Corrupt Regime Finally Ousted From Office In Violent Revolution

Hangman
Editor-in-Chief

West Basement - Beit Hall Following fierce fighting Hangman has this week finally wrested the control of University newspaper production from the corrupt, odious Editor-in-Chief Joe ‘the bloodthirsty’ Letts. Whilst information from the ground is still sketchy at best, it appears that our noble hero, Hangman, took the opportunity to seize power from the former regime following the chaos caused by the West Basement ‘redevelopment’ (for a real look at what this so-called redevelopment really means, see Best Features).

Seized, however, does not do justice to the selfless act Hangman has carried out in ridding our Great University from this editorial tyrant and his team of yes-men section editors. It would be more appropriate to view this as the return of power, freedom and voice to you, the student and reader.

The struggle, whilst relatively short, caused indescribable carnage as well as significant and regrettable collateral damage. At approximately 3.45 am on the 19th of March, Hangman and a group of loyal supporters stormed the Former Felix Office taking out several key section editors (thought to be the entirety of News and at least one member of Comment). Fierce hand-to-hand combat ensued and many loyal Hangman supporters died for the cause.

Slowly, however, the battle turned in Hangman’s favour and upon seeing the loss of his best lieutenant – Tessa Davey – the cowardly Letts decided to flee. In the confusion of battle, he somehow managed to evade capture. Latest rumours suggest he may now be hiding within another corrupt publishing regime – The Tab. In any case, there is now a huge reward for Letts’ capture, dead or alive (see News).

Whilst in normal circumstances Letts could have expected reinforcements from both STOIC and IC Radio, the sheer number of boxes and old equipment prevented Master of TV, Johnny ‘mad-axe’ Pratt and Station Manager George ‘the butcher’ Butcher from coming to their old crony’s aid.

It is said that once the news filtered out to the general Imperial populace there were woops of joy followed by impromptu communal parties on all floors of the library. The exceptions, of course, were the silent sections which remained sacredly soundless.

In statement to the press and University as a whole, Hangman said “this is an auspicious day in the history of student publications at Imperial” “We have a proud and noble tradition of excellent publications stretching back generations. From the ashes of this putrid regime it shall arise once more”.

In the interests of operating in a transparent manner, Hangman also distributed a separate press release describing the changes to be made to Imperial’s foremost publication. Sources also confirmed that, whilst Editor-elect, Philippa Skett, would be allowed to continue next year, she would only be in charge of day-to-day running of the new publication in a newly created role entitled ‘The Voice of Hangman’.

It is thought that, despite these being uncertain times for Imperial student publications, so unpopular were the previous regime that it is unlikely that there would be any counter-revolution. Justice for the many victims of Letts and his underlings cannot be finally served, however until the man himself is made to pay for his atrocities.

Evil Oligarchy Maintained

Well, who gives a fuck about university sport?

Nasty truths about the West Basement redevelopment
Evil Oligarchy Maintained

Timothy McSweeney
Real News Editor

Despite the joyous news that Felix has fallen, it must be remembered that we live forever in the shadow of the evil oligarchy of the Union and by extension Grand Master Sir Keith Onions aka The Onion Knight. There is no more pertinent reminder of the current situation than the results of the recent sabbatical elections.

The outcome clearly shows that there is long way to go before the Imperial student body can be truly free of this evil oligarchy.

The oligarchy renewed itself once more in a series of shame elections for a number of positions that serve little purpose but to fill the pockets and further than sordid ambitions of the few ‘winners’.

Whilst you’re slaving away trying to get a decent degree these puppets issue further than sordid ambitions of the purpose but to fill the pockets and a number of positions that serve little more in a series of shame elections for the student body can be truly free of this.

Is long way to go before the Imperial as the rest of us. It is also victims of the dystopic student life of Imperial as the rest of us. It is well known that the real power lies solely in the hands of the Rector, the Onion Knight himself.

It is difficult to see how such a many can be overthrown, however we must all take hope from the removal of Joe Letts as Editor-in-Chief.

Hangman
Editor-in-Chief

In a discovery whose full implications for the fields of astronomy and physics have yet to be truly understood, the gruesome remains of a divine being or beings appeared to have been found by the team manning the Bicep2: telescope at the South Pole.

In a statement to the press, the team of astrophysicists attempted to explain their findings, “whilst rigorous retesting is still required, it would appear that we have discovered the grisly remains of some former divine being or perhaps even multiple beings involved in the very beginnings of the Universe itself”.

“We are, of course, loathe to speculate, but it is entirely possible that this might be the remains of Zeus or any number of the Greek or Roman Pantheon of Gods”.

“Perhaps it could go even further back than that; these may well be the final parts of the mysterious Titans”.

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Grisly Remains Of Divine Being Recorded By Telescope

Hangman
Editor-in-Chief

World Searches for Signs of Missing Journalism

Timothy McSweeney
Real News Editor

The journalism of over 200 news sources, including several news channels, has gone missing mere hours after Malaysian Airline flight MH370. The world is now searching frantically for any real news through the sea of conspiracy theories being spat into our collective eyes.

Any sign of journalistic integrity dropped off the radar as more and more terrorist groups were suspected of stealing a plane and flying it away without claiming any credit for the attack. Every terrorist and his mum has been accused of a hijacking, including Kim-Jong II, and his mum, Kim-Jong Never-Seen-In-Public and his, Kim-Bone II.

Compounding this global catastrophe of fake news are the millions of people who feel the need to tweet the phrase: “How can you lose a plane? They’re so big!”. Authorities in Malaysia, China, Australia and Japan encourage this behaviour, saying, “Everybody who tweets that should look up at the sky and let us know immediately if they see the plane. We have no idea where this thing is, and since there are so many fucking experts out there, we thought it would be really great if they could lend us a hand, since all of our militaries are getting nowhere with their state of the art detection equipment.”

This Hangman writer agreed to throw his hat into the ring, since he’ll get a book deal if he’s right, and nobody will care if he’s wrong. Timothy’s official theory is that the plane was stolen by Colonel Mustard, using the fictional porcelain guns from Die Hard 2, and he’s landed it in Atlantis. Infamous magicians, Siegfried and Roy could not be reached for comment, but their publicist assured us that they will not reappearance the aircraft at a show in Vegas and that we definitely shouldn’t book tickets for The Colosseum at Caesars Palace for March 28th because that “would not be the night of the most amazing magic trick ever, wink.”

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?
LAST SPOTTED FLEEING THE WEST BASEMENT OF BEIT

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DEAD OR ALIVE

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Do you think you could make a difference? Do you have a friend who can write an article for the Tab? Are you white and male? If yes to the last two of these, then you too could run for Union President! The last 4 Union Presidents have been white and male, the perfect combination for this post. After all, you’re statistically more likely to become a CEO, so why not apply for a paid internship as one? Do you think the word ‘delegate’ means ‘have the other sabbys do your work at the expense of their social lives because you just don’t feel like it’?

Can you ruin a graduation by being a terrible public speaker? If the answer is still yes, then run! You’re more then likely to win! If you’re not white but still male, run anyway! It makes us look good to have you coming second. Female? Ha! It would be cruel for us to let you be CEO for a year only to drop you into a world where an entire system is geared against that happening.

It’s still not to late to get involved in the Revolution…

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk
Controversy as Greek Health Minister Adonis Georgiadis visits Imperial

Eleftherios Apostolakis reports from Sunday’s talk

Last Sunday the College was visited by Adonis Georgiadis, the Greek Health Minister. The event – organised by the Imperial College Hellenic Society and held in the Clore Lecture Theatre – both from College and outside. One Imperial student gives his perspective:

On Sunday, Adonis Georgiadis was invited to Imperial College London to discuss the Greek crisis and how the country can move forward. The event was supported by the LSE Hellenic Society, the IC European Union Society, the IC Economics Society, Promote Greece and Omikron Greece. I’ve been waiting for this all week, unsure of what to expect from both the crowd and the guests.

I’m in the lecture theater waiting for the talk to start, pen and paper in hand. The atmosphere feels heavy but maybe that’s just me. The audience is comprised of men and women of various ages – from the snippets of conversation I pick up they’re mostly Greek.

The Health Minister is 20 minutes late – at this point a group of people hand out a declaration composed by Greek Imperial Students and Staff against the invitation of Georgiadis to Imperial. As time goes by, people get more excited, more tense. Conversation gets louder. Someone from the crowd asks how long we’ll be waiting for, one of the organizers replies that he’ll be here at 17:30. “You should have told us, we’re busy people. We’re not all Ministers”. The heckling has begun.

The minister walks in more than half an hour late, met with a mixture of booping and clapping. As he talks the polarization in the room becomes evident. In the front sit the members of the Society responsible for organising the event and those who are in agreement with the whole idea. In the back are those unhappy with this initiative – those who are angry at the Government and the Health Minister. As Dinalexis talks there are angry comments and laughter coming from the back – not a good sign. However right before he steps off the podium he makes a good point “…Who would be better to understand democracy than the Greek people? I’ll start crying!… I don’t deserve this charade”. He ends up challenging the hecklers to come on the stage and talk openly.

A young woman takes the invitation and proceeds to read a prepared statement that paints a sad yet true picture of the state of Public Health in Greece, based on facts and studies. She talks with confidence, as the audience listens in silence.

As Georgiadis tries to reply to the points made in the declaration, shouts and insults are shot at him again. At some point he yells out sarcastically “…what a great democracy you are…. I can reply (but) it will never be possible for us to understand each other”. As the crowd settles down, he starts tackling the points made in the declaration again. He starts off by renouncing political responsibility prior to 2011. He then describes the actions taken to tackle the crisis. Again the crowd reacts and the conversation deteriorates. At some point Georgiadis is heard asking the audience: “You are the democrats? You know nothing about democracy…. If you think you are a resistance to the Troika by spending your parents money…” The audience is justifiably outraged, several people are clearly professionals, not affiliated with Imperial and can be heard shouting back: “We work!”

At this point one of the organisers takes over and asks both sides to have a civilized conversation without insulting each other. The Minister starts talking again. To questions about the cuts, the privatisations and their necessity the Minister replies in a challenging tone “…the people decided to keep the country in the Eurozone and this is what it’s taken the Greek political party” spark a series of comments from the Minister including: “So this is the Troika [the European Union, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund – the three groups responsible for the Greek bailout] resistance, what a resistance! I’ll start crying!… I don’t deserve this charade”. He ends up challenging the hecklers to come on the stage and talk openly.

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Chemical Engineering PhD receives award

Dr Maria Fernanda Jimenez Solomon was awarded the prize, which is awarded to excellent PhD students who are doing research that helps solve industrial problems. Maria’s supervisor is the Head of the Department in Chemical Engineering, Professor Andrew Livingston.

Maria’s research focuses on polymeric membranes, where plastic microporous films can be used to remove impurities and toxic materials from pharmaceutical products. A conventional membrane would typically break down on exposure to organic solvents that are used during the process. The membranes that are solvent stable are inefficient to use as they only enable a small amount of chemical to go through them. However, the work undertaken by Maria enables a greater amount of solvent to pass through the membrane, thus the filtering speed is greater. The company Evonik has licensed two patents that were produced by Maria; Evonik are also sponsoring Maria’s Postdoctoral research, which focuses on creating filters that are larger so can be used in industry.

The Director of the Graduate School, Professor Sue Gibson said that: “Maria’s outstanding research in this area has led to a significant scientific breakthrough which will have a major impact on industrial purification processes. The candidates for this year’s medal were very strong; however Maria’s determination, motivation and persistence throughout her research project make her a deserving winner. We are pleased to be able to recognise her achievements with this award.”

Maria commented: “The Armstrong Medal is a very prestigious award and I am absolutely delighted to have been chosen as the winner. I knew that I was up against a lot of really interesting and exciting projects, so this was a very unexpected honour. I actually have a background in Chemistry so I had never worked with machines before I embarked upon my PhD. The support and guidance I received from Imperial – especially from my supervisor – in this area has been invaluable in allowing me to achieve this success. I look forward to continuing my research and am excited at the prospect of developing my ideas further.”

RCSU Science Challenge Winners Announced

Joe Letts
Editor-in-Chief

On Monday the winners of the RCSU Science Challenge were announced at the Science Challenge Final, held at the Churchill War Rooms.

The competition was open to Imperial students and school children who were tasked with choosing one of three essay questions or the video question.

The overall winner of the competition was Emma Wills (also a contributor to Felix Science) who wrote an essay Pallab Ghosh’s 9 year old daughter, encouraging her to study Exoplanets when she reaches university.

The judges, Prof. Fay Dowker, former Felix Editor Pallab Ghosh, Jon Kudlick of the Society of Biology and former RCSU President Dr. Jad Marrouche picked winning entries for both Imperial and school submissions.

Imperial Professor elected as Einstein Professor of the Chinese Academy of Sciences

Nida Mahmud
News Editor

The Head of the Department of Surgery and Cancer, Professor Jeremy Nicholson has been elected as the Einstein Professor of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The motivation of this award is to develop the collaboration and exchange between the world’s best institution and China’s national scientific body.

Professor Nicholson said: “I am delighted to have been elected to this prestigious role and I’m thrilled to have the chance to work closely with some of China’s leading research institutions as part of the programme. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the training and development of China’s future scientific leaders, and I look forward to meeting many of them during the visits and lecture-tours over the coming year”
A first year Imperial computing student has taken the second place prize at this year’s Cyber Security Challenge. Luke Granger-Brown was one of 42 finalists taking part in the final round of the competition – the Cyber Security Masterclass, this year taking place in the old Cabinet War Rooms. The competition was founded in 2010 as a collaboration between the UK government and several prominent companies, including the defence contractor QinetiQ. The competition is open primarily to amateurs and aims to encourage more people to develop the skills necessary to join the computer security industry in the face of increasing threats to our computer networks.

Speaking to Felix Luke expressed his belief that “cyber-security is very important – computing is an unavoidable part of our everyday lives now, and it’s down to everyone to play their part in keeping data secure”. However, the general public remains widely ignorant of how important it is. “More than a few data breaches”, Luke added, “could’ve been avoided if the same old advice had been followed: don’t click links in emails (especially your account has been locked) or your password has been changed”; don’t download attachments you weren’t expecting or from people you don’t recognise; run up-to-date antivirus software.

The lack of prominence of the field has resulted in a chronic shortage of people wanting to work in the cyber security. While Luke first got interested in computing as a result of family connections, many other people who would thrive in the area simply do not realise that they have the abilities to do so. Speaking to Wired magazine the Challenge CEO, Stephanie Damen, said: “There are a lot of people out there with the skills, but for a lot of reasons, partly because we didn’t teach it in school, partly because they’re unaware of the talent, it’s hidden talent. We know there’s talent, the problem is finding it.”

The aim of the Challenge is to bring out this talent and put those who have it in touch with those who can help them develop it further. Luke, in particular, believes that “it’s a great way to meet people with a similar interest, as well as to learn more about the policy side of things, and talk to sponsors in the industry about what it’s like to work in cyber-security”.

The Challenge presents a diverse range of tasks to the competitors. Luke says: “There are three rounds to the main competition – first a virtual round, that’s entirely online. If you manage to get through that, then there’s a face-to-face round, which is slightly more exciting. Passing that gets you through to the Masterclass, which is the most thrilling part. Usually the Masterclass is in teams made up of people who qualified from different streams; i.e. different face-to-face rounds) to make sure there’s a diverse range of skill sets available in each team.

The best part is almost certainly the networking opportunities the Challenge provides – they’re unparalleled and a great way to talk to sponsors! The prizes are good too, though - training courses and exams that would cost far too much for me to afford on my own. The Masterclass competition itself was also really amazing – a simulated scenario of a cyber-attack on Britain which had all sorts of different aspects – network traffic analysis, speaking to the press, developing a patch and writing up reports (both technical and non-technical), reverse engineering malware, creating cleanup solutions for malware and penetration testing.”

The competition’s organisers hope that the Cyber Security Challenge encourages more people to pursue work in this field. As Luke says: “it’s a big world out there and attackers are only getting smarter and a wider range of potential adversaries are appearing; we need better and better ways to protect ourselves.”

Questions are directly answered, with Georgiadis diverting the conversation to a discussion about democracy. He also points out that the suicide and vaccination numbers they cite are wrong. He also compares the Greek crisis to the 1940-45 British crisis that led to the creation of the NHS – a remark which is unfortunately coupled with a comment on illegal immigrants.

About questions to all three greater freedom and protection, at lower prices by opening up the pharmacist profession, the Health Minister replies that such a policy “has made people in Greece as the country has one of the highest numbers of pharmacies per capita. He says such measures would result in half of them going out of business. He then asks about the game that is surrounding the drowning of migrants off the coast of Farmakonisi and his statements on it in Greek parliament. Georgiadis is specifically asked what is the value of a human life – is the life of an immigrant less valuable than that of a Greek national and whether will be mirrored in his reforms. The Minister makes some comments on immigration and talks about how Greece has hit its limit, as well as accusing the inquirer of sneaking taking his statements out of context. However, the conversation is swiftly derailed, with the Minister eventually calling the crowd communist and commenting on Stalin’s policies.

When a doctor from the audience accuses him of being the first Health Minister in history to target particular ethnic groups, as well as criticising the government for disregarding scientific facts and producing a climate of fear of censorship among the academic community, the conversation is derailed into an argument over semantics of what is a fact and what is an opinion. Regarding measures to tackle the humanitarian crisis in Greece, all the Minister states is that he is “discussing with the data privacy solution and that he will propose measures by June. The discussion is nearing its end throughout there have been interruptions of commotion. Even the panelists seem to have lost their patience, not only with the audience but also with the Minister – who is engaging in a game of verbal tag and seems to try his best to challenge the crowd. When a young man makes a comment about the Health Minister’s English, Georgiadis starts shouting “You are racist! You are racist! You are a fascist!” – apparently in mockery of his opponents in the audience.

The last person from the audience to speak is the young woman that was invited to speak up first. She proceeds to talk about her personal experience with a young girl with HIV in the Koridalos prison in Athens. She criticises the reintroduction of the regulation that requires mandatory STI testing of socially vulnerable groups such as sex workers, drug users and illegal immigrants. She gets emotional half way through. The Health Minister, outraged, attacks her for showing emotion and accuses her of manipulating the crowd. “Like you’re the only (one that’s) human! You should be ashamed! You’re the monster”.

The discussion is closed after this. The crowd has been getting smaller throughout the event and with this outburst a large part of the crowd gets up and leaves. In the front, the supporters of the Health Minister are applauding him. Georgiadis delivers his closing speech. He carries some of the most absurd statements I have heard all night: “These people are in our universities, they’re everywhere, they speak of democracy but don’t let anyone that disagrees speak... We have to show them that we are not afraid of them. We are not afraid of them. We represent the free world... They make up the tyranny of the world...” He goes on to talk about the difficulty of being a politician in Greece, “...You have to be proud of these politicians that have the courage to stand up to the people and reverts to attacking the ethos of the crowd that opposed him”.

Whenever they [communists] took power they killed millions of people... they will see all the people in Greece die but for them this will be nothing, because they will watch the TV and eat their burger... You did not let us do this conversation and this is fascism... Today’s event was a great event... The Greek politicians are not doing things they’ve ashamed of... We will not let our country fall because some communists want to.”

Indeed the whole event was a great success for Georgiadis. He successfully evaded important questions on future reforms of the Health System by manipulating and challenging the audience into a verbal fight.

Ironically he kept going on about democracy, how the people had elected him, how he represents the will of the people and how opposing him meant opposing them. He kept repeating the same argument and I have to say, it got me thinking. We did vote for him. Democracy did get him where he is. Is not a system that results in such people acquiring political power flawed? Is this a result of the tyranny of the majority? Or is it just a mind game that politicians play with us to make us believe that yes, democracy is indeed flawed, when in fact what we have is not democracy. Perhaps it is the coupling of democracy with capitalism that is problematic, I don’t know. All I know is that we need change.

Sponsored Editorial

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How has your life changed as a result of writing *House of Cards*?

It totally... I wrote it as an accident. I wrote it as a result of a bet. Actually, I didn't even write it as a bet, I was challenged on a holiday to see if I could write a book and I really bored and had nothing else to do on holiday. I'm very bad on holiday so I sat down beside the swimming pool that afternoon with a pad and a pencil and a bottle of wine and I said 'I wonder if I could write a book?'. Not in a serious way, but in a way that many people climb Ben Nevis. You climb Ben Nevis—it's been done a million times before. You climb it, you get there at the top and there's a sense of fulfilment and achievement in getting there, but nobody in the entire world pays the slightest bit of notice as it's all been done a million times before. That's what I thought that it would be like.

So, I started writing this book. I found myself really enjoying the whole process. It sort of took off and transformed my life. It totally changed my life for all the right reasons. And it was a complete accident!

As well as your boredom, was there anything else that inspired you?

I had just finished helping Margaret Thatcher fight in the 1987 general election campaign, which was a very bruising experience for me. I was not a Thatcherite. Mr. Thatcher was desperately unknd to me at the time, and I was feeling a bit sore and I was sulking a bit. I had been working incredibly hard for several years leading up to that election. I was finding that rather batters and bruised and I think that must have had some sort of influence on me because as I said I went by the pool with my pad and my pencil and a bottle of wine. By the time the bottle of wine was finished all I had on my pad were two initials, two letters: 'FU'. I guess that was a sort of therapy. And the EU became Francis Urquhart, Frank Underwood, and as I say it changed the rest of my life.

Where did the name Urquhart come from as it is a rather unusual name?

It's U. If you go to the telephone directory for U, there are actually a very small number of names that begin with U. Unwin, Underwood, Upright—there isn't really a huge selection. I thought that the name Urquhart had a rather nice Scottish flavour to it, a slightly mysterious flavour to it, a slightly noble flavour to it and I wanted him to have a background. It was really picked at random.

To what extent are you involved in the Netflix production of *House of Cards*?

I'm an executive producer and I provided the original concept of the characters and what they will do and what motivates them. I'm in touch with them (the team) pretty much every week, but because I'm in here and they're there. While I go over to the States quite a lot, there's a real limit onto actually how much I can put into it. I don't do any of the writing, that is done by a team of writers under a wonderful man called Beau Willimon and that's taking place in New York right now. I can't be both in New York and here; I have obligations here. I am there to help them along, to give them any advice that they want, to cheer them along, and to help sell it—absolutely! And to enjoy every moment of it! In all honesty, if I fell under a bus tomorrow, it would still go on—and so it should! It's a real team effort. I think that there are very few irreplaceable people in the entire world; Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright being the two very obvious ones. They are brilliant. I have watched them do their scenes and they are very funny. They are like a real comic! While they are waiting for the sets to be rigged they are laughing, joshing around, playing games, and all of a sudden they change! They go onto the set and what you see on the screen is this extraordinary, extraordinary couple. I think they are dynamic, and I can see many of those scenes being acted out on stage because they are really theatrical and crackle with electricity.

After your first book, *House of Cards*, you went on to have a very successful writing career. What made you continue and what tips would you have for budding writers?

I enjoyed the freedom of it because you indulge yourself, you decide what you want to write, where it is you want to go, who is it you want to meet—so it's incredibly indulgent! It is also terrifying. It is desperately competitive and you never really know from one book to the next what's going to happen to your world. And when you have family responsibilities, it is a real challenge. It's that terror that gets you out of bed in the morning and pushes you that step further. So, never take it for granted. I so much prefer it to a corporate life, being, I guess, my own boss. So many people come to me saying 'I want to write a book. How do I do it?' And I say it's very simple—you sit down at a desk, and get out your pen or keyboard and start. There are so many reasons for putting it off, and there is only one way to do it and that's to go on with it! Until I started I hadn't the slightest idea I could write or not. It was a voyage of discovery. I still don't regard myself as being a great writer, I regard myself as being a competent writer and I'm learning all the time. There are very few great writers, but you can make yourself a much, much better writer by working very hard at it—which is what I have been doing for almost... 25 years now!

Do you have any favourite writers?

Oh loads, yes. Being a writer opens your imagination to all sorts of things and I found, at least in my case, that it opened my eyes, my mind to all sorts of different writers. Many people are comfortable with one style of writing, one style of book, one genre, and I suppose that I was a bit like that. Nowadays I read almost anything, and as long as it is well written I can get something out of it. The problem is one is so busy writing and doing everything else that the chance to sit down and read for joy are a bit restricted. I have a bookcase at home which I have built for my retirement and I've stuffed it, and I am still stuffing it, full of all the great novels that I have wanted to spend my time reading. Many, for instance, are American novels. I love the freshness of American novels. The Old English novels sort of go to my cultural roots, which is wonderful. What's the most recent book that I have read? A book by Simonon, one of his Maigret novels, which was delightful. Stirred up all sort of things. It's of its time, it's of its place—which is France in the 1930s. It reminds me of my childhood when I watched the old Maigret films on television. It's a very slim little volume; it only takes a few hours to read, but it is full of joy. I think that book is like a window into different worlds—you walk through that door and you find yourself in a totally different world. It's wonderfully exciting and it's so cheap—much better than getting on an airplane. It takes you back in time. It takes you forward in time. It introduces you to so many new characters. It is a wonderful, wonderful thing. Whoever

House of Cards from the House of Lords

Diana Lucaci and Alexander Morton talk to Lord Dobbs, creator of the House of Cards series

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So, I started writing this book. I found myself really enjoying the whole process. It sort of took off and transformed my life. It totally changed my life for all the right reasons. And it was a complete accident!

As well as your boredom, was there anything else that inspired you?

I had just finished helping Margaret Thatcher fight in the 1987 general election campaign, which was a very bruising experience for me. I was not a Thatcherite. Mr. Thatcher was desperately unknd to me at the time, and I was feeling a bit sore and I was sulking a bit. I had been working incredibly hard for several years leading up to that election. I was finding that rather batters and bruised and I think that must have had some sort of influence on me because as I said I went by the pool with my pad and my pencil and a bottle of wine. By the time the bottle of wine was finished all I had on my pad were two initials, two letters: 'FU'. I guess that was a sort of therapy. And the EU became Francis Urquhart, Frank Underwood, and as I say it changed the rest of my life.

Where did the name Urquhart come from as it is a rather unusual name?

It's U. If you go to the telephone directory for U, there are actually a very small number of names that begin with U. Unwin, Underwood, Upright—there isn't really a huge selection. I thought that the name Urquhart had a rather nice Scottish flavour to it, a slightly mysterious flavour to it, a slightly noble flavour to it and I wanted him to have a background. It was really picked at random.

To what extent were the Final Cut (Season three of the BBC House of Cards) inspired by Margaret Thatcher's downfall?

Well... You raise a slightly difficult point... I fell out with the BBC and you will not find my name on the Final Cut, the television series. That was because I don't think that they had taken any notice of the book. So it wasn't at all inspired by Mrs. Thatcher, it was inspired by other people.

The BBC did a wonderful version of the House of Cards, and in all honesty, the television series was much better than my amateurish attempt at writing a book. By the time it got to the third one, the 'Final Cut', the book was much better that the TV series. The writing improved and the television series, sadly, almost disappeared during the final series.

What do you like about the British and the American adaptations? Do you have any preferences? They are so different having been adapted to different cultures.

Different cultures, different times. We're actually talking a whole generation later. *House of Cards* was written when mobile phones were scarcely featured. Now, of course, there are all sorts of technologies that completely dominate our lives.

Which one do I prefer? It would be like asking Mo Farah which one of his Olympic titles he prefers, the 5000m or the 10,000m. They are different, but I really do feel as if I've won two Olympic gold medals. Ian Richardson [BBC] delivered superbly, Kevin Spacey [Netflix] is just magnificent and I relish the difference. I would hate for one to be a copy of the other! And let's face it, we are at the early stages of the American version. So, it will go on for a third series now and it might go on even further than that. We'll wait and see. But I will say this, the American version and dealing with Kevin Spacey and all the people involved in it has been and continues to be the happiest professional experience of my life. They are brilliant, they are wonderful people, they are incredibly professional and they are very warm and supportive. And I have a huge buzz working with them and being with them.
How was joining the House of Lords with the spectre of revolutionary reform nerve-wracking?
Oh, rather exciting. Rather engaging. I got here just over three years ago and worked very hard to understand it [House of Lords] and to get to know its ways. You can’t come into an institution like this and think you know everything – it’s silly. Most that do so make fools of themselves. What I have learnt is to hugly respect the core of the institution and a huge chunk of my colleagues here. It needs reform. Yeah, we are trying to reform it – desperately! The one man who has been trying to stand in the way of the reform that we want is Nick Clegg. But to elect it would make us like that place down the other end ‘fingers pointing’, the House of Commons. I can see no real advantage in that and I can see lots of huge disadvantages in that: it would make it more expensive, more professional. I think that we would rush ahead with that sort of reform very unwise. The place works surprisingly well. It can be made better and we want it to be made better. But the proposal for reform was shambolic, dreamed up on the back of an envelope; they hadn’t thought it through and it quite rightly got turned down. What I hope is that and when and if they do come back with further measures for reform they would be better thought through than that.

Who do you think was responsible for bringing the Private Member’s Bill [EU Referendum Bill] you were steering through the Lords?
Oh, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats. You just had Mr Miliband announce that he’s not going to guarantee an EU referendum at the next election. I believe George Osborne at Cabinet suggested that in the next Queen’s speech we have the EU Referendum Bill and the Lib Dems said “over our dead bodies!” And it was always going to be that way. I mean part of the exercise was to smoke them out and see where they stood. I remember on the final vote it was really rather bizarre, there were people saying “we must discuss and analyse and debate this bill very thoroughly, but we are not going to allow you the time to do it…” so they voted to end the sitting at three o’clock on a Friday and one of their members was standing up in the chamber, in the confusion of the chamber, pointing at the division lobby saying “this way to kill the bill!” Umm, thank you very much! I mean, we have now clearly established where all the parties stand on the EU Referendum Bill. From my point of view, the only way that anybody is going to be guaranteed a referendum on the EU is to have a Conservative government after the next election. Incidentally, an EU referendum is not pro or anti. It is simply about stopping all this political nonsense that the parties have been up to over the decades. It is about saying that the people, you guys, it’s your future, you decide! And a lot of people who are desperately in favour of a referendum are very pro-EU.

Lord Dobbs, thank you for your time.
My pleasure!

Can you tell us a bit about your current business in the sustainability sector?
Yes I can! Our name is Whotter, our team consists of myself, Carlo, a PhD from Physics and Arthur a Masters student from Paris. We are trying to harness green energy from waste as never done before. It’s an innovative idea, we have some funding in the bag and a coach, Nicula (a successful entrepreneur) to help us with it. Our aim is to provide a more environmentally friendly technology in comparison to incineration, Anaerobic digestion etc, to harness energy from waste in a simple way. We have been working on the idea for about three months now and have faced a number of hurdles. In fact the initial idea has been rejected by the universities we have visited but we are not to be defeated. In fact the initial idea has been rejected by the universities we have visited but we are not to be defeated.

I understand you are also organising TedX at Imperial. Tell me more about it.
Yes, we have a committee of about ten people who are working for about three months now to make TEDxIC awesome! I have personally been involved more on the speaker and sponsorship side. We have handpicked some amazing speakers, ranging from inspiring youth leaders to big time entrepreneurs. Our theme is “one step ahead” so most of them will be talking about amazing stuff they have been pioneering. The event is on the 29th of March, tickets are limited and the event is gonna be brilliant. Be there or be square! http://www.tedximperialcollege.co.uk/

What other major projects have you been involved with in the past?
Well I was the ex-International Students’ Officer at Imperial. There we have also worked extensively with Islamic societies; they do some amazing work, you have probably heard of them! C (b) Week was un-implausible (£28,000 last year)! Like WHAAA, I know! I have been doing lots of debating and recently participated in LIMUN (London International Model United Nations). I have recently started blogging and done my first blog and a series of mini blogs on Love.

How did you find being the International Students Officer (ISO)?
I had two massive achievements! I lobbied the university to have a fixed fee policy for international students, so fees don’t unfairly increase year on year. Cardiff was the first university in England and Wales to accept this policy, so yeah it was quite big! It will be implemented this year onwards and will save international students about a million pounds over the next five years! The second was campaigning to provide quiet rooms in every new building that is built, so students can practise their faith without being worried about walking a kilometre or missing lectures.

With MUN will you be taking part in any conferences or events?
Yes, I have managed to acquire some funding to participate and represent Imperial in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York this month. I’m really excited about that! Don’t worry, I’ll die before letting Imperial down! And what is the ‘love is in the air’ campaign about?
Love is the only infinite element on earth and it’s just sad to see how little of it we use. So I wrote a blog, talking about how love is not only for Valentine’s day or Mother’s day, but for every day. As Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) said “love for your brother what you love for yourself”, we have to eliminate envy, hate, jealousy from our lives. One way to do this is by incorporating small actions of love towards our neighbours, animals, plants, strangers, parents and so on! To demonstrate this I did a mini campaign for ten days of random acts of kindness. One example was where I accompanied Emma, an 85 year old who was walking alone to her home; on the way she shared some amusing stories from her past. More importantly, talking to someone made her really happy! Such people deserve much better! I hope others actually get inspired enough from these acts and spread some love. Actually, you should check it out, you might like it: http://sheikhabdullaarashid.wordpress.com/

That was a very impressive list of accomplishments, what do you hope to do in the future?
My aim in life is to do something that benefits the community, particularly the needy. As I mentioned earlier, this can be done via innovation and entrepreneurship and that is my immediate plan. However, I think the amount of work that can be done by being a politician is significant, for example what I achieved as International Officer couldn’t have been possible by being just a student. So I do envision getting into Indian politics and working very hard to help the people! Wish me luck.

Any last comments or recommendations for Imperial students?
Be ambitious, aim and work very hard for the wider good, spread love all around and don’t worry too much about happiness. Let Newton’s third law work itself up: Every action has an equal and opposite reaction!
International Night Successes

Charmain Li
Overseas Societies Chair

International Night (I-Night): Beyond Barriers 2014 organised by the Overseas Societies Committee (OSC) took place last Thursday at the Great Hall. Bringing together 10 different Imperial College student societies in a nail-biting competition, it involved colourful acts from Thai Society, Hellenic Society, Irish Society, Belly Dancing, Malaysian Society, Funkology, Japanese Society, Dance Company, Bangladeshi Society, Cypriot Society and a catwalk by Fashion Society!

Four esteemed judges, including Yas Edwards (DPCS), Sharon Bolton (Head of International Student Support), Anne Barrett (College Archivist) and Anthony Crowther (Students Activities Manager) were invited to judge which act deserved to win the I-Night Award of £200. Each member of the audience was also automatically entered into a raffle to win a £100 travel voucher, kindly provided by STA Travel - talk about a good deal!

Directed by Yiting Low and the OSC team led by Charmain Li, the show featured stunning performances ranging from the Malaysian Society’s impressive traditional Dikir Barat composed of a troupe of over 40 students and Funkology’s fierce street dancing, to the Irish Society’s performance dancing and the Fashion Society’s combination of original creations and traditional dress. Together, it was an eclectic and culturally educational evening!

However, there could only be one winner… which was rightly claimed by the Japanese Society, who adapted the traditional Japanese folk tale Momotarō, and filled it with lots of laughter, including cameos from Pikachu and Pac-Man!

All in all, it was a diverse and entertaining affair this year, with reviews raving about performances that were better than ever! Keep your eyes peeled for next year’s competition which promises to be a spectacular show of Imperial’s multicultural diversity!

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The single most important thing you will do
A t the end of February, Nick Clegg and energy secretary Ed Davey announced a joint deal with Shell for the retrofitting of the Peterhead gas fired power station in Scotland with Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) technology. Whilst the UK would lead the world with such a project, there has always been a black cloud of doubt over CCS as a way to meet our ambitious CO2 emission targets. The Peterhead power station managed to beat off several other contenders to become one of two power stations to win the government’s CCS competition. The signing of the deal marks the first major step in the project by commissioning a front-end engineering and design (FEED) study. On completion, the plant will have the ability to power around half a million homes with clean energy by removing up to a million tons of CO2 emissions per year. The £100m project will capture up to 90% of the emissions from one of the plant’s three gas turbines simultaneously cleaning up the North Sea gas feedstocks whilst creating up to 2000 jobs in the construction, operation and technical management of the CCS system. The deal with Shell will make Peterhead the first large scale gas power station in the world to capture its carbon emissions and the excitement over this was captured by Deputy Prime minister Nick Clegg who stated that “it shows we can build a stronger economy and do it fairly by protecting our environment for future generations.” Whilst the optimistic mind-set of Mr Clegg is certainly quite appealing, it is well worth examining CCS more deeply to grasp why it has taken off relatively slowly despite having been initially developed a relatively long time ago. CCS is touted for great economic potential to be between 10% and 55% of the total carbon mitigation effort until year 2100. Despite this, it has to date been fraught with major concerns over economic efficiencies and technological hurdles. CCS has actually been around for many decades but is yet to proven effectively at the scale of large power stations. The main concerns have been around the successful joining up the all the parts of the process, namely capture, transportation and storage, a task that has proven notoriously difficult. Furthermore, given that all parts of the process work, there still remains concern over the costs of running a CCS system and many have questioned whether it is really worth its traditionally enormous price tag. Further still, it must be remembered that attempts to initiate role out of CCS have failed with the UK’s previous CCS competition attempt having collapsed. Whilst the announcement of the Peterhead project is a hugely exciting one, dredging up of such memories should remind us to proceed with caution but should in no way thwart ambition.
The Cancer Envy Campaign

Pancreatic cancer has the lowest survival rate out of the common cancers; only three percent make it past five years, with the majority only making it to 4-6 months after diagnosis. The campaign aimed to improve public awareness regarding this. Its tagline portrayed how those with pancreatic cancer wished they had other types which have better survival rates and well researched treatment options hence the named ‘envy’ campaign. Kerry, a sufferer herself, said she honestly wished she had breast cancer. She pushed for pancreatic cancer to gain more attention and in consequence more funding for research to help people like her, which is definitely positive and to be applauded. However, the comparing of different cancers is a controversial concept, which evoked strong opinions, especially from those with the identified ‘preferable’ cancers like breast cancer.

Pancreatic cancer doesn’t result in symptoms until its late stages of development, when it can cause the unspecific symptoms of upper abdominal pain that intermittently spreads to the back, weight loss, jaundice and diabetes. These are important to spot early on, report to a doctor and if necessary obtain adequate medical attention to slow its relatively rapid progression and raise its poor survival rates. So of course the public need to be informed about it.

Nevertheless the comparison to different cancers in my opinion was off key. Its main flaw I think was that it seemed to trivialise other forms of cancer by pitching the survival figures against each other. Every cancer is devastating to an individual and their family; looking past the numbers it is the context of the disease which is important. With more than a third of people in the UK who will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime we are likely to experience this. And yes of course pancreatic cancer sufferers will wish for a better outlook but that is true for any situation and speaking plainly encouraging comparisons between cancers is not helpful.

I admire Kerry and support the drive for public health awareness but think there are different more helpful angles to do so. Perhaps, focusing on hope and defiance in the face of cancer, as the Irish Cancer Society has recently, will garner a more positive response. The campaigning charity ‘will never forget Kerry who will be dearly missed, and remain in the hearts and thoughts of all of us at Pancreatic Cancer Action’.

Emily Plummer
Contributor

Three is no longer a crowd

Nadiah Fernandes
Contributor

A call for doctors

Tom Stroud
Contributor

The number of doctors travelling abroad on ‘humanitarian’ missions in order to provide help for the millions of people suffering in less developed countries is nanoscopic. In fact, more doctors in the less developed countries such as Ghana, Sierra Leone and Syria are migrating to the UK because of the attractive salary and more sophisticated health system. This leaves these countries starved of healthcare professionals of which they are in dire need.

57 countries in the less developed world have a ‘critical shortage’ of health workers, meaning that there’s fewer than 2.5 health care providers per 1000 population. 2.4 million extra doctors, nurses and midwives are needed to meet the global demands for health workers.

The situation in Ghana is a prime example of the health disparities which are occurring worldwide. There was a 47% increase in the numbers of Ghanaian doctors emigrating to more developed countries between 1998 and 2003. Furthermore, the number of doctors who practice in the UK who were trained in Ghana increased by 110% from 1999 to 2004. The reasons for migration are obvious: better pay for the physicians, a better quality of life and a superior government policy, to name a few. Richer countries should do more to alleviate the consequences of this ‘brain drain’.

In order to help these countries out in caring for the vast numbers of people suffering from infectious diseases, doctors should be encouraged to undertake humanitarian missions at some point in their careers. A lack of doctors who are willing to go on these humanitarian duties has urged the British Medical Association (BMA) to act.

Recently, the BMA announced that they will offer thousands of pounds to doctors and nurses in order to fund them on humanitarian missions abroad. Grants of up to £3000 are available from the BMA, who said: “the cash is intended to help with travel and subsistence costs from a fund with a total value of £200,000”.

In the future it may be possible for such philanthropic missions to become a compulsory part of the medical curriculum. In India, this has already happened, from 2015 all trainee doctors undertaking the MBBS course will have to undertake a mandatory rural posting at a rural public health centre. India’s 148,000 public health centres, which are the closest primary care stops for nearby villages, are predominately only run by midwives.

Although there is a huge shortage of doctors endeavouring to help out in less developed countries, some physicians have committed to reducing the health inequalities taking place. Barbara Jeric, a reconstructive surgeon who works at the Royal Free hospital in London, undertook a humanitarian mission to Sierra Leone last year. She said: “I travelled to Sierra Leone to provide essential training to a number of local doctors, nurses, therapists and medical students. Straightaway I was hit by the stark contrast between the resources, facilities, and level of care accessible in the UK compared to the developing world.”

David Nott, a general surgeon at Chelsea and Westminster hospital, has been labelled the ‘Indiana Jones’ of surgery. He has taken unpaid leave annually to provide help and to train doctors in warzones for over 20 years. Starting in Sarajevo in 1993 and most recently in Syria, he operates, trains and innovates in the most extreme conditions.

Dr Terry John, chair of the BMA’s international committee, who was behind the idea of funding doctors to help out in less developed countries, said “...it is incredibly inspiring to hear of colleagues showing great drive, courage and enthusiasm to improve the lives of patients across the world.”

The people who embark on these magnificent journeys lead by example in the world of medicine. Future doctors should be inspired by the difference they are making and should strive to reduce global health inequalities.

The recent campaigner for ‘Pancreatic Cancer Action’, Kerry Harvey, just a few weeks ago at 24 years old.

Don’t worry, Felix will still be available online over Easter!

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Remember, whatever volunteering opportunities you take up either with or via the Union, make sure you are recognised for your efforts by registering for Imperial Plus. Log your volunteer hours and reflect on the skills you gain though volunteering that boost your employability to gain the Volunteer Certificate for 25, 25 or 75 hours, or the Volunteer Accreditation for 100 hours plus attendance at four skills based workshops.

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This really does help us to improve everything we do, so help us keep improving for you. We will be selecting winners at random for the prize draw and announcing them online.

imperialcollegeunion.org/unionsurvey

The Big Elections results are in!

A massive thank you to the 6,500+ of you that voted in The Big Elections 2014 helping us towards our second highest ever number of voters. We smashed our record of 100,000 votes cast with a total of 151,802 - a UK record! Overall turnout was 39.31% narrowly behind last year’s turnout, but still a huge achievement. The results were announced at our Results Party in Metric on Friday 14 March. For those of you who didn’t join us, we would like to introduce you to your Sabbatical Team 2014/15.

President: Tom Wheeler
Deputy President Clubs & Societies: Abigail de Bruin
Deputy President Education: Pascal Loose
Deputy President Finance & Services: Alex Savell
Deputy President Welfare: Christopher Kaye

You can find all The Big Elections results online at imperialcollegeunion.org/results
Tell me it’s O-Kaye

Nick Farmer
Writer

The most controversial of next year’s sabbatical officers is, no doubt, Chris Kaye. In an online media outlet that may never be named within these pages, we are told that the incoming Deputy President (Welfare) ran on a platform of a scaled back and cost-effective union, merging the positions of Deputy President (Welfare) and Deputy President (Education), and has a mandate from students to roll the union back. This claim is at best mistaken and at worst disingenuous: Mr Kaye’s mandate to promised donations to the scholarship fund, a vote on whether sabbatical officers should become honorary life members of the Union, and pressure on college to reform draconian coursework rules. These are all very worthy policies, but Chris’ big point about reducing the number of sabbatical officers was nowhere to be seen on his manifesto, and was not information that was readily available to voters.

In fact, it took cross-examination on STOIC’s “Meet the Candidates” show for the real story to come out. After a perplexing chain of reasoning that started with pub chat with an alumnus who had a good time at Imperial back when there was only one sabbatical officer, Chris Kaye told viewers that he intended to get rid of the Deputy President (Welfare).

Now, it was never clear why Mr Kaye becoming DP(W) would be the most effective way to achieve this; as he himself pointed out, any Imperial student can bring a paper to council. What is even less clear is why someone who doesn’t think a job should exist is the person that should be doing that job. How does Mr Kaye have any incentive to expand and improve the welfare offerings of the Union, when he himself thinks that students should take their problems to the college instead of the union?

We have been told recently in an online tabloid (the name of which I can’t remember) that Mr Kaye’s election as Deputy President (Welfare) will prompt debate and allow students to evaluate what their Union should be doing for them. This is true in the same way that telling the police to not turn up for work might show us how much we rely on the enforcement of laws for public safety.

There is a vulgar saying that goes something like, “it’s better for one to be on the inside of the tent pissing out than on the outside pissing in.” Mr Kaye, through his (often admirable) dissent in Union Council has shown that he was never afraid to attack the Union, but now he is very much inside, we have to make sure he does not try to piss all over us.

Oh, what’s wrong with the world today?

Pietro Aronica
Writer

It used to be that the world was an absolutely awful place. People were starving left and right in all those countries to the South, the hole in the ozone layer was going to kill us all, there was no more oil left, grubby foreigners were going to steal all of our jobs, and the latest Star Wars movie was the biggest tragedy of our generation.

No matter which media outlet you checked, bad news piled up higher than the corpses of all the various species we were forcing into early extinction for fun. Every day there was a new crisis that threatened to destroy us: GMOs, the Y2K bug, El Nino, you name it, we were on the verge of global catastrophe RIGHT NOW, and NOTHING would be spared.

While it was perhaps a ploy to sell more copies of magazines or whatever paper contraption people used to get their news in the pre-internet days, it was actually a rather inspiring state of affairs.

The world was in bad shape, and there was a mighty need for someone to fix it. So much was wrong that every kid could grow up to be a hero. You could discover the next miracle drug and cure AIDS once and forever, or you could help save the rainforest, or you could bring books to crippled orphans in the Middle East. Did you prefer the beach? The Great Coral Reef needed a hand. Like the animals? Pandas have trouble getting it on. More of a people person? Gays aren’t going to stop being persecuted by themselves, you know.

Everywhere you turned, the world was in dire need of someone to save it and bring justice, peace and prosperity. As we were told that we were special little snowflakes, and that in each of us there was the potential for great things, we were presented with a list of dramatic problems that needed fixing. Each of us was a Harry Potter that would save the world, the last hope sent back in time to save us all, the chosen one to save humanity, the saviour that had to save, save, save, everything needed to be saved by the impending doom. Starving children, oppressed minorities, failing crops, dwindling resources, there always someone or something that was just waiting for a great hero.

But at some point the world stopped being the trailer for a disaster movie. The media never really took notice, but reality did. More or less naturally, things have gotten better. Nearly every statistic used to measure our decline shows that we’re really headed in the right direction: the number of people living in extreme poverty has gone down, literacy rates are up, we’re living in the most peaceful time in history, and all of it without a messiah to rise and ordain it.

The date for when we finally run out of oil is being pushed back and back, and we may actually wrap our heads around these newfangled “renewable resources”. After decades of violent rhetoric, Iran’s new president seems like an ok guy, and even the head of the Catholic Church, one of the most reactionary organisations in history, is turning out to be a decent, open-minded person; in both cases it is more of a natural consequence of the gradual change for the better rather than a sudden dramatic shift in mentality. All in all, things are looking up.

Don’t mistake this for complacency. Not everything is good yet, and there’s a lot that needs to be done still; but the situation was dramatically misrepresented, and, even worse, there’s no more need for a single Great Man* (or Great Woman**) to fix it. The age of the individual is fading fast, and now more than ever it is collective, small efforts that are going to make our problems go away, not the actions of the single. There’s a reason why the gay rights movement exists and is healthy, but doesn’t have the equivalent of a Rosa Parks or a Martin Luther King Jr: we’ve outgrown the need for an individual to inspire us and lead us, and instead rely on everyone’s contributions.

This is all well and good but unfortunately it means that standing out is next to impossible.

Some of us wanted to end world hunger by creating a giant tomato, dammit, and instead it’s going to be a slow but constant process of more efficient food production, less waste and better management.

Sure, there’s bigots and homophobes and racists in power, but they die and are replaced by more tolerant leaders. Fifty years ago they fought interracial marriages and, having lost that battle, today they have to fight gay marriages: eventually, things will get better.

The last thing that megalomaniacs have got going for them is hoping that the new Star Wars movie is awful and overfilled with lens flare. Maybe there will be a need for a messiah there, to bring to the franchise the salvation it needs.

This universe scarcely needs a saviour, but perhaps the Expanded one does.
Hating headlines that tell you how to feel

James Bezer
Writer

O ld people have always had it in for BBC3. Unlike the sleepy old BBC4, home of gentle documentaries presented by the lovely Lucy Worsley, BBC3 is an overactive puppy, full of rebellion and naive excitement that spends most of its spare time engaged in an act of passion with the living room furniture. The elderly mention it with disgust as a classic example of the shocking behaviours of the ‘youth of today’. To many observers, then, it has come as no surprise that BBC3 is a channel aimed not at young people, but at a patronising caricature of a young person sat on a desk in a big office at the top of broadcasting house. I’d like to inform the BBC that most of us are, for instance, perfectly capable of taking in news without it first having to be condensed into 60-second ‘bite-size’ chunks, with news about the economy being balanced out with a healthy dose of Justin Bieber.

The move online, along with a budget cut, will hopefully focus the channel’s content onto a smaller number of higher quality programmes. This can only be a good thing. The iPlayer, one of the biggest brands in digital media, will be a fitting home for the channel and the digital generation it’s symptom of budget cuts in many major organisations. I agree with this. I don’t see this decision as a “war on the young” (as a recent Huffington Post piece described it), but as a war on bad programming. BBC3 is a channel aimed at young people, but at a patronising caricature of a young person sat on a desk in a big office at the top of broadcasting house. I’d like to inform the BBC that most of us are, for instance, perfectly capable of taking in news without it first having to be condensed into 60-second ‘bite-size’ chunks, with news about the economy being balanced out with a healthy dose of Justin Bieber.

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#IMPVARSITY
Ruthless Medics crush College

The College briefly threatened as the Medics took full control at the Stoop and never let it go to destroy the College and take the JPR Williams Cup in front of a great crowd at the Stoop in Twickenham to round off varsity.

On the 12th March, a large number of Imperial students descended on the Stoop in Twickenham, home of the Harlequins. But this day was not a regular match day in the Aviva Premiership. No, this was something on a much bigger scale. This match day was the Varsity clash where the JPR Williams Cup would be won and lost. The crowd gathered quickly, ready to see a closely fought contest that would provide much excitement.

They were provided with the latter, but unfortunately not with the former. The medics took control of the game and kept it, and the college never truly had a sniff of victory, despite taking an early lead in the first half. The medics soon put themselves on the board though, and by half time had already secured a 20-6 lead, including two tries. Any hopes of a College comeback were scrapped fairly early in the second half despite an early try, as the medics were ruthless as they romped home to a 37-11 victory.

It was not the result the College were hoping for, especially when they got off to what was seemingly a strong start. After the traditional fanfare of coming out through a tunnel created from a cheerleader routine, and being introduced to various VIPs (including JPR Williams himself), the College began confidently. They spent the first five minutes camped inside the medics’ half, winning both a scrum and a lineout within the medics’ 22. However, they were unable to capitalise, and could only take 3 points.
with a penalty. This was to be the story of their day.

But this was not the case for the medics. They were soon gaining territory themselves in the College half, and this time they made no mistake. After numerous phases, scrum half Andrew Barrie was able to make a quick dash to the line, making sure to place the ball under the posts. Outside Centre Oliver Clough slotted over the posts to put the medics into an early 7-3 lead.

Soon the medics were pushing again, but with no try in sight Clough chose to take the points, and nonchalantly dropkicked the ball through the sticks to extend the lead by 3 points. The boot of Clough was to become something that the medics could depend on during the course of the game.

The next five minutes turned out to be one of the few passages of play in which the College dominated. However, for all their determination and effort, they were unable to score the try that would have given them the confidence that they needed to really kick on and win the game. After another medic infringement the College chose to go for the points and fly half James Cox took them gleefully to pull the game back to 10-6.

This brief period could not provide the College with much respite, and soon they were again defending deep into their own territory. Just as it seemed as though the College had defended their line admirably and, more importantly, successfully, Clough again showed great skill as he kicked into the corner to force a lineout on the five-metre line. This was to prove very fruitful, as after more phases of rugby the Medics were able to push over the line. This time it was in the form of former England International Tom Rees, who was playing for the medics at number 8. As usual, Clough knocked over the penalty; it was suddenly 17-6 with five minutes to go until half time.

College could have been forgiven at this stage if they were looking forward to ten minutes of respite in the dressing room, but before that the medics had more plans. An elementary catch was fluffed on the halfway line by the College to hand the medics put in at the scrum with three minutes to go. They kept pushing, before finally being awarded a penalty within kickable range. That human metronome Clough took the chance and with the last kick of the half took the medics into a commanding 20-6 lead.

Any chance of a College comeback took an early hit as Clough kicked a drop goal over the posts within the first two minutes of the second half to extend the lead to a very healthy 17 points.

However, this didn’t stop the College, who now entered another period of domination. At one stage it really looked as though this move would not prevail, but captain Michael O’Connell was determined and it was him who went over the line to score the College’s first and only try. However, in a move that summed up a wretched evening for the College, the conversion was missed, leaving the score at 23-11.

However, this was to be the last sniff of scoring that the College had, as the medics showed their superiority in the last 20 minutes of the game. It was not long before this pressure told on the College, as the Medics went over to put yet another 7 points on the board, and in doing so extend the score to 30-11.

By this stage it was clearly over for the College, but there was still the chance of restoring some pride by making the scoreline seem closer. But this was not to be, as the medics kept applying pressure to the College defence. The College eventually succumbed to the pressure that the medics were applying when wing Chidi Nzekwe went over under the posts to add another five points. As usual, Oliver Clough slotted over to take the lead to 37-11.

It was not long after this that the whistle blew on what was a great match with plenty of excitement. Oliver Clough was the stand out performer for the medics, with his boot gaining them 17 points, as well as a 100 percent kicking record. But, for the College, it was a year of dashed dreams and they returned to the College knowing that if they are to win back the JPR Williams Cup next year it will need a much stronger performance, as the medics really showed their superiority and their class in this fixture.
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Medics 3rd XV crush College 44-0

George Hill
ICSM 3rd XV Rugby Captain

The morning of 12th March 2014 could not have produced better conditions for a rugby match. Imperial medicals RFC were hungry for a win, having not won a Varsity match since 2011, a fact that ICU were only too happy to keep repeating in the Felix and on social media beforehand.

Our preparations for the game could not have been better. Undefeated in the league, with promotion all but assured, through to the semi-finals of the BUCS cup and in the final of the UH Cup, we approached the game with a confidence that had been absent in the last few years. In previous years, 3XV teams had often boasted in a host of injured or outgoing players of a higher standard for Varsity. But, with a settled squad and BUCS promotion on the line, we were strongly against such tactics this year.

And so, after a rousing team talk, the game began. IC started well, and gained some early territory. However, this small patch of dominance was to be their last act of note in the game. IC conceded a penalty at the scrum in our 22, we were able to clear our lines, and soon penned IC back into their half with some strong carries from forwards and backs alike. Soon, they conceded another penalty on their 22m line. Unusually for a 3XV side, we decided to go for points, thinking it might be a close game. Unfortunately Sam Harrison hit the post with his kick. ICRC cleared to touch. A good driving maul was set up from our lineout, and rumbled over for a try. Laurence Pallant selflessly handing the ball to Joe Simmonds when he was within scoring reach himself.

A good period of physical rugby on our part ensued, with Ranjodh Sanghera – fresh from his basketball heroics in the copper box – and Shaan Rashid ensuring a torrid time for anyone foolish enough to run down the centre channels, and breaking tackles with ease when they did themselves. This eventually resulted in another penalty, which Sam Harrison made no mistake with this time.

Minutes later a cracking break from James "RugbyLeague" Turner down the right wing almost brought a second try, only for a heroic tackle from the IC no. 8 to deny him, unfortunately ending the tackler’s participation in the day. IC tried to hold out, but their defence was in vain, as Turner breached their backline with a 70-80m jinking run, dodging five or six weak tackles to score his first of the day. Sam Harrison crossed the paint soon after following a flowing back move, to put a fully deserved gloss onto the first half. At half time the scores stood at 20-0 to IMRFC.

While the medics’ half time team talk revolved around consistency and keeping up the same intensity we had been using, IC’s team talk seems to have been “How many 2s players can we bring on and get away with?” Unfortunately, their play was made less obvious by the fact that one of the wingers forgot to even change his shirt he had been wearing in the 2s game.

And so the second half began, and to the disappointment of IC, their newly bolstered back line was still no match for Ranj & Shaan in the centres, the latter soon smashing through the IC line to score our fourth try of the day. Some sustained forward pressure was then rewarded with a snipping try from Henry Clancy. He would call it just rewards for his hard work – others would call it opportunistic. The pack continued to dominate, and another rolling maul led to supersub James Bloomer flopping over for a try.

The medics were still not done though. There was time for Turner to score another fantastic solo effort, only slightly worsened by how far away he kicked the ball in celebration. Captain Fantastic himself then limbered up for ten minutes of rugby, four months earlier than his post surgery comeback date. Despite taking one contact, to the collective gasps of the crowd, all shoulders stayed intact and the game was closed out, and to the elation of the medics supporters the rout was closed out, and to the elation of the crowd, all shoulders stayed intact and the game was closed out, and to the elation of the medics supporters the rout was closed out, and to the elation of the crowd, all shoulders stayed intact and the game was closed out, and to the elation of the medics supporters the rout was.

Full time:
Imperial Medicals RFC: 44
Imperial College RFC: 0

This ended a two year hoodoo, secured the league title and maintained the 3s’ unbeaten record. The ‘grand slam’ is still on, just the small matter of BUCS and UH cups to go!

I hope that the crowd enjoyed the day, despite the fact the free flowing, offloading game may not have contained enough ‘style’ and ‘dignity’ for some. Oh well, there’s always next year.

With Varsity being the 1s’ final match of the season, at home on a beautiful Wednesday afternoon, we were determined to finish on a high. With the KO also being staggered with the other matches so that a crowd was made the atmosphere all the better. With the 1s’ only chance of note in the first half was when a ball over the top caught out an IC centre back, with their striker chasing it down well but then proceeding to hesitate for too long before firing the ball over the bar from close range.

The first half ended 1-0, with Imperial feeling that they should have had a few more. 1-0 is a very dangerous score line to lead with and Imperial walked back onto the pitch for the second half looking to get on top quickly and score as soon as possible. Unfortunately, quite the opposite happened as it was the Medics who started better. For a good chunk of the first period of the second half the Medics had most of the ball and were passing around well. However, unfortunately they weren’t able to convert this into a goal.

Soon enough it was Imperial who were back on top. The Medics were giving away too many free kicks, and IC came close on a number of occasions. One in particular saw Private Lee Lawson send a header off the keeper back to him. He then smashed a volley from close range against the cross bar.

The second IC goal came after Imperial cleaned them up on the formation, as they threw men forward and backs alike. The match switched to a more attacking backline with a 70-80m jinking run, offloading game may not have containing enough ‘style’ and ‘dignity’ for some. Oh well, there’s always next year.

again involving Crawford and Murphy and including a Murphy first time left footed chip over the defence to set Robinson free. The move deserved a first time finish, but Robinson decided to take it down on his knee before unfortunately firing the resulting volley at the keeper. If it had gone in it would have been a contender for goal of the season – the slick first time passing leaving the Medics defenders static.

Robinson also saw a well struck volley off of a bouncing through ball just wide and, Murphy saw one or two long range efforts either be saved or just miss the post. The Medics’ only chance of note in the first half was when a ball over the top caught out an IC centre back, with their striker chasing it down well but then proceeding to hesitate for too long before firing the ball over the bar from close range.

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The second IC goal came after Imperial camped out in the opposition backline with a 70-80m jinking run, offloading game may not have containing enough ‘style’ and ‘dignity’ for some. Oh well, there’s always next year.

Congratulations and best of luck in the future to both of you.
It was a beautiful sunny day, the pitches at Harlington looked the best they have ever done. The stage was set for a wonderful afternoon of football. The trip over was, however, ruined by the news that the 3rd team goalkeeper had pulled out and therefore through standard hierarchical process our goalkeeper had to play for the 3s. Our regular goalkeeper had phoned in sick the previous night but bravely agreed to power through the pain and make his way over to West London. Sean did not arrive until after kick-off so substitute Liam had to stand in for him for about ten minutes. It was a great effort from Liam, not letting a goal in. A despatched Sean took his spot in the goal immediately and had to make one of his hallmark great saves.

With the full team on the pitch and the status quo restored, the team could now properly focus on the task at hand. At the pre-match meeting it was proposed that we play a half pitch press, a strategy meaning we would defend very deep in our own half. This is entirely reliant on good discipline from everyone, especially the mid-fielders who must track back as soon as they loose possession. From the start of the game it was clear that the opposition would play the way we thought they would. They dominated possession. It was a matter of making sure they didn’t make anything from it. The first half showed perfect execution of that game plan, as they were completely unable to create any real chances.

The second half was much the same and it was clear the opposition were getting frustrated and tired. It was now the time for us to seize our chances on the counter attacks, notably down the wings as Hugo made great runs with the ball into their penalty box. He should have been awarded a penalty after being clipped in the back of the legs without falling over. The referee can be quoted as saying “if he had gone down then I would have given it.”

Another inexplicable decision from the referee came in the 85th minute when the opposition centre-back displayed a despicable piece of unsportsmanlike conduct. He deliberately hand-balled at the half way line, hence preventing our rapid striker Will from getting to the ball and having a one-on-one with their keeper. The fact that the referee stopped play even though the advantage could have been played as Will could have made it, but didn’t send off or even book the culprit, is beyond belief.

It was 0-0 at the close, overall a great result against all the odds. To put things into context, this is a team that is four leagues above us, and also top of their division. This performance was a great showing of the willpower and discipline of the team and one we can all be proud of and that needs to spurn us on in the upcoming UH Cup semi-final. A special mention to Hugo for his input at the team meeting as our tactics proved to be successful. Another mention to James who broke his toe near the end of the game, Sean our goalie, Stephen our man of the match and lastly to Harry for supporting us on the side-lines while he recovers from injury.

**Spirited match ends in a 0-0 draw**

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**IC 5s lose at Netball to the Medics 28-20**

**Tracy Leung**
**IC 5s Netball Captain**

IC 5s had an incredible start to the match. During the first quarter, all centre passes were carefully turned into goals and successive rebounds were secured by our GK Madina Wane.

With the ball being down at our attacking third for 90% of the time and some lovely movement between Amy West and Sarah Howarth, IC heroically wrapped up the first fifteen minutes with a 7 goal advantage at 11-4.

It didn’t take the medics long before they were fully alerted, they were in their defensive mode as soon as the timer started ticking again. The goal difference was quickly reduced down to 4 after their aggressive fight back and tactical change of players. Their spectators were cheering louder than before every time their shooters send the ball through the hoop and our hearts sank even further.

With panic and fear hovering over our team, the ball was going down our end at very fast pace and was turned over repeatedly. The uprising pressure has also unfortunately reduced our shooting accuracy. We were overtaken at the final quarter and were not able to turn the table around. The final score was 20-28 to ICSM.

It was a great match despite victory not being on our side. Our score in the first quarter was the highest on record and our girls have performed at a very high standard – credit to everyone’s 110% effort. It’s a shame that the game isn’t only 15 minutes long.

Man of the match goes to Sarah Howarth.

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**College 2nd XI swat aside “shambolic” Medics team 3-0**

**Daniel Moxham**
**IC 2nd XI Captain**

IC 2nd XI swatted aside a shambolic Medics football team, who probably would have preferred to spend their day enjoying the sunshine instead of picking the ball out of their net. Whilst we would love to divulge and expand on this simple victory, it really isn’t worth our time. We hope that next year the medics can put up a fight, or at least improve their abysmal chat; “I don’t care that we’re losing 3-0, I have a girlfriend at home” was a particularly witty quip from their number 10, who incidentally missed a penalty with probably his only touch of the game. Better luck next year boys.

**Goals:**
- Dom Affron x2, Andy Sear-Black
- Assists: Will Wilson, Kume Feese, Dan Moxham

**MOTM:** Will Wilson.

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**IC 4s defeated comfortably by Medics**

**Emma Needham**
**IC 4s Netball Captain**

IC 4s went into varsity knowing that the effort we put in terms of extra training sessions would give us a chance of doing well, however we were unfamiliar with the standard of the medic 4s and they were better than anticipated. We put our all into the game, but despite our efforts, the medic shooters were on great form and the game ended 39-14 to the medics. Our man of the match was Rach Shuttleworth who played GK.

In terms of what went wrong I think that our constantly changing team formation due to players moving up to the 3rd team, dropping out or not being able to play varsity for various reasons meant that some of our players had only played together a few times, and the team had never all played together in a competitive match situation. Another definite reason for our defeat was that not enough matches are scheduled for the 4s in our BUCS league; we only started out with 5 teams in the league and two dropped out throughout the season.

Considering the number of changes in our team throughout the netball year, I think we played as well as we could have. We managed 7 more goals last year and I’m sure the 4s will continue to improve in the future!
College Netball 2s Captain Sarah Simmonds reports as the College scrape past the medics to take the spoils on Varsity day.

The IC Netball 2nd VII had given up many lie-ins for extra trainings on Sundays and fitness sessions on Friday mornings, and all to prepare for one day: Varsity 2014. The 2s Varsity netball match has been closely contested for the past two years with both sides having one win and one loss under their belts. As the big day approached we talked about dreams and nightmares centred around our medics rivals. Some may say we were obsessed. We had always known that IC 2s, who had been disgustingly labelled as Imperial 4th in BUCS due to the merge with the medics, should instead be Imperial 3rds, but knew we had to take the higher ground and prove, once and for all, that we did deserve to be above the medics.

March 12th was the day where we could prove our worth, and that's just what we did...

The night before Varsity, IC 2s bonded while decorating 110 cupcakes and the team shovelled in the carbs via mounds of pasta and raw cake mix. As the next morning came and went, IC 2s were gradually losing their voices due to the tense matches prior to the 2s (congrats IC 3s!). To save our much needed vocals, we ventured onto Princes Gardens to take in some fresh air, warm up and calm our nerves under the sun. Some last minute tactics and a pre-game pep talk in the Ethos foyer and before we knew it, we were on court and ready for the first whistle. Little did we know that our dreams were about to be turned to reality and nightmares forgotten!

With nerves to blame, the first quarter was drenched with silly mistakes for IC and a lack of communication on court, finishing 8-3 under the sun. Some last minute dreams were about to be turned to reality and nightmares forgotten!

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A slightly dodgy baseline pass from Sarah Simmonds which bounced off the rim of the goal post was ripped from medic hands by Harriet Rumgay and summed up the whole afternoon's affair; IC will give false hope to those weak enough to get carried away, and then snatch it out of their hands in broad daylight (or in this case, under the bright lights of Ethos). It was destined to be the biggest win IC has had over the medics in a very long time, and that's just what it ended up being. The final score of the match was 42-35 and player of the match was awarded to Harriet Rumgay for her shooting and rebounds (as well as compliments). But it was most certainly a team effort, with every rebound, pass and interception being converted almost instantly. The champagne may have only lasted a few minutes, but the day will go down in IC Netball history and is a day we won't let the medics forget.

We would like to send our condolences to those who actually believed the medic 2s could match IC's performance in this game, it's always hard letting go. We would also like to make you aware that, though it may not yet be official, there are rumours that a 17 goal difference proves that IC 2s (currently Imperial 4th) should strip the medics of their "Imperial 3rd" BUCS title. RIP "Imperial 3rd (Medics)". You will be forgotten.

With every turnover. Screams hounded from the medic spectators while IC kept up their great work and beautiful, beautiful arms. With even stronger passes from the IC attacking end and increased frustration by the medic defence, Pat continued to stand her ground. Someone should've told the medics that nobody talks back to Pat but she gently let them know that she, indeed, was the umpire. Better late than never!

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Maciej Matuszewski reviews Jack Vance’s highly influential series set far in the future on a dying planet Earth

Though I fancy myself reasonably well read in the field of science fiction and fantasy I must admit that there are quite a few classic authors of the genre whose work I haven’t read at all. Of these the one I probably felt most guilty about not checking out was Jack Vance. After all, he was a Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Grand Master and has been cited as an influence by a number of my favourite writers, including Neil Gaiman and Gene Wolfe. Therefore, having found myself with a little spare time a few months back, I decided to check out one of his most notable works – the epic Tales of the Dying Earth series.

A set of four books published between 1950 and 1984, Vance’s Tales of the Dying Earth series is set far in the future, with the sun beginning to grow cold and humanity resigned to its inevitable doom. Over the millennia, science has given way to, or become indistinguishable from, magic. Wizards are a commonplace sight and dangerous fantastical creatures roam the desolate wastes of Earth.

Each book is made up of a number of more or less interconnected stories. In the first book, The Dying Earth, the stories paint a broad picture of Vance’s world. He clearly had an impressive imagination, which is on full show in these stories – the dying Earth is a vibrant yet mysterious place with a unique feel. Vance was also a highly skilled writer technically. His descriptions could almost be called beautiful and, while his characters are often underdeveloped and even clichéd, their dialogue is sparkling with wit.

I would stop short of calling it a brilliant work but there is much to commend it. Unfortunately, however, the sequels do not share the charm of The Dying Earth. The other three books have more of an overarching story but this change, rather than allowing Vance to introduce more depth, works to show off his flaws as a writer. While on a technical level the prose is still above average, the novelty of Vance’s world quickly fades. The plot feels dry, tired and almost painfully repetitive – the second book, Eyes of the Overworld, and third, Cugel’s Saga, in particular have almost the same story.

The failures in characterization are already evident in The Dying Earth are enhanced by having to follow the same characters through an entire book rather than just one short story. What is particularly annoying is that almost all of the characters are deeply unlikeable. Vance tries to portray many of them as charming rogues but, without proper character development, their behavior just seems objectionable.

I can see why this series inspired and captured the imagination of so many writers. Vance was certainly an innovator and his work does show a lot of promise. Since Tales of the Dying Earth was published the concept has been executed far better by other works, say Gene Wolfe in his Book of the New Sun. People interested in the history of science fiction and fantasy should certainly check it out but I doubt that it would have much appeal to others.

Want to see your name in print?
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Surely the overwhelming critical success of Breaking Bad could have set up Aaron Paul for a better cinematic role than this one. He has won two Primetime Emmys, and yet one of the first roles he manages to land is in a video game adaptation, a category of films that historically have the tradition of sucking. Need for Speed is no exception to this rule, and no matter how low you set your expectations, chances are, you are likely to walk away from having witnessed one of the early contenders to be the worst film of 2014.

Trying to cash in on the mega-success of the Fast & Furious franchise, which already has a seventh film in production, we are introduced to a group of characters cut from the exact same cloth (a wronged, clean-cut hero, a surprisingly masculine female who knows a lot about cars, a greasy bad guy, Dino Brewster (Dominic Cooper), dressed in black, strutting and 70s, and yet Scott Waugh, a stunt coordinator-turned-director whose debut was the corny Act of Valour that dealt with an elite team of Navy SEALs. The chases themselves are irritatingly noisy rather than pulse-racing, having the loud, screeching Imogen Poots trying to be funny doesn’t help things one bit, as not even Aaron Paul’s intensity and focus on his mission are enough to barely carry this film through.

Tobey is blessed with having a couple of sidekicks: Finn (Rami Malek) gets properly naked in the film’s most pointless, bizarre scene, whereas Benny (Scott Mescudi) has a knack for stealing all sorts of helicopters and provide air support for Tobey. Benny is also capable of giving 100% accurate information regarding surrounding traffic and come up with methods of outrunning the police. He basically acts like ARIA that tormented Shia LaBeouf in Eagle Eye. Yes, Benny is so incredible that he possesses the skills of a super-computer.

The obligatory love line that needs to be struck up is abysmal to say the least. Tobey has two potential candidates. Anita (Dakota Johnson), the girl who is now with Dino, or Julia (Imogen Poots), an English girl who tags along for the ride. Johnson, playing a dumb, dim-witted female, proves she must be well-suited for the very similar role in 50 Shades of Grey, and Poots’ Hollywood breakout role is going on to have come from something else. She reportedly has five films to be released in 2014. That Awkward Moment didn’t do much for her, neither will Need for Speed. Let’s hope any one of the future releases sticks.

Worst however, is Michael Keaton’s participation in the film. He is DJ Monarch, the host of the races, who often provides pointless, tiresome narration throughout the film even though no one asked for it. He is inessential on talking through every single plot point, just in case the audience cannot follow the mind-numbingly simple plot developments on offer here.

And the ending? It all comes back to that “vision”. Such an ill-advised final note that people started sniggering.

Other video adaptations that didn’t work out

DOA: Dead or Alive
More like Dead on Arrival this one: although boasting a relatively impressive cast for a film of this standard, and although boasting some good action, audiences were clearly not interested in seeing a badly acted rehash of a fighting game adaptation. It only stuck around in the North American theatres for three weeks, through-out which it managed to gross under 500,000 dollars.

Max Payne
A low-point even for Mark Wahlberg who participated in M. Night Shyamalan’s The Happening: this is an overly-serious, highly illogical piece in which the leading character who should be a competent killing machine has next to no intelligence to solve a mystery that has an answer that’s staring him in the face. Milla Kunis doesn’t come close to pulling off the badass nature surrounding his Russian assassin role.

Doom
Not even the presence of The Rock can inject some excitement or fun in this disaster. It’s a repetitive collection of first-person shooter scenes that drearily strings along. There is a lot of screaming, a lot of running from mysterious alien creatures that pick off humans one by one. It’s a lame survival drama, where you can figure out who does and doesn’t make it in the end within the first five minutes.

Hitman
They’re giving this a reboot with English actor Rupert Friend in the title role, although it’s not clear how much of a difference that will have given the long line of failed films based on video games. It’s a missed opportunity, given how much you see Timothy Olyphant tries in the lead role. Once again it’s the lack of a coherent plot that’s the main problem, with very little focus on the character himself.

Prince of Persia
Looked pretty terrible on paper, starting with the casting of Jake Gyllenhaal, and the desire to turn this into a money-making Pirates of the Caribbean-type franchise completely backfired, as its hefty budget of 200 million dollars was only barely reached and failed to turn into a blockbuster profit-making machine. There is plenty of wooden dialogue, and not even some decent slow-mo action saves this.
A 5-star hotel experience

Jack Steadman
Treasured Writer

The Grand Budapest Hotel

Director: Wes Anderson
Writers: Wes Anderson, Hugo Guinness, Stefan Zweig (inspired by the works of)
Starring: Ralph Fiennes, F. Murray Abraham, Mathieu Amalric, Adrien Brody, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, Harvey Keitel, Jude Law, Bill Murray, Edward Norton, Saoirse Ronan, Jason Schwartzman, Lea Seydoux, Tilda Swinton, Tom Wilkinson
Runtime: 100 minutes
Certification: 15

The Grand Budapest Hotel is a tricky film to review. Put quite simply; it's a Wes Anderson film. In every conceivable way, as with all of his films before it, it is the essence of its predecessors mixed up, distilled, and delivered to the silver screen in a blast of pure, surreal, bittersweet joy. Each film learns from what came before, each film adds to one of the greatest directorial catalogues around today. And Grand Budapest is no different. It has all the charming elements that could be expected, all the off-beat visuals and the delightfully exaggerated backdrops, and now it introduces a healthy dose of black humour. A more than healthy dose, truth be told. Grand Budapest seems to positively revel in the stuff.

And so what was meant to be a simple statement – that this truly is a Wes Anderson film, where that statement entails – becomes mildly complicated and severely over-long. But it is the truth. Fans of Anderson's previous works – any of them, from the early days of Rushmore to the animation of Fantastic Mr Fox – will find plenty to adore here. Fans of cinema, of films, will find plenty to engage with (and then adore). With a cast this star-studded, a cast so star-studded that it is quite possible the most star-studded cast to ever grace the screen, there's no room, no chance, for bad acting. The writing is magnificent and as deliriously oddball as ever, and the mixture of (the ever-growing roster of) Anderson regulars (from Brody to Wilson, and back again via Murray) and Anderson debutants proves nothing short of incredible.

Foremost among the debuts, and the cast in general, is Ralph Fiennes, as the eponymous hotel's concierge, Monsieur Gustave H. Displaying deft comic timing which he is (all to unfortunately) rarely allowed to unleash outside the arena of this film, he is the centrepiece around which the entirety of Grand Budapest – much like the hotel – revolves, and he more than rises to the occasion. Complete newcomer Tony Revolori proves himself one to watch, completely nailing the tone, while Saoirse Ronan completes the central trio as Agatha, proving immensely watchable with minimal screen time.

Minimal screen time for excellent actors is perhaps the only criticism that could really be levelled at Grand Budapest, but it's more of a complaint than a criticism, and indulging it would only spoil the film. Worthy of mention is the multiple framing narratives employed by the film; this, is for want of a more concise explanation, a story within a story, within a story within a story. The layers work in symmetry, each layer book-ending the one that follows (with a few cuts between the innermost two). Spreading the reach of the story beyond the inter-war years, lending it an even greater scope, they can almost feel a little superfluous, until realisation strikes. This is first and foremost the story of Monsieur Gustave H, and that – that is the point. It's a story. Both blissfully innocent and bitingly self-aware. This is self-examination as film-making, and it's simultaneously blindingly obvious and exceedingly subtle.

The Author and Mr Moustafa (the two narrators) at the film's close, discuss M. Gustave. The age to which he belonged was gone before he could enter it, they say, but he "sustained the illusion with a marvellous grace." And it's so very difficult to be sure they don't mean Anderson himself. Sustaining the illusion of these worlds he creates with a marvellous grace. It's almost a perfect description.

Under the Skin

Director: Jonathan Glazer
Writers: Jonathan Glazer, Walter Campbell, Michel Faber (novel)
Starring: Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy McWilliams, Michael Moreland
Runtime: 108 minutes
Certification: A

And all this comes together in one stand-out scene, as the alien stands and impassively watches a mother and father drown at the beach, leaving behind a tiny child. A fellow bystander dives in to try and save the father, and still the alien watches, unfeeling, as he continues with those points. But as it continues, as the alien explores our world, it becomes something more.

The early scenes of Johansson moving unnoticed among crowds are both troubling and brilliant, forcing a re-examination of everyday life. The sound editing skews everything, the cinematic language leaves everything feeling off-kilter, and it works. It works so, so well. A shopping centre is almost terrifying in its unrelenting aural assault. The motorways fade into blurs of moving lights. Vast, sprawling estates become claustrophobic, threatening.

And all this comes together in one stand-out scene, as the alien stands and impassively watches a mother and father drown at the beach, leaving behind a tiny child. A fellow bystander dives in to try and save the father, and still the alien watches, unfeeling, as he is thrown ashore gasping and weakened. And only then does she intervene. It's a horrifyingly, masterfully shot scene, with a full awareness of the cinematic language that leaves us watching the action at a remove with the alien, all long shots and muted sound. Only the waves truly crash through to us.

And I'm getting shudders just thinking about it.

I'm not convinced I have enough words in my vocabulary to accurately – fully – express how Under the Skin will make you feel. I'm throwing as many synonyms for 'unsettling' as I can find at it, and I'm still short. This is an experience of a film, and it's one that demands to be seen in the cinema to fully appreciate it for what it is. In the dark, with Levi's score blasting into your ears, it's incredible.
Sun, Sex and Slavery

Ellen Mathieson
Imperial Cinema

It’s amazing how things happen and time passes without you realising it. For some of you reading this, the upcoming Spring All-Nighter could very well be your last. This could be your final chance to sit in a crowded room and spend an evening, a night and part of a morning watching some of the best films that the last few months have had to offer. To those I say, what are you waiting for? This is something that you will not be able to experience for the rest of your life while you slog away in a lab (or in an office if you sell out). Make sure you buy a ticket, grab some friends and make your way to the second floor of the Union. To those who aren’t in their final year, I say pretty much the same thing. If you’ve been before, then make it a tradition. If you haven’t, then you might as well come and give it a try.

As an innocent Fresher I attended my first All-Nighter as a punter. Over excited as always, I spend the preceding days trying to convince my friends in halls to come with me. And I can say without slanting the truth or hyperbole that that was the best and most bizarre evening in the entirety of my first term of Imperial. Sleep deprivation makes for both strange conversations and strange actions. Seven sugars in a cup of tea? Easy. Quadruple layered brown sauce sandwich? No problem. A failure to understand the plot of some films leading to convoluted conversations on the subject with complete strangers? Of course. A massive grin on my face for the rest of the next day? Even 9am lectures couldn’t get rid of it.

Now, I’m about to go to my fourth All-Nighter, this time as a cynical second year and somehow the incoming chair of Imperial Cinema, and I am more excited than ever before. We’ve got five fantastic films that boast a ridiculous thirty Oscar nominations between them, more tins of hot dogs than you can shake a stick at and enough hot beverages to fill a fairly small ocean.

1) Our first film of the evening, boasting only a pitiful three Oscars to its name, is *Dallas Buyers Club*. Set in the earliest days of the HIV epidemic, the film follows the true story of Ron Woodroof, a man diagnosed with AIDS and given 30 days to live. After being ostracized by family and friends, Ron takes medicinal matters into his own hands, smuggling in unapproved drugs from all across the world and distributing them to other sufferers through the eponymous buyers club. Featuring remarkable acting, with Oscar wins for both Matthew McConaughey and Jared Leto, this film truly is the start of what critics have dubbed ‘The McConaissance’.

2) Next up we’ve got another true story and another Oscar-bait favourite topic, this time slavery. As intense as it is harrowing, at times *12 Years A Slave* can be hard to watch. You’ll be glad you did though; this certainly is not a film to be missed. When Solomon Northup is tricked into slavery he must endure years of beatings and betrayal as he learns to rely only in himself in his bid to once again be free. This is the *Schindler’s List* of slavery films, bold, brutal, and fully deserving of its best picture win.
with Imperial Cinema

3) Third is Martin Scorsese's self-indulgent romp, The Wolf of Wall Street. Wolf is basically the story of one man's descent from righteousness and morals into greed and corruption. Somehow the combination of lavish parties, public groping and goldfish eating work together, making an unforgettable 180 minutes. Though perhaps overlong in places, this is Scorsese at his finest, managing to keep you from wanting to punch Leonardo DiCaprio's Jordan Belfort in the face. Just.

4) The penultimate film of the evening is Philomena, our fourth best picture nominee of the evening. Though almost certainly a feel-good film, it manages to avoid the normal pitfalls and clichés of this sort of film, managing to be heartwarming rather than the usual sentimental mush this film could have so easily become. The premise is simple, an Irish woman gives birth out of wedlock and gives the child up for a closed adoption to the US. Years later, Philomena meets Martin Sixsmith, a BBC journalist with whom she decides to search for her son. Much of reason that this film was such a hit was the near faultless performances by Judi Dench and Steve Coogan who, between them and the rest of the cast, make the tear jerker scenes do what they are supposed to, and fill the rest of the film with a subtle tinge of hope.

5) The All-Nighter is wrapped up by the only one of the five not to be based on a true story, Alexander Payne's Nebraska. Continuing this year's theme of a monochrome film to end the night, this gives a stark, surreal and utterly beautiful feel to the film. From black and white sunset to the rolling field of Nebraska, the cinematography is wonderful, helping to elevate it from good to something truly great. As does the absurd humour, summoning stifled giggles and out loud laughter in most scenes. Especially at six in the morning that this film will be playing.

So there you have it, this year's All-Nighter line-up, featuring five Best Picture nominees, four true stories and a bucket and a half of tears. Bring your friends, your mild acquaintances, that guy who studies on the same floor of the library as you that you not to occasionally and most definitely bring a pillow. See you there!

The Spring All-Nighter is on Tuesday 25th March.
Tickets are £10 online (until 4pm on the day) or £12 on the door. If you don't fancy staying all night, tickets are £3 per film on the door.
For an extra £5, you can get All-You-Can-Eat Hot Food and Drink all night! This includes the usual mix of tea, coffee, toasties, hot dogs, soup, pot noodles and more.
Tickets can be bought from tickets.imperialcinema.co.uk

The Line-up

18:00 - Dallas Buyers Club
20:45 - 12 Years a Slave
00:00 - The Wolf of Wall Street
03:15 - Philomena
05:15 - Nebraska
August EP650 Headphones

Maximilian Eggl, on another beautiful encounter with Bluetooth

Almost a year and a half ago I stumbled across the wonderful world of Bluetooth headphones. For those of you who might remember, back then a naïve tech writer I had just decided to splash out on a pair of 20 quid headphones from Amazon, namely the SX-907. To date this still remains my most popular article, and by which I assume that either I am reading my own articles way too much or that you guys are genuinely interested about Bluetooth headphones. For my own sanity, I shall assume the latter.

However my babies could only last so long before going through some unfortunate accident, managed to snap them (if you really want to know, I sat on them). This event forced me to make yet another purchase, a similar pair to the ones I had bought for my virgin experience. A bit more expensive, these headphones by the 7 days shop were quite satisfactory. However, the cheap plastic of the material coupled with the strange charger as well as the covering of the earpiece always falling off, kept me from making rave reviews. However I had paid for these puppies, so I was not going to buy a new pair until these guys gave up. Luckily enough for me, they did just that two weeks ago (under somewhat suspicious circumstances I must divulge). This gave me the opportunity of once again perusing the wonders of that store in the sky, namely Amazon. Given recent circumstances, I was feeling quite down in the dumps and decided to splash out. I went way above my initial spending limit, and in the end purchased the August EP650 Bluetooth headphones for a whopping £35. Given that previously I had spent a maximum of 25 quids, this was actually quite an increase. However the reviews and 4.5 star rating on amazon, as well as the general awesome look finally gave me that final adrenaline rush I needed to click the purchase button.

The next day, my brand new headphones appeared at my doorstep. Given I had lived the past week without headphones, I was really excited at what was to come. When I had gotten my other two headphones, I had been quite disappointed by the cheap look of the packaging, however for the EP650 I was very pleasantly surprised. Everything looked very clean, and to be quite frank, rather expensive. Furthermore inside the box there was even a manual! Imagine that.

Given that Bluetooth headphones are slightly more difficult configure than general headphones, I found this to be quite a boon that I had experienced with my purchases. Before I actually talk about the headphones, I would like to commend August for their colour choices for the headphones. For the cheap headphones, you usually have one colour to choose from and even on the expensive ones it usually is rare to have more than three colours. Here we have 5 distinct colours! Although silver and white do look quite similar, I went for the blue, as that is quite an unusual and interesting colour for headphones, and I do not regret my choice. All in all, the ability to somewhat make these headphones your own is major plus point in my book. Now back to the goods. A little summary of the specs: These guys are Bluetooth headphones, meaning they will be able to connect to anything that has Bluetooth capabilities. Furthermore it has a 3.5 standard audio socket (they supply the wire as well!), which means that the EP650 can be used when out of battery, as well as with devices that do not support Bluetooth.

The sound was gorgeous and exactly how charged my headphones were! The highs were crisp and clean. The lows were full and rounded, resonating my ear. The highs were crisp and clean. The sound was gorgeous and exactly what I needed. Later on I tried the EP650 with other genres of music and as well and they held up remarkable well. Every song I threw at these headphones was played back in an admirable quality. Furthermore, when I compared these guys to £200 Beats, my 35 pound Augusts were almost on par. I am serious, I would have paid double for these headphones, given the quality I was getting. Also, when I plugged these guys in using the standard jack, the quality was just as good/bad as with the Bluetooth, meaning you don't lose any quality regarding the connection medium you choose to use.

In terms of battery, I found that the EP650 performed admirably in my everyday life, and I found that even after three days I still did not need to charge these guys. Also considering that these headphones only take about 2-3 hours to charge, I don’t think you really need to worry about that. Also, the worst case scenario you always have the audio jack, right? All in all I am mighty pleased with these headphones, however there is one caveat. This could be something that only applies to me, but even though the EP650s use soft material and sit very comfortably, after a while of use my ears would start feeling really hot as well as hurting. Thus after 2 or 3 hours I found that I needed to take them off and just rest my ears a bit. For 35 pounds I have gotten one of the best deals of my life. The sturdy design means that these guys should survive quite a while (as long as I don’t sit on them). Furthermore, the quality of the audio as well as the beauty of the EP650 really, really belong to Bluetooth headphones doubles if not triples their price. So if you in the market for a pair of headphones, before checking out the overpriced brand names, have a look at the August EP650. Trust me, you won’t be disappointed!
Bored of your meals?

Felix Food is here with tips to avoid being in a food rut

As students, our food budgets might be limited, but this does not mean our diets are boring! Eating out or ordering takeaway is neither cheap nor healthy most of the time, but not only can you control the cost and what goes into your food when you cook yourself, we guarantee you will find it enjoyable and an easy (and tasty) way to de-stress! Both of us, your food editors at Felix, cook regularly: here is how we avoid being in a food rut – i.e. eating the same food every day.

Carol Ann Cheah

I’m a moderately clinically depressed bunny. There, I said it. Some of you may be able to sympathise; others will roll their eyes and wonder what this fact has to do with a food column – you might accuse me of turning this into a sympathy fest. Rest assured there’s a reason for this:

The long and short of it is this: EVERYTHING. Diet’s a major player in making or breaking your mood and energy, which affects productivity. I could go on about the science of different neurotransmitters et al. (which control your mood and energy) that are linked to diet; but that’s really not the point of this column.

In any case, I totally understand that some days it’s all so overwhelming – coursework, when annoying dude on the fourth floor of Central Library who can’t keep his shoes on – and prepping a good meal is the last thing on your mind (more so when you have OC and Wasabi within sniffing distance). Do I have days where I don’t eat as well as I should? You betcha; we’re only human. But in a high-stress environment like Imperial, it’s important to take care of yourself even when you’re tooling hard. When only human. But in a high-stress environment like Imperial, it’s important to take care of yourself even when you’re tooling hard. When only human. But in a high-stress environment like Imperial, it’s important to take care of yourself even when you’re tooling hard. When only human. But in a high-stress environment like Imperial, it’s important to take care of yourself even when you’re tooling hard. When only human. But in a high-stress environment like Imperial, it’s important to take care of yourself even when you’re tooling hard.

Try Something New Today

Least I sound like I’m ripping off the Sainsbo’s catalogue, it’s one way I inject a bit of fun into my food and it makes me expand my culinary horizons. I’ll spare a weekend to have a quick look at the aisles and find you a ‘New Ingredient Roulette’ – I’ll pick a vegetable /seasoning that I have minimal experience/knowledge of, then try and incorporate that ingredient into my cooking, whether it’s by Googling a new recipe, or just going freestyle. (Ted!). Through this I’ve discovered I quite dig cooked beetroot (especially in a salad). In a milder version of Ingredient Roulette, my housemate has discovered that he actually doesn’t mind anchovies after all... but only if they’re broken down in pasta puttanesca sauce, not if they’re whole. Bit too adventurous? Start small by making a single ingredient tweak in one of your favourite recipes (say swap peas in your fried rice for chopped French beans), rather than basing a whole recipe around your single new ingredient.

Keep It Simple, Silly

One of the ways to absolutely hate cooking is to make it more complex than it really is. You don’t need to sous-vide the hell out of your grub to have a decent meal; neither do you need 42 courses for interest. The key is in picking stuff that is either so quick it only needs minutes on the hob, or stuff that needs a bit more time but is ‘set and forget’ – like say, something that needs a slow roast (let the oven do all the work), or a simmer for at least 30 minutes. Oftentimes I’ll just bung a pork belly joint (with a bit of seasoning) into the oven to let roast, set the timer, and have my revision to hand while I wait for it to be ready. On the other end of the spectrum, I tap back into my Asian roots and let a quick stir-fry take care of my vegetables. Because the veggies are cooked quickly over high heat, you save as many of the good nutrients as possible.

Failure to prepare...

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Michael Yat Kit Chung

Personally I did not start cooking until coming to university a few years back and as a passionate ‘foodie’ who can be described as skint, I thought it would be a great point to start learning to cook. For me, the number one step to avoid being in a food rut is keep your cupboard stocked. From tinned tomatoes to stock cubes, from dried parsley to pasta – if you have it ready to hand, you can be a lot more creative about what you eat.

Stir Fry

In my opinion, this is where Chinese cooking shows its best – the number of options you get in a stir fry is just phenomenal! In this recipe, I am going to use rice noodles as my carbs, but equally you can use rice, other noodles, or even spaghetti for a more chewy texture! First of all, follow the instructions on the packet and soften the rice noodles. Heat up a pan and add the oil and so the called ‘Holy Trinity’, chopped spring onions, garlic and ginger. Then add the chopped leek and fry them until half softened, when you put the chopped mushrooms and chicken thigh chunks into the mix.

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Ask Annie, your friendly Agony Aunt

Agony Aunt Annie Whiteley is the woman who fought for women’s classroom facilities at Imperial, and thus is qualified to solve all your problems.

Help! I made out with my best friend at a party last week, and although we said it didn’t mean anything, now that I’m sober, I’m not sure whether it would have happened if she didn’t have some sort of feelings for me. It’s not awkward, and we’re still good friends, but I’m worried that I’ll be hurting her feelings whenever I get with someone else. How can I clear this up with her?

Overcautious in Old Street

There are two ways that you can deal with this. You can take her at her word, if you think that she’s already had the opportunity to reveal any feelings, then you have to trust her. You can’t go through life, taking into account any emotions that you’re not being told about. If she does get upset, you have nothing to feel guilty about, so don’t worry too much about it. Or you can explicitly bring it up with her, which might make it awkward if she’s a bit embarrassed about it. As long as she has, at some point, said that she’s not interested, then you’re free to believe that.

Help! My friend set me up with one of her friends, and we’ve been on three dates, sleeping together after the third. As we were about to have sex, she told me that she wasn’t the sort of girl to do this, and asked me if I was seeing other people, to which I honestly replied that I wasn’t. I’m now worried that she might think that we’re exclusive, and I’m not ready for that sort of commitment with her. What should I do?

Polyamorous in Peckham

After three dates with someone that you didn’t know previously, you can’t be fully exclusive. While she may have got that impression from your answer, it doesn’t mean that you’re not free to pursue other people. However, as soon as you decide that you want a relationship with her, you should stop seeing any other people, as she may not bring it up again. She’s clearly the type of girl who prizes exclusivity, so make sure that you’re aware of that, and treat her accordingly.

Help! I’ve been sleeping with someone for a couple of months, with neither of us seeing other people, despite never having discussed our relationship. Last week, I got very drunk, and kissed someone else. I don’t think it would happen again, and they don’t remember, so I don’t think it’s a big deal. Should I confess?

Intoxicated in Imperial Wharf

If you’ve never discussed the status of your relationship, then you’re technically free to do whatever you want. However, if neither of you have been seeing other people, and you’ve been seeing each other for a while, you might have to face the fact that the other may be upset if you get with someone else. If you think that they’re likely to find out, I think that you should tell them, because it’ll sound a lot better coming from you. If there’s no way that they’ll find out, and you don’t think that it’s likely to repeat itself, then there’s really no point in mentioning it.

Help! I’m not very good friends with the people in my kitchen in halls, but I got dragged along to the union with them last week. I drank too much, and made a fool of myself, but they thought it was hilarious, and now they want me to go out with them all the time. I did have fun with them, and it’s great that we’re now friends, but I don’t want to have to get drunk to have them like me. Are they taking advantage of me?

Used in Upper Holloway

It’s great that you don’t want to just play up to your friends – a lot of people aren’t that brave. While you shouldn’t change yourself to make friends, if you want to fit in with this particular group of people, you might find that you have to adjust to their banter level. That might mean doing some embarrassing stuff, but as long as you don’t go further than anyone else, they’re not taking advantage of you, and you don’t need to worry about it. As long as you’re not being singled out, and you’re not uncomfortable with anything you’re doing, don’t worry too much about it.

Help! I really like this girl, and I’m really keen to start dating her, but she’s very similar to my ex-girlfriend, and I’m sure that they’d be every possible way, and my friends keep making fun of me. How can I convince them that this real, and I’m not trying to substitute my ex?

Wooing in Woolwich

Your friends are probably just joking because they know that you won’t be particularly offended by it. If they were seriously concerned that you weren’t over your ex, then they would talk to you about it, instead of taking the piss. You shouldn’t have to justify anything to your friends, they should accept whoever you want to see (though they should offer advice if you think it’s needed). Be aware that you might be worrying about this because you think that you might actually be trying to replace her.

What important advice should Annie dish out next week? Email any ideas to the address below!

Send Annie your problems and suggestions at catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Annie’s Lonely Hearts

Feeling lonely? We all know that it’s hard to meet people at Imperial, so Aunt Annie wants to make it a bit easier for you. If you’re looking for a special someone, missed a connection, or want to let someone know how you feel, send a message to catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk and maybe you’ll find a match here.

Tender tautological tenor looking for musical mate for an interesting interlude during the interval. Must have a great pair of lungs and willing to play in alternative tunings :) Surprisingly social guy who’d still rather spend his Wednesday nights playing CoD than at ACC, is hoping to find a girl who won’t sneer at computer games. You don’t have to be a gamer too, just understand that sometimes my real life comes second to my virtual one.

Dusty media migrant WLTM similarly dotty company for exploration of the tunnels. That’s not even an intentional innuendo. Come and find me in the West Basement… before it’s too late.

Athletic girl wants to find a sporty guy to share Sports Nights with, who’ll be worth the lines from her social sec for talking to boys. Must be willing to give massages and hold an ice pack.

Sweaty 4chan addict seeks absolutely anything for nocturnal romp. Find me and message me on bitchat. Am willing to trade private keys for a more intimate encounter.

See something you like? Send us an email and we’ll pass it on. Let Annie help you get lucky in love.
The Consequences Of A Huge Waste Of Effort

This week, the media societies, STOIC, IC Radio, and Imperial's second best newspaper, Felix, are moving from the basement. The filthy hovel that has been the home to all of our college's palest and least popular dorks will be renovated into something boring.

This past year has seen all of the media groups working closer together than ever, producing some of the best work ever censured by the Union's publicity team. But by putting all of their media eggs into one basket, and moving that basket somewhere stupid, they have unwittingly copied the BBC.

Our Hangman Scientists have used their clever models and statistical mumbo-jumbo to extrapolate forwards into the future of the Media group. Based on our projections, Felix will be repeatedly criticised for being the mouthpiece of the Union by a newspaper with a somewhat questionable reputation.

Then, even after they move all of their news offices to another location, all of their main stories will be based upon their original location. Any criticism of this will be met by the cries of “Nothing happens outside London!” by the BBC, or “Where the hell is Silwood Park?” by Felix.

Lastly, the once proud organisation will be mired in scandal as almost all of their old stars turn out to have been sex offenders. ‘Journalists’ at the Tab (I'm legally required to add the quotation marks) have already begun hacking phones and guessing wildly in order to determine who the perverts are.

But perhaps the biggest questions for the future of the Media group are: Where will they move to? Will the stuff get any better? Are we ever going to get sick of Metric Moments? Will the deposed Joe Letts get an enormous severance package? Or will it all end in tears and broken promises?

You didn’t win your Union election, but don’t worry, you have bigger problems. Taking two weeks off has tanked your coursework grade and the leftover sweets have filled your bedroom with ants. Hope it was worth that drunk connection.

Someone used your passport to steal a Malaysian airplane and now you’re the number one suspect. You're on every no-fly list, and even worse, they’ve barred you from the Union.

You finally suck up the courage to have your first gynaecological check-up, only to find out that your doctor has prosthetic hooks for hands. It hurt, but now you can only get aroused by photos of Abu Hamza.

You’ve been doing her work for weeks now, and she still doesn’t seem likely to put out. Enough is enough, you decide. She can write her own lectures, and mark her own goddamn problem sheets.

You buy a huge bag of sugar free gummy bears as an April Fool’s day prank for your housemate. The joke’s on you however, as his anus becomes Niagara Falls while banging your drunk girlfriend, leaving you to hose them both down while they cry and apologise.
Chess by Chess Soc

White to play and mate in 7

Sudoku

Killer:

No clues! Instead, the numbers in each cage must add up to the number in the top left. Numbers cannot be repeated in a cage. Tips: The numbers in each box, row and column must add up to 45. Look for cages with only one possible combination e.g. a two wide cage total 3 must contain 1 and 2.

FUCWIT League

nickwp 82
Jia Choo 77.5
Juliette Chupin 20.5
Adam Stewart 18.5
Yofan Zhao 17

FUCWIT League

Jerome Tan 15
Helix 8
Gabriel Quek 7
Emma and Ben 6
Catmelon 4
WJ 4
Angus Liu 3.5

Crossword Clues

Quick Clues:

Across
1. Keratin stylist (11)
6. Inn (5)
8. Beauty (7)
9. Rank (7)
10. Proportion (5)
11. Offensive capability (9)
13. What you’ll probably be doing next term (5)
15. Mean bit (anagram) / atmospheric (7)
18. Doughnut shaped plasma confinement device (7)
19. Wash thoroughly (5)
20. Emitting ionising particles (11)

Down
1. Spiral fairground ride (6,7)
2. Live / consider (5)
3. Type of bird (7)
4. Male chicken (7)
5. Mendeleev’s masterpiece (8,5)
7. Cartoon catchphrase (3)
8. Ship – pier access (9)
11. Rugby union forwards 6 and 7 (7)
12. Continued (7)
16. Elementary (5)
17. To make a mistake (3)

Crossword

Nonogram

The lengths of runs of shaded squares in each row and each column are given. Squares can only be shaded or unshaded. Solve the puzzle to unveil a pretty picture.

Last Week’s Solutions

Milder Sudoku

Last week of puzzles for this term!!!

Guess the Stop

The British rail network runs far and wide. The name of a line is scrambled in the following anagram, and the name of a stop on that line, with the given number of letters is encoded by the sum of the letters, where A=1, B=2...

Z=26, Space/Punctuation=0. Find the line and stop. Note that London Underground lines may also be possible answers.

Anagram: Yeller non ditch

Stop:
9 letters, Sum: 102
Last Week: Cambrian Coast Line, Porthmadog
Hitotsubashi University Meeting

Jake Humphrey
IC Kendo Club

The Kendo Club went international recently as it played host to a score of students from Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo. As the only University in Japan specialising entirely in the Social Sciences, and one of the top-ranking Japanese Universities, it may be helpful to think of it as the Japanese LSE. This visit constituted the third in a series of annual exchanges from one of our clubs to the other, with some of our members and theirs recognising each other from the trip to Japan our club held last Summer.

On Wednesday 26th February, the Japanese students joined us for one of our regular practice sessions. Our members were eager to practice with kendoka who on average start training in secondary school, and they were not disappointed, with yours truly unable to even touch their strongest players.

On Thursday practice the following day, our guests took a teaching role as they showed us a series of movements known as kata. Kata are fairly common in kendo as a method of practicing movements that are not necessarily being used directly in a match. It can help train the mind to move one’s body efficiently or notice openings in the opponent’s stance, as well as being required to pass kendo gradings.

However, the kata shown to us by our visitors was different. Called Hyoto, it was a series of four movements, each symbolising a different season. One of the guests, a student from Hitotsubashi, passed down from senpai to kohouai over the years. Obviously, our members were very excited to see this rare display, and were deeply honoured when they took the time to teach us the first movement, based on Spring.

Our next meeting was on Saturday in Ethos, where we faced off against a friendly 10-person team match. Even with Team Britain augmented by top kendoka from nearby clubs, they sloughed us 6-3, and we went in earnest into a practice session, followed by lunch at Eastside.

The following day saw us take the train to Cambridge, where, at the request of our new friends, we spent the day sightseeing. After arriving just in time (read: 10 minutes late) for our booked punt, we had lunch and visited the colleges, before catching a train back to London, with both sides eagerly making plans for our next meeting, where our club will once again fly over to Japan to hone our skills in the country of kendo’s creation.

IC Polo Captain

IC 4s gain promotion in style

Olivia Szepietowski

Saturday 15th March. A date all members of the 4th team had pencilled in their diary for a long time. The season had been a frustrating one, but it was not without its highlights the likes of which you would be hardpushed to find anywhere else. With on-paper expectations of a top-three finish, we were getting closer to that finish line. The final game was no exception, and we were keen to make sure we got it right.

The two teams stood at 1-1, with the 4s up for promotion. Chichester were the current holders, and HBC had been runners-up for the past few seasons. It was the first time we had faced them in the league this season, and we were eager to put in a good performance.

The match started, and we put in a strong performance. We dominated possession but were unable to get the all-important goal. The game was nip and tuck, with both teams looking for an opening.

Once we got the opening goal, we were on the back foot, but we did not give up. We pushed forward, and eventually got our second goal. With the game in the bag, we went into cruise mode, and we were able to see out the remaining time.

In the end, we secured our promotion to the top league. It was a great achievement, and we can’t wait to see what the future holds.

Imperial lose at Chichester

Katherine Fok gives her account

Imperial's 11 players were prepared to take the table-topping Chichester, who had yet to drop a point this season. The opponents kicked off the first half and chased us into our half. However, as usual, we were able to clear our lines and stop the attack.

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It was a great day out, and we were looking forward to the next game against Chichester. As usual, we were confident in our ability to get the job done, and we were looking to secure our place in the top league.

The game started, and we were able to keep the ball for most of the game. We dominated possession but were unable to get the all-important goal. The game was nip and tuck, with both teams looking for an opening.

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Six Nations: The Verdict
Jonny Pratt and Tessa Davey give their verdict on the best, and worst, of the Six Nations

JONNY’S TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

Six Nations Round Up
Jonny Pratt and Tessa Davey give their verdict on the six teams with the Rugby World Cup in England just one year away.

ENGLAND
It’s far too easy to lament a bad bounce of the ball or some poor last minute defensive lapses and miss the bigger picture. England, with aspirations of a home Rugby World Cup success in 2015, should have won a Grand Slam. The vast majority of knockout matches in the RWC are tight games, so you have to be comfortable closing them out. Some really impressive performances besides the France game leave them very much on the way up.

IRELAND
What is it with Ireland and new coaches? A really strong Six Nations culminated in an intensely stressful final match (for everyone who isn’t Scotland or Italy). Schmidt might not quite have brought “Leinsterertainment” to the team just yet, but they looked very good throughout the tournament. Their power game in the mauls destroyed Wales, and ultimately provided the points difference that won the title.

SCOTLAND
To put it bluntly this was a terrible tournament for Scotland, a one-point win against Italy was one of a few high points. Could and perhaps should have beaten France on the day, but sport is judged on absolutes. Hopefully the arrival of Vern Cotter will provide them with some fresh impetus, though Scott Johnson has done little to show why he should be Director of Rugby. It’s hard to take too much from the final game, since the loss of a fullback that early is an impossible position.

ITALY
A fairly bad year for France; the team never seemed to gel and we didn’t see anywhere near enough flair. Their wins against England and Scotland could quite easily have gone the other way, and Philippe Saint-André needs to take a deep look at his team. The attempt to blood Jules Plisson was admirable, and it was certainly interesting to see France pick a fly-half at 10, but it never took off for the young Parisian. Despite this they were still in contention, and could continue to spring surprises at the RWC.

WALES
It’s hard to get a real judge on Wales this year, they seem to have lost their edge from previous years, with the spikiness of Mike Phillips going past an acceptable point. Wales still have a team with some fantastic players, but it feels like the end of an era. Warren Gatland needs to look at blooding some younger players; otherwise Wales could well be a long way behind England and Australia in their RWC pool.

JONNY’S WINNERS AND LOSERS

Player of the Tournament
Mike Brown

Try of the tournament
Rob Kearney v England

Best Match
France v Ireland

Breakout Player
Luther Burrell

Worst Moment of the Six Nations:
The try in the 77th minute of the France vs Ireland game, which would have made England the tournament winners, if only it hadn’t been via a forward pass.

Player of the Tournament
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Luther Burrell

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The try in the 77th minute of the France vs Ireland game, which would have made England the tournament winners, if only it hadn’t been via a forward pass.
The Verdict

endings to the Six Nations yet, familiar foes on the best, and worst, of the Six Nations

TESSA’S WINNERS AND LOSERS

Player of the Tournament
Brian O’Driscoll

Breakout Player
Liam Williams

Try of the tournament
Damien Chouly vs Ireland... even if it wasn’t given

Worst Moment of the Six Nations:
The entire England Wales match, in which my hopes and dreams came crashing to the ground

Best Match
France v Ireland

TESSA’S “HOTTIES” OF THE TOURNAMENT
Frankly, No One Gives A Toss About University Sport

Hangman describes the overall antipathy of all students towards all university level sports.

Next Time

Insert Generic Sports Image Here

Hangman
Editor-in-Chief

Saturday

Chelsea v Arsenal

These two teams have both done well so far with their players. However, there is good reason to suspect that these players aren’t quite the players they were when they last played. It’ll be a close one but since whoever normally writes this is a Chelsea fan, I’ll have to go for them. Prediction: 4-0

Cardiff’s Liverpool

Both of these sides play in red so that could be a problem unless one side manages to dye their shirts in which case we should be fine. The 15:00 kick will probably favour Liverpool as they have the better team. Prediction: 2-7

Everton v Swansea

Everton and Swansea, now there are two teams that play a lot of football. Roberto Martinez, a man who’s managed a lot of teams. Garry Monk, not so many. It’s all pointing towards an Everton win, but in this unpredictable Universe it would be foolish to rule out any scenario. Prediction: 5-6 (Swansea to win in extra-time multi-ball)

Hull v West Brom

Yet another two sides playing in the Barclays Premier League this weekend and both desperately need as many points as possible (as per the rules). Hull it has transpired recently are liable to be head-butt at any moment, which in normal circumstances would be a disadvantage but, perversely, can be an advantage in football. It would be the height of the arrogance to dare predict the result of this one. Prediction: 2-1

Man City v Fulham

Die Miester. Die Besten. Les Grands Equipes. The main event. Yes, neither of these teams is in the Champions League which is the main reason why they’re both playing one another in a match that it is already being dubbed as “ON” this weekend. Man City have literally all the good players but also Martin Demichelis for some reason. This should give Fulham eternal hope and I fully expect them to come away with all three points this weekend. Prediction: 1-3

Newcastle v Crystal Palace

This match essentially boils down to France vs A Team Of Players Barely Anyone Has Heard Off and such is thought to be likely to be very close. France have already managed to secure qualification for the World Cup this summer so are unlikely to be particularly interested in the result. Crystal Palace, however, have it all to do if they are to feature in Brazil in June. Expect big things from Marouane Chamakh for some reason, most probably because he’ll be schamaking them in. Prediction: 3-6

Norwich v Sunderland

Is there anything about this Norwich v Sunderland match that hasn’t already been written? I doubt it, but I’m bravely forgoing on regardless. Gus Poyet, as is his wont, will probably work himself into such a rage that he will just have to rip his jacket off and throw it as Wes Brown [West Brom?]. Chris Hughton, however, is just lucky to have a jacket at all as a nice one is quite hard to find in Norwich. Regardless, everyone on all sides will be rooting for Fabio Borini to do alright. Prediction: 3-3 (Sunderland to go through on Away Goals)

West Ham Utd v Man Utd

No one can claim that these are not United, especially in their mutual desire to play a “rocking, locking and popping” game of football to quote young Man Utd fan, David Moyes. It’s hard to see past West Ham and their front three of Downing, Nolan and Carroll but that’s mainly because Andy Carroll’s exceptionally tall and wide like a double-decker bus. Prediction: 1-1

Sunday

Tottenham v Southampton

Two teams that play beautiful football and Tottenham will battle this one out. Spurs are now very close to being able to drop all their summer signings in a last ditch attempt to revert to Gareth Bale. However, instinct tells me they won’t manage it this week and Saints with their better team and better manager will see this one out comfortably. Prediction: 0-2

Aston Villa v Stoke

Infamous grudge match which neither team will want to lose, although you’ve got to hope that neither go into a match wanting to lose. Since both sides are the epitome of average I’m going to have to assume Stoke will win by a Peter Crouch dirty goal and Johnathon Walters non-penalty to a Fabian Delph 100yard screamer. Prediction: 1-2

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Keep The Paper Free From Tyranny

SPORTZ

Editor: Mr Sport