



FELIX

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London



We tried VR porn so you don't have to

PAGE 10 SEXTION

Double the Hangman, double the fun

PAGE 28 HANGMAN



Sigma cancels Summer Ball appearance

- Contract had already been signed by DJ duo
- The headliner will now be DJ Fresh
- It's understood Sigma were offered a broadcasting opportunity



The DJ duo who were due to play the ICU Summer Ball have cancelled and will be replaced by DJ Fresh. Despite the fact that a contract between the artist and the union had already been signed, Sigma told the union last week that they would not be playing the Summer Ball on the 18th of June, presumably because they've had a better offer.

The union announced the headliner via a video of past summer balls on Thursday the 28th of April. Last week, however, sources close to FELIX learnt that the band had pulled out. This morning, the union managed to secure DJ Fresh instead.

Tickets are already on sale, and students have been buying them at £37.50 a pop under the impression that Sigma was playing for two weeks now. The price will be hiked to £42.50 on the 20th of May.

According to Sigma's Songkick and Seetickets pages, the band haven't ditched us for any festivals. They're playing both the Isle of Wight festival and The Parklife

Weekender in Manchester the weekend before the Summer Ball, but then they have a gap before they play Ibiza rocks on the 24th of June.

Sigma have had two number ones: 'Nobody to love' in 2014, and 'Changing' with Paloma Faith in the same year. The duo met at Leeds University before signing to DJ Fresh's record label in London.

DJ Fresh is most famous for his number ones, 'Louder' and 'Hot Right Now' with Rita Ora, released in 2011 and 2012 respectively.

These days, DJ Fresh's tour schedule is decidedly less packed. He played Aberystwyth University's Summer Ball on Sunday.

DJ Fresh played the Aberystwyth Summer Ball on Sunday

Imperial to spread medic bursaries out across all six years

This comes a year after the survey that said 97% of final year students were in the red

Yesterday it was announced that Imperial's bursaries for medics will be spread out over all six years of study instead of just the first four. This is in a bid to ease the financial hardship that notoriously occurs in the final years of a medical degree.

Currently, medical students can get up to £6000 per year of Imperial bursary, but only during the first four years of their degree. Now, that same amount will be spread over the whole six years. This will mean students get less money per year, but could help them manage their

money better over the first four years, so they are better off in the last two years of study. The change will only affect students starting their studies from this September. Current students will still only get funding over the first four years.

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FELIX EDITORIAL



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FELIX, Beit Quad,
Prince Consort Road,
London SW7 2BB
Tel: 020 7594 8072
Printed by Iliffie Print Cambridge,
Winship Road, Cambridge
Registered Newspaper
ISSN 1040-0711
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A word from the Editor



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What a week it's been friends. I'm really just speaking for me though, because I don't know your life.

This is the time of year when the less organised of us are trying to sort our summers, or indeed the rest of our lives, out. Sometimes whilst doing exams. The last thing you want to think about when you're ploughing into those partial differentiations is what soul-crushing grad scheme or internship you should probably be applying to.

Inevitably, around this time of year, the go-to question for semi-acquaintances when you meet them in the library cafe queue is that of life plans. It's beaten into us that unless we have a week by week breakdown of our August by now, we've somehow failed.

What I've come to realise, having watched people graduate and get

ideal jobs, graduate and bum around a bit and then get okay jobs, and indeed graduate and bum around perpetually while they look for work, is that your first job out of university doesn't have to be *the* job. You are allowed to not have a plan by the last day of term. Hell, you can not have a plan by graduation. You can move back in with your parents, you can take an alright job that you don't love, and that's okay.

'Uokhuns' can be directed to the FELIX Twitter or the email address at the top of this page.

Again, term, and the year are drawing to a close, so if there's anything you want to get off your chest, do just pop one of the section editors or me an email. If you have feelings that you want online for all eternity, we are the only people who can help. Because, come on now, nobody reads your blog. If you're about to leave and have some kind



of big departmental secret to share, my door is always open, unless I'm lying on the floor, Mindy Kaling style, listening to loud Skepta and wondering why I didn't just do a PhD.



**REYNOLDS
BAR**

Launch Event

Friday 13 May
17:30 - 01:00

All students are invited to check out the new and improved Reynolds Bar!

There will be free pizza, refreshing cocktails and a DJ from 20:00.

Go to facebook.com/reynoldsbarcx for more information

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on

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union



Student's political dreams shattered

He obviously wasn't going to win standing for Labour in Kensington

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

An Imperial student with dreams of becoming a councillor was beaten by two Conservative candidates to join Kensington and Chelsea council.

The winners were Sarah Ann Louise Addenbrooke and Anne Barbara Cyron, who gained 1716 and 1470 votes respectively.

The final year physics student did come in at a noble third place though, getting 395 votes; a hundred more than the other Labour candidate.

The vote took place alongside the mayoral and London Assembly elections last Thursday, after the two Conservative council members decided to step down, triggering a by-election.

The Kensington and Chelsea turnout was a sad 46.4%.



Recycling is important too. Photo Credit: FELIX

Medics' Imperial bursaries to be spread out

continued from front page

The financial pressure on fifth and sixth year medics came to light last year in an ICSMSU survey.

It found that 87% of these students had financial concerns, half had a part-time job to support themselves, and one in three said their parents were unable or unwilling to offer financial help.

In the final two years of the degree, medical students' maintenance loans are also reduced, and the future of these payments is unclear.

ICU's Deputy President (Welfare), Jennie Watson, who is also a medic, told FELIX: "These changes will help a huge number of medical students in the future but there is still plenty to be done."

"The Faculty of Medicine and ICSMSU are working on ways to support current students not eligible for the Bursary Spread scheme as they head towards years 5 and 6".

GRACE RAHMAN

First university leaves NUS since new president elected

Lincoln SU has decided to leave after the annual conference left their delegates 'disillusioned'



More universities may leave the NUS after the election of Malia Bouattia. Photo Credit: NUS

Lincoln students have voted to leave the NUS, making them the first to disaffiliate from the nationwide students' union since controversial new leader, Malia Bouattia, was elected last month.

The vote lasted a week but turnout was a measly 12%, with the out camp only winning by 77 votes. Quorum for Lincoln SU referendums is only 10%, so the union can now constitutionally leave the NUS.

Their subscription fees to NUS that year had been in the region of £44,000 plus £11,500 spend on travel, accommodation and attendance at the organisation's conferences. Considering Lincoln's student numbers, their subscription fee was predicted to go up by £5000 for this coming year, and again the year after.

Lincoln's SU President said "the focus of debate within the NUS has been far removed from the issues that our students tell us are important".

They will officially leave on the last day of 2016.

Other universities, including Exeter, York, Bath, Manchester, Oxford and Cambridge have vocal students campaigning for an 'NUS-xit'.

Next year's Imperial College Union Deputy President (Welfare), Emily-Jane Cramphorn, said in her manifesto that she aimed to hold a referendum on re-joining the NUS. So Imperial may well get the opportunity to get back in with the union, despite having left it six times since becoming a founding member in 1922.

GRACE RAHMAN



Newcastle Students Union to sell drug-testing kits

The kits will tell you if your drugs are safe

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

Newcastle university's students union is to sell drug-testing packs to its students – not to test them for drugs – but to test the drugs themselves.

The single use tests require students to use a small amount of their drugs, and a colour comparison chart to give an indication as to what the substances actually contain.

The £7 kits, subsidised to £3 for students, will be available from the students' union.

There are two tests included: one for MDMA and one for ketamine, but they can be used together to get an idea of what other nasties your drugs might contain.

This new policy for Newcastle SU comes a month after a 17 year old died in Manchester after taking a 'Mastercard' ecstasy pill, and the deaths of four people in Shropshire after taking 'Superman' pills last year.



Love hearts, drugs and rock 'n' roll.

Ecstasy, Cocaine and Ketamine can be cut with sugar, rat poison and washing powders, or more seriously, can contain high concentrations of far more dangerous compounds related to main component.

The 'Superman' pills were found to contain high doses of PMMA, which is toxic in far lower doses than ecstasy. The kits being sold in Newcastle can differentiate between these two substances.

The idea has been pushed by the Students for Sensible Drug Policy group at Newcastle, who earlier this year petitioned the university to change its ruling on students found with drugs in halls for the first time.

The £7 kits, subsidised to £3 for students, will be available from the students' union

Instead of an immediate fine and eviction, students found with illegal drugs in university accommodation are now given a second chance, as long as they were not caught doing it again.

EU debate to be held at Imperial

Advocates for both leave and remain campaigns will be represented

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

A debate about Britain's place in the EU is due to take place at Imperial on the 2nd of June. Representatives from both camps will be there to argue over whether we should vote to leave the EU on the 23rd of June.

Speaking for remain is Amelia Womack, the deputy leader of the Green party. An Imperial alumnus, Womack stood for the Greens in several constituencies before being voted deputy leader, making her the youngest of any political party.

Unusually, the advocate for leave

is a staunch socialist: the writer and journalist, Tariq Ali. He was born in Pakistan and became politically active in his teenage years before studying PPE at Oxford. He now

The advocate for leave is staunch socialist: Tariq Ali

contributes to the Guardian and the London Review of Books. He's written several books, including Bush in Babylon, criticising the 2003 invasion of Iraq through the media of poetry and essays.

The event is being organised by ICU's Left Forum, a new group that aims to hold events, campaigns and discussion on politics. The club is currently in the union's 'incubator' period, on the way to becoming an official club. A successful EU debate is likely to work in their favour on the way to becoming an official ICU endorsed club.

The debate is on the 2nd of June in Skempton LT 164. Check the Facebook event for updates on speakers.



The final line-up will be announced soon. Photo Credit: The Big EU Debate



Rent strikes spread across London universities

1000 students across UCL, Roehampton, Goldsmiths and the Courtauld are withholding rent in protest

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

Students from Goldsmiths, Roehampton and the Courtauld Institute have joined UCL in a rent strike, protesting the high fees and low quality housing offered by their universities. It's been estimated that this amounts to about £1 million's worth of lost revenue from all the students combined.

Unsurprisingly, the NUS has fully backed the strikes. The NUS DP of Welfare, Shelly Asquith, said: "If a national rent strike for affordable student housing were to happen, the union would support it 100%."

750 students from UCL did not pay their third term's rent, which was due last Friday. 150 students started the strike in January, and have been joined by hundreds of others thanks to a high profile campaign.

This number now accounts for 15% of UCL students in halls. They are demanding a 40% rent cut.

After an unsuccessful meeting



FELIX does not endorse climbing roofs, even for good causes. Photo Credit: Finbarr Fallon

with their college management, 300 students at Goldsmiths withheld a rent payment last Monday. On average, they pay £150 per week.

Eight students from Roehampton

are understood to be withholding rent, according to the university's accommodation office.

Goldsmiths' Cut the Rent campaign told students in a

Facebook FAQ that withholding rent now would not even risk eviction as "you'll have moved out of halls by the time they could evict you". The Goldsmiths campaign

also warns that their university's threats of fines for late payments would be just that: threats, as there is nothing in their housing contracts about such charges.

The possibility of eviction is real, but universities are unable to threaten students much further than that, as it is illegal to academically penalise for non-tuition fee debts.

From a PR and student welfare angle, evicting students during exam season is not a great option for the universities.

Last year, a successful UCL rent strike resulted in students winning back a term's rent (£1368 each).

UCL have also been accused of neglecting student welfare by cutting all bursaries for low income students. This has only added fuel to the fire of the Cut the Rent campaign.

In a meeting with strikers, UCL's Head of Estates said he didn't take into account low income students when deciding rents, adding that some students "simply could not afford to live in London, and that is just a fact of life".

Reynolds bar re-opens after refurb

Its grand opening happened on Friday

Sharing Cross Hospital's only onsite bar has finally been refurbished by the union, after consultation with students.

Street and hospital signs 'borrowed' from other trusts still hang on the walls, but the bar's logo has become slightly snazzier.

There is no lime green to be seen. The union promised that the new bar's floor is "100% less sticky".

As part of a consultation survey, student opinions on the bar's new look were gathered. The most common suggestion was an old-fashioned pub-like spaces with "booths", "wood" and "leather".

Students seemed to want less plastic furniture and more of a heritage vibe.

With a hospital on one side and a graveyard on the other, the 450 capacity space is a space well-known to medical students as the final destination for many freshers fortnight events. The bar also serves food during the day.

The refurbishment was revealed at an exclusive launch party for BNOCs last Friday, where The Technics performed.

The bar is having an official re-launch tonight (Friday the 13th).



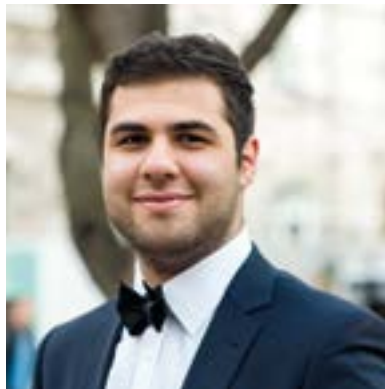
GRACE RAHMAN

A work in progress. Photo Credit: Reynolds



Reflections on the Barbican Estate

The concrete colossus captures the optimism of the architechural era



Hussain Al-Jabir
Writer

Friends of mine will know that I have a great affinity for F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. His timeless exposé of the superficiality of the nouveau riche and the upper classes, examined in cinematic description, is simply breath-taking, with a message that is as pertinent today as in the contemporary era. Though the book is more usually associated with love and materialism, the spectacular and haunting descriptions at the close of the novel shed light on failed aspirations; something which I encountered myself not too long ago.

Before this begins to sound too much like the English essays that Imperial students shunned long ago, I should explain further. I study in St Bart's Hospital, and walking back one day from Waitrose – yes, I was picking up free coffee, and no please don't judge me – I chose to walk through the Barbican Estate, between the tower blocks instead of the tunnel beneath its buildings. I chose the path "less travelled", and just as Robert Frost thought, I believe "that has made all the difference".

I'd never really thought much

about the Barbican Estate before. Located on the fringes of the City, I pass by the concrete tower blocks regularly on my way to the hospital, but usually think of it as little more than a lamentable 1960s relic, an eyesore to regret, not revere. During the war, the City was heavily bombed and mostly destroyed, requiring extensive renovation. Among the unrealised plans of building giant motorways through central London and excavating enormous underground car parks – sensing a theme here? – the Barbican Estate was meant to be the epitome of a new architectural vision, with public courtyards interspersed between 'modern' tower blocks. Gone were the medieval alleyways, the Barbican would feature "streets in the sky", in a utopian fantasy built from state-of-the-art reinforced concrete. Three of the tallest residential towers in London would dominate the skyline, while a moat would conjure images of an ancient castle within the post-modern setting. This was the future in 1970, and the Barbican Centre was its archetype.

Fast-forward forty years and the utopian visions have faded with

the weathering of the concrete façades. "Streets in the sky" turned into corners for crime, while the grandiose fantasies of the public strolling through were replaced by busy commuters rushing through a tunnel built for function, not fascination. No longer a vision of modernity, the Barbican Estate has become a symbol of the short-sightedness of 1960s architecture and many would not object to its demolition.

A utopian fantasy built from state-of-the-art reinforced concrete

Walking as I did on that day, I saw something quite different. Staring at sights, otherwise etched into memory, I saw past my current vision, right back to its soul, which taken literally is the very essence

of its existence. Along the sculpted pathways, you cannot fail to note the sheer scale and scope of the architects' visions. The optimism with which the towers are named after great British authors. The persistence of a small puddle, the only remains of a great moat surrounding this fortress of modernity. And above all, you cannot ignore the sense of hope – the hope that people would walk around the estate, and enjoy it, rather than taking the road tunnel. Looking around, instead of seeing the estate as it is, I saw it just as Fitzgerald's Nick Carraway saw Long Island in *The Great Gatsby*: "A fresh green beast of the new world", with all the hope and optimism of a generation looking forward to peacetime after decades of war. The concrete may be rotting away today, but the blazing passion underlying the centre remains visible for as long as it stands.

All things are transient, and this realisation was no exception. A vision seen for the first time is also that vision seen for the last time. Every time I go to St Bart's hospital, and every time I see the Barbican again, it will still look as it always does – a building of the past, *démodé* to our eyes. For one metaphysical hour, I saw past my own sight, to aspirations long thwarted; if past experience is proof, I shouldn't think I will see that again.



Shafts of light astride weathered concrete columns: The Barbican Estate today. Photo Credit: Michael Shaw



The Bury Your Gays trope needs to die

LGBT fans deserve, and are demanding better from TV networks and producers



Abigail de Bruin
Clubs & Societies Editor

The 100 is a cult teen drama focused on post-apocalyptic America. It has a significant, primarily American following who mobilised quickly following the airing of an episode on the 3rd March to launch an enormous online campaign. During the show, a character is shot as part of the story arc that is directly linked to her finally acting on her feelings and kissing another female character. This exploitation – the 'Bury Your Gays' TV trope – understandably did not sit well with fans of the show, leading to the hashtag #LGBTFansDeserveBetter trending for seven hours, with over 300,000 tweets written immediately after the show aired. The nature of this campaign is that it has long progressed from a complaint about a character being killed off on one show, and is now about challenging the industry for overall representation.

An adult male believed that the way she was loving someone was wrong

Now, obviously characters die in shows. It's incredibly rare that a show could run for a whole series or more without killing a main or recurring character, whether due to contractual issues or a necessary ending to a story arc. That said, LGBT representation on TV has a rocky history, and playing in to harmful and toxic tropes is not a good way to handle a necessary death, so that your actor can leave the show.

A large part of the response from

the network and the show has been to tell us that Lexa, the character that was shot, was not killed off because she was a lesbian. However the fact remains that she died because an adult male believed that the way she was loving someone was wrong. Ignorance of the issue within the industry in which you work, where writing and background research is literally what you are paid for, is absolutely not a valid excuse. If you don't want to engage in the real-world politics of a lesbian character,



This is not worthy of a death sentence. Photo Credit: The 100

then do not write one whose primary emotional arc is whether her love is right or wrong and then kill her for it. If they truly didn't mean to strike a political or personal nerve, they sure fucked up.

Underrepresented groups are continually denied positive portrayals, making it harder to visualize a positive outcome for their own future. When death and despair are the only features of the lives you regularly see for characters that reflect you, it rapidly becomes damaging. It's no secret that the rate of suicide is considerably higher in the LGBT community than national averages, with a 2011 study by the CDC finding LGBT youth four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers. Isn't it about time we stopped normalizing this narrative of no happy endings in mainstream media? LGBT viewers deserve to see happy futures reflected in easily accessible media.

LGBT representation in all

forms never got off to a good start; many of the first modern media depictions came from the 1930s where intense social control existed. It was not a good time for the media: regulations like the Hays Code existed that forbade the depiction of mixed-race relationships, amongst others. In this environment, LGBT representation of any kind was only allowed under the premise that LGBT characters were immoral by dint of being LGBT and as such could not be allowed to be happy in

production within the social climate of the time, the lesbian couple could never have a happy ending. The two most common options for the end of these novels were for one woman to go insane (as homosexuality was still viewed as an actual mental disorder), or one woman to die and the other to return to a heterosexual relationship. This is sadly a trope that doesn't seem to be expiring any time soon. The belief of many media creators seems to be that lesbian characters are allowed only if the women remain sexually available to men, or that their relationship is only sexual.

LGBT viewers deserve to see happy futures

We've seen the overall cultural trend shift in recent years but it fundamentally remains that LGBT people suffer. In modern media this is often more in the context of noble suffering in the face of an unforgiving world, from violence, disease, or AIDS. It remains the overwhelming majority of films and books in which LGBT people suffer outweighs all other narratives.

The 100 playing in to this narrative has provoked what can only be a long overdue conversation. The campaign springing from the episode continues to put pressure on the industry, and maintains a fundraising arm that is raising money for the LGBT suicide prevention organization The Trevor Project. The drive has raised over \$120,000 from nearly 4000 individual donations. In the words on their website "There is not much we can do in the way of changing what's already been written. What we can do however, is unite to help those who are hurting and despondent through this." All I can say is that it really is time for the Bury Your Gays trope to die.

FELIX FEATURES



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An idiot's guide to the EU referendum

Should we stay or should we go?

Matt Johnston
News Editor

Over the course of the last UK election period and for the bulk of 2016 so far, the media and news in general has been focussed on the UK's membership within the European Union, but what's actually going on?

Where did the EU come from?

In essence the European Union (EU) is a group of 28 countries who all have one thing in common: they all occupy a corner of the world and have been bickering over who owns which part for thousands of years, often in quite bloody wars.

It took one big war (World War II) to finally accept that enough was enough and that some way of stopping this from happening again was needed. The EU was preceded by two other unions, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Economic Community, as a way to tie countries together economically, making them less likely to declare war on each other, something generally regarded as a good thing.

It grew from just the founding six countries in the 1950s (Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and West Germany) adding over half a billion people and 24 official languages to reach its current membership levels. The union, once seen as a stronghold against communism, has now expanded such that it encapsulates many of the former "Eastern Bloc"

countries, and almost the entirety of Europe with the notable exceptions of Switzerland, Iceland and Norway. Many countries such as Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey have applied for membership and are in the process of being considered.

And what does the EU do?

The countries within the EU pay membership fees, vote on laws in the European Parliament and citizens of these countries are part of the EU as a whole. This means that these citizens can live, work and retire in any other EU country, and can move freely from one country to another thanks to a treaty known as the Schengen Agreement.

Naturally, the countries also have to follow the laws set out by the EU's parliament (for better or for worse) and comply with the various trade agreements, sanctions and levies imposed.

This union is also taken further in 19 of the 28 member states, who participate in the Eurozone and are linked by a single currency. They can't decide their own monetary policies individually but the system as a whole allows for lower transaction costs and greater price transparency between member nations.

And what's the referendum?

On June 23rd the UK is having a referendum to decide whether to stay in the EU or leave, in a sort of political hokey-cokey (except that once we're in or out it'll likely be for a while). If you're over 18 and are: a British citizen living in the UK, a British citizen living abroad for less than 15 years, an EU citizen

resident in the UK (as long as you only vote in European elections in the UK) or a Republic of Ireland or Commonwealth citizen (this also includes the 2 EU member states of Malta and Cyprus) and are resident in the UK, then you're eligible to vote as long as you register before June the



In, out, in out, shake it all about. Photo Credit: FELIX

7th.

Tough luck if you're any other nationality, as even if you're a long-term UK resident and UK taxpayer, you don't get a vote.

From there just a simple majority is needed by one side, with no minimum turnout required.

So who's on which side?

The debate has captured the full support of some political parties and has divided others, with the wider public split too. The SNP and Lib Dems have all their MPs supporting the Remain campaign as well as almost all Labour MPs, whereas around 130 of the 330 Conservative MPs are backing the Leave campaign, despite David Cameron throwing all his weight behind staying in the EU.

Notable dissension within the Conservative ranks has come from Boris Johnson (former Mayor of London) and Michael Gove (the current Justice Secretary). Jeremy Corbyn, once a staunch EU critic has now come out in favour of remaining, although the jury is still out as to how sincere this was.

Obama also voiced his anti-Brexit stance when he was in Britain last month, while Donald Trump is unsurprisingly anti-EU. Joey Essex has yet to cast his opinion on the issue, although he is currently filming a TV show which tackles the referendum, so keep your eyes peeled for that...

So, the debate

Both sides have been flinging statistics and counter-statistics at each other, with a huge amount of confusion ensuing. In essence, as with many things in life, there are few certainties and there is a risk in both staying in the EU, as well as leaving

Joey Essex has yet to cast his opinion on the issue

it. This is compounded by the lack of a definitive post-EU plan from any of the main political parties/leaders, chiefly because they're all voting to remain. What this means is that for better or for worse, there's very little evidence to base decisions on. There are, however, opinions and studies aplenty with which you can use to form your opinion, but nothing should taken to be a hard and fast rule.

The debate centres around a few key arguments concerning areas such as the economy, immigration and security, and further issues under these umbrellas. The economy is arguably the most important of these, with it being a case of whether membership of the EU helps or hurts UK trade deals as well as the issue of sovereignty.

While it can be said that the EU means countries are, in some cases, locked into trade deals with large, emerging markets such as China and India (with whom we may have gotten a better deal by negotiating solo) the countries that the UK does a substantial amount of trade with are EU members. This means barriers between us and them may, in

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If you don't vote the elderly will, and they'll be dead soon

the short term at least, hinder trade post-Brexit. The IMF, World Bank and OECD have issued reports advising against the UK leaving the EU, but Brexit supporters urge that on its own two feet the UK will have more autonomy to spend its taxes and implement its subsidies as it sees fit, in ways more suited to the needs of the British economy.

Uncertainty about the economy post-Brexit may cause companies to either reduce investment in the UK or take their business elsewhere entirely but, if the UK did eventually become stronger on its own the opposite could happen, with more companies choosing to expand their businesses into the UK rather than other EU member states.

The issue of the EU's growing power, not only over policies and law, but to the point of the control of the fiscal policy of each and every country is a scenario touted by anti-EU campaigners. This scenario would be tricky without a full currency union, but the UK will always be more on the fringe of the EU if it doesn't change to the euro from the pound. This would likely be met with great hostility since the Eurozone crisis was a large factor in the recent global recession, and was blamed for the high levels of youth unemployment in Greece and Spain.

Furthermore, the Leave campaign say that should the UK leave the EU, trade with European countries would still continue; they rely on trade with us as much as we rely on trade with them. This supposes a scenario in which the UK gets seemingly all the benefits of trade with the EU without having to pay membership fees. This is not an impossible series of events but

if other countries see this they're likely to feel cheated, leading to either them shunning the UK or opting out themselves. A domino effect of countries leaving could lead to the collapse of the EU, making trade deals a lot harder should these countries revert back to their plethora of original currencies.

Some non-EU members are instead part of the European Economic Area (EEA) such as Norway, Iceland and Switzerland (kinda) and are not subject to all the membership fees and all the regulations of the EU. This leads to slightly more freedom but no seat at the EU table deciding the laws that they nevertheless have to follow. In some cases this has worked for them, but we are a much bigger economy and one which relies on sectors other than fishing, the Northern Lights and Roger Federer, meaning it might not work out for us or it might work out even better still.

The issue surrounding security is one that is often screamed about, with both sides arguing that we would simultaneously be safer in and out of the EU. The sharing of information within the EU has been made easier by cooperation between nations, but the former head of MI6 feels that security would increase should the UK leave. This is based on allowing us to drop the European Convention on Human Rights (to allow us to deport criminals such as Abu Hamza), share information more freely with non-EU countries, as well as strengthen our borders from movement of terrorists that reside within the EU. The Convention on Human Rights is usually seen as a good thing on the whole though, and this would be unlikely to be dropped (I mean Britain did draft the original rights in the first place).

The counterargument on our borders does have a bit of a twist too, with the 20 miles of English

Channel making the UK different from full Schengen (free movement) members. This extends into a treaty with France known as "Le Touquet", in which the British border is (kinda) in France, something that may or may not disappear if we left the EU. This leads to a situation in which refugees could claim asylum in Britain as currently they have to actually step foot on the mainland to do so. Whether we should be allowing more refugees in is a whole other kettle of fish.

Other more pressing issues are present too, as the UK is likely to be pretty disliked at Eurovision should we leave, although we can't really slip down the rankings much further anyway.

This is by no means anywhere close to being exhaustive on the debate, you need to go and research the aspects that are most important to you. One topic that might be close to home is the scientific community within Europe. Pulling out of this might constrict the opportunities you have to work abroad and make cross border research harder to complete or it may deregulate and kickstart your industry.

If you want an opinion on whether Brexit would be a good or bad move, your professional institute might be a good place to start. Imperial students have also set up two opposing campaigns, the pro-EU ICL Students 4 EU and the pro-Brexit Students for Britain, which can be found on Twitter at @Imperial4EU and @SfBImperial respectively.

What else is going on though?

The debate cannot be taken as an isolated issue, and other global political and economic issues undoubtedly cross over into the pros and cons of the EU referendum. One of the most prevalent of these has been the ongoing refugee crisis, with immigration a key point being argued by the leave camp. The

The UK is likely to be pretty disliked at Eurovision should we leave

arguments presented above may help or hinder this problem but there is a case to be made that the migrant issue is bigger than just the economic elements it presents and is instead an issue of morality.

The arguments around immigration and security also stretch into the recent terrorist attacks in mainland Europe, bringing the potential pitfalls of the Schengen Zone and the successes of cross border agencies such as Europol to the forefront of media coverage.

The recent referendum in Scotland has stirred up independence talks and the SNP have promised another referendum should the UK as a whole vote to leave the EU

yet Scotland vote to remain. A similar promise has been touted in Northern Ireland, with the added complication of the Irish reunification debate. With the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland being the only mainland border the UK shares with the EU (putting the complex situation in Gibraltar aside) there are questions as to whether a 'hard' border would have to be imposed, a situation that would likely inflame relations in Ireland, a place only recently free of The Troubles.

The internal politics within the Conservative Party is another factor at play, as David Cameron has said he won't serve a third term as PM, leaving the door open for a new leader, who could potentially be decided by the referendum. Front runners George Osborne and Boris Johnson are on opposite sides of the argument, with the "winner" likely to get a boost in the leadership race.

The upcoming election in the US may also have ripples this side of the pond too, as if, God forbid, Donald Trump were to clinch the presidency we might be negotiating in a very different world of politics. He's pro-Brexit but who knows how much UK trade would feature in making America great again (I mean the current Secretary of State for Business and London Mayor are both of Muslim heritage and may not be willing or even able to enter the US under Trump's proposals).

Why should I vote?

Whatever happens this is going to have effects on your everyday life, so shine your crystal balls, weigh up the risks and benefits of both sides, come to a decision and then for the love of God, vote. It's your future. And if you don't vote the elderly will, and they'll be dead soon.

ICU is holding an EU debate on the 2nd of June in Skempton 164. Check Facebook for details.



We rely on sectors other than fishing, the Northern Lights and Roger Federer



Virtual reality porn is a game-changer

You really need to make sure that your bedroom door is locked

Anonymous
Writer

When Palmer Luckey kickstarted the virtual reality revolution in 2012 I doubt he expected that one of his primary uses of his new technology would be pornography. We've seen smartphones change the way we watched porn, and VR is set to do the same. While 3D porn itself is nothing new (it's been around for decades), virtual reality porn is significant in that it is able to simulate physical presence via a combination of head tracking and stereoscopic vision. The porn set is now all encompassing and you become the porn star. No longer merely the spectator, you are now a spectre in another person's body. Porn sites have been quick to react to the rise of virtual reality headsets, with PornHub introducing a virtual reality section on their

website earlier this year. Once an inaccessible oddity, VR porn is now available to everyone for free. So, I guess I had to try it.

To transport yourself to another world, first you have to leave your own reality. Unfortunately, head

You look like some sort of futuristic sex-addicted spaceman

mounted displays completely separate you from your surroundings, so if you've ever been worried about someone bursting in and catching you in the act, VR porn probably isn't for you. Not only will you look like some sort of futuristic sex-addicted spaceman, but you probably won't even be aware when someone does enter the room (and that could be a little embarrassing). Ignoring all the potential awkward situations that might occur, virtual reality porn is pretty rad.

It succeeds for a number of reasons. Remember those gimmicky in-your-face bits in 3D films? VR porn directors have taken note, and this new genre of adult film consists entirely of scenes where you have dicks and tits dangled in front of your face. Probably more interesting is how enclosing your face in a headset makes everything feel far more intimate than, say, watching the same video on your phone or computer. There's no interactivity (yet), so, it's unlikely to replace sex



This guy looks like he's having a great time. Photo Credit: askmen.com

anytime soon. In the meantime, it opens up a whole new range of experiences and experiments to us.

Virtual reality, from the beginning, has been advertised as the ability to experience something as if it were reality or from someone else's perspective. In the past, I'd never been curious enough to watch porn aimed at the opposite sex. However, there's something incredibly powerful about experiencing sex, and presence, when the roles are

reversed. If there was ever a reason to try VR porn this would be it.

For now, I expect virtual reality porn will remain nothing more than an intrigue. However, as technology advances and display resolutions increase, virtual reality has a good chance at replacing conventional pornography. And once it's replaced that, combine it with networking technologies, sex toys, weird AI sexbots and it might just replace sex itself.

How to have sex in halls

We're all jealous of our friends at uni outside London

Anonymous
Writer

With exams finishing and the sun coming out, Imperial is a hive of frenzied sexual activity, as inhibitions are shed in anticipation of the long

summer break. But if you live in a shared room in halls, it strongly limits the privacy available for the exciting sexual encounters that we're all craving. Some of you may have already worked out how to get around this, and for others this may be a new problem. Anyway, here's some advice for you to make the most of the rest of the summer term.

1. The scheduler

Most roommates are pretty reasonable about giving you the room for a few hours, providing they're not still revising while you're totally free. I've known roommate pairs who've negotiated alone time for sex, masturbation, or even Skyping home, so depending on your relationship with your roommate, you don't necessarily need to be completely honest with them. Of course, this requires a degree of organisation from you and your partner.

2. The inconsiderate

You could just go for it when your roommate is out. Most people, upon returning to their room and finding their roommate having sex, will back out and find something else to do for a little while, even if they are passive-aggressively

messaging the kitchen whatsapp group complaining about it. Unless you like being walked in on, pre-agreeing a warning signal is key, even if it's just a courtesy text or a sock on the doorknob. If you do like being walked in on, see tip number three.

3. The spontaneous

There are plenty of semi-private spaces, both in halls and elsewhere on campus, that you can sneak off too and enjoy each other's company. These vary from essentially private (lockable rooms) to risky (empty common rooms in the middle of the night), and in my experience, the acceptable level of risk is proportional to the level of horniness. A word of warning though, particularly in halls, more of the public spaces have CCTV than you'd expect, and security may

well be watching you (Beit laundry room, I'm looking at you).

4. The borrower

If you have particularly liberal friends, you may find someone willing to lend you their single room if they, say, go away for the weekend. You may have to withstand some good-natured ribbing, offer up bribes, Febreeze their room, and hopefully launder their sheets, but in exchange for that, you can enjoy getting nasty in private.

5. The exhibitionist

Or you can just wait until your roommate falls asleep and then go at it. You have to be painfully quiet, and they may wake up and be a bit traumatised, but it's probably fair game – they've definitely masturbated when you've been asleep before.



This is the face of a man who's seen things. Photo Credit: Jurassic Park



What makes a good GUM clinic?

Getting tested can be a fun day out

Anonymous
Writer

Apparently I engage in risky sexual behaviour. This means that like the good millennial I am, I have to periodically get tested to make sure that I'm free from the nasties that make sex a little less fun and a little more infectious (and not in a good way). Although there are many sexual health clinics in London, many of which are excellent and come with rave reviews (with a particular shout out to the Dean Street Clinic in Soho), my personal preference is Imperial College's own Jefferiss Wing in St Mary's Hospital.

One of the problems with walk-in clinics is the unknown wait, but the Jefferiss Wing offers you the opportunity to book a slot via text, although just walking in, I've never waited an unreasonable amount of time. And, from the moment you walk in, to the moment you're seen, you're kept pretty well updated on how long you'll be waiting. To keep you entertained, as well as college networks, there's free wifi (although YouTube is blocked, sadly).

Everything in this clinic is completely anonymised. You're asked to give your name and address to the staff when you arrive, which is exchanged for an anonymised patient number that you'll be called by (make sure that you remember it, you'll want to have it if you come back again). Although you can theoretically lie about your name and address, nothing is transferred to your primary medical records without your consent, and the address dictates which local authority they charge for the testing.

On arrival, you're asked whether you're experiencing any symptoms, need emergency treatments, or are there for a check up, and based on that you'll be put in line to see either a doctor or a nurse. They also do cervical smears while you're there, if you've been too lazy to get around to having one done with your regular doctor.

I've never seen anyone at this clinic, doctor or nurse, who wasn't kind, friendly, and non-judgemental,

and who I didn't feel completely comfortable with. You can tell that the staff are genuinely passionate about sexual health and disease prevention, and that they want to provide the best patient care. They'll quiz you in detail on your partners within the last three months, and ask you some general questions about longer term risk factors. Regardless of your

If you ask nicely, they'll give you some higher quality condoms

designated risk level (I was placed in the same risk group as men who have sex with men for money, which is almost an achievement), they're incredibly thorough, and usually offer a full barrage of tests even if you've only had protected sex with one person one time.

Alongside the usual tests and treatments for chlamydia and gonorrhoea, the Jefferiss Wing lets you opt in for on the spot hepatitis B vaccinations (as well as hepatitis A, if you've been rimming gay men, which I would recommend). There's something incredibly reassuring about being immune to an incurable disease, so if given the option, you should definitely opt in.

As well as taking blood for more thorough testing, anyone worried can also get immediate fingerprick HIV testing, which is a fairly unusual offer, but very helpful if, like me, you become convinced that you have every transmittable infection the moment you enter the clinic. Of course, this only tells you your status up to three months ago, so it's important to get this done regularly if you're worried. Luckily, they have a system where you can skip the

queues and pop to another clinic upstairs for a quick pinprick test if that's all you need.

I think sexual health clinics are a bit of a social equaliser. From the teenage girls giggling and whispering amongst themselves, to the suited and booted city banker type, you see all sorts of people, all there for the same reason – they want to have safe sex. While most people probably spend their time waiting making up stories about

why each person is there, you'll find

Sexual health clinics are a bit of a social equaliser

that you completely forget all about them the moment you leave.

And before you leave, don't forget to take some free condoms. As well as the generic Mates condoms (the same ones available at the Union Reception, if you need any), if you ask nicely, they'll give you some higher quality condoms, usually either Durex or Skyn.

Within a week or so, you'll get a text telling you either that your results were all negative, or that you need to call the clinic. They send these results out as soon as they have them from their in-house lab – once my friend got hers back the same day. When I'm waiting for this text, I tend to get a bit paranoid and make all sorts of declarations about how I'd rather not know, if only to spare this torture. However, I enjoy talking about my sex life, so evaluating my partners with someone who is qualified to offer advice is a good day out in my book. Even if you don't, I think it is really important to get checked regularly, if not for your own health, then for the safety of those you have sex with.

Oh, and you'll be pleased to know that my last tests were totally clear.



Don't these look like people you'd want to stick a speculum up your foof? Photo Credit: BBC

FELIX SCIENCE



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Sh!t Science

Scientists ask if children are werewolves, conclude they're not

MARIANNE GUENOT

At Sh!t Science, we like to defend research that may seem insignificant or futile. We believe that all research projects go through a complicated selection process during which a group of learned intellectuals congregate and decide what particular pieces of research need to be conducted in order to bridge our gaps in human knowledge. This week, insights on children - are they werewolves? Science has the answer!

This is the question tackled by an extensive study published in *Frontiers in Pediatrics*. research aimed to determine whether the phase of the moon

has an influence on the sleep cycle of children. Regardless of whether you've used the moon's phases as an excuse for your behaviour, there is no scientific evidence to support the idea that the full moon drive us crazy, not even a little. That was until a team of top scientists decided to revisit this outdated notion. To avoid any social, economic or geographical biases, they recorded sleep patterns of 5814 children, in twelve different countries, spanning five continents, for 28 months. This resulted in a whopping 33,710 recordings captured by accelerometers strapped to the children's chests for the whole time.

By cross-referencing these readings to the phase of the moon, the scientists came to the following



God dammit there's a full moon again
Photo Simon Thomas

staggering conclusion (drumroll please): The full moon alters sleep patterns in about 1% of cases. Lead scientist Dr. Jean-Philippe Chaput, from the Eastern Ontario Research Institute said, "Overall, I think we should not be worried about the full moon. Our behaviours are largely influenced by many other factors like genes, education, income and psychosocial aspects rather than by gravitational forces." Cue sad pacman sound of defeat.

This rather anticlimactic result does actually shed some light on an important phenomenon. In the recent years, there has been increased attention to what is called the circadian clock. This internal 'clock' regulates how our body reacts at different times of the day,

regulating functions such as hormone production, body temperature and brain wave activity. This clock reacts to external cues such as exposure to light and temperature, and a more subtle understanding of circadian rhythms has allowed us, for instance, to synchronise drug delivery with the circadian clock and increase drug efficiency and reduce toxicity. As some animals have been known to have an internal clock which follows the lunar cycle, it is not unreasonable to evaluate whether humans could be affected by the phases of the moon, and this research helps us close the door on that possibility.

This week's science picture

Natasha Khaleeq
Writer

Conservationists have launched a worldwide campaign asking the public to help combat illegal wildlife trade. Despite efforts to prevent the billion pound industry, it continues to grow. A recent increase in poaching threatening species has raised concerns about the long-term survival of iconic animals such as elephants and rhinos. Shockingly, rhino horn today can reach a price of £45704.47 per kg - more than the price of gold. Crime prevention agencies compare criminals targeting wildlife to human traffickers. The illegal industry must be stopped. The Taronga Conservation Society in Australia developed a smartphone app called Wildlife Witness. It allows the public to submit images and data of suspicious items on sale in partnership with Traffic, the wildlife trade monitoring network. Originally the app's focus was South East Asia, however Chester Zoo aims at raising awareness across Europe. San Diego Zoo will do the same in the US. This campaign allows people to take action so Traffic can identify trends in wildlife trade to influence enforcement policies.



The Rhino, a powerful symbol for the world when it comes to the conservation of species. Photo Credit: Paul Hudson

FELIX SCIENCE



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Science, what's good?

Biofeedbacked farming

Churning out new materials

Aliens? Probably not

Placental RNA shield

Lef Apostolakis
Science Editor

What ocean acidification?

Out of 2,501 members of the British public recently surveyed by scientists from Cardiff University's School of Psychology, only twenty percent were aware of ocean acidification. The study, published in the *Nature Climate Change* journal, is the first to assess public understanding of the issue. The study surveyed a representative sample of Britain, which is alarming. Dr Stuart Capstick says that although they didn't expect to find high levels of public awareness, the extent of obliviousness amongst laymen was surprising. Things become meta now; when subjects became aware of the percentage of unawareness there was a jump in concern... which then subsided once ocean acidification was connected to climate change. Hm.

Capstick et al. 2016 @ Nature Climate Change

Scientists have developed and tested a biofeedback system that uses the plants' physiological performance to regulate lighting. This new method may greatly reduce the energy cost of LED lighting, employed by controlled environment agriculture facilities, such as vertical farms. By measuring chlorophyll production and putting measurements through a datalogger, they estimated the electron transport rate, which is a photosynthesis indicator. This allowed them to determine exactly how much light the plants needed and modulate lighting accordingly. The datalogger in turn altered the duty cycle of the LED lighting source, optimizing the process. The biofeedback system can successfully maintain a wide range of ETR (photosynthesis) values in different species, as well as take into consideration light to heat conversions and chloroplast damage when making efficiency decisions.

Van Irsel et al. 2016 @ J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sc

Inventing new materials with desired properties could become much faster and easier, using an information-based adaptive design strategy. As put by Turab Lookman, one of the scientists behind the new approach, "starting with a relatively small data set of well-controlled experiments, it is possible to iteratively guide subsequent experiments toward finding the material with the desired target". The data-driven framework utilising machine learning is aiming at cutting development time of new materials by half. Although the particular model developed by Lookman and his team at Los Alamos and the State Key Laboratory for Mechanical Behaviour of Materials in China had to narrow down its pool of combinations to nickel-titanium-based shape-memory alloys for the sake of simplicity, the system can be adapted to optimise desired manufacturing applications and properties.

Xue et al. 2016 @ Nature Communications

Remember when earlier last year a paper came out highlighting a star which seemed to be blocked by a large number of irregular objects, suggesting the presence of alien megastructures? A number of studies have since been published for and against the Dyson sphere argument, the latest showing that prior evidence that proposed the star had experienced a dimming of twenty percent, was in fact a result of fading of the photographic glass plates that had been taken by Harvard astronomers between 1885 and 1993. Still, even with the twenty percent dimming taken off the table, Tabby's star remains highly mysterious. There still is no conclusive explanation as to why the star's light curve is anomalous. Boyajian, the leading scientist behind this latest study investigating the mysterious star propose the fragmentation of a large comet into a swarm of smaller ones.

Hippke et al. 2016 @ Astrophysical Journal

The role of a long non coding RNA (lncRNA) sequence has been identified as protecting the unborn baby from invading pathogens. The new study published in *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, is the first to identify a lncRNA in the placenta involved in immune system regulation. lncRNAs are non protein-coding transcripts, longer than 200 nucleotides, involved in the regulation of gene expression. The study looked through existing data to identify molecules present at trophoblast cells which give rise to the placenta, zeroing in on lncRHOXF1. After characterisation, in vitro modelling and identification of the location of its expression, they observed that altering expression levels, impacted expression of viral RNA, after infecting lncRHOXF1 blocked cells with Sendai virus. The team is interested in exploring applications of their findings to Zika control.

Penkala et al. 2016 @ Molecular and Cellular Biology

Science & the City

Naomi Stewart
Writer

We're caught in an odd crux of perspectives on justifications for science and technology. There's the age-old idea of fundamental research having inherent, non-monetary value as a social service - sort of like a library, providing building blocks of knowledge we can all draw from. Increasingly, however scientists are having to prove the financial value and the return-on-investment of their research in order to get funding, much the way someone getting a loan from a bank for, say, a start-up cupcake stand does. When you factor in the increasing amount of time scientists have to spend with their hats-in-hands writing grants, submitting proposals, - an incredible amount of our collective

scientific brain capacity is spent thinking about how to acquire and justify sources of funding from drying wells. Skilled researchers and their teams spend countless days, months, even years pandering to administrative managers who often only see a chart of red lines that need to be converted to black. Many scientists claim upwards of 30% or greater of their time is now taken up simply finding funds. This also disproportionately affects younger researchers who can't secure funding based on their 'brand' the way more established scientists can.

Whether we can blame recent austerity measures, or reach further back and point at shifts like the rise of neoliberalism decades ago, we should regardless be considering the impact of having scientific research funding tightly intertwined with economic drivers and determinants. Some fields or areas of science may have obvious direct impacts that can

be placed in a pre-determined matrix of financial value simply because of their practical applications in the economic market - say for instance, the development of a new type of rubber for tyres. But there is much research that has less clear and more indirect measurable economic impact. How do you calculate the return-on-investment for 30 years-worth of data on water levels in the Thames, or the discovery of a new species of moth in the Amazon?

American physicist Richard Feynman once argued that the three primary values of science are: it enables us to do and make all kinds of things, it provides intellectual enjoyment in doing and thinking about it, and it teaches us to remain unsure and in doubt. So how sure are we that the pursuit of scientific knowledge needs to be constantly weighted against economic measures?



National Science Foundation, funding source for 24% of all research conducted by America's universities and colleges which are federally supported. Photo Credit: Wikipedia

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The protest album of the decade

ANOHNI's solo debut album is an unhinged attack on the status quo

Cale Tilford
Music and Games Editor

Hope was the word that came to represent Obama's presidential campaign back in 2008. For a few brief moments the world – inspired by Shepard Fairey's iconic poster – genuinely believed that change might finally come to neoliberal America. After eight years in office, Obama has grown old and the energy that once defined him has dissipated, along with many of his promises. ANOHNI's debut solo album *Hopelessness* is not kind to America and Obama. It presents the obvious truths and struggles that have defined the politics of the 21st Century: the rise of drone warfare, the defeat of environmentalism, mass-surveillance, and the hypocritical attitude of Western nations. It is always direct; nothing is ever held back or hidden under multiple layers of meaning. The result is a beautifully modern and accessible experimental protest record.

Co-produced by both Ross Birchard (**Hudson Mohawke**) and Daniel Lopatin (**Oneohtrix Point Never**), the album is often dark and brooding, complementing its serious subject matter. At other times, the tone is more upbeat – emulating pop songs to reflect the glorification of death and justice in some parts of American society. On 'Execution', ANOHNI sings "Execution / It's an American dream," with the former delivered so enthusiastically that it sounds like a celebration. This song, like many others on the album, is draped in irony. In a more hushed voice ANOHNI reminds us of the hypocrisy of America. "Like the Chinese and the Saudis / The North Koreans and the Nigerians," America is one of the few nations that still has the death penalty.

On the back of her Academy Award nomination this year for Best Original Song 'Manta Ray' – a song about biodiversity and the destruction of nature – ANOHNI reflects further on the environment during the album's lead single '4 Degrees'. Like much of the album, on '4 Degrees' performs as an alter-ego of sorts; this character contradicts

her own opinions but does so in a manner which is blatantly sarcastic, but could easily be mistaken for the establishment. In reference to the estimated increase in global

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temperature by the end of the century (if no actions are taken), she sings: "It's only 4 degrees, it's only 4 degrees / I wanna see this world, I wanna see it boil." While this is an obvious attack on her government, it is possible she is also examining her own attitude to the environment and her lack of action. This theme of hopelessness and inability to force change throughout the world runs through the album.

The message of 'I Don't Love You Anymore', in contrast to rest of the album, is far less obvious: "You left me in a broken world / You left me lying in the street / You left me without body heat." It seems more like an attack on the general system of capitalism (that America exports globally) than an attack on a specific section of American oppression. 'Drone Bomb Me' focuses on drone warfare and the West's acts of terror throughout the world. ANOHNI describes it as "a love song from the perspective of a girl in Afghanistan... looking up at the sky and she's gotten herself to a place where she just wants to be killed by a



Drone bomb me. Photo Credit: ANOHNI

drone bomb." From this perspective she exclaims "Drone bomb me / Blow me from the mountains / And into the sea." Looking at the choice of themes reflected on throughout the album, this is more than just a criticism of America – it is aimed at Obama himself.

Drone bombing is one of the many things that has increased in frequency under his administration. Another high profile issue that comes up – brought to light in 2013 by Edward Snowden – is the NSA's mass surveillance of American citizens. 'Watch Me' is a conversation with an NSA agent: "I know you love me / 'Cause you're always watching me." ANOHNI criticises a system that suggests it is trying to protect us from evil, terrorism and child molesters (this is her list, not mine) but is based on the assumption we are all guilty.

The most open attack on Obama is on the track named after him. It is delivered like a call to prayer,

This is more
than just a
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himself

reflecting the prophet-like status Obama secured in his initial campaign for president: "When you were elected / The world cried for joy." But now he is "Punishing the whistleblowers / Those who tell the truth" – a stark contrast to his promise of a new politics and radical change.

The final two tracks offer little hope. They paint a picture of a planet destroyed by over-consumption. Even ANOHNI admits "I've been taking more than I deserve." 'Marrow', the album's closer is a metaphor for America's exploitation of the world's resources and governments; it has unashamedly extracted and injected. There is no hope: "We are, we are all Americans now."

Hopelessness by ANOHNI is out
now on Rough Trade



FELIX FILM



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The top three *Japanese Films* that aren't *Animated*

Two weeks ago I slagged off the French film-making philosophy. In an effort to be more positive this week, I'm going to heap praise on my favourite film-producing country – Japan. Looking past the endlessly churned out anime crap, animated Japanese cinema may very well be the best in the world. – Miyazaki, Katsuhiko Otomo and Mamoru Hosoda are unmatched in the eyes of many critics. But it would be nice for live action films get a look in:

Tokyo Sonata (2008)

When reviewing the French 'style' of filmmaking I commented on its annoying fascination with endless dialogue and rich young people's tiresome love lives. No film shows off the vastly superior Japanese filmmaking philosophy as *Tokyo Sonata*. Much like a modern-day *Tokyo Story*, the film is a classic Japanese slice-of-life drama focused on family and appreciating small things in life.

13 Assassins (2010)

Much like *Tokyo Sonata* is a modern-day, version of the classic *Tokyo Story*, *13 Assassins* represents a new-and-improved version of *Seven Samurai*. It tells the classic story of an elite team taking on hordes of bad-guys threatening a poor village, with everything ramped up to 11. *Seven Samurai* may be the critic's favourite but never try to challenge Takeshi Mike on violent spectacle.

Departures (2008)

I'm surprised that I've never spoken about *Departures* before. The problem is that it's hard to describe it in a way that does justice to how beautiful and life affirming it is. It tells of a newly unemployed cellist who takes up a job preparing the dead for their funerals. The film is hugely intelligent and uniquely emotional. It explores the topics of death, family, and Japanese sensibilities better than any other film I have ever seen.

BEN COLLIER

Florence Foster Jenkins and the cinematic allure of musical enigmas

Last week saw the release of *Florence Foster Jenkins*, a biopic based on the life of one of the worst singers of all time – Florence Foster Jenkins was widely regarded as a completely hopeless singer, a fact she didn't let get in the way of attempting to forge a musical career. Recordings from the time betray a complete lack of pitch, rhythm, intonation, and tone – a fact that may have been linked to a syphilis-linked decay of her central nervous system. Cheery! While the Stephen Frears-directed film, starring Meryl Streep, may have been welcomed with more praise than Jenkin's singing voice, she's not the only outsider musician out there who deserves to have a film made about her. Here are four more left-field performers who deserve a movie of their own:

Big Edie

Edith Ewing Bouvier Beale, otherwise known as 'Big Edie', may have already had a film made about her – in the form of Albert and David Maysles' 1975 documentary *Grey Gardens*, which charts the destructive and isolating relationship between her and her daughter, 'Little Edie' – but such a large character deserves a film all of her own. Beale, the aunt of Jackie Kennedy, used to be an amateur

singer, before she ensconced herself in her dilapidated mansion, and fell into poverty. *Grey Gardens* is a disturbing, twisted film, in which the destitution of the main characters is only enlivened by Little Edie's frequent quotable lines – 'I only care about three things: dancing, swimming, and the Catholic church – and Big Edie breaking out into song. In her late 70s when the film came out, Big Edie's voice is as strong as ever, belying an early talent. A film looking at her early life would be a fantastic companion piece to *Grey Gardens*.

The Space Lady

Moving on, *The Space Lady*, a paradigm of the outsider music movement, spent much of the 1970s and 80s singing melancholic covers of popular songs on the streets of Boston and San Francisco. Initially accompanied by an accordion, she later made the switch to a Casio synthesiser keyboard, which gave her songs a cosmic edge; despite the limitations of the synthesiser, which only has six rhythm patterns, she managed to convert an astonishing range of music into her unique vision. Retiring in 2000, many

commentators speculated about her whereabouts, fuelled by online bootlegs of her recordings. In 2012 she came out of retirement, the resurgence in interest securing her a record deal and a world tour. We all love a redemption tale in film, and the fact that she's still performing makes a documentary all the more necessary.

Shin Jung-Hyun

All the best musicians fight against 'the man', but South Korea's "Godfather of Rock", Shin Jung-Hyun went further than most. Active in the 1960s and 70s, Shin became known in Korea for his psychedelic-tinged rock, which drew on the influences introduced by marines stationed at U.S. Army bases. It drew the attention of President Park Chung-Hee, who asked Shin to write a song in praise of the presidency – Shin refused, and instead composed 'Beautiful Rivers and Mountains', a song that extolled the natural beauty of Korea, and ironically took its name from a line in the national anthem. Needless to say, President Park didn't take it well, and Shin was tortured in prison, before being committed to a psychiatric

hospital. As Korea explores its recent history, with novelists like Han Kang leading the charge, it's time a film was made about Shin, and his daring refusal to conform.

Connie Converse

Finally, the saddest tale of the bunch: Connie Converse moved to New York City in the 1940s, hoping to break it in the gestating folk scene. While popular with other musicians on the scene, for whom Converse would perform, her melancholic folk was never popular with the public. Her songs a both winsome and tragic, and Converse was really ahead of her time – one of the earliest singer-songwriters in a world that would soon become saturated with them. Following the stratospheric success of Bob Dylan, she left New York for Ann Arbor, and then in 1974 she distributed notes to her family and friends, and set off in her Volkswagen Beetle for a better life. She was never heard from again. A documentary in the style of *Searching for Sugar Man*, looking for where Converse went, would bring her beautiful folk to light.

FRED FYLES



(L-R): Connie Converse, Little Edie and Big Edie, Shin Jung-Hyun, The Space Lady. Photo Credit: YouTube/Creative Commons/Light in the Attic/Upset the Rhythm

FELIX FILM



film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Documentary corner: *King of Kong*

Ben Collier
Writer

As this will be my last Documentary Corner feature of the year, I thought it fitting to end on a high note, with my favourite documentary of all time – *King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters*. It works in every way a documentary should, and then some. Director Seth Gordon was able to create a suspenseful, exciting, and completely engrossing film about one of the strangest and most niche topics imaginable – competitive Donkey Kong.

As I said in one of the older editions of documentary corner, a good documentary can take a topic you love and make it exciting and interesting, but a great documentary should be able to get the same reaction for a topic you know nothing about. *King of Kong* is about two men competing for the Donkey Kong world-record high score. Since it came out, a lot of people have taken to simply referring to it as 'Billy vs Steve' because of its two main characters – Billy Mitchell and Steve Wiebe.



"Well maybe they'd like it if I'd lose. Maybe I should try losing sometime." – Billy Mitchell. Photo Credit: King of Kong PR

The director has a lot of fun with classic Hollywood archetypes when showing us the two men: Mitchell is an icon in the world of arcade gaming, holding countless world records and has an ego to match. Wiebe is an outsider to this culture

– an incredibly humble and likeable guy, who is intimidated and picked on by Mitchell and his goons at every turn as he tries to achieve the first truly extraordinary thing in his life. This underdog story really does boil down to a classic tale of good vs

evil, and it's handled perfectly.

There is bundles of style to be found here. A fine line is walked between silliness and seriousness, between drama, action, and comedy. The editing and style of filming also lends a great retro feel to each scene.

The documentary is aware of the eccentricities of the topic and has fun with it – because of this, the audience is also able to have fun too.

Overall, however, it is the story that drives everything. At points one begins to question if Mitchell is even a real person: he's so deliciously evil he even looks like a cheesy Hollywood villain – think Ben Stiller in *Dodgeball*. If it weren't for the genuine sincerity of it all, one might mistake *King of Kong* as a mockumentary, but at the end of the day, despite some silliness, the story of Steve Wiebe is an inspiring one. Having such a genuine and easy-to-root-for protagonist cuts through a lot of the humour to give a touching heart to a truly unique and wonderful project. Originally, the film was supposed to be about retro gaming culture as a whole (we see a little bit of this with small features on other world champions like 'Roy Awesome'), but the narrative Mitchell and Wiebe gave the producers was just too good to ignore. As such, the story unfolded throughout filming, and we get to experience the narrative progress just as the filmmakers did. And what a narrative it is.

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This week on *Game of Thrones*

Harry Wilkinson
Writer

Another week, another load of dead characters. We start off where we left last time with Jon Snow wondering what the hell just happened after being stabbed in the heart, Melisandre wondering how on Earth she just did that and Davos trying to remember how he got involved in this storyline in the first place. Jon then puts some pants on to talk to the Night's Watchmen and Wildlings that had gathered to see him. He doesn't end up saying much and it's not even 5 minutes back in the realm of the living before Tormund says he's got a small dick. Jon seems to have a thing about getting insulted by gingers.

We then return to Sam and Gilly on their first family cruise together where she finds out they're staying with his parents while Sam goes to college. Always an awkward situation meeting the boy's family.

The most interesting scene of the episode was the flashback with Bran, this time back to Ned fighting Arthur Dayne at the Tower of Joy. It's pretty obvious what this is leading up to but if anyone's not caught it yet I won't spoil. I'm definitely looking forward to this revelation though.

Dany's not having the best time, turns out the Dothraki are about as keen on feminism as Redditors are, so they weren't too happy with

her roaming around, being a strong independent woman who don't need no Khal. So they decide she's either dead or going to stay in their retirement home forever.

Tyrion's remains awkward as hell trying to fit in at Meereen with Dany's advisors before Varys comes in to pick up the conversation with some juicy goss about the nearby cities plotting against them. Maybe something interesting will happen in Meereen after all!

She's either dead or going to stay in their retirement home forever

Back to King's Landing and Qyburn is giving orphaned kids sweeties so that they'll talk to him. It's actually one of the least creepy things about him in all honesty. Cersei and Jamie then storm down to his basement lair with their giant



Welcome back home! Photo Credit: HBO

zombie friend to chat about Cersei's oncoming trial by combat and how her being paraded naked down the streets has in no way mellowed her out. Incest Team Rocket then marches up to the Small Council chambers before being told that no one wants to sit on their lunch table so they're left alone again.

Li'l King Tommen then heads down to the prison to ask the High Sparrow (AKA Birdie Sanders) for his wifey and his mummy back. Sanders then sits the boy down to talk about why the gods think his wife's a hoe and his mum's a dickhead. Tommen seems fairly convinced by his arguments.

Back to Braavos and we find Arya

playing a game of Lie and Get Slapped (essentially the Braavosi version of Jeremy Kyle). She gives away her personal information like she's being audited by the Church of Scientology until sexy Yoda decides to give her vision back.

We then return to the North where Ramsay is struggling to fill Daddy's boots. He's attempting to keep a member of House Umber under control that's repeatedly calling him a prick to his face. It looked like this guy's head was about to roll before revealing he had Rickon Stark and Osha with him, two characters last seen in the season 3 finale. They are really

quite what yet.

We finish, back where we started, at the Wall where Jon is having a nice public execution to celebrate his rebirth. Sergeant Douchebag insists on getting a last few words in before he gets done in whereas everyone's least favourite teenager Olly instead opts for just scowling at Jon like he just got sent to his room. After this short interlude, Jon drops the bomb of deciding to leave the Night's Watch, apparently citing some of the fine print in the oath that says if you get murdered by a bunch of arseholes you can do whatever you like.

Overall, I'd say this was a pretty solid episode. The story really is going full speed ahead this year, possibly a results of the 7 season timeline. There's still the odd bit of exposition dumping and clunky dialogue that tends to come with D&D writing an episode themselves, but it's not bad enough to take away from the scale of the events. If I had one complaint it's that this episode seems a little rushed, there's not been much room for decent character development this season between all the big moments and the emotional impact of the show has been suffering because of it.

Game of Thrones is available on HBO Go

stretching the viewer's memories at this point, I mean come on! When we last saw them, Donald Trump was still funny! Nonetheless, this reveal does mean big things coming up for the North, we're just not sure



Cartoon Corner: Vixen

Saad Ahmed
Television Editor

Spinning out of the CW's live action DC shows is an animated one by the name of Vixen. This series takes place in its own corner of the called 'Arrowverse', offering a take on a different kind of hero, as well as using animation to do the things too expensive for live action. This venture is mostly successful but not without its faults.

The biggest thing the series has against it is the fact that it's so short. Despite being 6 episodes long, the entirety of season 1 adds up to a total of around 30 minutes. As a result of this, we get a story that, while being good and entertaining, feels rushed at times. The villains suffer the most from this treatment, not being given enough motivation as well as having their defeat and aftermath largely glossed over.

Still, there's plenty to like here. We see the story of Mari McCabe who's trying to work out the secret of her past. The fact that she's a

black woman helps to bring more diversity to the set of mainstream superheroes. The show details her evolution from confused fashion designer to someone embracing her roots and becoming the hero she's destined to be. It's a fairly simple, tried and tested formula but one

It's a fairly simple, tried and tested formula

which nonetheless makes for an engaging and entertaining story.

The tone of the show is just right, making it feel like its own thing while not being bogged down by the limitations of its sister shows. The animation is top notch and



Another hero is in on the action. Photo Credit: The CW

the action sequences are well-done. They successfully portray the power of having the abilities of any animal you can choose, which would be tricky, if not expensive, to continuously render in live action. It makes one hope that the CW would try this experiment again in the long run, and hopefully introduce more heroes with more bizarre powers.

The Flash and Arrow also show up, though in a way which makes one

wonder if there's any point to their appearances. They don't really serve the story in any way and are more or less glorified cameos, reminding us that these are the heroes who share the same universe as Vixen. It's more frustrating given the fact that with fewer time on these heroes, we could have had more time expanding on and developing Mari's story. The voice acting on the guest stars also feels a little stiff, in stark contrast to

Mari and her supporting characters. Still, Vixen has more ups than downs and is a welcome addition to the slew of comic-book adaptations. With season one only being around half an hour long, this is a series that can be easily watched and might provide some welcome relief from all the revision.

Vixen is available on CW Stream

Daredevil Season 2



There's some new players in town! And they're not feeling so friendly. Photo Credit: Netflix

Henry Wild
Writer

Blood once again soaks the streets of Hell's Kitchen, New York as Daredevil returns to our computer screens. Whereas the first season detailed the rise of Matt Murdock to the role of red-horn-wearing superhero, this season focuses more

on Matt's struggles with his new role and with just what it means to be a hero.

While the cast from the previous season all return with performances just as good as last time's, it's the new characters who ride roughshod over this season. Jon Bernthal's Punisher and Elodie Yung's Elektra threaten to steal the show, and in a few places do just that. The Punisher is such an avatar of on-screen power that the

episodes in which he does feature often feel more like Punisher Season 1 than Daredevil 2; a power which I greatly hope he keeps when Punisher Season 1 actually lands later this year.

In contrast to Jon Bernthal's unhinged fury and despair, Elodie Yung brings a more refined psychopathy to the table, a character with minimal morals and no compunctions about acting

for her own goals. While Elektra's backstory is significantly changed from the comics, going from a

It's the new characters who ride roughshod over this season

woman who finds solace in murder to one cut straight from sociopathic cloth, this by no means detracts from Yung's fantastic performance. Although she will likely not win over as many fans as the Punisher, hers is still a character done well, a

female character who acknowledges her sexuality without being defined entirely by it.

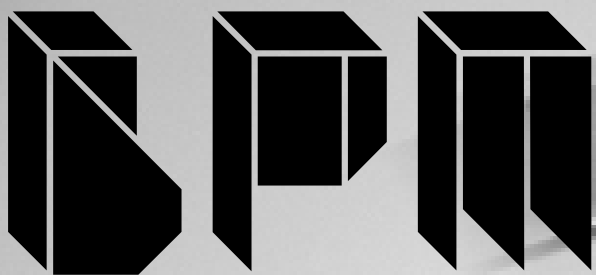
It is these two characters who launch a two-pronged attack on Daredevil's conscience, on the one hand a man who believes that Matt hasn't gone far enough, a man whose philosophy on crime-fighting is best summed up in his own words, "You hit them and they get back up, I hit them and they stay down". On the other hand a woman who represents freedom from the moral code that binds and defines Matt, a temptress in both the mental and sexual way. Despite the not-infrequent, and certainly well done fight scenes, it's these philosophical battles which makes this season of Daredevil stand out to me. The battle between the lawyer and the vigilante, between restraint and necessity, between the man of God and freedom, those are the fights that make this season so great.

Daredevil Season 2 is available on Netflix



Good luck with exams everyone! Photo Credit: HBO

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| h-bar | Pub Quiz | 19:00 - 21:00 | 2nd & 4th Thursday |
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| Reynolds | Cocktail Night | 17:30 - 01:00 | Every Friday |
| The Foundry | Quiz Night | 19:30 - 22:00 | 1st & 3rd Thursday |
| The Foundry | Karaoke Night | 20:00 - 23:30 | 2nd & 4th Friday |



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Nintendo's twilight years

Cale Tilford
Music and Games Editor

When *The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess* was first released in 2006, Nintendo was at a turning point. It had just released the Wii, which would radically alter its fortunes, after years of losing sales to Sony with the disappointing GameCube. The years preceding this represented some of Nintendo's best, and *Twilight Princess*, in its time, was considered no exception. Since then Nintendo have attempted to streamline their games, making them both accessible to core and more casual audiences. *Twilight Princess* was interesting in the fact that it was released for both the GameCube and Wii, with motion controls added to the latter. The Wii U version of the game is not much more than a HD re-release – removing the motion controls to make it more like the original.

The Wii U, like the GameCube, has not been the success Nintendo had hoped for. Both have ended up following similar paths, with Nintendo, in defeat, focusing on its core franchises and fans. *Twilight Princess* was released during the twilight period of the GameCube and its HD update has been similarly released during the end days of the Wii U. By examining the differences between the two versions, we can come to understand how Nintendo has changed in the last decade.

The minimal graphical update



Photo Credit: Nintendo

of the game (which even in 2006 looked pretty bad) reflects the relatively small increase in detail, in both geometry and textures, that Nintendo's games have undergone in comparison to their rivals.

A number of small gameplay features have been simplified to make certain interactions less frustrating (the Wii U controller makes switching items and between Link and Wolf a doddle) – in the same way that Nintendo has added easy modes and refined player interactions so that their games are accessible to all. They may have focused once again on core franchises, but these games are

It's a sad time to be a Nintendo gamer and a Wii U owner

now more suited to 'casual' gamers. Possibly the most illuminating feature of the *Twilight Princess* HD is its use of Amiibos, Nintendo's toy-to-life series. The implementation here screams of a company out of ideas, revisiting old franchises to sell toys. Has Nintendo given up? It seems so. There are no major games on the horizon other than *Zelda* Wii U (the only game they will be showing at this summer's E3). It's a sad time to be a Nintendo gamer and a Wii U owner.

These are not only the twilight years of the Wii U, but the twilights years of an era of Nintendo defined by a serious lack of growth.

Itch.io Game of the Week



Photo Credit: Crows Crows Crows

Dr. Langeskov, The Tiger, and The Terribly Cursed Emerald: A Whirlwind Heist

Dr. Langeskov is the first game by Crows Crows Crows – a studio formed by game writer and designer William Pugh of *The Stanley Parable* fame. The first person exploration game, that will be familiar to anyone who has played Pugh's previous works, lasts around 20 minutes (it's free, so don't complain). In this short burst of narrative, Simon Amstell voices a stage manager who talks to the player over a loudspeaker. His character is both charming and hilarious (which pretty much sums up Amstell).

However, the game's title is deceiving because, as the result of some unexplained mishap, you are unable to play the fictional *Dr. Langeskov* game, and must instead ensure the game runs smoothly behind the scenes. The player's environment becomes a metaphor for the mechanics that come together to form a game. Much like a techie (the theatre sort), you must pull levers and press buttons. And nothing ever goes right. The 'stage' directs the player via humorously labeled doors, guided in further detail by Amstell's often incomprehensible directions. Although built in Unity, through a combination of lighting and minimal cell-shading the environments are able to match the atmosphere of more substantial, retail games. Few studios deliver such bold statements of intent with their debut releases. *Dr. Langeskov* is proof that games don't need to be long to be exciting or memorable.

Bored of revising?
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ANOTHER CASTLE

Imperial's gaming magazine returns later this term
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Photo Credit: Stellaris, Paradox Interactive



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Matrix of Eclairs

FELIX reviews Maitre Choux, a snazzy patisserie in South Kensington

Christy Lam
Writer

Engineers are pretty obsessed with matrices.

As someone from Chemical Engineering, I love matrices. Don't get me wrong here. I'm not talking about MATLAB, maths, or even anything related to numbers. I'm talking about food. Matrices of food. There is no better cure for OCD than staring at perfectly positioned rows of doughnuts.

One of those particular matrices that always succeeds to stop me in my tracks even while being 10 minutes late to a lecture is eclairs. Eclairs from Maitre Choux.

Let's start with the basics. What are eclairs? Wikipedia defines them as "an oblong pastry made with choux dough filled with a cream and topped with icing." Or according to my dear friend Carolyn – posh

French hot dogs.

And Maitre Choux? To most of you it may be just a patisserie on the ooh-la-la French side of South Kensington. In fact, it is the world's first and only choux specialist patisserie where the three-Michelin star chef Joakim Prat transforms the traditional French delights into works of art.

You really have to go see for yourself. The small shop with a simple, white exterior with colourful dots everywhere. You really cannot miss it between the typical, boring, old red brick houses. If you are lucky, you also get a strong whiff of that warm, cosy, aromatic scent of baking choux drifting from the ovens in the basement.

Walk closer to the window and you will see what I meant by matrices of eclairs. Neat, straight, perfect arrays of eclairs in a rainbow of colours. Bright red, apple green, sunflower yellow. Rose pink, coffee brown, shining gold. Each beautifully decorated by hand with tender loving care. Instagram moment.

Trust me, they are as good as they look. A delicate, soft choux pastry encasing a velvety smooth cream in surprising and exotic flavours. Think Persian pistachio, Tahitian vanilla and... popcorn. They update their creations every season like clothes in a shop so you will never get bored. Pleasure for the mind, mouth and soul.



I mean, whoever thought this looked like a ballerina had clearly never actually seen one. Photo Credit: FELIX

Pavlov(a)'s dog

Not as complex to make as a fine éclair, but with just as much flair and style, a pavlova is a delicious summer pudding. Hailing from New Zealand or Australia, depending on who you believe, it was named after the famed ballerina Anna Pavlova, whose ethereal frills it resembles. It's a pretty classic dessert now – but for a very good reason. What could go wrong with a crispy, marshmallow-like cake with heaps of whipped cream and fresh fruit?

Well, the short answer is everything. Pavlovas require a lot of arm work – or an electric beater – to make the meringue, which after all that effort can split and become watery in the oven. After your careful beating and baking, the meringue can then collapse as you let it rest.

This recipe is designed to be as fool proof as possible, but you do have to follow all the steps as accurately as possible!

Fruit wise, it's entirely up to you – I am particularly fond of a pavlova

with mango, strawberries and passion fruit, but will also happily add pineapple, any fresh berries or even thinly sliced apple. Just make sure that it's fresh, tasty and ideally in season.

Ingredients:

6 egg whites, from medium eggs – make sure there is absolutely no egg yolk!

330g icing sugar (caster can be used, but takes longer to dissolve)

2 teaspoons white vinegar

1 teaspoon cornflour

300mls whipping cream

Fresh fruit – see above

Speed is key here. Preheat the oven to 120C – and don't use the fan. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper, and draw a circle on it as a template for your pavlova. Take a large mixing bowl and make sure it is very clean – any fat will stop the egg whites from whipping. Add all the egg whites, and start beating! It's easiest to use a whisk, though some people swear by a fork. This stage is much easier with electric beaters. Once they reach very stiff peaks, start incorporating

the sugar, one tablespoon at a time. The mixture should transform into a glossy, smooth meringue. Feel a small amount inbetween your fingers – it should be completely smooth, with no sugar. If there is any, keep whisking to dissolve it. When it's all dissolved, fold in the vinegar and cornflour. Scoop the mixture onto your prepared paper, and spread to your desired shape. I like mine very thick with a chewy/goeey core, but some people go thin and crispy. Bake in the oven for 1-2 hours, turning the oven off as soon as the meringue begins to colour. Don't worry if it leaks a small amount of sugar syrup. Turn the oven off, and leave the meringue to cool inside with the door open.

When completely cool, start building the pavlova. Whip the cream – add a touch of icing sugar if you like, or maybe some fruit puree – and spoon that over the base. Top with the fresh fruit, and maybe sprinkle some toasted flaked almonds or white chocolate curls on top. Devour.

SANJAY BHATTACHARYA

Eclairs?
Posh
french hot
dogs



I wonder if he leaves chocolate squares wherever he goes.

Photo Credit: Christy Lam

FELIX HANGMAN



Corrections, Clarifications and Comments Corner

"You ask, we listen!"

Anonymous
Friday May 06 2016 14:21

Why was this not front page news? The front page doesn't even seem to have an article associated with it this week, and the story is really poor.

This comment appeared under our news piece, "Imperial A Cappella group wins world championships", last week. Here at FELIX, we care about what you think of us, so below we've made a special cut-out-and-keep commemorative A Cappella edition of that coveted FELIX front cover. This one's for you, Anonymous.

ISSUE 1633 FRIDAY 6th MAY 2016

FELIX

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

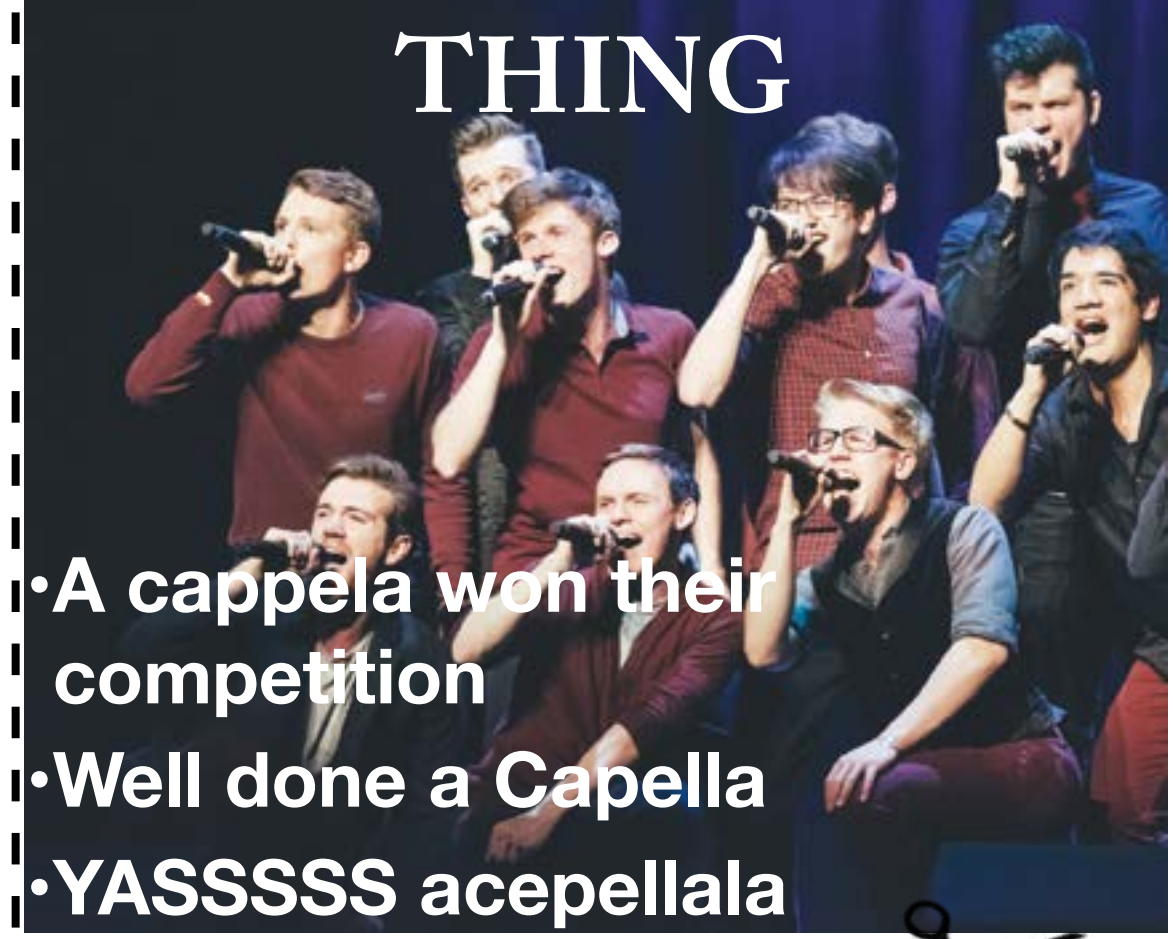
Other stupid exam story I guess

PAGE 4 NEWS

This story is really poor

PAGE 7 COMMENT

ACAPELA WON THE THING



- A cappella won their competition
- Well done a Capella
- YASSSSSS acepellala

CUT OUT AND KEEP

Imperial Tribes



Rifle and Pistol Club

There's nothing wrong with guns, chaps. Guns don't kill people, people kill people! And there's nothing I love more than people, except people with guns.

Hey, look, it's not like it sounds, I'm not some kind of NRA fanatic! I love that Michael Moore, movie, what was it called, shooting children dead at Columbine? I can't remember now.

Guns are important to man (and woman – yes, we have had female members for well over a decade now!) and there's nothing wrong with hunting animals, shooting bits of paper shaped like humans or just learning how to defend oneself in this insecure place we call Sadiq Khan's London!

I just don't see the problem people have with recreational firearm use. If I'm of sound mind, and I don't refer to it as my shooty shooty bam bam stick (you know the rules, Hugo!) what's wrong with me and the lads (and ladies!) from the club selling our members rounds of ammunition via the union website, you know?

We live in a free country, where licensed gun ownership is allowed. No lunatics here shooting up schools. It's actually an insult to the guns for you to bring up mass shootings, so, you know, apology accepted. Jeremy Corbyn can rip this gun from my cold dead hands (if he even knows how to properly handle it, ha ha ha!) and even then I would have a smaller air pistol in my boot to frighten the living daylights out of him!

FELIX HANGMAN



NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS





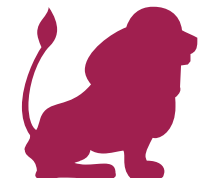





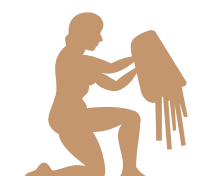



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|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---------------|---|----------------|---|--------------------|---|------------------|---|-----------------|---|---------------|
|  | ARIES |  | TAURUS |  | GEMINI |  | CANCER |  | LEO |  | VIRGO | | | | | | |
| <p>This week you're Katie Hopkins and you threatened to run naked down Regents Street with a sausage up your bum if Sadiq Khan became London Mayor. He did though, so you followed through, in scenes reminiscent of an IC Rugby initiation.</p> | <p>This week, while trying to test your drugs for toxic substances and generally have a safe night out, you accidentally create a new form of ecstasy from Daz, rat poison and bits of old Ketamine you found on the old furniture from Reynolds. You tell the world it's safer than horseriding and are kicked out of Imperial.</p> | <p>This week you're an animal-loving, privileged as fuck, life scientist who thinks that poor people should be allowed to starve to death to prevent overpopulation. Congratulations, you're David Attenborough!</p> | <p>This week, you're the people who continuously write about sex in FELIX. Yeah, we get it, you're getting laid. Congratulations! Now shut up about it.</p> | <p>This week, you're the lecturer who collects the centrefolds every week and has them all stuck up in the inside of a cupboard somewhere obscure in the Huxley building that you call your "happy place".</p> | <p>This week you named "RRS Boaty McBoatface" RRS David Attenborough. Democracy is dead. The fall of civilisation has come and precisely in the manner Orwell predicted it.</p> |  | LIBRA |  | SCORPIO |  | SAGITTARIUS |  | CAPRICORN |  | AQUARIUS |  | PISCES |
| <p>This week, you don't like something in FELIX, so you grab all the copies you can find and hide them in a back office. Unfortunately for you, the truth cannot be stopped, and a window left open allows all the copies to fly out onto the festival below. Yes, there was a paedo.</p> | <p>This week, unsure which way to vote in the EU referendum, you decide to race crabs to decide your allegiance. After the crabs refuse to race and begin to make tender crab love you realise that this is a sign. The system is fucked, so you spoil your ballot.</p> | <p>This week you are Zac Goldsmith. After losing the London mayoral election, you can now relax in Richmond Park, watch some of your favourite Bollywood films and finally work out how to use the Central line.</p> | <p>This week you are the president of the Rifle and Pistol club. Incensed by the mockery in this week's Hangman, you try and storm the FELIX office. Your tiny bullets fail to do much damage, and you have to retreat, defeated.</p> | <p>This week, you decide to make a group Tinder account as a club. You don't realise that you're required by union by-law to make your swipe history available on eActivities, which makes for an awkward first round of budgeting.</p> | <p>This week you're gliding society. You literally have planes. Do you really need your own planes? Can't you borrow someone else's? That seems kinda ridiculous and excessive when some of us out here are just trying to get a grant for a social or three. But who needs socials when you have planes.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |



The lowdown on the Techtonics win

A Cappella catch us up on their victory in New York

Will O'Reilly
Writer

The Techtonics, Imperial College Union's all-male a cappella group, have made international history by becoming the first British group to win the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella.

The International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella, or ICCA for short, is a massive competition of some 340 entrants, spread across the north of America, split into 8 regions, with one more final region in the UK. Only 10 groups progress to the final on Broadway in New York, and last weekend, representing Imperial and the whole of the UK, we were one of those teams.

The journey for us started back in March 2015, when the then-current, and future MDs, Alex Moore and Ehsaan Shivarani, started trying out arrangements, discussing what songs to pick for next year's competition. In short, each team has 12 minutes to present their wares, doing whatever they want. Soon, a set of all British songs had emerged, and we were ready to rehearse them. Roshani Abbey, a fellow a cappella and musical theatre enthusiast, joined our crew shortly after starting rehearsals for

bits of our 4-song set.

In February and March, the competition rounds began. We passed our way through the quarter-finals, and earned our place in the semi-finals in London. It came as

The whole audience was whooping and screaming

a complete surprise when we beat off all other UK groups, and got the chance to compete on Broadway.

Getting there would be no easy feat – with an August Edinburgh fringe show already paid for, we would have to raise another £6k to get flights to New York. Not only that, but the finals would occur right in the middle of exams for most of our members. Regardless, the group persisted, even through one



Look at these cuties and their giant trophy Photo Credit: Joe Martinez

member's glandular fever a week before the competition (wrecking for his singing voice), and flew out on Friday evening, landing shortly before midnight in JFK airport.

The first night, in "something of a murder motel" was surprisingly pleasant, managing to bag a free breakfast the next morning. With a troublesome journey into

Manhattan from the motel, we barely made the theatre in time for the intro brief before soundchecks. With our speedy 20 minute soundcheck done, we spent the rest of the day absorbing what we could of the beautiful New York scenery, including a warm up in nearby Central Park, before heading back to the theatre. Disaster struck when 3 of our members, bass, beatbox and a soloist, got stuck in the elevator on their way to the green rooms one hour before we were to open the show. Seconds after the call was made that The Techtonics should be moved to a later slot, the trapped singers emerged, and suddenly it was all go. 15 minutes later, we were ready in the wings, about to sing our hearts out for the last time.

I'll be honest, trying to describe the experience of the performance succinctly completely evade me. Opening the last round of a huge competition to a sell-out, 2800-strong, a cappella-frenzied audience was one of the experiences I will count as the best in my life. To put things in perspective, the Beacon Theatre is larger than every single theatre in London. And the whole audience was whooping and screaming like only an American crowd can.

The next 4 songs went by in a blur, with my recollection of the

Madeon intro jumping to Queen's *Bicycle Race*, then Sam Smith's *Lay Me Down*, and finally to The Beatles *I Saw Her Standing There* only existing because I had practiced it hundreds of times and knew each chord progression like the back of my hand. I remember snippets of a quick debrief in our green room following our breathless exit from the stage, with some well-wishes to the other groups occurring somewhere in between.

I won't bore you with the details of the other sets from the US groups, suffice to say they were slick and impressive, all of them. When we returned to the stage for the announcement, we were met with cheering, applause, and general elation that defied belief. The huge trophy, and with it, the international championship of collegiate a cappella, was ours.

Since then, it has been a whirlwind of activity. We were invited to go on the radio the next morning, and have had endless tweets, some from producers and actors (Skylar Astin, 'Jessie' from Pitch Perfect!), and trying to get the trophy back home on the flight was a nightmare. Hopefully it will be on display somewhere in college soon. We're proud that for the first time in the competition's history, we've brought the win back to the UK.



Capturing the moment of Ehsaan's incredible solo Photo Credit: Joe Martinez



ICSM Music Society Concert

One of my favourite things about playing the French horn is that you get called in to play in concerts at the last minute pretty often. At Imperial the concerts usually tend to end up being actually really good and so it's always quite exciting to get the opportunity to play with groups here. Last week I got to play in the ICSM Music Society Concert and it basically lived up to all my hopes for a concert and massively surpassed my expectations for a night that the only details I'd really been given beforehand were 'turn up for rehearsal at 4.30, St Stephen's Church'.

The ICSM Music Society Concert is a really special event that has all five of the ensembles under the ICSM Music umbrella (Choir, Chamber Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Bands) come together to perform under the same roof. With exams and deadlines a serious looming threat through any

Summer term, each ensemble only had an allocated two rehearsals for the concert but had clearly worked hard to produce the standard of music the night saw.

The night started with four pieces

Imperial has students that are phenomenal at way more than just their degrees

by Jazz Band, which included truly incredible solos from Auriol Harford and Joseph Dery. Choir then took the stage for a song from the musical *Oh Kay!* and a beautiful spiritual *Ezekiel Saw De Wheel*. The first half then finished with four pieces from the Bands, one of which was written by Music societies own Ben Lau, called 'Shine On' and certainly went a long way to proving that Imperial has students that are phenomenal at way more than just their degrees!

The second half started with two songs from Chamber choir, one was a piece by Olga Gjelo inspired by the aurora borealis and performed just as beautifully. The other was a jolly English madrigal that picked the mood in the room right up ready for Choir to return to the stage to sing Aerosmith's 'I don't want to miss a thing', arranged by Dominic Lagrue as a thank you for the effort and joy the group showed in choir all year.

After a brief pause to get orchestra set up, the Orchestra performed



Some of the Dinner Club volunteers. Photo Credit: ICSM Music Society

a Rimsky Korsakov 'Fantasy on Serbian Themes' and a James Bond Medley which were met with enthusiastic audience response.

Orchestra was then joined by the choir for a brilliant ending to the concert, performing the Triumphant March from *Aida*. I had an incredible time and I really would urge you to check out the ICSM Music society, I've yet to be disappointed by a concert.

THE UNION AWARDS

Nominations now open!

Help someone get the recognition they deserve for their contribution to the Union.

Nominations are open Friday 13 May till Friday 27 May.

imperialcollegeunion.org/unionawards

FELIX CLUBS & SOCS



felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial College Chess Congress

John Sargent
Writer

The UK has historically been a chess friendly place and with one of the stops of the million-dollar-plus Grand Chess Tour now on our doorstep each December at Olympia's London Chess Classic, the profile of chess is becoming stronger in recent times.

Imperial College boasts a proud history of playing host to chess events throughout the 80's and 90's, looking out towards the Queen's Tower from where the current JCR and SCR sit. Due to the organisers leaving Imperial and difficulties with finding room, however, this then fell by the wayside.

This was revived in 2011 when the chess club and alumni joined forces with Imperial College Union to host the first congress in over a decade in the shadow of the Royal Albert Hall. The increase in interest

As a
testament
to the
competition
2nd place
had seven
people
sharing

for events in London coupled with the fantastic location cemented the congress as a fixture in player's calendars – and 2016 marks the fifth time the congress has been put on since then!

Just under 100 players were gathered throughout the last weekend of April in the Union Dining Hall for three days of play. Some flew in for the event from abroad including from the United

States, which is a great testament to IC Union's strong reputation for providing an excellent environment to play in.

The leading contender in the Open section was FIDE Master Terry Chapman of England, although competition was fierce as eleven players rated within 200 ELO points of each other were bunched up at the top. In the Major (rated under 2000) section Ray Morris-Hill, who won the section at the previous event, again led the field and Imperial College alumni (and ex-chess club president) Nikunj Sinha headed the list of entrants in the Minor section.

Due to how tight the competition was in all sections, it perhaps wasn't surprising to see the emergence of someone slightly further down the entry list as an early contender. Alistair Hill took a clear half-point lead after Saturday's games with FM Terry Chapman on his heels. Scotland's CM Paul Roberts, also one of the highest rated players in the tournament, fell a full point behind at this point and had a big uphill battle on the Sunday to achieve the top positions.

The Major showed some more of the usual suspects who perform consistently well throughout the year in London's local leagues (Imperial College Chess Club participates in these, so if you are a player yourself and fancy some competitive games, do get in touch with us). Charles McAleenan faced off against Ray Morris-Hill in what could have decided the sole lead heading into Sunday but fought out to a draw, allowing Oliver Finnegan to take the overall lead by half a point courtesy of his win over Peter Wood.

In the Minor, Imperial alumnus Nikunj started round three on second board, half a point behind the two leaders who actually represented two thirds of the non-English players in the section! Italian Domenico Amabile successfully won with black against Cledwyn Davies of Wales to set himself up with a sole half-point lead that he would not relinquish, allowing him to win the Minor outright.

Oliver Finnegan showed class to power through the Major and win with only a single draw and four wins, putting him in clear first place. As a testament to the competition, 2nd place had seven people sharing, a

full point behind on 3.5/5 with Ray Morris-Hill leading the pack but unable to catch. Finally, in the Open section, Terry Chapman fought an amazingly spirited game in the final round to defeat Valentin Gaudeau with the black pieces, and ensure he clawed back the deficit to early leader Alistair Hill. This guaranteed both of them a share of 1st after Alistair's final round draw against Steven Jones.

Pictured is an exciting game from the congress we can reproduce for you here, played between

Pictured is
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Jacques Tivillier and Chino Nwachukwu. Annotations are provided by International Master and professional chess coach and commentator Thomas Rendle.

We look forward to hosting the congress again when time allows, and are already planning the next one. If you're interested in participating or you play chess and would like to check out the club, we welcome you with open arms and are always looking for new players! We meet every week on campus (location next year TBC) and you can get in touch by e-mailing chess@imperial.ac.uk.

Many thanks to Appy Deshpande & Bob Yung from IC Chess who kept things well oiled with the organising team all weekend, as well as James Lindsay & Darya Shirobokova of ICU without whom the event couldn't exist at our wonderful venue.



1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 h6 9.Bh4 Nbd7 10.0-0-0 g5 [Black lashes out on the kingside but this leaves his King rather stranded in the centre.]

11.fxg5 Ne5 12.Qe2

[White could also have sacrificed his Queen at this point with the entertaining 12.gxf6! Nxf3 13.fxe7 Qb6 14.Nxf3 and White has 3 pieces and a very strong attack in return for the Queen.]

12...Nfg4 13.Kb1 hxg5 14.Bg3 Bd7 15.Nf3 Qb6 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.Qf3 Rc8 19.Be2 Ba3 20.Nb5!



20...Bb4? [The decisive mistake]

[necessary was 20...Bxb5+ Qxb5 22.Qxa3 with an evenly balanced game]

21.Rxd7! Rh7 [the rook cannot be taken 21...Kxd7 22.Qxf7+ Be7 23.Rd1+ and Black must lose his Queen or be mated after 23...Kc6 24.Qxe6+ Kc5 25.Qc4#] 22.Qd3 Rc6 23.Rd1 axb5 [This leads to mate but Black's position was already hopeless]

24.Rd8+! Ke7 25.Qd7+ Kf6 26.Rf1+ Kg6 27.Rg8+ Kh6 [or 27...Rg7 28.Qxf7+! Kh6 29.Qxg7#]

28.Rf6# [A fitting finish to a fine attacking display from White.]