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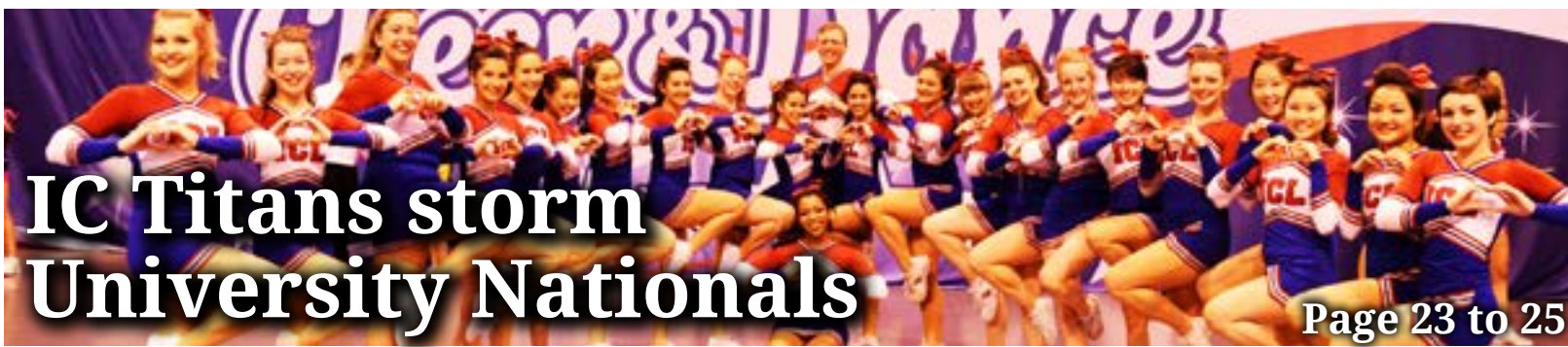
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Issue 1608

June 5th 2015



IC Titans storm University Nationals

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Hangman


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It's back...
the
Felix



SEX SURVEY

- The porn preferences of Imperial
- Where students are getting busy on campus
- How adventurous are students in the sack?
- Does Imperial really affect your sex life?



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This week's issue...

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Felix Editor || Philippa Skett

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What's on this week:

MTSoc 24-hour Musical

Saturday 6th June 7:30pm
The surprise (even to the cast!) choice of musical will be revealed, learnt and rehearsed in just 24 hours. In the Union Concert Hall.

Good Form

Friday 5th June 8pm-2am
House, bass, dnb and more from student DJs in Metric and FiveSixEight. £2.50 on the door (£1.50 if you join the event page on Facebook and arrive before 10:30pm).

Champions League Final

Saturday 6th June 7:45pm
Watch Barcelona battle it out against Juventus in the comfort of your own FiveSixEight.

Fifth sex survey reveals your kinks and concerns

This week we've finally released the findings of the fifth annual sex survey. The survey was first launched back in 2011, with the findings released as part of the coverage to coincide with Valentine's day. Nowadays the survey has taken on a role of its own as part of *Felix* and this year is no exception.

We ran the survey over the course of last term, and collected data about your preferences, your kinks, your concerns and, for the adventurous few, whereabouts on campus you've done the deed.

We had a great response this year with nearly 600 students sharing all their sex secrets. This year we have also investigated the romantic lives of those at Imperial, along with the usual questions concerning your bits and bobs and everything inbetween.

It was most interesting to note, as it is every year, that in general most people seem to be pretty happy with



THIS WEEK'S EDITORIAL

their sex lives, regardless of how much they may or may not be getting. After the doom and gloom of the Mentality survey last week, this data was a lot more pleasant to analyse, discuss and dissect.

The coverage would not have been possible without the hours put in by Cecily Johnson, Jack Steadman, Nick Farmer and Ben Howitt poring over your responses and finding out just

what makes you tick (or not as the case may be for certain acts). Thanks to Diba Esbati for collecting content from the LGBT+ community, and other members of the team who have lent a hand when putting together ideas for the coverage on the whole.

The survey itself would not be possible if it not were for Philip Kent who ran the technical side of the operation, alongside the rest of the *Felix* team who contributed to the brainstorming session beforehand discussing what we wanted to find out this year. Also thanks to everyone who shared the survey online.

But finally this data was only possible due to you, the readers, taking the time out to fill our long and sometimes scary survey in. We hope you enjoy our eight page pull-out [insert sex pun here]. Apologies, it has been a long week staring at bar graphs, pie charts, and drawing coloured vectors of condoms.



Two issues left – there's still time to get involved!
Email felix@imperial.ac.uk

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News

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

No dash for gas: Activist group protests at Royal School of Mines

Ben Howitt writes as ‘Reclaim the Power’ occupy front entrance

The Royal School of Mines (RSM) entrance was occupied on Monday 1st June by a group of students and members of the public representing the activist group ‘Reclaim the Power’.

The protest consisted of the presentation of a degree in Petroleum Geophysics to “brainwashed student #5102”, which claimed to enable “students to contribute to global warming and social injustice”, followed by a sit in by the group of 10 protesters. Some Imperial students joined the protesters.

Security officers restricted access to the entrance lobby, and appeared to phone the police. The protest vacated the lobby peacefully before any police officers arrived, and the call was retracted. One protester we talked to said “one of the security officers showed solidarity with us. It’s clearly an issue that’s on the mind at Imperial”. Reclaim the Power did not contact the security office prior to the protest taking place.

The RSM sit-in was protesting the level of investment from the fossil fuel industry received by universities, and Imperial College in particular. The complaint runs that since university departments are so

dependent on this investment, the direction of research (and therefore public money) is directed by the fossil fuel industry.

A press release by Reclaim the Power states that “they [Imperial College] invite oil executives onto university committees and present themselves publicly as “a fossil fuel university””. The College’s President, Alice Gast, also sits on the board of directors at Chevron, which in 2010 sold 3.1 million barrels per day of refined oil products such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. The company received the 2015 Lifetime Award of the Public Eye, a platform for substantial criticism of “purely profit-oriented globalisation”.

This action reflects recent campaigns by Fossil Free campaigns at UK universities. Oxford University recently agreed not to take coal and tar sands investments, while Edinburgh University more controversially refused to divest, following a three year campaign by the students. Within the past year, Galhoo University, the University of Bedfordshire, and SOAS, University of London have agreed to divest from fossil fuels entirely.

Reclaim The Power ran a total of



The Royal School of Mines was not the only group to face protests. There were protests outside the Department of Energy and Climate Change, as well as at the headquarters of Npower. Photo: No Dash for Gas

18 actions during the day, and 11 protesters were arrested across the country. Other actions have included a blockade on the steps outside the Department of Energy and Climate Change, office occupations of PR firms Mediazoo and Camargue, and a rooftop occupation of RWE Npower’s Swindon headquarters. The last of these resulted in the arrest of the two protesters involved.

Reclaim the Power also ran a “Mass Action Camp” at Didcot power station from 29th May to 2nd June, which aimed to offer “actions with more of an arrest risk” in conjunction with “actions that are suitable for families with children (and face paint!”).

Fossil Free Imperial said of the protest “Reclaim the Power’s action shows that the pressure on fossil fuel

companies and their associates is growing and has wide ranging vocal support. Their campaign highlights the inconvenient truth about the strong ties between Imperial and the fossil fuel industry that go far beyond its endowment fund. It is clear that Imperial needs to take a strong stance on its position in a low carbon future, and not allow this to become its Kodak moment.”

Imperial signs research deal in Qatar

KUNAL WAGLE
SECTION EDITOR

On Tuesday 2nd June, Imperial College London signed an agreement with Qatar University (QU) and the Qatar Shell Research and Technology Centre (QSTRC) that covered corrosion prevention in wet sour gas pipelines.

The signing took place at Qatar University. The deal was signed by representatives from QU and QSTRC, as well as Mary Ryan, Professor of Materials Science and Technology at Imperial College London.

Imperial’s research on the subject will hope to increase the lifetime of pipelines in Qatar. Qatar has recently faced the technical challenge of dealing with the corrosion of pipelines that transport sour oil and gas. The research will make use of state of the art analytical techniques.

As part of the agreement, Qatar University will use its Centre for Advanced Materials to develop the

capability to study pipeline corrosion. The university already provides assistance to the local industries in oil, gas and processing.

Speaking about the signing, Dr Hassan Al-Derham, who is the Vice President for Research at QU, said “At Qatar University, apart from providing education, we enhance social change and continuous economic development of the country and the world at large through research and partnership with industrial operators.

“This agreement with Qatar Shell which is focused on understanding scaling and corrosion in sour gas pipelines, aligns with QU’s research priorities and is integral to Qatar’s vision of becoming a knowledge-based society where research plays a vital role in resolving emerging issues, especially concerning the oil and gas industry, the country’s main source of revenue for development.”

Youssif Saleh, the General Manager of QSTRC, said, “In line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, Qatar



Corrosion of pipelines has been a technical challenge for Qatari industries. Photo: knovel.com

Shell is committed to identifying research collaborations that address real challenges impacting our business, that bring together coalitions involving key local research institutions, and which offer the opportunity for direct applicability for the benefit of the State of Qatar.

“Shell is proud of the investments that we make in innovation and research, but we’re also delighted that we can support Qatar’s ambition to develop research capacity in the country.”

Prof Ryan said “We are excited about this new research program to develop fundamental understanding

of complex multi-scale systems in order to address real world technical challenges. We look forward to working with QU and QSTRC to develop a new approach towards delivering robust, innovative solutions to pipeline integrity issues facing the oil and gas industry in Qatar.”

News

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News Editors

Carol Ann Cheah, Cecily Johnson & Kunal Wagle

State of the art gym for Woodward

Kunal Wagle looks at the fitness centre planned for North Acton

A leading fitness equipment company has agreed a deal with Imperial College London to design and kit-out a new state of the art gym in the new Woodward halls in Acton. Pulse Fitness, who have also created gyms at 500 further and higher education institutions in the country, including King's College London, London South Bank University, and Goldsmiths, aim to start the project in June 2015. The gym is estimated to take ten weeks to complete and is timed to open before the first year of students take up residence in the first week of October.

The gym will be run by Pulse themselves for the next ten years as a branch of its Club Pulse division, with continued support from stakeholders at Imperial. The gym will be a two-storey state of the art fitness facility with as many as 85 machines. It will also include a multifunctional studio space. Each piece of cardio equipment at the gym will be equipped with a Cirrus Console, an 18.5 inch android tablet with touch screen that will allow users to personalise their workouts, while watching digital television or browsing the internet.

In addition to the Cirrus Console, Pulse will also be including

SmartCentre, an interactive technology that provides motivation and stores personalised gym workouts. It also gives user feedback and aids retention by connecting members with equipment, staff, and management.

Warren Ormerod, who is Director of Club Operations at Pulse, said of the deal "This is a landmark contract for Pulse and a testament to our first rate services, equipment and previous operational work within the education sector. As a UK company we're excited to be working with one of the top ranked universities in the UK and indeed the world, and will strive to create a facility which reflects these high standards. With extensive experience operating dual use facilities in higher education institutions, as well as providing equipment and delivering design and build services, we really understand what works for private members and students alike. We are confident we'll not only meet but exceed the objectives and targets set in terms of usage, retention and revenue."

The gym will be open to private members and staff, and will be available for students to use free of charge.



Imperial joins a list of over 500 institutions that have a Pulse Fitness gym. Photo: Pulse Fitness

"The gym... will be available for students free of charge"

Sponsored Editorial

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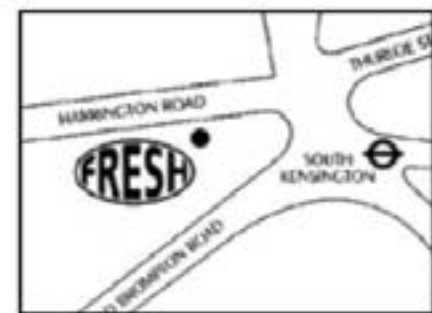


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Cancer drugs have potential to help spinal injuries

Carol Ann Cheah reports as encouraging signs are seen in mice

Researchers from the Imperial College Department of Medicine have discovered that a group of drugs used to treat cancer could also have an effect on treating spinal cord injuries.

Led by Professor Simone di Giovanni, the team conducted a study where they treated a group of mice with cancer drugs called nutlins. They discovered that the mice that received said treatment recovered far more movement than those left untreated.

At present, there are no methods of treatment that are effective on spinal cord injuries, which cause various degrees of paralysis in patients depending on the location of the injury, with patients typically ending up being confined to wheelchairs. Due to the fact that stimulating regrowth in damaged spinal cord nerves is extremely difficult, these injuries are permanent.

The study in adult mice utilized

drugs that were meant to halt the growth of cancerous tumours, but said drugs had the side effect of preventing a particular series of proteins from interacting to restrict nerve growth. In some mice with partially severed spinal cords, the researchers were able to stimulate nerve regrowth, meaning 75% of the test subjects went from being paralyzed to being able to scale a ladder. Mice not treated with the drugs only made a slight recovery in their mobility.

Prof di Giovanni however emphasised the need for further testing, saying that although the results shown by the mice were "very encouraging", rats have more similarities in their spinal cord structures with that of humans, so studies with the latter would be required first. The research team believes that human clinical trials could take place within ten years.

"75% of test subjects went from being paralyzed to being able to scale a ladder"

News

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

Universities and science minister Jo Johnson speaks about migration

CECILY JOHNSON
SECTION EDITOR

In his first speech as Minister for Universities and Science, Jo Johnson stated that the government has “an ambition to grow” its activity in international education. Highlighting the economic and social value of international students, he affirmed his commitment to addressing the drop in numbers of students coming to the UK from India.

Mr Johnson also spoke of his concern that the UK “does not welcome students as warmly as we once did” and promised to “engage and explain”, making clear that he does not intend to introduce a cap on the number of students who can travel to the UK to study.

Speaking at the Going Global conference for international education, hosted by the British Council this week in London, Mr Johnson cited the contribution of international students to the UK’s research output and the £3.9 billion in tuition fees they provide annually as significant benefits to the UK.

“The UK of course values international students who come to this country,” said Mr Johnson. “We recognise that competition for the brightest and best students from other countries is intensifying. We will continue to ensure that our excellent education system remains a magnet for brilliant minds”.

However, his comments came with a warning that this warm welcome applied only to “genuine students”, in line with the Conservative party manifesto which pledges to “reform the student visa system with new measures to tackle abuse”.

Mr Johnson also announced that the international education sector’s careers advice organisation Graduate Prospects has been enlisted by the government to “help us expose unscrupulous organisations and



Mr Johnson affirmed his commitment to addressing the drop in students coming from India.
Photo: Lewis Whyld/PA

remove misleading websites wherever they make an appearance”.

Reducing migration into the UK is one of the Conservative party’s main ambitions. The current goal is to slash the net annual number of migrants to the tens of thousands, though this has been reclassified as an “ambition” as opposed to a target.

Universities in the UK have previously expressed concerns about the potential negative impacts of this drive to reduce migration, warning that the government attitude may impact the number of international students interested in studying in the UK. There have been calls for students to be removed from the net migration figures.

Recognising the importance of international students to the future of the UK, Mr Johnson stated

“Today’s international students are tomorrow’s world leaders. They take friendships and loyalties home with them that later become trade links, cultural bonds and diplomatic ties”.

He also noted that students from outside the European Union “stimulate demand for courses where domestic demand alone can be insufficient to sustain them”, in particular helping to “maintain our first-class STEM provision”.

Mr Johnson mentioned that it is a “personal aim” to overcome misconceptions about the UK in important countries such as India, where numbers of international students have fallen in recent years. He concluded by reaffirming that “across all our international education activity, we have an ambition to grow”.

"His comments came with a warning that this warm welcome applied only to “genuine students”."

"The current goal is to slash the net annual number of migrants to the tens of thousands"

Home Office crackdown affects international students

Despite Mr Johnson’s enthusiasm for the international education sector, “more than 19,700” international students were barred from or asked to leave the UK in the last year. The government has been investigating alleged fraud involving language qualifications. Around 900 of the students who are being held in a detention centre are being served with notice of their removal from the country. Overseas recruitment was suspended at three Universities and 84 private colleges last year, resulting in an increase in the number of Home Office decisions to refuse visa applications. While the Universities have now been permitted to begin recruiting again, five of the colleges have not yet regained their visa sponsorship rights. A number of students were found to have cheated on their English language qualifications, with a total of 33,725 results declared invalid and a further 22,694 judged as “questionable”. Some of the students asked to leave the UK will have been able to remain after finding places at other colleges that still held licenses to organise their visas. However, the National Union of Students (NUS) believed this number to be small. NUS International Students’ Officer Shreya Paudel stated that there was “little evidence” to support the action against many of the affected students. “These statistics expose a shocking example of the government scapegoating international students”.

CECILY JOHNSON
SECTION EDITOR

Fat or muscle?

We are inviting healthy volunteers to take part in a research study comparing body fat and metabolism in young adults. It will involve a single visit to Chelsea & Westminster Hospital for 3-4 hours. You will have a full body Magnetic Resonance scan, which is safe, and does not involve x-rays. You will also be asked for a blood, and urine sample and a buccal swab taken from the inside of the mouth. This study is open to people aged 19-27 years; we would particularly welcome interest if you were born prematurely.

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

News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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

Lots Road redevelopment to go ahead

Stephen Ball investigates as work starts on the Chelsea waterfront

Lots Road power station, on the Chelsea waterfront, is to join the likes of Battersea and Bankside as it undergoes redevelopment. The project will add 706 homes and two tower blocks to the site close to the Thames.

The project had recently been put on hold due to the General Election and fears of a property tax promised by Labour. However, with the Conservatives in power, the project is now underway with a completion date in 2019 – although the first homes are due to go on sale in the next few weeks.

The power station itself will be home to a mix of apartments, shops and restaurants with its two remaining chimneys remaining in place. The towers are 25 and 37 floors and the site will also feature a further seven buildings with three new pedestrian bridges, a water garden and 600m of Thames-side footpath.

The redevelopment was designed by Sir Terry Farrell, responsible for designing the iconic MI5 headquarters, and he has said that the projection is not just about providing property to the very rich or for young people who are renting: nearly 40 per cent of homes are to be sold below their current market value of which nearly half being four bedroom flats going for up to £400 a week.

The redevelopment will be making use of the eight acres of land at the Lots Road site including the previously inaccessible Thames



The project has an estimated completion date of 2019, but the first set of houses will go on sale in the next few weeks Photo: The Spaces

towpath. The area previously suffered from a lack of transport links, but the opening of Imperial Wharf Tube in 2009 has caused a number of development projects to start in the vicinity.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said at the ground-breaking ceremony that: "The towering Lots Road power station is a magnificent reminder of our Victorian heritage. Originally built to help power

London's Underground over 100 years ago, it is now helping to provide the new homes and jobs necessary to secure this city's future prosperity."

The Power Station has had a long history. It was the longest serving

power station in the world when it closed in 2002. The original four chimneys each 275ft (84m) tall were the tallest in Europe when they were built in 1904. However only two currently remain standing.

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Alex Kendall, Imperial College Union President 2010/11.

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Llywellyn Edwards, Royal College of Music Student.

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California's Bullseye

Josh Emden investigates the results of California's 1.3GW energy storage target

Unlike coal, oil and gas, electricity is very easy to transport but very difficult to store. In most modern power systems, most electricity actually comes from coal or gas power stations so this isn't a problem. In other words, you combine the storability of coal and gas with the transportability of electricity.

But what happens when you have to stop using these fuels because of CO₂ constraints and replace them with renewables that generate electricity intermittently, depending on whether the sun is shining or the wind is blowing? In steps energy storage.

At a fundamental level, energy storage absorbs excess electricity when there's too much on the grid and releases it when demand from consumers outstrips supply. In essence, it's a very useful way to 'firm up' renewables and make them behave more like power stations that can produce electricity all the time.

As the world begins to wake up to the need to decarbonise their power systems, energy storage is beginning to play an ever bigger role.

California Dreaming

One of the most important regions that has started to recognise this value is California. The State has proven to be a hub of innovation for the technology, with companies like Tesla recently moving into the domestic energy storage industry with their shiny new Powerwall.

Largely though, this recognition of energy storage is about accommodating intermittent renewables onto the grid, driven by a 'Renewable Portfolio Standard' that requires 33% of electricity sales to come from renewables by 2020.

As a result, in October 2013, the State set utilities a target of installing enough energy storage to provide 1.3GW of power by 2020, enough to power 1 million homes.

Target Acquired

As we've already mentioned, energy storage is incredibly useful at making renewable generation more reliable. At the same time, some storage technologies like battery storage have traditionally been seen as too expensive. Indeed, many organisations, including the International Energy Agency (IEA), have acknowledged that costs must

"California set utilities a target of installing 1.3GW of energy storage by 2020, enough to power 1 million homes."



Wind turbines in California. Energy storage could be crucial in allowing renewables to replace fossil fuels Photo: Wikimedia Commons

be reduced for these technologies to become commercially attractive.

In 2013 however, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) challenged this position by performing a series of cost-benefit analyses finding that, 'the majority of cases returned benefit-to-cost ratios of greater than one, and the majority of cases returned breakeven capital cost of energy storage'.

These evaluations were key in leading to California's target, with wider implications that 'energy storage' and 'cost-effectiveness' were now being mentioned in the same breath beyond discussions in academic circles.

So Far so Good?

Happier still, according to one source from the California Energy Commission, the target will almost certainly be met on time. Indeed, recent studies have shown that the US energy storage industry was worth around \$2 billion last year, with much of this coming from California.

Going even further, as part of the 1.3GW target, utility companies have a series of mini-targets that require them to procure a certain amount of storage year. For example, one utility, Southern California Edison (SCE), was required to procure 50MW worth of storage for 2014. However, when SCE began tendering for projects, it received over 500 proposals and instead decided to

procure over 250MW worth of energy storage.

Such examples are not uncommon, with California's Independent System Operator (CAISO) reporting last year that the number of proposals for energy storage in fact amounted to around 2.1GW, well above the original target. While these projects ultimately still have to be built, and not all may be approved, the indications from the market certainly sounds overwhelmingly positive.

This is perhaps embodied most recently by the boundless enthusiasm and innovation shown by Tesla, who recently revealed their new Lithium-ion battery storage for domestic and commercial properties. Combine this with the construction of their new 'Gigafactory' – purpose-built to drive down the cost of battery technology – and the prospects for energy storage look very good indeed.

Fortune Favours the Cheap

There are of course some small caveats. For one thing, the term energy storage is actually rather broad, encompassing a range of different technologies suitable to different types of applications beyond just accommodating renewables. Necessarily, these different technologies also have a range of different costs associated with them.

Whilst this is not inherently a bad thing, there is perhaps a risk that those more innovative technologies

whose capital costs are higher (and don't have companies like Tesla driving them downwards) will get edged out of the market by a target which demands cost-effectiveness.

An often cited example is that of 'metal-air' batteries that use a solid, rather than aqueous, membrane to offer a higher energy density. Though the technology is more innovative, it is commercially immature. A target with a deadline for project completion by 2024 simply may not have the patience required to see if such a technology could grow up.

More than an Experiment

With that said, the storage target in California still seems to be a fairly unqualified success. So much so in fact, that a Texan utility, Oncor, has recently been considering investing a whopping \$5.2 billion into 5GW of energy storage. Whilst policy enthusiasm in the UK might be more sluggish, industry groups like the Electricity Storage Network (ESN) are now campaigning for a target of 2GW by 2020, based on California's experience.

The term 'emerging' market is often used pejoratively to describe interesting technologies that are unlikely to reach any meaningful level of commercialisation. For many years, energy storage has been given such a label. In light of California's sustained success, one might now say it has well and truly emerged.

"The storage target in California still seems to be a fairly unqualified success."

Science

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Science Editor || James Bezer & Lauren Ratcliffe

What has the EU ever done for science?

With a referendum on the horizon, **James Bezer** looks at what effect ‘Brexit’ could have on research in Britain

Everyone hates the EU. According to many commentators, it’s a bloated, money-grabbing gravy-train full of unelected ‘Eurocrats’ whose sole desire is to impose their evil will on Britain’s hardworking citizens through ludicrous laws demanding our shops sell unsettlingly straight bananas and feed useless homeopathic medicine to Britain’s hardworking farm animals.

No wonder David Cameron wants a referendum.

But as the possibility of a British exit (or ‘Brexit’) becomes more likely, more and more voices are calling for us to stay in. Despite its flaws and the need for reform, arguments favouring the economic benefits have come from major organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry.

The opposition to ‘Brexit’ has also come from key figures in British science, who have argued against cutting our ties with the research powerhouses on the continent.

Whatever you might think about the EU, it remains undeniable that ‘Brexit’ would have profound consequences across almost every aspect of life in our country, and that includes science and technology.

To us at Imperial at least, probably the most obvious effect the EU has is in encouraging large numbers of European students and researchers to work and study in other countries through programmes like Erasmus.

Last year 25,000 Erasmus students studied in the UK, and more than 15,000 British students studied in other European countries. According to HESA, there were 125,000 EU students in the UK in 2013/14 compared to nearly 300,000 from outside the EU. It seems the tougher immigration rules for non-EU migrants don’t act as a deterrent.

Mike Galsworthy, a visiting researcher at LSHTM, has started ‘Scientists4EU’, a campaign to promote the role the EU plays in British science. It has already attracted support from key names including Nobel Laureate Sir Paul Nurse, and Astronomer Royal Lord Rees, former President of the Royal Society.

Galsworthy expects that, in the event of ‘Brexit’, key benefits from membership could be put at risk by changes to immigration policy.

“This is where the Swiss are now,” he says. “They used to buy into the EU science programmes and do extremely well from them. But then



Nobel laureate Sir Paul Nurse (right) has added his voice to calls for the UK to stay in the EU Photo: flickr

by a slim margin they decided on tougher anti-immigration rules.

“Without free flow of people, they could not participate in Erasmus and major parts of Horizon 2020 funding because allowing Swiss free movement anywhere in the EU, but EU students and researchers limited entry into Switzerland, clashes with the whole ethos of those programmes. This has caused Swiss science huge headaches that they are scrambling to deal with now.”

Science is one of the few areas in which the UK gets a disproportionate share of EU funding, amounting to over a billion euros between 2007 and 2014. This is because it is allocated on excellence, and science is an area Britain truly excels at. It remains the case, however, that in total, the UK pays more money into the EU than it receives in direct subsidies. UKIP argue that this money could be redistributed, giving more funding to many areas, including research.

“That money would have a lot less value when UK is not at the centre of the world’s largest scientific engine,” says Galsworthy. “The EU’s scientific output is 20% higher than the US and Europe is becoming a global brand in how you do multi-national ‘big’

science. Leaving the EU would reduce the power of our institutions to set global agendas. UK science reputation and power would start to wane.”

One of the major arguments in favour of an EU exit made by UKIP has been that it would lift stifling regulations imposed on British industry by people in Brussels. UKIP doesn’t have a science spokesperson, but when asked about its science policy by the Campaign for Science and Engineering, they argued that ‘Brexit’ would benefit British science by cutting these unnecessary regulations.

“In our opinion, [regulations] have been unnecessarily restrictive when it comes to research and have hampered smaller-scale research projects which cannot get off the ground because of the cost of the weight of regulation they will have to comply with. I give by way of example the Clinical Trials Directive. This was intended to simplify and harmonise clinical trials across the EU, but has in fact decimated the number of clinical trials in Britain.”

Galsworthy, however, disagrees with the notion that EU bureaucracy is stifling progress in science.

“I can actually think of more UK

government science policy aspects that need reforming than European Commission ones! The relationship between UK scientists and the Commission is very good. When Junker booted out the position of the Chief Scientific Adviser (a Brit, Anne Glover) with little warning, there was outcry from our community. Negotiations were had and we now have a seven-member scientific advisory panel that actually looks like a much more sensible structure.”

This is an extremely complex debate that requires an informed, detailed understanding of a huge range of issues. The effect of a ‘Brexit’ would extend far beyond people’s most common gripe, immigration, through to areas including healthcare, foreign affairs and education.

Science will not be the most important topic in the referendum campaign. But the importance of large-scale, international research is much greater than many people realise, enhancing medicine and the energy industry, on top of the economic benefits that trickle down from academia.

Could we still lead the world with well funded and effective research from outside the EU?

“UK science received over a billion euros in funding from the EU between 2007 and 2014”

“UK science reputation and power would start to wane”

E. Coli engineering: the next innovation in antibiotics?

MADDIE WEBB
SCIENCE WRITER

Breakthroughs can often come from the least expected places. Today in the constant struggle between bacteria and antibiotics in the fight to infect, bacteria may have been dealt a blow from within their own ranks. Researchers at the University of Buffalo's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences have found a way to successfully turn *E.coli*, a bacterial strain most commonly associated with causing infection, into antibiotic generators.

Perhaps even more significantly, the antibiotic synthesized by the bacteria is Erythromycin, a drug in wide use and one that an increasing number of harmful bacteria are becoming resistant to. In what some outlets are calling the "holy grail" of the field, three of the *E.coli*-synthesized Erythromycin analogs were able to kill bacteria that are resistant to the antibiotics currently in clinical use.

Altering the assembly of the drug in the cell, rather than the components themselves, created these new

forms of the antibiotic, a part of the process that has received little focus from researchers previously. Encouraging bacterial enzymes to accept 16 alternate sugar substrates in the process, the *E.coli* were able to synthesize 42 new versions of Erythromycin.

Although bacteria such as *S. erythraea* are able to naturally synthesize Erythromycin, it has proven difficult to cultivate in lab conditions. *E.coli* on the other hand has proven invaluable in a range of research, as it is fast growing and very susceptible to taking up new genes. This means that it's plausible that Dr. Blaine Pfeifer's team may have found a practical way to easily combat the spread of fast-adapting superbugs like MRSA using *E.coli* as antibiotic powerhouses.

Dr. Pfeifer, head of the lab at Buffalo, stated that the research carried out by post-doc G. Zhang was "an important step forward" in the fight against infection. The researchers are sure the implications of the study are much broader than one antibiotic, arguing "the research opens the door for additional engineering possibilities in the future". Indeed, although further

tweaking will be required in order before any *E.coli*-produced antibiotics end up in general use, this method could help answer one of medicine's most pressing problems. The US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 23,000 deaths in America in 2013 were the result of antibiotic-resistant infection. There are currently 15 bacteria resistant to antibiotics that the CDCP have classed as urgent or serious threats and the World Health Organization has described the trend as "globally threatening our ability to treat infectious disease".

It is also clear that the scientists at the University of Buffalo see this as more than just a breakthrough in the field of antibiotics. The Erythromycin pathway is being viewed as a template system for the creation of further "unnatural natural products" and, with more modification, could be used against all kinds of illnesses including cancer. We are still years of research away from the use of any compounds made from bacteria being available widely for medical treatment, but *E.coli* may turn out to be our unlikely ally in the battle against disease.



Scientists have manipulated *E. Coli* to produce antibiotics that could combat superbugs Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Gut bacteria could be key to effective drugs

UTSAV RADIA
SCIENCE WRITER

Over the past few years, there has been increasing interest in the bacteria that live in our gut – the microbiome. From activating essential vitamins, metabolising drugs to the very way in which we respond to various infections, our microbiome has been known to be involved in a vast variety of biological processes. The idea that microbes can activate or inactivate drugs, generate toxic by-products of drug metabolism and alter drug metabolism by human cells in both direct and indirect ways has been known for decades. Recently, this idea has become more popular.

Ramy Aziz, a microbiologist from the Faculty of Pharmacy at Cairo University explains how the current research into pharmacogenomics (the study of how variations in human genes contribute to individual differences in drug metabolism and effectiveness) may change the way drugs will be developed in the future: "You can give two people the same drug and they will respond differently. And it's not because of their genes but the genes of the

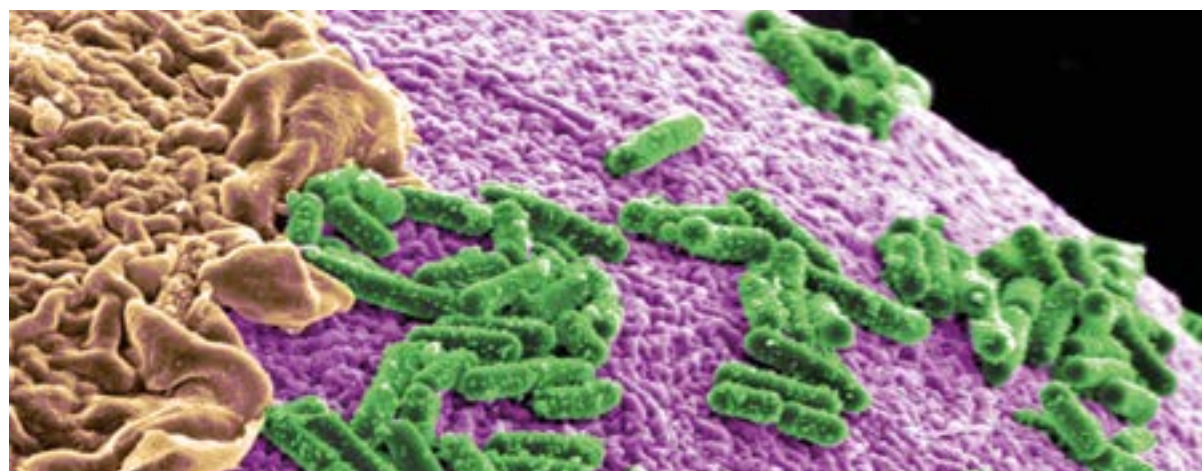
microbes they carry".

This concept is illustrated beautifully by the gut bacterium *E. lenta*, which can inactivate digoxin, a drug commonly used for patients with cardiac abnormalities.

Scientists have identified a pair of genes, within the bacteria called the *cgr* operon, that are responsible for metabolising digoxin. People in whom a high proportion of the *E. lenta* in their gut carry the *cgr* operon are able to largely inactivate the drug, whilst digoxin keeps working in patients whose *E. lenta* strains lack the gene.

Peter Turnbaugh, a microbiologist from the University of California, and colleagues are currently investigating how to augment to response of *cgr*-operon positive *E. lenta* on digoxin. It seems that the operon activity is reduced in the presence of the amino acid arginine. This was discovered by the researchers in mice colonised with *E. lenta* that were fed a high-protein diet and were found to have higher blood digoxin levels compared to those put on a protein-free diet. Further trials involving arginine supplementation alone are awaited.

Irinotecan is another popular drug, used in chemotherapy for



New research has uncovered how gut bacteria can cause some drugs to become ineffective Photo: Wikimedia Commons

patients with colon cancer. However, it has many serious side effects including diarrhoea and severe immunosuppression.

Once Irinotecan, has been processed in the liver, the drug is deactivated and excreted via bile. It then follows back into the gastrointestinal tract, where a vast majority of the microbes in the gut can re-activate the drug. This is due to an enzyme called beta-glucuronidase produced by the microbes.

A team of researchers in the

University of North Carolina have been investigating the use of beta-glucuronidase inhibitors in managing irinotecan-induced diarrhoea.

Surprisingly, they have also found that blocking beta-glucuronidase in the microbiome not only helps to reduce the inactivation-reactivation of irinotecan (in a process known as enterohepatic cycling), but this also applies to commonly used drugs such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (commonly used painkillers such as aspirin and ibuprofen)

that can otherwise produce serious gastrointestinal tract ulceration.

Targeting the beta-glucuronidase pathway seems an exciting new cornerstone in drug designing and development as we can now control the effects of drugs by altering how our gut flora responds to them. Hopefully, it won't be long before we can widely implement the use of beta-glucuronidase inhibitors in alleviating the side effects of many drugs by reducing their persistence in the body.

Welfare

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Concepts at a glance: Gender and Sexuality

Madeline and Vin present a guide to the terminology of sexual and gender identity

When discussing gender, sexuality, and similar topics, there are a lot of terms and concepts that you might come across. This article will provide a brief introduction to these concepts, what they mean, and how to use the words correctly. Let's start with concepts.

Sexuality

This is an intrinsic part of who we are. Sexuality is very complicated; generally it is considered to be binary, but it is actually infinitely more complex. The next-most-simplified model is a spectrum, but this is also a simplification, as sexuality is more like the combination of several independent spectra. In this article we will focus on two components.

The most obvious component of sexuality is the one that expresses which gender or genders you are attracted to; heterosexual (traditionally meaning "attracted to the opposite gender [from oneself]", though as we'll explore later the concept of "the opposite gender" is not as well-defined as you might think) and homosexual (attracted to the same gender) are not the only two orientations or identities.

As you may know, there are many more, including but not limited to bisexual (attracted to both men and women), pansexual (attracted to all genders), polysexual (attracted to lots of different genders) and asexual (attracted to no genders; doesn't experience sexual attraction at all – see below).

The other biggest part of sexuality is the one that expresses the level of attraction, and how you are attracted to someone. This can be defined by how frequently you feel sexually attracted to someone. It's not the same thing as your sex drive; this is about how frequently there is a person you find attractive, rather than how often you want to engage in sexual activity with a given person.

This includes people who

experience 'normal' or average levels of sexual attraction to others, often termed verisexual, allosexual or just plain sexual (there's not yet a consensus on the appropriate term), demisexuals (who only experience sexual attraction to people with whom they already have a close bond), and asexuals (who do not experience sexual attraction at all).

Romantic attraction

These same components can also apply to romantic attraction. This is frequently explained as desire for all the loving, couple-y parts of a relationship, just without the actual sex. All the elements of sexual orientation have corresponding, but independent romantic components.

While it is most common for a person's romantic and sexual orientations to align, it is entirely possible for them to differ – one common manifestation of this is to be either asexual or aromantic, but there is no reason one couldn't be, for example, heterosexual and homoromantic (though it would probably suck).

Gender

Gender is a nebulous concept which society tends to push as a binary of masculine and feminine, and associated with your sex. However, gender is, to bastardise a quote from the Doctor, more like a great big ball of wibbly-wobbly gender-bendery... stuff. Gender is expressed in many ways, including hair, clothing and make-up. Gender identity and the gender you are assigned at birth according to your body's sex do not necessarily match up.

You may be cisgender (you identify with the gender that your body indicates to society), transgender (you identify with a gender other than the one you were assigned at birth), agender (where, similarly to asexuality or aromanticism, gender is a concept to which you feel ambivalence), or any shade

"Generally it is considered to be binary, but [sexuality] is actually infinitely more complex"

"Gender is a nebulous concept which society tends to push as a binary of masculine and feminine"



Caitlyn Jenner, formerly known as Bruce, received much support and media attention

inbetween (androgyny is one popular term for the exact middle-ground of the male-female gender spectrum). This is entirely separate from being 'transsexual' or 'transgender' (related but distinct terms; the latter is the more-usually applicable).

"Transgender" (always an adjective; please do not use 'transgender' as a noun) refers to the situation where the sex and/or gender a person was assigned when they were born doesn't match their identity. A related term with rather narrower applicability is 'transexual' (and while that word has a history as a noun, that history means you should probably avoid

using it that way too unless you know exactly what you're doing), and both are commonly abbreviated to 'trans'.

These things get more complicated when you consider that intersex people exist. Being "intersex" means their body and reproductive systems do not entirely match either the male or female systems. Up to 1.7% of babies exhibit some degree of sexual ambiguity at birth, and as they grow up these people may end up having any of the above gender identities.

Fluidity

While all these labels are great, if

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...ion when she recently came out as transgender. Photo: Vanity Fair

you choose one because it feels right at one point in time, it is perfectly okay (and relatively common) to change it if it doesn't seem to fit later. A person's traits can change over time. In recognition of this, some "genderfluid" people exist, meaning that these aspects of their identity are in more constant flux.

Labels

The most important thing about labels is that they're descriptive, not prescriptive (and certainly not proscriptive). The fact that someone decides that a label applies to them at

"A person's traits can change over time"

one point in time doesn't place a limit on what they can be, but it can be a useful way to convey a set of traits.

The second-most-important thing is that because these things are core aspects of someone's identity, they have the final say on whether a given label applies. If someone says a sexuality- or gender-related label doesn't apply to them, it doesn't apply to them. They know their identity better than you do, after all. Policing someone else's identity is the height of rudeness.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of concepts or terms, but it is a

good place to start. If you're curious about these concepts, about part of someone's identity, or are exploring your own, that's okay, but you need to be respectful in how you ask questions. People don't have an obligation to tell you things, especially when those things are very complex and intensely personal.

Try to think carefully about your questions and wording, so that you do not offend or upset someone unintentionally. Bear in mind that the people whom you are questioning are first and foremost emotional human beings who have a right to privacy and respect.

"think carefully about your questions and wording, so that you do not offend or upset someone"

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

Phone: 08457 90 90 90
(24 hr helpline)
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
(daily, 10.00 - 00:00)
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.

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Max Ettl & Calum Skene

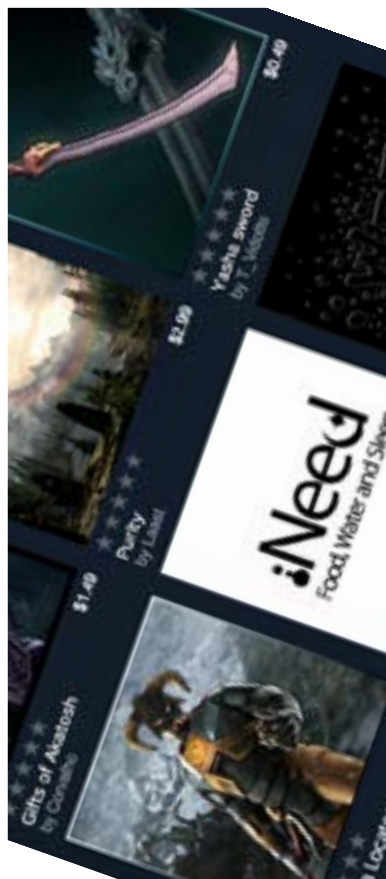
The Financial Future of Mods

MAXIMILIAN Ettl
GAMES EDITOR

About a month ago, the news broke that **Valve**, along with **Bethesda**, was going to start charging for mods for the best-seller *Skyrim*. I had originally meant to write an article then, but was so engrossed in the death throes that were my exams, that I was unable to form a coherent thought that was not study related. However now exams are over, and all my fears, hopes and thoughts have surfaced yet again, so I thought it might be a good time to put them down on paper.

Quick heads-up: A mod (or modification) of a game, is a user made/community made modification to a game. They range all the way from slight updates, like having new skins or better graphics all the way to full rewrites like new missions, characters and areas. They allow for a game to be extended beyond the scope of what the developers originally intended and are the last good bastion of this horrible world of Downloadable Content (DLC), preorder bonuses and console-exclusives. A good rule of thumb is; the better the modding community for your game, the longer shelf-life it will have.

If you don't know what the hell I am talking about here is a little recap. On the 26th April, Valve put out an



Some examples of the goods...

Photo: techcrunch



If things had gone according to plan, you would have had to pay to ride this beautiful cock around Skyrim!!! Photo: gamespot

announcement that they would start implementing a system where creators of mods for *Elder Scrolls: Skyrim* would be able to start charging for their products. The mod makers will start making money once their mod makes more than \$100 and only actually make 25% of the profits with the rest going to Valve and Bethesda. While this amount seems quite measly, this percentage was set by the publisher of the game, and could have varied with different games. I say, "could have" here, because the moment this news broke, an uproar of gargantuan proportions permeated the gaming community, including one of the biggest **Reddit** circle-jerks this writer has ever seen. As a result of this backlash, Valve swiftly decided to recall the proposed system (among statements by Bethesda who said they still supported the motion) and mods were free once more.

Within the space of 3-4 days, all that we knew and hoped about the modding community had been tarnished, and a new apocalyptic world of where you would have to pay for that awesome new quest or community-made nudity mode was starting to appear. A month later, and the grass has grown over the matter, but the innocence that the gaming community once regarded mods with has been blemished.

But why are mods so great, you say? Well, in our day and age of greedy game studios, who are aiming to suck as much money out of you as possible by making you pay for parts of the games in the form of DLC or leaving awesome parts out just because you

didn't preorder, it is really refreshing to be able to change your game in a meaningful way and get new content without having to empty your wallet. Also, it allows you to have several different gaming experiences, from the weird and wacky to the most serious, all in the same game. A great example of this is *Skyrim*. This is a game that was released in 2011 (yes, you feel very old now, as do I), but is still being played by a huge number of people. This is direct result of the myriad of different mods that have kept this game alive and thriving.

So we have set the scene, now to the actual discussion, what are the pros and cons of a paid mod system? Let's start with the pro first (please hear me out there are some pros!). Well basically, all those mod-makers, who currently need a day job to pay the bills, would be able to turn their hobbies into their day jobs! This means that if they could make money of their creations, they could potentially focus their entire time on the making of mods, coming out with more regularity, quality and creativity.

On the other hand the only real con seems to be that it won't be free anymore, and that we gamers now have to pay for stuff that we used to get for nothing! I mean, there were several cons associated with the way Steam had set up the system, including things such as copyright issues, quality control and the share that the modders would get, among many others. But in its purest form and implemented correctly, the only thing that gamers can find as a negative is that we don't

want to be forced to pay for something if we haven't done so in the past.

I currently very much enjoy the model that we employ, and it has definitely made the gaming industry acknowledge that a good modding community is what makes your game sell those extra couple million copies. However, with current copyright laws no modder can make money off their mods without being sued to death by the studios. Therefore the only way this paid thing is going to work is either, the studios become slightly less greedy, or they and the mod-maker come to an agreement that allows them to split the profits (hopefully more fairly next time). If you give it more thought, having paid mods may actually allow these features to be implemented fully in a game (and/or future iterations of the game), because the studio can see directly what is popular with the user base and act upon that information.

In my personal opinion, while I don't like it but I can see is necessary, I think paying for mods is probably the way the future is going to be, as long as the prices and quality of the goods offered are reasonable. It is the only real sustainable way to keep talent and creativity in the gaming industry without them having to form their own indie studios (whose games we would then have to pay for anyway). Sometimes, we as gamers have to not do what is easy or cheaper, but what is right, and in this case I think showing appreciation to those guys who have given us so much joy and fun is the right thing to do.

"The better the modding community for your game, the longer shelf-life it will have."

"I think paying for mods is probably the way the future is going to be..."

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It's here! Welcome to the 2015 *Felix* sex survey



The Felix Sex Survey



“Methods of contraception: being in the Electronic Engineering Department.”

4% Of first years had a relationship with a hall senior

“The rusty pirate is not as fun as it sounds.”

32% Of those who have been in a relationship has been with an Imperial student

“Where are these underground tunnels you speak of?”

23% Of those who have been in a relationship have cheated on a partner

For the porn categories, you should have separated MILF from Mature.”

69% Of those in relationships consider themselves in love

“People don’t hugely appreciate it when you ask them if you can sanitise their ass.”

31% Of female students said that they watch pornography

So how happy are Imperial students with their sex lives?

Cecily Johnson summarises your sexual satisfaction

Overall, 62% of us are ‘happy’ or ‘very happy’ with our sex lives at Imperial. Only 21% reported that they were ‘unhappy’ or ‘very unhappy’ (sorry folks), while 15% didn’t feel one way or the other. The remaining 2% did not wish to say how they felt – so it’s anyone’s guess why they’re filling out a student sex survey.

Breaking the figures down by the sexuality of respondents revealed some interesting trends in our levels of sexual satisfaction.

72% of those identifying as asexual said they were ‘happy’ or ‘very happy’ with their sex lives, with only 14% ‘unhappy’ or ‘very unhappy’.

Bisexuals were the second happiest, with 71% reportedly ‘happy’ or ‘very happy’ and only 21% ‘unhappy’ or ‘very unhappy’.

Next most satisfied were the heterosexuals, 64% of whom were on the happy end of the spectrum, while 21% again were ‘unhappy’ or ‘very unhappy’.

Meanwhile, only 54% of Imperial’s homosexuals were ‘happy’ or ‘very happy’ with their sex lives, and this time 23% not happy – perhaps due to the relatively low number of gay and lesbian students at Imperial (only 8% of us according to this year’s survey).

Looking at gender, 73% of Imperial women were ‘happy’ or ‘very happy’ with their sex life at the moment, compared to just 58% of the men.

Similarly the ‘unhappy’ and ‘very unhappy’ students accounted for 17% of the girls and 24% of guys. So nearly 1 in 4 blokes aren’t being satisfied at Imperial – sorry lads.

Comparing the happiness figures by department with the total number of respondents from that department, it looks like Medicine are overrepresented in the ‘very unhappy’ category with a whopping 23% of them identifying as such when just 15% of total respondents were Medics.

Life Sciences were also less than satisfied, making up 23% of the ‘unhappy’ category yet only 17% of total respondents.

Meanwhile Physics were underrepresented here, with only 10% ‘very unhappy’, and the rest slightly more likely than average to be in the happy categories. Physicists made up 17% of total survey respondents. You go, Physicists.

Maths were doing well too, as just



It’s like a giant game of Where’s Wanker? Photo: Imperial College London

6% of total respondents with 9% of all those students self-reporting as ‘very happy’ with their sex lives.

But is Imperial affecting your chances of sexual satisfaction? Or vice versa, is your sex life impacting on your studies? Well, a significant proportion of you – 44% – don’t really think coming to Imperial has affected your sex life at all.

30% of students felt that Imperial has had a positive effect on their sex life, whilst 24% of you felt that there was an overall negative effect on your sexual satisfaction. Not enough time spent in Metric, or too much perhaps?

Speaking of Metric, do Imperial students feel like they have enough time to meet people whilst keeping up with their studies? 69% of you said yes, with 24% responding no and 7% opting not to answer this one.

On the other hand, it seems like most of you aren’t blaming Imperial

entirely for any dissatisfaction – 58% don’t think their sex life (or lack thereof) has impacted on their level of student satisfaction.

23% of students felt positively about Imperial’s influence on their satisfaction, whilst only 16% thought that their sex life at Imperial had a negative impact.

Finally we wondered whether anything else is affecting your sex lives here, so we asked “do cultural and/or religious reasons affect your sex life?”. A huge 83% of you responded ‘no’, and 8% ‘no, but my family would be mad if they found out’.

However 3% of you don’t believe in any sort of sexual activity before marriage, while 1% only want to engage in certain types of sexual activity before marriage and 4% only want to have sexual activity in a long-term relationship.

“73% of Imperial women were ‘happy’ or ‘very happy’ ... compared to just 58% of the men”

“30% of students felt that Imperial has had a positive effect on their sex life”

The Felix Sex Survey



Love and relationships at Imperial College London

Cecily Johnson on the stories behind your statuses

According to this year's survey data, just 41% of Imperial students are single or "not seeing anyone" exclusively. A surprisingly high 46% of you are in an exclusive relationship at the moment, and 8% are seeing someone but "non-exclusively".

4% are seeing multiple people (get you), while 1% did not wish to say. So as a group we seem to like our monogamy, but do we love it?

We asked all of you "would you say you are in love?" and 37% of respondents said yes. Most of you haven't been hit by cupid's arrow though, with 46% saying no. 3% did not wish to answer this question.

The final 13% of students did not wish to say whether they are in love at the moment, which is fair enough – these figures do include both those in relationships and singletons.

Interestingly, just 69% of those of you in exclusive relationships feel that you are in love. 12% answered "no" (ouch), and 14% said "maybe". This time 5% did not wish to say.

Maybe distance is getting in the way of things? Of those in relationships, 30% of you are in long-distance relationships, which we all know can be hard.

Looking closer to home though, we asked "are you currently in a relationship with an Imperial student?" and 47% of those who answered the question said yes. 50% of you said no, and the remaining 3% did not wish to say.

Out of the total respondents, not just those in relationships, we wondered whether you have ever been in a relationship with an Imperial

student in the past – and only 32% said yes.

66% of you have not dated within Imperial (something wrong with us? Not good enough for you?) and 2% did not wish to say (come on guys, it was a pretty straight question this time!).

So where are those of you with an Imperial boyfriend or girlfriend meeting them? The most common place was "in halls", with 34% of you picking up a partner on your doorstep.

We were glad to see the next most popular was "at a club/society/project" – apparently 22% of you are finding time to reap the benefits of those extracurricular activities.

Your courses are also providing opportunities to meet people, with 17% of respondents pairing up with someone from among their degree coursemates.

12% of you are meeting people "via friends" (kudos to the wingmen/ladies) and 4% at parties outside the Union. Another 4% met their partner at the Union or a Union-hosted event.

Just 2% of you found your girlfriend or boyfriend on a dating or hookup service such as Tinder or OKCupid. Maybe they're just more suited to one night stands?

We also asked which of these dating apps and websites you're using. 53% of you claim to have never tried any of these kinds of services, but of those who have given them a shot Tinder was the clear favourite with 43% of respondents having tried out the app.

Despite only 8% of total respondents identifying as homosexual and 9% as bisexual, a



Did you meet your partner at Imperial? Photo: University of Minnesota

whopping 39% of you claim to have had a play with Grindr.

10% of students are on OKCupid and 6% have given Happn a go. Another 8% of you have tried out other apps and sites that we did not manage to list.

One thing *Felix* always likes to ask you about is your relationships with Hall Seniors. Out of all survey respondents, 4% claim to have had a relationship during first year with a Senior in their own hall and 1% dated a Hall Senior from another hall.

Finally, we asked you all about cheating. 74% of you say you've never

cheated on a partner (yay!) while 23% are admitting to it (boo!). As usual the last 3% did not wish to say.

On the other side of the coin, 74% again say that to their knowledge they have not been cheated on themselves. Just 18% say they've definitely been cheated on and a further 6% think it may have happened but they aren't sure.

So there you have it, folks – seems like plenty of you are doing pretty well for yourselves. Thanks to all of you for filling out the survey and do come back next year with even more stories for our stats!

"Anything is porn if you try hard enough."

34% of students in relationships met in halls

"This survey was a lot filthier than anticipated."

71% of bisexual students are happy or very happy with their sex life

"I once gave my boyfriend a handjob in a cinema... the cinema had CCTV which was visible to the whole entrance area. We didn't realise until we left."

18% of students have masturbated on campus

"You should subsidise airplane tickets for students in long distance relationships."

61% of students get their sex tips from online

"I've been repeatedly sexually harassed by lecturers who've presumably found me on Grindr and wanted a bit o' teacher-student fun."

47% of students who have masturbated on campus have done so in the Central Library

How does Imperial compare to elsewhere?

According to students' newspaper *The Harvard Crimson*, which recently conducted a survey of the Harvard University graduating class, 25% of students didn't have sex whilst studying at their University.

In comparison, at Imperial only 16% of our *Felix* survey respondents remain virgins.

At Harvard 21% of students lost their virginity in their first year, whilst here at Imperial 23% of people lost their virginity aged 18,

and a further 13% lost it aged 19 – the typical ages of those students in first year.

Last year *The Student Beans* reported that Imperial students had an average of 5.8 partners and *The Tab* reported an average of 8.6.

We found that on average, Imperial students had 3.8 sexual partners.

Harvard reports that 19% of male students and 7% of female students had more than 10

partners, whilst here at Imperial 11% of students had 11 or more partners.

At Harvard, 45% of men watch porn multiple times each week, whilst 80% of male Imperial respondents confessed to watching porn.

Women, it seems, are more consistent across the pond – with Harvard reporting that 56% of women have never watched porn, whilst at Imperial 61% of female

students said they don't watch porn.

At Imperial only 31% of respondents rely on condoms for protection, whilst at Harvard this rises to 43%.

31% of Harvard students confess to only sometimes, rarely, or never using a condom – compared to our own 65% of students who have had unprotected sex.

STEPHEN BALL

THE FELIX SEX SURV



HETEROSEXUAL: 78.8%

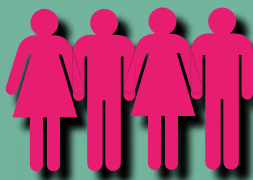


HOMOSEXUAL: 18.2%

ASEXUAL: 1.0%

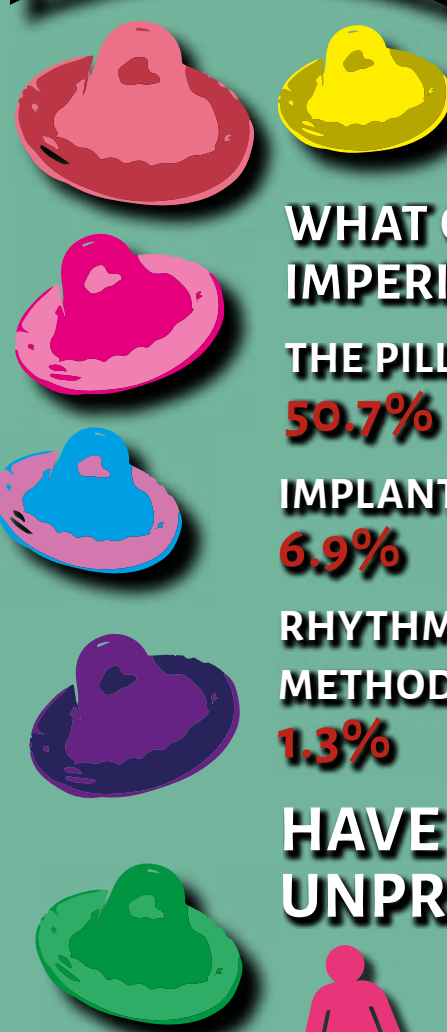
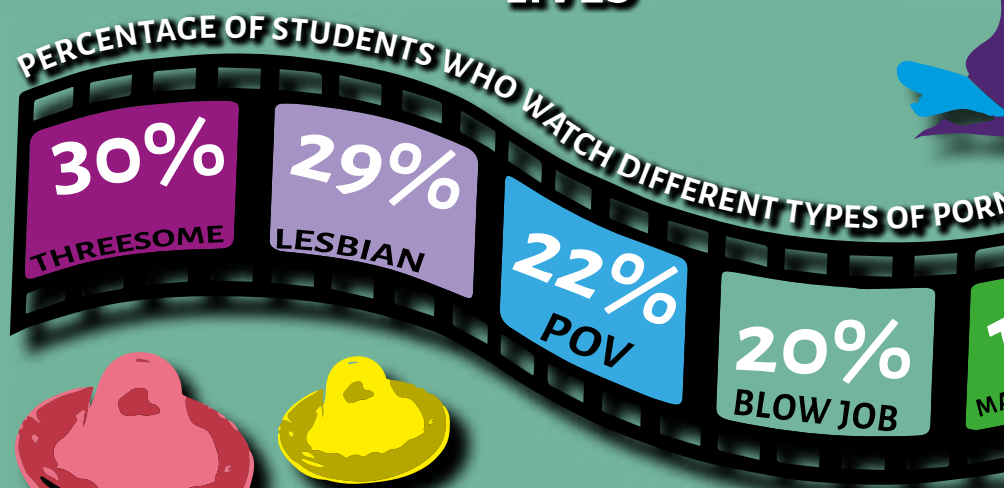


4 MEAN NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS FOR AN IMPERIAL STUDENT



62% ARE HAPPY OR VERY HAPPY WITH THEIR SEX LIVES

54%



WHAT CONTRACEPTION DO IMPERIAL STUDENTS USE?

THE PILL: 50.7% THE COIL: 4.1% PULLING OUT: 12.7%

IMPLANT: 6.9% DEPO-PROVERA: 0.65%

RHYTHM METHOD: 1.3% I NEVER USE CONTRACEPTION: 2.0%

HAVE YOU HAD UNPROTECTED SEX?

YES: 54.7%

NO: 27.8%

YES: 53.3%

NO: 25.4%

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE VIRGINS: **16.7%**



VEY

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: **576**
 UNDERGRADUATE RESPONSES: **497**
 POSTGRADUATE RESPONSES: **72**



HOSEXUAL: 8.1%  BISEXUAL: 9.2% 

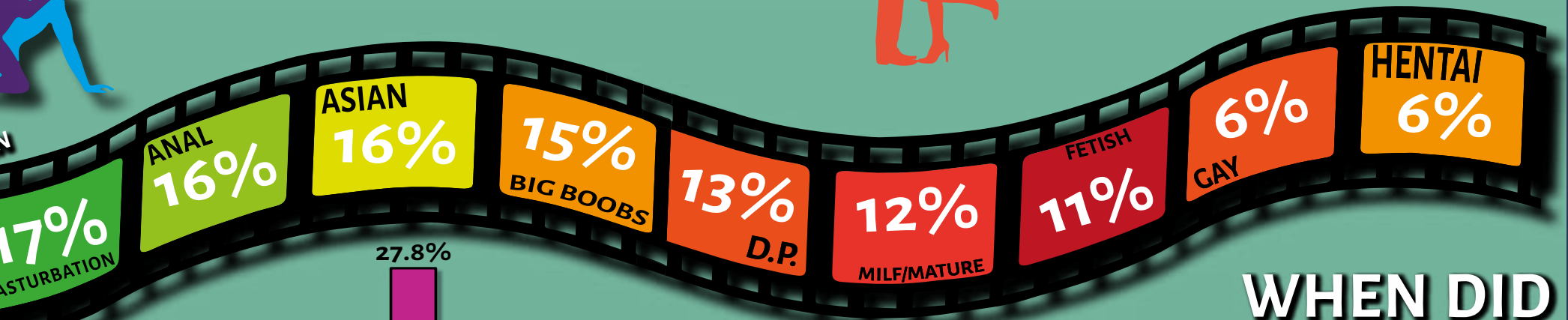
OTHER: 1.6%

4% ARE SINGLE OR DATING NON-EXCLUSIVELY

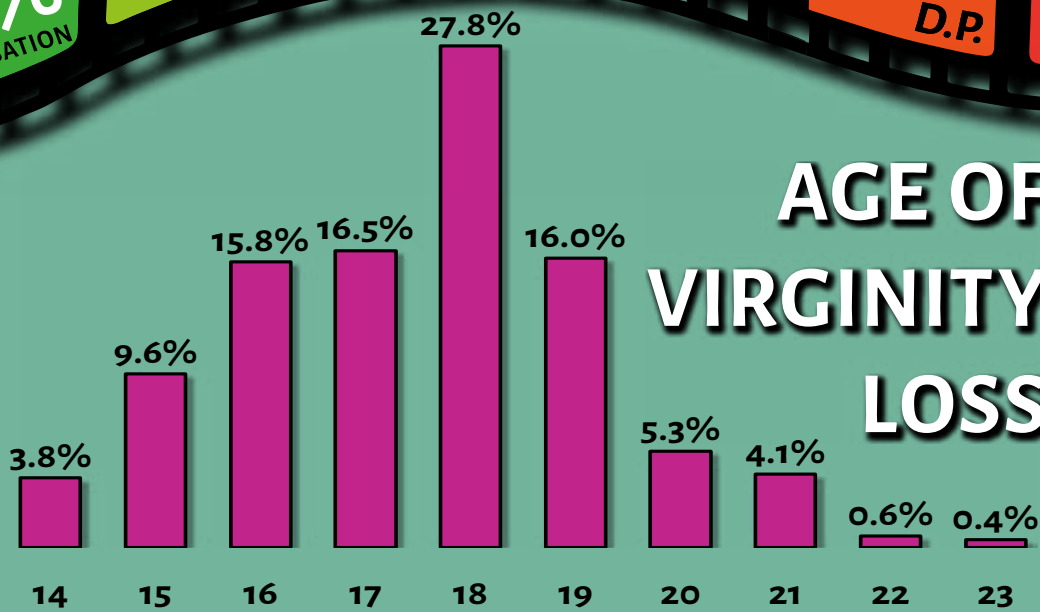
46% ARE IN AN EXCLUSIVE RELATIONSHIP



56% HAVE SEX AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK OR MORE



AGE OF VIRGINITY LOSS



WHEN DID YOU LAST MASTURBATE?



IN THE LAST YEAR

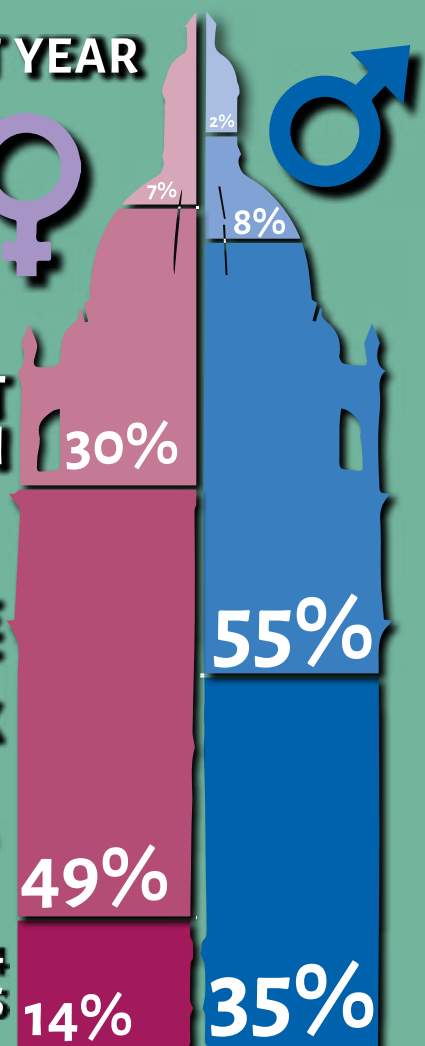


IN THE LAST MONTH

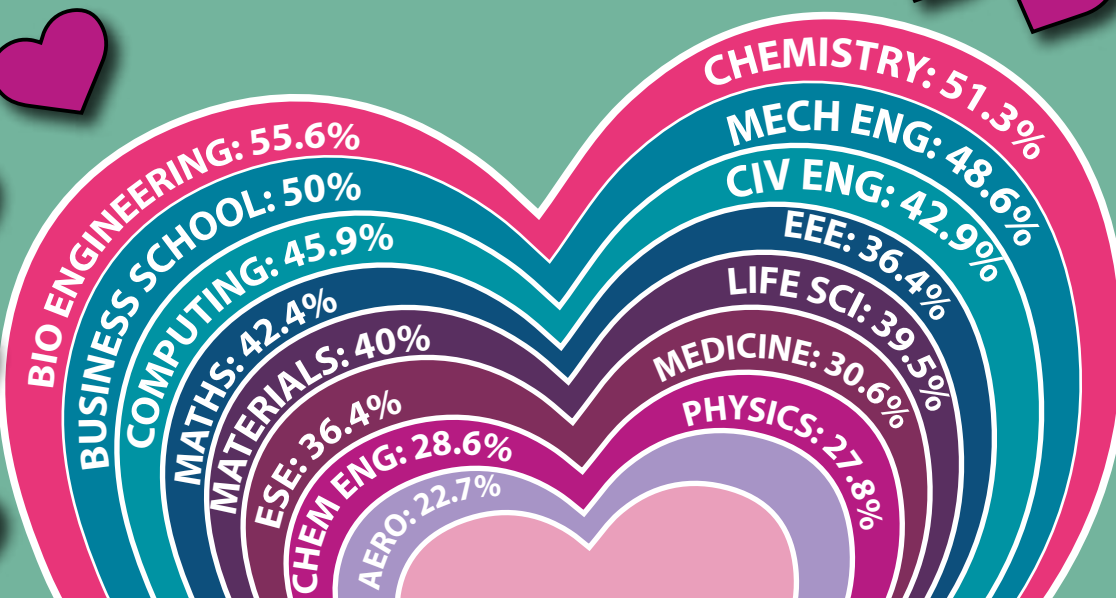
IN THE LAST WEEK



IN THE PAST 24 HOURS



PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS WHO ARE IN LOVE, BY DEPARTMENT:



The Felix Sex Survey



22% of students like having sex in public

“I’m nursing a semi right now.”

44% Of sexually active students have had a fuck buddy

“We should have a rear of the year contest.”

65% of sexually active students have had unprotected sex

“If it counts, I’ve also had sex in a two-seater convertible parked outside Huxley?! Fun, fun, fun!”

45% of students have never had an STI test

“I’m kind of amused by the sheer number of questions that get skipped if you’re a celibate asexual.”

10% of total students said they don’t masturbate

“How the fuck could you fap to animated hentai with the fucking voice acting?”

30% of students want to try roleplay

“Never Have I Ever”: The sexual adventures of Imperial students

JACK STEADMAN
SURVEY ANALYST

The perennially popular drinking game gets easier with the arrival of the sex survey. If you’re looking for an easy way to get people to drink, look no further than the old classics: fuck buddies, and one night stands.

53% of students have had a one night stand, with the males proving more likely to love ‘em and leave ‘em (or at least claim they had). 55% of males said they’d had a one night stand, while 50% of females said the same.

Fuck buddies (or ‘friends with benefits’, for those of you who prefer your no strings attached sex to come with a dash of the ol’ coyness) are almost as popular, with 44% admitting they’d been in an arrangement. It’s an exactly equal divide across the genders, with the same percentage of males and females ‘fessing up to getting all of the fun with none of the consequences. You sex-loving commitment-phobes, you.

There’s also plenty on just how people wanted their sex to play out, with students giving opinions on a veritable smorgasbord of sexual acts. Oral sex ranked at the top of everyone’s list of favourite acts, with 70% liking giving it (and 11% wanting to try giving), and 77% liking receiving (and another 10% wanting to try that). Pretty much all of you

like oral sex, it seems, so bear that one in mind next time you indulge in pleasures of the flesh. *Felix*: giving you sex tips since whenever we started doing this survey.

Nothing else quite matched up: 55% liked receiving hand jobs (but only 40% liked giving them, so someone’s going to be disappointed). 38% liked being fingered, but only 18% liked doing the fingering (pull your finger out and get over yourself, it’s what the lady likes). Anal sex proved even less popular: 25% liked giving (and another 21% want to try), but only 12% like receiving it. Lot of discrepancies in this giving/receiving business. Sex: it’s all about compromise.

It’s also about more than the usual, for some of you at least. 11% of students enjoy a good threesome, while 5% like going one step further into a full-blown orgy. 44% want to try a threesome, while 23% want to try an orgy. We’d suggest you all just hook up, but the survey’s anonymous. We have no idea who you are.

Beyond that, 28% like using restraints in sex, while 30% like using sex toys. Role play is approved of by 18%, while sexting makes an appearance with a 46% like-rate. Sending explicit images is liked by 32%. Meaning two-thirds of you don’t like dick pics. Stop. Stop the dick pics.

As to where that sex, regardless of the relationship status of the participants, might be happening, turns out several students have been



On brand. Photo: Mel Hattie

getting busy on campus (halls not included). 16% said they’d had sex somewhere on an Imperial campus, including Silwood Park, with 7% of those who’d done the dirty on campus doing said dirty there.

15% of campus sexy-times happened in SAF (medics!), and yet none happened in the Reynolds Building over at Charing Cross Hospital (try harder, medics). 23% of campus sexers threw down in Beit Quad, while 28% got it on in the Union Offices. It’s an open-plan office, guys. You’re disgusting. Not as disgusting as the 1% who indulged in carnal embrace in Eastside Bar, but

still pretty disgusting.

Ranking at the other end of the scale, 1% claimed to have done it in the underground tunnels (a question which has spurred a host of wannabes, clamouring to copulate below the surface). No-one (claimed to have) sexed it up in the Ethos pool (thank God), or in the Bessemer building. The prize for biggest disappointment goes to the Bone building, which despite having an obvious innuendo for a name hosted precisely zero fun-loving couples. To all Imperial students: please bone in the Bone building. Then tell *Felix*. It’s important. Do it for science.

Let’s talk about sex...ual health

Cecily Johnson finds out how much you remember from sex ed

This year 65% of sexually active students admitted to having had unprotected sex in the past. 31% of you have apparently been well behaved, while the remaining 4% chose not to say whether they had done it or not.

Remember you can pick up condoms for free at a number of places on campus, including the Student Activities Centre on Floor 2M of the Union Building in Beit (which also hands out dental dams and pregnancy tests) and Imperial College Health Centre.

Also don’t forget that at least once a term Imperial College Union runs sexual health clinics in conjunction

with the Terrence Higgins Trust, where you can get advice and free STI tests.

Speaking of STIs, a whopping 88% of you claim to have never had an STI. 3% think it’s possible they’ve had one but aren’t sure, 4% did not wish to say, and just 5% said they have had an STI at some point in the past.

Perhaps the apparent low rate of STIs is down to us simply not getting tested often enough – 45% of the sexually active students say they’ve never had an STI test.

For 13% of you, your last test was more than 12 months ago; 31% of you have been tested in the last year and 5% as recently as the last month. This

time 6% of you did not wish to say when you were last tested.

We also asked you all where you’re getting sex and masturbation tips from. The biggest information source this year was the internet, with 61% of you getting tips “online”.

49% of respondents say they take advice from their partner and 37% from friends. Porn was the next biggest category, with 29% of you admitting to sourcing your ideas from the stuff.

Just 11% of students get sex tips from books (maybe we should’ve asked you about *50 Shades Of Gray* separately), 9% from movies and magazines and 2% from “other

sources”.

14% of you apparently “still don’t know anything lol”. Maybe you can get some tips from the sex survey?

We gave you a chance to tell us what those “other sources” were in a text box. Most of you just said “experimentation” or “my own imagination”, and at least one claimed to have “learnt on the job”.

Two of you said you’re getting sex tips from “your mum” – very original guys – and one claims to get them from “the Rector”.

So whatever you’re doing and wherever you’re getting the idea from, do us a favour and get tested once in a while, yeah?

The Felix Sex Survey



The transgender community at Imperial: those who are silently struggling

Philippa Skett on one of the survey's sadder revelations

The Felix Sex Survey found that 9 of the respondents do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. A third of those respondents said they were unhappy with their sex life, and a few commented about the issues they face as transgender individuals.

Some cited difficulty in finding partners, being in transition between genders and generally struggling with being assigned a different gender at birth that they don't identify with. One respondent worryingly said that they were suicidal, and said that they hated the life they were living.

Said another respondent: "Since splitting with my last partner, I've come to think having any sort of sex life is probably unrealistic until I've had surgery."

"I can live with this, but the matter of sex being so intertwined with the broader topic of relationships, means inevitably my situation is an impediment to dating, which I think bothers me more."

Said another: "I hate being transgender. My sex drive confuses me. All I want is to live as a girl, have breasts and a vagina and fall in love with someone that I'm comfortable being intimate with. I can't though."

"I have to live as a boy and it hurts every day. I try to tune out thoughts related to falling in love because who wants to be with a transgender girl who doesn't have a vagina or a female voice?"

"I hear stories of people falling in love and being intimate with one another. This just feels like something I can never have."

We decided to talk to some of the members of Imperial's wider LGBT+ community. *Felix's* own Welfare editor, Diba Esbati, spoke to two students who shared their experiences about being transgender or dating those that identify as transgender too.

One student told us about the transgender woman who they are currently dating: "I am happily in a relationship with a wonderful woman. She is incredibly clever, has gorgeous eyes and is possibly the most amazing person I have ever met."

They explained that their partner may not decide to come out as transgender or even transition completely, but they are committed to supporting her regardless. They also explained that just like any other relationship, communication is key.

"We must discuss and be aware of each others' boundaries, and adjust our activities according to the various



One of the international symbols of transgender activism and support. Photo: GENEQ

levels of dysphoria my partner is experiencing.

"My partner sometimes has a complex response to her own arousal or her body and while this definitely changes the way our relationship dynamic functions, it does not make it inherently more difficult."

"It simply requires an increased level of awareness of how comfortable my partner is with any one thing we are doing together."

They added: "And another, final thing that I feel is important; while my partner is not out, she is still very much a woman to me. She is beautiful and kind."

"When she is feeling particularly conflicted or experiencing very bad dysphoria all I can do is try and love her through it and help prevent her and myself from breaking because of the pain."

Skye, an Imperial student who is openly transgender, spoke to *Felix* about how difficult it can be to identify as such, but how others should embrace their uniqueness: "No two people are identical and people being different to each other makes humanity as a larger entity all the better for it."

"So don't hate yourself for being transgender. Be happy that you found something that helps to define who

you are, thus you know yourself better and are stronger for having found that aspect of yourself."

"It isn't a life-ender and there are ways to help you become who you view yourself to be, and who you want to be."

Skye advised that anyone struggling should seek advice as soon as possible, either from the Imperial counselling service in the short term, and potentially visiting a dedicated specialist at a Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) in the long term.

Skye concluded: "There is no real reason why anyone can't have love and meet the right person at some point in their life, regardless of who they are or what gender they identify as."

Both students we spoke to had comments for those who responded to the sex survey, and both stressed that those out there are not alone.

The anonymous student who is dating a transgender woman explained the importance of supporting those who may be struggling to come to terms with their gender identity: "Acceptance, communication and reassurance of their validity cannot be given too much."

"Your support – even in something as little as remembering to use their

preferred pronouns or as large as standing by them as they decide to come out – is invaluable and appreciated."

Said Skye: "Being trans is not exactly a gift at first glance, but matters are getting better – trans visibility is so, so much better than it has been even recently and there are actual wonderful trans people making their way into the public eye."

"Love and sex are hard. Really hard. And yup, dysphoria makes the practicality tricky at times. But I promise that people exist who will care about that in the right way. I promise you that these people exist, regardless of your personal orientation with respect to partners."

"The voice and other parts are nice, but you're a girl, not a number on the Prader scale. You can still have the potential for love, just like anyone."

"You're a wonderful human."

For those who want to seek help or guidance in relation to any of the above issues, there are many support networks you can access.

For example, the Beaumont Society (01582412220) offers 24h support and advice for transgender people and their loved. Also, Mind OUT (lgbtmind.com) has plenty of resources for all LGBT+ community who may be struggling with mental health concerns.

"Haven't had my dick wet in 5 months cause of imperial"

23% of students who have had sex on campus have done so in Beit Quad

"Imperial students: Start organising some sex parties!!"

25% of sexually active students like to give anal sex

"Other methods of contraception: thinking of Margaret Thatcher."

43% of students who use dating technology have used tinder

"It is now my life's mission to get it on in the underground tunnels before I leave here, thanks for the idea Felix!"

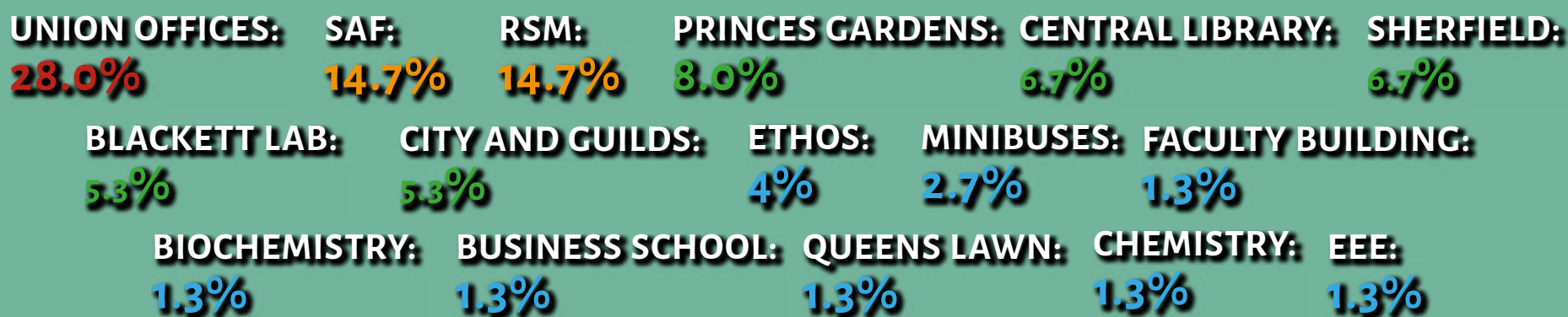
53% of students have had a one night stand

"Being transsexual, the issue of disclosure is a difficult one to navigate, and my own personal feelings toward sex are complicated."

29% of students who are sexually active want to try using sex toys

SEX ON CAMPUS

13% OF TOTAL RESPONDENTS SAID THEY HAVE HAD SEX ON CAMPUS



Survey hindrances: skewing, de-trolling and over-excited freshers

There were nearly 600 responses to the *Felix* sex survey this year. We had to de-troll a number of submissions and remove them from the final dataset, due to absurd answers – although this was all based on our judgement. Those we missed we hope will not change the overall findings too much due to the large sample size.

Like any other survey, the responses we collected as a whole may have been skewed by a number of factors. Firstly, the topic will only appeal to the people who would be interested in answering questions. Although we can only speculate, it seems fair to suggest that those who are reluctant to do so may be because of their perceived “lack” of experience or enjoyment of their own sex life.

With a large subset of students telling us how happy they are and how much sex they are having, we can only guess whether this is a fair representation of the sex lives

of Imperial students on the whole.

Secondly, the methodology of the survey may skew it towards those who are interested in taking the time to fill it out, too. Although the survey was advertised across all social media and in the print edition of the paper too, people are more likely to fill in the survey when presented with the link directly online. It is more likely that those who have social media contact with members of the *Felix* editorial team filled out the survey than other students.

Sadly, the data set was not as large as in previous years, despite the survey being open for most of the Spring term. This is the fifth year the survey has been run, and it may be that the novelty has worn off for some of the older years: 32% of responses were by students who started Imperial this year, whilst only 17% of those who responded were in their fourth year here.

We also had far less postgraduate engagement than we hoped for, meaning our stats are more representative of the undergraduate body than the entirety of the student body – normally a roughly half and half mix.

With this in mind, take our findings that are split by department with a pinch of salt; for some departments, we only had a small number of respondents so this may again mean the findings are not very accurate reflections of these groups of students on the whole.

In the end, the survey is run as a bit of fun; it is great to have a snapshot of the sex lives of Imperial students, and we enjoy analysing the stats and sharing our findings just as much as you all enjoy filling it in and reading the results.

PHILIPPA SKETT

IC YOGA CLUB: STRETCHING IT OUT



FRIDAY 5 JUNE

Friday 5 June
21:00 - 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)
£2.00 with flyer
£2.50 on the door

GOOD FORM

REYNOLDS
COCKTAIL
CLUB



**EVERY
FRIDAY
FROM
17:30**

Every Friday we will be transforming Reynolds into a cocktail lounge with a chilled atmosphere, relaxed music and a new venue layout. Come on down and let our newly trained mixologists whip you up some classic cocktails, plus our very own creations and specialities!

COMING UP!

Date	Event	Time	Location
Friday 5 June	Reynolds Cocktail Club	17:30 - 00:00	Reynolds
Friday 5 June	Good Form	21:00 - 02:00	Metric
Every Tuesday	Super Quiz	20:00 - 22:00	FiveSixEight
Every Wednesday	CSP Wednesday	19:00 - 01:00	FiveSixEight & Metric
Every Wednesday	Pub Quiz	19:00 - 22:00	Reynolds
Friday 12	Back to School Bop	20:00 - 01:00	Reynolds
Friday 12	iPop	20:00 - 02:00	Metric

The news behind the big screen

Jack Steadman outlines the big news in cinema

Mockingjay Part 2 poster finally arrives

The final, final entry in the *Hunger Games* series has quietly started its marketing campaign, with a new poster for *Mockingjay – Part 2* making an appearance.

It's nothing excessively exciting, featuring a decapitated statue of Donald Sutherland's evil President Coriolanus Snow, alongside a huge, graffiti mural of the Mockingjay logo.

Following on, perhaps unsurprisingly, from the events of *Part 1*, with Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) leading the charge on the Capitol, *Part 2* promises to be the big, action-heavy climax to the series, but still boasting the vicious political commentary that helped elevate the other films.

With the likes of Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Julianne Moore, Sam Claflin and Elizabeth Banks all making appearances in Francis Lawrence's (no relation to the star) third adaptation of Suzanne Collins' novels, *Part 2* shows little sign of being the weak link in one of cinema's strongest franchises.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2 explodes into cinemas on 20th November.



Photo: Lionsgate



Photos: (left) Disney/James Gunn, (right) Sony/Sam Mendes

Man finishes first draft of script

James Gunn, the man (predominantly) responsible for last year's official **Greatest Marvel Film Known to Mankind (Until Age of Ultron)**™ has completed his first draft of the script for the sequel.

He took to Twitter to let the world know, adding a casual #NotEventheTitle to the photo. Considering the visible title is *Guardians of the Galaxy*, who knows what the rest of the title could hold in store.

Guardians of the Galaxy 2 (or whatever it's eventually called, there's bound to be a subtitle if Marvel get

their way) is due to hit cinemas on 28th April, 2017. UK cinemas, anyway. The Americans don't get it until 5th May.

Oh, and yes, the Awesome Mix #2 songs are already picked. Gunn confirmed he's written them into the screenplay.

Yes, this is a news story. Stop judging. Go away.

Sony is weirdly indifferent to losing Bond

The rights to the James Bond franchise are up in the air after the next film, *SPECTRE*, and that means one thing: a bidding war for one of the most profitable (and longest running) film series in existence.

Sony are currently responsible for distributing the franchise, which is controlled by MGM (and Eon Productions), but that's not always been the case. Paramount have previously held talks with MGM over taking control of the franchise, while there are now rumours of Warner Bros making moves on Mr Bond.

With that whole profitable/famous/long-running thing in contention, you'd expect current rights holders Sony to care a little more about losing their biggest horse in the stable (not least with their *Spider-Man* franchise now being shared with Marvel).

Not so, if chief Sony man Tom Rothman (who replaced former boss Amy Pascal following that Sony hacking scandal) is to be believed.

Speaking to Variety, Rothman said: "The reality is that Sony's had a fantastic run with the Bonds. Sure, we're going to compete for [the rights], but let's be honest, so is everybody in the business." Well, he's not wrong.

Tangled gets its own TV series in 2017

That's right, the 2010 re-telling of the story of Rapunzel is heading on over to TV.

The 50th feature-length film to come out of Disney's studios, bringing with it the original leads, Mandy Moore and Zachary Levi, as well as the real stars of the film: Pascal the chameleon and Maximus the horse.

The show is set to take place between events of the film and its follow-up short (*Tangled Ever After*).

It'll also feature music from Alan Menken and lyrics from Glenn Slater, the pair that handled musical duties first time around.

Tangled: The TV Series (or whatever Disney elect to call it) will be dropping onto the Disney Channel sometime in 2017.

Disney greenlights Fantasia, but cans Tron 3

Disney's had a pretty decent run with its live-action adaptations of its classic properties. *Maleficent*, while being a fairly mediocre film, managed a fairly hefty box office draw, while this year's *Cinderella* managed a double victory of receiving rave reviews and making decent money.

Disney have plenty more adaptations on their slate, including *Dumbo* (oh God) and *The Jungle Book* (one of two films essentially based on that book in the works).

They've now added another one, in the form of *Fantasia*.

Specifically, one sequence from *Fantasia*, a film well-known for its lack of overarching story, plot, recurring characters, or in fact any noticeable features beyond some delightful animated sequences set to various classical music.

The sequence in question is *Night on Bald Mountain*, the part with the winged demon and the dancing dead things and such like. It's also 11 minutes long.

Fantasia is in the hands of Matt Sazama and Burk Sharpless, the guys behind *Dracula Untold*. Answers as to how on earth they're going to a) manage this and b) not do it terribly on a postcard, if you please.

This Week at Imperial Cinema

This week at Imperial Cinema it's a double bill of high-octane, critically acclaimed action films, as *Fast & Furious 7* roars onto the screen alongside Keanu Reeves in *John Wick*.

Following directly on from 2013's *Fast & Furious 6* (surprisingly, this is how sequels work), *Fast & Furious 7* deals with the fallout from the crew's offing of terrorist Owen Shaw (Luke Evans). After separating and returning to calmer lives, the crew are forced back together after Shaw's older brother Deckard (Jason Statham) crashes onto the scene. Intent on revenge, Deckard hunts the crew to the ends of the earth, with lethal consequences if he catches them.

The *Fast & Furious* crew aren't the only ones being forced out of retirement this week. Legendary assassin John Wick (Keanu Reeves) left behind his life of paid murder after falling in love, only to lose his wife suddenly. Her last gift to him, a beagle puppy, and his precious car are the only things he has left to care for in the world. When a sadistic thug (Alfie Allen) takes a liking to the car, and kills the puppy in the process of stealing it, John unleashes a wave of terrifying vengeance.

Fast & Furious 7 is playing on Tuesday 9th June at 18:30, and then again on Thursday 11th June at 20:30.

John Wick is playing on Tuesday 9th June at 20:50, and then again on Thursday 11th June at 18:30.

Tickets are £3 for members and £4 for non-members, or £5 for a members double-bill and £7 for non-members.

Doors open around 15 minutes before the start of the film.

To buy membership or to find out more about our showings this term, visit: imperialcinema.co.uk.



Arts

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Arts Editors || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

Two Truths of Global Artists

Elizaveta Tchebaniouk checks out the Griffin Gallery



Yuka Kurita, *Untitled*, 2014 Photo: Griffin Gallery



Kazuya Tsuji, *Fe I*, 2014 Photo: Griffin Gallery

In the Western world it is believed that truth is singular; all other versions of truth are lies. However, a key Buddhist doctrine, and the basis of the title of this exhibition, states that there are two levels of truth – conventional and ultimate. This is a key concept to meditate upon and have in mind as you view this exhibition of the works of six Japanese artists (three of whom are established and London-based, while the others are recent graduates and based in Japan).

What is surprising in *Two Truths* is that the works of both the established Japanese born but London-based artists, and the artists still living and working in Japan reflect a similar concept of 'truth'. The purpose and vision of each artist is unique, and is conveyed through a most diverse array of media and subject matter. However, there is a profound link

– almost a common energy – that unifies the works as one exhibition.

At first glance, the works appear simply modern and contemporary. However, behind each work is a meaningful message and purpose of the artist. Each work reinterprets the world in a modern and unconventional way, while a deep sense of tradition lends a subtle, but nonetheless influential echo of the past.

For example, for her work *Secret Garland*, ICHASU reinvents two traditional Japanese screens through the process of painting them with bright manga-inspired imagery. An initially unnoticed contrast in this piece is that the back is left unpainted, and bears remnants of old untouched writing. Keisuke Katsuki makes his *Pixel Painting* pieces through a methodical process which is almost a modern meditative practice,

reflecting the patience and rhythm of traditional ceremonies; his works are paintings of the pixels which are seen when zooming into a digital image of a painting. Yuka Kurita works echo the tradition of sushi – they show packed salmon slices painted in an unfamiliar and unrealistic way.

The direct and indirect aspects of Japanese traditions that also echo in the contemporary works of the London based artists is even more surprising. For example, Miho Sato used old photographs of Japanese children as subject for her paintings *School Ground* and *School Ground 2*. The works of Yukako Shibata are abstract, but philosophical and meditative in their exploration of a paradox, reflecting neon colors against white. The Reciprocal trio of works by Kazuya Tsuji is also highly meditative in the way the colour tissue sways with any slight

breeze of movement through the gallery; these works, in addition to his other featured works which are reinventions of found pieces, give new forms and a fresh dimension to old familiar materials.

Two Truths demonstrates the juxtapositions of traditional culture and contemporary modernism, of what is present and what is actually perceived, as well as exploring the influence of cultural displacement on the artist's 'truth'. The exhibition itself is a metaphysical projection of that Buddhist concept conveyed in each shown artwork – the idea of two omnipresent dualities working not in opposition, but in unison, in an attempt to discover true meaning and purpose.

Two Truths is on at the Griffin Gallery, W11, until 11th July. Admittance free.

Felix Arts: The Japan Issue

FRED FYLES
KAMIL MCCLELLAND

SECTION EDITORS

'Art is like breathing for me. If I don't do it, I start to choke'
-Yoko Ono

Sometimes, as Arts Editor, the stars align, and fate drops some serendipity in your lap. Those who have been reading this section for a while will know that we try to theme each issue; sometimes this is easy (several exhibitions about textiles, plus a comment piece on fashion, can easily come under the heading 'style'), and sometimes it is hard (you try to link together a Wagner opera, a Japanese puppet show, and an exhibition of Constructivist art). However, this week's issue is simple: a show of Japanese artists, and a piece of Japanese theatre, based on a work by East Asia's best known author – therefore, The Japan Issue makes perfect sense. Bish, bash, bosh.

We start off with a preview of *Two Truths*, a show that displays the best artistic talents of Japan, whether they are based in London or elsewhere. Taking its name from the Buddhist principle that there are two different levels of truth, the **Griffin Gallery** show explores the impact traditional Japanese culture can have on contemporary art. Elizaveta Tchebaniouk is impressed by what's on offer, calling it a "juxtaposition of traditional culture and contemporary modernism".

We then move on to the **Barbican**, who play host to the **Ninagawa Company's** adaptation of the much-loved novel *Kafka on the Shore*. The company, headed by legendary director Yukio Ninagawa, manages to handle the complexity of Haruki Murakami's source material with delicacy and tact, creating a marvellously sensual production that bewitches the audience.

Over the past week, I keep coming back to the Yoko Ono quote above; as her long-overdue retrospective opens at the Museum of Modern Arts, and her work is rediscovered, I feel we can all learn from Ono. One cannot simply dabble in culture; one must dive straight in, and breathe in.

Arts

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Arts Editors || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

Kafka, but not as you know him

Fred Fyles is enchanted by Ninagawa Company's newest play



Naohito Fujiki, Nino Furuhata and Rie Miyazawa in the Ninagawa Company's *Kafka on the Shore* at Barbican, London Photo: Takahiro Watanabe

The work of Japanese author Haruki Murakami could perhaps best be described as “dense”. Possibly Japan’s greatest living novelist – or at least, the best known internationally – Murakami’s feather-light, delicate prose belies the complex themes that lie at the core of his novels. Their plots are like riddles, which, without solutions, are cast adrift on a sea of surreality. As such, it takes a brave director to tackle his work, especially since he has said he won’t watch adaptations of his work; there are few better qualified to tackle this, therefore, than Japanese director Yukio Ninagawa who, as he stands on the cusp of his ninth decade of life, brings his accomplished version of *Kafka on the Shore* to London’s Barbican Centre.

The plot of *Kafka on the Shore* is one of time and memory, of loss and longing, of providence and serendipity. On the one hand we have Kafka Tamura, a teen runaway who makes it to a private library managed by the mysterious Miss Saeki, only for his literary idyll to be destroyed by the news of his father’s murder; on the other is Satoru Nakata, an eel-loving elderly man, who was knocked unconscious in a mysterious accident, and awoke without his memory but

"The staging of the play retains all the sensuality of the novel"

with the ability to talk to cats. As their stories begin to weave together, the nature of reality begins to unwind, as the audience are left with more questions than answers.

With such a convoluted plot, a sceptical approach to the play is to be understood. However, Ninagawa manages to tread a course through the text with ease: his version of *Kafka on the Shore* retains the mystery and intrigue of the original book, but still manages to come in at just under three hours long, a remarkable feat considering the chunky nature of the source material.

The staging of the play retains the sensuality of the source material. *Kafka on the Shore* is a book of soft edges, of glimmering light, and this effect is recreated through Tsukasa Nakagoshi’s set design, which sees the cast and props swirl around the stage in a number of gigantic cubes. The effect is like that of a living museum, the action of the play contained within a series of beautiful vitrines. Of course, this could not be achieved without the superhuman efforts of the crew, who drag and shove these cubes into their respective position; at the end of the play they appear, dressed all in black, to a rapturous round of applause from the audience.

The lighting design, courtesy of Motoi Hattori, who has worked with Ninagawa on numerous occasions, is also superb, transporting us from the bright lights of a neon-charged Tokyo, through into the tranquil confines of Takamatsu, and finally to a mystical second-world, one of undead WWII soldiers, unrequited loves, and rain that comes down like mist. The overall effect is to transport us a million miles away from the 70s-brown interior of the Barbican Hall, into a land of dreams and beauty.

The cast, which includes a number of regular Ninagawa collaborators, is more than prepared for the gauntlet thrown down by Murakami. In particular, Katsumi Kiba’s Nakata is excellent, with Kiba adding a completely believable childishness to his character; despite Nakata’s bizarre oddities and his predilection for his less-than-charming habit of referring to himself in the third person, Kiba makes sure that he is irresistibly likable, and we have no choice but to enjoy his presence. Similarly, Rie Miyazawa – who appeared in the 2004 film *Tony Takitani*, based on Murakami’s short story – is exceptional as Miss Saeki, a character whose brittleness is only rivalled

"Ninagawa manages to bring the prose to life, lifting it off the page"

by her sadness; Miyazawa imbues her character with a sense of innate melancholy, reflecting her tragic past. In contrast, Nino Furuhata’s Kafka seems to somewhat lack confidence – it is no surprise to see that this is his first acting credit.

If Ninagawa had merely attempted to bring Murakami’s work to the stage, that would have been enough. But instead, he manages to bring the Japanese author’s prose to life, seemingly lifting words straight off the page and, breathing energy into them, letting them loose on the stage. The fantastical characters of *Kafka on the Shore*, thanks to the superb efforts of the stage crew, step out onto the stage, landing on firm feet – helped of course by the superb staging and lighting. With its heavy themes of reality and artifice, its knowing name-dropping of Yeats and Hegel, and its powerful statement about the modern world, *Kafka* should sink like a stone. Instead, thanks to Ninagawa’s masterful direction, it soars above the audience, as delicate and beautiful as a soap bubble.

The Ninagawa Company’s Kafka on the Shore was on at the Barbican Centre from 28th - 30th May. Performance was in Japanese with English subtitles.

Union Page

Energia Fitness Fun Day, 17 June

Imperial College
London



The Active Lifestyles team would like to invite all Imperial staff and students to a fun day of FREE classes and outdoor fitness training, free t-shirts and prizes for gym and swim challenges. The event will be held at various venues across the South Kensington Campus on Wednesday 17 June.

Here's a quick summary of what's available on the day:

- ▲ A range of free fitness classes held in Energia Studio and Energia Gym

- ▲ Try Kangol jumping shoes - a unique and fun class

- ▲ A fun Jumping Fitness class on patented trampoline

- ▲ Two outdoor classes held on the Queen's Lawn and Prince's Gardens

- ▲ A mega gym challenge with prizes included

To see what will be on offer and view the timetable go to imperialcollegeunion.org/fitnessfunday.

Club, Society & Project Officer Induction Sessions

Have you been elected as a Club, Society or Project officer for 2015/16? You are one of the thousands of volunteers who run Imperial College Union's many activities for our members. Thank you in advance for your and your committee's hard work and commitment over the coming 12 months; it'll be an exciting year ahead!

The Induction Sessions are delivered by an Imperial College Union staff member who will become your first point of contact for help and advice throughout your time as a volunteer in 2015/16.

Learning outcomes are:

- ▲ Understand what the Union is, who we are, what we do and how we will support you

- ▲ Review and discuss your responsibilities in relation to equality & diversity, financial procedures and the health & safety of your members

- ▲ Review the training available to volunteers and identify gaps in your skills/knowledge

- ▲ How the Union can help you to translate your volunteer experiences into skills employers will value

- ▲ Meet your dedicated staff member who will become your primary contact for advice/support in the year ahead

For more information go to our What's On calendar at imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on to see when these sessions are on.

Desk to Difference: "Desk-based volunteering to make a difference."



Too busy to commit to a volunteering? Is your schedule too unpredictable to sign up to activities? Or are you yet to find something worth trying? If you can answer yes to any of these questions, then Desk to Difference is for you!

Desk to Difference is an initiative which allows students to make positive social change by using their skills and expertise to carry out tasks for charitable organisations whenever they want and wherever they are.

You could be an undergraduate biomedical student writing a fundraising plan to support a disabilities charity in Ghana, a Masters Business School student marking business plans from all over the world, or a PhD candidate trying to develop professional skills and aiming to get a taste of different careers before graduation.

We know how busy Imperial students are, but we are also certain that your contribution can have a significant impact on the work of organisations striving for social change.

For more information and to register go to www.imperialhub.org/desk-to-difference.



No. 1608
5th June -
12th June 2015
FREE

PRIVATE ICL

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT LITERALLY BUNCH OF WANKERS



INSIDE: YOUR MUM

HANGMAN



News in Brief: Hangman filled out the sex survey. We're the one with 999 sexual partners.

hangman@imperial.ac.uk

Sex Tips (but just the tips)

Remember that Agony Aunt column? This isn't that.

Normally, Hangman wouldn't care about the sex survey. Most of Imperial are a bunch of virgins, some of Imperial aren't, the world keeps turning. Hangman remains, unfazed, eternal.

But this year's sex survey was so full of utter depravity, wild sexual abandon and frankly horrifying admissions that Hangman felt compelled to speak out.

Hangman even felt compelled to write this article.

And let Hangman just say: you're all disgusting. Hangman loves it.

Quite a few of you sickening sex addicts had comments for *Felix*.

Some of you wanted to let us know what other disturbing things you get up to.

Others took the chance to tell us what sort of contraception they use when getting their freak on. Others tried to proposition *Felix*.

Others were just downright perverts.

Let's take a closer look, as Hangman puts on our Agony Aunt hat (we knitted it ourselves), and introduces you to - for one issue only - 'Sex Tips' (but just the tips).

Types of porn

You people watch some horrifying crap. Anyway.

When it came to porn, *Felix* asked you what sort of thing you enjoyed watching (you sick bastards).

Then they made the mistake of giving you a free text answer box for you to add in anything they'd missed, knowing full well you'd fill the box with all sorts of sick nonsense.

Which you promptly did, because you're nothing if not predictable.

Said one commentator: "anything is porn if you try hard enough."

This is stunning life advice, truth be told.

It feels like the sort of thing you'd see on an inspirational cat poster, if inspirational cat posters were written by filthy porn addicts.

Hangman suggests you all take this advice to heart. Hey, nobody said this was going to be useful sex tips.

Another commentator took a different approach to life, asking "how the fuck could you fap to animated hentai with the fucking voice acting?"

Hangman would like to refer this individual to the comment above. Anything is porn if you try hard enough.

There was also some extremely useful feedback on the survey, with someone pointing out that "you should have separated MILF from Mature."

Hangman doesn't even want to



This is from *The Simpsons*. It still contains better sex advice than this article. Photo: Fox

know why you had to draw that distinction.

Methods of contraception

This section almost made Hangman break down and cry. Even we know you should use protection (we're tying contraception and protection together here, for reasons).

Consider that Hangman's one legitimate tip from this whole enterprise. Use protection.

Once we've scaled the mountain of people pointing out that their homosexuality renders contraception pointless (yes, thank you, we get the point, it was a badly designed question), there was the odd case of people who Hangman is slightly concerned about.

So, naturally, Hangman is going to reproduce their comments verbatim and be sarcastic about them, because that's just how we roll.

Someone's method of contraception is "thinking of Margaret Thatcher when [they] ejaculate." Hangman hates to break it to you: that's not what contraception is. That's what a turn-off is. These are different things.

Hangman congratulates you on the impending birth of your many children.

Several people claimed abstinence as their contraceptive of choice. Congrats. This feels like stating the obvious.

Several others made the obvious joke of "being at Imperial" (one was more specific, targeting the Electronic Engineering department for some virgin banter).

Look. Read the damn sex survey.

It very clearly shows that people at Imperial have sex, so the people making a general "Imperial" joke are all wrong.

It also clearly shows that Aero, not EE, are the biggest virgins, so at least get your departmental-percentage-of-virgins-based jokes right. Honestly.

One person made a terrible joke that's so unacceptable even Hangman refuses to print it. You know who you are.

And finally on the subject of contraception, Hangman would like to give a shout out to whoever wrote "I will use a condom in future."

Hangman feels this belies a rudimentary failure of your reading comprehension abilities.

This isn't a survey about the sex you're hoping to have, it's about the sex you've already had.

Of course, saying that, Hangman is pleased to hear you're making the sensible decision with regards to costuming your genitals in protective latex during consensual copulation, and wishes you the very best of sex in the future.

Funky fornication habits

Oh dear. Hangman thought the Margaret Thatcher reference in the previous section was bad enough, but no, you had to go and surpass yourselves, didn't you? The additional comments for 'anything else you like doing [in sex, not in general]?' proved to be a treasure trove of debauchery.

"Sheep," said one person. No context, just "sheep." They like doing sheep.

If you're suspecting this is going to turn out to be a Welsh joke, well done, because that's exactly what it was. "#welshlad," went the rest of the comment. Wonderful. Never saw that one coming (and neither did the sheep).

Someone else felt the overwhelming urge to query *Felix*'s knowledge of sex, pointing out that they indulge in the odd spot of autofellatio, and asking "how could you forget!" Quite easily, it seems.

"People don't hugely appreciate it when you ask them if you can sanitise their ass" might actually qualify as legitimate advice? Hangman's not sure anymore.

The line between acceptable and not becomes blurred very, very quickly when you're dealing with the level of wanton licentiousness we're talking about here.

Other helpful tidbits include "rusty pirate is not as fun as it sounds" (Hangman's not convinced it sounded fun to start with) and "wanking while blazed" being given as a fun activity to try.

Hangman would appreciate the advice, were it not plain weird.

And finally: this.

Many, many, many people expressed their determination to Get It On Down Under™ (sorry not sorry, Australia) following the sex survey querying whether anyone had actually managed to enjoy some cheeky coitus in the tunnels running underneath the South Kensington campus.

You are, it seems, all obsessed with

these tunnels. Hangman has a few responses to this, so let's break it down.

Firstly, Hangman is delighted to be able to offer the Get It On Down Under™ Experience, for a mere £9000 (per year), where you too can get it on (down under).

Email hangman@imperial.ac.uk to express your interest, with "I'll let you service my tunnels" as the subject line.

Secondly, sex in the tunnels is a terrible idea.

Half of them have caved in, and most of the rest have burning hot pipes running through them that'll melt your face off if you even go near.

Sex in the tunnels will end badly. Hangman's honour.

There was plenty of solicitations to the *Felix* staff, with a vast array of spelling and grammar abilities.

The winner of the 'straightwhiteboystexting.tumblr.com' award for Worst Proposition Ever is whoever sent in 'ay bb u wan sum fuk'. No, no we don't. Not with spelling like that.

One bellend also suggested *Felix* should hold a "rear of the year contest." We're not The Tab, mate. Jog on.

As for "this survey was a lot filthier than anticipated," you were a lot filthier than anticipated. So now you know how we feel.

And finally: to whoever's love for circular confectonary was so great they had to tell *Felix*: Hangman has some brief advice for you.

You "like donuts," okay. That's great. Just don't stick your dick in them.

HANGMAN



News in Brief: Hangman knows what you did last Tuesday.

hangman@imperial.ac.uk

Diary of a Fresher, aged 19 1/4

Sunday 30th May

Well, diary, the good news is that the exams are over.

The bad news is that I didn't go to any of them, and I think that in at least one of the ones I went to I just wrote the words Kris Krake over and over. I can't really remember, it's all a bit of a fog.

Monday 1st June

I'm worried that I might have messed my degree up, and that I'll drop out and have to start again at a university somewhere shit where there are more Greggs than Range Rovers. I tried to find Kris Krake because I thought that as DPW he might be able to help me, but it was his birthday and I saw him in the bar with the Dorothies getting shots and grinding in Metric. Fuck my life.

Tuesday 2nd June

My parents phoned to ask about how the exams went. I told them that I had norovirus and couldn't do them. Yeah, norovirus. I don't know if the college will believe me though.

Wednesday 3rd June

I did the Felix sex survey. I felt that I had to embellish a bit, so I told them that I had a wank in triple-E. It was actually Skempton, but you know, got to have a bit of glamour.

Thursday 4th June

I overheard the Felix editor in the bar telling people that someone had said that they had a threesome involving a goat in the sex survey. Damn you Kris Krake, why must you shit all over my dreams.

NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



United States topples tyrannical dictator



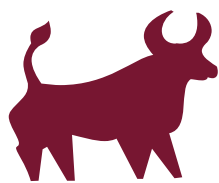
Imperial architects "obsessed with phallic imagery"

HOROSCOPES



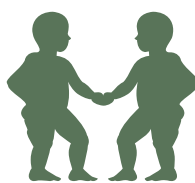
ARIES

This week, you are Hangman. Your horoscopes writer is too busy to do the horoscopes this week, but they don't tell you until a few hours before your print deadline. Enraged, drunk, and mildly fuming, you have to write them all yourself.



TAURUS

This week, you are an anonymous ex-President of a global football organisation. After being forced to step down following most of your employees being arrested, you sit at home catching up on the news. You see that *Felix* has printed a picture of you with a mean caption. You cry.



GEMINI

This week, you finish your exams, and get royally plastered to celebrate. You wake up the morning after, face-down on the floor of the *Felix* office. After a moment of confused recollection, you pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and go to work in the Union Offices.



CANCER

This week, you anxiously await the publication of the sex survey. It's your final year, and you've managed the impossible: you've had sex in every possible place on campus. You can't wait to see the response. *Felix* thinks you're a troll and ignores your data. You cry.



LEO

This week, you decide to take a break from revision and go to Starbucks. There's not a punchline to this one, I just really want to go to Starbucks right now.



VIRGO

This week, you finally notice that 'Virgo' looks a bit like 'Virgin'. You giggle to yourself in the corner. Everyone thinks you're a bit weird.



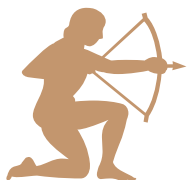
LIBRA

This week, you are the *Felix* editor. The sex survey results are driving you insane, and you spend 48 hours making infographics. Unfortunately all you have done is draw a giant penis on your screen over and over again.



SCORPIO

This week, you are Benedict Cumberbatch. Relaxing on a rare day off, you find yourself perusing an issue of *Felix*. You notice a small box containing a picture of your face in the Puzzles section. Confused, you look through other issues, only to find more boxes with your face in. You worry about the people making this paper.



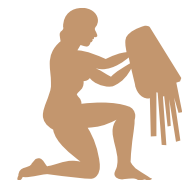
SAGITTARIUS

This week, you decide that enough is enough and you don't want *Felix* printing any more jokes about you that make you sound like someone who wants to have sex with goats. Unfortunately, you are a fresher so no one cares when you complain.



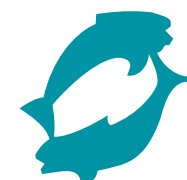
CAPRICORN

This week, you start a fight in the Union. Fortunately, it's with the guy who wrote last week's shit horoscopes so the crowd is behind you. Unfortunately, you can't remember whether you won or not.



AQUARIUS

This week, you decide to help analyse the sex survey results. The sheer number of strange places people have wanked on campus shocks you, until you remember that awkward patch you had in second year. At least you never resorted to the Faculty Building.



PISCES

This week, you are a devoted reader of the horoscopes. Once again, you find the highlight of your week has been ruined by Hangman. Convinced you can do better than this shit, you email your own horoscopes to hangman@imperial.ac.uk demanding they be printed in the next issue.

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 back Al Pologies, Vice Provost (Arbitrary Excuses)!

Sadly, Al was too busy filling out surveys to send in his post this week, so we must now turn to Clem Entines, the Vice Provost (Healthy Living)!

We've asked Clem to deliver this week's post in response to the publication in the student toilet paper "newspaper" (their words) Felix of their annual "sex survey", an unintelligent attempt to discern how much copulation is going on amongst the student population.

So, without further ado: take it away, Clem!

Hi everyone!

I'm delighted to be contributing to this week's Blue News, which as you're all aware is a hugely esteemed organ within the Faculty Building (and beyond!). I just wish it was under less worrying circumstances.

We've learned to our horror that many of the students who have given up their time and their parent's money to study at this world-leading institution have been spending their time engaged in less educational pursuits.

That's right, they've been less focused on educating and more focused on procreating.

The Felix "sex survey" has exposed the unacceptable levels of sexual congress going on amongst the student population.

We here in the Faculty Building firmly believe that such wanton promiscuity cannot be allowed to continue while students are attending this globally-recognised font of academia.

To this end, we will be instituting a new policy of enforced abstinence. Students will be separated in classes based on gender, and any hints of physical contact will be punished with hefty fines.

I look forward to all your support on this matter.

Hello all,

Welcome back once more to Blue News, the hard-hitting, investigative broadsheet bringing you all the latest in big, earth-shattering news!

Just kidding - welcome back to Blue News, the weekly newsletter that keeps you all informed of the goings-on in the Faculty Building. We don't have to do any investigative journalism here! Working in such an open, collaborative environment means the stories just come to us!

This week's issue is dedicated to the recent survey sent round by the wonderful boys in Comms, our annual Collaboration Survey!

That's right, the results are already in (with thanks to the wonderful girls in Accounting for 'a-counting' the responses so quickly!), and it turns out that this year has seen the highest amount of collaboration ever at Imperial!

We've also found some interesting data, which will be published in full very shortly - I can tell you now that the highest percentage of collaboration took place in the Board Room, so no surprises there!

In other news, I'm told that some jobless losers protestors spent some time outside the Royal School of Mines this week, complaining about 'something to do with oil'. Thanks must go to the Vice Provost (Kettling) for dispersing the protestors before their message could spread too far.

The lovely boys in the Finance department's Investment team have asked me all to remind you that oil is a perfectly safe investment to make.

I do encourage you all to buy up stocks in the big oil and gas companies - in this day and age, it's essential to make sure you're financially secure, and there's nothing better than a healthy dividend from some ethically-sourced shares in an oil company for helping to keep you safe above the bread line.

Have a productive, cohesive, collaborative and happy day!



Alice Gast: Thought of the Week

"After the publication in Felix this week of their annual 'sex survey', I'd like to take the chance to remind everyone at Imperial of the importance of safe sexual practices. As an American in Britain, I know how the British are often reluctant to discuss how important it is to use the various forms of protection available, to prevent the spread of a wide range of Sexually Transmitted Diseases - especially children."

What is going on inside the Blue Cube this week

All-Staff Briefing Cancelled

This week's All-Staff Briefing has sadly been cancelled by the Vice Provost (Arbitrary Excuses) to allow staff time to process and digest the results of the Collaboration Survey.

Please do all take this valuable opportunity to read through the results of the survey, and use them to learn how we can continue to improve the wonderful work we do here through the power of collaboration!

If you're looking for a good space to peruse the results, may I recommend the Break Room on the Second Floor? I'm reliably informed we have a delightful new coffee machine, and I'd hate to see the new facilities those lovely boys in Finance have bought for us go to waste!

What Is: Felix?

After the events of last week, we realised that we'd never run a session detailing just who *Felix* actually are.

We often find ourselves having to deal with those stupid idiots journalists-in-training (their words), and we realised that forewarned is forearmed.

To that end, we're running this 'What Is' session on *Felix*, and we'll be giving you all the chance to ask questions over just who's involved, and how we can best deal with them.

All staff are invited to the meeting (although not the *Felix* Editor-in-Chief, as she's not actually staff!), and a register of attendance will be taken on the door.

Those who fail to attend will be sent complimentary copies of the latest issue (their words) of *Felix*.

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

What is going on outside the Blue Cube this week

Due to this week's worrying discovery that students have been engaging in disturbing bouts of copulation in locations across campus, the ban on staff leaving the Faculty Building without written permission has been extended.

Do not make eye contact with students. They're dirty. All of them.

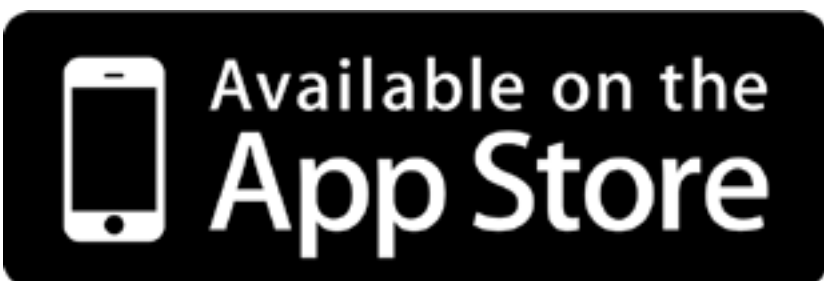
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AND MUCH, MUCH MORE



Clubs and Societies

felix.clubsandsocieties@imperial.ac.uk

C & S Editor || Ben Howitt

Titans triumphant in Telford

Ben Howitt reports on IC Cheerleading's best competition season yet

Imperial College Cheerleading returned triumphant from Telford on Sunday 5th April, with one first and two third places at the British Cheer Association's University National Competition. Spartans, the team's all-girl small group stunt, came third in the Level 3 division. They've been training together since November of last year, choreographing the routine among themselves. Tempest, the co-ed group stunt, competed a few weeks ago at Crystal Palace, taking second place despite two injuries.

This time around, they were crowned National Champions in Level 3 Co-ed, beating off challenges from 14 other squads. They also settled the score with Winchester Spirits, who pipped them to the post last time, winning the category by a margin of 14 points (out of 150).

On University day Titans, the main team, placed 12th out of 18 teams, with a few falls and bobbles knocking a massive difficulty score away from its rightful place. Given that the routine was the first competition performance for many members of the team, it was decided to put at least some of it down to nerves. The squad had the highest stunt and pyramid

score of the day, with the points loss all being down to a few mistakes.

That evening and the following morning, Jasmine Deemester (Head Coach), gave the team last minute instructions to help us obtain the best result possible. The aim was to hit a clean routine and leave the mat proud and able to say "we did the best we could".

With the stress and anxiety of the first performance done, the team was able to enjoy their second outing much more. The Saturday competition was also open to non-university teams (what's called the 'All Star' division), making the competition that much harder.

On the second day (and, for some members of the team, their last ever cheer performance) Titans hit a nearly perfect routine and landed 3rd place in Nationals. Considering no one expected to place at this competition, the result came as a huge surprise to all the squad. This is the best result the club has obtained in its entire history. Every single member of the team gave their personal best and the team managed to bring home a trophy as well as a paid bid to compete on the European Cheer Summit this July.

After last year's less impressive competition outing (on which, in addition to less clean routines, the team suffered from a bout of food poisoning), Imperial's cheerleading program was little known and less respected. But the committee this year, assisted hugely by Jasmine as the new head coach and the sheer energy and grit of the new members, have turned a gaggle of newbies into motivated and committed athletes.

Sanja, this year's Vice Chair, said "It's not only about hitting a clean routine, we've all become really good friends. Cheer's as much about really close friends you wouldn't have even met otherwise as it is about tricks and flips."

The trophies from the second competition day and the group stunt trophies will be displayed by Sport Imperial. The result has set a new bar for the squad, and next year's committee are aiming to attend more than one competition over the year to get the squad more comfortable on a competition mat before the main outing in Spring Term.

IC Titans train on Monday nights as a squad, with a number of athletes also training with London Allstar squads. They won't compete again



IC Spartans and Tempest with the group stunt trophies. Photo: Henry Hesten

this year as some of the squad are heading home at the end of term, but

training is continuing through the Summer Term.



With this being the last year for many of the team, and the first for many others, expectations were high at competition this year. Photo: Henry Hesten



Imperial Athletics takes LCAS by storm

Gareth Holden reports as Imperial secure second place in the inaugural competition

For those that don't know, LCAS is the London Colleges Athletics Series. It is a league consisting of three athletics meets staged at venues across the capital, with all 23 London universities invited to take part. The competition is in its inaugural year which made it crucially important that the Imperial team made its mark.

A full team of Imperial athletes has been present at all three meets and coming into the final on Saturday 30th May we were sitting in second place, just behind King's College London. Everything was riding on the final at Battersea Park and the team did not disappoint. A day of fantastic performances confirmed our position as runners-up in the first ever LCAS!

Gold medals came thick and fast throughout the day starting with the 400m Hurdles, where star fresher Liana Spyropoulou took the women's title and Athletics Captain Gareth Holden the men's. Chris Thomas and Gil Machado were the next stars to shine with victories in the Men's 400m, 800m and 1500m between them. Adding those to Golds from Gareth Holden in the 100m and 200m and Erik Tropp in the 110m Hurdles gave the Imperial Men's

team a clean sweep in every race up to 3000m which is an incredible achievement. Not to be outdone, however, some of the best moments of the whole day came from our resident Irish lad Rob O'Keeffe. Congratulations must go to him for taking on nine (difficult!) events and bringing in over 30 points for the team. I'm sure he will wear his ridiculous sunburn and the battle scars from his aborted steeple chase water jump with pride! Hat's off to Lawrence Tse also who picked up two silver medals in the hurdles.

In the field events we saw similar success. For the women Jenny Carus was unbeatable, walking away with two Golds, winning both the Shot Put and the Javelin. Emma Watkins followed up her victories in the first two meets with second place in the final securing her the overall Gold medal. The undisputed king of the field Erik Tropp managed to add medals in the High Jump and Javelin to his 110m Hurdles gold. Erik racked up an impressive 82 points for the team over the course of the series! Craig Wheadon and Harry Allen also entered an obscene number of events and picked up points left, right and centre. Congrats to Craig in particular

for winning the 400m overall title.

The climax of the day was definitely the relays which were truly epic. First, the Imperial men took on the field in the 4x400m relay. Even though an un-named male athlete suffered defeat on the first leg to the ladies' team from King's, we managed claw our way back into 1st place. I guess I should mention that his female opponent was in fact GB International Lavai Neilson. In the 4x100m relay both the Imperial men and women only managed silver but thrashed out a dominant win in the final event of the series, the Medley relay! This last sprint may have reduced captain Gareth Holden to a heap on the floor but it was completely worth it to have the last laugh over King's and UCL!

A mention must also go to Shivam, Edrea, Sidney, Marta, Sarah, Laura, Amarpal and of course our club captain Matt Douthwaite for coming along and scoring some much needed points for the team!

The LCAS final will go down as one of my favourite competitions in two years as Athletics captain for Imperial.

On the day I could not believe the level of enthusiasm; it was just



Imperial came second at the meet. Photo: ICXC

fantastic to see everyone giving their all for the team in what, normally, is such an individual sport.

If Athletics and Cross Country is something you think you'd like to be a

part of it's not too late to join us for the last few sessions of the year. Of course, we will be back at Fresher's Fair next year (complete with mascot) to welcome in the new season!

Sepp Blatter gets the red card

NICK FARMER
SPORTS WRITER

Sepp Blatter resigned as Fifa President this Tuesday, amid one of the most serious corruption scandals to ever hit the sporting world. This comes after a week of revelations and arrests as part of an investigation by US authorities into corruption at the highest levels of world football.

Blatter has led the governing body of world football since 1998, and under his leadership, Fifa, ostensibly a non-profit organization, has amassed billions in cash reserves, with top executives enjoying the kinds of opulent lifestyle one would normally associate with heads of state.

Last week Swiss police, acting on the request of US authorities, arrested seven top Fifa executives in a dawn raid on a five-star Zurich hotel. Seven more men implicated in the scandal were also indicted by a federal court in New York on charges of racketeering, bribery, money laundering and fraud. The arrests shocked (but certainly did not

surprise) the footballing world.

Two days after the raid, Blatter won his fifth consecutive election despite widespread speculation that he was also under investigation. Due to Fifa's electoral structure, in which every member association's vote has equal weight regardless of the population they represent or their success in international football, Blatter has been able to effectively ignore his European and North American critics by courting numerous small football associations such as those of the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Burkina Faso.

Blatter has often been referred to as a man without shame, brazenly riding out scandal after scandal, but by Tuesday allegations from the US Justice Department that Fifa officials had accepted bribes and kickbacks in excess of \$150m since the 1990s proved too much for even him to handle. He told a press conference that he would "lay down his mandate" and call an extraordinary election to find a replacement, claiming that he would then be able to "focus on driving far-reaching, fundamental reforms that transcend [our] previous

efforts."

Blatter strenuously denies knowledge of or participation in any corruption. If this is true then he is an idiot, and if it is not he is corrupt. Either way, the end of Joseph S. Blatter as a force in world football is news that should be welcome to fans across the world. Corruption has long blighted the beautiful game, and the results of this are far from abstract and materially harm real people.

Fifa's corruption legitimises the regimes of torturers and murderers; Fifa's corruption sweeps the deaths of hundreds of exploited migrant labourers under the carpet; Fifa's corruption pays for third homes, yachts and private jets with the money that should be enabling young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and developing countries to access the opportunities that sport can bring.

Football might just be a game, but the politics and the people that surround it are not. Now that many of the key players in the Fifa circus are behind bars and the ringmaster has left in disgrace, world football has a chance to really be a force for good.



Is it too late to save his reputation? Was there really a reputation left for him to save? Will he fall over again? Photo: AFP/Getty Images