



The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

FELIX

Why are we still taxing periods?

PAGE 6 COMMENT

The Broship of the Ring

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New Bond film premieres on our doorstep



Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

Monday brought the world premiere of the 24th James Bond film, *Spectre*, to the Royal Albert Hall.

Princes Harry and William, and the Duchess of Cambridge, joined stars Daniel Craig, Sam Mendes and Naomie Harris to saunter down the red carpet on Prince Consort Road. They passed Beit Quad and the Blackett building on their way, while students and staff were glued to the windows, trying to get a glimpse of the famous faces.

Several Imperial students managed to get away with mementoes of the evening, including selfies hanging over the barrier of the red carpet and signed posters, with one cheeky hall of residence managing to nab the huge poster of 007 and latest Bond girl, Léa Seydoux, from the bottom of the RAH stairs.

Several Imperial academics to boycott Israeli universities

On Tuesday, a letter pledging an ‘academic boycott’ of Israeli universities was published in *The Guardian*, signed by 343 lecturers including three from Imperial.

The full page spread was entitled ‘A Commitment by UK Scholars to the rights of Palestinians’ and featured the names and institutions of each signatory.

The three Imperial academics featured are Professor Sir Thomas

Kibble, a theoretical physics Emeritus professor, Professor Dot Griffiths, former Dean of the Business school and currently the Provost’s Envoy for Gender Equality, and Dr Bucker Dangor, a senior research investigator from Physics.

Although only signing the letter in a personal capacity, the professors on the list vow not to work with or visit Israeli universities, or attend events sponsored or organised by them. The academics say the boycott

is down to Israeli institutions being “deeply complicit” in the nation’s “violations of international law”. However, there is an assurance that ties shouldn’t be cut with individual Israeli colleagues.

Professor Dot told FELIX she’d signed the letter because of the Israeli shelling of a UN school in July 2014, in Gaza, which killed 15.

“Given the history of the Jewish people, Israel’s continuing violation of Palestinian human rights is bewildering, saddening and, to me, unjustified.”

By Wednesday, 160 additional academics had signed up, taking the number of signatories to 500. Organisers say they have not updated their website since then, due to the “flood of signatures” they’ve received since publication.

In February, SOAS’ student union voted in favour of a ‘full academic

boycott’ of Israel, including a complete disassociation from the Israeli Hebrew University. The motion passed with 75% of the student vote.

In 2013, Stephen Hawking pulled out of a conference in Israel, after pleas from Palestinian colleagues. Hawking is yet to sign the current letter.

Both Britain’s and Israel’s governments have criticised the letter, with both embassies quick to release statements condemning it. The British ambassador to Israel said the boycott would not stop “60 years worth of vibrant exchange” between the two countries, with the Israeli embassy saying such movements only promoted “hatred and alienation”.

In February, a similar open letter calling for a “cultural boycott” of Israel was signed by several notable

figures from the art world, and again published in *The Guardian*. It was met with a response letter from slightly more notable figures, including JK Rowling, saying the crisis would be solved by “bridges not boycotts.”

The letter was signed by 343 lecturers, including three from Imperial

FELIX EDITORIAL



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Yes, we're back again, and every week I'm a little amazed that we are. Of course, we've gone in on the whole Bond thing – but what did you expect? Craig and co shimmying down a red carpet right next to our beloved union is something that weathered Imperial individuals like me will recognise now as something that happens every three years.

Even if you're not into 007 and his questionable ethics, which we discuss in the film section on page 24, you can read an interview with the enthusiastic bunch who camped outside college for two days to get a prime spot in the crowd. Major props also go to Wilkinson hall though, who made off with the 20ft Bond poster at the end of the red carpet and hung it from their balcony for all to see; if they hadn't had to take it down because of fire regs, they might've accidentally hosted the premiere's after party.

Imperial College TV, our very own camera-wielding, YouTube stardom seeking munchkins, failed to sneak into the event, but did manage to bag an interview with new Top Gear presenter Chris Evans. Low and behold, Evans took

a shine to the boys, taking hold of the interview, and indeed their actual camera. Obviously well worth a watch, that.

Vaguely exciting though the premiere was, it's been a political week, so we have gone a bit serious. Ever since FELIX was founded, debate has been heard radiating from our offices, but I'm going to confidently assume that no editor has ever polled the room on whether we should put a tampon on the cover. Unable to help ourselves, we went for it.

So, the House of Commons voted to keep taxing sanitary products as though they were luxury items. Great. I don't know if you've ever seen a tampon, dear reader, but I'll tell you, there ain't nothing luxe about it. Yeah it's only a 5% tax, but it's the principal.

There are lots of things we don't need but that we choose to buy to make our lives a little bit nicer. Occasionally, I have a Whole Foods quesadilla. People heat their houses with radiators. You don't choose menstruation, menstruation chooses you, making taxing tampons as though they were non-essential bloody madness.

In a bizarre turn of events, the



(unelected) House of Lords (sortof) saved the day (for a bit) by delaying the proposed tax credit cuts. Even flying in obscure, but yes, real peers like Andrew Lloyd Webber couldn't swing the vote. Personally though, if I was voting to cut the incomes of our poorest families by a grand a year, I'd not have flown in from the US in first class. But that's just me.

Lots has got us riled this week, so if you have any feelings about anything you read, pop us an email. Ooh go on, vent. We're listening. We'll probably even publish those feelings. It's like a blog, except someone besides your mum might read it.

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We want you to write for us. News, comment, science, whatever. We're waiting for you.

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I went to the Bond premiere

Jennie Watson

Deputy President of Welfare

By some spectacular stroke of luck I managed to get my paws on a ticket to the Spectre premiere. I'm not just talking a ticket to see the film, I mean full on red carpet walking boozing and schmoozing tickets.

You'd have to be living under a rock to have missed the build up to the premiere. Two days of rigging, road closures all along Prince Consort Road and a handful of die hard Bond fans camping out to be in the crowd. As a jammy cow with an office right above the action and a ticket to the main event I was asked to tell you all the mad things that happened.

Let's start with the cars and a shout out a particular crane operator. This guy craned a Jaguar CX57

and 007's DB10 through the gap between the Albert Hall and those posh flats to place them in front of a massive expensive looking screen. The guy deserves a medal, a clean set of underwear and a stiff drink.

Security was pretty tight on the night. En route back to office on Monday afternoon I had to fight through a massive queue of fans waiting to get their bags thoroughly

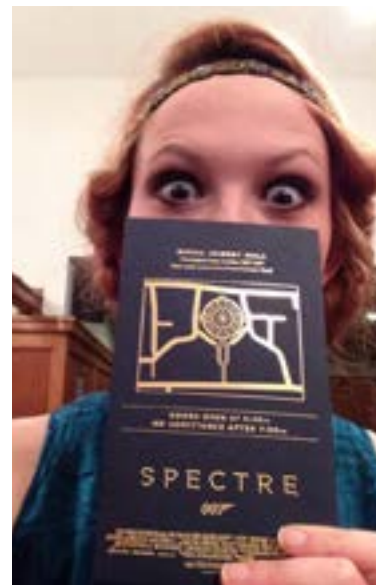
I spent my time on the red carpet taking selfies

searched before having to show my ID card to what felt like a gazillion security guards. Unlike with Union bar staff, I couldn't use 'my face is on the screens' to get through.

Union staff found themselves having to clear meeting rooms in Beit of randoms all afternoon. This includes one lady who apparently would not quit and kept returning to her vantage point. Ironically, while I was on the red carpet half the Union was hanging out of the same windows.

Finally we get to the main event. Red carpet time. Dressed to the nines, I headed off with my embossed ticket to strut my ginger stuff. For those who care, I wore a teal silk dress made from a 1960's Vogue pattern from my nan's back cupboards and vintage jewellery. Obviously I was upstaged by Bond Girl Lea Seydoux.

I spent my time on the red carpet



taking selfies, making the people who queued for hours in the cold sick with envy and hoping to run into the glorious Daniel Craig. I love an older man. The highlight of my red carpet experience came when I

was interviewed by ICTV. Those in the crowd were likely wondering what I ever did to be interviewed on a red carpet. Big Brother season 2? Guest appearance on TOWIE? ICU Meet the Candidates? I'm pretty certain the security guy was taking the piss with "I hope you enjoyed your interview Madame". Who cares, I met Will.i.am at the bar 10 minutes later.

I probably have to mention the royals. Wills and Kate turned up, with Harry third wheeling. They didn't have to walk the red carpet like the rest of us peasants, they drove up. The entire audience then watched them walking into the Albert Hall on the screen.

The film is brilliant by the way. As you can imagine Bond gets laid, some cars get trashed and things blow up. You should go and see it.

Monday nights will be crap for the rest of my life.

Meet the 007 megafans

Philip Kuruky
Writer

They were camping on Prince Consort Road for two days

You might've thought skiving lectures on Monday to catch a glimpse of national treasure Daniel Craig and a handful of royals as they attended the Spectre premiere was pretty cheeky. That's nothing compared to these fans, who camped out on Prince Consort Road for three days to secure a place right at the front of the crowds

They repeatedly called the 24 hours McDonalds a "life saver"

lining the red carpet.

On Saturday, 41 people signed up for front row spots to see the film's cast, as well as Prince Harry, Prince William and his wife, Kate, who attended the glamorous event.

People with camping chairs and sleeping bags began to appear on Saturday, when they set up outside the Holy Trinity Church on a closed Prince Consort Road. The first arrival was an Ipswich couple in their 60s who grabbed the last train to London on Friday and arrived at 1am on Saturday morning. They also claimed to be the first in line 3 years ago when *Skyfall* premiered at the same venue.

The huge Bond fans said they had watched all 23 Bond movies in the build-up for tonight, until they "went blind".

When asked why they had returned for Spectre, the couple said they had come very close to a selfie with Daniel Craig last time and that they would attempt it again on this occasion. Another person joked that he knows the films so well he's starting to think he is Bond,

although this FELIX reporter would comment that his physique was not a conventional one for the part.

The campers repeatedly called High Street Kensington's 24-hour McDonald's a "life saver". The harsh sleeping conditions of an uncovered London road in the cold were ridiculed by one camper, who claimed he was "hardcore" enough to survive Saturday's rain and 2°C night temperature, although he did complain that his sleep was disturbed by rowdy Imperial students leaving the Oktoberfest celebrations at the union on Saturday night.

The uber fans boasted of having seen Bond's Aston Martin DB10, star of the trailer's car chase in Rome, get delivered to the Royal Albert Hall beforehand.

The keenest campers, who were at the front of the red carpet, expressed fears of being shaken and stirred by the crowds expected, but when asked why they have gone to so much trouble for a glimpse of an actor, one said, "Well it's Bond. It doesn't get bigger than that, does it?"

ICTV meet Top Gear host



Evans was without his glasses after ICTV got hold of him. Photo Credit: ICTV

ICTV's Jonathon Masters and Hasan Al-Habib managed to wangle a YouTube gem at the Spectre premiere: an interview with Chris Evans.

After being flagged down by Imperial College TV at the end of the red carpet, Evans paused to talk to the roving reporters.

He was handed a microphone by the rookies, which wasn't plugged into anything, muttering "this is hilarious" before telling the boys he was excited to be joining *Top Gear*, but was more excited about their microphone.

Evans asked the boys if they'd applied to be a host of the new show, with Al-Habib responding that he was "tempted by Amazon

Prime", the company set to run a show with the original Clarkson/May/Hammond cast.

Chris then, cursing his own interviewing technique, gestured for the camera. Masters obliged without hesitation, and Chris began to film the two.

Taking off his own glasses, he shoved them to Masters, a similarly fiery redhead.

Filming himself and the ICTV duo, he exclaimed, "this is the real Chris Evans interview!"

Referring to strawberry blonde Masters, he pleased the crowd, quipping, "that's what I used to look like!"

"I'm so jealous of his hair, it's proper ginger hair, mine's rubbish."



UCAS to anonymise university applications

Cecily Johnson
News Editor

This week the government announced plans to remove candidate names from university applications in a move to prevent unconscious bias against ethnic minority candidates.

UCAS, the body which handles admissions for nearly all undergraduate courses in the UK, will now consult with institutions on how best to name-blind applications.

Mary Curnock Cook, the chief executive of UCAS, also promised to look into "a wider range of changes which could impact applications from black and ethnic minority students".

The admissions body regularly carries out research on data from past admissions cycles to help identify issues of under-representation. Ms Curnock Cook stressed that "UCAS is deeply committed to increasing

participation from disadvantaged groups".

Announcing the move in an article for The Guardian, David Cameron expressed his hope "to end discrimination and finish the fight for real equality in our country today".

The Prime Minister highlighted research showing that 55% of offers from leading universities are made to white candidates, while just 23% go to their black counterparts.

Noting that the reasons behind

Graduate employers have also committed to anonymising candidates

statistics such as these are complex, Mr Cameron stated that "unconscious bias is clearly a risk".

Details of candidates' educational backgrounds will still be included in UCAS forms, as this information is considered essential to assessing applications. Universities will be informed of candidate names should they choose to invite them to interview.

Meanwhile, leading graduate employers in the public and private sectors have also committed to anonymising candidates during the recruitment process.

Employers including the Civil Service, the NHS, Teach First, the BBC, HSBC, KPMG, Virgin Money and Deloitte will now name-blind application forms.

John Manzoni, the Civil Service Chief Executive, expressed his confidence "that this important step will help us build an organisation that is even more talented, diverse and effective than it is today".

Financial services firm Deloitte was among a number of big



Cameron supports anti-bias measures and tax credit cuts. Photo Credit: Reuters

recruiters to announce other changes to its selection process recently, removing information on candidates' educational background from applications in an attempt to diversify the talent pool.

Chief Executive David Sproul said that the additional measure of name-blinding applications would help "ensure that job offers are

made on the basis of potential, not ethnicity, gender or past personal circumstance".

Representatives from leading graduate employers will now take part in discussions at Downing Street to set out plans for the changes. UCAS is expected to start removing candidate names from applications by 2017.

China overhauls one child policy

Jack Steadman
Writer

China has scrapped its infamous one-child policy after more than three decades, it was revealed this week.

The ruling Communist Party issued a statement following a four-day summit in Beijing, revealing that couples will now be allowed to have up to two children.

This change in policy is intended to "balance population development and address the challenge of an ageing population," according to the statement, published on the state-run Xinhua news agency.

Concerns over rising social costs and falling worker numbers had led to relaxations in some provinces, and formal relaxation in national rules occurring two years ago, with this major change to the policy being rumoured for several months.

Some have praised the move as a step forwards, allowing greater

individual freedoms for Chinese citizens and reducing the right of the state to interfere in the right to a family life.

However, others have suggested the move does not go far enough, as the Communist party still maintains full control over the size of Chinese families, albeit with one additional child per couple.

The state has no business regulating how many children people have



China also announced its latest five year plan, through this stunning video. Photo Credit: New China TV

Amnesty International issued a statement warning that "couples that have two children could still be subjected to coercive and intrusive forms of contraception, and even forced abortions - which amounts to torture."

William Nee, China researcher at Amnesty International, added "the state has no business regulating how many children people have."

Others also expressed cynicism

over the intent of the policy change, with Stuart Gietel-Basten, associate professor of social policy at the University of Oxford, writing in The Conversation that this reform is actually "a pragmatic response to an unpopular policy that made no sense."

Introduced in 1979, the controversial policy was intended to slow the population growth rate and is estimated to have prevented

around 400 million births.

Couples violating the policy would face punishments ranging from fines to forced abortions. It appears that these punishments will remain in place for couples with more than two children.

The proposal still needs to be approved by China's top legislature before it can be enacted, according to Xinhua, although approval is unlikely to be withheld.

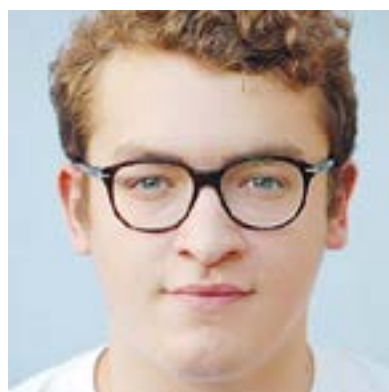
FELIX COMMENT



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Why are Imperial students so apathetic about politics?

It is time that we acknowledged our failure to act, find a cause, and make a difference



Cale Tilford
Music Editor

The students of Imperial are, in my experience, greatly lacking in their enthusiasm for political and social issues when compared to their contemporaries at other institutions. While it might be true that there is growing resentment and disillusionment among students towards the political class, this does not excuse the alarming lack of visible activism and demonstration across campus.

This might seem strange for a university that prides itself in having the largest election turnout in England & Wales, but it is the logical conclusion for a student population that is more interested in becoming part of the establishment than making the world a better place.

Sustaining pressure on the government and other bodies (including college) is incredibly important. Our involvement and engagement in politics must extend beyond voting in general and local elections. We vote politicians into power, and rely on leaders who continually break their promises. In the past, we have seen that students are often the most vulnerable to such shameless reversals of policy, and yet now we are almost silent. Have we been so demoralised by the failure of students in the past to overcome an increase in tuition fees that we have given up? Thousands are still fighting back at universities across the country, so why aren't we among them? Imperial and its students live in a bubble.

There's no better time than at university to make your voice heard

It would be unfair not to highlight the good work that many students contribute to through the student union and its many societies. Huge amounts of volunteering and fundraising take place throughout the year, and last year alone students managed raise over £100,000 for charity. To be fully effective, this needs to be done alongside concerted efforts to lobby government or other appropriate institutions. Changing policy is the ultimate solution; anything else merely solves the problem in the short term.

While the Union must remain non-partisan, it will campaign on issues that are brought forward to Union Council. A list of the policies that have passed Council is available online and some of these are very progressive, but in the past, very few have been publicised to the extent necessary to encourage student participation in these specific causes.

There is obviously some appetite for mass protest at Imperial and we have seen this in the recent action against the proposed changes to junior doctor contracts. This passion needs to continue and spread to other causes, ones which not only affect us as students, but also those which affect the weakest in society.

There are members of our elected union who do care enough to get involved in political action. The Deputy President of Welfare and this year's Campaigns Officer are both attending the upcoming National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts demonstration on the 4th of November. Similarly, our Union President is an avid elephant activist and I hope she can extend this enthusiasm to the thousands of students she represents. If the leader of the Labour party can take time out to show solidarity with student activists surely our president can too.

The Union's communication is ultimately its downfall; with so many passionate students representing us, it's a shame that their voices are never loud enough. While the NUS may be a controversial institution,



We can make signs too! Photo Credit: Grace Rahman

their promotion and defence of the rights of students is often heard on a national level.

Why is it that our students are less interested in bottom-up politics than those at other universities? It is possible that the multiple failed campaigns of the Union in the past, including their failure to stop the closure of Weeks and Garden Halls, have fostered a sense of powerlessness among students. Of course, in most of these cases it's the College which is completely at

They would rather join the powerful than work on the side of the exploited

fault, but, our union could do more to become a dissenting voice.

General apathy could also be as a result of the large percentage of foreign students studying at Imperial. I would be afraid of protesting in a country that wasn't my own, but when the government is attempting to place counter-

intuitive restrictions on foreign students, they must stand with us. However, there are other universities where a similarly large proportion of the student population is from abroad and some of these are well known for their activism.

As a university specialising in science and technology, students are more familiar working with fact and analysis than they are with opinions. It seems as if most students are just coming to Imperial in the hope that they will one day work for the banks and large corporations that are the cause all of our problems. They would rather join the powerful than work on the side of the exploited.

When a very large amount of opportunities that are available to students are at companies with no discernible benefit to society, it is easy to understand why so few of us at Imperial are willing to stand up to injustice. The College and careers services should do more to attract companies that have a positive impact on the world, and they should encourage students to create startups that actually solve real problems, rather than build companies around interesting technological advancements. Only when students start to see others around them contributing are they likely to want to help.

For me, this is the very first step in acknowledging my own failure to act. It's time for you and I to get involved. This is my impassioned call to arms: protest, occupy and overcome the insurmountable. Find a cause and make a difference; there is no better time than at university to make your voice heard.

FELIX COMMENT



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My period is not a luxury

Hundreds of male MPs vote to continue charging women for having vaginas



Vivien Hadlow
Comment Editor

As a student, the list of items I would define as “luxury” is quite long. Branded chocolate, new razors, shoes without holes in – for all these things there is a feasible, if less appealing, alternative.

So, when HMRC classify sanitary products as part of this list, what alternative could they possibly have in mind?

The rules surrounding VAT (Value Added Tax) are bizarre to say the least. On the whole, VAT is meant to be a tax on items that people don't absolutely need, but buy to increase their quality of life above a standard level. It follows that there are some things that are classed as essential, and are subject to no VAT at all.

The list of items deemed essential enough to avoid VAT is extensive, and includes such necessities as sandwiches (but only if they're cold),

nuts (if the shells aren't removed) and biscuits (unless, god forbid, they're chocolate-covered).

Also on the list are incontinence pads; this one is understandable, as not-wetting-yourself-everywhere seems like a fairly basic requirement for a reasonably comfortable life. You might expect that not-leaking-menstrual-fluid-everywhere would hold similar status. Apparently not.

Currently, sanitary products count as 'non essential luxury items', and are subject to a VAT rate of 5%. This has already been reduced from 17.5% in 2001 after a campaign under Brown's Labour government, but the question remains: why is it not 0%?

At the time the initial reduction was announced, it was not possible to reduce it to zero because of certain EU regulations. On Monday, a vote was held in the House of Commons

on the proposal to negotiate the matter with the EU, and was defeated 305-287.

In the flurry of commentaries following it, there seems to be one common theme in support of the result: there are more important things to be worrying about.

While I understand this to some extent – 5% is hardly a huge burden on the buyer – it is the principle of the thing that has made people so irate.

It is inarguably a tax that charges women for managing a bodily function they do not choose to have, and the fact that MPs voted against getting rid of it is far more disturbing than the tax itself.

VAT rules are weird anyway, and 5% isn't that much – but the message that the House of Commons has sent with this vote is clear: equality is just not that important.



A period is for life, not just for Halloween. Photo Credit: shockymind.com

House of Lords does right thing?

Did the House of Lords overstep the mark in delaying proposed tax credit cuts?



Ben Sharpless
Writer

George Osborne's new favourite line to describe the Conservatives is “the party of working people”. Over the last three years, since he was booed at the London Olympics opening ceremony, Osborne has undergone a transformation, reinventing himself as a person and a politician.

He's lost two stone to try to improve his public image, widened his political vocabulary to include all kinds of clever political spiel and tried to re-brand the Conservatives as a party in the centre of the spectrum in an effort to close the political gap between them and Labour.

But however hard he tries to make us believe it, the Conservatives can't be the party of working people if they take away money from working people.

Before the 2015 election, David Cameron appeared on TV and stated that if his party won, they would not cut tax credits, a scheme

introduced by Labour to boost the salaries of low paid workers and families. Now they are in power, they are trying to introduce a cut to tax credits that will affect two million working families with children and low household incomes, something that directly contradicts another of Osborne's buzzphrases – that he wants to “make work pay”. £4.4bn pounds worth of cuts are planned, with an expected average loss to



Cameron vowed not to increase tax credits Photo Credit: Mirror

families (with children) of £1000 each in the year 2020.

The plan isn't just unpopular with Labour and the Liberal Democrats, it has even caused a schism in Osborne's own party.

As of Monday, the House of Lords has joined in too, voting to delay Osborne's proposed cuts, and complete a more thorough assessment of their impact. The House of Lords hasn't done this in 100 years

and some senior Conservatives are up in arms that an unelected body of peers can overturn their proposals.

While the House of Lords is outdated and needs reforming, I think that in this case, they have done the right thing. The Lords may be unelected, but this part of the Conservatives' election campaign was a lie. And of course, they're getting all the bad news out of the way now in the hope that it will all be forgotten by 2020.

The argument against tax credits is that they effectively subsidise companies who don't pay their employees a high enough wage. While there may be an element of truth to that, this is not the way to get about reforming the situation.

In trying to justify Osborne's tax credit cuts and reform to the system, Boris Johnson said that he “hopes” more companies will sign up to the London living wage. What kind of a reform is one that takes money away from working people and relies on “hope” to give it back?

FELIX COMMENT



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Buy your own fucking sweets, mate

If your costume is culturally insensitive I hope you don't get laid at ACC



The Angry Grad
Columnist

There are many things that irritate me more than my chafing thighs, but this week's focus, Halloween, gets more on my tits than Dr Eva Carneiro did on Jose Mourinho's. From jack-o(f)-lanterns, to shit-o'-treating, this hyper-popular Americanism grates on me more than a dry shave in the heat of summer, and here's why.

Firstly, in my day, chomping choccie from 'Uncle Ian' up the road set alarm bells ringing. The stranger danger fear was real, but now, on the glorious October the 31st, kids are set lose on the streets, like dweebs at ASDA on Black Friday, to scavenge the best collection of teeth-rotting and insulin-spiking confections.

The logic behind this genuinely blows my mind. I mean, do all the creeps refrain from spiking their sweets on one day of the year or something? I THINK NOT. Yes, I am a massive cynic, and yes, this fear is synonymous with paranoia, but would you use Kanye's music as medicine, just because he once said they were the same thing? No, unless you've got man-flu, in which case, only Yeezy can help you get over it, you pathetic, sniffily melt.

In any case, while I do struggle with the idea, I appreciate the sentiment and thus, I'm all set for handing out Haribo to an already hyperactive toddler in an Elsa-from-Frozen costume. But when a group of 17 year olds, 'drunk' on WKD and indecency, bang on

my door, well that just adds insult to indignity. Go get a job and pay for your own fucking overpriced Maoams. Or at least, if you are going to scavenge for free food on a kid's holiday, put some effort in. Drop the rapper/gangster excuse for a costume and stop mumbling trick-o-treat – enunciation can get you far in this world. That's how the Queen's managed to keep the throne for so long.

From the under-dressed to the over, Halloween may as well be renamed whore-oween, because my God do some lassies take the *Mean Girls* commandment of it being

This hyper popular Americanism grates on me more than a dry shave in the heat of summer

Sexy Ebola Costume

\$59.99

Size: Women's X-Small 3-5 [XS] ▾

This item is currently out of stock!

Almost Sold Out!
Buy yours now before they're gone.

t f t+ e+

Product Description

As the deadly Ebola virus trickles its way through the fighting its disease is no reason to compromise style, and chic gas mask will be the talk of Milan. London, P York as the world's fashionistas seek global solutions couture. Ending plague isn't the endeavor of a single: sure to check out our men's Ebola Containment Cost

\$60? Almost sold out? Are you fucking kidding me? Photo Credit: BrandonSale

okay to dress slutty too far. While I appreciate that if you got it, flaunt it, being peng doesn't mean displaying your red crotch from that brazillian you had earlier in that skimpy leopard print leotard.

Seriously ladies, less is genuinely more, and leaving something for the imagination is totally empowering. In fact, my real respect is to those gals going ghoulish this year, and I don't mean a cutesy bit of smudged lippy. I'm talking about the whole darn shebang. Go HAM with the fake blood, face paint and zombie contact lenses, because this is one night of the year, where looking terrifyingly fugly is a-okay. Make up on Halloween could not be more fun, because all that delicate

You'll look disgusting, but on purpose!

contouring and cat-lining isn't required. Hell, put your face on in the dark, or if you're really ugly, don't bother at all, cuz the end result will be frightful, and that's what the night's for; scaring away those cat-fishers. Plus, you won't lose your self-esteem the next morning when you trawl through your snaps – you'll look disgusting, but on purpose!

While I could rant 'til the end of time, I'll finish on one last issue; the true consequences of choosing trick over treat. Like, WTF will actually happen? I may have to try it this year when a BO laden post-GCSE mug dares to knock on my door.

Don't bloody shout trick-or-treat in my face if you've not actually planned a chuckle-worthy prank, in case I choose the former, you retin. Arrogance is up there in my top three pet hates, (along with full sized cup-cake shaped cakes and automatically flushing toilets) and if you don't deliver, you have no right to expect me to.



Really, who pays for these things? Photo Credit: Costumeish

Lion Killer Dentist Halloween Costume

Size: Standard Adult Size ▾

Color: White ▾

\$ 59.99

Quantity: 1

FELIX FEATURES



felix@imperial.ac.uk

Proudly Unconventional: ComiCon 2015

Adventure, Anime, and Art: FELIX reports on London's leading Comic gathering

Xuan Chen
Features Editor

Founded in just 2001, the Movie Comic Media Expo Group (MCM) organizes all the major conventions in the UK. Although it hosts similar gatherings across the Midlands, Scotland, and Ireland, the jewel in its crown has always been the biannual London MCM ComicCon. The event attracts more than 120,000 visitors over the weekend, making it one of the biggest gatherings of its kind in Europe.

People from all over are welcomed into the community

Geek culture's sudden explosion in popularity has not gone unnoticed in industry. From 2002 to 2013, profits from the distribution of Japanese animation alone increased from ¥0.2bn to ¥34bn. Each individual convention is an opportunity for developers and designers from all over the world to have their work celebrated. Moreover, these events are emotionally charged, with visitors often spending months designing costumes solely for the sake of a weekend.



Peter Zhang takes a break from studying Medicine at Imperial to strike a pose in his 'Edge of Tomorrow' suit. Photo Credit: MCM Buzz Magazine / Sarah Tsang

For those of us who have grown up after the developments of the information age, it is inconceivable that enthusiasts once had to make long trips to the only city in the country which had the shop hosting the designs or collections they wanted. And consider the video game industry, designers and artists, and film stars and celebrities, who also benefit from this strange kind of global integration. The vast economic benefit is indisputably clear – especially to anyone stuck

in the two-hour queue outside the London ExCeL building at 9am waiting to be the first in to see their favourite celebrity. Even this doesn't take into account the social integration of people from extremely diverse backgrounds, drawn from across the world by their mutual love of art and design. The visual communication of comics and costumes permeates language barriers. People are unilaterally welcomed into the community. Even to a mainstream media lover,

the appeal is clear. Daniel Radcliffe was one of the celebrities making an appearance this time last year, while Stephen Moffat and Mark Gatiss of *Sherlock* and *Doctor Who* hosted a writer's panel. Members of the public rushed to take photographs with representatives from *The Walking Dead* and *Game of Thrones*.

For someone with an open mind towards art, the convention's Comic Village is an area specifically dedicated to professional artists, publishers, and designers. Works

displayed this year ranged from *One Piece*, a popular fantasy pirate manga, with accompanying anime series and feature films; to more niche independent works and adult comics.

The existence of platforms like ComicCon adds a well-received splash of creativity to London. It is not only of great benefit to the local community, but is a social achievement to be celebrated, serving as inspiration to designers, creators, and the people everywhere who enjoy their work.

Carol Ann Cheah
Writer

The first time I attended MCM London was the summer convention in May this year. I was immediately struck at the vibrancy, the buzz, and above all, how incredibly happy and overwhelmed I was by the sheer number of people that had also decided to join me, and how these events bring us together.

There are all sorts of cons all year round in London, let alone up and

down the country, but I have a soft spot for MCM because of the huge variety of stuff that's on offer across genres and media. It's not every day you get to see promo material for the release of the latest *Persona* game or *Assassins' Creed* coexisting in the same hall, alongside a pewter cast of Han Solo in carbonite or a panel with Rooster Teeth (of RWBY and Red vs Blue fame). You've got amateur and semi-professional artists peddling their wares on one end, big name stalls on the other end, and a chance to take photos with *The Walking Dead*

zombies or in the Back To The Future DeLorean machine in yet

It's sheer madness, but delightful.

another corner of the hall.

It's also amazing how many con virgins later on end up becoming avid cosplayers as a result. My first ever comic con was back in

Malaysia, which had oodles on offer; the MCM cons, however, are another beast altogether. I've gone from someone who first started casually dressing up as hipster Ariel last Halloween to doing a full-blown live-action game cosplay this October. This year I saw an Altair (*Assassins' Creed*) cosplayer play dead on the floor after yelling out "DESYNCHRONIZED!", and a *Deadpool* cosplayer yelling for "Todd (Haberhorn)-senpai" to notice him whilst pretending to cut a meet and greet queue. It's sheer madness, but delightful.



The author as an Arstotzka border guard. Photo Credit: Dwarf Trash



David is Nutts about drugs

Professor David Nutt invites us to all get on our high horse and discuss failings of the current drug legislations

Gabriella Beer
Writer

The audience sat in room G16 of the Sir Alexander Fleming Building (SAF). We sat in silence as Professor David Nutt, psychiatrist and neuropsychopharmacologist, voiced his opinions on the drug legislature that we live by today. Prof Nutt, well known for his radical views, such as an eyebrow raising deposition that horse riding is more dangerous than illicit drug use, did not fail to provide a pragmatic solution to this taboo topic.

The Misuse of Drugs Act, brought into effect in 1971, listed the psychoactive substances banned for public use and allocated appropriate punishment for the non-compliant. This policy resulted from a treaty devised at a United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances and thus, the worldwide criminalisation of recreational drug users and addicts commenced. However, this law did not only marginalise the society's vulnerable, it gave the Home Secretary power over the drugs licensing system, control over drug categorisation and subsequent choice in punishment for misconduct. This, reiterated by

Professor Nutt numerous times last Tuesday, was the start of drug laws as a political tool and allowed decisions to be made by those with no understanding of scientific evidence.

One of the arguments frequently voiced in the defence of drug laws, is that illicit drug use leads the user down a path of mental disorders and crime. In fact, this 'crime' committed

Horse riding
is more
dangerous
than illicit
drug use

by the inebriated costs our police force £7 billion a year. However, it is not MDMA (which has virtually no evidence of causing social harm) or cocaine, which influences these 'criminals'. It is, sadly, alcohol.

Professor Nutt's Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs published a report demonstrating alcohol as the overall most harmful

drug in existence. Heroin came in second and crack cocaine third. He elaborated by disclosing that 80% of alcoholics have other mental disorders and 40% of suicides are committed thanks to drink every year.

Evidence depicts drugs as a safer option than alcohol, a legal and unregulated substance, and since three young people die of alcohol poisoning a week, drug laws cannot be based on science. Drug policy is based on use. Professor Nutt's blog *Drug Science* calls for 'evidence not exaggeration', and is careful to stress that all drug use carries a risk.

However, deaths go up when the market is forced underground. In 1971 Britain had 1000 heroin addicts. The aftermath of the Misuse of Drugs Act now sees the NHS battling over 200,000 cases of addiction. It is now illegal to prescribe heroin; users are forced to get their fix in other ways such as by selling to others, which only serves

Evidence
depicts
drugs as a
safer option
to alcohol,
a legal
and
unregulated
substance

to escalate the problem. Rightly so, the Professor calls for a rethink in government attitude to this disease. The 'Psychoactive Substances Bill



A man who likes to break the mould. Photo Credit: Imperial College London

2015' passed its second reading this October and sets out to ban the sale of any psychoactive substance, regardless of harms and benefits. Professor Nutt stressed that this law will prevent any further investigation into safer alternatives to alcohol and will impede the development of other psychoactive substances to treat common mental disorders such as schizophrenia. The definition of 'psychoactive drugs' is loose. Does this also relate to antipsychotic drugs or antidepressants? Professor Nutt's team is currently embarking on the UK's first clinical trial using the psychedelic ingredient in magic mushrooms, psilocybin, to treat clinical depression. To his exasperation, government regulations controlling the licensing of illegal drugs in research and EU guidelines have stalled the start of the trial. The Professor is urging them to rethink regulations. Not all psychoactive drugs are recreational and certainly not all are harmful; some, he argues, have clear benefits and the potential to revolutionise mental health research.

The final and perhaps most interesting question put to Professor Nutt last Tuesday evening was, 'if you were Home Secretary,

what would be your drugs policy?' Unsurprisingly, his answer was unambiguous and rational.

To paraphrase the Chair of the Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs and the Vice-President of the European Brain Council: alcohol should be made the threshold for policy. Everything classed below as less harmful, including MDMA, cannabis and ecstasy, should be regulated and licensed. It is only then that you can address the issue of alcohol abuse and bring the fifth most dangerous drug in the world under the same control.

Nevertheless, the Professor ended his talk with a harrowing message – drug misconduct is politically useful and scientific evidence does not seem to fit into political campaigns. Despite the evidence that criminalising those who take drugs will destroy more lives than taking them, politicians are determined to make decisions that perceive the elected as taking control of an extremely volatile national concern. He concluded that drug laws are based on a hatred for those who like to do things differently – and this 90-minute lecture certainly told us that Professor David Nutt likes to do things differently.



Governments too anal when it comes to setting drug legislation laws. Photo Credit: Wikipedia



That hotdog might give you cancer

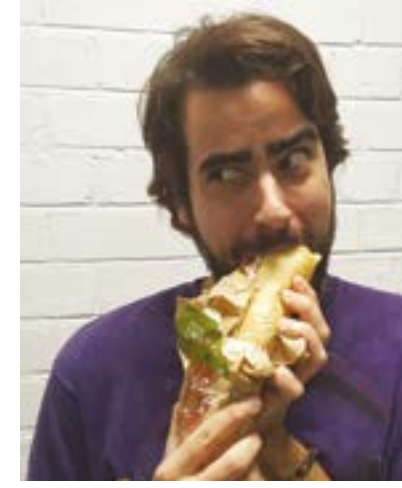
As the nation mourns the new WHO classification of bacon, sausages and ham as 'cancer causing', FELIX prescribes a course of chill pills

Christopher Worsfold
Writer

If you happened to chance upon a newspaper other than FELIX this week (and let's be honest why would you), you'd have noticed that our lovely staples of bacon, ham and sausages have been given the loving media stamp of 'cancer causing'. This was expectedly sensationalised, with *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph* joining in to scare the bacon and sausage bap right out of your mouth. "Bacon, burgers and sausages are as big a cancer threat as cigarettes", "Processed meat ranks alongside smoking as a major cause of cancer" and "Processed meats pose same cancer risk as smoking and asbestos, reports say".

Looks like everyone's favourite, bacon and asbestos roll is off the college café menu now. This week, the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued long awaited new guidelines placing processed meat in Category 1, or 'causes cancer'. It also placed red meat (beef, pork and lamb) in Category 2a, or 'probably causes cancer'. For clarification, "processed meat" means anything that has been treated to extend shelf life or modify taste. Sadly, that does include bacon and sausages.

To a certain extent this isn't news. The classification was coordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which examined over 800 published studies on the link between cancer and processed meat. Unfortunately the new classification for processed meat as 'causes cancer' means it joins 118 other substances that, based on sufficient evidence, cause cancer. And yes, that list does also include asbestos, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and alcohol. Professor David Philips from Cancer Research UK made a



Our science editor, Lef, finding out his favorite roll is off the college café menu Credit: FELIX

statement about the findings: "IARC does 'hazard identification' not 'risk assessment'. That sounds quite technical, but what it

Consuming 50g of processed meat a day increases your risk of colorectal cancer by 18%

essentially means is that IARC isn't in the business of telling us how potent something is in causing cancer – just whether it does or not. Take the analogy of banana skins, for example. They can cause accidents, but in practice this doesn't happen very often (unless you work in a banana factory). And the sort of harm you can come to from slipping on a banana skin is generally not as severe as, say, being in a car accident. But under a hazard identification system like IARC's, 'banana skin' and 'cars' would come under that same category – they both definitely do cause accidents."

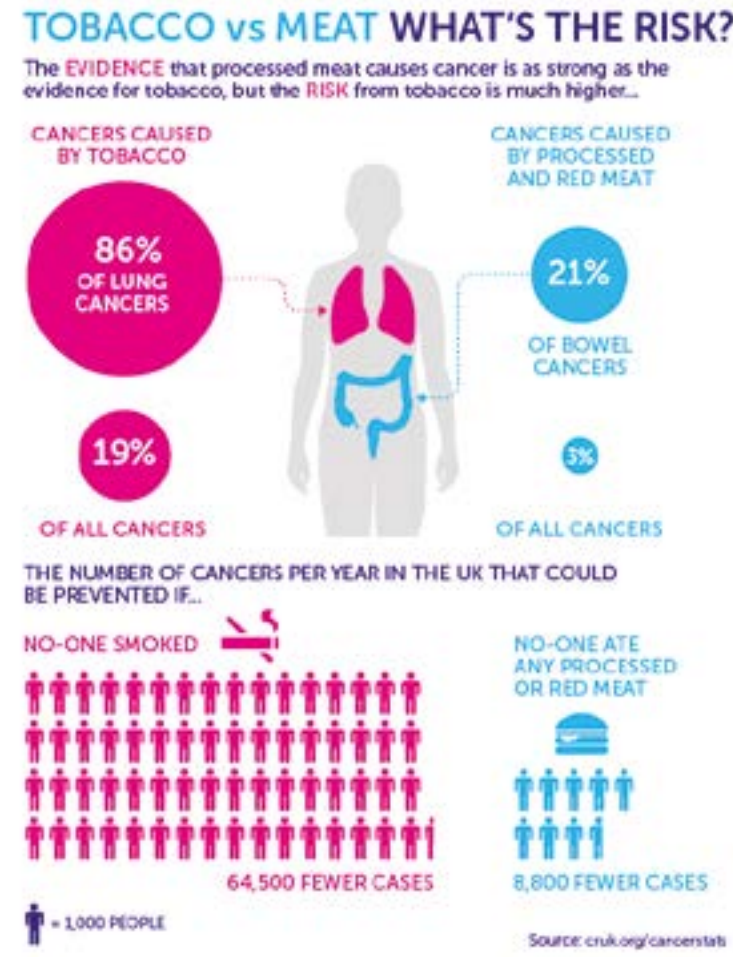
What is important is to understand what is meant by risk.

The conflation of the IARC classing processed meat as 'causes cancer' and newspaper headlines claiming they are "as a big a cancer threat" as smoking is completely misleading and unacceptable.

So before we start making people eat bacon sandwiches outside the pub in the rain or labelling packets with 'sausages kill', we need to examine the actual risk to health. The IARC has said that consuming 50g of processed meat a day increases your risk of colorectal cancer by 18%, whereas smoking poses a much greater risk to public health, as clearly shown by the cancer research UK infographic. The only similarity is that studies

have shown both cause cancer. So the final question is: Should we stop eating red meat and processed meat? Professor Key from CRUK and University of Oxford says "the decision doesn't mean you need to stop eating any red and processed meat, but if you eat lots of it you may want to think about cutting down. Eating a bacon bap every once in a while isn't going to do much harm – having a healthy diet is all about moderation."

So no, eating bacon and red meat does not pose the same risk as smoking. Looks like the old-fashioned rule rings clear and true – staying healthy is all about a balanced diet and moderation.



Even CancerResearch says it's no biggie. Photo Credit: CancerResearchUK

"WHO" might cause cancer?

- Alcohol
- Chronic inflammation
- Obesity
- Radiation
- Sunlight
- Infectious Agents
- Age
- The burning of coal
- Oral Contraception
- Menopausal Hormone Therapy
- Tobacco
- Immunosuppressant
- HIV type 1 infection
- Magenta
- Pickled Vegetables
- The textile manufacturing industry
- Being a hairdresser
- Being a barber
- Shiftwork
- 4-Vinylcyclohexene
- Refractory ceramic fibres
- Uracil mustard
- Androgenic Steroids
- Wood dust
- Leather dust



Soft tissue printing in 3D now a reality

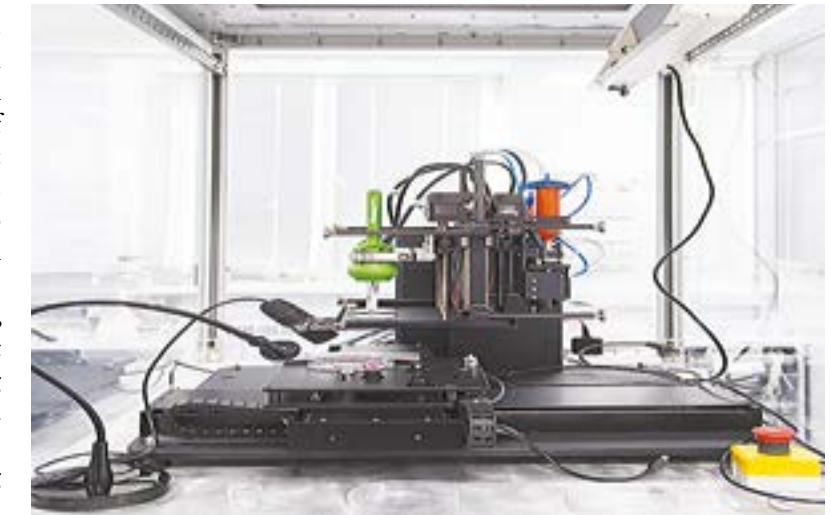
Sam Lickiss
Writer

In 2014, almost 200 heart transplants were carried out in the UK alone. However, the British Heart Foundation estimates that over 1,200 people in need of a heart transplant die every year. In the mid-1990s, over 250 heart transplants took place each year, but that number has steadily decreased as fewer suitable hearts were made available.

Now, researchers at Carnegie Mellon University have demonstrated a new technique that allows soft tissue to effectively be 3D printed. Bioprinting, the technique of layering cells to 'print' an organic object, has been around for about a decade. However, up 'til now, the soft materials it created tended to collapse under their own weight. This new research, published in the journal *Science Advances*, eliminates the problem

and pioneers a technique that prints the biological tissues in a gelatin solution, which provides structural support. Adam Feinberg, one of the authors of the study, explained: "Essentially, we print on gel inside of another gel, which allows us to accurately position the soft material as it's being printed, layer-by-layer." This gel is thermoreversible, meaning it will melt when brought up to body temperature, allowing the printed materials to be removed without damaging the molecules.

Freeform Reversible Embedding



3D printers can now be used in Bioprinting. Photo Credit: Wikipedia

Using a consumer level 3D printer

of Suspended Hydrogels (FRESH) provides a foundation upon which whole, functioning organs can be manufactured from a patient's own cells in the future. Bespoke organs are still some way off, but the team is already looking to add further complexity to their bioprinted structures. "What we're trying to do now is to try and incorporate cardiac

myocytes, which are heart muscle cells, into those tissue constructs as we're printing them," says Feinberg.

Nevertheless, the team is already beginning to produce structures that could be used to repair damaged hearts, negating the need for a transplant altogether.

Remarkably, the team was able to achieve this by using a consumer-

level 3D printer. They further utilised open-source hardware and software to improve efficiency and lower costs. "We have access to fine-tune the print parameters, optimise what we're doing, and maximise the quality of what we're printing," Feinberg said.

The boom in recent years in collaborative, open-source projects has greatly improved scientists' accessibility to the tools they need to conduct their research. Indeed, we can expect to see rapid advances in biotechnology.

Faced with an aging population, the demand for new hearts, and other organs, isn't going away.

Even with conventional transplant surgery, around half of the recipients of new hearts die within ten years.

Furthermore, suitable hearts may be difficult to source, as they need to be biologically compatible with the recipient. Improved bioprinting technologies could eliminate these problems, prolonging lifespans and preventing needless deaths.

Russia keeping an eye on its researchers

That awkward moment when you need to go through national security before submitting a paper

Lef Apostolakis
Science Editor

It seems like Russia is one step closer to being nicknamed the control-freak state. Now, scientists have been instructed to run all research manuscripts by the national security service before submitting research to journals and conferences, as revealed by minutes from a Belozersky Institute meeting.

Of course, like in the case of most countries, Russian laws have been in place for decades to control military research or even industrial significance. However, last spring, a decree was passed by President Vladimir Putin to include more or less any research in the 'in need of security service approval' list. Research that needs such approval includes anything that comes under the blanket term 'new products'.

This new level of bureaucracy accompanying Russian research

is not merely burdensome for scientists, but as some point out, could be bad for science.

Scientists could become reluctant to share or even openly talk about

An increase in sanctions and controls is causing the brightest to leave

their science, especially if it is seen as work that in any way criticizes the government.

In a recent interview, Sergey Salikhov, director of the Russian Science Ministry's science and technology department (purposely made a mouthful to deter journalists from contacting him), reassured *Nature* that the decree would not be interfering with "basic science". Then again, you could argue that no one can really interfere with "basic science" without access to a time machine and Sir Isaac Newton's address, because really, research nowadays is anything but basic.

But if this new move for secrecy is so bad, where is the outcry from the Russian scientific community? Viachev Shuper of the Russian Academy of Sciences claims that many Russian scientists "don't dare to speak openly, but I know that many are very unhappy about the degradation of their academic freedom".



Vladimir Putin. Enough said. Photo Credit: Wikipedia

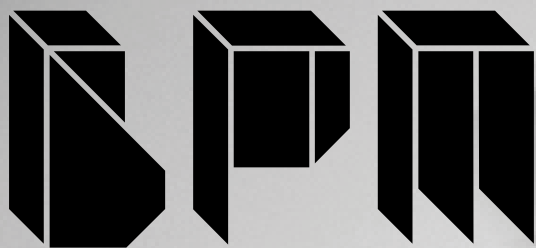
in the first eight months of 2014, approximately 204,000 people emigrated from Russia. According to emigration consultant Sergei Kuznetsov, the majority of emigrants are middle and upper-middle class.

An increase in sanctions and government controls is causing the countries "brightest minds in finance and technology" to take flight, as highlighted by Bloomberg Business last year.

Many of the country's big companies are moving staff and headquarters to more liberal environments, where they can operate more freely. The list includes Game Insight LCC, Toonbox animation studio and VKontakte.

What's more, the government's leash only seems to be getting shorter. Now that science institutions across the country are trying to impose controls on research staff, perhaps we will see a new wave of emigration as scientists follow the lead of Russia.

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER



RNB, DEEP HOUSE, EDM, DNB & MORE

BPM (BEATS PER MINUTE) WILL GET YOUR HEART RACING WITH ITS CHANGING MUSIC SETS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

20:00 - 02:00

METRIC || FIVESIXEIGHT

£1.50 GUESTLIST

£2.50 ON THE DOOR

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Cocktails and Nibbles

Open to Students and Staff
Friday 30 October 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!



Wine tasting

Friday 30 October / h-bar
17:00 - 20:00

The h-bar wine tasting session is great for meeting people who share a passion for wine. The session costs only £7.50 and you get to try eight wines from a selected global region. You also get £1 off every small glass of house red or white wine bought in the h-bar after the session.

COMING UP - SEE OUR WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTERS FOR MORE DETAILS!

Date	Event	Time	Location
Every Tuesday	Super Quiz	20:00 - 22:00	FiveSixEight
Every Tuesday	Cocktail Night	18:00 - 23:00	Metric
Every Wednesday	CSP Wednesday	19:00 - 01:00	Metric & FiveSixEight
Every Wednesday	Sports Night	19:00 onwards	Reynolds
Every Friday	PGI Friday cocktails	16:30 onwards	h-bar
Every Friday	Reynolds Cocktail Club	17:30 - 00:00	Reynolds



Swim Deep impress at the Roundhouse

Peter Munton
Writer

With the recent release of their new album *Mothers*, **Swim Deep** have gone on tour around the UK showing off their reinvented sci-fi psychedelic sound. Arriving at the Roundhouse theatre in Camden, they followed the warm up bands **Catholic Action** and **The Magic Gang**. The crowd greeted the Brummy born band with rapturous applause and eager screams as they made their way on stage alongside the 'Jurassic Park' theme, oozing with confidence.

They dived straight into their new material with 'Namaste' entrancing the audience with futuristic sounds and effects on the screen behind them, giving the whole room a hologram and star ship-like atmosphere. For this swerve in sound they used all kinds of musical skills from magical synthesiser tones

They used all kinds of musical skills, from magical synthesiser tones to a sassy saxophone

to a sassy saxophone to delight the audience. The B-town five piece also played crowd pleasers, returning to the indie Brit-pop ways of their debut album, causing the room to erupt to the sound of 'Honey' and 'King City'.

In the heart of their set on came a pirouetting dancer with a crazy array of psychedelic patterns on her dress



The band's eccentric performance made a deep impression on the crowd. Photo Credit: Peter Munton

which swirled with her throughout the eight minute long rave that was 'Fueiho Boogie'. The crowd tripped out to this utterly awesome and eccentric performance, and was finally calmed down at the end of the set by the slower-paced anthems of 'She Changes The Weather' and 'To My Brother'. Throughout the show Austin Williams and his band

maintained an effortless mash up of genres (being retro and trippy at the same time), commanding a thrilling stage persona not unlike **Joy Division**.

Emerging from Birmingham in 2012, with their debut album of *Where The Heaven Are We* only being released in 2013, you could easily mistake them for a band that has

been around for much longer. Swim Deep have successfully transformed from the indie Brit-pop style of hazy guitars in their debut to a variety of psychedelic and crazy rock sounds in their second album *Mothers*. With such a unique style and dedicated fan base, Swim Deep aren't far from becoming a bright star in this new age of music.

The inaugural FELIX Demo Dump



Photo Credit: XL

Cale Tilford
Music Editor

Welcome to FELIX's first Demo Dump, a section which will hopefully have a long and controversial future. Last week we asked you to send in your demos, and expected to be inundated with emails from eager musicians hoping to finally receive recognition from our esteemed publication. Unfortunately, creativity is not a

characteristic trait of most Imperial students and as a result we received only a single submission. Not a great start.

Panicked, we've had no other choice but to review **Adele's** new single. Please send in more demos; there is only so much Adele that FELIX endure. While the name of this section might imply otherwise, not everything featured in the Demo Dump this week is complete garbage (although 'Hello' is certainly worthy of such a description).

Hello

It's been 3 years since we last heard from Adele (2012's excellent 'Skyfall'). Her latest single – the first from her upcoming album *25* – has seen massive success. It's already broken the record for the most views on a music video in 24-hours, beating out **Taylor Swift's** 'Bad Blood'.

We've always been mystified by Adele's appeal and 'Hello' does little to fix this. No one can deny the power and range of Adele's voice



Photo Credit: Sangre Voss

but it feels wasted here on an anti-climatic, plodding ballad.

We would have been spared four minutes of monotony if the person on the other end of Adele's flip-phone had just picked up, and the song could have been avoided altogether with a simple Facebook message.

The unimpressive chorus and bland, repetitive lyrics result in one of the year's most unwarranted hits; the mass hysteria of the mainstream media is certainly misplaced. If you're a fan of Adele (and FELIX

isn't) then you should probably ignore this review and go back to listening *Heart Radio*.

Available now everywhere

Open Circle, Sinking Light

Little is known about the mysterious **Sangre Voss**, the alias of a mildly-talented Imperial student, other than that his name translates to "blood voss" in Spanish (thanks Google). It seems like anyone can be an electronic producer these days; all it takes is a few button

presses, a SoundCloud account and a few cheeky samples for good measure. The track features a relatively simple beat, infused with delightful panpipes. At its halfway point growling synths make way for Sangre Voss' nasal tones which sound eerily similar to **Joe Newman** of **alt-J**. Here at FELIX we rarely expect to be impressed by amateurs, but, Sangre Voss' latest track is surprisingly good for a producer probably working from his bedroom.

Available now on SoundCloud

Send your demos to
music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

WARNING:
If you can't handle
criticism, please don't
send us your music.

Union Page

Part of a Club, Society or Project or an Academic Rep? Then we have training for you!



Are you part of a Club, Society or Project? Are you an Academic Rep? Then we have a range of training coming up to help you in your role.

Our new Club, Society and Project training covers topics that you told us were the most important, such as planning a successful event, publicity, and managing your group's money. Click here to see what sessions are running and to sign up. If you're a Rep, our skills based sessions are all there to help you develop in your role in your department.

You only need to attend one session, and all Reps from all years are welcome. To see all of the sessions for our Academic Rep Training go to imperialcollegeunion.org/academic-representative-events.

The Annual Bike Auction is back - come and grab a bargain!

Want a cheap bike or some parts? We've rounded up all bikes that have been left at Imperial and are auctioning them off on the cheap!

On the 3rd November 12:00-14:00 by the Queen's Tower we'll have the auction and Dr. Bikes to help you have a quick fix of your new ride and security will be selling D-locks for half price. Bikes are sold to the highest bidder, and what you see is what you get - usually a bargain. All proceeds go to charity (RAG) and improving cycling at Imperial (ICBUG) who work to improve cycling.

WHEN? Tuesday 3 November

WHERE? Queens Tower if the weather is good, Metric if the weather is bad

WHAT TIME? 12:00 - 14:00



Your Rep & Council Elections - the results!



A massive 25.96% of Imperial students have taken part in the 2015 Your Rep & Council Elections - meaning Imperial College Union has kept its record of having the highest turnout in the UK for these volunteer positions.

Over the past four days, 4513 students cast 13182 votes, electing 127 Academic Representatives, 16 Council Members, the Graduate Students' Union Executive Committee, and our new Ethics & Environment Officer.

This nation-leading turnout gives our Postgraduate and Undergraduate student leaders a powerful mandate for change, ensuring that when they speak to departments and faculties on your behalf, your voice is heard.

Go to imperialcollegeunion.org/news/your-rep-council-elections-results to find out who your Academic Representatives are.

Thank you to all the candidates, and congratulations to the winners!



IMPERIAL COLLEGE BOAT CLUB INTERMEDIATE WOMENS SQUAD



RECRUITING NOVICE WOMEN & COXES FOR THE NEW SEASON, EMAIL NOVICE CAPTAIN ON
DB1213@IC.AC.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION





Imperial College Aid to the Balkans

We bet your summer wasn't this good

Ragul Ravimohan
Writer

This summer, we volunteered with Imperial College Aid to the Balkans (ICAB) at an orphanage in Veliko Tarnovo, the old capital of Bulgaria, home to some of the most symbolic historical sites in the country. During our time there, we spent our time with children of all ages, learning about the culture of Veliko Tarnovo and Bulgaria, and exploring the sights that they had to offer. Primarily, our role was simply to spend time with the children, and to enjoy the two weeks at the orphanage.

We were greeted with outstanding eagerness by the orphans, who have had previous experience with volunteers such as ourselves, and were ready to play the moment we arrived. The majority of the children preferred to play outside in the garden, choosing from a variety of swings, trampolines and climbing frames. Not once did the energetic demands of the kids cease during our time there; they were

always keen on having us carry them around on piggyback, or play football, or even being used as rope to play tug of war with. Such an exhaustive workload was satiated only by a series of afternoon naps, which provided a small glimmer of peace, before we returned to the relentless spirit of the kids.

We found ourselves effectively unable to use a map

Throughout the course of this experience, we found that we were often alone in looking after the kids; a lack of enthusiasm for supervision was reflected in the attitudes of most of the staff. This was seen when the excitement of the children



Who would balk at an opportunity to see views like these? Photo Credit: Kushan Sen

turned into a brutal combination of hair-pulling, stone-throwing and punching. Nonetheless, the orphans showed us an extraordinarily vivid ensemble of personalities. Everyone had their own unique interests and aspirations; some saw themselves as rappers, others as footballers, and even a few as doctors. The orphanage was host to an atmosphere of closeness between the children, who shared food and clothes with each other every day. We encountered an amazing level of creativity, expressed through a variety of means, including making flowers with beads and being rapped at in Bulgarian.

On our days off, we explored the many sights of Veliko Tarnovo, of which the most significant were the medieval Tsarevets fortress and the monument of Assens. In our attempts to find the latter, we found ourselves unable to effectively use a map, regardless of the collective geographical qualifications of the group. Having explored for what felt like days, we somehow, through what was undoubtedly a miracle, eventually found our way to the monument, a dedication to the reign of 3 Bulgarian Kings under whom the medieval Bulgarian state reached its pinnacle. We also explored the imposing Tsarevets

fortress, the stronghold and primary fortress of the Second Bulgarian Empire. Although we nearly gave up during our many attempts to reach the summit, unfortunately more due to laziness than fatigue, we eventually reached the top where the ruins of the Palace emerged. The religious foundation of Bulgarian culture was apparent from the start of our journey, with several churches and monasteries situated throughout the city, including the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Holy

Ascension of God located at the top of the fortress.

Bulgaria truly offered us an amazing volunteering time. Working with the orphans for the two weeks was an unparalleled experience, and is something we will never forget. The country itself is abound with rich history and culture that deserves to be explored by all. We hope others will consider volunteering with ICAB, so that they too can have as remarkable a journey.



Cathedral of Alexander Nevsky in Sofia. Photo Credit: Kushan Sen



Definitely a better view than from your sofa. Photo Credit: Kushan Sen



All hail the Tumblr revolution

How young artists are gaining internet and real-life fame by drawing TV characters



Gingerhaze became a fandom superstar after drawing Broship of the Ring. Photo Credit: Noelle Stevenson

Indira Mallik
Arts Editor

What do you think of when you think of fan-art? A quick refresher for those of you that have been living under a wi-fi free rock, it's art depicting TV or movie characters, often in situations that would never make it to the screen. As fan-art has entered into the public consciousness it has been shown as a somewhat embarrassing pastime. *The Graham Norton Show* episode featuring *X-Men: First Class* fanart in which Eric and Charles make out whilst baking cookies is a case in point. It was not entirely a misrepresentation, a quick search of fan-art on Tumblr or Deviantart, the epicentres of fandom activity, will reveal more clumsy iterations of Frodo and Sam making out, or Harry and Draco involved in an illicit affair than you would care to imagine. Gratuitous costumes are often involved

Dig a little deeper however and fan-art is likely to surprise. Amongst the reams of enthusiastically, but slightly less than skilfully drawn scenes, are true works of art. They are beautifully imagined, and realised with virtuoso skill. Tumblr user euclase is an artist whose creations rarely put a foot wrong. She draws portraits of TV show characters, focusing mainly on *Supernatural*. Her paintings, all drawn digitally using Photoshop and a Wacom tablet are almost lyrical, drawing inspiration from the Old Masters in their use of colour and light. The faces of her subjects seems to glow from within and the shadows are rich with burnt umber

and ultramarine blue tones. Euclase manages to imbue her portraits with feeling and character.

Alice Zhang's (tumblr user alicexz) paintings are similarly accomplished but entirely different in style. She draws digital paintings that are high contrast and supersaturated with colour. Her drawings are awash with vivid orange, lemon yellow, and cerulean. Her brushstrokes, far from being photorealistic are fluid and stylistically deft. She has become most known for her paintings showing the Doctor in his

What else is the Sistine Chapel ceiling but Bible fan-art?

different incarnations. Her ubiquity in the *Doctor Who* fandom caught the eyes of the powers that be at the BBC. Now her art is featured on the covers of the *Doctor Who* comics published by Titan. Her painting of movie scenes, ranging from *The Hunger Games* to *Drive* has gained her two solo exhibitions (*Moments*

and *Moments II*) at the **Bottleneck Gallery** in New York.

Many artists keep painting fan-art no matter how much fame they achieve. For some, however, it can offer the way into launching their original work to a wider audience. A few years ago, Noelle Stevenson (tumblr user gingerhaze) burst onto the Lord of the Rings fandom with endearing line drawings of the 'Broship of the Ring'. She imagined Gandalf as an old stoner, Shadowfax as a green VW camper van, the hobbits as tiny hipsters and Legolas as a preppy blond with slicked back hair. Aragorn is a plaid wearing lumberjack. She shot to instant fame. After gaining a wide and loyal following, 3 years ago she launched a webcomic, *Nimona*. Through the years that have followed, in bi-weekly instalments she told the story of a shape shifting young girl apprenticed to a supervillan (who is not really villainous after all) and their nemesis. The story of *Nimona*, Sir Ballister Blackheart and Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin so captured the imagination of millions of her fans around the world that on its ending last year, the webcomic went offline and was procured by HarperCollins to be made into a paperback. *Nimona* has earned Stevenson New York Times Bestseller status as well as numerous awards nominations and wins including Harvey and Eisner Awards and Slate Cartoonist Studio Prize for Best Web Comic in 2012. She has since illustrated the cover for Rainbow Rowell's young adult novel *Eleanor and Park*, written for DC and Marvel Comics, been a writer on the Disney TV series *Wander Over Yonder* and has another

original comic in the works in the form of *Lumberjanes* for Boom! Studios. It is hard to envisage such heady heights of success in such short an amount of time without the help of fan-art.

For those talented and lucky enough, fan-art can offer the opportunity to kickstart a successful career. Being an artist on Tumblr is equivalent of singing covers of popular song on YouTube in hopes



Sherlock as painted by Euclase. Photo Credit: Euclase



of attracting a recording deals with YouTube, being a popular fan-artist is surprisingly lucrative. Most artists have etsy shops selling prints of their artwork on canvas, on tote bags, on iPhone cases. Most of these artists attend conventions and expos, at which many, like Zhang, are treated like celebrities. It is one thing to be commercially successful, and quite another to be taken seriously as an artist. by the mainstream art world

Being a fan-artist is surprisingly lucrative

It is difficult to see these young women (and it is predominantly women who are most active in fandoms) being hailed as the next great artists in their respective countries. Fan-art is still seen as something slightly embarrassing, and definitely entirely frivolous. Yet, 'fan-art' by another name ruled the

art world during the Renaissance. What else was Michaelangelo painting in the Sistine Chapel but Bible fan-art? In case you're wondering, Bible fandom is a real thing, check out Millennial Gospel on tumblr. Caravaggio's Narcissus is Ovid fan-art, every artists who has ever drawn Helen of Troy or Sirens of the Battle of Try is swinging on the coattails of Homer. These artists too often drew religious or mythical art to fund their secular artistic interests.

Religious paintings and paintings from myth have somewhat fallen out of favour in recent centuries. Instead popular culture, a religion unto itself has taken its place. Even 'serious' artists are not immune. The National Portrait Gallery is evidence enough of that, artists draw portraits of celebrities all the time to reach wider audience. It's not so far a leap to be drawing TV characters. Fan-art is an invaluable tool for young artists, and with the rise and rise of celebrity culture, it's only a matter of time before fan-artists achieve critical as well as commercial success.

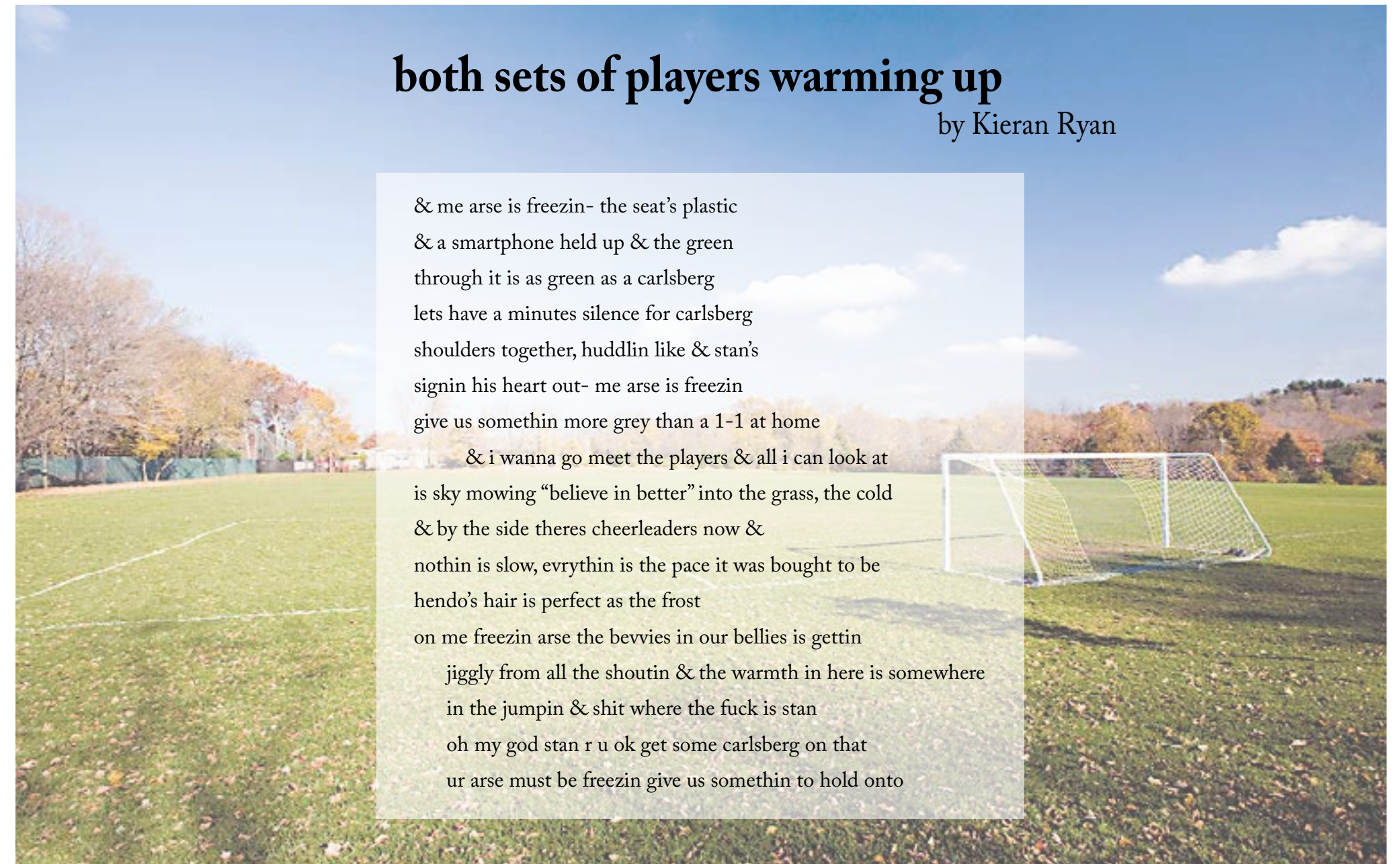


The Eleventh Doctor. Photo Credit: Alice Zhang.

both sets of players warming up

by Kieran Ryan

& me arse is freezin- the seat's plastic
& a smartphone held up & the green
through it is as green as a carlsberg
lets have a minutes silence for carlsberg
shoulders together, huddlin like & stan's
signin his heart out- me arse is freezin
give us somethin more grey than a 1-1 at home
& i wanna go meet the players & all i can look at
is sky mowing "believe in better" into the grass, the cold
& by the side theres cheerleaders now &
nothin is slow, evrythin is the pace it was bought to be
hendo's hair is perfect as the frost
on me freezin arse the bevvies in our bellies is gettin
jiggly from all the shoutin & the warmth in here is somewhere
in the jumpin & shit where the fuck is stan
oh my god stan r u ok get some carlsberg on that
ur arse must be freezin give us somethin to hold onto





RoosevElvis at The Royal Court

Brooklyn based ensemble bring their most intimate and touching work to London

Max Falkenberg
Arts Editor

There is an amazing depth to what goes through your head when you're lonely. The soundtrack to your life, swarms of loving friends around you, the fragments of self-belief. It is so easy to believe that if only you had the courage to speak up and confront the people in your life, they'd all understand your worries and see it your way. But the reality is much harsher, and the sweetness of this dream state quickly turns bitter.

On the great American road trip, following the godlike icons of Teddy Roosevelt and Elvis, *RoosevElvis* portrays an emotionally honest and personal view of loneliness and self-doubt in the American dream. The latest creation by the Brooklyn based TEAM, Ann is drowning in her insecurity. With the hallucinatory visions of Elvis and Teddy fighting

for her soul, Ann meets Brenda. A free spirit whose easy approach to life challenges the monotony of Ann's world, Brenda is a true character highlighting the truth of

Emotionally
honest and
personal

Ann's deeply depressing loneliness.

A bittersweet and touching story, *RoosevElvis* is performed by the stellar double act of Libby King as Ann and Elvis, and Kristen Sieh as Brenda and the outrageous Roosevelt. The message is sad, but there is an innate humour to the TEAM's work. The TEAM has embraced multimedia, and although I'm not really a fan, it does give the

London audience a deeply personal insight into this classic American road story. Nothing is done in half-measures, but they don't take themselves too seriously.

For a large part of the show, I felt Sieh's performance outshone the less impressive King, but by the end and especially in hindsight, their performances so beautifully reflected the personality conflict of their characters that I can't really fault them. A contrast between the outgoing arrogance of Teddy and a restrained fear and self-doubt from Ann, *RoosevElvis* is emotionally challenging, playful and at times a wonderfully idyllic view of the American dream in an oddly ironic sense. Reminding me of the fantastic *Little Miss Sunshine*, *RoosevElvis* isn't the most exciting of stories but nice. It feels right and it feels real and I commend it for that.

Until 14th November at Royal Court



Kristen Sieh (left) with the impressive Libby King Photo Credit: the TEAM

Cutting Comedy's Edge

Comedians face off against each other in a battle of funny at the **Comedy Store**



Jarred Christmas looks very happy and very close. Too close. Photo Credit: Gazzette Live

Peter Munton
Arts Writer

Every Tuesday evening the **Comedy Store** plays host to a topical comedy show, drawing together a set of premium, not-so-well-known

comedians. Just nestled down the road from Piccadilly Circus on Oxendon Street, this comedy club hauls in crowds after a day's work (or shopping) to fall victim to their audience preying comedians.

Rolling up with Imperial Comedy, I certainly felt safe in numbers and

it was not long before the first comedian picked out a particularly drunk member of the audience to be the butt of numerous jokes. You could literally hear every other person on the front row breath out a sigh of relief, it was not going to be them.

The show started by introducing each of the comedians, first up was Ian Stone, acting initially as compère, he had a quirky and self deprecating style. Ben Norris was next up, delivering sharp but relaxed jokes which tingled the audience to laughter. Then a bulldozer of a comedian Jarred Christmas stormed on stage with an angry yet hilarious

Great for
a casual
Tuesday

persona, letting loose the f bomb at every available opportunity. From over the pond Scott Capurro was next on sharing with the audience detailed stories of his eccentric gay lifestyle. Roger Monkhouse then took to the stage engaging the audience with top quality banter. Last on was Rob Deering, bringing out his guitar and boyish charisma that charmed the room to giggles.

The show then quickly proceeded to a series of topical games where members of the audience were given the opportunity to provide topics from the past year and then from the past week, for the comedians to perform with. Some of the comedians managed brilliantly with this improvisation, like Jarred Christmas, who entertained the audience enough to be voted as the winner. Others obviously were just trying and struggling to relate given topics to previous stand up routines that they had performed. Some others, such as Scott Capurro, were dealt a tough hand and to the delight of the audience flumped on stage, consequently being voted off.

If you enjoy seeing comedians being tortured on stage then this show is definitely for you. However much of a bad time it looks like they're having, don't worry, it's all part of the show. Such an engaging and interactive show is great for a casual Tuesday evening.

Every Tuesday at 8pm in Picadilly



Art is a waste of time!

It's a bold claim, but is it actually true?

Jingjie Cheng
Arts Editor

It's been a couple of weeks into term, and each week we've been here telling you about the best shows in town, pondering the great importance of art and pointing out its virtues.

But maybe you've always secretly wanted to point out that this whole section is dedicated to fluff that shouldn't be given such a big place in a publication, much less the publication of a university dedicated to the concrete betterment of mankind using science and technology. And with the direction contemporary art seems to be going, we don't blame you. Indeed, even as a GCSE art student listening to my teacher trying to convince me that Tracey Emin's unmade bed was a supreme work of art worth writing about, I wondered if there was any value in much of the enormous volume of "art" that is produced today, each trying to outdo the other in originality.

Until recently, the arts have typically been regarded as a luxury, a kind of yardstick of one's wealth. Only the rich and well-dressed can afford tickets to the opera; only the wealthy are able to acquire paintings for their personal galleries. To most people, art was thought to have no immediate practical value (except perhaps in the time before photography). What then, of the increasingly abstract art that fills the

galleries today? Even as our galleries and stages present increasingly controversial and unorthodox works, the drive to produce original pieces that are as different as possible from what is already on display remains relentless. What was once regarded as "fine art" by virtue of the fact that the influential enjoyed them has been slowly taken over by contemporary artworks that force us to constantly redefine "art".

Yet, most of us seem to intuitively recognise the inherent value of

Most of us
seem to
intuitively
recognise
the inherent
value of art

works of art. In this country at least, where one can view famous paintings regardless of wealth and prom for five quid classical concerts, there is an importance placed on the appreciation of arts and culture that makes society uniquely vibrant and full of character.



Graffiti on the West Berlin wall. Photo Credit: The Australian

Indeed, it is this inextricable link between a society and its art that is arguably the most practical reason one can think of to support the arts. It has always been an enduring means of expression for people of all nationalities and eras, forming an integral part of the richness of many national and ethnic cultures. It builds identity and serves as a record of time, people and places. Take something as monumental as the Berlin Wall for example. Its graffiti served as an avenue for West Germans to vent their frustrations and freely express their opinions while those on the East were not permitted to go anywhere near – vivid as a representation of the Cold War.

When we appreciate Ancient Greek pottery or the frescos in the Sistine Chapel, their cultures live on in our appreciation of their art. The consciousness of a people are crystallised in their artistic achievements and are passed on across generations, kept alive by the interest surrounding them. Modern societies too recognise the importance of art in shaping identities – just look at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Clearly China saw it as a grand opportunity to impress a global audience and bolster its image as a fast-rising nation.

Many of the pieces we have reviewed in the past few weeks involve art as social commentary – whether in Ai Weiwei's installations



The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Photo Credit: AFP

or the poetry by *Exiled Writers' Ink*. The power of art in activism can perhaps be validated by the fact that there is still so much censorship of controversial, politically incorrect

Art is
necessarily
a personal
work
conjured
from
personal
experiences
and
emotions

art in many countries. Art is a valuable avenue for public debate of important social issues and brings new and revolutionary perspectives to the table, provoking diverse interpretations and reactions and constructive criticisms. Reading

John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* makes the conditions of the Great Depression far more vivid than any news report can give. Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* introduced Existentialism to the public in a way that Sartre could never have achieved with his book. Almost every newspaper has a cartoon with something witty to say about the week's issues. By decorating the message, it can sometimes be made more palatable, more subtle, more poignant.

Art clearly has a role to play in society. That is all well and good, but what has all of the above got to do with the individual? Of course, there are musicals and plays and gigs that all of us enjoy, but there is also a deep satisfaction in pondering art that is traditionally seen as more "inaccessible", such as visual art. Besides making you a more refined and cultured individual (and giving you more conversation fodder at parties), thinking about art provides insight into worlds that we would never be able to experience ourselves. Because art is necessarily a personal work conjured from personal experiences and emotions, it is also a window to the way others see the world, and that in itself adds richness to our own experience.



Old Bond returns in *Spectre*



Dir: Sam Mendes. Starring: Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Lea Seydoux, Ben Wishaw, Naomie Harris, Dave Bautista, Monica Bellucci, Ralph Fiennes. *148 minutes.*

Sometimes escapism is just too bloody brilliant to resist. The friend I saw *Spectre* with remarked on the bus home that returning to the mundanities of everyday student life at Imperial after watching a movie like that was “going to be a bit shit”. He’s not the cheeriest person in the world – he studies biology, who could blame him? – but in my mind he certainly had a point.

The Bond movies have been fuelling the fantasies of children, grown-ups, and grown-up children for generations, and it looked like they would be unstoppable after having survived the “gritty reboot” trend of the late noughties, like *Batman Begins* and 2009’s *Star Trek: Casino Royale* redefined Bond for the 21st Century, with powerfully tangible action, excellent performances with the perfect amount of realism to them, and craftsmanship that allowed the franchise to transcend simple action-movie escapism and become a genuinely great film. The sins of the following *Quantum of Solace* were soon forgiven as *Skyfall* was hailed as a fantastic return to form but, looking back at it, there was something a little off. It had begun to rehash the trademarks of older Bond movies in the form of daft plot points, yet it attempted to keep a straight face whilst doing it; retrospectively the balance didn’t quite work.

Perhaps this is why *Spectre*’s production team decided to ramp up the escapism even further, so much so that the artfully-done action setpieces of *Skyfall* feel stiff and greyscaled in comparison. The latest entry in the Bond franchise is fully-fledged old-school 007; sweeping action spectacle, cool cars, gadgets, and dry martinis. The opening sequence says it all; a flashy tracking shot follows Bond (Daniel Craig) through the streets of Mexico City on the Day of the Dead festival to the hotel room of an attractive young woman who snogs him then saunters over to the bed, whereon he mumbles “I won’t be a minute” and promptly hops out of the window with a rifle strapped to his side. This is followed by an airborne brawl with a helicopter pilot and passenger, complete with hanging

This isn’t the Bond you might remember, but it’s the one your dad will

outside of the cabin and multiple somersaults – in broad daylight, no less – arriving at a smooth segue into the opening credits, accompanied by images of Craig topless with faceless blondes stroking his shoulders and



007’s no claims discount is long gone. Photo Credit: Columbia Pictures / LLC

producing fire. This isn’t the Bond you might remember, but it’s the one your dad will.

Where this refreshed, enjoyable approach makes itself most clear is in the performances. Craig’s Bond, which will most likely be remembered as one of the best overall, has a reinvigorated sense of dry humour. Ralph Fiennes’ M is joyously stony-faced and grumpy. Ben Wishaw’s Q gets a lovable touch of the modern tech geek. Dave Bautista’s performance as Mr Hinx is a classic piece of pure, terrifying muscle – one of the best sequences in the film has at its centre him gouging out a man’s eyes with his thumbs because the man happens to be sat in a chair he wants to be sitting in, all without a word. None are more gleeful than that of Christoph Waltz, who lies coiled at the heart of the movie in a perfect

throwback role, with a knowing villainous smile and his trademark Austrian accent practically dripping with cheese.

But with a switch back to the sensibilities of old, *Spectre*’s missteps show up problems not just with the movie itself, but with the Bond franchise as a whole. The modern action movie has been reworked so many times this decade it’s hard to keep track, but with milestones like the exhilarating *Mad Max: Fury Road* so fresh in our minds it’s hard not to realise that there’s something missing in the action. Explosions are epic but distant, punches clip but never connect. A bigger problem with the film can be outlined by comparing its torture scene with that of *Casino Royale*. One of the highlights of an already brilliant film, the “rope-torture” sequence featuring Le Chiffre and Bond in a

basement room with no escape felt real, dangerous, and quite frankly terrifying. In comparison, *Spectre*’s torture scene leaves Bond strapped to a chair while Waltz’s entire plot is revealed during a conveniently elaborate procedure aiming for a

This is followed by an airborne brawl with a helicopter pilot

slow and painful death. It’s moments like this that were parodied in another excellent recent action film, *Kingsman: The Secret Service* – major plot points that are so easy on our hero that it makes it hard to feel any sense of danger. On top of all this, the man himself unfortunately remains quite the sexual harassment case. I’m not sure what the protocol is on sleeping with the widow of a man you threw out of a helicopter (Monica Bellucci’s literal only scene in the movie), but the scene itself is quite a disturbing one out of a Bond context (or even in one).

Casino Royale remains by far the most accomplished of Craig’s Bond films, and on technical terms *Skyfall* might well be slightly better. But for sheer thrill and enjoyment, *Spectre* is certainly a hell of a lot more fun.

TOM STEPHENS

The top three modern horrors that aren’t *Paranormal Activity*

Ben Collier
Writer

One film tradition forever etched into the collective movie-going zeitgeist is that of the Halloween horror film. Each year crowds gather throughout late October

itching for their horror fix. And whilst one shouldn’t undermine the importance of *Paranormal Activity* as a ground-breaking contemporary horror, it is fair to say the latter films in the series have become a bit dry. So instead of sitting through the same formula once again this year, why not consider watching some different modern day horror classics?

The Babadook

Horror films often get a bad rap of being rather stupid. *The Babadook* completely defies this myth. It tells the story of the recently widowed Amelia, who is terrorised at the hands of a monster, perhaps more deeply linked with her inner demons than one may think. The film oozes with metaphors, unsettling imagery, and intensely interesting ideas.

Sinister

There seems to be a theme in some recent horror films: a big-name actor (in this case, Ethan Hawke) is hired in place of the traditional no-name lead. Here, for once, this idea actually works: Hawke’s incredible performance carries this film, whose unique premise and execution is centred around brutal murders recorded on Super 8mm reels.

Mama

Based on the short film of the same name, *Mama* tells the story of two children left for dead who are ‘adopted’ by a mysterious entity, which then follows and terrifies their eventual guardians. The design of *Mama* herself is one of the most terrifying you will see in any horror film, and the whole experience is one of classic horror, done right.



Mississippi Grind



Dir: Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck. Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Ben Mendelsohn. *108 minutes.*

Some films move too fast, others too slow; some have a pace and a direction, others just a direction; but some move so slowly, with such little direction, that you wonder if they were directed at all or if they one day just materialised in their distributors’ postbox. And then there’s *Mississippi Grind*. The story of Gerry (Ben Mendelsohn), a down and out gambling addict in Iowa who hits the road down the Mississippi after meeting the roguish, carefree Curtis (Ryan Reynolds) in the hopes of winning enough money to pay his way out of trouble. Its narrative unfolds in a similar way to how a ball of wool might unspool while having the end of its thread batted nonchalantly by a kitten. Not many filmmakers these days outside of Paul Thomas Anderson and (at a push) Quentin Tarantino are producing films with such a laid-back and character-driven feel – and *Mississippi Grind* is so relaxed that it makes Anderson’s latest, *Inherent Vice*, look like the new *Mission: Impossible*.

In this way it feels less like a movie and more like a two-hour soak in a warm, Southern-fried bath of melancholy. Images of dim, strung-up lightbulbs and neon signs lining dusky backstreets or midnight dive bars may produce

a visual colour palette of glowing yellows, oranges, and reds, but the film’s emotional palette consists only of a deep, deep blue. Exploring the dangers of gambling, addiction, and isolation through two distinct character studies, the film does well at portraying the hopelessness of Gerry and Curtis’s lives. The freeform, jazz-like unkemptness of the narrative only serves to strengthen this; you feel the lack of direction not just in the film but within the lives and the souls of the protagonists.

Mississippi Grind has this in common with its directors’ more well-known film *Half Nelson*.

Each petty attempt at theft becomes another kick in the gut

Something else the two share is a powerhouse lead. Whilst *Half Nelson* boasts Ryan Gosling’s first truly great performance, *Mississippi Grind* has up its sleeve the role Ben Mendelsohn seems to have been born to play. It’s exciting seeing Mendelsohn take centre-stage after years of notable bit parts appearing in everything from *The Dark Knight Rises* to *Killing Them Softly*. I’ve

been waiting for him to have this much screen time since his chilling turn as Uncle Pope in Aussie crime drama *Animal Kingdom*, and he certainly delivers. Gerry is a quiet, reserved, hopeless wreck of a man, the kind you believe in when he lies to you, and curse when the obvious truth is revealed. Reynolds also gives a strong performance as Curtis, who proves to be the perfect foil for Gerry. The interaction of these two painfully lonely men, each for their own reasons, is where the heartbreaking centre of the drama lies.

What the film does less well is walk the line between moral drama and emotional torture. Watching the characters sink further and further into depravity, poverty, and desperation is at times a painfully poignant watch, but at others just a painful one. Each cocky bet, each failed hand, each petty attempt at theft becomes another kick in the gut from these men you thought you wanted to spend some time with, and the film begins to feel rather like a dirge. While perhaps similar things can be said of *Half Nelson*, that film keeps its viewers’ interest with gripping subject matter told with a streak of genuine passion and desire for redemption. However, in this film you begin to wonder whether any such redemption will arrive at all. Ultimately *Mississippi Grind* never manages to combine a grand narrative sweep with an intimate character study the way *Half Nelson* did and, as a result, it remains not too much more than an intimate character study. But, with gorgeous handheld cinematography, strong writing and two excellent performances, it’s a pretty damn good one.

TOM STEPHENS



If you’ve never woken up with a casino membership card in your back pocket, you haven’t lived. Photo Credit: Sycamore Pictures / Electric City Entertainment

Documentary Corner *Grizzly Man*



Bears, man. Photo Credit: Sycamore Pictures

Perhaps the most well-known of director Werner Herzog’s many entries into the documentary genre, *Grizzly Man* tells the story of Timothy Treadwell and his thirteen summers spent in the Alaskan wilderness, which he claimed was the only way of protecting its native grizzly bears from poachers. His story is ultimately brought to an end during Treadwell’s thirteenth summer, when he and his girlfriend Amie Huguenard were killed by one of the bears with which he supposedly shared a close relationship.

Treadwell’s tragic – though undeniably unusual – story is made up of an edit of over 90 hours of footage he filmed himself in the style of a strange, childish nature documentary, intertwined with interviews conducted by Herzog. The result is a uniquely personal look at the character of Treadwell – a flawed and deeply insecure person.

Known for his hands-off approach to documentary film making, Herzog – reminiscent of Louis Theroux – allows people to expose themselves by saying absolutely nothing himself. An example of this style is seen when Treadwell’s ‘close friend’ Warren Queeny gives the camera an obviously rehearsed and almost comically hammy monologue about his lost friend; the static, lengthy shot of Warren combines with the way in which the scene was shot to allow us to feel the ‘fakeness’ of the performance.

This kind of subtle story-telling is something very few documentarians could pull off.

The major question explored in this film is what exactly was Treadwell doing spending months at a time in the exclusive company of bears and foxes? Was he an inveterate liar? Was he just a passionate lunatic? One interpretation is simply that Treadwell stayed in this secluded world, one which he romanticised to a near ridiculous degree, in an attempt to escape the realities of the real one.

Worth noting is the unusual child-like wonder with which Treadwell refers to nature and its inhabitants in his footage; by giving his supposed ‘bear-friends’ names such as ‘Mr Chocolate’, Treadwell is shown to sentimentalise the natural world. He seemed to see it as a benevolent and balanced system – a view, it is suggested, that comforted him. This view is coldly cut down by the voice of Herzog who, in one scene involving Treadwell sharing a ‘moment’ with a bear, says that its “blank stare speaks only of a half-bored interest in food”; it is clear that Herzog sees Treadwell as someone trying to discredit cruelty in order to continue his own comforting world-view. Ultimately however, Herzog did not make this film to discredit and mock Treadwell. Instead he merely presents to us a study of modern humanity – one that is as entertaining as it is bizarre.

BEN COLLIER



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London



Procrastination vs. Productivity

Noor Mulheron
Welfare Editor

Work hard. Procrastinate harder.

When you aren't feeling perfectly happy and motivated – and let's face it, often that state of mind feels pretty much mythical – being productive can be a challenge. Whether you're feeling down because you've not had enough sleep, you've been diagnosed with depression, or your anxiety is crippling your ability to do work, there are some techniques and resources that can be really helpful.

There is a tendency among those who are at Imperial to be perfectionists and, while this can be an incredibly useful trait, it can end up being a downfall. When you feel a bit down it is tempting to write off any attempts you make if they're not immediately perfect.

Depression makes it hard to find any motivation because you're convinced nothing you do will be good enough. Anxiety can make you feel so worried that you won't do well enough that you conclude you should instead do nothing at all, because at least then you won't run the risk of failing after having actually tried.

I've experienced all these feelings, and they create a cycle that makes it incredibly difficult to get out of. The more deadlines that approach or the more that you miss, the harder it is to think you should even bother trying.

But, when you think about it logically rather than emotionally, just attempting a problem sheet is better than nothing at all. It might not be perfect, but at least you can get a score rather than nothing. Making an attempt lets you start the process of reaching out for help.

Doing this depends on your individual situation and can be anything from chatting to your tutor or peers to let them know you're feeling off and might need some extra help, to seeking out counselling from the IC Health Centre or Student Service. Reaching out to let others help you is an invaluable step to breaking a vicious cycle. However, there are also things you can do to kick-start yourself on the road to productivity.

Firstly, recognising that something is better than nothing and scheduling your day accordingly



Are these people really working? We may never know. Photo Credit: Layton Thompson

can work wonders. There are many ways you can do this but assigning tasks to each day and being able to cross them off gives a sense of accomplishment that proves very motivating.

Looking up 'how to bullet journal' online throws up many resources showing how you might make one that works for you. Bullet journaling is a technique that can be personalised, and centres typically around a tailored day planner.

Another timetabling resource I have found helpful in the past is an online system and app called *HabitRPG*. It allows you to essentially play a game where you gain money and stats within the game by completed tasks you have assigned yourself in real life.

Life and work can be tough, but you are tougher

When following the timings you have given yourself remember not to work yourself for too long or you'll lose concentration far too swiftly.

A useful method is called 'The Pomodoro Technique'. This is a when you focus on working for 25 minutes, then have a five-minute break. Repeat this cycle up to four times before you take a long break of maybe half an hour. Again, searching this online yields a more detailed explanation of the principles behind it.

During the 25 minute sessions of concentrated working, I find it useful to use the *Self-control* app which allows you to ban yourself from certain websites for a specified length of time.

There is also a browser add-on called Simple Pomodoro that automatically blocks sites for the required 25 minutes. It is a good way to prevent aimlessly wandering around on social media, or going down into the deep dark depths of YouTube (which happens to me embarrassingly frequently).

Finally, remembering to keep your life well-balanced is a very important step to keeping yourself happy and on-track, if not perfectly motivated. Consider going for a short walk during one of your study breaks, and writing down and using some self-care options or activities

Recognising that something is better than nothing can work wonders

you find relaxing to help you wind down.

Above all, don't beat yourself up for not managing to be perfectly productive each day; some days you just need to congratulate yourself for the small things. Getting out of bed, remembering to shower, or making yourself some warm food is an achievement in itself, especially when you're experiencing anxiety or depression.

So keep it going, and use everything you can to help yourself get back on your feet. Life and work can be tough, but you are tougher!

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 who will be there to listen.

Helplines and Online Resources

If you are distressed and need someone to talk to:

Samaritans

Phone: 08457 90 90 90
(24 hour helpline)
www.samaritans.org.uk

For issues with anxiety:

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

For eating disorders:

Beat

Phone: 0845 634 1414
(Mon-Thurs 13:30-16:30)
www.b-eat.co.uk

For addiction:

Alcoholics Anonymous

Phone: 0845 769 7555
(24 hour helpline)
www.alcoholics-anonymous.co.uk

Narcotics Anonymous

Phone: 0300 999 1212
(Daily 10:00-midnight)
www.ukna.org

College Resources

Student Counselling Service

Phone: 020 7594 9637
Email: counselling@ic.ac.uk

Imperial College Health Centre

Phone: 020 7584 6301
Email: healthcentre@ic.ac.uk

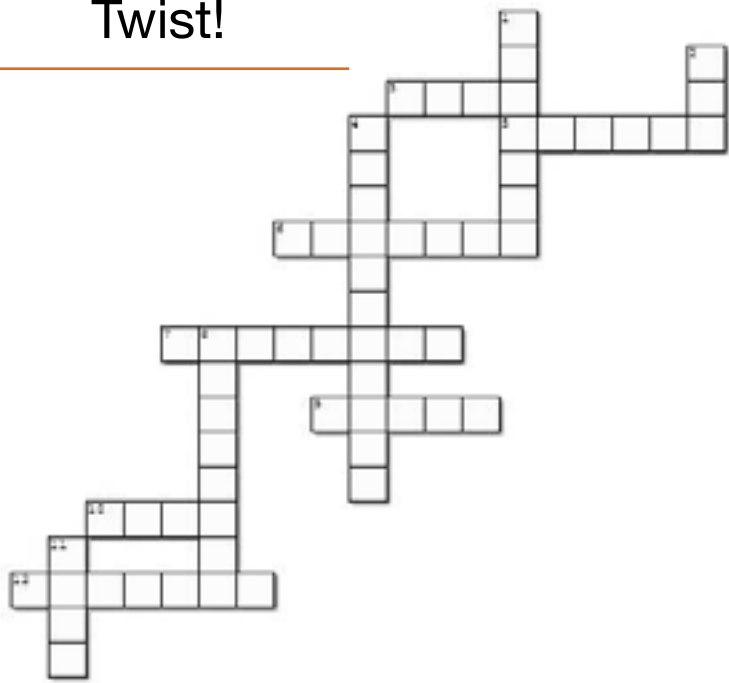
You can also go to your academic or personal tutor regarding pastoral issues, especially if you think your mental health might be affecting your academic performance.

FELIX PUZZLES



fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

Twist!



Across

- 3. The answer
- 5. FELIX Editor's name
- 6. Cosmonaut
- 7. Hopefully, your girlfriend is not...
- 9. Every shitty and clichéd poster says this
- 10. Egyptian equivalent to Hermes
- 12. More powerful than God, more evil than Devil, the poor have it, the rich need it. If you eat it, you will die.

Down

- 1. Famous building in London
- 2. Nearest star
- 4. Dinosaur
- 8. Russian controversial personality
- 11. You no understand, I wanna ___ on the table!

Word Finder

Find all 20 hidden names of bands on the vertical and horizontal lines of the puzzle.

L	E	Y	A	D	N	E	E	R	G	M	D	T	N
L	N	Y	W	U	T	F	E	N	W	A	E	O	E
I	N	T	L	M	O	I	A	W	K	D	T	N	M
T	O	I	B	C	L	L	W	O	N	N	S	E	O
T	S	C	L	F	R	T	Y	B	I	E	U	D	H
L	W	L	E	L	N	S	T	L	P	S	B	I	W
E	A	W	T	Y	W	E	O	E	N	S	J	R	E
M	L	O	O	S	E	W	I	T	N	R	W	E	H
I	F	L	E	E	T	W	O	O	D	M	A	C	T
X	L	P	R	U	L	B	Q	K	U	A	N	T	I
D	T	S	O	E	R	A	I	M	S	W	T	I	L
L	B	Y	U	N	I	O	N	J	U	A	E	O	K
H	O	D	H	Q	U	E	E	N	I	S	D	N	O
L	C	O	T	A	H	T	E	K	A	T	E	P	S

Cryptogram

This is a short piece of encrypted text. Use the substitution cypher (a method of encryption in which each letter is replaced by a different number) to figure out the message.

HINT: Hemmingway

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	

3 25 23 26 6 25 16 14 6 12 13 12 2 2 14 25 2 2 5

Sudoku

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

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

Little Riddle

Solve this riddle and send the answer to our email address: fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

Don't forget to explain your thinking as well!

*I'm teary-eyed but never cry.
Silver-tongued, but never lie.
Double-winged, but never fly.
Air-cooled, but never dry.*



FUCWIT

Solo Efforts

1 st	Nicholas Sim	21
2 nd	Ayojedi	18
3 rd	Cherry Kwok	11
4 th	Harry Secrett	10
5 th	Ho Chin	7.5
6 th	Sach Patel	6
=7 th	Grace Chin	3
=7 th	Jeremy Ong	3

Groups

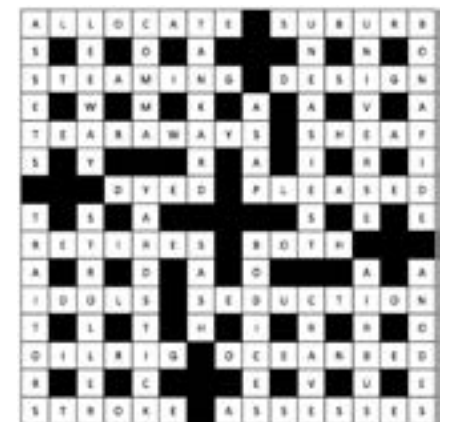
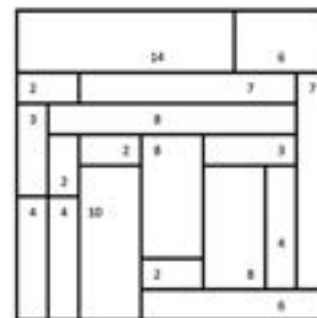
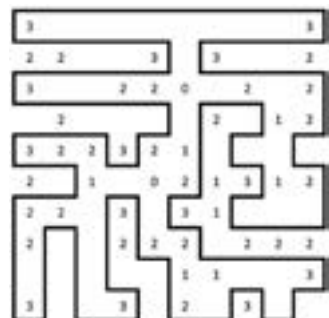
1 st	Gap Yahhhh	21.5
2 nd	Parmesan	9.5

Points available

Riddle	1
Cryptogram	2
Word finder	3
Crossword	4
Sudoku	5

Solutions

Email your solutions to fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk, before midday on Wednesday!



FELIX HANGMAN



hangman@imperial.ac.uk

NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



YES, THIS IS AN OFFICIAL VIDEO

CAPTION COMPETITION



“Who needs doctors, amirite?”

HOROSCOPES



ARIES

This week you find your normal route to lectures is obstructed by some wanker called Spectre so you decide to [REDACTED]; however since you did it in your room, your hall warden finds out and you get kicked out and have to go to UCL.



TAURUS

This week following your protests against the appearance of the Chinese President at Imperial, you start to see other Chinese students following you around and whispering shit about you. You think they might be plotting your kidnapping, but it turns out you're just racist.



GEMINI

This week you discover that although bacon may be a carcinogen, if you were to become vegan you would basically be a social carcinogen and nobody would really want to spend time with you so maybe just live your life.



CANCER

This week you discover that taking drugs is not a way to impress any of your friends and family; however being a drug dealer is a very impressive and lucrative opportunity. Far more than you'll ever earn with your biochem degree anyway.



LEO

This week you realize that you may have set yourself on a path for which there is only misery and very little reward at the end of it. Yep, like everyone else you're in your second year at Imperial. Ughhhhhh.



VIRGO

This week you think your lecture won't be that bad; however on closer inspection, your timetable is all infectious diseases and various microbes. That means you're going to be seeing a lot of mouldy dicks.



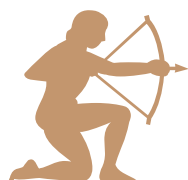
LIBRA

This week you read the last horoscope – you know the one that got sent in by some student because the editors [CENSORED]. You don't get it, nor do you find it funny. You are basically everybody else who read it.



SCORPIO

This week you realize that you accidentally have been paying for Amazon Prime ever since your free student subscription ran out. You realize that this explains why that bacon lube arrived so quickly.



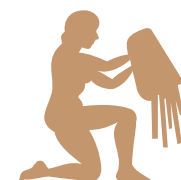
SAGITTARIUS

This week you discover you have a mouse in your house and decide to kill it. Unfortunately your vegan housemate doesn't want any violence towards the vermin, leading to you having to eventually sublet a room to Milford the rat king.



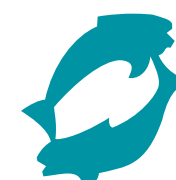
CAPRICORN

This week you get asked to do what you assume is the FELIX centrefold, so you take your DSLR; however when you arrive at the studio where you're supposed to be taking it, it turns out Derek from radio club lured you under false pretences.



AQUARIUS

This week you are innocently driving a minibus, when it somehow ends up crashing into the back of some poor sap's car. You tell no-one, hoping that FELIX won't find out. We did.



PISCES

This week you are overjoyed to spot yourself in ICTV's 'Metric Moments', captured in the drunken haze of Freshers'. Alas, when you go to show all your friends, the video has disappeared. Mysterious.



sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Eagles have slow start to the season

Imperial's handball team started with four defeats, but were able to provide beginners with their first experience in the sport

Mohamed Koronfel
Handball Secretary

Imperial College's handball club, Imperial Eagles, kicked off the season taking part in a one-day tournament which had a field including University College London, Kings College London, Brunel and Middlesex. For the participating teams the tournament serves as preparation for the upcoming league games and the UK University Championships. After winning the London universities league (LUSL) in 2013 and finishing second last season, the Eagles were also the defending champions of this tournament, having beaten UCL in a tough final last year.

However, it was always going to be difficult this time round after the team lost many of its key experienced players, who have finished their studies at Imperial. With the team in a transitional phase and many new players signing up to take on the sport, priority was given to beginners and first-time players to build up some game experience.

The tournament, which took place at the Score Centre in Leyton,

was played in a round-robin format where all five teams played against one another in a series of 15-minute matches. No time-outs were allowed and the two-minute suspension penalties were reduced to one minute. The teams that finished first and second in the table then contested the final. In the women's competition only two teams participated playing a full-length one-hour match.

The Imperial men's team was represented by Jakub Szypcyn, Horia-Daniel Tigau, Theo Franquet, Patrik Gubeljak, Mohamed Koronfel, Benedikt Explicat, Clement Escolano, Kamil Kurdziel, Jay Heinen, Alexandr Kirilinko, Langston Williams, Samuel Rot and Giovanni Bettinelli. First up was a Brunel team that arrived short on players. The Eagles trio of Kamil, Jay and Langston joined the Brunel side and were responsible for more than half of the goals in the 5-3 defeat of the Eagles.

The next game was against a vastly experienced UCL side that had a lot of familiar faces from previous seasons. UCL have been the Eagles' main challenge in the past but with their team vastly unchanged this year, this was a chance for



The Imperial Handball team in action. Photo Credit: Imperial Eagles

our fresh side to gain experience against the toughest opposition in London. The Eagles rotated players as much as possible through many substitutions with everyone getting a chance to play. The final score was 4-10, a heavy defeat but a valuable experience for all involved.

Against KCL it was a more even game and the Eagles took an early lead before a strong finish from KCL tested the fitness of the Eagles team as they succumbed to a third defeat 4-6. With three defeats, any chances of playing the final diminished and the Eagles entered the final game against Middlesex aiming to put some of what was learnt into practice. A similar scenario to that of the previous game unfolded with the Eagles taking an early lead, forcing Middlesex to employ their star man. Scoring four outstanding goals on his own, he managed to lead Middlesex to a last gasp 5-4 victory.

The Eagles suffered four defeats but signs of improvements were already evident in the last two games. It became clear that what this year's fresh side needs the most is a few more games together. Having only managed two training sessions before this tournament, the Eagles lacked cohesion in attack and communication in defence.

The women's game was a Middlesex side – one of the best women's university teams in the country – facing a challenge from a mixed-London universities team. The mixed-team was represented by players from UCL (five), KCL

(four) plus Imperial's Dominika Kampa.

The game promised a lot on paper and lived up to expectations as it remained captivating until its final moments. The London team took the lead early on and were already 5-1 up after 20 minutes, with Dominika playing a vital role in goal keeping the opposition at bay. Middlesex regrouped and took advantage of some attacking mistakes by the London team, as the lead was cut to one goal at 6-5 at half-time. The London team started the second-half as strongly as they did in the first, taking a three goal lead. However an incredible final 20-minute performance by Middlesex turned the game on its head. The team in white was unstoppable as they fought back and took the lead for the first time in the game, eventually winning the game by 16-14.

This season is full of uncertainty but with a few more sessions together, Imperial's Eagles could find the team chemistry desperately needed to lead this fresh side to success. They kick off the league campaign against Brunel on Sunday 25th at the Copper Box Arena, where the Olympic handball competitions took place in 2012.



sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Immortals put through their paces



Photo Credit: Imperial Immortals

Panukorn Taleongpong
Immortals Publicity Officer

Last Saturday saw the Immortals' three-way scrimmage against Solent and Brunel. The Immortals were hungry for some contact after many intense training sessions. The day started off with each university's offensive team going up against each defensive team for ten plays before switching around. This was followed by a round robin scrimmage and the day ended with special teams undergoing specific scenarios. Despite some players being inexperienced, the defensive team were strong and held off the hard-hitting Brunel and Solent offense.

Shout outs go out to our rookie D-end 'angry' Matthieu Raymond and our rookie linebacker Matt 'has had enough' Blackett for making tackles all over the field including, notably, a filthy Quarterback sack by Raymond. Even though there were some heated moments, veterans "I've got a hot girlfriend" Rayane Jackson, Jack "Bamiiiiiii" Codrey and Henry 'Ugly Henners' Turner landed many successful hits on the line opening up gaps for Alex Hutcherson to once again throw his body into running backs much like an averaged sized salmon jumping upstream against a waterfall.

The aforementioned veterans however, courageously guided the

front seven with their determination and restlessness and set a strong pace for the defence overall.

Lastly, a mention to Wibbly Wobbly Will Coidan's overly ambitious and not so spectacular Nodell leading to the opposing team's interception. This was not made right by his sack on one of our own, Marin 'wet burp' Tuleu, after an outstanding interception, leading the opposing team's fumble recovery.

On the other hand, the offensive team started off slowly with a few mistakes here and there but picked up towards the end. The offensive line were landing solid blocks, which led to strong contributions from our rookie wide receiver, modest Race Kilian, including, most notably, his sneaky reception in double coverage.

Special thanks to Papa Noach for finding his inner Zen during a sticky situation between Le'Bami Falana and Brunel's sideline. Despite the tension, Falana continued to dominate the grounds after scoring touchdown after touchdown during special team drills. Finally on offense, Married Man Markus Mohr made a few above average plays too.

All in all, a great day for the Immortals with the rookies gaining a lot of experience and the returners going back into the game, we now look forward to playing against a strong Birmingham side this Saturday.

Imperial Immigrants start season strongly

Jiacheng Wang
Imperial Immigrants

Last weekend was the BSUK National University Baseball Championships, one of the biggest baseball tournaments of the year. This time around it didn't fail to provide drama as the Imperial Immigrants had many tough games but pushed on through.

The first match of the day was against London rivals UCL. After taking the lead with a run in the first UCL managed to get a few back due to some solid batting to take a 4-1 lead but the Immigrants weren't going to let them run away with it. In the top of the second Imperial had scored three runs and had the bases loaded with only one out when baseball veteran but newly Immigrated Luke Looney hit a long ball past centre field for an impressive Grand Slam, immediately ending the inning on the mercy rule with two outs to spare. The game was far from over though as UCL were not going to go down without a fight, scoring another three runs in the net inning to bring the score to 8-7. It all came down to a nerve wrecking final inning and as the away team the immigrants had to survive an inning without conceding. Easier said than done, especially when there was the tying run on third; winning at second, and only one out. One strikeout later the pressure was eased but only slightly. UCL's next batter managed to make contact but some good fielding allowed for a forced out to end the game.

The second game provided no less drama as Imperial took the early lead, but Nottingham somehow managed to minimise the gap and started the last inning three runs away from the tie. After scoring two in the bottom of the last inning they looked like they would be able to upset the Immigrants, but Immigrants don't give up so easily. Again with the tying run on third with two outs the tensions were high, but more again the Immigrants held on for the win.

The final game of the group stage was also a close one against UEA, and while Imperial had taken the early lead they couldn't quite hold



The Imperial Immigrants baseball team Photo Credit: Imperial Immigrants

on for a third victory. In the end the Immigrants still booked their place in the semi finals.

Returning on Sunday afternoon the Immigrants faced off against a strong Loughborough side who played some good baseball and some solid left handed pitching. Although Imperial made some solid contact and got a few hits in it wasn't enough to overcome the would-be champions.

In the final match of the tournament the Immigrants had a different idea. Playing for third wasn't going to ruin the afternoon for those who wanted to just enjoy themselves, so that's exactly what they did against Nottingham, a team they had already defeated the day before. After team newcomer but baseball veteran Aid pitched the first couple of innings things were switched up for the third where the positions were played around with so players could experiment

While Nottingham may have won on paper the real winners were the Imperial Immigrants for making the most of the day and enjoying the game for what it is. Well done to the team who had some old faces but many new. President and captain Zack has started a great year alongside the very talented team GM Eduardo. Newcomer Alvaro did not fail to impress with some solid hitting, even getting a triple in one of the games, and Yuki who brought experience into the field to command first base like a pro.

The first of many, the fall tournament showed a team, who had just been assembled a couple of days before, displaying their true spirit and it will only get better with practice. Watch out because the Imperial Immigrants are a force to be reckoned with.

The Imperial Immigrants are a force to be reckoned with



The Imperial team showed encouraging signs during their final two games. Photo Credit: Imperial Eagles



Rugby 1st XV start with thumping win

Tom Hedley
Rugby Promotions

ICURFC's 1st team started their season with a bang, dispatching recently-promoted Medway 37-0. The match ran with Imperial College dominating from the start, with big collisions recurrent within the opening encounters. This resulted in Imperial going ahead early from a penalty, slotted majestically and somewhat surprisingly by Charles Price-Smith. With Imperial camped out on the Medway line, Club Captain and number 10 for the day, Charles Price-Smith, fired a dubious double-miss pass out to the towering wing, Josh O'Donnell, allowing him to dot down for the opening try of the match.

Imperial consistently capitalised

on Medway indiscipline at the break down, taking field position and utilising the customary strong line-out plays to inevitably construct a mall on the opposition line, quickly driving over twice in succession, with both tries being scored by number 8, and the humble author of this report, Tom Hedley.

Play then broke up with Chris MacBeth threatening the Medway defence. Captain Dave Nielsen-Scott carried well before being swiftly inverted by the opposition and mixed like the human martini that he is. Luckily for Imperial the captain appeared to have been stirred rather than shaken by the experience, going on to carry the ball 50 meters later in the game only for the ball to die a death in the hands of Carlos Sheppard.

In the second-half Imperial

Luckily for Imperial the captain appeared to have been stirred rather than shaken

fell foul to a string of penalties, resulting in the illustrious Honorary Secretary Tom Hobson receiving his first ever yellow card. He took the compulsory 700 push-ups fine imposed by our more old-fashioned South African coach in good spirit, and his pectorals will thank him for it eventually.

Ed Durkin proceeded to take hold of the game using his tactical kicking to put his team in all the right places, taking a black eye at some point in the process, which he later used to impress his girlfriend, so the rumours say, with stories of heroics. Capitalising on this, Tom Hedley (deserved man-of-the-match and quite frankly playing in a league far below his ability) scored two tries in quick succession. One from broken play handing off the fullback, and the other acting as the beneficiary

at the end of a well-worked backs move, with the winger trusting in Hedley's deceptive footwork over his own. This brought his try total for the game to a staggeringly impressive four tries. Four.

Thanks to a united front row of Nathan Tomlinson – who will be delighted to tell you that his heart-rate is so low because he is 'so fit' (his doctor will corroborate it, he promises) – Tom Hobson and Jon Lineham; Imperial's dominance at scrum time allowed them to work an 8, 9, 15 wing move, culminating with Josh O'Donnell going in to score his second in the corner.

Imperial withstood the weakened attacks of Medway in the closing minutes, holding on to their clean sheet and securing the first of what is sure to be many wins in the season to come.

But fail to make it two out of two

Joe McGrail
Rugby

After a convincing 37-0 win at home to Medway two weeks ago, the first team of ICURFC were confident going into what was going to be one of the toughest games of the season, safe in the knowledge that they came equipped with the only Scholarship Athlete for rugby in the history of scholarships at Imperial, and the humble author of this report, Joe McGrail. After

The players made it quite clear that there will not be a repeat of this performance in the season to come

a long two hour journey and some handy minibus manoeuvres from O'Donnell, Imperial were left with only a short period of time to warm up before the game was underway.

The conditions were poor and from the off both teams were making numerous unforced errors, failing to string together any phases. This appeared to be the general theme throughout what was a very sloppy game. Canterbury adapted more quickly to the conditions and began to play a very tight game trying to keep the ball in hand. Imperial's defence stood strong, and by defence we mean the chop tackles that literally brought Canterbury to their knees demonstrating that the rugby scholarship was well earned. However, a lapse in concentration saw missed tackles as the Canterbury outside centre broke the line and went on to score the only try of the game. Despite the poor conditions Charles Price-Smith kicked well from the tee keeping imperial within a score of Canterbury.

The majority of the game followed in a similar fashion moving from scrum to scrum with the Imperial front row's fitness began to show as Canterbury were shoved back, and the last 10 minutes finally saw Imperial begin to play some good rugby in the opposition 22. The fast approaching full time whistle gave

Imperial's attack a sense of urgency, after being held up twice and coming within inches of the line, the pressure eventually eased as Imperial lost possession to good defence by Canterbury. A disappointing end to a disappointing performance.

There were some positives to take away from the game, a particular mention to Tom Hobson who despite the wet slippery conditions threw excellently, allowing the Imperial line-out to operate as

normal unlike the Canterbury line-out which became restricted to only the front half due to the conditions. This allowed the forwards to launch some dangerous mauls and secure possession in an area of the game where Canterbury were failing to do so. Also a mention to fullback Alex Hawkings and scrum-half Ed Durkin who showed good attacking intent and giving imperial some go forward from running back kick returns and playing some clever

chips through respectively.

This weekend will be put behind us and the players made it quite clear that there will not be a repeat of this performance in the season to come. If there is, a Scholarship Athlete has promised to use his scholarship to ply the South African coach with a year's supply of his favourite homeland delicacy, Boerewors, to distract him from the many hundreds of push-ups that he threatens to bestow upon the team.



The Imperial rugby 1st XV has started the season with a thumping win and a close loss Photo Credit: ICURFC