



Felix

Keeping the cat free since 1949

www.felixonline.co.uk

@felixImperial

/FelixImperial

felix@imperial.ac.uk



Issue no. 1602

March 20th 2015

Mental Health at Imperial

What help is available at College?
Features, page 9 and 10

Misogyny at Varsity

- Players left stranded at the Stoop without transport
- Girls play to empty stadium as coaches leave early
- Sport Imperial staff allegedly overheard: "I don't care how those fat girls get home"

News, Page 5

Inside...

IC smash ICSM at Varsity 2015



Sport 45-48

Calling the season finale



Television 19

Loans for PhDs unveiled in Budget



News 3

The
PHOENIX
est. 1887

This week's issue...

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Felix Editor || Philippa Skett

Contents

News	3-8
Features	9-10
Comment	11
Science	12-14
Politics	15-17
Music	18
Television	19
Film	20
PHOENIX PULLOUT	
Welfare	27
Games	28
Arts	29-36
Travel	37
Fashion	38-39
Hangman	40-42
Puzzles	43-44
Sport	45-48

What's on this week

IMPERIAL'S FIRST DANCE SHOW

MARCH 26-27TH, 19:00
UNION CONCERT HALL
It'll be well awesome, so go! Plus they're really nice. Check out their centrefold.

Tickets: £3 student/£5 non-student, available on the door

Skett's Box of Shame

Apologies for the many mistakes in issue 1601. We can't remember what they were but there were probably a few.

Apologies to the students who thought our hangman Blue News page is real.

Sport Imperial have dropped the ball

This week was meant to be a celebration of women at Imperial, as the women's rugby team was set to headline Varsity for the very first time. The evening was meant to pay homage to the incredible progression of women's sport and in fact women at Imperial in general, but in reality, due to the thoughtlessness of the staff of Sport Imperial, it fell flat on its face.

Before the women rugby players had even reached the stadium, the coach that was organised to take them there failed to materialise. Then, during the match, coaches were allowed to leave during the girl's final match, despite the team stressing that under no circumstances should they be left to play to an empty stadium.

The team were rushed through their cold after-match dinner, after the men's team had had their fill and already left. Finally, those that were able clambered onto a coach full of agitated spectators that had been made to sit there for 40 minutes, whilst other players were left behind.

To top it all off, those who were left behind were also apparently verbally abused by a staff member, who proceeded to make misogynistic remarks about the girl's appearances.

Although Sport Imperial state that the transportation nightmare was not their fault, the fact that the whole thing wasn't organised meticulously months beforehand still raises concerns. As far as I'm aware, Varsity has been a pretty streamlined affair; transport issues have always cropped up but surely over time these should have been ironed out.

The fact that Sport Imperial haven't outright apologised for any



THIS WEEK'S EDITORIAL

of these events is testament to the fact that no-one ever wants to appear accountable at Imperial; no-one ever hold up their hands and admits they fucked up.

If Sport Imperial organise an event, then it should run as they please, and they shouldn't blame coach companies or stadium staff that they are paying and therefore can instruct and direct as necessary. It certainly isn't unreasonable to direct catering to serve hot food at a time you would like, and it also isn't unreasonable to instruct coaches to leave and arrive when you choose.

Not only that, the fact that extra care and attention wasn't taken to ensure this essential milestone for women's sport went off without a hitch is testament to the underlying attitude the institution has towards the women's teams in general; that it obviously doesn't deserve such focus in the first place. It stinks of incompetence, laziness, and a disregard for how important this event should have been.

That's before we even begin to tackle the downright sexism displayed by the staff member who

stated brazenly that he didn't care "how the fat girls get home" after hearing students were stranded.

Women@Imperial week came to a close last week, and it was a flurry of positive tweeting, bright and colourful photos, hashtags, long and buzzword-filled speeches, and totally devoid of any of the grim reality that women face at Imperial day in and day out.

No-one considered using the week to address the damage that misogyny can have on a community, and the negative effects things that some people aren't even they are aware they are doing can have.

I would like to think that this staff member, who interacts with students of all genders day in day out, doesn't actually consider himself a sexist pig. However, comments on a women's appearance made in a derogatory manner and with a vile attitude to boot is a key example of the sort of misogyny that goes unchecked day in and day out.

Maybe if Imperial had not played it safe with Women@Imperial, and not suggested we are already there as an institution when it comes to female equality, such comments would not continue to happen in the future.

We need to fully challenge the poor attitudes to women at Imperial and explain how misogyny can resonate in many ways; from an angry comment over a walkie-talkie to a lack of disregard when it comes to organising the next big platform for women's sport, all contribute to the inequality women face day in and day out.

And to be quite frank, it pisses me off.



Felix, Offices
Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road,
London SW7 2BB

Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk
Tel: 020 7594 8072
www.felixonline.co.uk

Printed by Iliffie Print Cambridge, Winship
Road, Cambridge.

Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711
Copyright © Felix

Front page picture: Ben Lester, Through Ben's
Lens (throughbenslens.co.uk)



EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-In-Chief
PHILIPPA SKETT

Deputy Editor
PHILIP KENT

Treasurer
THOMAS LIM

Technical Hero
LUKE GRANGER-BROWN

News Editors
CAROL ANN CHEAH
CECILY JOHNSON
KUNAL WAGLE

Comment Editor
TESSA DAVEY

Politics Editor
JOSHUA RENKEN

Science Editors
LAUREN RATCLIFFE
JAMES BEZER

Games Editors
MAX EGGLE
CALUM SKENE

Arts Editors
FRED FYLES
KAMIL MCCLELLAND

Music Editors
GRACE RAHMAN
AMNA ASKARI

Television Editors
GIULIA GABRIELLI
JOHN PARK

Film Editors
JOHN PARK
ELLEN MATHIESON
JACK STEADMAN

Book Editor
DIANA LUCACI

Fashion Editors
CECILE BORKHATARIA

Food Editors
CAROL ANN CHEAH
MICHAEL CHUNG

Coffee break editors
TESSA DAVEY
ELLEN MATHIESON

Travel Editor
YUNG NAM CHEAH

Welfare Editors
DIBA ESBATI

Puzzle Editor
KINGSHUK DASADHIKARI

Clubs and Societies Editor
BEN HOWITT

Sport Editor
KUNAL WAGLE

COPY EDIT TEAM

Copy Chiefs
STEPHEN BALL
ELLEN MATHIESON

Copy Editors
ANNINA SARTOR
TOM RIVLIN
BEN HOWITT
JUNE GAN
MICHAEL FAGGETTER
JACK STEADMAN
MATTIN MIR-TAHMASEBI
JONATHAN MASTERS

News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

News Editors || Carol Ann Cheah, Cecily Johnson & Kunal Wagle

Budget 2015: Government announces plans for £25,000 loans for PhD students

Cecily Johnson finds out what the new Budget has to offer

The government has revealed plans to offer income-contingent loans of up to £25,000 for PhD and research-based masters students in the latest Budget report, George Osborne's sixth as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

According to the Treasury, a package of measures will be introduced "to broaden and strengthen support for postgraduate researchers", including a review into how to bolster the UK's funding for postgraduate research.

"This review will examine the balance between number and level of research stipends to ensure that the UK's offer remains internationally competitive".

As part of the review, the government will consider various methods to "strengthen partnerships and co-funding between government, industry and charities", including increased support for the crowd-funding of scientific research.

The proposed support package will include "income-contingent loans of

up to £25,000 to support PhDs and research-based masters degrees. These loans will be in addition to existing funding, and designed to minimise public subsidy.

"The government will work with research councils, universities and industry to examine how best to design them so that they complement existing funding streams and continue to support the most excellent research".

No details have yet been provided as to the timescale of introduction for the proposed loans. Access restrictions, repayment plans and the ultimate costs of the loans to students have also not been specified.

A loans scheme offering up to £10,000 for taught master's students from 2016-17 was announced by Mr Osborne in last December's Autumn Statement. These loans will be available only to those under the age of 30.

The new Budget also proposes the launch of "a £400 million competitive fund for new world

leading scientific infrastructure". The Science Grand Challenge Funding project plans to seek funding matches from charities and industry.

The fund "seeks to lever industrial and charitable funds. The government welcomes exciting proposals from across the UK that aim to push scientific boundaries and maximise scientific impact".

A factsheet provided by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills noted that the money was previously promised in December's Science and Innovation Strategy paper, and is "an allocation of funding from within the Science Capital envelope".

The Treasury stated that the government hopes to "provide the UK's world-leading research institutes with greater freedoms to attract the brightest minds, re-invest commercial income and develop cutting-edge technology".

This is the last Budget to be presented by the current parliament before the next General Election later



George Osborne and his red box Photo: Leon Neal/AFP/Getty Images

this year. The winner of the election is likely to present another Budget this summer.

Mr Osborne has also announced tax cuts for first-time buyers, a 1p per pint cut to beer duty and 2% off cider and spirit taxes, a crackdown on tax avoidance and an increase of 16p in the price of cigarettes.

A 20p increase in the national

minimum wage will raise it to £6.70 per hour from October, with a 3% rise in the statutory minimum for 18 to 20 year olds taking the hourly rate from £5.13 to £5.30.

Welcomed by business leaders and derided by Trade Unions, the aspirational Budget has been criticised by opposition parties and described as "openly electioneering".

THE World Reputation Rankings place Imperial 14th

CAROL ANN CHEAH
SECTION EDITOR

In the latest release of the Times Higher Education (THE) World Reputation Rankings, Imperial College London dropped one place from 13th in 2014 to 14th in 2015. The THE World Reputation Rankings are a spin-off supplement from the internationally acclaimed THE World University Rankings, where Imperial currently retains its strong top 10 position.

While the World University Rankings utilize 13 separate performance indicators grouped under five categories: teaching (30%), research (30%), citations (30%), industry income (2.5%) and international outlook (7.5%), the World Reputation Rankings are formed using a large invitation-only academic survey, which took place at the end of 2014 and saw tens of thousands of responses.

Barring the University of Tokyo (12th), ETH Zurich (15th) and the University of Toronto (16th), the top 20 places in the Reputation Rankings

are chiefly occupied by American universities, with British institutions taking 4 out of the 20 spots. Harvard University regularly tops the list; this year it was followed by both Cambridge and Oxford, which came in 2nd and 3rd respectively.

According to THE, the World Reputation Rankings are "based on nothing more than subjective judgement – but it is considered the expert judgement of senior, published academics, the people best placed to know the most about excellence in our universities".

Institutions are not allowed to nominate survey participants, and no one is allowed to sign up for the survey without an invitation, thus meaning that selected participants are representing thousands of their peers.

This year's survey is set to play a key part in shaping the 2015-2016 edition of the World University Rankings, alongside a number of other reforms. THE will be releasing the survey in 15 languages (Arabic, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, French, German, Brazilian Portuguese, European Portuguese,

South American Spanish, Italian, Traditional Chinese, Korean, Turkish, Russian and English), an increase from the 9 used in the last survey.

In addition, where the survey was previously outsourced to Thomson Reuters, THE is now seeking to take full responsibility and ownership of the survey and its data, with distribution being carried out in

partnership with Elsevier. THE claims that this extra control will allow it to "publish more detailed profiles of institutional reputation globally and to be more responsive to the sector's data needs."

Phil Baty, editor of the THE World University Rankings, said the following: "We would like to thank in advance all scholars who will be

helping us to create this rich and important picture of global higher education.

By lending a small amount of their precious time, and – more importantly – by lending their expertise, they will become part of an extraordinary global research project that will shape the THE rankings and wider performance metrics".



Imperial was the 3rd highest ranked UK university after Cambridge and Oxford Photo: Imperial College London

£25,000 raised by Imperial College PhD student for cyclone-hit Vanuatu

Cecily Johnson reports on the amazing fundraising achievement

A PhD student of the Department of Chemistry has raised more than £13,000 since Sunday 15th March for relief efforts in the cyclone-hit island nation Vanuatu, after previously raising £12,000 to build a library for a school on one of the remote islands.

The Republic of Vanuatu is an archipelago in the South Pacific Ocean. A state of emergency was declared in the country last Thursday 11th March after the region was devastated by Cyclone Pam in possibly the greatest natural disaster in the nation's history.

Rachel Brooks, a 27 year old PhD candidate at Imperial, raised £13,000 in donations in less than a week for the islands of Tanbok and Pentecost whilst still recovering from surgery on her arm.

She first founded the Tanbok Project in 2007 after spending a gap year teaching maths and physics A level to children in remote parts of the country. "The community did a lot for me so I wanted to do a lot for the community," she stated.

Rachel managed to raise around £12,000 to build a new library at the school where she taught during her stay on the island. The money was raised through sponsored bike rides and half marathons.

Sadly the library construction plans must now be put on hold as the cyclone has apparently devastated the school site. Rachel hopes that the funds can be redirected into rebuilding the school.

"Basically the project got started before the Cyclone hit – we'd just been trying to support the school. We'd set up all of our ... building



Cyclone Pam has caused widespread devastation across the 80 islands of Vanuatu Photo: AFP (Main image), Jeff Schmaltz/NASA (inset)

committees and communication networks and then the cyclone came and destroyed everything.

"We decided that the school's not going to be needing a library any time soon, the school's probably going to be needing a school – so we've put that on hold and decided to basically use the network we've already created to do some fundraising for the relief effort".

Cyclone Pam made land contact with Vanuatu last week and caused widespread damage. 90% of the buildings in Vanuatu are understood to have been affected by the storm.

It is believed that the majority

of islanders have been displaced from their homes and huge tracts of farmland have been wiped out. Up to 80% of the population engages in subsistence agriculture as a primary economic activity.

Organisations such as the Vanuatu Red Cross, UNICEF Pacific and Australian Oxfam have launched disaster relief campaigns, and a number of governments have declared aid.

Rachel explained her plans for the money raised by the Tanbok Project, including the funds collected previously for the school library: "The money that's been coming in

since Saturday night will be going specifically to hurricane repairs elsewhere on the island.

"The money that's raised already, people donated that money believing that they were donating for this library for the school. So either way, that money will be reserved for that school".

She also revealed plans to arrange partnerships between schools in the UK and Vanuatu. "The longer-term plan is to get schools [here] to support schools out there ... to pair them up and say this is your partner school that's had a roof blown off, and have them run events".

The Tanbok Project hopes to use their connections in the region to reach overlooked, remote areas of Pentecost and Tanbok that larger aid organisations may struggle to reach.

They are seeking to provide clothing and food supplies, water tanks, tools and fuel to transport materials around the islands. After speaking with members of the community in Tanbok on Thursday 19th March, an emergency food response has been prioritised.

Donations for the relief efforts can be made at: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/pentecostcyclonerelief>.



From left to right: Rachel with a group of Tanbok islanders, the Tanbok Primary School crest, the school buildings which are believed to be destroyed Photo: Rachel Brooks, Tanbok Project

Premature coach departures and misogynistic abuse from staff member for Women's rugby

Sport Imperial employee allegedly said "I don't care how those fat girls get home"

PHILIPPA SKETT
FELIX EDITOR

Imperial's Women's rugby teams have been left fuming after their Varsity match on Wednesday due to transport mix-ups and alleged verbal abuse from a Sport Imperial staff member.

Coaches leaving the stadium earlier than planned resulted in the stands emptying during the women's headlining game and also led to some girls being left stranded at the stadium afterwards.

Further insult to injury came when those left behind consulted a Sport Imperial staff member, but then overheard them saying "I don't care how those fat girls get home".

The women played their headline game to an emptying stadium after a transport mix up meant coaches began to leave The Stoop, based in Twickenham, from the beginning of the second half of their match.

This happened despite the teams being reassured by Sport Imperial that transport would not be departing until their game had finished.

By the end of the game, all the stands were completely empty, as students had rushed to get a seat on the coaches going back to South Kensington, a journey that can take over an hour to make via public transport.

After playing the game, some of the girls were directed onto the last remaining coach waiting outside. However, since the coach was also nearly full of straggling spectators who had been waiting for forty minutes, a handful of girls had to stand behind and wait for a minibus, which also failed to appear.

The girls have told *Felix* they then addressed a Sport Imperial staff member about the missing minibus, to which they received a less than savoury response. He allegedly told the girls he was fed up with dealing with drunken students, and didn't have time to resolve their transport issues.

After the girls confronted him over his bad attitude, he proceeded to storm off and leave them alone outside of the Stoop, telling them as he left to make their own way home.

The girls then told *Felix* that a security guard approached them after, asking if they were ok and if they knew how to get home. The security guard then radioed allegedly the same member of staff, to which he was heard to respond over the walkie-



The crowd was vociferous during the Men's fixture, but left rapidly during the Women's headline game Photo: Ben Lester ThroughBensLens.co.uk

talkie: "I don't care how those fat girls get home".

The girls were eventually taken back to South Kensington by another Sports Imperial staff member later in the evening.

Transport to the Stoop earlier in the day was also poorly organised: one double decker coach travelling from the South Kensington campus only had eight people inside, despite the women's rugby girls having to make their own way there.

The girls turned up at Hammersmith Apollo at 5pm to meet a coach that also didn't show up, despite multiple reassurances from Sport Imperial staff that a coach would meet them there and that they had also paid for it.

The girls therefore ordered taxis to take them to the Stoop, based in South West London, and only arrived shortly before the men's game began. Several students called the organisation of transportation a "shambles".

Up to four coaches left the Stoop early and completely empty once they dropped students off, due to damage to their interior sustained during the journey there.

There was therefore a shortage of coaches available to take students back to central London, which led to people panicking over how they were getting home and prematurely queuing outside the stadium in a bid to leave as soon as possible – during

the women's game.

The women's rugby match, touted as the "headline act" of Varsity 2015 by Neil Mosley, head of Sport Imperial, lasted forty minutes in total.

It was followed by a lacklustre awards ceremony, where IC was crowned overall winners of Varsity, although only staff from College, the rugby teams and a handful of students who had stayed behind were present.

Sport Imperial also promised the women's rugby team would be provided with dinner and drinks after the match along with the men's rugby team. However, by the end of the women's match the men had already been fed, been asked to leave the dining facilities and had left the Stoop. When the girls arrived most of the food had already been eaten and the remaining food was cold.

Mona Theodoraki, the Captain of the Women Rugby Club told *Felix*: "It's unfortunate the way that things turned out. We played an amazing match and both teams worked so hard and it's a shame that not many people got to see it.

"Hopefully we will be given this opportunity again in the future to show everyone what we can do".

Theodoraki has since issued an email to Sport Imperial detailing all of these events, and requesting a public apology. In it she stated: "Yesterday highlighted the sexism

that is unfortunately very present at Imperial.

"As female rugby players, we have to fight to rebrand rugby as not just a 'man's game', and this poor treatment has set us back massively. With the stands being emptied at halftime, the message that got sent across was that women are not as important as men".

The email has also been sent to Alice Gast, the President of Imperial College and Debra Humphris, the Vice Provost (Education) and a fan of the club as a whole; in the Varsity programme she wrote an introduction to the team, stating that "I am particularly pleased that the leading rugby event this year will feature the women of the College, recognising just how far the women's game in the UK has progressed".

Neil Mosley has since offered to meet up to discuss the allegations in person with the team.

A spokesperson from Sport Imperial explained that the unplanned departure of the coaches was outside their control: "All the coaches were booked to leave the Stoop at 9:45pm, after the end of the headline game.

"Following the build-up of a crowd around the exit to the stadium during the final match it appears that Stadium staff decided to announce that coaches were leaving in an effort to disperse the crowd.

"This was done without consultation with any College staff

and will be investigated". They concluded: "Any rude or aggressive behaviour towards athletes, students or guests is completely unacceptable.

"Any complaints will be taken seriously and investigated in line with College procedures. If any allegation relates to a member of Stadium staff we will ensure the matter is raised with senior managers there".

They added that they will be offering a refund to students who missed out on transport because one of the coaches missed a scheduled stop, and will be looking into why the women's coaches never materialised.

Sport Imperial head Neil Mosley told *Felix*: "The women's rugby teams capped 2015's Varsity with a great game, a high-note to end on in line with the quality of competition across this year's sports.

"The evening was built around women's rugby as the centrepiece event, with everything timed to encourage people to see the end of the game and the presentations.

"We're deeply disappointed that the early coach departures meant this wasn't the case. We're liaising with the coach company and stadium staff to establish exactly what happened.

"Everyone involved in sport at Imperial knows that players and supporters deserve better than this and we're sorry that the problems people encountered meant that the occasion didn't live up to the quality of sport on the field".

News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

News Editors

Carol Ann Cheah, Cecily Johnson & Kunal Wagle

Highest ever voter turnout as Big Elections come to a close

Philip Kent caught up with the winners on results night

Last Friday saw the end of another year of campaigning and voting for the Imperial College Union sabbatical positions, with the results of the Big Elections 2015 announced during the results party in Metric.

The election, which also featured the Liberation Officers, Constituent Union positions and a large number of clubs and societies positions, once again resulted in the Union taking the largest turnout in England and Wales; once again The University of St. Andrews in Scotland took the crown for the largest turnout in the UK. The number of postgraduate students voting was also up 50% on last year.

The total number of voters was also up on last year, by nearly 750, with the rate of people voting being on the whole much greater than the year before.

Next year's President will be Lucinda Sandon-Allum, who got 3152 votes, while Luke Armitage took 1016 and RON 552. The Returning Officers told attendees at the party that this was the highest number of votes received by a Union President candidate in the history of the Union. Lucinda told *Felix* about the elections, "I am absolutely thrilled to have been elected as Union President! A huge thank you to my phenomenal campaign team who played a massive part in making this happen and an equally big thank you to everyone who voted for me."

"The last two weeks of campaigning have been a great opportunity to talk to so many different groups of students from all areas of the College. I am very excited to start putting my manifesto points into action next year and bettering the student voice and experience."

The Deputy Presidents were Ben Howitt for Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), Chun-Yin San for Deputy President (Education), and Christopher Kaye for Deputy President (Finance and Services).

Cyin San said, "A huge thank you to everyone who voted – very proud to have been part of such a large democratic vote. Particular thank you to my BMS students, whose engagement in Rep affairs over the past year have been hugely motivational, and to those of you who followed my online campaigns - I



Revellers cheered on the winners Photo: Ben Lester, ThroughBensLens.co.uk

hope you've enjoyed learning random facts each day!

"I look forward to serving all Imperial students over the next year as your top Academic Rep, and to work constructively with College to improve your learning experience".

Finally, Jennifer Watson will be next year's Deputy President (Welfare), saying, "I'm so unbelievably happy and extremely grateful to everyone who voted for me. I can't wait to get stuck in to work now!"

Ben told *Felix*, "Thanks so much for electing me as your DPCS for next year! It was a great experience to campaign, and I feel especially lucky that I was campaigning for a contested position. Lots to work from there!"

"There's so much going on next year – it's hard to pick a favourite. The aim next term is to get organised and get talking to people, so that we go out of this year ready to start the next".

Chris told us, "I'm very excited about being able to implement some changes very quickly. Alex, the incumbent DPFS, is very keen to help me get the groundwork sorted for my year's start, and I'm very grateful to him for that."

"The sabbatical team this year have been fantastic, have had a superb dynamic together, and I feel I've made some friends for life. Next year's sabbatical team have big shoes to fill, but we relish the challenge."

"To paraphrase the Queen, I look forward to continuing to serve our

great Imperial family to which we all belong".

Meanwhile Grace Rahman will be next year's *Felix* Editor, and the student trustees will be Zain Rizvi and Serena Yuen, who dramatically moved from second to first place in the final round of voting.

The Live Statistics dashboard made its return once again, with Faculty of Engineering this year beating Natural Sciences to be the top faculty in terms of turnout. Electrical Engineering had the greatest turnout amongst departments, and two clubs had 100% turnout, Croquet and RSM Netball.



Next year's Officer Trustees celebrate on the Metric stage Photo: Ben Lester, ThroughBensLens.co.uk

The Results:

OFFICER TRUSTEES

Union President:
Lucinda Sandon-Allum

Deputy President (Clubs and Societies):
Ben Howitt

Deputy President (Welfare):
Jennifer Watson

Deputy President (Education):
Chun-Yin San

Deputy President (Finance and Services):
Christopher Kaye

RCSU President:
James Badman

Academic Affairs Officer:
Ben Fernando

Broadsheet Editor:
Abhinav Varma

Events Officer:
Victoria Thompson

Exploration Board Rep:
Eleanor Johnstone

Honorary Junior Treasurer:
Jasper Stassen

Honorary Secretary:
Kelsey Mills

Vice President (Activities):
Athanasios Andriopoulos

Vice President (Operations):
Matyas Molnar

Welfare Officer:
Akash Jyoti

CCCU President:
Andrew Olson Gallardo

RSMU President:
Samuel Argyle

LIBERATION OFFICERS

Campaigns Officer:
Andrew Tranter

Disabilities Officer:
Nazim Andani

Ethics and Environment Officer:
Enric Juan Alcocer

Gender Equality Officer:
Sir Jonathan Masters

Interfaith Officer:
Daniyal Raza

International Officer:
Sautrik Banerjee

IMPERIAL COLLEGE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT'S UNION

ICSMSU President:
Maredudd Harris

Deputy President:
Dina Saleh

Treasurer:
Rhys Smith

Secretary:
Emma Larsson

Communications Officer:
Kiran Patel

Welfare Officer:
Laurence Pallant

Clubs & Societies Officer:
Alex Compton

Sites & Services:
Rustam Karanjia

Academic Officer (Early Years):
Rebekah Judge

Academic Officer (Clinical Years):
Usama Asif

Academic Officer (Science Years):
Saloni Datanni

Alumni & Careers Officer:
James Bloomer

Social Secretary:
Tom Willis

RAG Chair:
Samyukta Sundar

Summer Ball Chair:
Nina-Joyce Shehata

Sponsorship Officer:
Qasim Ali

Entertainments Chair:
Mala Mawkins

Council Chair:
Richard Cameron

Student Trustees:
Zain Rizvi
Serena Yuen

News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

News Editors

Carol Ann Cheah, Cecily Johnson & Kunal Wagle

Newly discovered valley channels warm water to melt Antarctic glacier

CECILY JOHNSON
SECTION EDITOR

Scientists from Imperial College London have revealed that the melting and thinning of Totten Glacier in East Antarctica is being accelerated by a valley underneath the ice shelf channelling warm water to the base of the glacier.

The research was published this week in *Nature Geoscience* after a collaboration with institutions in the US, Australia and France. Satellite data had previously showed that the Totten Glacier has been thinning significantly.

Described as East Antarctica's most rapidly changing glacier, the ice shelf is around 150 kilometres long by 30 kilometres wide. It is a major outlet for the East Antarctic Ice Sheet, the largest mass of ice on Earth, which covers 98% of the continent.

It was previously believed to be

relatively stable compared to the smaller West Antarctic Ice Sheet, which loses more than 150 cubic kilometres of ice every year.

Surveying the area with radar and other geophysical techniques, the team of researchers generated a map of the topographical landscape underlying the glacier.

Instead of the cooler waters previously thought to surround the East Antarctic Ice Sheet, the data revealed a 5 kilometre wide valley running underneath the glacier, which exposes the base of the ice to warm ocean water.

This intrusion of warmer water is accelerating the thinning of the ice shelf. While the thin ice at the edges of ice sheets can float on the ocean, inland ice is 'grounded' and in contact with the bedrock.

The newly discovered valley exposes the grounded edge of the ice sheet to warm water, leading to significant melting of the glacier. With climate

change raising the temperature of the oceans, sea levels are predicted to rise at a rate of around one metre per century.

Totten Glacier could represent a major component of this rise, with enough ice draining from the East Antarctic Ice Sheet to raise global sea levels by 3.5 metres.

Any destabilisation of the Totten Glacier could leave more of the inland ice vulnerable to change, said Professor Martin Siegert, Co-Director of the Grantham Institute at Imperial College London and a co-author of the study.

"Once a certain region starts to change, the implications for the connected ice are potentially significant.

"We are using computer modelling to understand whether changes in Totten Glacier could lead to changes in both adjacent and more distant places in Antarctica.

"The change at Totten Glacier itself



A research plane flies over Totten Glacier Photo: Imperial College London

is significant and concerning. It's only one glacier, but it's changing now and it is significant for sea levels globally. The 3.5 metre rise may take several centuries to complete, but now the process has started it is likely irreversible.

"This is another example of how

human-induced climate change could be triggering major changes with knock-on impacts that will be felt globally". Professor Siegert and his colleagues are planning to map more regions of the Antarctic ice to further understand the dynamics of the continent.

Smarties

Join. Use your mind. Earn money.

Registration 2015 for Smarties is now open!

If you'd like to join the Smarties community, be sure to be one of the first 500 to sign up, but be quick **registration closes 31 March 2015**

- ✓ Earn consulting fees
- ✓ Add lines to your CV
- ✓ Work in own time
- ✓ It's fun
- ✓ Apply your mind to solving corporate problems
- ✓ Work from anywhere with web connection
- ✓ Gain intellectual stretch
- ✓ Apply your mind

Smarties is a virtual workforce of Imperial College London and Royal College of Art students and alumni. Those who join are among the smartest young people on the planet. Scientists, engineers, medics, MBAs and designers - who learn skills in business research, analysis and consulting, and then apply them to solve live business questions for corporate clients. In return, you use your mind, earn consulting fees (£14-29 per hour) and build a solid CV.

For more information and how to register visit:

www.Smarties.pro/get-involved

“There's no boss, no fixed hours and no obligation.”



News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

News Editors || Carol Ann Cheah, Cecily Johnson & Kunal Wagle

Imperial entrepreneurs receive prize for sustainable fashion initiative

CECILY JOHNSON
SECTION EDITOR

Clothes-swapping business Clotho, founded by Imperial graduates Vivien Tang and Caroline Wood, has been named joint winner of the Mayor of London's Low Carbon Entrepreneur Prize.

The two women set up the sustainable fashion initiative last October; they met at Imperial and previously worked together as Chemistry lab partners.

Clotho provides a way for women to exchange their unwanted clothes for other items via an online shopping platform. The idea came about after Caroline lent Vivien a dress she'd never worn before.

When Vivien began wearing the dress frequently the pair realised that there must be loads of clothes hidden in the back of women's wardrobes that are never worn, but never given

away as they are deemed too valuable.

They set up the business from Vivien's bedroom, choosing the name Clotho from Greek mythology, and have subsequently been developing the initiative across London and universities in the UK.

As part of the Mayor of London's competition, Vivien pitched the business to a panel of judges at City Hall in London including Innocent Drinks co-founder Richard Reed, retired British sailor Dame Ellen MacArthur and ITV news presenter Charlene White.

After winning the top prize Vivien said "The competition was fantastic, and it was a great opportunity to meet other young entrepreneurs. I would definitely encourage anyone with a business idea to just go for it".

The £20,000 award will be split between the two winners, who may spend it however they choose to expand their business. Clotho has also received a grant from the European

Union's Climate KIC initiative.

After another pitch in front of top fashion executives at a conference in London earlier this month, Vivien and Caroline secured further support from London-based retail and consumer start-up accelerator TrueStart.

Caroline said "We are really excited to be building a sustainable business that people love. Working with Vivien is so much fun we are so thankful for all the funding and support we've receive and are now really looking forward to growing Clotho over the coming months".

To take part in an exchange with Clotho go to clotholondon.co.uk, where you can arrange for your clothes to be collected. They sort through the items and estimate their retail value before sending you a credit voucher equal to the value of your submitted clothes, minus a 15% transaction fee. Use your credit to choose clothes from the shop, which restocks Sundays at 9pm.



Vivien Tang and Caroline Wood, AKA The Clotho Girls Photo: Clotho

THE
SUMMER
BALL
2015

Licence to Thrill

Saturday 20 June 2015

Early bird ticket price only **£30**

Afterparty ticket price only **£5**

The countdown is on

00:00:05

Tickets rise to **£35** on 27 March

imperialcollegeunion.org/summerball

imperial
college
union

Comment

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Comment Editor || Tessa Davey

Campaigning is hard work...



TOM RIVLIN
CONTRIBUTOR

Let's get one thing out of the way first: yes, I did just lose in the Big Elections. Yes, I am extremely bitter about this. Yes, you can read the whole article as just a sore loser whining about losing sorely if you want.

That said I do have some things to say about the whole ordeal.

The summary, really, is that I feel massively burned by this whole thing. I invested a lot of my self-worth, and a lot of time in this campaign, and losing has hit me on a deeply personal level. I've wanted to run for DPCS for a year now. I wrote my manifesto at Christmas. I started the poster and flyer designs a month in advance.

And then, when we were officially allowed to start campaigning, I spent almost every minute of almost every day out on campus talking to people, handing out flyers, putting up posters, doing lecture shout-outs to pretty much every year group in every department... all the stuff they tell you to do to win an election.

I caught a horrible flu bug on the first Thursday, but came in on Friday anyway to keep campaigning. To

campaign properly and get the best shot at winning, one needs to put one's degree and life on hold for two weeks, and you can still lose.

There's no party politics here – every vote is up for grabs, every 'seat' is a swing seat. You probably have a couple of hundred assured votes from your mates and 'factions' such as societies – the other 3,500 votes (the rough number who made a vote for DPCS) are totally up for grabs.

Is it at all possible to convince enough of these people to vote for you to make it actually worth campaigning? A few years ago a candidate for Union President won over 2,000 votes and still lost. How can we be expected to reach out to all those thousands of people, when everyone knows that the only sure-fire way to get a vote is to actually go out and talk to the person? Just making it rain flyers isn't good enough. Just putting your face on a poster isn't good enough.

I genuinely believe based on my experiences in this election, based on everything I've learned, that campaigning, in its entirety,

is pointless. Ben and I were very similar candidates – similar levels of Union experience, similar manifesto points, very similar ideologies... How can there be a meaningful political discourse between two candidates with such little separating them?

I personally think that the number of voters whose opinions were swayed by any of our campaigning was far smaller than the number of people who 'entered the booth' either knowing they were going to vote for their mate, or not having interacted at all with any candidate. That latter group presumably had nothing but the pictures and manifestos to go on when making their choice.

So what's the alternative? I'm not here to suggest one. The current system burned me badly. But maybe it really is the best of a lot of compromises.

Would I run for a sabbatical role again if I had the chance? Probably not; in my opinion it is not worth the time and effort those two weeks require to campaign, even if you do win.

Campaigning ain't all bad!

ABI DE BRUIN
DP (CLUBS AND SOCIETIES)

This year seems to have seen an unfortunate turn to the negative with a lot of the campaigning that's been going on – particularly it seems to have been less enjoyed by the candidates and it's such a shame. I absolutely loved campaigning; it was two of the greatest weeks I've ever experienced. I loved talking about how much I loved the Union and wanted to be involved in it full time, spending two weeks talking about how amazing our clubs are and the incredible things they do was something I couldn't get enough of.

Sure it was completely and utterly exhausting: I got ill, I got stressed, I lost a lot of my faith in my ability to actually do the job, but I also got to spend two weeks being completely encouraged by all the support from my friends and family. It's an incredible position to be in to get to experience weeks of friends wandering round with your face on their shirt, and telling other people why you're great. There's very few other situations where you can get away with making your friends tell you you're awesome for two weeks straight, and if you're even a little narcissistic, you should totally run for a role just because of that.

Wandering round the JCR with bags of sweets; chatting to random strangers wherever I ran into them; and doing shout-outs in what I think was over thirty lectures was exhausting but so cool. Telling people what it was that the Union did, explaining why I wanted to get involved, what it is I would actually be doing, and then why they should vote for me to be the one doing that meant that I got to spend a lot of time being challenged on my motives and actually convincing people that I was the right person for it. Taking a random stranger from a 'who is this crazy person talking to me, what is the Union, what are they talking about?' to 'oh maybe I'll vote in these elections, and maybe I'll vote for her' was a really exciting experience.

Genuinely, the passion that people show off during election season is incredible to watch, and seeing the amount that some people really care about what goes on here is one of the greatest things about being involved in the Big elections.

... but there is a witty rejoinder



BEN HOWITT
CLUBS & SOCS EDITOR

I'm not going to come out spewing rainbows and say that campaigning was the most fun I'd had all year. It's a stressful experience, and one that you need to prepare yourself for.

I was very lucky; I had a strong campaign team, and a number of people I could whine at when it all got a bit much. I also enjoyed the chats I had about my plans, and Union stuff that people actually care about. I learnt how a campaign works, and also some of what this year's Sabb team are going to have to focus on.

The experience of campaigning is necessary to do the job. Sabbaticals shouldn't necessarily be the most technically competent person – that's what staff are for – but they should be the most relatable person to the student body.

Tom claims that convincing someone to vote for you is "totally pointless". If you can't convince people to get behind you though, how are you going to be the most relatable person to that same student body?

I have a huge amount of respect for how hard people campaigned, and

the commitment of other candidates in this year's elections intimidates me to some extent. But some of them missed the point.

What I think this election has made clear is that there needs to be a dialogue about candidates' welfare during elections fortnight. With all the bright, colourful posters all over campus, it's easy to forget the possible effects on the rest of your life.

The Returning Officer briefed us all on the first Monday of campaigning, and he made a point that the struggle with student elections is not to get people to vote for you, but to get them to vote at all. It's also not until this meeting that you hear the words "more than half of you are going to lose," and I think this doesn't hit home with people until it is too late, and they have already committed to standing in the election.

I agree with Tom when he says that a large majority of voters weren't involved in the election and didn't interact with those campaigning. People log on, look at the pictures, maybe read a manifesto or two, and

cast their vote. And immediately forget about it. However, even if the voters may not be the most invested in the campaigns, the candidates are; elections can take over their lives for two weeks and require considerable emotional commitment.

The Union has a 'Campaigns Co-ordinator' and four other staff members directly involved with HR, student development and general welfare. Why can't some time be allowed to debrief some of the candidates in person, rather than an impersonal 1-5 scale of how you think it went, like the survey that candidates are asked to fill out after the elections are over?

I will say that you should definitely consider running for a Sabbatical in next year's Big Elections. Not all elements of campaigning are for everyone, but you can make it work to your strengths; and if you do, it's fun.

And if you don't win, remember it's not the end of all things. After all, there is definitely more to life than Imperial College Union.

What do you think?

Share your thoughts on our articles, online! www.felixonline.co.uk

Features

features.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Features Editor || Ben Howitt

What does it mean to have a mental health problem at Imperial?

George Butcher investigates the mental health support at Imperial

If you have 400 Facebook friends aged 16 to 24, the chances are that 14 of them have generalised anxiety disorder, 35 of them have self-harmed and 24 of them have attempted suicide. Over our life time, a quarter of us will suffer from a mental health problem.

Felix has investigated what it means to have a mental health problem at Imperial. We've interviewed several students who have used the system, and also members of staff who provide help in one form or another. Based on students' experiences, we've followed the route they might take through Imperial's support system.

The front line of help is the personal tutor. In most departments, every academic and some post-docs are expected to take this role. Some students we've spoken to found their personal tutor incredibly supportive; others said they didn't know them; and others that they were actively unhelpful. Although new personal tutors receive training, long-standing tutors often rely purely on past experience. Whilst the vast majority of personal tutors are extremely helpful, they still need support too.

Often a personal tutor will direct a student to the student counselling service. It's a confidential service provided free to students – and we

have heard of people who had a very good experience, but also from those who didn't benefit from counselling. It's not for everyone and shouldn't be seen as the only option.

Every student we spoke to had visited the Imperial Health Centre and for most, it was the turning point in their experience. Whilst NHS operated, it receives funding and support from Imperial. The GPs are recruited specifically because of their expertise in working with young adults and are equipped to diagnose your problem and refer you to appropriate treatment, be it Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), psychoanalysis, counselling or something else.

The funding of the health centre is currently under review for the first time in eight years. It is vital that it is given continued support and its unique position to help all students here is recognised. Students we spoke to who had to move to a different GP surgery after graduating found the new treatment was lacking.

It's getting closer to exam time – this is the point when students are most at risk. Imperial's examination system is not best set up for ill students. Whilst it's possible to resit an exam you fail whilst ill, if you sit an exam and pass, even if by a small



Students can only retake exams if they fail, regardless of the effect of mental health issues. Photo: Neville Miles

amount, it's not possible to resit that exam without retaking the entire year. This places an added stress on students; should they sit the exam anyway and hope they do ok or drop out and try again in September? Registry should allow students with a known problem to resit exams in September, even if they passed the first time.

Often students turn to the Union's Advice Centre. Run by staff, this is a useful service for students to get impartial advice when their department can't help. However,

despite having a Deputy President for Welfare, and welfare representatives in every constituent union (CGCU, ICMSU etc), no students are given any formal training. This is a missed opportunity to create a peer support network.

There are many people doing good work at Imperial, be it at the counselling service, the health centre or academic departments. But there is room to improve still. Personal tutors should be encouraged to take up more training. The Health Centre and the Counselling Service need the support

to run the services they provide at minimal waiting times. Registry should change the way it treats ill students who sit exams anyway, rather than needlessly adding more stress or pressure at a time when it is most unhelpful. The Union should continue its good work at the advice centre, but should also make an effort to train its student welfare representatives.

Our mental health is something we all have a part in, and we should all – students, staff and academics – continue to improve one another's.

Is there a mental health stigma?

Felix asks students

We found strong signs of a stigma around mental health problems here at Imperial – which is daft because so many of us suffer from them. "The main problem is lack of awareness and students' lack of willingness to talk about it," said one student.

A quarter of people suffer from a mental health problem in their life-time. Since you're most likely to do so when you're young and under stress, there's no doubt that many people you know here suffer from one, even if you don't yourself.

"There is a stigma, it's why I won't admit it openly... given how competitive people are in my year, I think they'll see it as a weakness." This is a common problem faced by students, but particularly men. For example, depression affects both genders equally – but 75% of suicides are men. Another student said, "I didn't speak to many people, my flat mate and my parents, I was embarrassed... My

parents know, my sister knows, my boyfriend and a couple of my friends".

People who are not well shouldn't have the additional stress of how society around them judges them.

Reducing stigma is a big part of the 'Mentality' campaign (a Union initiative) – but it's something we should all play our part in. "Educate yourself" was a simple solution offered by one student. It's not hard to learn a bit about common mental health problems. Don't look down on it and be supportive to someone who comes to you. If someone's brave enough to talk to you about their health, respect them for it and take them seriously.

It's not easy to bring up someone's health. One student said, "even now I recognise symptoms in other people, but I can't talk to them about it... I find it difficult to bring up even if I know they're struggling".

Be brave – talk about mental health.



Photo: Daniel Fryer

Features

features.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Features Editor || Ben Howitt

Health Centre

Every student we spoke to had used Imperial Health Centre at some point in their journey and their experiences were all positive. However, there are concerns that the relationship between Imperial and the Health Centre could be weakened.

Having a health centre closely linked to the University is a huge advantage. They are able to work closely with the counselling service and the disability advisory service to get students to the right help quickly.

They're used to Imperial students with mental health problems; a GP we spoke to had seen six new students with a mental health problems that week alone. They have existing links with Imperial's senior tutors, and know who to speak about a particular student's needs. It makes absolute sense for this service to be linked to Imperial.

Imperial funds the health centre so that it's able to treat all Imperial students, not just those who live outside of its NHS catchment area. However, a recent College review recommended that students see GPs local to their area. It remains to be seen if this recommendation will be adopted.

This would be extremely bad for students' welfare. Students living further from Imperial are more vulnerable by the nature of being further out; and this will be more relevant when 650 freshers move into North Acton next year.

Every student we spoke to who had received treatment both at the Health Centre and at other GP surgeries found the help at Imperial vastly better.

One student said, "I was in Battersea – I took two months to get CBT... I went to the health centre to see a GP and it was much quicker, three or four weeks."

Another said, "I moved out of the London jurisdiction and had to redo the process... it was then a complete nightmare".

Our investigation would challenge the recommendation that students are better getting treatment elsewhere. Mental health treatment is not equal across NHS surgeries and all students deserve equal access to treatment irrespective of where they live.

Counselling Service

The counselling process invites you to discuss any issue troubling you with someone trained to listen and respond to you. It gives people the opportunity to air problems that till then have been stuck inside them. There's nothing you can tell them they haven't heard before.

One student told us that when they went, the service was "a huge help". However, by its nature, counselling doesn't provide practical advice. This can sometimes be frustrating, one student said, "they told me that my problems were too big for them to handle". It's important that the counselling service works with the health centre to help all students.

Last year they saw 540 students, which was an increase of 6.7% the previous year. College is responding to this need; the counselling service tell us they're hoping to increase the number of appointments and decrease their waiting times.

College is expanding the role of the counselling service to also provide 'mentors' who can give students practical advice to deal with problems. This will take effect next academic year.

Advice for other students

We asked students we met what advice they would give to other students in similar situations to them. The overwhelming opinion was that whilst, "when you are depressed, it's easy to feel that there's nothing that can be done", it was important to realise that this wasn't the case.

The stigma around mental health makes it harder to come forwards. "It's hard to talk about it – it's really competitive – makes you feel weak, that you can't handle it like everyone else". One student said, "The main problem is lack of awareness and students' lack of willingness to talk about it". Breaking through this stigma and telling someone about your problem is the hardest part. But when people did, it undoubtedly helped. A recent graduate said to, "Talk to people, definitely someone academically. I'd also talk to some of your friends." Speaking to friends



College-supported external support is available from Wise, SANE and the Samaritans, and Imperial College Union have recently launched a mental health campaign, 'Mentality'.

can be difficult; it's difficult to know how people will react and sometimes it's not the reaction you want. One student said, "I was sleeping loads, I was self harming... it was a pretty horrible time but I managed to hide it from everyone, it came as a shock when I told some of my friends."

They told the story of when they spoke to their new partner, "someone asked me out – I panicked and said yes... spent the whole day worrying I had to tell them... ended up blurting it out... it was horrible, but incredibly helpful". People around you may also be able to give you advice, "my boyfriend suggested I go to the doctor so I went to the health centre... I saw the GP there who was fantastic".

Academic departments

"[Revising was] the first time I thought of dropping out of university – but my personal tutor was very supportive, the undergraduate department was great".

Departments play a big part in our mental

health. Often the triggers come from a student's degree, and the senior tutors and undergraduate offices are very experienced at helping students with problems.

Speaking to a personal tutor was for many a surprisingly positive experience. Others hadn't built a relationship with their tutor so they spoke to the senior tutor or another supervisor. It's important to remember that since mental health problems are so common at Imperial, the departments have a huge amount of experience helping (yes, genuinely) helping students like you.

"Tell the department – they can do so much more than you think" said one student, "the department are experienced, you're not the first person to have problems" said another.

Sadly not all personal tutors are as helpful as they could be, "I think I've been quite lucky with a personal tutor... a friend's tutor just asked a group "so is anyone considering suicide?" The senior tutors in particular are well supported by the other services at Imperial. "I was never expecting a shoulder to cry on – but [my personal tutor] was good to get direction from".

The departments are of course crucial to speak to at exam times. If you sit an exam and pass it – even if only just and you have an extenuating circumstances – it's not possible to resit that exam without retaking the year. This is unfair and puts an un-needed stress on students at exam times.

One student we spoke to sat their exams after being persuaded to do so by their department. "I cracked on the first day [of exams], I wanted to drop out of the year, it took a lot of persuasion to get me to not do that... Very last minute they got me a room to myself... I took all my exams in solitary... the exams were shit – but I passed every single one! (Well apart from one)". Of course they hadn't done as well as they deserved and went on to retake the entire year, but taking them had nonetheless helped at the time.

Departments don't always work, in which case the College Tutors are the best place to turn as they are external to the department. Every student we spoke to did have a positive experience from them.



Left: Imperial College Health Centre received positive comments across the board. Right: if personal tutors aren't giving the support you need, you can also speak to year or College tutors. Photo: Jody Kingzett (left), Karsten Seipp (right)

Does parliament need more scientists?

James Bezer talks to Lord Winston about his experience in politics

The impact of science has never been confined to the laboratory. Today, many of the most important and difficult decisions faced by politicians are fundamentally scientific, from the best way to tackle climate change to the recent vote to allow mitochondrial replacement therapy.

Robert Winston, Professor of Science and Society at Imperial, has had a key role in many of the biggest science policy decisions made by parliament in the 20 years he's been a Member of the House of Lords. He was voted "Peer of the Year" by his fellow parliamentarians in 2008 for his work on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology bill. He recently spoke to Felix about the role of scientists in politics.

"The trouble with the House of Commons" says Winston, "is that more and more people are going in immediately after leaving University with the idea that they're going to be party leader in 10 years time, and they come in without any background. If you look at the party leaders, all three of them have had very little experience of the real world. Nick Clegg has had some slight experience, but the other two haven't ever done a proper job, really, it's always been political, and I don't think that's good for parliament. There are a few doctors in parliament—Sarah Woolaston, for example, is a very good doctor—but we could do with more."

The number of MPs with a scientific background is truly dire. Of the 649 MPs, only one has been a practicing scientist: Julian Huppert, a biochemist and MP for Cambridge. Just two others have science PhDs, and of the 90% with university degrees, only 54 hold theirs in any type of science, technology or medicine. This compares to 84 MPs who are former lawyers.

The House of Lords, however, remains one of the only legislative bodies in the world where a huge amount of scientific expertise can be found. Despite the perennial attacks on the chamber as being undemocratic and anachronistic, and repeated failed attempts to replace it with an elected body, Lord Winston was keen to defend the valuable role, particularly in scientific matters, that its members can play.

"The House of Lords is full of scientists, and if you look round the House, there are a large number of us who are Fellows of at least two out of the three scientific academies, a surprising number, who are Fellows of the Royal Academy of



Robert Winston was made a Labour peer in 1995 and has been instrumental in getting many key science and healthcare bills through parliament.

Photo: yting.com

Engineering, Fellows of the Royal Society, Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences, and often many of us are Fellows of more than one of those institutions. That's why debates on science in the House of Lords are well thought of, and are models for other parliaments to follow.

"In the Commons, MPs can't use their expertise, as the way parliament is structured means that can't really vote with any scientific expertise you might have as you have to vote with your side. In the House of Lords, we don't take any notice of the whips and they accept that and appreciate that."

"In the House of Lords, there's a feeling that you're going to vote rationally, and I think that's why the chamber should not be too rapidly reassembled, as it has some strengths which are quite important."

Winston is proud of the contribution he and other prominent scientists have made in the Lords. He is Vice-chair of the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology and has advised ministers on science and medical policy.

"I think most people feel that I certainly helped Tony Blair to come to the decision to increase funding for the health service very dramatically in 2000, and I'm not alone in that.

"All three party leaders have had very little experience of the real world."

Ara Darzi (Professor of surgery at Imperial) has been a tremendously influential member of the House of Lords. He became a minister for while and really fundamentally laid down some very important things, so I think individual members of the House of Lords can have colossal influence in doing something that is really using their expertise. Of course, you'd never get someone like Ara Darzi in the lower chamber."

"Ron Oxburgh as well, one of our former Rectors, has been tremendously influential in energy policy and renewables and how we should use fossil fuels."

Many of the decisions Robert Winston has made in politics have been influenced by his experiences treating patients. How does he reconcile this with the need to remain objective and open-minded when making decisions that could affect everyone in the country? Are there instances where the arts graduates who usually run the country could be better placed to make decisions about scientific issues?

"Ultimately any individual clinician has the major responsibility to do the best for their patients, and of course if you were my patient, you would expect that."

"Sometimes you realise that

keeping this patient alive is probably quite difficult to justify, when for the same expense you could probably treat 30-40 other people, so I think that's always an issue."

"I suppose in my case you could level your finger at me and say 'you've been treating patients with infertility, which isn't a life-threatening condition', but of course it causes massive disruption, and the pain of infertility is every bit as bad as the pain of an osteoarthritic hip, and you wouldn't think twice about treating that."

"So how do you become objective as a parliamentarian when you feel quite subjectively outraged? That outrage is sometimes useful, sometimes you need to stand up and say this is outrageous, as we did with the health reform act in 2012, and I think the only fault we had there was not saying it loud enough."

"I think we should have said more firmly that this is a very bad piece of legislation, which now, of course, the government admits, but only once the damage has already been done."

"I'm not a great thinker, but I think the strength I may have in parliament is the ability to give passionate speeches on things I feel deeply about, and I think that's quite important in politics."

"How do you become objective when you feel subjectively outraged?"

Facing difficult decisions in medicine

Lauren Ratcliffe reports on a trail revealing the most effective pre-natal monitoring technique



Ultrasound photo of a fetus unaffected by fetal growth restriction, a syndrome that affects 8% of all pregnancies. Photo: Creative Commons

During some pregnancies, abnormal blood flow from the placenta can deprive the fetus of sufficient oxygen and nutrients to grow to its full potential. This condition is known as foetal growth restriction and affects up to 8% of all pregnancies, a total of 60,000 babies per year in Europe and the USA. The condition is associated with an increased risk of stillborn birth, neonatal death and neurological and cardiovascular disorders later in life. When diagnosed, doctors sometimes decide to deliver these babies early, before the lack of oxygen and increased acidity becomes too damaging. However, this can be a tricky decision to make and involves balancing the risks of keeping the baby in a poor womb environment with the increased risk of mortality that's associated with premature births.

Currently, there is no consensus for when to trigger the delivery in mothers of babies with foetal growth restriction and no best form of monitoring to inform this decision. The Trial of Randomised Umbilical and Foetal Flow in Europe (TRUFFLE) aimed to help clarify this

decision by investigating which of the current monitoring methods are most effective in reducing pre and post-natal problems associated with foetal growth restriction.

Women at 26-32 weeks into pregnancy who had been diagnosed with foetal growth restriction were randomly allocated to one of three different monitoring methods currently used in obstetrics, either: **Cardiotocography** - this is the most commonly used method of foetal surveillance and monitors the variation in the foetal heart rate. **Early ductus venosus changes** - this uses ultrasound to monitor the resistance in blood flow within the ductus venosus, a small vessel below the fetus' heart, and gives an indication of oxygen shortage. **Late ductus venosus changes** - this also uses ultrasound to monitor variability in the waveform of the blood flow in the ductus venosus and indicates abnormalities in the fetus' heart contractions.

The decision on when to deliver the baby was based on the output of the monitoring technique allocated. They then recorded the rate of survival both before and after birth

and followed the surviving babies for two years after to determine how many developed neurological disorders such as cerebral palsy or neurosensory impairment. They also carried out a cognitive assessment with a standardised scale of infant development known as the Bayley III score, with a score of less than 85 suggestive of problems with neurodevelopment.

Lead author Christoph Lees, from the Department of Surgery and Cancer at Imperial College London, commented about the study, "It is the first prospective randomised study to compare different monitoring and management strategies in fetal growth restriction. Fetal growth restriction is a major problem in perinatal medicine and also a major cause of neonatal morbidity with babies spending many weeks or months on neonatal units".

The findings of the study, carried out across 20 European specialist centres, indicated that the late ductus venosus changes monitoring technique was three times more effective in reducing the chances of neurodevelopmental problems two years after birth. Of all babies

that survived 95% of those that were delivered based on the late ductus venosus changes did not encounter neurodevelopmental problems. Whereas 85% of babies delivered according to cardiotocography did and 91% of those monitored on the basis of early ductus venosus changes. However, there were no significant differences in neonatal survival rates between the different monitoring techniques.

"It was a complex monitoring protocol, which is difficult to put into action throughout centres in many different countries. But what was good is that so many centres embraced the study so enthusiastically. Also, the study was largely non-funded, which is difficult to do in today's environment," said Dr Lees, when I asked about any challenges him and his team had faced.

There are current no effective treatments for pregnant women diagnosed with fetal growth restriction. "We are working on potential pharmaco-therapies that involve vasodilation and improving placental circulation," Dr Lees elucidates. However, what was clear

from the study is that the outlook in early onset growth restriction is much better than previously imagined, whatever monitoring strategy is followed

"This type of research isn't a quick fix and requires years of hard work. The idea started off in a bar in a hotel in Turin with professors Gerry Visser and Tullia Todros in 2001 and rapidly became an international group effort. I have co-ordinated all the meetings—it's been hard work but great fun and I am enormously indebted to my collaborators many of whom have become very good friends. And of course to the women who took part: we have at least in part with their help at a very sensitive time answered a question that many thought we could never answer," Dr Lees explains.

The researchers are planning on the 'TRUFFLE 2' study on women diagnosed with foetal growth restriction at a later time in pregnancy (32 to 36 weeks). Dr Lees will also be writing a textbook on foetal growth restriction with the TRUFFLE authors. The trial was published in *The Lancet* the 5th March. DOI:10.1016/S0140-6736(14)62049-3

Science

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Science Editor || James Bezer & Lauren Ratcliffe

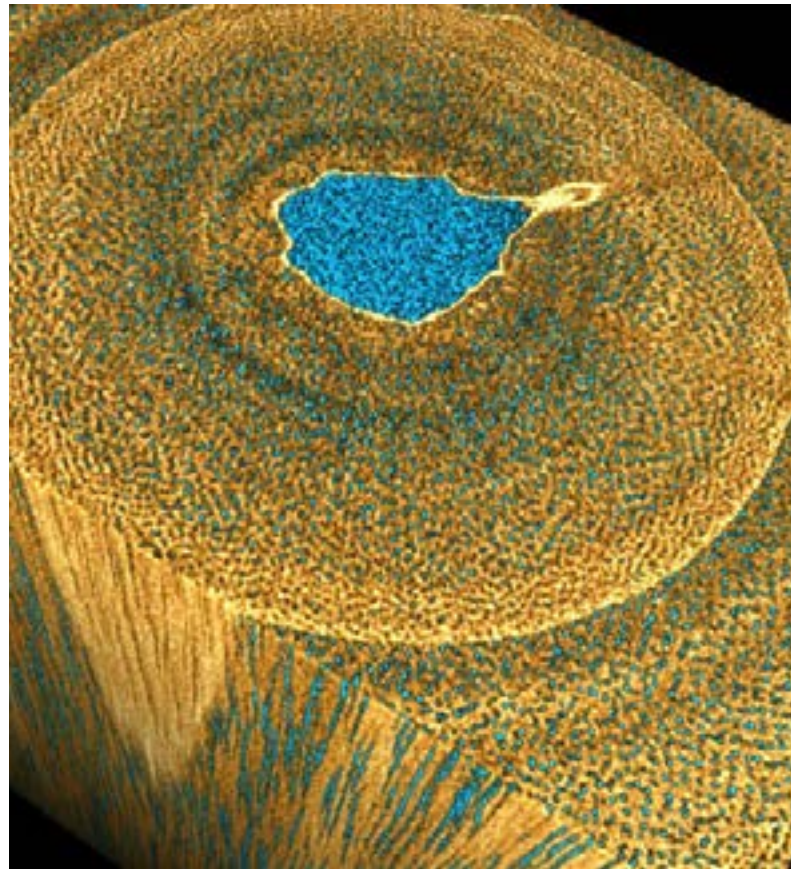
What's your angle? Willows and biofuels

Jane Courtnell reports on research into alternative energy sources

The true scale of climate change and its impacts on our planet has escalated in the last 50 years. Scientific advancement has been at the forefront in efforts to achieve a more stable climatic future. Biofuel development symbolises a significant movement towards this future. However, growing evidence indicates that this supposedly sustainable, green solution is not quite as great as people hoped.

Essentially biofuels have a “solution to climate change” prestige; but in reality act as poor alternatives to fossil fuel use, diverting attention from what real action needs to be undertaken. The core issue is the change in land use required for biofuel production. Monoculture expanses remove essential biodiversity from an area and use damaging petrochemical fertilisers and pesticides. This has resulted in food price elevation, additional greenhouse gas emissions as well as the removal of land from small local farmers.

But lets not be too pessimistic. Studies have looked at the different biofuel forms, from corn, sugarcane, to woody coppice and accessed the fuels sustainability in terms of



CT scan of willow showing fibre (brown) and vessels (blue) Photo: BMC Plant Biology

the fuels environmental impacts, direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions. The scenario is very much apple and oranges; different biofuels have their own pros and cons. The willow tree has been the subject of much research into biofuels as it stands out by vastly reducing the degree of land-use change, being able to tolerate adverse environmental conditions, such as poor infertile soils and windy slopes. Thus the Willow can be cultivated in infertile areas reducing deforestation pressures.

Novel scientific evidence indicates that willow trees growing at an angle of 45 degrees produce up to five times more starch-rich gelatinous fibre – increasing biofuel yields. This stressor response enables the trees to stay upright when tilted at such an angle. This could reduce the amount of land required for biofuel production. However, it is still unknown exactly how this happens.

Researchers at the Natural History Museum, University of Surrey and Rothamsted Research Centre used high resolution 3D imaging via x-ray micro-computer tomography (CT scanning) to see microscale changes to be observed, these cause a macroscale

response. Findings indicated that tilting induced stress, which prolonged the life of cells involved in the production of starch rich gelatinous fibre. The next step would be to use an even higher resolution CT scanner and see which willow tree species produce the most of this starchy fibre. Specific selection of such species will increase further the productivity of willow biomass biofuel harvesting.

The willow tree represents just one alternative biomass source for biofuel production. There are many others including fuels derived from manure, and recycled oil. Therefore, investment targeted towards more unsustainable biofuel forms should change. Studies such as those shown by the willow tree represent a single small-scale advancement to achieve a more energy sustainable future and reduce climate change impacts. Never the less, these small-scale changes should not be disregarded in there importance. They represent progress in the right direction. They are important stepping stones to achieve the future vision, that is globalisation of clean energy.

DOI: doi:10.1186/s12870-015-0438-0

Warm oceans found on Saturn's moon Enceladus

CECILY JOHNSON
SCIENCE WRITER

Microscopic grains of silicon-rich rock detected by NASA's Cassini spacecraft have provided the first clear evidence of hydrothermal activity occurring outside our planet. A four-year analysis of data from Cassini's instruments, alongside laboratory experiments and computer modelling, was published in Nature this week by scientists at the University of Colorado Boulder.

The Cosmic Dust Analyser (CDA) instrument has been detecting tiny rock particles for a number of years, as Cassini orbits Saturn and its moons. Data from the mass spectrometer showed that they are primarily composed of silica, which is commonly found on Earth as quartz or sand. The size of the particles, which range from 2 to 9 nanometres in radius suggested that they were created by a specific process.

A very specific range of conditions is required for particles of this type to form on Earth. Silica particles are created when water with less than 4% salinity, high levels of silica and a pH

between 8.5 and 10 undergo a large temperature drop from an initial high of around 90°C. The researchers believe that this process is also occurring on the floor of Enceladus' oceans, where hot water at the rocky core of the moon comes into contact with cooler waters above.

The seawater permeates and interacts chemically with the crust of porous rock at the ocean bottom, forming new minerals. The solution then travels through a region of colder water before being carried up to the surface, where the silica is expelled in Enceladus' ice geysers.

“It's very exciting that we can use these tiny grains of rock, spewed into space by geysers, to tell us about conditions on – and beneath – the ocean floor of an icy moon,” said the paper's lead author Sean Hsu, a Research Associate at CU-Boulder's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP).

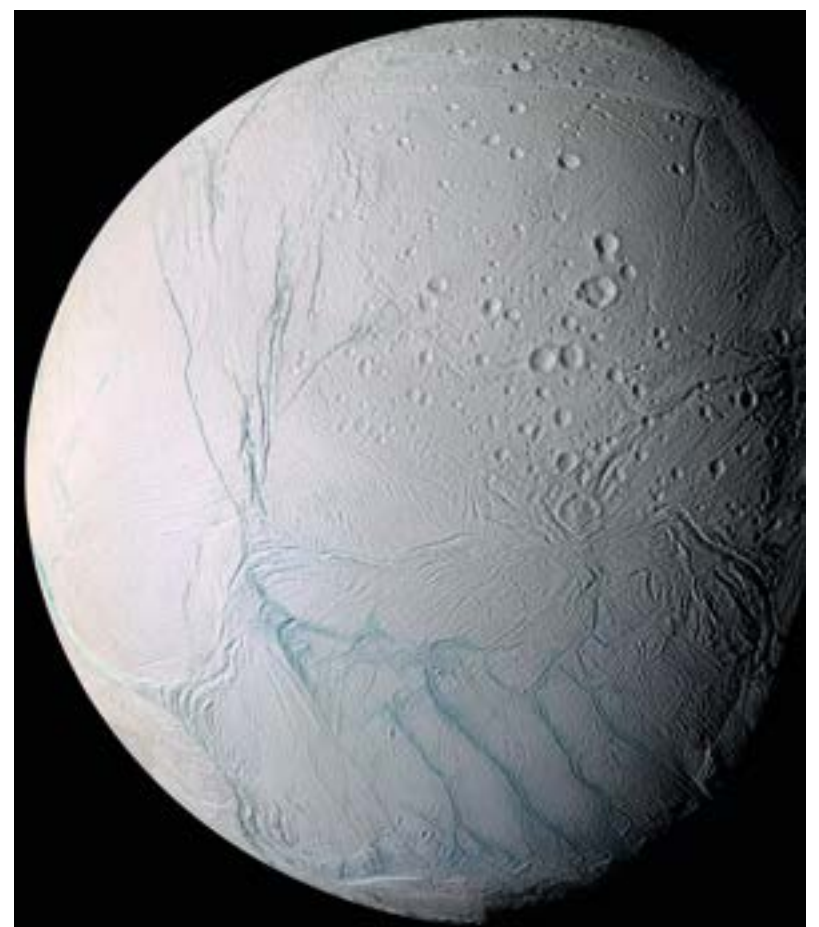
“We've known from quite early on that Enceladus was the source of the material in Saturn's [outermost] ring... based on the ring's composition, although we didn't know the exact mechanism for the material transfer”. Ongoing geological activity on Enceladus,

which is Saturn's sixth-largest moon, was first detected by Cassini in 2005. Geysers 125 miles tall spray water ice and vapour, salts and other organic materials into space from warm cracks on the moon's surface.

The 6 mile deep ocean that is now understood to generate these particles is also believed to contain a variety of chemicals associated with the development of Earth-like life, including carbon dioxide, nitrogen and methane. This latest study adds to the tantalising body of evidence indicating that environments which can support living organisms could possibly be found on one of Saturn's moons.

“These findings add to the possibility that Enceladus, which contains a subsurface ocean and displays remarkable geologic activity, could contain environments suitable for living organisms,” said astronaut John Grunsfeld, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. “The locations in our solar system where extreme environments occur in which life might exist may bring us closer to answering the question: are we alone in the Universe”.

DOI: 10.1038/nature14262



The new findings make Enceladus a potential home of life Photo: NASA

Politics

politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Politics Editor || Joshua Renken

The Scottish National Party: what you need to know

Joshua Renken gives a brief overview of what you need to know about the SNP before heading to the polling station this May



Leader of the SNP and First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon is about to become very important in UK politics. Photo: Jeff J Mitchell via Getty Images

You've probably heard by now that the upcoming General Election is the most unpredictable and arguably one of the most important in recent UK political history. Minor parties are winning a large number of votes, diminishing the chances of an outright single-party majority in the process.

It is therefore very likely that some kind of coalition or minority administration will have to be formed. Failing that, there could even be a second general election later on in 2015 if any three party "rainbow" alliances fall through, but this is very unlikely.

The coalition negotiations that are expected to take place after the public vote on 7th of May will have far reaching consequences for all of our lives, at which point only the top politicians will determine the consequences of the mandate from the people. If cross party talks do have to occur, it will be messy and possibly quite cheerless, because every party will have lost the election and nobody will get the government they want.

So what has this got to do with the SNP? Well, the Scottish National Party has been steadily gaining in the polls in Scotland, to the point where they are expected to win almost every seat north of the border. This is a disaster for Labour, who in

2010 won 40 of the 59 Scottish seats, but this time round are looking at only winning a small handful of constituencies, if any.

The SNP first got into power in 2007 as a minority government, but in 2011 they increased their support to become a majority government (64/129 MSPs), the first ever seen at Holyrood. The SNP has the third largest party membership in the UK (93,000) and now commands strong majorities in many Scottish constituencies.

So many in fact that the SNP are expected to see their representation in Westminster increase from six seats in 2010 to more than 50 in 2015.

A party that can only be voted for by less than a tenth of the United Kingdom's population is going to have the third highest number of seats in the House of Commons come May, and could be the kingmakers in coalition talks.

In 2010 the Lib Dems had enough seats to create a shared majority government with the Conservatives, but this will not be the case in 2015. Nick Clegg's party will see their parliamentary representation half, while the Scottish nationalists practically clear up north of the border to win a similar number of MPs that the Lib Dems currently have. The First Minister of Scotland

and Leader of the SNP Nicola Sturgeon will be hugely influential in the subsequent negotiations that will take place after a hung parliament is called.

Labour and the SNP combined could possibly win enough seats for a slim majority in the House of Commons, but politicians on both sides have always said there is virtually no prospect of a coalition, mainly because it would not further the interests of either party.

Sturgeon explained that although she couldn't imagine a coalition between the two centre-left parties, she could envision a Labour minority government that deals with the SNP on a vote-by-vote basis to get things passed through the House of Commons.

This 'confidence and supply' alternative would allow Labour to pass vital actions such as the budget without having to concede ministerial posts to the Scottish nationalists.

A few days ago Ed Miliband officially ruled out the possibility of a formal coalition agreement between the two parties, saying "there will be no SNP ministers in any government I lead." This will also put a stop to Conservative ads showing Ed Miliband in the pocket of Alex Salmond, the former Leader of the SNP.

A Labour-SNP-Lib Dem three party coalition would be almost guaranteed to get the seats required for a majority government, but Vince Cable has called a Lib Dem-SNP deal 'inconceivable.' A Conservative-SNP post-election deal is even less feasible.

The SNP was founded in 1934 during the merger of the National Party of Scotland and the Scottish Party. They have gained support in Scotland over the last few decades and finally came to power on a wave of anti-establishment, anti-austerity politics.

One of the most talked about, and potentially problematic, demands of the Scottish Nationals is for the unilateral disarmament of the UK's nuclear weapons programme, Trident. More generally though, as a socially democratic centre-left party the SNP want more progressive personal taxation, free higher education, an increase in the minimum wage, heavily reduced cuts to public services, voting from the age of 16 and, most notably, Scottish independence. At the very least in this parliament the SNP might accept further devolution of powers to Holyrood, as is currently going on.

SNP Leader and First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon took the helm as Alex Salmond's successor after his swift resignation following

defeat in the Scottish independence referendum, when Scots voted to stay in the UK 55:45. Sturgeon has said in interviews that she will not rule out the possibility of holding another referendum for the break up of the UK, the prospects for which look less attractive for Scotland than they did last September due to the recent drop in oil prices. Scotland's success as an independent country is closely tied to how much revenue could be created from their oil reserves – the amount of which is not precisely known, and this fall in prices would spell disaster for government expenditure plans.

The take home message here is that if Labour is the biggest loser after the election, a minority government backed by the SNP is looking far more plausible than an actual coalition. Scottish nationalists are going to be a powerful and controversial force in Westminster and will complicate the already difficult situation further. We have had minority governments before, but the next administration is set to be one of the least stable in our history.

Your vote on 7th of May really matters; please do not waste the opportunity to voice your opinion at the ballot box. Uncertain yet interesting times are ahead in British politics. Good news for journalists, bad news for the rest of us.

Imperial Alumni in Politics: Layla Moran

Plabon Saha interviews the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Oxford West and Abingdon

Layla Moran, a physics graduate from Imperial College London is currently running for Parliament in the ultra-marginal seat of Oxford West and Abingdon. Last weekend the Imperial Liberal Democrats popped down to help Layla with her campaign. We caught up with Layla over lunch.

Plabon: Tell us a bit about yourself. How did you get into politics?

Layla: I have a very international background, my mum is Palestinian and my dad is British, but he was a diplomat so I grew up moving around everywhere. I ended up settling in the UK for secondary education and went to Imperial to do physics. I was there from 2000 to 2003. After that I went straight into the classroom and became a physics teacher, and it was teaching really that got me into politics.

I ended up doing masters at the Institute of Education in comparative education, trying to apply the scientific method to social science. Having grown up sort of a bit of everywhere, I don't think I'd quite appreciated how the education system in Britain grew up over time and learnt that actually a lot of what both the Labour and Tory governments had done over the last 20 to 30 years in the education system was the total opposite of what people wanted, which is the idea that if you are a child it doesn't really matter where you are born; rich family, poor family, what colour your skin is, it shouldn't matter, you should have the same opportunity as everyone else.

Unfortunately the education system in this country, by and large does not provide that, it tends to reinforce stratification in society rather than helping it. So at that point, I decided to become a MP, to affect change in education, as a lot of the policy is driven at that level.

I looked across the manifestos and the policies of all the political parties, and I decided that in fact the Liberal Democrats had the best policy when it came to education. It was evidence-based policy, based on what works, not ideologically driven. And so I decided I would rather spend the rest of my life fighting

for something I actually believed in, than going with one of the major parties and almost guaranteeing myself a seat in Parliament. And that brings me very much to where I am now, where I am pleased to stand in a seat where I actually do stand a very good chance of winning and hope to be able to affect that kind of change when I become an MP.

P: How has your scientific background helped you in politics?

L: You'd be surprised at how many people in Parliament have no sense of numeracy at all. Not least not understanding what uncertainty means. A classic example of course being climate change deniers who seem to think that 5% uncertainty on models as complex as that is a bad thing.

In fact, we all know that that's a really good margin of error when you're dealing with models that complex. And at least being able to understand some of the underlying statistics to data, which is then used to drive policy, is all about. So on that level I found it very interesting going into politics because I look at it from that point of view: What's the data telling me? What's the direction of travel? How can we affect change and help use data to help us to make that change? So to that end I find the Liberal Democrats actually are very good at looking at policy and using policy at a grassroots level and making policy at conference through voting.

My physics background is hopefully unique and I'm hoping that'll bring something different to the vast majority of lawyers and other social scientists who are there now.

P: Political apathy is generally quite high amongst students, especially at Imperial, which is a science University. How would you go about solving that?

L: I disagree with the question; I don't think people are politically apathetic. I think they actually care deeply about a lot of issues, they're just not necessarily party political and they are quite disillusioned with the current system. I do think that the way politics is happening in this

country is changing, particularly with the use of social media and the Internet. People are much more in touch with MPs. From my point of view in Oxford West and Abingdon I think that means being a very present MP in your constituency.

I believe that it is your voters at the end of the day that are your bosses; there's no one else who can hire and fire you, only them and you have to always remember that, so I intend to be a very, very conscientious constituency MP. But at the same time I think you need to be using new technology to actively engage with people on policy issues that you care about.

For example, I do hope to be a champion for science, particularly the science budget in Parliament. At the moment we are the only party who have committed to ring-fencing it and I would like to make sure that whoever ends up in government will ring-fence the science recession development budget. But in order to do that I'm going to need to lobby not just people within Parliament but to get people from outside Parliament with similar interests in to have their voices heard, and the best way I think of doing that is through things like social media.

So there is no quick-fix answer, I think it is changing over time but one thing I would encourage people to do is definitely go out and vote and even if you spoil your ballot I'd rather you just gave it a go and went and learned about the process and tried to look some people up.

P: What do you think is the greatest problem facing students today?

L: I think there are two aspects of it. Students themselves are definitely facing a cost of living crisis and that's the thing I'm hearing about most, more in fact than lowering tuition fees. I think that's a bit of gimmick that Labour have brought in actually. I would much rather an extra money to help students goes into beefing up maintenance grants, because so many students find that the cost of living in so many cities in the UK is unaffordable.

In the future though I think it's definitely the fact that it's so hard to get a job as a young person and



Members of the Imperial Liberal Democrats met with Layla Moran over lunch. Photo: Plabon Saha

when you leave University you're quite often stuck in a catch-22 of you have no experience so they won't give you a job to get the experience. This is why the starter jobs idea is so important. The way to do that is to definitely tackle the deficit, make sure you're doing things that are good for business. We definitely need to do more to make sure that businesses are focussing on the 21-25 year old bracket and not filling those jobs with people in their 30s who were made redundant during

minority backgrounds and other minority communities.

P: So you mentioned the issue of maintenance grants. However people who get good maintenance grants also get good bursaries from the University and good loans, so they're not actually the ones in trouble. The trouble is in the middle where you have people who don't get any bursaries, no maintenance grants just because, lets' say, their parents both earn £21k and that puts them out of the bracket.

L: That's exactly the population I'm talking about.

P: But then you have the issue of increasing the maintenance loan, increases the total debt and that creates pressure on the government to service that debt.

L: That's right. I think it's right. I personally would have been someone would not have voted for fees. I think you end up giving back much more into society when you have a degree than if you don't; you earn more money so you pay more tax and over time that works. But we are not in a position where we are able to promise that in the next election. But I do think it's ok for the government to be putting up cheap loans so that people can get their first degrees.

I'm also pretty proud that we made the system more progressive; there are more students from poorer socioeconomic backgrounds going to University now than ever before, because they're worked out that it's actually better for them in the long term. But it's not easy in this political climate.

P: Animal testing is currently a big issue at Imperial. What is your view on animal testing?

L: My view is that there's a place for it, but it has to be done as an absolute last resort. I think that's it's true that there are some protocols that could be done with modelling rather than on the animals themselves, but I think that there's undoubtedly a place for it.

On one hand, I am an animal lover and I hate to see that animals are used in anything, but also I do believe that if you are developing, for example, a vaccine for cats, you really ought to test it on cats. And a lot of these people who are anti any kind of animal testing forget that that applies as well to animal medicines.

There are some no-go areas, anything to do with makeup, anything to do with anything cosmetic is totally not okay. But when it comes to cutting-edge science, I do believe in science, I believe that science has a place in making the world a better place

for everybody and that involves sometimes, in rare occasions using animals. Britain has a very good record on this, I have to say, and we've got some of the most stringent legislation in the world to do with animal testing. The balance could still be that we have an even higher burden of proof that you need to use animals and I still think it needs to be under constant review with the way science changes and what we use it for. But by and large I am supportive in the right circumstances.

P: What is the Lib Dems policy that you most disagree with?

L: Not many. It used to be nuclear. When I first joined the party; I'm not exactly pro-nuclear, but I am pro-decarbonisation and I think that sometimes there's a root for nuclear in the different models that we can look at, but now actually the party has come around to my point of view, which is great.

I wrote the party's policy on fracking, which is basically extreme scepticism, but as a scientist I am not going to say no to a test well, because I think you ought to see the extent of the problem. So actually nowadays, I have to say, there's not much.

We don't go far enough with education policy. At the moment our policy is that we are okay with free schools. The evidence suggests that free schools are detrimental to the system as a whole, and would like to see them gotten rid of completely, so I would like to see us pull away from those, as an example. But it's bits and bobs, there's not very much that is substantive in the party that I don't agree with anymore.

P: Parliament is a male dominated area and you'd be one of the few females there if elected. What would you do to address the gender balance in Parliament?

L: Well just being there, I hope, will help. I think one of the issues for a lot of women is that there aren't very many people like them in Parliament, so it's about partly creating a role model. That said, I'm not sure I would necessarily have gone for it in the way that I did if it wasn't for people like Jo Swinson and Willot, who are young and had their families while they were in Parliament.

You know, there's another side to my life; I don't think you should get rid of your personal life because you want to be a Parliamentarian. It's important to see role models like them who have done both, and done it well. So I don't think there is an easy answer.

Something to bear in mind is the reason the Lib Dems have such a poor record on this is because we don't have safe seats, so I'm part of the leadership program in the

party where minority candidates are helped; given extra training, and we're told we are some of the best candidates in the party. Yet, we have very few safe seats.

So this seat, which is basically on a knife-edge and will all depend on the size of the campaign is almost as good as it gets within the Lib Dems. It's so uncertain. We don't have the luxury of being able to parachute anyone. But then I don't think that's a bad thing either, because I like the idea of fighting for what I've earned rather than being given anything.

P: Describe yourself with a movie or song title.

L: 'Life is a Rollercoaster' by Ronan Keating. I hate that song, by the way, but it's a good title.

P: If money was no problem, what would be the first thing you'd do?

L: I'd buy a house. I'm so desperate to buy a house, and I can't afford it. What they don't tell you about campaigning is that it takes up a lot of your time and a lot of your money, and you don't get paid as a candidate. So, by the end of this process, I will have nothing left in the bank.

So yeah, if I won the lottery or something, that would be awesome, I'd buy a house, that'd be cool.

P: Were you part of any societies at Imperial?

L: I was University Quiz Master for a little while, which was super fun. On Wednesday night at the Union I would write the quizzes and then argue with people when they said my answers were wrong, so that was really fun.

For a while I was part of the Jazz & Rock Society, but I went to couple of meetings and that was pretty much it.

P: House of Cards or Game of Thrones?

L: No! I can't make that choice! That's my answer.

P: Who is your favourite Doctor Who?

L: David Tennant. Big David Tennant fan.

P: Describe the four party leaders with a movie title.

L: Cameron – A Nightmare on Elm Street
Farage – Armageddon
Clegg – A Series of Unfortunate Events
Miliband – That Awkward Moment

To find out more about Layla's campaign visit www.laylamoran.com

"You'd be surprised at how many people in Parliament have no sense of numeracy at all."

"It was teaching that really got me into politics."

"Students themselves are definitely facing a cost of living crisis."

Music

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Music Editors || Grace Rahman & Amna Askari

Kanye at Glastonbury – should we care?

Grace Rahman says headliners needn't be white men with guitars

Earlier this week, rumours were rife that **Kanye West**, having established himself as a true anglophile following a BRIT performance and a secret show at KOKO in the last month, was going to announce that he was headlining Glastonbury.

Instead, he posted loads of photos of his naked wife, in celebration of her reaching 30 million Twitter followers. It's always nice when you get a few likes on your profile pic, but this was hardly the announcement music fans were waiting for. On Monday night, Emily Eavis, daughter of 80-year-old Michael who started the Somerset festival, announced that Yeezy would indeed be headlining the Pyramid stage on Saturday night.

Hoorah, loads of people thought and tweeted. We are so beyond that point in 2008 where tickets for Glasto didn't sell out instantly when **Jay Z** was announced. Organisers maintained that this was because of consistently bad weather over the last couple of festivals, rather than regular attendees not liking the idea of a hip hop headliner. Since then we've had **Coldplay** and **Beyoncé**.

We've come along way. Man of the people Noel Gallagher, who hasn't produced anything relevant since the year 2000, told the press that booking Jay was just "wrong". Eventually tickets did sell out and Greenpeace got their couple of million quid, which had been adorable organiser, Michael Eavis' only big worry. Incidentally, Jay drew a humungous crowd, as all headliners do, opened with 'Wonderwall' and smashed it. He played up to the haters with humour and the best tool possible, a fantastic performance.

Noel's argument was that Glastonbury wasn't "broke, so why fix it". No Noel, Glastonbury isn't broken, despite having been desperate enough to get **Oasis** to headline for a second time in 2004. Its formula of having three world-dominators play the evenings and basically anyone you've heard of within the last year the rest of the time probably won't break for a while yet. I'm yet to meet anyone who's ever liked all three headliners more than once.

You enter a sort of agreement on that dreaded morning in October when tickets first go on sale. Usually, no one has been announced yet. The organisers are still recovering and there are too many Red Stripe cans and tent pegs left from that year's festival to let the cows back yet, but you trust in the organisers with that fifty quid deposit, and assume that, like every year, there'll be so many good bands playing that you'll inevitably kick yourself for missing some of them.

Was I the only person who didn't really fancy seeing **Metallica** last year? Probably not. But I didn't bitch and whine and make a *change.org* petition about it as though if we got enough signatures someone would take it to Downing Street. When we went to print, this actual petition, that really exists, had racked up 43,000 signatures. I'm not saying you can't hate Kanye West. Love or loathe his back catalogue or latest offering, the man is undoubtedly a bit of a mug and has often shown a bad attitude. He sure as hell won't be spotted sneaking into a secret **James Blake** show at the Park Stage. Like **Shirley Bassey** before him, he'll be promptly

"We are so beyond that point in 2008 where tickets didn't sell out instantly when Jay Z played."



Michael Eavis has quite good legs for a 79 year old. Or is it just me?. Photo: glastonburyfestival.co.uk

helicoptered to safety before Kim's Hunters can touch the ground. It's okay not to like bands. In all honesty, I was sceptical when they booked **Dolly Parton** last year. But oh my, must we pretend that that if we get enough twirps to sign and tweet that this will ever get changed?

Are you honestly telling me that none of those 43,000 people would be embarrassingly miming along to most of Gold Digger on that Saturday

"Kanye is playing Glasto, guys, get over it."

night? I had a look at *change.org* last night, but only to sign the more realistic plea to have Alan Partridge replace Clarkson on Top Gear. It also turns out that the bloke who started the petition hasn't even got a ticket. And since has money has certainly already changed hands, I doubt he'll be going for re-sale. Kanye is playing Glastobury, guys, get over it.

Glastonbury tickets go on sale again in the first week of April.

Not such a Modest Mouse

DIOGO GERALDES
MUSIC WRITER

Like the slow unwrapping of a present shaped exactly like what you asked for, you already know what's inside and you can savour every second of its discovery. Starting with the song that named the album (or was it the album that named the song?), we are slowly eased back into Isaac Brock's stabbing vocals, cutting through instrumental sheets that wrap us in a cocoon of self-reflection, **Modest Mouse** style. It feels like our ears have gone through a decade-long

creative desert and now need to be retrained on what years of evolution perfected them for: the distilling of subtle pressure waves into the harmonic vibrations that make our core shudder.

Now that we are tuned in to the right frequency and introductions are over, 'Lampshades of Fire' explodes all over your face like a spring-loaded box. Suddenly we are celebrating human destruction of the world, told to pack up again and find another planet to burn and chop down. Wait, what? Never mind. The slow, introspective, 'Shit in Your Cut' is already evolving into an

epic crescendo to prelude 'Pistol (A. Cunaman, Miami, FL, 1996)'. Then you notice you're dancing to the first-person account of the preparations for the killing spree that lead to Gianni Versace's murder.

'The Ground Walks, with Time in a Box' cheerfully predicts the man-made apocalypse we are collectively heading towards, 'Coyotes' and 'Pups to Dust' highlight that us, humans, are born and die the same: compulsive liars and serial killers with an instinct for destruction.

'Sugar Boats' prods us into reflecting on our search for alternatives for this beautiful Earth

instead of attempting to fix it. 'Be Brave' warns us that the world will carry on without us just like it has for the almost totality of its existence and in 'The Tortoise and the Tourist' Brock pens a modern Brothers Grimm fable on humanity's self-destructive ignorance that will lead us into doom. We are questioned about our persistent focus on superficial, pathetic problems in 'The Best Room' and are prompted to explore the outdoors, embrace nature, enjoy it, take it in, live and experience it before it is gone. This sixth and much-awaited work of the Washingtonian band then ends with a critique to

our obsessive search for evidence of the existence or absence of a god, someone to blame for our actions or the creation of our dooming instincts in 'Of Course we Know'.

Or so I think. 'Strangers to Ourselves' is ridden with the Modest Mouse trademark: cryptic lyrics that somehow make sense to each one of us, regardless of interpretation and background of the listener. It is not a curated playlist, nor a virtual mixtape of some songs for your spinning class. It is a proper piece of work, written with a purpose, a message, carefully thought, chaotically unlevelled yet simultaneously balanced.

Television

television.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Television Editors || Guila Gabrielli & John Park

When in doubt, *Call the Midwife*

Giulia Gabrielli reviews season 4 of the tearjerking BBC show

In four years I have never watched an episode of *Call the Midwife* without crying. And I never cry. There's just something about the tragic and sweet stories of post-war London that fills me with warmth and makes me want to call my granny.

I was sceptical after the departure of Nurse Jenny Lee, narrator and main character, that the writers were going to be able to maintain a strong plotline following the loss of Poplar's most beloved midwife. After all, the series was based on Jennifer Worth's (real-life Jenny Lee) own memoirs.

But BBC proved me wrong, as it so often does. Replacing the romance and gossip of Worth's characters with serious themes and stories taken from historical testimonies

The deeper, darker content is definitely appreciated, and feels like a spontaneous development as the vibe changes from the austerity of the 50s to the colour and innovation of the 60s.

Although, one thing still bugs me: why is elderly Nurse Lee still narrating the stories since she is not in them anymore? I guess the production wants to keep showing Vanessa Redgrave's name of the screen to gain golden stars.

Nevertheless, the joint effort is still impressive, and some of the character developments showed by the secondary characters really show what a great cast was chosen for this show.

Of the original cast, Miranda Hart's character, Chummie, is seen as a more mature and motherly

figure. Having grown out of her silly and clumsy character she is now a competent nurse with a loving husband and chubby baby. When asked to take over a mother-and-child home she rises to the challenge, finally proving her worth for good.

Nurse Cynthia, who always seemed more quite and poised, is now seen going through a spiritual crisis. This leads her to join the order as a nun, something which profoundly changes the other girls.

Patsy, a relatively new character, develops a strong friendship with another female nurse. Quickly the viewer perceives that the friendship has developed into a romantic relationship, the first mention of homosexuality in Nonnatus house.

But maybe the biggest shock of the season is the development of Helen George's character, Nurse Trixie. When we left Trixie, she was the blond and superficial girl of the group. Always up for a gossip over a shiny magazine, she was about to marry the man of her dreams: blue-eyed Reverend Tom Hereward.

In this series, we see Trixie finding herself while exploring her dark past. After the grave realisation that she, as her abusive father, is an alcoholic, she takes the bold decision of annulling her engagement in order to work on her problems.

The show focus on her role as part of the Nonnatus midwives, more marginal but still key to the dynamics of the group, shows great performances from all cast members, forced to show empathy



The original midwives: Trixie, Chummie, Jenny and Cynthia. Photo: BBC

"The vibes change from the austerity of the 50s to the colours of the 60s."

and anger for Trixie. In particular, it is refreshing to see her changing relationship with Cynthia after her decision to become a nun.

New additions to the cast include Linda Bassett, who plays Nurse Crane, an unmarried illegitimate child who tries to fit in and Charlotte Ritchie, from the university student series *Fresh Meat*.

The most important part of the show though, are the women giving birth episode after episode. They tell stories of overbearing parents, violent husbands, poverty, prostitution, immigration and discrimination.

Call the Midwife, once a curious

"The best part of the show are the women giving birth episode after episode."

tale of what England used to be after the difficulties of the war, has morphed into a cutting portrayal of the changes faced by London's society in the 1960s.

If once, it was the tragedy of the nurses' personal relationships that made me pull out the tissues, now it is the battle of the traveller community to fit into Poplar, the struggle of a lesbian couple to spend the rest of their lives together or the torments of alcoholism.

Something that has not changed though, is the intimacy and subtlety of the writing, which continue to make this show a brilliant watch.



A love crop-circle made by a Japanese puffer-fish. Photo: BBC

Attenborough's swan song

Life Story takes us around the world to see an eclectic collection of animal behaviours in the journey through life on this planet. Quirky and fascinating scenes from birth and growing up, through the struggle to create a home and establish power, and finally mating and passing genes on to the next generation. The latest BBC nature show is perhaps not as remote, spectacular or human-like as other previous Attenborough ventures. But then it hits you: his swan song is not about majestic time-lapse shots and peculiar behaviours, even though it is filled with such moments.

When you see the tribulations of a young hermit crab's struggle to get into the property ladder, a lonely octopus looking for protection, or the exquisite and hypnotising sand-sculpture a Japanese puffer-fish builds in order to attract a lady you suddenly realise that the human struggle for survival and existence is neither more nor less meaningful than that of any other

species.

I had my epiphany yesterday as I watched two albatrosses re-encounter after a year apart while flying around the world. Are the bonds we have with our kin more significant than theirs?

Is our impossible search for an affordable semi-detached three-bedroom house in London's zone 3 as unnerving as Mr. Crabby's competitive housing chain? Or do we selfishly put ourselves at the centre of this universe so we can fill the void the acknowledgement of the insignificance of our existence leaves behind? Only when we, as a species, stop trying to find some special meaning to our being can we finally embrace our position as part of nature, protect it and revel in awe at its magnificence and our ability to perceive it.

DIOGO MIGUEL GERARDES

Film

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Film Editors || Ellen Mathieson, John Park and Jack Steadman

Imperial Cinema's All-Nighter is Back

Imperial Cinema report on this term's cinematic treats

The Imperial Cinema All-Nighter returns, bringing with it six films guaranteed to thrill, inspire, provoke and entertain in equal measure. From historical drama to sci-fi thriller, musical to surreal comedy, we've got it all lined up and ready to go.

Selma - 18:00

First up comes *Selma*, the biopic of Martin Luther King, Jr. that focuses on much more than just the great man himself. This is the story of events in Selma, Montgomery in 1965, the scene of one of the most famous marches for civil rights in history.

The peaceful marchers are met with brutal resistance, but they persevere, with their bravery a continued source of inspiration.

The film picked up an Oscar for Best Original Song, but the performances (and direction) are among the strongest of the past year's crop of films.



Photo: Pathe/Ava DuVernay

Ex Machina - 21:00

Our second film is Alex Garland's directorial debut, and it's an absolute stunner of a first effort.

Dealing with themes of artificial intelligence, consciousness, and free will, *Ex Machina* tells the tale of Caleb, a software engineer who wins a competition to spend a week with his recluse boss, the technological genius Nathan.

When Caleb arrives at Nathan's retreat, he discovers the real purpose of the competition: to find a participant for a Turing Test with Nathan's pet project, an AI called Ava. As the test starts, it appears that

Ava isn't quite what she seems, and maybe Nathan isn't either...



Photo: Universal/Alex Garland

Whiplash - 23:45

The third entry in this term's All-Nighter is the critical darling story of Miles Teller's young drummer, who joins a studio band led by J. K. Simmons' brutally dictatorial conductor.

Holding three Oscars (including one for Best Supporting Actor for Simmons), this is our most-garlanded film on offer, and it's an intense experience that doesn't let up until the final drumbeat.



Photo: Sony/Damien Chazelle

Into the Woods - 01:45

Relieving the intensity with a musical, you say? Almost, but not quite.

The film adaptation of Sondheim's *Into the Woods* sees the composer extraordinaire turn his hands to fairy tales, serving up a deliciously twisted version of your childhood stories.

Happy ever after isn't so far away, but what comes next is where the fun truly begins.

With an all-star, all singing, all dancing cast, and Rob Marshall (who directed the Oscar-winning adaptation of *Chicago*) at the helm, *Into the Woods* is a musical treat.



Photo: Disney/Rob Marshall

Paddington - 04:05

An entirely different style of big-screen adaptation comes in this, the silver screen re-telling of Michael Bond's children's books.

Many years ago, a British explorer in Peru comes across a family of bears, who he rapidly develops a bond with, teaching them the ways of civilisation.

Years later, after a horrible tragedy, a young bear makes the treacherous journey to London, seeking a new home. But London is not as friendly as he had been told – at least, not until he meets the Brown family.

The most heart-warming, adorable film of the year marks the penultimate step in our All-Nighter, before:



Photo: Studiocanal/Paul King

"Ava isn't quite what she seems, and maybe Nathan isn't either..."

"Right up until the part where they're all immortal vampires."

What We Do in the Shadows - 06:00

This kooky comedy deals with the lives of three flatmates, who have to deal with all of life's usual struggles: rent, chores, social lives, the squabbles provoked by living together.

All in all, fairly standard, right up to the part where they're all immortal vampires. *What We Do in the Shadows* plays with the tropes of vampire films as well as slice-of-life comedies, providing one of the most side-splittingly funny films in years that hides an emotional (if slightly weird) heart.



Photo: Metrodome/Jermaine Clement & Taika Waititi

Tickets On Sale Now!

All six films are being shown back-to-back on the night of Tuesday 24th March at Imperial Cinema.

Tickets are £10 online (or £12 on the door), and can be purchased online via imperialcinema.co.uk (with more information on the line-up also available on the website).

Tickets can also be purchased on the door for individual films, at just £3 for each film.

There's also the opportunity to purchase an all-you-can-eat food voucher for just £5, to keep you fuelled up and raring to consume quality films throughout the night!





Thank you!



#1

With over 42% of you voting in The Big Elections 2015 we once again have achieved the highest turnout in students' union elections in England and Wales!

7,258

7,258 students took part in The Big Elections 2015, our highest ever amount at Imperial.

161,546

With over 160,000 votes cast The Big Elections 2015 were the largest student vote in UK history - thank you all for taking part!

PGs
50%

50% more Postgraduate students voted in this year's elections than in 2014, and in total 22.5% voted.

What is your
MENTALITY?



Mental illness affects a quarter of the population yet there is still a stigma around it. Mentality aims to change this by running campaigns throughout the year to raise awareness, reducing the stigma surrounding mental health, and most notably, helping people to seek support for their problems.

Suffering from mental health problems can be scary, isolating and confusing, especially when you feel there is nowhere to turn, thus Mentality seeks to highlight and clarify key points of access within college when seeking help. In addition to this, Mentality hopes to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and educate students about the importance of it.

Support the campaign and have your say on mental health at Imperial by filling in the survey here:
imperialcollegeunion.org/mentality



Free STI testing is available at Imperial College Union, provided by the Terrence Higgins Trust and Earls Court Health & Wellbeing Centre

Gonorrhoea, chlamydia and HIV tests will be available, as well as contraception and sexual health advice.

Appointments are free but availability is limited. To request a slot email:
sexualhealth@imperial.ac.uk, including your preferred time.

As it's the Easter holidays, we've got 25 Easter eggs to be won by volunteers logging their hours for Imperial Plus. An Easter egg will be won for every 10th volunteering hour logged. So if you're the 10th, 20th, 30th 40th person to log and submit volunteer hours for approval between now and Easter Monday on 6 April, you'll win a chocolate Easter egg (only one Easter Egg can be won per person!). When the eggs are gone, they're gone! So don't miss out on your chance for a chocolate treat!

Do you volunteer but haven't registered yet? It's not too late! Register online today at: imperialcollegeunion.org/imperialplus



GOOD FORM

Student prices, student DJs
house // bass // dnb // and more

Friday 20 March
20:00 - 02:00
Metric and FiveSixEight

Free before 20:00
£1.50 if you sign up to the Facebook event (must be in by 22:30)
£2.50 on the door



REYNOLDS COCKTAIL CLUB

LAUNCH NIGHT

COME AND SEE THE NEW STYLE REYNOLDS BAR



FREE NIBBLES FROM THE REYNOLDS CAFE

BUY ANY TWO COCKTAILS FOR £7.50

FRIDAY 20 MARCH
FROM 17:30 / FREE ENTRY
REYNOLDS BAR

h /h-bar/ Wine tasting

FRIDAY 27 MARCH
19:30, H-BAR
ACTIVITIES SPACES
£7.50

The h-bar will be holding its first wine tasting session on the 27 March from 19:30. Come and taste all of our great wines from all over the world.



SPRING CARNIVAL

LIVE BANDS, DJs, RODEO BULL,
COWBOY V INDIAN SUMO WESTLING,
POPCORN AND ALL NIGHT GRILL.

FRIDAY 27 MARCH 20:00 - 03:00
LIMITED TIME ONLY £3.00
TICKETS PRICE RISE TO £4.00 ON 21 MARCH



Photography by Peter Marshall www.pamarshall.co.uk

Showtime! Imperial's First Dance Show





Union concert Hall, 26th/27th March
Doors: 7pm, curtain: 7:30pm
Tickets: £3 student/£5 non-student

A photograph of three people holding skis wrapped in newspaper. The woman on the left is smiling and holding a pair of skis wrapped in newspaper with various headlines like 'SPORTS', 'HIDDEN CH...', 'BU SHI DO', 'KAM...', 'OSAKA CA...', 'STATEN', and 'THE CYCLE'. The man in the middle is shirtless and wearing a blue headband, holding a pair of dark skis. The woman on the right is smiling and wearing a white fuzzy hat, holding a pair of dark skis with 'FISHER' and 'MULTI' visible. The background is a plain, light gray.

SNOWSPORTS OR NO SPORTS

Welfare

felix.welfare@imperial.ac.uk

Welfare Editors || Diba Esbati & Chanon Wongsatayanont

Surviving holiday revision

Chanon Wongsatayanont suggests stress-coping schedules

It looks like next term is the dreaded summer term where fun ends. Most of us will have our exams then, but if you're a student in their master's like me you might even have them next week. All in all, this is probably the least favourite part of University life.

I remember writing about revision tips at the end of last term but as this article will come out when we're about to head off for our revision-packed holidays, it will be about coping with the exam stress. Not just how to cope with stress in general, but how to prevent it from building up by developing better schedules.

Designated break each day

Here's what happened in my first year of undergrad. Day one of revision, I chugged down enough coffee to wake the dead and blitzed through the whole day without a break. The next few days were spent shivering from the ordeal, making excuses to stay well away from my work desk. Understandably, my ambitious revision timetable went to shambles.

Be prepared for a marathon, not a sprint. Revision isn't a caffeine-fueled all-nighter that you do one day before the deadline (I think that was the mentality that secretly crept up on me). Instead, it's all about persistence of going back again and again to those lecture notes, day after day. To maintain enough sanity to do that, daily breaks are essential.

Give yourself an evening off at the end of each day (or an hour in dire cases). During this time, just forget about revision and exams completely and let yourself shrug off all those words and numbers that cling onto you throughout the day. Don't worry, you won't forget about them. You're just giving time for it to seep into your brain and latch itself there. Giving time for your brain to consolidate new memory is as important as the memorising process itself.

Meet friends

Preferably your course mates who can help you step out your personal revision hell to share some tips or just to vent on how much life would be better without certain modules. Or just friends back at home to remind you that there's a world outside of lecture slides and textbooks as well!

One nemesis of revision (as I've



Exam revision is a pain, but a good schedule will beat back stress Photo: Huffington Post

mentioned in my last article) is tunnel-visioning where you can forget what's actually important in the course, instead fussing over what seems important to you. Course mates will shine some light in that tunnel and you might realise that the situation isn't as desperate as you'd thought.

I understand that sometimes, discussing revision with course mates can sound the opposite of stress relief when you hear about how well they're doing with their revision. But one way to make it less intimidating is to ask precisely how they revised and what they focused on first. Seeing their plan of action can help you find better ways to tackle the topic you're struggling on.

Reward yourself

Classic grandma strategy, but still effective. 'No, you can't have ice cream until you help me with the dishes.' Revision is hell of a lot worse than dishes, so why not give yourself some kind of a reward? After finishing a chapter, why not watch a rugby match, catch up on your TV series or just play a game? Working towards a goal will make the going less stressful.

In addition to making your days more entertaining, it will refresh your attention span and prep you for another round. It can be a bit like a reset button. If you start at 11am and have a long day in front of you, it's hard to stay motivated at all points of the day. And when you're not motivated, you procrastinate;

students know this for a fact. So instead of procrastinating during a revision session, reward breaks can give you a chance to clear the air there instead.

Buckle up and do it

Hear me out before you dismiss this seemingly redundant tip. What causes the most stress when revising is actually the fact that it's looming over you like a rain cloud. The longer you procrastinate, the more that cloud darkens. The topics you have to revise just seem that much harder, especially your least favourite ones.

Trust me, putting it further and further into the future will only add to the stress. Maybe it's the fear of the unknown, maybe it's the pressure of having less time to revise, but it's something that can be solved by gritting your teeth and just have a go.

For example, when you're revising there's nothing scarier than going through a past paper, imagining how badly you're going to fail it. But once you gather enough courage to sit down and try it, you can either be surprised that you understand it, or realise what topic still appears an enigma to you. Neither is as catastrophic as you think when it's still on your 'to-do' list.

But remember, despite all the stress, do leave out a week to have fun and make the most of spring back at home. Good luck and see you next term!

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
www.samaritans.org.uk

Anxiety Help :
Anxiety UK
Phone: 08444 775 774
(Mon-Fri 09:30 - 17:30)

www.anxietyuk.org.uk
No Panic
Phone: 0808 800 2222
(daily, 10:00 - 22:00)
www.nopanic.org.uk

Eating Disorders:
Beat
Phone: 0845 634 1414
(Mon-Thurs, 13:30 - 16:30)

Addiction:
Alcoholics Anonymous
Phone: 0845 769 7555
(24 hour helpline)
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

Narcotics Anonymous
Phone: 0300 999 1212

www.ukna.org
College Resources
Student Counselling Service
Phone: 020 7594 9637
e-mail: counselling@ic.ac.uk

Imperial College Health Centre
Telephone: 020 7584 6301
e-mail: healthcentre@ic.ac.uk

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

"Be prepared for a marathon, not a sprint."

"What causes the most stress when revising is actually the fact that it's looming over you like a rain cloud."

Games

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Games Editor

Max Eggl & Calum Skene

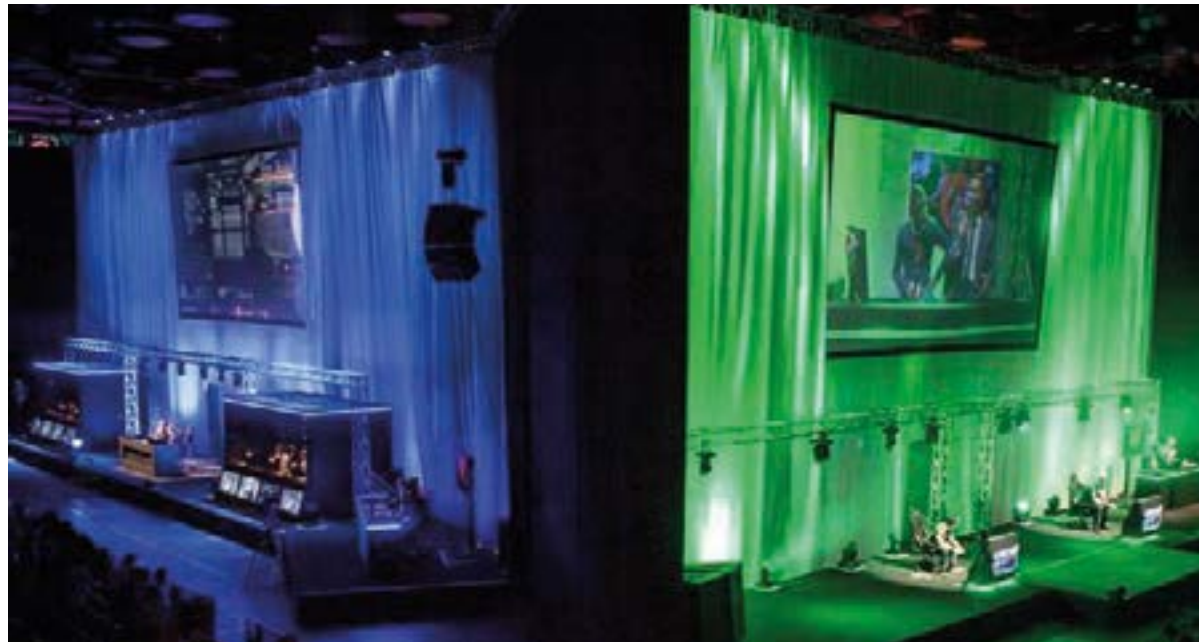
E-Sports: Finally in London, here to stay

Tim Jones was at Britain's newest gaming arena and tells all

On Thursday and Friday of last week the inaugural championship was held at the UK's new gaming arena, the Gfinity Arena in Fulham Broadway. This is the first gaming arena in the country, taking up three of the screens of the Vue cinema located in the shopping centre outside of Fulham Broadway tube station. The event, Hearthstone Spring Masters, which took up most of the two days, was won by Firebat the current world champion beating Sosuz four matches to one.

Now I have to admit that I had not played Hearthstone until the night before, having just won a ticket from a raffle Gfinity was running to promote the event, I did not know what to expect. The regular ticket price was £15 for the main stage for the day or £12.50 for the challenge stage, which probably covered some of the \$7,000 prize pool. Upon entering the cinema I could see that one half of the entrance hall had been taken over by Gfinity branding and the staff directed me to the three cordoned off screens that make up the Gfinity arena. I was then given a wrist band, with access to both screens, so that I could come and go over the course of the two days.

The main stage was screen 1 and



That definitely looks like the place where I would like to thrash my opponents

Photo: eventmagazine.co.uk

"Half of the entrance hall had been taken over by Gfinity branding."

consisted of dimly lit two booths, which I assume were sound proof, a caster's (read commentator) box and a lot of light and sound rigging were located; the challenge screen, screen 2, was much the same. The main screen showed one of the competitors hand, and would switch depending on whose turn it was. The event went without any problems, save

for one match I watched were they could not get a stream from one of the computers. This event seemed to be the cheapest of those for which tickets have been released, most of the other events costing £17.50 for main stage access, going up to £50 for VIP seating for the CSGO (Counter Strike Global Offensive) tournament.

"One thing is for sure the evolving world of e-sports is now serious business."

Now you may not have heard of Gfinity before, that's because they are an extremely new company that's part of the ever growing e-sports scene. They are a UK based and they organises online competitions in a number of different video games, such as Call of Duty (CoD), CSGO, and Fifa. eSports is already very well established in America with MLG (Major League Gaming) doing much the same job as Gfinity, however it has been around since 2002. The upcoming MLG CoD championships for example have a prize pot of \$1million. With each member of the winning team in the CoD championships walking away with \$100,000 in addition to major sponsorship deals that a win would inevitably yield.

Earlier last week Gfinity announced that they will be opening a second Arena soon, probably in conjunction with Vue again, however they have not said where it will be. There looks to be a full season of events at the arena this year so if you are interested in eSports, or just gaming in general, I would recommend checking it out. One thing is for sure the evolving world of eSports is now serious business and whether you think that it's a sport or not, it is here stay.

Felix's Great Gaming-Study Guide

MAXIMILIAN EGGL
GAMES EDITOR

It's coming to that time of year again: revision. At this point, you have been told multiple times that you only have x-amount of weeks left, and everyone is freaking out about how they haven't started revising yet. However, as a gamer my foremost thought is how I am going to keep up my gaming habit, while still avoiding failing. Dear reader, if these thoughts have also crossed your mind, do not fear, for after 3 years at I feel like I have amassed enough experience to help you achieve at least that 2.2!

My first piece of advice is, avoid time intensive games like RPGs. It is hard to really get into those kind of games without investing a lot of time into them. Therefore, a quick session to calm your mind down will end up as a monster session, and the next thing you know you will be doing a Leroy Jenkins in your exam. Therefore games

like, *Skyrim*, *WoW* or *Dragon Age* are a definite no-go.

Logic demands that you should play games that allow you to get in, get your fix and get back working. These games include things like *Counter strike*, *FIFA*, *LOL* and *DOTA*. All these games have a format, which has a defined beginning

and end, with a usual game time of about an hour. This sets boundaries and cuts out any excuses. As long as you can it to one game at a time, then these guys will perfectly satisfying your gaming needs while still allowing you to study.

Part of the appeal of playing these short games, is that they require

little to no thought. Your brain will be exhausted from all that difficult revision, so why play something that requires you to solve puzzles and/or actually have to think about? These things are supposed to let you relax, without having to mundane things like watching television.

Also, have set times when you play your games, and make sure you stick to our routine. The more you vary around the times, the less disciplined you will be when it comes to stopping. I find, a cheeky CSGO match after dinner from 6-7, wakes me up enough to continue studying afterwards.

However, the most important aspect is discipline. Once you get that dopamine flowing in your veins, it is indeed hard to stop. Yet, you must be strong and fight the temptation that strikes you. While of course gaming is very important (if not the most important), we have spent a considerable amount on our education. Don't waste it!

Anyway guys, have fun, dominate those games and good luck!

"Play games that allow you to get in, get your fix and get back working."



Definitely the right attitude!! Photo: troll.me

"The most important aspect is discipline."

Arts

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Arts Editors || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

A Night of Operatic Magic

Clara Clark Nevola checks out the ROH's classic opera

Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* – *The Magic Flute* – is back at the **Royal Opera House** in the 12th year of David McVicar's production. One of the most frequently performed operas, *Die Zauberflöte* has a highly unusual format, with the sung components interspersed with lots of dialogue, making it a piece that requires great theatrical skill as well as world class opera singers. Its storyline weaves in and out of folk-tale, legend, and cult, switching from enchantments to allusions to the Freemasons. Beneath all these nuances, *Die Zauberflöte* is a boy-meets-girl tale: noble Tamino goes on a quest to find and free the beautiful Pamina, helped by his comic side-kick Papageno. He overcomes the hurdles, defeats the baddies, and even Papageno gets a girl – everyone is happy.

The noble couple are excellent: beautiful, pure, and uncomplicated, as all one-dimensional heroes should be. In particular, Janai Brugger is heart-breaking as Pamina, adorable as a fragile princess, with long flowing locks, a frilly white nightgown, and a voice like silver. Papageno (Markus Werba) also stands out as the only cast member who carried his spoken lines with outstanding theatrical prowess, coming across as a truly relatable and comic man of the people. Counterbalancing the more ponderous characters, Papageno truly made the show – though one can't but think he didn't get what he deserved in Rhian Lois' shrill 'Papagena'.

The Disney-ish plot is complicated by the shifting allegiances that the hero (and the audience) has, as the baddies and goodies switch in front of us. Pamina's mother, the opulent Queen of the Night, who sends Tamino to find her daughter, initially appears to be the fairy godmother of the situation. She's got sparkly clothes, magic gifts, and needs our noble hero to defeat her enemies for her. Her antagonist, Sarastro, captured Pamina, has a creepy rape-y servant, Monostatos, and comes off as the evil magician of the situation. Yet, as Tamino's understanding of the situation changes, he realises that Sarastro is an enlightened, wise and reasonable ruler. The staging changes from a deep blue, star-studded backdrop with a glaring white moon to a warm orange disk – our transition from the darkness of night and religious superstition into the light of reason.

The production highlights the feeling of a disoriented journey, with constantly changing staging, unexplained symbolism, darkness,



Janai Brugger as Pamina and Anna Siminska as Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte* Photo: ROH. Mark Douet 2015

"Many aspects of the piece were left unexplored, such as the element of sexuality"

and fog. However, many aspects of the piece were left unexplored, such as the element of sexuality and its repression; the Queen of the Night's ladies in waiting, haughty and mysterious, descend into a brawl over who should privately guard Tamino while the others fetch their mistress. Their frankness about their desires, echoed in Papageno's crass comments, contrasts with the Wise Men's insistence on the importance of repressing Tamino's desires and their instructions on resisting the temptation of women.

A living testimony to the Enlightenment era, *Die Zauberflöte* embodies a struggle for wisdom and truth with which we feel comfortable. But the 18th century was also racist and misogynist, and these facts jar with a modern audience that flocks to the opera to have their soul elevated. Monostatos may have been

"Janai Brugger is heart-breaking as Pamina, with a voice like silver"

cast as a white deformed monster, rather than the "evil Moor" he is scripted as, but nothing can ease the blow of lines such as "A woman does little, gossips much", "Away with the women, to Hell". They are dropped in, unchallenged, and undealt with, murmured without comment as if in the hope of passing them off as outdated and vaguely comic. The conflict between reason and superstition, logical man and hysterical women, is an interesting one, which has been ignored by this production for fear of jarring with the audience. *Die Zauberflöte* doesn't need to be sanitised, it needs to be produced as the glorious, messy and controversial opera that it actually is.

Die Zauberflöte was on at the Royal Opera House from 23rd February - 11th March. It will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 at 19:30 on 13th April.

Editorial: The Phoenix Issue

FRED FYLES & KAMIL MCCLELLAND
SECTION EDITORS

Here it is, the last issue of term and alongside this week's section we have produced **The Phoenix**, a celebration of Imperial's best student art. It has certainly been a labour of love but, by pairing together the different artistic media a mixture of visual art, photography, poetry and short stories, we have tried to present them in a way that highlights their quality.

But moving on to *Felix*, we start off with Clara Clark Nevola's review of *Die Zauberflöte* or *The Magic Flute*, a classic opera here performed on the stage of the **Royal Opera House**. One of the difficulties in producing such an oft-performed opera is that you must invigorate it with a unique energy that brings something new to the interpretation of the story.

However here, Clara finds this was not done effectively and the complexity of some of the themes covered was left by the wayside. Fred Fyles also pays a visit to the Royal Opera House, once again to review a classic of the stage, this time the ballet, *Swan Lake*. The ROH is famed for its orthodox interpretations of works, defining the standard of how they should be performed with an outstanding quality of dancing. However, Fred questions whether this kind of production is still relevant and can still excite an audience like some of the more *avant-garde* productions of the work have done.

Next, Max watches *Play Mas* at the **Orange Tree Theatre** in a rather laclustre production of a Trinidadian classic; bad acting and even worse use of the unique space left Max disappointed with the work.

Fred Fyles also visited the new exhibition at the **National Portrait Gallery** on the Duke of Wellington, examining his legacy through how art depicts him. Alexander McQueen is a fashion legend, and in the latest photographic exhibition at the **Tate Britain**, his career is taken apart to truly exhibit the wonder of his work. Our very own fashion editor Cécile Borkhataria explains just what makes him so unique and significant in the world of fashion.

Finally, Cale Tilford introduces an underappreciated art form: comics. Taking us through some of his favourite current series, he explains why this medium of expression is just as rewarding as any other.

Swan Lake 30 years on: still magical?

Fred Fyles finds ROH's ballet in need of updating despite strong dancing

They say that familiarity breeds contempt; if this is true, it would be surprising to find anyone in the country who can still stand *Swan Lake*, a ballet classic that has become so well known that it risks becoming dusty. However, this is clearly not the case, judging by the turnout for the **Royal Opera House's** production, which filled the hall right up to the rafters. A revival of Anthony Dowell's 1987 production, this version of *Swan Lake* aims to place the choreography firmly back at the centre of the work; rather than trying any fancy staging techniques, or technical gimmicks, the piece returns to London on the strength of the **Royal Ballet Company's** dancers.

On the whole, the production stands up well, despite being nearly 30 years old; while this may not seem like a long time when one considers that *Swan Lake* has been repeatedly reinterpreted for the last century, in actual fact it can be difficult to produce a ballet that truly stands the test of time. In this version, the longevity is guaranteed by the excellent choreography, based upon the 1895 version by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov; the movements are tight and organised, the dancers clearly drilled like an army platoon, but there is a generosity in the movements, and a light grace that belies the hours of sweat that goes into such a performance.

The dual role of Odette/Odile, one of those characters who has gone down in ballet history for the sheer difficulty of interpretation, is filled by Natalia Osipova, principle of the Royal Ballet. Osipova is good in the role, particularly when filling the part of Odette, the White Swan, conveying an emotional vulnerability whilst never letting the human side of the character get consumed. While it can be easy for a dancer to play up to the swan role, all quivering legs and shaking arms, Osipova imbues her character with womanliness, meaning that Prince Siegfried's (Matthew Golding) obsession with Odette comes across as romantic, as opposed to some form of strange bestiality.

The chemistry between Osipova and Golding is apparent from their first encounter, making their partnership on stage something really special. The relationship between the principal dancers is what can make or break a version of *Swan Lake*, and in this production the two leads have a strong base upon which the rest of the piece is built. Golding also imbues his Prince with a sense of muscular physicality, meaning Siegfried's movements have a character all of their own, as opposed to simply being



Natalia Osipova as Odette and Matthew Golding as Prince Siegfried. Photo: Alice Pennefather

"The chemistry between Obraztsova and McRae is apparent from their first encounter"

a backdrop for the main action. Unfortunately, Osipova is not as good as the Black Swan, lacking the required sensuality needed to bring the role to life. The diametric opposite of Odette, playing Odile, the daughter of evil sorcerer Von Rothbart (played by Gary Avis, all feathers and moult), requires the dancer to be able to reverse their initial approach – confident where Odette was fragile, red-hot where the White Swan is icy. Osipova is clearly more confident when playing the Black Swan, but her attempts to be seductive sadly fall flat.

The real magic, however, happens

when the focus is taken off the main dancers, and instead directed towards the *corps de ballet*, who form the backbone of the production. The group in *Swan Lake* are magnificent – well drilled, with their *en pointe* on point. A case in point, the 'Danse des petits cygnes', in which four of the dancers link hands and perform a series of increasingly complex moves, is perfectly done, with the swans appearing to glide across ice. In other scenes, they hold their poise well, but it is the swan scenes where the dynamics of the cast really sing out, and the women seem to be nearly turning into swans before our eyes.

"The real magic happens when the focus is directed towards the corps de ballet"

Sadly, while the choreography is a high point, other aspects have not fared well. The staging veers between simple minimalism and complex gothic piles, with the former being much more engaging to the audience; in the lake scenes, all that is present is an icy backdrop, shrouded in mist, while in the ballroom scenes, it appears that designer Yolanda Sonnabend has ransacked the Palace of Versailles, bringing with her a superfluity of chintz. These sets, along with some of the costumes reveal the production's true age, and seem to drag behind the slick moves of the dancers.

At this point, I feel that I should admit that I didn't actually see this production in the Royal Opera House's cavernous main amphitheatre, but rather in a central London cinema, as part of ROH Live, in which the company broadcasts a live screening of the performance across the country. While this is undoubtedly a good means of ensuring that everyone who wants can share in the magic of ballet, from Skegness to Slough, there are certain elements that make it somewhat more challenging from actually seeing it live; there's a different atmosphere, of course, not seeing the dancers in the flesh; but also, the location of the microphones means that the dancers' footsteps are amplified to an extent that – at times – they rise above the orchestra's beautiful music.

I have no doubt that this version of *Swan Lake* will be a 'classic' of ballet, with its bold, generous choreography, and only needs a great pairing – such as we have here – to propel it into greatness. Although Osipova has problems with the dual role, the chemistry between her and McRae more than makes up for this. With a thirty year history, this production seems to have fared well so far, but how long will it be before it really begins to feel tired? – if the sets and costumes are not updated and trimmed down, this day may come sooner than you think.

Swan Lake is on at the Royal Opera House until 9th April 2015. Tickets are available online; for sold out performances, day tickets will also be available.

Swan Lake is being broadcast to cinemas across the country as part of ROH Live. The next screening will be on 22nd March, for which the participating cinemas will be running a Student Standby scheme, allowing those with valid student ID to purchase two tickets for £10. Visit the ROH website for more details.

Play Mas fails to live up to its promise

Max Falkenberg is let down by the Orange Tree Theatre's play

The joy of carnival is infectious. Dressing up, getting drunk and parading around town to the sound of steel drums: what could be better? Every culture has a different spin on carnival, but few know how to do it better than the Trinidadians' annual *Play Mas*.

Written in 1974 by the Trinidadian playwright Mustapha Matura, once referred to as "the most perceptive and humane of black dramatists writing in Britain", *Play Mas* is a sharp, witty and at times beautifully poignant script illustrating a touching picture of Trinidadian culture.

Focussing on the years leading up to Trinidad's independence and the spirit of carnival, this revival might not be as relevant now as it was forty years ago, but it still hits home with its questions on political power and national identity. Despite this, with the direction of Paulette Randall leaving a lot to be desired, my pick for March was little more than a luke-warm laugh.

Set in Miss Gookool's tailor shop, the first act details the relationship between her, her son Ramjohn and their assistant Samuel. Exploring aspiration and inspiration, the sharp dialogue characterises the warmth of Trinidadian culture and touches on the ideas which led to independence from the British. While little is done to directly develop a plot, the play's distinct focus on the importance



Samuel (Seun Shote), Chuck Reynolds (Rob Heanley), Ramjohn Gookool (Johann Myers) in *Play Mas* at the Orange Tree Theatre Photo: Robert Day

"Play Mas is a sharp, witty, and at times beautifully poignant script"

of carnival draws a parallel to the powerful undertone of identity.

The performance of Johann Myers as Ramjohn is exceptional. Subtle and enticing, Myers' dedication to his character and striking focus heightens both the drama and the comedy of the piece. With the core cast completed by Melanie La Barrie as Miss Gookool and Seun Shote as Samuel, their performances bring the most out of Matura's wildly entertaining dialogue. Unfortunately, the supporting cast fail to live up to

their counterparts.

From what feels like misguided direction, the supporting cast's desperation in trying to squeeze another laugh out of the audience sidelines the deeply serious undertone of the play. Added to Rob Heanley's irritatingly bad attempt at an American accent, Randall's production comes across as farcical. It's certainly funny, but as a complete play it doesn't work.

Performed in the round, **The Orange Tree's** signature space can do

"It's certainly funny, but as a complete play it doesn't quite work"

wonders for a show as easily as it can break a show. Although the staging doesn't fail the space completely, a degree of poor blocking leaves parts of the audience wondering why they are only seeing certain actors from behind.

While the problem isn't particularly pervasive, the oddly long scene changes make the production feel distinctly disjointed. It is a shame really because the script offers an excitingly upbeat tempo, but too often little details are pushed too far at the expense of the play's clarity. With a little more focus on the serious moments and a little less forcefulness with the comedy, I imagine this revival's shortcomings could have been easily resolved.

Despite its faults, *Play Mas* still offers an impressive two hours of entertainment. With Samuel rising to political power in the second half, it is refreshing to think that occasionally even politics can be funny. With black theatre so underrepresented, Randall does throw in a few moments of genius, giving The Orange Tree's distinctly middle-class audience an enjoyable snapshot of Caribbean culture. Overall though, *Play Mas* wasn't quite what it was made out to be.

Play Mas is on at the Orange Tree Theatre until 11th April. Tickets from £10

Will the real Wellington please stand up?

FRED FYLES
SECTION EDITOR

The aim of the **National Portrait Gallery's** latest collection is, explains the curator, to "put Wellington's great reputation back on the map". This somehow implies that it ever went away. The Duke of Wellington is such a well known figure, carved both on the national consciousness and on numerous memorials, that it makes such an exhibition – *Wellington: Triumphs, Politics, and Passions* – somewhat redundant. Unless, that is, they can stage an exhibition that allows us to look at the Duke in a new light.

Sadly, the National Portrait Gallery doesn't manage this; instead, what we get are the same pictures we are used to again and again. Marking out his life through a series of portraits,

Wellington stares down at us in regalia in an early John Hoppner, pensively gazes from a Goya, and considers his surroundings in a study by Sir Thomas Lawrence. These portraits are interspersed with other artefacts, such as metalware emblazoned with his face, and plates painted with the battle of Waterloo – camp artefacts of high kitsch.

Some things in the exhibition do stand out; the diary of Edmund Wheatley, for example, made during the Peninsular War, in which he sets descriptions of his everyday life with exquisite watercolours, is a highlight. Elsewhere, a painting by James Ward, entitled *The Triumph of Arthur*, shows Wellington as a near-angel, surrounded by golden mythical figures. It is overblown, gaudy, horrific, tacky, and utterly marvellous. If only there were more like it in the exhibition, rather than the *status quo* images we are so used to

consuming.

Ultimately, the main problem with the exhibition is simply that it doesn't give us a proper insight into what Wellington was like as a man. It comes close to this when, in the later sections, we find out about his close friendships, and see how he was satirised by the newspapers of the day. Ultimately, it would be great to have more things like this, that would allow us to see what the man was like behind the image. This would truly allow us to get a measure of Wellington, not as an icon, but as a man instead. If the National Portrait Gallery had chosen to do this, then perhaps the show would have been more interesting, but ultimately all we have are a collection of portraits, from which Wellington stares out, with cold, unblinking eyes.

Wellington: Triumphs, Politics, and Passions is on at the National Portrait Gallery until 7th March. Entrance free.



Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington (detail) by Francisco de Goya, 1812-14 Photo: The National Gallery, London

A Fitting Legacy: Nick Waplington/ Alexander McQueen – Working Process

Cécile Borkhataria visits the Tate Britain's new photography exhibition, showcasing McQueen's final collection



Photographs from the Tate Britain's new exhibition, Nick Waplington/Alexander McQueen: Working Process Photo: Nick Waplington

Last week, Nick Waplington's photography exhibition of legendary fashion designer Alexander McQueen's final collection opened at Pimlico's **Tate Britain**. The exhibition, based on Nick Waplington's book entitled *Alexander McQueen: Working Process*, features photographs of McQueen's Fall 2009 collection – from inception to the runway show in Paris. The exhibition takes us on a tour of McQueen's creative process, from initial concept sketches, all the way to his dramatic final show.

The collaboration started when Waplington was asked to come in and see Lee (Alexander McQueen) in 2007. McQueen wanted him to

make a photo book about his working process for his Fall 2009 collection, entitled *The Horn of Plenty! Everything and the Kitchen Sink*. Lee knew of Waplington's work and favoured his "dirty, messy style" of photography; he gave Waplington full creative control of the photography, telling him "do whatever you want, this will be your book and I will be the subject." At the time, Waplington was involved with a big project in Jerusalem and asked McQueen if they could delay their artistic collaboration, but Lee insisted that it had to be the Fall 2009 season. This collection was important to McQueen because it was a retrospective exploration of his previous

collections, a recycling of his ideas from the last 15 years of his career.

The book was an unconventional take on fashion books. Not only did Waplington take photos of McQueen's creative process, but he also took pictures of landfill sites, and in particular recycling facilities, to further convey the collection's recycling theme. Between the photographs of McQueen's creative sketch boards and model fittings lie large canvases of landfill sites full of soda cans. Whilst the collection emphasised recycling, it also served as a social commentary to the recession at the time, and how society had reached this point through "rampant, indiscriminate consumption". The

"The irony lies in the garments, made to look like bin liners but made of fine silk"

irony lies in the garments themselves, which are made to look like they have been made of bin liners and broken records, when in fact they are made from the finest Italian silks. This follows McQueen's undeniable penchant for the unconventional, whilst also respecting the traditional craftsmanship of haute couture. This representation of conflict throughout the collection is an uncompromising combination of love and hate, which is characteristically McQueen.

Walking through the gallery takes you through the collection's chronological creative process, emphasising one of the greatest things about Waplington's insightful images; they show that McQueen was

heavily involved from the process from start to end, which is rarely seen in the fashion industry. First, he would create an 'idea board' where he assembled his creative vision for a piece with photographs, fabrics, and sketches. Then, he would cut patterns, pin them onto a model, and fit her into it at the end. Even when it came to final fittings, McQueen was there, kneeling down and perfecting hemlines down to the last detail. Waplington was sure to capture all of this, showcasing not only McQueen's creative flair, but also his tailoring skills, which he learnt at the beginning of his career when working at a suit-tailoring boutique in London's Savile Row.

In keeping with the theme of recycling, vintage McQueen pieces were remastered, such as his signature houndstooth check fabric, which was splattered with paint. Old pieces were taken apart and put back together again in different way; inside out, upside down, or completely restructured all together. Lee even used one of his own bespoke Savile row suits in the collection, which he cut and re-tailored to fit a woman. Not only did Lee recycle pieces from his previous collections, but he also brought back many people he worked with in previous years, including many models. He brought everything back into play again to signify a

"We see not only McQueen's creative flair, but also his tailoring skills"

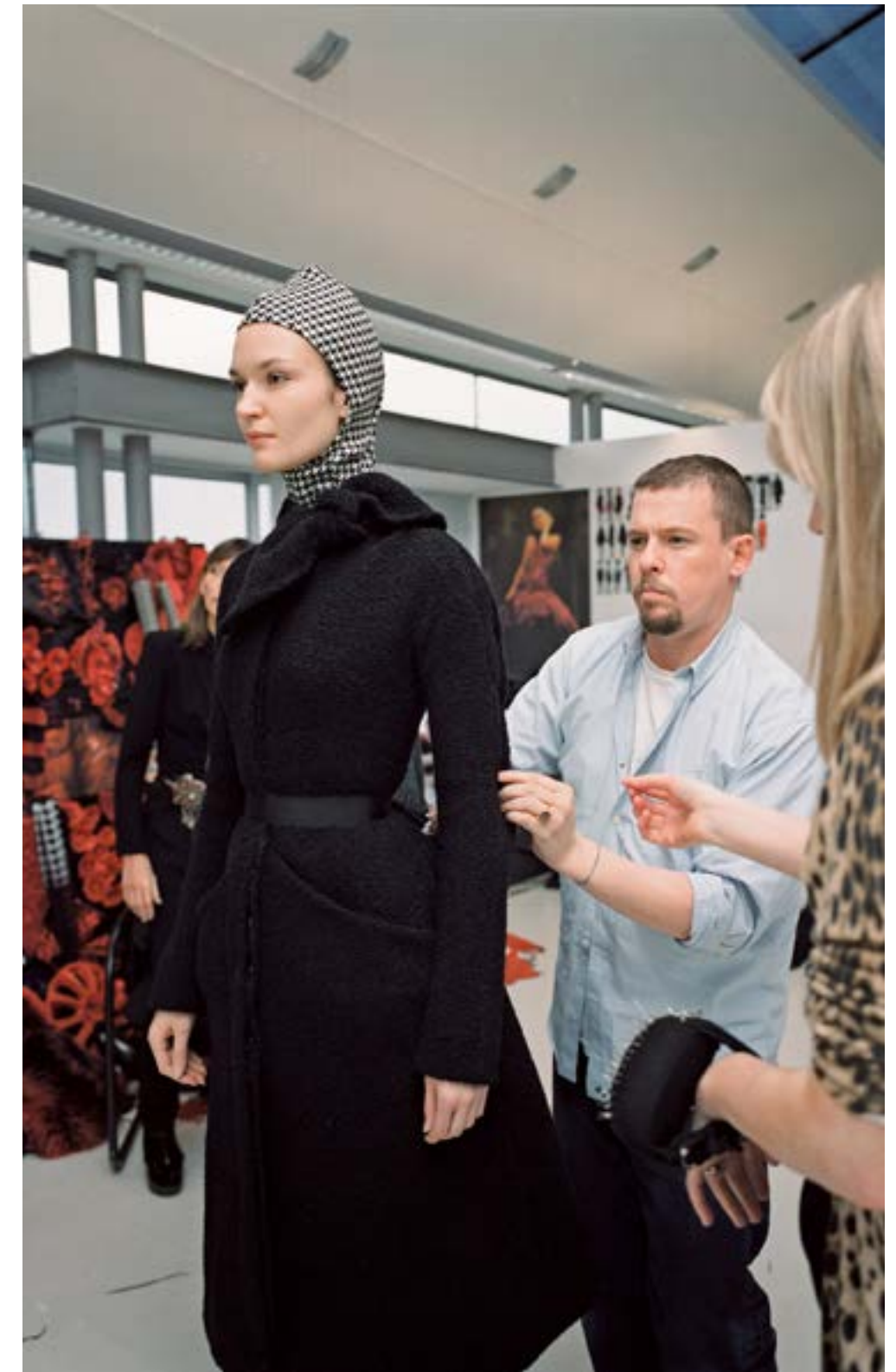
renewal.

The collection saw a historic collaboration between McQueen and Philip Treacy to design eccentric hats that were tailor-made for specific outfits. The hats too, used recycled parts, such as washing machine hose piping and even dustbin lids. They served as an important tool in shaping the proportions of the models wearing them, who were made to look much like exaggerated illustrations. They were taller, longer, and leaner – a commentary on the unrealistic image of women that the fashion world portrays.

When the studio moved to Paris close to the show, the atmosphere became happy and at times stressful in the lead up. McQueen worked with big teams from whom he expected a lot, and there was a sense that everyone was working towards a common goal. The set design was complex, incorporating piles of rubbish and other debris, all underlining the theme of consumption and recycling. The show was also a challenge for the models, who had to wear very high heels, heavy hats, and complex clothes. In keeping with McQueen's undercurrent of conflict throughout his collections, the models were made to look less feminine; red lipstick was smeared above and below their lips, creating an almost disturbing image



Photographs from the Tate Britain's new exhibition, Nick Waplington/Alexander McQueen: Working Process Photo: Nick Waplington



Photographs from the Tate Britain's new exhibition, Nick Waplington/Alexander McQueen: Working Process Photo: Nick Waplington

of beautiful women. This served as a reminder of society's obsession with physical appearance.

After the collection was shown, Lee and Waplington worked together in Waplington's studio, where Waplington made 800 colour work prints by hand. Of these, Lee and McQueen selected 254 to feature in the book.

They finally finished in November 2009, and three months later Lee died.

For Waplington, it was a huge privilege to work with Lee and gain complete, unadulterated access to the creative working process in his studio, which he rarely opened to others. Lee's choice of title, *The Horn of Plenty*, was a statement about the planet and its finite resources,

"To this day McQueen's pieces provoke the reactions desired from the public"

of consumption and economic prosperity, of the recession and the impossibility of infinite growth. It was a reflection of modern society and a retrospective of his previous collections, bringing them all together in his final collection. As there continue to be new exhibits and commentaries on McQueen's revolutionary work, he lives on as a fashion and artist. To this day, McQueen's pieces provoke the reactions he desired from the public – for them to look at it and say: "What's that? What's that? What's that? What's that? What's that? What's that?"

Nick Waplington/Alexander McQueen: Working Process is on at the Tate Britain, until 17th March 2015. Tickets are £14.50 adults; £12.70 students. Available online.

Comic Books: Where to Start?

A fan of comic books, but not sure which ones to go for next? Never fear! **Cale Tilford** is here to take us on a journey through five of his current favourite comic series, perfect for those unacquainted with the art form

The Wicked + The Divine

The Wicked + The Divine was once described as the spiritual successor to Kieron Gillen and Jamie McKelvie's *Phonogram*, the Britpop inspired comic series 'where music is magic', and whilst it borrows many of the themes of their earlier collaboration this series is far more grounded in reality. Set in a world where every ninety years twelve humans are incarnated as gods with two years left to live, their new work examines the modern celebrity and the associated fandoms. Now in its second arc, the series continues to explore this world through the perspective of British teenager Laura, one of the many hardcore fans of the group of gods known as The Pantheon.

Gillen's fondness of British (and American) music is what really brings his world to life, with each God borrowing their identity from a rock or pop icon.

For example, Lucifer (or Luci) styles herself as a female Bowie. Other gods take inspiration from musicians such as Daft Punk or Rihanna, and it's not often not just their image that they share – Gillen writes many of these characters in such a way that they channel the personality of the celebrity that they embody. The series is also littered with pop culture references and song lyrics which will be immediately familiar to those who have grown up listening to Britpop's finest.

Jamie McKelvie's art is some of the best in the industry. His realistic

style helps create an astonishingly believable world, and his work on facial expressions adds further emotion to Gillen's excellent script. *The Wicked + The Divine* is particularly renowned for its eye catching cover designs, which so far have exhibited McKelvie's excellent character designs for each of the twelve gods in turn.

My only complaint with this series, which I feel is common with much of Gillen's work, is that the dialogue is often too confusing (and culture reference heavy), requiring you to be fully immersed in the rapidly expanding world that he is constructing. Once invested though, *The Wicked + The Divine* is a world you'll never want to leave.

The Wicked + The Divine #8 is out now on Image Comics.



The Wicked + The Divine #7 Photo: Image Comics

Descender

Finally free from his contractual obligations at DC Comics, Jeff Lemire starts his career at Image with one of his most interesting concepts yet. *Descender* takes place in the far future where, after a series of unfortunate events, all artificial intelligence has been banned. Success seemed inevitable for the creative team after Sony secure the film rights to the series before its first issue had even been released, and this gamble might just pay off as the first issue is easily one of the best so far this year.

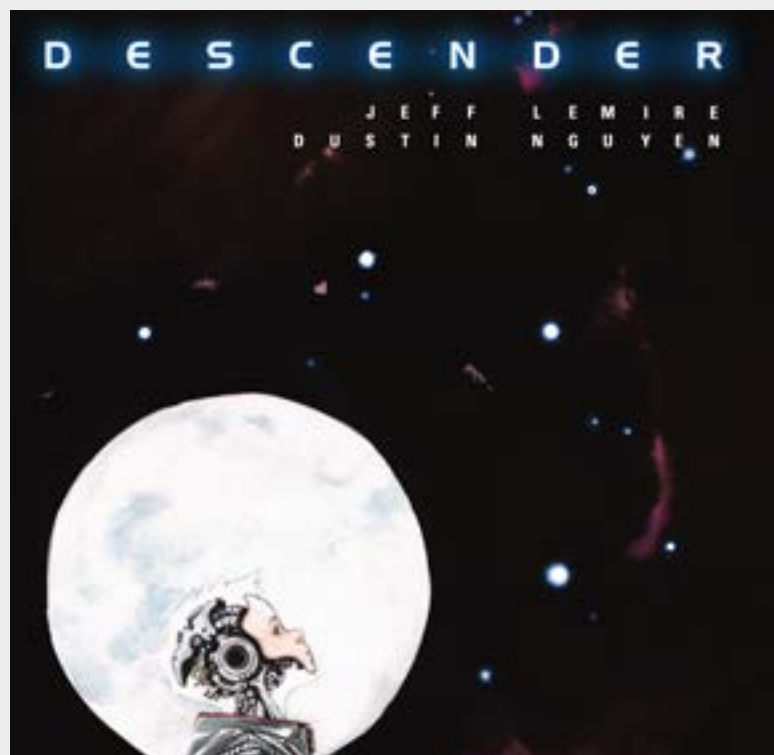
Lemire tells the story of the last robot in the galaxy, a young android named TIM-21, as he is hunted down by those who blame his kind for their destruction in a disaster that wiped out billions of lives. The major

events in the first issue unfold from the perspective of Dr. Quon, a once leading scientist whose job is made obsolete after AI is outlawed. Ten years after the disaster that ravaged the core planets, his services are required again when TIM-21 omits a signal that alerts the galaxy of his presence. With AI very much a hot topic at the moment (from *Ex Machina* to the scaremongering comments of Elon Musk and Steven Hawking), it's interesting to see Lemire join the discussion with a tale that so far feels very reminiscent of Spielberg's *A.I. Artificial Intelligence*.

Never before have I been so blown away by the art in a comic. Dustin Nguyen's work with watercolours is phenomenal and is a good enough

reason alone to pick up this series. In the first issue, we get a glimpse of a number of different environments each of which Nguyen is able to distinctively portray through his excellent use of colours and perspective. The most notable of these is a moon where the bluish greys of an abandoned mining colony are contrasted against the darkness of space, reflecting the loneliness of the comic's young protagonist. *Descender* is a triumph and solidifies Lemire as one of the best talents in the industry. I can't wait to read the next issue.

Descender is out now on Image Comics.



Descender Photo: Image Comics

Howard the Duck

I'll admit that even as a big comic fan, I'd never heard of *Howard the Duck* until its brief cameo in last year's Guardians of the Galaxy post-credits scene. This new series from Chip Zdarsky (most famous for his work illustrating dildo-fights in Image Comics' *Sex Criminals*) follows Howard, a handsome anthropomorphic duck, as he explores a world "he's grown accustomed to."

After the first few pages it's apparent that this comic is about far more than a talking duck – Zdarsky uses Howard's role as a private investigator to position him as an outsider in the Marvel universe. The witty and often

hilarious dialogue pokes fun at the fictional world around him and the wonderful inconsistencies that have been allowed to fester over time. If you're expecting something along the same lines as *Sex Criminals* you'll be disappointed, but Zdarsky's first major attempt at writing certainly provides laughs, although it's often at the expense of the well-established universe that *Howard the Duck* is part of.

Joe Quinones' art is fantastic at displaying the varied emotions of the duck detective and his super-powered friends; his modern style is complemented well by Rico Renzi's bright colours, and the work on Howard's outfit feels appropriately

retro, furthering the idea that he is out of time, in a world that is not his own.

With a first issue packed full of cameos and clever references, it will be interesting to see if the character of Howard the Duck alone will be enough carry the series in its future issues.

Also, with the upcoming demise of the multiverse (in this year's Secret Wars event) I'm curious as to where *Howard the Duck* will end up, especially since Marvel have a history of ending series before they reach their prime.

Howard the Duck #1 is out now on Marvel Comics



Howard the Duck Photo: Image Comics

Spider-Gwen

The recent Spider-Verse comic event introduced a number of new superheroes to the Marvel multiverse. The most popular of these was *Spider-Gwen*, the Spider-Woman/Gwen Stacy of Earth-65, who is forced to face off against her own reality's version of Peter Parker when he mutates into a lizard-like creature.

Jason Latour subverts many of the archetypes in Spider-Man origin stories, with Spider-Gwen feared as a dangerous vigilante by her community rather than the usual friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man. It's great to see a creative team that's attempting to try something different, and with *Spider-Gwen*

Latour has written a character with a surprising amount of depth. This alternative take on Gwen Stacy is nothing like her counterpart in the mainline Marvel universe – she's badass and the drummer for the fantastically named punk rock band 'The Mary Janes'.

Robbi Rodriguez's thin lines are able to capture the fast-paced and frantic movements of Spider-Gwen and her foes, whilst his use of caricature body and facial structures works well to display the truly villainous nature of the tales' antagonists. Unlike many of his peers, who have moved away from comic sound effects, Rodriguez uses them to great effect, effortlessly

blending them in with his art and Rico Renzi's garish colours.

It is therefore unfortunate that I can only recommend this comic to those who have already invested some time in the current Marvel comic universe. To fully appreciate and understand the first few issues you must possess at least a basic knowledge of Spider-Man enemies and allies. Furthermore, it is worrying when certain aspects of a character, such as their origin story, are not explained. Whilst *Spider-Gwen* #1 and #2 at least attempt to summarise Spider-Gwen's story so far, they fall short of giving a necessary introduction to new comic book readers.



Spider-Gwen Photo: Image Comics

Silver Surfer

Most will know the Silver Surfer from his appearance in the spectacularly shit 2007 film, *Fantastic 4: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, which continues to haunt many Marvel fans to this day. Luckily, Dan Slott's portrayal of this character does far more justice to one of Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's finest creations. Already on its tenth issue, the series continues to provide excitement and oddity only rivalled by *Doctor Who*. Each issue explores a different part of Marvel's expansive universe with Norrin Radd (AKA the Silver Surfer) and his earthly companion Dawn Greenwood as our guide.

For those not familiar with

the Silver Surfer, the silver-clad humanoid is the former herald of Galactus, a massive planet-consuming cosmic entity, and rides a silver surfboard across the cosmos. As a herald, he was tasked with scouring the galaxy to find suitable planets for his master to destroy, however, upon reaching Earth he was so inspired that he turned against Galactus to save the planet from destruction.

The current arc examines the Surfer's past relationship with his planet hungry master and the looks at the impact he has had across the galaxy. Responsible for the deaths of billions, it's interesting to see the Surfer come to terms with the

damage he has caused. It's rare that we get something of such emotional gravitas in a superhero comic, so I commend Slott for his effort.

Michael and Laura Allred combine to provide their best work yet; the pop-art style that the couple is so famous for is a perfect match for the Slott's impressive imagination. Each new creature and planet that is introduced seems more wacky and inventive than the last, and when Galactus is finally revealed his entrance is as epic as hoped.

Silver Surfer is a comic that needs to be read; it's fun, light-hearted, and easy to follow. If you're a fan of exploratory sci-fi then this is the comic for you.



Silver Surfer Photo: Image Comics

Travel

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Travel Editor || Yung Nam Cheah

Working Holiday – the sustainable and immersive way to travel

Yung Nam Cheah discusses the ups and downs of getting your hands dirty abroad.

I had been fascinated by the concept of working holiday for a while now and even more so when an old friend of mine embarked on her own journey to Australia with her boyfriend, updating us on her 6-months adventure through social media. It seems to be a popular alternative for many young people fresh out of University who wants to travel but still add something to their CV.

Common working holiday destinations are Australia and Canada, appealing to the under-30s all over the world, with a year-long visa that allows them to work and travel. It allows you to finance your travel on the road and allows you to stop and explore a destination longer. Visiting a city for a few days is completely different to living and working there; and there's truly no better way to immerse yourself and experience the culture than to go and get your hands dirty.

Before you get all excited – going on a working holiday is no walk in the park. To make it easier for you all to decide whether you are cut out for this, here's 3 main things to consider:

1) You will be spending time away from your family and friends. Sure, with social media and the Skype call, it is easy to stay in touch with everyone back home. But remember this: you leave the country for a reason, don't waste your days waiting for that call from home. Make sure you call home once a week and go out and enjoy your new life. You will inevitably miss out on birthdays and holidays with the family, and it's likely that you will feel lonely at some point in the journey. Don't take this lightly because it can make or break a trip.

2) What you want to get out of it. This might seem like a silly question, but trust me when I tell you that it's important. Working holiday isn't a holiday, it's an experience. You will be dependent only on yourself and when the money runs out (assuming that you are not made out of cash) it's up to you yourself to earn the dosh to keep yourself floating. You are most likely to work rather unsavoury jobs, so if you are looking for a fun time then consider saving up for a tour. A working holiday is more for people who want to challenge themselves, work and have the opportunity to

"You will be spending time away from your family and friends...."



This can be you with your new group of 'mates' chilling by the bridge side next year Photo: flickr

visit a foreign country.

3) Do you have the time? Once again, a working holiday isn't a holiday. It's time off where you are working in jobs that are probably not what you want to do for the rest of your life to sustain yourself when you travel. This means you will be spending months away from your normal life, which might be the appealing point to some but not so much to others.

If after pondering through the questions your answers are still yes, then you need to consider your destinations. There's almost no boundary as to where you can go if you set your heart on it.

Personally, the Down Under is a top pick for me for all the right reasons. Boasting a wide variety of terrains from gorgeous sandy beaches to the rugged out back, as well as home to the unique marsupials and exotic wildlife, there's an endless list of reasons to visit the amazing Oz... As I had mentioned before, Australia, as well as New Zealand and Canada are among those that offer great youth visas.

"There is almost no boundary as to where you can go if you set your heart on it."

Another thing is languages and cultures, which are definitely on the top of the consideration lists. It isn't easy working somewhere that operates in a vastly different way to the way back home, though that might also be why it's so attractive to go. However, you also have problems like visa application, vaccination where necessary and living expenses. Then you need to worry about actually getting a job as well as accommodation. And there's the nitty gritty of bank accounts, tax numbers and SIM cards. Like I said, it's no walk in the park.

This, again, winds back to why popular destinations are a good pick. Many companies, for example: STA Travel offer packages that helps you through the entire process, from visa application to getting a job and securing the first few nights of accommodation on arrival. It might be true that you won't be able to get very nice, high earning jobs – but that doesn't mean you can't hit the ground running by preparing before you leave.

Some of you are probably wondering what the costs are, so here I am using Australia as an example

and scoured the internet for the cheapest quotes I can find: STA Travel: £299 (Originally £330 but is currently on sale until 20/3!) Visa first: £285 in 2 weeks, £315 in 48 hours

For those of you who are wondering about the packages: most offer help with visa, tax, CV and getting a job, as well as the first few nights of accommodation and even airport transfer. Some even throw in an orientation and an option for a group flights. Here's a few that I found:

Gap 360 : Starter package for £299 (+Visa is another £300)
BUNAC: Essential support package for £359 (+Visa is another £310)
STA Travel: Starter package from £150 for 3 nights accommodation on arrival (+Visa for now is another £299)

If you are more independent and only want help on tax and bank etc, STA Travel offer Tax pack and Bank account for £25 each.

So what are you waiting for? Go and enjoy the Down Under and escape the British weather!

Lose your mind in Alexander McQueen's World

Alexander McQueen's 'Savage Beauty' exhibition at the V&A, reviewed by [Elizaveta Tchebaniouk](#), showcases pieces from collections spanning his entire legendary career as a fashion designer

Entering one of the most anticipated fashion exhibitions of all time, I was more than startled to come face to face (literally) with Alexander McQueen. A large black screen looms past the entrance doors of the V&A's Savage Beauty, showing McQueen's illuminated face, which slowly morphs into a gold skull mask to the soundtrack of ominous music. I felt as if I was entering not only the exhibition, but the mind of Alexander McQueen itself.

The exhibition, which broke records during its residency at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2011, is a series of 10 rooms, each dedicated to a prevailing concept central to McQueen's collections and vision as a whole, and follows a more-or-less chronological pattern of McQueen's collections, from his 1992 Central Saint Martins MA graduate collection, to his last fully realized SS 2010 collection.

The first rooms, titled London and Savage Mind, feature the beginning of McQueen's fashion career. Displayed are several of McQueen's early works from Saville Row which show his innovative techniques yet precision and mastery of tailoring, as well as the silhouettes particular to McQueen which form the basis of his more radically complex and revolutionary designs shown later in the exhibition.

A highlight are the pieces from McQueen's controversial Highland Rape (AW 95) collection, which referenced McQueen's Scottish ancestry, and marked the birth of the iconic tartan and 'Bumster' trousers. McQueen's early runways established his reputation for the theatrical and the shocking, but this is only a taste of what is to come.

The following room, Romantic Gothic, is breathtaking not only in content, but also in design. The interior and soundtracks of every room are perfectly crafted to set the ideal background for the theme and designs displayed, so that one feels fully immersed in the dynamic world being portrayed. The walls are transformed into gold-framed

mirrors spotted with black specks, conveying an antique feeling. The design features of this room have a historic feel, such as black Victorian lace and silhouettes, with provocative modern twists, such as fetishistic leather masks. The evident theme of contrast in these pieces is central to McQueen – his exploration of the transformational power of fashion, how a design can be both beautiful and disturbing, feminine and threatening. For example, the black swan dress from the AW 2009 collection displayed evokes McQueen's continuous exploration of the female body as metamorphic.

The theme of untamed nature present throughout many of McQueen's collections is further explored in the next room – Romantic Primitivism. The room itself is a dark cave made of human skulls and bones, with a glass egg-shaped "pool" at the top showing the underwater film of a drowning girl in a torn chiffon dress which opened McQueen's Irere SS 2003 runway. This disturbingly beautiful habitat houses McQueen's fascination with the natural world. These pieces, for example the iconic blazer from the AW 1997 collection with gazelle horns twisting from its shoulders, evoke an animalistic sense of power and fear; an energy that McQueen felt was also present in sex.

The following Romantic Nationalism room shocked me with its opulent and graceful red, white and gold royal themes – it clearly showed how diverse and different McQueen's creations were. The pieces are complimented with Swarovski crystal encrusted masks – characteristically McQueen.

Cabinet of Curiosities, which follows, is the heart of the exhibition. Entering the high ceiling gallery left me speechless; more than 120 garments and accessories are displayed here alongside 21 screens showing McQueen's runways.

Each piece displayed is more a work of art than an accessory. The pieces transcend all constraints of fashion design and technical possibilities;

from the use of unexpected materials to particularly unconventional designs, the pieces clearly push the boundaries of what is the defined norm of an 'accessory'. This room is a most impressive proof of how McQueen's diverse collaborations helped inspire and realise his full vision. Despite the clear fetishistic implications of the pieces (McQueen himself remarked "I like the accessory for its sadomasochistic aspect"), I found none of the pieces shocking. In all of McQueen's designs, there is a profound aesthetic of finding beauty in the most shocking and unexpected of sources.

In the centre revolves a dress, which again establishes McQueen's catwalks as a dramatic place that made a statement and evoked emotion. It is the dress that was spray painted by two robotic guns on the revolving model during the finale of McQueen's SS99 to show the creative process itself. Savage Beauty's recreation of this moment pays homage to McQueen's ability to shock the fashion industry through his unconventional ideas.

The next room is also tribute to the completely unpredictable originality of McQueen's designs and catwalks. It is a recreation of McQueen's AW2006 show finale where Kate Moss appeared as a hologram floating above the catwalk before vanishing. The illusion was not done digitally, but using a 19th century technique. This was one of my favourite moments in Savage Beauty – there is something indescribably poignant and melancholic in the rippling white silk organza floating through space to the classical symphony soundtrack. This was a wonderful contrast to the other dark and aggressive pieces.

In Romantic Exoticism more of McQueen's unexpected designs, of a more fragile and sensual aesthetic, are displayed. These show McQueen's inspiration by eastern cultures and nature; they are versions of a traditional kimono-like design with a radical modern reworking. These pieces were part of another of McQueen's catwalks with an

"Kate Moss appeared as a hologram floating above the catwalk before vanishing."



The 'Platos Atlantis' gallery at Savage Beauty, the V&A Photo: The Victoria and Albert Museum, London

elaborate narrative, where he staged a chess game of 'East' vs. 'West', inspired by Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

Romantic Naturalism shows the most enduring influence on McQueen. McQueen's nature-inspired designs emphasised the ephemeral quality of the world. For example, displayed here is a dress that was originally made of silk and real flowers, which fell and withered on the runway during the show as a profound display of beauty among death and decay. Many aspects of death seemed to influence McQueen, ranging from its presence in power and submission, to death's romantic melancholy. As death is a subtle motif

"It was the first show to be live streamed online, and followed a dystopian narrative"

present throughout all of McQueen's collections, it is reflected throughout Savage Beauty.

Plato's Atlantis is the finale of Savage Beauty, and features pieces of McQueen's last fully realised collection of the same name. Acclaimed McQueen's greatest triumph, it was the first show to be live streamed online, and followed a dystopian narrative of human devolution in order to survive underwater. The mannequins wear famous 30.5cm Armadillo boots (once worn by Lady Gaga). The way the collection is displayed – on specially created mannequins, before a large screen, and along thematic music, conveys a sense of

nature morphing with technology. Plato's Atlantis displays McQueen's remarkable visions of modernising nature without taming it, of finding beauty in the grotesque, and of the future of fashion.

Reluctantly exiting Savage Beauty, I was bid farewell to by a quote of McQueen's which, I think, encapsulates the spirit of the exhibition: "I'm going to take you on journeys that you've never dreamed possible". Whilst exploring Savage Beauty, I felt I was experiencing something that was less of a fashion exhibition, and more of a journey through another world of unimaginable creativity. The diversity of McQueen's revolutionary

work conveys a sense that his mind was almost superhuman; it belonged to another world both wildly ancient and futuristic all at once, a world where boundaries imposed by norms are replaced by infinite possibilities.

The publicity of McQueen's tragically premature death had unfortunately overpoweringly tainted the perception of his legacy for many who came to regard it as a heartbreaking failure to his brand as a whole. When faced with this, a line from Jack Gilbert's poem comes to mind – "Everyone forgets that Icarus also flew". To me, Savage Beauty draws a parallel between the view of Icarus in Gilbert's poem and McQueen; it reminds the audience of

"Death is a subtle motif present throughout McQueen's collections"

McQueen's achievements both as an artist and a designer. The last room of the exhibition with McQueen's final collection and what is considered to be his 'magnum opus' draws to mind the last lines of Gilbert's poem:

"I believe Icarus was not failing as he fell, but just coming to the end of his triumph". Ending the exhibition with McQueen's greatest triumph affirms his undying legacy and in. McQueen once said, "I want to be the purveyor of a certain silhouette... so that when I'm dead and gone people will know that the twenty-first century was stated by Alexander McQueen". Savage Beauty succeeds in proving that McQueen fully realised his goal.



PRIVATE ICL

No. 1602
20th March -
27th March 2015
FREE

VARSITY COACHES ABANDON HEADLINE WOMEN'S RUGBY GAME EARLY, TAKE ONLY THE MEN AND CHILDREN



HANGMAN



News in Brief: Left Shark confirmed as Republican candidate for 2016 POTUS elections

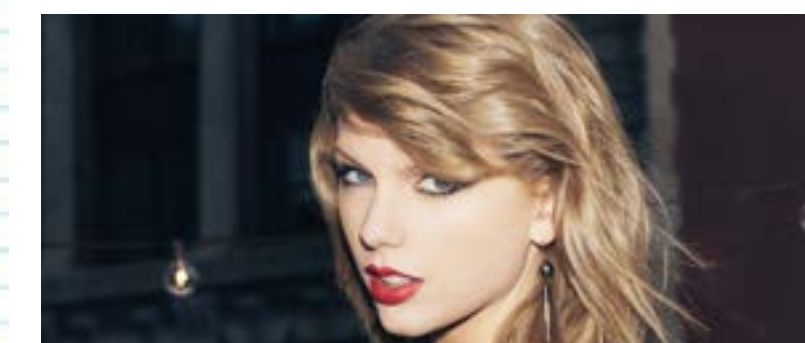
hangman@imperial.ac.uk

NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS

Imperial Medicals RFC



Imperial Medicals Love a Fine Plugin



Writer of anti-Kanye West petition revealed

Diary of a Fresher, aged 19 0/4

Sunday 22nd March

Turns out my bite was infected, so I got developed tetanus and had to stay in hospital for three days. They wouldn't let me keep the diary, apparently it was a 'contamination risk' or something so I had to buy a new one from the Union Shop.

The only ones they had were limited edition Kris Kraye ones, so now I have a pin-up poster of the man who stole my Dorothy (the human one). I put it up over my bed anyway.

Monday 23rd March

Went to lectures for the first time in weeks this morning. I don't know why I bothered - Dorothy got loose and started trying to eat the lecturer's notes, and I got thrown out when I tried to stop her.

Tuesday 24th March

They took Dorothy away today. Apparently we're not allowed pets in halls.

Wednesday 25th March

I'm actually starting to miss Dorothy (the goat one). She ate most of my notes, bit half of my course mates and gave me tetanus, but at least she listened to me. I really felt like she understood me when I told her about Dorothy (the not-goat one). And now they've taken her away from me.

Thursday 26th March

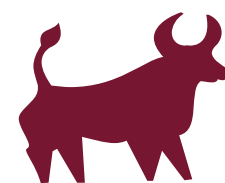
I just found out they gave Dorothy to Kris. I don't know what's going on with my life anymore.

HOROSCOPES



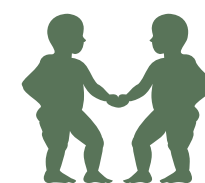
ARIES

This week you decide to express your love for cars in the form of a new TV show on ICTV; however, by accident you make numerous racist remarks, which are broadcast to the entire campus. Whoops! At least you'll be let off because it was 'banter'.



TAURUS

This week after a recount on the union elections, it appears that Lucinda didn't really win the elections, and a coalition has to be formed instead. This now means that although sports clubs now get more funding from Lucinda, Luke only allows it to go to fit girls who like cider and are faster than at least 70% of snakes.



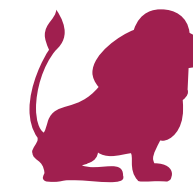
GEMINI

This week you decide to investigate the mysterious noises coming from behind the walls in Reynolds. Upon excavation, you find that the Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has been trapped ever since he passed out from too much snakebite.



CANCER

This week you decide to take a vaccine for the viral meningitis that seems to be on the rise; however you receive a dodgy vaccine that those vegans warned you about. You then have to spend the rest of your life as an artistic person.



LEO

This week you announce the winning team for varsity, which was... the medical school? The sheer shock of this result sends everyone present at the stoop into cardiac arrest that the medical school actually won something. Unfortunately any remaining conscious medics are too drunk to be useful.



VIRGO

This week you decide to create an imperial music festival to rival the current circuit by organising Imperial-bury. After Lorde refuses to answer your messages anymore, your welfare president says his rap act will headline. Unfortunately Ludacris-Kaye uses a few too many racial slurs and the festival is shut down.



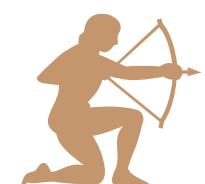
LIBRA

This week you attempt to get high; however you don't really have many contacts in the big city and so you resort to sniffing paint in leosoc for that dank high. Unfortunately the poor ventilation in the basement leads to out of control hallucinations and you staple several crayons to your nipples.



SCORPIO

This week you are in a practical in which you have to culture some bacteria in a petri dish from your cheek; however, you decide to be rather crude and swab your genitals. Three weeks later Skettsvagilococcus has killed most of the population of London, and you decide to lay low for a while.



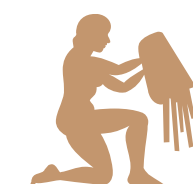
SAGITTARIUS

This week you decide to put your computing degree to some use and try to get yourself laid by making a computer game; however Call of Booty doesn't really take off and if anything alienates you from the opposite sex. Just pick up one of those leaflets in the phone booths on your way home.



CAPRICORN

This week as student union president you decide to do a bit of amphetamine dealing on the side as man's gotta pay off his credit cards. Unfortunately your alias as Drug wheeler is soon discovered and you are forced to make fresh pizza bases for the next 5 years as your prison sentence.



AQUARIUS

Bello bello bello bello bello Bello bello bello bello bello Bello bello bello bello bello Bello bello bello bello bello Bello bello bello bello bello Bello bello bello bello bello Bello bello bello bello bello.



PISCES

This week your Lent resolution of not masturbating is coming to a boiling point. You are sent to go photograph the centrefold for Felix and the sight of a stray nipple causes you to explode in a tsunami of cum.

Blue News

The weekly newsletter of the Faculty Building

Provost Post of the Week

Every week, a member of our esteemed Provost board shares their thoughts with our collaborative, cohesive community. This week, we welcome Earl E. Coaches, Vice Provost (TranSport) who has been working hard this week on providing transport for Varsity. Who knows where he found time for this column!

Hello all! With the passing of another hugely successful Varsity, it was suggested to me that now was as good a time as any for me to try my hand at this column lark.

Unfortunately, I've been rather busy organising the coaches to and from the big headline rugby matches at the Stoop, Twickenham, so I only just managed to get this done in time for the deadline - unlike our coaches, haha!

Firstly, I'm sure you'll all be pleased to know we had no window-based incidents on any of our coaches - each pane of glass remained firmly unsmashed, unlike certain members of the faculty!

The Vice Provost (Student Behaviour) was a particular stand-out of the evening, especially that moment where he - [unfortunately, this paragraph had to be cut for reasons of space. On an unrelated note, the Vice Provost (Student Behaviour) has now been suspended pending an investigation into his rumoured pitch invasion. - Ed.]

Secondly, I expect that by now that everyone will have heard of the success of our Early Bedtime Initiative.

By scheduling coaches to leave the ground during the headline match, we were able to ensure the entire crowd got home safely, with plenty of time for a good night's rest before all of their 9am lectures the next morning!

This is the first year we've trialled this initiative, and it appears to have been a barnstorming success - with the bonus result that the women's teams were able to play on without the pressure of a rowdy, boisterous crowd.

Hello all,

Welcome once more to Blue News, our weekly accumulation of all the happenstances happenstancing across the wonderful world of Imperial.

Following on from our hugely successful Women@Imperial campaign, which championed all those of a female persuasion at Imperial, we're delighted to give all you lovely Blue Cube workers an exclusive first peek at our next "viral smash hit" (as those lovely boys in the Communications Department keep telling me it will be): People@Imperial.

In this visionary new campaign, we'll be taking a look at all of the wonderful people contributing to College life, not just the women - we are all about gender equality after all! This new campaign comes replete with an exciting "hashtag" (the boys in Comms tell me this is how we can communicate with our educational partners - or "students", as they like to call themselves).

Yes, that's right - for all of you users of the social media, you can just use #ImperialPeople in all of your daily communications, and soon it'll be trendy across the airwaves. Let's hope that this new campaign helps increase awareness of all of the work done at Imperial - not just that done by women!

Speaking of work being done at Imperial - and excellent work at that - we must give enormous praise to all those involved in the Varsity this week. The wonderful boys and girls in the Marketing Department did a stellar job this year - I couldn't go anywhere without seeing one of their delightful posters, while the official match programme was a treat.

Particular congratulations must go to those responsible for arranging sponsorship of the event - despite the financial losses incurred by certain members of the faculty being unable to contain their excitement (amongst other bodily fluids) on the coach, the sponsorship totals raised were so vast that all losses were incurred by our sponsors, not us. Drinks on us! Or on our sponsors, anyway.

Have a productive, cohesive, collaborative and happy day!



Alice Gast: Thought of the Week

"I was delighted by the success of "Student Volunteering Week", which saw students try their hands at community projects while also celebrating the student volunteer movement as a whole - a wonderful idea that does great credit to all involved. Student volunteering is rife at Imperial, and it's something I sincerely hope continues to thrive. I just wish someone would volunteer to do my job."

What is going on inside the Blue Cube this week

We have an exciting stretch ahead of us, with lots of chances to come together and truly collaborate, propelling ourselves into the bright future.

Dealing with the Media

As we all know, dealing with the media is highly stressful, so we've put on a special course to give you some helpful tips on how best to "keep calm and avoid the question", as we like to say!

Simply head down to the Basement Studio for 2pm on Tuesday for the course - Bree Porter (Vice Provost (Media)) has offered to play the part of a wily journalist for the practical component, so don't worry - we won't allow any "real" media-types in!

Don't forget to bring your yoga mat as usual, and green tea will (of course) be provided.

Student Media Consultation Meeting

On Thursday, to tie in with our media training we'll also be holding a special consultation meeting in the Fifth Floor Executive Suite.

All members of the Faculty are invited to this meeting, where we'll be discussing the future of our Student Media outlets, and how we can best tackle this thorny issue going forward.

We'll also be holding a vote on whether to expand the Vice Provost (Media)'s remit to include Student Media, or whether to appoint a new Vice Provost with exclusive responsibility.

All-Staff Briefing Cancelled

Our weekly staff briefing has been cancelled by the Vice Provost (Arbitrary Excuses) due to a room booking error.

Rest assured, the person responsible for this week's meeting (which was scheduled to take place at the Imperial West campus) has been fired.

I'm sure you can all agree that the Imperial West campus is just too far away for staff to have to travel to for anything - even a meeting so important as the All-Staff Briefing!

What is going on outside the Blue Cube this week

Students everywhere are likely to be celebrating our Varsity win this week - yet another victory for Imperial!

Puzzles

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

Puzzles Editor | Michael Faggetter

Crossword

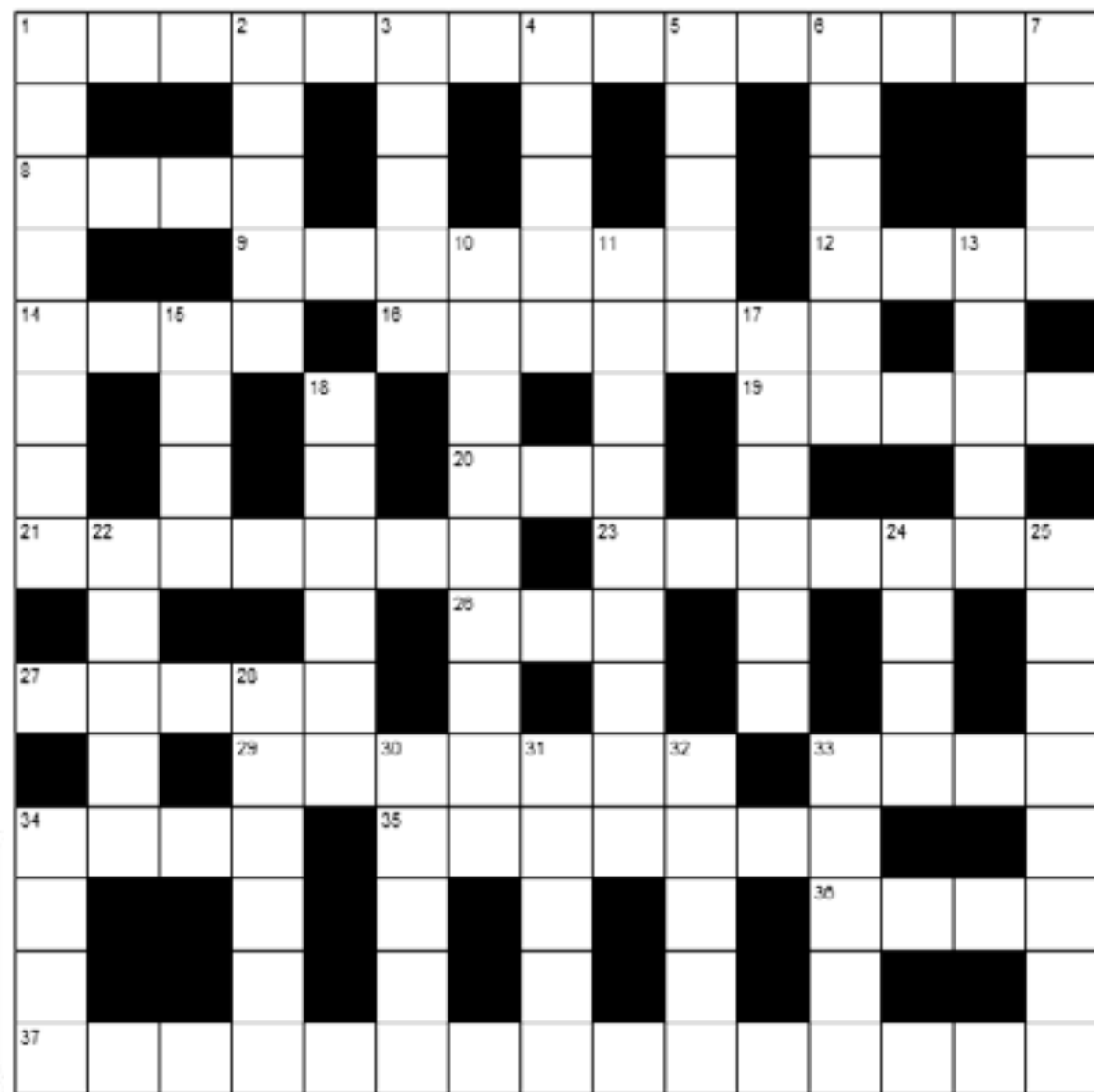
Jamie Dutton and Ben Harvey

Across

- 1) Mormons (6-3,6)
- 8) James Cameron's Avatar species (4)
- 9) Food connoisseur (7)
- 12) Semicircular recess in a church (4)
- 14) American state (4)
- 16) SI unit of ionising radiation dose (7)
- 19) Coil (5)
- 20) Belonging to us (3)
- 21) Stupid (7)
- 23) Libya leader (1969-2011) (7)
- 26) Pertaining to a female (3)
- 27) Lively frolic (5)
- 29) Eject small particles forcibly (7)
- 33) _____ Penn - Actor (4)
- 34) Harmonise (4)
- 35) Seismic sea wave (7)
- 36) 'Nothing' in Spanish (4)
- 37) Bob Dylan song (6,2,3,4)

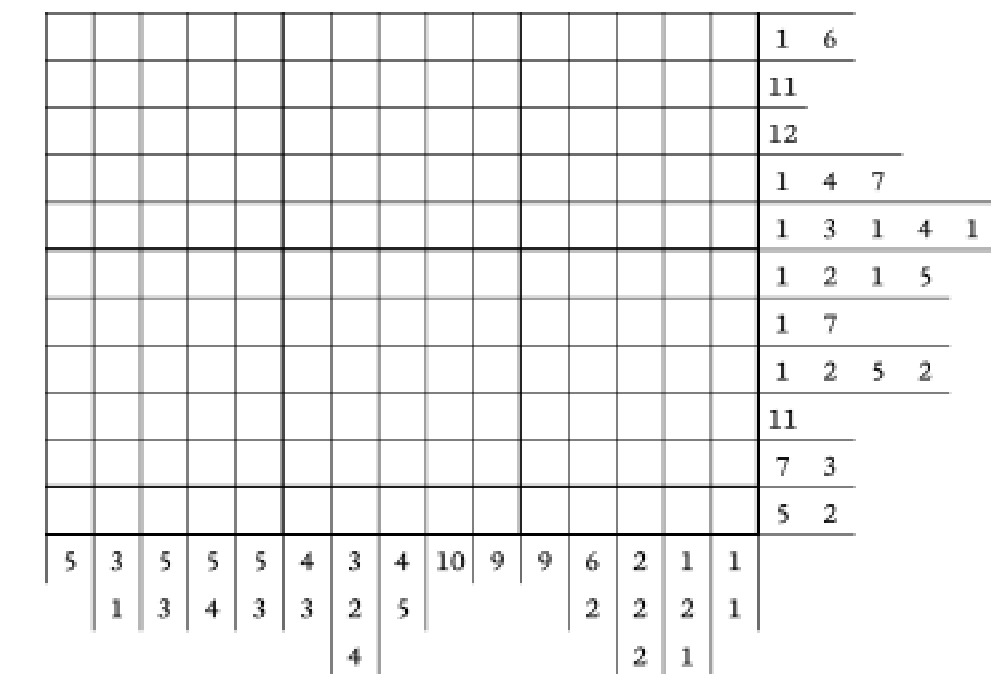
Down

- 1) Type of pasta (8)
- 2) Part of the leg (5)
- 3) Brother of Romulus (5)
- 4) Japanese cartoon style (5)
- 5) Malevolence (5)
- 6) Prisoner (6)
- 7) Wizard (4)
- 10) Deflects (9)
- 11) 742 _____ Terrace - Home of The Simpsons (9)
- 13) Small boat (5)
- 15) Against (4)
- 17) Greek island (6)
- 18) Currently military situation (abbreviation) (6)
- 22) One of the Seven Dwarves (5)
- 24) Professional helper (4)
- 25) Where they're taking the Hobbits to (8)
- 28) Shun, avoid (6)
- 30) Change direction by 180 degrees (1-4)
- 31) Italian city (5)
- 32) Type of dressing (5)
- 33) Fibrous body tissue (5)
- 34) European car manufacturer (4)



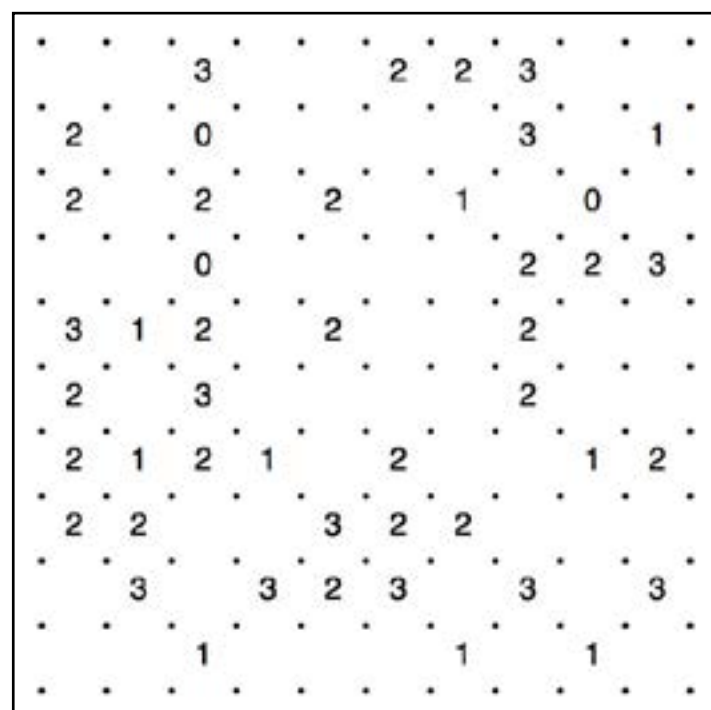
Small Nonogram

Back due to popular demand, here are two Nonograms for you to complete: one small and one large. Shade in cells according to the numbers at the end of the rows and columns.



Slitherlink

The objective of this logic puzzle is to connect the dots with horizontal and vertical lines to form a single continuous line/loop. In addition, the numbers in the grid indicate the total number of adjacent segments within the loop.

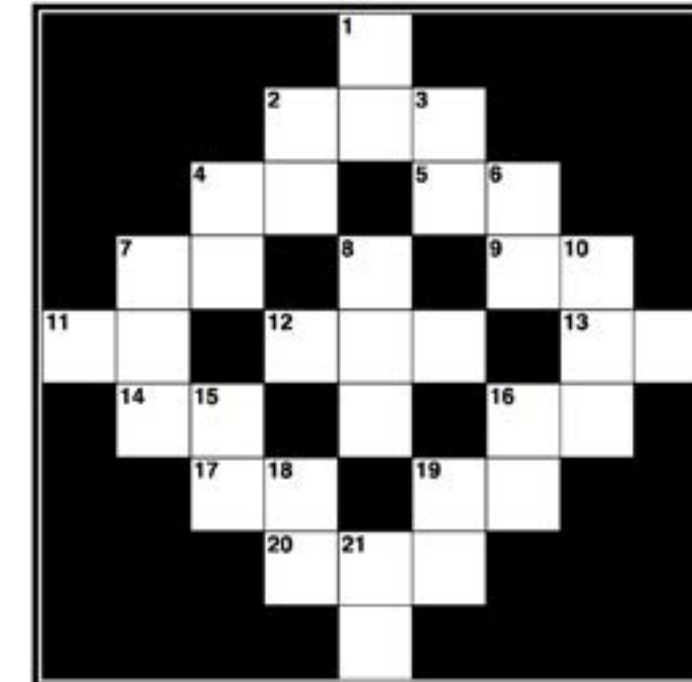


Puzzles

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

Puzzles Editor | Michael Faggetter

Cross-Number



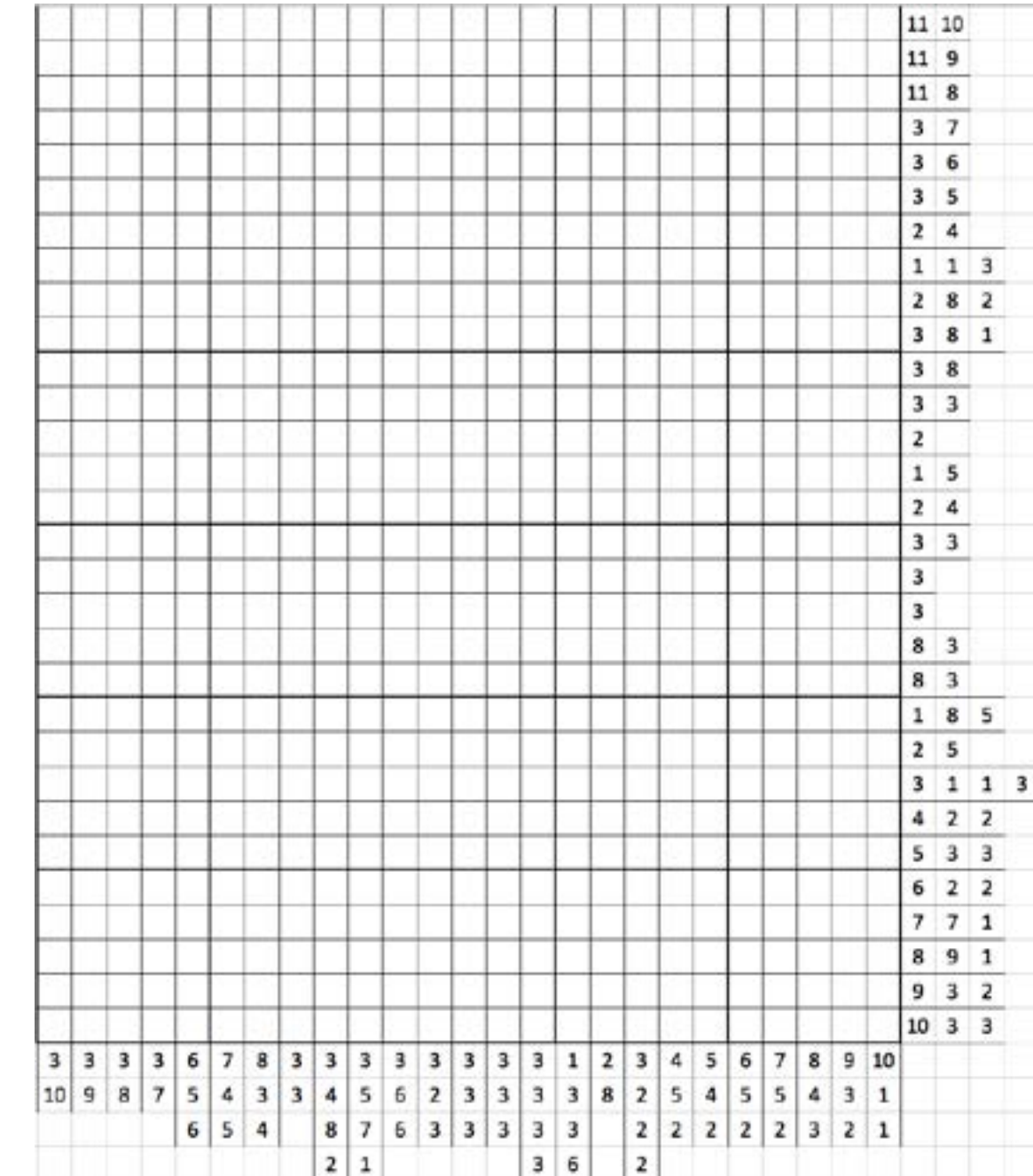
Across

- 2. 21 down squared
- 4. 11 across minus 1 down
- 5. Twice 6 down
- 7. Twice 13 across
- 9. 16 down minus 13 across
- 11. 13 across plus 21 down
- 12. 9 across plus 16 across
- 13. See 9 across
- 14. See 15 down
- 16. A square
- 17. Three times 3 down
- 19. 5 across minus 11 across
- 20. 13 across squared

Down

- 1. Two thirds of 21 down
- 2. 7 across plus reversed 21 down
- 3. Its digits total ten
- 4. Two thirds of 7 across
- 6. See 5 across
- 7. 3 down squared
- 8. 12 across plus three
- 10. 12 across plus 8 down
- 15. 4 across plus 14 across
- 16. Four times 4 across
- 18. Twice 11 across
- 21. See 2 across

Large Nonogram



FUCWIT

Don't forget to send in your completed puzzles. Points are awarded for each correct solution, bonus points (in brackets) are awarded to the first correct answer!

Just a reminder that to keep this section going, we need your support! If you have any ideas for puzzles that you would like to see here, or want to get involved in any other way, then please just drop us an email!

Points available this week:

Cross-Number	3 points	(+2)
Crossword	3 points	(+2)
Slitherlink	3 points	(+1)
Small nonogram	2 points	(+1)
Large nonogram	3 points	(+2)

Leaderboard

Individuals:		Teams:	
1. Adam Stewart	106	1. Fully Erect	163
2. Jem Ong	40	2. L3Gendary	88
3. Catmelon	39	3. WG	66
4. Kebab King	21	4. Mindsuckers	48
5. Sach Patel	11	5. pintosRules	34
6. Angus	8	6. Dapper Giraffe	15
7. Gene H.	7	7. AnyonebutKofi	8
8. Fengchu Zhang	3	8. Ebolalala	7
9. Gabriel Quek	2	9. Aerodoku	2
		10. Guang <3 Le	1

Last Week's Solutions

Weekly Quiz

- 1) Vietnam War
- 2) Atom
- 3) Peter Pan
- 4) Omanyte
- 5) Rage and ruin
- 6) Walrus
- 7) Argentina
- 8) R
- 9) Exxon
- 10) Vaporware

Wordsearch

- Futurama Fry
- Bad-luck Brian
- One does not simply
- Alien guy
- Wonka
- Prepare yourself
- Grumpy Cat
- Morpheus
- Philosoraptor
- Too damn high
- Good-guy Greg
- Troll face
- Scumbag Steve
- Yo dawg
- Overly attached
- Sparta
- Joseph DeucruX
- Forever alone
- Chuck Norris
- Insanity wolf
- Advice mallard
- Pedo-bear
- Slowpoke
- Socially awkward
- Anti-joke chicken
- Kittler
- God



SPORT

Sport Editor: Kunal Wagle

ChemEng Soc beat Southside to Cup Glory

Manager Will Batchelor reports as ChemEng Soc achieve dream

Back in April of last year, there was a vision. A vision shared by two chemical engineers; to start a sports legacy for their department. And so, having created a procrastinating nest of Imperial students revising for exams/hoping for a miracle, Max Fawcett and Will Batchelor laid the foundations, as captain and manager respectively, for the first Chemical Engineering football team.

Come October, the team had been formed. ChemEng students from all years turned out for the first ever match that this fledgling team would play, a pre-season friendly against Queen's Tower Rangers. The team warmed up, psyched up, kicked off, and then duly lost 6-4. Not exactly the dream start that had been imagined.

While this defeat would have demoralised most teams, the men of ChemEng did not falter. With the manager drawing up new tactics, the team arrived at Hyde Park for the first game of the season against feared veterans Linstead Hall, and proceeded to comprehensively dominate the match (and literally send Linstead into mid-match crisis talks) to seal a 3-1 win.

The rise to the top had started. Throughout the first month of the season, ChemEng remained undefeated with a string of victories, catapulting them to the top of the league. But a shock 1-0 defeat to Pembridge and Parsons Hall in week 5 brought them crashing back to terra firma, bringing about a shaky run of form. Entering the season's latter stages, ChemEng had only won two of the last five matches. The dream looked in peril, but ChemEng believed; the team rallied, impressively routing all of its remaining opponents to claim the league title with one game to spare!

However, the greatest challenge was yet to come – the cup final. Having progressed through the quarters and semis with decisive wins over Xenia and Beit, ChemEng arrived at the hallowed grounds of Harlington for the final. After a few drills and a quick warm-up, they kicked off against Southside. This match proved to be both the strangest and toughest yet; Lotanna Agu (the Yaya Touré of ChemEng) injuring himself in the line of duty after 20 minutes, Mayowa “Mario Balotelli” Okulate abusing that finesse button to score the only



The ChemEng Soc team won the final 1-0 Photo: ChemEng Soc Football team

goal in the game at the 60 minute mark, before refusing to celebrate (“why always me?”), Sandy Nimmo trying, and failing, to skill the opposition striker as the last man just outside the box, forcing our keeper Ankush Nehra to perform a David De Gea-esque save to keep us ahead,

and Jonathan Trofimov managing to instigate a “fracas” involving “fisticuffs” by just looking at someone (luckily it did not evolve into a “kerfuffle”), with the ref refusing to send anyone off because he had left his cards at home.

After a tense second half, under

pressure from a valiant Southside team, the final whistle was blown, and ChemEng were the winners, claiming the Double for ChemEng in its first year of formation.

Max, Will and the team had fulfilled that vision set out (not) so long ago.

Hockey win LUSL Cup against King's GKT

RICHARD POLLOCK
IC HOCKEY

Having won a hard fought battle against RUMS in the semi-final, IC travelled to Royal Holloway to take part in the final of the London Universities Cup against King's GKT on Saturday. GKT had previously beaten IC in a pre-season friendly in the only meeting of the two teams this season, finishing 2nd in the BUCS league above IC meant that on paper they were surely favourites to take the Cup title. However, coach Cooper had prepared a game plan tailored to their style of play and because of this IC were confident in their ability to cause an upset.

The game began at a high tempo with good passing interplay displayed by both teams. Defensively IC were the stronger side, Pollock was able to completely shut down GKT's useful right back and the rest of GKT's attacking efforts were like water breaking on rock against the ever sturdy defensive line. IC looked

threatening however and about 10 minutes into the game, a searching aerial from Hedgecock managed to find Dittmar high up the pitch. Dittmar threaded the ball through to Pollock at the top of the D who calmly slipped the ball between the keeper's legs and into the goal.

IC continued to apply pressure in attack. Following one of his signature penetrating dribbles, super-sub Cerulus played a ball through to Breakey in the D. With the keeper charging out to meet the ball, Breakey only had to touch the ball to Dittmar on his left, who passed the ball into the open net.

GKT fought back in the second half and managed to level the score with a rehearsed penalty corner and a flick, their relief did not last long however. A clever pick of the ball by Dittmar from a GKT defender saw a pass through to Breakey at the top of the D. Keen to impress his girlfriend supporting on the side-line, he drilled a reverse stick shot into the bottom left hand corner of the goal. GKT again equalised, but further aggression from IC yielded results,

a baseline run from Cerulus gifting Breakey with an easy finish, for 4-3. IC's final goal was from yet another pinpoint cross by Cerulus to gift Price with an easy tap in.

Sensing that defeat was upon them GKT threw everything they had at the IC defence in the dying moments of the game. GKT scrambled a goal back, but the IC defence refused to be beaten again, with some particularly heroic tackles from Murray helping to retain the 5-4 lead. Thanks to arguably their best game of hockey all season, and some top drawer tactics from Cooper, IC secured a well-deserved win and the LUSL Cup title.

Man of the Match: Will Murray

Starting Line Up: Oli Meyer-Bothling (GK), Will Murray, Jonny Jones, Lars Mejnertsen, Rowan Hedgecock, Anthony Vaquero, Nadesh Ramanathan, Richard Pollock, Jack Rawson, Henrik Dittmar, James Breakey



Photo: IC Hockey



Photo: IC Hockey

VARSITY 2015

Late tries add gloss to College victory

Kunal Wagle reports from the Stoop as the 1st XV win 32-10

Two dominant periods at the start and end of the match ensured that Imperial College claimed a more than comfortable victory over the Imperial Medics at The Stoop on Wednesday. Having scored an early penalty, the College then put away two unanswered tries before the Medics hit back to give themselves a chance at 15-5 at half-time. Another try two minutes into the second half for the boys in red had the College worried. But their overall superiority shone through in the end as they went over three more times before the end of the game to underline their great performance, though the Medics may feel slightly aggrieved that the final score looked so one-sided after an encouraging performance.

After a 39-5 drubbing just two weeks ago the Medics would have been hoping for a fast start, but they had anything but. They were initially ill-disciplined in their own half, and on the third time they were punished with College captain James Cox slotting over with a fairly straight kick 25 yards out from the try line.

The Medics did threaten after that, but often their moves were scuppered by either ill-advised or misguided offloads. In the end they were punished by the College, who were rewarded for an excellent move, starting with a break from the halfway line, with a try from centre Sam Moorby. Cox kicked the conversion.

College advanced dangerously almost straight from the kick off, only to throw it away with a knock on on the 5 metre line. If the Medics breathed a sigh of relief at that moment, it was short-lived. College were in a destructive mood, and weren't going to be stopped. A driving



The first match saw the College convincingly beat the Medics 32-10 Photo: Ben Lester, throughbenslens.co.uk

maul just two minutes later did go over the line. Despite Cox missing the conversion, the scoreline was beginning to look very bleak for the Medics at 15-0.

With the game already almost out of sight, the Medics launched a spirited comeback. Having been camped out within five metres of

the College try line for almost three minutes, stand-in captain Vernon McGeoch went over to get the medics on the board on the half-hour mark. Again, the conversion was missed, but at half-time, the medics were still in the game.

What had been a fairly one-sided game until half-time became a lot

closer after the break as the Medics ended a driving move by breaching the College defence and making the score (after the conversion was missed) 15-10.

However the Medics, for all their effort, just couldn't keep the momentum up. After a prolonged period of play without much action beyond either side's 22 yard line, the College managed to break through the defence and a large break away resulted in their third try of the night, pushing the gap to 12 points with just twenty minutes to go.

The Medics continued to push, but a series of penalties on the five metre line resulted to nothing, pretty much summing up their night. The game was in danger of petering out but the College came to the rescue, adding additional excitement at the end of the game. In the last four minutes the College ran through the tired Medics, adding two more tries close to the end of the game to finish off the game with a resounding 32-10 win. A cynic might say that these tries added gloss to the score, but in reality it showed the true gulf in performance of the two teams on the night itself.

Man of the match was awarded to the College centre Sam Moorby, whose strong performance proved one of the major differences. He scored two tries as well, making him a worthy winner of the award, despite captain James Cox also having a storming game.

Speaking to *Felix* after the game, ACC Chair and Rugby Honorary Secretary Oli Benton said of the win "While the lead up to this year's Varsity has been less than ideal, the performance on the night put all those worries to bed. Building off the back of a comprehensive beating of the Medics a couple of weeks ago, IC brought their positive attacking rugby back to the Stoop. With the customary high levels of sand ensuring the pitch wasn't boggy, the College backs played aggressively behind a solid platform provided by the forwards. Particular mentions must go to the scrum half Durkin, who was always a threat, the flyhalf and captain Cox, who marshalled the game with customary aplomb and Moorby who brought his usual physicality with some excellent hard running and support lines."



Photo: Ben Lester, throughbenslens.co.uk

VARSITY 2015

Late resurgence not enough for Medics

Kunal Wagle is on hand at the Stoop as College win women's match

A late resurgence from the Imperial Medics was not enough to prevent a victory for the Imperial College team in the first ever Varsity fixture held at The Stoop for women's rugby. It was a low scoring game of ten-a-side rugby that was decided on a few beautiful breakaway tries. For long periods of the game it looked as though the College could score at any moment. But, having gone two tries down before half time, the Medics rallied after the break, and a last gasp try ended the game at a close 15-12. However, the Medics could point to a couple of dubious decisions in the lead up to two of the tries that College scored.

It was a cagey opening as both sides appeared nervous on their first appearance at the stadium. The College grabbed the early initiative and appeared permanently camped inside the Medics 5 metre line for nearly five minutes, followed by a big dash to the line. The move would come to nothing however, as the ball was turned over to the medics, the first of many turnovers in a scrappy game. The medics then broke away (another common feature in the game) but were eventually penalised on the halfway line for holding on.

It looked as though it would take a moment of brilliance to break the deadlock and the College duly delivered. Having turned the ball over on their own 22 the ball was chipped over the Medics and duly collected by College. After a massive seventy yard break the College eventually went over the line after a few phases to send their bench into raptures. The conversion was missed but the deadlock had been broken. It was 5-0.

But it wouldn't stay 5-0 for long. Straight from the kick off the College were back on the attack, and this time they would receive instant reward as a couple of smart offloads led to a College try under the posts. The try again wasn't converted, but the College went into half-time immediately afterwards already looking too far beyond the Medics side.

There would have been some who were worried about whether the medics could make a comeback in the second half, but their fears would prove to be unfounded as the medics started the second half strongly. A period of possession just after the restart didn't lead to anything, but it would eventually be them who struck first blood in the second half.

It took nearly eleven minutes, but through that period the medics were comfortably the better team, rarely



The College scored two of their tries with big breaks from near the halfway line Photo: Ben Lester, throughbenslens.co.uk

venturing into their own half. But once they reached within 10 metres of the College try line there was no stopping them. They went over after three or four phases, thus pulling the game back to 10-5 with it all to play for in the last ten minutes.

All the Medics hard work would be undone just a few minutes later after the College completed a good move on the 22 line with a break to the try line. But it seemed harsh on the medics, as tv footage strongly suggested that there was a knock on and offside in the build up, which should have resulted in a penalty to the medics. The medics will feel hard done by when combining this with the first try, which had a hint of offside when the chip went through.

The controversial try would prove to be a knockout blow to the medics, although they fought valiantly until the last, going over for a consolation try at the very end of the game. Deserved MVP was the Medics fly-half Katherine Fok, who then kicked the only conversion of the game to leave the final score 15-12.

Winning College captain Alice Liberman said "We had great fun

playing our varsity match. The game was fairly even and a good challenge both teams could learn from. We very much appreciated the opportunity to play at the stoop and would like to thank all the supporters who cheered us on!"

Elisabeth Robinson, captain of the

Medics team said "As a team we were very pleased with our performance despite losing. In the first half our defence was relentless, three held up tries later and IC still didn't score. If it hadn't been a cheeky IC break, final scores may've been different.

"In the second half we dominated,

rarely venturing into the ICSM half and bringing the score back up to a respectable 15-12.

"Keeping the pressure up was gruelling, especially as IC had lots of subs. But we had an epic time and can be proud of a game of rugby well played."



MVP Katherine Fok was indispensable with the boot for the Medics Photo: Ben Lester, throughbenslens.co.uk



College take overall Varsity 2015 crown

Philippa Skett reports as College beat Medics convincingly again

Varsity, the annual College-wide sports event took place on Wednesday, with matches taking part across London between teams of students from Imperial College (IC) and teams of Imperial College School of Medicine (ICSM) students. Imperial College stormed to victory ahead of the Medics, with IC winning 15.5 games overall, and ICSM winning 8.5 games.

Teams from Hockey, Netball, Football Basketball, Tennis, Badminton, Lacrosse, Squash, Waterpolo and Rugby played against each other throughout the day, with wins for either IC or the Medical teams counting towards who is decided the overall winner at the end of the day.

Matches took place at the newly acquired Heston, Harlington and Ethos, with the two final games between the First XV Men's Rugby teams and the Women's rugby teams taking place at the Stoop, based out in Twickenham, South West London.

The IC team won the men's game, with the final score being 32-10 to IC. The IC team also won the women's game, although it was slightly closer, with the final score being 15-12.

The women's match, the headline game of the season, was slightly more fast paced, although shorter in length

with only 20 minutes to each half. There was an injury and therefore a substitution within the first two minutes of the match, but otherwise they played a strong game.

Man of the match was Sam Moorby, who scored two tries for the IC team. The "MVP" for the women's rugby was Katherine Fok, who played for the ICSM team.

The new Varsity trophy, a replacement for the JPR Williams Cup that has been traditionally awarded in previous years, was awarded to IC.

Games started early on the in the day, with matches between the netball teams kicking off at 9.30am. The first through to the fifth teams played at Heston, with the ICSM team winning four out of five matches.

The 1st through to the 4th Football teams played at Heston too, with IC winning three matches but the ICSM 3rd team beating the IC 3rds.

The 3rd and 2nd rugby teams played earlier in the day, with the 3rd IC team beating the ICSM equivalent with 10-19, whilst the ICSM 2nd team dominated IC with 10-19.

In Basketball, the women's game took place whilst the men's game took place last week, based at the Copper Box at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The women's match ended in a



The Women's IC rugby team won a close match 15-12 at The Stoop Photo: Ben Lester, throughbenslens.co.uk

draw, whilst last week IC Basketball beat the ICSM team.

For Mixed Tennis IC beat ICSM 9-3, whilst the Mixed Lacrosse match ended in a win for ICSM with the final score being 6-7. For Squash, the Men's 1st match ended in a 5-5 draw,

whilst the Women's first saw ICSM win with a final score of 0-4.

Two badminton matches took place: the IC Men's first thrashed ICSM 6-2 whilst the IC Women's first also claimed a victory over ICSM.

Five hockey matches took place

at Harlington: three for the men's hockey teams and two for the Women's 2nd and 1st teams. The IC teams dominated ICSM for four out of five of the games, although the ICSM Men's hockey 2nd's won on penalties.

Varsity Preview: Ice Hockey plays tonight

Steven Basher previews tonight's crunch game against UCL in Streatham

Tonight, the Imperial Devils Ice Hockey team take on the UCL Yetis in the 3rd annual "London Ice Varsity". The Devils will be eager to retain their unbeaten record, having triumphed two years in a row so far.

Facing off at 20:00 at Streatham Ice Arena, one of London's great sporting rivalries will be re-ignited in a fast-paced and aggressive showdown. Reigning champions, the Imperial Devils, will be aiming to press home their Varsity dominance and come away with a 3rd win in as many years, whilst the UCL Yetis are looking to get off the mark with a first Varsity win.

Last year's contest saw Imperial take the crown in a nail biting sudden-death penalty shootout. Regular time saw the lead change four times, before UCL equalised within the last 10 minutes of the

game to send the game into overtime at 4-4. The Devils managed to make it through the extra period, only saved by the goalpost. But when it came to the crunch, Imperial stepped up to the mark and goalkeeper Stefan Nubert cemented his MVP status by denying the final Yeti penalty.

Without 3 goal hero Ryan Heaton and winning penalty scorer Max Fink to depend on this year, the Devils will be looking to their ranks for a new superstar to emerge and solidify their position of dominance. Captain and top point-scorer Gus Zimmerman will be leading the team from defence, aiming to deny entrance to any and all Yetis.

In regular season games this year, the Devils and Yetis are one win apiece. Both contests were hotly contested and the animosity between the teams was rarely hidden. With aggravator Ryan Ritchie once again

appearing on the Imperial roster, any overflow in tempers could easily end in another Yeti hitting the ice after one punch.

The event promises to be another spectacle this year, with an even larger attendance. The Imperial Angels figure skating club will be making another appearance in the pre-game show, demonstrating their incredible talents. Music will be provided by Imperial's own Steve Basher, filling up the gaps between plays and adding to the sure-to-be incredible atmosphere.

The Devils have a point to prove and, with no love lost between the teams, a strong motivation to upstage the Yetis once again. This event is not one to miss out on!

£5 tickets available from <http://po.st/ImperialIceVarsity> until 17:30 today, £7 tickets available on the door thereafter.



Tickets are available on the door for tonight Photo: Imperial Devils