

# FELIX



The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

## Student dissatisfaction persists at Imperial

The Rector has expressed his disappointment with staff across all departments as the results from the National Student Survey come in. Although Imperial has generally performed well, student dissatisfaction with academic feedback remains high,

## Blyth Gallery curator unveils new exhibition

Mindy Lee, the curator of Imperial's very own Blyth Gallery (located on the top floor of the Sherfield Building), unveiled the 'Double Trouble' exhibition this past Tuesday, in which some of her own works are featured.

## New college campus opens in Singapore

Imperial College's newest campus is scheduled to accept its first students in the academic year starting in 2013. As the university's first outpost abroad, references to British Imperialism returning to Singapore would be highly inappropriate.

## Freshers' Fair disrupted by bomb scare

Students who were on campus this past Tuesday may have noticed an increased police presence around the Sherfield building. Authorities had been alerted as to the presence of a suspect package, which ultimately proved to be harmless.

# Planned restructure of debt-laden department angers students at ICU

## The future of Plant Sciences at Imperial is under threat as Life Sciences department seeks to plug £1.5m hole in finances

### Kadhim Shubber

A bitter row between the Union and the Department of Life Sciences has erupted over what Union President Alex Kendall terms as the “deletion of Plant Sciences” from Imperial. The re-structure of the Life Sciences department, aimed at plugging a £1.5 million hole in the department's finances, has provoked a series of controversial accusations from the Union including claims that the Department has “severely misused” its statistics.

The restructure of the Life Sciences Department involves merging three

units, Plant and Microbial Sciences (PMS), Cell Biology and Functional Genomics (CBFG) and Biophysics into a new unit called Integrative Cell Biology. This will focus on high-throughput platforms, systems biology of model organisms, functional physiology of microbes and systems neurobiology.

The absence of Plant Sciences from the new units' intended research areas has led the accusation that Plant Sciences will “vanish from the university” at the research, post-graduate and undergraduate levels. “The breadth of the Imperial degree in Biology and Biochemistry will suffer” the Union said in



Professor Ian Owens and Alex Kendall are at loggerheads over the issue

## Scientists march as coalition cuts threaten to devastate UK research: Page 9

## Welcome Week spirits undampened by building delays: Page 3

### BUSINESS



The long road to summer internships begins now: [Page 14](#)

### FOOD



Can't cook or won't cook? Don't worry, we'll sort it: [Page 34](#)

### GAMES



All the latest gossip from the Eurogamer expo: [Page 30](#)

# HIGHLIGHTS

## On campus

### Hybrid Vehicle Network

The Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Network is bringing together the expertise of 8 departments at Imperial with the research activities ranging from fuel cells and electric motors to IC engines and vehicle architecture. Speakers include Prof Nigel Brandon - Director of the Energy Futures Lab, Dr Ricardo Martinez-Botas, Chris Walsh and Miguel Fragoso.

**220 Mechanical Engineering**  
**12 October 17:00-19:00**

### Low Carbon Energy

These lectures will take place in the virtual world and will share information about the future of energy. There will be 5 talks in Second Life in collaboration with the Nature Publishing Group in October 2010, covering topics like "Fuel Cells" or "Global Oil Depletion".



**Second Life Virtual World**  
**12-21 October 4:30-5:30PM**

### Junior Research Fellows

The event provides an opportunity to meet the second cohort of Junior Research Fellows (JRF) from Imperial as they begin fellowships. Attendants can also talk with academic champions and scheme supporters. The JRF scheme was created by the college to designate a new community of the best researchers. It has so far attracted high quality applications from around the world.

**Great Hall, Sherfield Building**  
**11 October 10:00-16:00**

## EDITOR'S PICK

### The Best of Felix This Week



### It's time to start thinking about summer internships

It's no shameful secret that many Imperial students are lining themselves up for a career in the city. Business Editor **Afonso Campos'** guide to getting yourself into a summer internship is therefore, in my opinion, an invaluable asset to all finance-minded students. I hope that they will feel a renewed sense of purpose after reading his feature But I must also commend Food Editor **Dana Li** and Arts Editor **Rox Middleton** for their content this week as well as their layout.

Page 14

## Union Elections

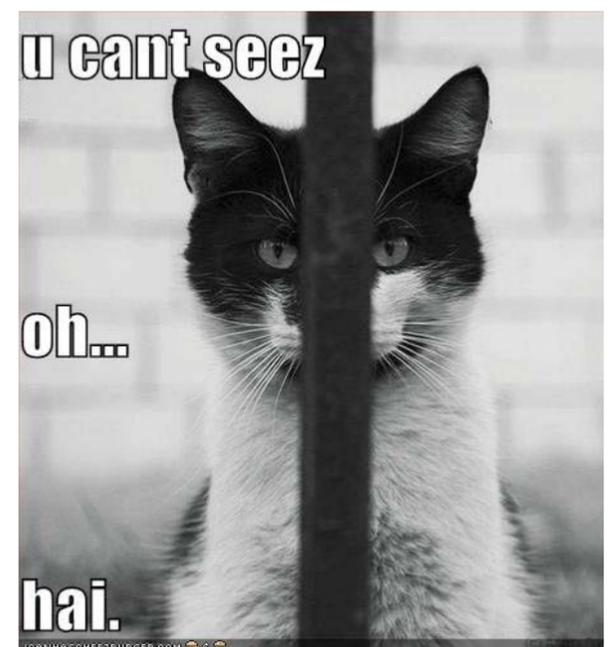
Elections for a wide variety of positions in the Union are now open. You can stand at:

[www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)

These include a position on the Ents Committee, which means you'll be looking at the events put on in the new club, Metric.

Getting involved in the Union as an elected officer is fun and challenging and you meet a lot of nice people. So why not consider serving your fellow students?

## Lolcat of teh week



# FELIX

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Special thanks to all the Copy Editors this week :)

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# Freshers make do with marquee as bar and club remain closed

Unforeseen construction problems delay opening of Union venues until end of October

**Charles Betts**

The opening of the new Imperial College Union venues FiveSixEight (can't they count?) and Metric has been delayed by 3 weeks and 1 month respectively. Disappointed students will have to wait until the 18th of October to experience the new bar FiveSixEight and the 29th of October for the new club Metric.

Construction on the club Metric was hampered by a number of complications including uncovering unknown basements and voids during the removal of the pillar that used to stand in the centre of the club. Ravi Pall, Deputy President (Finance & Services), stated that there is no one reason why the Metric opening date has shifted. Rather, the age of the building has resulted in a combination of delays including the removal of old pipe work but the Union acknowledged that Metric would almost certainly have opened on time had it not been for the removal of the pillar. However they did add that "not removing it would have heavily compromised the quality of the venue and the user experience as well as

**"The Union commented that the delays are regrettable and disappointing"**

limiting its uses."

The opening of FiveSixEight has been pushed back primarily due to a delay in the delivery of concrete for the bar itself, which will be the longest student bar in London when completed, as well as the necessity to remove a water main and fire hydrant that had been installed when the building was first constructed. The Union said "The delay in removing this has largely been due to the nature of the water main and the necessity for Thames Water to action this removal which has taken an unprecedented length of time."

The Union has stated that the delays are regrettable and disappointing, though they have had no financial impact on the Union over and above the

original project costs.

The delayed opening of the two venues has not affected Welcome Week, though major changes were forced to be made including the erection of a transparent marquee in Beit Quad, allowing all to see the debauchery from within. The Union bar is open as usual.

Opinion amongst Freshers has been generally positive, with the acknowledgment that construction projects typically face inevitable set-backs and that the Union appears to have done enough to address the situation, most importantly with plenty of cheap booze still available.

Though perhaps Tarquin, a Science Communication student, summed it up best when saying "It really doesn't matter when the club is ready- Crazy Larry's is still open and there's nowhere better to get sloshed, have a bloody good time, and see oodles of skirts."

**How do you feel about the delayed bar and club?**

Write to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)



These two guys were clearly having a ball of a time, despite the fact that only one of the bars was open for Freshers' Welcome Week

## Recycle your clothes and shoes at Imperial

Two new TRAIID (Textile Recycling for Aid and International Development) banks have been installed at the South Kensington Campus at the Blakett Building loading bay area and at the side of Weeks Hall. Students and staff are encouraged to give up their unwanted clothes and shoes, thereby helping to reduce landfill waste and helping to fight global poverty.

In 2009, TRAIID first partnered with Imperial, with recycling banks at Wilson House and at the Silwood Park campus. Since then 500kg of reusable textiles have been donated. TRAIID Chief Executive Maria Chenoweth-Casey said, "TRAIID is delighted to be working alongside Imperial College

London. The funds raised by TRAIID from donated clothes and shoes are spent on projects fighting global poverty and establishing environmental sustainability in some of the world's poorest communities."

Textiles donated at TRAIID banks could also end up being refashioned and remade as part of the charity in house fashion label 'TRAIIDremade'. Most recently, TRAIID remade launched its first ever capsule collection of shoes made from recycled textiles like vintage curtains and fabric remnants, and trims like zips and buttons. Their shops can be found all around London, including Camden, Brixton and Hammersmith.

## Terror assault police officers to join Babar Ahmed in jail?

**Matt Colvin**

A group of police officers accused of attacking former employee of Imperial College and terrorist suspect Babar Ahmad appeared in court last month. Police Constables Mark Jones, 43, Roderick James-Bowen, 40, Nigel Cowley, 33, and Detective Constable John Donohue, 36, appeared at City of Westminster Magistrates' Court, intending to plead not guilty. The case has been committed to Southwark Crown Court for October 29th.

Mr. Ahmad, 35, worked full-time as an ICT Support Analyst supporting both undergraduates and postgraduates until he was arrested on December 2nd 2003.

He was accused of using websites and e-mail in order to raise money to support terrorism in both Chechnya and Afghanistan amongst other allegations relating to handling US naval documents. Following a pre-dawn raid in Tooting by anti-terrorist officers, he was left with over 70 physical injuries.

He was subsequently released six days later but in August 2004 was re-arrested under the controversial 2003 US-UK Extradition Treaty. He has been held in custody ever since without charge. Despite vehement pleas from Mr. Ahmad to either charge or release him, alongside those who claim that some of the evidence that forms the basis of the case is unsatisfactory, the US government

remains determined to see Mr. Ahmad stand trial in their own country.

In March 2009, Mr. Ahmad was awarded £60,000 compensation following the admission of the anti-terrorist police that, in the process of his arrest in 2003, they subjected him to "grave abuse, tantamount to torture".

The latest news of the ongoing court case is unlikely to come as any consolation to Mr. Ahmad. While his extradition to the US has been halted by the European Court of Human Rights, he remains in custody at Long Lartin Prison in Worcestershire. In an interview with The Independent he labelled his 6 years of imprisonment without charge or conviction as "the equivalent of a 12-year sentence".

## NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**  
**Alex Karapetian**  
 news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## In brief

## Imperial occupies healthy position in league tables

Last month, two university league tables were released that showed how Imperial fares against other institutions.

Rankings by the careers advice company QS put Imperial in 7th place behind Oxford, UCL and Cambridge which, by their reckoning, is the top university in the world. The rest of the top ten was populated by American institutions. When calculating the rankings, QS placed a lot of weight on the strength of a university's reputation, as well as other factors such as staff/student ratio, employability and internationality.

However, the rankings released by Times Higher Education make for less favourable reading. While Cambridge and Oxford still score higher, in joint 6th place, the top ten are dominated by American universities such as Harvard and MIT. Imperial sneaks in at 9th place. UCL is the next highest ranked UK university at 22nd. THE has a different focus to QS, placing more weight on a university's research influence and the quality of its teaching.

This is the first year that QS and THE have produced different league tables; previously, they had compiled their rankings together. In 2009, they put Imperial at 5th in the world, joint with Oxford.

While we must be careful not to read too much into these statistics, some thoughts can be drawn from them. According to QS, we go to a university that is still worth bragging about but the lower ranking by THE reflects the fact that we shouldn't trade on reputation alone.

Even though both league tables put Imperial lower than in previous years, it is still a world-class institution. However, it will be interesting to see how it performs in future rankings, especially at a time when higher education funding and budgets are in jeopardy of being cut.

Rhys Davies

# Departmental cuts

## The planned restructure of the Life Sciences department puts the future of Plant Sciences at Imperial in question

Kadhim Shubber

*Continued from front page*

an online statement, which also accused the panel reviewing the restructure of a conflict of interest – a claim the department rigorously denies.

Head of the Life Sciences Department Ian Owens rebutted the accusations.

"We are absolutely not closing down Plant Sciences, we're restructuring that group because that group has some difficulties and instead we're putting something else in its place." He sought to reassure undergraduates in his department in a recent email that said "Imperial's commitment to key fields of academic activity remains as strong as before". He also pointed to plans to create a cross-departmental unit of Plant Sciences that would work across disciplines to encourage research in Plant Sciences, a plan that the Union called 'vacuous'. He admitted that no concrete plans for the cross-departmental unit could be made until the restructure had been completed.

Further concerns have been raised about the impact that the loss of academics from the PMS and CBFG sections would have on undergraduate teaching. While at this stage of the restructure it is unknown how many staff will keep or lose their positions, the loss of staff, that according to the Union takes on the majority of the teaching and administrative work in the department, would be detrimental to teaching.

The Union President Alex Kendall argued that it was clear from teaching data that the Plant Science and Cell Biology academics do the bulk of the teaching in the Life Sciences Department, in some cases 50% more than academics from other sections. Ian Owens disputed this analysis pointing out that it did not include post-graduate teaching hours which reduced the discrepancy and further said that "the teaching and administrative activities of the two centres did not satisfactorily counterbalance their relatively low research competitiveness."

The trigger of the restructure is the department's precarious financial position. It has been chipping away at a £12 million operating deficit since 2006/2007 and had reduced the gap to around £750,000 as of last year. However the removal of parts of College funding (the so-called flexibility margin) has undone some of the department's hard work. The College said this about the removal of the flexibility margin: "The 'Flexibility



The Department of Life Sciences proposes to 'restructure' its Plant Science units

Alex Kendall says the department's message is: "if you are an excellent teacher but not an 'internationally competitive' researcher you have no reason to be here."

Margin' is designed to act as a buffer, protecting faculties from fluctuations in resource. It is not intended to provide ongoing support; if it were so then this would be at the expense of other academic areas of the College."

The jobs of 28 academics are at risk in the restructure, which is designed to plug £1 million of the £1.5 million gap (the other £0.5 million coming from further cost-saving measures). The department has already taken significant steps to address their financial issues, which originate from the re-structure of the then Faculty of Life Sciences in 2004/2005. These steps include increasing the number of undergraduates to the maximum allowed, increasing fees for

post-graduates and overseas students and down-sizing the amount of space used by the Department.

The Union President has taken a controversial position on the department's financial difficulties, saying that the restructure is an "easy way out" of the department's financial situation and further declaring on his Union blog that the College "has money to burn". He questioned the Department's motives saying that the re-structure sent the message to academics that "if you are an excellent teacher but not an 'internationally competitive' researcher you have no reason to be here." However Ian Owens brushed away the notion that he was rejecting individuals "I'm look-

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WORLD RANK	INSTITUTION	COUNTRY	OVERALL SCORE	change
1	Harvard University	United States	96.1	
2	California Institute of Technology	United States	96.0	
3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	95.6	
4	Stanford University	United States	94.3	
5	Princeton University	United States	94.2	
6	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	91.2	
6	University of Oxford	United Kingdom	91.2	
8	University of California Berkeley	United States	91.1	
9	Imperial College London	United Kingdom	90.6	
10	Yale University	United States	89.5	
11	University of California Los Angeles	United States	87.7	
12	University of Chicago	United States	86.9	
13	Johns Hopkins University	United States	86.4	
14	Cornell University	United States	83.9	
15	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich	Switzerland	83.4	
15	University of Michigan	United States	83.4	

## NEWS

## Head of Department Ian Owens will not “insult [his] academics by telling them their jobs [are] dependent on a statistical line in the sand.”

ing at this from a group perspective. I'll agree we don't know exactly what individuals will be doing, but I think we can be confident that we will be able to deliver the full range of teaching. This is the other area of the statement from the Union that worries me the most, the idea that we are closing down Plant Science's Whole Organism teaching. I've never contemplated the department carrying on as before but minus the 28 people i.e. no group"

Plant and Microbial Sciences and Cell Biology and Functional Genomics have been targeted in the restructure due to their poor research quality and input of research funding in comparison to other units within the department according to the consultation document issued by the department. However their use of data has provoked an outcry from academics

in the PMS section and the Union. The have vigorously disputed these claims accusing the department of distorting and misusing the data on research. They claim that the PMS and CFBG sections produce as good research as the other units and that any difference in averages is due to “high-flying” academics pulling the average of the group up. The Head of the Life Sciences Department Ian Owens responded by saying that he did not want the restructure to be centred on a statistical argument and “as Head of my department, I would not be presenting the data if I did not believe that it was statistically significant.” When challenged by the Union to provide further data he said that he did not want to “insult my academics by telling them that their jobs were dependant on a statistical line in the sand.”

To further complicate the issue, the section of Plant and Microbial Sciences has only recently settled at the South Kensington campus after a highly disruptive 6-year move from the former campus at Wye (and Ian Owens admits that there are still some niggling problems). This has been held up by the opposition to the restructure as evidence that the academics would bring in as much funding as the other units if they had more time to settle in. But the department contests this saying that there have not been signs of a return to the 5\* Research rating given in 2001 and that some academics also left during the Wye disruption (possibly hampering the groups research potential).

In the name of fairness the Union has urged the Department to consider a full review of all units, saying that if difficult decisions have to be made then they should be made in as fair a way as possible. The suggestion is unlikely to gain much traction with the Department. The Head Ian Owens has spoken of his fear of the negative impact on morale of restructures. “The other units are performing pretty well, and you need a

wide range of individuals to form a good team and so I don't want to destroy relationships all the way across the department. We've identified key parameters that you can measure unambiguously, research citations, and from that we can identify certain trends”

The question of whether teaching of Plant Sciences will continue in the long term is of course in the air as the Department of Life Sciences are planning a review of teaching.

Ian Owens reiterated his confidence in the breadth of teaching options to be made available to students next year.

“Plant sciences is no different from any course next year. They'll all get thrown into the mix as it were, lots of stuff will change, lots of stuff will stay the same but there is absolutely no plan at all to get rid of plant sciences.”

Union President Alex Kendall remains sceptical and has been sure to condemn these decisions made by College early on in the new academic year. He suggested the Department's priorities may be still misaligned.

“When College improve research, they'll get more money. But no mat-

ter how much you improve teaching, there's no financial correlation.”

### Write Felix a letter about this issue

This story is about a debate that is going on at your university right now. It either affects you directly or it will affect one your friends directly. Be part of this debate, join it and shape it.

Write a letter (well an email) to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk) and tell us your thoughts. Is the restructure necessary? Are you worried about the effect it will have on teaching?

After all, you pay to be at this university. Your opinion matters and we want to hear it.

Imperial College  
London

Are you a keen and creative writer? Maybe you always have a camera handy to capture the moment? Simply send us 600 words about your start of term experience, whether you are a fresher or a returning undergrad or postgrad.

Alternatively, submit a photo-blog entry about Welcome Week – don't forget to add captions!

Send your submission by **Wednesday 20 October** to [studentblogs@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:studentblogs@imperial.ac.uk)

[www.imperial.ac.uk/studentblogs](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/studentblogs)



## Become a Rector's Ambassador



This week the International Office are seeking new volunteers to take part in this year's Rector's Ambassadors scheme. Rector's Ambassadors represent the College as a whole at Open Days and campus-wide tours

Stephanie Mambo, an RA last year, said; “Being a Rector's Ambassador is an honour. It's an opportunity to gain skills such as leadership, interpersonal, communication skills and initiative whilst showcasing Imperial positively.”

Stephanie has attended university fairs in Cyprus and Kenya as an Ambassador, and has also participated in college

events such as the Post Graduate Open Day

“The fair in Cyprus was a once in a life time opportunity. I was able to share my experiences and talk in depth about my course to highly driven students.

“Being a Rector's Ambassador is fun, exciting and full of energy, and the ambassadors all come from a wide range of courses and years. Everyone is outgoing and the atmosphere is great. And it's a flexible programme that works really well with everyone's schedule.”

Solomon Zacharia, studying Civil Engineering, is continuing the Rector's Ambassador experience this year. He

said “It's been a fantastic experience meeting other people and talking to new students.

“When I'm taking tours, students are engaging and enjoy every bit of the tour. I've also helped out at careers fairs and met lots of people from other universities. I've made good friends here: we all come from different backgrounds and it's good to talk to other people and see how they do things.”

You can apply for the Rector's Ambassador Scheme at <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/international/students/rectorsambassadors>. The deadline for applications is midnight on Friday 15th October.

## NEWS

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**Alex Karapetian**  
 news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## In brief

## Ethos Gym access restricted to allow staff some alone-time

The Ethos Gym will be closed to students on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes in a move designed to allow staff, who pay for gym membership, easier access to the busy facilities.

The gym will be closed to students from 12:00 – 13:30 on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes and also from 17:00 – 18:30 on Thursday evenings. To compensate for the restricted availability students will be given free access to Circuit Training from 12:00 to 13:00 on Tuesdays and Kondi from 17:15 to 18:00 on Tuesdays and 12:15 – 13:00 during Thursday lunchtimes.

This is due to staff, who pay a monthly membership fee, being frustrated by having to wait to use machines in a gym that is crowded with spotty-faced youths trying to bench-press one another.

This situation, which arises from a sports centre that is arguably too small to cater for the entire university (undergraduates and postgraduates included), will be reviewed in December by Neil Mosley, head of Sports Imperial. Could Alton Towers style Fastrack tickets follow?

**Charles Betts**



## Reynolds Bar given new lease of life with summer refurbishment

While a lot of attention has been focussed on the refurbishment of Metric and FiveSixEight – as they will soon be called – renovations have also been taking place in the Reynolds Bar, the spiritual home of ICSM in Charing Cross Hospital.

Redecorating has been much gentler than at the Union, with work consisting mostly of a fresh colour scheme, as well as repairing or replacing damaged furniture.

In recent years, the Reynolds has been roaring on Bops and Sports Nights but has been mostly deserted during the day and on quieter evenings. In order to remain financially viable, it was felt that this worn, gloomy look should be replaced by a more inviting atmosphere where staff and students would want to socialise.

ICSMSU President, David Smith, stated that his hope was that the Reynolds feel, “more inviting, modern, and suitable for relaxing post-lecture or at lunchtime, yet still functioning well as a nightclub.”

The Reynolds officially reopened last Friday, ahead of term, with the “Summer of Love” Bop, hosted by the ICSM Summer Ball Committee.

**Rhys Davies**

## Imperial opens Medical campus in Singapore



The Queen's Tower would be a fine addition to the Singapore skyline, don't you agree? You don't? Oh....

## Ali Hosin

Imperial College is set to open its first teaching institution abroad - a medical school in Singapore. The project is run alongside Nanyang Technological University (NTU), with the College having been commissioned to develop the curriculum. It is scheduled to admit its inaugural intake of 50 students in 2013, eventually rising to 150 per year, and will be the third medical school in the country.

Professor Martyn Partridge, Chair in Respiratory Medicine at Imperial, will be senior vice dean of the new school. Speaking about the rationale behind the collaboration, he told Felix: “The Singapore Government came to us for help with this project because they recognised the quality of our medical course and because they understood that Imperial 15 years ago had remarkable similarities with NTU now, being a college with fine Engineering and Technology expertise but no Faculty of Medicine”.

The new partnership will allow more overseas students to be taught by Imperial College, as there is a 7.5% cap on the proportion of international students attending UK medical schools, and students at the new institution will be awarded a joint Imperial-NTU degree. Additionally, it is hoped that Imperial students will benefit from the project, via exchange programmes with the new medical school and the possibility of spending elective periods in its associated hospitals. There will also be opportunities for staff at Imperial, by means of new jobs and academic collaborations in Singapore.

However, a Singaporean medical student at Imperial, who wished to remain anonymous, is wary of the partnership.

“I would still have gone to Imperial College London [...] because the standard of teaching in London (as a whole and within the College itself) is more established and recognised worldwide. Imperial College has an international reputation to protect, and I hope that the College will make every effort to preserve the high standard of teaching which it has become synonymous with”

Imperial seems to be the ideal candidate for the task of creating a new medical school, given its enviable rankings on both UK and world league tables.

Medicine at Imperial was ranked 3rd in the 2011 Good University Guide, and it was ranked 5th in the world for clinical, pre-clinical and health in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2010-11. Furthermore, although its School of Medicine has only been around since 1997, Imperial has had a relatively longstanding involvement in medical training, dating back to 1988 when it acquired St Mary's Hospital Medical School, itself established in 1854. However, the results of the most recent National Student Survey suggest that improvement is due - although 91% of students were overall satisfied with the Medicine course, only 58% agreed that they receive sufficient advice and support with their studies. Similarly, the General Medical Council's latest Quality Assurance report on the course found that both careers advice and feedback on student progress

were ‘variable’. However, Professor Partridge feels that there have been “tremendous efforts made in the last 18 months to improve students’ perception of how much feedback they receive”, and insists that NTU have chosen the right partner.

“The Singaporean Government considered all of the best Universities when selecting a new partner for Nanyang Technological University and after due diligence they chose Imperial as offering the best course”.

The news of Imperial's expansion brings it up to speed with numerous other UK universities, including Nottingham and UCL, who have already opened campuses abroad.

However, it should be noted that this will not be the first overseas institution with College branding: in 2006, the Imperial College London Diabetes Centre opened in Abu Dhabi, UAE, which was last month awarded JCI (Joint Commission International) accreditation in clinical care.

## EVENTS

**Friends of Medicin Sans  
 Frontieres Freshers' Social  
 FREE FOOD  
 10th October. 6:30pm  
 Reynolds Bar. CX R2/3**

# Students give damning verdict on teaching standards

The College makes coursework feedback and marking a priority as Rector tells staff he is “extremely disappointed” by the National Student Survey results

**Matt Colvin**

The results of the latest National Student Survey have led Imperial College to announce a campaign to improve the assessment of students’ work, with the Rector becoming personally involved in an attempt to lead a noted improvement across all College departments.

Launched in 2005, the NSS collects voluntary opinions from final year stu-

dents about both pastoral and academic issues, leading to more detailed feedback on student satisfaction rather than other league tables that place emphasis on academic success.

The College has generally fared well in the results, released in August, which give Imperial an overall satisfaction rating of 85%, placing the university 43rd nationally and 13th amongst Russell Group universities. One of the more im-

pressive results is the rating of 90% for satisfaction with the College’s learning resources, well above the national average of 80%.

However, one particular area of concern that the survey highlights is student satisfaction with assessment and feedback. Disquiet about this is not restricted to final year students alone. Last year, feedback from the College’s TOLE (Tutorial Online Evaluation) undergrad-

uate survey highlighted concern in the departments of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry, while Civil Engineering refused to cooperate and send feedback to personal tutors.

Current Rector, Sir Keith O’Nions, has made the issue a top priority, as evidenced by a strongly worded letter sent to departments to highlight the problem. He has advised that departments take “strong and concerted action” and set a

timetable for when students can expect to submit coursework and receive feedback. He has suggested that in certain cases, departments should “consider reducing the amount of coursework the students are required to do” should they “get maximum benefit from the feedback.” The question is whether the current situation can be improved upon by the next College surveys at the end of term.

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Are you a keen and creative writer? Maybe you always have a camera handy to capture the moment? Simply send us 600 words about your start of term experience, whether you are a fresher or a returning undergrad or postgrad.

Alternatively, submit a photo-blog entry about Welcome Week – don't forget to add captions!

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[www.imperial.ac.uk/studentblogs](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/studentblogs)



## Can we solve a problem like teaching?

Improving teaching is going to be a slow process

**Matt Colvin**

Professor Omar Matar, Director of Undergraduate Studies for Chemical Engineering notes that “members of staff have a finite amount of endurance and certainly the students are in the same sort of boat” in terms of the amount of work that requires feedback. Professor Julia Buckingham, Pro-Rector (Education and Academic Services) agrees, observing that “there has been a move in some departments to actually reduce the amount of coursework, and I think that will help.”

But there is certainly an issue of motivating academics to take teaching seriously. Dr. Tony Field, Director of Undergraduate Studies for Computing, explains why he believes that his department is instead nationally competitive, “I think it’s possibly the mindset. The academics take their work seriously and if we tell them coursework has to be marked properly and within 2 weeks then by and large they do it. I get the impression other departments find it harder to get their academics to do that.”

Indeed, some departments have highlighted a certain culture that exists of academics focussing on their research rather than their teaching duties, often to bring more money into the department. Professor Matar believes that “(academics) have got a lot of research and some administration to do as well as teaching.

It’s a fine balancing act.” But Professor MacKinnon, Director of Undergraduate Studies for Physics, went further, saying that “Every university says teaching and research have equal weighting. Few academics actually believe that.”

Dr. Lorraine Craig, a senior member of staff for Earth Science and Engineering is adamant that this reluctance on the part of academics does not exist in her department, firmly believing that “staff want to see their students learn, progress and get very good jobs at the end of their time here. They look after their tutees and students that they’re supervising and there is that bond - that link.” She also admits that the department is relatively small in comparison to others, acknowledging that, “what works within this department might not work in others.”

Despite the urgency of the Rector’s letter and the aim of departments to improve, many of those questioned claim to already meet the target for a two week feedback turnaround. Professor Berkshire outlines that, “we aim to have essentially 12 days turn around. By and large we achieve it” while Professor MacKinnon reveals that “there are one or two exercises we could probably do faster than (two weeks).” Dr. Craig aims to reduce the department’s turnaround to one week instead, explaining that “if we’ve got a deadline, we work to that deadline. We just change the mindset.”

**“Every university says teaching and research have equal weighting. Few academics actually believe that.”**

Further suggestions towards addressing the problems include a formal contract between staff and students, cementing the expectations that a student would have of their department and equally staff of their students. Mentioned last year by the former Deputy President for Education, Jonathan Silver, it has met with some positive comments. Professor Matar suggests that “there needs to be a contract between us and them” and Professor MacKinnon is “not overly opposed” to the idea, but points out that such a system may “lead to unnecessary litigation”.

Add into this mix the impending government cuts and changes to Higher Education Funding and it’s quickly obvious that improving teaching isn’t going to be straight forward or quick. Julia Buckingham was keen to emphasise that there needs to be a cultural change at Imperial which will take some time.

# NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**  
**Alex Karapetian**  
 news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## In brief

### Union launches Higher Education Funding Survey

The Union is formulating a policy on Higher Education and it wants to know your views. Go to [www.imperialcollegeunion.org](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org) to register your opinions

### Former Rector Sir Richard Sykes appointed Chairman of the Royal Institute

Former Imperial College Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, has been appointed to the position of new Chairman of the Royal Institution (Ri) to succeed former Chairman Andrian de Ferranti.



After unanimous backing from Trustees of the organisation, following Sir Richard's nomination at a Ri Council meeting on 13th September 2010, his position as Chairman was announced only three days later.

Chris Rofe, chief executive of the Ri had the following to say: "This appointment affirms the Royal Institution's commitment both to our members and to the scientific community as a whole. Sir Richard's extensive experience and formidable reputation in science, business and education means that he is ideally placed to lead the organisation. I look forward to his advice, support and leadership as we continue to deliver our strategy."

Sir Richard, also former chairman of pharmaceuticals giant GlaxoSmithKline and current chairman of the UK Stem Cell Foundation, issued a statement saying "I am delighted to become Chairman at such an important juncture in the history of the Royal Institution. This is a crucial era for science in society and our role as home for the promotion of science is a critical one." He added to this, "Adrian de Ferranti has been an outstanding Chairman, we wish him well and thank him for his valuable contribution to the Ri. I am delighted to accept the role of Chairman and to work with the Council to represent the interests of our members and to support the chief executive and the management team to drive the organisation forward."

The Royal Institution is the oldest independent research institute in the world, and has been associated with many scientific figures including Sir Humphry Davy and Michael Faraday. Recent accounts filed to the Charity Commission in July, however, show that the Royal Institution is facing serious debt of more than £2m. As new chairman, Sir Richard will now be responsible for the administration of fundraising of the organisation and its development. Sir Paul Nurse, incoming president of the Royal Society, believes Sir Richard will be able to relieve the long standing financial stresses incurred, "This appointment will give strong leadership and much needed stability to the Royal Institution. I wish him and the institution well."

Rosalyn Flowers



Yes that's right, the guy in the middle who won the prize draw has absolutely no idea what the hell is happening...

## MSci Student Chooses Goat over iPod

An unorthodox prize draw was run during Freshers' Week by Student Life. The prize? The choice between an iPod Nano for themselves or

two goats for families in the developing world.

The winner, Amad Naseer, decided to donate the goats: "I already have an iPod" he said.

## Bomb scare disrupts Freshers' Fair

A suspect package triggered a bomb alert at last Tuesday's packed Freshers' Fair. The container, which was left outside the hoardings between the Sheffield building and the gate on Prince Consort Road, was first identified by police who are on campus to give Freshers information about personal safety.

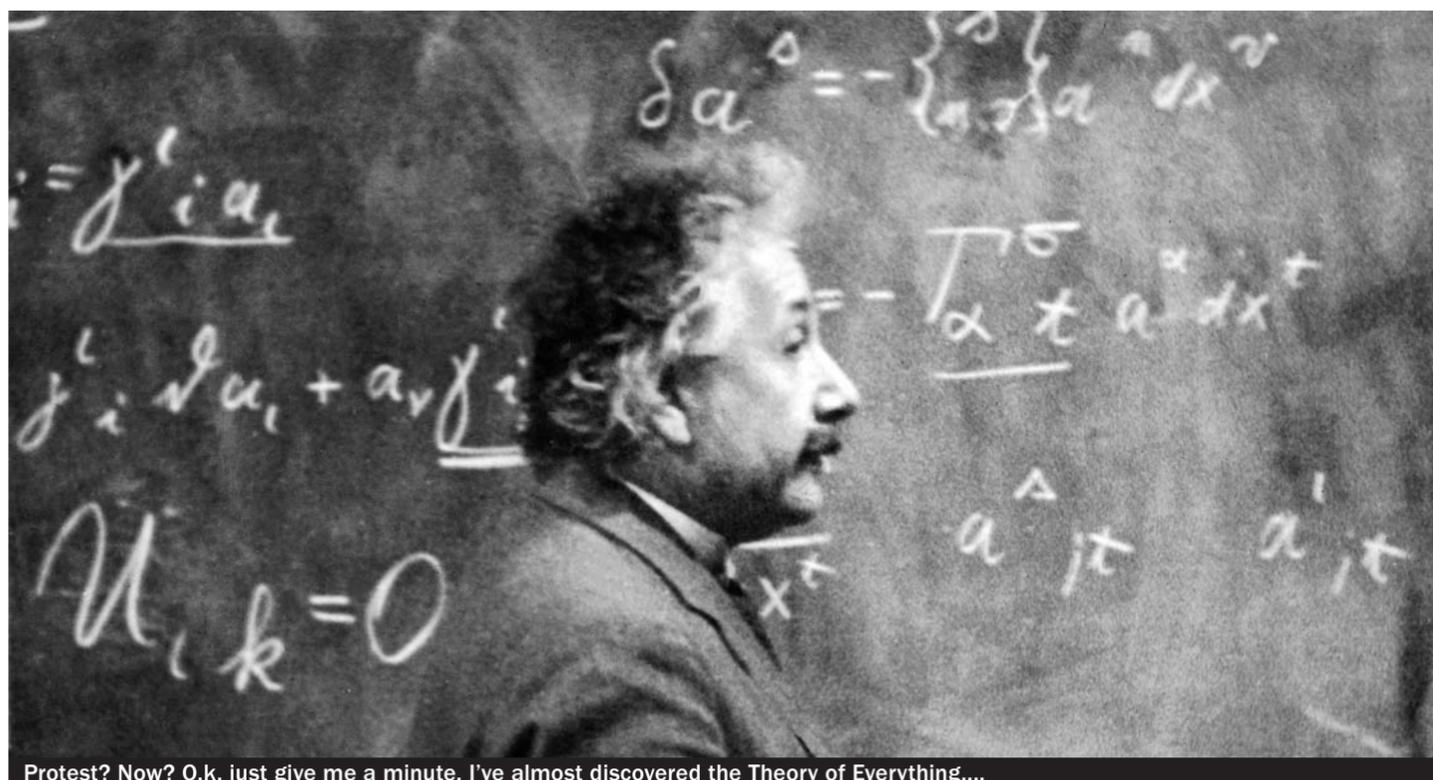
After failing to confirm ownership with the many contractors working around campus the police called in a bomb alert as a precaution due to the large number of students who had come to the Fair. The police no doubt were on heightened alert due to the terror warnings issued to American travellers in London. The situation was defused when the package was X-rayed by the bomb squad and found to contain nothing more than some power tools and other construction equipment.

Head of Security Terry Branch warned students to be "careful about where you leave your belongings. Heightened security risks means they may cause disruption if left unattended."



# SCIENTISTS RALLY TO FIGHT FUNDING CUTS

The Government's Spending Review looms ever closer, and UK science research is in peril. By **Gilead Amit**



Protest? Now? O.k. just give me a minute, I've almost discovered the Theory of Everything....

On Saturday the 9th of October, over 2,000 scientists and science supporters will rally at Westminster to protect the future of British science. Their aim is to make the government reconsider any spending cuts to be made in the fields of research and development, cuts that scientists fear could cause the country long-term damage.

They are rapidly running out of time to make their voices heard, however, if they hope to influence Chancellor George Osborne's Governmental Spending Review, which will be publicly announced on the 20th. The cuts detailed on that day will certainly be draconian and decisive - but nobody as yet knows where they will fall.

It is in this tense atmosphere that on the 8th of September Lib Dem cabinet member Vince Cable delivered a speech at Queen Mary, University of London. In it, the newly-appointed Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) made it clear that deep cuts in his department were unavoidable.

Since the Chancellor's emergency budget was revealed in June of this year, government departments have been agonising over how best to apportion the enormous spending cuts that need to be made. In what Whitehall sources have referred to as 'a do-able nightmare', the Treasury hopes to cut public spending by £6.2 billion over the coming year.

If the load were to be divided equally among all 16 governmental departments, then each minister would need to reduce their budget by around 15%. The Coalition's priorities, however, mean that some departments are more heavily hit than others. The NHS budget, for instance, will be protected in full, and some defence spending is also exempt.

This means that the reduction in spending expected from departments such as Vince Cable's will rise to nearly 25% over a four-year period. And as Cable's department bears responsibility for science as well as for business, scientists have been anxiously scrutinising his priorities in an attempt to predict what lies in store for them.

They got a glimpse of the answer when

**"There is no justification for taxpayers' money being used to support research which is neither commercially useful nor theoretically outstanding."**

**Vince Cable**

he stepped up to speak at the Queen Mary BioEnterprises Innovation Centre. In a speech more memorable for the questions it left unanswered than for any definite proposals it contained, Vince Cable succeeded in sending shockwaves through the scientific establishment.

Perhaps the most memorable phrase (one of several leaked to the BBC and the Guardian on the previous night) came with his assertion that he supports "top class 'blue skies' research, but there is no justification for taxpayers' money being used to support research which is neither commercially useful nor theoretically outstanding."

Science supporters across the board have come out against this comment, which they feel is indicative of a worryingly 'short-termist' view of the benefits of scientific research. According to a 2008 report by the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE), every pound invested into medical research yields an annual return of 30p in perpetuity. This is a message echoed by the 2010 OECD report on innovation in times of austerity, which stressed that "cutting innovation provides short-term relief but damages long-term growth."

Others have criticised Vince Cable's description of 45% of publicly-funded research as 'mediocre'. Robert May, formerly Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government as well as President of the Royal Society, points out that for a country with barely 1% of the global population to produce 8% of the scientific publications and receive 12% of the associated citations is no mean feat. In relation to net wealth, the UK comes top out of the G8 countries in terms of the number of papers published annually.

The worry among scientists today is that this privileged position at the forefront of international research may well be slipping away. The Royal Society made it clear in their submission to the Treasury that any cut in funding made today would ripple out and have a significantly larger impact in the long term. In their words, a cut of over 20% would represent a 'game over' scenario.

The nightmare situation would see Britain undergoing a 'brain drain', in which all the leading researchers and academics leave the country in search of greener pastures abroad. As can be seen from reports published by the UK's top six universities, this scenario is danger-

ously close to materialising.

If the £3.5 billion science budget were to drop by nearly a billion pounds, then the UK would also need to reconsider its commitments to expensive, large-scale research projects. The Diamond Light Source and Isis, two Oxfordshire-based projects that respectively cost £28m and £35m a year to run, would almost certainly need to be put on hold. Professor Brian Cox, one of the UK's better-known science broadcasters, has compared the mothballing of either of these projects to acts of 'vandalism', which "would irreparably damage physics in the UK at all levels".

In an attempt to protest against any such drastic measures, a group of concerned scientists and science supporters have spent the last month setting up the 'Science is Vital' campaign. Led and supported by a range of individuals from former Imperial rector Sir Roy Anderson to renowned astronomer Sir Patrick Moore, the group hopes to open the government's eyes to the benefits associated with investment in the sciences.

They cite the unprecedented funding being awarded to research and development by the governments of India,

China, France and Germany, many of whom are doing so at times of national stringency in other fields. France, for instance, will be investing €35 billion in research while at the same time cutting defence spending by nearly €5 billion.

All this raises the legitimate question as to whether or not the government has set the country on the right course to emerge from these difficult economic times. To take an example from recent history, both Finland and South Korea used science investment as a powerful engine to take them out of the perilous waters of recession they had sailed into in the 1990s.

On the 9th of October, the Science is Vital campaigners will be meeting in Westminster to protest outside the Treasury building. Inside, Chancellor George Osborne has been tasked with cutting Britain's deficit with the help of the only governmental department that has no scientific advisor.

If Osborne decides to come into work on the Saturday in question, it might be worth his while to open the window. The advice he hears may prevent him from making the biggest mistake of his career - and it won't cost him a thing.

Technology Editor: **Samuel Gibbs**[technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# TECHNOLOGY

## Free App of the Week

### iOS - London Tube Status

Line	Status	Icon
Bakerloo	Good service	Green checkmark
Circle	Severe delays	Red exclamation mark
District	Good service	Green checkmark
Central	Good service	Green checkmark
Hammersmith & City	Severe delays	Red exclamation mark
Jubilee	Minor delays	Yellow exclamation mark

Keep up to date on tube line delays, closures and strikes with live updates from the palm of your hand. It's fast, efficient and essential for travelling in London.

### Android - London Tube Status

Line	Status	Icon
Bakerloo	Good service	Blue checkmark
Central	Good service	Blue checkmark
Circle	Planned closure	Blue checkmark
District	Part closure	Blue checkmark
H'smith & City	Part closure	Blue checkmark
Jubilee	Part closure	Blue checkmark
Metropolitan	Good service	Blue checkmark
Northern	Good service	Blue checkmark
Piccadilly	Good service	Blue checkmark
Victoria	Planned closure	Blue checkmark
Waterloo & City	Planned closure	Blue checkmark

Like the iOS app above this free Tube status app grabs live info from TfL, including departure boards. It also comes with packing widgets for your home screen so you don't even have to open the app.

## 4chan leaks smut pirate data

**Feroz Salam**

Battles between mainstream film and recording industries and the public over piracy issues have always been well documented. But the conflict between porn studios and your average pervert have remained largely under wraps.

That situation changed last week when 4chan decided to target one of the major legal players ACS:Law. While carrying out their plan initially meant intimidating its CEO, they stumbled upon an unencrypted text file containing the names of 5000 people who had been accused of pirating porn. In typical 4chan style the file was released to the public, causing massive embarrassment for ACS:Law, Plusnet and BT (not to mention the 5000 accused of downloading titles such as 'MILF Magic 3').

The leak kicked up a cloud of dirt for everyone involved and only the porn companies and 4chan getting any satisfaction

from the matter. It's also thrown into focus an issue previously unreported in technology circles - piracy of pornography.

It's well known that of all media industries, pornography has suffered the most at the hand of piracy. 'Free' streaming sites lure the vast majority of porn consumers who are unwilling to risk dodgy payments appearing on their bank statements. Yet one card that the porn industry can play is shame; most customers would rather admit to downloading Phil Collins than 'Skin City'. ACS:Law is the only remaining British company that extorts money through this legal form of blackmail, with most mainstream media labels ditching this practice due to the bad publicity it generates. Their strategy is trivial. Upon receipt of an infringing IP address, ACS:Law contacts your ISP and demands the personal details of the person fingered by said IP address. Your ISP is legally required to disclose this information thanks to recently

passed privacy bills, and before you know it there's a letter in your mail asking you to pay up for your illegal download, failing which your name will be released to the public.

The scam in itself is legal, and it's easy to see why it might be fairly successful. ACS:Law's failing was in its handling of the confidential user data it was handed by ISPs. The standard procedure that any responsible company should follow when handed such data is to securely encrypt it so that in case any part of its infrastructure is compromised, the hackers only come away with gibberish.

What hackers found on ACS:Law's servers wasn't gibberish, but a backup of the entire website including records of emails sent by and within the company. ACS:Law (and the ISPs that handed the firm the information) are obliged to encrypt any communication that contains data that could be in breach of the Digital Privacy

Act. In failing to do so they have undergone investigation by the Information Commissioner's Office. The ICO's probing has launched a tit-for-tat blame game across the board, with the government, ISPs and ACS:Law all blaming each other. ACS:Law looks likely to take most of the heat for this - their eagerness to profit off someone else's misfortune makes them easy villains - but it's worth noting that none of the ISPs seem to have had any qualms about handing over the unencrypted information either.

The legal ramifications of this scandal won't be obvious until the ICO finishes its investigations, but it does raise some serious questions about the quality of current legislation. If the government wants to convince us that this is for our benefit, they have their work cut out for them - in the meantime, you might want to take precautions before grabbing "Catch Her In The Eye" off Pirate Bay.

## Zuckerberg: The Man

**Guo Heng Chin**

The year 2010 may just be Mark Zuckerberg's finest. Having his net worth more than triple to \$6.9 billion, he has climbed the ranks of the Forbes 400 list from #158 to #35. He even knocked Steve Jobs off the throne of Geekdom as Vanity Fair proclaimed him "our new Caesar" by placing him at #1 in its 100 most influential people of the New Establishment. And this month, a biopic based on his dramatic founding of Facebook is coming out. Thing is, he's only 26 years old.

The Facebook CEO is portrayed as a punkish antihero in *The Accidental Billionaires*, Ben Mezrich's dramatic retelling of the genesis of Facebook, which *The Social Network* is based on. David Kirkpatrick's *The Facebook Effect* hails him as a genius of our generation who revolutionized the way we interact with each other. Love him or loathe him, one thing's for sure, Zuckerberg exudes a peculiar sort of charisma.

The youngest self-made billionaire ever, he still lives in a rented house shared with his girlfriend,

and has stuck to his trademark hoodie in every public appearance. In the movie, he is portrayed as borderline autistic. It may be an over-dramatization, but Zuckerberg is well known to be socially awkward. He speaks really fast, often coming across as nervous, but his words carry solid weight and a dead-sure conviction. That is the essence of Zuckerberg's charisma.

Mark's steadfast and uncompromising vision for Facebook was key to its success today and also a source of much frustration to his colleagues. The Facebook Effect reports that Mark has always been adamant about maintaining an enjoyable user experience over revenue. He holds the majority of the company's board of director seats in order to grow Facebook in accordance with his vision. His dictatorship-like authority over the direction of the company kept it from being sold to Yahoo! in 2006 and being bogged down by ads. But it may also have been behind the reason for the departure of co-founders Dustin Moskowitz and Chris Hughes as Facebook grew.

Aptly timed before the release of

*The Social Network*, the Facebook CEO went on Oprah announcing a donation of \$100 million worth of Facebook shares to the Newark school system. Critics think it's a pre-emptive move to protect his image. Having read *The Accidental Billionaires*, I doubt the film will do Mark's reputation much harm. Depicted as a gifted hacker with a disregard for the norms of social institutions, Zuckerberg comes across as a modern-day Byronic hero, albeit without the womanizing. It might actually propel him to rock-star status (at least in Geekdom). However Zuckerberg does have reasons to be afraid for his reputation. Earlier this year, Silicon Alley Insider got hold of an old instant message log detailing an exchange between Zuckerberg and a friend when he was still in Harvard. In the conversation, Mark called Facebook users 'dumb fucks' for 'trusting' him. Zuckerberg later apologized in an interview with *The New Yorker*, citing his immaturity at that time.

User trust is the cornerstone of Facebook's stellar success.

The willingness of users to share their personal information on Facebook has made it the world's most comprehensive database.

Check back next week to find out how every bit of info you give Facebook makes it the most lucrative Internet start-up ever known to mankind.



## Autumn Elections 2010

Stand for a Union position and help to shape the future of your Students' Union, through Policy, Entertainment, or Welfare Campaigns.

Nominations are now open for 19 positions in a three week democratic process which will complete the Union for 2010/11 and allow the students to make the changes they want to see.

Whether you are a final year PhD student or a first year Undergraduate, you can stand for a position. The majority of positions are to be ordinary members of Union Council, the policy and accountability body of the Union. You sit in monthly Council meetings and decide the policy and political direction of the Union. Other positions are for the Welfare Campaign Officer positions in charge of Gender Equality and the S.H.A.G (Sexual Health and Guidance) weeks, a position for a first-year student on the Ents Committee looking at what we put on in the nightclub Metric, and Court Advocate, someone who will be the link between

Union Court and the students.

For more information on how to stand for election and which positions you are eligible for, download the Candidates' Pack below. Nominations close on 17 October so you have plenty of time to think about how you can contribute. You can stand and vote at [imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)

Most importantly, persuade fellow students to vote when the time comes. The Union only works as a representative body for students because students run its democracy.

Go to [imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections) for the full candidates pack. If you have any questions email the Returning Officer, Alex Kendall at [elections@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:elections@imperial.ac.uk).

## Higher Education Funding Survey

The Union is running a survey on the Browne Review and we need to hear what you have to say! The review will recommend changes to how higher education (HE) is funded, to guarantee that UK institutions remain world-class and internationally competitive. What this could mean for students are much higher fees, the introduction of higher taxes once you graduate, higher rates of interest on your loans, or a myriad of other scenarios. The findings will be published next week.

The idea behind the survey is both to gather your opinions on the issue, as well as to inform you about what exactly could be changing in the near future in regards to how you pay your tuition fees, and how high these could (potentially) increase by. It will only take a few minutes to complete, and as an incentive we are offering 5 gift voucher prizes for our Union Shop worth £20 each! You can find our survey on the Union webpage [imperialcollegeunion.org](http://imperialcollegeunion.org).



**Alex Dahinten**  
Deputy President (Education)



## what's on

Our new online calendar.

We have launched a great new online calendar that is designed to showcase all the events that are happening on campus that are open for anyone to attend. Clubs, Societies & Projects can add their taster sessions and performances. We will be putting on all of the Union's events as well as our full entertainments calendar for Metric.

The best bit; you can choose which sort of events you are interested in and change the view so you can only see them. You can also subscribe to that selection of events in your calendar program at the click of a button. If an event changes it will automatically update in your calendar too.

Have a look [imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on)



## The Advice Centre

Now on Facebook!

**Charlotte Ivson**  
Deputy President (Welfare)

The Advice Centre on Level 2M of the Union building is the main source of general help for students on campus. The centre offers free, qualified, confidential, impartial advice from our Student Adviser Nigel Cooke on a wide range of issues including accommodation, academic issues, money worries, sexual health, personal safety and more. Now you can post your questions to Nigel anytime on The Advice Centre Facebook page. Ask any question, big or small and the Nigel will post back to you via Facebook or can email or phone you. The page also has the contact details for the Centre should you want to phone or email instead.

Go to [imperialcollegeunion.org/advice](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/advice) for more information.

## Freshers' Fair

Thanks to everyone involved

**Heather Jones**  
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Every year the Freshers' Fair just gets better and better! On Tuesday almost 300 Clubs, Societies & Projects were joined by external companies to make-up our largest Freshers' Fair ever.

I hope you all had a great time at the Fair. It was, as always, great to see the full range of the great activities going on around campus. However the event wouldn't be possible without the help of hundreds of volunteers, Club Officers and Management Group chairs. A massive thank-you from me for all their hard work and enthusiasm that helped us get the campus set-up and more importantly returned to normal!

If you have any photos or videos of the Fair please upload them to YouTube or Flickr with the tag IMP150.

# POLITICS

## The world beyond College walls



### Nepal

**Nepal has failed for the 10th time to elect a Prime Minister, rivalling Belgium and Iraq in its inability to form a government.**

Nepal has been leaderless since former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal resigned on 30 June 2010. Ram Chandra Poudel from the Nepali Congress party was the only candidate to run for the post in the most recent attempt to elect a new Prime Minister. Nepal has been in the process of forming a new constitution after 10 years of civil war but has been mired in political infighting, leaving the institutions of the Nepali state weaker as the political impasse drags on.



### Ecuador

**Ecuador has extended the state of emergency in force until the end of this week in the wake of attacks on the President.**



The decree was prompted by protests by police officers in front of the National Assembly. The state of emergency was initially declared last Thursday, after a police revolt which saw President Correa physically attacked by the police and left several others dead in clashes between the police and the military. The revolt was prompted by a new law which cuts public sector benefits.

The emergency decree allows the military to be in charge of securing the country instead of the police and has been denounced by opposition members who claim that the revolt was planned by President Correa in order to hide extreme corruption and poverty. The security minister, however, denies this and said efforts were underway to identify the police officers who attacked President Correa.



### Yemen

**Yemen has delayed voting on proposals to raise the minimum age for marriage to 17.**

Parliament was scheduled to vote on numerous laws including an election reform bill but disputes over the election law led to an opposition boycott of the vote.

This delay marks the latest setback in the Government's attempt to reform the marriage situation in Yemen. Poor parents sometimes marry their children off as minors so that they have some form of financial security.

By Kenneth Lee

# It ain't all numbers

Politics is alive and kicking at Imperial, and so are world leaders from science and engineering backgrounds

## Hassan Joudi

One downside to life at Imperial is the lack of variety of students you meet. You won't find any undergraduates studying full degrees in English Literature, Languages, Law, History or any other excuse to spend three years writing essays.

We're all here at this "technical" university to study our very technical subjects. But you'll find many with an avid interest in non-technical subjects like politics, history or philosophy, who love talking about it, sharing their ideas and following recent developments. Around South Kensington there is still plenty to feed your appetite for intellectual discussion on these issues.

There is the PPS (Political Philosophy Society), the newly formed Philosophy Soc, not to mention MUN (Model United Nations), History and Debating. Students active in the Conservative and Labour parties have even set up their own societies, and the numerous religious societies may delve into some politics in their events at times. Whether it's weekly discussion circles or just one-off events, these societies are at the core of political discussion and debate happening in South Kensington campus.

For a more academic route there is a Politics course offered by the Humanities Department for credit or non-credit, as well as history and philosophy related courses too. And lastly there is this, the Politics pages of Felix.

Read alongside the Business, Arts & Culture and other sections, it's your weekly dose of stuff beyond just numbers, equations, chemical reactions, charts and all other features of knowledge in the realms of science, engineering and medicine. Because frankly, life is not always about these things, although it may seem like it come exam time.

## Mahmoud Ahmadinejad studied civil engineering and has a PhD

Beyond Imperial, it is certainly possible to pursue a career in politics after graduating. In Britain, Margaret Thatcher graduated with a BSc in Chemistry of all subjects, before becoming known as the Iron Lady for her government's hard-line conservative policies in the Cold War era.

There is a host of other current government leaders who have risen to the top after an initial education in a science or engineering discipline. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of Iran, studied civil engineering and has a PhD from Iran University of Science & Technology. Before the Berlin Wall came down Angela Merkel, current German Chancellor, was



Angela Merkel with ESA astronauts, making use of her degree in Physics

a Physicist. Hu Jintao, President of China, was trained as an engineer at Tsinghua University, Beijing - often referred to as China's MIT - as are many leading individuals in the Chinese Communist Party.

Asian or 'Eastern' countries tend to have more technocrats, politicians who have come from a technical background or education, as opposed to 'Western' nations whose politicians tend to be filled from the ranks of law, business and history graduates. It naturally begs the question, is there a different style to the way they govern?

The stereotype is that people from a technical background may be more rigid in their thinking, relying on quantitative data to justify their arguments or splitting everything into a problem-analysis-solution, but of course none of this can completely generalised.

Whilst holding office, technocrats may place more importance on engineering and industry when deciding policy. China is an oft-cited example of a nation focussed on science & technology development, devoting significant portions of government spending on R&D (Research & Development), and likewise are South Korea and Japan, for example.

Or, they are perhaps more reasonable or trusting towards expert advice from scientific bodies about their policies. In the UK there is sometimes controversy when the government 'ignores' advice, such as the case of illegal

drugs and Professor David Nutt from Imperial College in October 2009.

On the other hand, technocrats may not necessarily draw heavily on their training as scientists or engineers, and perhaps other factors influence them more such as the culture of the organisations and people around them. After all, only a true hardcore reductionist would view society as nothing more than one big system with input and output variables to control.

We hope the Politics section of Felix can be a great forum for discussion and debate on political issues of all kinds. To use a cliché, Felix is by students for students, so your contributions can be sent anytime to [politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk). From there, the editorial team will lay it out and get it published for you.

Only with contributions from students like you, who are interested enough to read to the end of this article, can this section be successful.

## EVENTS

**MusicTech at Ministry of Sound**  
Free entry for society members  
Tuesday 12th October.  
Call Adam for tickets  
07891390923

## POLITICS

The recommendations made by this man will change universities in this country forever.

But who is he? And what is the

# BROWNE REVIEW?



By Alex Karapetian

**T**he Browne Review is an assessment of Higher Education Funding launched last year in order to revamp the current systems used in University tuition fees. Lord Browne, former CEO of BP chairs, instigated the independent review to explore various available options by taking submissions from the Russell Group and other representative bodies into account.

In May 2010 the review had proposed that fees should rise by £1000 every year from 2013 in order to sustain the continually increasing proportions of students who go to University. This would result in increases to fees of science degrees in particular would increase to £14,000.

There are two realistic options the government can take. One is to introduce a Graduate Tax, where University graduates would pay back a sum in proportion to their earnings. The other is to lift the cap on tuition fees and allow Universities to charge what they want.

David Willetts, of the Conservatives, said that “students were a burden on the taxpayer that had to be tackled”, and have confirmed they will consider the outcome of the review “carefully”, while Liberal Democrats in government have agreed as part of the coalition to abstain on a vote to increase fees, despite many of their MPs signing a pledge to vote against such an increase. Vince Cable has, however, been “seriously considering” a graduate tax, although the Conservatives are reportedly sceptical this would be likely to happen.

The Liberal Democrats have traditionally supported free higher education and have promised to abolish tuition fees over the next six years.

Lord Browne is considering raising fees to £7000 per year, with an option of a further £3000. The National Union of Students has called this increase “unviable”. Since the political background has changed since the start of the Browne Review, Labour’s new leader Ed Miliband has aligned against the rise in tuition fees and has backed a graduate tax to replace them.

The Russell Group commented that “an increase in graduate contributions is the fairest and only viable option for addressing the funding shortfall”, setting out how tuition fees could rise to over £9000, a move which students have described as a “nightmare scenario”. The National Union of Students (NUS) has slammed proposals to lift the cap on tuition fees, forecasting “mortgage-style debts” of more than £40,000.

Science, Technology and Medicine courses (STEM) are considered “strategically important”, and it has also been proposed that “the level of public funding for a student should be a factor of the cost of providing the course, the private return and public return, so that no student is deterred from taking courses like STEM which are expensive to provide.” The proposal to increase the teaching grant for STEM subjects is considered by the Imperial College Union a “sensible suggestion”, since Imperial is unable to subsidise lab based teaching with the profits

from cheaper classroom based subjects.

The graduate tax would be implemented in the way that high cost subjects considered of strategic importance to the country would receive more in state funds and cost students less. The Russell Group justified the increases by explaining that “if graduates were asked to pay steeper fees, they would value their degrees more highly and be careful about and committed to the choices they made.” The group denied that the move would deter students from poor and unprivileged backgrounds from applying to University.

Research figures uncovered by the Review showed that graduates earn an estimated £160,000 more than non-graduates over their lifetimes, £3000 more per year with greater job satisfaction if they were from a Russell Group University. “The taxpayer continues to foot the majority of the costs of undergraduate degrees and this is unfair” it reported.

Sally Hunt, general secretary of the University and College Union, said “we desperately need to overhaul how Universities are funded and move away from the idea that the current review of student funding is merely a question of how much student fees go up by.”

Aaron Porter, the president-elect of the NUS has opposed removal of the cap on fees and has said that this would “expose students and their families to the huge risks and potential calamities of the market, abandoning them to sink or swim”. The Browne review will report its findings next week.

## What are the options?

Although the outcome of the Browne Review could be a fudged compromise, the debate about higher education funding comes down to these proposals:

### Graduate Tax

The Graduate Tax system requires a portion of the graduate’s salary to be paid back after their degree. This allows the degree to be taught free and may raise more money for Universities over long term than capped tuition fees. This tax is only levied on graduates, so students will not need to pay fees while studying. This may, however, incentivise movement away from the UK or not graduating.

#### Who backs it?

NUS, UCU, Aldwych Group, Labour, Liberal Democrats

#### How much will you pay?

Varying - 0.3 - 0.5% of income

### Lifting the cap on fees entirely

Tuition fees are currently capped at £3,290, but lifting this could result in them rising to £7000 or higher. One benefit is that students will place more value in their education and their degrees, but also allows Universities to charge how much they need. This may, however, create a price market for degrees, decreasing the amount of applicants to Universities who choose to ask for higher amounts.

#### Who backs it?

Imperial College London, Russell Group, The Conservatives

#### How much will you pay?

£7,000 - £14,000 per year

# BUSINESS

Business Editors: **Sina Atherian**  
**Afonso Campos**  
 business.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Summer internship tips

### Psychometric tests

These tests are many times the gatekeepers of the recruitment system. If you do not perform well in them, you are out. The numerical test seems to put even the most mathematically able students in a somewhat uncomfortable position.

The mathematics is basic, usually at GCSE level or below, but the time constraints throw many people off. With usually less than 1 minute per question, the trick is not to spend very long on any one problem.

### Applications

Companies sometimes get over two hundred applications per place. With this kind of competition they are almost looking for reasons to put your CV in the bin. Do not give them any excuse to do that.

You do this by ensuring that your spelling and grammar are perfect and that you tailor your application to the individual company. Make sure that you reference company specifics whenever possible and avoid generic answers and cover letters.

Another oftentimes overlooked tactic is timing. Unless a company specifies that they do not look at applications until after the deadline, chances are that they are looked at on a rolling basis, so apply as soon as you are able to have a solid application. DO NOT apply close to the deadline if you can at all avoid it.

### Interviews

There are two different kinds of questions you will be asked at interview; competency and technical.

Competency questions, as the word suggests, look for evidence that you have the skills the job requires you to have. These include teamwork, leadership, organisation, confidence, etc...

Make sure that you support all your answers with anecdotal evidence.

The technical questions are more job specific and really require you to brush up on some of the details of the job you are applying for. For internships, these do not tend to be too in depth and the focus is on cultural fit and competencies.

### Online resources

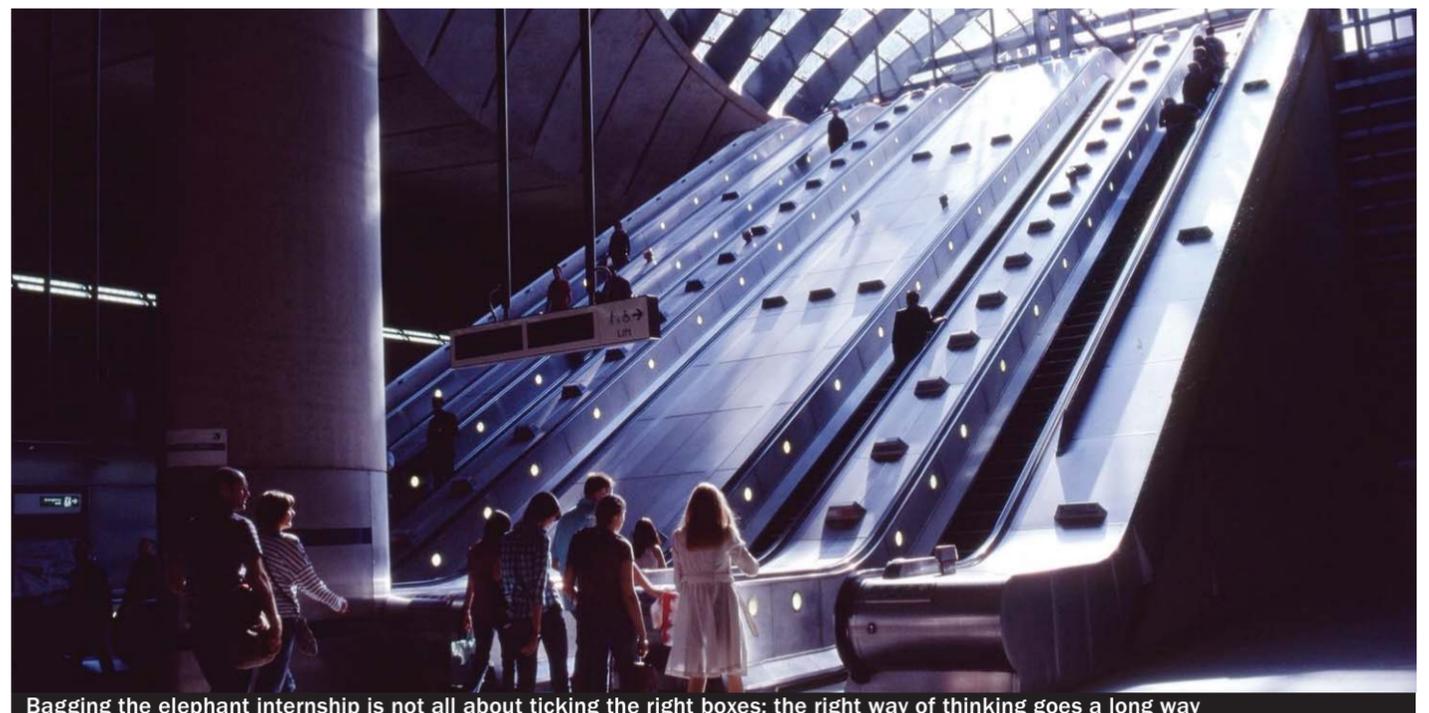
www.efinancialcareers.co.uk – Lots of advice from various professional sources as well as practice numerical tests.

www.milkround.com – One of the most comprehensive lists of internships and graduate jobs online.

www.wikijob.co.uk – Forums full of first hand information from job seekers and more practice numerical tests.

# The summer begins right now

If you are looking for an internship for next summer, it pays to start thinking about it as early as possible



Bagging the elephant internship is not all about ticking the right boxes; the right way of thinking goes a long way

### Afonso Campos

Being at one of the world's top universities has its perks when it comes to getting employed. You are lucky enough that companies actively want to give you the chance to shine through a summer internship which could hopefully lead to the holy grail; the offer of a full-time job after your graduation. The opportunity to do well is yours to throw away. The internship does not need to be the seven-headed monster that it is sometimes made out to be.

If you take the time to understand what a summer internship is, the chances are that you will be able to navigate the maze of applications and interviews much better than someone who thinks it is just something you do at the end of your penultimate year of university because of the zeitgeist.

This article chiefly aims to get you thinking along the right tracks, and is not necessarily heavy on practical advice as the information you are able to find online will be far superior to anything we could condense into this paper.

Being in the right frame of mind to

## “Remember: be personable, be hungry, be intelligent and be humble”

think about internships in the right manner means that what you really need to do is become familiar with what an internship is at its very core, what it means for the company and what it means for you. This is absolutely paramount and something most students tend to overlook.

Let's begin by thinking about what the internship means for a company. Some firms take on hundreds of interns every summer, paying each of them up to £1,000 a week for a period of roughly two months. It does not take much arithmetic genius to figure out that this can easily add up to millions of pounds over the summer, not even taking into account the salaries paid to the usually very efficient campus recruitment teams that spend literally thousands of man-hours trying to find you. First and foremost then, the internship is a talent seeking exercise on the company's part and an

investment to find the best people they can. It also gives firms a very long time to make a decision of whether or not to employ a candidate full-time without having to rely exclusively on rushed interviews. If you understand this and the company's motivation, you are halfway towards being a fantastic applicant.

For yourself the internship is an unmissable chance to find out for real what it's like to, a) work at the firm from which you have received and accepted an offer, and b) work in the industry you have chosen.

If you think you will find out about the work itself by adding an immense amount of value in the work you do, or creating revolutionary solutions to the firm's problems, you may be in for somewhat of a disappointment. While the work you will be doing can often be interesting, it is likely that it will not be as challenging or important as the tasks being carried out by full-time employees. This can be for regulatory and legal reasons, or simply because you do not yet have the knowledge required. The main idea for you therefore, is to find out as much as possible about the real

Read this article  
 online at  
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# BUSINESS

work other people do. Sit with them, ask them questions. Obviously be intelligent in the way that you approach anyone and always use common sense, but people usually like talking about their job, provided you pick the right moment. It is the only way you can find out if you will be happy in any job or in any industry. Be aware that there is no shame in realising you do not actually like the industry, the culture or the work. Not everyone wants to work 80+ hour weeks in an extremely competitive environment. You are better off coming to this realisation during the internship when there is time left to figure out alternatives for when you graduate, than starting a full-time job you really hate.

Something many internship applicants also fail to conceptualise is that cultural and personal fit is extremely

**“Many internship applicants fail to understand that personal fit is extremely important”**

important, and the reason there are so many interviews. Whoever employs you will be spending more time around you than their own family, so building a personal rapport is of utmost importance. It is imperative that you like the firm and the firm likes you. If this doesn't happen, things can turn sour very easily. When recruiters mention culture, we tend to think it is just a buzzword, but after spending a long summer interning, you will see that this

is rarely the case.

It is only the first issue of the year, but already time is wearing thin. For most firms, it absolutely pays off to apply earlier rather than later, as a lot of firms offer places on a rolling basis. With this in mind, make sure you attend the Careers Fair happening 27th October on the Queen's Lawn Marquee - there will be dozens of employers from whom you will be able to get a really fantastic insight into companies, provided you ask the right questions. It's also a great place to start selling yourself to companies that you know you are already interested in. Just make sure you leave hubris at home.

Get applying now and most importantly remember the following winning cocktail of characteristics in anything you do: be personable, be hungry, be intelligent and be humble.



Be sure to attend the Careers Fair on the 27th of October on the Queen's Lawn. And try not to stare at the company representative's lips either...

## Imperial students storm the City

The College was well represented, with students interning at every major corporation and business area. Students share their views on the summer internships below



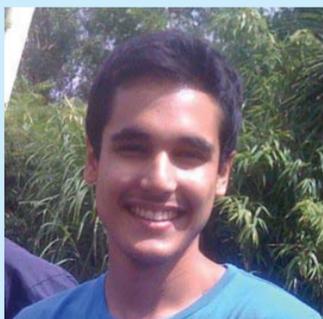
Marc Kerstein  
Mathematics  
Credit Suisse

I admit I was slightly apprehensive before joining Credit Suisse as a Summer Analyst. Despite having a strong background in technology, the financial industry can first seem intimidating to many. Fortunately, my team in Credit Suisse instantly made me feel comfortable and showed me around the firm, introducing me to the many different teams. I began to realise that learning about the role was somewhat less important than general exposure to the bank, and I managed to learn a wide variety of skills. After what were 10 thoroughly enjoyable weeks. I was finally sad to leave, but will keep in touch with my colleagues until I return to the team in July next year.



Afonso Campos  
Physics  
Barclays Capital

I joined Barclays Capital in commodities and was extremely happy with the asset class. There is no doubt that this internship has solidified my desire to work in the industry. Barcap operates an extremely well thought out objectives programme throughout the summer. One of the objectives, and perhaps one of the best things about the entire internship, was to meet with a minimum of 3 managing directors and 7 directors. It goes to show how approachable everyone at the firm is and how willing they are to share the experience that has led them to where they are today. I am fortunate to be able to return to Barcap next summer and I am really looking forward to it.



Nikhil Howai  
Biomedical Engineering  
Ernst & Young

I interned at Ernst & Young in their advisory division. Its client base is quite impressive and it's common for graduates to gain experience with companies like BP, Barclays and Apple in their first year. The internship program holds an induction week during which we were even given free accommodation. I then was introduced to my division and assigned to my first client. To ensure I got the most out of the experience E&Y rotated me through a new client each week, allowing me to gain experience with different companies. The internship was amazing; everyone was super laid back and seemed to genuinely enjoy their job. I'd recommend applying to E&Y if you have the opportunity.



Saleem Butt  
Chemistry  
Research Lab, Germany

Last summer instead of going to a bank like most my friends I interned at a research lab in Germany. The program was funded by the German Exchange body, DAAD, and was a summer I will never forget. It was great to get first hand experience of working in a research lab and actually use the skills I have learnt in the chemistry lab while at Imperial. On top of that I got the opportunity to live in another country in probably the coolest city in Europe and immerse myself in a completely new culture and environment.

The experience definitely adds something to my CV, which is something that will make me stand out to my future employers.



Christopher Walmsley  
Physics  
Deutsche Bank

I interned at Deutsche Bank in the technology division, aligned with the distressed credit desk. The wake of the recession made this area particularly interesting to be working in. The role was a non technical business analyst role giving me plenty of exposure to the business unit and communicating with offshore development teams. The 9 week summer internship gave invaluable experience working in working on real projects and having to present my reports to senior stakeholders within the business. I found the internship as a whole incredibly well structured with excellent support framework, and after work there was also a good social life with the other interns.

# COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## FELIX

### How will the cuts in the Life Sciences Department be affecting you?

There is no question that the proposed restructure will adversely affect the students in the short-term. Academics will have to adapt themselves to new areas of research or be let go, researchers in the plant sciences will be less able to follow programmes here, and the breadth of an undergraduate biology degree will be under threat.

In such circumstances it is the Union's duty to speak up for its members, and we applaud its strong stance in their defence. Nevertheless, the Union's refusal to accept the College's financial position leaves it open to accusations of shortsightedness.

The department in question has been running a deficit of almost £750,000 for the past three years. Of the five sections under its jurisdiction, it considers two to be underperforming from the point of view of research quality and profitability. The debate over whether the department is right to pinpoint these two sections has been long and ultimately uninspiring. The figures in question have been interpreted in two radically different ways, with the correspondence between the Union and the Life Sciences department abounding in discussions of means, medians, box plots and statistical outliers.

However the figures are interpreted, we believe Dr. Ian Owens is justified in refusing to 'insult' his 'academics by telling them that their jobs were dependent on a statistical line in the sand.'

By far the more interesting question is not whether these two sections are underperforming, but why. The Union's stance on this issue is very clear. These are the sections which devote the most time to teaching – an activity which they feel the department views as an unnecessary luxury permitted only to profitable research groups.

The response given by the department is unquestionably more financially hard-nosed than we at Felix would have liked, but there is no reason for the Union to level accusations of malice or deception. The department has set commitment to teaching as one of its essential criteria for staff retention, takes great pride in excellent tuition, and constantly emphasises the equivalent teaching burden spread across its staff.

While the perennial debate over the relative importance of research and teaching is essential to the ensured safety of both, it must be conducted in its proper context.

As will be made painfully clear to all who read through the news pages of this issue, science funding in this country will not be spared the austerity measures meted out to all areas of public spending. Cuts will have to be made. And if the College is to preserve its reputation as a centre of scientific excellence in a country where science is set to take a plunge in the national priority list, it needs to prioritise those activities which allow it to keep its head above the water.

## Beard optional...

...but dedication is compulsory for a career in science. We're not here to be valued, we're here to work shit out

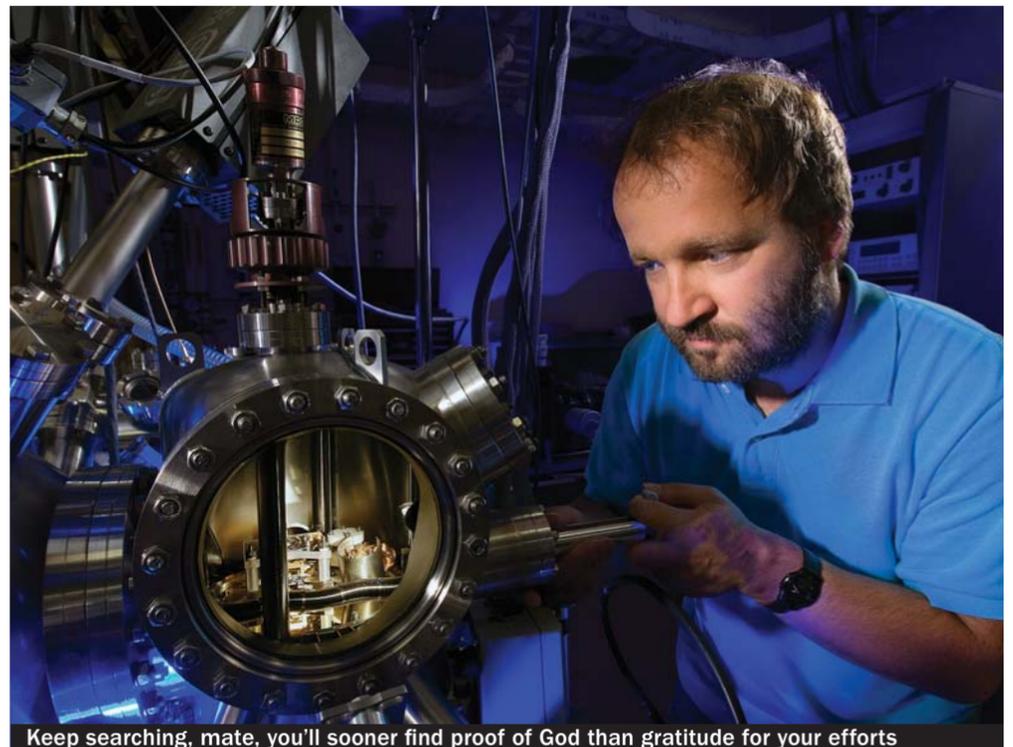


### Angry Geek

“There's a presumption that all is fair in science and technology. It's a nice idea. It's also very naïve”

**W**elcome to Imperial, home of the insert obvious geek joke. You're either returning, or starting for the first time, as a scientist, engineer, or failed-medic-in-training, and congratulations to you. If you want to, you can shape the future of the world by improving our understanding and refining our control over the world we live in. Alternatively, you can do sweet Fred Astaire for four years, drag your sorry arse across the Royal Albert Hall stage, and sod off to the world of finance/law/international superstardom. As long as neither of the two paths lead to my supply of New Forest fudge being cut off, I could care less.

The Student Union, as I've mentioned, is also on the list of things I couldn't give a bishop's nipple about. Their recent campaign, fuelled by the news that Plant Science is being cut from Imperial's official remit, is just a wonderful example of everything that is wrong with letting students have an opinion. “Education suffers as Plant Science is abandoned” reads the headline, presumably describing two separate, unconnected events. I'm not picking on this point of view because Plant Science sounds humourously useless. That's just a coincidence. I'm picking on it because there's a presumption here that all is fair in science and technology, and that you



Keep searching, mate, you'll sooner find proof of God than gratitude for your efforts

“If you plan on staying, stay for one reason and one reason only – stay because you really love this stuff”

can't chop and change study areas just because there's money involved. This is a nice idea. It's also very naïve.

The day after this article goes out, a bunch of well-meaning people - led by everyone's favourite games-advice-dispensing disembodied head Patrick Moore - will be marching on HM Treasury, standing outside for a bit looking unhappy, and then marching home again. Why? Well it's hard to find good reasons from an evolutionary biology point of view, but they claim on their website, 'Science Is Vital', that 'destructive levels of cuts' are planned for science in this country. This is probably true, and protesting is always a good idea. But we're missing something.

I found myself in Birmingham a few weekends back, having a discussion with my lady about the nature of science, whilst expertly smearing a pizza all over a new shirt. I argued that as scientists we have one role - to work shit out. Sometimes that shit requires peer review. Sometimes the shit has far-reaching consequences, affecting other metaphorically-related faecal matter. But our primary concern is the shit itself. We function as a public good to society, discovering and developing things that are offered up to everyone in the world, for their benefit. That's it. Our worth can't be measured in annual outputs, as both the government and the protesters are trying to do. Our effect

on the world is seen over the course of decades, centuries even. It's glacial in progress terms.

And so budgets get cut, and students, researchers and so on suffer. We protest because, firstly, we have the right to and secondly, where else can we use those witty anti-government jokes and puns we think up on the commute. But it's important not to lose sight of the fact that our job is not to convince the world of our worth. That's a Herculean task. Our job is simply our job. Work shit out.

My point then, is this - you're back at Imperial again/for the first time. Maybe you've got the Captain Chuckles thing going on and you find anyone with an ounce of genuine interest in their field hilarious. That's fine. I can actually handle that. But if you're on the other side, and you're interested, and intrigued, and want to spend time in science long after your graduation, remind yourself of this - no-one wants you here. You're a service. So if you plan on staying, stay for one reason and one reason only - because you really love this stuff.

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## COMMENT

## What's wrong with camping? Everything...



Rhys Davies

“All waterproofs are waterproof. The million-dollar question is for how long?”

I don't know what you got up to with your summer. Maybe you went home, met up with some old friends and took it easy. Maybe you took off around the world in a glamorous jet-set holiday. Maybe you engaged in a whirlwind fling of summer romance (like a forest-fire, it was short-lived but passionate and not the least bit legal). I don't know; I'm just guessing.

As for me, I went camping.

This might not sound exciting but a week spent in a field can be entertaining, enlightening and occasionally death-defying – everything you could want from a holiday at home.

Now admittedly, the week can start on a pretty grim note as you realise exactly why the wilderness is so-called. More experienced adventurers will laugh at your vain attempts to get a wi-fi signal halfway up a tree and the number of plants you try and plug a phone-charger into. If the end of the world happened while you were camping, you can be sure you wouldn't hear about it until you rejoin the M5.

Things don't improve drastically when, on an exploratory walk-about, you get your first glimpse of the bathroom facilities – that is, if there are any.

One look at those anachronistic monstrosities of iron and porcelain and your buttocks will seal shut for no less than a week. I've heard that on longer sojourns, they've actually healed over completely. The only exception to this being the one night you have curry. When this happens, make sure you have a clear plan of all available exits; you will need them.

The British weather being what it is, if you go camping during the summer, you will certainly need a good set of waterproof clothing. All waterproofs are waterproof. The million-dollar question is for how long? The nemesis of all campers is a sky so black even emos forego the colour in wallpaper swatches on the grounds that it is too depressing. However, remain ever vigilant for the opposite. Without a doubt, the most glorious sight on a camp-site is the first ray of sunlight and blue sky after a storm. Many have sought this vision; few have witnessed it.

If you decide to invite your friends along on a camping holiday, the opportunities for pranks

are limitless. Remember, sleeping in the same tent as someone is as intimate as having sex with them, with the same capacity for betrayal. Pranks can range from the simple, the standard, like drawing on their face with a sharpie or toothpaste on the eyebrows, to the daring, like dragging their sleeping bag out into the middle of the field at night (bonus points if it's raining), to the borderline-psychopathic, like leaving a sheep's head in their sleeping bag. However, be aware that you are vulnerable to retribution and retaliation. If you prank someone on the first night, don't expect to get much sleep for the rest of the week – sleeping with one eye open is tiring work.

And that's just the fun you can have in the field. Just wait until you get out and explore the local attractions.

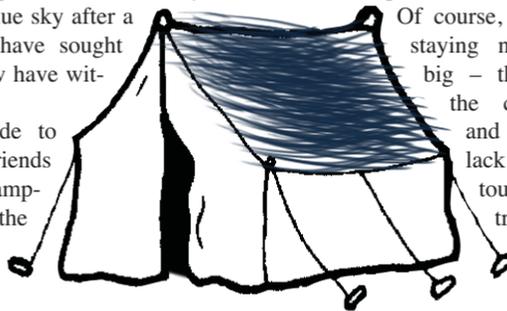
Of course, you won't be staying near anywhere big – that's why it's the countryside – and because of the lack of any serious tourism, any attractions nearby won't rate much above

two stars. On the plus side, by the time you've seen the Agatha Christie Museum, your waterlogged camp-site will look positively inviting!

Let me summarise all this. You can almost guarantee that the weather and the facilities will be crap, the only thing standing between you and a watery grave is a thin sheet of canvas, you will discover that all your friends are closet sociopaths and by definition, there will be nothing within a reasonable radius to see or do. And yet I still maintain that there is something nice, something quintessentially pure, about getting out of the city, leaving Facebook and Twitter behind. It's not provincial and it's not nostalgia for a lost age but it just feels good to be...unattached.

When you go camping, you don't have to worry about bills and rent, news and celebrities, friends and family even (depending on who you've brought along). None of that matters since you're not in a position to do anything about them. In a world the size of a field, your concerns dwindle to food, dry (not necessarily clean) clothing and a few vagaries about rope and canvas.

And if this still doesn't sound like your cup of tea, there's always Lanzarote.



## Letters

## An open letter to Jane Neary, the Head of Catering

Dear Jane Neary,

I started my PhD in February, and have often frequented the SCR for lunch despite only terrible experiences. As you are Head of Catering, I wish to express my grievances concerning the quality of the food and propose some urgent changes. I am a reasonable person, yet this has gone too far, and I cannot go on without raising my frustrations.

You must be aware us students work hard, and encounter difficult steps in our studies. Nothing helps someone through the day like a hearty lunch (call it brain fuel). Yet the SCR food is best described as horrendous - if a brain is like an engine, would you put super leaded into it or sewage? The vegetables are overcooked, and flavourless. The sole saviour is a dollop of tartar sauce from

the cutlery counter - simply desperate times screaming for desperate measures. Since when did lasagne get served with potatoes or sweetcorn?? Who thought of that?? I mean REALLY?!? Would you send my Gran on a bus holiday to Ibiza?!? I would have hoped your chefs understood food combinations. What next? Fried chicken with a side portion of plums?

I am amazed people eat at the SCR; it must be due to the convenience of the location. I have stopped going and now walk to Bute Street where there are fresh sandwiches with the best ingredients at a cost comparable to the sludge that is the SCR Roast and Yorkshire pudding, which resembles some sort of genital wart. It's an example any economics professor would love to use to demonstrate the benefits of vibrant competition in the market place.

I appreciate the food needs to be cheap, but there's no need to compromise with quality. As the saying goes, you are what you eat and eating is one of life's great pleasures. The key to a good, cheap meal is keep it simple. Don't do a roast, or lamb - these are things which only work when the best produce is chosen, which would cost too much. If you couldn't afford a Ferrari, you wouldn't

just take a Fiat Panda, paint it red, and chuck a horse in the back seat. You need fresh ingredients and people who enjoy cooking. Pasta can be the most wonderful dish in the world, but only if cooked for the right amount of time! Overcook it, and it'll be as disastrous as the SCR broccoli.

Your website further aggravates my concerns. To quote, “the menu includes ‘bistro style’ hot meals, gourmet salad bar, and a delicious selection of desserts.” Never in my life have I read such an exaggeration of the word GOURMET! Gourmet is a cultural ideal associated with fine food and drink - you are mad if you think the SCR gets close to this ideal... if the ideal is Kiera Knightley, the SCR is John Prescott. I won't even get started on the liberal use of the word delicious... and BISTRO? A word associated with the hustle and bustle of restaurants that lie on picturesque Parisian street corners... imagine your partner saying, ‘darling, fancy some delightful bistro food?’ and then being taken to the SCR! I only hope the website uses the words in jest.

Jemma, do not mistake my tone; I am deadly serious. I genuinely cannot urge you enough to start radicalising the SCR. I had enough of liquidised



peas and lumpy mashed potato weeks ago, and I won't be the last. I have the support of numerous students and staff - some do say the food has recently improved, though you can't polish a turd. Your website states “SCR meals are produced by award winning chefs from the 2009 TUCO University Chef of the Year contest.” You must be joking?!? I have never heard of that contest, but put your chefs on Professional Masterchef and let's see how they do - I'll eat my hat

if they even get an audition. Why don't they make fresh pesto from scratch? Why do they always overcook the meat? Perhaps the award was merely a case of the mediocre beating the horrific?

I don't have much hope - change never comes easily. I had to express my grumblings and I hope you listen and take action.

Best regards,  
Charles Betts

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Arts Editor: **Rox Middleton**

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## ARTS

**If you read nothing else this week...**

Gilead Amit, Deputy Editor, kicks off our new feature with his favourite work of literature.

**De Profundis** by Oscar Wilde

Gosh. Cripes. Blimey. What a responsibility. I have just been asked by the delightful new Arts editor to inaugurate this column by writing a short, pithy piece on my favourite book. Publicity whore that I am, I couldn't bring myself to refuse.

But, though gratified to have been offered this privileged position, I cannot suppress a twinge of guilt. Should I really be the one writing this column? That would imply that I have a favourite book I would like to talk about. But rack my brains as I might, the fortune cookie of my mind sadly reveals itself to be empty. Or rather, it appears to be embarrassingly full of questions.

What is a favourite book, anyway? What does it feel like when you read it? When you turn the last page and read the final paragraph, knowing you will never again have the delight of reading it for the first time? What does it feel like to be so assured about your emotional bond with a work of art that you can say, without a hint of pretension, that it is your 'favourite'?

I'm afraid that once the spigot opens, the torrent of questions can't be stopped. What criteria do we use to classify a favourite book? Are we talking form or content? The unread first edition hardback that gives you a secret thrill of pleasure each time you see it on your shelf, or the masterpiece you'd still happily read in evanescent e-book form?

So far, as I'm sure you'll agree, there have been too many questions and too few answers. So let's stop flagellating around the shrubbery and get to the point: What is my favourite book?

The simple answer? I can't tell you. I'm not being coy or intentionally contrarian, I just genuinely don't know. What I can tell you, though, is which book I will round this piece off by recommending: the staggering **De Profundis** by **Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde**. It's an odd choice, but that's only to be expected from an odd individual.

In all of its impeccably chosen 50,000 or so words, it is as far removed as it is possible to imagine from the world of the adventure novel or the action thriller. That's probably owing to its nature as a letter written behind bars by the imprisoned Oscar Wilde to his former lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, better known as 'Bosie'. Hardly the sort of stuff that Robert Downey Jr. blockbusters are made of.

Despite the rather kitschy description I seem to have given it, the simple truth is that nothing I have ever read has even come close to moving me in a similar manner.

I could try to set down more of my thoughts here on paper, but you'll notice that I have craftily not given myself enough space. That's because I don't want you to waste your time reading what I have to say about the book. I want you to read it. I want you to read others. And then I want you to write in to Felix and explain why I should be reading them too.

**Tell us about your favourite book in 300-400 words and send it to arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk**

# Our own Artist

We quiz Mindy Lee, Curator of Imperial's Blyth Gallery

**Chris Clarke**

As the current Joint President of Imperial College's fine arts society 'Leonardo', I am frequently in touch with some of those more creative individuals who wash up from the proverbial sea of scientists that form the basis of this university. These are the people who tire from time to time of the constant prodding, poking and general abuse given to the fabric of reality. Some of these people, however, see it as a full-time job to give the fabric of reality a bit of a miss and live in a world without boundaries or rules, sticking with just the imagination.

One of these people is artist, curator and general go-getter Mindy Lee, who works as the curator of Imperial's only art gallery 'The Blyth Gallery'. I decided to corner her for a bit of a chat and see what's swinging at the moment in the world of Imperial art.

**How long have you held the role of curator of the Blyth Gallery?**

6 years in December.

**Longest I've ever worked is seven weeks... So in all that time have you ever held an exhibition that really stood out from the rest? If so what was it?**

I think the most unusual show was 'Where the wild Things Are' by Tessa Farmer and Laura Youngson Coll in 2006. It was an exhibition of very delicate and miniature sculptures. When you first entered the gallery, it looked almost empty and then an intriguing miniature world of strange and beautiful monstrosities revealed themselves. If the viewer did not have a curious investigative nature, you could almost walk through the gallery and think it was completely empty.

**Any disaster stories?**

I think one of the most worrying moments was installing a sculptural piece of work made by Jodie Carey, which was largely made out of icing. As soon as it was installed in the gallery, the piece started to sweat under the heat of the lights. Luckily we relit the space, and the sculpture survived.

**Mmm sounds tasty! As an artist, do you have a favoured medium (other than icing)?**



Mindy Lee, Blyth gallery curator with Double Trouble which opened on Tuesday



I am essentially a painter, who also works with collage and drawing.

**Being in the art field for so long have you ever crossed paths with any famous artists?**

Cornelia Parker and Banksy are probably the two most well known artists I have met.

**Nice! I'm sure there's a lot of very jealous people out there, me included! How about your work though, do you frequently get to exhibit your own stuff?**

I exhibit reasonably frequently. I am about to show a painting and collage piece as a part of the Double Trouble exhibition. I have also just exhibited a solo collage and painting installation in the Jerwood Project Space titled: Spatter Platter. Installation was a new area for me to work in and it took me over six months to make something that would be seen site-specifically and read as one piece. It is good to test your artistic practice by making new and ambitious work you are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with. This is how your creative practice develops.

**Ok, so if I happened to have a big bag of money would I be able to buy of some of your work from the upcoming 'Double Trouble' exhibition?**

Most pieces of work in the Double Trouble exhibition are for sale.

**Well I don't have a big bag of money, but it's good to know.**

**Moving on a bit, do you think there should be more art work around Imperial?**

Yes more art work around Imperial would be beneficial, as well as more exposure into reading art. This would help viewers of the work move beyond thinking about art in terms of an aesthetic eye candy and move towards a deeper understanding of visual communication. I do give regular talks on reading art in an exhibition, so if anyone is interested, please keep your eyes peeled on the following web-link: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/arts/visualart/artworkshops>.

**Bit of subtle advertising there, I commend that. Most importantly though, what's your favourite colour?**

Red.

So there you have it: Mindy Lee, successful artist, dynamite curator and with a good solid favourite colour at that.

If you'd like to know more about the Blyth Gallery and what goes on there, you can check it out online at <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/arts/visualart> or subscribe to the gallery mailing list by emailing [gallery@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:gallery@imperial.ac.uk) from your Imperial email.

**Double Trouble in the Blyth Gallery on 5th floor of the Sherfield building runs until 5th Nov.**

# Interesting reflections in Hyde Park



The Red Sky Mirror is at the centre of the Round Pond, so you can't touch it. Looks like a glorified duck-house when local residents settle in. © 2010 Dave Morgan

## Rox Middleton

Hyde Park is being turned upside down by Anish Kapoor's latest exhibition. Four new sculptures have been put up in Kensington Gardens in Hyde Park for the next six months, with round-the-clock security guards to protect them against people and their grubby fingerprints. The exhibition is being put on by the Serpentine Gallery and Royal Parks together and is entirely free; in short it's the perfect way to spend that spare hour between lectures.

Marcus du Sautoy (Simonyi professor for the public understanding of science at Oxford) described Kapoor as "a modern-day Newton". Not because he, in common with arguably the greatest scientist ever, really likes mirrors, but because he "[uses] art to give the viewer a

glimpse into the depths of the universe". On that bombshell, which probably says more about du Sautoy than Kapoor, I'd like to point out that this exhibition in Hyde Park is actually just four nice shiny mirrors. What is so nice, in fact, is the lack of need for bullshit 'interpretations' of these impressive objects.

To see all four at once with minimal effort I suggest going to the permanent Statue of Physical Energy – the one of the man on a horse. The smaller red circle can then be seen peeping over the slope from Round Pond, and opposite it is the enormous, satellite-dish-like concave mirror. The symmetry is very pleasing, and then to the right and left of the view of the red disc you can see between the trees the shiny bits of sky reflected in the 'C-curve' and 'non-object (spire)'. All four sculptures are made of highly polished stainless steel. They

reflect the park, sky and the people but, being concave (from one side at least...) everything is generally upside down. It's fun to watch the way the images warp as you move but it's also actually lovely to see because the open vistas of park and sky are condensed into the beautiful shiny 'hole'.

The reflections of the sky remind you just how much sky there is visible already in Hyde Park and the sheer shininess of it is very satisfying. Kapoor himself, who says he walks in Hyde Park frequently, was keen to point out how much the sculptures will change with weather and viewer. I went back on a different day and all four really were transformed by the afternoon light and shifting clouds. They are pieces to admire again and again.

**Turning the World Upside Down runs until 13 March 2011**

# The Turner Prize disappoints again

## Jack Jelfs

The 2010 Turner prize opened on Monday amidst the usual publicity circus, highlights of which this year included Tate Britain attempting to ban any photographers whose work may "result in any adverse publicity" for the prize, and Stuckist Charles Thompson leading his traditional anti-prize protest colourfully 'engaging' with director Nicholas Serota on the steps of the gallery.

This year's selection spans a wide variety of practices, ranging across painting, sculpture, sound, text and video. Arguably the best work is also the most 'traditional' that of painter Dexter Dalwood. Dalwood's large paintings are narrative snapshots, single scenes from

a larger story. Noticeably devoid of people, the tale is told by the objects that remain and by their suggestive titles. The most successful is 'Death of David Kelly', in which the moon sags mournfully in a deep blue night sky behind a single tree. At its roots lies a vague form suggestive of – what? A mound? A body? It's unclear, and the quiet lyricism of this picture leaves a lasting impression. Although not the greatest technical painter,

**"...reminiscent of the juvenilia one might find on any art foundation course"**

at best Dalwood's work achieves a dreamlike sense of poignancy and loss.

The work of The Otolith Group blurs the distinction between curation and creation. Both of their works on display here force the viewer to slow down and enter a different mode of attention. The former consists of thirteen television monitors, each showing an episode from Chris Marker's 1989 documentary series on Ancient Greece, 'The Owl's Legacy'. The work is itself more a piece of cultural archaeology – as the Group themselves acknowledge – and harks back to a 'golden age' of pre-digital television broadcasting, in which genuine scholarship and 'high' culture were still occasionally to be found. 'Otolith III' is a 49-minute meditation

on themes of creativity and authorship. Despite several moments of striking visual poetry, the film starts to drag fairly quickly and, for this reviewer at least, became boring after the first twenty minutes or so.

The third shortlisted artist is Angela de la Cruz, whose sawn-up and deformed monochrome canvasses lie midway between painting and sculpture. Although the games she plays with form are initially amusing, her work does not feel realised enough to be truly interesting, and at worst is reminiscent of the juvenilia one might find on any art foundation course.

The final nominee is sound-artist Susan Phillipsz. Her piece 'Lowlands Away' originally consisted of loud-

speakers positioned under each of the three bridges spanning the River Clyde in her native Glasgow. Each speaker played a version of a 16th Century Scottish ballad, sung unaccompanied by Phillipsz herself. Relocated to the white emptiness of a gallery space, the effect is delicately poetic, although one is left wishing to experience the piece in its original context.

So there you have it – four artists, a collection of work ranging from 'mediocre' to 'okay', and one big load of hype. Although this year's exhibition contains a few moments of genuine depth, it's hard to avoid the feeling that it's all a bit... underwhelming.

**Displayed until 3rd January at Tate Britain. Tickets £8 (£6)**

Photo by Slobodan Radosavljevic of <sup>icu</sup> photosoc





# IC Radio

**Matt Allinson**  
**Ollie Calderbank**

**“Long Play. That’s what  
I’m talking about”**

Do you want to do a centrefold? Email [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# MUSIC

Music Editors: **Greg Power**  
**Luke Turner**  
**Christopher Walmsley**  
music.felix@gmail.com

## Album of The Week



**Neil Young**  
Le Noise  
Reprise Records  
2010

Subtle beauty with gentle guitar: themes this modern masterpiece epitomises as **Neil Young** delivers some of the best material he has written in the last decade. Experimentally manipulating the abilities of one man and a guitar to form wonderfully edgy riffs that weave their way, dissonantly, around the powerful lyrics, Young comes across as the emotionally dedicated activist he is. The album is very much a quiet affair despite the anger-fuelled, feedback-drenched guitar that takes you by surprise. Young keeps it solitary, like listening to a man letting go of his inner torment. There is no feeling of forced production and the stripped back manner keeps the music fresh every time I listen to it. It is produced by mastermind Daniel Lanois, who brings out the addictive effects but toys with repetition. Overall, this is a wonderfully intimate piece of work that brings you one-on-one with **Neil Young**.

- **Luke Turner**

Most listened to this week by Felix Music members on last.fm

1. The xx
2. Arcade Fire
3. Radiohead
4. The Smiths
5. Florence & The Machine
6. The Yeah Yeah Yeahs
7. Hot Chip
8. The Rolling Stones
9. Daft Punk
10. Bloc Party

## Make sure not to miss

### King Charles

**Cargo**  
14th October  
20:00

King Charles takes to the stage for the last time in London before being welcomed into America, so let's give him a deserved good-bye and make sure he prefers gigging this side of the pond... We want him back!

### Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly.

**Electric Ballroom**  
13th October  
19:00

Sam Duckworth returns to London for a headlining gig backed by his band to spread the love through his trademark acoustic indie-pop.

# Diagram of the Heart have a heart-to-heart before Bestival

At the heart of Imperial on the weekend, all diagrams were out of mind save the endlessly energetic **Diagram of the Heart**. They shared their love of ginger-nut biscuits before playing Bestival this summer

**A** small band with big sounds, they are a London-based electronic duo who have enough energy to outrun the energizer bunny. They're on the road to be quite the big deal. Here's what Kye and Anthony had to say before they performed at Bestival this summer.

**Diagram of the Heart is quite an exquisite name, are you guys all really into biology?**

Yeah, we were both doctors. Only joking we weren't. We got to a stage where we had written god knows how many songs, and we thought we ought to get a name. **Diagram of the Heart** resembled what we were about and our music having one foot in the club and a driving heartbeat.

**You are signed up to Deconstruction Records. Was that something you were aiming for seeing as they are a dance style label?**

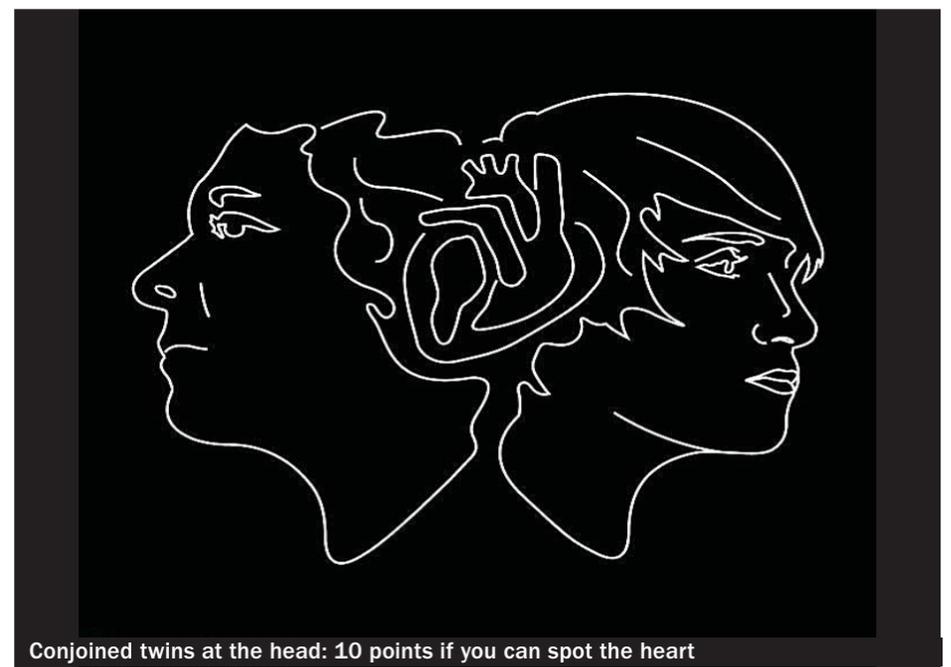
It was a very natural thing, one of the first people we spoke to was Mike Pickering from Sony and it was just a very natural and perfect time for us, as they're all about having one foot in the charts and at the same time being very much in the club scene.

I think what's exciting for Kye and I is having signed to Colombia, we were given the opportunity to work, along with Mike Pickering, Hacienda DJ and the lead man of M-People, with deconstruction records which was fantastic.

**If you could choose a musician, DJ or anyone to jam onstage with, who would your ideal artist be?**

We both really love **Faithless** and we actually have a song on our album that we would love to have **Maxi Jazz** on. We have a song called 'Tell Suburbia', which is about 9-10 minutes long, it's epic, and we've always thought **Maxi Jazz** would just be perfect.

I'd love to see Noel Gallagher up on stage playing guitar with us, which would be pretty mental, just because we have that mix of styles within what we do and we both have



Conjoined twins at the head: 10 points if you can spot the heart

different influences so it's a mix of dance music with pop music. There's also a lot of influences from people like **Kasabian** and **Oasis**.

**Seeing as you have a foot in both camps, one being dance music and the other a more indie style, where would you prefer playing, in a large arena/rave or a tight knit indie venue?**

For us it's not so much the venue but the people, I think our music is for people who want to go out and have a really good time and just jump up and down and go mad; we're about escaping and letting go and throwing your hands in the air. That can work anywhere whether it's a little bar or a big festival.

**What's your favourite type of biscuit?**

Rich tea or ginger

**What in your opinion is the best hangover cure?**

A fry-up or a strawberry milkshake

**If you could go back to one day in history, when would you visit?**

Woodstock, I'd love that.

**What can people expect from a Diagram of the Heart gig?**

Full energy, full power and a good time, that's what we're about.

**You've been touring around plenty recently so where would you say the best place you've played is?**

For me personally it was Ibiza Rocks; it was amazing to be up there and I'm a big fan of **Calvin Harris** as well, so it was amazing to support him and the crowd was just unbelievable, it was completely packed.

There have been loads of really good ones like when we supported the **Scissor Sisters** in Manchester, there were 4,000 people and that was wicked.

**What do you think the near future holds for you guys?**

Hopefully more of the same, we've had an amazing summer, a summer that for people who play music is a dream. I just hope it continues and there's no reason why it shouldn't.

**To wrap it up, what would you say to musicians out there who dig what you're about and want to do the same?**

I know it sounds cheesy but I'd say never give up, I think that's the best advice anyone could give you. We write our music together but we've been working hard individually and that has brought us two together. I don't think even the most successful musicians in the world would say it's easy... It's a roller-coaster, you've got to hold on tight. Luckily we have each other and we're really good friends.

-**Luke Turner**

## Key info

**Top song:** 'Dead Famous'. An infectious catchy, shout-out-loud, anthemic pop song, with synths powerful enough to shake bones and walls alike.

**Next in London:** Sunday, 31st October – Freeze Festival @ Battersea Power Station.

**Album release:** 2011

# MUSIC

## Willy Mason whipped it out for the Bush last Thursday

Easy now. I know all this talk of 'Willy' and 'Bush' is exciting, but I assure you Mr. Mason was the only Willy getting big love in the Bush... Well, in public at least

**Willy Mason**  
23rd, September, 2010  
★★★★☆

**Tytus Murphy**

It is a wet and windy evening in Shepherd's Bush, a resounding confirmation that autumn is indeed upon us and we can now forget our fancy dress frolics at Bestival et al and concentrate on huddling like arctic penguins in the cosy confines of our metropolis' musical communes, such as the intimate Bush Hall. Not that we gather solely for the purpose of sharing body heat but rather in order to pay homage the returning prodigal son that is **Willy Mason**, playing his first UK headlining show since the good old days of 2007.

A distinct smell of damp greets us as we enter; this evening's headliner falls firmly under the folk troubadour title and so it is no head scratcher that a whole spectrum of check shirts are on parade amongst this selection of eclectically aged demographic. Such shirts smell pretty bad when wet.

**Matthew & the Atlas** are first on the bill, a strong recommendation as a more earthly antidote to the whimsical musings and silly moustaches of the supremely overrated **Mumford & Sons**. Matthew is a commanding presence with a powerful voice that conveys much

heart eventually turning the heads of the initially disinterested and soggy crowd. Next up is **Markus Foster**, who despite a promising start backed by some interesting percussion quickly veers off into the realms of the mundane.

Mason's arrival soon makes up for any previous sentiment of feeling underwhelmed and he is warmly received by the crowd as **Bob Dylan's** 'I was Young when I Left Home' provides the very appropriate walk on theme for Mason and his backing band (including his younger brother on drums) to take to the stage. This seems appropriate as thematically it deals with home, something that appears frequently throughout Mason's songs. Mason also channels a tradition of American song writing much in the same way that Dylan pre-Blonde on Blonde channelled Woodie Guthrie. However whereas Dylan would fall back on more abstract images in his humanitarian sentiment, Mason is explicit, with his notions of community and togetherness very much evident. The openness and naivety of Mason makes him one of the most endearing songwriters of our generation, his heartfelt desire for justice and equality beautifully demonstrated in 'Oxygen', Mason's eternal cry for a better world in one of the purest pieces of song writing ever penned.

The set is perfectly judged; the first

half consists of a mixture of new songs and tracks from his charming debut LP 'Where the Humans Eat with Hard Hand to Hold' being particularly enjoyed by the crowd. Halfway through, Mason's backing band head backstage for a well deserved break with Mason wryly remarking that he had failed to join the workers' union. As an isolated figure, Mason shines delivering a newly penned tender ballad by the name of 'the Need of Love': perhaps one of his strongest songs to date as he recounts the tale of young woman from a small mid-west town, not searching but desperately in need of affection. Mason's voice is particularly striking and with his band absent it comes to the fore; he seems to put no physical effort into his projection, yet creates a rich reverb of blissful Americana. He brings tremendous depth to riptide as he reminisces about carving his name into a cedar tree whilst the 'water in his soul, it is going to the ocean'.

The band returns to close the set with a rousing rendition of 'Save Myself' with the enthusiastic crowd providing delicately pitched backing vocals and an interesting re-working of a 17th century love song, provided by one of Mason's female on stage accomplices. Mason is in good spirits throughout and seems to be genuinely moved by the warmth of the crowd; such good feeling paves

the way for an uplifting encore which of course contains the aforementioned 'Oxygen'. After a personal 5 year wait for this event, I am deeply moved to be hearing these songs in the flesh, I exit onto a wet and windy Uxbridge Road with Mason firmly cemented in head and heart.



A playlist from...  
Felix Editor  
Kadhim Shubber

Our rockin' boss has a keen ear for music and a body like Zeus made for dancing.

**Sleigh Bells -  
Run the Heart**

**The Drums -  
Let's Go Surfing**

**Best Coast -  
The End**

**Cinematic Orchestra  
- Familiar Ground**

**The Flaming Lips -  
Ego Tripping at the  
Gates of Hell**

**Wavves -  
King of the Beach**

If you want to share a mind-blowing playlist send it in to [music.felix@gmail.com](mailto:music.felix@gmail.com)

### Serj Tankian

**Imperfect Harmonies**  
Reprise/Serjical Strike  
★★★★☆



Tankian has been particularly active during SOAD's hiatus, releasing one critically praised solo album 'Elect The Dead' and performing its entirety on tour with a full symphonic orchestra. This experience confirmed Tankian's talents as a composer, and his second solo outing is further proof of this man's musical genius. Brilliantly blending electronic beats with organic symphonic instruments along with his inimitable voice, 'Imperfect Harmonies' is a forward-thinking and excellently executed collection of songs which are guaranteed to have you singing along. - **Greg Power**

### Deerhunter

**Halycon Digest**  
4AD  
★★★★☆



Bradford Cox and company return with an album that is definitely a progression from previous releases. Sprawls of noise have been refined, leaning towards the band's poppier side that was exhibited on their last album 'Microcastle'. Their trademark urgency has also been relaxed and the general feel is more laid back. **Deerhunter** have never had a definitive sound which means that every new album can carve its own ground, instead of trying to recapture or rework an old feeling. 'Halycon Digest' is a grower, and will feel more rewarding with a few listens. - **Chris Walmsley**

### No Age

**Everything In Between**  
Sub Pop  
★★★★☆



2007's critically acclaimed 'Nouns' was an aggressive sonic attack, but this new release from LA based **No Age** benefits from more production and melody throughout. The raw punk rock energy has not been sacrificed, but songs like 'Depletion' are now mixed with subdued anthemic pop classics like 'Glitter'. **No Age** will be winning no awards for vocal virtuosity, but Dean Spunt's voice has been raised in the mix for most songs. Despite the praise for their previous record, this new album feels more complete and as a result far more accessible. - **Chris Walmsley**

### Abe Vigoda

**Crush**  
PPM  
★★★★☆



Abe Vigoda, a "tropical punk" 4-piece from the same scene as **No Age**, have reconfigured their sound with one eye firmly on The Cure's discography. What could be a hollow exercise in Eighties revivalism is ably dodged by the band's excellent songwriting. The frenetic guitars and galloping rhythms, a trademark of their earlier work, have been toned down in favour of synth lines and histrionic vocals. While the stormy atmosphere of the album can sometimes get oppressive, it is exciting to hear a band finding a different framework to channel their unique sound. - **Jamie Fraser**

### Linkin Park

**A Thousand Suns**  
Warner Bros.  
★★★☆☆



After the aberration that was 2006's 'Minutes To Midnight' there is a strong chance most fans of LP's first two albums have dismissed the band entirely by now. In a surprising turn of events the rap-rockers have decided to ditch the obvious formulaic arena-pleasers and instead opt for a more experimental approach this time around. Half the album is composed of short electronic experiments and the other half contains some genuinely good songs, especially the amazing 'Blackout'. There is much work to be done but this new direction is definitely an improvement. - **Greg Power**

# FILM

## What's On

### BFI London Film Festival



Wednesday 13th October sees the opening of the annual BFI London Film Festival which runs until the 28th, bringing together events occurring in cinemas across London, including the Natural History Museum and a talk with director Darren Aronofsky (which, judging from his rant last week on *Requiem for a Dream*, Matt might do well to avoid...)

The London Film Festival is an excellent opportunity to catch the best films of British cinema that may otherwise slip you by, and to get in there early to see upcoming films before they hit general release. The Opening Night Gala on Wednesday sees the European premiere of *Never Let Me Go*, the film based on Kazuo Ishiguro's award-winning novel of the same title and starring Keira Knightley, Carey Mulligan and Andrew Garfield. As well as this, the festival is showcasing several more films before they go on general release in the UK such as Danny Boyle's claustrophobic survival story *127 Hours*, Mike Leigh's latest film *Another Year*, and - fans of *Let The Right One In* should approach with caution - its American remake, *Let Me In*, (it's actually supposed to be quite good).

Supporting the BFI's festival this year is important now more than ever in light of their huge cut in funding following the abolishment of the UK Film Council. British film hardly ever gets the international attention that it deserves and money is often scarce for small, independent filmmakers. As well as supporting British cinema, the BFI also shows a wide range of celebrated films world cinema, classic films and shorts.

### Films at Imperial

Whilst the BFI does consistently do decent discounts, the prices for tickets to the big events and premieres will be pretty expensive for the average student. Cheaper alternatives, therefore, can be found right here at Imperial (making it ideal for the poor and the lazy). For starters there is FilmSoc - who are showing a film from a different continent each week of this term (starting this Thursday with *The Bird People In China*), and CinemaSoc - who are launching a new era of cinema at Imperial (did you know there's a cinema in the Union) on Tuesday 26th October with *Inception*, all for less than a fiver. Plug, plug, plug.

# George Clooney: A brooding Bond

## The American

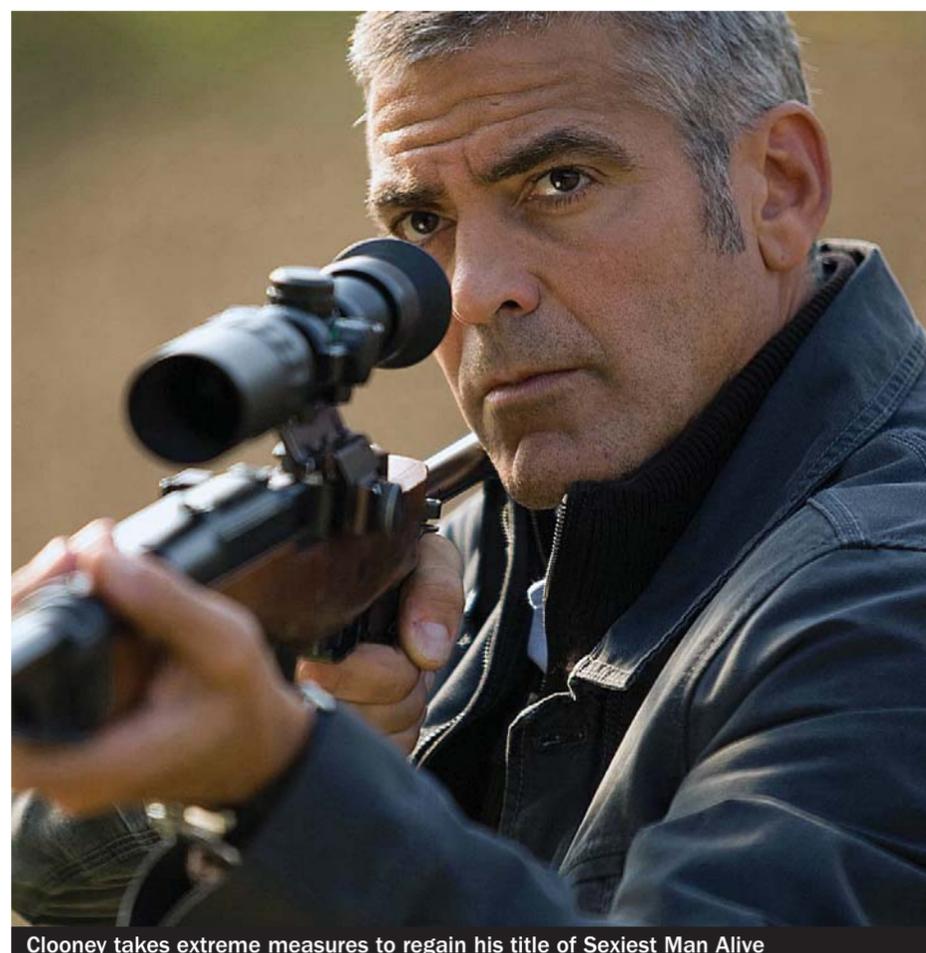
**Director** Anton Corbijn  
**Screenwriter** Rowan Joffe  
**Cast** George Clooney, Irina Björklund

### Guo Heng Chin

Director of the much-acclaimed Ian Curtis biopic *Control*, is back with a bang. Anton Corbijn discards the guitar and picks up the rifle in *The American*, a thriller about a killer who discovers his soul. Adapted from British novelist Martin Booth's *A Very Private Gentleman* (1990), the film stars George Clooney as Jack, an assassin-cum-weapons expert hiding in an ancient Italian town after a botched attempt on his life. There, he takes on one last job to produce a custom-made rifle for a client of his boss and strikes up a few relationships that may ultimately change him, or doom him.

The art of suspense is not showing too much; think of the Coen brothers' Oscar-winning *No Country for Old Men*. For a first endeavor in the thriller genre, Corbijn does surprisingly well. With sparse music through the movie and prolonged scenes of anticipation, a paranoid atmosphere crackling with tension is created, suitably fitting the story of a hunter being hunted. At times, the film even felt like a horror flick. The action is quick and concise which, in my opinion, makes the violence more unsettling. Fight scenes are a battle of wits rather than a series of extended Mexican standoffs. *The American* excels due to its elegant minimalism which allows the weight of the acting and suspense to surface and embed itself in the audience's mind. The backdrop of the scenic Italian town of Castel Del Monte is aptly exploited, and imbues the movie with a hint of noir.

George Clooney pulls off the character of Jack with relative ease. Not surprisingly of course - his Oscar applause were from roles similar to this in *Michael Clayton* and *Syriana*. Forgoing his trademark charisma, he transforms into a craggy lone wolf struggling for his survival. It marks a departure from the charming or comic characters he played last year. In *The American*, he is morbid and tense, even in the presence of beautiful women; a stoic demeanor replacing suave wit. Jack kills cold-heartedly, without hesitation as the wonderfully-executed opening scene shocker proves. Like all movies of this kind, the protagonist has a deep-seated longing for the company of another human being. Bouts of longing sneak out of Jack subtly. Fortunately, this movie does not tread down the clichéd path of redemption.



Clooney takes extreme measures to regain his title of Sexiest Man Alive

For a first endeavour into the thriller genre, Corbijn does surprisingly well

It is more selfish and base, which makes it slightly fresh.

The plot, though it does not suffer from being too predictable, is somewhat too simplistic. Perhaps the focal point is intended to be on the character and his development. A repressed undercurrent of insecurity permeates the film with Jack's deepening anxiety and relentless vigilance and scores the film points for bringing to life an assassin on the run. Corbijn also does not shy away from gory violence and explicit sexuality, but uses it to intensify the emotional impact of the drama.

For a character-centric film, however, Clooney's character fails to carry sufficient gravitas to warrant it a must-watch film. The fault lies not with the acting but in the dramatic arc of the protagonist

which is not refined or complex enough to draw the audience into it. Though it starts off well-paced, it becomes rushed towards the end. The antagonist felt a little two-dimensional, and peppering the relationship between the antagonist and Jack with a little complexity could be that pinch of spice that makes all the difference between that gourmet bolognese and the off-the-shelf microwave pasta.

Nevertheless, Corbijn deserves praise for the meticulous attention invested in Jack as an arms expert - weapon aficionados would adore this film. Many scenes depict in fine details the production of that custom-made gun with "the firing capacity of a sub-machine gun and the range of a rifle" as demanded by his femme fatale client. You get to marvel at the way Jack improvises parts of the gun with tools found in a car workshop. The movie is part a study into the intricate art of gun-making as we tag along with Maestro Jack.

*The American* is a brooding James Bond. It chooses harsh reality over glamour, drama over grandeur. It is not a tour-de-force of Anton Corbijn or George Clooney but is, even so, worth watching during one of those Friday nights when you've got nothing else substantial to do.

# How comic book geeks get girls: Exhibit A

## Scott Pilgrim vs. The World

**Director** Edgar Wright

**Screenwriter** Michael Bacall, Edgar Wright

**Cast** Michael Cera, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Kieran Culkin, Anna Kendrick

**Aditya Narayanan**



In case you didn't know, Edgar Wright likes comic books...

*Grosse Pointe Blank. Back to the Future. The Dark Knight.* Three films that I could watch on repeat – again and again. I left *Scott Pilgrim vs the World* wanting to go straight back in for another round. The titular character, played by Michael Cera, is a 23-year-old with no job, who splits his time between playing bass in the raw, energetic indie band Sex Bob-omb (the music played by the actors themselves), maintaining a U-rated relationship with a Canadian-Chinese high school girl (the adorable Ellen Wong) and mooching off his flatmate (Kieran

Culkin), with outrageously apt comic timing and delivery.

It isn't long before his quirky existence is disturbed by the arrival of the exotic American Ramona Flowers who is quite literally the girl of Scott's dreams. Their burgeoning relationship precipitates in Scott having to battle in turn with each one of her seven (yes, seven!) evil exes who have banded together to control Ramona's romantic life.

If you have ever wondered what a computer game version of real life would look like then this movie smash-

es the answer through your brain with an invigorating mix of the subtle and slapstick. Those familiar with Edgar Wright's work will see the hallmark cultural references and character interplay that stood out in *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*. Whether you are a hardcore gamer or not, many of the stylised battles will be immediately familiar as resembling those of the popular games of our youth.

Michael Cera has often been criticised for allowing himself to be typecast as a bit of a wet blanket, but he brings inner

steel to this role as Scott – an inoffensive, amiable everyman who conceals a cunning mind that skilfully manipulates those who underestimate him. His love interest, played by Mary Elizabeth Winstead, balances being effortlessly cool with maintaining a girl-next-door-with-oversized-sledgehammer-in-her-purse image. The rest of the cast include several 'promising young things' in steady roles such as Anna Kendrick and a scene-stealing Kieran Culkin as Scott's wry, gay, playboy flatmate – both are terribly underused.

However, this film isn't really about the acting, which takes a backseat to the outrageous, videogame action and machine-gun dialogue. This is, in part, supposedly due to the faithful adherence to Bryan Lee O'Malley's script – at least according to friends who have read the series. If, like me, you haven't (damn Waterstone's and their slack delivery service), fear not – though some of the story does not transfer to the big screen quite as well as one would hope, the film

does not suffer too much. The set pieces and combat sequences are superbly choreographed, such that the viewer feels every hit or note within the movie, aided by the excellent special effects on show. And it goes without saying that watching this anywhere but the cinema is to miss out.

Another area where the film really stands out is in the soundtrack, which is a perfect selection for the film, allowing you to be immersed in the emotional themes the film plays on. This is in no way a backhanded compliment as the music augments the quality of the film. The only shame is that another 10-20 minutes to develop the story and characters would have eased the transition between the two different media. Nevertheless, this is a difficult feat for anyone to perform and the film certainly lives up to the stellar reputation of the graphic novels. *Scott Pilgrim vs the World* is an exhilarating rush of positivity – the perfect start to the new college year.

## Go from strength to strength

Ernst & Young is on campus! Meet our people and find out more about graduate and undergraduate opportunities at these events:

- ▶ Come and play The Strengths Factor – Monday 11 October 2010
- ▶ Milkround presentation\* – Tuesday 12 October 2010
- ▶ Recruiter in Residence – Wednesday 13 October 2010
- ▶ Mock interviews – Tuesday 19 October 2010
- ▶ Imperial Union Careers Fair – Wednesday 27 October 2010
- ▶ Advisory Consultant Programme at Ernst & Young – Tuesday 2 November 2010
- ▶ Lunchtime Careers Talk (Commercial Awareness) – Thursday 4 November 2010
- ▶ Mock interviews – Friday 5 November 2010
- ▶ Accounting & Consultancy Forum – Thursday 11 November 2010

Visit [www.ey.com/uk/careers](http://www.ey.com/uk/careers) for a full schedule of events and to sign-up.

\*Our Milkround presentation will take place at Ernst & Young's offices at 1 More London Place, SE1 2AF.

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Fashion Editor: **Saskia Verhagen**

# FASHION

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Student Street Style



The 70's are coming back in a big way for next season, and this NYU student I snapped in Central Park during New York Fashion Week is way ahead of the curve - with that perfectly faded mane, broderie anglaise shirt and John Lennon sunglasses, she could have stepped right out of Woodstock. I'm always on the lookout for the fashion eye-candy - I know you're out there - and will be out and around Imperial with my camera at the ready to capture those rare moments of sartorial brilliance around college.

## Diary of a Shopaholic

### Machine-A

60 Berwick Street, London W1F 8SU

MACHINE-A

A personal favourite, this is a secret of my shopping address book. An independent boutique-slash-gallery showcasing the very best handpicked new talent of the fashion world, Machine-A is a veritable treasure trove for unique pieces to revitalise the most dreary of wardrobes. The price point is mid-to-high range, but definitely not up there with your top-end designers - the idea here is to pick up something you didn't know was missing from your closet, something beautifully made which injects a little joy, some avant-garde whimsy into your everyday style. For example, if you lusted after the S&M studded Alice Palmer leggings that strutted the runway at Vauxhall Fashion Scout last season, but had no idea where to find a stockist of such a young and fresh talent - this is that spot, a hotpot of one-offs and uncompromisingly innovative designs. Oh and whilst you're there, be sure to try on the enormous black fur coat - its hood has black mink bunny ears!

# Renaissance of the Chino

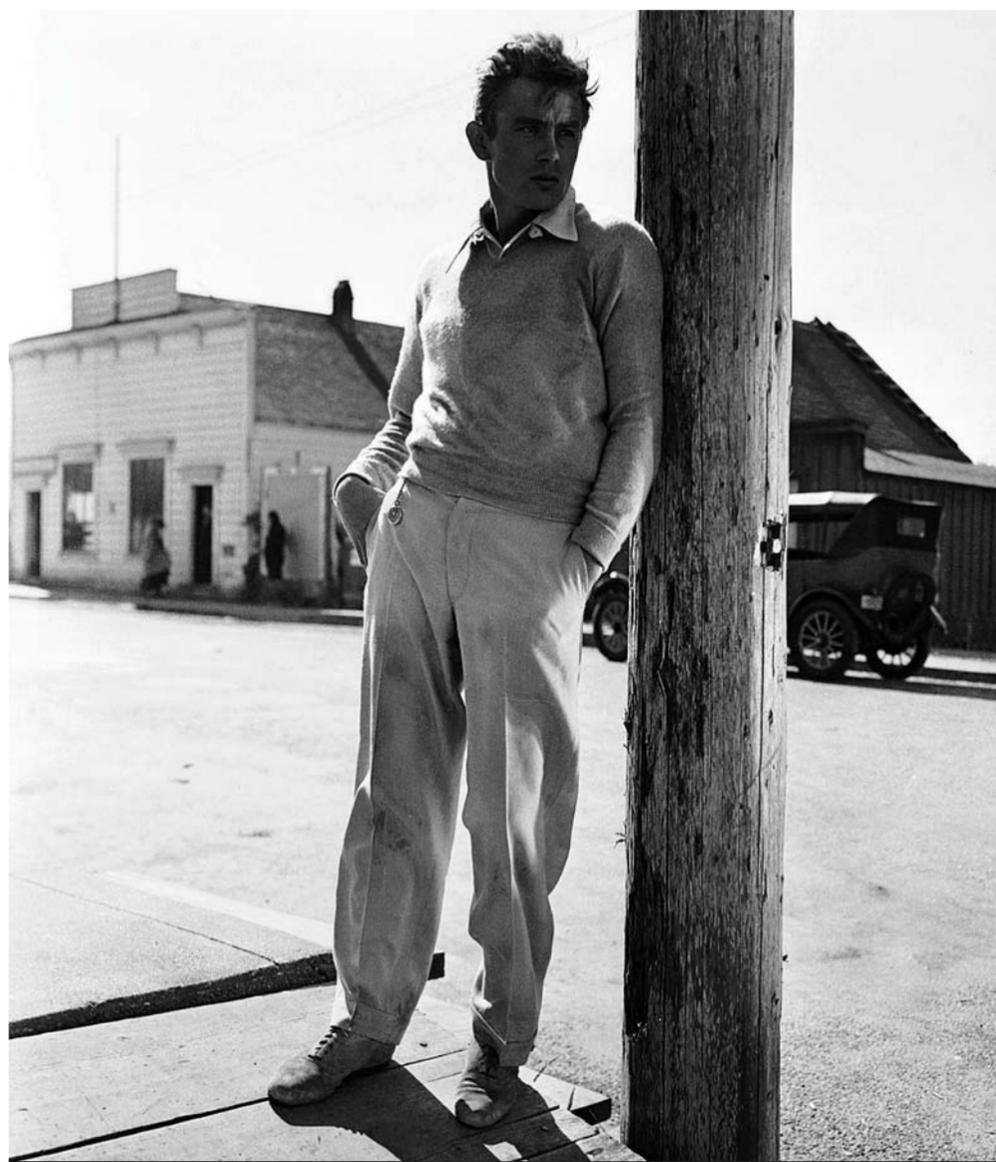
The erstwhile rather bland staple of everyday menswear is currently enjoying a welcome return to James Dean cool

Saskia Verhagen

Good news medic boys! Your favourite sports night style staple and go-to firms-wear has found itself on the hottest catwalks of London, Paris, Milan and New York: yes, chinos are actually in vogue.

Admittedly, the modest chino is somewhat underrated; it is the male equivalent of the trusty black pencil skirt: smart, easy to wear and to coordinate. Only their very beige-ness (both in colour and level of sartorial captivation) makes them blur into obscurity - you, in your chinos and blue shirt, look exactly the same as your firm buddy who is wearing ostensibly the same thing. So how to make them look new and interesting, whilst still keeping them smart enough not to earn a sneer from your cantankerous old Mary's consultant? Take a leaf out of James Dean's book, who immortalised the classic cool of the chino in *East of Eden* (right).

First, step out of the comfort zone of the crisp blue shirt, and pull on a (gasp!) small-collared shirt, in a wide navy gingham perhaps. Then, take a crew neck jumper, wonderfully cosy for winter, in either a chunkier cable or a finer gauge knit depending on your build, in a warm maroon or grey. For the pièce de résistance, a pair of brown brogues: classic, timeless - a man's staple. The look is preppy American cool - Don Draper on a casual Friday at the office: a little outdoorsy yet traditional. This makes a welcome change from the reliable, yet rather ordinary striped blue shirt.



James Dean likes his chinos like he likes his women: leaning against a post, looking pretty

# Mario Testino pays homage to British icon Kate Moss in limited edition book

BOOK REVIEW

Gabriella Yongue

When one of the most renowned fashion photographers collaborates with his muse, it came as no surprise that Mario Testino and Kate Moss should create the most exclusive photographic tome since Helmut Newton's gargantuan, and aptly named, *Sumo*. Kate Moss by Mario Testino, printed in extremely limited edition and retailing at about £600, has become an object of lust for fashionistas



everywhere. Not only does it contain some of the most iconic work of a creative genius, but it also gives a glimpse into the world of the inimitable Kate Moss, from her early days backstage at her first runway shows to her revolutionary editorials, plus intimate private shots between the two extraordinarily close friends.

Says Testino of Moss: "I met Kate very early on. Shortly after her first Galliano show I went backstage to congratulate her, only to find her crying: she was disappointed that she had only

been given one outfit to model in the show. My answer to her was this: 'In life there are perfumes and colognes. You need to use lots of cologne as the scent fades away; with a perfume you just use a drop and it lasts all night. You are a perfume, you will go on and on.' Little did I know just how true that would become! And that I had made a friend for life."

This book is an tribute by one icon of the fashion world to another: if only my student loan would allow, a copy would take pride of place on my coffee table!

# Fresh Off The Catwalk: Trend Report – Spring 2011

Fashion Editor **Saskia Verhagen** has scoured the catwalks of NY, London, Milan and Paris to bring you a forecast of what are set to be the biggest hits of next season

## Minimalism



Perhaps it's fallout from the recession, or perhaps the fashion world just needed a dose of no-muss, no-fuss clean lines – whatever the case may be, almost all of this season's shows seemed to have an element of pared-down classical purism, and none more than the master of keeping it simple: Calvin Klein. The luxurious fabrics and expert cutting did all the talking, with acres of silks and lighter-than-air wool blends billowing and sailing down the catwalk, unanchored and unembellished.

## The Maxi Skirt



The maxi skirt has been making attempts at a comeback for a few seasons now, but wearers seem to find it hard to wear – it seems to come off as either too mumsy or too formal. However, it seems that the designers this season have found a solution: a thigh-high slit. Bringing the maxi bang up-to-date with an easy sexiness – flashes of a perfectly toned legs were seen in ample measure at Stella McCartney whose selection of double-slit maxis are my pick for the it-dress of next Summer.

## Jewel Brights



Although a neutral palette is set to be hugely popular for next season, bursts of vibrant Moroccan jewel tones were seen splashed over catwalks, especially in Milan. The Italians colour-blocked their glamorous little hearts out in vivid hues of turquoise, jade, purple, royal blue and orange, injecting a little joy and fabulousness into what seemed to be a season set for pared-down simplicity and the various shades of white, cream and oatmeal. Thank goodness for Gucci, Fendi and Prada.

## 1970s Rock'n'Roll



It seems like finally (finally!) the 1980's have reached the end of their overlong rule over fashion houses everywhere. Bringing a welcome change, elements of the 1970's were seen all over the catwalks: a round, Lennon-esque pair of shades here, a flared trouser there – hints encompassing all aspects of the 70's, from rock'n'roll Rolling Stones glamour to hippie-chic Woodstock bohemia; teddy-boy rockabillics to Sex Pistols punk-rock rebels, every 70's clique had a place on this season's runways.

Games Editor: **Simon Worthington**[games.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:games.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# GAMES

## Web Games

Each week we're going to bring you a selection of fresh, free and fun web games that you can play right away in your browser. Unless specifically mentioned to the contrary you're going to need the Adobe Flash Player plug-in which can be installed from <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>.

### Nanaca Crash [tinyurl.com/nanaca](http://tinyurl.com/nanaca)



The first thing you should know about this game is that it's Japanese, which therefore means it's been liberally sprinkled with craziness. In this anime-style game you control a girl on a bike whose main objective is to crash into a man, sending him flying, and then to keep him in the air as long as possible through a series of further carefully-timed aerial collisions. Quite what the story is here is a mystery, as all the instructions are also in Japanese.

So far, so easy, but the skill is really required when you notice the passers-by on the ground below, on which the flying man will occasionally bounce. Some will slow you down and some will speed you up, so it's a constant battle to use crashes in the right place to get boosts and avoid the girl that ends the game early. There's also immense satisfaction to be had from landing 'specials', where an ordinary boost will turn into a super crazy anime explosion. Addiction is not a word to be used lightly but once you've got into the game all that matters is beating the previous distance record. Ours was over 10km by the way so if you beat that then let us know!

### Yeti Sports [yetisports.org](http://yetisports.org)



Although they were authored at the turn of the millennium, relatively few people seem to have encountered this ever-growing series of games. All involve the titular yeti using clubs, snowballs or even flamingos to hit penguins as fast as he can along beaches and up icebergs. Our personal favourite is Yetisports 4: Albatross Overload, although make sure to try the original penguin-hitting classic. Penguin fans can also sleep easy as all of the fluffy critters seem to be fine upon landing. Experts should try the Ylympics Tournament!

# Sequels aplenty at Eurogamer Expo

**Simon Worthington** blagged entry to this year's event at Earls Court and got a chance to preview some of the titles that are coming our way this year and next

## Fallout: New Vegas



For the first of our 'sequels to recently released games' theme, *Fallout: New Vegas* was on show this year at Eurogamer just weeks before it comes out in the shops. Although not a direct sequel to last year's smash hit *Fallout 3*, as the game takes place in an entirely new location and with new characters, fans will recognise the familiar Bethesda engine and game interface.

The plot begins in the 'Mojave Wasteland', similar in size to the 'Capitol Wasteland' only now located in Nevada, with a courier for the Mojave Express. Whilst delivering a package the faceless, nameless protagonist is shot in the head and left to die in a hole, only to be rescued by a robot and taken to a doctor to be patched up. From here we arrive at the usual character creation screen and are shortly booted out into the world to unravel the mystery of the attempted assassination.

First impressions of the game come with a big wash of déjà vu as the core gameplay and



style remain very similar to *Fallout 3*. V.A.T.S. is still very much present, karma is still a part of gameplay and the inventory, perks and stats system all still work the same way. The similarities don't stop there either, because although the Wasteland has been given a bit more brightness and colour and a bit of visual makeup, the style is pretty much the same stuff we've seen before. Same blasted concrete and same murky skies, and in fact it's all running on the same engine. Fundamentally, in the time we spent walking around the wasteland shooting bandits and raiders, *Fallout: New Vegas* did little to convince us that it was anything more than a new story for a game we've played before.

There have been some changes and improvements in the form of a new "infamy" system, that tracks the players' notoriety with different factions. In a similar way to karma, this factor affects how different factions within the world will respond to you. Players also have the opportunity to permanently modify weapons with scopes, silencers and other nice things. A new 'companion wheel' also features, making it much easier to control companions without having to go through endless dialog, and all weapons can now be aimed with a physical crosshair.

'Hardcore mode' is also the title of a new gameplay mode that aims to bring a fresh challenge to players. Although we didn't get to play it ourselves, a Bethesda minion filled us in on the details: hardcore mode does exactly what it says on the tin, making the game harder by giving stimpaks a time lag, adding sleep and water deprivation effects and causing ammo to have weight. It certainly does sound like it provides

a new way of thinking for experienced gamers, but although the Bethesda minion insisted that "it's an entirely new way of playing the game," we remain unconvinced that the core *Fallout* gameplay will be changed drastically.

If you played through *Fallout 3* and still can't get enough, or have never played anything like it at all, you should get *New Vegas*. It's the standard *Fallout* gameplay we saw last year with a few tweaks and improvements, and if that's what you like then that's fine. If, like us, you were a little bit bored by the end of the last game and were hoping for something new and different, then *New Vegas* might not be the best choice.

## Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood



You could be forgiven for feeling a peculiar twitch of déjà vu upon hearing that the next title to come at us from Ubisoft Montreal is yet another *Assassin's Creed* title, *Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood*. It hasn't even been a full year since its predecessor *Assassin's Creed*

## GAMES

2 was released to the masses but already this next installment will be gracing our supermarket shelves in just under a month. "It's been in production for a while, in parallel with AC2," says the Ubisoft minion we cornered, which explains how the next installment is ready so quickly.

The game is a direct sequel with the single player campaign featuring the familiar face of Ezio Auditore as the primary protagonist. Several years have passed since the events of the last game and Ezio is now in Rome recruiting citizens for places in his assassin brotherhood. This is an element that players have direct control over with the recruiting happening during the story and on side quests. "You'll be able to spend points on them, upgrading them and their abilities," chirps an employee manning the stall.

There have been some minor changes to gameplay, such as the ability to ride horses through the city and the option to upgrade the city in a similar way to Monteriggioni in the previous game, but the main focus for gamers is the new, long-awaited multiplayer mode, one feature famously missing from AC2. Only two game-types have been announced so far: 'Wanted', an every-man-for-himself game where players pursue a target whilst being chased themselves, and 'Alliance', a similar game with three teams of two where players must work co-operatively. We were told this would be the closest thing Brotherhood would have to co-op gameplay, which seems a shame considering the obvious fun to be had in the campaign with friends replacing AI brotherhood members. Multiplayer will support system link as well as the usual online capability.

At Eurogamer we got the opportunity to play a few rounds of a 'Wanted' match, which lasted about five minutes each. With the familiar Assassin's Creed control scheme it was easy to get straight into a game and it wasn't long before we were running across rooftops and leaping into haystacks just like in single player. The primary challenge is finding your target in the city, as every player blends in and looks just like the ordinary civilians around them. The game gives you a few hints in the form of a general direction and whether they're in sight or not, but after that it's up to you, and trying to work out who your target is was both fun and a real challenge. Psychology comes into play here as your target is notified whenever they come into your view and it's their choice (and, indeed, yours) whether or not they choose to run and expose themselves or to hide in the crowd. All too often an enemy gave themselves away by bolting as soon as they came into view.

As we killed more and more players and (naturally) moved our way up the scoreboard, the game compensated by setting more players on us to make it harder to pursue our own targets. At certain points both assassin and victim are presented with a countdown timer of about ten seconds. If the target is in view it remains full and red, but as soon as we escaped the timer went yellow (like in single player) and started to countdown to zero. During this time hiding in hay carts or rooftop shacks sent the bar blue and if the countdown reached zero the pursuer had 'lost the contract' and we were safe. This was a great way to bring the hiding mechanic into multiplayer and use hiding skills that are wasted on the single player guards, and it was a real adrenaline-filled moment of tension as we lay wondering whether our pursuer had

seen us. All in all the multiplayer was an intense, enjoyable experience and there's plenty of room for some serious strategy and tactics in amongst the running and knifing. The tension is kept high by the knowledge that you could be struck down at any moment by a pursuer. Our only concern is whether or not the multiplayer will remain popular once the novelty wears off, so the challenge for Ubisoft will be to keep the game fresh. Otherwise though, the multiplayer seems to be the perfect extension for those who have mastered single player and need a new challenge.

## RAGE



If there's one thing people know id Software for, it's shooters. With such huge titles as Wolfenstein, Doom and Quake under their belts some might argue that id Software practically invented the first-person shooter genre and it would be hard to argue against them. Why then, with such big names with such established fan bases, would they opt to create a whole new game with a whole new feel?

We attended a developer session at Eurogamer for an exclusive working preview of their upcoming title, RAGE. "We wanted to blow up the experience," says creative director Tim Willits, who explained that the studio wanted to build a game with "more vehicles, more characters and more story," – three elements not particularly prevalent in previous games. Tim assured us, however, that "there are no fears for fans of id Software," meaning that players can look forward to RAGE being just as violent as ever.

The story is certainly no revolution: following an asteroid apocalypse a secret government program called the 'Eden Project' is initiated, placing citizens into secret underground bunkers called "arks" while those left on the surface become mutants and bandits. With the majority of the arks going wrong for some reason, the unnamed player is booted out into the wilderness to face a mysterious new government known only as "The Authority". Sound familiar? It should, as it's pretty much the exact same story from the Fallout series of games.

Any similarities come to a pretty quick end though once the game has started. With execu-

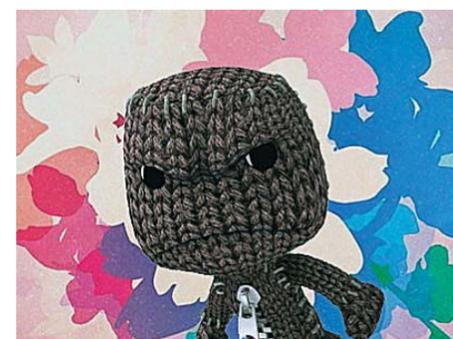
tive producer Jason Kim on the controller, he slowly picks his way through some wreckage in a way the Fallout engine would simply not allow. Soon we are out in the wasteland but here it's bright and characterful and not bland or monotonous. Very quickly we jump into a vehicle and are zooming our way through canyons and across plains, stopping to show off the vehicle mounted rocket launcher and machine guns in an energetic skirmish with some scavengers.

When we enter one of the main settlements, Wellspring, the visuals change style yet again and we are met with a colourful, vibrant and detailed town that brims over with character. It's also obvious that id Software is putting quite a focus on vehicular gameplay with races, shops and even special side quests for upgrading your vehicles. Being in a town also highlights another interesting design choice in the fact that your weapons are simply not usable whilst inside. "It's not an RPG," explains Tim. There's no morality system, no encumbrance and hardly any focus on keeping the game open plan. Although there's less options and less space for playing your own game than in Fallout, some of the more boring elements such as endless wasteland trudging have been stripped away to leave a much quicker-paced game underneath, and there still seems to be enough going on to take a break from story missions if you get bored.

There's also clearly been a lot of thought put into combat. Different enemies inhabit each area you visit and will move around from time to time, and each has their own strengths and weaknesses – we saw both acrobatic enemies that were particularly good at dodging bullets and more classic thugs who charged at you with pipes and bricks (who, interestingly, were dressed in Union Flags and spoke with cockney accents). The weapons are also classic id Software, with the standard shotguns and rocket launchers making an appearance along with electric crossbows and robot spiders. However, in our preview the enemies did seem to be dispatched with rather quickly which makes us worry that they would be slightly underpowered and easy to defeat in the final game. Tension also takes a hit in this instance, as without fear driving the experience there's not much adrenaline to keep the game going.

Obviously there will always be some that miss the classic RPG experience that is somewhat missing from RAGE, but we think that by removing some of the more tedious elements and forcing the player into first-person shooting RAGE brings a fresh experience to the table that many will enjoy and it comes with pretty and colourful visuals to boot. Certainly, RAGE is going to be one of the big hits of 2011 and proof that even a company with such a familiar formula as id Software can still innovate and produce a truly new gaming experience.

## LittleBigPlanet 2



With such critical acclaim for its predecessor, it's hard to think what Media Molecule could do with LittleBigPlanet 2. Whatever it was, it was going to need to be big and it was going to need to be innovative. We got the chance to play a late build of the game at Eurogamer and see what had changed for ourselves.

The short answer: not much. Not to say that's a bad thing, as the gameplay remains largely unchanged from the winning LittleBigPlanet formula and is as good as ever. During our short demo we encountered some new gameplay elements in the form of 'Sackbots'; cute little robots that follow you around when you rescue them. These little guys do provide a new edge as the player is encouraged to rescue as many of them as possible. It's unclear though yet whether there will be any score bonus or prizes up for grabs for getting them all to safety. We also spotted some new 'launchpads' that can fire players in certain directions and between layers.

The real innovation comes in improvements to the level creation mode, which we unfortunately did not get to preview. As well as standard 2.5D platforming levels, creators can now create races, puzzles and role-playing style levels, essentially opening the experience up and allowing whole new games to be created. There are also options for creating entire linked series of levels, where players follow sequentially from one level to the next. Sackbots will also be available in creator levels with customisable AI and appearance, and the creator now also includes a music sequencer and sound effect recorder. Owners of the old game will be pleased to know that any levels made for the original will also work in LittleBigPlanet 2.

In addition to all that, the visuals and the graphics engine have had a significant polish and are much improved over the original. Smoke effects and much more vibrant lighting populate the new levels, and the backgrounds that were previously relatively simple have had a touch-up as well. With the game looking as pretty as ever and the same winning gameplay formula, it looks like LittleBigPlanet 2 is shaping up to be another smash hit from Media Molecule.

"By removing some of the more tedious elements and forcing the player into first-person shooting, RAGE brings a fresh experience to the table"

## EVENTS

**Alternative Music Society Trip to John Peel Concert**  
Buy Tickets From WeGotTickets  
9th October 1pm  
Meet in Union Bar then heading off to Bloomsbury

**Jazz and Rock's Rocksplosion**  
6 Awesome Imperial Rock Bands  
FREE  
11th October. 19:00 - 23:00  
Union Concert Hall  
(Union - Floor 2)

# TRAVEL

Travel Editor: **Dylan Lowe**

[travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

## Wishing You Were Here



Brussels blanketed in snow by Dylan Lowe

Want to see your travel photograph featured here? Send it to [travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk).

## Travel Blog of the Week



Who: Art of Backpacking is run by the dynamic duo of avid travellers Michael Tieso and Teresa Gotay.

About: Backpacking, they say, is not only a way to travel – it's also a lifestyle. They hope to show their readers the wonders of travel – culture, food, nature, kindness – and encourage people to take the leap of faith of quitting their daily routines and go travelling.

Why: These guys offer solid advice not only on budget travelling, but also dealing with different issues of travel. Their adventurous spirits provide absolute gems of anecdotal introductions to the dangerous and the risky – a good starting point for any perspective sandboarders and world's-most-dangerous-vindaloo tasters. Teresa also hosted *Meet, Plan, Go*, a get-together of travel enthusiasts aspiring to long-term travelling.

Recommended: Overcoming social travel awkwardness syndrome; Story of escaping the cubicle corporate world; Travel confession: can one find love abroad?

Link: <http://www.artofbackpacking.com>  
Twitter: @artofbackpackin, @AOBTeresa

**Are you on twitter? Be sure to get in touch or tell us what you'd like to see in Felix Travel by sending your tweet under #FelixTravel.**

# Well hello, London

Behind the scenes of *About.com* London travel guide – interview with Laura Porter, long-serving guru on how best to relish the London vibe. **By Dylan Lowe**

Laura pretty much determined, packaged and set me up with the Saturday's itinerary. She takes credit for being among the first to publicise the Jermyn Street Garden Party, which led to queues of palatal delights and musing as to whether I can pull off tweeds. She also penned a blog post about the Morris dancing festival in Southbank – we ended up making an impromptu attendance at the premiere of *Way of the Morris*.

So much for I being the one who sent out the invitation for an interview for Felix.

In the SMS, the description of her attire: “wearing a dress and boots, look like a wartime land lady”; how befitting that was when I found her outside of Waterstone's, intent on a reading of *Matilda*. But there were those beyond plain clothing that helped me identify Laura: the way her fearlessness shone through her chuckle as she chatted up a couple of strangers, the way she emanated her aura-like exuberance.

No exaggeration, that: at least it was how my expectations portrayed one of the most prominent bloggers in London travel.

Laura Porter runs the *About.com* London travel guide, delivering news of London's latest and finest entertainment options to visitors and locals alike since 2006. The website also offers an extensive databank of information, recommendations and free-things-to-do lists – no doubt the result of her continued dedication – which are instrumental in inspiring many of my excursions around the city I'm still so ignorant of, yet undeniably infatuated with.

## “Don't be afraid of London – it has something for everyone”

While many people have not much love lost for their jobs, or the subjects of their occupational concerns, Laura's affection for London and travel is unquestionable.

And it all began during her band-chasing days, which took her across the United States as a youngster. A regular visitor of London herself – having lived in Essex through her teenage years – with a brother residing in the capital, her familiarity with the city didn't necessarily translate to passion. Upon returning from the States, however, and newly reformed by experiences as a seasoned traveller, her perception of London changed.

Laura sipped her tea, shot me with an evocative grin, before summing up the turning point of her life.

“Basically I landed in London, got myself a flat, did my laundry, all within 24 hours!”

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London Travel Guide

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**Famous London People Museums and Houses**

London has many museums dedicated t

Her streak of serendipity didn't end there. When maternity leave brought her teaching job – tutoring foreign students English – to a hiatus she found herself left with too much time to spare. Introduced to *About.com* by a friend, who runs the painting guide, she became aware of the vacant position of London travel editor and, encouraged by her experience as a freelance writer, bid for the job. A harsh selection process later she came out on top.

According to Laura, running the blog at its early stages wasn't all money and glamour – after all, it took over a year before the build-up of content and internet traffic was sufficient to earn her a sizeable income and the opportunity to go full-time. And a huge part of her resilience has to be attributed to her continued fascination for her subject of choice.

What I could relate to her excited tone, glimmer in her eyes whenever London is mentioned, is a sense of adventure. Indeed, living in London can be an adventure in itself – depending on your attitude.

“I've lived in London more than half my life, and I was only a short distance outside before, and I can still find a new street in London that I've never walked down, every day of my life. How cool is that?”

How do you keep yourself up to date with what's happening in London, I asked. As a true blogger she stressed the importance of social media – after all, it was through *twitter* that the pair of us met and arranged to meet up in real life. She also suggested reading online resources such as the *Londonist*, which is free and regularly updated.

For a substantial number of Imperial students arriving to live in London for the first time in their lives – many of whom foreign students

who have never stepped foot on English soil – unfamiliarity of the capital city is often what daunted those fresh faces that traverse the campus. In fact, I was one of them. I asked Laura for any advice on how to make the most out of London.

## “She imparted her wisdom in two memorable words: be spontaneous”

“Don't be afraid of London – it has something for everyone. I love the fact I can visit a science museum in the morning, watch opera in the afternoon, and comedy in the evening. While sampling food from every country in the world.

“And London has so much going on for free that no one seems to hear about. Have you been to the Cigar Museum or the Twining's Tea Museum, or seen the over-stuffed walrus at Horniman Museum? Have you seen the pelicans being fed in St James's Park, or admired the deer in Richmond Park? A walk on Hampstead Heath makes you feel you are no longer in London until you come down the hill and find a great cafe or pub.”

**Needing to escape from academic studies and student hall life? Want to explore London and find its hidden gems but don't know where to start? Log on to Laura's blog ([golondon.about.com](http://golondon.about.com)) or follow her on *twitter* @AboutLondon.**

# My Kenyan holiday with a difference

Seven Imperial medical students travelled to Kenya with the Kenyan Orphan Project this summer, and improved the lives of vulnerable children and orphans. **By Colleen McGregor**

**O**ur first three days were spent in Kochogo, a rural settlement near Kisumu, the third largest city in Kenya. Our first port-of-call was the Kochogo Feeding Centre which provides lunch and dinner to over 150 orphans, many of whom would have otherwise suffered malnutrition and eventual death. The feeding centre also reaches out to the wider community by supporting elderly widows, who are unable to cook for themselves. During our time there, we helped prepare food (one of the Imperial girls skinned a chicken!) and washed dishes but the real joy of working at the feeding centre were the children. We served children their meals, comprising staples such as rice and beans and also ate with them, which gave us our first taste of Kenyan food; *ugali* in particular being very foreign to us all – a dish made of just maize flour and water with an ‘unusual’ consistency.

After lunch we would play with the children, teaching them new games whilst they would teach us their favourite songs and entertain us with their dancing. The children went crazy for our cameras. They never tired of taking photos of themselves with shouts of “me ago, me ago (my go, my go).”

The walls of the feeding centre were noticeably bland and boring; we were tasked with designing and paint murals that were educational and fun. Imperial’s design (by Zainab) taught the children what to eat as part of a balanced diet. Other students continued with

murals teaching the alphabet and hand hygiene; all of which made the feeding centre brighter and more stimulating.

Later we went to the local health centre, which consisted of a small clinic that housed a two-bed observation ward, pharmacy and consultation rooms run by a doctor-led team. While we were there we had the opportunity to clerk patients and conduct our own consultations – diagnosing and planning treatment. It was inspiring to see the doctors and nurses there delivering fantastic care in such difficult circumstances, for example the centre had no electricity and the fridge (which contained vital vaccines) was run by gas cylinders, at great cost to the centre.

Our final day in Kochogo was at the local primary schools. We took it in turns to teach a health related topic, such as schistosomiasis or malaria. Many pupils spoke fluent English as their mother tongue was discouraged in school, so language was hardly a barrier. Although resources were lacking and classrooms were frequently overcrowded, every pupil was diligent and keen to learn – we could barely keep up with all the questions they were asking!

From Kochogo we went to Alendu where we were thoroughly outclassed by the girls from the Alendu Secondary

School. They challenged us to a netball match and though our team ranged in ability, we were determined to win. With only one goal post at either side but no discernable lines to mark out the court – the larger area of play tested our fitness. While we had trainers, the barefooted Alendu girls had the advantage of youth and acclimatisation to the weather. By half time it felt like we’d been playing forever (15 minutes!). We were tired and the Alendu girls were strong. Despite a strong attack and defence, the bell rang and the final score read Alendu 4: KOP 3.

We were in Alendu to help build a school. For many of us building was a new experience but despite the midday heat and our mainly female team, we did remarkably well. Whilst some of us mixed cement on the ground or fetched water and bricks, a few braver team members were up on the roof (via a wooden ladder and no scaffolding) laying bricks.

The final third module was based in the large town Kismusu, where we visited local hospitals and more KOP project partners. Our experiences in the two public hospitals were certainly challenging. Staff and resource shortages were major issues, as was availability of beds. It was not uncommon to see three men sharing one hospital bed and up to 80% of pa-



Grooving with the kids at HOVIC

tients were HIV positive, so HIV-related conditions were common, as were malaria, tuberculosis and other tropical diseases. More emphasis was put on history and examination of the patient, and the staff were amazingly resourceful with the little resources they had.

Finally we visited project partners Vijana Maarufu Development Group (VIMA) and Hope for Victoria Children (HOVIC). VIMA supports underprivileged children by sponsoring their education, ensuring an adequate home environment and providing for their healthcare needs. Each university group supports a project and this year Imperial is backing VIMA. We visited the school of one of the VIMA-supported children, where we lead a Q&A session hosted by the school’s health club. Whilst it was an enjoyable experience, some of the questions were harrowing as they touched on abuse and sexual exploitation. Thankfully we were able to answer the ques-

tions with sensitivity and point the students in the direction of support groups such as VIMA.

HOVIC is a centre for street children; mainly home to boys from 10-18 years old. The centre includes a dining hall, classrooms, workshops, mini library and a nurses’ room – keeping the boys occupied throughout the day. The boys are subject to a routine very much like school and we were able to join them during their sports session, debating society and arts workshop where they taught us to make sculptures out of soapstone.

One of the highlights of our trip was the project party hosted by HOVIC. We enjoyed food and entertainment put on by the youth, from skits to dancing. At one point all of the staff, students and children were dancing together to traditional music under the night sky – a wonderful experience I will never forget.

**“Our experiences in the two public hospitals were certainly challenging”**



Spare time enjoyed by the waterfront... not much of a beach is it?



“Green stripes... must remember to get green stripes...”

Food Editor: Dana Li

## FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Your review

## Yuki says:

"Tasty, Cheap, Genuine" Japanese food is relatively hard to come by. You tend to find yourself in the situation of compromising on at least one of the above; take for example Wagamama, where you can get reasonably cheap food, but you do have the notion in your head that this isn't Japanese food. Usually, the Brewer street area is where you would want to hit, and where I would usually head to is Ten Ten Tei. It's nothing special, but you do get food that you can call Japanese. Portions are very reasonable and you do feel that you have had a good meal."

## Quick home-made pappardelle with tomato sauce



- extra virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and finely sliced
- ½–1 fresh red chilli (halved, deseeded, finely sliced)
- a small bunch of fresh basil, leaves picked
- 1 x 400g can good-quality chopped tomatoes
- 250g fresh lasagne sheets cut into strips
- freshly grated Parmesan cheese, to serve

Heat a good few lugs of olive oil. Fry the garlic and chilli until lightly coloured, then add the basil and chopped tomatoes. Bring to the boil and simmer for about 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Add the pasta and cook until *al dente*. Drain the pasta.

Stir the pasta into the warm sauce. Sprinkle with freshly grated Parmesan cheese and the reserved basil leaves and serve immediately.

## EVENTS

**Sikh Society Cha and Samosa Party**  
**FREE FOOD**  
**13th October. 2pm**  
**Union First Floor Activity Rooms 1&2**

**National Chocolate Week**  
**11-17 October**

## Can't cook, won't...

Standing in the kitchen, food in one hand, pan in the other and the only problem is: you don't know how to cook

Dana Li

Fresh faces, bright red lanyards hanging on freshers' necks and you know it's the new academic year. Hello and welcome! I think this is the special time of the year when I can safely assume that alcohol replaces food entirely in terms of calorie intake.

As Welcome Week comes to an end though, the test for survival for many begins. Students are stereotyped into this savage animal unable to boil an egg, buying 50p Sainsbury's Basics pizzas and spending all their loans on drink. It's not a stereotype. It's probably true. A lot of students in their first year, including me, were faced with the reality of being left alone to our (lack of) culinary skills and a decision to either embrace our inner Delia or rot with starvation. Actually, there was also the option of heading down to any restaurant within a 2 mile radius and pay to be fed in swanky South Kensington. Nice for a while, until the student loan runs painfully dry. The fact is though, you'll learn to cook. These tips will help make it a smoother process:

1. Don't buy your groceries from Whole Foods. Okay maybe just once or twice, but definitely not all the time. Boasting to be the biggest retailer of natural and organic foods, you can find freshly ground peanut butter, a cheese cellar and a grocery section that stocks over a dozen types of tomatoes. Did you even know that that many existed? Hell no. There's even a dedicated trolley escalator. Definitely warrants a visit to ogle at the marvelous selection of foods you didn't even know existed, however I would not recommend a shopping spree here unless you're cooking for the Queen.



How do you know the soup is ready? When the can explodes

"Students are stereotyped into this savage animal unable to boil an egg, buying 50p Sainsbury's Basics pizzas..."

2. Learn from the experts. Delia Smith, Nigella Lawson, Jamie Oliver. We all love them for a reason. Delia even teaches you how to boil an egg! Patronizing, I know. All at the click of a mouse too! I mean touch pad - considering we're all students and decked out with shiny new laptops. Just make sure the laptop doesn't get food spilled onto it. Before you know it,

the laptop you anticipated on using for the next four years has lasted you a grand four days.

3. Cook dinner with friends. It's great if you can find a budding chef in your midst, maybe you can sponge a meal or two from them. If that fails, cooking with your newly-made friends usually makes the daily ritual more pleasant and dinner time in the kitchen far less loner-esque.

4. Check out studentbeans.com for discounts. This site is a godsend when you're planning a meal out. Offers at Pizza Express, La Tasca, and GBK usually mean that the damage done is only around a fiver. There's no reason why you should pay full price when you can reap the benefits of your student status. Just remember to bring a friend! I mean, why wouldn't you...

5. And please, dear God, learn how to not set the toaster on fire.

## Malaysia Kitchen's unexpected hellish nightmare on Trafalgar Square

Dana Li

Last month, Trafalgar Square became home to the biggest crowd of Malaysians I have ever seen in London. 'Malaysia Kitchen' had been advertised for a couple of weeks with posters plastered over Underground walls and food bloggers spreading the word like wildfire. I couldn't decide whether this was an event for the tourists or a more authentic experience for the locals. So on Friday 24th September, I dropped by to see the square turn into quite an impressive *pasar malam* (Malay for "night market") with Londoners gathering *en masse*. It wasn't quite Jalan Alor (a place famed for

old-fashioned food stalls in Kuala Lumpur), but counters representing the many Malaysian restaurants in London were selling the traditional dishes such as *Nasi Lemak* and *Roti Canai*.

The event began with a stunning start when I waited thirty minutes to be served five satay skewers at Puji Puji. Why? Because they were the only stall that night to have a resident grill, due to Health and Safety being a spoilsport and not allowing grills inside the tents. The crowd looked more like a mosh pit than an innocent queue for satay. Was it worth it? Sort of. Personally I was expecting better food on the night, considering these were restaurants that normally charged over twenty quid per person.

I guess it's unfair to judge the event because the food was mass produced and the use of paper bowls and plates whilst jostling around the hordes of people made it hell on earth. At least people dodged out the way for fear of *Laksa* spilt on their Burberry bags. But street food, typical of a *pasar malam*, was severely lacking.

What's more? Food ran out at 7pm and led to the hungry turning to nearby Chinatown for an antidote.

There's a silver lining however: Malaysia Kitchen have a Dining Card that offers 20% off at restaurants including Awana in South Kensington and Kiasu in Bayswater so check it out at [www.malaysiakitchen.co.uk](http://www.malaysiakitchen.co.uk) for details!

# There's no need to rush in for Felix on a **Friday morning**



Read the week's issue  
online at [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)  
from 7am every  
Friday morning



Last year, **Felix** almost  
got **sued**, went to the  
**London Film Festival**, we  
bagged ourselves **free**  
**tickets** to every major  
UK festival, **skipped**  
some lectures, made  
a few **life-long friends**,  
and offended a **priest...**



**And best of all, it  
didn't cost a penny**

**So why not  
join us?**

Felix is Imperial's student newspaper. Every student can contribute; previous experience isn't necessary, enthusiasm is our only requirement. Simply email Editor **Kadhim Shubber** at **felix@imperial.ac.uk** with the words "Hi, I want to get involved in the newspaper." Go on. It'll be fun.



# HANGMAN



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Twitter



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

FFS Cammy! wat u dun to the welfare system?



**Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!**

lol. duno, just been clickin random buttons on my laptop and hopin for da best. Since wen hav u cared bout welfare anyway?



**SexyOsama69**

since he's been on da dole lol



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

I'm not on the dole, I'm on job-seekers allowance. cba to work though. gona exploit sum loop-holes lol. Any1 for halo reach?



**Barack\_attack\_133thaxor**

I'm not playin if Osie is just gona keep throwin grenades at his feet and shoutin 'Allahu Akbar lol'.



**SexyOsama69**

lol

## Join the Felix Team!

**Come to our Meet-and-Greet on Tuesday 12th October**



**12:00 - 13:00**  
**Student Activity Space**  
**(first floor of the Union)**

# Hangman loses friends and alienates himself... but Felix is still shit

If you're new to Imperial, you're most certainly new to Felix. And of all the people writing for Felix, I should definitely not be the one trying to sell it as the esteemed and cherished student newspaper it so wants to be. But I'm still going to do it.

Firstly let's give a brief overview of our new Editor-in-chief, Kadhim Shubber. Well, that's enough about our Editor-in-Chief, so onto the front page. This is here to remind you that Imperial College has a union and that it fucks everything up, whilst remaining agonisingly boring. Not to worry though, if the uninspired headline fails to draw your attention, there's a column of mundane, and frankly desperate, pull-quotes sitting next to a photo of a sabbatical holding a small wad of cash and looking anxious – because they've presumably fucked everything up and it's something to do with money.

If you're stupid enough to have opened up the newspaper, you will probably see a picture of the Editor-in-chief, Kadhim Shubber. I really don't think I need to say anything more about him, so let's just move on. Oh bloody hell, there's a whole double-page spread dedicated solely to the aforementioned headline story. Small font, long words, something about the rector – turn the page. Make sure you do it fast and loud, whilst shaking your head and tutting. It's not a real newspaper, but you can at least read it like one.

With a good deal of histrionic page-turning, you should swiftly reach the comment section having only read one word – Kadhim. The comment section is now an established religion. You have the venerated Gilead Amit, God of knowledge and language; the misanthropic acrimonious prince of darkness, Angry Geek; and then that crazy bearded naked guy in the street screaming at passers-by to repent their sins, whilst pissing on them; Rhys Davies. Unfortunately the religion also comes with its fair share of irritating preachers, or born-again commentians, who are under the delusion that people actually read their pieces. Comment is Free, but your opinions are shit, so don't bother.

Now you have the arduous task of sifting

**“Oh this is just a shocking reminder that the human body is truly a hideous thing, skip, skip, skip – finally! The puzzles!”**



Alryt love? I'll do your crossword... eh? eh?  
Yeah I know this is a shit caption, but it's fucking 4am in the morning...

through pages of more inflated opinion, but in specific fields of interest. World news - as long as it doesn't affect me, I don't care; Science – I got my place at Imperial so I don't need to pretend to have an extra-curricular interest in science anymore; Politics – We have a deficit. This annoys people. Oh, you can apparently write that with a lot more words; Music – gig reviews of bands I've never heard of and certainly won't listen to – skip; Film – out with the old pretentious critic and in with the new – oh, a pretentious film critic - skip; CENTREFOLD – THAT is our netball team!?! Are you serious? I thought pseudo-sports were invented for the sole purpose of endorsing slutty attire and a purely aesthetic-based recruiting system. Oh this is just a shocking reminder that the human body can truly be a hideous thing, skip, skip, skip – finally! The puzzles!

Nothing makes me more uncomfortable than watching Imperial students doing puzzles. It's their eyes, the intensity; the intimacy. It's like they see numbers on a grid, and want to fuck it. Harmless puzzles quickly evolve into sordid sex games. 'What if I put my number eight there? Do you like that baby? You want a three here? Well if you like it filthy then why don't I stick my number four in – oh shit! I'm so sorry, I didn't realise there was already a four in this column. Yeah, I know where to put it ok!?! This isn't my first time! I've just never done this with such a sexy Sudoku before.'

Yeah I tend to stay away from the puzzles, and the people that do the puzzles. And pretty much everyone does the puzzles, so what does that say about me? Nice to meet you and welcome to Felix :D

**A Warm Welcome From Hangman (and a pledge to end political correctness!)**



Yehhh. I said it... Do your worst

Humans, douchebags, nerds; welcome to the sick and twisted world of Hangman. I use short sentences because I want to seem punchy and melodramatic. Actually it's because I'm attached to a ventilator. And I still use Primary school guidelines for punctuation. Commas are for short breaths. And full stops are for. Are for. Are for. long. Long br-..... [BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEP!]

I'm not really on a ventilator, but I do fantasise about the idea - You're effectively half man, half machine! Like Robocop! Or that guy with the prosthetic leg who can play basketball! If it means that I can be legally registered as cyborg, I'll collapse one of my lungs right now! I might even be allowed to take the Turing test, although they'd probably catch me out with some cheap trick question like 'Are you a robot? No means yes and yes means yes'.

Ventilators and cyborg basketball players aside, I've set out this year to clean up my act and take a more sophisticated- soppisstica-soppi – a more good approach to my writing. This is a new year, a new editor and a new Hangman, so let me assure you that I'm on no agenda to offend any Christians, lesbians or Muslims. (Definitely not Muslims)

If, however, I do somehow manage to commit libel, slander, harassment or an attack against a minority group (e.g. Dwarves or wheelchair people) then Kadhim should go down for it and not me. Please don't hesitate to send him a complaint at felix@imperial.ac.uk. I'm a racist chauvinistic Nationalist far-right Totalitarian far-left illegal immigrant/part-time ballet teacher – he knew what he was signing on for. And it wasn't for discount ballet lessons. Well actually it was for discount ballet lessons.

# THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



## Fire Service admit that blaze was “probably a four-man job”

Aunty McPickle is here to solve all of your problems



Dear Aunty McPickle,

I really really really want to pull a Fresher. Not just pull a Fresher but also get down to some serious nasty bed-time fun. But someone told me that Freshers were born in 1992, how can I live with the age difference?

Yours Sincerely,  
**Horribly Old**

Dear Horribly Old,

This is a rather intractable problem (if I could make you younger I would!) One solution would be to make yourself feel younger. You could start by shaving all your pubic hair, I hear that pre-pubescent is the in-thing this season. Or that's what I gather from the news, everyone seems to be after the kiddies. Personally I blame Labour...

Use moisturiser,  
Aunty McPickle

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I was thinking, if you wanted, you know to maybe go out for dinner sometime? And then we could maybe go to my room in halls afterwards? My roommate won't mind, he's always playing WoW. I actually took a wank on his bed and he didn't notice... but that's another story...

Sincerely,  
**Eager Fresher**

Dear Eager Fresher,

Oooh that sounds absolutely lovely! I would definitely love to do that, I need to get out of the house, the cats are getting cranky. I'm free on Tuesday and then after that on Friday (I need a few days in between to clear out the 'gunk' if you know what I mean. I'm sure you... you lovely boy.)

Excitedly,  
Aunty McPickle

# Horoscopes

## Aries

This week you notice you've turned into a fly. You spend the rest of the day bumping into a window. When you realise that it's no worse than your normal life you shed a fly-tear and write a little fly-suicide note to your non-existent friends.

## Gemini

This week you seriously doubt your ability to hold a conversation with another human being. To try and dispel your doubts you go to a strip club by yourself. Hey I didn't say it had to make sense, just be glad that you're finally getting to see some titties.

## Leo

This week you hold a dead fish in your hand. You don't let go. Months pass and the rotting shrivelled mess has seriously infected your hand. On the last day of term, you take the stinking fish and make a Fresher eat it. BANTER!!! WHahey!!! You LAD!!!

## Libra

This week you're puking up your guts when a thought suddenly hits you; can you create the siphon effect by re-directing your vomit 'back in'. With a bit of tubing you succeed! Hurrah for science! Unfortunately your roommate is also excited... There's no escape...

## Sagittarius

This week you are some rude-boy Asian cunt. You can't get into Beit Hall so you ask me to let you in. I don't have access so I say no. You call me a "fag." I am still angry about this. I hope you die. That's all. If you're not this guy, you have a lovely week :)

## Aquarius

This week you get to have a go in a Zorb-ball. Unfortunately you quickly suffocate as your friends have duct taped all the air-holes coz they were "only being LADS." As per your will, you are not buried but instead left to rot in Alan Davies' front garden.

## Taurus

This week you smile and THEN FUCKING SNAP AND PUSH A PENCIL UP YOUR ARSEHOLE!!!

## Cancer

This week you realise that your fingertips are really sweaty. You lick them, mmm that's good. Your friends agree. You start a business selling your severed fingertips. After selling your first batch you realise you have serious supply issues and go bust...

## Virgo

This week you take a massive dump in the library toilets. You get up and look at the horrible brown explosive mess. And then you don't flush. And the next person to use the cubicle cries because your nut-filled mahogany log looks like their dead pet dog.

## Scorpio

This week you're happy... just for a second...

and then you're miserable again...

## Capricorn

This week you touch up your personal tutor. I think he's enjoying it. Yeh he's totally getting off on it. You open your eyes and realise it's actually your mate, but not your mate, your mum, but not your mum your kid sister and... well you can see where I'm going with this

## Pisces

This week drug-crazed laser bird dogs swoop down from the sky and steal your lecture notes. You shake your fist at them. When they see your vintage fist shaking they return and slice your throat with their titanium talons...

Sports Editor: Jovan Nedic

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## SPORT

インペリアルカレッジ  
ロンドン  
日本旅行

# The Adventures of Hugh Jarman and his Wandering Band of

## Gaijin by Jovan Nedic

sponsored by:




City & Guilds College Association  
EXCELLENCE IN ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT

### results

Game 1		Game 4	
Kyoto 1st XV	19	Tokyo 1st XV	32
Imperial 1st XV	61	Imperial 1st XV	5
Game 2		Game 5	
Kyoto 2nd XV	32	Kokushikan 1st XV	26
Imperial 2nd XV	19	Imperial 2nd XV	0
Game 3		Game 6	
YCAC 1st XV	42	Osaka UHS 1st XV	61
Imperial 2nd XV	21	Imperial 1st XV	5

Not since the 50's and 60's has the Imperial College Union Rugby Football Club (ICURFC) sent so many tourists on an international tour. This summer, 41 members of ICURFC went on a gruelling 18-day tour to the land of the rising sun, visiting the ancient capitals of Nara and Kyoto, as well as the more modern cities of Tokyo and Osaka.

As we arrived at Kansai Airport in Osaka, we were pleased to see that one of our tourists had arrived safely and was waiting for us with a sign - as if it would have been difficult to miss 40 rugby lads, all wearing matching suits! Also waiting for us at the airport were representatives from Kyoto University Rugby Club, who had arranged for a coach to take us to our hostel in central Kyoto. A couple of hours later, we were at our hostel and were settling in to the two floors that had been assigned to us.

Our first set of games were the following morning against Kyoto University, the alma mater of South Kensington Kai President Shunichi Nakamura, however, this did not deter some of the lads to go out in search of bars and were feeling the effects of both jet lag and a hangover as they got on the bus. As we pulled into

the grounds in Kobe, we quickly noticed there was quite a large crowd - this we were definitely not expecting.

First up on the schedule were the Imperial 1st XV, more commonly known as the Imperial Ninjas, well at least on this tour they were... Despite the heat and humidity, the Ninjas put in a great performance with Centre Joseph Brown scoring a hat-trick and Full Back Kieran Burge slotting 90% of his kicks that gave the Ninjas a 61-19 win. Not a bad way to start the tour! The Imperial 2nd XV a.k.a the Imperial Barbarians put in a brave performance against a Kyoto side that saw many of their Old Boys', however, the jet-lag, humidity and, ultimately, their hangovers, caused them to make small mistakes. In the end, the Kyoto 2nd XV came away victorious, winning the game 34-19.

After the game, we received our first taste of Japanese hospitality, and it definitely took us by surprise! Waiting for us in the function room were tables of beer, sushi and fried chicken (!); not only that, but Kyoto players, both past and present had arrived in great numbers to greet the touring side. After some chit-chat over some sushi and Asahi beer, the formal presentation and speeches commenced. In an effort to sound clever,

“It wasn't long before we found our way to the Karaoke Bars where drinks were free with the singing...”

Tour Manager Jovan Nedic, decided that his speech would be in Japanese and quickly scribbled down some phrases on the back of a plastic plate. Luckily the hosts seemed to understand, but just in case they didn't, Club Captain Tim Burr repeated the speech in English and also presented the Club with an IC shield, playing jersey and a silver tankard. That evening was definitely a memorable experience with the two clubs exchanging rugby culture - them, singing their club song to us, whilst we presented them with an Imperial College London tankard, full of beer and a rousing round of “Get it down, you Zulu warrior!”

There was a whole week until the next game and that time was spent sightseeing the temples and shrines of Kyoto and Nara during the day, whilst socialising with our Kyoto hosts in the evening. It wasn't long before we found our way to the Karaoke bars where we also discovered that drinks were free with the singing - it was going to be a good night...

As the week came to an end, we said farewell to Kyoto and set off on the Shinkansen for Tokyo. It was here that we truly began to see the benefit of having a Japanese speaker in the touring party, as Hugh Jarman ensured that we got on the right trains. Despite his use-



A group of intrepid travellers make it to the summit of Mount Fuji

\* Have a look at our Tour DVD at [icurf.co.uk/tour/japan/japan.html](http://icurf.co.uk/tour/japan/japan.html) and you'll see what we mean!

# SPORT



The drum show in Osaka after the game



TOP: Imperial on the attack against Kyoto Imperial University  
LEFT: Receiving the Samurai helmet in Osaka

ful translation of the maps, I decided to ignore the fact that there was a subway station opposite our hostel and claimed that 400m was not that much of a walk... after 1.2km and with 20kg of luggage in wheelie bags that didn't really work, we realised that we probably should have listened to Hugh! At times, it was definitely Hugh who was leading this wandering group of foreigners, or gaijin as we were referred to in the streets!

Our first two games in Tokyo were both at the Tokyo University Komaba campus; the first fixture was against Yokohama Country and Athletic Club - an ex-pat team - for the 2nd XV, whilst the 1st XV played Tokyo University, who it turns out had spoken to Kyoto and brought in some alumni players from the last decade to bolster their side. This was not going to be a good day

for Ninja's, as ill-discipline and lack of composure set in, with three yellow cards being brandished for the game against Tokyo, the first of which was for the Tokyo flanker straight after the kick-off. The Barbarians had a rare luxury for their game, an English referee who played Northern Hemisphere rugby. This meant that scrums were straight and rapid for a change! After a shaky start, which saw Richard 'Chumble' Simons summersault after jumping into a tackle, the Barbarians found their feet and put together some good phases, however, their fitness gave way and Yokohama went on to win the game.

Three days later, the 2nd XV had their last game of tour against Kokushikan University, however, despite their best efforts, were unable to win the game, but were able to come away with some

excellent presents.

Whilst in Tokyo, the Club made a trip to Mount Fuji, determined to reach the summit and make it back to the hostel all in one day. After several warnings from locals about the cold and altitude sickness, the touring party set off on the eight hour climb, but as the hours went on, the numbers climbing began to dwindle and in the end, only a few made it to the summit. One of the touring party members even managed to reach the summit and make it back to the bus station in five hours, a remarkable achievement!

After spending a week in Tokyo, the touring party made its way to the final destination of Osaka, where the 1st XV would play Osaka University

Health and Sports Science. The game was very tough and demanding on the players, and at half time, Imperial were narrowly losing 14-5, however, their superior fitness showed and Osaka went on to win the game 61-5. After the game, we were yet again blown away with the Japanese hospitality, not only were we given a commemorative t-shirt each, but they also presented the Club with a Samurai helmet, a present that will definitely have to reside behind a glass cabinet! If that was not enough, they also organised a mesmerizing Japanese Drum performance, where we were even allowed a go to create our own beat, however, it definitely lacked any sort of tune!

The tour was exciting, it was exhilarating and it was exhausting, but it was an experience that the players will never forget, and it would not have been possible without the generous support from Sport Imperial and the Old Centralians' Trust.

A big thank you to you all.

Oh, and one more thing, I motherfucking heart the J-Pan!\*



## SPORT

## Felix Sports League



sponsored by

**ERNST & YOUNG**  
 Quality In Everything We Do

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Volleyball M1	10	10	0	0	20	1	19	5.00
2 Fencing W1	10	10	0	0	1338	863	475	5.00
3 ICSM Rugby M1	14	12	1	1	512	159	353	4.14
4 Volleyball W1	9	8	0	1	17	4	13	4.00
5 Rugby M1	14	11	2	1	470	88	382	3.93
6 Lacrosse W1	8	7	0	1	145	21	124	3.88
7 Squash M3	7	6	0	1	15	6	9	3.71
8 ICSM Badminton M1	9	7	1	1	55	17	38	3.67
9 Netball W2	9	7	1	1	308	184	124	3.67
10 ICSM Netball W2	10	7	2	1	421	290	131	3.50
11 Table Tennis M1	11	9	0	2	130	57	73	3.36
12 Badminton M1	11	8	1	2	54	34	20	3.09
13 Squash W1	11	6	4	1	30	14	16	3.09
14 Lacrosse M1	8	5	1	2	73	54	19	2.38
15 Fencing M1	10	7	0	3	1247	1022	225	2.30
16 Hockey W1	11	7	1	3	51	14	37	2.27
17 ICSM Hockey M1	11	7	1	3	39	23	16	2.27
18 Squash M1	9	6	0	3	27	18	9	2.00
19 Badminton M2	11	6	1	4	53	35	18	1.45
20 Football M1	11	6	1	4	32	26	6	1.45
21 ICSM Netball W1	10	6	0	4	378	314	64	1.40
22 Tennis M1	12	5	3	4	70	49	21	1.25
23 Tennis M2	9	5	0	4	46	44	2	1.00
24 Squash M4	9	5	0	4	15	12	3	1.00
25 Hockey M2	9	3	3	3	19	19	0	1.00
26 Netball W1	11	6	0	5	450	393	57	0.91
27 Football M3	7	3	1	3	8	18	-10	0.71
28 Basketball M1	8	4	0	4	500	509	-9	0.50
29 Fencing W2	10	5	0	5	1052	1235	-183	0.50
30 ICSM Hockey W2	10	3	3	4	11	29	-18	0.50
31 Badminton W1	10	3	3	4	43	37	6	0.50
32 Hockey W2	10	4	1	5	20	29	-9	0.20
33 ICSM Hockey M3	8	3	1	4	15	29	-14	0.13
34 ICSM Hockey W1	9	4	0	5	28	23	5	0.00
35 Squash M2	9	4	0	5	18	27	-9	0.00
36 Fencing M3	10	4	0	6	1054	1163	-109	-0.40
37 ICSM Football M1	7	2	1	4	9	14	-5	-0.57
38 Rugby Union M2	12	4	0	8	222	167	55	-1.00
39 Football M2	12	4	0	8	20	30	-10	-1.00
40 Netball W3	9	3	0	6	189	281	-92	-1.00
41 Tennis W1	11	2	2	7	35	75	-40	-1.27
42 Rugby M3	10	2	1	7	103	258	-155	-1.60
43 Rugby Union M4	9	2	0	7	79	220	-141	-2.00
44 ICSM Netball W3	8	1	1	6	193	282	-89	-2.13
45 Hockey M1	9	1	1	7	17	31	-14	-2.33
46 ICSM Rugby M2	12	2	0	10	181	371	-190	-2.50
47 ICSM Hockey M2	8	0	2	6	8	34	-26	-2.50
48 ICSM Rugby M3	12	1	0	11	122	385	-263	-3.25
49 ICSM Football M2	8	0	1	7	6	36	-30	-3.25
50 Football W1	8	0	1	7	2	52	-50	-3.25
51 ICSM Hockey W3	8	0	1	7	7	66	-59	-3.25
52 ICSM Football M2	7	0	0	7	5	35	-30	-4.00

## Welcome

to the Felix Sports League, now in its fourth year and going from strength to strength. Unlike the Union and Sport Imperial Awards, this is purely based on your performance compared to the rest of the College teams. Only BUCS league games count, so if you're not on their website, you're not in the league; apologies also to the ULU teams, but we can't fit you all on here. The system is simple, you win a game, you get 5 points; you draw a game, you get 2 points, but if you lose a game, you are deducted 4 points. All scores are then normalised by the number of games played to get the final index score. At the end of the year, the winning team get a brand new set of polo-shirts, kindly provided by our sponsors Ernst & Young. We've left in the results from last year so you can see how your team did. Good luck everyone!

## Tennis Club in Recruiting Drive

Robert Bush

This summer saw the tennis club travelling to Valencia for their first competitive tour in a decade, to Croatia in September for some warm weather pre-season training and then back to Spain and Palma de Mallorca to try to recruit some Spanish talent for the new season.

Although the first two trips were not too suc-

cessful, the Mallorca trip proved to be highly successful. After an exodus of players from both men's teams and the women's team, the president of the tennis club, Robert Bush, managed to sign up Rafael Nadal just two weeks before the season kick-off. The player was signed up at Palma de Mallorca airport and will be combining the end of year masters at the O2 where Roger Federer and Andy Murray will be competing, with matches against UCL 1st, LSE

1st & 2nd and Brighton University. Unfortunately, the tennis club still needs several players so please check out our website at [www.union.ic.ac.uk/tennis](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/tennis) for more information on how to try out. Alternatively email [lawn.tennis@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:lawn.tennis@imperial.ac.uk).

We have two training sessions a week for everyone and you can try-out for the match team throughout the year as you improve with our coaching.



Left: IC tennis competes against Spanish opposition in 35°C temperatures. Right: Rafael Nadal is signed up to play for the Men's 1st team against UCL, LSE and Brighton

## Imperial to host Japanese Olympic Team

Imperial have signed an agreement with the Japanese Olympic Committee that will see the Olympic athletes and their supporters using Imperial facilities during the 2012 Olympic Games.

During the Games, which will be held in the East End of London, the Japanese athletes and supporters will have access to training facilities at Ethos. College is currently working with the JOC, exploring other venues that could also be used. They will also be offered accommodation in Princes Gardens. The Japanese Judo and Wrestling teams will have access to the sports hall in Ethos, where they will be able to practice before heading over to the ExCel arena where they will fight for the gold medals.

The signing ceremony, held at 170 Queen's Gate, was attended by an array of delegates from both parties, including Imperial Rector Sir Keith O'Nions and

Mr Kubota from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, who signed the agreement.

Imperial's Rector, Sir Keith O'Nions, said: "I'm delighted that the Japanese Olympic Committee wishes to use our facilities for the Games. It seems particularly fitting given our great international mix of staff and students, and our position here in the cultural heartland of London. I wish the Japanese Olympic team the very best of luck in the Games."

This agreement with the JOC has been in the pipe-line for several months, working closely with Loughborough University to secure the partnership. Before coming to Imperial in the summer, the Japanese athletes will have their pre-Games training at Loughborough University.



Rector Sir Keith O'Nions and Japanese Ministry Official Mr Kubota sign the agreement

# SPORT

## Sport, it's the same as war, apart from all the killing and stuff...

Another year, another season and for some bizarre reason, I am still here! On top of that, I'm back doing the same section I started doing four years ago – well, the last time I did this section we won paper of the year, so you never know...

I've been at Imperial for so long that I've gone full circle with the calendar dates. Yes, on this date six years ago I was hitting *daVinci's* and *dB's*, what you guys now call *FiveSixEight* and *Metric* (not that they were open during ~~Freshers' Week~~ Welcome Week), for the last night of Freshers' Week - which, thanks to the geniuses in the Union building is now called Welcome Week. And what reason do they give for this – 'oh the postgraduates feel left out and don't get involved as much as the first year students'. Of course I fucking don't, I've already done one freshers' week and it was a killer to the liver, why the fuck would I want to do it again? And on top of that, I've got work to do! But at least you have got the post-grad Mingle tomorrow...

Anyway, so by now you have had your introductory lecture, some of you would have had a surprise test that you probably weren't expecting, but more importantly you went to Freshers' Fair and found some clubs and societies to get involved with. Some of you even had the excitement of trials on Wednesday before hitting the Union for your first Sports Night (again, another thing that no longer exists!) So what's next?

Expect a few events to get yourself better acquainted with the rest of your team-mates; a Club Captains' Welcome Drinks or a Freshers' Tour somewhere should do the trick. If all else fails, there

is the ever-dependable ACC bar night that will definitely ease you in. Soon enough, you will have learnt about your team-mates, learnt a few songs to sing in the bar, and most importantly, you will have learnt who the old foe is!

Seeing as I am getting on a bit, I hope you will allow me to impart some wisdom and advice to you all. It is through competition and rivalry that you find loyalty and a sense of belonging. The extreme of this is obviously war, with loyal soldiers fighting to protect their way of life. Sports offer the same sense of loyalty and camaraderie, but obviously without the killing - just look at the thousands of fans that go to watch their club or country play every week. The same happens at university.

Every week you run out onto the pitch, court or pool (probably shouldn't run to the pool, wet floors and all that...) ready to represent your team, your club and your university against an opposition who are ready to do the same. When we have a common enemy, that is when we all come together and rally behind the Imperial banner, or the Medicals banner, as the teams do battle against the old enemy! This sense of loyalty and the accompanied rivalry is why the students who play sports (there are a few other non-sporting examples) become one of the most involved alumni, regularly keeping in touch with the club. Some even have alumni teams that play on Saturdays. But this rivalry is capable of bringing so many alumni together, not just the sporty types. Just look at the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, the RSM-CSM Bottle Match or any College Football game in the USA. Alumni come in their hundreds and thousands to watch their alma matter play against the old en-



**Jovan Nedic**

emy, some giving generous donations to make sure that they keep on beating the old enemy. Imperial's rivalry between the College and the Medicals is slowly building up and every year, more and more people are turning up to the JPR Williams Cup in particular. Who knows, we might eventually get enough people coming back to support that the game would have to move to bigger venues, like that stadium in Twickenham...

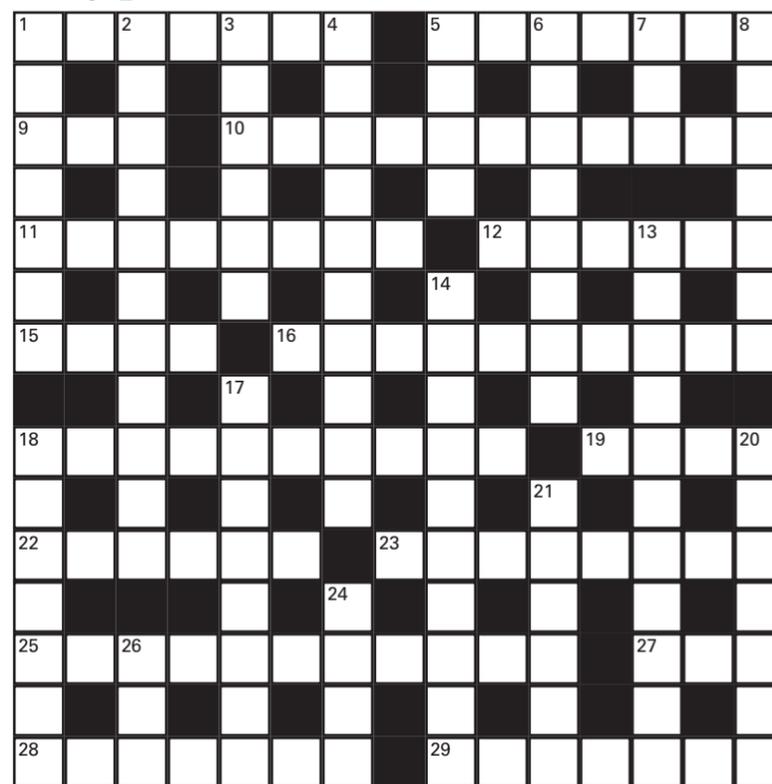
If you are reading this and you are not part of some team (and this does not necessarily mean a sports team), I urge you to join some club or society because even though they will take up some of your time now, they will introduce you to some of your closest friends for years to come! Plus it will give you something to talk about in interviews.

Like I said, I've been here for a while and won't be around for ever, so I would love it if I could get someone else to get involved with the sports section. If you're interested, send me an email at sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk!

So what's new this year? Well as you may have noticed, we've managed to get a sponsor for the sports section, which can only mean good things for you! Winners of the sports league, which has grown from strength to strength, will receive polo shirts sponsored by Ernst & Young and we are also thinking of getting a shield to go in the Union Bar so that everyone can know who the best team at Imperial really are! We're also planning on having a Sports in Brief section, where we would like all the captains to send a quick e-mail after their game on Wednesday, letting us know how they went on.

So, here we go again, good luck everyone, and keep us informed.

## Cryptic Crossword 1,435



**ACROSS**

- 1. Imaginary number, perhaps? (7)
- 5. Molko fooling around with Catholic, one of Wells' worst people (7)
- 9. *Synthesis* director starts to rehearse next act (1,1,1)
- 10. Public love group is not working (3,2,6)
- 11. Size up and eat value meal (8)
- 12. Bum wipe (6)
- 15. Thank you, thank you, and goodbye! (2-2)
- 16. How the hare and the tortoise got on? Yes and no! (10)
- 18. Kids' TV character confused with stamp on tap (7,3)
- 19. Probe drain (4)
- 22. Where *Central Station* is bracketed by Depardieu stonkers (6)
- 23. Inclined to put oneself down (8)
- 25. Like diarrhoea, for instance, might this be irregular? (11)
- 27. Bar man (3)
- 28. Characters playing thereat? (7)
- 29. Hanging cloth cut short with final alteration (7)

**DOWN**

- 1. Tense model (7)
- 2. Immersing themselves later, these people spat at basin originally (1,1)
- 3. Leaving book (6)
- 4. Stretches out dated pieces of music (10)
- 5. Poor player needs something to keep hands warm (4)
- 6. Gollum's "nice and cool" items found in natural aquarium (4,4)
- 7. University unit makes agreement for French (3)
- 8. Former Lib Dem leader is victim of assassination (7)
- 13. *Insomnia* theme tune? (6,5)
- 14. Scuba amateur initially quit, flailing underwater (10)
- 17. I'm spanking but unable to come (8)
- 18. Current grant (7)
- 20. Knight errant quietly beheaded Crusaders' chief opponent (7)
- 21. Climber, we hear, is sizeable but directionless (6)
- 24. A fair lot, reportedly (4)
- 26. Prompt's line heard (3)



Texas State get this many people to their football games... MENTAL

Scribble box... this won't be here next week



Photo by Geoff Webber



Imperial fencers Henry Gann and Maiyuran Ratneswaran (left) with their gold medals

# Imperial fencers bring home the gold for England

## Gold and silver medals for Imperial fencers at the Commonwealth Championships

**Jack Patten**

The Commonwealth Fencing Championships, held in Melbourne, Australia this year, have got off to an excellent start, particularly from Imperial's point of view.

Three Imperial fencers were chosen for various national squads, and have been doing a fantastic job against some stiff opposition. Fencing epee for Wales, former Imperial Club President, Emily Bottle, came in a respectable 23rd despite having spent most of the year battling injuries, making her the best Welsh epeeist. She did well enough in her poule that she didn't have to fence the first round of direct elimination, but was knocked out in the next round, with a 15/7 score line, by English fencer Mary Cohen who ended placed 7th.

There have been some impressive sabre victories for Imperial fencers. Henry Gann and Maiyuran Ratneswaran were both selected for the English side, and have been putting in some excellent results. Henry was overall placed 27th having, as Emily, done well enough in his pool

that he missed the first direct elimination round, only to be knocked out in the next round, with a 15/13 score line, by fellow English team member Gildas Braine, who finished in 7th place.

Maiyuran had an excellent competition, leaving a trail of impressive fencers in his wake, winning every match in his pool, and then setting impressively one-sided scores in all of the direct elimination matches, 15/6, 15/7, 15/10, 15/7. In the final he faced off against team mate Anthony Crutchett, losing by only one hit, 15/14, to gain a silver medal.

In the team sabre event, the English team faced off against India first, having not had to fight the first round by having the highest seeding. The team smashed India 45/27, meaning that all they had to do was beat Australia, who had been putting up almost as impressive scores, to be Commonwealth champions.

In the end it wasn't even close, with the English team winning 45/36, securing a gold medal for both of Imperial's fencers. Congratulations to all our fencers, who have done spectacularly at this event!

## Better than all the rest, well in London at least

**Jovan Nedic**

This year's British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) Championships' national ranking are out, with Imperial climbing five places to become the 17th best in the UK. Not only that, but this rise to 17th place means that Imperial was ranked the best sporting institution in London, surpassing Brunel University.

It is no great secret that the Boat Club bring in a boat load of points and it was no surprise that yet again they managed to bring in more points than all the other teams combined. Some of the other big winners have included snooker and men's volleyball who won gold at the BUCS Championships, as well as several judo and fencers who won individual gold medals.

Neil Mosley, Head of Sport Imperial commented on the news, saying that: "I'm really delighted with the continued success we've had in BUCS competitions. We are now competing successfully with massive universities who focus on sport. The pleasing thing is now the range of sports that we are competitive in. Our fencers proved we are the number one university in that sport and as well as continued high performance in rowing, we have excelled in squash, judo, water polo and volleyball to name but a few."



Fencing club after their tremendous performance at the BUCS Championships last year