances from the core cast.

It's great to finally see the beginning of what could be the next big franchise. All there is to do is wait, and hope that the sequel is just as good.

**"no-one has ever survived a night in the maze"**



# Arts

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Arts Editors || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

## An Artist's Guide to London

Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland show what the capital has to offer

Hello, and welcome to our Artist's Guide to London, where we will be detailing all the best culture the capital has in store for you. We understand that it can be daunting to try and explore the innumerable venues for art, dance, theatre and opera, but we are here to provide you with a helping hand so that you can get the most out of your time here!

### Fine Arts



The brutalist facade of the Barbican Centre, London's largest arts centre Photo: Creative Commons

#### Big Hitters

Even those with an insatiable cultural appetite will always find something to do at these places; these are the behemoths of the London art scene.

#### Victoria & Albert Museum

Located right on our doorstep, this is one of the best places in London to wander around during a lazy afternoon away from lectures. Founded in 1852, and home to more than 4.5 million objects ranging from sculpture to fine china, it is the largest museum of design in the world. To make it even better, Imperial students, on presentation of their student card, get discounted entry into the special exhibitions!

#### On Now:

- *Horst: Photographer of Style* - A retrospective of Horst P. Horst's effortlessly elegant fashion photography (until 4<sup>th</sup> Jan)
- *Disobedient Objects* - A free exhibition showing objects used in demonstrations, and examining the role of protest in society (until 1<sup>st</sup> Feb)

#### Look Out For:

- *Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty* - Don't miss your chance to see this blockbuster show, which is transferring to Europe for the first time after opening in the NYC Met (opens 14<sup>th</sup> March)

**"The Barbican Centre makes other venues look quaint"**

#### Tate Britain and Modern

**Tate Britain** is located on the north bank of the Thames, and has been open since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Recently renovated beautifully by Caruso St John, it houses a collection of historic and contemporary British art, and is the host of the controversial annual Turner Prize. **Tate Modern**, located on the south bank, cuts a striking figure; housed in a former power station, it features a collection of international modern and contemporary art.

Every year an artist is invited to fill the large turbine hall, usually with an extraordinary commission.

#### On Now:

- *Late Turner: Painting Set Free (Tate Britain)* - an exhaustive examination of the later works of British artist JMW Turner, one of the most influential figures in the history of British art (until 25<sup>th</sup> Jan)
- *Alibis: Sigmar Polke (Tate Modern)* - A retrospective of the German artist, known for his wide range of output and use of experimental techniques (until 8<sup>th</sup> Feb)

#### Look Out For:

- *Marlene Dumas (Tate Modern)* - A chance to see a collection of work by this South African painter, whose figurative work is both beautiful and unsettling (opens 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2015).

#### Barbican Centre

Made up of two galleries, two theatres, a concert hall, three restaurants, three cinemas, a library and a conservatory, **the Barbican** is a labyrinthine arts centre - the largest of its kind in Europe - that makes other venues seem quaint in comparison. Opened in 1982 and designed by Chamberlin, Powell and Bon, it is a masterpiece of brutalist architecture, feted and loathed in equal measure. Outside the centre, a complex of fountains and gardens makes this one of the best places in London for a stroll.

#### On Now:

- *Constructing Worlds: Photography and Architecture in the Modern Age* - An examination of buildings on film, bringing together 18 photographers who have changed the way we view architecture in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries (until 11<sup>th</sup> Jan).

#### Look Out For:

- The regular themed seasons that the Barbican runs; comprising of workshops, talks and films, these provide a wealth of opportunities to learn about different topics.

**"The National Gallery - a sprawling gallery, easy to get lost in."**

#### National Gallery

The granddaddy of British art institutions, this houses a comprehensive collection of public art from 1200-1900. Taking up an entire side of Trafalgar Square, this sprawling gallery is easy to get lost in, and it is near impossible to visit it without seeing something new. In order to avoid the tourist crowds of doom that congregate outside, plan your visit for a time that will be quiet - definitely not at the weekend.

#### On Now:

- *Rembrandt: The Late Works* - Considered one of the greatest painters in history, famed for his use of light and shading, this exhibition brings together a number of the Dutch master's works (until 18<sup>th</sup> Jan)

#### Look Out For

- *Maggi Hambling: Walls of Water* - A series of paintings, never seen before, inspired by Suffolk, the county where this painter/sculptor lives and the location of her most famous work
- *Scallop*, located on Aldeburgh beach - a tribute to Benjamin Britten (opens 24<sup>th</sup> Nov)



A sunny day at the V&A. Great for a lunch break! Photo: Creative Commons

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## Middle League

Not quite as large as those listed above, these still provide a satisfying cultural hit through their programmes of innovative exhibitions.

### Photographer's Gallery

Tucked down a quiet side street behind Oxford Circus, the gallery – as the name suggests – is London's premier gallery dedicated solely to photography. As well as putting on regular retrospectives of photographers, the gallery is host to the annual *Deutsche Borse Prize*, one of the highest accolades in European photography.

#### Look Out For:

- *Edward Steichen: In High Fashion, the Conde-Nast Years 1923-1937* – Brimming with sumptuous portraits, this exhibition brings together the work done by American photographer Edward Steichen for the publications *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*. Credited as some of the first modern fashion photographs, expect drama, glamour, and beauty. (From 31<sup>st</sup> Oct).

- *Analemma: Fashion Photography 1992-2012* – A display of the photographs of Dutch photographer Viviane Sassen, whose bold, expressive pictures have helped subvert the popular trends found in conventional fashion photography. (From 31<sup>st</sup> Oct)

### Whitechapel Gallery

Located in London's East End, the Whitechapel Gallery is the focal point of the East London art scene. Despite collaborations with local artists and organising community outreach work, it still manages to put on some of the best exhibitions of contemporary art in London.

#### On Now:

- *Richard Tuttle: I Don't Know, Or the Weave of Textile Language* – The largest survey of this American artist's work to be held in the UK, which

deals with everyday materials such as cloth, rope, and paper. Alongside this exhibition, Tuttle will have the honour of filling the Tate Modern's Turbine Hall with a new commission. (Until 14<sup>th</sup> Dec)

#### Look Out For:

- *Adventures of the Black Square: Abstract Art and Society 1915-2015* – Taking Malevich's abstract Suprematist composition, this exhibition charts the role abstract art has played in society over the last century. Offering big names such as Theo Van Doesburg and Alexander Rodchenko, this will surely be one not to miss. (From 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2015)

### Serpentine Gallery

A short walk north from campus will bring you to this unassuming gallery, which has become world-famous through its programme of contemporary art.

#### On Now:

- *Cerith Wyn Evans* – A major exhibition for this Welsh artist, whose work explores sound, text and language to great effect; this will see the gallery transformed into an interactive space for his conceptual pieces. (Until 9<sup>th</sup> Nov)

- *Trisha Donnelly* – An American conceptual artist whose work spans a variety of media including photography, video and sculpture. This exhibition will explore her interest with the links between different forms of art. (Until 9<sup>th</sup> Nov)

#### Look Out For:

- *Serpentine Pavilion* – Every summer, the gardens outside the gallery play host to a temporary pavillion designed by a leading artist. This is a highlight in the architectural calendar, and previous designers include Daniel Libeskind, Jean Nouvel and Frank Gehry. The design is kept closely under wraps, so this is definitely something to look out for.



The jewel-box interior of the National Portrait Gallery, one of the premier art spots in London Photo: Creative Commons

### National Portrait Gallery

Nestled behind the National Gallery, this doesn't seem to get the attention it deserves. However, once you enter you will find a wealth of treasures within. It also hosts the *BP Portrait Award*, one of the highest prizes in the world for portraiture. Their collection consists of a large variety of portraits of important British figures, from Henry VIII to Camila Batmanghelidjh.

#### On Now:

- *Virginia Woolf: Art, Life, and Vision* – A stunning collection of intimate artefacts and pictures, this exhibition offers a rare insight into the life of one of Britain's most notable writers and a very private figure (Until 26<sup>th</sup> Oct)

#### Look Out For:

- *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize* – The photographic counterpart to the *BP Portrait Award*, this exhibition features the work of 60 of the most exciting contemporary photographers from around the Globe. (From 13<sup>th</sup> Nov)

### Southbank Centre

Sprawling across a 21-acre site on London's South Bank, this arts centre is comprised of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, and the Hayward Gallery. With four resident orchestras, the centre has a jam-packed schedule, putting on over 1000 events a year, ranging from spoken word evenings to dance recitals. The Hayward is the main art space, and puts on a number of exhibitions throughout the year.

#### On Now:

- *MIRRORCITY* – A heady exhibition that asks artists to explore the digital landscape, and its impact on our humanity. Sci-fi fans should be especially excited. (until 4<sup>th</sup> Jan)

**"The National Portrait Gallery has a wealth of treasures hidden within"**

**"The Southbank Centre has a jam-packed schedule, with 1000 events a year"**



The 2013 Serpentine Pavillion, designed by Sou Fujimoto Photo: Creative Commons

## Private Galleries: What are they all about?

FRED FYLES  
SECTION EDITOR

As well as the established art venues, London has a long tradition of private galleries, where the pieces you see will generally be on sale. Often they will have multiple artists on their roster, but stage exhibitions of a single artist to drum up publicity for their work, generating greater prices.

These galleries allow you to visit and see artwork for free. Now, these galleries may seem like hostile, unwelcoming places, but it's important to remember that their *raison d'etre* is to attract people in to buy their work, so don't be afraid to go in and have a look around. Strike up a conversation with the gallery assistants – they are there to answer your questions, and usually have a wealth of knowledge about the artist on display, their working methods, and any similar artists that you might enjoy.

### West London: Mayfair & Fitzrovia

In West London, the main bulk of galleries can be found in the labyrinthine complex of streets between Piccadilly and Euston Road. This area has been known historically for its artistic tendencies, and it is here that you will find some of the most well established commercial art galleries, such as the **White Cube Gallery** (25-26 Masons Yard), which was one of the first places to put on solo exhibitions of the YBAs.

### East London: Whitechapel, Hoxton, & Shoreditch

Although the stretch of London between Aldgate East station and Kingsland Road may seem like a modern-day inferno full of braying twats who work in media, the area has a strong presence in the contemporary art scene. There are some real gems, such as **Maureen Paley** (21 Herald Street), whose clients include Wolfgang Tillmans and Gillian Wearing, both Turner Prize winners.

### South London: Peckham, Southwark, and Camberwell

Once East London reached 'peak hipness', it was only a matter of time before a motley crew of artists and students roamed London looking for the cheapest property prices. Low rents, proximity to art schools such as Camberwell, and new transport links provided by London Overground make the South the new spawning ground for art galleries. However, not all are new openings; some have been here for a while, such as **Studio Voltaire** (1a Nelson's Row), an artist collective which this year celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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## Theatres in London



**National Theatre, Southbank.** You can always find something good to watch here. Photo: Creative Commons

### National Theatre

Just a short walk from the Southbank Centre, this awesome, bunker-esque building is arguably the home of British theatre. Pretty much anyone who's anyone in the theatre world will pass through its doors at one point or another. Furthermore, every year they release tens of thousands of £15 tickets for a

range of productions, making this a top choice for students.

#### Season Highlight

*The James Plays:* A series of three plays set in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, focussing on three generations of Scottish kings, this epic production is the jewel in the NT's crown this

autumn. After a widely lauded premier at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, these productions have become the hot ticket this season. Look out for a standout performance in James III from Danish actor Sofie Gråbøl, best known for her star role in *The Killing*. It'll all be over by November so book soon! (10<sup>th</sup> Sep - 29<sup>th</sup> Oct)

### Almeida Theatre

Located just off Upper Street in Islington, this theatre may be small - with a capacity of only 325 - but more than makes up for that with its international ambition. A recent string of exceptional hits, including *Chimerica*, *American Psycho*, and *1984*, the Almeida has cemented its claim as the most exciting theatre

in London, and every new production is anticipated with bated breath.

#### Season Highlight

*Charles III:* this production, which premiered at the Almeida, has been moved to the larger **Wyndham's Theatre**. Charles III is set in the not-so-distant future, where the queen

has died, and Prince Charles has ascended to the throne. Known for his controversial opinions and media gaffes, this play tries to imagine what will happen when Charles is given the power to rule, and is perhaps a chilling advertisement for the republican movement. Definitely worth a watch. (18<sup>th</sup> Sep - 31<sup>st</sup> Jan)



**The Almeida Theatre, Islington.** Great for experimental plays Photo: Creative Commons



**Donmar Warehouse, Seven Dials.** Photo: Creative Commons

### Donmar Warehouse

Nestled among restaurants and cafes in Seven Dials, right next to Covent Garden, the **Donmar Warehouse** is another small venue churning out quality productions.

With former directors including Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*) and Michael Grandage, the theatre has

always attracted big names, including Tom Hiddleston, who was soaked in blood earlier this year for their production of *Coriolanus*. Tickets do sell out fast, so be sure to book in advance.

#### Season Highlight

*Henry IV:* This autumn sees the

return of director Phyllida Lloyd, whose 2012 all-female production of *Julius Caesar* was a landmark in the history of Shakespeare. Turning her attention to one of Shakespeare's greatest historical plays, Lloyd has again brought in an all-female cast, in what is sure to be a groundbreaking reinterpretation of a classic. (3<sup>rd</sup> Oct - 29<sup>th</sup> Nov)

### Royal Court

Described as 'the most important theatre in Europe', the **Royal Court** plays a central role in discovering and nurturing new playwrights through its Young Writers Programme.

Never afraid to take a risk, at the **Royal Court** you are certain to find something unexpected. Just a short

tube ride away in Sloane Square, there's nothing stopping you popping down and discovering the next Tennessee Williams.

#### Season Highlight

*2071:* A collaboration between writer Duncan MacMillan and climate scientist Chris Rapley, *2071*

presents a fresh look at the urgent problem of climate change. Directed by Katie Mitchell, who previously collaborated with scientist Stephen Emmott on the startling book *10 Billion*, this offers a much-needed discussion on the very real terror of man-made environmental devastation. (5<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Nov)



**The view inside the Royal Court Theatre.** Photo: Creative Commons



**The Old Vic Theatre, Lambeth.** Home of blockbuster productions (and Kevin Spacey) Photo: Creative Commons

### The Old Vic

Former home of the National Theatre, the **Old Vic** has a prolific history, stretching back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Known for its mix of modern and classical drama, the company is under the helm of US actor/director Kevin Spacey, who assumed the role of

Artistic Director in 2003. Down the road, you can find its sister company **The Young Vic**, which stages newer and more experimental plays.

#### Season Highlight

*Electra:* Critically acclaimed French/British actor Kristin Scott Thomas

takes on the title role in this ancient drama from Sophocles. Staged in the round, it is a classic tale of power, anger and revenge.

A highly-charged epic, this promises to be a must-see production this autumn. (22<sup>nd</sup> Sep - 20<sup>th</sup> Dec)

**Our website is stripped down at  
the moment...**

**See us in our evening best  
tonight at 5pm**





FelixOnline.co.uk

# Arts

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Arts Editors || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

## Architecture

We'll be doing an article in another edition on some of the architectural highlights of London but for now, here are a few places hosting exhibitions on the subject at the moment:

- **The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)** on Portland Place regularly hosts exhibitions and talks on architecture and also has a wonderful library filled with every imaginable book on the subject.

- **The Barbican** is not only a must-see as a piece of architecture in its own right but often hosts fantastic exhibitions such as *Constructing*

*Worlds: Photography and Architecture in the Modern Age* (until 11 Jan)

- **The Design Museum** by Tower Bridge also has an exhibition on at the moment - *Louis Khan: The Power of Architecture*, delving into the world of the iconic 20th century architect. (until 12 Oct)

- **The Bartlett School of Architecture** at UCL is currently holding a free lecture series on the various issues facing architecture as more strain is put on urban infrastructure.

- The nearby **Architecture Association** on Bedford Square is also

a good place to watch as they regularly host lectures and exhibitions that are open to the public.

For something slightly different, visit the **Sir John Soane's Museum** on Lincoln's Inn Fields, an absolute treasure in the heart of London. Free to enter, this little-known museum was the house of architect Sir John Soane and is chock-full of sculptures, paintings and architectural curios, winding through a building ingeniously designed by Soane himself. Moreover, on the first Tuesday of every month they also have a candlelit evening opening, a favourite art experience in London - not to mention a great date idea!



The Royal Institute of British Architects, Portland Place. Photo: Creative Commons

## Opera and Ballet

It is extremely rare for a city to have more than one venue that hosts opera but London is one of those fortunate cities, hosting both the world-class **Royal Opera House (ROH)** and the English National Opera (ENO) at the **Coliseum**.

The **ROH** is London's main opera establishment, renowned for the quality of its output and certainly up there with the likes of the **Met** in New York and **La Scala** in Milan. However despite this, it is still able to maintain a very down to earth attitude and although people tend to dress up for the occasion, there is no pressure to do so. You can also get some pretty reasonably priced seats, even for your student budget!

A key event on the agenda for this season at the **ROH** is their new production of Mozart's *Idomeneo*, which tells the tale of Idomeneo, a

war hero who inadvertently promises to sacrifice his own son. Rich in drama and emotion, this will be the UK debut of Austrian director Martin Kusej. (3rd-24th Nov)

The ENO is somewhat more accessible to the general public as the majority of operas are sung in English, making it a good introduction into an art form that can sometimes seem rather daunting to an outsider. Although it can occasionally feel a bit too 'West End', they also do put on some excellent new pieces that are slightly more experimental. Moreover, their 'secret seat' system, where you pay £20 and are allocated a seat worth £25 and above, makes it extremely affordable and could mean that you even get a seat down in the stalls!

A sure highlight for this season will be Fiona Shaw's production of *The*

*Marriage of Figaro*, a comic opera of intrigue, drama and sexual tension. Some performances will be preceded by a talk by librettist Jeremy Sams and production manager Sheelagh Barnard. (16th Oct - 23rd Nov)

There are also some smaller opera productions dotted around, most notably the **Fulham Opera**, based down by Fulham Broadway, which is very convenient for Imperial students!

**Sadler's Wells Theatre** in Finsbury, and **The Coliseum** and **Royal Opera House** in Covent Garden are the city's major venues for ballet, hosting the English National Ballet and the occasional visiting ballet troupes from abroad. So whether you want a bit of *Swan Lake* or maybe something a bit more avant-garde, there's always something to see.



Top: The Coliseum, one of London's premier venues for ballet. Left: The view from the top of the Royal Opera House, the main opera establishment in London. Look out for their other performances, which include dance and ballet Photos: Creative Commons



Here are a number of museums that don't comfortably fit in any of the previous categories but are definitely worth knowing about.

**The Hunterian Museum** in the Royal College of Surgeons is one such place. Founded by John Hunter, it hosts his personal collection of biological samples which were used to

teach students about various diseases of the body. Not only is it a pathology museum full of biological oddities but it also contains a large collection of animal specimens.

Alternatively, you could head to the **Grant Museum of Zoology** at UCL, which houses thousands of specimens of particular interest to biology students.

The **Marianne North Gallery** houses an astonishing collection of botanical paintings and illustrations by Victorian biologist Marianne North.

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## Top 5 Memberships

Jack Leese looks the capital's best art memberships

There are a good number of reasons why you may want to join one or more of the plethora of membership schemes offered across the capital. Do you want to show off to everyone how cultured you are? Maybe you simply can't stand to queue. Perhaps you relish going to members-only areas. Hopefully though, the number one reason is that you love soaking up any exhibition that comes flying onto your radar. And so I've compiled a list of my memberships, answering questions like; "Is it worth the money?"; "what benefits do I get?"; and most importantly "what is the members' bar like?"

### 5 Royal Museums Greenwich

This is not one that a lot of people would have considered but this gives you access to a collection of underappreciated museums. You'll get free access to the **Cutty Sark**, the **Royal Observatory**, the **Meridian Courtyard** and to any and all special exhibitions held at these locations. Membership is £35 for students and also grants you access to lectures, tours and other events, a lovely members room and a quarterly newsletter. If you are particularly interested in astronomy, you can join the Flamsteed Astronomy Society for an extra £28 for lectures from leading astronomers and viewing sessions, including the opportunity to use the 28-inch telescope and the solar telescope.

### 4 The Tate

This a big membership, giving entry to all the Tate Galleries' special exhibitions and, other than the art fund, is the membership that gives you access to the most exhibitions. With the membership you will also get access to members rooms at the **Tate Britain** and **Tate Modern**, the latter having a rooftop terrace with commanding views over the City and St Paul's. So why isn't this higher up the list then? Well it really is quite expensive, as membership starts at £69 for individual membership, with no discount for students and aside from the expected free entry to exhibitions and the magazine, there really are no more member benefits. Hence, it entirely boils down to the question, "Will I visit an exhibition at the Tate five or more times a year?" If yes, then become a member, you'll save money. If no, then don't bother, they don't offer enough additional benefits to make it worth paying over

**"Do you want to show off to everyone how cultured you are?"**



One of the best arts deals in London, with only £45 a year giving you access to the multitude of exhibitions across the year. Photo: Creative Commons

the odds for access.

### 3 The British Museum

Only £42 a year for membership; you have no doubt visited and thoroughly enjoyed the British Museum before. In my opinion, they put together some of the very best special exhibitions that exist in the capital. Membership allows you free access to all exhibitions and there are also late night members' hours, a fantastic way to see the standing collections without the throngs of tourists congesting every nook and cranny of the museum. In addition, you'll get invites to lectures, films, and guided talks. As with all the memberships, you'll receive a magazine thrice a year, and this one is actually a good read and really adds something to the membership. All in all, if you frequent the British Museum then this is certainly a membership worth buying.

### 2 National Art Pass

An absolute steal at £29 (£21.75 if you pay by direct debit) for the year and if you were to buy only one membership I'd suggest this as it gives you such broad benefits. This includes free access to over 200 museums, galleries and historic houses in the UK including Apsley House, 2 Willow Road and the Fan Museum (not as good as it sounds). You also get 50% off exhibitions at a lot of places including all the Tates (except St. Ives), all the Exhibition Road museums, the **British Museum**, the **National Gallery**, the **National Portrait Gallery**, and a number of

others. This 'jack of all trades, master of none' membership is a very useful one to have and I would advise getting it despite the lack of some of the perks of other memberships.

### 1 The Royal Academy of Arts

Membership aside, it's an absolute gem of a gallery. Unusually, there is no standing collection but instead a high turnover of excellent feature shows. Every summer they hold their Summer Exhibition, as they have done since 1769 without fail, and it is usually my favourite exhibition with over a thousand pieces of art hung, giving a fantastic cross-section of the art world of the moment. Becoming a friend of the R.A. is only £45 if you're under 25, and £97 if you happen to be older. Given that the exhibitions usually cost around £15, that's only three visits a year to cover your costs. You will also get invited to members-only previews of all the exhibitions, late opening hours, and access to The Keeper's House with its several lounges, coffee room, excellent cocktail bar and private garden, as well as lecture theatres if you fancy attending one of their free lectures.

You will also receive the quarterly R.A. magazine, one of the better magazines which doesn't solely focus on it's own exhibitions. Additionally, this membership allows entry for a guest without having to pay extra for a guest card. What I'm trying to say is that if you decide to take the plunge and become a member of a gallery, the R.A. is definitely the one you should join above all others.

**"The National Art Pass is an absolute steal at £29 per year... it gives you broad benefits"**

## Editorial: The End of Freshers'

FRED FYLES & KAMIL McCLELLAND  
SECTION EDITORS

Freshers' Fortnight has finally finished. The floor of the union has regained its sticky residue of spilled pints that was so thoroughly scrubbed away over the summer; red lanyards lie scattered and abandoned around campus like so many red poppies on the 12th of November; your liver will never be the same again.

So as people begin to piece themselves back together after two weeks of madness, we thought that it was the perfect time to put out a bumper art section, detailing all the cultural activities that London has to offer.

We start off with our *Artist's Guide to London*, a compendium of all the best places to visit in London, curated by your trusty editors. Whether you have a thing for classical sculpture, or are already salivating at the thought of this season's new contemporary dance programme, you will find something to suit.

As well as covering the main galleries and venues, we answer an age old question: *Private Galleries: What are they all about?*, helping you make sense of all the spaces popping up around London. Don't worry if you're not an oligarch art collector; all you need to do to fit in at these places is buy a black turtleneck from H&M and talk about how the work 'just speaks to you'.

It can be difficult to afford to go to all the exhibitions you want to on a student's budget. Luckily, Jack Leese has investigated which galleries offer the best student memberships, and reports back with his *Top 5 Memberships*, helping you get the most out of your student loan (why spend all that dough at the union when you could be seeing the hottest Klee exhibit!?)

Finally, we have a couple of articles from the Imperial Fine Arts Society LeoSoc, and Imperial Architectural Society, which only started up this year. Hopefully these should give you an idea of whether these places are for you.

Also, many apologies to those – and we know this is most of you – who pick up Felix for the sole purpose of seeing the Centrefold. Due to a dearth of eligible donges this week, we have replaced the Centrefold. But don't despair; after all, what could be sexier than art?

# Arts

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Arts Editors || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

## Welcome to LeoSoc

Kieran Ryan gives us the lowdown on the Fine Arts Society

In a whitewashed room, you sit down, eyes closed, and your head gets wrapped in cling film. A bearded man with a wide grin starts smothering your face in Vaseline. Others join in. There are a lot of fingers. Then they begin covering your face in cold, dripping strips of cloth; your mouth gets wedged shut, you're left with only tiny nose holes to breathe through and your eyes are covered. You're being mummified! Bloody heck! At this point you're just hoping for a decent sized pyramid. Then they leave you. Distant chatter, that effing guy's beard, and perhaps the sounds of others suffering the same fate as you is all you can hear. Beardman is clearly the ringleader.

You start thinking of all the things you won't be able to do as a mummy. No more PG Tips. Your place as Dodgeball Captain is sure to be under threat. The Meat Appreciation Society have probably already excommunicated you. You're resigned to a quiet mummy life, then. Take up the ukelele. Adopt a goldfish. You could call it Jack. But after an age, an absolute age, another minion

of the Beardman approaches and starts PULLING your face off! They yank and grab and pull and suddenly COLOUR! SIGHT! You can see! You're a bewildered headlights-rabbit but someone hands you something and you look down. Your face is staring back at you; there's a blank, slightly scared expression on it, but it's definitely your face. A mask of your face. Neat. You admire your eyebrows. Maybe you touch noses. Welcome to LeoSoc.

LeoSoc is Imperial's art society, and meets every Monday, 18:30 to 20:30, for art related antics in Huxley 340. Regardless of your art skills, expertise, or how much chamomile tea you drink, you'll probably have a blast. We also run tutored sessions in acrylic painting, life drawing and digital art. Last year's maskmaking session was in preparation for a collaboration with PhotoSoc and Calligraphy & Oriental Arts. It was crazy fun. More info is available at [facebook.com/LeoSoc](https://facebook.com/LeoSoc) or [union.ic.ac.uk/arts/leonardo/](https://union.ic.ac.uk/arts/leonardo/)

(See an example of the art produced at LeoSoc on the right)

## Student Art



Raven by Sadhira Wagiswara  
Surface Pro 3 Tablet, on Photoshop CC

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# CF

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The annual Union Careers Fair is the largest careers event held in College each year. The fair is your opportunity to meet the many different companies that want you, an Imperial graduate, to work for them!

Companies attending this year's fair include Allen & Overy, BAE Systems, CHP Consulting, Graduate Recruitment Bureau, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), Lloyds Register, Morgan Stanley, Standard Life, TARGETjobs, Transport for London and more.

[imperialcollegeunion.org/careersfair](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/careersfair)

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# Food

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Editors || Carol Ann Cheah and Michael Chung

## Curried in a hurry...

CAROL ANN CHEAH  
SECTION EDITOR



Happy National Curry Week! The title of this editorial aptly describes this week's instalment of Felix Food, as I've been positively slammed with the first proper week of lectures. So much that I actually haven't had time to do my packed lunch routine; my bank balance is shaking its head in disapproval at me – oops! Between said lectures and getting settled into the Felix write-edit-publish routine for the new academic year, it's been a flurry of activity here.

So yes. As mentioned, it is National Curry Week and I'm hoping to either hit Brick Lane later on or do something with my flatmates for the occasion! I hope those of you who caught our Foodie InSight with our curry-pro Michelle last week enjoyed it; we'll be looking to do that every other week or every month from now on.

If you're still too chicken (hah!) to start having a go at making your own, the Felix editors can highly recommend the offerings at the new Fusion 54 outlet on the Sherfield walkway. They tend to sell out very quickly, so I'd make sure you get your hands on their wares the minute lunch starts! Portions are decently sized, and they do fill you up nicely for the money - curry or otherwise. And of course, they taste absolutely great. Incidentally this editorial was Fuel-ed (hah!) by F54's chicken korma, which I'm eating at my desk as I type.

This week's Food column very nearly didn't happen, as writing about cocktails/alcohol in a student paper is generally a toughie. I did say in my last editorial to look out for something along the lines of cocktailing, but as an editor I'm constantly conscious about what kind of message I'm sending out with the pages I curate. We were hoping to go with a feature on making your own craft cocktails on low budgets (and still making sure they taste good), but we're still stuck in the process of trying to get it down without seeming like we're encouraging binge drinking. After all, including the recent BoatGate, we've already had enough controversies to contend with here at Imperial.

That said, we're not keen on being nanny-ish or imposing our own values on our readers. So while we've sent that student budget craft-cocktail feature back to the drawing board (to find out how best to not alienate our readers), we've brought back Serverella, our resident service industry expert snark, to teach you how to bar hop like a (skint) pro.

I'm really excited for next week's issue, as we've got a few different things lined up from our writers. These include a detailed breakdown on making the perfect macaroni cheese (mac n' cheese to me, blame my partially American vocabulary) as well as a list of kitchen hacks. They look really promising, and I hope you're looking forward to the issue as much as I am.

As always, do get in touch if you've got a great little place/thing you'd like to recommend, comments on anything we've written so far, or an idea for a feature you'd like to see. Better still if you can write it; though if you're too shy you could pitch the idea and maybe it might be picked up by one of our writing team – who knows? Keep on eating, living and laughing, guys!

# How To Drink That

## Serverella talks student-budget imbibery

Hey guys - you might remember me from the final issue last academic year, where I cracked the whip on how to not suck at eating out. Since then there have been people who've asked how to not suck at cocktail bar hopping and picking out drinks, given the steep prices here in London Town. As someone working at the coalface of such chi-chi establishments (read: cocktail bars), I've heard more than my fair share of bartender grumbles from my colleagues.

We're only too happy to help you, the skint student, patronise craft cocktail bars like a pro (even if you're really broke and are at extremely high risk of pissing us off, because you're not seasoned bar hoppers yet).

### DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Bartenders work long irregular hours and have to deal with all sorts of cruddy customers (before they're even drunk), so even if our job is to smile until our cheek muscles hurt and be generally congenial, it works both ways. If the bar's slammed, make sure you're already ready to order by the time they get round to you.

That goes for you groups as well - either order one by one, or have the full group order ready to go when asked. If you're still looking over your shoulder trying to get your friend's drink order when we get to you, we'll probably move on to the next customer.

It also helps us a lot more if you've done a bit of research on the type of drinks sold at the establishment you're patronising, and act/order accordingly. If the bar only does craft cocktails and you go in there asking for a pint, you're just looking for trouble. It just shows you're a lazy customer/drinker and don't give a damn, so why should we about you?

Also, don't just come up to us and go "what's the cheapest?" If you don't have the money to drink, stay at home. When you go out drinking you're meant to budget for that - AND tips. Which brings us to...

### TIPPING

Pretty much the bartender's lifeblood, whether you're in a hipster hangout in Brooklyn or a cultured establishment in London. It's also the best way to get on our good side.

Where possible, tip in cash as it's the easiest for us to take home there and then; if you're tipping on card, remember card fees are a money-suck so adjust your amounts accordingly.

### "IT'S MY BIRTHDAY", "I KNOW THE OWNER" AND



Bartenders love cheek and innuendoes just as the next person (this pic calls for one including the word "pummel"). Just not so much from drunk customers. Photo: Felix Food

### OTHER FREEBIE-BAIT EXCUSES

These phrases seem to be commonly followed by the phrase "hook me up, will ya?" Without fail, those two are my favorite things to hear every shift. Every. Damn. Shift. (Not.)

If it's your birthday, happy birthday! Hello, you randomer who I've never seen before, and who I'm likely to never see again for a long while. You who've just come in with a group of friends who have yet to buy anything from my joint, not even a birthday drink for you (even if you claim you're going to "spend loads tonight" and "take care" of me). I know your kind, and that you're most likely to split and run to the next establishment after you claim your free shot. You're probably pretty wet behind the ears as a proper-bar drinker, and you're very unlikely to tip. Not good business, if you ask me.

Oh, you know the owner? So do I - it's hard to not know the person who signs my paychecks, and they do that because they trust me enough to be in their employ. This also includes trusting me not to freely throw around free shit or "hook you up." If you really know them and they're genuinely your friend, you'd also know that the best way to be a good friend is to properly support their establishment and buy your own damn drinks. Not by being an asshole and trying to scam them just for the sake of a freebie.

**"[They trust] me to not freely throw around free shit or 'hook you up'."**

The Coffee Break Agony Aunt said it best last week. Bottom line is, don't be a dick. If you're a regular, tip well and you're not an asshole, we might slip you something extra in gratitude. Being skint students though you're not likely to be regulars, so the general rule in your case is if you ask/demand for it, you're definitely NOT going to get a freebie. Tip us well, be polite, order a few rounds, be casual when you let us know it's your mate's birthday without looking like you're hoping for something and we'll probably scratch your back.

### MANNERS

There's a long list of do's and don'ts when it comes to how you should act around your bartender when they're making/serving your drink, as most people just generally suck at being bar patrons. But if I were to list it all this would span a lot more than a whole page, and our dear section editor would weep buckets at the massive hatchet job she'll have to do. I'm more than happy to provide a selection of major peeves and protips, though.

For a start, "hey you!", "barkeep!", or finger-snapping with your money/card... none of these are acceptable ways to get the bartender's attention, busy or not. We know you're there, and we know what order people arrived at our bar. We know you want something - that's why you're at the bar. If we've made eye contact, we'll get to you. Don't you DARE wave or

# Food

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Editors || Carol Ann Cheah and Michael Chung



Protip: "Shake it like a polaroid picture" is probably not something you should yell to your bartender. Ever. Photo: Felix Food

yell at us, even if you somehow know our first names.

If you're ordering as a group/in a round and we're busy, don't insist on splitting the bill on multiple cards. Either order individually or get cash, and don't start asking us to work out individual change amounts for individual drinks in our heads.

On busy nights if all you have is plastic, you'll make things easier for both you and us if you start a tab. You'll get served quicker, and - dare I say it - better. If you're worried about blowing your budget, you can tell us to set a limit (don't be too cheap) and we'll do that gladly. Yes, it's usually in our boss' best interests to keep you spending, but we can understand that you want some semblance of control,

especially after a drink or two, and we're happy to help like that.

If you're a closet cocktail aficionado, well done you! Just make sure you keep your smartphone app with its 9000+ recipes containing 12-part shots to yourself. There's a certain extent of off-menu-ness to which we can cater to, so if you're ordering classic drinks (margaritas, martinis etc) but they're not on our menu, any of us bartenders worth our salt will happily make those for you.

Don't you dare, however, thrust your iDevice in our faces and go "can you make an obscure such-and-such?" For every drink/shot out there, there are a thousand and one

variants and names for it from bar to bar, country to country. Playing "stump the bartender" will only get you something insipid and muddy colored, and we'll charge you triple for the privilege. Honestly, just don't.

### TO SUM IT UP...

Now remember guys, we happen to be in control of the liquor you're trying to get your grubby paws on. You show us love, and we'll pay you back well - we're trained to do that. We love what we do, and we're not as misanthropic as people think. Be patient, have some respect, and we're not going to stand in the way of your fun. Have a great time out!

**"We love what we do, and we're not as misanthropic as people think."**

## Bar staff confess: your worst faux pas



One too many? Photo: hikingartist.com

"I absolutely hate it when customers order with multiple bartenders due to impatience. If you've ordered a drink with me, please stay with me for the whole damn transaction. Otherwise you'll get more tipple than you bargained for, and you're just costing us unnecessary waste."

"You want water? That's totally fine if you and your mates have been ordering a few rounds through the night, and need a breather in between. But if that's all you constantly ask me for during the whole night, and you hog a seat at the bar sipping just your water, then you and I are going to have a problem."

"The minute you bark at me to 'make it strong!', I'm annoyed. Are you trying to insinuate that I'm going to make you something weak from the get-go? You trust me, you'll be well rewarded. If you're not convinced, pay for a damn double and watch me measure it."

"I love it when people watch me while I'm crafting away. When people start giving snarky commentary like 'ooh, bad shaking form' or 'hey, not so much juice'..you might as well stay home and make it yourself, then!"

What do we want?

FOOD WRITERS!

When do we want them?

ALL YEAR ROUND!



Join us. Our editor-ess makes cute coffee like this...with no espresso machine. She'll teach you how. Photo: Felix Food

If you like ranting about the shoddy service you received the last time you ate out, curating "listicles" (list-articles, BuzzFeed style) about the best things to make with pumpkin, or similar stuff...we want you!

First-time writers very much welcome; we take our time developing your ideas, writing skill, and style with you. After all, we've been there before. All you need to start off is a burning passion for all things foodie, and a decent command of English. GSAH (good sense of humour) is a bonus, as we like our column to put a smile on faces; straightforward-funny and subtler dry wit both equally welcome. Not sure you have it? We can curate that with time.

Simply email [food.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:food.felix@imperial.ac.uk), and we'll take it from there.

# Fashion

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Editor || Cecile Borkhataria

## Vogue Fashion's Night Out with Erdem

Cecile Borkhataria attends a Q&A session with the designer

Following every Fashion Week, an industry only bi-annual event that takes place in the four major fashion capitals, Vogue Fashion's night out takes place. This event (open to the public, yay!) sees clothing stores in the major shopping areas of the city open until late, serve up cocktails, host DJ sets and even offer discounts. Of course, these efforts are in an attempt to entice shoppers to spend their money, but as part of the evening's events, I was lucky enough to attend a Q&A session with British-Turkish fashion designer Erdem.

The talk, chaired by British Vogue Deputy Editor Emily Sheffield, gave a fashion-industry outsider the chance to learn about what the industry is really like, and just how high pressure it can be.

Set in the **Everyman Cinema** on the Lower Ground floor of Selfridges, the session felt intimate and relaxed, but the glasses of champagne served up were there to remind you that this was an exclusive affair. After a video of Erdem's Spring/Summer 2015 collection was shown, the man himself finally came in and sat down with Emily Sheffield.

Emily began by asking Erdem where he got his inspiration for the summer collection. The collection, a combination of loose, flowing dresses, was inspired by botany and Erdem's visits to **Kew Gardens**. He explained that when he plans a collection, he thinks of a narrative and draws out a story whilst asking himself "where is the woman I'm dressing going?"

In every runway show, only a handful of looks from the collection are actually shown to the audience, and the decisions of what to show on the runway take place right up until the last minute. These decisions have to take into account many considerations; such as making sure the runway show is cohesive whilst also showcasing pieces that will appeal to buyer's for large department stores.

As if the creative process couldn't be more complicated, the construction of the garments has its own set of challenges. Materials and textiles are sourced from Italy and France, and these usually close shop for the month of August, making September a very busy month for the design team. When it comes to the fashion week runway show, models often fly in a night or two before, so fitting them into their runway outfits is a last minute job. Erdem pointed out that for his Summer 2015 show, the last model fitting took place at 2am on the morning of the show!



The first look of the Erdem Spring/Summer 2015 show at London Fashion Week Photo: Vogue.co.uk

Although last minute changes and tight deadlines are *de rigueur* in the fashion world, one can't help but wonder how a designer can unwind and take a break from the stress! For Erdem, a big glass of wine right before the show works wonders for his nerves.

Erdem highlights that the buyers, those that decide what pieces to retail in stores, are a big part of

Fashion Week. They are the ones that will ultimately drive business and exposure for designers. The buying process is mathematical, and buyer's take into consideration many factors- how wearable the pieces are, how much was sold last season and if the collection fits their target customer. He notes that buyer's decisions differ across the world, because after all, a woman living in LA shops differently

to a Parisian shopping at Collette!

When asked to define the woman he designs for, he responds with "she doesn't follow trends!" He designs for a woman who owns what she wears, an individual and intelligent woman. "The woman I design for marches to her own drum" he said. With an impressive 160 stockists worldwide, Erdem's brand is growing rapidly. His first flagship store will soon be

opening on Mayfair's South Audley street. As a successful designer with growing traction, Erdem belongs to the burgeoning group of young London designers in their 20's and 30's, taking the fashion world by storm. He says that ten years ago, fewer international buyer's attended London Fashion Week, but now that's changed.

# Welfare

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Welfare Editor || Diba Esbati

## Have friends with mental illnesses? Here's how you can help.

Chanon Wongsatayanont offers five tips for concerned friends

Even if we've overcome the stigma against mental illnesses, let's admit it, they are still scary. Especially if you have friends who are suffering from them.

One moment, they're great and fun to hang around, but then one day, it feels like they've been snatched and replaced by a doppelganger that is moody, sulky or irritable, depending on the mental disorder.

Now what do you do? You probably want to help, but how? To most people, they'd probably just pitch in a considerate, "Don't worry, everything will be all right!" before slowly backing away.

Unfortunately, despite the best intentions, that is not very helpful. It's like saying 'Don't worry, it'll stop hurting soon,' to someone with a cut on their arm.

Remember that even if we can deal with the blues every now and then, this is not the same for people who sometimes cannot control what they feel.

So that's why I decided to write this article: to help the good-intentioned help their friends when they need it most.

In all the peer support training I've been to, we learn that the best way to help is to listen and understand what they feel. It's not a matter of trying to solve problems because sometimes they can feel too big to be solved or they might not know what the problem is. So to listen and letting them know that you're there to listen is already a huge relief.

There remains a daunting task of how to talk, or even approach, friends going through a phase however. So here are some tips I've gathered from my peer support training, hoping

that they will be useful to some kind souls out there.

### Try not to judge

Emphasis on try. We're human beings after all and we often judge things surrounding us. But when your friend is going through a phase, actively judging them for what they are then, rather than what they generally are, can really make things worse. It's already bad enough to involuntarily go through phases or think in ways that disrupts their daily life.

Instead, try to make them feel that you want to understand them for what they are without judging them. By doing this, you will make them more open to you and therefore more willing to accept your help. Otherwise, they will just shut you off, thinking that you will hurt them with your judgements.

### Ask open questions

When your friend is going through a tough time in his or her head and you ask questions that can be answered with a 'yes' or 'no', you'll most likely get just that, leaving you hanging in awkward silence. Being conversational and following the rules of social etiquette won't be high on their list of priorities so you'll often have to allow room for them to talk by asking broad questions. An example would be "You didn't seem to enjoy yourself at the dinner. What's wrong?"

Also these questions will help your friend articulate their jumbled thoughts, which you can help organise by asking more questions.

### But at the same time, avoid

### 'why' questions

This one sounds silly, but a scenario would demonstrate this best. Say, you're having a bad day. Your favourite football team fell out of the league, your group meeting ended up in a shouting contest and you've just lost five games of *Starcraft* in a row. Then your flatmate came in, noticed your gloomy expression and asked, "Why so gloomy, man?" When you answered, he decided to play detective with another question, "Why do you even let them bother you?"

Questions starting with 'why' always have a judgement attached to them.

"Why don't you eat that?" "Why do you hate her so much?" "Why are you always so sensitive?"

When faced with questions that imply that they're not normal or accepted, people with disorders would tend to withdraw from the conversation since they feel that they won't be understood.

So what do we ask? Instead of using 'why', try rephrasing the question in a different way that still show that you want to understand how they feel. For example, instead of "Why do you hate her so much?", say "What is it that you don't like about her?". In the same way, "Why are you always so sensitive?" can be phrased as "What makes you feel this way?"

### Summarise things for them

Trust me, there is nothing more reassuring for someone who often feels isolated by their condition than to be given an accurate summary of what they are feeling. It's the best way to show your friend that you truly understand them and hearing an echo of the feelings they've articulated is

an amazing relief.

Some people might be reluctant to summarise because they are scared they will get it wrong and make things worse. But that's not true. If you are mistaken about anything, you will likely be corrected and end up with up with a more complete understanding of your friend's situation.

### Everyone is different

A tip you hear all the time, but worth mentioning. When someone who is suffering from depression or anxiety said they want to be left alone, it can either mean they want to be avoided until the phase blows over or it can equally be a subtle cry for help. This differs from person to person, condition to condition, so do adjust to what your friends are like. Try to find out what they truly want with open questions about how they feel and also show that you are willing to talk. But bear in mind that if all your efforts are brushed away, it's not your fault. They might just prefer to be left alone.

To sum up, I want to point out that I'm aware I used the word 'phases' a lot throughout this article. And that's to make it very clear that a mental illness is not what defines the person suffering from it. It's a state, it's an interference, a disruption to daily life. So please bear with people who go through it from time to time. They will be incredibly grateful for your efforts amidst the world full of stigma on mental illnesses. And I hope that you will find some tips here useful!

Oh and of course, these tips can also be useful and can be applied to anyone!

## 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](http://www.samaritans.org.uk)

### Anxiety Help :

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

### No Panic

Phone: 0808 800 2222  
(daily, 10am - 10pm)  
Website: [www.nopanic.org.uk](http://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](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)  
**Narcotics Anonymous**  
Phone: 0300 999 1212  
Website: [www.ukna.org](http://www.ukna.org)

### College Resources

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

## 68,044 Pledge to end the stigma of mental illness

### EMILY CRAMPORN

October is a month marked by prominent health awareness campaigns from Breast Cancer Awareness to Stoptober. However, October is also marked by a less prominent but equally important campaign to raise awareness for mental health.

Mental illness affects one in four people nevertheless those who suffer face stigma and discrimination. Many people have negative and

**"There is a sense of judgement and shame for those who suffer."**

preconceived beliefs about mental illness. There is a sense of judgement and shame for those who suffer.

The NHS fails to offer treatments that meet standards set for physical illness leaving many people alone in times of crisis, with the introduction of maximum wait times, next spring, occurring long after those for physical illness.

Multiple organisations and charities are working tirelessly to change attitudes toward mental illness including Time to Change. Time to Change is an organisation

**"The NHS fails to offer treatments that meet standards set for physical illness."**

lead by charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness that aims to educate the public about mental health and encourage open discussion, most notably through the #TimeToTalk and Pledge Wall campaigns.

To date, 68,044 people have signed the Time To Change pledge wall to tackle the stigma of mental illness. 1,526 of whom signed last Friday on World Mental Health Day exemplifying the success of the day.

To sign the pledge wall visit: [www.time-to-change.org.uk](http://www.time-to-change.org.uk). Every pledge is a step toward ending stigma.

# HANGMAN



hangman@imperial.ac.uk

## Whet: The Union's first non-alcoholic night to be held every night

This week, the Union somewhat successfully ran their first alcohol free night in the Union Bars. Hangman has heard rumours that at one point several people were seen in the Dri bars. There were further

reports that people were even spotted in Metric. However, at the time of going to print, these reports remain unconfirmed.

Building on the success of this Dri night, Union overload Wom Theeler

announced today that he would like to see Dri built upon and run on a more frequent basis. In his blog, Mr Theeler announced plans to fully stock the Dri bar with alcohol, with the idea of turning the Union into

one big Whet night, every night.

Hangman believes the plan to be ambitious and so far well received. We analysed the President's blog hit count and it doubled after the announcement from 3 to 6. A great

success it seems.

When Hangman contacted the Union to find out what prompted the change, they responded with, "We asked for feedback in regard to Dri and the overwhelming reply was "never go in Dri". We then sat down with all the Student Trustees (Sabbs). The Deputy President of Welfare, Khristian Caye made the point 'that it is always hard to get people in Metric without liquid lubrication', so we thought we can easily fix that with alcohol."

One Felix Editor-in-Chief was quoted as saying "Whether is always better, I'll be there in Metric with my gin, soda, limes getting Whet". She went on to invite anyone that wanted to get Whet with her to join her this Friday night for the launch of Whet.

On a completely unrelated note, the President of the Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union has put in his calendar that he too will be in Metric this Friday.

Let's hope that we'll be getting Whet in Metric for years to come.



Whet event poster Credit: Hangman

## Diary Of a Fresher, aged 18 3/4

Sunday 12th October, 2014

Dear Diary,

This week I bought a fountain pen from the Union shop, SO CHEAP WOW

Was going to have a lie in today, but then I realised that I had to go through all my introductory lectures and make notes.

Who said Imperial students don't have free time. This is eeeeeeeasy!!!

Monday 13th October, 2014

Dear Diary,

Ran out of kleenex already, who knew that the speed of the internet here would be so good. I don't think i'll ever be able to go back to non-HD

Tuesday 14th October, 2014

Dear Diary,

Been banned from the college network for over use of the bandwidth :-)

Wednesday 15th October, 2014

Dear Diary,

Managed to hack into the wi-fi of the primary school next door. High def is back on! Took so long though I might have to pull an all-nighter to get this marked assessment done but I'M TOTALLY GAME LOL

Thursday 16th October, 2014

Dear Diary,

Submitted my marked assessment today. I reckon it will get 85-90% easily. I really can't believe that the pass rate is 40% here. It must be impossible to get anything other than a 2:1 and up. I'll let you know, dear diary, how it goes. Feedback here apparently is super fast!!



# HANGMAN



hangman@imperial.ac.uk

## News without the news RCM student hospitalised after incident with a tuba, condom and root vegetable



Ambulance outside the Royal College of Music Credit: Hangman



Arm wrestling takes place in Beit Quad Credit: Hangman

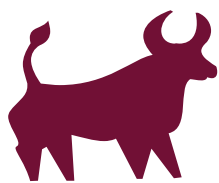
## Game of Arms takes Imperial College by storm

# HOROSCOPES



ARIES

This week, you take the roommate battle to a new level. While he's out, you go into the bathroom and take his toothbrush. You then slowly insert it into your arsehole and proceed to give it a pleasurable scrub. You put it back. He's called shit breath all week. You've never felt so clean and minty downstairs. #fresh



TAURUS

This week, you go to the RCSU Ball. You have a great time, well done RCSU. The only down side was waking up next to someone you don't recognise. You check he's still asleep, grab your trousers and head home. 3 weeks later you get the news you're a mother. Congrats on having an RCSU baby!



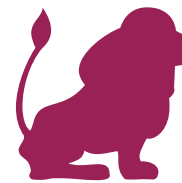
GEMINI

This week, guess what? You're still the DPW. You are now so sick of your overpaid job that you are trying to get fired by any means necessary. You slip in as many offensive phrases into as many pointless meetings as possible. It doesn't work. You end up drowning your sorrows in 568, again.



CANCER

This week, you develop yellow fever. Actually, who are we kidding - you've had it since Lower Sixth. Anyway, you grab your Mandarin phrasebook and decide to try your luck at the next ABACUS event. Lamentably, you get all the tones wrong and inadvertently call the President's mother a whore. bù hảo.



LEO

This week, you are an Engineer. Whilst on the pull, you realise that the condom in your wallet has expired. Fortunately, your friends remind you that you won't need a condom, your personality will keep all the potential mates away. #foreveralone



VIRGO

This week, you go hard the night before graduation. You wake up in the morning feeling rather rough. You put your gown on and head off to the Royal Albert Hall. While waiting for your name to be called out, you feel the vomit crawling its way up your throat. You panic, open your purse and release the chunder into it, repeatedly.



LIBRA

This week you come home from the Union depressed from being rejected by yet another girl. You cuddle up with Mr Flopsy, but during the night you have a little accident. You, the bed and Mr Flopsy are soaked. Poor Mr Flopsy.



SCORPIO

This week, you go to the CGCU Welcome Dinner. You have a great time with your friends, even if you were the only girl there. Still, you drink, eat and even pull. Well done you. You however, don't want to be shown up by your RCSU hallmate who apparently had more fun at the ball, so you get pregnant too.



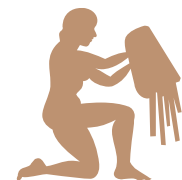
SAGITTARIUS

This week, you are Hangman. After managing to sneak in a horoscope about your Editor's nocturnal activities into last week's issue, you are forced to grovel to her as an apology. Before you know it you are the 2nd person to get with her in as many weeks.



CAPRICORN

This week, you realise that London is more dangerous than your native Bath. In an attempt to avoid getting mugged, you sign up for Ju-Jitsu, Judo, Karate, Kendo, Kung Fu, Muay Thai, and Wing Chun, all of which turn out to be useless when you inevitably pass out drunk on the N23 and some joker slips your phone out of your pocket. Twat.



AQUARIUS

This week, you are the UCL Provost. Your main activity these days is trying to find an explanation for the 'bello' email you sent to all 26,000 of your students whilst off your face on speedballs. In the end, you decide to blame it on 'hackers'. Hm. That was easy. Pint?

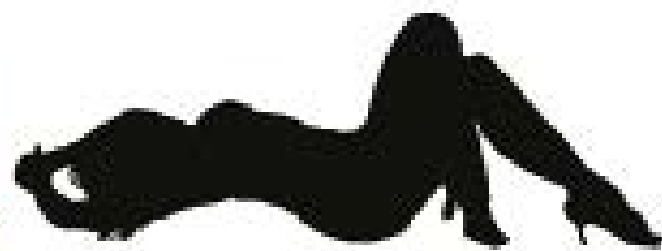


PISCES

This week, you decide to write a ghost post on behalf of the Welfare sabb. You have a sarcastic dig at the student paper, who in turn, lose their shit. They will never forget that event you ran that lost £3,000 and will refer to it whenever they are nearing the deadline and want to take their stress out on people that aren't copy editors.



# SEXUAL PERVERSITY IN CHICAGO



*A Play by David Mamet  
Directed by Tom Cunningham*

*Union Concert Hall*

*15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>*

*19<sup>th</sup> October*

*19:00*

*Tickets\* £5*

**DRAM  
SOC**

 imperial  
college  
union

*\*Tickets also include admission to MTSoc's show: Acting! The art of persuasion!*

*For more info visit us at [facebook.com/DramSoc](https://facebook.com/DramSoc)*

# Clubs and Societies

felix@imperial.ac.uk

C & S Editor || VACANT

## A fearsome addition to IC's martial arts roster

Xuan Chen gives his thoughts on Imperial's newest self defence class

For anyone unfamiliar with *Krav Maga*, the short summary is this; it's a brutally effective modern self-defence system invented by the Israeli military halfway through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

What hopes to become one of Imperial's newest societies offered a free taster session one rainy Sunday to gauge the interest in this ruthless sport, and it would seem that Imperial students will finally get their chance to learn how to defend themselves against hordes of knife-wielding hooligans.

Imperial's new *Krav* society was founded by two friends brought together by their mutual love of the sport: Pierre and Habib, the president and instructor respectively. Habib starts us off - the atmosphere is easy as Habib's confidence and boisterous laugh puts us all at ease.

A seasoned black belt, he's been teaching *Krav* for seven years now and fighting even longer than that.

*Krav* is nothing like most oriental martial arts because they were all developed in the middle ages. Since *Krav* is still being developed today, it is effective for modern combat, actually adapting techniques for use in modern-day situations. It resembles most closely the *Keysi* fighting style, which Christian Bale demonstrates in Nolan's adaptations of *Batman*.

"I suppose the most similar would be Mixed Marshal Arts, but that's all unarmed combat. In *Krav*, we defend against all sorts of weapons - knives, guns, batons, etc., and also against multiple armed opponents."

We warm up before moving onto what the spirit of *Krav* is all about - moving into the opponent and getting up close for the counterattack. We only get about fifteen minutes of this 'traditional' martial arts training, however, because *Krav* is all about real life situations and how to get through a fight and survive.

Habib sets up a deadly obstacle course where the obstacles are opponents attacking with knives, batons, grapples, and kicks - none of which we were taught at the

**"In Krav, we defend against all sorts of weapons - knives, guns, batons..."**

beginning. Leaving only half a second between opponents means that getting trained this way hones your survival instinct and the core principle of getting inside your opponent's guard to take him down with the counterattack. This, it turns out, succeeds very well when defending yourself against all of these situations.

"You don't have twenty years to learn every single move and countermove," Habib reminds us. "Most fights are going to be even shorter than this; five seconds is too long and in real life you're looking at two."

Over the remaining ninety or so minutes Habib sets up a fake social situation, where half of us are the away victors at a football match and the other half are the angry home supporters.

Unbeknownst to us, our rivals are armed and so after mingling a bit one of them suddenly pulls a gun on me. My pitiful reaction of trying to slap his hand away and stammering "woah, woah, Jesus Christ" doesn't really do much to save me in that situation.

Habib then explains that these are the situations that you find yourself in in real life - these are where your fights are going to be, not honourable karate tournaments or an initiation involving a convenient matchup against another *Wing Chun* expert balancing on tables.

We learn to read a little body language and also perform basic checks to see if anyone is hiding any weapons somewhere. The role-play gets a little more intense and this time there is name-calling and general provocation before any weapons were drawn.

Unfortunately for my new attacker, who also pulls a gun on me, he failed to notice that this time I had been armed with a knife and that I am surrounded by 'friends' this time.

The result is my companions dragging the gun out of his hand and him to the floor whilst I stab him in the neck, all within one second of the whole incident taking place.



Habib demonstrates a knife block on an 'attacker'. Photo: Xuan Chen



Krav leaves no stone unturned in disabling an opponent. Photo: Creative Commons

Habib is happy to take questions throughout and demonstrates a variety of finger and wrist breaks, disarms, and elbow and knee strikes he promises to teach us next time.

*Krav* is a viciously pragmatic martial art and Habib channels this by touching on the philosophical aspects of hurting others as well as trying to save people you care about,

as well as the importance of common sense.

"Don't be a hero; you can walk away and nobody will judge you for it."

Any martial arts fan or anyone who is up for learning a bit of street defence should definitely drop by to a session, and witness the unique and deadly *Krav Maga* fighting style for themselves.

**"Don't be a hero; you can walk away"**

## Write for Clubs & Societies

Are you a club or society president? Have you started doing something new this year? Do you want the chance to show off a new skill? Do you really like writing experience pieces?

If the answer to any of those questions is "yes", then you're in luck! We are looking for regular and occasional writers about anything Club & Society related - this could be event reviews, trip reports, big (or little) wins or even shameless plugs about a new activity. All you need is access to a computer and something to write about.

If interested, drop us a line at [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk) with the subject line "C&S Article".

## SPORT

Sports Editor: Kunal Wagle

## Should Formula 1 have visited Russia?

**HENRY LAMBLEY**  
WORLD SPORT REPORTER

On the 12th of October 2014, the inaugural Russian Grand Prix was held in Sochi against the backdrop of the facilities used in this year's Winter Olympics. Whilst the first few laps were very competitive with drivers struggling to adapt to the track conditions with a heavy fuel load, throughout the rest of the race, action was at a premium. After Nico Rosberg flat-spotted both front tyres at the second corner, forcing him to take an extra pit stop, the race resulted in a comfortable victory for Lewis Hamilton who was unchallenged on a track that suited the superior engine of the Mercedes cars. Nico Rosberg recovered to finish in second place and Valteri Bottas utilised the Mercedes engine in the back of his Williams to pick up the final podium position.

Whilst the race was not one of the most exciting in terms of on-track action, there were huge levels of controversy surrounding a move to Russia - especially in the wake of a perceived Russian involvement in the Ukraine conflict. On the backdrop of the Ukrainian government announcing an intention for the country to join the European Union, anti-government and pro-Russian groups protested in the streets in many major towns and cities across the south and east of Ukraine. These demonstrations quickly turned violent with insurgents taking over key strategic positions including local government offices and border control. It has been suggested that Russia supplied weaponry and special forces ground troops to support those who wanted to rejoin the country. Vladimir Putin also made it his goal to recapture the southern region of



Photo: Reuters

Crimea which he achieved during the height of the conflict. In an attempt to restore order, Ukrainian troops have been sent to the east of the country but the turmoil is ongoing.

To hold a highly regarded world sporting event against the backdrop of war seems, at least at first glance, to be a poor decision. Perhaps this is why the race was held in Sochi - hundreds of miles away from the realities of war and against the backdrop of what Russia aspires to be, in Putin's favourite city. It is certainly feasible that the race was a ploy to persuade the rest of the world that Russia could continue to host world class events and a demonstration of the wealth that the country still has despite various restrictions applied by the United Nations.

Formula 1 is no stranger to controversy over the destinations it visits. The 2011 Bahrain Grand Prix was postponed and subsequently cancelled after turmoil in the country whilst the 2012 edition went ahead despite campaigns by groups of

activists against the extreme force and torture techniques used by the Bahrain authorities on its people. Many of the destinations visited on the Formula 1 calendar are places where large portions of the population are incredibly poor and the lavish nature of the Formula 1 coupled with the colossal fees paid for the privilege of hosting a race mean that protests occur at many events with the level of public dissatisfaction having increased in the wake of the global recession.

The sport has always sought to shy away from the politics of the host country in the hope that the event can transcend the differences between people but a race is always used as an opportunity to publicise the location. No more so than in Russia with coverage of Vladimir Putin's movements included in the television streaming whilst the race was still happening. Significant time was given to shots of Putin and Bernie Ecclestone in conversation sitting in a sparsely populated grandstand. Granted, having one

of the most powerful world leaders turning up at a sporting event means a great deal in terms of exposure for the sport but they are very rarely shown mid race.

A major part of the success of Formula 1 has been the sports ability to reach out to the world and attract a diverse global audience. For a sport with nine teams based in England and the other two still within Europe, it seems incredible that people in far off countries would turn out for an event of this nature. To extend this to a population of over 140 million people whilst reaping economic benefits for both parties can only be perceived as an excellent idea. However, unintentionally or not, the sport has become a prominent political outlet for the countries it visits and this is unacceptable.

The event was significantly overshadowed by the presence of Vladimir Putin and the coverage that he received during the race. The real question after this weekend of motor sport is: Should politics be purged from Formula 1?

## In case you missed it...

In Rugby League, St Helens won the Grand Final against Wigan Warriors. However the game was marred by a shocking punch by Ben Flower on Lance Hohaia. Flower has since been banned for six months - the longest in Super League history.



The BBC revealed their Price of Football Survey results. Manchester City was found to have the cheapest season tickets, whilst Arsenal yet again came up as the most expensive team to see.

In actual football news, England were unconvincing in their victories over San Marino and Estonia. Germany and Netherlands have also been struggling, with Germany only taking one point from two games, while the Netherlands have only won one of their first three.

Lewis Hamilton extended his lead in Formula One in Russia last week. However, the bigger news is that World Champion Sebastian Vettel has announced that he will be moving from Red Bull to Ferrari next year, which should pave the way for a return to McLaren for Fernando Alonso.

Andy Murray's hopes of qualifying for the World Tour Finals took a massive blow as he was dumped out of the Shanghai Masters in the third round by David Ferrer.



Photo: Getty Images

Steffon Armitage's potential shock move to Bath seems to be in tatters after he was selected for Toulon in a European Champions Cup match. If he plays on Sunday he will be cup-tied, theoretically ending Bath's interests. As a result it would end his chances of playing for England in the World Cup next year.

**KUNAL WAGLE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

## Imperial College Fencers Lunging to the top

**ROSS MASKE**  
ICU SNOWSPORTS

Imperial College has qualified four fencers for the individual and team events of the prestigious 2014 Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Largs, Scotland this November. This event is held every four years; fencing is not part of the Commonwealth Games but the medals will be the same as the ones given in the Commonwealth Games!

Imperial's fencers are: Maiyuran Ratneswaran (English number

three in sabre); Zoe Robinson (English number one in sabre); Glen Ostacchini, who graduated earlier this year but qualified while still an Imperial student and currently ranked number one in Wales in foil; and Jamie Simpson, who will be representing Northern Ireland in epee - ranked second in Northern Ireland. Both Maiyuran and Jamie have previously competed in the Junior Commonwealth Championships, Jamie in the 2012 Championships in St. Helier, Jersey and Maiyuran in the 2009 Championships in Penang, Malaysia

where he carved up the opposition to gain an individual silver and team gold. Maiyuran also competed in the 2010 Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Melbourne Australia, where he again slashed his way to the podium winning the team event and finishing second in the individual event.

It isn't just fantastic individual results that Imperial can be proud of though - last year, Imperial Fencing gained the most BUCS points of any University. Imperial Men's 1st team won both the 2013/14 Premiership South and the 2014

BUCS Championships remaining undefeated, while the Women's 1st team won the 2013 BUCS Championships. Imperial also has the most fencing teams of any UK University so there are opportunities for anyone to represent the College. The Club isn't just for the competitive though - everyone is welcome! If you have been fencing for years, have never picked up a sword before or even if you are still sitting on the fence, then come along to one of our training sessions or sign up to one of our novice courses that run throughout the year.

# SPORT

Sports Editor: Kunal Wagle

## Tour Report: Rugby goes to South America

### Joe Bowden takes us behind the scenes of the rugby team's tour to Argentina

Fifteen excited tourists arrive in the union. There's not only drizzle in the air but also anticipation, so much so that a certain kitchen utensil could be used to cut it. No one knew what to expect. Ciro, the tour organiser, is renowned for his general lack of intelligence and exuberant fresher handling techniques. Both are qualities that could have sent the tour either way. If only there was someone to micro-manage him... Having failed to find such a person, Henry Legge commenced stash dispensation. The kit was beautiful. I could hear people saying expletives such as "gosh" and "crikey". With Henry having won everyone over with his sterling effort on the kit and witty comments we headed to Heathrow.

Once on the plane operation G&T took full effect. With the better looking members of the group using good looks and bilingualism to win

over the male airhostess we, as a team, single handily raised the price of Bombay Sapphire stock by 12% (credit Dave Jones for that stat).

Before we knew it we were at the hostel and in need of Pesos. All equipped with as many dollars as we could afford we headed to a well known currency district to exchange, an event that changed our lives forever. Having arrived in Argentina merely as members of both the lower and middle classes of the West we were not ready for the pressures that came with being a billionaire. Billionaire, I kid you not. Having googled what to do when you win the lottery we went to our first restaurant and ordered copious amounts of meat and red wine in an attempt to spend our money. The booze and beef arrived, however the bill never did. It, like everything else, was free.

The first game came round like Shuz in a drive through. Fast. We

were now down to only 14 players due to Dave "Wisdom" Jones' failed attempt at going down a step unaided. The hosts very hospitably gifted us a player for both halves, one of which was called Nacho. When we were initially confronted with this unfamiliar and frankly complicated name our Spanish speaker Ciro thankfully stepped in and told us to call him Nathan.

The remaining members of the tour flew in on the 6th day to bring our numbers up to the dizzying heights of 18. Keen to get straight into the flow of things they hit the bar, resulting in the destruction of a hairdresser's toilet, the taking of a shower in some sewage and huge amounts of foliage destruction in conjunction with the shouting of "Wales" and "weakness". We were so glad they had settled in so well.

Game two saw us lose, unfortunately. Upset and hungry we went to the post game nosh to be greeted by "pizza". The "pizza" was great. Really great. Refilled they took us to a bar where the measure 25ml was replaced with 250ml, the result of which was large amounts of wammoedness (A phenomenon whereby an individual loses control of limbs, can speak Spanish and fly. Definition provided by Dave Jones. Thanks Dave.)

With that our stay in the capital was over and we set off for Rosario.

The mode of transport was a semi-calma coach, which in Layman's terms is a massive metal box of comfort. Refreshed and ready we arrived in the city of Rosario. It seemed nice and all that we had met prior had said how gorgeous the girls were, and they weren't wrong. They were so gorgeous Matt Harvey changed religion, had a circumcision and attempted to marry one of the locals.

After really hitting it off with the manager of the wipe clean plastic surface that was our hostel he decided to ask him to come with him on a night out. The following morning Chris limped to the bathroom as he went to wash his mouth out. The details of what happened to him are unclear, but we know it involved 5 men, a red pill and a very high pain threshold.

Cordoba. The first night saw us pay a seemingly disproportionate price for a bar crawl. After a few days of consuming unrealistic amounts



Photo: ICU Rugby



Photo: ICU Rugby



Photo: ICU Rugby

# SPORT

Sports Editor: Kunal Wagle



Photo: ICU Rugby

of beer. I saw and ceased the opportunity to express his ability to get things wrong. The result of which was we either took a worse bus the following morning or a better one the following night to Mendoza.

Keen to get to Mendoza half the group grabbed the first option. Those remaining then proceeded to have one of the best days on tour. A trip to a gorgeous spot on a river

flanked with rocky slopes and filled with people "finding themselves." Whilst there we had a traditional Argentinean barbeque and two bottles of wine each. A canoe, a horse attack and drug addict juggler later we were ready for bed.

Finally in Mendoza we hit the ground running, setting straight off on a tandem bike wine tasting tour. It sounds like one of the



Photo: ICU Rugby

best things ever and it is, with one caveat. Tandem bikes require huge amounts of coordination, balance and communication.

All three of which degrade massively when inebriation. So having had about three bottles of wine each and shots of absinthe we weaved our way back home with the sun setting over the Andes. Now came the treacherous bus ride through

the Andes. With the majority of the group having not swallowed anything illegal we found ourselves entering Chile with relative ease, where we were staying in what can only be described as a palace.

Some highlights of the following night include Dave Jones drinking blood, Shuz being covered in urine and a small concrete malfunction with one of the load bearing walls.

All that was left to do was make it home and pass on whatever diseases we had picked up onto our friends and family.

The journey back allowed us time to reflect on what was without doubt the best three weeks of our lives.

Memories and friends were made that will last a lifetime.

Shame none of it was on film...

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# Falcons win first trophy in four years

**ASHLEY NG DING WEN**  
ICBC CHAIR

The minibus was full of excitement and anticipation as club driver Rhys guided it down the M40 to Slough where the Falcons were to play in the inaugural National University Baseball Fall Cup organised by Baseball Softball UK (BSUK). The off-season had seen fantastic recruitment, particularly in the pitching department and this team represented the best chance yet that the Falcons had of securing that coveted Fall Cup Shield which they last won in 2010.

Things were looking a little shaky in the warm up drills, but thankfully the Falcons found their groove for the first game against Southampton. The team as a whole was the beneficiary of some erratic pitching from our opponents, and patient battings led to 8 walks and 1 free base due to a hit batter. This allowed the Falcons to pile on the runs with a total of 16 scoring on 7 hits thanks to Ashley, Zack, Yuki, Patrick, Vincent, Ben and Min. Chris did well to hit a strong line drive to right field that was somewhat magically scooped up by Southampton's right fielder inches from the ground.

On the defensive side, the Falcons were impeccable with a perfect 1.00 fielding percentage. Pitchers Yuki Fujita and Zack Wang combined to shutout the Mustangs and gain the win for the Falcons in the first

game. With a +16 run differential, the Falcons were now at the top of the table for the first time in 4 years.

The next game against the UCLU Capitals was a much closer affair as Falcon bats went strangely silent with only 4 hits the entire game. Nevertheless, the Falcon's fielding and pitching pulled through again with another fantastic performance by Zack Wang on the mound striking out 3 batters and allowing only 2 runs in the first 4 innings before closer Eduardo came in to finish the last inning with 3 easy outs despite 2 inconsequential walks. The Falcons again showed their mettle on the field with yet another 1.00 showing on the field, securing the win 8-2 despite mustering less hits than their opponents.

The third game started off a very tight affair, With the Falcons first up to bat, leadoff Ashley and second batter Eduardo both grounded out to the left side of the field. Third baseman Patrick stepped up and was lucky to get on base from an error by the Thieves' first baseman. A stolen base later, he was in scoring position and left-fielder Yuki smashed in a double to bring him home before Zack grounded out to first base. With the score at 1-0, pitcher Eduardo, gave a fantastic showing on the mound, gaining a 1-2-3 inning with 2 strikeouts to bring the Falcons back to bat. Things started off well for the Falcons with first baseman Ben hitting a triple to get in scoring position. Catcher Vincent Li then

grounded out to the pitcher, giving the Thieves their first out. Then, in a squeeze play right out of the highlight reel, Second baseman Rhys Jones laid down a perfect bunt to score Ben and made it to first. The score was now 2-0 with the Falcons in the lead. However, right field Jacques would then strike out to give the Thieves their second out. Leadoff Ashley stepped up to the plate again and started off a 2-out rally with a big double behind centre field which was followed by hits from second, third and fourth batters which brought in a further 4 runs before Zack grounded out to first to end the inning. The Falcons were now 6-0 ahead and looking very strong on the field. Nottingham's biggest batter then stepped up in a big way with a solo home run over the centerfield fence before Eduardo closed out an otherwise uneventful inning against the remaining batters. In the top of the third, the Falcons continued to pile on the runs with Ben, Vincent, Chris and Ashley all coming round to score, bringing the Falcons to an unassailable 10-1 lead. The game would end in two more innings with the Falcons closer Zack closing out the game for the save despite giving up 2 runs to bring the score to 11-3.

The final round robin game for the Falcons came on Sunday against last year's Spring Cup champions, the UEA Blue Sox.

The chilly weather was getting to everyone and it was evident in the erratic pitching of starter Zack as

well as a series of uncharacteristic fielding errors from everyone that allowed UEA to score 2 runs in the first inning. Nevertheless, the Falcons came back strongly to knock 7 in for a mercy rule inning in the bottom of the first that was helped along hugely by a UEA pitcher that could only manage 6 strikes for the inning and singles from Eduardo, Stephane and Ashley. The top of the second however, showed that the Falcons themselves weren't immune to the weather as UEA knocked them right back for a mercy rule inning with Zack struggling to find the strike zone. The Falcons then came back again with a second straight mercy rule inning of their own, helped along by singles from Patrick and Min and a massive two run line-drive homer to left field from Yuki.

The Falcons were now up 14-9 and with Zack finally finding the strike zone in the top of the third, they managed to get out of the inning with only 3 runs scored.

As the bottom of the third came round, the Falcons were 10 minutes from securing the win on time, having batted second.

Patient batting from all batters saw the inning drag past the 10 minute mark as the Falcons scored one off a wild pitch, bringing the Falcons into their first final in 4 years with a perfect unbeaten record in the round robin.

Nerves must have got to the Falcons in their first big game however, and they gave up 6 runs in the top

of the first with a series of hugely uncharacteristic errors. From then on, UEA never looked back as dismal hitting from the Falcons saw them only getting on the scoreboard in the bottom of the third off a line-drive single from Patrick coupled with 2 stolen bases and a wild pitch. The Blue Sox continued to pile on the runs as starter Yuki had trouble finding the zone and soon the score had become 11-1. With things looking grim for the Falcons, a two out rally started again in the bottom of the fourth with Ashley getting on base off a single to the opposite field before stealing two bases and coming home off a passed ball. Patrick drew the walk to get on base and subsequently came home on a wild pitch after two stolen bases.

Yuki then drew another walk and came home on another wild pitch before Jacques struck out to end the Falcon's hopes of victory.

Despite the dismal final, lots of positives were taken from the competition, with huge improvement from last year's new players, Rhys, Stephane and Min.

And as the Falcons celebrate their first trophy position in 4 years, the sights are set firmly on the National University Softball Championships on the 18th of October where the Falcons will be aiming to expand their trophy collection.

# SnowSports or No Sports: The Gnarliest club on campus

**ROSS MASKE**  
ICU SNOWSPORTS

For centuries, humans have pondered the possibility of having fun in Winter. We have now found the answer: strapping a plank of wood to your feet and trying to traverse down a snowy hill, also known as Skiing and Snowboarding.... and your Snowsports club with the help of Oliver Wynam is here to help you experience what many are calling the greatest thing since sliced bread.

On Wednesday 8th of October ICSC ventured to Milton Keynes to partake in the first ritual of the year. Upon arriving in the ghost town that is Milton Keynes ICSC and the London SnowOp were ready to rip up the slope! We were blessed by the gods and there was no one else that evening (Yeah, we rented

out the whole slope to ourselves). It was a night filled with high speed and acrobatics with a slope style and slalom course set up just for us. Unfortunately the night came to an end but no one had to fear because we will have many more awesome events organised this year.

The committee have been working away to plan a busy season for all you lovely people. To name just a few things planned for you this year we have: BUDS (massive competition in Edinburgh), Kings Race series, BUISC (indoor inter-uni competition), regular racing and freestyle training sessions, our incredible trips in the Christmas and Easter Holidays and of course more socials than you can shake a ski at.

Whether you're a seasoned vet or a novice curious to discover the joys of snow sports and the intricacies of the quasi-religious subculture of snow

worship that goes with it, we have something for you. Starting with the beginners, we run lessons at Hemel Hempstead snow dome during term time before the Christmas and Easter holidays to get you up to speed with the basics before the trip and we offer an excellent beginners package on the trip. For those of you who have skied or boarded before we have regular racing and freestyle sessions throughout the year, which are a great opportunity to hone your skills. Both racing and freestyle sessions are open to everyone who has any previous experience on the snow (i.e. can get down a slope by themselves safely), so don't think you aren't good enough, it's a great opportunity to improve.

This year we are pleased to announce our new partnership with the management consultancy firm Oliver Wyman. If you are interested in possibly pursuing a career in



Photo: ICU Snowsports

this sector, take a look at their fantastic opportunities either in the sponsorship section of ICSC's website or at [oliverwyman.com/careers](http://oliverwyman.com/careers). Together we are working towards making this year one of the best in

ICSC's history so now is definitely the time to get involved.

Check us out on Facebook or sign up to the mailing list on our website for more info about what is clearly the best society at Imperial.