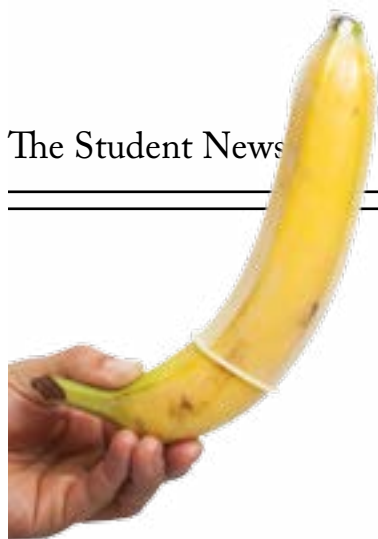




# FELIX

The Student News of Imperial College London



Let's talk about sex,  
Imperial

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A behaviour pledge for  
students is coming

PAGE 6 COMMENT



## 38% INCREASE IN IMPERIAL STUDENTS SEEKING COUNSELLING

- 5% increase in students over same period
- Staff for counselling service still needed

Grace Rahman  
Editor-in-Chief

There has been a 38% increase in students seeking counselling services from college over the last three years, despite only a 5% increase in students over the same period.

Last year's figures were also up 12% from the year before.

In the 2014/15 academic year, 3.7% of the student population, including part-timers, sought help from college counselling. In 2011/12, the 441 who did accounted for 2.8% of students.

There are currently nine counsellors working as part of the Imperial counselling service, whose work hours amount to 6.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff. This is up from 5.4 FTE staff last year. The counselling service had had its budget frozen, so staffing had remained at 5.4 for two years running.

Notorious for its long waiting times, last year the counselling

service was given the budget to employ two extra members of staff.

The service is free, confidential and for students only, although staff are welcome to speak to counsellors about concerns over their students, and personal tutors often refer students to it.

So why the increase? Mental health charity, Mind, told ITV News it believed the hike was down to the rise in tuition fees. College officials are likely to see this as a of result better advertising of the counselling and heightened awareness of what's provided, due to campaigns like Mentality. However, the results of this only came out last May, and are unlikely to have spurred such an increase in demand. It also doesn't explain the 15% jump in people seeking services from 2011 to 2012.

Last year's Mentality Survey report recommended that the counselling service at Imperial needed to improve provisions at "key times", including the exam period, although mentioned that waiting times for the service had improved since the year before.

*continued on page 3*

### Student Counselling Service

Student Counselling Service  
Reception Room 449



If you already have an appointment please go directly to the counsellor's room at the time of your appointment

To make an appointment or enquiry when reception is unattended please:

Email - [counselling@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@imperial.ac.uk)  
Phone: 020 7594 9637 (internally 49637)  
[www.counselling@imperial.ac.uk](http://www.counselling@imperial.ac.uk)

If your situation is urgent please contact the Imperial College Health Centre on 020 7584 6301 for details of their emergency facilities.  
[www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk)

# FELIX EDITORIAL



felix@imperial.ac.uk

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## A word from the Editor



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**G**ood day campers, and welcome to your last issue of FELIX this term! We'll be back after a short recess, which we all thoroughly deserve.

I hope you enjoy this week's section. In honour of the launch of our annual sex survey, we've got some (totally safe for work) content on sex and relationships, which will continue until the sex survey results come out next term.

The sex survey is a pillar of the Imperial year, and I say that without bias or overstatement. It only takes five minutes, and it's a giggle to do even if it's been so long you've forgotten how to do it. I won't pretend it's very scientific – obviously the more sexually natured of you are going to be more

inclined to take five minutes to quantify your sexploits. There are no judgemental GIFs in sight this year, and obviously your responses are completely anonymous. Go on, get on it!

Even if your lurve life at Imperial hasn't quite lived up to your post-A-level summer dreams, let's not shy away from talking about the ridiculous things have happened to us dating-wise. This week we hear from people who have banged below the corridors of the university in the not-so-secret tunnels beneath us, but we also hear from the heartbroken, a virgin and talk contraception with students who have been there, done that.

If you have a story, let us know. There's nothing more cathartic than over-sharing intimate details



in a newspaper that your parents probably won't read, but does get physically printed 2000 times and stays online forever. Trust me, I do it every week.

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# LET'S GET IT ON

## The FELIX Sex Survey

[felixonline.co.uk/go/sexsurvey](http://felixonline.co.uk/go/sexsurvey)





## 38% increase in Imperial students seeking counselling

3.7% of students sought counselling last academic year

### Number of students seeking counselling

Academic Year	Students
2010/11	392
2011/12	441
2012/13	506
2013/14	540
2014/15	608

Grace Rahman  
Editor-in-Chief

...continued from front page

Last year, Mentality surveyed over 1000 students on their mental health and stress levels. It found that three out of four Imperial students either had been diagnosed with a mental health issue or suffered from stress.

There are currently no provisions for counselling at the Charing Cross campus, despite recommendations from both Mentality and previous ICSM officers. The Deputy President (Welfare) reported to union council in October that the head of counselling had said “that



Hidden on the fourth floor of Sheffield. Photo Credit: FELIX

if it is at all possible, the student counselling service will provide some form of service” at Charing Cross. There is some availability at Silwood.

DPW, Jennie Watson, told FELIX: “Although it’s positive in some ways that students are seeking help, it is high time universities started addressing the causes of poor mental health among students. I can think of a hundred reasons why being a student is far more stressful than it was when I started university in 2010, however, there is still very little being done to demonstrably reduce these stresses.”

“Allowing students to fall into crisis rather than preventing them reaching that point in the first place is an abandonment of a university’s duty of care to its students.” She said.

A college spokesperson cited a line in the college strategy for 2015-20 which is to “prioritise the mental well-being of the student body” and told FELIX: “There has been a nationwide increase in students using counselling services over recent years. At Imperial, following a review of student health

and wellbeing services in 2014, the College has made a significant additional investment in student support services, with an increase of 6.5 FTE staff across Student Counselling and the Disability Advisory Service. This includes the appointment of a new full-time Student Mental Health Adviser.”

Other Russell group universities have also seen an increase in requests for similar services. Edinburgh has seen a hike of 75%, Leeds 57% and Oxford 43%.

Data was gained from a Freedom of Information request, and various pocket guides to Imperial’s demographics.

Edinburgh has seen a hike of 75%

## Imperial’s pigeons with pollution-detecting vests

The results are being tweeted at concerned citizens

Grace Rahman  
Editor-in-Chief

Pigeons fitted with ultralight air-monitoring vests have been flying across London this week in an attempt to highlight the capital’s pollution problem.

The ten pigeons, which were flying around London until Wednesday, were monitoring levels of nitrogen dioxide and ozone. People can tweet their location at the company, and get an update on the air pollution levels in their area, as found by the group’s pigeons. Researchers back at Imperial will be analysing the data.

Pigeons fly about 30m off the ground, which means the data they collect on compounds in the air are relevant for humans. Their backpacks weigh about 25g.

The ‘Pigeon Air Patrol’ is the combined effort of Plume Labs, a marketing and technology agency, Twitter and researchers from Imperial’s Centre for Environmental Policy.

The idea won organisers the London Design Festival’s #PoweredbyTweets competition last year, which saw them awarded free Twitter ads to get the project started.

Later this year, the project will expand, abandon pigeons, and use

humans carrying sensors to monitor pollution levels. The company plans to get members of the public to carry light sensors that talk to an app on their phones and a wider network of “air patrollers”. This part of the project is still at the crowdfunding stage.

Last year, the nitrogen dioxide levels on Oxford Street broke the legal limit by a thousand times. The high concentration of diesel fuelled buses are suspected to be a contributory factor. Last year, a study from King’s College London estimated that long term exposure to nitrogen dioxide and particulates in London’s air were killing nearly 10,000 people a year.



No, seriously, the pigeons are wearing vests. Photo Credit: Twitter/ @PigeonAir



# Business Schools speak of visa trouble

## UK “difficult and unattractive” for overseas students

Matt Johnston  
News Editor

A group of business school deans and those responsible for international recruitment at 15 UK universities, including Imperial, were interviewed as part of a report which concluded that current visa rules are making study in the UK “difficult and unattractive”.

With almost 35% of the student body comprising of overseas students (not including EU countries) this is potentially problematic for Imperial due to the large contingent contributing £23,000+ each per year in tuition fees, and up to £36,000 for some medicine courses. A decrease in this huge chunk of income may lead to the financial burden either having to be taken up by home students or



Someone in there disagrees with a Tory policy. Photo Credit: FELIX

through a decrease in facilities and/or grants.

The wider economy may also be at risk too, with the report by CABS saying international students

studying business alone contribute £2.4 billion to universities and the UK economy, with its latest figures showed that this was in decline.

Finances aside, the current visa

controls mean countries like the US, Canada, and Australia, as well as European countries like Germany, are also attracting the better students. The UK’s policies

## Almost 35% of the student body comprises of overseas students

could potentially decrease the overall quality of both research and teaching, a cornerstone of Imperial’s reputation.

Rankings earlier this year by the *Financial Times* rankings placed Imperial College Business School 35<sup>th</sup> best in the world and the fourth best in the UK, a slight fall internationally from 34<sup>th</sup> and a stagnation in the UK.

# FELIX Sex Survey opens

## You know you want to

It’s time to tell us what floats your boat within the safe unjudging walls of the FELIX Sex Survey.

And don’t worry, it’s totally anonymous. You do have to use your college username and password to log in, but that’s just for authentication – we just need to make sure you go to Imperial. We don’t save your username with your data, so no one can identify you. You leave your identity at the door, so feel free to answer as truthfully as possible and if you don’t want to answer any of the questions, there’s always a ‘Don’t wish to say’ option.

We’re trying to get some decent data on you lot so have a go and pass it on. It’s a fun five minutes of procrastination, totally mobile friendly, and subtly designed so you can get away with doing it the library cafe queue.

We’ll collate all your info at the end and will be releasing a bumper

## Don’t worry, it’s totally anonymous

sex-ed(ition) of FELIX next term.

In the meantime, to get you in the mood, we’re releasing a tonne of sex and relationship themed content over the next few weeks. You can find it in this issue on page eight.

Hear at FELIX, we love a good sex story. You once gave head in a shopping trolley? Great. You’re taking your first steps into banging as a trans person? Fantastic. You had sex in the maze of tunnels that run beneath our university? Tell us more!

If you fancy contributing, anonymously if need be, pop us an email at [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk).

You can take the survey now at [felixonline.co.uk/go/sexsurvey](http://felixonline.co.uk/go/sexsurvey).

GRACE RAHMAN



Ooh, user-friendly! Photo Credit: FELIX

# Election Results announced

The Leadership Election results are in, the votes have been counted, and your new sabbatical officers and constituent union presidents are as follows:

President: Nas Andriopoulos  
Deputy President of Welfare: Emily-Jane Cramphorn  
Deputy President of Clubs and Societies: James Cox  
Deputy President of Education: Luke McCrone  
FELIX Editor: Lef Apostolakis  
Council Chair: Abigail de Bruin  
Officer Trustees: Toni Semmence and Oliver Ford

ICSMSU President: Alex Compton  
CGCU President: Milia Hasbani  
RSM President: Noah Hawkins  
RCSU President: Lloyd James  
GSU President: Ahmed Shamsou

The results were revealed earlier this evening at Metric, where drinks were flowing and a sense of relief that campaigning was finally over was palpable.

Several roles, including DPFS and three liberation officer positions remain unfilled. The nominations for these are likely to reopen next term.

MATT JOHNSTON



Shiny silver thing not included. Photo Credit: Imperial College Union



# FELIX COMMENT



comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Excellence in education



Alice P. Gast  
President of Imperial College

Since arriving at Imperial, I have been extremely impressed with our students' excellence. I've seen brilliant scholars explaining their research, talented entrepreneurs describing their spin-out company and gifted musicians inspiring a rapt audience. I love to walk through College in the evening and see the ballroom dance team practicing with the jazz band rehearsing next door. This is an incredible place thanks to the great talent, energy and motivation of our students.

Excellent education is far more than getting a degree certificate

Imperial staff care deeply about providing students with an excellent education. Recently the Council, our governing body, met with union sabbatical officers at an away-day. We discussed what we want the future of Imperial to look like, and how the "product" of a university education was perhaps less important than the "experience" of it. Learning is a process and one can never achieve a state of having learnt all there is to know.

So, what do we mean when we talk about excellence in education? I think we mean that the knowledge, experiences and relationships students gain during their studies are affirming, and, in many ways, life-changing. Excellent education is far more than getting a degree

certificate, and one's education does not stop with graduation. Our aim is to ensure that the education Imperial students receive prepares them for excellence throughout their lives.

We know that we value a highly rigorous research-led curriculum that enables students to engage actively with research in their disciplines and across disciplinary boundaries. To be immersed in one of the world's top research universities gaining knowledge and experiences from the leaders in their fields is one of the hallmarks of Imperial's educational experience.

We also value opportunities for students to delve into the unknown, experience the discovery of research, and be creative and entrepreneurial. We have made providing these opportunities an important part of our college strategy.

We strive to continually enhance our teaching and we aspire to move to the forefront in developing new ways of teaching and learning that combine our use of technology and our time together to optimise the knowledge, experience and relationships gained.

We strive to continually enhance our teaching

We know that there are aspects of our student experience that are not excellent and we need to improve. The mental well-being of students is of paramount importance to their lives and success, and we are

enhancing our portfolio of student support services. We are also focused on providing timely and useful assessment and feedback and excellent research supervision and mentoring.

In my speech to the community on March 17<sup>th</sup>, I was pleased to announce some new grants for building excellence in teaching and research to move the College to the forefront of 21<sup>st</sup> century education. Our new Vice Provost (Education) Professor Simone Buitendijk will oversee the awarding and evaluation of these grants.

Consulting students on the decisions that directly affect them is important. We do this primarily through the elected sabbatical officers leading the student union. They, and other student leaders of the hundreds of clubs and societies, set the policies, tone and environment for the student experience. One of their important projects is their current work on a "Respect for Others" guide for students. This will be a code of behaviour and social expectations for students that builds upon the "Respect for Others Guide" that we produced last year for staff. Like the staff guide, the student guide will include a Respect for Others Pledge. And just as we expect all staff members to know and live by the Pledge, so will we expect students to do the same.

Why is this important? We have a wonderful community of over 22,000 people – it is a dynamic and vibrant environment where students will spend some of their best days and have some of their most memorable experiences. It is important to recognise that there are times when we fall far short of excellence and in fact create very negative experiences for our peers and our community. While I love to talk to students and celebrate their talent, creativity and dedication, I am deeply unhappy

to read reports of some students undermining themselves and their teammates by drinking themselves sick and damaging property or others being disrespectful to their peers and their community. None of us want our community to be harmed or individuals to be hurt by the mistakes and thoughtlessness of a few.

Consulting students on the decisions that directly affect them is important

Imperial students excel at taking on hard challenges and daunting projects. Where else can you see student productions of Sweeney Todd and Petrushka in the same week? I know that we can meet the challenge of providing the best environment and culture for students. We can work together to do better and I am optimistic that affirming our values through "Respect for Others" will help us to avoid these mistakes and make the Imperial student experience excellent for all.

Providing an excellent education for our students is a top priority at Imperial. Doing so requires enduring commitment by all of us, staff and students alike. I believe that together we can achieve excellence and we can show the world what an excellent education looks like.



There's no place better than Queen's Lawn on a sunny day. Photo Credit: Wikipedia

# FELIX COMMENT



comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## My fight for DPCS

Winning a new perspective on the position, Imperial, and comfort zones



Jonathan Zheng  
Writer

**T**his year I ran for DPCS in the Union Elections, and here's the story of my campaign.

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to vote for me and spread the word around. I really do appreciate it, and despite losing by quite a bit in the end, looking back, I'm really happy that we managed to get as far as we did.

Why? Because before these elections, I was a lurker. I'd gotten involved in a few societies, but I was essentially a nobody in the wider world of Imperial. If you heard my name or saw my face, it probably wouldn't mean anything to you unless you took a class or played hockey with me.

Before these elections, I was a lurker

So why did I run? In a chance encounter one evening, at a Guitar Soc Open Mic Night, the wonderful Chris Kaye bought us a round of drinks. This was such a lovely gesture that I went over to thank him, and ended up showing him a few magic tricks. Long story short, he'd drunk enough at that point to think that I would have made a good sabb.

I was sceptical because of my lack of experience, but interested, so I talked to Ben, the current DPCS. He told me that no matter how much experience you think you have, you're never ready for the actual job.

So with the knowledge that anyone who got the job would struggle no matter how much more they'd been involved, I decided that I'd give the campaign a go.

I'll be honest, and admit that half of my motive at this point was to use the campaign to get some publicity for Magic Society, and the other half was that I didn't feel like getting a real job at the end of the year.

We prepared our campaign, and I think we did a pretty good job. I finally used up some of the printer credits that the College has been chucking at us for four years, and pasted my face all around campus in the hope that people might possibly notice.

When the polls opened, however, something strange happened. As I walked around, brandishing a giant picture of myself on the end of a hockey stick, giving sweets to strangers and performing magic tricks in an attempt to get them to listen to my pitch, I started hearing real stories from the students

who ran into problems running their clubs. Be it room bookings or budgets, it was clear that the world of clubs and socs at Imperial had fixable issues, and I started to actually want the job. I realised that it's a position where you can make a difference to a lot of people, and that it would be a great opportunity to meet and help out some genuinely cool people.

So I campaigned a lot harder than I thought I would. I fought through the many straight rejections from students that were completely uninterested, talked to a tonne of people, and honestly enjoyed the

candidates didn't show up to the results party. How did I lose to a guy who doesn't even care enough to see the results with his competitors?

Looking back, I was never going to win. There's no way that two weeks alone can get you from pretty much unknown to the winner of what is essentially a popularity contest, and I'm glad I got out of my little bubble to meet some great people I would never have had any contact with otherwise.

If there's a moral of the story, it's that if you're a natural lurker like me, you should try to get involved even if it's outside your comfort zone. This applies especially if you have any inkling towards running for a position in the future, because in reality a campaign starts years before the elections begin, when you meet people and start building your influence.

I hope I don't sound too bitter

Try to get involved even if it's outside your comfort zone



Go on, try it - you'll probably like it. Photo Credit: redfairypoint.com

I realised that it was a mistake to lurk like I did for three years

experience of seeing what people thought of the uni we all study at.

Meeting the other candidates was just great too: I realised that it was a mistake to lurk like I did for three years when there are so many cool people to meet if you just look a little harder.

I went into the results party, wanting the role for completely different reasons from before I started campaigning, and genuinely hoping to win despite the odds. In the end, I lost by quite a large margin, and at the time I was pretty surprised and disappointed.

I was quite angry too, as the other

about my loss. I truly wish James, next year's DPCS, the best of luck. From the look of things, it's a position that feels like you're on a treadmill that always moves twice as fast as you can run. With over 300 clubs at Imperial, it likely feels more like a vertical climb than an uphill battle, but I still would've loved to have given it a go. I'll buy you a much deserved pint when I swing back around the Union! And please be nice to my Magic Society? It wouldn't be the same at Imperial without the small niche societies, so I hope you give them the attention they need too.

Would you say you were in love?

Yes

No

What is love?

The **FELIX** Sex Survey

Get on it now. [felixonline.co.uk/go/sexsurvey](http://felixonline.co.uk/go/sexsurvey)





# We need to talk about contraception

## Safe sex should be something to shout about

Anonymous  
Writers

In the UK, we're lucky enough to have access to free contraception, regardless of who you are. The NHS provides 15 different methods, ranging from the provision of free condoms, to implanted devices, to sterilisation procedures, which have varying rates of effectiveness up to more than 99%.

As long as you're making sure you're being safe, there's no right or wrong type of contraception, and which method suits you best will depend on your body and lifestyle. For some, taking the pill is a perfect solution, and for others, it's just impossible to remember. It's important to remember that contraception has two purposes – preventing pregnancy, and preventing STIs. With the nasties that are being passed around becoming increasingly antibiotic-resistant, it's always better to be safe than sorry, use a condom, and get tested regularly.

Getting tested can be a daunting experience, particularly when you're going there already feeling guilty for being a bit irresponsible. All those horror stories about umbrellas up your urethra are nothing but that – stories. Most STIs are very treatable, particularly if you catch them early – there's no reason to

be nervous. London has so many fantastic sexual health clinics (some of which specialise, if you want to talk about something specific) which are friendly, non-judgmental, and completely anonymous. By not getting tested regularly, you're putting yourself and anyone you have sex with at risk, so make sure that you take the time to get it done.

As well as treatable STIs, there are some that become life-long conditions, such as HIV or hepatitis B. These days, there are post-exposure treatments to prevent infection, as well as methods of managing them long-term, should you be diagnosed. The NHS provides many widely available types of support, both in terms of treatment and emotional support. If you have been diagnosed, or feel that you may be at risk, seeking advice as soon as possible can really make the difference.

And if you do find yourself in the position of having an unplanned pregnancy, the NHS also offers support for all of your available options, whether or not that means ending the pregnancy. Either way, your GP or a GUM clinic can refer you to the right people, and again, it's better to know sooner rather than later.

Sex is one of the most fun ways to pass the time between lectures, and I encourage all who want to do it, to do it as much as they like, as long as it's safe and consensual. Have fun!

## Condoms



The trusty condom, or 'Venus shirt', as they say in Portugal, is probably the most popular form of contraception. I've always found them to be a reliable friend. They're cheap – often free (can stock up by the wheelbarrow-load from any good student union), easy, and effective – both in terms of not having babies (they've done me proud so far) and in avoiding nasty diseases, something not found so much in other contraceptive methods.

I know a lot of guys complain they don't "feel as much" when using them, which I don't think should be written off as just selfishness – it's a legitimate gripe. But for convenience, effectiveness, and lack of side-effects, I don't think you can go wrong with rubber.

## The pill



The pill. A tiny, revolutionary, sugar-coated (literally) ball of pure lady hormone. Or maybe they're synthetic (actually don't tell me, if it's grown in pigs like insulin as that's definitely not halal and the premarital sex is bad enough). The concept is simple – you pop a pill everyday, or maybe 21 days out of every 28, and suddenly have full autonomy over your fertility, periods and life. Go you!

I'd recommend this to any womb-bearer who wants a fuss free way to stay baby-free, or anyone who's about to go travelling and doesn't want to get their period at a Full Moon Party. You might have heard horror stories – anything from changes of mood to getting a bit chubby, but your first dalliance into hormonal contraception is much like when Harry Potter first arrived at the wand shop on Diagon Alley. Some aren't going to suit, and may well fuck shit up, but you can keep trying different brands (there are hundreds) until you find one that makes beautiful Patronuses.

## The IUS



I took the mini-pill when I was younger, but the hormones didn't gel well with the combination of my teenaged body and polycystic ovaries, and I ended up spending months soul searching over about why I was so depressed all of a sudden. Needless to say, that didn't last long.

Wanting to avoid anything that would mess with my brain again, I used condoms for years, but eventually took the step towards five years of worry-free sex, and got the Mirena coil installed. Having it put in was a bit of a hassle (no one enjoys having their legs in stirrups in front of the doctor and assisting nurse), but it wasn't particularly painful. Unfortunately, I did suffer an unusual reaction, causing me to go into shock, meaning it did take a week or so before I was full back to normal.

In the three years since, I've never had a period, had severe cramps, or had to worry at all about getting pregnant. And I still don't need to think about it for another two years. Should everyone be getting a coil? I think yes.



# Being a virgin isn't a big deal anymore

Anonymous  
Writer



## The implant

The procedure for getting the implant seems unnecessarily sadistic: you have to pick the thing up yourself from a pharmacy, and the transparent packaging leaves you with no doubt as to how gigantic a needle is soon to be thrust into your arm.

Despite the intense dread after staring at the blade for about a week, I made it to my session, and the only thing I felt was the prick of the anaesthetic (and relief at my new immunity to babies). The implant works for me because I literally don't have to do anything for 3 years (when on the pill I forgot it on more days than I remembered), and, apart from a weird month-long one to start with, it completely stopped my periods. A warning to the squeamish, though: I can totally see/feel it through my skin.

## The IUD



There are a few things to consider about the IUD.

1: Getting one. This is annoying. You'll need a cervical smear and to wait weeks for the results. Then you need to go in and get your cervix forcibly dilated and the IUD inserted. This is not at all fun. They tell you to take a painkiller. Do it. I then felt awful for the rest of the day.

2: Having one. So, my periods got heavier and more painful. I had to get prescription painkillers for this. Also, the strings can spike a guy's boner – be warned.

3: Why bother? It lasts five years, it's "always on", has an amazingly low failure rate and doesn't mess with your head even a bit. I can't take the Pill and have a latex allergy, so it's about all that's left. At the same time... I don't have to worry, at all, about pregnancy for five years. That's pretty sweet!

## The morning after pill

The morning after pill is intended to be an emergency solution rather than a planned contraceptive – but, for reasons best known to my 18-year-old self, one of the two occasions on which I used it was decidedly planned.

I didn't get pregnant (yay) or get any of the possible side effects (like nausea or abnormal periods), but I did have to pay £22 to buy it online and walk all the way to Superdrug when it was raining.

The other time was actually a last resort and involved doing some Googling, going to a pharmacy that'd give it to me straight away and being briefly interrogated by a doctor before getting it for free. I'd probably buy one to keep around if I weren't on other contraception now, just in case I couldn't get to a pharmacy or just didn't feel like talking to a doctor.



Out of all my friends I was set to be one of the first to lose it, and by it I mean my virginity.

I don't really know why. I guess it's just because I had a series of boyfriends, quite a few guy friends and used to be pretty flirty with them all. But for some reason it just didn't happen, and now I'm sat here as a 20 year old still holding onto my "precious flower".

One thing I have realised is that there's a lot more of us virgins out there than most people think, whether it be due to religious, moral, or spiritual reasons or not. There's one in my kitchen in halls, and two in my friendship group on my course.

I've also realised that it's not something that is frowned upon as much now that I'm 20, compared to when I was 17. I used to lie and make excuses for why I never took

the plunge, but now I accept that everything happens for a reason. I still haven't found out what that reason is, but I think there probably will be one.

Personally I now just accept it and don't shy away when people ask, "how many boys have you slept with?" Instead of making it a big deal, I just make a joke out of it, because now I've accepted it, why shouldn't other people?

I don't have anything against people who go out and have one night stands, and I don't judge them for it – I just know that's not the kind of thing I want to be doing. I don't think I'm missing out too much; it's not like I don't have any experience with boys. I go out, get drunk, and kiss boys just like everyone else – I just don't end up going home with them at the end of the night.

At the end of the day it really isn't as big a deal as everyone makes out. Whether it happens tomorrow or when I'm married, it'll happen when it happens and I'm fine with that.



Find that someone who makes you feel shiny and new. Photo Credit: Sire Records/Warner Bros







# I had sex in the tunnels under Imperial

## We sent a lot of snapchats

Anonymous  
Writer

It was a bright, sunny day in the summer of 2014. The renovation of the West Basement of Beit was well underway, and amidst the flurry of activity, I discovered some stairs hidden deep in the archives, which lead down to a dusty crawlspace, leading to the tunnels.

Knowing that this entrance would be sealed off as part of the renovation, and knowing that there weren't many people likely to come looking around that day, opportunities were seized, and sure enough, I found myself a partner and went exploring. In anticipation of the decades of dust, we stole abandoned TEDxAlbortopolis t-shirts, barricaded the door, and crept down the stairs.

After crawling a few feet, it was pitch black; an absolute disorienting darkness where you couldn't see

your hand in front of your face. We decided not to press any further after we discovered that the tunnel was partially collapsed, given that no one knew our location beyond the Snapchats we left as clues.

The ceiling was low, the floor was rough. Heads were banged, and knees were scraped. The confined space and total darkness heightened all senses, making it one of the most uncomfortable, intense sexual encounters I've experienced.

Dust-ruined stolen t-shirts

Heads were  
banged,  
and knees  
were  
scraped



The original snapchats are gone forever. Photo Credit: Imperial College London

abandoned in the tunnel (where they will for evermore lay), we emerged blinking into the brightness of Beit Quad, our lungs thirsty for air that had not been undisturbed for years. We were tracked down in the bar, half covered in dust, by disbelieving friends who had followed our

disappearing photographic breadcrumbs.

Was it worth it? Absolutely. Between the unexpectedly pleasurable rendezvous, and having an unbeatable story to tell at parties, this experience has served me well. Would I recommend it? Well, if

you can find any more entrances, and you want to risk finding out whether or not the rumours are true that you'll be expelled from College if you're caught in the tunnels, absolutely go for it. But watch out for the dust. You'll be finding it in strange places for weeks.

# A letter to...the man who broke my heart

## I thought it should end the way it started, with an inappropriate article in FELIX

Tessa Davey  
Comment Editor

I learnt so much from you. You taught me how to love like I've never loved before. You taught me how to cry more than I've ever cried before. You taught me how to voice my opinions, to argue, to debate. You taught me to be a feminist, even though you call yourself anything but. You taught me to strive to make other people see how brightly I shine.

What you didn't teach me was how to not take crap from guys like you again. You crept into my life, condemning the abuses of my past, whilst carelessly treating me the same. You helped me to be open and honest about each and every emotion, without ever reflecting for a moment on yours. I basked in your privilege and boldness, empowered

by your strength and directness. But under the veneer of truthfulness, you withdrew into lies, changing from a man I thought was beautiful, to someone so capable of such cruelty.

You taught me that relationships aren't easy; I've never worked as hard as I did when I tried to understand you. But after all of that, when it came to it, you didn't want to put in the work. You showed me that those who seem giving can be selfish, those who seem well-mannered can be disrespectful, and those who seem the warmest can be the most cold.

You poured your early impression of my personality into a cast projected from your dysfunctional relationships, and your insecurities made you ashamed of the false impression that came out of the mould. You taught me to convince myself that I was at fault, to swallow my tears and pretend you didn't

hurt me. With you, I put up with more than I ever thought possible. I learnt to adjust my expectations, and to augment my aspirations and dreams. I convinced myself that I wanted what you wanted.

After all of this, I think that perhaps my raw emotion isn't something that you can understand. In a testament to how much I tried, my heartbreak was painfully

recorded in the data of my Fitbit.

You told me that I was oppressing you, but you were wrong. You don't know how to be happy, only to pretend. I thought I was bathing in your phosphorescence, inspired and illuminated by you. But I was wrong.

In the beginning, you were so encouraging and uplifting, but in the end you were pulling me down.

My  
heartbreak  
was  
painfully  
recorded in  
the data of  
my Fitbit



Fuck you, dickhead -Ed. Photo Credit: Wikipedia



## Science, what's good?

Jane Courtneil  
Science Editor

### Mechanical heartbreak fix

**M**echanically patching up a 'broken' heart may soon be possible thanks to Tal Dvir and Ron Feiner. They have integrated electronics with living tissues to produce the "cyborg heart patch". The patch acts like an organ, but is powered by a machine, regulating heart contraction and expansion. With 25% of patients on the US waiting list dying before getting a heart transplant, this medicinal technological revolution has the potential to save millions of lives, as the patch can replace any damaged heart tissue. In addition, the patch enables real-time monitoring of the patient's heart rate, and can intervene to modify heart pace and activate regenerative drugs if required from afar. Practical implications of the technology, however, may take some time.

Feiner et al 2016 @ Nature materials

### Black hole flashes red

Stripping away stardust, 7,800 light years away, V404 Cygni is a black hole that still manages to dazzle astronomers, by flashing violent red in displays of destructive power, as material from an orbiting star is devoured. These red light flashes are, well, just that – flashes that last a fraction of a second, as matter spurs from the black hole. V404 Cygni was the first black hole to be identified in our galaxy, but from June 2015 onwards, the black hole brightened in dramatic sporadic bursts, providing new insights into the formation of such jets and the working of black holes. Lead author Dr Poshak Gandhi, Associate Professor and STFC Ernest Rutherford fellow at the University of Southampton explains "the high speed tells us that the region where this red light is being emitted must be very compact. Piecing together clues about the colour, speed and the power of these flashes, we conclude that this light is being emitted from the base of the black hole jet". Black holes just got a little bit brighter.

Gandhi et al 2016 @ Oxford Journals

### Photosynthetic past revealed

Imagine a world absent of oxygen. Suffocating, no? Until about 3.5-3.8 billion years ago, our fossil records indicates that photosynthesis was a process which simply did not exist. A reaction, which now seems simple; a process taking sugar and water, using the sun's energy to produce oxygen. Scientists pinpointed this revolution, responsible for a great leap in terms of species quantity and diversity, to the basking bacteria of Morning Glory Pool, Yellowstone National Park. These bacteria use a primitive form of photosynthesis, one which does not produce oxygen, and were till recently thought by scientists to be the first life forms which did so. However, study author Dr Tanai Cardona, from the Department of Life Sciences at Imperial College London, claims that "the picture that is starting to emerge is that during the first half of Earth's history, the majority of life forms were probably capable of photosynthesis". Photosynthesis is likely to have occurred in bacterial species, before those around today.

Cardona 2016 @ Plos One

### Breast milk or bottle?

As the number of mums seeking alternatives to natural breastfeeding increases, the demand for artificial infant milk sources similarly rises. Scientists are put under more and more pressure to develop a formula which can measure up to the natural stuff. It is widely known that breast-fed infants show reduced eczema and allergy risk compared to those fed by bottle. However, many studies have claimed hydrolysed milk formulas help reduce the mitigating impacts of bottle feeding, closing the health benefit gap between milk from the breast compared to milk from the bottle. To further investigate these claims, a recent study conducted by the Department of Medicine at Imperial College London, analysed 19,000 participants, and found no evidence supporting them. Publication bias is thought to have previously found this supposed link between the hydrolysed formula and a reduced infant risk to eczema and allergies. Once again the scientific community has come under scrutiny.

Boyle et al 2016 @ the BMJ

### Skip diving storks in trouble

Turns out humans are not the only junk food lovers. Scientists at the University of East Anglia have observed a complete behavioural change in storks brought about by human activity, and the momentous amount of waste that we produce. Storks have thrown in the towel for maintaining their active lifestyle. The Europe to Africa winter annual trip is proving to be too much of an effort. Lounging around on landfill sites, gauging on leftover bargain buckets does seem like a good compromise. However this lifestyle is very temperamental, with new EU directives scheduled to turn such landfill sites to new facilities whereby the food waste will be handled under cover, forcing storks from their couch potato lifestyle. All sarcasm aside, this will cause problems for the storks as they will need to find an alternative winter food supply; a problem which will affect chick fledging success, migratory decisions, breeding locations and stork distributions.

Gilber et al 2016 @ BioMed Central

## Women of Imperial: Professor Jo Haigh

Natasha Khaleeq  
Writer

**P**rofessor Joanna Haigh is one of Imperial's leading scientists. In 2009, she became the first woman to become Head of the Physics Department. As she's eager to say herself, "It's a great department and a lot of fantastic science is going on here."

Recently she's become co-director of Imperial's Grantham Institute where she invests resources in people, workshops and students, as well as informs the Government about science. Haigh is additionally a Fellow of the Royal Society and in 2013 was appointed a CBE, both great honours.

Haigh's reputation further demonstrates her importance at Imperial and for women in STEM striving for academic recognition. Her advice to women: "if you're interested then just go for it, don't be put off."

Currently, her research involves measuring how changes in the Sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation affects our planet's climate. Most of the radiation is absorbed by the stratosphere.

However novel research has been investigating how UV radiation might influence the atmosphere below. So, Haigh has been focusing on how the changes in the stratosphere can affect the weather at the surface. She studies the changes in the momentum driving the winds in the stratosphere and how

that compares to the atmospheric circulations below. Haigh's results suggest that when the Sun is more active, the storm tracks (high speed winds pulling the storms across the Atlantic) move slightly closer to the poles, whereas when the sun is less active, they tend to move slightly closer to the equator.

This suggests that middle latitude areas where storm tracks appear, experience the effect the strongest. So, when the sun is less active, you're more likely to get a colder winter. Therefore, the UK's climate experiences small but significant effects from the solar cycle.

As put by Haigh, this research "helps us understand what natural factors are influencing the climates that are separate from human factors."



Professor Joanna Haigh. Photo Credit: Natasha Khaleeq



# FELIX SCIENCE



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## It's not all about the D

### An ode to our nutrition's unsung hero, vitamin B

Alexandra Lim  
Writer

Some of us go pretty far when it comes to maintaining vigilance with our diets. We pinch our noses as we down that tablespoon of cod liver oil, chuck mounds of spinach into Tesco's spinach ricotta tortellini, because obviously just the latter

perfectly seared rib-eye steak is your quota nicely filled for the day. And that's fine, but a little refreshment of perspective is needed. Us omnivores are bred for variety, and thrive on a mishmash of vegetables and meats. That steak is good some days, but there are other B vitamins one can find in a plethora of other foods. For example, vitamin B1, or thiamine, is crucial in the production of ATP, or the energy currency of

underrated vitamin which many of us fail to get enough of, especially since one of the main causes of deficiency is excessive alcohol consumption; one reason why you may want to cut down on Ministry Tuesdays, or those off-the-wall events you keep getting invited to by that same blonde on Facebook. Niacin is essential for the energy generation process, particularly the glucose-to-ATP pathway. Naturally,

Just one more, I promise. I saved what I believe is the most important for last. It may or may not be common knowledge that the primary source of vitamin B12 is animals, including animal-derived foods like dairy and eggs, but less conventional wisdom dictates that a myriad gastrointestinal disorders, even low-scale types like diarrhoea, affect our ability to absorb the vitamin in our gut. Doctors rarely

That perfectly seared rib-eye steak is your quota filled for the day



I don't care who told you steak is rich in vitamin B. If you come near me, I will cut you. Photo Credit: Beatrice Murch

doesn't quite fulfil our magnesium requirements, and knock back litres of vitamin water. Practices that all honour the holy triumvirate of vitamins K, D and A.

And then there's vitamin B, which us primitive folk usually believe we have got down pat. For the pure-bred meat-eaters, it doesn't seem to be too big of a problem. That

our bodies. Deficiency results in fatigue, and in more severe cases, the cardiovascular disorder beriberi. Another intermediate symptom is carbohydrate intolerance, as thiamine also helps regulate blood glucose levels. The best sources of B1? Lean pork, spinach, asparagus and sunflower seeds. So go crazy.

Vitamin B3, or Niacin, is another

deficiency symptoms include low appetite, depression and lowered HDL (good cholesterol) levels. The best sources of Niacin are fish, fish, and more fish. Particularly tuna, so I do apologise if you have a thing against the flaky stuff. Sometimes health is sacrifice.

## The best sources of Niacin are fish, fish, and more fish



They know we're endangered right? Photo Credit: TheAnimalDay.org

check B12 levels, and we almost always assume we get enough, but many of us really don't. We need B12 for the formation of red blood cells and proper nerve structure and function, so a deficiency here could make it easier to contract dementia or Alzheimer's-like syndromes, even autism spectrum disorder in children. Other effects are memory problems and consequent cognitive decline. Clearly, the effects are much more harmful than most of us initially envisage. The stars of the show here are salmon, sardines and liver, but the one downside here is that there are no purely vegan sources, so vegans, take note.

Folks, that sliver of liver will do you good. Physically and psychologically. Combined with an overall healthy diet chock-full of leafy vegetables, sunflower seeds and fish, you'll be sure to attain more than enough vitamin B, and have a happier, more meaningful life to boot.

NAOMI STEWART

## Science & the City

In modern times, the peer-reviewed publication is seen as the basic benchmark for science. Of course, science must be publicly accessible and able to be duplicated. And with increased metrics and funding in the sciences dependent on performance measured by frequency and recognition of publications, there are few alternatives for modern scientists to succeed – it's publish or perish.

But once we begin publishing academically it's easy to find this revered process riddled with potholes. From the get-go, scientists alter their manuscripts to the scope of the journal they intend to publish in. An editorial board determines if it fits within that journal's scope and mandate – if not, the manuscript is sent back and it's re-worked for another journal, often losing some of the research integrity in this constant reshaping process.

Once accepted, it's sent out to other scientists for review. But who are they? Larger publishing houses have a list of known amenable reviewers, or sometimes the author will send in a list; both pathways which can be biased, and none of which can force participation from the whole community. Even with a double-blind process, given the increasing specialisation of fields, reviewers may already know whose research it is. Nothing prevents the delivery of a coloured review based on reviewer-author relationship for good or bad, and regardless of research quality. After reviews are returned, it's back to an editorial board who may not always have the specific expertise to assess the review's nuances and decide if revisions are needed or if it will be rejected or published.

It's not a guarantee that either of these steps will catch errors, fraudulent data, or bias. The disastrous outcomes of this were seen in Japan's Riken Center scandal in 2014.

At all steps in the process, there is potential for human error, oversight, bias, competition, and nepotism. It's time for the science community to peer-review the peer-review publication system and figure out a more cohesive and reliable way forward.

# FELIX SCIENCE



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## Sh!t Science

### Scientists shocked to discover booze and pot make students horny

MARIANNE GUENOT

At Sh!t Science, we try to show that all science, preposterous as it may sound, is useful to humanity and increases the sum of human knowledge. That is, even when the research

seems to investigate something that is so bleeding self-evident, it makes you want to cry.

This week's study, published in the Journal of studies of alcohol and drugs, set out to investigate changes in particular behavioural patterns

under the influence of particular mind-altering substances in university students. You guessed it. It is a scientific study to see whether the use of social lubricants like smoking weed or drinking booze, and... actual lubricants, i.e. having lots and lots of sex. The research polled 284 undergraduate students of the University of Oregon daily for 24 consecutive days. Results show, while most intercourse events were reported by people in committed relationships (unfortunate circumstances where marijuana and alcohol didn't influence the frequency of intercourse), singles are more likely to have sex after a night of binge drinking or marijuana-consumption. Captain Obvious... I mean, Dr. Kerr, lead researcher from the University of Oregon, stated that "people may judge risks, such as whether they will regret having sex or whether they should use a condom, differently when they are

drunk." Now, I can hear you say it from here: "Well, duh!" But this is a matter of public health. Condoms, these beautiful instruments of safe-sex, are to this day the method of contraception that most effectively

## People may judge risks differently when they are drunk

protects us from STIs. Not using them is considered a 'risky' sexual behaviour. In a state where recreational use of marijuana has

been legalised, students are likely to be intercouring like bunnies all over the place, and while it had been previously suggested that alcohol is linked with riskier sexual behaviour, drugs act on the brain in a very different way to alcohol and we don't know what effect they can have on sexual risks. It is important to understand whether sexual health information needs to be tailored to these new circumstances. Thankfully, as Dr. Kerr states, contrary to the use of alcohol "we didn't find a connection between marijuana use and poor condom use."

So in light of this information, Imperial students, since we know that you are doing it all over campus all the time, do it well: always drink responsibly, don't smoke weed, obviously (official position), but smoke responsibly, and always be safe.



What do you mean booze and pot makes you horny? Photo Credit icanteachyouhowtodoit

Lef Apostolakis  
Science Editor

## This week's science picture

Sometimes you hear about people at Imperial doing weird, obscure, cool degrees. This week's science picture comes all the way from Borneo, courtesy of Matt who is halfway through a MRes in tropical forest ecology. Matt has been delighting us with a stream of cool natural history pictures, and this is probably one of my favourites. "The gecko fell out of the air conditioning unit and onto the table in front of us where it proceeded to hatch. We put it under the identification microscope in order to watch it hatch. I'm not sure why the gecko laid its eggs in the air con, I'd imagine the fluctuations of temperature wouldn't be good for eggs. When it was hatching it looked very much like a raptor from Jurassic Park and we all felt very much like we were in the film, particularly due to being surrounded by pristine rainforest at the time! It was quite a random and surreal moment!". I guess life finds a way. KAPOW!



View from a stereoscope of a baby gecko hatching . Photo Matt Jarvis



# FRIDAY 18 MARCH

## SPRING CARNIVAL

★ WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH ★  
ALL UNION BEIT BARS, 20:00 - 03:00

LIVE MUSIC FROM GUITARSOC AND JAZZ & ROCK  
MAGICIANS FROM MAGICSOC  
JUGGLING FROM JUGGLINGSOC  
CIRCUS PERFORMERS  
DJS & BBQ

TICKET PRICE FROM MONDAY 14 MARCH

£4.00

On the door

£5.00

## COMING UP!

Date	Event	Time	Location
Every Tuesday	Super Quiz	20:00 - 22:00	FiveSixEight
Every Tuesday	Cocktail Night	18:00 - 23:00	Metric
Every Wednesday	CSP Wednesday	19:00 - 01:00	Metric & FiveSixEight
Every Wednesday	Sports Night	19:00 onwards	Reynolds
1st & 4th Thursday of each month	Pub Quiz	19:00 - 21:00	h-bar
1st & 3rd Thursday of each month	Quiz Night	19:30 - 22:00	The Foundry
2nd and 4th Friday of each month	Karaoke Night	20:00 - 23:30	The Foundry
Every Friday	PGI Friday	16:00 onwards	h-bar
Every Friday	Reynolds Cocktail Club	17:30 - 00:00	Reynolds
Friday 18 March	Common People	20:00 - 02:00	Metric & FiveSixEight
Saturday 19 March	CSP Saturday	19:00 - 02:00	Metric & FiveSixEight
Wednesday 23 March	Spring Carnival	20:00 - 03:00	Metric & FiveSixEight



# Ride Hard



**athlon** Sunday 1st May



# IC FemSoc

editing: Matthew Chaplin, Blaine Rogers  
photography: Matthew Chaplin

We meet Mondays, 6pm, SAF G60  
Come to our AGM on 21st March





# Get Wet



The BUCS Sprint **Triat**





# SUPERHOT is super fun

A strategic and minimalist first-person shooter where time moves with you

Max Egg  
Writer

Imagine a game where you are a super assassin, well-versed in the arts of weaponry and hand-to-hand combat. You mow down countless enemies, spraying them down with machine guns, splitting them in half with a well placed katana swipe or just beating them to a pulp, like the good old days. "Wait, why is that different from tons of other games that are on the market?" I hear you cry, dear reader, and I would not disagree with you. This is where the twist and specialty of *SUPERHOT* comes in: time moves with you. Basically, when you don't move, time stands still. However, if you even move a finger, the clock starts ticking and all hell breaks loose. This combination of kill all bad guys and the unique time mechanic makes *SUPERHOT* a really special game.

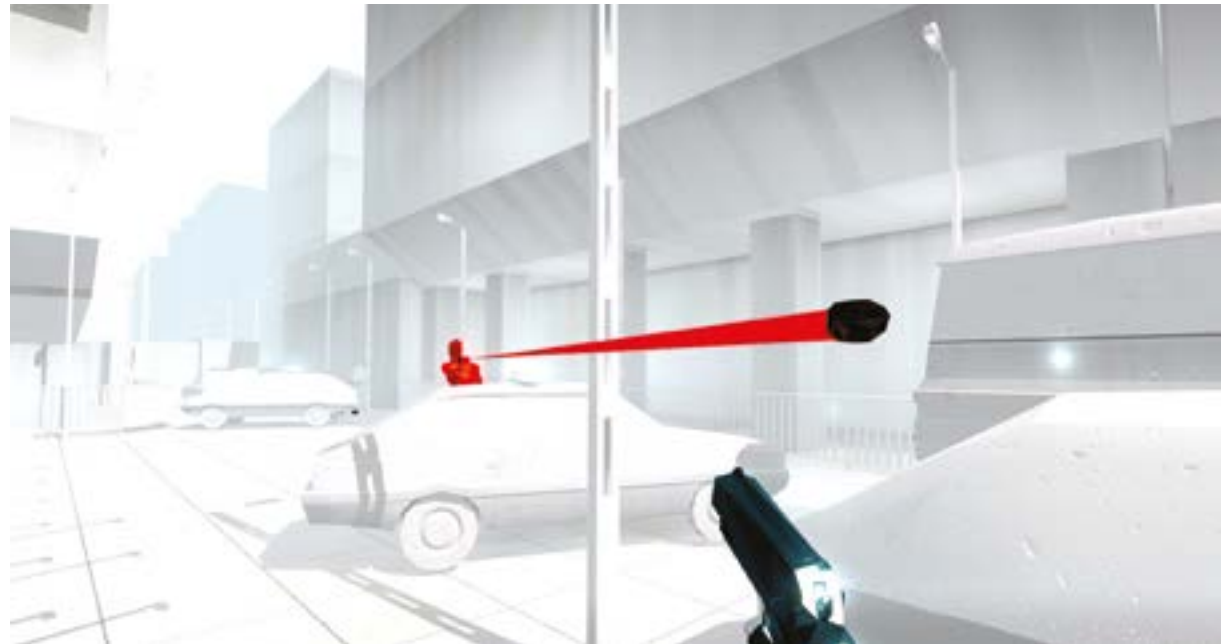
At the end of a stressful Monday (horrible way to start the week I tell you), I opened up Steam for some much needed respite. To my delight *SUPERHOT*, a game I had been anticipating for quite some time, had just been dropped. At first I was put off by the relatively steep price of £17.99 (especially for an indie game), but in the end I decided to splurge.

I fired up the game, and started up the main story. I have to say

I was immediately hooked. The story itself was kind of meh. It was one of those super indie ones that make you question your own existence and wonder if you have stumbled by chance onto an interactive experience written by Nietzsche. To be honest this is not really a negative and really just a sign of my fatigue with the indie scene in general (I mean what is wrong with just killing the bad

At times  
I felt like  
Neo in  
that super  
famous  
scene

guys and saving the princess?!). However, the mechanics of the game were definitely the highlight of the experience. The level design, gunplay and AI were all really good and I had absolutely nothing to complain about. What about the key feature, the game changer: the time stopping mechanic? I have to admit I was impressed. It was really



STOP! Bullet Time. Photo Credit: SUPERHOT Team

smooth, and at times I did feel like Neo in that super-famous scene when I was dodging bullets in slow motion. Furthermore, the mechanic wasn't just some gimmick that you could just ignore, because if you don't play slowly and tactically, the game is incredibly hard. If you try to just go Rambo-style on the baddies you definitely won't make it longer than about ten seconds.

Talking about the baddies, and the art style in general, it is all very minimalistic, which seems to be some kind of theme in the gaming industry right now. The bad guys are red blocky dudes and the levels are grey and white blocky blocks that

hint at the things they are supposed to represent. To be honest this is completely fine, because sometimes too many details can distract you from the game, and in this case allows you to focus completely on the gameplay. Furthermore, this allows this game to run superbly on pretty much any machine (oh yeah, it also runs on Windows and Mac).

So I have listed a lot of good things

The time-stopping mechanic is unique and super fun to play

about this game so far, however I do have one big complaint: the amount of content in the game versus the price. I finished the main mission (and trust me I wasn't very good and had to do multiple restarts) in one sitting of about 3 hours. Then I took some time to have a crack at the endless mode which are just endless battles in various settings (quite fun and the maps are nice, but pretty repetitive), and then finally

at the challenges (which are redos of the main mission, with certain restrictions/enhancements). While I have not completed everything, I have given it a good shot and I currently stand at five hours. I feel like ten hours is the most time I am going to get out of this game, due to its somewhat repetitive nature, since the mechanics stay the same, and the scenarios change marginally and the settings all kind feel the same. In a sense that makes a me a bit sad, since this is such a good game. Oh well.

There are a couple features, like the uploading of your kill-streak videos, that I haven't mentioned since I didn't really consider them that important, although they may appeal to a different type of gamer. They all seemed a bit gimmicky to me, and I haven't really delved too deeply into them.

All in all I would say this is an absolutely excellent game. *SUPERHOT* is a really new and modern take on the tired old genre that is first person shooters. The time-stopping mechanic is unique and super fun to play. However, like a nice piece of bacon, it tastes really good but there ain't a lot of meat to it. Given that it is quite expensive, I would probably hold off on buying it right now and wait for a Steam sale, where you will definitely get the right amount of bang for your buck.

*SUPERHOT* is out now on Steam



Punching polygons. Photo Credit: SUPERHOT Team





# A marriage of reason and nightmare

Ben Wheatley aims high in his take on a towering icon of modern British fiction

## High-Rise



*Dir.* Ben Wheatley. *Script.* Amy Jump. *Starring:* Tom Hiddleston, Jeremy Irons, Sienna Miller, Luke Evans. *119 minutes.*

Tom Stephens  
Film Writer

**H**igh-Rise is the kind of film throughout the majority of which you don't know whether to laugh or cry. Most dystopian films can be tough to stomach at the best of times – surely half the point of cinema is to escape into a world that's not quite as screwed up as this one is? – but there are those that add enough humour to make it all go down a bit more sweetly. While some of these films, like Terry Gilliam's 1985 masterpiece *Brazil*, go down a slightly more light-hearted (but still ultimately soul-crushing) slapstick route, *High-Rise* achieves this through a much more *Clockwork Orange*-based approach: acts of gasp-inducing depravity and violence are played out in such a ridiculous manner that they pile up, eventually intertwining into a web of grisly hilarity.

The high-rise in question is a brand new block of luxury flats, complete with supermarket, recreational grounds, and an apparently close-knit community into which Dr Robert Laing – played by the master of finding new ways to be simultaneously slippery and charming, Tom Hiddleston – has just moved. The time and place is said to be London, 1975, but an eerie sheen to the glaring pastel-bathed imagery makes the film feel like it's set in some curiously robotic parallel world (although I'm not all that well versed in history – maybe everything just looked like that in the seventies). All seems well at first: isolated from the trials and tribulations of everyday society, the residents have built their own thriving network of livelihoods, and Laing settles into a pleasant routine, managing to make some friends across the floors – even the architect, Royal (an excellently steely Jeremy



Tom Hiddleston as the slippery Dr Laing, luxuriating in his brutalist high-rise. Photo Credit: Allstar/High-Rise PR

Irons), seems to have taken a liking to him. But it soon becomes clear that all floors are not created equal: water stops running, lights go out,

The interest in *High-Rise* comes in the way the class-system clash plays out

and those up above soon have to face the wrath of those down below.

The clash that ensues bears, on paper at least, many of the hallmarks of the class-system satire that you'd expect to follow such a setup – but where *High-Rise's* interest as a film comes is the way in which the clash plays out. Violence quickly erupts, naturally, at a party held by the lower floors when an intrusion is made by a henchman of the uppers, but immediately after this the moral conduct of both parties decays exponentially; a short montage of increasingly disgruntled neighbours suddenly debilitates into people screaming and running past fires in a corridor halfway through the film, and we're suddenly in a documentary about tribal warfare – one curiously under-stocked with actual wilderness and over-stocked with jewellery, suits, and ties.

The descent is a fast and jarring one; I wonder perhaps too fast, but then again that may have been director Ben Wheatley's intended effect – I imagine societal spirals into madness have a way of

sneaking up on you, as many things seem to in this busy world. One of the strongest and funniest aspects of the film is that it manages to maintain its sense of 'Britishness' come rain or shine, even at its most jaw-dropping. A frontrunner for the movie's best scene depicts Laing in an extended, brutal wrestling match with a fellow supermarket patron over the last tin of royal blue on the shelf, which ends with him hurriedly rising, dusting himself off, and in an exasperated, apologetic tone explaining to his victim: "It's my paint".

I find it very easy a lot of the time to take the piss out of Tom Hiddleston for the overly-captivating villainous/anti-heroic Brit niche he's carved for himself in the film industry, but to his massive credit, I have never seen him fail to rise to the occasion with a good performance. *High-Rise* is certainly no exception – he has a magnetism to him that sucks you in right from the off, and as the chaos unfolds around him, the nuance he brings to the character of Dr. Laing makes

you wonder if he's the victim of his circumstance or if he was in fact as mad as the other residents all along, just waiting for the opportunity to spread his wings. He meets his match in the form of Luke Evans – one of the most underrated screen presences working in mainstream cinema today – as Richard Wilder, the hot-headed filmmaker turned revolutionary who spearheads the rioting of the lower floors. Sienna Miller also turns in a strong performance as the sultry, apparently all-knowing Charlotte Melville.

The film may not quite meet the high standard set by its source material (the J.G. Ballard novel of the same name), but *High-Rise* offers a riotously anarchic, kaleidoscopic look at the depths of depravity human society can sink into if unchecked. Wheatley doesn't set himself an easy task, attempting to replicate a novel with one of literature's greatest lesser-known opening lines: the film can't quite beat that double-take feeling when you first read, "Later, as he sat on his balcony eating the dog..."



## The Witch



*Dir.* Robert Eggers. *Script.* Robert Eggers. *Starring:* Anya Taylor-Joy, Ralph Ineson, Kate Dickie. *93 minutes.*

**T**he concept of the witch is an ancient one. Present since time immemorial, examples of witchcraft can be found all across the globe, from the Maori people's belief in *makutu*, to the *kitsune-tsukai* of Japan. Even today, witches play a prominent role in society: just look at the phrase 'Ditch the Witch', used a few years ago by supporters of Tony Abbott against the then-incumbent Australian PM Julia Gillard. The witch has come to stand for a fear of female agency and power, and nowhere is this more apparent than in Robert Eggers' directorial debut, *The Witch*, a slow-burning horror that creeps into your subconscious like tendrils of mist.

We begin with the excommunication of a family in New England, half a century before the infamous Salem witch trials. Leaving the commonwealth, they must strike out on their own in an inhospitable state of nature, finding a plot adjacent to a thick forest upon which they can found a new society. Things only go downhill from here. The eldest daughter of the clan, Thomasin (Anya Taylor-Joy), is watching her baby brother Samuel, when he vanishes before her very eyes. As time goes on, despite her mother Katherine's (Kate Dickie) repeated cries to God,

the crops begin to fail, their goats start expressing blood instead of milk, and eldest son Caleb is cursed. Faced with this brutal barrage of calculated misfortune from the outside the family turns inward, on Thomasin, whose burgeoning sensuality represents a threat to the security of the community.

Building on years of painstaking research, *The Witch* is nothing if not authentic. With moon and candlelight often being the only source of illumination, the entire film is drenched in an oppressive darkness, highlighting the dichotomous beauty and power of the natural world. Most of the dialogue, we are told, is lifted verbatim from recordings of the era. This, combined with the excellent Yorkshire accents from the cast, call to mind the power of Clio Barnard's debut feature, *The Arbor*, which shares the haunting sense of the dead being brought back to life. The cast are excellent throughout: Taylor-Joy provides the right notes of vulnerability, as she treads the tightrope from girl to woman; and Ralph Ineson is ferocious as patriarch William, his deep voice making it sound like he's being chewing gravel. But top prize goes to Dickie, her Katherine is a woman struggling with the weight of the world, but refuses to break, all sinew and tension and deep grief.

Completely unreliant on jump-scares, Eggers' film is a cut above other horrors, and its impression lingers long after the credits roll. While the introduction of an actual witch early on in the film may be seen by some as putting the horse before the cart, Eggers' decision actually works in his favour. It

allows us to focus on the real enemy: man himself, and the psychological paranoia that comes when faced with the barbarity of the natural world. Having made a break with nature man can never truly return to it, creating a delicious tension at the heart of *The Witch*. The real witches, it begins to dawn, were inside of us all along.

FRED FYLES

## The Ones Below



*Dir.* David Farr. *Script.* David Farr. *Starring:* Clémence Poésy, David Morrissey, Laura Birn, Stephen Campbell Moore. *87 minutes.*

In London, it's rare to properly know your neighbours. And with the release of *The Ones Below*, it seems one has even less of a reason to pop round for tea and biscuits.

Kate (Clémence Poésy) and Jon (David Morrissey) are a settled couple, expectant with their first child, living in a spacious apartment in a London terrace. Their downstairs flat, following the death of its owner, is taken over by Justin (Stephen Campbell Moore) and Teresa (Laura Birn), another couple, who are also expecting. Kate and Jon invite the other couple over for dinner, but as the evening progresses, tensions build in the apartment, culminating in a tragic incident that kick-starts a wave of psychological torture for Kate. What follows is a chilling game of cat-and-mouse, one that reveals the mental isolation that can be faced by a new mother, and critiques a system that treats

# The Ones Below is Polanski-lite for millenials

women as hysterical.

And yet perhaps this film is better read as an exploration of class differences, and how the economic can spill over into the personal. Kate and Jon are icons of millennial modernity, their flat all artfully stripped down wooden flooring. In contrast, the flat below is all shiny surfaces and primary colours. At times, this spills over into heavy-handedness, such as when Kate looks out of the window of her dull flat to see Teresa lounging in the sun-dappled, John Waters-esque garden, like a plasticky extra in a pop video. But director David Farr throws in subtler hints along the way: Kate works at the V&A, while Justin's investments mean Teresa never needs to work again; the age-difference between the downstairs couple creates a palpable note of suspicion with Kate and Jon; and Teresa's gift of a gender-colour-coordinated sailor's outfit for the baby clashes with Kate's penchant for muted tones. In short, the tension between the two couples may be a result, not of any psychological disturbance, but from the tensions of the class system.

At least, that's my take on it, and lord knows this film needs it, otherwise it's nothing more than an adequate re-tread of innumerable paranoia-dramas, namely Polanski's *Rosemary's Baby*. There are tropes in *The Ones Below* that have become deeply ingrained in the thriller genre – you can see them coming a mile off – and it would have been much more effective if the film avoided them full-stop. We end with a conclusion that leaves no doubt about what happened in the viewer's mind, erasing any semblance of ambiguity created in the preceding 80 minutes. Those looking for a fresh take on the topic of female hysteria should look elsewhere. *The Ones Below* is a competently directed take on a well-trodden topic; a Polanski for the hipster generation.

FRED FYLES

# The top three Murder Mysteries that aren't Rear Window

**O**k, so the original plan for this week was to put together an election-themed section. Maybe 'best films featuring presidents' or 'best political dramas'? The truth of it is that I'm a bit election'd out right now... Either that or I couldn't find anything on Google other than *Lincoln*. You know what's more exciting than student elections though? Murder. Hitchcock's *Rear Window* may be the best but it's not the be-all-and-end-all:

## Memento (2000)

Christopher Nolan's breakout feature *Memento* still stands up today as one of the most intelligent and intricate films ever. It focuses on Leonard Shelby, a man who is hunting for his wife's murderer. What's unique is that Leonard can only form short term memories. Because of this, *Memento* is told backwards, with X minutes of his life being told followed by a skip back in time. Makes sense? No? I swear it's not as hard as it sounds.

## Se7en (1995)

*Seven* (or '*Se7en*' as it sometimes weirdly stylised) is easily one of the most critically acclaimed films in the genre. A modern-day classic, *Seven* tells the story of the hunt for a serial killer who uses the seven deadly sins as his modus operandi. There are endless twists and turns as well as stellar performances by Morgan Freeman, Brad Pitt and, in particular, Kevin Spacey.

## Who Framed Roger Rabbit? (1988)

Don't even challenge me on this. *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* is a flawless, loving spoof of the noir genre. Bob Haskins is a perfect leading man and had the incredibly hard job of interacting with characters who weren't actually there. This is something which also made the film quite revolutionary. Also, was I the only person scarred by 'the Toon' as a kid? I doubt I could sit through the ending even now.

BEN COLLIER



Anya Taylor-Joy as Thomasin, in the excellently eerie debut from David Eggers, *The Witch*. Photo Credit: The Witch PR

FRED FYLES



# FELIX FILM



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## Anomalisa



★★★★★

*Dir.* Charlie Kaufman, Duke Johnson. *Script.* Charlie Kaufman. *Starring.* David Thewlis, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Tom Noonan. 90 minutes.

**A**nomalisa begins with a single voice. Or maybe single voices. Multiple copies of Tom Noonan's voice pile up over a blank screen, creating a wall of unintelligible sound. It's a panoply of voices. A cacophony of voices. An oppression of voices.

This is what life is like for Michael Stone (David Thewlis), a customer service guru in Cincinnati for a convention, whose inescapable ennui has rendered everyone around him – his wife, his child, his ex-girlfriend – indistinguishable, speaking in the same bland voice, and wearing the same mask-like face. We follow Michael as he looks up an old flame, tries to buy a toy for his son, and has a potentially life-changing encounter with Lisa (Jennifer Jason Leigh), the only person in this nightmare with a unique voice. *Anomalisa*

*Anomalisa* is an exploration of what it means to be human

conducts itself through a detailed examination of the wonderful minutiae of the everyday; these experiences – ordering room service, walking along dark streets – are the ones that truly form us, influencing the direction of our lives.

Directors Charlie Kaufman and Duke Johnson opted for an unorthodox animation method, making use of stop-motion techniques with 3D-printed models. The result is a sense of unease that initially leaves you in the lurch; characters' faces have splits along the middle, giving

everyone the sense they are wearing wire-frame glasses, and their skin gives an impression of softness, like the downy surface of a peach. Much of the focus of 3D printing has been on its possible impacts on weapons manufacture, or heavy industry, but what about how it can print off an expression of longing? Or capture the nuances of a forced grin?

This style, along with the omnipresence of Noonan's voice, sits like a heavy weight, making for uneasy watching at first. However, as the story progresses we no longer notice it, engrossed in the unfolding tale of tenderness playing out in front of us. And then it's brought to our attention again, and suddenly the whole set-up makes sense. It's a magical moment, one that expands the powers of cinema. To speak more of it would be to lessen its impact.

While *Anomalisa* may seem like a classic tale of short-lived intimacy, a romance that falls away as the sun comes up, the actual film is a much stranger, off-putting beast. Kaufman and Johnson do not try and make things enjoyable for the viewer, putting us through Stone's agonisingly awkward encounters, making palpable the unbridgeable gap between himself and others.

The hotel room becomes an emblem of modern life's alienation

Anyone who has touched down late at night knows the feeling made clear in *Anomalisa*, which by and large takes place in neutral spaces: the back of a taxi cab; the arrivals area of an airport; the faceless hotel room, stacked up with innumerable other identical cubes in the Fregoli Hotel (Fregoli Delusion: a psychiatric disorder characterised by a belief that multiple people are the same person in disguise). A hotel room is another world, a beige world, one where – if only for a night – you can

be someone else, somewhere else. It's an anomaly, a break-point with your old life, from which you came and to which you will return. It can be the loneliest place in the world.

Kaufman and Johnson make coherent this myriad of impressions. The room becomes an emblem for the alienation of Stone, who is really, above all, simply tired. Thewlis imbues his northern lilt with a lethargic quality, one that only lifts when he meets Lisa. Jason Leigh is, similarly, stellar, with her quiet, strained delivery of Cyndi Lauper's 'Girls Just Wanna Have Fun' becoming one of the emotional centre-points of the film.

There are links to *Lost in Translation* here, but for me, the closest link is to the work of the late Satoshi Kon, particularly his 2006 film *Paprika*, which shared *Anomalisa's* beguiling sense of stepping into a waking dream, crafting a world that is simultaneously familiar and unapproachable. A sterling piece of work from Kaufman and Johnson, *Anomalisa* is a modern marvel, an exploration of what it means to be human. It's not about how we feel love, or how we feel pain. *Anomalisa* is really just about how we feel.

FRED FYLES

## Documentary corner: *Senna*

Ben Collier  
Film Writer

**M**y fool-proof method for determining whether a biopic is good or not is as follows: if I go in with no knowledge/interest in its subject matter, and 1) understand what's going on the whole time, and; 2) become genuinely invested in its subject matter, then it passes. *Senna* was the first majorly successful documentary film produced by the quintessential British studio Working Title, best known for rom coms such as *Love Actually* and *Notting Hill*. Looking into it, it's clear that the film was made as a passion project courtesy of Working Title founder, producer, and massive F1 buff Tim Bevan. This passion is contagious. The story told here is that of Ayrton Senna, the three-time Formula One world champion who died tragically in a crash at the young age of 34. This tragically premature death, televised



Ayrton Senna relaxes after a race.. Photo Credit: Senna PR

to 300 million people, deeply shook the world of F1. The main things explored include a cataloguing of Senna's rise to success, the importance of his icon-status in his native Brazil, and his rivalry with

former partner Alain Prost.

It's hard to describe what makes this film work so well. The repeated use of home and amateur footage perhaps goes some way to helping though, a feature carried over by

director Asif Kapadia in his recent Oscar-winner *Amy*. The use of such footage gives a more intimate experience, allowing the viewer to form closer connections to the people documented, and become

invested in their story. The avoidance of 'talking head' interviews is also something which I feel adds to its uniqueness. But ultimately it's the editing, stellar soundtrack, and flawless pacing which make *Senna* such an incredible film to watch.

The rivalry that Senna had with former teammate Prost is also brilliantly complex. The two men are very well portrayed, and one really gets to know their individual characters and motivations – Kapadia was extremely lucky to have such an engrossing story on which to base his biography. One of the weaker points of the documentary, however, comes from the exploration of some of the sport's politics. This is not to say that these sections are poorly done, it's just that, as someone who is not a fan of the sport, these sections didn't fascinate me as much. Nevertheless, *Senna* is a masterclass on how to put together an engrossing, emotive and informative biopic. I might even watch the new F1 season now, who knows.





# Grimes electrifies at Brixton

Fred Fyles  
Film Editor

Before **Grimes** bursts onto stage at the Brixton Academy, there's a sense that she's compensating for something: we would usually expect the venue to be playing the usual warm-up mix of inoffensive R&B and indie pop – the standard fare for off-piste artists like Grimes, who straddle populism and experimentalism – but tonight they've opted for a succession of classical string pieces. There's something deliberate about it. Following the release of her breakout third LP, *Visions*, which catapulted her onto the world stage, Grimes was subject to oppressive amounts of scrutiny, from professionals and public alike; in a since-deleted tumblr post, she hit back: "I'm tired of men who aren't professional or even accomplished musicians continually offering to 'help me out' (without being asked), as if I did this by accident", she wrote, "I'm tired of being considered rapid for liking pop music."

So perhaps the strings are a means of Grimes asserting herself before she's even glimpsed; it's a reflection of her magpie-esque approach to music, with a range of tastes encompassing both **Mariah Carey** and **Stravinsky**, without feeling the need to posit them as polar opposites. The message Grimes seems to be sending out tonight is clear: she's done being patronised, it's time to break out into her own

sonic sphere.

And what a sphere it is: ebullient with optimism, Grimes channelled her energy into her recent LP, *Art Angels*, an album that manages to be dizzyingly complex and off-piste, but still has killer hooks, perfect for screaming along to. A majority of the songs have been adapted for the live performance, adding to their intensity: *Art Angels* highlight 'Flesh Without Blood' ends with a drum machine breakdown, going out with a bang; 'Venus Fly', her duet with **Janelle Monáe**, is ratcheted up to the nth degree, dragging contrasting

The  
overwhelming  
energy of  
the songs  
collapses  
into a general  
cacophony

sections apart, and allowing the build-up to ricochet into a ground-shattering climax; and she opts for the album version of 'Realiti' over the previously released demo, featuring heavier basslines and drums with more kick – fans may have complained about the new version online, but those ensconced by the warm bath of sound in



Ribbon ninjas! Photo Credit: Cale Tilford

Brixton are lapping it up.

At her last London gig, way back in 2012, my friend said that watching Grimes was like "watching an infant play with Fisher-Price toys". Uncharitable, perhaps, but there is a modicum of truth in it: like all artists heavily reliant on computers and synthesisers, it is difficult for Grimes to do much more than sway in the centre of the stage, surrounded by a myriad of flashing buttons and knobs. But she's come a long way since then, bringing along two ninja-like dancers, who twirl ribbons and at one point switch to pairs of sharp blades, accentuating the music. In a nice touch, backing vocals are provided by the support act **HANA**, an American artist whose music is well produced, but a tad familiar, resembling a smoothed over version of **Purity Ring**, or a less upbeat **Chvrches**; like Grimes, she uses a high register, and at points in the gig their voices become indistinguishable. Despite having to repeatedly leap back to her central command station of laptops and keyboards, Grimes manages to spend most of the gig prowling around the stage, jumping and caterwauling like an escaped hyena in an astonishing display of vigour.

However, such action can only be maintained for so long, and at points the overwhelming energy of the songs collapses into a general cacophony; this is not at all helped by the dodgy sound mixing, which elevates the bass above all other sounds in the room, resulting too often in a sludgy mess. Taiwanese

rapper **Aristophanes** isn't available to perform her part on 'Scream', so Grimes takes over, offering to rap in Russian; unfortunately, what had been pinpointed Mandarin bars on the album, spat out like poison darts, becomes completely indecipherable – a clutter of shouting and wailing.

Since *Visions*, made on a copy of Apple's GargeBand, Grimes has relentlessly expanded her musical vocabulary, teaching herself the guitar, ukulele, drums, and violin in preparation for *Art Angels*' precisely-produced tidal wave of sound. With this vast armoury, she has begun the process of rearranging the songs

She's riding  
a wave of  
dynamism,  
buoyed on by  
the audience

from *Visions*, allowing them to fit in better with her new direction. But all translators are traitors, and by trying to fit the minimalist structures of her earlier songs around the framework of her newer stuff, she stretches the material too thin. Songs like 'Be a Body' and 'Symphonia IX (My Wait is U)' have been distorted beyond belief, their bass-lines subsuming Grimes' vocals, which have dropped an octave or two. The magic of these songs was their intimacy: Grimes,

alone in her bedroom, was reaching out across the sonic divide to each individual listener. Reinterpreting the songs for the Brixton audience, however, has robbed them of this magical power.

But there are gems here too: Grimes has had the good sense to not mess with the classics too much. 'Genesis' and 'Oblivion', the two most popular tracks from *Visions*, have been preserved pretty much intact, much to the delight of the cheering audience. In her scatter-brained, eclectically chatty manner, she tells the audience that she doesn't like the process of going off and back on for an encore, and will just play it straight away instead. In her last song, 'Kill V Maim', the heady bass proves no match for the electrified audience, chanting away with the evil-cheerleader style chorus, and the gig ends on a triumphant note.

The concert at Brixton seems to mark Grimes out as being at a junction: the gap between the impressionistic subtleties of *Visions*, and the bombastic maximalism of *Art Angels* is a difficult one to straddle. When things all come together, it's like she's riding a wave of dynamism, buoyed on by the audience; but the dodgy sound mixing, and the insistence on contorting old material to fit her present sound does her no favours. Brixton was a statement of intent: Grimes has moved on from her old material, and is ready to set off on a new bombastic course. Who knows what the destination will be; but the journey will sure be interesting.



Claire Boucher and her crew. Photo Credit: Cale Tilford





# The future of Netflix



Whoops, something went wrong...

Proxy Detected

You seem to be using an unblocker or proxy. Please turn off any of these services and try again. For more help, visit [netflix.com/proxy](https://netflix.com/proxy)

Well S@%\$! That's my evening ruined. Photo Credit: Netflix

Harry Wilkinson  
Writer

Netflix recently has rolled out measures to ban people from using proxies to access their service. What this means for the service's customers is that you are effectively confined to watching what is available in your own country. This is an issue for subscribers basically anywhere except the US where the catalogue of available material is vastly superior. It remains to be seen, however, whether this was the right decision for them. Immediately after the announcement, there was the expected internet outrage with people saying this move was ludicrous and that they would be cancelling their subscriptions. This, of course, quickly subsided. But the issue at the heart of the dissent remains; is it still worth having a Netflix subscription?

Netflix topped the end of 2015 with almost 75 million subscribers, dwarfing its rivals, Amazon Prime and Hulu Plus. One could easily, however, expect a drop in subscriptions after effectively

offering less for every customer. This move came as the result of increasing pressure from the traditional TV companies (mainly in the US) that have been trying to

It could be that we are reaching the end of a golden age on television streaming

stifle Netflix's growing popularity by restricting its access to many of their shows. HBO has notably been doing this, now offering its own streaming service HBOGo in direct competition. However, it remains only available in the US, opting to instead sell their library of shows to international broadcasters: to Sky in the case of the UK. There is also the

to this has been to funnel huge amounts of money into their original programming, with their Chief Content Officer Ted Sarandos claiming that they're "releasing more shows in the next quarter than many networks will in a whole year". 2015 saw their first foray into feature length films, with *Beasts of No Nation* and Adam Sandler's *Ridiculous 6* as well as going into more traditional, family

This growing library of originals will be vital to their success

friendly content with the sitcom *Fuller House*. Alongside this, their returning shows like *House of Cards* and *Orange is the New Black* remain huge pop culture phenomena. Their documentary series *Making a Murderer* spawned the biggest crop of armchair detectives since the OJ Simpson trial and they've managed

to finesse their way into the Marvel Cinematic Universe with the critically acclaimed *Daredevil* and *Jessica Jones*, with at least three more related series to follow in the next few years. It is clear that, as the only shows guaranteed to be available worldwide on their service, this growing library of originals will be vital to their success going forward. It is therefore likely no coincidence that the proxy blocking came in so close to the release of season four of *House of Cards* and season two of *Daredevil*.

While the range of content in the UK catalogue is by no means lacking, there are some glaring omissions when comparing to the American catalogue. Notably among them, *Friends*, which arrived last year in its entirety with great fanfare. There is also a huge deficit and lack of consistency in available films with confusing and frustrating choices like *Kill Bill Volume 2* being available but *Volume 1* not. Despite all this, it is my opinion that Netflix still offers enough to justify the £5.99 a month subscription and those savvy enough are likely to still be able to find a proxy that will allow them to watch anything they like.



Netflix; now making original films as well! Photo Credit: Netflix

Interested in writing for TV?  
Email us at [tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk)



# Cartoon Corner: Spectacular Spider-Man

Saad Ahmed  
Television Editor

Airing for only two seasons, *The Spectacular Spider-Man* animated series is one of the numerous shows cancelled before its time. With characterisation true to the spirit of the comics, intelligent storytelling, and superb action, this is one of the greatest portrayals of everyone's favorite wall-crawling superhero and the strongest in any medium outside of comic books. This is the type of series that proves both the strength of the character of Spider-Man and the unique strengths of animated series in the realm of superheroes.

Created by Greg Weisman and Victor Cook, this is a series that nails what's special about Spider-Man and his world. As a whole, *The Spectacular Spider-Man* draws its influences from the early comics. This was when the hero was introduced and focused heavily on his time as a student balancing relationships, school life, and being a hero. Voiced here by Josh Keaton, Peter really feels like the character has jumped straight from the comics and is swinging across your screen in animated form. He has all of his strengths, weaknesses, charm, and depth, which makes him an endearing character to all viewers.

The lasting appeal of Spider-Man is based upon the character's

relatability and inspirational qualities. Peter Parker has ups and downs in his personal, professional, and superhero lives, with many of his struggles based in the same issues that affect his viewers and readers. At the same time, he's still a good person, trying desperately to live up to the ideals set by his late uncle.

This is one of the greatest portrayals of everyone's favorite wall-crawling superhero

All of those elements are alive and well here in *The Spectacular Spider-Man*. The team behind the show not only crafts compelling stories in both the superhero and personal sides of Peter's life, but also combines them to make a cohesive narrative that excites and even frustrates in the best ways. As a result, this makes the series engaging and entertaining, with nothing ever feeling dull or superfluous. Everything is very well

balanced, which allows for a far more thorough exploration of the character and his supporting cast.

Despite dealing with his early days, the show wastes no time in telling an origin story everyone knows. Instead, the series leaps into action with Peter already patrolling New York as the Wall-Crawler and then introduces his villains one by one. All the characters, from villains like Doctor Octopus, to supporting characters like Mary-Jane Watson are given time to shine and for us to learn what makes them tick. Despite the large supporting cast, each character is used in some shape or form in a way that's relevant to the story.

While the episodes are for the most part stand-alone, they are structured into small story arcs which all make up a larger season-long narrative. The sense of continuity is used well and in a way that's fun and rewarding when watching from beginning to end. There's enough tweaks to the standard tropes to keep the audience surprised as well. The plotline often moves in a completely different direction, keeping you on your toes and not making any 'jump the shark' moments. All of this is done in a way that's consistently fresh and filled with energy, sincerity, and a sense of fun.

Using a simplistic art style for the series, *The Spectacular Spider-Man* has a more youthful feel to it that may take a while to get used to. However, this helps to differentiate



A hero's work is never done. Photo Credit: The CW

the series and highlights the heightened and comic book-inspired nature of the show. The use of bright colors and more cartoonish features for characters helps images to pop off the screen in a dynamic and exciting manner. In addition,

Each villain tests Spider-Man in different ways, making for unique and varied action scenes

tons of awesome fights fill the series, with Spidey's iconic wit, speed, and strength on display during his many battles. Each villain tests Spider-Man in different ways, making for unique and varied action scenes.

As the show goes on, it plays with its formula more and more. An example is an episode juxtaposed with Shakespearean recitals whose content reflected the main story of *Venom's* return. These breaks from standard formulas always worked spectacularly and helped distinguish it from the several straightforward superhero series before and after it. It has the type of smart storytelling and commitment to a style that puts it on par with the likes of the best superhero series like *Batman TAS*. It's a damn shame the series got cancelled when it did, but the frustration is well worth the 26 episodes we got. *The Spectacular Spider-Man* is simply the quintessential show for any fans (or potential ones) of the character.

*The Spectacular Spider-Man* is available on Amazon Prime



Well that's my secret identity blown. Photo Credit: The CW





# USB Nightmare!

Losing your data could be a horror story. Avoid storing information on USB drives and external hard drives as they can be lost, stolen or infected by viruses.

## What to do:

- Use College's recommended file storage to save information (H: drive, group space, OneDrive for Business)
- If you must use a USB device, encrypt it and make sure it's not your only copy
- Never plug in USB devices from unknown sources

It's everyone's responsibility to be secure. For storage options and encryption advice visit [www.imperial.ac.uk/be-secure](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/be-secure)



# FELIX CLUBS & SOCS



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## Imperial College String Ensemble

ICSE fills us in on their weekend away

**W**e all know that feeling. The moment of closure as something wonderful comes to an end. You look back and realise that it will stay with you for many years to come, as a glowing memory in your life. This year's weekend away has been one of those moments for us!

On the Friday evening a group of tired Imperial students gathered around a blue minibus, chatting amiably, with a quiet buzz of excitement permeating the air.

Waking up bright and early on Saturday at 8.30, breakfast was an assortment of brioche, croissants, muesli, fruit yoghurt and the various permutations there-of. Whilst every one broke their fast Sophie began, what would become, her famous 'Sing Along with Sophie' routine, consisting of a series of repetitive, catchy tunes that were designed to irritate you for weeks to come.

Once we were all suitably warmed up we dived straight into Sea Sketches by Grace Williams. Honestly, this is an incredible piece and unmissable for any fans of program music out there. It was composed by a woman (sadly a rarity among famous composers) from Wales in 1944 for string orchestra.

Every club or society has that

weird game they play like 'the pairs game' or the 'peg' game. Well, ICSE kicked off the incomparable 'which vegetable am I' game. Players would pose as they depicted a vegetable using only their body, and

The moment of closure as something wonderful comes to an end

particularly, their facial expression. Results were mixed but Samuel's celery was especially admirable!

As the full light of Sunday bloomed, ICSE members struggled out of sleeping bags and into breakfast. This time a more subdued affair, albeit with the singing entirely intact.



A very happy ensemble on a very successful trip! Photo Credit: Jonathan Rawlinson

Arriving at the church we were pleased to find it both heated AND with toilets, which was a marked improvement on the year before. The concert as a whole was very well played with solid performances in both the Sea Sketches and the Brandenburg, so well in fact that we did an encore of Sailing song from the Sea Sketches; the last of the

three we performed.

Pulling into the union around 6-7pm we unloaded, unpacked, parked the bus and decided it was time to go home. Right proper job all round. The weekend was over, and as we contemplated the week ahead, we could feel that this had been a time we would remember for years to come and look back on with

great fondness and affection. Thank you ICSE for making this possible.

If you are interested in coming and listening to ICSE, all FELIX readers are very welcome to come to our Spring concert on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of March at 19:30 in Holy Trinity Church, South Kensington. We hope to see you there!

**JONATHAN RAWLINSON**

## Ending term on a high note (or several!)

It's officially performance season again for the arts societies at Imperial

**A**fter the all round success seen at ArtsFest last term for the Arts societies Imperial has seen them come roaring back to life for a series of incredible Easter term concerts. ICSM Drama put on a wonderful performance of Midsummer Night's dream in the Union Concert Hall last week with snazzy costumes, set and performances. The PhotoSoc exhibition has been up in the Blythe gallery since the launch last week and it's pretty incredible. The free wine and cheese at the launch was also pretty incredible, if we're being completely honest.

As we've already seen in FELIX C&S, there's the Dance Imperial

It's going to be a big weekend of big talent!

show coming up this weekend (17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> March) which is set

to be a phenomenal six dance society collaboration. Also on this weekend we have the ICSE concert (mentioned above), Imperial's Got Talent (20<sup>th</sup> March, Great Hall), and IC DramSoc's Big Fellah (20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> March, MR3). It's going to be a big weekend of big talent!

Also coming up soon is the Imperial College Chamber Choir concert 'Sacré et Profane' in the Holy Trinity Church (22<sup>nd</sup> March) and ICSM Light Opera's 24 (30<sup>th</sup> April) where the cast start learning a musical and perform it only 24 hours after being told what it is!

**ABIGAIL DE BRUIN**



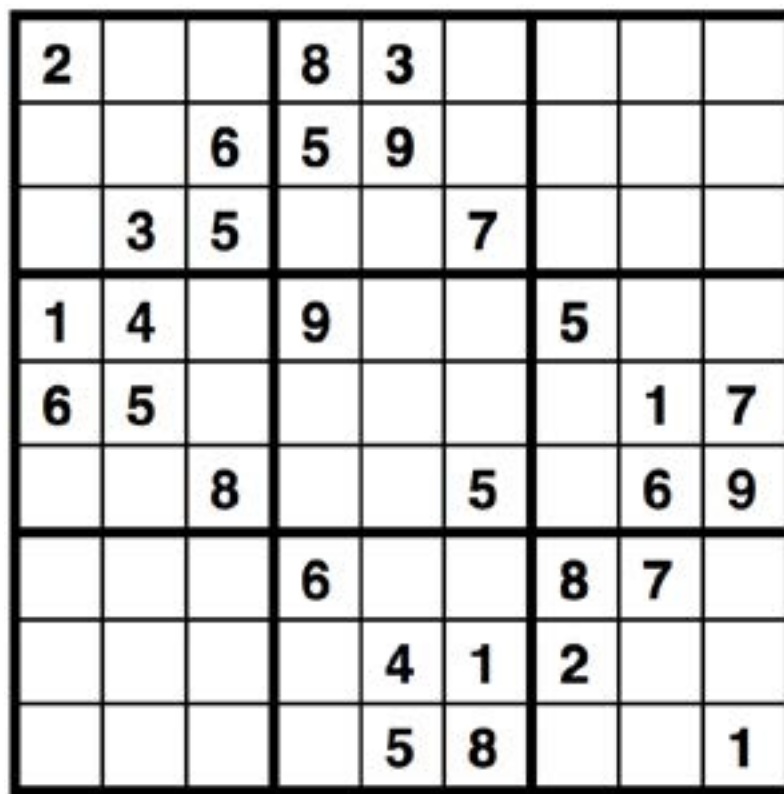
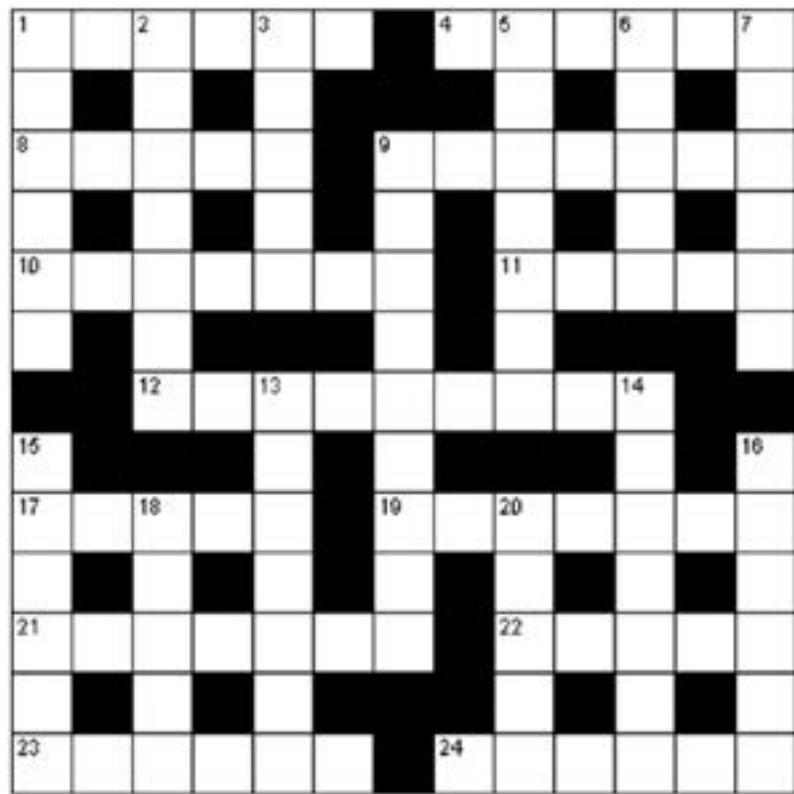
The PhotoSoc Exhibition up in Blyth currently Photo Credit: Abigail de Bruin



# FELIX PUZZLES



fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



## FUCWIT

### Solo Efforts

1 <sup>st</sup>	Cherry Kwok	278
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nicholas Sim	271
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Greg Poyser	80
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ayojedi	70
5 <sup>th</sup>	King Lam Kwan	31
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sunny Amrat	30
7 <sup>th</sup>	David Fengchu Zhang	14
8 <sup>th</sup>	Grace Chin	13.5
=9 <sup>th</sup>	Jan Xu	13
=9 <sup>th</sup>	Sach Patel	13
11 <sup>th</sup>	Harry Secrett	10
12 <sup>th</sup>	Joshua Wan	8
13 <sup>th</sup>	Qiaoqiao Fu	6
14 <sup>th</sup>	Jamie Field	4
15 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremy Ong	3
16 <sup>th</sup>	Megha Agrawal	2

### Groups

1 <sup>st</sup>	Pufuletz	118
2 <sup>nd</sup>	CP Fanclub	111
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gap Yahhhh	58.5
4 <sup>th</sup>	The Gravitons	15
5 <sup>th</sup>	Parmesan	9.5

### Points Available 15

Crossword	4
Sudoku	3
Chess	4
Codeword	4

## Solutions

Word Wheel: 'Spaghetti'

Riddles: Chicken, Cabbage, Penguin and River

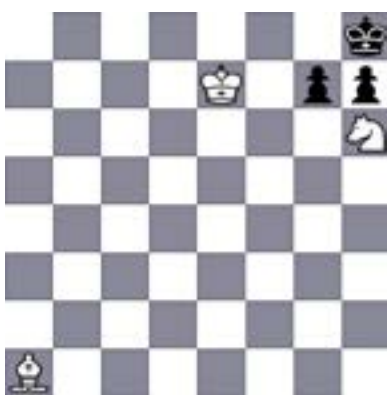


### Across

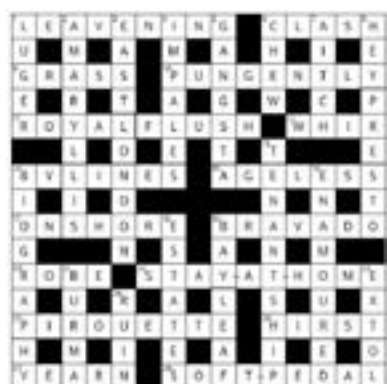
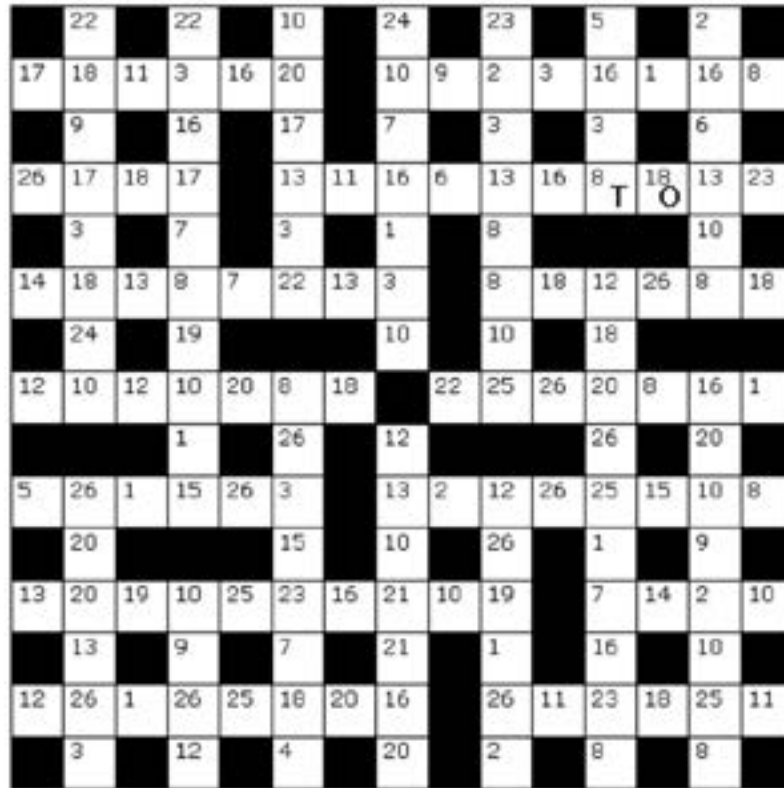
- 1 See and don't stop (4,2)
- 4 Coders (anag.) (6)
- 8 Horrifying or sensational (5)
- 9 Self-centredness (7)
- 10 Nearest (7)
- 11 Notions (5)
- 12 Fell asleep (6,3)
- 17 Tall border plant (5)
- 19 Beseech (7)
- 21 Music-hall entertainment (7)
- 22 Compositions for two performers (5)
- 23 Feel bitter about (6)
- 24 Explosions (6)

### Down

- 1 Royal residence (6)
- 2 Cut of beef (7)
- 3 Move (5)
- 5 Spanish sausage (7)
- 6 Elevate (5)
- 7 Cloth with a pattern woven into it (6)
- 9 Furthest point (9)
- 13 Underground cell (7)
- 14 Blooms (7)
- 15 Lionel Bart musical (6)
- 16 Official enumeration of a population (6)
- 18 City on the Seine (5)
- 20 Foot-operated lever (5)



White to move, forced checkmate in two





# FELIX HANGMAN



felix@imperial.ac.uk

## NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



WHEN YOU CAN SEE DISABILITY BENEFIT CUTS ON THE HORIZON



CAREERISTS REALISE THEY HAVE ONE MORE YEAR TO GET REAL JOB

## HOROSCOPES



ARIES

This week, in an attempt to win over voters you recruited rap legend Nas of Illmatic fame; however, he wins way more votes than you and subsequently becomes Union President.



TAURUS

This week, you are running for Union President and are asked to appear on a radio show. However, you are too afraid of not living up to the entertainment value provided by this year's candidates and withdraw an hour before you're supposed to go on air.



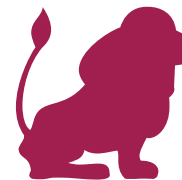
GEMINI

This week, you realise that university is way more work than you had ever anticipated. I mean you haven't even had a Snakebite in two hours.



CANCER

This week, you're one of the air pollution sensor-wearing pigeons, forced to tweet levels of particulates against your will. Your following sky-rockets when you start taking tweeted requests to shit on people, but Mother Earth perishes without the pigeons to save it.



LEO

This week you are glad that the union elections are finally over so that you can get back to masturbating furiously over the blue triangles the union thinks are cool. Mmmm, that sweet tessellation.



VIRGO

This week you find it amazing that so many candidates applied for a Presidential post that receives a £19,000 salary – although to be fair Alice Gast gets paid over £400,000 and she doesn't even have to put up with union council's shit.



LIBRA

This week you are disappointed that Cale did not win FELIX Editor, especially since you invested so heavily in the green leafy vegetable industry. Also Lef hates the horoscopes so don't trust him.



SCORPIO

This week you are dead on the inside from Imperial. All you want to do is gorge on easter eggs and cry about how you hate science and how you're trying to convince yourself that consulting is actually interesting.



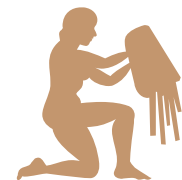
SAGITTARIUS

This week you love how many people applied for President – it just goes to show how well everyone has done this year in encouraging other people to participate in their union, and keep up the excellent work of our current leaders.



CAPRICORN

This week your girlfriend finally takes you back after all the horoscopes jokes about having sex with her mum on the condition you don't mention having sex with her mum. Like those other times, you had dreams about having sex with her mum.



AQUARIUS

This week after Marco Rubio was forced to drop out of the US presidential race, he decides to run for Deputy President (Finance and Services); however, he loses to RON and so decides to do a masters in Science Communication.



PISCES

This week, your Jupiter is ascending your retrograded Mercury. Ouch!



# Union Page

## Student Experience Survey – Phase Two now open!



Last term saw the launch of a new Student Experience Survey at the College. Phase One focused on students' welcome to the College, and Phase Two contains a wide range of questions about your experience of College support services and the Union.

Feedback will be used to shape the College and the Union's services, and your answers will be vital in helping to do so. If you're an Undergraduate student in your penultimate year of study, or second year Postgraduate research students, you will be sent an email inviting you to take the survey which will be open till **Sunday 3 April**.

Further information can be found on Imperial's website [imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/student-survey](http://imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/student-survey).

## The Leadership Elections 2016 - our biggest turnout yet!

Voting closed in the Leadership Elections 2016 last Friday, and we have set a new record for student participation and turnout - not just for Imperial, but for England & Wales. An unbelievable **7,966 students**, 45.47% of our members, took part in the election of Imperial's student leaders for 2016/17. That's **700 more** students than last year, an amazing increase of almost **10% year-on-year**.

The turnout has been incredible; Imperial students are the most democratically vibrant and engaged in the nation. Not only that, a higher percentage of women voted than men for the first time ever and MSc student participation also exploded, from 12.4% in 2014 to an incredible 28.6% this year. You can see all of the results on our website [imperialcollegeunion.org](http://imperialcollegeunion.org)



## Get your personalised graduation gifts

**Find the perfect gift to celebrate your graduation in the Union Shop.**

With our unique range of personalised graduation gifts, you are certain to find a gift that marks this exciting event.

Our partners work directly with you to craft the ideal rings, watches, frames and plaques.

Ask for more details in our shops or go directly to our website [imperialcollegeunion.org/shop](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/shop) to see all of our Graduation gifts and place an order.

shop

[imperialcollegeunion.org/shop](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/shop)







IMPERIAL MEDICALS IMPERIAL COLLEGE

# VarsityFest 2016

*Fixture list*

Time	Activity	Location
10.00	Netball 5th	Outdoor Court 1
10.00	Football Men's 4th	Pitch 3
10.00	Rugby Men's 3rd	Pitch 7
10.00	Basketball Men's	Sports Hall
10.30	Netball 4th	Outdoor Court 2
11.30	Netball 3rd	Outdoor Court 1
11.45	Rugby Men's 2nd	Pitch 2
12.00	Football Men's 3rd	Pitch 4
12.00	Men's Squash	Squash Court
12.00	Basketball Women's	Sports Hall
13.00	Netball 2nd	Outdoor Court 1
13.00	Rugby Women's	Pitch 7
13.30	Football Women's	Pitch 1
14.00	Badminton Men's	Sports Hall
14.00	Badminton Women's	Sports Hall
14.30	Netball 1st	Outdoor Court 1
15.00	Women's Squash	Squash Court
15.00	Football Men's 2nd	Pitch 1
15.00	Rugby Men's 1st	Pitch 2
15.00	Lacrosse Mixed	Lacrosse pitch

Men's 1st

**FOOTBALL**

Kick Off 17.00





## Lacrosse continue season unbeaten

The first team came top of the league

Sophie Bolton  
Writer

Finishing top of the league with a goal difference of 199, the undefeated Imperial Ladies Lacrosse 1<sup>st</sup> team are having a phenomenal season.

This is the first time that we have won the league undefeated.

Our season finished with a 22-2 victory over Royal Holloway in an intense and aggressive match. Highlights from the season include smashing UCL, our biggest rivals, 24-2 and our incredible Fresher, Arianna Guppy, receiving Dick of the Day for every single match.

Our success this year stems from the dedication of the squad to an increased number of training sessions, an amazing new cohort of Freshers who add a new attacking



They're an unstoppable force. Photo Credit: Imperial Lacrosse

element to a historically defensive team, and the most amazing support from the club as a whole, especially from our president David Reed who has led many excursions deep into the bin.

Final year, Ahranee Camden, has been unshakeable this season in goal, only letting in 23 goals in the league. She is an amazing asset to the team and will be sorely missed next season.

Vice Captain Georgie Carson has been an incredible force in the mid-field play and has lead dynamic attacking plays, converting scores of opportunities.

However, the season is not over yet and with the team vying for promotion to the Premiership training never ends. Promotion to the premiership would be a first for Lacrosse, and any new recruits to Med and Nicky's Fan Club would be gratefully received.

## The Imperial March

Alex Warnakulasuriya & Chris Thomas  
Writers

The Cross Country team began the road season in breath-taking style last weekend, storming to victory in the Men's team category at the Salisbury 10 mile. A road race that ranks in stature alongside the likes of the London Marathon, the Tour de France, and the Indy 500; fourteen of Imperial's leanest athletes took to this hallowed start line with the scent of success in their nostrils. With Chris Thomas's infamous bowels suitably cleared, the starting gun heralded the passing of 723 runners over undulating tarmac that ran through exotic Wiltshire countryside.

Team gold was the men's objective, and the team's strategy was perfectly executed. With the top four runners scoring, Chris Thomas and James Ellis paired up at the front with individual silverware in sight, while Matt Douthwaite took Alex

Warnakulasuriya for a run that was metronomically paced by our towering stalwart, Tom Miller. Adam Malagowski, Duncan Ingram, Lewis Jackson, Anil Keshwani and Willy Bonneuil all ran admirably in pursuit in a team performance that embodied the spirit of our club. This is a group that fights equally as hard for collective success as it does for personal bests, and this spirit was reflected in everyone's results.

Local hero Alex Mundell, Leanne Lyons and Antoinette Hardijzer represented the ladies. What they lacked in numbers they made up for in their performances. Alex blew

The team's  
strategy  
was  
perfectly  
executed

the Senior Ladies field to pieces in one hour and eight minutes, coming fifth in her category. Leanne and Antoinette followed home in superb fashion, finishing eighth and thirty-fourth respectively in times that beckon great seasons for both of them. There is great potential for a ladies' team victory in the near future, and our results will surely tempt more members of the Club onto the road, giving us the girls and firepower we need to win the honours we deserve.

The men's victory was secured with an aggregate time of three hours and 48 minutes. All four runners covered the distance in under an hour, putting three minutes between Imperial and Lordshill Road Runners. Chris and James received silverware for their second and fourth place finishes, and the men were awarded a cup sizeable enough to fulfil a number of functions at our next social. Reports of Alex Warnakulasuriya depositing his breakfast several times on the finishing straight are unconfirmed after an epic sprint finish.

Special credit goes to incoming Ladies' Captain Alex Mundell, who managed the team so capably throughout the weekend. This truly was one of the highlights of the athletics calendar. Our rival London

colleges will look upon these results with trepidation, as we continue the Imperial March on the track, for the first round of the LCAS track and field championships this weekend.



Off they go! Photo Credit: IC Cross Country