

The member of Imperial College London

FELIX

How many Grammys did you get?

PAGE 24 MUSIC

Questions you're desperate to ask a Muslim

PAGE 6 FEATURE



RAG Jailbreakers removed from flight to Turkey after terror suspicions

- 'Hand in Hand for Syria' charity caused confusion
- Students met with armed anti-terror police
- Group detained and prevented from flying

One team in RAG's jailbreak competition found themselves £400 down and a day behind after being pulled off of a flight to Istanbul by anti-terror police.

The group of students, who were raising money for several charities, had spent the first morning of the jailbreak fundraising around West London. After finding themselves unable to bag any free flights at Heathrow that evening, they decided to use some of the money to buy flights to Turkey.

They were carrying a sign advertising what they were doing which mentioned one of their chosen charities: "Hand in Hand for Syria".

Despite being allowed through airport security and explaining what they were doing to the staff who sold them the flights, just before take-off, a man dressed in a high-visibility jacket boarded the plane and approached one member of the group, asking: "So what's the problem?"

Confused, the team were told to

leave the plane and to bring their IDs. Just outside the cabin, they were met with a group of armed and plain-clothes anti-terror police.

Their passports were examined, with one student's passport causing particular upset due to the presence of a police stamp necessary for a visa. The three students were then separated and questioned by police for forty minutes. Once it became clear that they weren't a threat to anyone, the group were free to go but were not...

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RAG mag battle reaches national newspapers

Daily Mail and Evening Standard both publish news stories on the banned magazine's 'sexism'

This week, national newspapers covered the sexism row that has been raging since the union strongly advised RAG to bin 1600 copies of a satirical magazine they'd just printed. In an attempt

to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital, the British Refugee Council and Porridge in Rice, which works in Kenya, RAG published a 16-page handout that included several pages of 'satire', which the union has branded a sexist example

of "harassment and bullying" against the Union President. After last Friday's FELIX, which published comment pieces responding to the story, journalists from the *Daily Mail* and *Evening Standard* began to contact members of the RAG

committee, the Union President and College.

The news story made page ten of Tuesday's *Evening Standard* along with an image of the union president Photoshopped over the business school. The piece was mostly a rehash of FELIX content, with an additional comment from the union's interim Managing Director, who said the union had "responded to students' concerns about the magazine and RAG had apologised". A short Editorial Comment piece on the incident featured on page 14 of the daily newspaper, calling it a "small but dispiriting example of the creeping censorship at universities".

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The *Standard* called it a "dispiriting example of the creeping censorship at universities"

FELIX EDITORIAL



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A word from the Editor



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Blimey, what a week! We love an exclusive here at FELIX, but even we were rather surprised that real hacks from the *Evening Standard* and *MailOnline* took notice of a story that hasn't even been on our front page for two weeks or so.

And bless RAG, because whatever you think of them, they've had a rough ride of it recently. Not only was their publication removed and their arms twisted for an apology (always a way of getting the most sincere response) it's now come to light that their perfectly innocent jailbreakers were removed from a flight to Turkey for raising money for a charity that helps Syrians. Bit of a case of mistaken identity, but this was only realised after they'd been questioned under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000, which means anyone can be held by police at a travel hub for up to nine hours and be questioned without a lawyer, even if the police have no grounds

for suspicion.

The story's a happy one though, because after being released by armed anti-terror police, which would have made even this Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity enthusiast cry and go home, the group from RAG decided to brush themselves off and hitchhike to Poland. Nice.

Our story on the banning of boycotts may not immediately seem like an Imperial friendly one – the union haven't voted to boycott, divest from or sanction anything since 1984, when the college hiked prices in the Queen's Tower refectory (back then the union also held 'porn film nights' in the QTR though, so it was a pretty different time). It's an important right of local democracies like ours to choose who we do and don't buy from, and without this option, local government is weakened.

As the Union vs Free Speech debate spreads from our letters page



to the national press and back again, let's not forget the worst part of this media storm: the fact that the *Evening Standard's* print edition called your beloved FELIX an "official union magazine".

Take this if you take nowt else: we are not the union's, and we're made of paper. Never have been, always will be!

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Letters

In response to 'Rag Mag battle becomes racism row', Issue 1626

Sir/Madam,
As a former RAG Chair and someone who was also heavily mocked in the RAG Magazine, I find it disingenuous of the Union to suggest that the targets of RAG's satire were chosen based on their personal characteristics. Although under my tenure as RAG Chair we may have chosen not to publish such content, we must accept that as people in positions of authority we become targets for public satire.

To suggest that the Union President was selected for criticism on the basis of her gender seems to me absurd: I am the only person of colour satirised in the magazine, yet I do not suggest that this is because RAG is racist.

Discrimination and victimisation are indeed truly awful facets of society that must be stamped out, both on campus and in the wider world. Part of doing this includes ensuring that we only cry 'racist' when a person of colour is offended if they were targeted because of their

skin colour, and that we only shout 'sexist' when a woman is criticised because of her gender. Anything else is a shameful disservice to those who have truly suffered such abuse.

*Ben Fernando
RAG Chair, 2014-15*

It's madam. You know it's madam. Madam Editor, please.

And yes, it obviously wasn't sexist. We all know it wasn't, but if they want to keep saying it was, let them. Let's just hope it didn't starve GOSH of an extra dialysis machine.

-Ed.

In response to 'Your union president speaks on RAG mag "sexism"', Issue 1626

Dear Lucinda,

I read your article last week and would like to reply to some of the accusations directed at us.

The RAG mag is made to be accessible and funny. Thus, as the union president, an article about you was published as you would be known by a lot of students.

Having read the article I do not believe you are 'singled out' because you are a woman and in fact the article also includes commentary on other (male) sabbaticals.

Calling the piece sexist undermines genuine sexism. It is true that there is a very distorted ratio at Imperial and as a woman I am challenged by this as well. However, this does not mean you can use your gender to make yourself the victim in a case that has nothing to do with sexism; the article does not even mention your gender. Rather it is a satire about your opinions given at an interview with IC radio and on social platforms such as Twitter. It criticises your statements about Scottish Independence, the UK and the poor which many found offensive and racist.

Furthermore, I do not believe this article is justification for stopping women entering positions of power as I believe this article would have existed whether you were male or female. As a 'woman in power', I am aware that any position of power makes you a figurehead and open to criticisms and satire from other

students. This is an important aspect of free speech.

This is as true for women as it is for men.

Freedom of speech, and indeed freedom of the press, are fundamental rights as important as the struggle for equal rights across genders. By 'banning' this article and threatening the RAG committee, the Union have trodden on these freedoms in a way that goes against the very principle of the college's legal obligation to promote free speech.

I hope you realise that because of this dispute, a lot of charity money was lost. We are working with three charities; GOSH, Porridge and Rice and British Refugee Councils. Finally, by condemning the RAG mag, we have lost valuable publicity on the largest fundraising week at Imperial. We cannot express our dismay at how much was lost because of this commotion.

I believe men and women are equal and just because you were the subject of an article, it does not mean your gender was.

Kind regards,

*RAG Vice Chair of Activities,
Alicia Graham*

Whether you think they've messed up or not, we can all admit that RAG have had a hard time of late. Let's just hope the union has been supporting the committee through all of this as it as much as it supports some of its student sabbaticals.
-Ed.

FELIX COMMENT

Your President speaks on RAG mag 'sexism'
RAG has gone too far, and should take responsibility for putting women off taking on positions of responsibility



When you read an article in a newspaper that criticises your university, it's often hard to know whether you should be angry or amused. In the case of the RAG magazine, the answer is usually a mix of both. The magazine is a satirical publication that has been around since the 1960s. It's a mix of humour and social commentary. The article in question, 'Your President speaks on RAG mag "sexism"', is a prime example of this. It's a satirical piece that criticises the RAG committee for their handling of a dispute over the magazine's content. The article is written in a humorous and accessible style, which is characteristic of the magazine. It's a good example of how the magazine can use satire to address serious issues in a way that is both entertaining and thought-provoking.

No one raindrop considers itself responsible for the flood
The RAG mag writers must take full responsibility for the reduced publicity

The piece in question, which the MailOnline subsequently reshaped.



Israel boycotts outlawed by government

Public bodies will no longer be able to opt out of buying products made on the West Bank

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

Boycotts have long been a way for local government to use direct action to condemn government approved policies, such as apartheid. However, the government has announced new plans to bring down heavy punishments on government-funded bodies such as NHS Trusts, city councils and universities if they choose to operate so-called “town-hall boycotts”.

The government has called such protests “divisive” and say they have the potential to be anti-semitic.

It’s not just Israeli products that it will be illegal to avoid for “unethical” reasons. Companies involved in the arms, tobacco or fossil fuels trades will also be safe from democratically voted for ‘discrimination’.

Firms who up until recently were running some operations in the West Bank, such as Veolia and Sodastream, have since left the area due to mounting pressure from the public. Scarlett Johansson notoriously severed her ties with

Oxfam rather than the sponsorship deal she had with SodaStream when the charity expressed disapproval of companies with factories in the area.

Last year, Sussex’s student union voted to join the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement by choosing not to sell Israeli products in their union-run shops. SOAS students voted last year in favour of a boycott of Israeli academic institutions. The union’s YES campaign emphasised after their win that the move was to target “Israeli institutions complicit in the oppression of Palestinians, not individuals”.

Imperial’s own union has not voted to boycott any Israeli products or institutions.

The rules could also affect public bodies boycotting other causes or businesses, such as arms manufacturers or fossil fuel companies, many of which have been boycotted by other universities.

The move has been called an “attack on local democracy” by representatives of Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn. If this rule had existed back in the 60s and 70s, the anti-apartheid in South Africa

movement of boycotts would have been illegal.

The official announcement of the policy is due to be made by Cabinet Minister, Matt Hancock, when he visits Israel in a few days time.

FELIX previously reported that several Imperial academics had signed an open letter promising to boycott Israeli institutions. Boycotts like this would be perfectly legal under new rules.

Companies involved in the arms, tobacco or fossil fuels trades will also be safe



Several Imperial academics signed this boycott in 2015. Photo Credit: The Guardian

Imperial RAG mag story published in Evening Standard and MailOnline

continued from front page

The piece went online on Tuesday morning, and remained on the front page of the *Evening Standard's* website for several hours.

As the *Evening Standard* story broke, the president’s personal Twitter account became private.

Later that day a similar story appeared on the *Daily Mail's* website. This longer article included multiple references to Lucinda’s comment piece in last week’s FELIX, in which she claimed that she had been the victim of “trollish stereotyping and personal attacks” and that the union’s actions were “in no way preventing RAG from raising money”.

Lower down in the piece, which swings in no particular direction in support, it’s mentioned that IC

FemSoc said they hadn’t thought the piece was sexist.

The article also links to an Imgur upload of the RAG article itself, which FELIX has been unable to print.

In the article’s comment section,

The article also links to an Imgur upload of the RAG article itself

notorious on MailOnline for being a source of bizarre views, one reader remarked: “These students’ antics are just juvenile! Do we need reports of them in an adult newspaper?”

In this week’s FELIX, several notable RAG members wrote in, complaining about the union’s treatment of this year’s committee. In a letter addressed to the union’s President, RAG’s Vice Chair of Activities said: “Calling the piece sexist undermines genuine sexism” and that she hoped “you realise that because of this dispute, a lot of charity money was lost”.

Lucinda told us: “I set out my views on the trollish behaviour in my FELIX article, and I’m grateful for the backing I’ve received from men and women leaders since that time.”

- Piece in Imperial College RAG magazine 'written by Sucinda Landon-Allum'
- Imperial College union president Lucinda Sandon-Allum labelled it 'trollish'
- Made reference to the 'character's' love life and dealings with 'poor people'
- Sparked sexism debate after she said it put women off running for the role

By LYDIA WILLGROSS FOR MAILONLINE

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A student union president has become embroiled in a sexism debate after she claimed a university magazine 'bullied' her by publishing a satirical article.

Lucinda Jane Sandon-Allum labelled the article, which was published in society charity magazine RAG at Imperial College, south London, 'trollish' as she slammed the 'unacceptable' behaviour.

The 21-year-old, who studied biological sciences, also blamed the 'first-person' article, which was 'written' by Sucinda Landon-Allum, for putting women off from running for leadership roles.

The diary-type article is believed to have included references to the 'fictional' character's love life and 'elite' connections, as well as their disgust at 'poor people'.

One paragraph allegedly stated: 'Dear Diary, today I took part in the RAG Firewalk. Unfortunately, I stumbled on the coals and fell over, causing my hair to catch on fire.'

I was immediately rushed to an elite private hospital in Acton, where I received a transplant of my hair.



The story didn't quite make the sidebar of shame. Photo Credit: MailOnline



More than one female toilet for RSM

All but one female toilet was removed from the Goldsmith's Wing by College Estates over the summer but now they're getting changed back

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

female toilets across the department. The case for having changed the toilets in the first place was not a strong one, as there were already a set of men's toilets close by.

However, without consultation with the department, Estates had changed them anyway. Although there were technical reasons as to why the space could not be evenly divided, they had still left only one female toilet.

Haynes' survey proposed making the four grouped toilets unisex, as well as the single accessible toilet, to please anyone uncomfortable with the idea of mixed loos.

The survey results were shown to Estates, who agreed the situation was unacceptable. Instead of making the toilets all unisex, there was strong support for making the men's toilets women's and making

the single female accessible toilet unisex.

One RSM member told FELIX: "As a woman in male dominated departments with usually around half the number of women's toilets as men's (meaning walking ten minutes to toilets if any are out of order), having our Head of Department take charge and do something about it is amaze".

The department of materials holds an Athena Swan Silver award, which is an accolade given to Higher Education or research bodies that can prove they are actively advancing female staff and students in an attempt to achieve gender equality in the workplace.

The works are to be completed over the 5th and 6th of March.

Female toilet users of RSM can collectively breath a sigh in relief.



Labels are for cans, not for toilets. Photo Credit: FELIX

Women in the Goldsmith's wing of the RSM building had a bit of a shock after coming back over the summer: all but a single female toilet had been converted to men's only. This meant that women had to either queue to use one loo or walk to another building if it was out of order.

A survey into the problem was commissioned by the new Head of the Department of Materials, Peter Haynes, and it was obvious from the 100 responses from staff and students that change was needed.

Both male and female responses were strongly in support of more



Syrian charity confusion gets RAG team pulled off flight from Heathrow to Istanbul by anti-terror police

continued from front page

...allowed to board the flight to Turkey, and were now down several hours and a few hundred pounds.

The team let the RAG committee know about the situation via Facebook, and this message was quickly passed to Imperial College via campus security. There was some miscommunication involved, and college were told the group were arrested, which they were not. However, the students were not contacted by anyone at college during this time (or since) regarding their safety.

Despite the ordeal, the team went back to Heathrow the next day and flew to Berlin, before hitchhiking to Radzymin in Poland, which amounted to 907 miles in 36 hours.

This meant they had raised £724, not including the amount they had paid for the unused flights.

The group were told their removal was a direct instruction from the pilot but suspected it was because they had asked a flight attendant if they could make an announcement about the charities to the passengers over the plane's intercom. The attendant said she would ask to the pilot and it was soon after this that they were removed.

When the group returned to the UK they had a meeting with the union and RAG, where they were told that the union would help them recover the money from Turkish Airlines, which would add to the funds they'd raised for charity, and that perhaps there would be a meeting with senior management at college. However, weeks passed and the jailbreak group did not hear anything from the union or college. Eventually, through RAG, they were told that the union's senior managers now felt that "any correspondence regarding this matter should come directly from the students rather than from Imperial College Union".

The jailbreak team members told FELIX they were "extremely frustrated" with the union, so decided to attempt to recoup the charity money themselves. Although several weeks had now passed, the group repeatedly tried to get in contact with Turkish Airlines, which culminated in



The group spent all morning fundraising before heading to Heathrow. Photo Credit: Facebook/Two and half Asian's Jailbreak

The group were told their removal was a direct instruction from the pilot

the three students turning up at the company's headquarters in Kensington Olympia last week. After initially promising them a full refund, a member of staff later emailed the group saying they would only be paid back the tax. After explaining the situation once again to the airline, they finally agreed to pay back the amount which had been raised for charity.

'Hand in Hand for Syria', the

charity whose name seems to have got them chucked off the flight, told FELIX that it was "sorry to hear they encountered difficulties" but that "their total raised amount was incredible, and we're so grateful that they have dedicated to raising funds for the people of Syria".

RAG told FELIX they were "extremely grateful for the support received during and after the incident from the Student Activities team" at the union but that it was "unfortunate that senior managers in the union felt it was not appropriate to help out the students to recover the money", adding that they were "extremely proud of the team for persevering and recovering the money and delighted that this can now be donated to great causes".

The union told FELIX that they had "supported these students immediately after the incident and worked closely with College to ensure there was no impact on their studies or ability to travel in future. We decided that the students would have a greater chance of getting a refund if they contacted the airline directly, which turned out to be correct."

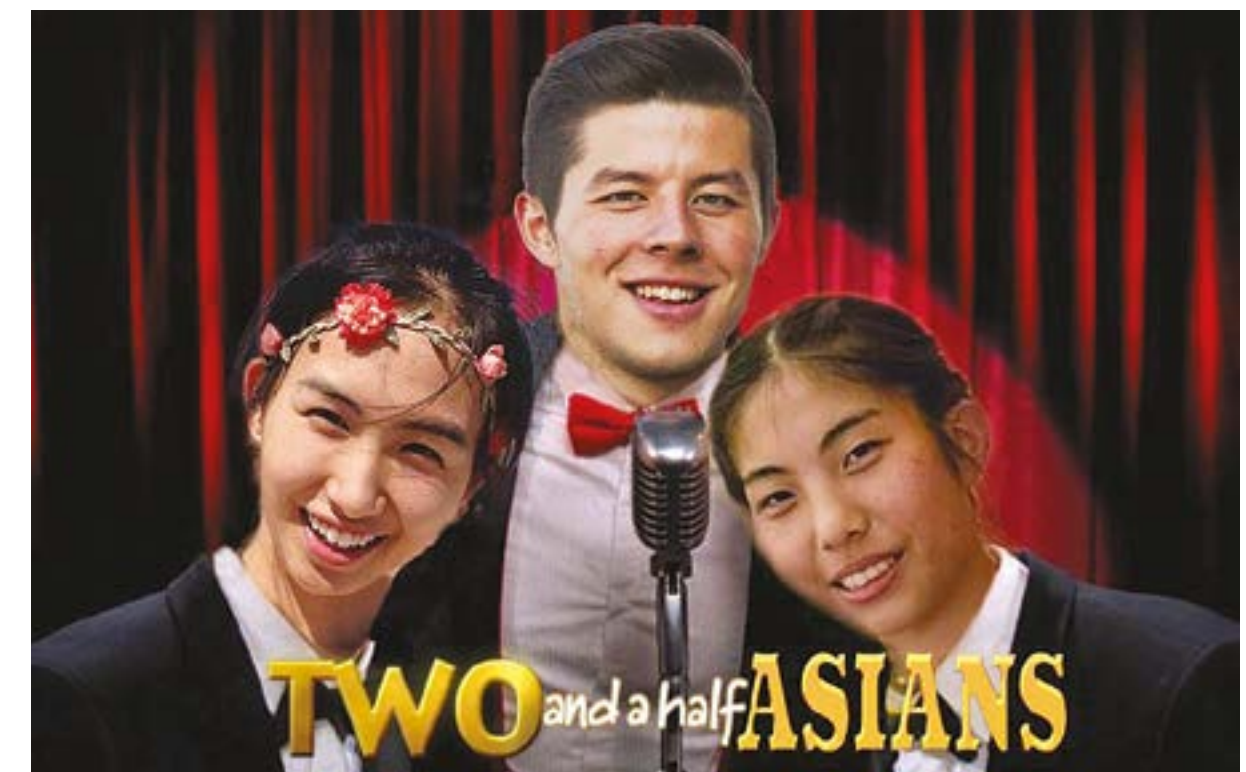
RAG jailbreak involves teams of students attempting to get as far away from a starting point as possible in a 36 hour period. The team can't spend any of their own money, and must use donations

Despite the ordeal, the team went back to Heathrow the next day

or favours to travel. The teams are sponsored per mile they get away from Imperial, with the record for the furthest being Singapore. Although this one happened back in November, another jailbreak has been scheduled for the 19th of March.

Turkey is one of the main routes into Syria, especially for Westerners who go there to fight. The British police say they suspect up to 700 people from the UK have gone to work or fight for jihadist causes in Syria and Iraq. Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 allows police to hold people at ports, rail stations and airports even without needing "reasonable suspicion". They can then be held for up to nine hours.

GRACE RAHMAN



Despite all this, they still made £1100 for charity. Photo Credit: Facebook/Two and half Asian's Jailbreak

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FELIX FEATURES



felix@imperial.ac.uk

Things you're desperate to ask your Muslim lab partner

Can you shampoo with a headscarf on? Where can you pray when you've only got five minutes?

ISoc
Writers

Muslims are probably one of the easiest groups of people to identify from the way we dress, girls being more obvious than guys. As Muslims we find that there's a lot of confusion about why we do certain things and people speculate because they're too scared to ask in case we get offended. Contrary to what the media might tell you, 1 in 5 of us don't sympathise with a certain group of people. In fact we'd be more than happy to tell you why we don't eat all Haribos or why I didn't join the Pub Crawl at the start of the year. For those too shy to question us directly, here's a selection of questions Muslims on campus have been asked in the past.

Where do you go to pray at Imperial?

We pray five times a day wherever we can and nip out whenever we find an opportunity during labs. If there's only ten minutes before the lecture starts it's unlikely I'm going to trek it to the Prayer Room (in Prince's Gardens) and make it back in time. We pretty much disappear to anywhere we can find a small, peaceful space on campus. It also has to be clean, so along with that portable charger, a travel prayer mat can also be quite handy. This includes lecture theatres, empty rooms, secret corridors and between

Yes, you probably did see me awkwardly massaging my foot



We're chilling in SAF, just like you . Photo Credit: ISoc

bookshelves. Basically anywhere that won't cause an inconvenience to anybody else. One Islamic Society member made it her aim to pray in every building at least once before she graduates. On Fridays (holiest day of the week), we pray in congregation in Beit wherewe even have speakers set up to deliver the sermon.

Do you shower with your scarf on?

Unfortunately we don't have "aesthetically pleasing" waterproof hijabs yet (swimming caps don't count) and it's harder to shampoo with a scarf covering your hair. In all seriousness though, our hijabs are only worn in front of unrelated men. We can take them off when it's a girls only setting or the men are close relations.

Did I just see you washing yourself in the toilets?

Before prayer we have to wash our hands, face, ears, arms and feet. So yes, you probably did see me awkwardly massaging my foot.

Mate, what is that alarm?

That would be the call to prayer. It's the same as the one you might get woken up by on a trip to Turkey or Egypt.

Do you all speak Arabic?

Many of us learn to read and recite Qur'anic Arabic and sometimes accidentally drop phrases such as "insha Allah", "masha Allah" and "Alhamdulillah" into standard English conversations. Force of habit. They mean "God-willing",

"God has willed it" and "Praise be to God". We also greet other muslims with "Salaam" or "Assalaamu alaikum" or if you've got that extra bit of breath, "Assalaamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh". They all mean peace be unto you and the last means "peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you". But no, other than that not all of us are native Arabic speakers and so for many of us, this is the most we speak. However, many non-Arabic speaking muslims learn the language to enhance their understanding of the Qur'an. Not all Arabic words



Room in SAF, travel prayer mat and you're good to go. Photo Credit: ISoc

have an English equivalent so it's better to try and understand things in context.

A travel prayer mat can also be quite handy

Can you hear properly with that scarf on your head?

Sorry, could you repeat the question please?

Religion can be a sensitive topic which is why many tend to avoid asking questions. As part of our annual "Discover Islam Week", the Islamic Society will be hosting a range of events from exhibitions, to a talk on Islam's role in the world, to spoken word by British ex-hip hop artist, Tommy Evans. Next Wednesday (24th of February) there will also be a free, informal lunch on the ISoc and the opportunity to ask more questions that may have been at the back of your mind. Looking forward to seeing some fresh, inquisitive faces!

For more info search 'Discover Islam Week 2016' on Facebook.

Dates for next week

Monday 22nd February
Discover Islam Exhibitions in SAF and Sherfield
"Islam's Contribution to Humanity" by Adnan Rashid

Wednesday 24th February
Discover Islam Week Free Lunch

Thursday 25th February
Discover Islam Exhibitions in SAF and Sherfield
"Tommy Evans: The Liberation of A-Man" Poetry Event by British Hip Hop Artist

FELIX COMMENT



comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Fishballs to bullets – that escalated quickly

Hong Kong is going through a tumultuous period of civil unrest, but what were the real reasons behind the latest outbreaks of violence?

Don Ma
Writer

Hong Kong experienced a fiery Chinese New Year as protesters and the police clashed on the night of the 7th of February. With 130 people injured and 67 people arrested, one might be surprised to find out that the riots started with fishballs, a popular local snack that could be bought from street vendors.

During the Chinese New Year, as many restaurants close early, some streets become informal food markets, populated by hawkers that sell curry fishballs, imitation shark's fin soup, and other street foods. Many of these hawkers are doing business illegally, as they haven't obtained a licence from the Food and Environmental Hygiene

Violent
clashes
broke out
and the city
descended
into
darkness

Department (FEHD). In fact, a vast majority of Hong Kong's hawkers are illegal as new hot food licences haven't been distributed since 1980, due to difficulties in managing the safety and cleanliness of the food stalls.

The FEHD are known to be rather lax regarding these offences during the Chinese New Year, as the informal markets are traditional during this holiday. However, this year, the FEHD decided that New Year's Eve would be a prime time to enforce the regulations. The news spread and groups organised protests on social media against the FEHD in the Mong Kok area.

The FEHD were helpless against



The 2014 Hong Kong protests. Photo Credit: Wikipedia

large groups of protesters, and the police were called in, leading to a standoff between the two sides. Violent clashes broke out and the city descended into darkness and chaos. The violent protesters threw bricks and other items at the police, physically assaulted officers, and set cars and mounds of trash alight. On the flip side, police officers were using pepper spray, attacking protesters with their batons, and throwing bricks back towards the crowd. Members of the press were also injured in the skirmishes. The night climaxed with gunshots, fired towards the sky by a traffic police officer, and as the sun rose the protesters retreated. In the days that followed, people were arrested for rioting and obtaining access to a computer with intent to commit an offence or with a dishonest intent.

The night left the city in shock. As politicians awoke, parties began to swiftly condemn the violence. Government officials stated that the riots had nothing to do with localist movements, the government's approval rating, or hawker regulations. Supporters of the protest condemned the police force's actions with others coming

to the support of the police force, saying that the police were, in fact, too restrained.

Supporters of the protest zero in on the fact that fishballs led to bullets and police brutality, while those against looked at the injuries sustained by the force and the helplessness of some under-equipped officers.

Pulling the camera back, we see that the clashes escalated step-by-step and the violence from both sides was irrational and unreasonable. But more importantly, the fishballs were just the final straw for the protestors, pushing them towards violence. We are looking at a city that has slowly but surely fallen from its place as the number one international financial centre in Asia to a political mess with a steadily worsening economic issues. Sure, this may be the result of the rapidly growing Chinese economy and changes in the socio-political environment, but the government is not without fault.

The executive branch of Hong Kong has no accountability to the general public, because it is appointed by a small group of electors. The Legislative Council is controlled by the pro-establishment

parties, with 30 out of 70 of the seats being functional constituencies, allowing small groups to have immense voting power. Time after time, the Hong Kong government has continued to push unwanted policies, heedless of public outcry.

Some examples include: The Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, The National Education issue, the police response to Occupy Central, the shameful faux universal suffrage plan, the attempted implementation of simplified Chinese and Mandarin as the main language for education, the missing booksellers incident, the forced appointment of the Hong Kong University Council chairman, the push for the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2014 are all examples of enforced policies for the interested reader.

But Government officials believe that this Fishball Riot has nothing to do with their actions? They may be acting clueless now, but let's dispel once and for all the fiction that the Hong Kong government doesn't know what it's doing. It knows exactly what it's doing. They are undertaking an effort to change the city, and to make it more like China. A significant portion of the public (particularly the younger generation) are tired of the mainlanders flooding the streets of Tsim Sha Tsui, buying up property and causing baby formula shortages while the government does nothing but encourage them. Something needs to change, and in my opinion, the first step would be to remove the system of electors and institute universal suffrage.

No one is saying that true universal suffrage would solve every problem in the city and make it a magical fairy land with a 420% GDP growth per year and a happy population. However it would make the government accountable to its people, and perhaps these seemingly thoughtless actions, and the riots that follow, would happen less often.

FELIX SCIENCE



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Sh!t Science

Scientists try and fail squishing bug



The noble cockroach *Periplaneta americana*, practically (and to our dismay) unsquishable. Photo Credit USGS bee inventory and monitoring lab

Cockroaches are despised by everyone. With the whole human race out to squash them into oblivion, you'd think they'd have died out by now. But instead, they thrive, popping up in the most random places, and miraculously surviving the most vigorous squashing. Scientists have therefore spent months investigating why it is so freaking hard to squish a cockroach.

Scientists from the University of California have collected hundreds of high-resolution, slow-motion videos of them squishing cockroaches. This technology showed that a cockroach can progress at top velocity, a whopping 600mm per second, through a 6mm high crack, and can fit comfortably in a crack as small as 3.2mm high. To confirm that cockroaches are super compressible, the scientists flattened them with a piston applying up to 900 times their own body weight.

They showed that not only can the cockroaches sustain that amount of pressure, they can also immediately fly away, unscathed. This shows to everyone that the cockroach is, scientifically, the creepiest animal on Earth (or is that just me?).

But there is more to this research. It subscribes to a line of scientific investigation called terradynamics, where scientists study how animals move in the hope of designing robots capable of negotiating complex terrain, such as muddy, sandy, or rough surfaces. By analysing the movements of cockroaches, the scientists have uncovered a new mode of locomotion on which they modelled a palm-sized, soft-bodied legged robot. This robot can manipulate very rough and constricting environments in a way that no other robot could. The authors of the paper claim that this is the first step towards an effective 'search-and-rescue' robot, which could help us rapidly locate

survivors in disaster situations. So next time you question the logic behind a piece of research, next time you look at a Nature article twice, scrunching up your face, next time you roll your eyes to the projects that manage to secure funding despite being based on some seemingly ridiculous premise, think about what we've learned from the creepy yet humble cockroach and recognise that perhaps sh!t science is in fact... The Sh!t.



Be free little buddy. Photo Credit Oliver.dodd

MARIANNE GUENOT

Natasha Khaleeq
Writer

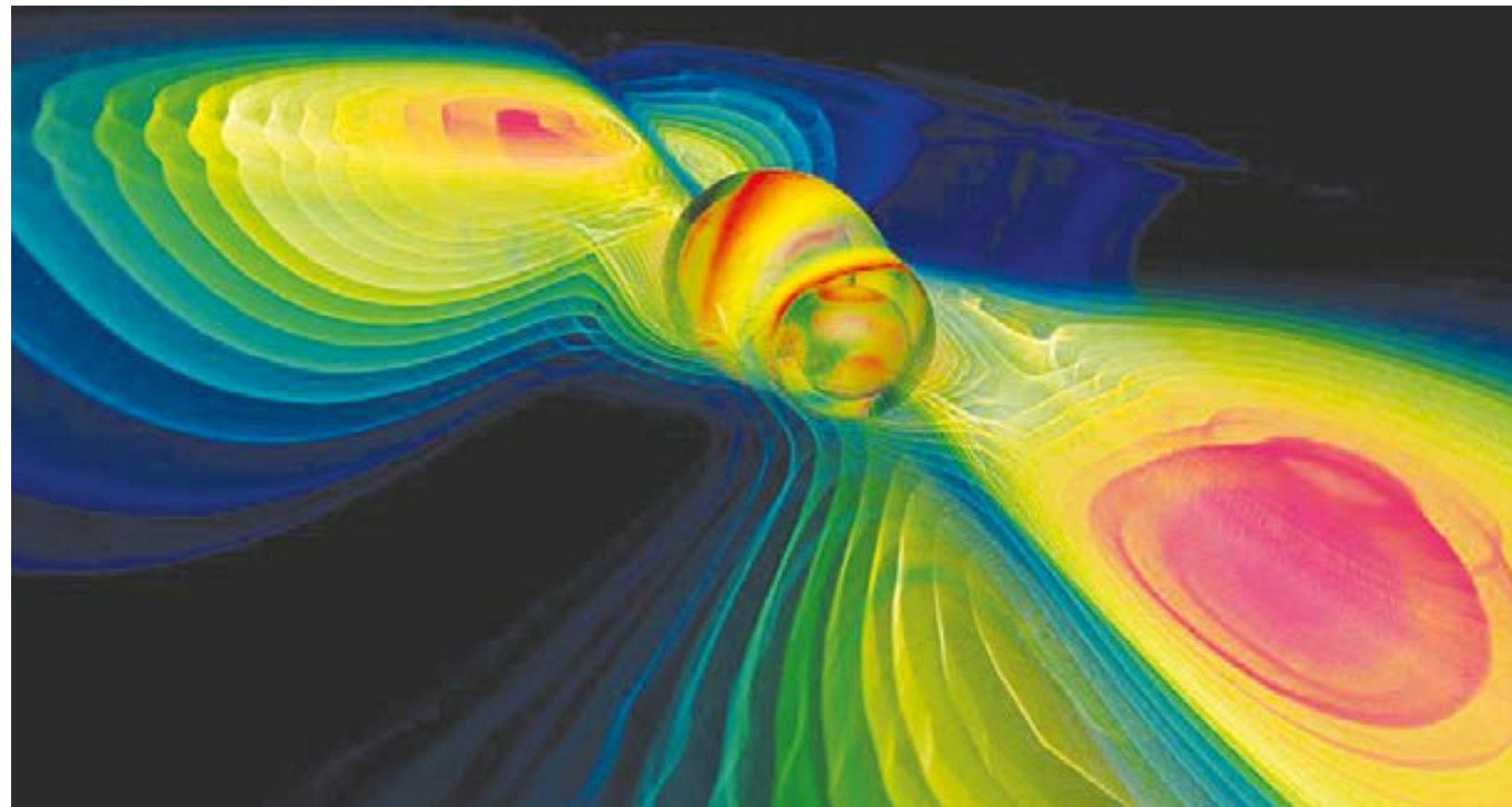
This week's science picture

Two black holes merged billions of light years away, causing a ripple in the fabric of spacetime big enough to be measured by scientists at the LIGO Collaboration. The results provide further support for Einstein's theory of general relativity.

The 4km long interferometers at LIGO simultaneously detected a disturbance in their lasers signifying the passing of a massive gravitational wave through the Earth. The measurements suggest the black hole collision released a wave of gravitational energy equal to three times the mass of the sun.

Prof Danzmann (a leading European scientist at LIGO) praised the finding as one of the most important discoveries since the Higgs boson and on par with the discovery of the double helix.

Detecting the waves opens up the Universe to completely new investigations leading to a new era of astronomy.



A numerical stimulation of the black hole collision. Colours signify the degree of perturbation of the spacetime fabric (the gravitational waves). Photo NASA Blueshift

FELIX SCIENCE



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Scientists who made bank

In honour of Mary Somerville appearing on the new RBS £10 note, FELIX explores which other scientists have previously been represented, and asks who's next?

Madeleine Webb
Writer

RBS last week announced the results from a Facebook poll (welcome to the future folks) whereby the mathematician and astronomer, Mary Somerville, was chosen by the people of Scotland to be the face of the £10 note for the foreseeable future. And yes, since Scottish money is legal tender in England, that means a new face will be on the funny looking notes that momentarily confuse you every now and then at the ATM. Personally I think it's a solid choice considering that by all accounts, Mary Somerville was a textbook scientific badass. Despite showing great intelligence from a young age, Somerville's education was largely informal and partially self-taught due to the social conventions restricting her from higher education. The restrictions placed upon her only worsened after the death of her 10 year-old sister, which her parents blamed on Mary's determination to be educated. Regardless of these hurdles Somerville became a respected name in the scientific community as an adult, her translations and original works about astronomy becoming widely popular. She became the first female member of the Royal Astronomical Society and her work was instrumental in predicting the presence of the 9th planet, Neptune in our solar system. On top of all that, Somerville continued to fulfil the expectations of a well-connected socialite, supported women's suffrage and was one of the most influential science writers of her time.

Mary Somerville may be the first female scientist to appear on a Scottish banknote, but when it comes to representation, scientists do quite well for themselves. To name just a few...

Charles Darwin

Ok we're starting off with the easy one; Darwin is the only scientist to be featured on a note currently



Mary Somerville, a scientific badass in astronomy and mathematics, proposed to be the new face of the Scottish £10. Photo Credit: wikipedia

in circulation, as well as being the most famous biologist of all time. However, none of this could have been predicted when he initially boarded The Beagle. Darwin had not completed his studies and therefore was taken on as a self-funded secondary naturalist for the journey, with the ship's doctor holding the role official. Even his father considered the trip a waste of time. Darwin and his majestic beard are gracing our tenners at the moment and have been there since the turn of the millennium. However, the prolific regency author Jane Austen is scheduled to replace

Darwin and his Finches in 2017

Isaac Newton

Physicist, mathematician and noted apple tree enthusiast, Newton, whose work in the 17th century wrote the rules of physics, classical mechanics, and a bunch of other stuff I don't understand. His seemingly endless list of achievements include, formulating the laws of motion, building the first reflecting telescope, creating the theory of gravity, and correctly predicting that the earth was an oblate spheroid. A lesser known

Florence Nightingale

I'm counting the lady of the lamp on this list because her revolution of nursing was down to applying simple scientific principle to medical practices. In addition, Nightingale

was a talented statistician and the first female inducted into the Royal Statistical Society. One of the hallmarks of Nightingale's career were sanitary reforms, after demonstrating with stats that a lack of sanitation was directly linked to mortality rates in rural India. Based on her findings, she continued to lobby for social reforms to improve hygiene in Britain and abroad. Nightingale later set up a Nursing School and wrote multiple books on her methods of care, some of which are still used today. Much like Mary Somerville, Nightingale also found time to be a pioneering feminist, writing a series of essays on female independence. Literature critic Elaine Showalter dubbed the most famous of these essays "Cassandra", a "major text of English feminism". Florence Nightingale was on the £10 note for 19 years before being replaced by Charles Dickens.

As for future nominees for the honour of being on the other side of the Queen's face, my personal picks are...

Ada Lovelace

Why? Easy. Lovelace was a charismatic mathematician and widely considered to be the first computer programmer, writing the first algorithm designed to be performed by a machine. Additionally, Lovelace was close friends with and was tutored by Somerville. These women both being on currency money together would be a triumph for the scientific sisterhood.

J.J. Thompson

Why? Aside from having a cool name and excellent facial hair, Thompson was a genius physicist who won a Nobel prize for discovering the electron in 1906. He was also a gifted teacher, inspiring many famous pupils including Ernest Rutherford and Niels Bohr who would go on to make major discoveries in physics as well.



Science, what's good?

Termites did castes first

Lef Apostolakis
Science Editor

When you think of castes, the animal kingdom may not be the first thing that pops into your mind. Nonetheless, castes are prevalent in many other species besides humans, with bees a shining example of an efficient caste system, with their queens, workers and soldiers.

However, it seems that whatever bees did to become a eusocial species, termites did it first.

New fossils, unearthed in Myanmar show that termites became eusocial about 100 million years ago, approximately 80 million years earlier than what palaeontologists thought until now.

The fossil finds from Myanmar included five termite species, two of which new to science.

Engel et al. 2016 @ Current Biology

Super Earth probably toxic

Tsiaras et al. 2016 @ The Astrophysical Journal

Ah, the exotic and awe inspiring super-Earth, a class of exoplanet larger than Earth but not quite the size of a gas giant. For quite some time now, scientists have been fantasising about one in particular, 55 Cancri E, and what conditions on such a celestial body might be like. A group of astronomers though recently burst everyone's dream bubble, pointing out it's probably a cyanide packed, face-melting hellhole.

The team of astronomers used Hubble pictures to measure the spectra of light coming off the planet as it passed in front of its parent star.

Sadly the high levels of hydrogen, helium and hydrogen cyanide detected, lighter elements and their products (which our planet's atmosphere lost long ago), don't seem to be putting an end to the search for a cooler, larger home any time soon.

Explosive cancer cure

Lukianova-Hieb et al. 2016 @ Nature Nanotechnology

Nanoparticles have been used to precisely target and, via the use of infrared light, successfully destroy cancer cells left over from excision procedures.

This new method, only implemented in mice so far, used clusters of gold atoms to clear the mice of any traces of cancer cells, which is important as such cells can act as sources of new tumours. The procedure has been around for years, but has been problematic as, like with other treatments, precision has been low, resulting in damage to adjacent healthy tissue.

However a research team has managed to greatly refine the use of nanoparticles, by coupling them with appropriate antibodies, as well as using ultrashort infrared rays to zap the gold bearing cells.

Clinical trials could begin in the next two years, which if successful would greatly aid the fight against cancer.

Printing 'living' ears

Kang et al. 2016 @ Nature Biotechnology

Over the past decade we have seen many great breakthroughs in 3D printing, improving the speed of the process, the smoothness of the products and the range of materials available for printing with.

One of the materials that has shown promise in its application across the health sector of course is human cells.

A team has come up with a new technique – integrated tissue-organ printing which hopes to make the dream of printing of organs a reality.

The new technique allows lacing of artificial body parts with living cells and was successfully used to 3D print a human ear.

So far scientists have been able to generate 3D printed bone, muscle and cartilage which after being implanted in mice, developed natural structures such as blood vessels, closely resembling natural tissues.

Mixing with Neanderthals

Kuhlwilm et al. 2016 @ Nature

DNA is more than just a sequence of As, Ts, C, and Gs. It is a fingerprint of our individuality, capturing our primitive past and even the behaviour of our ancestors; and it seems our ancestors hooked up with our evolutionary 'cousins' a lot earlier than we previously thought. Specifically 110,000 years earlier.

It is not a novelty that we find Neanderthal DNA in human DNA, however, an international group of researchers recently found the presence of a reverse situation. That is, human DNA incorporated into the genetic code of a Neanderthal. A 50,000-year-old Neanderthal toe bone contained a human signature embedded within its collagen case.

The findings have posed the need to rethink human migration in the light of the now apparent genetic evidence, pointing strongly to an earlier migration out of Africa.

Kuhlwilm et al. 2016 @ Nature

A fresh look through bacteria

Morgaine Stiles
Writer

If we were to play a word association game and start off with the word 'eye' you might shout out 'face', or 'London', or even 'mantis shrimp', but you probably wouldn't shout out 'bacterium'. Well, new biological research might change that forever.

Although the phenomenon of bacteria moving in response to light, known as phototaxis, has been documented since the late 1800s, it took until this year for a group of observant researchers to discover how certain bacteria do this. A research team led by Nils Schuergers exposed a plate of *Synechocystis* to a directed light source under a

microscope, to then observe the bacterial response. At the bacteria's side opposite to the incident light and direction of movement, a bright spot was realised. They discovered that this was indicative of the bacteria acting like a little eye. The light spot was the result of light focused from the beam, hitting the bacteria, the bacterias surface then behaving as a lens, and its cytoplasm as the retina, re-focussing the light beam.

This phototaxis process by *Synechocystis* is a negative response to bright light exposure on their surface. Scientists investigated this further by shining a laser onto the centre of a plate containing *Synechocystis*, and then using a light to direct the cells towards this centre. They found that cells would

move towards the laser, until they hit the beam, where they would then retract.

Further research showed that, when two sources of light were introduced, the bacteria would present two spots on their surface, and move towards the light sources at an intermediate angle between the two.

Being cyanobacteria, and thus using photosynthesis to make glucose for energy, it is important that *Synechocystis* and similar bacteria have a system to navigate towards optimal light conditions. That is, the bacteria need enough light to make sufficient glucose, but should not be exposed to too much light, which would damage the bacteria cell. Here scientists explored the mechanism to which

this optimum is achieved.

Although this is a beautifully elegant method for spherical bacteria to respond to light, it remains to be seen how this will



Bacteria or eyes? *Synechocystis* elicit a primitive version of 'sight'. Photo Credit: BASF

translate to rod shaped bacteria, assuming, they even use a similar method... Watch this space.



Are there really different sugars?

Or why your agave syrup isn't really any better

Alexandra Lim
Writer

Cane sugar, honey, raw turbinado, coconut sugar, agave syrup. Many nutrition experts sitting on their high horses all wax lyrical over these glistening labels, eager to proclaim the nutritional properties of each. These are the same people who are religious avocado-toast eaters and green-juice guzzlers. These are the people who are fine with anything that's not white sugar or high-fructose corn syrup, the four words which instigate heated debate in the world of nutrition. The hidden truth? All these sugars are the same, in the sense that they all get processed the same way. Too much sugar in any form is dangerous.

Processed starches and breakfast cereals might as well unzip themselves from their beige coats because they are digested in an instant, in much the same way as our bodies process that brownie or bowl of salted caramel Haagen Dazs (which I must admit will always be a firm favourite of mine). Eating a bowl of sugar and eating a bowl of cereal may taste different, but below the neck, they're metabolically identical.

So what about sugar in fruit? Ah, another question that almost



Sugar resembles crystal meth a bit too much. Coincidence? I don't think so. Photo Credit Marko Knuutila

demands a series of catfights in the vegan community. Yes, fruit has lots of sugar, especially mangoes, durians and grapes. Even the ratio of fructose to glucose in fruit and table sugar is practically the same. Keeping in mind many scientific studies have proven that, although fructose increases blood insulin and glucose levels in the fasting

state, making it seem that much better than glucose alone, it actually increases average triglyceride levels more than glucose. However, it's the fibre and vitamins in fruit that compensate for this, and add to the wholesomeness of eating fruit. The problem arises when you've got a bottle of fruit juice for fuel, because this has no fibre whatsoever. You

might as well be drinking a coke.

The solution for many, lies in the glorious buzz of anything containing artificial sweeteners, the siren call of your trusty diet sodas. Now I feel bad saying this because I've been a Diet Coke fan for many years, and although the craze has waned, I still give in to the odd temptation. Sadly, and ironically, the stuff wreaks havoc on our normal metabolic routes and hormones, most notably insulin's neurobiological actions. The infamous sweeteners aspartame and Splenda still produce drastic spikes in insulin because the brain is tricked into wanting sugar, sugar and more sugar.

I know I'm making it sound like there's just no win-win situation. I mean, sugar tastes good, and we all want to feel and taste something which doesn't have us plucking out our eyebrows. There's no need to feel pressurized to be the most perfect healthy robot human. Here at university, life is for living, for those 3am pizzas and ice creams, not gnawing on grass. It's simply important to be aware of the various metabolic effects our best friend sugar, and to go easy on our overloaded systems once in a while. Go on, have a Diet Coke. With a splash of rum.



At least with sugar mice, at peace with the fact that you're basically consuming pure sugar. Photo Credit Osaka19

Science & the City

She walks among us and with us. Rattling in our pockets beside loose change, beaming through the air, whipping us through the underground in the much-beloved, spacious Tube, and sending Londoners south to Ibiza or Tangiers. Science is everywhere in our world. But it's more than just a pragmatic method of understanding the universe and creating new ways to navigate and interact with it; it's a creative force in our human society with powerful feedback mechanisms that determine many aspects of our lives. So no matter how interesting (or dreary) you may find it, it's worth exploring how we interact with science and the many impacts it has on our lives – from the kid learning the hard way that gravity is a very real force when they do that first belly flop at the pool, to the disenchanted adult zoning out on the couch, to some droning late night news about climate change.

In Science & the City we'll explore the many interconnected ways that we interact with the scientific way of thinking, and its real-world application. From societal interactions, challenges within scientific communities, connecting science with other sectors and spheres of life, to cultural and historical understandings and beyond, we'll explore together this very modern way of thinking about our world. Questions like why is so much of researcher's time now allocated to grant writing instead of research? How do we address sexism in laboratories and research facilities? Why are field naturalists dying out? How do we make our research exciting to different audiences – or do we even need to?

Considering Imperial College's strengths in sciences and the fact that we have the greatest concentration of high-impact research of any UK university, many of us will go on work directly in science, often in influential positions. So let's consider what space it is that science occupies in the world as we move through it, with it, and because of it.

And if you have any thoughts around the human side of science, get in touch, and we can go for a coffee (or tea, or water, or whatever) and explore your views of Science & the City.

NAOMI STEWART



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A Bigger Splash fails to make an impact

Despite the best efforts of Swinton and co, Luca Guadagnino's latest dissapoints

A Bigger Splash



Dir: Luca Guadagnino. Script: David Kajganich. Starring: Tilda Swinton, Ralph Fiennes, Dakota Johnson, Matthias Schoenaerts. 124 minutes.

Fred Fyles
Film Editor

If you expect nothing from anybody," writes Sylvia Plath in *The Bell Jar*, "you're never disappointed." Such a statement may seem bleak, but the idea that expectation is the mother of all dissatisfactions is only confirmed by *A Bigger Splash*, Luca Guadagnino's much-awaited return to our screens that – while entertaining and well-made – fails to fulfil this reviewer's hopes.

Guadagnino first burst onto the international scene in 2009, garnering wide acclaim for *I Am Love*, a sumptuous piece of work centring around an industrial Milanese family; Tilda Swinton gave a magnetic performance as the Russian-born matriarch of the clan, desperately watching her family fall apart whilst entering into a tryst with her son's friend. And now, seven years on, Guadagnino is back, and has brought Swinton along for the ride, in his remake of Jacques Deray's 1969 work *La Piscine*.

Swinton is Marianne Lane, a world-touring, glitter-coated rock star, presumably based on a Bowie archetype. Following an injury to her vocal cords, she has retreated to a private villa in the Strait of Sicily for rest and relaxation, with her long-term boyfriend Paul in tow (Matthias Schoenaerts). Unfortunately, they are tracked down by Harry (Ralph Fiennes), a record producer and old flame of Marianne's; he brings along newly-discovered daughter, Penelope (Dakota Johnson), and they settle down to an uneasy holiday.

All four leads are excellent in their roles. As perhaps the only character who could possibly be construed as 'realistic', Schoenaerts brings a sense of groundedness to his Paul. Swinton faces a challenging role in that Marianne can for the most



Dakota Johnson as Penelope, in the sun-drenched erotic thriller *A Bigger Splash*. Photo Credit: Moviestore/Rex/Shutterstock

part only communicate in whispers, but as usual her immense physical presence comes to the fore. As Harry, Fiennes dominates all the scenes he's in – dancing around the living room to The Rolling Stones, diving naked into the pool, nearly driving his car over a cliff; whenever he enters the frame it become 'The Harry Show'. Continuing on from his star-turn in Wes Anderson's *Grand Budapest Hotel*, *A Bigger Splash* sees Fiennes expanding his oeuvre into broad comedy.

But the real discovery here is Dakota Johnson, best known thus far for her work in the flaccid *Fifty Shades* adaptation; as Penelope she radiates a true sexual charisma, mixing the ingénue and the deviant in a chimerical beast of a role. Manipulative and devious, the interactions between her and Marianne bring to mind the sparring between Charlotte Rampling and Ludivin Sagnier in Francois Ozon's *Swimming Pool*, another psychosexual drama deeply indebted to Deray.

Guadagnino carries over some of

the trademark features that left their mark on *I Am Love*: his creeping use of the slow-zoom shot; frequent jump-cuts; and his propensity to have food stand in for dialogue. While the latter technique fitted in quite well with the plot of his last film (Swinton's character's lover is a chef), here there are instances where it is (figuratively) over-egged. We have Marianne being shown by an old nonna how to prepare

The real discovery here is Dakota Johnson as Penelope

pure white ricotta, Harry handling a grotesquely oversized hunk of parmesan at a tense dinner. In fact, one of Penelope's first actions is to peel and bite into a ripe fig in a way that would make Angela Carter blush.

The island setting, too, feels like a misstep. A barren island that admits no beauty, *A Bigger Splash* resists the best efforts of cinematographer Yorick Le Saux; there are some beautiful scenes shot at night or sunset, but in all the daytime scenes the hot Mediterranean sun bleaches all life out of the film. It's another unfortunate contrast to *I Am Love*, on which Le Saux also worked; while that film manages to capture the frantic energy of Milan and the sun-dappled splendour of Sanremo, with *A Bigger Splash* he can only do so much with the setting.

Furthermore, there is the bizarre choice to set all the action against a backdrop of the current European refugee crisis: towards the middle of the film we start to hear news reports of drownings near Lampedusa, and Penelope is ogled by a group of men

during a hike into the mountains (it is perhaps worth pointing out that they are the only non-white characters encountered in the film, and have no lines). It is very unclear what point this is supposed to serve. Are we supposed to feel amused at the irrelevant worries of the rich and famous being cast into shadow by 'real' struggles? Or are the characters supposed to be psychologically trapped, just as the refugees are physically detained? The overall effect is just to leave a sense of confusion on the screen, and a bad taste in our mouths.

Standing on its own, *A Bigger Splash* is a solid film; competently directed, well acted, and – despite certain missteps – delivering a powerful psychological impact. However, given Guadagnino's last film, it comes as a disappointment. *I Am Love* was like a beautifully presented plate in a Michelin-star restaurant – sumptuous, vibrant, and delectable. In contrast, *A Bigger Splash* is much like the volcanic rock upon which it is set – unnerving, hostile, and ultimately desolate.



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Deadpool

Dir: Tim Miller. Script: Rhett Reese, Paul Wernick. Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Morena Baccarin, Gina Carano, T.J. Miller. 108 minutes.

Critics have been predicting comic book movie fatigue ever since Marvel's *The Avengers* back in 2012, yet audiences are turning out in droves to increasingly stale comic based blockbusters.

Many had hoped that *Deadpool*, the eighth installment in the X-Men series and the directorial debut of Tim Miller, would provide something radically new. The source material from which it could have borrowed is vast and diverse, but writers Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick have instead delivered a formulaic origin story and a forgettable villain. Whilst it might begin mid-action, it spends far too much time in flashbacks to the protagonist's past: Wade Wilson, a mercenary for hire, unlocks mutant



Ryan Reynolds as wise-cracking, fourth-wall-breaking, uninspiring Deadpool Photo Credit: 20th Century Fox

powers in an attempt to cure his terminal cancer and becomes Deadpool. The film follows his attempts to hunt down the man who disfigured and tortured him in an experimental weapons programme.

Ryan Reynolds, who plays the titular antihero, gives a performance that perfectly captures *Deadpool's* wacky sensibilities. The ensemble cast, however are mixed: as Weasel, Wilson's best friend, T. J. Miller plays the same character he plays in HBO's *Silicon Valley*,

Morena Baccarin provides much needed romance as Vanessa, and her relationship with Wilson, although accelerated (through a sequence of interesting sex scenes), is surprisingly believable for a comic book film. Two lesser-known X-Men make welcome appearances in the film: Colossus (Stefan Kapicic) and Negasonic Teenage Warhead (Brianna Hildebrand), providing counter-balance to Deadpool's crude humour.

Wade Wilson can be a complex and interesting character; unfortunately, *Deadpool* offers none of this. Unnecessarily obscene, always dark, and never clever, the self-aware comedy and repeated breaking of the fourth wall are an attempt to appeal to the worst kind of demographic. Full of obscure references and awful jokes about topics ranging from genitals to murder, *Deadpool* is nothing more than the Reddit of movies.

Comics readers will know that

CALE TILFORD

Doc corner: Exit Through the Gift Shop

Ben Collier
Film Writer

Last week we had *The Imposter* – a gripping documentary following a bizarre case of identity fraud and murder. The film was heavy with recreation scenes and utilised them to such an extent that it blurred the lines between documentary and feature drama. The documentary of choice this week continues the theme of mixing reality and fiction. The difference here is that it's kind of the point. In reality, *Exit Through the Gift Shop* may not even be allowed to feature in this section, as it's not really clear if it can really be called a 'documentary'.

The narrative presented to us (should we take the film's word for it) is that an eccentric amateur filmmaker Thierry Guetta set out to locate and document a number of popular street artists, including the controversial graffiti artist Banksy. Guetta was interested in filming the creative process, – telling many prominent 'street artists' that he



Super-cool 'artist' Banksy. Photo Credit: Exit Through the Gift Shop PR

is making a feature documentary when, in reality, he has no intention of editing his footage. Banksy, as I'm sure you know, is a fan of anonymity and as it turns out eventually turns the cameras back on Thierry.

In the end Banksy is credited as the director of this film, taking the creative reigns to tell his own story with Guetta's supposed 'mountain of video cassettes' to hand. The final parts of the film describe how

just not massively interested in debating its legitimacy.

To the film's credit, there is a nice blend of sweet and sour here with humour and political satire both featuring heavily. The film shines in its first act which gives us the backstory of various prominent street artists such as 'Space Invader' and Shepard Fairey. Also interesting is how the film explores the idea that the most important thing in the art world is not the quality of your pieces but rather your ability to create hype. Banksy, through this character of Guetta, exposes how comfortably commercial street art has become.

Banksy convinces Thierry himself to become a street artist under the title of 'Mr. Brainwash'. 'M.B.W.' goes onto to make millions off the oh-so-trendy art crowd of L.A. The issue here is how much of this story we believe, and personally, I don't believe any of it. In this way, whilst the documentation of the other street artists is factual, Banksy quite clearly fabricated this character of Guetta to tell his own story. I'm

The fact remains that he's so unfathomably annoying that you'll want to reach into your TV and strangle him by the third act. If Banksy makes another film without the pretentious nonsense or over-complications, I'll make sure to give it a watch.

The top three gangster films that aren't The Godfather

Francis Ford Coppola's *Godfather* films (excluding *The Godfather III* – no one likes the third one, let's be real) are often considered to be two of the greatest films ever made. In fact, they sit nicely below *The Shawshank Redemption's* top spot on IMDb's Top 100 Films list. However, *The Godfather* is not the be-all and end-all. One must never forget that the 'gangster film' genre is rich in quality, and can branch out from the standard mid-1900s Mafia setting:

Once Upon a Time in America (1984)

Once Upon a Time in America is the first in the trilogy of films by Sergio Leone, which also contains the classic *Once Upon a Time in the West*. The fact that this feature follows the entire lives of a group of Jewish ghetto youths and their rise to power in New York means that it is notoriously long. I'll be straight though, unless you've experienced the 251 minute extended director's cut you have no right to complain about the length.

Reservoir Dogs (1992)

Tarantino's feature-length debut movie – and, in my opinion, one of his best – is an intricate, stylish, theatrical story set almost entirely in one location. The film is such a classic and many of its scenes so iconic that it's likely you've already had countless Tarantino fanboys insist you watch it already. Why in God's name haven't you then?

Hard Boiled (1992)

Asian crime dramas are the spiritual cousins to the classic American Mafioso film. Be it an artistic and violent Yakuza drama or gritty 90s Hong Kong action romp, the Eastern film industry has many contenders for critic's top spots. *Hard Boiled* focuses on tough-as-nails cop Yun-Fat Chow drives the narrative. For reference, Body count: 307.

BEN COLLIER

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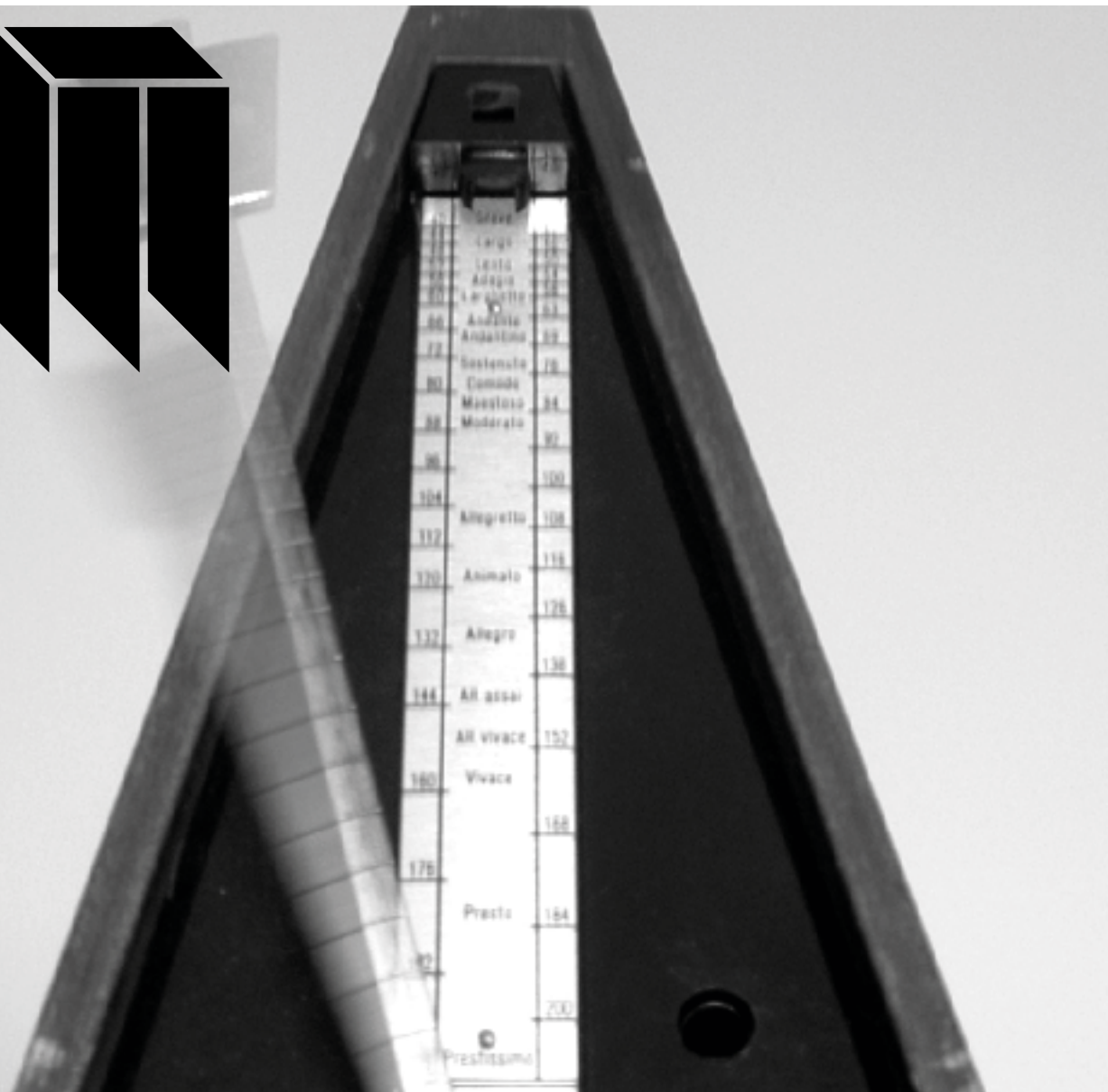
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Every Tuesday	Cocktail Night	18:00 - 23:00	Metric
Every Wednesday	CSP Wednesday	19:00 - 01:00	Metric & FiveSixEight
Every Wednesday	Sports Night	19:00 onwards	Reynolds
Every Friday	PGI Friday cocktails	16:30 onwards	h-bar
Every Friday	Reynolds Cocktail Club	17:30 - 00:00	Reynolds
Friday 19 February	BPM	20:00 - 02:00	Metric & FiveSixEight
Friday 26 February	Common People	20:00 - 02:00	Metric & FiveSixEight

Au Naturale





Bottle Match 2016



biosoc





More than just a century of style

Vogue 100: A Century of Style is a celebration of history and what made it beautiful

Elizaveta Tchebaniouk
Writer

One enters the exhibition through a room with pillars that are kaleidoscopes of *British Vogue* magazine covers throughout the years, and is instantly transported to a magical world. The films at the end of the entrance corridor act to further set the scene and create that fantasy atmosphere which resonates throughout the show. The films contrast the iconicity of the covers with their whimsical and dreamy air. Robin Muir, curator of the exhibition, points out that “since *Vogue*’s debut, photography has been its lifeblood”, and the centrality of photography to *Vogue*’s essence since its conception is wonderfully conveyed in the way the photographs are presented, as well as their content itself.

All the photos stand out from those in other magazines by how like works of art they are

Those who’ve attended other fashion photography exhibits in London last year will instantly recognize works by Horst and Guy Bourdin in the ‘100 Years in *Vogue*’ gallery. Mario Testino’s photograph of Kate Moss in a corridor is also instantly recognizable by his signature photography style. Each photograph is labelled with the photographer’s name in the same way a painting is labelled with the

name of the painter. With this approach the photographer is truly emphasized as an artist with regards to his or her role in and importance to *Vogue*.

The pictures represent not only fashion’s history, but the world’s as a whole

All the photographs stand out from those seen in other magazines by how like works of art they are in themselves – how well the model, from make-up to clothes to the pose, fits the surroundings to evoke a specific emotion or convey a message. Overall each photograph is almost surreal – truly magical and fantastically beautiful. Each is also extremely unique; *Vogue* has a history of surprising readers with the unexpected and a dedication to taking no shortcuts in ensuring the authenticity of the beautiful world they create for their readers. For example, there are photographs of a model in Peru beside local residents by Mario Testino, and one which was shot by Tim Walker in Mongolia with the model sitting on a yak.

Vogue 100 takes its chance to “replay *Vogue*’s greatest hits” – iconic photographs that defined the magazine’s milestones. For example, Kate Moss’s first ever cover and story are instantly recognizable. Beside these are ‘hidden gems’ – rare original photographs from the 1920s and 1930s that are particularly precious. Some of these have never been displayed before, and it took Robin Muir five years to hunt them down from sources all over the world including private collectors, auction houses, and international art galleries. Not only



Anne Gunning in Jaipur by Norman Parkinson, 1956 Photo Credit: Norman Parkinson Ltd.

are the pictures appreciated for their aesthetic beauty, but also because “some pictures just drip history”, and are representations of not only fashion’s history, but the world’s as a whole.

This exhibition also shows *Vogue* as more than just a fashion magazine in emphasizing its promotion of and inspiration by the art world. In the ‘Century of Magazines’ gallery are *Vogue* editions that introduced readers to the drawings of Picasso and featured a story on Matisse. A photograph of Aldous Huxley is displayed in the 1920’s room; he was subeditor of *Vogue* and later its chief book reviewer!

The physical evolution of *Vogue*, displayed issue by issue in the

‘Century of Magazines’ gallery, is a captivating journey. These range from beautiful Art Deco-style hand-painted covers on bound copies to the glossy digitalized issues of today. But in addition to its physical evolution, *Vogue 100* offers a comprehensive exploration of how the magazine responded to current fashion trends of each decade in addition to the changing times in society and world events.

This exhibition shows why *British Vogue* stands out from other fashion magazines in that it did not passively mirror trends, but invented, reinterpreted, and presented them in such a way as to stay true to the magazine’s vision. Each issue of *Vogue* remains a work

of art in itself.

Throughout each decade, its readers opened *Vogue* to find more than just the latest news in fashion. On the very first page, *Vogue* promised that “really and truly, such amazing things are going to happen to you that you would never believe them, unless you saw them in *Vogue*”. Each issue provides a portal to another beautiful world with an air of magic and mystery contained between the covers. *Vogue 100* successfully captures this wonderful world, leaving a lasting imprint of beauty on its viewers and, of course, an aesthetic inspiration to be utterly fashionable.

Vogue 100 is on at the National Portrait Gallery until 22nd May



“Theatre isn’t just one thing”

FELIX asks Gate Theatre’s new director Ben Kidd about directing and his latest work

Ben Williams
Arts Writer

Ben Kidd bounds into a Notting Hill basement in between a kebab shop and a pizzeria. For the first time, Gate publicity maestro Tash Brown looks a tad worried. She needn’t be. Gate’s work is exactly the kind of thing I wish we had more of here at Imperial. Passionately done and served up with a massive dollop of generosity on the side, Gate Theatre is one big cosy theatre family – and y’all are invited. (Check out its outreach programme!) Kidd, fresh from rehearsals, bubbles with the same outspoken friendliness, and we sit down to talk Ireland, Imperial and art.

FELIX: After working with the Young Vic, and now here at The Gate, are you starting to feel more part of the furniture in London?

BK: [Laughs] I don’t think anyone feels part of the furniture in London – it’s too big!

FELIX: Is it more bread and butter in London and fun in Dublin? How does your work with DeadCentre fit in?

BK: London is much more of a bubble. It’s commercial. Directors learn to get 4-star reviews from the Guardian, and Simon Stephens is Simon Stephens because of West End transfers [Laughs]. There’s no such thing as famous people in Dublin. It’s a lot more informal, more like a family, more “What are you going to f*** up next?” The most important people will just pop along to your show. Here, it’s hierarchical. There are more stakeholders, and you get a lot more feedback – someone (normally a well educated white man) who’ll say “Well done, you’re clever enough”. But that’s a huge support, in the sense that you have someone there legitimising what you do.

FELIX: This is your first play at the Gate, and an international premiere, too. What made you pick up this script?

BK: Actually, it was the other way around! This is my first time directing something at the Gate...

I’d tried (unsuccessfully) to apply for a number of things, and got rejected. As a director, it’s a dream when someone rings you up – that never happens! I don’t actually know how many Nina [Nina Segal, *In the Night Time* playwright] and Chris [Christopher Haydon, *Artistic Director at The Gate*] interviewed, but I think they had me in mind when they were thinking of putting on the play.

FELIX: A friend of mine saw it and compared it to lyrics. To me it reads like a kind of epic poem. It’s one big stream of consciousness, and there isn’t a single stage direction in the whole piece. How hard has it been to get that sense of flow across, and keep up some tension?

BK: It’s a hard play. My first question when I read the script was “Why isn’t this a short story?” It’s definitely a very language-focused play. I don’t really do ‘creeping tension’ or anything like that. I think there’s a million different ways you can direct things. There’s not necessarily one set way, I just try to be explorative and flexible. A director should generate ideas – you can have a rough feel of how it should be but you need to be open to the idea that something might have to change. For me, the set design, the production is very important. I can have five or six competing ideas – the set is the thing that has final choice – when it has to become an actual, physical thing.

FELIX: How important has it been to have that link with the

writer [Nina Segal]?

BK: That’s a very important relationship. Nina is just starting out and she has a whole wonderful career of writing ahead of her. You see she’s very discreet – I think even if she thought we were f***ing it up she wouldn’t say. She’s confident enough in her writing to trust us, and that someone will get it right, eventually!

FELIX: How difficult was the casting? I mean, the minute I read the script, I immediately thought that you need someone who’s going through this... [Just having kids]

BK: [Laughs] It’s bizarre to think how we would have made the play without someone in the production having kids. I don’t have kids, no one at the Gate has kids... If Alex [Alex Waldmann, *Man*] hadn’t had kids I don’t know what we’d have done! We cast it as naturally as possible. These are two people who could believably be the people in the script... above all, I think you cast talent, and you cast people who are interested in the role.

FELIX: So, the curtain comes down on the first night. How am I changed?

BK: I don’t know... hopefully you’ll laugh and cry and think differently about the universe. It’s about creating a space for someone to have an emotional journey. [Laughs] “They better f***ing cry!” I don’t think people will come away and want to be this or that. No one cares what a play is about – they care what a play’s going to be like.



In the Night Time. Photo Credit: Bill Knight

FELIX: What drives you as a director?

BK: I want to get to the point where you can see it again and get that same feeling you felt when you first saw it. I want to introduce an audience to that thrill that I had in my head.

FELIX: So you wouldn’t try to bridge those gaps? It’s not nature that made these boundaries...

BK: I suppose there isn’t a difference between Chemistry and emotions. I definitely wouldn’t support the idea of forcing all physicists to do ballet. But some of the things we’re doing with DeadCentre are trying to challenge the way that the audience interacts with the theatre. It’s not just a case of come in, sit down, watch something. For example, there’s one show we’re doing where the audience has headphones and can hear a directors commentary on the show, while the show is happening. We’re trying to make it more of a conversation with the audience.

FELIX: What advice would you give someone trying to get involved in directing?

BK: Do all the things I didn’t do! I kind of just fell into everything, fell into ‘stuff’. I came late (after trying to be an actor), and I was jaded, worried “I was too old for this”. Develop your taste, see as much theatre as possible. Talk to as many people as possible. Don’t be afraid of knocking on doors (or some public school boy will get there before you). Above all, don’t get obsessed on fixed paths – theatre isn’t just one thing.



Ben Kidd, the new kid on The Gate’s block. Photo Credit: The Gate Theatre



Unique setting brings warmth to winter

The Globe’s *The Winter’s Tale* is striking in its clever use of an intimate atmosphere

Matthew Jesse
Arts Writer

The *Winter’s Tale* is a true winter’s delight. It is performed at the Globe Theatre, but fear not as it isn’t an outdoor getting-wet-standing-in-the-pit affair, rather you are welcomed to an enchanting theatre tucked next door, the recently built Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. The Playhouse is a replica of the theatre that Shakespeare’s plays were written for, with no modern giveaways in sight. It is intimate and snug; the small stage is surrounded by the limited audience and entirely lit by candlelight, giving a sense that you are peering into someone else’s living room. Along with the rich and vibrant characters, the musical quartet and the intimacy you feel warm and cosy, enough to brighten up even the dreariest of winter nights.

On entering the theatre I heard murmuring that we were in for a 3 hour ordeal, however even if it was it definitely didn’t feel like it. The *Winter’s Tale* follows the (not too complicated) story of the jealous and suspicious King Leontes who accuses his wife, the serene Hermione, of adultery with his childhood friend, another king. The tale follows the consequences of his



Niamh Cusack (Paulina), Rachael Stirling (Hermione) and John Light (Leontes) in *The Winter’s Tale*.

Photo Credit: Tristram Kenton

sudden jealousy and the tragedy and rather fortunate events that follow.

The first half is a little slow and riddled more with the usual Shakespearean outpourings of emotions, speech and monologues, however it is not too hard to follow and you feel a certain sense of satisfaction for keeping up.

After a very sincere first half the second half picks up the pace, beginning with a jester style character who carries this comic feel through to the end. The morose atmosphere before is dissipated with declarations of love and a surprising amount of singing and dancing. This juxtaposition of tragedy and

then comedy brings the play to life. The acting as expected was impressive. Not particularly exceptional, but good enough. They made good use of the stage, often walking through the audience and even at one point jumping into the crowd and squeezing themselves onto the seats. The seats were a slight

inconvenience as they are cushioned benches, so unless you get a seat at the rear you have to support your own back, making it a little difficult to get comfortable. But any notion of discomfort is soon forgotten when you get lost in the play. The

The juxtaposition of tragedy and then comedy brings the play to life

ending is slightly bizarre, but there are enough good times to make up for it.

On the whole it is a unique and enjoyable experience, possibly more so for the charming atmosphere than the plot.

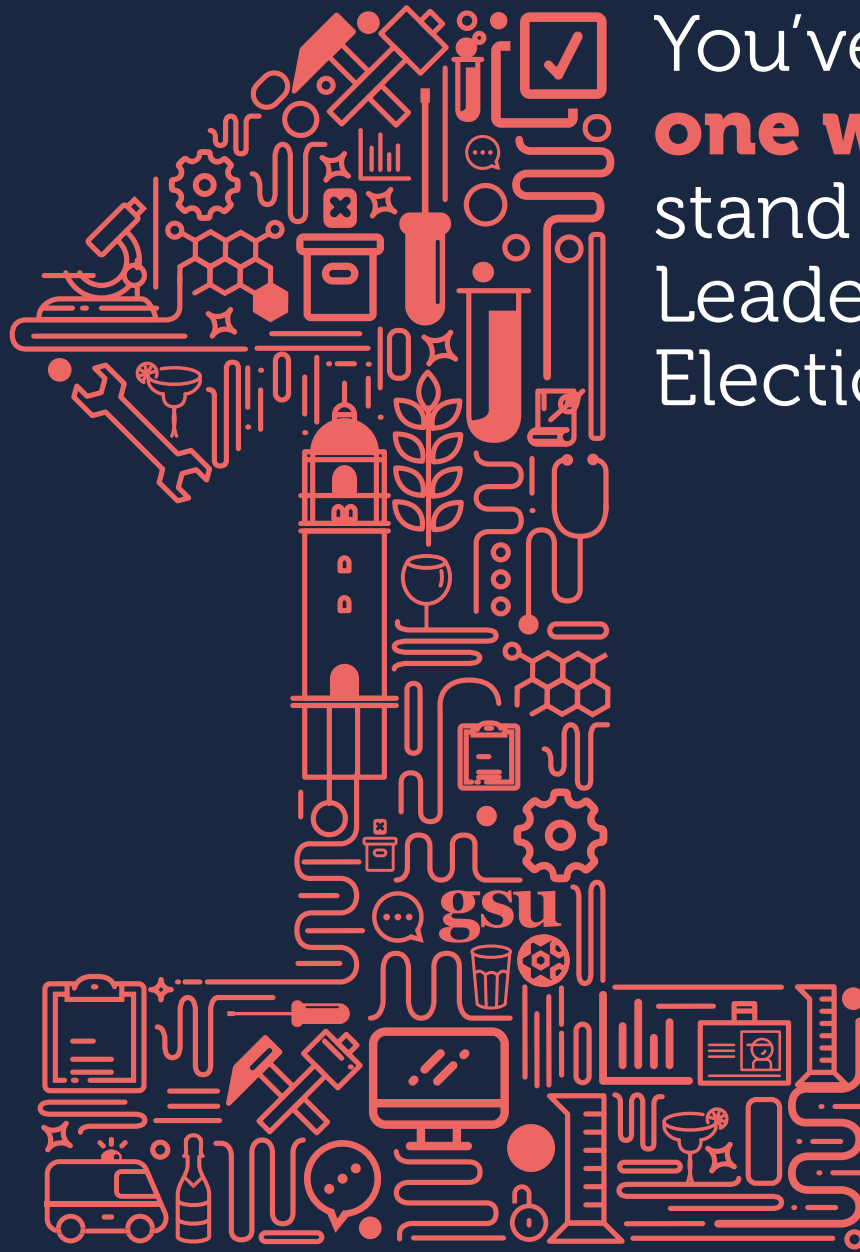
The Winter’s Tale is on at the Globe until 22nd April

The
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Calling all writers, artists, photographers and creators of art!

It is halfway through the term and we would like you to start thinking about what you might want to submit to our termly PHOENIX publication. You can start submitting your work to arts.felix@ic.ac.uk. Hit us up if you would like to discuss anything.

It’s time to start collecting all those doodles and verses that you’ve been saving up!



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The Life of Pablo

Kanye West causes tidal waves with his eighth album

Ben Collier
Writer

The Life of Pablo has a more modern and fresh feel

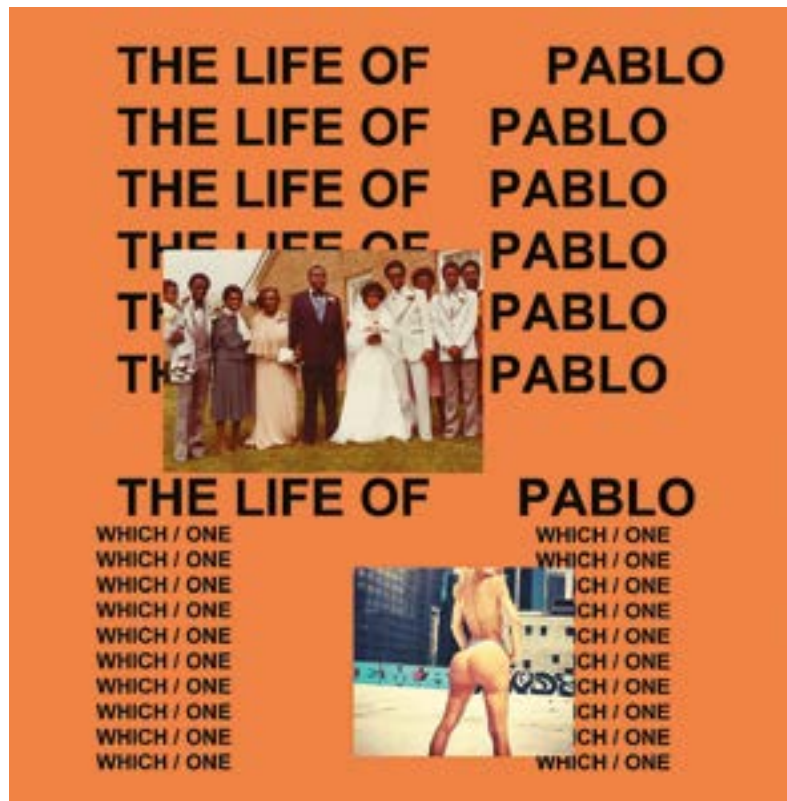
For those of us who have been following the run-up to *The Life of Pablo* album, it's been a ride. The release cycle was so messy at times many people began to expect disappointment. Four album names and endless delays later however, **Kanye West's** seventh studio album has finally dropped. And, despite all the drama, *The Life of Pablo* is absolutely phenomenal.

'Ultralight Beam' opens the album. This gospel banger, with its church choir, organs and auto tune is already many people's favourite of the tracklist as is **Chance the Rapper's** verse. In my opinion, it's the best rap album opener since **Nas's** 'NY State of Mind' or **GZA's** 'Liquid Swords'. The track is anthemic perfection.

Listening to the rest of *The Life of Pablo*, it then becomes clear that Kanye started as he wished to proceed. Two other stand out tracks include the haunting and nocturnal 'Wolves', and 'Father Stretch My Hands Pt. 1 & 2', which are both very reminiscent of Atlantan rappers such as **Future**, **Migos** and

Metro Boomin with their trippy autotuned vibes.

Producer-wise, if one said that *Yeezus* was made great by collaboration with Rick Rubin and *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* by Jeff Bhasker then Chance should be considered the master collaborator on this record. As always (to quote Jayson Greene) Kanye "makes people you don't care about sound fantastic and people you do care about sound immortal". Returning faces from other projects include **Kid Cudi** who features in 'Father Stretch My Hands Pt.1' as



Shut the fuck up and enjoy the greatness. Photo Credit: Kanye West

well as **Rihanna** who lays down a flawless **Nina Simone** cover in 'Famous'.

The new blood featured here includes up-and-comers **TY Dolla Sign**, **Post Malone**, **Desiigner**, and **Yung Thug**. **Travis Scott** also returns off the back of his incredible debut studio album *Rodeo* to lend his unique production stylings as he did in *Yeezus*. Overall, when compared to something like *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, which featured various godfathers of rap such as **Wu Tang** members **RZA** and **Raekwon** as well as **Jay Z**,

The Life of Pablo has a more modern and fresh feel. Kanye's mastermind for production is seen in flashes of absolute brilliance such as the outro to 'Famous', the explosive gospel sections of 'Ultralight Beam' and the short intro to 'Wolves'. I haven't heard such instantly ear-pleasing perfection since the explosive guitar section at the end of 'New Slaves'. True to its Pablo Picasso namesake, the various periods of Kanye's discography are all present here. *Yeezus's* gritty harshness is seen on 'Freestyle 4' and *808s and Heartbreak's* solemn ballad-style with 'FML'. Even *College Dropout's* intro 'Last Call' is reflected in '30 Hours'.

Interestingly, for the first time, Kanye West has made album that is simply that – an album. Kanye seems to be drawing inspiration rather than giving it. Ultimately I do not see this as a bad thing, as I have always been less of a fan of Kanye's concept albums such as *808s* and *Yeezus*. As it stands, *The Life of Pablo* is a work of energetic yet soulful expression – Kanye doesn't hold back and this is where his passion shines through. Everybody seems to hate how cocky Kanye is but at least he can back it up.

The Life of Pablo is now streaming on TIDAL

Kanye seems to be drawing inspiration rather than giving it

FELIX Music #HotTakes of the week

Takes so hot they are literally hell

He wanted the world to know his struggle



The Life of Pablo really wasn't worth the hype (sorry Ben). And Mr. West certainly isn't happy with all the critics who have dared to suggest it isn't the god-like masterpiece he had hoped (Pitchfork gave it a 9.0 so I don't know why he's complaining). I guess life's hard being married to a businesswoman who earned \$52.5 million in 2015. Kanye needs some help, and he needs it now. His art might be great, but it's not worth more than building schools for the impoverished.

Kendrick Lamar steals the show, but Taylor Swift steals his Grammy



To Pimp A Butterfly won five Grammy's at this year's ceremony, missing out on the main prize to T Swizzle's 1989. Swift's latest album was great and might have been deserving any other year, but it pales in comparison to Kendrick's politically infused LP. #GrammysSoWhite

Please no (Macklemore)more

On Monday, **Macklemore** released 'Spoons', which some critics have labelled "the worst song ever recorded." My 13 year old cousin could have written a song with more mature themes: "And she's like, Can you undo my bra strap? / I try to play it cool, in my head I'm like, Aw yeah!" How did this guy ever win a Grammy?

CALE TILFORD



The final tracklist? Photo Credit: Kanye West

Union Page

Take part or say thank you during Student Volunteering Week



Student Volunteering Week 2016 is coming soon! On Monday 22 till Sunday 28 February 2016 we will be having a whole host of events for you to get involved in, featuring everything to inspiring the next generation of STEM students to helping with the issue of loneliness in our community! You can sign up at imperialcollegeunion.org/svw. **The Great Volunteer Thank You is back again this year.** It's your chance to say thank you to student volunteers for all the hard work they do. You can say thank you by filling out an online form or a postcard which you will find around campus on in the students' union.

imperialcollegeunion.org/svw

MONDAY

10:00 – 14:00 Clean up your local canal in Paddington
12:00 – 14:00 Community Connections in the JCR
12:45 – 16:00 Help out at Hammersmith & Fulham Foodbank

TUESDAY

12:00 – 14:00 Raincatcher in the JCR
18:00 – 19:00 Raincatcher information night

WEDNESDAY

12:00 – 14:00 Student Action for Refugees in the JCR
12:15 – 17:00 Retail therapy with a twist at Royal Trinity Hospice charity shop in Hammersmith
13:00 – 18:00 Encourage biodiversity in a nature reserve with London Wildlife Trust
13:30 – 15:45 Inspire the next generation of STEM students and help give a campus tour and panel talk
15:00 – 16:00 Cosmopolitan Café: Volunteering Special—make cards for sick children.
17:15 – 20:00 Join GoodGym and do good while getting fit!

THURSDAY

12:00 – 14:00 Community Connections in the JCR.
15:00 – 16:30 Help out at an afternoon tea with elderly Hammersmith residents
16:30 – 19:30 Have dinner with homeless and lonely people at Notting Hill Dinner Club
18:00 – 20:00 Learn about dementia and visit those who are isolated in St. Mary's Hospital with Connect

FRIDAY

12:00 – 14:00 Community Connections in the JCR
12:30 – 13:30 Become a Dementia Friend with Alzheimer's Society and learn how you can make a difference

SATURDAY

11:00 – 17:00 Pick your shift and get stuck in at Royal Trinity Hospice charity shop in Notting Hill

Nominations close Friday 26 February

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Cartoon Corner: The Boondocks

Saad Ahmed
Television Editor

Created by Aaron McGruder and based on the comic strip of the same name, *The Boondocks* is a show that takes a sharp and satirical look at American society with an emphasis on social issues, as well as icons like Oprah Winfrey and Barack Obama. It was controversial right from the start (as you can tell from the opening line) but it was able to address hot button issues in unconventionally humorous ways.

The main characters of the show are Huey, a 10-year-old mini-revolutionary named after the Black Panther Huey P. Newton, and his 8-year-old brother, Riley, a would-be gangsta, who live with their cantankerous grandfather Robert Freeman. They live in an affluent white suburb called Woodcrest, with other supporting characters, where the main actions of the show takes place.

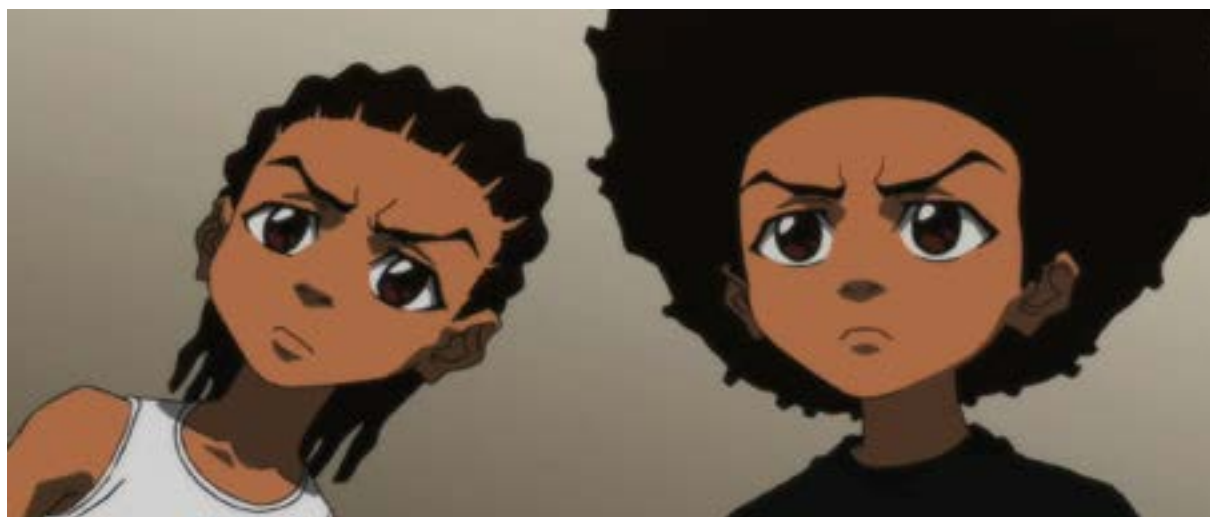
The show, in a politically incorrect and brash manner,

touches and reflects on interesting and controversial issues like black culture and race relations among other things. It's a show that can make you really think about deep issues. It contains a mix of the political, social, philosophical and sentimental, not usually seen

A show that takes a sharp and satirical look at American Society

in other animated shows. The character Huey Freeman channels the creator's own thoughts and views, disapproving of how things currently are and sometimes taking matters into his own hands.

The show is widely known for the controversy it whipped up



Huey and Riley, partners in crime and brothers at odds. Photo Credit: Adult Swim

through bold moves. The n-word is used very casually in almost every episode, Martin Luther King even says it at one point. McGruder also attacks politicians and celebrities of every stripe and race; he is merciless about President Bush, Sean Combs and Robert Johnson, the founder of Black Entertainment Television. The show also made daring statements and took harsh stances in trying to get its message across.

Don't let all this scare you away.

The show is first and foremost, a comedy and its execution is plain brilliant. It's hilarious to see how much the show parodies or exaggerates various problems and incidents. It's equally entertaining to see the different shenanigans the Freeman family get involved with, whether it's opening a fast food restaurant, getting trapped in jail or going on a hunger strike against BET. Every episode makes you laugh at one point or another. That, and the fact that the show is

incredibly smart and witty, makes this one of the few gems of TV.

Three excellent seasons were made with Aaron McGruder and one disappointing one without him. While the show ended long ago, what remains, at least from seasons 1-3 is a potent, poignant and sometimes controversial look at politics and race in a show that's full of laughs.

The Boondocks is available on Adult Swim

Calling television writers

Are you still waiting for a review of your favourite TV show? Have you started watching the next best Netflix original series and want others to know? Then send your contributions to FELIX TV! Drop an email to tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk and send us your articles, reviews or discussion pieces! We promise to get in touch ASAP!



Take a hike with *Firewatch*

The brilliant first-person adventure game from the minds behind *The Walking Dead*

Cale Tilford
Music & Games Editor

Telltale's *The Walking Dead* was met with critical acclaim when it was released in 2012, and arguably revitalised the dying adventure game genre. *Firewatch* has much in common with Telltale's game, released by Campo Santo, a studio founded by creative leads who had previously worked on *The Walking Dead*.

Unlike Telltale's point-and-click inspired adventure games, the story unravels from a first-person perspective. Early marketing hinted at a game that looked and played like a survival game, with the player chopping down trees and exploring caves, but the player's interaction with the environment is in reality, rather limited. *Firewatch* is not a hiking simulator.

The four-to-five hour story follows a volunteer fire lookout, Henry, and his relationship with his supervisor Delilah (they communicate via walkie-talkie). The script, from writer Sean Vanaman, manages to succinctly tell a story which mixes humour and mystery. It's short for a videogame, which is ultimately a good thing as there's no filler or plot

thread that is unnecessary. The voice actors Rich Sommer and Cissy Jones (who play Henry and Delilah respectively) bring life to script in a way that is unparalleled in video games. Henry and Delilah are relatable and believable characters, both hiding from their past. Without

Firewatch is not a hiking simulator

spoiling too much, *Firewatch* isn't a story that is grand or fantastical; it's grounded in reality with a tight focus on the interaction between its main characters. Some have complained that it is anti-climatic and non-cathartic, a symptom of the fact that it offers something new in video games – a narrative that is more subtle. Gamers are used to instant rewards and results, but *Firewatch* requires the player to think and reflect.

Those who can't afford a flight to North America to visit its lush national parks will find solace in the



In the wilderness, no one can hear you scream. Photo Credit: Firewatch, Campo Santo

setting of the beautiful wilderness of Campo Santo's debut release. The environments, rendered in the Unity Engine, are inspired by Yosemite and Yellowstone. Whether you are walking around a forest, a cave or a lake, the game is truly breathtaking. The changes in environment and time of day are reflected in Chris Remo's moody score. When the game is at its most thrilling, the soundtrack adds even more suspense. It's part of the continuing trend of indie games with great

One of the best adventure games in recent years

soundtracks.

The only downside to an otherwise spectacular debut, is the game's poor performance on the PS4. Normally, I don't like focussing on the technical problems with games, but with *Firewatch* the frequent framerate issues are noticeable. However, play the game on PC and you'll be able to fully enjoy one of the best adventure games in recent years.

Firewatch is out now on
PS4 and PC

**We want
writers and
illustrators**

ANOTHER CASTLE

Imperial's gaming magazine
returns this spring

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk



SCUBA do Lanzarote

Night dives, skinny dipping and sangria

Alex Leonard
Writer

After an icy cold weekend trip to Portland where we explored all the pleasures the Dredger wreck has to offer, Imperial College Underwater Club was off to bigger and better (and warmer) places. Lanzarote was the choice for the inauguration of the ICUC winter tour, not least because we heard the wine was cheaper than petrol. With three associate members and four “I should be in lectures” members, there was a good balance of experienced members and those who were yet to learn the endless inside jokes. After a sufficient acclimatisation period of cheese and chorizo, it was time to get into the water.

Although no one was keen for the standard shake out dive, we were all pleasantly surprised, especially Jo “Ms. BSAC” Beresford, as there were cuttlefish at almost every turn. The afternoon dive was also a pleasant surprise as the abundance of nudibranchs was also ideal. Likewise there were plenty of

scorpionfish and bearded fireworms to keep us on our toes, or more accurately, our hands off the reef. The next morning marked the first of many dives where we all flirted with the maximum allowed depth, except for Andreas “Was No One Else Legal” Georgiou, that is. The Blue Hole was the chosen dive site, although it was quite dark, and thus the more exotic name of the Black Hole was used. Red Cross was the afternoon boat dive, and was well worth the five minute ride. To top off a great day, we went back in after dark for a night dive filled with more cuttlefish, nudibranchs, and some giant sea hares.

While it wasn't a Sunday, we still

The last
night ended
back in the
water sans
clothes



ICUC on some Finding Nemo hype. Photo Credit: ICUC

went to the famous Cathedral the next day – it just happened to be 30 metres under water. It wasn't

until the afternoon artificial wreck graveyard dive that Keshwyn “Computer Bending” Annauth actually monitored his depth. Unfortunately, the drysuit donning guide was strict about the “don't go inside the wreck” rules, which did not please Olivia “Penetration Keen” Ashton. The next morning had something special in store, two seahorses, leading Alex “Baby Instructor” Leonard to call the unnamed dive the “Seahorse Safari”. The afternoon held in store a welcomed shallower dive, allowing everyone to breathe a bit more than usual. The night was topped off with a final night dive, with Karim “Fashionably Late” Nahas leading from the front. The final dive involved a serious surface swim, but Grouper Run did not disappoint, and there were plenty of the giant fish to spot.

The trip ended as most ICUC trips do, and that was with a few decompression beers, wines, sangrias, shots, and ice cream. Carrying on the tradition attributed to the legendary previous chair Theo, the last night ended back in the water sans clothes. Luckily Josh “Hides Your Clothes” Mo was on hand to help everyone dry off first.

All in all it was great escape from wintery England for some beautiful diving and decent company. ICUC is already planning more trips abroad for the coming months, with plans for Belgium, Italy, and the Scilly Isles taking shape. If you're already a qualified diver and are interested in these trips, give us a shout at scuba@imperial.ac.uk.

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decent
company

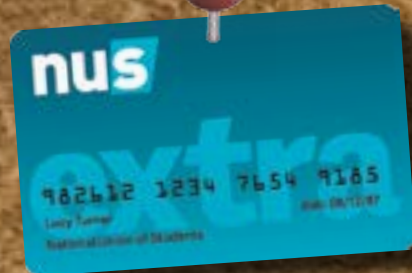


Oooh, fish. Photo Credit: ICUC

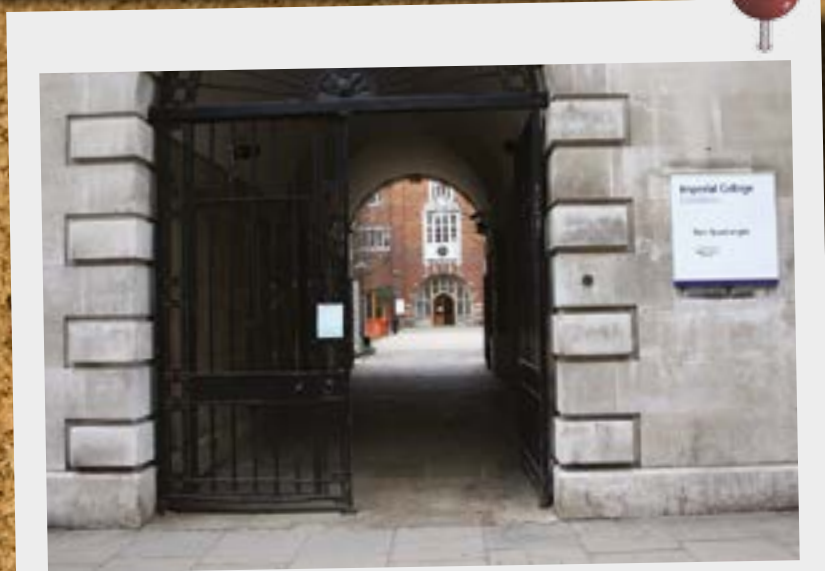
SABB Mag

Never been banned!

Vision Board



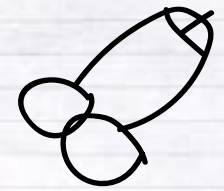
Property of DPFS
DO NOT EAT!



Can you see us in this picture? No, you can't, because we're completely transparent.



TO DO List
Everything's done!



- Template for writing your manifesto (circle where appropriate)
- I will be transparent / approachable / donate my pay to charity
 - I will hold college / the union / the government to account
 - There will be greater student involvement / engagement / satisfaction
 - I will give out Haribo / Maoam / something halal
 - I love the queen / Margaret Thatcher / curly fries
 - You will vote for me because you've heard of me / I'm cute / we're already friends
 - I will serve the student body / my own interests / whoever buys me pints
 - During Meet the Candidates I will be sweating profusely / drunk / flirting with the host



FELIX HANGMAN



hangman@imperial.ac.uk

NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS


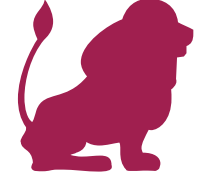




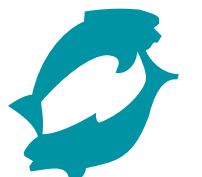
Sexism and bullying row at Imperial over article targeting Union president

EVEN WE DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS NEWS



Airport in lockdown after student says RAG is "the bomb"

HOROSCOPES

 <p>ARIES</p> <p>This week you're flicking through the <i>Evening Standard</i> when you're come across some offensive content. You attempt to collect up every issue before remembering there are 900,000 in London and you collapse in a pool of ripped up newspapers and your own salty tears.</p>	 <p>TAURUS</p> <p>This week you decide to run for every position in the elections, but accidentally win them all. Now you're chair of everything. You merge all clubs, renaming them SocSoc and it turns out to be the most successful act of social cohesion Imperial has ever seen.</p>	 <p>GEMINI</p> <p>This week you're writing the horoscopes but you're doing it nervously. Your complex book of astrological star maps are telling you to take the mickey out of the sabbis, but you're worried that'll get you banned. You cave and do some horoscopes about butts instead.</p>	 <p>CANCER</p> <p>This week, you're the US government. "pls pls can u jailbreak my iPhone timmy?" you ask Apple. "Nooooo don't do dis 2 me obama" they reply. "fuk u" you respond.</p>	 <p>LEO</p> <p>This week you're Kanye West. Someone nicks your iPhone, and changes your Twitter password. The world keeps thinking it's you saying terrible things, but it's not! You'd tweet about it, but you know, the password and everything.</p>	 <p>VIRGO</p> <p>This week you're Kendrick in a world full of Taylors.</p>
 <p>LIBRA</p> <p>This week you're the RSM. Finally realising that women go to Imperial, you accommodate them by designating toilets for their exclusive use. Riots break out, as this move is seen as a gateway to things like maternity leave and mixed sex tutorials.</p>	 <p>SCORPIO</p> <p>This week, after the press attention garnered by IC of late, you're offered a part on a new structured reality series based at Imperial: <i>Made In China</i>. However, you soon realise you are the token minority, and join their rival show: <i>The Only Way Is No Sex</i>.</p>	 <p>SAGITTARIUS</p> <p>This week, you're the women's rugby team. In protest of last year's Varsity, you decide to play your match in those inflatable sumo suits. However, injuries are significantly reduced, and Sport Imperial rolls out the suits across all the Rugby teams. The boys are secretly grateful.</p>	 <p>CAPRICORN</p> <p>This week, you're trying to travel to Syria to fight for jihadist causes. However, you are mistaken for a RAG jailbreaker, and instead of fearing you, people just offer to give you their loose change.</p>	 <p>AQUARIUS</p> <p>This week you're Jeb Bush's gun. In order to distance yourself from the campaign (you're more of a Hillary gal) you make a public announcement that you're officially a Democrat now, but no one takes you seriously. You buy a gun, cos it's America and even the guns have guns.</p>	 <p>PISCES</p> <p>This week you're going through airport security. However, you're withheld because you are wearing a 'we are sex bob-omb' t-shirt made famous by the comic book franchise and subsequent movie <i>Scott Pilgrim</i>. You're questioned without charge for nine hours. This is perfectly legal.</p>



BUCS victory for Waterpolo

James Mccomish
Writer

After securing 4th place in the Premier South division, a home draw against Northumbria awaited the Imperial College Men's waterpolo team in the first cup round of BUCS on Wednesday. With a number of starting players missing, things were not looking good, and early in the week they quickly got a lot worse. Problems with pool bookings left the team with nowhere to play the match and at risk of conceding a walkover.

Lengthy negotiations with Northumbria eventually led to the agreement that the only option was to travel away to them. With less than 24 hours notice the team gathered 13 dedicated players and organised trains to make it up north just in time.

The match began and Northumbria's home advantage let them strike first with an early



Nobody in this photo is tensing. Photo Credit: Waterpolo

opening goal, but it wasn't long before one of our medics, Alex Macaulay, bagged an equalizer after getting free from his marker down the right wing. Another Northumbria goal quickly put them back in front, but TJ, Ramon Fernandez, responded with a great shot from far out to end the first quarter 2-2.

As the second quarter progressed, growing home support pushed Northumbria into the lead and by the third quarter they had accumulated a four goal advantage. Running out of time, four goals down, and a long way from home, things weren't looking good for Imperial. A time out was called to gather the team before the game slipped out of reach.

Imperial came out of the time out

composed and determined, quickly scoring three goals in a row with no response from Northumbria thanks to solid defence and great saves from goalkeeper Maurice Zard. The third quarter continued and Northumbria managed to regain their lead leaving the score 10-8.

The talk going into the final quarter stressed the importance of keeping our defence strong, and a reminder of how important the match was sent the tired Imperial team out with a new lease of life. Impeccable defending left Northumbria frustrated and prevented them from scoring a single goal in the last quarter despite having three man-up attacks. Still two goals down with only three minutes left on the clock Maurice made another top save, passed the ball down the right

wing to Alberto Lauri who played a perfect pass into Ramon's hand on the left. Ramon exclaimed "this one's for you Jenny!" as he put the ball away for his fourth and most important goal of the game.

With less than a minute left on the clock swim captain, Alex Picksley, made a decisive tackle in our half and played the ball to safety. From there, Laurie Edwards, managed to get the ball to captain, James (Irish) Mccomish, who came in from the right side and put the ball past their keeper on the near post to level the scores 10-10 with less than 20 seconds remaining. The final whistle blew and penalties were to follow.

Alberto scored the first penalty for Imperial and Maurice made an important save putting us in a good position. Adamos Solomou

stepped up next and scored, again followed by a Northumbria miss. Northumbria pulled back thanks to an Imperial miss, but David calmly scored his to keep the pressure on. A questionable signal from the ref meant Imperial captain, Irish, horribly miscued his penalty and didn't even get to take it forcing the teams into sudden death instead of securing the win. Alex Macaulay scored, as did Northumbria. Next up, Laurie Edwards kept calm under the pressure and scored, putting everything on their next penalty taker. Imperial stood poolside watching as Northumbria took a strong penalty towards the bottom right corner. But somehow, after four long quarters and six good penalties, Maurice had the legs to get his hand to it sending the ball onto the post, and Imperial into the next round.

Well-deserved celebrations began immediately and the team travelled home with high hopes for the next stage of the competition in Sheffield in March.

With a number of starting players missing things were not looking good

A reminder of how important the match was sent the tired team out with a new lease of life

PAID ADVERT

Fat or muscle?

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

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



Medics don't see vets, Animals do

The score was 34-15 to IC Rugby 1s in their match against the King's Medics

Alex Amato
Writer

Following a strong home performance against the league leaders the previous week, ICURFC 1s took on the King's Medics. The first challenge of the day reared its head with the devious Science Museum impounding our buses (likely wishing to examine them as they appear to be older than time itself and, judging by their condition, were used in the great siege of Troy). After breaking through the first defensive line of the day the boys reclaimed their chariot and were on their way to the grimy depths of South East London.

A big win was needed in order to maintain the challenge for the title and, of course, because RVC girls love a stallion as the author of this piece well knows. The first five minutes were relentless from the boys, giving the medics no room to breathe. Five minutes gone, five points scored, courtesy of Mike

The boys
reclaimed
their chariot



The whole gang. Photo Credit: ICURFC

Wright who crashed in from short range.

A bit of sloppy play allowed Kings to go over in the corner to level the score. Game on. A strong restart from IC allowed Tom Hedley to trundle over from the back of the maul. Another brilliant piece of play allowed the towering Josh O'Donnell to go over in the corner. I believe there was something about a scrum try for King's, but I won't go into that for the sake of the forwards.

Soon IC were able to force the hand of the ref. The King's player saw a yellow. Poor guy, he probably just fancied a respite from the

unrelenting pummeling. Soon another IC maul was over the line. Tom Hedley, once again. It makes you think that maybe he plans to stay at the back of the mauls, doesn't it?

And then it happened, a moment of pure brilliance. The ball was passed out to the faster, more handsome Bryan Habana, Alex Tamato (Not DNS). Given some space, the dashing young speedster and author of this article, was able to take on the full-back and with his silky smooth feet and tiny lady hips send him the wrong way to waltz on past him. Amato could see the line gleaming in front of him

and the chance to finally earn his father's love, but alas the opposition winger just managed to bring him down. A moment of silence broke and hearts were in mouths, which was all rather melodramatic as his momentum carried him over to score half a second later.

No. 9, James Field, was taken off the field so we could field another scrum half/stroppy toddler, Matt Blackett. Despite the best efforts of Blackett and the opposition on the side of the field, he was unable to sufficiently piss off the referee and, much to Field's disappointment, remained on the field.

The bonus point confirmed, IC

went for the jugular, knowing that points difference would likely decide the league. Ed Durkin took the ball to the line gifting a try to none other than Tom Hedley, not yet as skilled in hat-trick avoidance as our 2nd row, Toby Simpson.

Replacement wing, Oli Parker, met his match as King's put up an unlikely attacking high ball down the wing for their hooker to chase. Poor Oli could do little to stop the bumbling knuckle dragger from plucking the ball from the air and scoring. Outclassed.

A less than satisfying end to a mediocre performance from IC, who know they've got more to give. Final score was 34-15. MOTM, similarly to Jonathan Joseph at the weekend, was awarded to Alex Tamato (who didn't stop mentioning it to the RVC girls that night) for an exceptional performance.

A big win
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Imperial Guys Could

Rugby 1st XV were victorious against Medway in their last game of 2015

Last term in the midst of 'Imperial Girls Can' week the ICURFC gentlemen headed down to Kent for their last formal game of 2015 in the hope that they could make the ladies of Imperial proud. With our eyes set on the league title the necessity for repeated bonus point wins cannot be stressed enough; the pressure was on. The game opened with a few changes to the regularly fielded side – most notably in the

backs with Ed Durkin stepping in at ten. A guest appearance at prop from Eifion Foster got the horns blowing when he put Hobson over the line for the first score of the game and the second score of his life. The Sonny-Bill offload brought an orchestrated applause from the crowd; an impressive start for IC.

The game evolved gently in the first half with College chopping the opposition's chances of victory through a driving maul touched

down by Joe McGrail. Club Captain Charles Price-Smith proved to Link up well with Moorby in the centres, bursting through the line for the third score.

The second half saw the Imperial boys hunting for that invaluable bonus point try. The bells rang out of their head-height towers for Josh O'Donnell when he slid into the corner for the fourth try only to have his dreams swatted as the referee wrongly disallowed what

was an incredible score. However, it wasn't long before this was corrected

He slid into
the corner
for the
fourth try

by Durkin putting Moorby in under the posts to give the kicker a slight chance of converting. The opposition's chances of recovery were receding faster than Clayton's hairline when Price-Smith bundled over for the fifth score of the game. This reassuring victory for IC has kept the promotion prospect within reach – next term would surely see some thrilling rugby.

JOSH O'DONNELL