



# Felix

Keeping the cat free since 1949

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issue no. 1586

October 31st 2014



**S&M (and M&S) ACC Union bar night**  
**Bondage theme smashes ACC sales records**  
**News, page 5**



**IC Rugby first XV**  
**suspended**  
**after**  
**stripping**  
**on tube**  
**platforms**  
**ALSO: Medic rugby team caught**  
**naked on CCTV at Heston**  
**Page 4**

## Inside...

**Queenie comes to South Ken to tweet**



**News** 3

**Pascal Loose educates us on being DPE**



**Features** 12-13

**So, can you actually have fun in Council?**



**Comment** 10

**The medical miracles of MDMA**



**Science** 15

# This week's issue...

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Felix Editor || Philippa Skett

## CONTENTS

News	3-7
Comment	8-11
Features	9-10
Science	14-15
Games	16
Technology	17
Music	18
Arts	23-25
Film	26-27
Television	28-29
Fashion	31
Welfare	32
Coffeebreak	33
Hangman	34-35
Puzzles	36-37
Sports	38-40

## What's on this week:

### Defamation training

12:00 - 13:30, November 4th,  
Meeting Room 1

If you fancy meeting our news team and getting involved, come along and learn about libel, defamation and just how freely we use the word "allegedly."

Attendance is free, and food will be provided.

### SKETT'S BOX OF SHAME

Apologies for some mistakes in **Issue 1585**. These were:  
- Mis-spelling Conall O'Neill's name at the top of his article in Music

In issue 1584, in our article on the amenities fund, we printed the wrong figures for Gabor and Linstead in our graph, confusing them with figures for the entirety of Eastside and Southside.

Thanks to Vasa Curin for correcting us. With the adjusted figures, the true amount of cuts to the funds is closer to £150,000.

# Rugby boys, District Line trains and the risk they pose to the reputation of students

## THIS WEEK'S EDITORIAL

To the right of this editorial is the initial front cover we had for this issue. We carved that pumpkin during the late hours of Tuesday night, and we then took it to ACC Sports Night to photograph it on Wednesday. After chasing down some drunk fresher who tried to steal it from us when our backs were turned, we managed to get a great shot that would have made an eye-catching, if news-less front page cover.

Unfortunately, The Evening Standard went to print before we did, and published the story about misbehaving rugby players, that we cover more extensively on page 4.

Felix was already investigating the story concerning some of the Medic Rugby players streaking on camera when this story hit the headlines, so we have merged them together to show that in reality, what may have been an isolated incident may, in fact, link into a larger subculture of drinking through sports clubs.

It is debatable whether or not such a subculture is damaging to those it involves (or excludes as it may be), and those it inadvertently involves too. People were annoyed when their tube was delayed by eight minutes, and they probably didn't enjoy seeing a student strip to his boxers on a tube platform.

But the damage such behaviour from such a small subset of students does to the reputation of students on a whole is far worse.

Sports clubs will always drink during their socials; they always have done. Students will drink themselves



silly too, regardless of being in a team or not; we only have to look back to three issues ago when we covered the drama surrounding the drunken medic student on the boat, another story picked up by The Evening Standard.

Unfortunately, outside of the Imperial bubble, and outside of socials, drunken students misbehaving carry with them the connotations of all students being a public menace, a waste of tuition fees, louts and idiots. It is the people outside of this bubble that know that these connotations translate into clicks on an article, hits on a website, and, eventually, money in their

pockets.

However, after speaking to the boys on the team today once the story broke, many do not seem to be any of these things at all, and were keen to point out that it was the case of a few people misbehaving and tarnishing the reputation of the rest of the team.

Consider this an example of how the press regards students, and perhaps be wary in the future about how you conduct yourself once you leave the Union walls. The isolated actions of a few have stopped the fun of their team members, and can harm the reputation of students as a whole in the long run, something we are all, no doubt, keen to avoid.



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# News

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News Editors || Carol Ann Cheah and Kunal Wagle

## Queenie goes all social on Twitter

**KUNAL WAGLE**  
SECTION EDITOR

Her Majesty the Queen sent her first tweet during a visit to the Science Museum last Friday. During the visit she opened the new Information Age gallery at the Science Museum.

The tweet, which was the first tweet to be sent by a reigning British monarch, read: 'It is a pleasure to open the Information Age exhibition today at the @ScienceMuseum and I hope people will enjoy visiting. Elizabeth R.'

The exhibition displays the "technological breakthroughs that have transformed how we communicate." As part of the exhibition, the Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh listened to people whose first glimpse of television was watching the Coronation in 1953.

The Director of the Science Museum, Ian Blatchford, said that Queen Victoria has taken a great interest in new technology since the invention of the telephone. He recalled when she "made the first live Christmas broadcast in 1957" and was "the first monarch to send an email, during a visit to the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment" on 26 March 1976.

The tweet was retweeted over 41,000 times and favoured over

44,000 times. It wasn't the first tweet from the account (@BritishMonarchy) but it was the first tweet that she personally had sent.

The early days of the exhibition have been extremely well received, with Baroness Lane Fox saying, "this gallery reminds me of the extraordinary ambition of so much of the UK's past - from laying the transatlantic telegraph cable, to the invention of the World Wide Web. It therefore throws down the gauntlet for the future and provides fabulous inspiration."

Simon Segars, who is Chief Executive of ARM, added: "The future is always nurtured in the minds of our children and a gallery such as the Science Museum's Information Age can inspire them to unleash their ideas. If just some of the young people coming to see the exhibition go on to become engineers and scientists then we've succeeded."

Imperial College Union's Deputy President (Welfare) Chris Kaye, an ardent follower of the Queen, was on hand to tell us what he thought of the news: "It was brilliant to see Her Majesty take her first steps into the digital stratosphere. It was so exciting that our esteemed Monarch came so close to Imperial College. It reminds me of a quote she made in 1947: 'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the



The Queen arrives at the museum. Photo: Chris Kaye

service of our great Imperial family to which we all belong." When it was pointed out that this might not be about the College, he said that the quote was "open to interpretation".

However, the tweet did not escape controversy. When the BBC reported on the momentous tweet, they inadvertently showed a reply by someone called WolfgangDikface (@WolfgangDikface), who said "fuck off". Dikface then tweeted "Look mum, I'm famous", and followed it up with "New followers: Have a look round, make yourself comfortable but telling an 88 year old woman to f\*\*\* off on the BBC is about as good as i get (sic)." In response to this Chris Kaye said, "I feel that the only consequence for people who befool

Her Majesty on social media should be to have their heads on spikes. The tweet by Mr Dikface could only be described as treason."



The Queen looking suitably unimpressed having to conform to Union branding policies by wearing Cyan Photo: Science Museum

## All change: RCSU and Chemsoc holding by-elections

The RCSU is currently holding a by-election to replace its Vice-President (Operations), who resigned earlier this month due to reasons of a personal nature. ChemSoc are also electing two new positions as part of the same election: an External Events Officer (formed as a result of splitting the Events Officer role in two to also form an Internal Events Officer), and a Postgraduate Representative.

The role of Vice-President (Operations) is a powerful one, chairing one of the main committees of the RCSU (the Operations Board), and also has a vote on the Executive Committee. At the time of going to press, nominations have opened and will remain open until 23:59 on Friday 7th November. Voting is open from 12:00, Monday 10th to 12:00 Friday 15th. Further information is found on the RCSU elections website at <http://rcsu.org.uk/vote>. Returning Officer and RCSU President Serena Yuen has published a guidebook on the website, giving further details on the election procedures. The RCSU also told Felix that they hope to have some live statistics akin to those seen at the Big Elections too, noting their thanks to the Union for their help in providing these for the summer's by-election.

PHIL KENT  
DEPUTY EDITOR

**Nominations Close:**

Fri 7 Nov, 23:59

**Voting Open:**

Mon 10 Nov, 12:00

**Voting Closes:**

Fri 15 Nov, 12:00

# News

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News Editors || Carol Ann Cheah and Kunal Wagle

## Rugby team hits the headlines over stripping on tube platforms

**Philippa Skett** on the misbehaviour of Medic and IC Rugby members

The Imperial College Rugby First XV team have been suspended pending investigation into reports that team members were stripping on a District Line train.

The behaviour led to the train being terminated at Stamford Brook. All passengers were then told to leave the train, and the police were called to the station.

The team, under the impression that the train was terminated due to a signal failure, left the station unaware of the unwanted attention they had attracted.

The reports, made in the Evening Standard, described how the tube train was taken out of service after playing the Rugby players started a “booze-fuelled stripping game on board.”

Members of the team were seen stripping on Richmond station, engaging in a game where they run onto the platform, strip to their boxers, then re-dress before the train doors close and the train pulls out again.

The group were identified due to their kit, which bore the Imperial College Rugby emblem. Team members were also seen to be swigging wine whilst on the tube.

A TfL spokeswoman said: “At around 5.30pm yesterday a train was held for about eight minutes at Stamford Brook station due to a customer incident.”

“It was then emptied of passengers and de-trained. The British Transport Police were called.”

A British Transport Police spokeswoman said: “Our officers were called to Stamford Brook London Underground station shortly after 17.30 on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, to reports of a group of naked men on a District Line train between Richmond and Upminster.”

James Cox, the first XV Captain, spoke to *Felix*. Cox said, “We would like to clarify that this was an independent occurrence, it did not happen as a group. It was purely people acting out independent of the rugby team.”

“This behaviour is completely out of nature, and steps will be taken to ensure it doesn’t happen again. Those involved will be disciplined, and I apologise on behalf of the club for any upset caused.”

Imperial College Union has



This photo is from The JPR Williams Cup Match in March. Teams from both Imperial College and Imperial Medics are under intense scrutiny following this week’s events Photo: Ian Gillett

suspended the team until an investigation takes place to establish exactly what happened.

The team in question has already met with the Union to start the process, although it could be a while before the team plays again. The Sabbatical team will lead the investigation, although there is no definitive answer as to when the investigation will be completed.

This follows from an incident last week, when an anonymous source revealed to *Felix* that the Medics 3rd Rugby Team were caught on camera

running around naked, and urinating and vomiting at Heston.

The footage was released to the Union, who are now investigating the matter, although it is uncertain as to what the consequences may be for the team at this time.

The cameras, installed for security reasons around the Heston ground, caught the footage. On screen, members of the team were identified, and as a result, are under a self-imposed ban to not drink at the venue for the next two months.

Abi de Bruin, Deputy President

(Clubs and Societies) said that the Union will be launching an investigation next week into the Heston incident too.

The event occurred after the team were drinking at the Heston bar, named the Teddington Bar, or “Teddy’s”, in a nod towards the former medic sports ground that closed earlier this year. The team members then proceeded to run around the grounds naked.

Tom Wheeler, President of Imperial College Union, said to *Felix*: “Dariush [Medic’s Student Union

President] and I are engaging with the Club Captain and Team Captain to ensure that a decent standard of behaviour is abided by when students are participating in Club-related social events.”

“Potential sanctions have not yet been decided, however continued poor behaviour such as this could result in punitive measures, such as reduction in or expulsion from BUCS.”

Representatives from Sport Imperial were unavailable for comment.

# News

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News Editors || Carol Ann Cheah and Kunal Wagle

## Bondage-themed ACC Union night hits all the right spots

**Philippa Skett** reports on the ACC event that whipped up a frenzy

Wednesday night played host to the first Athletics Clubs' Committee Sports night of the year. The evening, themed around S & M (Sadomasochism) or M & S (Marks and Spencer), saw an estimated 350 online sales and around twice as many on the door.

Initial figures suggest that over 1,100 people attended the event, approaching the total capacity of the Union bars.

Tickets were £8.50 in advance and £9.50 on the door. This covered the entry fee and the cost of four drinks, including beers and bombs. Online tickets sold out three days prior to the event, for the first time in the history of the infamous ACC bar nights. £6,500 was taken on the door alone, with £16,000 taken at the bar.

One ACC committee member told Felix: "The only hitch was when people were dancing on the stage, and one bouncer got a bit lairy. However, big dog Sam the bouncer sorted it all out."

"Apart from that, it was banging."

**"Online tickets sold out three days prior to the event for the first time."**

The night kicked off around 8pm, and by 11pm the bar queues were four or five people deep. Despite the rather flexible theme, many people chose to come dressed in various costumes completely unrelated to bondage or stereotypical pensioner attire.

It is rumoured only one fresher truly committed to the theme, turning up in sparkling hot pants and a thin white string vest. When asked if he was cold, he declined to comment.

One particularly brave individual came with his face covered in duct tape. Felix offers their condolences towards this individual who had to remove that at the end of the night.

Many people also wore M & S plastic bags, although it is unsure whether this was a display of irony or plain laziness.

With a burger stall positioned outside until the late hours of the evening, and the Christian Union on hand to give out free tea and coffee, the night was an amicable affair.



Students being served at a packed bar Photo: Felix

The Christian Union in particular has been heralded as an exemplary presence, and even helped some people return home safely.

The night was organised by the committee members of ACC in conjunction with the managers of the

**"The night was an amicable affair"**

Union bars. The committee members decided on the theme because "it would be quite funny for people to actually turn up in bondage wear."

The next ACC bar night is in November, the theme is yet to be confirmed.

## Drug dealers caught red handed

**MATTIN MIR-TAHMASEBI**  
NEWS WRITER

We've all taken some pretty shocking selfies we regret the next morning, but I'm willing to bet none of you have ever screwed yourselves over to the extent of these guys, who were sentenced to prison on Friday when police seized phones containing pictures of them posing with wads of cash and sacks of mary-jane.

The gang of five from North Kensington were raided at dawn by police, after being put under surveillance for suspected drug trafficking and their connection to recent violent attacks thought to be linked to West London gang-banging.

They managed to retrieve half a kilo of cannabis, as well as some bags of crack and cocaine, worth a few grand on the street.

The last time the city saw crime of this calibre was the fated 'Basmati Rice Thief' of the 2011 London riots, who took an uncannily similar picture to our incarcerated friends, but of himself with a kilo of Tesco value in his arms.



What a gangsta Photo: Sophian Chhayra

Detective Constable Helen Lomas spoke on the case: "These convictions are a real win for the communities of Kensington and Chelsea and its residents who have been blighted by the intolerable annoyance of this gang." She added "These individuals used their mobile phone cameras to gloat about their success in illegal

trade."

Ahmed Mahomud and Fouad Soussi, aged 20, and Zakaria Chentouf and Sophian Chhayra, aged 24, all admitted to "conspiracy to supply controlled drugs", and Yousif Mahomud, 19, admitted to being involved in the supply of Class B drugs.

## Man impaled on Kensington High Street

**BEN HOWITT**  
NEWS WRITER

A man has been found dead by a church just north of High Street Kensington station.

Paramedics and firefighters were called to the scene after a passer by discovered the body at around 6:35 on Wednesday morning.

The body was discovered in Kensington Church Walk, an alley by St Mary Abbots Church, and pronounced dead upon the fire brigade's arrival at the scene.

Police are not treating the death as suspicious, but an investigation continues. No comment was provided regarding the theory that the man slipped and fell while trying to climb

the railings, which provide access to an area known as a sleeping spot for homeless people in the area.

A Parks Police Constable acknowledged an awareness of homeless people in the area, naming it as "a growing problem which we are tackling."

Reports of the man's age vary between 38 and around 55.

The Metropolitan Police have stated that they know who the man is, but are waiting for more information and confirmation that the family has been informed before releasing further details.

Local residents have expressed their relief that the students at the nearby school are currently on half term – although Kensington High Street remains busy during the day.



Photo: RachelH

# News

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News Editors || Carol Ann Cheah and Kunal Wagle

## Singaporean President visits Imperial

**Thomas Lim and Kunal Wagle** report on the second State Visit in a year

The Singaporean President Tony Tan Keng Yam came to visit Imperial College London last Friday. Singapore forms one of the College's largest groups of international students. Recently Imperial launched joint medical school with Singapore and a new Phenome research centre. This week a new cybersecurity research agreement has been signed.

President Tan visited the Carbon Capture Pilot Plant, where academics, students and industrial partners test and develop new ways of capturing and harnessing CO2 emissions before they can harm the planet.

Speaking at a State Banquet for President Tan, the Queen said, "Today Imperial College is helping to train a new generation of Singaporean doctors, just one of many important partnerships that it and other UK universities are building with Singapore."

The practical aspects of the Singaporean President's visit came apparent when the Sherfield Walkway and Dalby Court were sealed off. Confused students had to wait patiently whilst a large contingent of Metropolitan Police Officers searched the courtyard for any signs of explosives or weapons. Sniffer dogs were also out in force,

with at least two seen checking the campus. Frustrations grew as the minutes ticked by with students and staff alike forced to wait for the President to arrive, shake hands with students, and leave so Imperial could continue with their routines.

A momentary lapse in security caused a panic when the President was meeting students on Dalby Court. A student managed to walk through the Bessemer entrance and through to the ramp down to the Queen's Tower Lawn. At this point, College Security chased after him and secured him. Whilst they were telling him off, the lack of security at other door entrances meant other members of the College patiently waiting decided to try their luck and walk through. Chaos ensued as Security then tried to stop more students from entering Dalby Court.

Imperial's student body has 400 full-time Singaporean students in addition to many more exchange students.

Professor Alice Gast, President of Imperial College London, serves on the Academic Research Council of Singapore.

Professor Gast said, "We are honoured to welcome President Tan to Imperial, as we celebrate the College's rich history of collaboration with Singapore. President Tan's

firm commitment to excellence in research and higher education is helping us to build on these strong

foundations as our relationship develops."

This is the second time that a Head

of State has visited the College in the last twelve months. In November 2013 the President of South Korea, Park Geun-hye, visited the College.



President Tan greets students in Dalby Court Photo: Benjamin Lester from Through Ben's Lens

## Council descends into game of British Bulldog

**Philippa Skett** describes the "action" as recorded votes motion is debated

The second meeting of the Council descended into confusion when students were made to literally take sides in an attempt to work out where people stood on an ambiguous motion.

The paper in question, presented by Ben Fernando, RAG Chair, was succinctly called "Motion to Implement the Council Resolution of December 10, 2013." Its aim was to introduce voting accountability to Council. Ben proposed that the Council should "publish voting records in order to be truly democratic," which proved to be a contentious issue with those in attendance.

With the Council Chair unable to reach a definitive conclusion of how many people were for or against the motion, it was suggested that students

stand to either side of the room to physically show just exactly where they "stood."

The motion to introduce publication of the voting records was finally rejected, although a working group has now been organised to investigate the feasibility of introducing electronic systems to record voting anyway.

Said Ben Fernando, the man behind the movement (literally and figuratively), "It's nice to see that the issue of how the Council votes is being publicised, even if you're making fun of us. Hopefully people read this and wonder why they can't go online and find out how their representatives have voted!"

One Union representative present told Felix "It was a farce; I attend council to sit and nod off, not to have

to physically move from one side of the room to another."

The council also decided to strip the Executive Committee of its powers. Although the functions of the committee are yet to be formally reviewed, since a lot of what is decided by the committee is also within the remit of the day-to-day roles of Sabbaticals and paid union staff members, it was decided to have no members, have no function and no longer meet.

The Executive Committee was previously made up of the Sabbaticals, Constituent Union representatives, and four members of council. They could previously oversee the financial changes, but this was stripped from their remit when Paul Beaumont, then Union President, revised the Constitution.

### What is council?

Considered the "hackiest" meeting in the Union calendar, Union Council meets roughly once a month. Council is open to all students to attend, but only those elected with a seat in Council can stand and be counted when making decisions.

Students can take papers that those in council then vote on, and the changes are put into practice as a result.

Any student can take a paper to council, but most of those submitted are by the Sabbaticals or other members of Council.

The Sabbatical Officers also produce reports that people can

question, and have to vote to accept.

Those who can vote include Faculty representatives, Constituent Union representatives, and those elected in the council elections that took place last week.

The Council is run entirely by students, and no members of staff from the Union are allowed to attend except those that take the minutes. The current Council Chair, Paul Beaumont, was Union President two years ago.

The Union Council describes itself as "in effect the democratic voice of the student body," although this should not be confused with Felix, the "student voice of Imperial College London."

# World News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

News Editors ||| Carol Ann Cheah and Kunal Wagle

## Rocket Explosion is huge setback

**Jasper Menkus** reports on the explosion, and its impact on private spaceflights

On Tuesday at 22.22 GMT, space enthusiasts watched in horror as an unmanned Antares rocket bound for the International Space Station (ISS) exploded shortly after lift-off from Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS), a commercial launch facility in Virginia, USA. Its payload – a Cygnus automated cargo spacecraft bearing supplies and experiments to the ISS – was lost.

It could have been much worse. Mercifully, this didn't happen to a manned rocket. There were no injuries on the ground and damage to the pad at MARS appears to be minimal.

The ISS isn't going to run out of supplies any time soon: a Russian Progress spacecraft on a similar resupply mission (which had already been scheduled months earlier) successfully docked with the ISS on

Wednesday morning. The scientific payload lost on Tuesday will be harder to replace, however.

The Antares rocket and Cygnus spacecraft are both manufactured by Orbital Sciences Corporation, an American aerospace company which hopes to profit from NASA's policy of contracting out near-Earth spaceflight to private companies in order to focus on long-range missions. Orbital's share price dropped 15% as soon as markets opened on Wednesday morning, and at the time of writing does not show signs of rallying soon. However, unless Orbital is shown to have really screwed up somewhere, this shouldn't materially affect their future contracts with NASA – rocketry is hard and “vehicle anomalies” like these are an accepted feature of spaceflight.

Apart from Orbital, NASA, and

the human race in general, one of the biggest losers in all this is Planetary Resources, Inc., a start-up which ultimately aims to mine near-Earth asteroids for valuable resources.

The Cygnus was carrying a miniature satellite (to be launched from the ISS) which would have tested systems for a new generation of asteroid-prospecting telescopes. Planetary Resources remains resilient: in a recent statement, they assert: “our development schedule has not been affected”.

The site of the explosion is still being surveyed by NASA and others, and it will be a while before we see any official description of what went wrong. Whatever happens, Orbital should expect a lot of scrutiny to fall on their use of (modified) old Russian NK-33 rocket engines.

These were designed in the late 1960s and manufactured in large

quantities for the Soviet Union's manned moon programme which was cancelled after the USSR definitively lost the Space Race. The engines sat in a warehouse until the mid-1990's when Aerojet (now Aerojet Rocketdyne), an American aerospace company, bought the surplus (i.e. cheap) engines and reconditioned

them. These forty year-old engines eventually found their way onto the Antares, prompting Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX (which is Orbital's direct competitor in the private spaceflight industry), to say in a 2012 interview, “their rocket honestly sounds like the punchline to a joke”.

Right now, nobody's laughing.



Antares Rocket taking off Photo: Associated Press

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# Comment

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Comment Editor || Tessa Davey

## Should non-participants be forced to subsidise events?

In response to 'Yet another nail in the coffin of the student experience' by **George Butcher**



ANONYMOUS  
COMMENT WRITER

Oh how trendy it is to decry the College for their financial decisions! Mind you, short of stating parallels with 'Butcher of the Somme', we can settle for glorifying an ambiguous term such as 'student experience' – nails in the coffin, I tell you! But do we try to view this topic from a rational perspective? I'm afraid the morality fever has permeated the campus a little too far for that – let's hope I'm mistaken.

A few clarifications I require with regards to the article. What's the point of saying 220k budget is 0.22% of the College's endowment fund? Do you think that it should be 0.23% or maybe 0.26%? Your argument only decries a loss of money from the fund for social events of halls, on the basis that otherwise, it would go to achieve some 'common good', aka student experience – and promptly say that that 220k is 'fully affordable' for the College. You put forward arguments for the existence of the fund, not its degree of financial resources; justifying affordability of the fund based on a statistic of 0.22% looking meagre, getting the gullible to agree with your alarmist approach. Not to mention that endowment actually concerns partly the investment of the principal the College cannot use to fund on-going expenditures, only the interest return it brings. So one actually needs to fiddle with the definition of endowment to arrive at 0.22%.

Your view of budgets, that if an activity in isolation is deemed as affordable because it represents some small part of the budget hence justified, is somewhat of a ridiculous premise. We need to consider 1) whether given activity is in the remit of the College, 2) the costs and benefits of activity 3) compare the activity to the host of other possibilities. That's a complex task, but tackling step 1 will be sufficient to absolve us of any need to proceed to steps 2 and 3.

Do social events by halls have 100% attendance rate? No. Whatever it is, it implies that non-participants are subsidising the participants – the money ultimately comes from students paying for halls. What right do people attending the events, including the hall seniors, have to justify forcing non-participants to subsidise these events? Student



Actual halls events may not be this classy, but they try. Photo: thamesluxurycharters

experience? First, money's taken off me, then I find out it goes to pay for some piss-up, and finally I'm told I can attend whether I like it or not – some experience, eh? (Before you say I don't have to live in halls: isn't that a bit rich when we have a system of public universities, receiving proceeds from general taxation? College is not a private entity.)

This is the pretence of knowledge – alleging that hall seniors know better how to provide student experience, rather than each individual student deciding what events to pay for and engage to boost their 'student experience'. Value is subjective, each individual is valuing trade-offs differently and by denying me choice of spending my own money (that I had to chip in for the fund in the first place) on other events that will improve my 'student experience', I am denied the 'student experience surplus'. Let's say that I decide to go to a student event to socialise, and hence boost my 'student experience',

for which I pay £x; I will pay for it if I personally value the 'student experience' I get to be above £x; that difference is the surplus that oh, makes me happy! A one-size fits all approach of redistribution cannot achieve this.

Alas, the answer is nearly provided in your article. You say, that with the loss to the fund, there will be fewer events by halls. If the events are in demand by residents of halls, seniors can put them up, charge for them, and see how it goes. Let them compete with what this 'unfriendly city' has to offer.

Now, I assume you could say, because I benefit from social cooperation of students, I am obliged to give back to boost their student experience. Sorry, but social cooperation is a result of human action, not a perquisite – no subset of the student body provides it for my enjoyment which would justify charging me for utilising it and neither do I. It is a spontaneous result

with no ownership; one can withdraw to their own detriment. But what about students who benefit less from that social cooperation? It's their choice how much they act to benefit from it – we have an equal right to social cooperation, but no right to equal outcomes from it.

Now what do I think of the College's action? We pay them fees and in return we expect education in an environment conducive to it. They should strive to provide, this but that doesn't justify engaging in redistribution of 'student experience'. Scrap the fund and lower the fees for halls. Don't give into wailing about student experience – otherwise, you support their conclusions that you know better how to provide 'student experience' than students themselves. And I am holding the College to this standard because at the end of the day, they are a public university – don't let me keep this small argument that would favour the idea of privatising Imperial.

"... don't let me keep this small argument that would favour the idea of privatising Imperial."

## George Butcher's response...

It's nice to get a response from a comment article – it means at least one person read it.

Sadly I don't see the parallels between the 'Butcher of the Somme' (presumably referencing Field Marshal Douglas Haig who lead British soldiers to 2 million casualties in the first world war) and the halls amenities fund, but that may just be me.

Halls are more than just accommodation, they are about building a community. I know I wouldn't have met many of my good friends without the strong community that the hall seniors and wardens built up around my halls; friends at other universities don't know anyone outside their corridor – don't underestimate how important organised social events are in your

first year.

We expect more than just a lecture course from College, that's why it also funds our student union, employs counsellors, has a doctor's surgery and yes, provides first years with accommodation. It's a difficult balance from College to make, but I believe it has failed to recognise the significance of the amenities fund to many students.



# Comment

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Comment Editor || Tessa Davey

## Research Ethics at the Bottom of the Ice Bucket

### Charity fads raise money for animal testing, but should the public should be better informed?



**MATT ALLINSON**  
COMMENT WRITER

Remember those summer weeks when your entire Facebook feed was filled with people pouring cold water over themselves and making some form of disgruntled exclamations about the fact? Everyone from Victoria Beckham to my own mother took part in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, and good on them too.

The ALS foundation in the USA raised \$100 million in August 2014 off the back of the ice bucket challenge. For comparison, in August 2013, it raised just \$2.8 million. ALS is a terrible condition and the money donated by ice bucket challengers is already beginning to be put to use helping find cures for it. Other international funds such as ALS Australia and MND here in the UK have received orders-of-magnitude increases in donations, and are also funding research, both domestic and international.

Most medical research relies heavily on the use of animal models

to characterise how diseases affect sufferers, and how they can be controlled and cured. Research into ALS is no exception. Public opinion of animal testing for medical purposes remains largely in favour, but is dropping. 10 years ago, support for medical research on animals stood at 75%; it's now down to 68%.

As well as this drop in support, pollsters Ipsos MORI found that if you phrase the question differently, you get different results. Asking the public if 'Animal Research' was acceptable, 68% of people replied that it was. If this is changed to the more grizzly 'Animal Experimentation' the number in favour drop to 64%.

64% is still a large majority of public opinion in favour of animal testing. However the most interesting finding of Ipsos MORI's poll was that only 30% of Brits feel they are "well informed" about animal research in the UK. 1 in 3 respondents thought that animals could be used for cosmetics research, even though this

has been illegal for 15 years.

The ALS foundation is not secretive about how its money goes to animal experiments; you can click straight through to a press statement about mouse model research from the ALS homepage. However it has been careful to spend most of its new cash on stem cell research to avoid any potential public outcry from people who donated without realising they would be supporting animal testing they could be opposed to. The sheer volume of donations it received combined with the fact that up to 36% of the population are opposed to animal testing – and 70% don't really get what it entails – suggest that a large spending spree on pulling rats apart would almost certainly result in a negative backlash.

ALS charities now sit on pots of gold larger than some countries' economies. They may be able to hold off funding vivisection in the short term whilst the public eye is still on them, but they're going to have

to spend it on animal experiments eventually. And rightly so: diseases aren't cured by pouring buckets of water over celebrities.

Instead of posing a dilemma to these charities, this is now the perfect time to engage with the public over animal testing. The charities should publicly promote all their different types of research – including their animal models – and describe how these tie in to other human based studies. More effort could be made to discuss the strict ethical frameworks that surround animal testing with the public, as well as the efforts made to prevent unnecessary suffering, and the current research that's taking place to do away with animal models entirely.

The goodwill that ALS research is currently experiencing is unprecedented and could prove the perfect backdrop to increase the understanding of animal research that the public both wants, and is owed.

## Are people starting to enjoy old movies more?

**Muni Wen** ponders the revival of retro in modern cinema

It was the sort of sunny afternoon when girls put on floral skirts and pin their hair up. As I floppily moved my mouse to click on a link someone had just shared, my eyes widened. It was a list called "Upcoming Movies 2015", and there were many names that made my heart leap in familiarity. I saw *SpongeBob*, *Cinderella*, *Peanut*s, *Star Wars*, and loads of other old friends who suddenly look back at me from the foreseeable future. My first thought: 2015 is going to be a fun year. Second thought: are people starting to appreciate old movies more and more?

According to my observation, the answer is yes. From the current Halloween hit movie, *Annabelle*, to last year's Hitchcockian production *Two Faces of January*, a retro wind is obviously blowing strong. Besides the cinematic retro trend, people are trying to watch old movies by themselves, though these are less handy than the new ones in cinemas. Imperial's Filmsoc is also dedicated to showing some "Oldies but Goodies". I myself could not believe it when I watched *12 Angry Men*, a black-and-white movie, the whole way through

without looking at my watch, but I did it. And I still remember bumping into a stranger who suddenly started talking, all excited, about an ancient Chinese action movie in which people still yell "yoooooohooo" before making any move.

Why do modern people start paying attention to movies of the past, or of distant cultures? An escape from reality fueled by availability of resources, I first thought. The word retro, as explained in Wikipedia, means not just nostalgia, but nostalgia with a hint of cynicism. People are trying to get away from the reality of films. The satisfaction from all the fancy special effects has reached its peak, and more often effects just bore the audience out of their mind. Also, there are claims that developing film technology is rendering actors lazy and incompetent. People have come to a dead end; they have nowhere to go. It's hard to technologically bring the cinematic experience to a new level.

That was all I thought, until a recent conversation changed my mind. The growing retro taste in film does not only reflect disappointment towards modern filmmaking. It is a



Old movie or new? Photo: The Artist; Studio 37, Warner Bros.; wonderlandmagazine.com

good thing too. It is an indication of how people think of films. People are refusing to just accept what the cinema has to offer and becoming the selectors of what they watch. They are striving to make different films, to uproot themselves and plunge themselves into another generation

or culture, because they expect more than fun from the movies they watch. People are asking the popcorn entertainment to bite back at them, and leave a mark. This is another way of showing what matters most in films is always the story. A good story wins and the victory lasts.

Bearing this in mind, the next time I see a retro movie in cinema, instead of yearning and mocking, "gahh they've run out of ideas", I would give a thumbs up to everyone. We are still seeking good stories, and the filmmakers, are trying hard to give us what we seek.

# Comment

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Comment Editor || Tessa Davey

## A Council Divided? A House which can have fun

A consideration of the delights of being locked in a room with opinionated people for an indefinite amount of time



**STEPHEN BALL**  
COMMENT WRITER

For most people the thought of attending Union Council is not good – to be honest, most people don't even know what Council is – but for those who do it is often thought of as a chore and is an evening that they would rather spend elsewhere. Personally I rather enjoy the process of locking people in a room until they come to an agreement on some important issues.

Tuesday's Council Meeting (the second one this year) was true to form; it had the usual mix of papers, reports, lots of arguing and generally getting a numb bottom from sitting around for some time on hard seats; but it also had the delightfully amusing spectacle of members having to get up and walk to opposing sides of the room to vote – left for yes, right for no, and standing in the middle for an abstention. To add to the confusion, the matter under discussion was about how Council votes and whether the votes of individual members should be recorded, with the number of sub-points to be voted upon constantly changing. As a candidate that ran against Paul Beaumont (Chair of the meeting) for the job of shepherding Council, I am not sure if I'm glad I didn't have the job of trying to deal with the chaos or not.

Another wonderful product of the meeting is that the Union's Executive Committee now has no members, does not meet and does not have any remit whatsoever – this is to get around the rule that Council can't get

rid of the Exec but has decided that it has no function.

I reckon that this has been one of the most fun-filled Council meetings with yet more prime examples of how Council is bad at its job, and that sadly is why I am upset. Don't get me wrong, I do think Council can be fun, and it doesn't need to take forever; but when people bemoan the fact that they have to attend a two hour meeting as an elected representative (which they chose to run for) which has massive power over how our Union is run, I get quite worked up.

Council is an important part of the Union's structure, regardless of whether you know or care about it. If you are on Council then you have decided to run for a position that means you have to be at Council, so turn up, and express opinions.

I do not consider that a two hour meeting is that long, and when even the Chair of the meeting complains about the length or apologises for the same, then all that happens is you reinforce the image that Council is too long and is boring. Read the papers, engage with the debate, and accept that there will be some items of business that don't necessarily directly impact on you.

Whilst the spectacle of some of the brightest minds in the Country having to resort to walking to opposing sides of the room to add up who votes yes (or doesn't vote) is fun to watch, the general farce that surrounded the debate and the final decision of sending a group

away to research something that was researched last year and to come back and report on whether something is feasible despite a general lack of interest in adopting the new approach is ridiculous and sad. Surely we can actually produce a series of decisions that makes coherent and logical sense, with a final outcome which actually achieves something.

What Council needs is a change of attitude – especially amongst some of its members. It needs to recognise that it has a big role, that spending 40 minutes debating something is productive (assuming good chairing) and that for the amount of power and responsibility it has, taking the time to do things properly with clear resolutions to vote on is the way things should be done, and that means that the meetings may be longer than people may be used to. The real test will be whether the attendance of members of Council continues to be high over the course of the year, and whether it once again will struggle to achieve the level of attendance to it needs to make decisions (something it struggles with every year).

What we as members of the Union need to do is discuss the topics that are coming to Council, engage with them and tell them what the issues are for us, what we think the cost of University degrees should be, and ask them whether they had fun at the last Council meeting. You could even come along yourself and contribute, you may find it fun – I do.

**"You could even come along yourself and contribute, you may find it fun - I do."**

**"Personally I rather enjoy the process of locking people in a room until they come to some agreement"**

**"Council is an important part of the Union's structure regardless of whether you know or care about it."**



Is this way of voting just an excuse to stretch legs? Photo: Stephen Ball

# Comment

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Comment Editor || Tessa Davey

## Should we accept reporting of factual errors?

NATHANIEL GALLOP  
COMMENT WRITER

So if you've been reading the news recently, you'll surely be aware of the impending apocalypse sweeping Western Africa and soon enough, we are assured, the rest of the world.

I know, I can hardly wait myself.

I am, of course, referring to the recent outbreak of Ebola, which has recently claimed its first victim in the United States: the first such death outside of Africa. All over the US, cries from the big names on the American Right (Jindal, Paul, Christie et al) have called for: the closure of borders, the grounding of flights, and the implementation of draconian quarantine procedures. Their calls stand in stark contrast to the opinions of much of the scientific community, who say that the greatest defence against Ebola is a good offence; that we must smother the outbreak before it becomes too widespread to handle effectively. This means allowing the free movement of manpower and material so as to equip aid workers

with the tools necessary to fight new outbreaks, and suppress existing ones.

Their opinions have fallen on deaf ears. A few days ago, Mr Christie took matters into his own hands, forcing a young healthcare worker into a badly ventilated, poorly sanitised tent in Newark; the first example of his oft talked about 'quarantine measure'. With the likelihood of the GOP (or the Republican party) making large gains in the senate in November, further such cases are almost an inevitability.

Of course, Christie and his ilk are easy targets. Theirs is a cry of 'a common-sense perspective', where nuance and subtlety give way to simplicity and facility. Their cries are part wilful ignorance, part midterm electoral pandering. However, they are wholly damaging and harmful.

They are not the only culprits. The disproportionate levels of alarm in the states - and in many other countries around the world - is propagated by a trifecta of



A passenger is investigated at Newark airport. Photo: beforeitsnews.com

uninformed policy making, shoddy reporting, and a muted scientific community. The last point is perhaps the most important of the three: journalists will report poorly, and policy makers will act ignorantly so long as they are able to do so with little opposition. The scientific community must be that opposition. Of course, the scientific community chooses not to. After all, we have better things to occupy ourselves with, right?

The truth is that we must assert ourselves. We should be looking

at Christie with the contempt we reserve for homeopaths, or anti-vaccination advocates. We should be loudly and obnoxiously picking apart every single factual error, every single mote of bad science they make. Otherwise, we run the risk of allowing the big decisions to fall into the hands of people who simply lack the knowledge and intelligence to make them. Christie, and the rest of the GOP run the risk seriously jeopardizing our ability to effectively deal with current - and future - outbreaks.

**"The cost to human life will only increase; we cannot afford to be silent on this issue."**

## Reflections on Oscar Pistorius, Marikana and the Media

CHRISTY KELLY  
COMMENT WRITER

In *Signatures of the Visible*, Fredric Jameson states that "the visual is essentially pornographic" - that is, its end is in "mindless rapture". That being said, as any reader of Orwell knows, there are degrees of equality; that is to say, while all 'visuals' (forgive the clumsy expression) are essentially pornographic, some are more essentially pornographic than others. The trial of Oscar Pistorius, so widely broadcast this summer, was one of these paradoxical beasts - the Napoleons and Squealers, the generally 'more equal'. The obscene spectacle of a sordid celebrity tragedy was seized upon by the major news channels as not only a worthy news piece but further as so important as to merit global coverage. It seems this turgid carnival with a faceless protagonist succeeded in trumping George Alagiah and Adam Boulton alike. The trial even inspired some program titles - my favourite: 'Oscar Pistorius: The Sentencing' - reminiscent of the cheap thrillers purchased in airport lobbies, half-read before swiftly falling into desuetude.

I must confess that I did not follow the trial. I don't know the ins and outs of the case, the arguments or the technicalities. I didn't actually know the verdict until I googled the trial for this article. I was, to be frank, mostly indifferent to an essentially private affair and slightly

repulsed by the vulgarity of the coverage. I am dubious about the propriety of broadcasting a trial from a country which constitutionally presumes innocence and I suspect media coverage does not a little to undermine formal equality before the law. These are, however, subjective impressions and the proper sociological studies would have to be made before asserting them with any confidence. I was disgraced by a media which can dissect like a vulture the offcuts of a domestic legal affair while refusing to broadcast the devastation of Israeli bombs on the grounds of 'respect for the dead'.

The worst of it, however, becomes apparent if we compare it to the media response to the state-sanctioned murder of 34 South African miners at the Marikana platinum mine in 2012. A further 78 were injured. If I Google the words "Marikana platinum mine" there are 274 thousand hits in comparison to the 13 million for "Oscar Pistorius trial". This though the Marikana strikes kicked off the year of greatest protest in South Africa since Apartheid. This though two years on no policeman has faced jail for the use of live ammunition on fleeing crowds. This though the strike marked South Africa's "first post-apartheid massacre".

It appears that the mass murder of black workers in South Africa and the most important event in the



Photo: abcnews.com

**"It would be an irenic fantasy to expect this to bring about greater parity"**

country's recent history deserves a week of coverage - as much condemnation of the strikers as sensible analysis - while the violent "indiscretion" of one of the country's ex-darlings' several months. Sadly this balance will not be redressed through the major media channels. There are, however, other ways; next Wednesday the documentary film 'Miners Shot Down' which follows the events at Marikana is showing at the Hackney Picturehouse. It would be an irenic fantasy to expect this to bring about greater parity, but the more people who are aware, the more can be made aware. Book a ticket.

**"The obscene spectacle of a sordid celebrity tragedy"**

**"I was, to be frank, [...] slightly repulsed by the vulgarity of the coverage."**

# Features

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Features Editor | VACANT

Pascal Loose,  
Deputy  
President  
(Education) is  
here to give  
students the  
satisfaction  
they deserve,  
even when it  
gets hard...

**Bernadett Tildy** interviews  
*Felix's* favourite DPE

**Bernadett:** Where are you from?

Pascal: I'm from Belgium, born in Brussels but my family is German.

**B:** Do you think that the Sabb team can accurately represent the international student population of Imperial?

P: The Sabb team is not as diverse as we hoped it to be, or as we could be, but in the end it's down to who runs and who gets elected.

**B:** Do you think that international students want different things from their education, because they're paying more etc?

P: On the whole, there is a higher turnout of non-international students for sports and arts societies. But the international societies are popular with international students. And the main difference seems to be between level of commitment students want to offer a society i.e. to just be members of a society rather

than committee members who are involved with running the clubs.

**B:** So do you think to justify the amount of money some of the students are paying for their education, education at Imperial should be improved? For example, NSS (National Student Survey) result (2014) for "assessment and feedback" was 124th in the HE sector.

P: That was one of my manifesto points. However, with improving feedback, you can't definitively pinpoint when feedback improves, the outcome may only be seen in a few years' time, when student satisfaction results improve.

**B:** I've heard that different academic departments at Imperial make different kinds of mistakes every year. But the mistakes seem to be consistent for each department.

**Would it not be better to integrate the faculties so that all**



Photo: Thomas Lim

**"The Sabb team is not as diverse as we hoped it to be."**

**the problems are solved?**

P: We can't do that because every department is autonomous. It has benefits, because every department generally finds what works best for itself. One of the issues of integrating all faculties would be to do with standardising.

**B:** What other manifesto points did you have?

P: One was to improve e-learning, to provide lecture recordings (the completion of this aim is more tangible) and maybe extend it to

**"[Postgrads] tend to view being involved in the student Union as extra workload"**

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

The other manifesto point was to integrate with the postgrad population of Imperial, because of Imperial's large postgrad population (55% undergrads, 45% postgrads).

**B:** Why do you not think the postgrads are as engaged?

P: Extracurricular activities are less important for postgrads, their main priority is their research. They tend to view being involved in the student Union as extra workload and tend to see their CV benefits less.

# Features

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Features Editor || VACANT



We don't  
need no  
ucaation...

**B: But are they not concerned about the standard of education they are getting? Is the standard of postgrad teaching better than for undergrads?**

P: I'm not in a position to say yet, I've only had this job a month and a half. There are concerns, involving league tables, just like with undergrad league tables, so there is an interest in wanting to get postgrad students to be involved with feedback on education.

**B: How do you think Nat did last year?**

**"Why did you run for a sabb position?"**

**P: The chances of winning were good!"**

P: I think she did a great job. I wasn't as heavily involved in the Union before I got the role as Nat was, so I can only really judge now how she did. Her involvement with the year and dep reps was outstanding.

**B: It has been suggested that the students who complete the NSS perhaps give an unrepresentative view because of the amount of surveys students get sent to complete.**

P: Yeah, the Union recognises that students may be getting over-surveyed.

**B: But is there a better way than conducting surveys to find out the student opinion?**

P: Maybe better use of year reps? Regular student engagement is useful.

**B: Why did you run for a sabbatical position?**

P: A friend of mine recommended to Nat that I should run for the DPE position. I gave it some thought.

**B: Why did your friend recommend to Nat that she talk to you?**

P: I was a year rep before, and I was a treasurer for another society before with my friend, so I guess he thought I did a good job!

**B: What are you doing after this year?**

P: I have just finished my 3<sup>rd</sup> year of EEE, so I'm going back to complete my degree. It's going to be interesting changing back going from a working environment back to student life.

**B: Why did you run for a sabb position now rather than later on in your degree?**

P: The chances of winning were good!

**B: What do you think about Chris saying that the DPE and DPW should be combined? Or do you think you two are doing two separate jobs, the roles worthy of two full-time employees?**

P: Yeah, I think there should be two separate roles.

**B: What do you think about him donating a third of his salary?**

P: I think it's very admirable.

**B: Is there anything you like or dislike about the Union from a student perspective?**

P: Good question, when I was a student, I never really knew what the Union was or what the Union provides. But now I realise that the Union has some great schemes running the representation network and also having all the clubs and societies. I think some students take the Union for granted, and I think that the Union should maybe address this, by better communication.

**B: What do you think about having hot desk sessions?**

P: No. I don't think it's very approachable. Open office policy is better; it's more private and would be more successful.

**B: What manifesto points did you**

**have for this year?**

P: Feedback, E-Learning, Postgrad involvement.

**B: What about the issue of changing the deadline policy? So students don't get zero marks for being a minute late for the deadline?**

P: That's a welfare point.

**B: Why is it primarily welfare?**

P: Because it was Chris' manifesto point! It's his project, but we're all behind it. It brings back the issue of DPE and DPW. The line is blurred between them, because Imperial is an educational institution, but student welfare is obviously an issue.

**B: Did you go out a lot in your Freshers week? Can you recommend any places or any places to avoid?**

P: I didn't go out a lot. East London's quite exciting! I used to live in East London, so just go out in the area and see what's there.

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

P: Whoever would provide the most nutrition. Don't know who that is!

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

P: Probably Tom, he can climb over rocks and everything!

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

P: Normally, I would leave those profiles blank. With regards to online dating, I think it's interesting to provide as little information as possible, so then when you get chatting, you have things to talk about, like "What do you do?" and "Where are you from?"

**B: Okay, say your tinder profile earns you a date but because you are so busy with all your Sabb duties, you don't have time to leave campus, and have to have your first date at an Imperial establishment. Where do you go?**

P: Either the Union Bar or Eastside. Depends which one's quieter.

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

P: Chicken burger with cheese and bacon with curly fries!

**B: Didn't even have to think about that one!**

**"When I was a student, I never really knew what the Union was or what the Union provides"**

# Science

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Science Editor || James Bezer & Lauren Ratcliffe

## Shifting attitudes towards MDMA

Lauren Ratcliffe reports on the medical side of the popular clubbing drug

**M**DM A, or for you chemists out there 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine, more recognisably referred to as ecstasy is a prevalent and well-known drug. It's no state secret that a majority of the people who are reading this have encountered it – whether that be through occasional to regular recreational use or simply knowing someone who has taken it.

In the 2013 *Felix* drug survey, MDMA was revealed as the second most regularly used illegal drug amongst students at Imperial College, closely following cannabis. Furthermore, according to a recent drug survey by The Guardian, 31% of the UK population aged 16-24 have taken illegal drugs and 25% of this subsample admitted to having taken MDMA at least once in their lives. It is safe to say that it is a promiscuous drug, whose usage has been shown to span across all ages and social classes.

Regarded among scientists as an 'empathogen' encouraging social interaction and openness, but better known by clubbers for its ability to make you feel like you've just eaten a golden mushroom in Super Mario, MDMA makes your heart race, booty shake and sweat pour as it fuels an all-night dance workout of the like you would never see at Ethos.

Researchers at Imperial are taking a different perspective on MDMA and shifting attitudes away from its widely renowned clubbing reputation and moving them towards its medical potential. Dr Robin Carhart-Harris (you may have read our article a few weeks ago about his research with LSD), alongside other researchers at Imperial College and University College London including the infamous Professor David Nutt, are utilising MDMA's empathy-inducing and

**"Utilising MDMA's empathy-inducing and positive emotion-enhancing qualities"**



Ecstasy pills have been closely linked with the clubbing scene since the 80s and beginnings of house music Photo: Lauren Ratcliffe

positive emotion-enhancing qualities. There is potential for use amongst patients in therapy, to help sufferers of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

This team of scientists screened 19 volunteers on fMRI scanners after taking small doses of the drug (100mg MDMA-HCl) to detect changes in cerebral blood flow (which has been causally linked to neurological activity). They also conducted tests involving memory cues describing participants' best and worst autobiographic memo-

ries to see their reaction on MDMA compared with controls.

Volunteers rated their favourite memories as significantly more vivid, emotionally intense and positive after MDMA than placebo and experienced worst autobiographical memories as significantly less negative, alongside a reported reduced fear-response. One participant of the study described their experience: "When I reached back for the bad memories [under MDMA] they did not seem as bad; in fact, I saw them as fatalistic necessities for the occurrence of later good events."

With a marked positive shift in emotional perception of both good and bad autobiographical memories the results of this particular study indicate that MDMA holds potential for use in conjunction with psychotherapy. After looking over scans of the volunteers' brains, they also saw that in participants that had taken MDMA there was increased blood flow to an area of the brain known to be involved in processing complex visual stimuli, such as faces. They therefore hypothesised that this increased activity related to the reports of heightened vividness of memory recollection while on the drug.

Exposure therapy is the current treatment for PTSD and is very

effective. It requires patients to remember traumatic memories in order to re-engage and overcome them (similar to treatments for phobias). One theory for using MDMA alongside exposure therapy is that it could allow the patient to more easily engage with traumatic memories, making psychotherapy more effective and also shortening the length of the costly treatment procedure.

As with almost everything in science, the results from this study should be taken with a pinch of salt and with the limitations of the methodology in mind. Despite an improved sample size compared with previous research, it is still small and there is always room for expansion with these studies, which is partly the reason why they are carried out in the first place. Dr Carhart-Harris also stressed the need for more research into further understanding exactly how MDMA has such potent and influential effects on emotional processing.

Last week I conducted an interview with Dr Carhart-Harris about his career and ongoing research into LSD. He is a charming man and interesting speaker – keep your eyes peeled for his feature article in a future edition of *Felix*.

Doi:10.1017/S1461145713001405



The reality of MDMA pills being distributed for psychotherapy may not be as far-fetched as you imagine Photo: Justice.Gov

**"[MDMA] could allow the patient to more easily engage with traumatic memories"**

# Science

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Science Editor | James Bezer & Lauren Ratcliffe

## Paralysed man walks after stem cell therapy

Indira Mallik looks at how cells from the nose could treat spinal injuries

Last week, it was reported that Darek Fidyka, a man from Poland, had begun to walk. He had been paralyzed from the chest down since 2010 after a knife attack. His recovery was hailed as 'more impressive than man walking on the moon' by Geoffrey Raisman, whose research at University College London almost 30 years ago made Fidyka's recovery possible.

Many decades of research and trials have gone into spinal cell repair techniques, but few have yielded successful results. Until now it was commonly thought that paralysed patients would unlikely to ever walk again. This is because the nerve cell axons that connect the rest of the body to the brain, allowing movement and sensation, are notoriously difficult to repair once damaged. The body's natural healing process forms a thick glial scar over the injured region that inhibits the regeneration of nerve axons, permanently severing connection to the brain, and so sensation and movement are lost.

Professor Raisman's research in 1985 showed that the nerve connection to the brain following spinal injury could be regained in mice following transplantation of olfactory ensheathing cells (OECs) into the injured spinal cord.

OECs are support cells in the body's

complex circuitry for the sense of smell. This neural circuitry is the only part of the human nervous system that regenerates throughout adult life. This is because each odour we encounter is transmitted back to the olfactory bulbs at the top of the nasal cavity by nerves in the nose. These nerves are constantly being damaged and need to be replaced. OECs facilitate this regeneration process.

A research team led by Dr Pawel Tabakow, a consultant neurosurgeon at Wroclaw University Hospital, has built on this concept by transplanting OECs to the site of injury on Mr Fidyka's spinal cord. The team removed one of the patient's olfactory bulbs and used it to derive a culture containing OECs.

The cultured OECs were then transplanted into the spinal cord stumps above and below the injury in 100 micro injections, and the eight millimeter gap created by the knife wound was bridged by four strips of nerve from Mr Fidyka's leg. The transplanted nerve acted as a scaffold and the OECs allowed the nerve axons in the spine to regrow. As all the cells came from the patient's body, there was no risk of rejection.

Following the surgery, Mr Fidyka has undergone intense physiotherapy almost every day. After just three months his doctors noticed that

he had gained muscle mass in his left thigh. Six months later, he was able to begin to take his first steps using parallel bars and the help of a physiotherapist.

Now, 19 months later, he is able to walk outside the rehabilitation centre using a frame. He has regained some sensation in his left leg, and his bowel function has improved.

Imaging has shown that the grafts had bridged the left side of the spinal cord, where the majority of the nerve grafts were implanted.

None of the researchers want to profit from the discovery. Professor Raisman has said "it would be my proudest boast if I could say that no patient had had to pay one penny for any of the information we have found."

It is to be noted that the two patients treated previously with this technique by Dr Tabakow did not regain function. The scientists are hoping to recreate Mr Fidyka's success in another ten patients in Poland and Britain over the coming years, research grants permitting.

It could take many years for the technique to become mainstream, but until now there has been little hope for paralysis patients to regain their independence. What is doubtless is that Mr Fidyka's tentative steps have meant a giant leap for mankind.

DOI: 10.3727/096368914X685131

**After 19 months, he is now able to walk outside using a frame**



Spinal injuries are notoriously hard to treat  
Photo: Wikimedia Commons

## The race to find a cure for ebola

KAY YI CHONG  
SCIENCE WRITER

The Ebola outbreak has claimed about 4,900 lives to date, mostly in the poverty-stricken countries in West Africa – Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. As the death toll and number of cases rise exponentially, scientists are scrambling to develop treatments that would stop this epidemic, which Oxfam describes as a "humanitarian disaster". Until there are vaccines approved by the FDA, standard public health containment measures will be used to control the situation.

The Ebola virus is particularly adept at evading our immune system, and among the proteins which play a role in it are VP35 and VP24. VP35 assembles into a dimer and then coats the RNA backbone of the virus to prevent detection by the immune system. VP24 blocks the cellular production of interferons, molecules which signal the presence of the virus.

The receptor site of the virus remain hidden beneath its glycoprotein branches, also to avoid recognition, until the branches attach to the host cell and allow the virus' penetration and entry. Another characteristic in its favour is the filament-like structure of Ebola virus particles which gives it a large surface area to attack many cells.

The virus starts by infecting the leukocytes, then nearly all other cell types, which leads to death less than 16 days after the onset of the disease. The first symptoms include fever and headache, followed by severe stomach pains, sore throats and bloody diarrhoea as the virus multiplies. The infected cells then attach to the vessels and arteries, weakening them and resulting in haemorrhage.

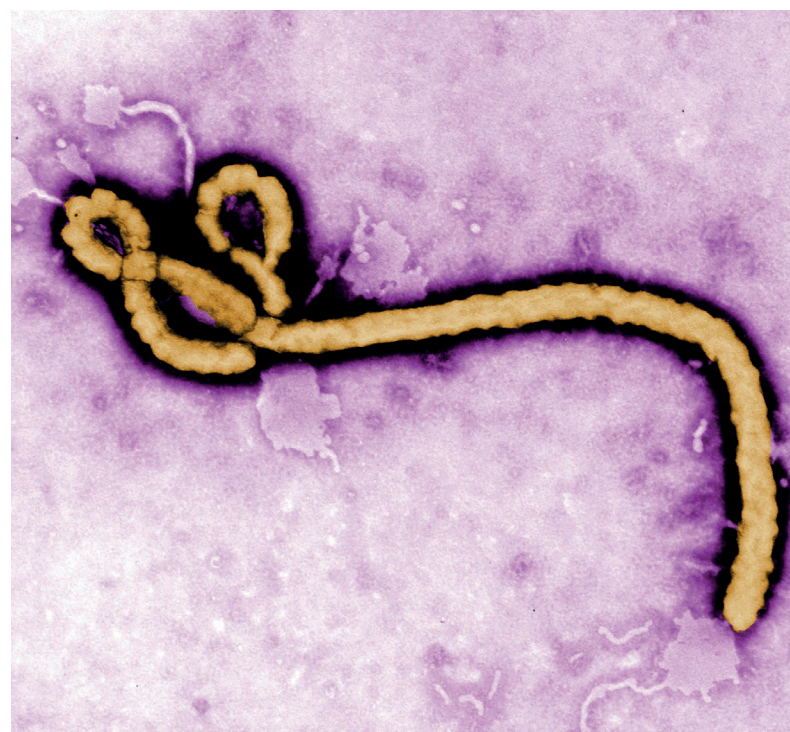
In hopes of sparing more Africans from this unbearable pain, a massive research effort has begun to discover ways to defeat the Ebola virus. A vaccine known as ChAd3 is a chimpanzee cold virus vector incorporated with ebolavirus gene segments. Along with

another vaccine called VSV, it was observed to give durable immunity and both vaccines are currently undergoing clinical trials.

Recently, the Wyss Institute of Harvard University announced their ongoing work on a biospleen device which may (or may not) obviate the need for vaccines. The device acts rather like a spleen, filtering viruses from the blood using a magnet. This has brought hope for the treatment of Ebola, but its development and testing would take months or years.

There is also the possibility of the Ebola virus mutating to become more virulent or infective, in which case it would outrace the current efforts of targeting the current virus strain.

Now we can only hope that treatments will be available soon, and that the Ebola virus will not become too prolific until the situation gets out of control. All this shows us the paradoxical nature of viruses, which are such simple organisms yet so difficult to control.



The Ebola virus causes uncontrollable internal bleeding  
Photo: Wikimedia Commons

# Games

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Games Editor || Max Ettl & Calum Skene

## Are we Falling for this game?

Henry Lloyd-Laney reports on the upcoming Namco Bandai Release

Are you alright? The guy next to me leans over and asks, a worried look on his face. Crap. He's on to me. I'm playing Lords of the Fallen, a Hack 'n' slash heavily influenced by Dark Souls. When I play games of this intensity, I start mouth breathing pretty heavily (think combination of Darth Vader and nervous stoat), eventually graduating into continuous angry muttering. I would feel bad for my neighbour, but I'm too busy getting killed for the 33<sup>rd</sup> time, and saying unprintable things about the mother of the First Boss. Lords of the Fallen is a blast.

You are Harkyn, a criminal in a world where no sins are forgotten (literally tattooed on your face, in fact). The rulers of the world are apparently close to banishing evil from humans (which sounds like it might involve lots of brainwashing and murder, but whatever). However, an ancient enemy, a broken God, has decided to attack the human realm with his army of demons. Harkyn has been offered a chance at redemption. He must use his sins and beat back the army. I can tell you from the 2+ hours I played, that this involves little diplomacy but lots of murdering everything you see with a hammer.

This is the story from the official website. It's revealed slowly, and I spent most of the time being brutalised by the sword of the second boss, so I can't really comment on how accurate it is. What I can tell you about is the gameplay. It would be difficult to talk about any part of Lords of the Fallen

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**"Saying unprintable things about the mother of the First Boss; Lords of the Fallen is a blast."**

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without mentioning Dark Souls (a Hack 'n' Slash notorious for its brutal difficulty). If you've already played it, then the game will seem very familiar to you. The mechanics, the storytelling, the art style and the general feel of the game are all pretty similar. You do get a real sense however, that while the developers have been quite conservative with their core design, they really have tried to embellish the old formula. It also looks very, very pretty running on a PS4.

The most notable difference is the fact that the difficulty is slightly less intense. This doesn't mean it's easy. I was allowed to record my game session, and I died a total of 72 times (this is partly due to the fact that I had to use a controller, which I suck ass at using. I think at one point I was just doing forward rolls for about 3 minutes). When you die, your experience from your previous life is slowly depleted, unless you find your "ghost", upon which the remaining XP is restored. XP can be banked at checkpoints to upgrade your attributes and skills. However, if you choose to play balls-to-the-wall you can keep the XP, increasing your multiplier, but with the risk of losing all of it if you die and can't find your ghost.

There are six potential classes, ranging from the lumbering tank of the warrior, to the extremely quick and fragile rogue. There are also the usual multitude of weapon and armour options, allowing for a lot of customisation. The core mechanic of

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**"When you die, it usually feels like it was because you did something stupid, rather than the game."**

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Photo: lordsofthefallen.pl

the game appears to be thus: Die, try a different strategy and combination of gear, rinse and repeat until you find one that works. This sounds dull. It's not. The balance on the game is very well done - at the start it's all absurdly frustrating, but this evaporates fairly quickly, and you start feeling like an unconquerable badass. Naturally, the game punishes your hubris, and kills you again. But importantly, when you die, it usually feels like it was because you did something stupid, rather than the game.

There are a couple of weaknesses. I only played for a couple of hours, so I couldn't really get into the story. However, from first glance it does seem a bit derivative, and the gameplay is very linear. Harkyn is gruff white male with dirty past/beard combo #3712, but that's not specific to Lords of the Fallen. In addition, considering the

number of control options, the PC port is almost certainly going time, and saying unprintable things about the to be horrendous, but you can always play with a controller.

There are problems certainly - it feels a bit too close to Dark Souls, the learning curve is initially very steep and profoundly frustrating. But there are moments when, after a change in strategy, you hit the sweet spot, get the perfect combo and crush some demonic warlords face in with a huge hammer, that I guarantee you feel like the most powerful guy on the planet. And when you inevitably die a minute later, instead of rage quitting you just mutter "I'll piss on your corpse, fucker" then jump back in. The feeling of success after intense effort is profoundly satisfying, and unbelievably fun. In the end, that's all I want from a game.

## Driving the spinning limousine

JAMES DUTTON  
GAMES WRITER

Your name is Giorgio Manos. Sporting red hair, a light blue suit and white gloves, your profession: limousine driver. You pick up passengers and deliver them to their respective destinations for cash, but there's a twist... literally. You don't just drive the way your wheels are pointing (what would be the point in that?), your limousine is constantly spinning while you attempt to navigate around the town 'Roundabout'.

There are plenty of both static and dynamic obstacles to negotiate whenever you're behind the wheel. These

include: trees, roundabouts, buildings, other cars, people... yes, it is one of those games where not only is running over people not discouraged, there is a financial incentive - earning cents at a time and building a multiplier up for chains of hit and runs.

So what makes this game different to classic games like Carmageddon or Driver? Surprisingly, it is the story and the way it is portrayed. Set in 1977 America, and deliberately in the style of a cheesy B-movie, Roundabout is not for those looking for a serious gaming experience (if that wasn't clear enough already). Cutscenes are shot in real-life and deliberately poorly acted, contributing to the humorous plot developments that unravel as you complete more missions.

Your customers include school kids looking for a rampaging joyride, a

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**"Your name is Giorgio Manos. Sporting red hair, light blue suit and white gloves, your profession: limousine driver"**

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shady mechanic trying to help you become the best rotating limo driver in Roundabout, a corrupt businessman and my favourite, a skeleton named Jeffrey - who of course takes part in triathlons - "because it's the taking part that counts" (one of your tasks is to run over the entire competition because he is losing).

If the main story missions become too repetitive, you can participate in optional challenges such as Baseball - a time-trial around town, running over as many people as possible and avoiding weaponised cars falling out the sky for as long as possible. Along with the main missions, your score is posted to an online leaderboard - giving you some incentive to repeat and become the world's best at "rotating limousine keepie-uppies".

However, this game is not without

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**"To summarise, this game is good fun. It definitely doesn't take itself too seriously."**

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its negatives. The main issue is the respawning element. The limousine you drive is fragile, and while the game gives you a changeable upgrade to improve your driving ability in certain situations, it can only endure a handful of hits before exploding. When not on a mission, this takes you back to the nearest garage which can make travelling to the next mission quite frustrating.

To summarise, this game is good fun. It definitely doesn't take itself too seriously and the main mechanic is very unique and quite challenging. The story is definitely entertaining but some of the subplots are difficult to follow considering the similarities between tasks - taking person X from A to B. But my advice? Give it a whirl.



# Technology

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Tech Editors ||| Jamie Dutton & Osama Awara

## Microsoft hope 3 is the magic number

Osama Awara reviews the newest member of the Surface family

The third generation of Windows tablets, or Lablets as I like to call them, have been released by Microsoft. They claim that the Surface Pro 3 is not only a tablet, but a laptop as well, potentially replacing both of those devices in your home. After owning one for several weeks, I can honestly back Microsoft on this one. I have not touched my old laptop since the purchase; it is currently sitting in a bedroom drawer collecting dust.

The beautiful thing about this device is how seamlessly you can interchange between using it as a tablet and a laptop. For instance, as I write this article I am in desktop mode tapping away at the keyboard, whilst being able to touch anywhere on the screen to select anything from the Word 2013 and Google Chrome icons to the volume adjustment icon.

However, by selling the attachable keyboard separately Microsoft has, in my opinion, shot itself in the foot, appearing to be like the [video games developer] EA of the tech world. I purchased my Surface Pro 3 with the core i5 processor and a 256 GB solid state drive for a relatively hefty price in Canada. The keyboard sold for \$150 (Canadian dollars that is) which is around £80 – an unreasonable extra charge considering the initial price of the system (around £830). However, in terms of ergonomics the keyboard works well and is backlit.

Most of the Surface Pro 3s come with 256GB of memory which is not a lot if you are planning to properly



The Windows Surface Pro 3 Photo: amongstgeeks.com

use your device as a laptop. It is compensated by the fact that this device is solid state (free of moving mechanical parts), meaning that your Surface Pro will have much faster loading speeds compared to traditional hard drives which run on rotating magnetic discs. Also, if you're planning to game on this device, you will certainly fill up your memory quickly.

On the topic of gaming, the Surface Pro is very decent for a tablet but if you are planning to run hardcore games such as *Battlefield*, expect frame rates that would leave you feeling like you're gaming on a flipbook; the integrated graphics card just won't be able to handle it.

The tablet has multiple degrees of

positioning due to the flap on the rear of the device; this gives the Surface Pro 3 several different modes of use.

If you want the device to work as a laptop you would position the flap so that the screen is vertical with a slight slant. If you are in a lecture and want to take notes with the Surface Pro stylus, you can position the flap such that the screen is positioned horizontally with a slight vertical slant – the perfect position to write. The stylus does a good job at writing and although your handwriting with a pen won't be mimicked, you will still get reasonable results.

Overall, am I satisfied with the Surface Pro 3? It definitely checks both the boxes that a tablet and laptop should, running everything

**"Expect frame rates that would leave you feeling like you're gaming on a flipbook."**

**"It definitely checks both the boxes a tablet and laptop should."**

from Microsoft Office and Netflix to standard apps downloaded from the store. It certainly would come in handy to any student and it also fits neatly in your bag like a textbook.

The main problem is its price which stands alongside elite gaming laptop brands such as Alienware or an ASUS Gaming Powerhouse. You can expect to be set back £1400 with the keyboard if you are going to make a purchase in the UK.

Surface Pro 3s come at similar prices to Apple Macs, but I would definitely recommend the Surface Pro 3 as the must-have device for students over Macs, simply because of its touch screen and laptop/tablet interchangeability that the Apple devices lack.

## Welcome to Felix Technology... Again!

Osama Awara  
TECH EDITOR

Hello there! I'm Osama Awara, the editor who last year brought you the technology murder list series with his partner in crime Maximillian Eggl. For my second year as tech editor, get ready for more reviews on the latest tech products and top ten tech lists that will leave you questioning whether that iPhone 6 you bought was a bent idea.

If you are interested in writing an article for tech, as a one off or on a regular basis, just send your articles to me or Jamie via [technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk). We will make sure your articles are up and running for the next issue; any positive reviews on Apple products will be marked as 'junk'.

All jokes aside, please do not hesitate to contact us about any ideas you have for an upcoming article.

## Wearable technology – watch this space

CHRYSOSTOMOS MELI  
TECH WRITER

Tech-companies want to expand their product portfolio outside of smartphones, and with iPad and tablet sales falling quarter after quarter and all the variety in screen sizes pretty much exhausted, where do they go from here?

For some, the answer to that question seems to be wearable technology. The market is still in its infancy, but sales have tripled in the last year and are predicted to rise to 250 million devices sold in 2018. Apple Watch is certainly next year's device to have but with a market as big as this it's anyone's game.

Companies like Samsung and Pebble have been rushing to lead the pack; even Google entered the game

just 3 months ago, but with the Apple Watch imminent for the start of 2015 and Microsoft rumoured to release its own wearable this holiday season, things are certainly heating up.

Just 3 million smart-bands and smartwatches have sold all over the world up until now – while companies are still struggling to hit the right combination of usability, 'comfortability', longevity and most importantly design. With our lives already surrounded by and so dependent on our devices, the most difficult hurdle manufacturers are facing is actually convincing consumers that we need another one.

One company who seem to have found the recipe for success is Pebble. Before any of the big boys were even thinking about making a smartwatch, Pebble was already breaking crowdfunding records with its own

extremely simplified smartwatch.

It managed to raise 10 million dollars and take 85,000 orders on Kickstarter with just a low resolution black and white LCD display, a simple plastic design and a price tag of £79. The company has reported that more than 400,000 units have been moved since January 2013, which is impressive considering how young the company is.

The Pebble was successful but not revolutionary, its sensible features and low price tag appealing mostly to the tech-savvy niche market without it ever really going mainstream.

Shortly after, Samsung came along with the Galaxy Gear, a smartwatch which tried to do too much without really getting any of it right. Samsung's first smartwatch cost a ridiculous £299 and it left behind a lot of displeased tech-reviewers. But

since then the company has managed to release a total of 6 smartwatches in just 2 years. Sales numbers are not very clear but Samsung seems to be heading up the wearables market with more than 800,000 total units sold, a minuscule number when put in perspective with Samsung's other device sales. The Korean company's latest effort, the Galaxy Gear S, is able to act as a standalone device working independently of a phone. However, it does not support Android Wear making it only compatible with Samsung phones.

Similarly, Sony has released several wearables but none of them have managed to cause a real stir in the market, mostly because they offered only Sony handset support.

Android Wear seems to be the only solution to these compatibility issues. One of its most interesting features is

its support of round displays giving manufacturers the opportunity to produce some gorgeous and inconspicuous wristwear. LG has the sleek G Watch R on the pipeline, while Motorola's Moto 360 has been on sale for over a month, even selling out at one point. It is the first device to have a round display, and it has almost no bezels making for an incredibly attractive design.

Wearable devices are not going to be hidden away in consumers' pockets, they are going to be strapped on our wrists, worn on our faces, hung around our necks, increasingly interconnecting with our lives and more importantly representing who we are. If manufacturers want the smartwatch to be the next big thing they need to be thinking much less like the tech industry and a little more like the fashion industry.

# Music

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Music Editors || Grace Rahman & Amna Askari

## The evolution of pop

Amna Samar Askari discusses her thoughts on a changing genre

**L**ady Gaga's upcoming ARTPOP Ball tour hits the UK this November, with tickets starting at just £13 in comparison to the atrocious minimum £70 for any Lady Gaga gig around three years ago.

The charts are now dominated by unique and brilliant vocals and compositions from upcoming artists like **Lorde**, **Sam Smith**, **Ariana Grande**, and **Clean Bandit**. Big names like **Justin Timberlake** and **Taylor Swift** have only managed to sustain their popularity by mixing up their music with different genres and styles in their new albums.

Pop music is slowly being redefined from where it got to in the mid to late 2000's to a new amalgamation of indie, soul and electronic tunes. People are finally starting to appreciate real music and meaningful lyrics as opposed to changing their Facebook statuses to "Which seat can I take?"

Although it was finally time to graduate from that mindset, you would be surprised at how hard it is to get basic redundant melodies out of your head, no matter how horrible the lyrics. Essentially, this metamorphosis is not because we opened our eyes, but a result of a combination of things.

Firstly, the recent rise of new radio-based music apps (which obviously comes with an increase in people that download and use them because of the booming smartphone and tablet obsession. There are over 40 million active Spotify users). Established music apps like SoundCloud and Spotify now have automatic playlist generation and recommendation

options where you can jump from genre to genre and listen to similar artists. YouTube recently launched a feature where streaming a song automatically directs you to another video playlist which consists of 50+ songs that you might like based on your current choice. Therefore, people's options are being exponentially multiplied giving them a chance to experience and appreciate new genres and all in all improve their music taste.

Secondly, the 'Deep house' obsession. Although **deadmau5** was considered cool in 2010, electronic music wasn't really appreciated as much as it is now. It is obvious by the amount of upcoming and aspiring DJs. Sales of mixing equipment have gone up by around 30% in the last two years, with people focusing on mixing chart music with their own twist, rather than creating endlessly long instrumental samples. Famous clubs and bars have slowly started to play and focus on 'chilled' beats rather than **Sean Kingston** and **Chris Brown**. Pretty much everyone is just waiting for 'the drop' these days.

Also, the antiquation of album sales. With the rise of torrents and streaming, most artists today make their money from live performances rather than album sales. This automatically filters out the ones that based their fortune of auto-tune and not actual talent.

Finally, general globalisation and an increasing appreciation of different cultures. Fusion has always been around, but has, thankfully, slowly crept into chart music; a case in point is the loop in 'La La La' by



Lady Gaga indicates how big a bargain these latest tickets are. Photo: Wiki Commons

**Naughty Boy ft. Sam Smith:** an excerpt from a classical Indian folk song.

So hurray for pop music not being synonymous with trashy lyrics and auto-tune anymore! Let's hope that

the music industry continues to evolve and appreciate talent from all across the world.



Photo: Andy Ford/NME

## What's on this week

**Saturday, 1st November: MØ @ Oz Shepherd's Bush Empire.**

You might have seen her supporting **AlunaGeorge** last year and her debut album, *No Mythologies To Follow*, sees a collaboration with Diplo. Despite being fresh from a controversial performance with **Iggy Azealia** on SNL, this is a chance to see **MØ** bring her alt-pop to a packed-out Empire in her own right..

**Monday, 1st November: Twin Atlantic @ The Roundhouse**

Screw the haters, if you want to see these Glaswegian rockers provide riffs and feels in equal measure, then you go ahead.

**Wednesday, 5th November: The War on Drugs @ The Roundhouse**

Adam Granduciel, the anti-frontman, leads his troupe

in providing dreamy, sensitive alt-rock to an equally dreamy and sensitive crowd.

**Thursday, 6th November: The Knife @ Brixton Academy**

It's official! They're breaking up, and this is (almost) definitely their final UK performance. If you don't fancy forking out for flights and tickets to the Icelandic music festival that will be their very last, this hedonistic night in Brixton is your best bet. If this really is goodbye, it should be a farewell to remember.

**Joanna Gruesome & Perfect Pussy @ The Dome Tufnell Park**

Don't miss these firm friends in punk playing a riotous joint gig in Islington on Thursday. Tickets to this mosh-worthy evening of girl power are just a snip at £8.50.

GRACE RAHMAN

# TRICK OR TREAT!

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G-GOHI



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[www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/parachute](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/parachute)

# Union Page

## Next Thursday – support your Dep Socs at SocOff



SocOff is our thank you event for all the Mums and Dads participants. The entry fee is £1, but all of the door money will be going to the winning Dep Socs.

The money will be awarded too:

- Dep Soc with the highest % turnout: 50% of money
- Dep Soc with the second highest % turnout: 25% of money
- Dep Soc with most improved % turnout compared to last year: 25% of money

So make sure to bring along as many of your department mates as you cant!  
The Sumo Suit will return too!

## Join us for h-bar's first birthday next Friday!



The h-bar first opened its doors on 8 November 2013, and we will be celebrating its first birthday on 7 November 2014!

Come down from 18:00 to join in with the celebrations. There will be cocktails on all night, and you can buy one get one free to toast the h-bar in style. Make sure you get there early to get a slice of birthday cake and balloon on arrival!

## Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs) – nominations open 10 November



Eight Awards are available, covering all kinds of student – Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate and Doctoral Research – across all faculties, departments and campuses.

Every student at Imperial has the chance to recognise the innovation, skill, engagement and energy of the staff they learn with.

Nominate as many people as you like in as many categories as you like – if your nominee is shortlisted, you may win a free invite to the SACAs Award Ceremony in May 2015!

Find out more about the SACAs at [imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas).

## We're recruiting!

There are a number of vacancies available in our bars – visit our website to find out more. We're recruiting for Casual Duty Bar Manager for all of our venues at South Kensington and Charing Cross, and Casual Bar Staff for Reynolds at Charing Cross.

Visit [imperialcollegeunion.org/jobs](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/jobs) to find out more

# Arts

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Arts Editor || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

## My Art: Barbican Centre

Dara Rasasingam tells us about her favourite spot in London

In the summer, whenever I have time off from lectures, I like to make a pilgrimage. Taking the District Line down from South Kensington, I get off at Mansion House; twisting through the streets of the Golden Mile, dodging city slickers and corporate lawyers, a cluster of buildings soon come into view - the labyrinthine, awe-inspiring **Barbican Centre**.

Designed by Chamberlin, Powell & Bon, and built between 1965-76, the **Barbican** is cut from a different cloth than the buildings surrounding it; while they are made of shimmering glass, temples to high-tech finance, the **Barbican** is formed from raw concrete, relentlessly carving out its own space within the city.

The term Barbican comes from the old French word *Barbacane*, meaning the outer defence of a walled city or castle. While the name was chosen millennia before the complex was built, it is serendipitous how well the name matches up to the buildings. With miles of walkways, which tunnel through buildings, it is worryingly easy to get lost; cement arches loom over you, while concrete balustrades form outposts from the main structures. In essence, the **Barbican** reclaims the original ethos of the area - it is a brutalist dragon, jealously guarding the treasure at its centre: the glittering gem of London's cultural crown, the **Barbican Centre** itself.

With a concert hall, two theatres, a music school, three restaurants, two art galleries, and a greenhouse, the **Barbican Centre** is the closest the artistically-inclined have to a Mecca. It is a cathedral of culture, like a wondrous mirage in the middle



The Barbican Towers Photo: Creative Commons

of a corporate desert. From film to theatre, music to dance, everything you could ask for can be found here, eclipsing any other venues in London.

However, even if you're not that much of a culture vulture - and to be honest, it can be difficult to find the time - you can still enjoy the **Barbican**. As you peel away the layers of cement, penetrating the outer walls of this fortress, you come across a lush, verdant centre. Vines trail down from balcony apartments; fountains spring up, the dappling water creating a melodic soundtrack to a lazy day; and little niches form areas where you can easily wile away an entire afternoon.

On hot summer days, when Hyde Park is full to bursting, and The Hampstead Ponds are at full capacity, you can always rely on the **Barbican Centre** to provide a calm clearing

within the city's concrete jungle. Take your friends, take a picnic, take a bottle of good wine, and see how easy it is to spend an entire day soaking up the sun's rays at this magnificently brutal tribute to modern culture.

### DARA RASASINGAM 3RD YEAR MED STUDENT

*The Barbican Centre is open Mon - Sat, 9am-11pm; Sun, 10am-11pm. Their programme includes Theatre, Cinema, Dance, Music, and Arts, as well as special events and talks.*

*Current highlights include the City Visions programme of films and art exhibits. Next year will see a Samuel Beckett season, celebrating the work of the Irish playwright.*

*For a full programme of events, please visit [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)*

**"It is the closest the artistically inclined have to a Mecca."**

**"The Barbican is cut from a different cloth"**

## Arts Editorial - London: From Old to New

FRED FYLES & KAMIL MCCLELLAND  
SECTION EDITORS

This week feels like an homage to the greatness of London as a cultural centre. In what other city do you have such a wide variety of art on offer, whatever your taste? First of all, we have Dara's *My Art* article, where she professes her undying love for the Barbican Centre, so often derided as a brutalist monstrosity that weighs heavy on the city's skyline. Hopefully, her article will help convert some to the way of 60's architecture.

Next, we have Lizzie's look at the world of *Giovanni Battista Moroni*, an artist that history seems to have forgotten. As Renaissance portraiture goes, there really is no one better! I mean, just look at the way he captures the sitter's emotion. But we'll let Lizzie tell you more about that. With any luck, this exhibition will bring him back onto people's radars after much too long.

Now looking more at the modern day, Fred talks about *The National Videogame Arcade* opening in Nottingham, which looks to throw the art world into chaos as it redefines what art is in the digital age, where people's greatest exposure to design and creativity is often through the medium of video games. We'll see how it all pans out.

*The Anatomy of Melancholy* is part of a rare breed, a contemporary opera. Such is the skill and expense required to create an opera that you hardly ever see a new one come on the scene. We sent Elizaveta to go and see whether the production lived up to this expectation and whether it was able to tackle the gargantuan issue of depression with any new insight.

Well there you go, from Brutalist architecture to Renaissance painting, video games and finally contemporary opera, London (and Nottingham) has it all! What more could you want?



## What's On This Week

1. Although this probably falls more under the Film section's remit, *Mr. Turner* tells the story of J.M.W. Turner, the artist who challenged the artistic order of his time to pave the way into our modern way of seeing. With a life as tumultuous as his spectacular sea paintings, hopefully this film, which comes out on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October, will do the great artist justice.

2. *Women Fashion Power*, need I say more! This exhibition at the **Design Museum** looks at the role fashion has played in enhancing the careers of 25 incredible women from the 20th Century. It explores how fashion can be used as a form of self expression and female empowerment as women sought to overcome the male dominated worlds of politics, culture, business and fashion. **Until 26<sup>th</sup> April**

3. *From the Forest to the Sea: Emily Carr in British Columbia* at the **Dulwich Picture Gallery** is the UK's first exhibition of an artist unknown outside her native country of

Canada. With paintings that overflow with love and expression, Carr travelled extensively amongst the First Nation people of Canada, capturing the beauty of their culture. **Until 8<sup>th</sup> March**

4. *'Who Are You?'* asks Grayson Perry in his exhibition at the **National Portrait Gallery**. As someone who himself challenges people's perceptions of identity, the cross-dressing artist has created 14 portraits, from tapestries to ceramics, that all try and ask this question. **Until 15<sup>th</sup> March**

5. You're bound to come across some of Richard Tuttle's works in London, with both an exhibition at the **Whitechapel Gallery** and an installation in Tate Modern's vast turbine hall. *I Don't Know* acts as a survey of the artist's rich 50 year career, looking at his exploration of textile, painting and poetry in what is sure to be a wonderfully varied retrospective. **Until 14<sup>th</sup> December**

# Arts

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Arts Editor || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

## Discover the Life Work of an Italian Master

Lizzie Riach is transported back in time by the RA's Moroni exhibition

Are you interested in portraiture and the state of affairs in Italy during the sixteenth century? Have you ever wondered how the great masters like Caravaggio and Velasquez were inspired? The answers lie in the **Royal Academy's** latest exhibition, where you are faced with works from throughout the life of Giovanni Battista Moroni, a relatively unknown Italian painter who was able to capture the likeness and personality of his sitters with apparent ease. The portraits are done with such skill that they seem to capture precise moments in time;

rather than simply standing in the room, you are transported back to late Renaissance Italy.

The rooms are grouped with the type of sitters Moroni painted, one of the best being the full-length portraits of the aristocrats. The clothes worn by Italy's top class are beautifully portrayed, with extraordinary details such as lace and pearl beads. As light reflects off the taffeta skirts or velvet trousers of the men and women that surround you, somehow you know exactly how the material would have felt

One of the brightest pieces – which happens to be my personal favourite



Young Lady c. 1560-65, Moroni Photo: Private Collection

**"The portraits transport you straight back into late Renaissance Italy"**

– is a portrait of Gian Gerolamo Grumelli. Aptly titled *'The Man in Pink'*, Grumelli is shown wearing a Spanish-style tight-fitting jacket with puffed pantaloons, both beautifully embroidered with silver, paired with pink stockings and shoes of the same vibrant shade. As your eyes adjust to the colour and detail, you soon realize that a lot of thought had gone behind his costume of choice: the Grumelli's coat of arms was a coral branch with the motto *"Far from my tears it reddens and turns to stone"*; the center of the portrait culminates in a jet-black sword resting in Grumelli's hand, depicting him to be a man of action. Next to him hangs a picture of his wife at the time – Isotta Brembati – also dressed in a stunningly intricate gown. Although being positioned next to each other, Moroni illustrates how important each of the characters were individually, and keeps the viewers concentrated on the individual figures through use of simple grey stone backgrounds, each tailored specifically to the person's identity.

Each character has a different title and story, drawing you into the politics and connections each person had – sometimes with other individuals hanging just across the room. As you progress you find yourself amongst Moroni's later works, which are different from the aristocrats; rather than creating an elegant air they capture the real life of the person. The use of tone differs with a limited palette of colours used, offset with only a small vibrant portion of bright hue. As the portraits stare mysteriously out at you, we are compelled to know more about them, with the context adding to the experience.

This well-crafted exhibition shows



Gian Gerolamo Grumelli c.1560, Moroni. Photo: Fondazione Museo di Palazzo Moroni

**"It gives us the rare chance to immerse ourselves fully in Moroni's world"**

this obscure artist's progression in skill throughout his life in regards to brushstroke, likeness and expression as well as his use of colour. It not only displays the works in their full glory, but also explains details of the sitters' lives, allowing us the rare chance to immerse ourselves fully in Moroni's wonderful world.

*Giovanni Battista Moroni is on at The Sackler Wing of The Royal Academy, until 25th January 2015.*

*Tickets are £12 for adults; £10 for students; members and under-16s go free.*

## Videogame museum to open in Nottingham

**FRED FYLES**  
SECTION EDITOR

Among the cultural highlights on the calendar for next year, one sticks out as a particular oddity: March 2015 will see the grand opening of **The National Videogame Arcade** in Nottingham. The £2.5 million project, which aims to become a draw for tourists visiting Nottingham, will be the first of its kind, aiming to become a "hub for videogame culture".

The Arcade, which will take up residence in a 33,000 sq foot

building, will spread its permanent collection across five entire floors. A vast majority of the pieces in the gallery will come from the National Videogame Archive, a vast collection numbering 20,000 objects, currently held by the Science Museum, London.

This will be the first time that many pieces in the collection will have been exhibited to the public, a prospect that excites Ian Livingstone, a member of the museum's advisory board; "for the millions of people who love them," said Mr Livingstone, "it is only natural that videogames should have their own permanent, cultural home".

**"The National Videogame Arcade is the first centre of its kind"**

The announcement comes at a time of heightened debate about whether exactly videogames can be called 'art', an issue that has increased in prominence over the last few years. Once thought of as only the preserve of snotty teenage boys, it has become increasingly apparent that videogames can present an exciting artistic medium, with games such as *Flower* (2009) and *Journey* (2012) showing how developers can transcend the traditional tropes that have formed the core of many videogames, and create something both beautiful and meaningful.

The argument is not just

**"Developers are transcending the traditional tropes of the videogame"**

constrained to artistic theory either; economically, games represent a major force. The UK video game market is the largest in Europe, and *Grand Theft Auto V* (2013), the latest in the popular series, grossed more than \$1 billion within three days of its release.

With games representing such a large presence in the UK, both culturally and economically, it seems that the **National Videogame Arcade** is the logical next step, and should help the industry shake off the long-running stereotypes that have followed it around for the last three decades.



# Arts

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Arts Editor || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

## I'm Depressed. Let's Sing About It.

### Elizaveta Tchebaniouk dissects *The Anatomy of Melancholy*



**The Anatomy of Melancholy.** Photo: Lydia Garnett

**W**hy am I depressed? What is the cause of my depression?" aren't exactly questions easily remedied by ringing up NHS Direct and asking. This opera, though, strives to find answers.

This contemporary opera takes inspiration from Robert Burton's 1621 textbook *The Anatomy of Melancholy*, which was the first serious discussion of depression and renaissance medicine for melancholy. The sole feat of transforming this archaic text into a modern performance deserves credit, and inspires hope that opera is not a dying breed, but one that may find its own renaissance through taking on a contemporary form.

Entering through heavy wooden doors, the audience is led down a dimly lit warehouse-like hall into a cavernous space more fit for an underground nightclub than a conventional opera stage. Cracked tiles on the wall and cement pillars enhance the unorthodox setting, whose raw, urban-decay 'vibes'

**"The vocals & score contrast alluringly to the dimly lit underground setting"**

naturally compliment and resonate with the tone of the opera, rather than appearing forced and out of context.

The opera – performed by a total of seven – weaves a fragmented exploration of the central figure's – the Son's – melancholy. The Son's depression is analyzed by the Grandmother, the Father, and a peculiar addition of the four humours, each personified. Certain other stylistically distinct additions such as multiple large screens and an assembly of a hundred terra cotta warriors visually enhance the experience, but a lack of plot and character development is ultimately a drawback.

What makes this opera worth seeing are the vocals and accompanying score, both of which contrast alluringly against the dimly lit underground setting. Six performers provide a solid mix of tenor, countertenor, soprano, mezzo soprano, and bass. The rich vocals are *bel canto* in the most traditional sense

**"The eclectic range on instruments result in a surprisingly pure sound"**

and – if not necessarily flawless – lack any painfully apparent weakness. The eclectic range of instruments adds texture to Benjamin Tassie's score, resulting in a surprisingly pure sound from the haunting accompanying orchestra. Moreover, an expressive Gran with a megaphone proclaiming deep space metaphors will surely provide enough comic relief to get one through the opera's frequent obscure musings.

In terms of thematic accomplishment, however, the opera is not nearly as impressive. Like many contemporary art forms which aim to tackle a complex and somewhat abstract topic, *The Anatomy of Melancholy* orbits the central idea like an electron around a nucleus, but never manages to strike its core. Somewhat loosely woven phrases and aforementioned pseudo-poetic musings seem try-hard without accomplishing any

purpose – aside from being crowd-pleasing due to their superficially confusing nature. Though at times aspects such as philosophical Goethe texts and enlightening metaphors provide the ability to penetrate the dynamic theme of depression, the opera remains, ultimately, grazing its surface. The ending is abrupt. The baffled audience leaves with no more understanding of depression than it had upon entering the theatre.

Perhaps, though, in not providing the audience with any concrete conclusions regarding the causes or cures for depression, the opera does indirectly and subtly accomplish its task. In not defining the nature of depression it does define the nature of depression for just what it is – undefined, abstract, confusing, and uncertain.

*Anatomy of Melancholy* ran from 22-25<sup>th</sup> October at Test bed 1, Battersea.



**The Anatomy of Melancholy.** Photo: Lydia Garnett

## The Life of an Imperial Student – A Comic Strip by Riyadh Rateme



# Film

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Film Editors

Ellen Mathieson, John Park & Jack Steadman

# Creatures of the Night

Jack Steadman goes on a nightly stroll with Jake Gyllenhaal

## NIGHTCRAWLER

**Director:** Dan Gilroy  
**Screenplay:** Dan Gilroy  
**Cast:** Jake Gyllenhaal, Rene Russo, Bill Paxton



Photo: nerdist

**N**ightcrawler starts off innocently enough, with classic shots of the LA skyline at night, millions of lights fending off the darkness, before crashing down to a man cutting through a wire fence. A police car pulls up, revealing the face of Lou Bloom (Jake Gyllenhaal). Gaunt – unnervingly so – Gyllenhaal is an instantly magnetic screen presence. A twitching bundle of nervous energy, speaking in a high-pitched, nasal patter, his Bloom is the vehicle for *Nightcrawler*'s story, the tale of a man driven to succeed, a man who uses the vapid, bland language of 'management speak' to justify his every action, regardless of the morality – or otherwise – of the situation.

It's that absurd contrast – the use of everyday, borderline meaningless terminology in the face of actions far beyond ordinary situations – that lends the film a large swathe of its dark humour, as well as the key thrust of its satire. The rest of the

humour is found in Bloom's bluntness in romantic matters, as he avoids any sense of tact when dealing with Rene Russo's TV producer Nina. This isn't a comedy, by any stretch of the imagination – it's quite the opposite – but laughter still slips through the cracks.

*Nightcrawler* is most definitely a satire, however, albeit not the one you'd expect. Dealing as it does with the freelance 'journalists' running around with video cameras in L.A. at night (the titular 'nightcrawlers'),

filming the results of crimes and accidents and selling the tapes to the news, there's a lot of room to manoeuvre when it comes to taking potshots at the press. To the film's credit, while it takes its fair share of swipes in that general direction, it also opens fire on the culture of business. Bloom's sole aim – his entire purpose – is to be in charge of his own, successful business. Everything he does, everything he says, all is in the name of achieving that goal, morality be damned; which

is partially why he's so terrifying.

Despite the sheer amoral malevolence that Bloom radiates, the film manages what should be impossible, twisting the audience's sympathies until you actively want Bloom to succeed. The score by James Newton Howard is among the main culprits for this successful manipulation – never too intrusive, always simmering in the background, it subtly toys with traditionally heroic themes as Bloom succeeds, quietly suggesting something more than the obvious scorn and fear the character deserves.

The sheer number of times Bloom's name has already appeared should be some indication as to how vital he is to the film – and through that, how essential Gyllenhaal's performance is. It is an utterly transcendent showing, easily the best performance of his career so far. It is a Robert de Niro in *Taxi Driver* for the modern day, with strands of de Niro's performance in *King of Comedy*, and it deserves all of the praise and Oscar buzz it's getting. It is not an obvious contender – very much the dark horse of the contest – but don't be surprised to see Gyllenhaal's name on more than a few shortlists come awards season.

When it comes to bringing up the de Niro/Scorsese films and *Nightcrawler*'s obvious heritage in that department, it's worth noting that the film can't escape other comparisons

to the past, not least to fellow L.A.-based *Drive* (it certainly shares a love of the grimy, the claustrophobic, the dark, seedy side of the city), but it still manages to rise above the risk of appearing solely derivative, instead becoming something so much more.

Credit for this must almost certainly go in no small part to writer/first-time director Dan Gilroy, a man previously responsible for the screenplay/story for the likes of *The Bourne Legacy* and *Real Steel*: nothing particularly terrible, but nothing – nothing – quite like this. It's a confident debut, utilising all the tricks of the trade, and still finding room for minor innovations to ensure the film never slows down or feels old. There's a vast array of glorious shots, occasional flashes of symbolism that demand this film be rewatched, studied, dissected. Not something you could say about *Real Steel*.

There's a lot more to be said about *Nightcrawler*. The supporting cast are universally excellent, but all so overshadowed by Gyllenhaal that it's hard to pick one out. The cinematography is perfect, oozing sleaze and grime in every shot, but it all comes back to the leading performance, and the writer/director behind it. This is Gilroy and Gyllenhaal's moment. And if this should prove to be another Scorsese/de Niro style partnership, long may it continue.

## ANNABELLE

**Director:** John R. Leonetti  
**Screenplay:** Gary Dauberman  
**Cast:** Annabelle Wallis, Ward Horton, Alfre Woodard



Photo: flickeringmyth



Photo: yellmagazine



Photo: ign

## JOHN PARK SECTION EDITOR

**W**hy someone in their right mind would want to take home a doll that looks like Annabelle is anyone's guess. But Mia (Annabelle Wallis) cannot seem to contain her joy when her doctor husband John (Ward Horton) surprises her with this new addition to her doll collection. But one night, the couple is attacked in a home invasion attempt by a pair of violent

lunatic cult members. The police get there on time, a remarkable rarity in horror films – or in any film for that matter, the intruders are killed, after which the doll ends up possessed by an evil demonic spirit (even the demon knows which sinister looking toy to go for when it decides to hang around) of the female cult member named Annabelle, and it is all downhill from there for the once happy couple.

As is usually the case with demons, there is a whole host of weird and wonderful things that start happening. As the young mother begins to struggle with

the supernatural haunting of her house, the doctor husband who is supportive but hardly ever home and misses much of the action, thinks she is unwell, and advises rest and a professional to speak with.

Granted, there are some spooky moments that work well. It helps that the doll itself is quite the disturbing looking creation, and especially when it starts doing its own evil things the terror that mounts up momentarily is effective.

It is a shame, however, that Annabelle herself does not take the initiative to start killing everyone around her like Chucky did in *Child's*

*Play*.

A young girl and an older woman, both dressed in ragged, bloody sheets just will not leave Mia alone. There appears to be something rising from the darkness, a powerful force of darkness whose strength is getting bigger every day. It is all familiar stuff, but the scares do remain the highlight of *The Conjuring* prequel.

The trouble is that there simply are not enough for it to sustain the running time, even though the film only runs for 99 minutes. It is particularly disappointing to see such an uneventful finale using appalling supporting characters who randomly

go in and out of the protagonists' lives.

The worst written role here is Evelyn's (Alfre Woodard). As a wiser, older lady, she gives useful advice, only to throw it all away in the end by being literally tossed aside. Woodard gives the film its much needed emotional core, but her scenes never follow through to amount to anything special.

Very little makes sense in the end, not that you would expect a horror film to have much logic running through in its script, but with *Annabelle*, the sheer lack of coherence is too significant to ignore.

# How to survive a horror film

Ellen Mathieson gives you some top tips to make it through any evil encounters you might have this Halloween

It's late night on Halloween, and you and a group of friends are walking home from your party of choice. One of you takes a wrong turning and somehow you suddenly lost in a part of London you don't know. You stop and ask for directions, but no-one is being helpful. And even though there are only five of you, for some reason you can hear a sixth set of footsteps. Is there someone following you?

Oops, it seems like you've inadvertently walked into the scenes of a horror film. If you're going to survive the night, you'd better follow my advice.

## Be the right person

First off, to survive you need to make sure that you're the right character. Everyone knows that it's the blonde bimbo in eight-inch heels, and an inappropriately small amount of clothing for the time of year, that goes first. So make sure you have a pair of sensible shoes for running on, and try to care more about your life than breaking a nail.

Next up as a victim, it's probably either the jock or the outsider – the alpha male is a pretty easy target for any self-respecting murderer, for multiple reasons. One: they probably stand the best chance of stopping you. Two: I don't know, it's just the rules.



Seriously, don't be this girl Photo: Joss Whedon/Lionsgate

I don't write the rules. I don't even know who writes the rules. As for the outsider, they're just easy pickings, right? I mean, nobody really talks to them, they're always off being intellectual – no-one will notice if someone casually sneaks up and violently and noisily murders them.

If you're a girl, your best bet for survival is to be the meekly pretty virgin with a bit of backbone that will tell the guy chasing you that they're evil, or crazy, or a murderer, then run for the hills. If you're a guy, being the romantic interest is probably your best bet. Even evil, crazy murderers are romantics at heart.

## Go to the right place

Congratulations, you've managed to be the right person and survive the

first couple of killings, but you've got a while to go before you're safe. You need to find a good space to hide and wait until morning. Unfortunately it's fast approaching three in the morning and anyone in there right mind is going to asleep, or at the very least ignoring the crazy sounding person banging on their door screaming about a killer.

The first place you should probably avoid is anywhere obviously abandoned. Creepy old factories, or train stations, or office blocks are easily the sort of place that a dastardly villain could set a trap. You don't want to nip to the loo in the middle of the night only to be impaled by old, rusty equipment.

Try not to go anywhere that is imbued with history either. Though

you may manage to avoid the guy chasing you for a bit, you're bound to bump into some nasty ghoul that doesn't like the fact that you're invading his territory, and come after you.

I hear that hotels are quite nice places to spend the night, why not see if you can find one?

## Things you shouldn't do

Don't have sex. If you do, you will die almost immediately, if not during. Everyone knows that the couple who have sex are always the next ones to die. Why not fill your time with useful things like trying to escape instead?

Don't split up. For some reason in every horror film someone decides that it is a great idea to split up. Don't be the idiot who suggests it. Splitting up is the one of the stupidest ideas you can have. You're not Scooby Doo and his friends, you don't need to search for clues. Just stay together.

Don't lose your phone. Don't put it down. Don't drop it and break it. It's one of the most important possessions you have for getting out of trouble. If you lose it, or lose your phone signal, you're probably already dead.

Finally, don't be an idiot. And maybe, if you're very lucky, you might escape. Good luck!

**"You don't want to nip to the loo in the middle of the night only to be impaled by old, rusty equipment."**

## This week at Imperial Cinema



Photo: empireonline

By this point, the Imperial midterm blues are probably starting to hit; it's getting colder and darker outside and the work is piling up but never fear we're bringing you two hilarious comedy sequels to cheer you up!

### The Inbetweeners 2

**Directors:** Damon Beesley, Iain Morris

**Screenplay:** Damon Beesley, Iain Morris

**Cast:** James Buckley, Simon Bird, Joe Thomas, Blake Harrison

*Inbetweeners 2* sees more of the gross-out humour that we have grown to know and love from Will, Simon Neil and Jay.

Picking up from the first film, Will and Simon are at University and figuring out it's not all it's cracked

out to be, Neil is working and Jay is on his gap yah in Australia. When Jay, who has always taken rather generous liberties with the truth, brags to the boys about his abundant Australian sexscapades, guess what happens next...

*Inbetweeners 2* is another hysterically funny installment in the series that also looks like it'll be it's last.

Showing 18:30 4th November and 21:00 6th November

### 22 Jump Street

**Directors:** Phil Lord, Christopher Miller

**Screenplay:** Michael Bacall, Oren Uziel, Rodney Rothman

**Cast:** Channing Tatum, Jonah Hill

21 *Jump Street* was the surprise

smash hit of 2012, seriously who knew Channing Tatum had comedic (cough cough acting) chops?!

For anyone who was living under a rock circa 2012, Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum play bromantic rookie cops who are sent to infiltrate a high school drug ring with hilarious results. As is one of the golden rules of Hollywood: 'if it ain't broke don't fix it' so in 22 *Jump Street* the boys are back doing pretty much the same thing but this time at University!

What could seem like tried and tested material feels fresh with the help of the chemistry between Hill and Tatum and smart, self-aware writing about the dumbness of sequels.

Top tip: stay behind for the credits reel.

Showing 20:30 4th November and 18:30 6th November

Tickets: £3 Members/£4 Non-members



Photo: showfilmfirst

# Television

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Television Editors || Guila Gabrielli & John Park

## Wir Sind Alle Freaks

John Park enters FX's *American Horror Story: Freak Show*



Photo: huffingtonpost



Photo: fansided

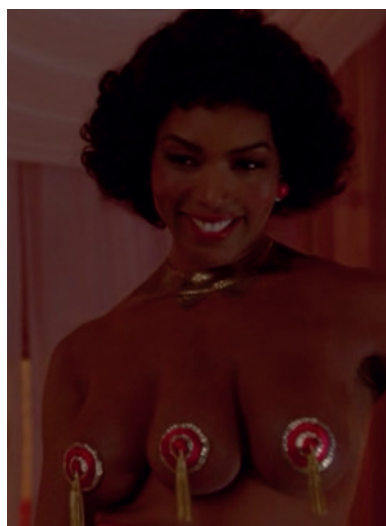


Photo: decider

There is a line of dialogue in *American Horror Story: Coven* that reads as follows: “Do you really think with Twitter and Facebook that a witch does anything at all she won’t be videotaped and turned into some viral FREAK SHOW like a dog who says “I love you”?” . Now was this a clever hint dropped by Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk, the creators of the *American Horror Story* anthology, subtly directing us all to the next season, or was this nothing more than a freakish coincidence? We will never truly know, but the *American Horror Story* series, now in its fourth season, aptly named *Freak Show*, is as twisted and deliriously entertaining packed full of over the top characters and storylines that open themselves up for all sorts of shocks and reveals.

As the title suggests, the fourth season takes place in Elsa Mars’ (Jessica Lange) very own freak show, a rundown circus that attracts locals who basically come to laugh and marvel at the circus cast of individuals with all sorts of deformities. Her latest headlining act is a pair of conjoined twins Bette and Dot (both played by Sarah Paulson), the kind of attraction no one has ever seen before. Of the existing members, we have Ethel (Kathy Bates) the bearded lady, her son Jimmy (Evan Peters) with syndactyly, as well as some new entries to the circus tent, including strong man

Dell Toledo (Michael Chiklis), his new wife Desiree (Angela Bassett) who has three breasts instead of the more traditional two, and the newest member to the group, fortune-teller Maggie Esmeralda (Emma Roberts) who is actually a fraud with ulterior motives, as is the case with most people around this place.

What happens during one of their performances is the least of the show’s most troubling aspect. In fact the big singing numbers, masterfully done by Lange and Paulson are really quite something. What takes place outside the freak show is more sickening. There is a serial killer clown on the loose, played chillingly by John Carroll Lynch, who goes around terrorising the town of Jupiter, Florida. Dandy Mott (Finn Wittrock) is a grown man who acts like a spoiled child, with his rich mother Gloria (Frances Conroy) condoning even the worst aspects of his psychotic behaviour. Stanley (Denis O’Hare) possesses a 13-inch penis; what he plans on doing with it has not been answered yet.

It certainly boasts an impressive cast, and the award-winning individuals are once again on top form. Lange sports a tough German accent to play the owner, creating another fascinating, unique character, which shows that this series has been one of the best things to happen to her career. Paulson is particularly strong this season, and

she is an early serious contender for the Best Actress Emmy. The creation of the conjoined twins too marks one hell of a technical achievement for the anthology. The different camera angles, and splitting of camera screens at the right time show the audience the different fields of vision for both Bette and Dot.

Get ready for blood: lots of it. The show has never been known for subtlety, nor does it ever hold back on gruesome images or body counts, and this season is no different. In fact, it has the opportunity to become the most shocking yet.

Set in 1952, the bigotry and hate towards the circus people are alive and well, and it would appear the show has a stance on that. ‘Freaks’, or so the townspeople call them, much to the circus performers’ anger and annoyance, are people too, and deserve the same level of respect and rights as anyone else. Sound familiar? That message was embedded into the plots of *Asylum* and *Coven*, the show’s previous two seasons. It is clearly an issue that is close to Murphy’s heart. This incessant repetition may be an eye-rolling factor for some, but when there are so many other things going on, delivered in such an unpredictable setting, even the slowest scenes become bearable. There is still plenty left for the remaining episodes to explore, with more famous names joining the cast. Let the show commence.

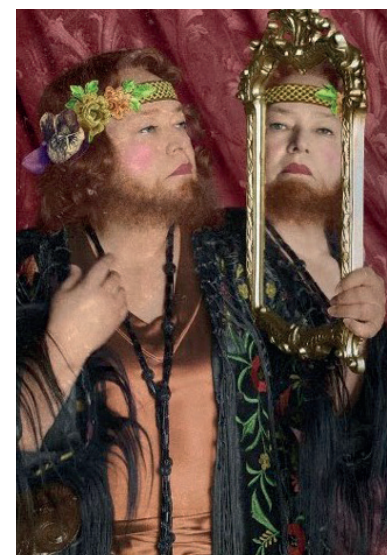


Photo: vixenvarsity

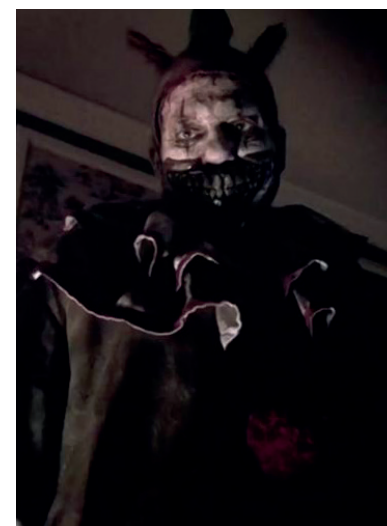


Photo: nydailynews

# Television

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## Where the hell did this come from?

### Tom Rivlin looks at Rick and Morty in the Cartoon Corner

Dan Harmon's beloved sitcom *Community* has long been known to fans as a 'genre' show smuggled onto our screens under the guise of a regular comedy about a community college. In Adult Swim cartoon *Rick and Morty*, co-creator Dan Harmon has done the opposite – he's managed to smuggle an earnest, real family drama out to us under the guise of a wacky, high-concept sci-fi adventure series.

I'll prove it. Here's two versions of the premise:

1. Rick is a genius scientist who goes on exciting, dimension-hopping adventures with his reluctant teenage grandson Morty.

2. Beth is a woman with an on-the-rocks marriage to the guy who knocked her up at prom. One day, her estranged, deadbeat dad (who happens to be a genius scientist) shows up at her door asking to live with her. After she agrees he becomes somewhat of a surrogate father to her teenage son, Morty, much to the chagrin of his actual dad.

If "Rick the scientist, Morty the teenager" sounds familiar, it should. The show began its life as an (incredibly lewd) internet cartoon short called *Doc and Marty*, in yet another parody of the famous *Back to the Future* duo. Knowing that helps to put the show in its context, and shed light on the exact conversation it's having with nerd culture.

The brilliance of *Rick and Morty* is in how it seems to exist in a quantum superposition of the two premises. Obviously 'using sci-fi adventures to talk about real relationships' is some Writing 101 stuff – of course your sci-fi show should be grounded in human drama! But the magic is in how naturally it all flows. It strikes the

**"My grandpa's a magic scientist!"**



Photo: screenrant

perfect balance between sly winking, lampshading itself/various genre tropes, and playing those tropes just straight enough to wring the human drama out of it. It's never cheap. It's never obvious. Every episode keeps you guessing. And yet here's that word again, it's just so earnest.

But that's not to belittle the sci-fi elements. The show may delight in parodying sci-fi concepts to hell and back ("my grandpa's a magic scientist!" would be the end of the story in a kids' show, but being on Adult Swim the show has a healthy dose of cynicism to temper it), but it's clearly done from a place of love, and you end up with some pretty interesting stuff like a Jurassic Park parody in the form of a theme park of various diseases, but miniaturised and inside a hobo's body.

**"Nobody belongs anywhere; everybody's gonna die. Come watch TV."**

All of this culminates in what is without doubt the best episode, *Rixty Minutes*. To a cynic, the premise of the episode is just 'Rick and co. watch TV'. And the fact that it's more than that is a testament to the strength of the show. The setup is that Rick upgrades the family's cable box to get channels from 'every dimension', and yes, much of the episode is the content of those channels in the form of short vignettes... yet the whole escapade is just setup for the 'real' story: one channel is from a dimension where the parents, Beth and Jerry, aborted the elder daughter, Summer, never got married, and Jerry became a movie star (and they see a movie he's in). Ouch.

This leads the parents to explore various dimensions where their lives seem to be a lot better by never getting married, and leads to Summer learning for the first time that they even considered aborting her.

Part of the resolution is an out-of-nowhere moment of profundity from Morty, which involves him unexpectedly calling back to the traumatic events of a previous episode which involved him burying a dead duplicate of himself, finally remarking: "Nobody exists on purpose; nobody belongs anywhere; everybody's gonna die. Come watch TV."

This is all to say nothing of the vignettes themselves, all of which were ad-libbed in their entirety by the writers. This is rare in animation. Usually by the time voice recording

starts the storyboards are finalised and animation has begun, leaving little 'wiggle room' for improv.

Here, clearly the storyboards were drawn around the improv sessions, a difficult feat. The results speak for themselves. Each vignette is weird, free-flowing, creative and totally hilarious. Some are downright Lovecraftian, or perhaps Cronenbergian, as Rick would put it.

The incredible thing about *Rick and Morty* is that this is all done in only eleven 22-minute episodes in the first season. Already (but really, from the start) the show has found a clear voice/tone, has a message to say and knows just how to say it.

It's returning for a second season this year. Hopefully, like *Community*, it will last six seasons and a movie.



Photo: awn



Photo: watchcartoononline



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# Fashion

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Editor || Cecile Borkhataria

## Fashion Rules: regal fashion at Kensington Palace

Nam Cheah reviews the exhibition showcasing gowns worn by royals

Almost every girl has dreamt of being a princess at some point in her life. Being able to live in a fairy-tale castle, enjoy the privileges and most of all, the dresses and beautiful outfits that come with it. Look at Cinderella; she got a dress from her fairy god mother and the next thing you know, she fell in love with a prince and they lived happily ever after.

But princesses and royals don't just exist in fairy tales, and nor do their beautiful dresses. Kensington Palace has put on the Fashion Rules exhibition showcasing HM Queen Elizabeth, Princess Margaret and Princess Diana's dresses and outfits ranging from the 50s to the 80s.

The exhibition is separated into three sections, of outfits worn by the Queen Elizabeth II in the 50s and 60s, Princess Margaret in the 60s and 70s and Princess Diana in the 80s. Videos and covers of *Vogue* from the respective eras are also on display.

The collection showcases many designs; notably those by Norman Hartnell, one of the Queen's favorite and designed many of her 50s ball gowns. The young queen is more conservative in her fashion but the style still contains the essence of the 50s such as the full skirt.

During her tour in the 50s commonwealth tour the queen had commissioned many beautiful gowns with design related to the national flag colours and flowers of the visiting country, for example the beautiful Hardy Amies gown the young queen wore to a banquet in Halifax was incorporated with embroideries of mayflowers (the official symbol of Nova Scotia). The royal gowns she wore are mostly full-skirted with fitted bodices in light, pastel colours that befit a queen. Fabrics were mainly in silk with heavy beading and embroidery.

Princess Margaret was considered to be a fashion icon in the 60s through to the 70s. The princess is less conservative in style compared to the queen, often at the forefront of fashion with her choices. Collections of her dresses and coats include early works from Christian Dior. The collection shows the transition of fashion into the modern era. One of her more modern choices is the turban and kaftan made of exquisite Indian sari silk.

Moving onto Princess Diana in the 80s; as one of the most photographed woman in the world, her fashion choices included a wide range of designers from Catherine Walker to Bruce Oldfield. Padded shoulders, asymmetrical sleeves as well as a dropped waistline were all in style



Top right: Dress worn by Princess Margaret. Bottom right: Silk Kaftan worn by Princess Margaret Photo: Nam Cheah

during the 80s.

If you are a true lover of fashion or curious about the glamour of the

royals, this exhibition is a must-see.

Not to mention, the exhibition do not require any extra fees apart from the

entrance fee to Kensington Palace, which is magnificent to see in itself, and this with the added fashion bonus

of seeing a range of styles, including the Victorian era style and Queen Victoria's wedding dress.

# Welfare

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Welfare Editor || Diba Esbati & Chanon Wongsatayanont

## 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.

# Big worries about small problems

Diba Esbati shares her experience with anxiety and recovery

After all my preaching about de-stigmatising mental illness, I think it's about time I talked about my own experiences in the hopes that it will help at least one person who is currently suffering and feels like they're alone. I have struggled with anxiety for as long as I can remember. It is no secret that I'm known as the stressy, anxious, over planner of my circle of friends, and I've been known to literally worry myself sick over small disagreements and arguments (once in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, I spent an entire weekend in bed with a fever because I had had a falling out with my best friend). Now, I never thought I had a problem,

I just thought I took things a little too seriously, but that it was completely normal to burst into tears every time someone shouted at you. I felt like I was just weak, that it was a personality flaw, and that I just needed to 'man up' (don't get me started on that phrase, that's reserved for a whole different article) or grow out of it, but it never even occurred to me to ask for help or talk to someone, because I was afraid I would just get laughed at, or worse, chastised for seeking attention or whining when there was nothing really wrong. It didn't even matter that much, I was living at home with my parents, I was coasting through school and despite a few hiccups, I was mostly getting by alright.

It wasn't until I came to university that things started getting noticeably worse. I was suddenly thrown in an environment where I was finally being challenged academically, and I'm not going to lie, I was struggling for the first time in my academic career. The perfectionist tendencies that I'd, you know, perfected, over the past twelve years of my academic life meant that I would become paralyzed every time I made a mistake or was given feedback that showed I was anything less than perfect (which was, unsurprisingly, very often).

I had my first panic attack during my 2<sup>nd</sup> year programming exam. One moment I was trying to code a struct and the next I was gripped with fear, with my heart attempting to make a hurried escape from my chest. Now, for those of you who've never experienced panic attacks (and I hope that's most of you), it legitimately feels like you're about to die. Breathing became difficult, I couldn't hear anything over the buzzing in my head, there was a metallic taste in my mouth, and most strangely, I felt like I was watching all this happen to me. Nothing felt real. I would later

find out that this depersonalisation is a normal symptom of a panic attack but at the time, it was the most terrified I had ever been. I sat there gripping the mouse for a good twenty minutes, trying my hardest to just breathe, before the fear started to subside. By the time I could finally think clearly again, there was only half an hour left to the end of the exam, and I rushed to finish all that I could, trying to hold back my tears enough to see what I was doing. The moment we were allowed to leave, I bolted for the bathroom, had a good cry, and then went on with the rest of my day, still frazzled but not saying a word to anyone.

My biggest mistake that day was not going straight to my academic tutor and telling him what had happened, but I just didn't think that I could. What would I say? That I had suddenly gone into some trance and couldn't do my exam? I had no idea what a panic attack was, I had never heard of anyone having one, or what it was like, so I had nothing to go on. I didn't think anyone would believe me, or worse, that they'd tell me to grow up and stop making excuses.

Things only got worse after that first incident. Every time I was in a similar, stress-filled situation, I would feel the familiar fear tighten its grip on me, and I would be back to the

whimpering mess I was in that stuffy computer lab. It wasn't long before I was dreading even going to small tests because just the thought of having a panic attack would send me reeling off the edge.

I had trouble sleeping, I was lucky if I could get three hours of rest a night, I would snap at everyone around me, lie to my friends and family about what was wrong, and constantly talk down to myself because I thought I was just being a wimp and overreacting to things.

It took almost a year before my boyfriend finally convinced me to see a college counsellor, and when that didn't work, to contact my GP, and that was only after I confided in him about just how many times I'd considered ending my life. After that first GP appointment, and the diagnosis of saying I had anxiety disorder that everything started making sense. I finally knew what was wrong with me! There was a name for what I was going through, and it turned out to, unfortunately, be a much more common condition than I could have ever imagined. Although there was still a long way to go to recovery, just the fact that I knew what was wrong came as a huge relief.

I was put on a waiting list for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, was prescribed antidepressants, finally

told my department about everything that had been happening and started getting the support I so desperately needed. I won't lie and say that everything suddenly got better, and that I stopped feeling terrible and everything was instantaneously dandy; almost a year later and I still sometimes have to leave lectures in a hurry because I've started hyperventilating, but now I know that it passes. I know that it gets better, no matter how permanent it feels at the time, and that's enough to get me through another day.

So if there is anything you take away from this, it is that you're not alone, and as cliché as this sounds, it does get better. Maybe not right away, maybe not completely, and certainly not linearly, but eventually, you'll learn to deal and you will start to feel better.

So please, if you're reading this and think that you're going through something similar, don't make the same mistake I did and wait until things get catastrophic before seeking out help. Your well-being is the most important thing, and no one who matters is going to judge you for asking for help. There are measures put in place to try and make sure we all get the support we need, so don't be afraid to use them, and remember, you're not alone!



Photo Credit: Sean Clark



# Coffeebreak

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Editors || Ellen Mathieson & Tessa Davey

## Ask Annie, your approachable Agony Aunt

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

Hello all, Aunt Annie is back to help. You've been sending in your worries and I've done my best to try and help. We've also brought back lonely hearts this week to see if we can help some of you lonely Imperialites find love.

**Help! During last year I took on quite a few club responsibilities. The problem is, now that I'm in second year I'm a lot more busy than I thought I would be, and I don't feel like I have time to do everything that I'm supposed to do and keep up with my degree at the same time. I'm worried about letting everyone down. What should I do?**

*Overwhelmed in Oxford Street*

First, let's have a look at what happens if you don't stop. The pressure from all sides will keep piling up, and something is going to have to give. You might manage to keep on going, not doing a satisfactory job for anything, and just about scrape through your exams. You might concentrate too much on clubs and fail your exams. Or you might crack, decide to curl up in a ball for a week or two and ignore everything. None of these options are great, so you need to change something.

Though you may not like the idea, the best thing for you, and probably everyone in general would be to give up one, or some, of your commitments. Try and figure out which one would be the best equipped without you. Did someone run against you in the election who could take over and give you a break? And don't worry about delegating some of your tasks. Everyone finds it a bit overwhelming at times, and there will be people around who can take some of the work, you just need to remember to ask.

Just make sure to keep going to your

lectures, and don't forget to revise. Clubs can be some of the best parts of uni life, but you're here for the degree and sometimes you need to remember that.

**Help! My girlfriend has just told me that she is going to apply for a PhD in America. We've been together for over a year, and everything has been going great, but I'm really worried about what going long distance is going to do for our relationship. I don't want to stop her from doing what she wants to do, but surely a bit of consultation wouldn't have gone amiss?**

*Worried in Westminster*

The very short answer to this is simple: talk.

It's not hard to talk to someone, especially when you spend a lot of time with them. Good communication is one of the most important things for a healthy relationship, and it seems like maybe neither of you have been doing this as much as you might need to.

Going abroad for a few years is a big step to take, and can have a massive impact on a relationship. Should she have told you about this before now? Probably. But there might be a reason that she hasn't. Perhaps she was worried about your reaction? If so, strangely enough, the solution is probably to talk to her. Let her know if you're okay with her going; letting her know that she has your support will make things much easier. Let her know what you worried about, and

make sure that you discuss where you stand.

Long distance is a big commitment that can be pretty difficult to deal with, and you need to make sure that it's what you both want to do. Just don't worry, talk about it, and things might work out much better than you think.

**Help! I've been hanging out with this guy on the floor below me in halls. We've been texting all the time, and I want to take things further, but he just doesn't seem to get the hint. How do get him to make a move?**

*Waiting in Wilkinson*

This is not the first time that I've dealt with this problem, and I really doubt that it will be the last. Hopefully you, and everyone reading this, will get the message. It's quite simple. Just because you are a girl, doesn't mean that you can't make the first move. I continue to find it amazing that so many people just don't seem to realise this. You think you're scared? You know what, so is he.

It might be traditional for the male to make the first move, but this is just stupid. Everyone can go up to someone and say 'Hey, I like you, let's go for a drink'. If you are too much of a wimp to do it in person, send the same thing in a text. It won't look quite as good as doing it in person, but at least you've done something, which is better than sitting and around and waiting.

Or maybe there is a reason that

he hasn't made a move yet, and he just isn't interested in being more than that friends. In that case, you get rejected, get a bit upset, and move on. And hopefully you'll have learnt something. Don't let men be the only ones to be rejected, that just isn't fair.

**Help! My roommate is gay, and while I'm happy to be friends with someone gay, I feel uncomfortable with sharing a room with him. I feel really vulnerable when I'm getting changed in the same room as him, like he's eyeing me up as a piece of meat. I know I'm probably being paranoid, but it really bothers me. What should I do?**

*Paranoid in Park Royal*

The truth is, you probably are just being paranoid. You don't fancy every girl you see, and he feels the same way about most guys.

However you do have a point. There is a reason that we don't have co-ed rooms, and it's not because boys are icky. Many females wouldn't feel comfortable getting changed in front of a male, roommate or not, and it's sort of the same situation for you. What you probably shouldn't do it bring it up. He'll feel like you are accusing him of being a bit of a perve, and that ain't great for roommate bliss. If it's really bothering you, try and get changed in the room when he's not there. Or you could get changed in the shower rather than coming back to your room in a towel.

Of course, if he actually eyeing you up, you might want to have a chat with someone in your halls, because

that isn't really okay.

**Help! We got assigned our lab partners for this year last week, and though we get on pretty well, he just isn't pulling his weight. He'll ask me to meet up with him to discuss lab reports but I feel like I'm the only one contributing to the conversation, and he just uses my hard work to make his own life easier. I don't think it's fair, but I don't want to bring it up in case it makes things awkward, as we do have to work together for the rest of the year. What should I do?**

*Annoyed in Acton*

There isn't much point in not bringing it up. If you don't, there is a good chance that you might just start resenting him for not doing enough work. Resentment will lead to snarky comments and before you know it you won't be able to do anything without making a comment about it. It's better to get it all out in the open now before the resentment has time to build.

If you don't want to mention it to him, try a different approach. Why not control the direction of the conversation, ask him questions about the work you've been doing rather than offering him answers on a plate? If he can't answer, he'll probably feel awkward, and hopefully do more next week. Or discuss what you're both going to research beforehand. That way you can both contribute, and if he hasn't done the work you have more reason to be upset.

## Lonely Hearts

DESPERATE DEPUTY PRESIDENT SEEKS EXOTIC BEAUTY, TO SHARE NOODLES, SAKE AND UKIP BANTER. SO RESPOND AND I'LL MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET THE D... PW.

Union hack seeks lively lover to distract from the political infighting taking place in the Union Offices. No knowledge of Union documentation required.

Forsaken [Fierce - ed] Felix editor in chief seeks man with a good sense of humour. Or just knowledge of what humour is. Must be good with stick insects.

Fresh faced first year seeks romantic man for thoughtful dates and plenty of new experiences. If you come and take the reins, I'll include a riding crop for free.

Tiny Physicist would like to meet like minded individuals in the RCSU to add to her collection. Most not be squeamish about turning friends into eskimo brothers. I promise it's worth it

# HANGMAN



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## Skett's basement teaming with creepy crawlies



Artists impression of Felix office. Photo: wikicommons

Philippa Skett's basement is teaming with creepy crawlies. In other news, the *Felix* office now has pet stick insects. The small bugs are making things rather uncomfortable down there, however the stick insects are proving very popular with the writers and editors. One reporter was quoted as saying "it's really sad that these parasitic life forms mean we all have to get tested weekly, and the atmosphere of antiseptic spray in the room is making my eyes water; however I'm a big fan of the new pets we have, they're great."

No one is quite sure who gave them to whom, "I think it was probably

the late night copy editing session we had last Wednesday" a Deputy President of Welfare told Hangman under the conditions of anonymity. "We were all in quite a funny mood. An argument about the appropriate length of an en-dash got everyone rather animated.

One thing lead to another and frankly I don't want to go into too many details, there were about 8 of us in there so it was hard to know who was coming and who was going, let alone who was carrying any eggs. Anyway the next morning we all realised that half of Felix's basement areas were just full of these bugs." The DPW then went on to say, "it's

a pleasant tonic though that these stick insects turned up though, they're excellent fun".

Hangman tried to interview Philippa about the arrival of the bugs, but all we could hear through the toilet door were screams of "it burns, it burns" and the sound of cream being applied liberally to the affected areas. However she was spotted in Beit Quad later shuffling awkwardly and collecting leaves and twigs, presumably for the new arrivals.

Rumours still abound about *Felix* getting a pet cat, and frankly Hangman cannot wait for the terrible pun opportunities that arise from the word "pussy".

## Library Taking The Piss

This week a faux-Dulux colour chart was spotted by the toilets on the third floor of the Central Library.

The chart encourages students to monitor their hydration levels by checking their wee hue against the hand colour scale.

Student's with piss in the Fosters to Stella colour range are doing just fine. If your wee is veering more towards a

shade of Aspall's or Blackthorns, you are advised to imbibe some water post haste.

If your urine is Newcastle Brown Ale or worse, you are thoroughly advised to get a couple of pints of water down you right now.

If your piss comes out as a colour not included on the useful chart you are advised to call a doctor or mortician.

### Dehydration Urine Color Chart

The following Dehydration Urine Color Chart will help you use your urine color as an indicator of your level of dehydration and what actions you should take to help return your body back to a normal level of hydration.

	Doing ok. You're probably well hydrated. Drink water as normal.
	You're just fine. You could stand to drink a little water now, maybe a small glass of water.
	Drink about 1/2 bottle of water (1/4 liter) within the hour, or drink a whole bottle (1/2 liter) of water if you're outside and/or sweating.
	Drink about 1/2 bottle of water (1/4 liter) right now, or drink a whole bottle (1/2 liter) of water if you're outside and/or sweating.
	Drink 2 bottles of water right now (1 liter). If your urine is darker than this and/or red or brown, then dehydration may not be your problem. See a doctor.

For more information visit [www.urinecolors.com](http://www.urinecolors.com)



## DISASTER: Union Printer Paper supply runs Dri

Crisis has broken out at the Student Activities Centre, where a lack of printer paper has lead to guerrilla warfare between clubs and societies at Imperial.

The printer, which is often used for printing millions of pages of coursework and the odd flyer for Imperial Cinema, ran out of paper after a particularly large print job sent by Annabel Apple, a third year biologist, who accidentally printed the entire human genome instead of a sponsorship contract for her club.

Divisions have already started appearing throughout campus. Outdoor Club have teamed up with Medics Football to build a barricade around what is rumoured to be a "substantial" cache of paper somewhere near the Central Services office.

Meanwhile, RCS Motor Club's Jezebel has been seen to be driving into the doors of the Queen's Tower to see if there is any of this rare

commodity to be found within. Jazz & Rock, Assassins, and Cheese Society simultaneously stormed the Blue Cube, apparently finding a large stash under the desk of a certain Philip Power.

Over at other campuses, the CGCU have taken over Charing Cross, replacing the Phoenix flag hanging off Reynolds with their own. However, when pointed out to the CGCU that the SAC is based at South Kensington, they felt rather embarrassed and left their mascots behind when they left, later picked up by the RCSU.

The RSM have been capitalising on the mayhem and destruction happening across campus by organising a bar night. Vice-President (Activities) Tor Tennant told *Felix*, "Well, we may as well get pissed while this is all going on! #yolo" Rumours that the Union Shop will be releasing a commemorative t-shirt may be

exaggerated.

Felix Editor, Philippa Skett, accidentally told Hangman that *Felix* owned a printer and some paper. Upon this news becoming public, she was lynched and then subjected to the ancient punishment of being hung, drawn and quartered at dawn outside Huxley. Her remains was later paraded down the burning streets to much delight.

Deputy President (Betrayal) was seen cackling manically and swinging from the Union flagpole, commanding those to join "the uprising."

Union President Wom Theeler pleaded for calm around campus during the ongoing warfare. Standing atop the Sherfield Building, he promised free pizzas to anyone who laid down their Society's weapons and join him in an open forum regarding bursaries.



Artist's impression of the scenes from inside the SAC

# HANGMAN



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

Sunday 26th October

I spent all of this weekend trying to chat to Dorothy, but every time I wanted to speak to her I sort of fell over awkwardly. By 'sort of', dear diary, I literally tripped over my laundry basket and chipped my tooth on the washing machine. She then fainted at the sight of my blood and then another girl started screaming and I blacked out.

Monday 27th October

So it turns out when I blacked out one of the wardens came in to find two people comatose, one person screaming and blood everywhere and things didn't look great. I've missed two lectures today having to explain myself to College tutors. I hope I didn't miss anything cool.

Tuesday 28th

My jaw feels so much better now, also my tooth looks kinda cool chipped, I reckon Dorothy will dig my new scarred look. If only I could get her to speak to me.

Wednesday 29th

Halls Halloween party on Friday getting really excited. I reckon this will be where I can really get a chance to talk to her. Jennifer won't answer my Skypes, I'm beginning to doubt Newcastle has been without Internet for 3 weeks...

Thurs 30th

OMG got my outfit planned, gonna go as zombie Spiderman. I'll let you know how it goes diary.

Friday 31st

OMG I'M SO SAD. Half the people at the halloween party turned up as blood-soaked washing machines. Then a Snapchat account called NewcastleBanterLad sent me pictures of MY NOW EX Jennifer making out with some football lads with the caption "Spiderman Suxx loser". I ran to my room crying. Excuse me diary, there's someone at the door, I've told them to fuck off. Wait... Hang on... it's Dorothy.....

## NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



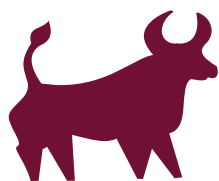
## HELL RAVAGED BY BLIZZARD

## HOROSCOPES



ARIES

This week you realise that you've been in London for a month, and you still haven't done anything touristy, so in a strange fit of excitement, you decide to go on the London Eye. Unfortunately you chose the wrong day as the wheel breaks free, rolls along the ground and squishes everyone in the queue, including you. You die.



TAURUS

This week you think you're absolutely hilarious by going to a Halloween party as an ebola victim. None of your friends agree, and you spend the rest of the evening in social isolation drinking one too many Jagerbombs. You die.



GEMINI

This week, as usual, you are the DPW. After realising what a prat you sound like in Metric Moments, you decide to hold another UKIP appreciation party to cheer yourself up. For some strange reason your date isn't very impressed by this, and repeatedly clubs you with a set of chopsticks. You die.



CANCER

This week you want to carve a pumpkin, but the shop is out so you go for a butternut squash instead. It turns out that squashes are much smaller and more solid, and in an attempt to make a masterpiece worthy of Instagram, you slip and stab yourself in the leg. You die.



LEO

This week, inspired by reading the Darwin Awards, you decide to try and replicate one of the stories of success, so you climb into the lion enclosure of London Zoo. As Lucifer is munching on your bones, you realise that maybe the Darwin Award isn't actually something you want to win. You die.



VIRGO

This week, after another rugby match you once again decide that wearing clothes is just too much effort, and ditch them. You probably shouldn't have done it in a country where nakedness is illegal though, as rather like a train full of disgruntled British passengers, you have unimpressed some government officials. You die.



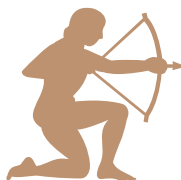
LIBRA

This week, after having been soaked in a strange array of bodily fluids, some act of witchcraft brings Mr Flopsy to life. After vowing to kill those who wronged him, he realises that he can't actually recognise faces, so just kills everyone. Unfortunately that includes you. You die.



SCORPIO

This week you spot someone who looks like they have ebola walking through the streets and you panic, sparking a London-wide riot and looting epidemic. As you try and get somewhere safe, you are crushed by a crowd desperate to get the last tin of sardines from Tesco. You die.



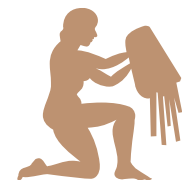
SAGITTARIUS

This week, after weeks of trying unsuccessfully in Metric, you finally find a girl who will come home with you. Even better than that, she's beautiful, clever, funny, and a succubus. In the middle of losing your virginity, she decides that you're not satisfying her enough and eats you instead. You die.



CAPRICORN

This week the Biology department's secret project finally comes to fruition, and they create life. It turns out though that the T-Rex doesn't really like being locked up, so it escapes. For some reason you decide to enrage it by laughing at its tiny arms, and it attacks you. You die.



AQUARIUS

This week, you finally figure out where you heard that song that's been stuck in your head for the last week, on one of the vinyls owned by IC Radio. As you search for the elusive ear worm, the shelves come off the wall and you are buried in a pile of polyvinyl chloride and plastic. You die.



PISCES

This week, as the riots finally die down, the dinosaur is captured by the authorities and Mr Flopsy is in another part of town, you decide to lie down in Hyde Park, and put your life into perspective by looking at the stars. You are hit on the head by a tiny meteorite. You die.

# Puzzles

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

Puzzles Editor || Michael Faggetter

## Sudoku

### Gentle

6	9					1	4	
7				8				
		2		7			6	
4			7		3			
		1				3		
			9		1			4
	5			1		6		
				4				2
7	3						5	8

### Easy

7	6					1	5	
		5	3	7	1			
	3		6				4	
6	2		9	1			3	5
	7						6	
5	8			2			9	1
	5				8		7	
			5	9	2	3	8	
9								

### Moderate

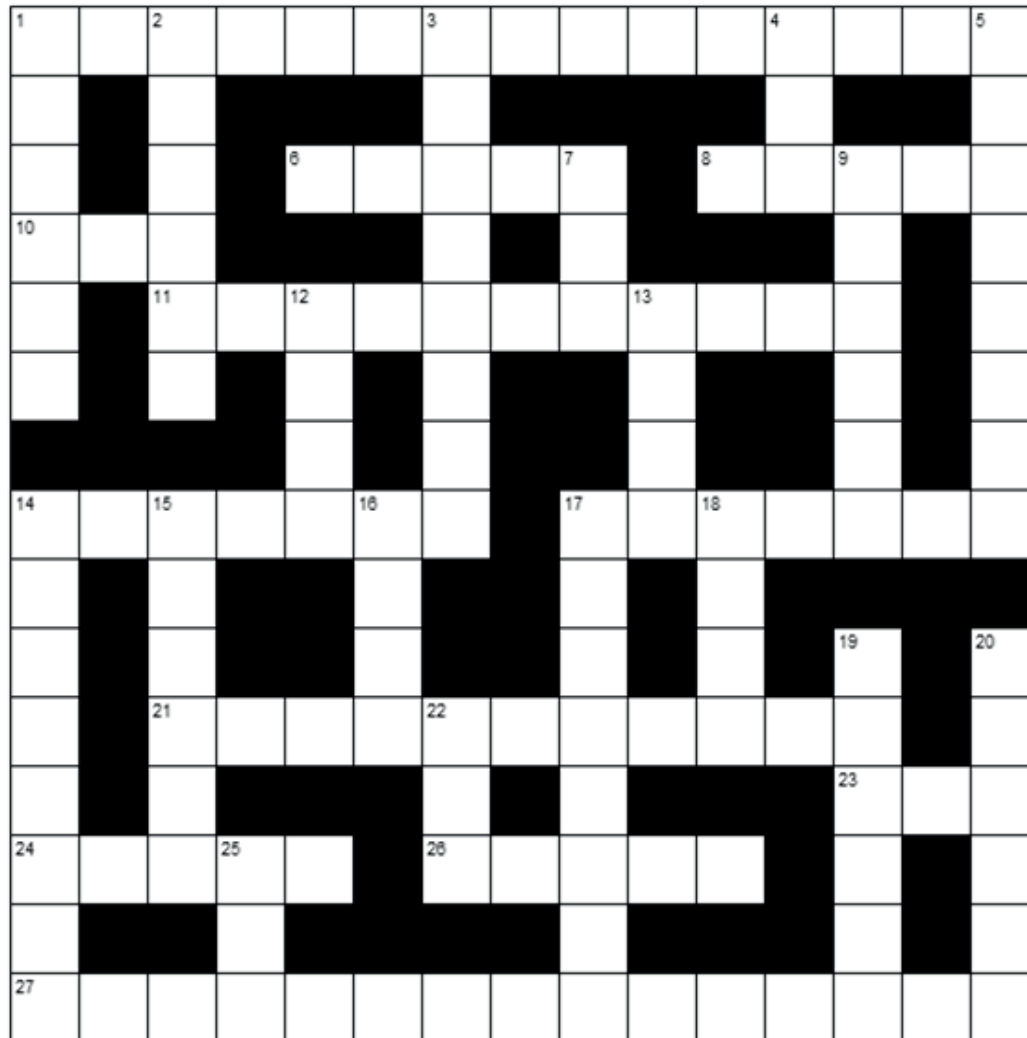
4		1				6		
7			6		1			
	9	5						
1	4			5		8	2	
			4		9			6
	3	2		6			5	7
						7	8	
			9		7			2
	4					9		3

### Tough

				1		7		
			8				4	
7	8		4	6				2
					2		1	
		9						
	3		5					6
				8	6			
	4	1	2					9
		6		9		3		

## Quick Crossword

Ben Harvey & Jamie Dutton



### Across

1. Wife to Louis XVI of France (5,10)
6. Noble gas (5)
8. Word that can follow street, rhyming or internet (5)
10. Spirit flavoured by juniper berries (3)
11. British actor (Homeland) (6,5)
14. Fruit belonging to the squash family (7)
17. A daily record of events (7)
21. To understand and accept an idea (4,2,5)
23. Horseman of the apocalypse (3)
24. Nobel Prize winning English physicist (5)
26. \_\_\_\_\_ King; American talk-show host (5)
27. Imperial College graduation venue (5,6,4)

### Down

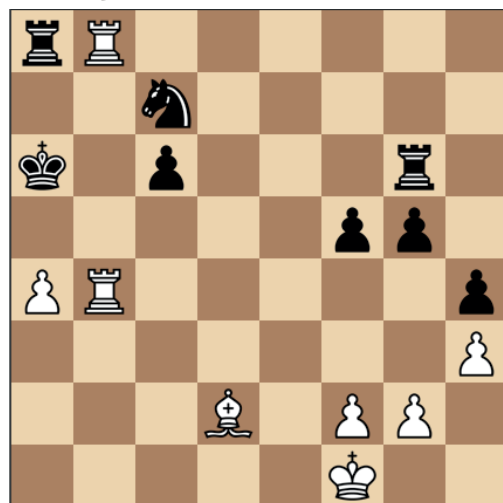
1. Lacking in quantity, paltry (6)
2. Central African country, capital Kigali (6)
3. Town in Northern Warwickshire (8)
4. Eric the \_\_\_\_; Equatoguinean Olympian (3)
5. Off-white paint colour (8)
7. Nothing (3)
9. City in Texas (6)
12. Premier League manager (surname) (4)
13. Liverpool \_\_\_\_; daily newspaper (4)
14. Most prestigious award at Cannes Film Festival (5,3)
15. Weapon that fires explosive projectiles (6)
16. Lazy (4)
17. A large party or celebration (8)
18. Bone in the arm (4)
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Currie; former Conservative MP (6)
20. A small amount (of food) (6)
22. Winnie the Pooh character (3)
25. Reddit question and answer session (3)

## Chess

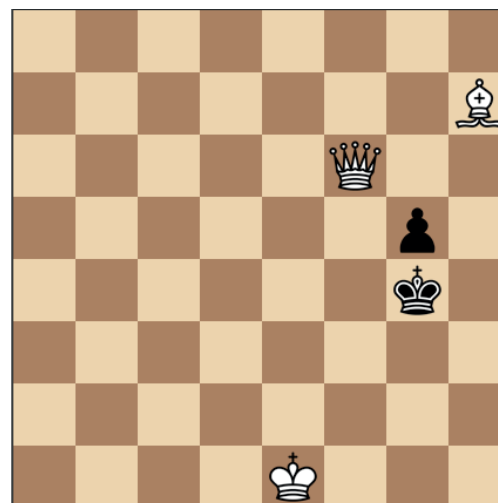
Max Eggl

White to mate in 2 moves.

### Easy



### Hard



## FUCWIT leaderboard

### Individuals:

1. Adam Stewart 30
2. Catmelon 4
3. Gabriel Quek 2

### Teams:

1. Aerodoku 2

# FUCWIT

Enter the prestigious FUCWIT puzzle league!

Play on your own or in a team, complete the puzzles as fast as you can, scan them in and send them in to fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk.

Points are awarded for each correct solution. Bonus points (in brackets) are awarded to the **first** correct answer!

### Quick Crossword

2 points (+3)

### Acrostic Grid

3 points (+3)

### Nonogram

2 points (+2)

### Chess

Easy: 1 point  
Hard: 3 points (+2)

### Sudoku

Easy and Moderate: 1 point (+1)  
Tough: 4 points (+2)

### Word Ladders

1 point for all three (+1)



# SPORT

Sport Editor: Kunal Wagle

## In case you missed it... – The World Sport Column

Kunal Wagle takes a look at what's been going on in the world of sport

South African football captain Senzo Meyiwa was killed by armed robbers in his girlfriend's house. It is believed that he was trying to defend his girlfriend before the robbers demanded his mobile phone; a shot was fired in the ensuing altercation. The South African police have launched a major manhunt for his killers, who fled on foot. As a tribute to the goalkeeper, South Africa have moved their upcoming match against Sudan to Durban, which was Meyiwa's home town.

In other news, Andy Murray confirmed his place at the World Tour Finals in London next month with a supreme victory over Grigor Dimitrov in the Paris Masters. Last week Murray won a marathon match against Tommy Robredo to win the Valencia Open, in which he had to save five match points.

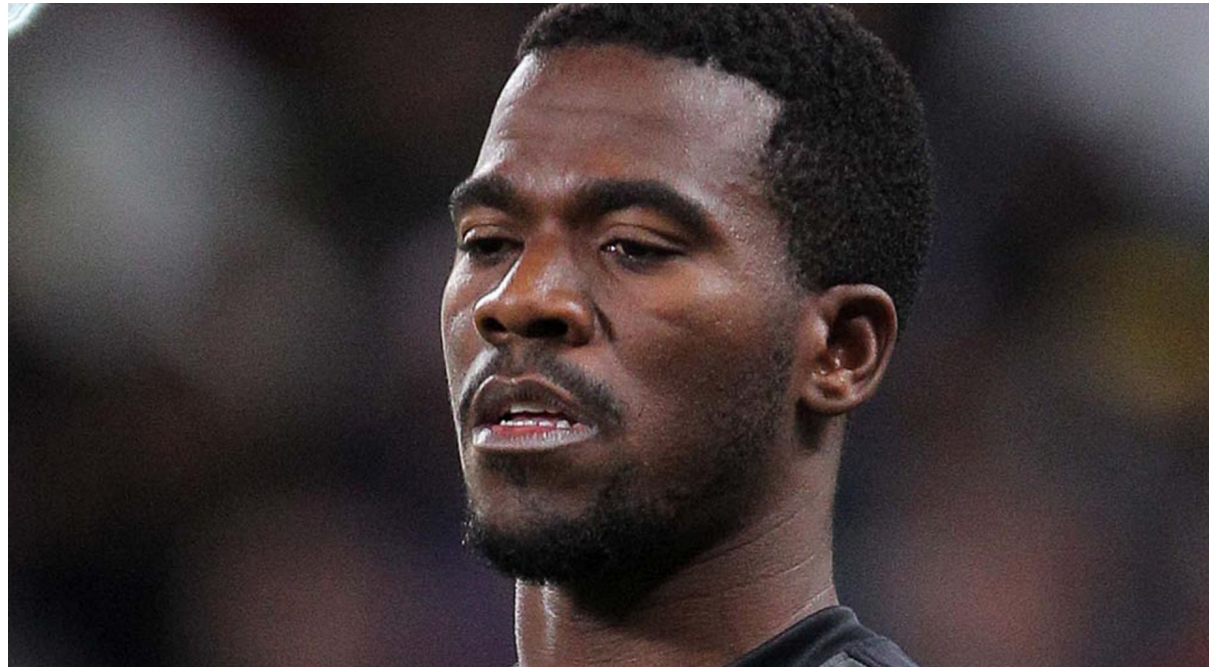
Defending Champions Manchester

City were sent out of the League Cup by Newcastle on Wednesday night.

On Sunday evening Manchester United scored in the 94th minute to rescue a draw against Chelsea in the Premier League, sparking wild celebrations.

Jonathan Trott has been selected for the England Lions in cricket. Trott was sidelined in December after complaining of a stress related illness, but made his comeback for Warwickshire during the summer. It's been a tough couple of weeks for Australia captain Michael Clarke, as his team were ruthlessly dismantled by Pakistan. The second match hasn't started well either – Pakistan ended day one on 304-2.

The NFL made a return to Wembley last weekend, with the Detroit Lions completing a remarkable comeback against the Atlanta Falcons to win 22-21.



Senzo Meyiwa was shot dead in his girlfriend's house last Sunday evening Photo: Getty Images

## Would a British NFL franchise be successful?

Phoebe Hunter discusses of the possibility of a permanent team at Wembley

Last Sunday was the 10th NFL game to be hosted at Wembley Stadium. The competing teams were the Atlanta Falcons, who sacrificed a game at their home stadium to travel over here, and the Detroit Lions. The first half of the game was a great start for the Falcons, who finished the half with a 21 point lead, however the game turned in the second half and came down to the last 4 seconds when the Lions kicked a field goal to win by a score of 22-21. This was the second of three NFL games being played at Wembley this year - the most American Football games to be played in the UK during one season.

The possibility of having a London-based NFL team has been mooted by various people since the NFL's first foray into Wembley in 2007, but the idea has been revived recently after George Osborne told NFL officials that the UK government would support any plans to start an NFL London franchise. This is an incredibly exciting prospect for the 2 million plus NFL fans who live in the UK. But American Football teams are not cheap to run when based on US soil, never mind the added cost of being located across the Atlantic.

In order to explore the likelihood of permanent NFL success in

London, it is worth considering the attendance statistics for the games.

The past five games at Wembley have reached attendances of more than 83,000, with the number set to increase for the final game of this year, on 9 November, when the Jacksonville Jaguars take on the Dallas Cowboys, arguably the most internationally well-known team in the league.

Clearly there is a strong enough following for a team on this side of the pond but whether the attendance would remain this high if American Football at Wembley became a regular occurrence for a full season is a difficult question to answer. Having been to games myself, my bet would be that it would continue to attract a large crowd, since UK NFL fans are dedicated to the game as a whole, not just one particular team.

Furthermore, the enthusiasm and interaction with the crowd at American Football games (and indeed all American sports games I have attended) creates the overall experience of a complete day out with entertainment from gymnasts, mascots, cheerleaders and acts during half-time, not just watching the players and the game itself.

Incentives like free flags and t-shirts give even those who have no

idea about the game the opportunity to feel involved and get the sense of belonging to a team.

The financial side of the NFL will no doubt be the driving force in whether plans for a London-based team will come to fruition. The broadcaster ESPN pays \$1.9 billion per year for the right to show NFL games whilst BSkyB signed a new five-year deal in September to ensure they retain the major broadcasting rights in the UK. The fact that this contract was signed proves that businesses also see the potential for the NFL UK market.

Indeed, this could help shorten the predicted wait times for American football in the UK. Arthur Blank, owner of the Atlanta Falcons, has suggested the NFL London franchise is only six or seven years away from becoming a reality, but with major companies pushing the NFL in the right direction for UK audiences, it could be sooner.

Many people have suggested that an NFL team in London would create too much of a problem in terms of logistics. According to the Falcons, they flew 221 people over 4210 miles across the globe and we can assume a similar number of people for Detroit.

If an NFL team were to be based in London, the equipment would

remain in the team base but transport for team and staff would still be a necessity. When asked about this, Arthur Blank looked to teams from San Diego and Seattle as examples of long distance travel not being too much of an issue for NFL teams at present. Admittedly, the east coast of the US is closer to the west coast than it is to the UK, but there are still significant amounts of travel and time zone changes required as it is.

It was also suggested that games would be played in blocks similar to those in baseball matches, where the London-based team would play three games at home and then three games

in the US, reducing the expense.

Ultimately, it appears that the foundations for an NFL London team are rock solid. The fan base exists and is substantial enough to sell an adequate amount of tickets for it to work. There is support from influential sources like the UK government, and NFL teams are willing to travel to London to play games. NFL officials are hoping for another surge in fans to boost attendances even more, so it is likely there will be many more games at Wembley over the next few years. Check it out if you get the chance – it's an experience you won't forget!



The Jaguars return to Wembley next week Photo: Neil Barnes

# SPORT

Sport Editor: Kunal Wagle

## Early victory for Imperial

**MATT DOUTHWAITE**  
ICXC CHAIR

It was cold and windy last Wednesday afternoon when 25 members of the Imperial Cross Country and Athletics Club arrived at Hampstead Heath to take on the other London Colleges in the first Cross Country race of the season: Parliament Hill.

With their shiny new red & blue Imperial vests in hand, the newest members of the club were ready to represent their Uni against the masses of UCL, Kings, Brunel and St. Mary's to name but a few.

The London College League (LCL) is a series of six cross country races which take place throughout first and second term all over London, including Richmond (Coming this Wednesday) and Bushy Park.

Parliament Hill is the first race; 8km for guys and 4km for girls, and containing some of the most notorious climbs, it is often muddy, though the new members of the club were blissfully unaware of this.

Arriving at 2:45, there was time for the team to have a short warm up, apply some imaginative red & blue face (war) paint and snap a quick team photo before the race started at 3:15. At this point a long-standing tradition known as King-of-the-Hill took place, when several runners raced to the top of the steep climb which makes up the first few hundred meters of the course.

Imperial's nominated contender, James 'I run 101km mountain races for breakfast' Ellis, surely had a fine chance, but alas, St. Mary's had anticipated this threat and were quick out of the blocks to just steal the

crown by a few metres, adding more evidence to the case that they are in fact running cyborgs.

The race continued on over the scenic hills of Hampstead Heath, with a number of Imperialites setting out well to the support of Women's Captain Cloudy Carnegie, who had been forced to sit it out. The course was complicated by limited marking, and there were several cases of runners going the wrong way.

Thankfully after a couple of laps, all made it back without adding too much distance to their race. After some hard-fought battles against fellow students, mud, dogs and 'The Flash', team Imperial came home strong. Returning member Kimberly Mason was first woman back for Imperial, and debutants Jess Prior and Anna Lawson brought home the top three girls team after their lap.

They then turned their attention to an incredible sight; fresher Chris Olley coming home in first place! An impressive victory considering the many good runners from St. Mary's and Kings. Not far behind was another newcomer, Mike Ridley, and old timer Liam Smith.

Great displays were also shown by Rupert Hepton and Johnny Bosch, while newcomers Tom Stokes and Chloe Mason had navigational issues and Will Jones gallantly dropped out of the race to help a runner from another college who'd sprained their ankle. All in all this was a great performance in tough conditions and a brilliant start to the year for team Imperial.

A well-earned club meal in GBK followed. Feel free to join us next week for a far flatter run amongst the deer in Richmond Park or one of our many other scenic Training sessions.

For more info find us on facebook or email us on [run@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:run@imperial.ac.uk).



Photo: IC Cross Country

## Imperial Rugby 1st XV can't prevent defeat to RUMS

**JOE BOWDEN**  
ICU RUGBY PRESS OFFICER

The unbeaten ICURFC boys proudly journeyed all the way out to North London to challenge the medics of UCL - officially the RUMS rugby club - in what was sure to be a crucial, possibly title-deciding fixture.

All was faring well on the Imperial boys' quest to become men as Coach Rich was seen to have found his way to the correct ground for a Wednesday fixture.

Confidence was high as Ed "Paper Plane" Durkin (Captain of Morale, season 14-15) cheered on his housemate and on-field captain, James Cocks, to kick over the first three points of the game in favour of Imperial.

The early lead was well deserved but unfortunately short-lived as RUMS ran in two tries in quick succession to take a cushioned lead.

The Imperial reply was powerful with Tom Hedley scoring close to the posts to allow easy addition of the following two points.

A double interchange of scores between the two sides saw Hedley tally again and the board begin to look like a village cricket total.

26-22 to RUMS. The Imperial boys spent the first 20 minutes of the second half retaining the ball and playing the best rugby of the game but were held out by a gritty defense.

The forwards worked their way up the field with powerful breaks from Adam Postlethwaite and Joe Bowden.

Finally the ball was released to the

backs to be spread wide and Fred Brown used his pace to evade his opposite number and touch down in the corner, granting the away side the lead again.

Unfortunately a two-footed challenge from the opposition landed near Freddie's, formerly untouched and innocent, sphincter as he dived in to score resulted in a substitution of wingers to see young Carlos Sheppard take the field, all the way from British Columbia.

Ladies of Imperial you have nothing to worry about as I'm sure Mr. White, one of the founding faces of RigSoc, will not be deterred from attending ACC this coming Wednesday.

IC's defense appeared to become more and more flimsy as RUMS put in another thirteen points to take a comfy lead.

With only minutes to go Olisa Ufodiama (certified BNOC) brushed off numerous tackles to charge up centerfield and score between the posts to narrow the margin.

Unfortunately the boys' hopes were crushed as RUMS relentlessly scored another ten points and sealed their victory late on.

The despondent Imperial lads trudged back to South Kensington without Sylvia to drown their sorrows and begin preparations for the fixture against St. Mary's. This game is sure to result with a victory.

Be sure to make your way through the hot gate on Wednesday 29th October to attend ACC and observe the might of the disciplined and uniform ICURFC.

## Rugby 2nd XV lose close game

Imperial's 2nd team made the long journey to Kent to play Christchurch Canterbury, looking to rectify last week's game which by all rights should have been won.

Imperial clearly coped better with the delayed start as they had the upper hand in the early exchanges, which resulted in Tom Mavin making an inspired run involving steps and fends going over to score a seven pointer.

This seemed to fire up the opposition and their large hoard of supporters thus allowing them to gain some front football, using their big runners unimaginatively yet effectively. A combination of

this and some poor defending from Imperial allowed Christchurch into the lead to with two tries.

Christchurch kept the pressure on but improved defence from Imperial limited them to a couple of long range penalty efforts which they were unable to convert. Eventually Imperial, with Tom Mavin setting the example, switched on again and worked their way up the field and after some nice back interplay Ruairi Dunne was able to score in the corner.

This was backed up by a nice conversion by Anthony Cheuk to put Imperial back in the lead just

before half time. The second half was not quite as entertaining as the first, with neither side really able to gain a foot hold.

A lack of match practice showed for Imperial as we spent vast amounts of the half trying to play rugby in our own red zone. Ultimately this cost us as Christchurch were able to capitalise on an Imperial mistake and score again.

Imperial tried to fight back but unfortunately time was against them and the match ended in a 17-14 defeat.



JOSEPH BOWDEN It's never too late to join IC Rugby Photo: IC Cross Country



# Taking the Plunge – the story of skydiving

Jonny Jackson describes the thrill of jumping out of a plane...

There's a long-standing myth that states that anyone who goes skydiving is either mad, has no concept of death or is emotionally-blackmailed into doing it because their mum bought them a voucher for their birthday. What I discovered was a group of inspiring, friendly people who engage in an activity with one of the best safety records of any extreme sport.

I did my ground training in October 2013, having just started my first year at Imperial. Around that time I kind of happened upon the idea of learning to skydive. I hadn't really ever thought about it before. In fact, I don't think I ever really thought anyone learned to skydive.

Of course, I had the odd friend who had taken the plunge and done a charity skydive or gone just one time, but they were always tandem skydives – that is, they were strapped to an instructor and didn't have to do anything except look like they were having a good time and resist the urge to maul the person who was DRAGGING THEM OUT OF AN AIRPLANE.

So anyway, having never really considered myself a daredevil or adrenaline-junkie, I found myself standing at the 'Imperial College Skydiving' stall at Freshers' Fair. There I was, talking to someone with more than a hundred solo jumps under their belt, an Imperial student just like me – but I could never do that, right? I mean, this guy must secretly jump motorbikes over buses and set himself on fire and fight sharks with his bare hands.

But he looks normal, and I overhear him complaining about how he hates his landlord and how his lab report is overdue, at which point I realise that not only is he normal, he is in fact completely unremarkable. Oh right, yeah, apart from the hundred plus skydives. Ok, well I guess I'll sign up to the mailing list, I thought. Who knows, maybe I could try it, and impress people in the future.

The next thing I know, it's 09:00 on a cold but sunny October morning, and I'm standing in a field in Kent. Such is the glamorous lifestyle of a skydiver, I suppose. The week before, I had signed myself up for an

Imperial trip to a ground-training day, and now here I was.

This training was all that I needed to do my first solo skydive, as per the British Parachuting Association regulations. I must say, to the instructor's credit, it was during this 10-hour, intensive training, that I realised that I really, really wanted to skydive. Call it Stockholm syndrome if you want to, but if you find yourself doing nothing but exit drills, landing practice and canopy-control technique for an entire day, it starts to grow on you.

I started to realise that what sets a skydiver apart from a non-skydiver has nothing to do with genetics, or personality, or a reckless disregard for personal safety. Nope, it's much simpler than that. A skydiver is – wait for it – someone who has jumped out of a plane. Yep. Nothing gets past me. But what I mean when I say that is that the only reason anyone ever became a skydiver, whether solo or tandem, is that they told themselves that they had it in them to do it, and then actually did it!

Anyone that can do these two steps



Photo: IC Skydiving

is a skydiver. Easy, right? Well, by enrolling in the ground training, I had done the first step. I owed it to myself to prove to everyone that I could manage the second step.

Only a couple of days after my ground training, I did it, my first jump. I can't tell you much about it, as it was all a bit of a blur. What I can say though, is that it wasn't scary. It was surreal, like an out of body experience, but the whole situation was so foreign to my hyper-reacting

brain that I didn't even get a chance to be scared. My training had prepared me more than adequately for what was about to happen, and I was sitting opposite my instructor on the plane, which was very reassuring.

I would say the oddest thing I remember was the sensation of having nothing but 3,500 feet of empty air between your feet and the ground when sitting at the door of the plane, ready to perform your exit – that is to say, to fling yourself desperately at the ground.

For my first jump the parachute deployed itself via an attachment to the airplane so, aside from the initial couple of seconds shock, it mainly consisted of a parachute ride. There aren't many things in life that I would say are breathtaking, but given that this article is so far lacking in clichés, I feel that it is a very appropriate description. It's not a long ride – maybe 5 minutes – but it was long enough for me to realise that I was now a skydiver.

I also realised that this sport would become a big part of my life. I've since gained my skydiving A-licence after a year of training and done more than 20 solo jumps from 12000 feet, with up to a minute of freefall each time – but I still have a lot to learn! Along with 3 other members of the Imperial Skydiving club, I'm hoping to set up a formation skydiving team for the first time in the club's history, later this academic year.

Imperial College Parachute and Skydiving Club organises training trips throughout the year for anyone wishing to experience solo skydiving. They also run frequent tandem and windtunnel trips for those who want to try things out before being left to their own devices in the sky. For more information visit their website at <https://union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/parachute/> or email [parachute1@ic.ac.uk](mailto:parachute1@ic.ac.uk).



Photo: IC Skydiving