

“Keep the Cat Free”

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FELIX



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The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

Asbestos delays Metric club launch

The hotly anticipated new Union club, Metric, will not open on Friday 29th October as planned and will be delayed until the end of November. **Page 2**

New postgraduate campus given green light by Council

Hammersmith & Fulham Council approve plans for an extensive new campus at Wood Lane. **Page 6**

Imperial graduates to trek entire length of New Zealand

Alexander ‘Anders’ Ford and Landey Paton will attempt to traverse the Te Araroa Trail this November. **Page 38**



Science escapes worst of cuts

**Matthew Colvin
Katherine Bettany
Sophia David**

In the controversial Spending Review presented to Parliament on Wednesday, George Osborne revealed the details of the UK’s deepest spending cuts for decades, designed to reduce our budget deficit by £83 billion pounds before 2014/15.

With Britain paying £120 million a day in debt interest alone, and total debt expected to hit £900 billion in the coming years, it is clear that spending cuts are necessary. In what was described as an ‘irresponsible gamble’ by opposition leader Ed Milliband, Osborne unveiled a four-year plan designed to “bring Britain back from the brink”; focusing on reform, fairness and economic growth. The clear message of the review was the need for economic sustainability, achieved by eliminating waste and reducing spending on welfare by £7 billion a year.

Whilst sectors like education of the young and healthcare were protected in Wednesday’s review, it is clear that universities (despite being deemed the “jewels of the economic crown” by the Chancellor) will face tough economic times ahead. With the budget for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills being slashed by 7.1% on Wednesday, student and teaching populations are sure to start feeling the effects of the cuts. The department, which is in charge of universities, had already been told to make £800 million worth of savings in May. In addition, the reformation of tuition fees (building on the Browne review this month) was confirmed. However, in a surprising twist, it was announced that the science ‘cash’ budget would be protected, frozen at £4.6 billion a year. The Chancellor expressed the need to increase Britain’s ‘scientific output’, and

...Continued on Page 4

Drawing by Mitesh Patel



ON THE RUN FROM THE POLICE

PAGE 7

TECHNOLOGY



The future’s bright for Facebook as it takes on Google: **Page 14**

FASHION



London faces up to its crimes against fashion: **Page 27**

GAMES



Sonic the Hedgehog returns to a lukewarm reception: **Page 35**

HIGHLIGHTS

On campus

Careers Fair 2010

The Union Careers Fair is the perfect place to start thinking about your future. Over 60 companies are attending and it's a fantastic opportunity to meet some of them and network with current professionals. The fair is relevant to students from all years and disciplines.

Queen's Lawn Marquee
27 October 11:00-16:00

Charity Week 2010

This annual fundraising week sees the Islamic Society go all out with stalls, food and games to raise money for orphans and needy children across the world. Evening events include the Ultimate Quiz Show on Tuesday 5pm, and Panto Slumdog Millionaire 2 on Thursday 7pm.



SAF, JCR and Princes Gardens
25-29 October 11:30-14:30PM

Economy and Climate

Professor Michael Ghil from the University of California delivers this seminar in the Grantham Institute for Climate Change's weekly Wednesday seminars series. He will explore coupled dynamic modelling of the world economy, business cycle and climate system. Grantham Institute seminars are open to student and staff members of Imperial College.

Boardroom, Grantham Institute
27 October 16:00

EDITOR'S PICK

The Best of Felix This Week



Imperial graduate rules the airwaves

And who said that Imperial students can't go on to careers outside science or banking? This week Music Editor **Greg Power** interviews Martin Archer, an Imperial Physics graduate who DJs for Kiss Radio, but is now returning to Imperial for a PhD. The interview is a must-read for those thinking about embarking on an unconventional career path as well as DJing enthusiasts keen to stay at the cutting edge of the profession.

Union Elections

Council

Union Autumn Elections 2010

Election season has already started at Imperial College Union. The first round of elections has opened for Undergraduate Faculty Councillors (Engineering, Natural Sciences and Medicine and Non-Faculty), two postgraduate representatives (Engineering & Physical Sciences and Life Sciences & Medicine), Union Advocate, First Year Ents Committee Member, S.H.A.G. Week Coordinator and Gender Equality Officer. You can vote at www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote. Voting closes on the 26 October at 00:00. Good luck to all those standing. To those who aren't, make your votes count.

Breaking news

Metric launch delayed

It has been a tumultuous week for the Union. While the new bar FiveSixEight has opened with great success and a generally positive response from students, the new club Metric has been further delayed by the discovery of asbestos.

Metric was due to open this coming Friday 29th of October but the opening will now be pushed back to the end of November. The delay will disappoint students who, after experiencing the renovated bar, were excited to see the new club.

Deputy President (Finances & Services) Ravi Pall told Felix: "the risk of exposure to the workers in that area means that only certain parts of the space can be occupied,

while the asbestos material is removed, leading to a delay in works".

The discovery of asbestos is the second setback to the club renovation. It was originally intended to open in time for Welcome Week but problems with removing the pillar meant that the construction could not be completed over the summer as originally intended.

Ravi Pall said "While this delay is a unfortunate, it must be understood that this project has thrown up a huge range of challenges that could not have been predicted." Disruption has also affected several Clubs & Societies who were planning to run their own events in the new space.

Page 28

FELIX

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FiveSixEight opens

Three weeks late but worth the wait

After weeks of delays the Union finally unveiled FiveSixEight, the newly refurbished Union bar that, as one College source joked, “is probably better than Eastside.”

The old heavy wooden tables and benches have been done away with and replaced with restaurant style seating to accompany the new menu and lunchtime table service. It remains to be seen whether the new furniture will withstand the drinking games of an inebriated rugby team.

Lunchtime has changed also. The menu is more upmarket and food is now made to order and brought directly to your table.

Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive if not somewhat reserved. The ever-un-

derstated Imperial student body offered comments like “To be fair, it’s not a bad effort” and “It’s definitely less shit than before.” Which just goes to show that you can’t get the majority of Imperial students excited about anything.

The bar itself has been completely overhauled and given its length, probably occupies different time zones. One student said “It’s great, I didn’t have to wait at all for a drink.” The reduced queuing time has allowed the Union to sell more beer, bringing in a record £15,000 on Wednesday night.

Most students, whether enthusiastic about the bar or not, were simply glad to have somewhere cheap to drink with their mates again.

Kadhim Shubber



“Cheers love, and can I also have a dirty pint, twelve shots of jaeger and a snog? Whahey! I’m a LAD!!!”

Union and College back higher fees

The Union’s response

Zoe Groom

On the 14th of October, the Union set out their initial response to the Browne Review ahead of the Council debate on the Union’s Higher Education Policy on the 1st of November. Overall the Union’s initial response was in fact ‘broadly’ in support of the suggested changes. Despite the alarmingly high figures the Browne review proposes, the Union’s comments offer some degree of consolation to students terrified by the idea of rising University fees.

Although the overall cost of fees could rise to around £6000 per year, the amount an average Imperial graduate would have to pay back per month would actually be less than what it currently stands at. This of course still means that overall students will have to pay back a considerably higher amount, but the Union’s response clearly states that no one has to pay back this fee as a lump sum. Also highlighted are the College’s efforts to increase the bursary scheme that already exists to help support less well off students at Imperial.

The Union makes the point that “the Browne review does nothing to provide incentives for businesses to invest in students’ education”, indicating that some aspects of the review are not so popular. As a university with one

of the highest employment rates after graduation there is no reason why we should not see an increase in the number of business bursaries, provided that the correct incentives are provided.

Another point close to the heart of most Imperial students that the Union makes is with regards to comments on STEM subjects. These subjects have been identified as crucial as they tend to be the areas in the workplace where skills are most lacking. Unfortunately these are also the degrees that cost the most to run and often result in relatively low graduate starting salaries. As a result the government aims to ensure science graduates leave with similar levels of debt as arts graduates. As Imperial is a science and technology institute it is no surprise that the Union supports this proposal.

Writing in Felix this week, Union President Alex Kendall supports a change in the way that universities are funded in order that students see an increased quality of education. Supporters of higher tuition fees often argue that students would value their degrees more highly. What the real emphasis should be on is fair access to education based on a students’ academic ability and an improved quality of education. The Union believes that the Browne Review’s recommendations are the way to achieve this.

Alex Kendall’s view - Page 18

Imperial’s response

Rosalyn Flower

Following the publication of Lord Browne’s Report on the assessment of Higher Education Funding in the Browne Review Sir Keith O’Nions, Rector of Imperial College London, has expressed strong support in the proposal of lifting capping fees for University tuition entirely. He rejected a Graduate Tax as unworkable and described Lord Browne’s recommendations as “comprehensive and fair”.

Although various concerns are circulating the proposition of the uncapping of tuition fees, Sir Keith O’Nions believes that such a change would not prove as detrimental as at first feared. At a renowned University, consistently rated amongst the world’s best, Sir Keith believes that students will not be deterred from applying despite a possible raise of tuition fees to more than £7,000 per year with an option of an additional £3,000 to this. Sir Keith O’Nions said “We expect fees to increase nationally, including at Imperial College London. For admission to our courses in science, engineering and medicine, we will continue to search for and select the most academically able, high quality students from across the world.” The National Union of Students (NUS), however, foresees graduates facing daunting fi-



ancial pressures with “mortgage-style debts” of more than £40,000. Sir Keith O’Nions goes on to reassure that those in need of financial aid will be supported as best as the University can, making full use of all resources available to ensure all students that will benefit from courses at Imperial College London will still be attracted to apply.

A major concern, however, is that as a university that only provides Science, Technology and Medicine courses (STEM), fees are expected to rise to a greater magnitude compared to other academic institutes in Britain. This could result in a hindrance causing the downfall of applications of prospective students to the University as a “market” is effectively created from which students may consider not only academic reputation and university experience but also essentially what their degree is costing them. This in turn could cause a knock-on effect creating a possible downfall of the reputation currently drawn from

the large number of high calibre applicants. Sir Keith is convinced, however, that prospective students will be well informed about the educational experience offered here and the future employment opportunities that come with a degree from Imperial. “We will ask all who have benefitted from the excellence of an Imperial education to help make it possible for those who have yet to.” An increased teaching grant for STEM subjects has also been proposed to which Imperial College Union has described as a “sensible option” since its essential and heavy lab based teaching is unable to be subsidised through other less costly means.

At present the University is planning a long-term campaign that will provide support focused on scholarships and financial aid at Imperial College. Sir Keith said, “Our goal is to build the resilience of an endowment to give Imperial the sustainable basis to attract the brightest and the best in the world, for generations to come.”

NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**
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Imperial focus

Why Imperial will be all right

With dark clouds looming over many universities, it's not all doom and gloom for Imperial. Ranked 9th in the world by The Times this year, bright students from all corners of the globe compete for a place at Imperial. Such high demand is unlikely to change.

If the cap on tuition fees is lifted, as suggested by the Browne review, a free market is expected to drive down the costs for students as universities compete with one another. Whilst lessening the financial burden on students, universities may consequently not be able to acquire the full funding required to teach their courses. Whether fair or not, elite universities such as Oxbridge and Imperial may escape this market, being able to charge the full costs of a world-class education.

Universities unable to fully replace the amount of government funding slashed this week with the equivalent rise in tuition fees are susceptible to overwhelming financial failure. Bankruptcy and private takeovers are inevitable, whilst massive restructuring of courses offered to students will be required, including a switch to 'STEM' subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Imperial already focuses strongly on such subjects that the government is continuing to fund. So we should lose out far less than our neighbours, the Royal College of Music and the Royal College of Art. Institutions specialising in arts, humanities and social sciences may well be the biggest losers, as they will see most of their funding cut.

Inevitably, poorer students are likely to be deterred from higher education if tuition fees soar. However, with no fee costs to pay upfront and an average starting salary of £28,116 following an undergraduate degree at Imperial, students here are more likely to take on the financial risk than those considering less prestigious universities. Imperial should be able to maintain its talent from all social backgrounds.

Despite tuition fees of over £20,000 for undergraduate courses, Imperial boasts an international (non-EU) student population of a whopping 34.5%. This shouts out about its status abroad. Imperial is consequently in a strong position to use fees from wealthy international students to help cover the costs of EU students. Further increases in non-EU tuition fees could be central in plugging the hole left by the government cuts and lessening the impact on British and European students.

Finally, the announcement that the annual £4.6 billion science budget will be frozen for the next four years (a 10% reduction in real terms) brings an enormous sigh of relief to the research community. Cuts of up to 25% had been rumoured. The new settlement is also likely to lead to a greater proportion the 'Quality-Related' stream, £2 billion that is paid directly to universities instead of through research councils, be allocated to elite universities such as Imperial. Job losses and scrapping of projects are less likely to be incurred here than at other non-research intensive universities.

There's no escaping the spending review is not exactly what we want to hear – the cost of obtaining an Imperial degree is going to be a hefty sum of money. But taking a step back and looking at the wider picture offers a glimmer of hope. Things could be far worse and we should count ourselves as the lucky ones.

Sophia David

Imperial wins as science

Matthew Colvin
 Katherine Bettany
 Sophia David

...Continued from Front Page
 confirmed that the £324 million pounds of savings made in the sector would be saved through efficiency, and not by 'cash cuts'. So, whilst the Imperial research departments may not be as badly affected as previously suspected, the teaching budget will certainly face cuts. In a time where economic sustainability is everything, perhaps more departments will follow the lead of the department of Life Sciences in their restructure.

Government funding from higher education is to be cut by £2.9 billion (40%) from £7.1 billion to £4.2 billion, by 2014-2015. This will shift a greater proportion of the funding for university teaching from the taxpayer to the student.

Therefore, the major effect on students is going to be the soaring of tuition fees and the subsequent debt to repay. The spending review accepts Lord Browne's report and states that universities will be able to increase graduate contributions from the 2012-2013 academic year. Luckily for many of us, we will have graduated by then. But the BMA have already warned ministers that if tuition fees are levied at around £10,000, future medical students could face debts of around £70,000 on leaving university – a crippling financial burden.

In future, the choice of university may be based on financial rather than academic reasoning with students shying away from elite universities owing to their higher costs. To reduce social prejudice, a £150 million National Scholarship fund introduced by 2014-2015 will support students from low-income backgrounds as well as low-income graduates. There will be loan support



“Wednesday's Spending Review spared science and research funding from the brunt of the most hurtful cuts.”

from the government for full- and, for the first time, part-time students.

In an unexpected move, Wednesday's Spending Review spared science and research from the brunt of the most hurtful cuts such as those affecting welfare. Even days before this, statements were being

made behind the scenes regarding the high possibility of a freeze in the science budget. These claims ultimately came to fruition during George Osborne's formal announcement, in which he detailed that the science budget would indeed be protected at £4.6 billion per year.

“Britain is a world leader in scientific research and that is vital to our future economic success,” he said.

The freeze in the budget, when adjusted for inflation, means that there will still be a cut in the budget, but at just under 10% it is well below earlier estimates such as 25%. The success has been at-

BROKEN PROMISES

Elizabeth Crouch

In the last few weeks there have been some very disgruntled Liberal Democrat supporters. The feeling that the Lib Dems had 'sold out' and forgotten their election pledges is widespread. So in light of the spending review, have the Liberal Democrats broken their election promises?

It's worth having a look back to the manifesto they released before May's general election. In it, they clearly and



strongly outlined their commitment to both education, through the scrapping of “unfair tuition fees”, and science: “In the current economic climate it is not possible to commit to growth in spending, but Liberal Democrats recognise the importance of science investment to the recovery and to the reshaping of the economy.”

This had enticed a large number of new voters who were not happy with the attitudes of the other parties. The reaction to Vince Cable's speech at Queen Mary, University of London in September should therefore not have been unexpected. His remarks, considered by some to be incredibly ignorant, about cutting out “research which is neither commercially useful nor theoretically outstanding” stirred up a lot of heated emotions.

So when the spending cuts were announced today people must have been breathing a sigh of relief, having feared the worse. Despite science and environment receiving a 9% cut, Liberal Democrat MPs must feel that their pledged commitment to science hasn't been entirely overlooked in the coalition government.

However, despite receiving the smallest budget cut across the many Whitehall departments, it is predicted that education will suffer when the government acts on the recently published Browne report to remove the cap of tuition fees. This flies in the face of the Liberal Democrats manifesto pledge and leave many deeply unhappy or with an uncertain academic future. The extent to which this will now affect education now lies in the hands of the universities.

Science is spared major cuts

Photo by Miles Robertson



tributed to Business Secretary Vince Cable and Science Minister David Willetts and their negotiation with the Treasury earlier in the week, but other significant events that may have influenced the final decision include significant protest from the Science is Vital group, with their petition of over 36,000 signatories and rally at Westminster earlier in the month. The Times also published a special plea on Monday to limit cuts to below 10%.

The latest announcements have been met with tentative positivity across the scientific spectrum.

The Royal Society, a fellowship of

eminent and prominent scientists, previously stated that a cut of 10% would “seriously jeopardise” the UK’s scientific capabilities. Martin Rees, President of the Royal Society is however pleased with the “welcome news” and praises the outcome, stating to the BBC that the, “government has recognised the importance of sustaining the international standing of UK science in a context where other nations are forging ahead.”

Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE), a pressure group devoted to aiding scientific growth in the UK, has highlighted some possible future

problems for the sector in response to the cuts. It suggests that the number of research staff entering science and engineering will decrease, with the potential of postgraduate positions falling by a tenth. Though Director of CaSE, Imran Khan, is encouraged that the cuts are not deeper, he also believes the UK’s standing in terms of scientific output will be threatened.

Universities UK (UUK), representative organisation for the country’s higher education institutions, echoes the sentiments of the other groups. Professor Steve Smith, President of UUK says, “We are pleased that the Government has listened to Universities UK’s views on the importance of science and research to the growth of the economy...However the freezing of funding for research will still pose challenges to our universities.” Professor Smith goes on to list two priorities for the sector that he believes are crucial to future success: firstly, ensuring that “the cuts do not impact negatively on current and future students” and secondly “to find alternative funding sources to replace these lost funds.”

The budget is set to be distributed among the UK’s research councils, who will provide grants to both individuals and universities based on their academic strength. Because of this, it is thought that some of the country’s elite universities will take a greater proportion of the money, threatening universities less focused on research.

However, the news of no deeper cuts will likely appease those scientists who were troubled by the initial projected figures, after it was recently reported that some individuals are considering a move to better funded courses and research positions overseas. Time will no doubt tell how satisfied

scientists become as the cuts become fully implemented across the country.

So what will the impact be on Imperial? The 2010 NSS (National Student Survey) results point towards already excellent teaching at Imperial with an outstanding result of 90% for satisfaction with learning resources. With a poorer result obtained in satisfaction with assessment and feedback, the Rector has made these issues an immediate priority in the university. Implemented this year, the Biology department now has a two week deadline for coursework feedback. This is just one example of many highlighting Imperial’s commitment to continuous improvement in teaching.

Additionally, the Browne review stated that any universities charging over £7,000 a year will be ‘subject to scrutiny, ensuring that these extra funds are being used fairly’. Despite the tuition fee cap being lifted, the government emphasises that regulations are still firmly in place. We should rest assured that Imperial is being kept a close eye on.

With the government’s pledge to maintain funding for ‘STEM’ subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics, Imperial’s teaching budget may not be so harshly wiped. The surprising freeze on science research funding and likely high allocation of resources to research-intensive universities should also sit nicely with Imperial.

So future Imperial students can expect to see fees doubled, tripled, maybe even quadrupled, but it seems that the teaching and research are set to stay much the same high quality as ever.

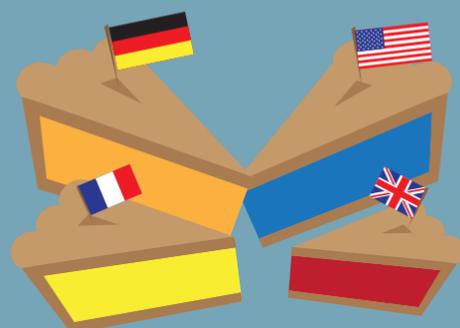
*Additional Reporting:
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Editorial: Page 18

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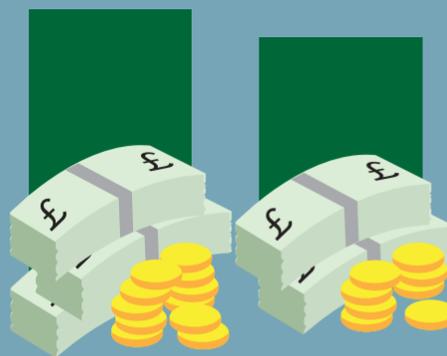
Numbers

There will be a 40% cut to the teaching budget



The UK spends 1.7% of GDP on research. America spends 2.8%

There will be a 10% cut to government research funding



The need for cuts

While you mull over the details of spending cuts, and consider whether or not they have been distributed “fairly”, it is worth remembering that, regardless, cuts are necessary.

National Debt is currently at £843bn (excluding the financial bailouts) or 57.2 per cent of GDP. If we include the bailouts, the net debt is £952bn, or 64.6% GDP. This is well above Gordon Brown’s target of 40% of GDP under the Sustainable Investment Rule. Admittedly, these rules were not written for the financial crisis and this is not particularly high relative to the rest of the world; France, Germany and the United States have debts in the range 70-80% and Italy, of over 100%. But, in the case of these countries, they are either not ready to take the political hit and their government credit rating is in for a shock due to fiscal irresponsibility (Italy and France), or these debts holds some long term sustainability (United States and Germany).

British debt, however, is not stable or sustainable. A year ago, National Debt was £821.5bn, or 58.5% GDP; meaning a rise of 6.1% over the last 12 months. Excluding financial interventions, which are considered to be both necessary and hold long term sustainability as they should produce a return, National debt has risen by 8.2%, from 49% of GDP a year ago.

Labour has argued that Osborne is being too brutal with the metaphorical axe and risks a double-dip recession; on the contrary, careful consideration of the figures coupled with meetings with British industry figures shows Osborne is doing just enough to maintain Britain’s AAA credit rating while not shocking the economy into a double-dip. The budgets over this parliamentary term may reduce the annual deficit, but they do not intend to generate a surplus or break even. National debt as a proportion of GDP is projected to rise to well into 70s and not be reduced until 2014/15 at the earliest.

The government’s approach, from a macroeconomic perspective at least, has been to consider carefully the best balance to avoid recession.

Rajat Jain

NEWS

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In brief

New Imperial College Medal Award

Photo by Christopher Walmsley



Commemoration Day returned on Wednesday and alongside the expected handshakes, tears and matriculation robes, a new honorary award was presented for the first time recognising 'meritorious service' to Imperial College London.

While over 2000 undergraduates received their degrees inside the Royal Albert Hall, the first 'Imperial College Medal' was presented to the Reverend Brooke Kingsmill-Lunn in recognition of his 57 years of ringing the bells in the Queen's Tower on special occasions.

The Medal has been introduced by the College Council to recognise those who have demonstrated 'a longstanding contribution to the College which enhances its reputation, mission and objectives.'

The award was also given to several members of staff to celebrate excellence in both teaching and pastoral care. Those praised for their unique lecturing techniques and willingness to help students were Professor Anthony Bull (Department of Bioengineering), Professor Nigel Bell (Centre for Environmental Policy), Dr Frank Berkshire and Professor Martin Liebeck (both Department of Mathematics).

Those awarded for Pastoral Care were Mrs Margaret Cunningham (Department of Computing) and Dr Mike Emerson (National Heart and Lung Institute).

In yet another first for Commemoration Day, Stepan Lucyszyn of the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department became the first recipient of an Imperial Doctor of Science Degree, awarded for 'work of an exceptional standard'

Sir Keith O'Nions, overseeing his first ceremony as Rector, delivered a speech to new graduates about the need to use their skills to benefit society.

"Education is at the core of an enterprise which undertakes research at the cutting edge, translates it for economic benefit through new companies and addresses the big societal challenges of this era," he said, to an audience who were no doubt highly anticipating the promised 'light canapés' that would be served at the following receptions.

The Rector left those in attendance with the final summative message, "The collective contributions we know you will make to the world is truly inspiring."

Matt Colvin

Postgraduate Wood Lane campus approved

£28 million development given go-ahead by local council

Matt Colvin

Plans for Imperial College London's development of a new postgraduate campus at Wood Lane have gained impetus following their approval by Hammersmith & Fulham Council.

The Council's decision follows the sale of the BBC's 7.7 acre Woodlands site, previously occupied by BBC Worldwide, in September 2009. A £28 million deal secured the location which Imperial plans to use to create new teaching, research and administrative facilities alongside new accommodation for 606 postgraduate students. The plans for the campus are certainly ambitious, with a hotel, gym and pharmacy planned amongst various other services, with the intention of creating a major centre for science, technology, medicine and business.

The College aims to complete the first stage of the development by September 2012 for inaugural postgraduate use in the 2012/2013 session. Combined with new postgraduate accommodation being built at Winstanley Road in Clapham Junction, the College hopes to achieve its ambition of 'providing accommodation for a quarter of postgraduate students'.

The move is likely to appease some prospective postgraduate students who wish to seek an alternative to private accommodation. Currently, Imperial admits that it has a 'very limited' amount of accommodation available for postgraduate students, with Imperial-managed Clayponds Village in South Ealing housing 325 students and postgraduate campus Silwood Park home to just 126.

In a statement released by the BBC, Chris Kane, Head of BBC Workplace, praises the deal, stating that, "We are delighted to have achieved a sale which offers good value for our licence fee payers. The new occupier shares the BBC's values [and] reinforces the



innovative and creative culture of the area".

Dr Martin Knight, Chief Operating Officer of Imperial College London, said, "This purchase is an investment in Imperial's future growth and development. It will also allow us to extend provision of quality affordable student accommodation, particularly for postgraduates." He then cryptically added, "We look very much forward to collaborating with the BBC on research and other projects."

The scheme was not approved without some controversy however, with CABA (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) slamming the project. They have stated that the sustainability targets for the project "do not reflect Imperial College's reputation for excellence and innovation."

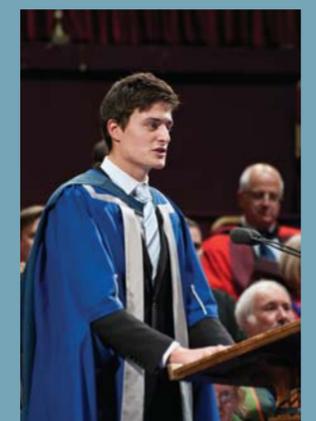
Some local residents have also listed con-

cern regarding the plans. The main worry amongst the contingent is a fear that the development will lead to local estates (White City, Wood Lane and the heroically named Batman Close) being demolished as part of the rejuvenation of the 'White City Opportunity Area', a scheme that is dedicated to bring new jobs and investments to the surrounding location. One such benefit was the opening of the Westfield London shopping centre in 2008.

Both parties involved in the deal deny that this is the case, with John Anderson, Project Director at Imperial, saying that the project "offers a range of uses that will benefit the local community". Alongside this, the BBC claim that "it is working in partnership with landowners to build on the area's existing strengths and bring about the economic development of the White City area."

Commemoration Day

(Left to right) Physics Graduate Abi Broadbent, The Royal Albert Hall in full flow and Union President and Biology Graduate Alex Kendall speaking



Photos by Christopher Walmsley

Not all student nights out end this way. There's always a story to tell the next day, but it's not every morning you wake up to find it all described in wavering detail across the global press, from the BBC all the way over to The Los Angeles Times.

My name is James Fletcher and I'm a postgrad student in the department of Aeronautics. I recently started here and not long ago after a small reunion with friends from Queen Mary, a couple of us headed from the West End over towards Kensington to check out the union bar at Imperial. We were never to arrive that evening because on the way a prominent but unfortunate American author was holding a party for the UK book launch of his most recent novel. The event was lit up like a neon sign just asking to be gatecrashed. We jumped out of the cab and headed towards the main entrance, ignoring how inappropriate our attire was for the event. The cocktails we'd already consumed in the Paddington Hilton had taken care of any feelings of hesitation we may otherwise had. At the door, a bit of wavy-handed rhetoric was enough for the clipboard staff to let us pass and, after pretending we were with Puffin Publishing and shouting some greetings of false recognition to a group nearby, we were in.

The champagne came quicker than we could drink it, accompanied by the *hors d'œuvres*, but it wasn't long before the chit chat with guests became a little futile. The people there were by no means boring (those actually invited were the *crème de la crème* of the literati), but having to keep up lie after lie as to who we were and what we were doing was becoming progressively more inane. As the speeches continued and our intoxication mounted we began to blow our own cover to an increasing crowd of people in there. The whole time, as I realised it wasn't long before we would soon leave (of our own accord or not), I increasingly felt the urge to do something amusing. The author, Jonathan Franzen had already suffered while on tour in London. Problems from the tube strikes certainly compounded the issues he'd had with the UK publishers who had printed the wrong version of his book. Surely his visit couldn't get any worse. Perhaps this thought may have been crossing his mind, as we were at the bar tearing a blank page from a copy of his new book 'Freedom' in preparation for the prank. I had thought several times from across the room how much I admired the frames he wore; so much so that I had almost wished I wore glasses myself. We scribbled a ransom note simply stating: "\$100,000 and your glasses are yours again" with my e-mail address at the bottom. At first I attempted to see if I could swipe them from behind the curtain where he stood but there were no gaps at all. The direct approach was the only option. After making arrangements with my accomplice for the ransom note to be delivered to him, I strode quickly

IS THIS IMPERIAL'S BIGGEST BADASS?



In case you were in any doubt, the answer to the question above is "Yes... yes he is"

Imperial student James Fletcher made headlines across the globe when he stole famous author Jonathan Franzen's glasses from his face. Now he retells his incredible story

towards where he stood with a group of his colleagues and shouted "We're with Channel 4! Channel 4!". This was a subterfuge that would buy me at least 2 seconds, enough perhaps to stop him from arresting my attempts of capturing his glasses, although I'm not totally sure what this meant exactly. The point is it seemed to work. Within seconds I was out the back entrance scaling a five-foot fence and running through Hyde Park.

I called my friend whilst still making my escape, arranging a rendezvous without actually knowing what the hell we were going to do next. Wait for a response? Go and give the glasses back? It was only a prank after all, but only minutes later I began to realise my fate was no longer entirely in my own hands. I twigged how many of his security team were in hot pursuit of me and these glasses. They seemed to appear in the park in all directions out of nowhere as though spawned from the dark, each jogging in good pace after me. I have to admit I quickly began to feel The Fear. My merry state of inconsiderate mirth quickly dissipated, replaced only with acute apprehension and an increasing desperation to escape. I ran in any direction I could, knowing I could easily outspurt and outpace these men if only I could find a clear enough route out. I headed quickly towards

this route, jumping another fence, only to find I had trapped myself between them and the Serpentine lake. I negotiated my way through sharp hedges and trees trying to get far enough along the bank so that I could continue my way out of the park. Disturbing wildlife as I trudged my way through the lake, their screeching noises gave away my position and voices from outside the fence began to close in on me. I ran towards the lake trying to hold my blackberry above my head to save it from being destroyed in the water, as I had at this point decided I would swim to safety. Yes, there was no way at all that this was a bad idea. Without any thought I dashed quickly into the water, foot deep, knee deep and then finally almost up to my shoulders. The distance to the other side began to look further away with every step I moved. My shoes began to sink into the sludge at the bottom and I held onto a branch that protruded from a tree on the bank and waited for some time, contemplating how all this mess might just all sort itself out if I waited long enough. As I watched my copy of Freedom float away up the river, I envied it; whilst hearing the voices shouting to me, assuring me that I'd be caught and to give myself up. Stubbornly I decided it couldn't get any worse and held my hostage safe above the water planning how

I might get away. The shouting diminished, the heavy footsteps faded to distant background noise and I decided they might have thought I had made it to the other side. I slowly crept up the bank, cutting myself on thorns and crawling through whatever gaps I could to minimise the noise of my exit. As I got closer to the fence I heard a man shout: "he's in here!" Using their loud noises of pursuit to drown out the sound of my own dash back down to the bank, I quickly ran out of sight and lay flat on the ground. A game of chess where the fugitive had just lost all his pieces at once. I lay as still as possible, hoping that I could be mistaken for more innocent animals that lived in the wooded area. No, police had arrived now with torches. They were not close by though. After some time I began to realise I could have another attempt to make my way out when I heard the sounds of helicopter blades getting closer. This wasn't for me because they don't send helicopters out for people that take somebody's glasses, not even a celebrity's... Do they? I lay even stiller as it dawned on me; I knew my escape was impossible now. The chopper was for me and the sound of the blades was as persistent as its intent to help in my inevitable arrest. Surely they knew this was just a practical joke. How far had this gone? More importantly, when were the police dogs going to arrive and what were they going to do? I clasped the glasses in my hand (my only bargaining chip) and tried to make my way back to the river where they might not track me. Torch lights swung past me as I hid as low down as I could and officers of the law got closer, at one stage walking straight past me in the darkness of the bushes. I knew the game was nearly up, but I have learned never to give up, always fight till the last man; so I stayed put, still as I could be. It took only five more minutes, though, and my face reflected the beam of light from police constable Garty's torch. I sighed with acceptance and maybe a little relief, reluctantly getting to my feet and offering my hand to congratulate the officer on his work, this denied I offered my other hand for the cuffs. The event organiser then offered his opinion of me and I was put in the back of a van after handing over the glasses.

Still drunk and jovial in character, I persuaded the Met to polish them up and for the arresting officer to personally hand the author his glasses back, to at least reflect how good our law enforcement is over here, even if other parts of his visit to London had been disgraceful. The police began to see the humour of it, as it appears did Franzen too. It wasn't long before I was released out of custody from Belgravia Station without any further action. Perhaps in the spirit of the title of his book, he had granted me just that. I arrived back home, one pair of shoes and one blackberry less, and used the internet to contact my friends only to relive the whole experience as I watched the media frenzy begin to unfold online.

“

Surely they knew this was just a practical joke. How far had this gone. More importantly, when were the police dogs going to arrive and what were they going to do?”

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



Read the week's issue
online at **felixonline.co.uk**
from 7am every
Friday morning



FEATURE

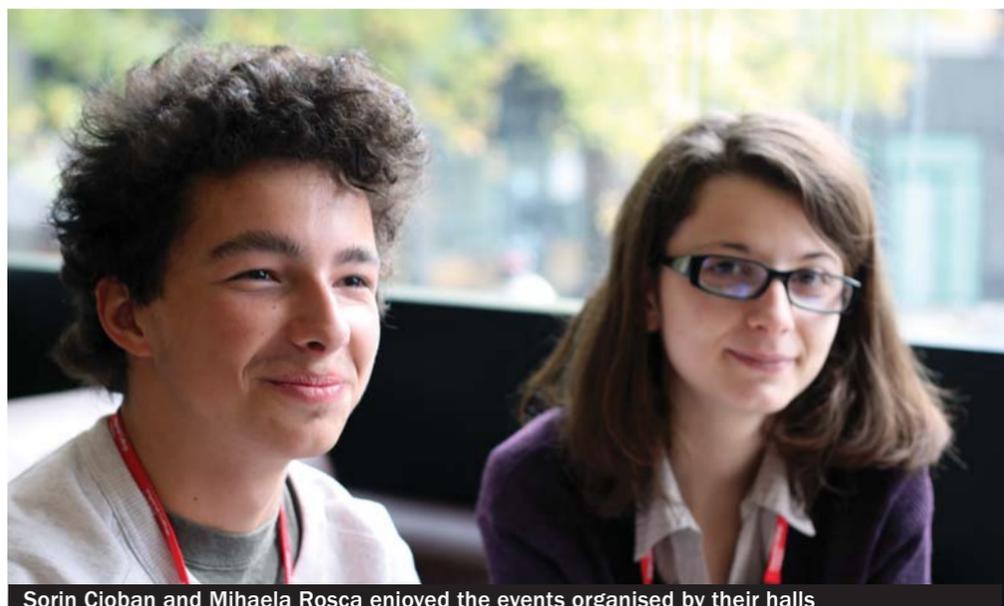
FRESHERS VIEWS OF IMPERIAL GRADUATES

Alex Karapetian & Charles Betts

Less than three weeks ago, a swarm of fresh-faced and youthful 18 year olds landed at Imperial with more hopes and dreams than Barack Obama. Freshers' week has since passed, leaving in its wake a thousand hangovers, fewer virgins, and the six people that attended Lee Nelson's stand-up gig. Felix took to the streets to find the few unwashed first years that were not suffering from some strain of freshers' flu. We gauged their reactions to the first days of the best years of their lives.

Sorin Cioban and Mihaela Rosca, of Tizard and Garden Hall respectively, proved to be a pair of friendly and surprisingly energetic Computing students. Whilst slightly apprehensive at being interviewed for Felix, they nonetheless expressed their delight at all the events that had been organised in their halls. A particular highlight was the carnage that ensued during the Southside Olympics. Sorin went for his first-ever flight with the Gliding Society last Sunday – he says that for a yearly

membership cost of £40 plus around £25/flight (each lasting 25 minutes), the society offers an excellent deal. Mihaela was less than complimentary about the food on campus. Although in general she found the food good, her complaints focused on the amount of fast food and the ubiquity of potatoes, reminiscent of Monty Python's love of spam. Felix advised venturing on a (God-forbid!) five minute walk outside the microcosm of Prince's Gardens to try some finer (but more expensive) eateries.



Sorin Cioban and Mihaela Rosca enjoyed the events organised by their halls

The Eastside Bar is where we found this pair of (identical?) Chemistry students frantically trying to finish a lab report due in ten minutes. Positively beaming about their experiences at Imperial, they're ecstatic to be living in London with its wealth of attractions and vast mix of international students. Daniel described his attendance at a boat party with Falmouth Hall as great fun with good music and plenty of booze. Felix was glad to see Freshers with the ability to recognise the important things in life.



Daniel Bisley and Rafael Benitez-Cabral

Felix stumbled into this Fresher finishing off his meal-deal lunch in the Queen's Tower Rooms. Living it up in Selkirk hall, he was pleasantly surprised by the efficient organisation of events in his hall and has so far had an enjoyable time at Imperial. Surprisingly, he says the girl:boy ratio is better here than at similar courses in his home country. Whilst that may be, Felix continues to extend its sympathies to the gentlemen of the Department of Computing (and also, come to think of it, the ladies of the Department of Computing.)



Niklas Hambreuchen

Commemoration Day took place on Wednesday, with over 2,000 undergraduates receiving their degrees in science, engineering and medicine at the Royal Albert Hall. The relieved twenty-somethings flaunted their gowns (but no mortarboards or degree certificates) as they shook the hand of the rector. We went in search of the thoughts of these cheery graduates whilst their proud parents looked on misty-eyed as their children had finally made it into a Felix feature article.

Jairo Jaramillo has completed a 4-year degree in Mechanical Engineering with Nuclear Energy, and is now working for an energy management company in the UK. Before coming to Imperial, he spent a year at Oxford. He claims that the engineering courses are superior at Imperial, however Oxford wins hands down on the social front. He fondly remembers one materials lecturer who explained that the Japanese used to produce strong steel swords by ramming molten-hot blades up the rear's of naughty children (nowadays, they just use a bath of cold water- that's called progress). Jairo does have an issue with girls at Imperial who have an elevated opinion of themselves. A consequence of the basic economic principle of supply and demand, a five-pinter can progress to a two-pinter at Imperial. He also wishes the medics would integrate more with the rest of the university.



Jairo Jaramillo



Karaiskos Efthymios and Ben Jones

Karaiskos Efthymios and Ben Jones have completed a 4-year course in Electrical Engineering. Ben, now studying Integrated Design Engineering at the Royal College of Arts, spent his 4th year at Santa Barbara, California. He said that whilst Imperial was probably ranked in the top 5 universities in the world for the highest percentage of males, Santa Barbara had been ranked as the number 8 place to go by Playboy Magazine. They feel that there is a lack of inter-departmental socialising at Imperial, and a reluctance for students to introduce themselves to one another at Union events. They do however think that there is a misconception that Imperial is not a fun place to be. It's up to the students to make their university days unforgettable.



Samuel Tournoff, Andrew Slater, Guy Leaver and Derek Chow

Samuel Tournoff 'Esquire' (as he asked to be called), Andrew Slater, Derek Chow, and Guy Leaver have all just completed a degree in Computing. This enthusiastic group are now all pursuing careers directly related to their course. An enrobed Guy was elated at being interviewed for Felix, and stated "This is the first time I have met someone from Felix during my entire degree, and I'm dressed like a twat." Andrew was a member of the cheese society. When Felix put it to him that a fresher had suggested a potential unification with the wine club, he looked aghast and declared that a long term merger would not work – stating that his love of cheese was too great to be tainted by wine. Guy said he rather liked the idea of both wine and cheese.

"They think that there is a misconception that Imperial is not a fun place to be. It's up to the students to make their university days unforgettable."

SCIENCE

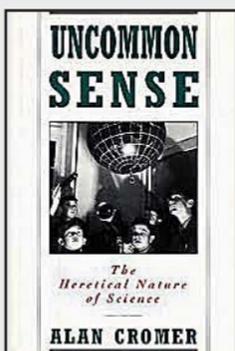
Science Editors: **James Goldsack**
Katya-yani Vyas

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And a few suggestions...

Uncommon Sense

by Alan Cromer



In this well written, insightful and accessible book Cromer gives his view on the development of the scientific method. He feels that humanity would never have invented science had it not been for the ancient Greek custom of objective thinking, rationality and de-

bate. It's obvious from The Iliad that ancient Greeks valued skill in debate as much as skill in war. The Greek model of thinking and society are compared to other civilisations of that time including the Chinese, Indian and Hebrew to show just how special the Greeks were and how precious their discovery is. The conditions are speculated on to explain the Greek success, for example, the ancient Greeks lived in city states instead of having one ruler that could oppress freedom of thought. The book clearly influenced the legendary populariser Carl Sagan as it is listed in the references of a few of his books. It also contains some of Cromer's other thoughts, not all of which are as plausible.

Jakov Marelic

Upcoming Science Events

Oct 29th
Royal Society
Revolutionary Insights – The Dawn of Microscopic Investigation
1pm – 2pm

Oct 28th
UCL
Breast Screening; Some Inconvenient Truths
1:15pm – 1.55pm

Oct 26th
Royal Institution
Science Question Time
7pm – 8.30pm
£8

Oct 28th
Wellcome Collection
Exchanges at the Frontier: Brian Greene
3pm - 4.30pm

Oct 27th
Science Museum
Science of Bioterrorism (October Lates)
6.30pm - 10pm

Genetic study shines light on asthma



Anna Perman

The study involved 10365 asthmatic individuals and 16,110 controls. It identified genes common in asthmatic individuals, which could be targets for potential future treatment. Many of these coded for proteins involved in the immune system, particularly in T cells. It was also found that allergic reactions are associated with asthma, rather than causing the disorder.

The work at Imperial College was overseen by the GABRIEL consortium, an association of scientists from nineteen European countries, and was published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The group assessed over 500,000 gene mutations, known as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), in each individual. This meant they could identify single base changes which were common in people with asthma.

5.4 million people in the UK are asthmatic, experiencing attacks where the walls of airways become inflamed and their passages constricted, causing wheezing, coughing and difficulty breathing. Heritability of the disorder has previously been shown to be 60%, indicating that there was some genetic cause. Allergies had been identified as a possible cause. This was because people with allergies had an increased risk of becoming asthmatic, and for some, triggers of attacks can include allergens

However, the study showed that levels of IgE se-

rum, an indicator of allergies, had no link to asthma, and was in fact due to the same barrier protein failures.

According to Professor Miriam Moffatt, Professor of Human Genetics at Imperial College, "We now know that allergies may develop as a result of defects of the lining of the airways in asthma. This does not mean that allergies are not important, but it does mean that concentrating therapies only on allergy will not effectively treat the whole disease"

The consortium had conducted a similar test of individuals with childhood asthma – asthma in people under 16 years old – but this study was over ten times bigger, and involved subjects with more than one type of asthma. This showed that childhood asthma has different genetic causes to later onset asthma.

The previous study had shown that childhood asthma was strongly associated with genes on chromosome 17, this study identified specific genes associated with T helper cells and immune responses. Adult onset asthma, however, was shown to be more influenced by a set of genes called the Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC).

This means that genetic tests can only identify the risks of specific types of asthma, rather than an individuals' overall risk of acquiring the disorder. However, identifying some of the root genetic causes of asthma has opened up a range of possibilities for future treatments.

Does music help you study?

Anna Perman

While studying for finals I couldn't work at home. The reason? My housemate claimed he couldn't study without deafeningly loud music. Equally, many people, (including the living legend that is David Attenborough), claim they can't work with background music on. So, is music a help, or a hindrance to study?

Surprise, surprise, the answer is 'it depends'. The type of music, age, sex (Funnily, men, on average, prefer to have their music louder than women) and personality type all seem to affect whether background music increased or decreased subjects' performance on simple tasks. Scientific legend has it that classical music increases intelligence.

"Funnily, men, on average, prefer to have their music louder than women"

However, in simple tasks, participants that choose their own music perform as well as those listening to classical music, and both do better than those who prefer listening to heavy metal.

While there is no evidence that background music directly improves performance on other complex tasks, people completing simpler tasks seem to benefit from it. In a paper teasingly entitled 'musical mnemonics induce brain plasticity and oscillatory synchrony in neural networks underlying memory' researchers struck upon the breakthrough that singing mnemonics to a tune helps you to remember them. The tension-reducing effects of your favourite records may have a more general positive effect on performance, and singing and tapping along to music improves energy levels. Is it any wonder that having the radio on is standard on production lines, yet somewhat frowned upon in offices?

So how to best utilise the power of music to keep you going? If you're learning something particularly hard, it is better to study in silence. If you feel your energy levels dropping, it might be time to get dancing and singing along to something. Keep the volume down, and the music will relax you more. Choose music because you like it, not because you think Mozart will make you smarter. And whatever you do, don't live with housemates who like heavy metal.

Imperial Profile: #1

Professor Chris Phillips
Solid State PhysicsIlse Daly
Adam Falk

'Would you like to see my lab before you go?' We looked at each other, thinking 'hell yeah!' The opportunity to see the inner workings of some of the most cutting-edge work taking place in optics is not lightly passed up. We were on the 9th floor of the Blackett Laboratory to interview Chris Phillips, Professor of Experimental Solid State Physics and the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

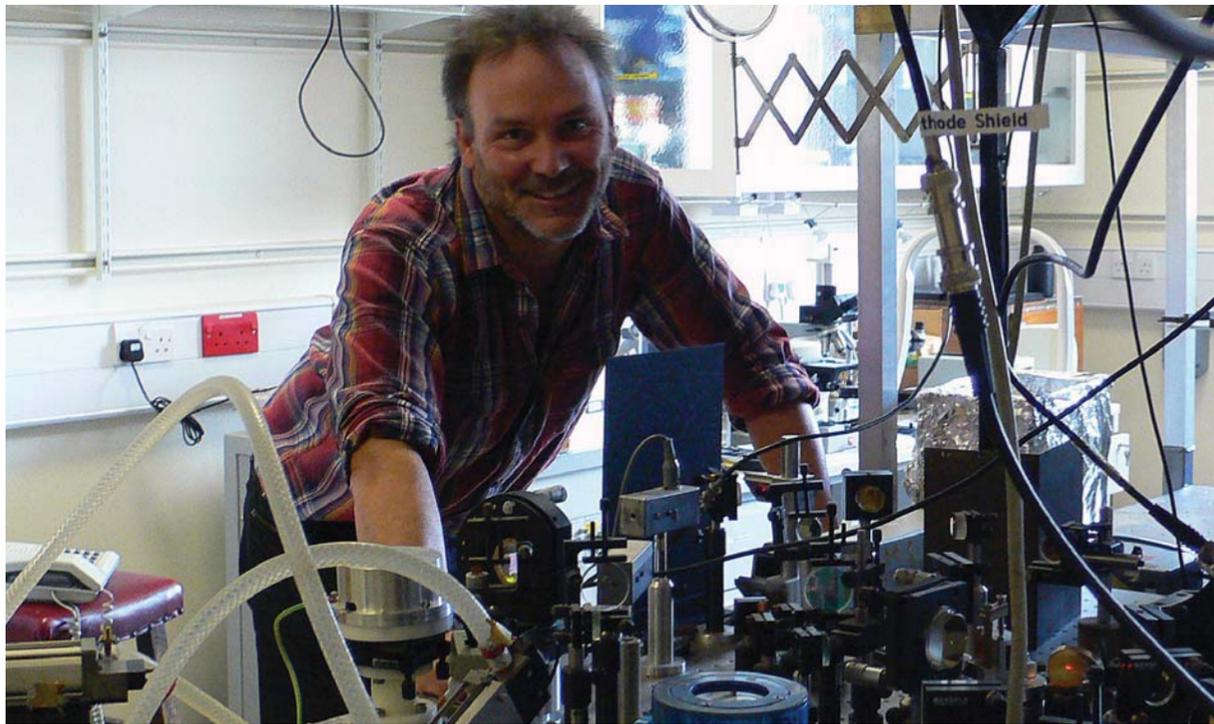
Coming to Imperial to complete a PhD after finishing his undergraduate degree at Cambridge, Professor Phillips has been a member of the department since 1979. Actually, that's not strictly accurate, since his lack of confidence in his academic abilities led him to a stint as an engineer for the BBC. This was not to be a long-lived career as a year after leaving, he returned to Imperial as part of the nationwide 'New Blood' scheme designed to reinvigorate the then-stagnant world of academia.

We were curious about his job description as a Dean; as, it would seem, is the man himself. When asked, he said 'It's a difficult role to define... I'm probably still learning.' As far as we could understand, the Deans are not part of the formal management structure, but are more of an independent information channel. Their concerns range from maintaining the high standards of fairness and equality integral to the college to the widespread dissatisfaction of the

students. They also play a pivotal role in the promotions process.

However, the reason we came to interview Professor Phillips was to find out more about his research. He and his team are experimenting with metamaterials, materials in which the structure at the microscopic level is engineered to give interesting macroscopic properties. Applications of such materials, which rely on structural rather than compositional properties, include the much-lauded 'invisibility cloak'. Current research is focusing on super lenses (no pun intended), lenses that use the properties of metamaterials to achieve a negative refractive index. The refractive index of a material is the amount that light bends when entering it from another medium. Think of it like this; a fish underwater appears closer than it actually is, but if the water had a negative refractive index, then the fish would appear to be floating above the surface. Materials such as these have, as of yet, only been theorised. Professor Phillips' team are approaching the problem from a quantum mechanical angle, using Schrodinger's equation to calculate the electron transitions. Other groups are using nanoelectronics attempting to produce the same effects.

When we enter his lab, sidling nervously past the multiple warning signs and laser safety curtain, we are immediately confronted with a forest of instruments (if the trees were bonsais). A crowded optics bench occupies the middle of the room, bristling with mi-



croscopes, trace lasers and very expensive sensors, including as a centrepiece a £60,000 infrared camera from a jet fighter. This setup, balanced on old Vespa inner tubes, is used to work on mid-infrared laser technology, the applications of which are not immediately obvious. However, the applications are even more promising than those of the super lens; the group are using the technology to take 'chemical pictures' of organic compounds. They hope that this will allow for a more quantitative approach to tissue sample analysis. Instead of purely qualitative method, where pathologists make judgement calls on a sample under a microscope, the new methods would allow for a numerical output, which can then be compared to an index. The most obvious application would be in the diagnosis of cancers. Prognoses and life expectancies could be given much more accurately.

An important point Professor Phillips impressed on us was the distinction between the undergraduate phase of learning and that in postgraduate research. As undergrads, we are merely consumers of knowledge; work is just work of no special importance. Postgraduate research, on the other hand, is a creative process that involves a large degree of personal exposure. When Professor Phillips' students attend conferences, they have to stand up and defend their work, to the same degree as a poet their poem or an artist their painting. The work they are creating is not art, but the creativity involved is undeniable when seeing the tangle of wires and the complex arrangement before us. A small shift, such as that caused by a finger, could set the team back by six months, we were told as Adam hastily removed himself from the vicinity.

A common theme noticeable through-

out the interview was Professor Phillips' passion for communicating the science he is involved with. 'We are creating new knowledge, and what's more, we are doing it at someone else's expense. I feel we have a duty to give something back.' He frequently gives lectures promoting science around the country and internationally, often including entertaining spectacles such as live music and fire-breathing. In 2006 his group's quantum optics research was selected to be put on display by the Royal Society. For two weeks they explained light, atoms and quantum mechanics to young people, teachers and journalists.

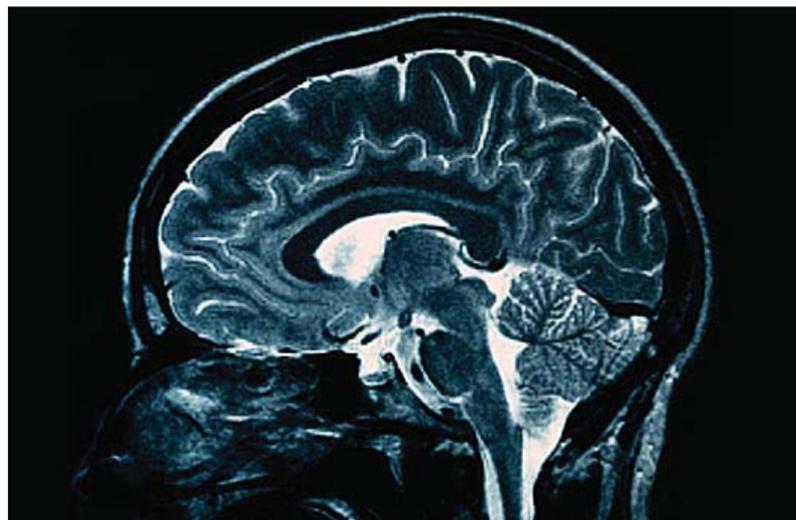
At the end of our meeting, we were left with the impression of a researcher devoted to both his work and making science accessible to all. It offered a tantalising insight into the world that exists behind the locked lab doors and laser safety curtains of Imperial.

Genetic study shines light on asthma

Katie Tomlinson

Imperial scientists may have finally unlocked the secrets behind schizophrenia. A disruption in brain signalling causes the severe mental illness and promises exciting possibilities for drug development.

Chemicals in the brain known as neurotransmitters carry messages between nerve cells and are tightly regulated to ensure the correct signals are transmitted. A recent study by James Stone et al. has shown for the first time that the abnormally high level of dopamine in people with schizophrenia is due to a disruption in the regulation of another neurotransmitter; glutamate. Gluta-



mate is produced in the hippocampus region of the brain and affects the activity of dopamine releasing cells in the striatum.

Dopamine targeted drugs have previously had limited success rates and serious negative side effects. Glutamate signalling can now become the new target for anti-psychotic drugs and many exciting drug candidates are already in the pipe-line. This cutting-edge research is bringing the possibility of a treatment for schizophrenia ever closer.

Professor Chris Kennard, chair of the MRC Neuroscience and Mental Health Board, said: "Studies like these are helping to unravel the complex mechanisms of psychiatric illness and bring us a step

closer to more effective, targeted drugs for patients with schizophrenia."

Schizophrenia affects around 1% of the population and is one of the most common and severe mental health illnesses but surprisingly little is known about its causes and hence treatment is limited. Previous work at Imperial into Schizophrenia has shown that music therapy can improve some of the symptoms, but there is a great need for improved drug treatment. Possible causes include genetic pre-dispositions, brain damage during pregnancy, use of recreational drugs and stress. This greater understanding of what is going on will improve not only treatment but also diagnosis of schizophrenia.

SCIENCE

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In Brief

Sun activity decline may counter-intuitively cause warming



A new study led by researchers at Imperial College and the University of Colorado indicates that the Sun may act contrary to what was previously believed, producing a warming effect on the earth as its activity declines, and vice versa. If the results of the study are correct, what we know about the Sun's contribution to global warming will have to be radically revised.

The Sun's activity waxes and wanes over cycles of 11 years, and it has previously been thought that the solar warming effect was proportional to the activity. This activity is gauged by the number of Sun spots and their size. The determining factor of the magnitude of solar warming however is the spectral composition of the solar irradiance.

The study, led by Professor Joanna Haigh, head of the Department of Physics and a member of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change at Imperial College, found that in the most recent period of decline, radiation in the UV spectrum decreased more than expected, which was compensated in part by an increase in radiation in the visible spectrum. Results were taken by the Spectral Irradiance Monitor instrument on the Solar Radiation and Climate Experiment satellite between 2004 and 2007. UV light is responsible for heating the middle atmosphere; the radiation disassociates atmospheric molecules, initiating a chain of chemical reactions which ultimately create stratospheric ozone. Light radiated at the lower end of the spectrum has a more directly penetrating effect: visible and near infra-red light warm the lower atmosphere and the earth's surface. The overall effect during the most recent period of decline was to produce an increase in heating. It is thought that the converse phenomena would occur when the Sun's activity increases.

Given that the Sun's activity has been increasing over the past 100 years, the results of the study will be leaving climate scientists hot under the collar. It had hitherto been assumed that the Sun had been increasing the temperature of the earth, but the new research indicates that the Sun's role may have been overstated. It is critical that further research is undertaken before any assertions can be made, however. Professor Joanna Haigh comments that, "We cannot jump to any conclusions based on what we have found during this comparatively short period and we need to carry out further studies to explore the Sun's activity, and the patterns that we have uncovered, on longer timescales. However, if further studies find the same pattern over a longer period of time, this could suggest that we may have overestimated the Sun's role in warming the planet, rather than underestimating it."

Melissa Lever

'Radical change' needed to fight CO2 emissions



I really wish my carpet were like this... Every morning I'd stand on the 'iceberg' and shout "Avast! It's the Titanic!"

Polly Bennett

A briefing paper released last week by the Grantham Institute for Climate Change has warned the government, industry and public that "radical changes" to the transport industry are vital in order to effectively reduce CO2 emissions. The authors, all of Imperial College research teams, reviewed current low carbon technologies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from road transport vehicles and their fuels. The conclusion reached is that alterations to improve energy efficiency in existing vehicles will not be sufficient to cause a significant reduction in emissions and a switch to hybrid or fully electric cars, coupled with decarbonisation of the electricity grid through increased use of alternative fuels, will be necessary.

In 2008 the then elected new energy and climate change secretary, David Milliband, pledged the UK would reduce GHG emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050, replacing the previous target of 60%. This included tackling the contribution of GHG emissions made by UK road transport. In 2007, transport contributed 23% of the GHG emissions from energy-related industries. Lead author of the briefing paper Dr David Howey states "the UK has one of the poorer emission track records

in Europe" and highlights in the report that only through consistent political aid and policy changes involving automotive and power industry companies will this target be achievable.

Despite the inability to reduce emissions significantly the authors suggest changes to existing vehicles will go some way to mitigating climate change while the emerging technologies of alternative fuels and low carbon vehicles become more viable. Suggestions for effective improvements include vehicle weight reduction to improve energy efficiency in stop-start urban driving, engine downsizing, and kinetic energy recovery systems. The authors raise concerns however that improving vehicle efficiency will lower maintenance and running costs which may have the rebound effect of increasing road traffic, thereby reducing any benefits gained from such changes.

The authors also state unequivocally that a switch from fossil to alternative fuels, such as electricity and biofuels is crucial, and supports their message that there needs to be "a change in behaviour as well as technology." Just over 90% of UK car trips are less than 25 miles which, according to the report, is encouragement for the implementation of electric cars despite barriers to this technology. However the report identifies range limitation, battery

cost and reliance on a decarbonised grid as issues hindering the development of electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. In addition, the report identifies long haul truck and aviation as the most likely beneficiaries of biofuels but also highlights that competition for land with food production and issues with energy efficiency are currently delaying the progression of these technologies.

Last week also saw the launch of the Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Research Network by Imperial's Future Labs to coincide with the release of the briefing paper. Dr Ricardo Martinez-Botas co-author of the briefing paper and leader of the network explains that "the move to low carbon vehicles needs to embrace the significant and affordable changes that engineering can make. This new network brings together work from different departments within Imperial, making them aware of the different research efforts in hybrid and electric vehicles and with the aim to lead the world in setting the agenda for low carbon technology in the coming decades." The launch event itself he reported "had a high level of attendance with contributions from leaders in the field including Miguel Frago from GM UK who outlined the future power train configuration to achieve low carbon impact vehicles."

Did Physics break the economy? Can it save it?

Afonso Campos explores the role of mathematical methods in the explosive cocktail that led to the greatest economic meltdown in generations and questions their future

At the apogee of the mathematical finance movement in the mid-nineties, billions were being made by pioneering science and finance academics and those who had the foresight to see the increasing use of these techniques. Louis Bachelier, the informal father of the discipline about a century ago, would have been proud. Bachelier speculated that because of the “memorylessness” of stock market noise (that is, events that momentarily alter the price of a stock in a way that does not reflect the general sentiment of the markets), stock price increments are completely independent and able to be modeled by a Gaussian distribution. Even after this was postulated, academics were still unaccustomed to witnessing mathematics solving problems in finance. Now, however, a large slice of this so-called quantitative finance draws inspiration from the physical sciences, seen by some purists as a pristine and sacred discipline. Physics, not unlike finance, concerns itself with a seemingly infinite set of parameters, constantly changing and evolving; completely dynamic, so its use in the field is not as far a cry as one may have initially thought.

In the good times, nothing could seemingly go wrong. In 1994, eleven prominent academics, bankers and financiers came together to form Long Term Capital Management (LTCM), a highly mediatic hedge fund in Connecticut. The superstar team included Myron Scholes who co-created and published the famous “Black-Scholes Option Pricing Model”. Given the experience of the partners, all evidence pointed to LTCM becoming the most successful financial institution of all time, and the first few years of activity lulled investors and the markets into a false sense of security given returns in excess of 40%. It was seen to be the epitome of quantitative finance since Bachelier’s initial paper. The Oracle of Omaha, Mr Warren Buffett himself, called the derivatives used by houses like LTCM “weapons of mass destruction”. At the time, he could not have foreseen the extent to which his words would become true. The financial world slowly but surely began succumbing to the flaws in the models.



The use of mathematical methods in finance was so widespread, universities were worried about losing research talent to Wall Street

“Physics and finance ensure perpetual curiosity does not cease.”

Chaotic, scared, unruly, disrespected, anarchical, greedy, uncertain, meltdown, unfinished, prophetic; these are merely a few groups of letters that spell the sentiment of a world suffering a broken economy and spirit. The beginnings: well known; a significant increase in mortgage defaults in the United States. The consequences: immeasurable; trillions of dollars of financial devastation, corporate collapse, record low consumer confidence; possibility of deflation. In order to raise funds to lend money, mortgage providers repackaged their debt in complex financial products which they sold to supposedly responsible banks, ensuring the ratings agency gave these investment vehicles very high ratings, falsely deeming them suitable and a worthwhile investment. The banks themselves increased the complexity of these products and sold them on to in-

vestment funds with an appetite for supernormal returns and a carefree attitude towards risk.

There are some who blame the high level and complexity of the mathematics involved for the crisis. Professor L.C. Thomas of Southampton University suggests that the crisis we are now feeling was created not necessarily by the mathematics but by an explosive combination of “greed and a conspiracy of optimism”. The exotic models created by the physicists and mathematicians had actually worked surprisingly well in identifying problem areas in the debt merry-go-round. The models, however, were possibly far too complex for anyone other than their creators to understand, meaning that the average mortgage salesman felt detached from the process and became unwilling to ‘listen’ to an abstract mathematical formula and became an irresponsible lender.

It is almost undeniable that mathematics has had a tremendous impact on the crisis and is one of its catalysts. The extent, however, is considered by leading academics somewhat limited. Dr. Dorje Brody, a reader of mathematics and researcher in financial mathematics at Imperial College believes the models are only to blame as they allowed products

“whose contents are quite obscure to be traded” when their prices were being quoted on an “ad-hoc” basis.

The consensus lies in the understanding that no matter what role the models played in the downturn of the economy, mathematics will be instrumental in fixing the situation. Dr Brody thinks that that it will however depend on “whether people come to the realisation that model building at a phenomenological level is feasible” in the world of finance.

There is a widespread sentiment that financial institutions have ransacked and wrongly appropriated the techniques developed by physical scientists and mathematicians. Many believe that those who learn the ideas of physics and mathematics and manipulate them for use in the financial markets are, in one way or another, deviants of sorts, selling out their ‘sacred’ science. It’s almost like a Dr Faustus meets Mephistopheles

“Model building at a phenomenological level is feasible” – Dr Dorje Brody

scenario. The truth, however, is that in a not so far-fetched way of thinking, physics and finance are in fact much more related in essence than one may initially postulate. Scraping the possibility of malicious intent from either front, it is then possible to come to the somewhat abstract conclusion that while both deal with very fundamentally different ideas, the two share a very paramount synergy. Both fields aim to advance knowledge, evolve science and help ensure that the perpetual curiosity of mankind does not cease.

More importantly, they help observers gain a view of the world that throws a welcome helping hand in making life better for a myriad of people. Given the accepted view that quantitative finance is here to stay, the necessity lies not in accepting that it draws from methods in the physical sciences, but rather engaging in a symbiotic relationship with the best minds in the field. Perhaps we will go back to a simpler time and a financial system where the level of mathematical exoterism is diminished and people become once again the drivers of the markets and economy instead of an obscure formula developed in a small room on the 54th floor of a sky-scraper in New York City.

Technology Editor: **Samuel Gibbs**

TECHNOLOGY

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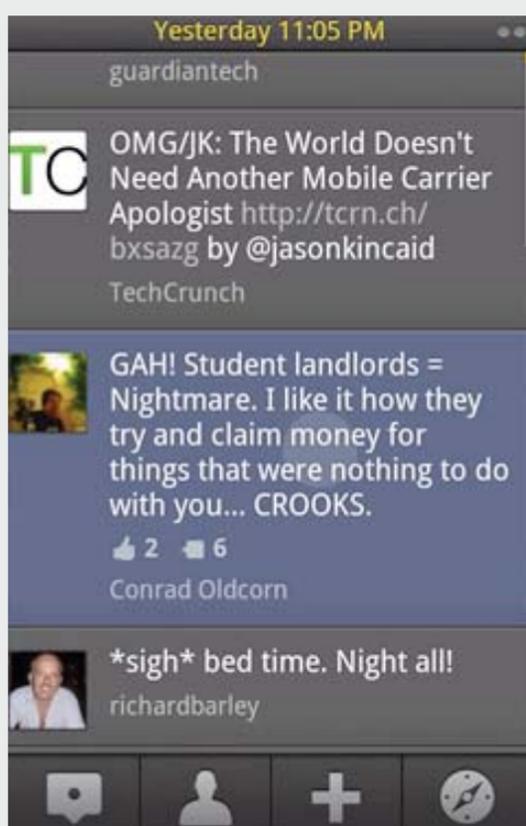
Free App of the Week

iOS - TweetDeck for iPhone



Want something to collate all your social networking in one place? Enter TweetDeck for iPhone. Facebook and Twitter all in one app. Brilliant.

Android - TweetDeck for Android



TweetDeck for Android bests the iPhone version with Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare and even Google Buzz in one app. Bonza!

Facebook: What's Next?

It's already revolutionised your social life, but where does Facebook go from here? **Guo Heng Chin** investigates

Google, the Mecca of top minds in computing, the dream workplace of fresh-grad software engineers, is shaken by a tremor of brain drain. Or rather, a brain haemorrhage. And it is Facebook who struck the blow. It started with Sheryl Sandberg, once Google's Vice President of Global Online Sales and Operations, now Facebook's first Chief Operating Officer. Then Erik Tseng, a high level product manager of Google's Android hopped on to Facebook to lead its mobile strategy. Trailing along was Google's 'rockstar' developer and head of the Chrome OS project, Matthew Papakipos. He went to Facebook right before the completion of Chrome OS.

Today, more than 100 Googlers have defected to Facebook amidst extraordinary counteroffers on behalf of Facebook. Tech Crunch joked that Googlers should consider an offer from Facebook just for the sake of getting Google to drastically increase their salary.

The mass migration of Googlers to Facebook indicates one thing: Facebook might just be the next big thing.

And it may even be bigger than Google. Still a privately held company, analysts are predicting that Facebook's IPO would be larger than Google's when Google went public in 2004, reports The Financial Times. Part of the reason why those brilliant Silicon Valley luminaries at Google are flocking to the whelp of a company that is Facebook, is to own a small chunk of a company that might, as the whispers go, be valued at \$100 billion not too far in the future, reports Michael Arrington of Tech Crunch.

The social network company is going to get bigger than the Facebook as we know it today, because it is just the beginning of something



truly revolutionary. Not satisfied with permeating the fabric of our online social life, Facebook aims to extend its tentacles to the mobile platform (now it makes sense to steal Google's Tseng and Papakipos). Joe Hewitt, one of Firefox's founders, developed the immensely popular Facebook iPhone app. The new Places feature brings real-world interaction with Facebook to another level, by feeding your current location to Facebook via your mobile. Tech Crunch reports rumours that both Hewitt and Papakipos are in charge of a 'top secret' Facebook initiative, to create a Facebook phone to counter the competition from Apple's iPhone and Google's Android phones.

Hitting the mobile market is the next sensible step, as there is only so much you can do with a website alone, unless you lug a laptop around with you everywhere you go. As Arrington points out, there is only so much Facebook could reach with an app on those platforms, unless it creates its own tight integration with a mobile operating system.

Then there is Facebook Connect, which enables you to log onto websites outside Face-

book, using your Facebook account, and the new Facebook Credits which critics think might be able to usurp PayPal in the future. Both Facebook Connect and Credits could lay the groundwork to transform the Facebook platform into a global village that transcends borders, with its own passport (your Facebook account) and currency (Facebook Credits).

Facebook has the potential to be bigger than Microsoft. Bill Gates created the most popular platform for personal computing, but Zuckerberg created a platform that embeds itself into a more fundamental aspect of human life: our social networks. In The Facebook Effect, Zuckerberg likens social networking to Moore's law – that processor capability grows exponentially over the years. The quantity of information exchanged over social networks should increase exponentially over subsequent years. Zuckerberg thinks that we are inevitably heading towards a more transparent world, a zeitgeist some find disconcerting. Regardless, he sees Facebook as a tool to help people adopt openness. For Zuckerberg, an open world is a more responsible world.

An Alluring iPad case

Samuel Gibbs

So you've got your shiny new iPad and you want to take it everywhere with you, but what about protecting your not inconsiderable investment? The back may be made from tough aluminium, but with that large pane of glass on the front, it's just asking for trouble.

That's where the LA robe Allure for iPad from be.ez steps in. Don't let the crappy name fool you, this zippered slipease offers good protection from the bumps and knocks your iPad might encounter in day to day life. Made from 5mm thick, low resilience polyurethane (LRPu) foam, the case absorbs impacts by deforming freely and then slowly returning to its original shape.

There's not much else to the LA robe, though the top has an inner lip to protect your iPad from the closing zip. Inside the case is lined with soft felt to prevent scratches to that gorgeous 9.7" screen. If you're one to roll with a hard case on your iPad, be.ez has made the case just about big enough to accommodate your iPad in a slim hard shell.

Overall we were quite impressed with the LA robe for iPad. It's a snug fit that makes you feel the iPad is well protected, while the LRPu absorbs knocks easily, great for slinging your iPad in a backpack. Available in four stripy colours, including the fetching Neapolitan to the right, and at just over £20 the Allure is worth considering if you're after a simple padded slipease for your Apple slate.



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POLITICS

The world beyond College walls



Phillipines

Typhoon Megi has left 200,000 people homeless and at least 11 dead in the Phillipines after making landfall on Monday. Typhoon Megi battered the island of Luzon with winds of up to 250 km/h this week leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. Typhoon Megi is now thought to be heading towards mainland China and Chinese officials have evacuated tens of thousands of people from Guangdong and Hainan provinces in anticipation of Typhoon Megi. Meanwhile, Filipino President



Aquino praised his administration for the response to Typhoon Megi whose preparations helped minimise the loss of life.



Afghanistan

About a quarter of the 5.6 million votes cast in the Afghan Parliamentary election have been voided by the Election Commission. This announcement amidst allegations of widespread fraud and ballot stuffing in the Parliamentary election held on the 18th which was widely seen as a test for Afghanistan's fledgling democracy. The final result of the election is not expected to be announced for another 3 weeks. The current Afghan Parliament is stacked full of former warlords and power brokers with ties to the old elite of Afghanistan. However, despite widespread corruption and patronage networks in the Wolesi Jirga, it has managed to act as an effective check on the President Karzai.



Venezuela

President Obama has reaffirmed Venezuela's right to Russian nuclear aid at a meeting with journalist in the White House. President Obama added that Venezuela must behave responsibly and honour her obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This comes after Venezuela signed a deal with Russia who agreed to build two 1.2 GW reactors during a state visit by President Hugo Chavez to Moscow last week. President Obama hopes to improve US-Venezuelan ties which have improved following the election of President Obama.

Edited by Kenneth Lee

Welfare for all?

Rajat Jain questions the need for universal benefits

The middle classes throughout the developed world complain of faring worst from their governments' budgets. They are, by definition, hard-working and economically productive. They face taxes as high as the wealthiest in their society, but find this reduces their ability to pay for relatively basic goods, such as their mortgage, rather than the ability to buy luxuries, like a Mediterranean holiday home. Despite this, they receive far fewer free or subsidised public services and benefits than the poorest in their societies.

New Labour managed to seize power from the Tories by appealing to this sense of middle class outrage; not by cutting their taxes (though they effectively promised to not *directly* increase these) but by giving them greater access to the spending side; benefits were introduced to help the youngest and the oldest, regardless of wealth. This included giving winter fuel allowances, eye tests, prescriptions, travel passes and television licenses to the elderly and child tax credits to families. These universal benefits remained hugely popular with the electorate and were largely unquestioned by the Conservatives, then in opposition.

Then the need for an emergency budget emerged and this aspect of government spending suddenly came under closer scrutiny. This is hardly surprising; it is a strange yet radical quirk in our economic system that emerged to appease the political environment without any debate to justify it taking place. Now, with the buzzwords 'necessary' and 'fair' being thrown around by Government, that long overdue debate is finally taking place in Downing Street, albeit rather quietly. The debate, ideally, would also be considered at a time when tax, as well as spending, was not under considerable pressure. Nevertheless, it's better late than never.

It was thought that this week's emergency budget could well spell a clear end for the policy of universal benefits and a return to means testing; the result on the day was, however, rather unclear. Perks for the over 75s were, by and large, maintained with the recent increase in the winter allowance being formally confirmed and guaranteed. This is, perhaps, related to the far more important move of state pension age being lifted to 66 by 2020; finding out that retirement will come later and cost more at the same time can have a bad influence on voter



Next year's box could change welfare for good

psyche. Child benefits, on the other hand, have been cut for the wealthiest of families. This, admittedly, had already been openly discussed and had broad support.

The government must consider whether this aspect of government spending represents a shared universal necessity in our lives which cannot be afforded by many. In which case, like health or education, it should be universal. Otherwise, if it is considered an emergency, and almost charitable, measure for the most unfortunate in society, such as unemployment

or housing benefits, which should be means tested. The distinction is rather subtle and may, admittedly, require certain assumptions about the homogeneity and expectations of society, as well as assuming that taxation and other government spending follows fixed ideologies effectively.

The government still appears to be in two minds over universal welfare; this could well be to spread the blow over subsequent budgets. We will have to wait and see if they come to a decision on its future by 2015.



George Osborne has promised to peel, cut and mash the deficit. This should take 4-5 years.

WELFARE CUTS COULD PAY FOR SCIENCE

RORY FENTON

Wednesday's Spending Review brought with it the news, much speculated and feared in this paper, that science spending would itself face cuts. The research budget will be frozen, which means a real terms cut of 10%; about £500 million. This may not sound like too much but it comes at a time when countries like America and Germany are increasing research spending, seeing it as key to continued economic growth. Our own business school at Imperial recently produced a report showing how investment in science research leads directly to growth in other, seemingly unconnected, sectors.

But the government says that cuts must be made and that for the sake of fairness, science must suffer too. This might seem, well, fair. But look at what has not been cut for fear of public outcry, and scientists might have reason to

cry foul.

Cuts to the welfare budget never sound fair. Welfare is supposed to be for the worse off in society, people who would most likely go homeless and hungry without benefits. But welfare under New Labour extend much beyond this, and with intelligent cuts the poor can be spared any pain; and science could well be too.

Politicians, for all their perceived confidence on the podium, are timid creatures. Often, instead of fighting their corner, it is tempting to give in to tabloid headlines and instant public reaction. This is exactly what has happened over the increasingly expensive freebies handed out by the previous administration to the elderly. The government currently hands out free bus passes and TV licenses to the elderly, as well as generous winter fuel allowances.

The only requirement for these benefits is age; they are paid to the improv-

"Politicians, for all their perceived confidence on the podium, are timid creatures."

erished and millionaires alike, resulting in the bizarre situation wherein all pensioners receive a winter fuel allowance aimed at fighting the fuel poverty faced by only 20% of them. The same applies to the bus passes and TV licences; pensioners receiving for free services for which they could, by and large, easily pay.

By making these benefits means tested, instead of universal, George Osborne could ensure that no pensioners go without travel, TV or central heating this winter (the original intention of the benefit) while saving a whopping £9 Billion pounds.

No doubt the Left will be quick to accuse the chancellor of robbing poor pensioners; even though he isn't. Osborne

will still be reeling from his declaration that child tax credit would become means tested; he was roasted for hurting families, despite poor families keeping the credit. Perhaps here scientists, used to the struggles of convincing the public of evolution and vaccines, can empathise with the chancellor's struggle to win the public around from their gut reactions. But his failure to address unnecessary benefits can only mean yet more cuts in other departments. If he took the leap and means tested pensioner giveaways, science could keep its budget and cuts across other departments could be reduced from 19 to 14%, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies. That knowledge, if nothing else, should give him courage.

It could be worse; we could be in France

British economic cuts may pain us now, but the French failure to reform will hurt them more

Rajat Jain

Britain's first coalition government since the Second World War seems to be splitting at the seams as it unveils a budget to deal with the worst deficit caused by the worst recession in Britain since the Second World War. This has already caused a twenty four hour tube strike and backbench anger over broken party pledges. We can, however, at least take solace in the fact that we appear to be coping better than the other half of the entente cordial; our sister nation, France.

President Sarkozy's plan to increase the retirement age from 60 to 62 has, to put it lightly, triggered popular discontent. The parallels with Britain, like so much of Franco-British history of the past century, are clear; a right-of-centre government bringing in major economic reform, including increasing state pension age from 65, at a time of economic crisis, triggering civil unrest. This is, however, where the similarities end. These are major protests; the sixth day of nationwide strikes and protests, each attracting about 1m to 3m to the streets, in two months has been coupled with a week-long blockade of oil refineries. The French economy, without petrol and transport, is grinding to a halt. France (or Paris, at least) has a long history of strikes bringing down governments- or at least causing embarrassing policy U-turns in the case of 1995 and 2006 reform attempts; Baron Hausmann even designed the city around protest power. France has never had a Thatcherite figure to control trade union power effectively.

The relative economic unrest should, all the same, seem surprising; Britain's banking based economy fared worse in the financial crisis- it came out of recession six months after France (with higher decline in every quarter) and its deficit is about 11% GDP compared with France's 7%. However, the strangest and perhaps most telling statistic is that strikers have more than 70% of popular support, yet oddly up to 70% of those polled also support pension reform. Unemployment in France has also hit a staggering 10%, and its National debt remains at over 70%- though these were recurrent problems in France before recession, which perhaps shows the big difference between the two nations.

The problem for France is not about cuts to balance the books and the discontent is not purely about pension reform. While Britain's newly elected government deals out temporary measures to deal with urgent but short term problems, France is dealing with both economic and social problems that have been around for decades and were meant to deal with by a president that has been in power for over three years now.

Mr Sarkozy was always likely to be a controversial radical; he showed views which, liberal or conservative, were certainly not Populist. He said the French must work more and face less job security; openly complimenting the Anglo-Saxon economic model. He even went so far as to say France showed "arrogance" to not see that we were all the founders of liberty. As minister of the interior, he supported the founding of



Not the only one being screwed by Sarkozy



It looks like there's a big chicken nugget drinking a beer on the right...

a Muslim Council in France to address their needs effectively and suggested the state should subsidise mosques to further integration yet also called Arab rioters in 2005 "traitors". On entering office promised to create a more dynamic French economy, a more tolerant society and assert France as a power for good on the world stage (even bringing the socialist founder of Medecins sans Frontiers in as Foreign Secretary as an olive branch).

This is a far cry from what has happened. While he has reduced some union strike power and maintained the right to work long hours to maintain labour flexibility, he failed push through enough reform earlier to con-

trol unemployment effectively. When the USA and UK seemed to be bearing the brunt of world recession, he did a major U-turn and claimed French economics was right all along, making any economic reform hypocritical. The government also introduced a ban on the burqa and brought France back into NATO (an Anglo-Saxon dominated military system is anathema to many of those across the French political spectrum); both moves, regardless of national support were not policies he was voted in for. To top off his feeble attempts at political reforms, corruption charges are emerging; scandalous claims have been made over his relationship with the L'Oreal family, an

icon of chic French industry.

Regardless of what we may think of the details of the cuts in Britain, the Conservatives have, by and large, showed that they have every intention of carrying out precisely what they were voted in to do. The French president, on the other hand, has spent three years alienating enough of his populace to make the desperately needed economic reform, which he was voted in for, almost impossible to push through.

These protests, it seems, are long overdue. While it is now certain that the pension reform will go through parliament regardless of the protests, the Indian Summer of Sarkozy's presidential term is well and truly over.

COMMENT

FELIX

The Government's Spending Cuts won't hit us as hard as others

By the time that George Osborne stood to deliver the Spending Review at the Dispatch Box in the House of Commons, scientists at Imperial and around the UK had already breathed a sigh of relief. Although funding is still being cut by 10%, U.K. research has escaped the catastrophic 25% cuts that had been threatened. But we at Imperial, in our ivory towers in South Kensington, should not forget that other subjects and other universities are being hit hard; we are the lucky ones.

Scientific research is being spared (in this perverse world, a 10% cut is salvation) because the government has recognised, as well they should, that cutting investment in research is like shooting yourself in the foot. It does more to damage economic recovery than to promote it. However our investment in R&D is still far behind our global competitors. For what can only reasons of political expediency (because it defies all logic) we are cutting at a time when other developed countries are boosting research funding. Imperial's global reputation, solid financial position and willingness to take hard-nosed decisions (see the Life Sciences re-structure) will mean that it will retain its position as a globally-competitive research institution. But be in no doubt, research in the UK in general will suffer heavily as a result of the government's plans.

In teaching also, we should consider ourselves blessed. The government has set out a massive contraction in university funding. Humanities and other non-STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine) subjects will struggle with the coalition's 79% cuts. Imperial is one of the few universities that will be able to shake off this attack with relatively few scars. Our international reputation means that we will always be able to attract international students who boost universities' coffers with the high fees that they pay. In addition we will be able to charge higher home fees if the cap on tuition fees is lifted which, again, will help to offset losses from government funding. Imperial, which rejects the majority of its applicants already, will not need to worry about deterring home students with higher fees. Finally, the fact that we are a STEM institution means that the losses in government funding will be small in comparison to other institutions.

But although you will not experience the full impact of the Government's cuts, don't let that fool you supposing that they are insignificant.

The Review is right

We should accept the Browne Review – it is only fair that students should pay for the benefits of their education



Alex Kendall

President, Imperial College Student's Union

“Are we really attending university out of self-sacrifice?”

The Browne Review aims to advise the Government on changes to the system of Higher Education Funding. Although the headline proposal has been to allow universities to set their own fees, the proposals in the review would, if enacted, mean that anyone could go to university regardless of wealth. It would provide more money for students to live on whilst at university. It would also mean that no one would have to start paying off their loan until they were earning £21,000, and that until then, there would be no interest on it. Why are the NUS against these proposals? For one reason: perception.

The NUS have to be seen to be justifying themselves, and so have picked up on the fact that universities could charge unlimited fees to say that students could be priced out. Under the proposals, Imperial could charge whatever it wants, but if the Government pays this for you up front, if you only pay it back when you're earning, and if the debt is wiped after 30 years, is there really an issue? By saying that students will be priced out, the NUS is doing more damage to the expectations of school children looking to apply to university than any rise in fees. By focusing on this, and ignoring the benefits of what Browne proposes, they have shown they are more willing to follow ideological points than engage with the problem.



Imperial College has an extensive bursary scheme to improve access for students

And the problem is that universities are underfunded; university funding per student has dropped with increased participation over the last two decades. Universities need more money to enhance teaching, invest in new facilities, fund research (and it is research-led-teaching that makes universities so excellent) and increase bursaries for poorer students. Imperial, like other universities, has an extensive bursary scheme to help students with living costs. 40% of Imperial students receive some kind of payment from the College. And Imperial want to provide more help with living, and reduce fees for all but the most wealthy. In fact, they're doing it; building up the endowment so that students get a fairer deal.

It begs the question; what all the fuss is about? Sciences are more expensive to teach and fees may be higher than for Arts subjects. But the potential earnings are also greater, and for those of us who want to go into low paying jobs such as teaching or research, Browne proposes more help for universities which provide the graduates which choose these paths. Crucially for us, the new £21,000 threshold means that if you do a PhD, you are very unlikely to have to start paying off your undergraduate loan until you finish.

We are at a university which aims to ensure that students can come here regardless of their ability to pay. But it is

The NUS have shown they are more willing to follow ideological points than engage with the problem.

not just out of kindness; it is in every university's best interest to attract the brightest students, regardless of their ability to pay. They can only do this if they have the money to do so. The other source of money is the Government. I hear the economic argument for free education, that it benefits the economy to have highly skilled graduates, so let the Government pay... but doesn't that sound selfish? After all, graduates benefit more individually than non-graduates. Are we really attending university out of self-sacrifice for the rest of the economy? I would feel embarrassed saying to someone who didn't have the academic background, inclination or circumstances to go to university, that we help the country more than them, so deserve their tax money. We need to start taking responsibility for our education. Paying for it is a start.

We should support the Browne Review, and all attempts to get universities the money they need, whilst keeping in mind that access for all is a worthwhile goal than free education.

Have your say on this article at felixonline.co.uk

COMMENT

My body is a temple... to laziness



Angry Geek

“I suppose I’m just a traditionalist. Where the tradition is dying young and leaving a bloated corpse.”

A body like this doesn’t just happen by accident, you know. I’m gesturing at my midriff here, you can’t see from where you’re sitting, obviously. No, I work hard to maintain my physique, a bristling thirteen stone of organic matter. Here’s my routine for you – seven a.m., wake up. Eight a.m., wake up again. Sometimes I wake up again at nine just for the sheer hell of it, and also because I forget to set my alarm on Sunday evenings.

Bam. Where are you? Still gazing longingly at the impression of my sculpted physique on the bed? Too slow. I’m in the shower. Bit of shampoo. Bit of body wash. Then a little bit of manly screaming as I realise I’ve used the shower gel made with ‘over seven thousand real mint leaves’ and my body is collapsing in menthol-fresh agony. Rinse. More body wash, this time with soothing lavender.

Boom. What’s that? You’re still rendered speechless by the sight of my unbelievably well-constructed neck muscles? I’m sorry, but if you’re looking for me I’ll be in the front room doing bench

presses while drinking my muesli-based protein shake through a str-

Alright no, I don’t do that. The truth is I’m a little bit overweight, and my morning routine consists of stomping around my flat clawing at the pre-emptive ghosts of all the television show hosts I intend on killing and trying to make tea out of porridge oats. That’s me.

I know I could do a lot better than my wibbly torso, and as a student I should be using my Wednesday afternoons to enrich my life by taking part in all manner of sporting activity, but in reality, I either have too much work or just can’t be bothered. And when the best on offer is the prospect of chasing a small ball around a cuboid room with a bunch of other “blokes” while sweating profusely, well, I suppose I’m just a traditionalist. Where the tradition is dying young and leaving a bloated corpse.

Everyone knows that health is no laughing matter, but at our age it’s not the only priority either. Yes, we’re all of an age where great damage could be done to our bodies, and equally an age where good habits could be set up for life. But we’re also at an age where we

have the best opportunities to excel academically, or play copious amounts of block-based videogames, or spend long mornings thinking up witty comebacks to a tutorial helper’s smarmy comments about your coursework.

Frankly, it’s pretty weird looking up to the first floor of the Ethos gym to see a dozen over-hormoned medical students bearing down on you at a relative velocity of zero, while they secretly listen to Korn and the Backstreet Boys on their iPods. That pedestal they’re on, looking down on you as you trudge towards Exhibition Road at chuckles o’clock in the morning, stuffing your face with whichever chocolate bar was whispering most alluringly at you in the shop, isn’t healthy for anyone.

My advice? Sod the lot of it. The evenings are getting darker and you’re reaching that fleshy middle bit of the term where all the coursework collects. Can’t manage to make it to some engagement or other this week? Write it off. Go buy a Wispa bar.

You might die five years before everyone else, but you’ll have saved yourself sixty years of worry in the meantime.

No Pain, No Gain

The NHS and universities are consumers of the scarcest resource in the UK today. Government money. Looking at these two consumers shows how the government could be doing things differently in the Spending Review. Chancellor George Osborne’s cuts are a necessary step to eliminate the staggering structural deficit left by Gordon Brown, Tony Blair and their blank cheque book.

I feel that protecting the NHS is a mistake. It was a Tory election pledge that there would be no real terms cut in the NHS budget, a cue for their poll ratings to increase. However, Mr Osborne should have made savings in the NHS’s £122bn budget. According to the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, efficiency savings of £5bn are possible if there were to be a reduction in the variation of clinical practice. £5bn is 5 times more than the savings the Chancellor will make with the child benefit cuts.

While protecting the NHS is a vote winner, the potential rise in tuition fees is certainly not, and could be the coalition breaker. So who would fill the funding hole, if student fees were to remain unchanged? I think the private sector should invest in university funding. Take, for example, the banking sector; they nab the brightest graduates and make them work ridiculous hours in order to make profits of billions. What if a proportion of those billions were invested back into universities? Graduates will continue to move into the private sector and, to be frank, the private sector needs them. It seems reasonable to ask the private sector to invest in the Universities that provide the graduates that they want.

I’ve only talked about the NHS and Universities funding but there is a lot more that could be done to improve the spending review. Whether or not people agree with the way the coalition is going about its business, the cliché ‘no pain, no gain’ seems most appropriate in these testing times.

Samir Patel

In praise of cultural theft



Rhys Davies

“The British Museum is one of London’s top attractions – a stiff-upper-lip monument to theft.”

As I dodge knife-wielding pigeons and Underground commuters, disgruntled by the sheer virtue of being awake, on my way in to college from the outer fringes of the capital (and civilisation), I remember with fondness my first year here, spent in the sheltered haven of Prince’s Gardens.

It was the one time in my life that I could afford, although only just, to revel in an SW7 postcode and the prestige that came with it. It was Hyde Park adjacent, should I ever require the pastoral support of the ducks. Never underestimate the wisdom that comes with webbed feet. And I could fall out of bed and into my lecture theatre. But what I really loved was that if I fell out of the wrong side of the bed, I would land in a museum!

By all rights, Exhibition Road should collapse in on itself under the weight of its cultural gravitas. The Royal Albert Hall, the Science Museum, The Victoria and Albert Museum and that cathedral of knowledge itself, the Natural History Museum. Just thinking about them is enough to get me salivating. Yes, it means that South Kensington station is always crowded and it would be easier to wade through treacle to get to col-

lege during half terms but we are incredibly lucky to be situated where we are. The air is positively suffused with knowledge. But as much as I love these halls of science, history, and culture, my heart truly belongs to Holborn and the majesty of the British Museum. It is a prince among museums in its own right, but what I find even better is its remit.

It is a cornerstone of the archetypal holiday abroad. You trawl the markets for some kind of trinket to take home for the relatives. The vast majority of said trinkets will consist of tea-towels with a map of the locale printed on them, snow globes in the Costa del Sol and plaster of Paris stereotypes of local life.

This formula has been around, in one form or another, for hundreds of years. For young toffs on their “Gap Yah” in the eighteenth century, these holidays lasted for months and involved a grand tour of the whole of Europe. And the curios that they picked up were more than name plates spelt out in seashells. The Elgin Marbles, the Rosetta Stone and a princely court of mummified pharaohs to give just a few examples. I’d hate to think of the postage costs.

The British Museum was specifically built to showcase the wonders and artefacts that its patrons stumbled upon the world over. In other words, it is a trophy

room for all the things we’ve stolen over the years. And we’re proud of it! It is one of London’s top attractions – a stiff-upper-lip monument to theft.

What I really love is that it allows us to see history with a double-vision, of sorts. Obviously, these relics allow us a glimpse into antiquity but also, because they are here, in London, where they have no right to be, they allow us to see part of our own history. A slice of our country’s past when we weren’t quite the quiet middle-management drone we try to be today. A time when we craved new and exciting things and didn’t worry too much about how we acquired them. We didn’t just experiment with drugs (though gin and opium seemed to stick), we experimented with cultures wholesale. And the trend-setter for all this was the British Museum itself.

While very little in the museum is native to this isle, it will always be the British Museum, as only we could steal so much stuff and get away with it. Today, in these august years, it is like a tattoo, a reminder of our naughty past. And like a tattoo, it will be with us for a long time to come yet.

(Disclaimer: I do not condone stealing of any kind, especially where national treasures are involved. Unless you can get away with it.)

Comment Editor: Anna Perman

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Dawkins = Asshole ($p < 0.05$)

Alexander Khanin

“Hey kids! I’m Professor Dawkins! I really, really do not like religion!”

Professor Richard Dawkins, what isn’t wrong with that guy? A restless mind, a head full of ideas, and the man really doesn’t like religion. Sometimes, his work is a bit like the dialogue in “The Barbaric Beast of Boggy Creek” – he seems to repeat one and the same thing over and over again. The man really, really doesn’t like religion. Did I mention that he repeats that idea over and over again??

We all know he is doing it only because of the money. That’s just the way stuff goes. To be rich and famous, you have to invent some image for yourself, and make it sufficiently unrealistic to be entertaining and believable. When Christina Aguilera realized that copying Britney Spears isn’t the way to make a million, she changed her image from “Locker-Room Teen Chick” into the “Dirty-Bad Girl”. Everyone perceived this as Christina finally showing how

she really is under the surface, because when someone changes his/her image, it inevitably means that the new image is their “true self”. D’OH!! When will people realize that a “true self” does not exist, it is a myth invented by silly esoteric psychological advice books.

And yes, Richard Dawkins is just like that. Like Christina Aguilera, Green Day, Borat, the Village People, and basically everybody else. His image just happens to be “The Atheist Dude”. He has found his niche, and is making serious money with it. I mean, the guy is selling goddamn T-SHIRTS on his webpage. So you have Chuck-Norris-divided-by-Zero T-Shirts, and now Dorkins Atheist T-Shirts.

Those are a part of that whole “OUT” campaign, where The Atheist Dude fights for the rights of poor, oppressed Atheists of the world. Maybe Dawkins is a hopeless idealist with serious delusions (no pun intended) about the world,

and/or he is simply a guy who has figured out which sort of image will bring him the nicest salary. And now he is bound to write silly books on that subject, be featured in all sorts of documentaries, magazines, sitcoms and all that. “Hey kids! I’m Professor Dawkins! I really do not like religion! I really, really do not like...”

Yeah ok, we understand. Dude. Just relax. But yeah, if Dawkins actually wrote a book WITHOUT mentioning his goddamn view on that topic, then all of his fanboys and girls would be disappointed, and consider him a sellout...

Based on the scientific evidence, we can say with a large probability that Richard Dorkins is an asshole. I would also like to objectively point out that Chuck Norris T-Shirts are much better than The Atheist Dude & Friends T-Shirts. And yes, I’m an Atheist myself. Stick THAT in your pipe. Would you like fries with that?

Letters

Dear Sirs,
I’m writing to complain about the caption “Mexican Prisoner defeated by new security measures” in Felix newspaper.

As a Mexican I can say that the picture lacks of any sense of humour, and it reinforces the clichés that people have about a difficult situation that is happening there.

Considering that we are in one of the best universities in the world I am really disappointed about the bad quality of Felix. Moreover, I’m surprised that the Editor had approved this caption which does not have any content.

If you want to write an article about the situation between the border of Mexico and USA it is fine, but you have to discuss it in a deep way and not just showing stuff that does not have any content. [sic]

Yours sincerely,

Juan Carlos Ortíz Nicolás



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Autumn Elections 2010

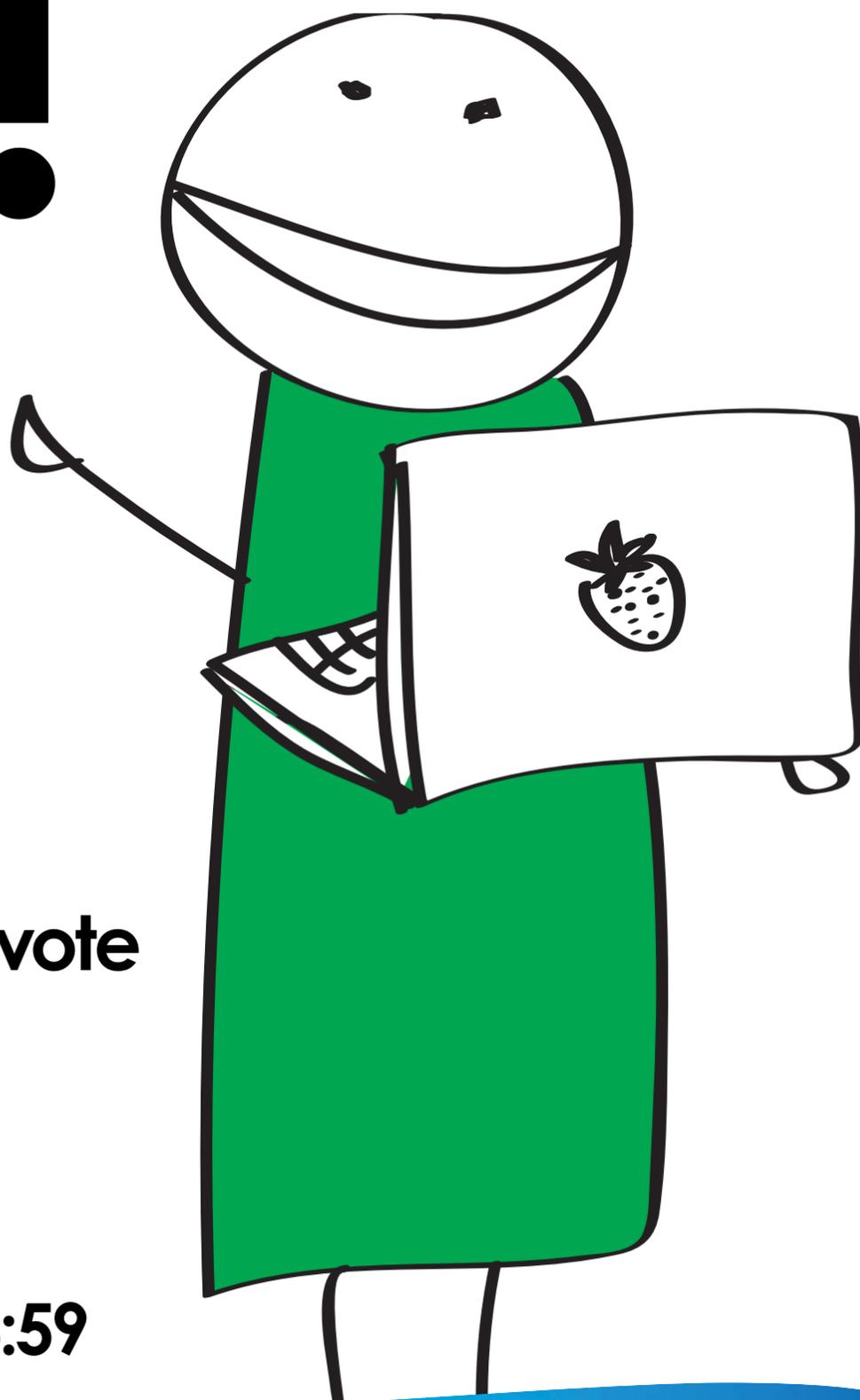
Vote!

Voting is now open
for the Autumn
Elections 2010.

Vote online at
imperialcollegeunion.org/vote



Voting closes 25 October 23:59



imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

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ELECTIONS

Council Ordinary Member

MEDICS



Aislinn O'Malley

Currently in my 2nd year on ICSMSU, I've also been active in ICSM on music soc committee for 2 years whilst in orchestra. I've rowed with ICSMBC since coming to Imperial and last year performed in Light Opera. These have helped me meet many different people with different interests throughout the medschool which is important as often those whose voices are heard loudest don't represent the majority. I want to ensure everyone's views are heard equally, not just at exec level but right where policy is made and refined in ICU Council.

Last year's medical school conference highlighted just how lucky we actually are, for example in having the Reynolds, but also areas for improvement. Organising Global Brigades trips and playing in sinfonietta, have given me experience working within IC to achieve common goals; so I'm confident if given the chance, I would help further ICSM's best interests with them.



Alexandra Burke-Smith

Getting involved in being a representative of the student body is something I've always been enthusiastic about. I really like art, dance, music and water sports, and now that I've come to Imperial I want to get involved in more than just academics or playing sport. I took part in my previous school's council, which made me realise the importance of the student voice within an academic system. Student council should be a forum for discussion, where opinions from every part of the university should be heard and change, whether small or radical, should be initiated by the students. I feel that I am an approachable person to whom students will feel comfortable expressing their opinions, and who is outspoken enough to help make sure the union is run effectively with only the students best interests at heart.



Hannah Tullett

Hi, my name is Hannah Tullett. I am a first-year medic from Sussex, still getting to grips with London/lectures/ginned-up sports nights, all whilst battling the dreaded fresher's flu! But I have found my feet enough to run for the position of medical undergraduate representative, because I am passionate about giving you a voice. With two years of experience in a Sixth Form student union, I am up for the challenge of catering to the needs of a diverse group of individuals. As your representative I would be approachable and dedicated to making the changes you want. This is your university, and I want you to be able to take into your own hands all efforts to make Imperial the best environment in which to study and play hard. Above all, I am committed to making your experiences at university as they should be: some of the best of your life.

ENGINEERS



Steve Long

Hello, I'm Steve. I'm a fourth year Mechanical Engineer. I've been involved in all sides of Union activity throughout my time at Imperial, admittedly a lot has been the in the bar...but I've also been on the committees of a number of clubs, and last year I held a senior position in CGCU, so I've seen the hard graft as well. I want to be a Council member so that I can continue to play a small part in trying to make life better for my friends and fellow students. As Council member, I should be representing your views and interests, so if I give a few of my views here, you can see whether we agree, and whether you should vote for me or not. I take a long term view to things, I consider the consequences (immediate and potential) of actions, I'm opposed to teaching standards and Student...



Thomas Hills

Imperial College Union has an impact on all of our lives, whether it is through societies, welfare or simply cheap drinks! I owe a huge debt to the Union and feel that, in my fourth year, it's time to repay some of that debt. The Council has a vital role in determining the path that the Union takes and ensuring that, like any other union, the members are the priority – that means you!

I ask for your vote because I am enthusiastic and passionate about making life at Imperial as good as it can be for everyone. My strong sense of right and wrong will enable me to stand up for our whole faculty, representing the unique opinions of Engineers across departments. This year we can make the Union better than ever, and I'll fight for you in Union Council.



Alice Rowlands

I was a member of Union Council last year as part of my duties as the Welfare Officer for CGCU. Council members have a responsibility to ensure that policy passed by the Union does not have a detrimental effect on the students of Imperial and is representative of the views of the students they act on behalf of. This is something I believe I was effective in doing last year.

As Mech Eng Dep Rep and an active member of Imperial College Hockey Club, I am in an excellent position to understand the point of view of a large number of students within the Faculty of Engineering. I am also well placed to understand how Union Policy could affect Engineering students.

Voting closes at 23:59 on Monday 25th October
www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Also running for election:
 RON (Re-open nominations)
 Naida Dzigal (Court Advocate)
 Edward Lacey (Council)

Angad Rekhi (Council)
 Joseph Rumer (Council)
 Tharanny Srisatkunam
 (SHAG Week Co-ordinator)

ELECTIONS

SCIENTISTS



Karmen Chiu

I am a second year Physicist and having enjoyed and appreciated the work of the union in my first year, I would now like to take a more active role, aim to make a real difference and help towards improvements. This year, I am a Wilkinson Hall Senior which has given me great responsibility and the necessary skills required to communicate well and to work with the wardening team, as well as being the first point of contact to the freshers. Being able to speak to such a large number of students in halls has already given me the experience of listening and responding to each individual's opinion, and bringing these to the attention of higher authority. The skills gained from being hall senior are what I would like to transfer to the role of Union Council Ordinary Member, as well as my dedication, enthusiasm and reliability. I strongly believe...



Alan Itakura

Hi everyone, I am a 3rd year biologist looking to fill the role of Union Council Ordinary Member. Last year, I had the honour of filling this position and this year I would like to continue that position. I truly enjoy the responsibility and the tasks involved, and I believe I did a respectable job last year representing the whole student body to the council. This year, I hope to perform a better job as we approach the end of our degree. I am very eager to present all critiques and concerns to the rest of the council, as well as follow them up and make sure that they are addressed. I will bring open-mindedness, particularly important when representing such a large group of people; an eye for detail, valuable when reviewing policies; and an outspoken voice, to ensure that I, on behalf of Natural Sciences, will be heard. Vote...



Lewis Palmer

I'm Lewis Palmer, a third and final year Mathematician. Here's why you should vote for me:
 1) I care about the Union. Although this seems an obvious attribute, being a hall senior for the last two years I have seen how the Union decisions affect different groups of people so would be able to take voting decisions based on a broader audience.
 2) I am also part of the RCSU Executive Committee so do have experience in the ruling levels of the union and working within a constitution.
 3) I would like to help the Union move forward on the back of the wave that is Phase 3.

Ents Committee



Ali Haddad Rezaei

As your Entertainments Committee member I will try my best to make sure that all the freshers continue to enjoy their time at Imperial College. One of my main objectives is to break the 'stereotype' that students at our university tend not to enjoy themselves as much as they did during the freshers' week. I also plan to make future events more accessible to all our fellow students by having 'One for all Events' where everyone, regardless of their backgrounds and beliefs, can enjoy themselves and will not feel left out. If elected, I will need to hear all your suggestions so that, together, we can make Imperial College not only one of the best places to study at, but also to have fun at.

ENGINEERS (Postgraduate)



Edafe Edivri

Having served as Departmental Representative (Undergraduate), Clerk Faculty Representative council/Head of Secretariat, Parliamentarian & Internal Auditor, Students' Union Assistant Secretary General/Secretary Committee of Halls during my undergraduate program, service to fellow students is an integral part of learning for me. The urge to serve my fellow students is a passion and I will want to answer that calling by Representing the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Science (GSEPS) (Postgraduate) here at ICU. To ensure that the Union Affairs are conducted in accordance to the constitution, fair representation of GSEPS Constituency, accountably and a voice to all members is my primary objective amongst others. From my past experience I understand this is always a challenge yet a rewarding experience if we all work together to better our learning environment. I sincerely appreciate those who seconded my nomination and will want to thank all who will participate by voting to bring the change...



Theo Pavlakou

Sometimes you just have to blow off some steam, and after a long day's work in the lab, that's what I will be there for. I want to be a part of actually deciding what happens here, because as a fresher, I know what freshers want, and would like to have our say in the matter as well. The first years need a representative, and they want some of their ideas to be put forward to the committee, and I want to be that. If I get elected, I will make a Facebook group for students who have ideas and I will listen to suggestions and feed them to the committee. There will be discussion boards and people will be able to present their ideas, so in the end, what you present will be what I present.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY

FRIDAY OCTOBER 29TH

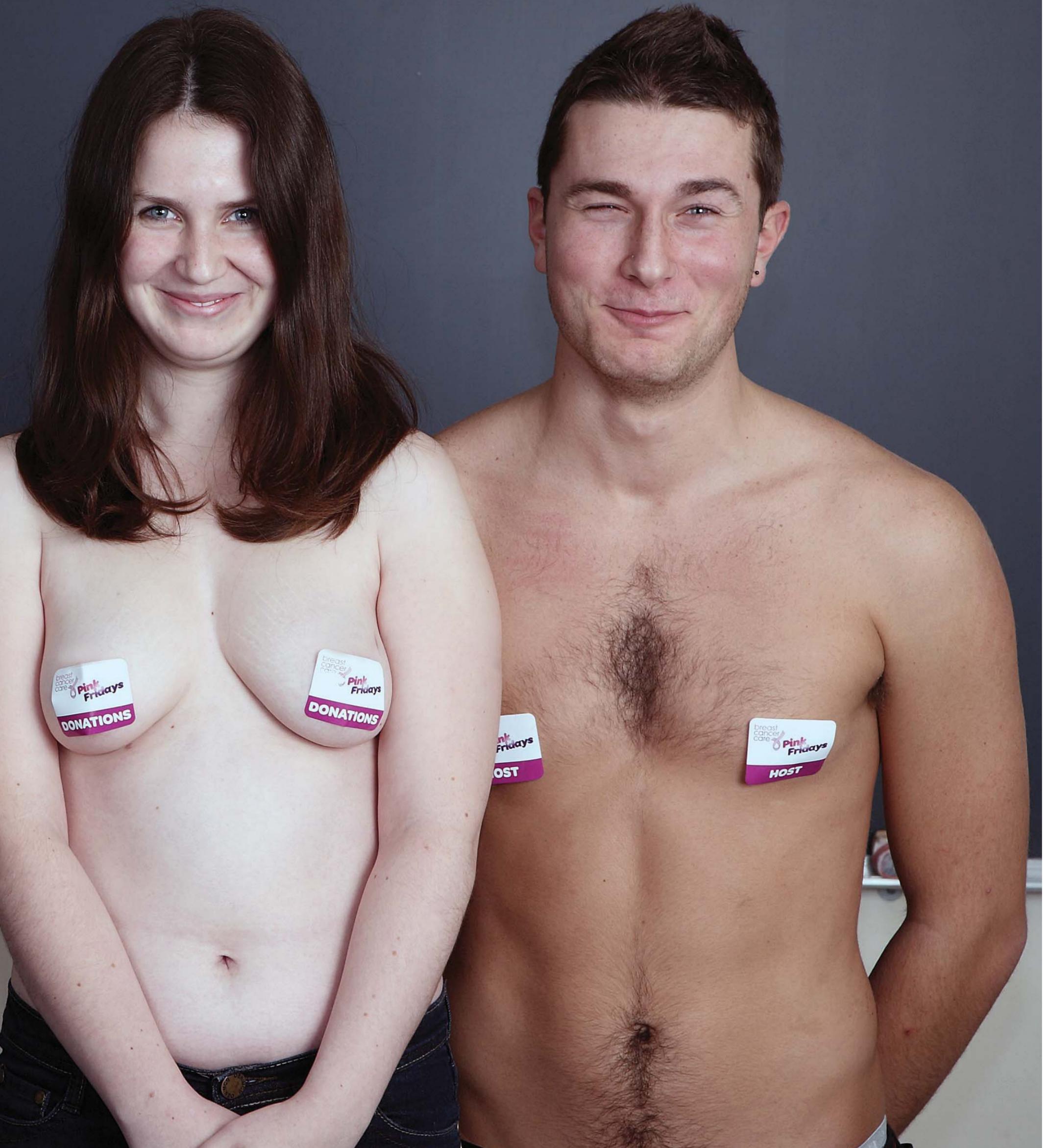
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Arts Editor: **Rox Middleton**

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

ARTS

If you read nothing else this week...

Navid Nabijou describes why this classic Victorian novel is still such an exhilarating read.

Flatland

by Edwin Abbott

"I call our world Flatland, not because we call it so, but to make its nature clearer to you, my happy readers, who are privileged to live in Space." Such does A. Square, the affable two-dimensional protagonist of Edwin A. Abbott's *Flatland*, begin his narration. Over the following pages there unfolds a truly unique work of fiction; perhaps not the greatest, but certainly one of the most original books ever written. Published in 1884, *Flatland* is plainly a book of two halves: the first closely concerning the social and political climates of the time, and the second completely transcending them.

In the first, the novel constitutes a brilliantly scathing social satire. Powerful Victorian prejudices are mirrored – and distorted – in *Flatland*. A wonderful example is the issue of angularity, a parody of Victorian class society. In *Flatland*, the polygonal shape of a man rigidly dictates, from birth, his social standing: the more numerous his sides, the higher his class. Similar metaphors abound.

The social commentary is relentless and uninhibited, and as such the narrative grows somewhat surreal, often verging on the ridiculous. All in all, it makes for a fantastically entertaining romp. But the real meat of the novel is to be found in the second half.

This kicks off the inter-dimensional dance with the narrator's visit to a one-dimensional world, "Lineland". Interesting parallels can be drawn here between the two-dimensional creature's reaction to the constraints of one-dimensionality, and our three-dimensional reaction to the restrictiveness of a two-dimensional world. (And these parallels can be extended yet further...)

Most interesting are the exchanges between the narrator and a mysterious visitor from the third dimension, the Sphere. The Sphere's immense troubles in trying to convey the "Theory of Three Dimensions" to the square highlight acutely the supreme difficulty (perhaps "impossibility") of conceptualising dimensions higher than one's own.

The real significance of *Flatland*, of course, is how it relates to us. Thinking about the hugely limiting implications of a two-dimensional life brings a wry smile of superiority to our three-dimensional faces. But we should not be so complacent. The narrator's plight can easily be translated into the third dimension (or the fourth, or the fifth). *Flatland* offers us the means to imagine – at least in some small, stunted sense – dimensions higher than our own.

That's why the book is so important, seeking to "arouse in the interiors of Plane and Solid Humanity a spirit of rebellion against the Conceit which would limit our Dimensions to Two or Three or any number short of Infinity."

Which book do you love more than any other? Tell us why it's so good - Send 300 to 400 words to arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Cold Hard Cash

The Frieze Fair is the glitzy international cattle market of contemporary art, but what if you're not spending?



Part of Tomory Dodge's 'Drop', which was amongst the hundreds of pieces exhibited at the commercial art event of the year

Chris Clarke

As a classical art enthusiast, I would be the first to admit that I can be somewhat pessimistic when it comes to contemporary art. Long have I held the somewhat closed-minded view that a number of today's more renowned modern artists are in fact talentless criminals with a license to print/paint money because they're able to tell some quite exotic lies about what their pieces mean. In short, I was perhaps a little harsh...

I know my previous statement may have rubbed some people up the wrong way, but I often find myself in front of some sort of bin bag chainsaw motif and wonder, why? Why is this considered art? How can someone spend hundreds of thousands of pounds on something that appears to be the result of a drunken elephant attacking the artist's bins? Am I the only one who thinks this? I suspect not.

The fact is that it's easy to get held up on the work of a few high profile artists whose 'creations' hit the media due to their controversial nature. They should not be allowed to affect our judgement on the rest of the genre, as I found out in quite a magnificent fashion on my trip this weekend to the Frieze Arts Fair.

The Frieze Arts Fair is an annual event comprised of some 150 plus specially selected contemporary art galleries from around the world, all descending on Regents Park to exhibit work and celebrate modern contemporary art. Each gallery

is given a small section of a giant temporary structure in which to exhibit some of their choice artist's best work. The main aim here is to use vivid displays to promote the gallery and create networking opportunities with the incontinently rich (of which there appeared to be no shortage). I'm not sure if you've ever seen over 150 galleries all trying to outdo each other in one enclosed area, but the result is quite spectacular.

My entrance to the fair was overlooked by the wax-work of a slightly worried looking small child on a 10ft diving board, next to which sat a giant mirror which regularly tremored and rippled violently on the wall, causing one immediately to feel slightly queasy. I backed away and decided to take a bit of a look around at anything that wasn't the mirror. Each gaze swept over a mix of vibrant colours, weird experimentations, intricate and methodical design and literally anything else you could think of, between which milled hundreds of people from all walks of life. The obvious scruffy or plain unusual looking artists, immaculately suited businessmen and equally well dressed women. One woman appeared to be wearing nothing at all except a heavy layer of paint and tattoos with a pair of practically non-existent spandex hot-pants, all the while being followed round by a tall spaced out looking man wielding a small video camera, while she appeared to flirt with the exhibits...

Yes it was strange, but God it was

exciting! Pieces that I might not have looked at twice in any other setting suddenly took on new meaning in the buzzing atmosphere which permeated the entire building, each work giving its own special something to the surroundings.

Of course there were still some things that I struggled with: some childishly drawn figures in black marker pen on pieces of paper smaller than A4, a skeleton painted black, what appeared to be a charred pile of industrial waste... You get the picture.

The important thing was that there were some great surprises. A large work by Tomory Dodge was simply comprised of a number of thick lines of bright paint on a dark background, the net effect being a futuristic, almost luminous vision. Another fantastic achievement was by Tomas Saraceno with his hanging sculpture entitled 'Hydrogen Cloud Explosion', which managed to bring what could be considered some dull geometry to life by filling it with an explosion of black elastic.

When I eventually left the Frieze it was with high spirits. I had expected to leave with irritation before my arrival and yet instead I left with hope. Real art is not dead. There are some massively talented and wonderfully quirky people out there who probably spend their lives in a world that I was privileged enough to experience for a few short hours. I hope the contemporary art scene continues its twisting and turning progression until next year. I will definitely be back.

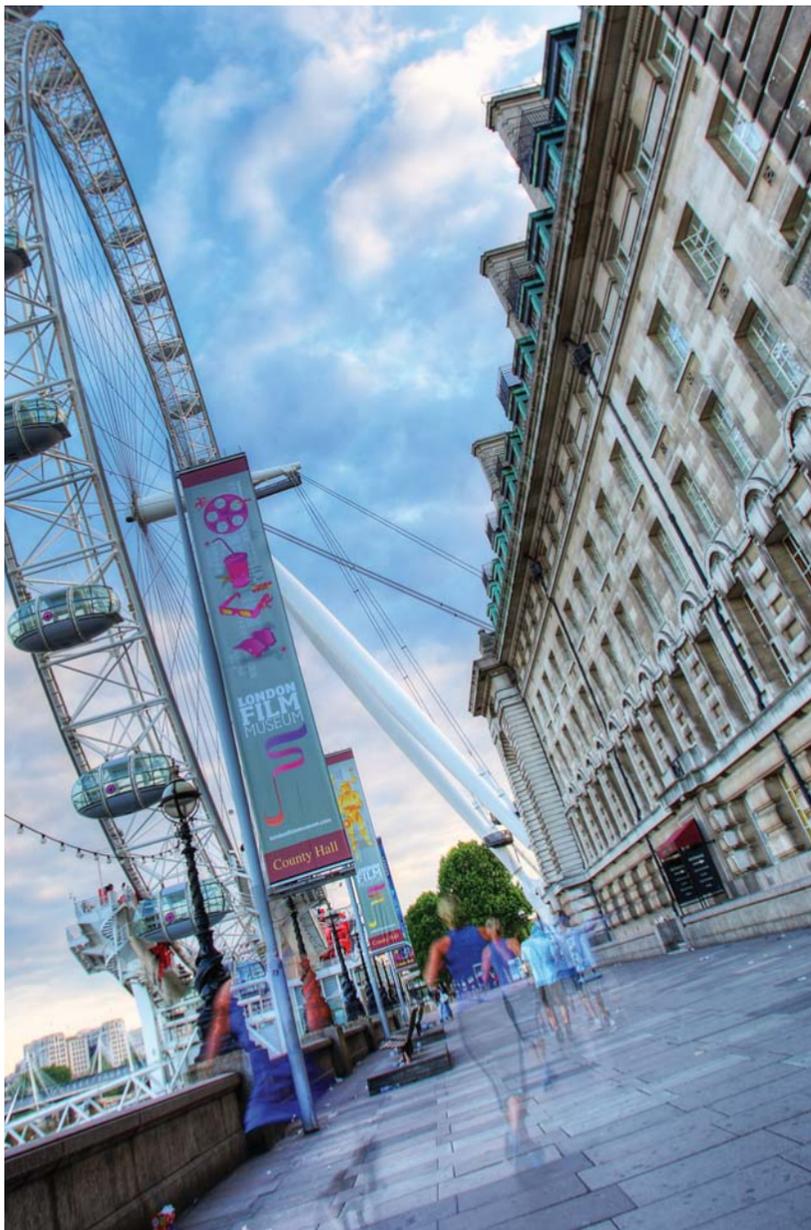
This year, the Frieze Fair had more than 60,000 visitors in five days - Check it out next year from 13-16 October

ARTS



THE BEST OF IMPERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

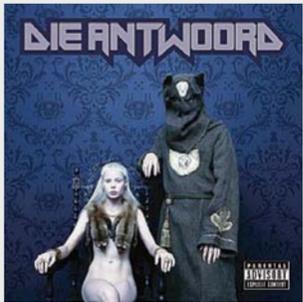
A glimpse into the world of Imperial's photographers. Photos by students from PhotoSoc, Sam Whitcomb (top), Charles Poon (left) and Jonathan Kim (right)



MUSIC

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

Album of The Week



Die Antwoord
\$O\$
Cherrytree Records/Interscope
2010

After exploding onto the interwebs as an overnight phenomenon, South African rap-rave Zef crew **Die Antwoord** finally release their highly anticipated debut album \$O\$ on Interscope Records. For first-timers this is a great point of entry into a world of madness and genius, featuring tunes such as 'Enter The Ninja' and 'Beat Boy'. For anyone who's followed the artist formerly known as Waddy Tudor Jones - now going by his prison name Ninja - and the freakishly hot Yo-Landi Vi\$er only three tracks will actually be new. But the quality of these songs is outstanding, from the Diplo-produced smut masterpiece 'Evil Boy' featuring new recruit Wanga, to the infectious 'She Made Me A Killer'. These new songs are perfect for silencing detractors who dismiss these veritable artists as a mere Youtube fad, and announce a brilliant new direction the Zefsters could move towards for next year's second album. - **Greg Power**

Most listened to this week by Felix Music members

1. **The Smiths**
2. **Sufjan Stevens**
3. **Radiohead**
4. **Arcade Fire**
5. **The xx**
6. **Florence + the Machine**
7. **Muse**
8. **Crystal Castles**
9. **Yeah Yeah Yeahs**
10. **The Killers**

Make sure not to miss

Flying Lotus

Koko
26th October
7:00pm

At the ripe age of 27, Steven Ellison (aka **FlyLo**) is already considered the modern master of electronic music - or future soul, or nu jazz, or whatever the hell you call balls awesome experimental music. With good reason too: this direct descendant of the great Coltrane legacy has an ear for melody, sampling, and beat-making that few of his contemporaries can rival. And he's already released a strong contender for Album of 2010 under the form of an epic DMT-induced space-odyssey titled *Cosmogramma*. The walls of Koko will shake when he brings his bass-heavy badassery to a rabid UK fanbase, alongside past hits such as 'Parisian Goldfish' and his brilliant new EP *Pattern+Grid World*. With a bit of luck FlyLo might just bring some of his Brainfeeder crew along with him... - **Greg Power**

Imperial's own DJ Physics returns

Gregory Power

I've always regretted the absence of coverage of the 'Imperial Music Scene' by Felix. As Music Editor I've made it my duty to find the brightest young musicians at Imperial and extract juicy musical knowledge from their souls.

Who better to start with then but **Martin Archer**, an Imperial Physics graduate who has been DJing for Kiss Radio for the past few years and is now returning to us for a PhD on the size, shape and motion of structures in the magnetosphere. He's a pretty busy guy, but we met up a week before he started his PhD and Martin had a lot to say about student and national radio, spreading the physics love, and new musical interface technologies.

How long's it been since you graduated and why come back to Imperial?

4 years. Graduated in 2006, and round about this time a year ago a friend put the idea of doing a PhD in my head. I didn't want to give up my job at Kiss, it's a cool job. You'd be a fool to get rid of that, so many people would love to do what I do. I didn't think it would be possible to do a PhD. I was in the pub with my mate and he said you could do a PhD part time which doesn't cross a lot of people's minds. I've been a bit of an administrative pain to a lot of people at Imperial. I approached someone in the Physics department that I'd done some research with over the Summer. It just set the ball rolling a year ago, and I start next week.

How did you get into DJing?

I'd done DJing before I was even at Imperial. I'd been on local radio for a couple of years, and then IC Radio is a great place to get involved with. By the final year of my undergrad, I was spending pretty much equal time on IC Radio and on my degree. I was doing like 5 shows a week, and I was head of programming for a bit, head of music for a bit, went all out with that. It was so much fun.

At the end of my degree, I did a bit of work experience round and about, a fair bit of networking, meeting people generally at events with free wine, so people knew me and it paid off. I got a job at a production company who relaunched HMV's instore radio, rolling it out in all 220 stores using a new software that hadn't been used before over here but is really big in America. They knew that I'd be able to get my hands round any sort of new software, as an Imperial Physics graduate.

Within nine months it was all running smoothly. And I was sort of doing some work on a really small radio station, just outside of London, in the south west, based in Tollworth, that played some quite bad music to be honest. I'd never come across **Kajagoogoo** before I worked there - "Too Shy Shy", really cheesy sort of late 70s-80s record.



Not just a voice for radio: he's got the looks, skills, and a Physics degree. Ladies?

It just kept the creative juices flowing a bit, kept me in the radio, presenting. Then one day I sent a demo over to Kiss, and two weeks later I got a job. So I was extremely lucky, extremely well timed, and hopefully I can say I was kind of good. They must have thought I was alright, and I've been there for three and a half years now - they haven't sacked me yet.

I'd imagine most radio presenters and DJs would leave a station after a couple of years.

It all depends on what radio station you're at, Kiss is quite good in that they'll only get rid of you if they have a really good reason. It's not like Capitol, since I've been on air for Kiss they've had at least two complete line-up changes, maybe three. Kiss only had the one since I've joined, and that was when I got promoted. I used to be on in the middle of the night, which was playing havoc on my body clock, I'm so glad I don't do that anymore. But you gotta start somewhere. It's been really good times.

I suppose it's quite a change from IC Radio with regards to the number of listeners...

There were many times at IC Radio when I was convinced no one was listening, not even my mates could be bothered. There might have been the odd person but at least on Kiss you're guaranteed there's at least one person there listening, even in the middle of the night. When you're on in the evenings, you know that there are people listening because so many people send in texts, or messages through Facebook.

Facebook is the new platform for interacting with radio stations, or any sort of brands really now. Everyone really gets facebook, especially young people, so there's so many people on that. You can directly interact with listeners, and that's what I love doing the most. Having a bit of a laugh, taking the piss out of people a little bit. It's a bit of fun and adds a good vibe to the show, I just love that.

Do you have any tips for anybody who would like to get into DJing?

Keep at it. Listen to yourself all the time, critique yourself. Network, send your stuff out and try and get feedback. It's a tough time maybe at the moment, a lot fewer jobs right now than there used to be, like 5 years ago. There are a lot fewer radio stations to be honest. Student radio and community radio are really where they'll be taking the new talent from for years to come, so just do as much as you can really. But not to the detriment of your degree, you might need that to fall back on. If you can manage 50-50, probably a bit more on your degree, but don't let your degree slide.

What next for you then?

I've got a podcast that I do with a mate of mine, who was on the Science Media Production course at Imperial. We got together one evening and thought: "You know, there aren't any podcasts that really tackle science from a younger angle." Everyone seems to follow the format of Radio 4, who are very good at doing what they do, but don't necessarily need

MUSIC

to be copied. We thought: "Let's do science in a Kiss way." It's called *Droppin' Science*, packed full of post-production, really heavy beats in the background so if you're listening to it on the train or the way to college or work, the people around you commuting won't necessarily know that you're a massive geek, because they'll hear all the beats going on. It's meant to be two young guys, in the pub, chatting some science. It's a bit entertaining as well as being informative, scratching on the side of the cooler, weirder science topics. The more light-hearted the better. There are some serious aspects to it, but we try to cover them in weird ways. We started looking into the heart of the science behind *Avatar*, and got into some quite deep moral questions. But we're tackling it from a cool perspective.

There's another thing I'm working on at the moment which is going to be a school show, with the Royal Institution, called *DJ Physics*, almost trying to justify my existence, because they're not that far apart. I'll be looking at DJing from the scientific point of view. See what's really going on. Club DJing, mixing, tackling that from the point of view of looking at the equipment, picking out the 4 key processes that go along with them, and getting into the science of what you're doing to the music, to the sounds. Some really deep concepts are behind that, which actually spread across the whole of physics, so I think it's really good to get that across. I think that from a proper point of view you only learn these in the first year of Uni, so it'd be really great to get that across to kids. Without getting into the maths, just seeing what's going on and linking it across to the other areas. DJs are quantum physicists, they're astrophysicists, they can make silicon chips and can design robotic artificial intelligence. They're the four concepts that DJing can apply to but there's so many others as well.

Is that going to be a regular thing or just a one off?

That's a show we're taking on a sort of tour, so we're going to start trying it next month, it's being put on at the Faraday lecture theatre at the Royal Institution. I'll be doing a talk where Michael Faraday told everyone about electromagnetism, which is very cool. Hopefully we'll get to take that to some other schools, to some science festivals next summer.

With DJing being such a big thing nowadays, hopefully it might get kids more interested in physics.

Yeah, it's something a bit more relatable and to be honest it's packed full of awesome songs so they're not gonna fall asleep, I'm gonna be banging out the tunes.

Would you be interested in moving towards television?

Definitely. It's part of doing the PhD really, to get back into the research community, and then to bring my two

careers together, my media and my science. There's only so much you can do on the radio in terms of science. TV's great, so much more visual, and there's so much visual stuff in *Physics in certain areas* to look at, especially *Plasma Physics* which I'm doing at the moment. I think *Plasma's* some of the most beautiful things I've ever seen, absolutely stunning phenomena associated with them. And when you get a TV show you get to travel all around the world, I wouldn't turn my nose up at that!

Are you doing any DJ sets soon?

Haven't got any booked but I do do them. I actually do WiiJ sets as well. That's DJing with the Nintendo Wii controller, I wrote some software to interpret the signals and then control some DJ software with it, so it's real gestural DJing, by waving my arms around. A lot of people don't get it. They're just like "What are you doing?" Then you muck about with some tunes, so much fun. It puts so much control into these two controllers that I just love doing it for myself to be honest.

Are you quite keen on new interfaces for DJing then?

Yeah definitely, I'm really into digital DJing. Some people have started using the iPad to DJ, there's so many people who use iPhones to trigger stuff. I'm really interested in that sort of thing, seeing what people can do with DJing, to make it a bit more interesting. A lot of people fault it and say it's not as interesting as vinyl, especially with people who just use trackpads and mice. That's not very visual, you can't really understand what they're doing; it's boring to look at. So let's just make it a bit more interesting. Because it is so much more powerful on a laptop. There's people who say it's sacrilege, and you should use vinyl, but get with the 21st century! It's so much fun DJing on your laptop, so why not make it a bit more of a visual spectacle as well?

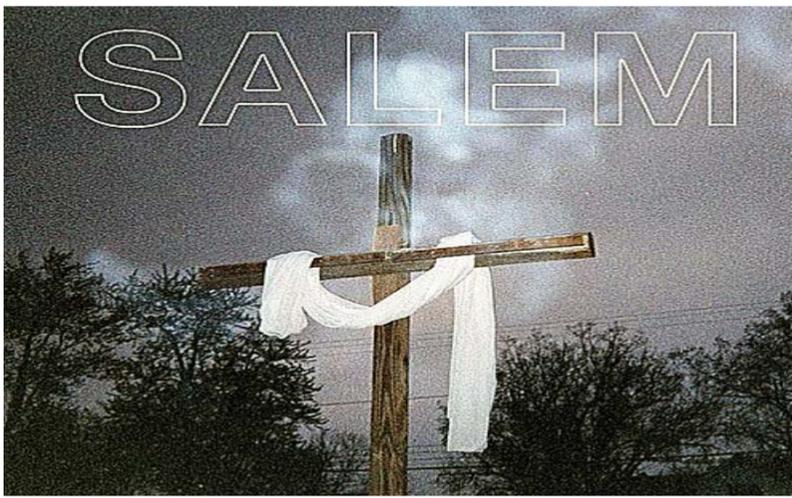
DJ's who are very serious about it come up with their own solutions. Like *Sasha*, who's a massive pioneer of Ableton DJ sets. He built his own controller, it's absolutely massive, but it's gorgeous. He's got so much control on it. It's got lights and indicators and he built it himself.

I think if you're a DJ who's a music geek, you always look at a DJ's kit, because everyone uses different stuff and configures it in their own special way. It's really cool to see what people do. Just get pally with whatever DJ's playing and see what he's using, or she. It's even cooler if it's a girl. There's just something about girl DJs. DJing is a very geeky thing, you gotta spend so much time learning how to do it, rewiring your brain. So to see girls who actually put the time in to do it, it's all the more impressive.

Check out www.martinarcher.co.uk for more info on *Droppin' Science*

RAPE GAZE...

...and other blog-derived genres



Chris Dean

'Rape Gaze'. The phrase has been causing controversy in the last few weeks after Pitchfork issued a statement officially retracting its use from a review of *Salem's* new album *King Night*.

First coined by the band **CREEP**, it refers to an emerging genre characterised by haunted, atmospheric music with vocoder manipulated vocals; also referred to as 'Witch House', 'Drag' or 'Haunted House'. The band have now disowned it, commenting, "It was a play on words which we never expected to be used as an actual genre". Now however pretentious this may be, it does raise interesting questions. What counts as a genre? What meaning does the term have anymore? And what the fuck do these words even mean in the first place?

This rapid branding and debranding of genres appears to be occurring in the industry with remarkable frequency. So far within the last year, we've received two new 'genres' under the guise of Chillwave and the aforementioned Rape Gaze/Witch House. However, it doesn't end there: a whole slew of new bands have dominated the blogs this summer, all of a similar fuzzy, surfer, weed-induced disposition just waiting to be labeled as "Beachwave". And that's not counting last year's Neoshoegaze, Afropop, Zef...

This explosion of genre labeling hasn't been unnoticed by the blogosphere either. Satire blog Hipster Runoff allegedly invented chillwave by promoting the term incessantly, and one look at their now classic "Genre Shirt", where real genres (such as Nintendocore and Crabcore) are almost indistinguishable from fake ones (such as Poetrygaze, and my personal favourite Googlewave) shows how far this has penetrated the indie culture.

But why? What is so appealing about identifying music with incomprehensible words? The most obvious reason is

the invention of music blogging, where the everyman with a keyboard and an opinion suddenly has a platform to talk and discuss any and all music available. In times gone by, small movements of bands would arise in cities or under a record label, cultivating a sound through a tight nit community which could take years to establish. Today, a blogger can pick bands seemingly out of the air, regardless of geographic location or level of talent, and brand them under some new term, which can gain wider recognition in the space of a few weeks.

This consequently has positive and negative effects. The good news is that this high turn around from artist discovery to classified genre means that when combined with the short-term attention spans of blogs, it creates a cycle of constant innovation. New sounds are constantly bought forward, and only the best will survive, producing a vast variety of new music, often rewarding and of high quality.

The bad news is obvious: it's often confusing, pretentious, not really necessary, and anyone who doesn't keep a day-to-day tab on the latest blogs quickly becomes out of the loop. This forces the mainstream and the alternative genres further and further apart, leaving autotuned monstrosities to take over the charts and the Hipsters cradling their **Sleigh Bells** and **Washed Out** vinyls.

Whilst I might have come across as somewhat disparaged by this new genre cycle, it can't be ignored that overall this is a good thing for anyone with two ears and a reasonable taste in music. Whilst these names might come across as idiotic, they only serve the wider purpose of uniting bands under a theme, which can possibly begin to break, and influence, the mainstream (The New York Times recently ran an article on Chillwave for instance). Let's just hope they pick something more suitable than Rape Gaze next time.

A playlist from... Hugh Crail

Anger; It's good for you, unless it involves violence and crime. Listen to this instead.

Q and not U -
X-Polynation

Eighties Matchbox
B-Line Disaster -
Rise of the Eagles

Pissed Jeans -
False Jesii Part 2

The Jesus Lizard -
Puss

Boris -
Pink

DFA 1979 -
Dead Womb

Liars -
Plaster Casts of Everything

Aphex Twin -
Come To Daddy

Find this playlist at:
<http://tinyurl.com/FelixAngry>

If you want to share a mind-blowing playlist send it in to music.felix@gmail.com

Sufjan Stevens THE AGE

The Age of Adz
Asthmatic Kitty
★★★★★



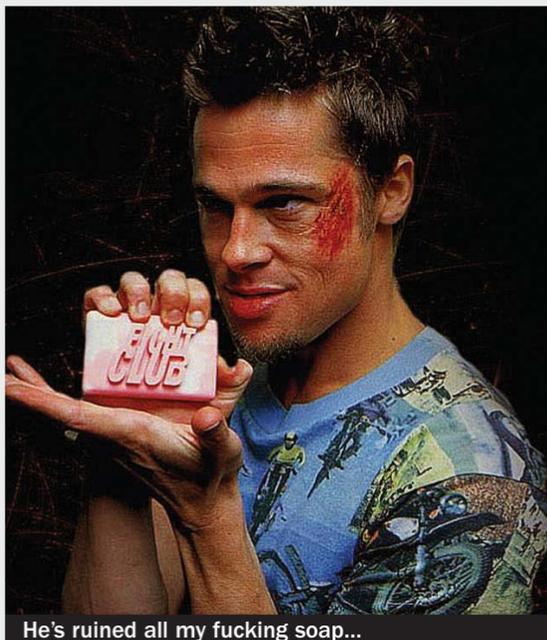
"I'm not fucking around" sings Stevens. He certainly isn't. After 5 long years, **Sufjan** finally returns with a more direct and challenging full length album than his last, blending the orchestral with the electronic. Rather than focusing on an abstract theme such as his previous LPs on US states or the Chinese Zodiac, Stevens' main subject for this album is himself, producing a raw, emotional and altogether more forceful result than 2005's delicate *Illinois*. Rich, compelling and complex, *The Age of Adz's* lyrical and compositional intelligence allows for growing enjoyment with every listen.

- Charlotte Ridler

FILM

Classic Cinema

Fight Club



He's ruined all my fucking soap...

The film starts off with a painful observation of a chronic insomniac-cum-office drone and his exploration of consequence, human psychology and violence as therapeutic means to cull the antagonism of his miserable existence. This soon leads him to seek solace in the arms of various support groups as he pursues the crucial emotional nurture he feels he is without, and it is here that our nameless hero meets the intriguing Marla Singer (Helena Bonham Carter). Their relationship soon progresses to a sexual peak, however we are often left unsure of events as we can only view the entirety of it through the hazy eyes of the narrator. Bonham Carter delivers a flawless performance as Ms. Singer, a cunning hybrid of a naïve yet tarnished pawn who is an essential addition to this male-centric film.

The film starts to become tangible when, during a business flight, our protagonist happens to come across a questionably liberal soap-salesman, Tyler Durden (Brad Pitt) which eventually leads to a fist fight outside a bar. This sparks off what is soon to be epically established as a Fight Club. However, this fight club soon becomes a breeding ground for a more sinister concept known as Project Mayhem, which instigates random anti-capitalist acts of vandalism around the city before amounting to an unbelievably cataclysmic twist.

Pitt conveys an almost messianic performance both on and off screen as his brutally honest yet violent scrutiny of conformity still reverberates in the mind long after the credits have rolled. This dark comedy will hook you in and give you the ultimate high before leaving you to plummet to a sorry end as you ride the avalanche of cynicism leading you to question the very core of your being. Unbeknownst to you, this movie will enslave your subconscious and wean out your darkest and uttermost visceral desires. It will leave you feeling sickened by what it has done to you as you begin to absorb the unfolding of parallel themes of anarchy, duality and masochism all of which run strong in David Fincher's shady tale.

Fahmida Mannan

A return to form for iCU Cinema

Jade Hoffman

It's easy to underestimate the scope for fun at Imperial – other universities probably had fully operational bars during Fresher's Week and students camping out for days or even weeks in the library are not uncommon. With this in mind, when you hear about Imperial College's Cinema, you may very well envision some shabby little screen and one lonely film geek hunched over a DVD player, but you would be wrong. Just above the newly opened FiveSixEight, the Union Concert Hall hides a 33ft screen and, with a professional 35mm projector and full Dolby Surround Sound, the iCU Cinema rivals any average Odeon or Cineworld in London.

If you didn't know this, though, you'd be easily forgiven. It's been a rough few years for the CinemaSoc which, in its heyday, used to draw in a decent crowd and actually make money – a thing that hasn't happened in about six years. According to Tom Rushton, current Chief Projectionist and former Chair, it's been a "downward spiral" since around 2004 and one that showed little hope of recovery on its own.

The decline of iCU's Cinema is a snowballing of bad luck and minor mistakes. In 2008, there was so little interest in the cinema that only four of the six posts on the committee were actually filled and, as Freshers' Fair approached, the Chair for that year went AWOL, forgetting to inform the rest of the committee he'd failed his exams. With two of the remaining three members present, and with four days left before Fresher's fair, Rushton was given the unenviable role of chairing this flagging

Photo by Roberto Tenace



The 33ft screen is taken for a test run

Photo by Roberto Tenace



I like to think that there's a guy in the machine with a torch, projecting the film...

iCU Cinema finally seems in a good position to make a comeback

society. By the Spring term, nothing was showing and the only thing they had gained was one more member of staff.

The next academic year seemed to follow this theme of staff drop-outs (they lost their chair, vice-chair and treasurer in the next Autumn term) and building work at the Union cut

off the remaining staff members from most of the equipment in the projection booth. When iCU Cinema informed the Union it was officially going "dormant" it went pretty much unnoticed – with zero publicity and very little to publicise in the first place, few people at Imperial had really noticed it had existed at all.

£50,000 is, however, a lot of Union money to be spent on highly specialised equipment gathering dust over the concert hall and, over this summer, a new committee was put together. In what seems to be the trend, the new Chair – Charlotte Ivison – was forced to drop out after being elected DPW, but replacing her is 2nd year physicist Chandana Shankar, who is keen to see the cinema back on its feet and enjoying the success of its former years.

Speaking to Felix about the future of iCU Cinema, Shankar said, "People can expect iCU Cinema to show recently released popular films in a complete cinema environment at student-friendly prices." In order to avoid the failings of its past, the cinema is looking to show high-demand blockbusters and organise social events to foster a stronger loyalty in its members.

Perhaps you have to see it to believe it, but for anybody with even a vague interest in films, a visit to iCU Cinema is worth the £3, especially as cinema ticket prices often hit upwards of £10 in most London cinemas. Despite its shaky few years, iCU Cinema finally seems in a good position to make a comeback. Kicking off with *Inception* this Tuesday 26th at 6.30pm in the Union Concert Hall, the resurrected iCU Cinema promises more films like this to follow, with *Toy Story 3*, *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World*, and *The Social Network* all in the pipeline. So if you're getting a drink at the new bar, it'd be worth bringing it upstairs to enjoy Christopher Nolan's latest critically-acclaimed mindfuck, and supporting the return of iCU Cinema in all its glory.

Between a rock and a hard place – the battle for the Chilean Miner story rights

The live feed of the Chilean miners' rescue on the 13th October 2010 had it all: drama, suspense, and plenty of filler from the reporters on scene who were trying to occupy the long pauses between anything actually happening in San José de Copiapó. In this, a frequent theme was what would happen to the miners once brought to the surface and much speculation as to the possibility of a film being made of the story. Ever sensitive to incidents of peril, the Felix office and its film writers have put together several theories as to what kind of outcomes we might be able to expect from a dramatization of their sixty-nine day ordeal.

Set down a dark, damp mine away from civilisation immediately creates the perfect atmosphere for a film in the horror or thriller genre. This could well be the next title on the increasingly shit filmography for **M. Night Shyamalan** whose penchant for twist-endings and often supernatural goings on could easily be recreated down the Chilean mine. In this, we see the thirty-three miners growing increasingly paranoid as they



Already looking like a dodgy Big Brother spin-off - the Chilean miners prepare for fame

are subjected to the kinds of psychological thriller tricks only Shyamalan is able to pull off – like clicking noises or red paint on doors. Mental.

Perhaps, though, to lessen the trauma of the whole thing, a nice family-friendly plot could be readily taken up by the undefeatable **Pixar Studios**. Using their mandatory anthropomorphism and animated charm, John Lasseter and his

crew could create a beautiful story about thirty-three trapped animals/toys/any object with a face drawn on overcoming their differences and believing in themselves. Possible titles include *Miners' Inc.* or *Down*.

If that's too lame for you, you can always rely on **Quentin Tarantino** to direct some stylish grindhouse flick starring Samuel L. Jackson and Benicio

Del Toro as two bad motherfuckers who are caught when the impossibly convoluted storyline collapses and must find the opening of the film. There are also snakes in the mine.

A director who is no stranger to stories of people stuck between a rock and a hard place is neurotic New Yorker **Woody Allen** who could easily fill several hours of nervous self-analysis, see-

ing the whole stuck-down-a-mine thing as an allegory for his own metaphorical shafting.

Or we could run with *The Expendables*, a blockbuster action film starring a stellar cast of unnamed Chinese miners who become trapped in a mine and are ignored by the authorities and world press.

To follow current trend, surely many would support a **High School Musical 4: Apprenticeship In Poorly Constructed Mine** simply as an excuse to bury that floppy-haired knobber Zac Efron and his friends. Cameras optional. Also, might as well stick the *Glee* cast down there (ooh - controversial).

The story might also get offered to **James Cameron** who could be asked to direct *Avatar-ture* a four-hour, horror film where Cameron is asked to make a film for less than \$50 million, and then gets trounced in the Academy Awards by his ex-wife.

Failing all of these, it's been a while since we've had a new hip-hopera from **R. Kelly** and *Trapped in the Mine* might be the thing to bring it all back.

Cynics beware: Julia Roberts' *Eat Pray Love*

Eat Pray Love

Director Ryan Murphy
Screenwriter Ryan Murphy, Jennifer Salt, Elizabeth Gilbert
Cast Julia Roberts, James Franco, Javier Bardem, Richard Jenkins

John Park

If you happen to have an ounce of cynicism in your body, avoid this like the plague, because for the cynics amongst you, *Eat Pray Love* will no doubt be the most self-indulgent film you will see all year. But for those who are truly romantics at heart, one woman's pretty looking journey across the colourful globe to find the meaning of life, searching for a true connection, will be something to marvel at. Is she brave for venturing out into the world, following her dreams? Or is she simply deluding herself into a materialistic journey? Are the problems in her life that serious?

Liz (Julia Roberts) is a middle-aged woman going through a divorce after disastrous years of trying to make her marriage work and is looking for some sort of consolation from a much younger man (James Franco). But the love affair is cooling off significantly, and she is

once again left alone, bored and unenthusiastic about life. She needs a change of scenery, and being a travel writer, she decides to take an entire year out to do some effective soul-searching.

Before we are able to see Julia Roberts going on the rather expensive-looking trip, however, the film needs to establish that Liz is leading a miserable existence. This is where the casting of Roberts really pays off. Roberts, being the international superstar that she is, does not disappoint, with her subtle glances of sadness and vulnerability setting an effective tone at the beginning of the film. She has spent years worrying about her future, and now she needs fun.

And it's a timeout to die for. In Rome she decides to stop worrying about gaining weight. She's in Italy, there are sumptuous dishes of pizza and pasta and she is not about to let a few pounds stop her from enjoying the endless amount of fantastic food that is on offer. There's a particularly memorable scene where Roberts tucks into a rather simple looking spaghetti pomodoro, which in fact, turns out to be amazing. Accompanied by "Der Hölle Rache," the famous Queen of the Night aria from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, the scene will make



The classic teenage-girl webcam shot is aptly recreated in Östland's film

your tummy growl as Roberts finds a brief moment of true happiness with that plate of spaghetti.

Then she's off to India, where she stays in a Hindu temple, finding peace, praying, connecting with God. But being new to all of this, it's not easy to sit still, pause, and meditate for hours and hours. She meets a friendly old man from Texas, Richard (Richard Jenkins), who helps her get rid of the burdens that are pressing down on her shoulders. Jenkins provides the only stand-out supporting performance and in one intimate scene that is handled perfectly by the actor, his monologue will tug at the heartstrings.

The friendship between the two is often humorous as well as deeply moving, and a lot of credit should go to Jenkins.

Good-looking men surround Gilbert in Bali. She almost hooks up with a much younger man, but the one that threatens to steal her heart is the conveniently divorced Felipe (Javier Bardem), whose business apparently lets him be wherever he wants to be (his words). So the audience is confused later, when he also goes on to say that his business is in Bali, so he cannot leave with Gilbert when she eventually plans to. Other than that slight hiccup, Felipe seems to be the perfect man for her. Gilbert took this trip

to be away from complications, to liberate herself, but it appears she needs a man after all to keep her happy.

It's hard to adapt a book that relies heavily on internal monologue. *Eat Pray Love* is based on an enormously popular bestseller written by Elizabeth Gilbert whose autobiography was an instant hit for the readers and, despite the excessive use of voiceovers, the film fails to show any depth relating to this woman's year-long journey. It has a lengthy running time, but spends very little bit of it explaining to us just how some of the events occur. The disjointed feel is partly the editor's fault, but the careless script should share the blame. She's praying. What about? She connects with God. How? She finds Balance. Again, how? The soul-searching; did she succeed? Was Felipe it? The calm, soothing voice of Roberts, along with some philosophical elements try to give clever answers to the many questions that have been raised. But because director Ryan Murphy is so focused on showing the beautiful, breathtaking aspect of her adventure, all that *Eat Pray Love* boils down to is nothing but a shallow travelogue with a fantastic leading actress but not much else.

Fashion Editor: **Saskia Verhagen**

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FASHION

Student Street Style



Gaby, Year 4, Medicine

Already channelling next season, Gaby has nailed both the rock'n'roll and sheer layering trends here in one fell swoop. All this, topped off with the most fantastic belt, which she informed me cost £5 from a charity shop. A great transitional look.

Diary of a Shopaholic

Blackout II

51 Endell Street, Covent Garden,
WC2H 9AJ



This little-known Aladdin's cave of women's vintage glamour is hidden on Endell Street in Covent Garden. Set up almost 20 years ago, it is filled to the brim with clothes, accessories and lingerie from the 1920s until the 1980s for dressing up and looking fabulous. Each piece is dated, making the experience both fashionable and educational; and the array of earrings, necklaces and brooches are begging to add that unique touch to any outfit. It is the place to follow this season's 1950s revival and channel the 70s next season and, as each piece is a one-off, no one else will ever have the same thing. This best thing about the store is that you can hire as well as buy, making it the grandmother's wardrobe you wish you could raid. Last time I was in there I spied an amazing 1950s full length red ball gown, reminiscent of Jessica Rabbit, for £120. Exquisite pieces and affordable prices make it an essential addition to your little black book of London fashion.

Keeping winter cosy

Felix has a try-on of the very best of this season's high-street offerings of the essential winter coat

Jennifer Smith

Coats are an absolute staple for the coming winter months. As long, dreamy days in the park give way to cold, dark nights with no more than street lamps to brighten up your day, at least fashion can provide an eclectic mix of winter warmers to keep the chill at bay. The range of coats on the high street currently appears to be never-ending so you're certainly sure to find a style, shape and fabric to suit you.

Aviator



Topshop, £78

The most lusted-after jacket from Burberry Prorsum's A/W 2010 line is finally accessible to mere mortals.

Duffel



Miss Selfridge, £50

The duffel coat epitomises winter warmth and this navy blue version from Miss Selfridge is a mark of classic winter style. With its contrasting red lining and roused shoulder detail, team it with grey skinny jeans for a warm, stylish twist on a winter staple – perfect for snuggling round a campfire to watch the fireworks!

Military



Topshop, £78

Combining the military vibe with feminine bow detailing, this great coat can be worn with just about anything.

So girls, coats: find a shape and colour to flatter you. As with every item of clothing, what looks great on her may not look great on you. Think of your wardrobe and match your coat to suit your existing clothes and most importantly your lifestyle. After all, a good coat is a good investment.

Karl Lagerfeld vs. Yves Saint Laurent: The Beautiful Fall of fashion's titans

BOOK REVIEW

Gabriella Yongue

Fashion is often perceived as superficial and shallow, and is often mocked by the general public (think *Ugly Betty* and *The Devil Wears Prada*). For this reason, I found Alicia Drake's account of the turbulent journey of the fashions two greatest rivals, Yves Saint Laurent and Karl Lagerfeld into stardom, refreshingly honest and insightful. Beautifully written and well-researched, the book describes the lives of these two artistic geniuses who had to battle with

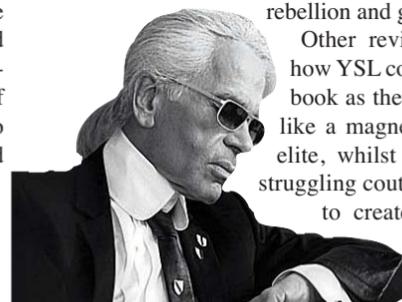
their personal demons to create sartorial masterpieces that would embody a quickly changing world full of parties, rebellion and globalization.

Other reviews comment about how YSL comes out on top in this book as the tormented artist that, like a magnet, attracted fashion's elite, whilst Karl Lagerfeld as a struggling couturier who was unable

to create his own style and so turned his hand to prêt-à-porter. However, I think

both were shown to be brilliant but with their own flaws; I found myself warming to both, despite their eccentricities.

Despite the book's focus on the two, the character leaving the largest mark was Karl Lagerfeld's muse, Jacques de Bascher. His lavish lifestyle and the aesthetic obsession which led to his self-destruction inspired the title: "Cadent comes from the Latin *cadere*, which means to fall. Decadent is something very different, it's the beautiful way to fall. It can be kind of self-killing in a beautiful way, a tragic way."



Welcome to London

Fashion Editor **Saskia Verhagen** lets rip at the most irritating of London's fashion stereotypes: boys in tight trousers and army boots, girls in Uggs and gilets beware!

London is a quintessential fashion capital. Though we don't have the edgy cool of New York, the elegant chic of Paris or the classic luxury of Milan, we have quirkiness and an extraordinary propensity to seek

originality, using every sartorial tool in the box to illustrate exactly who we are, consciously or not. What we have, unique to London, are more distinctive fashion districts than you can shake a stick at. In

Paris you have the right bank, and the left. New York: uptown and downtown. In London we have sartorial subsets that range from Chelsea to Camden, Shoreditch to Shepherd's Bush, Portobello to Primrose Hill.

For those who are strangers to London, I will seek to elucidate the signatures of two of our most ubiquitous fashion sets: Chelsea and Hoxton. The point is not to identify yourself with either of

them – heaven forbid! – just be armed with the knowledge that they both exist, in various degrees of extremity, and you have my permission to sniff smugly at their generic conformism: a crime that a true London fashionista would never commit.

CHELSEA

Commonly known as Sloanes, after the Chelsea hub of Sloane Square, this lot, with their Ugg boots and Barbour jackets in tow, have managed to disperse themselves up and down the country, which is fairly unfortunate for the rest of us.

The look: Inspired by the greener pastures outside of the M25, this is what happens when the middle classes of the Home Counties move to London.

The girls: She seemingly hasn't quite gotten over the loss of her pony and so tries to emulate that muddy, blustered look of a long day of dressage with matted hair (it's actually highlighted by a very expensive hairdresser in Mayfair, and has had that messiness carefully created by a well-refined blend of various sprays, lotions and potions) and smudged eye-liner. The daily uniform is tights, Uggs, denim and a jumper emblazoned with either their school or sport of choice. Worse specimens wear pyjama bottoms, and favour a Puffa gilet to the more traditional coat in the winter months. Don't forget the pashmina.

The boys: Flip-flops, whatever the weather, is a classic hallmark. Combine these with a wardrobe composed of Jack Wills and Abercrombie/Hollister. His collar is always turned up and contrary to his true country counterpart, his hair is long and side-swept; a true country bumpkin keeps his hair short and functional, not needing to run his hand through it every 5 minutes, to maintain that perfect side parting.

Where to find them: Listen out for shouts of "Arabella!" or "Tarquin!" outside any of Mahiki, Boujis or The Brompton Club.

What happens when they grow up? Nothing good. David Cameron and Kate Middleton. I know.



HOXTON

Welcome to East London. A land where individualism has run so rampant that it has managed to blur itself into a sea of hipsters bound by their rejection of all things mainstream.

The look: a better journalist than I once said that hipsterism "fetishises the authentic" elements of the "fringe movements of the post-war era – beat, hippie, punk, grunge and regurgitates it with a winking inauthenticity" – harsh words. All fashion is some kind of regurgitation and the London brand of hipster just tries too bloody hard.

The girls: androgynous haircut, floral minidress, grandma's old cardigan, ripped tights, plus/minus American Apparel accessories and non-prescription thick-rimmed glasses. She is usually dragging on a cigarette whose brand you've never heard of. They're foreign, apparently. She loathes to admit that mummy and daddy are actually the owners of her Hoxton studio flat and that though she pulls pints at the local, her allowance drops in on the first of every month.

The boys: The classic white-boy afro. You know what I'm talking about. Trousers perpetually tucked into boots. His jumpers are too small and he wears woolly hats on sunny days and sunglasses in the rain. He also got thrush once from wearing his trousers too tight.

Where to find them: Hanging out at the grungiest bars of Dalston and Stoke Newington – Hoxton is too darn mainstream now you see, those pesky finance types are cramping their style and the rent and drinks prices have suddenly shot up. Check out The Moustache Bar and Dalston Superstore – at the very least, the booze is pretty cheap.

What happens when they grow up? They get a normal job. Something sickeningly conformist like advertising or PR.



Games Editor: **Simon Worthington**

GAMES

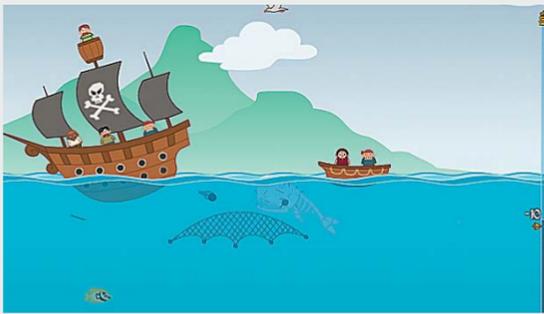
games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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 otherwise specified, you're going to need the Adobe Flash Player plug-in which can be installed from <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>.

Moby Dick

mostrogames.com/games/mobydick.html



Despite the developer admitting that this game is what happens "when you make a game from a book you have never read", this 2D whale munch-fest is surprisingly true to the original text. Players must control the titular white whale using the mouse, and have to destroy as many boats and munch on as many fish (and sailors) as they can without running out of air or health. Sailors will bombard you with arrows and nets, and later bigger ships will arrive and fire cannonballs at you.

As you blitz your way through the ocean it's easy to overlook how pretty the game looks – there's clearly been a lot of attention to detail. It's also got the quality of being 'easy to pick up, difficult to master', so there's plenty of gameplay to keep coming back to.

Bunny Flags

tinyurl.com/bunnyflags



In this defend-and-shoot game, you control an eye-patched rabbit commando defending his flag (and, indeed, himself) from hostile enemies. Quite why the enemies are disembodied fingers and all the action is played out amongst giant books and mugs of coffee is not easy to discern, but the mixture of tower defence and top-down shooter is a good one.

The shooting aspect helps take the tedium out of waiting for enemies to reach your towers – a common problem in tower defence games – and the presence of towers provides a refreshing strategic element.

Graphic survival horror: the forgotten genre

Amnesia: The Dark Descent will give you the willies

Laurence Pope

Amnesia: The Dark Descent is a graphic adventure survival horror game that had me swapping out trousers on a regular basis, and I shall endeavour to convey why this little-known gem is so worthy of attention. First though, a little introduction to Frictional Games, and the current state of the survival horror genre.

Frictional Games is a small independent video game company based in Helsingborg, Sweden (don't feel you have to look it up on the map). The company's only other product is a three-part series called *Penumbra*, which is... well, it's another graphic adventure survival horror series, but so what? Frictional Games pulled off the genre so well in *Penumbra* that it was only logical that they should create a different game based on the same genre, only this time using an advanced version of their own HPL game engine (named after the initials of H. P. Lovecraft, from whom Frictional Games draw a lot of inspiration). Don't worry if you haven't heard about any of this before – I hadn't either, until I stumbled upon the *Penumbra* series a few months back.

Most modern survival horror titles have a problem, a problem the big video game companies aren't fixing. In a word (or five), they're just not scary anymore. Take for example an old favourite of mine: *Dead Space*. If you haven't heard of it (shame on you!), it is in essence a third-person survival horror game set aboard a giant space ship, where you play as a plucky space engineer fighting off the horribly mutated remnants of the ship's crew. Now don't get me wrong, *Dead Space*, along with other survival horrors out there, is fun – just not that scary. Sure, they'll make you jump in your seat, but I could name a lot of things that make me jump that aren't considered scary – my cat, for example. With the slew of fierce-looking weapons most survival horrors throw at you, gameplay devolves from a tense horror-filled nightmare to an elaborate monster shooting gallery. It's fun, but it's like ordering a banana split and receiving a fillet steak – I like fillet steak, and I'll eat it, but I would have much preferred my banana-based dessert.

Amnesia: The Dark Descent delivers the metaphorical banana split. You play as some poor sap called Daniel who wakes up in a large medieval castle with no idea what's going on – you could say he has amnesia. Luckily, Daniel was smart enough to write notes for himself which are scattered around the castle and along with flashbacks at certain locations in the castle, serve to advance the plot. For the first few minutes you'll have no idea why you're there, or what you're meant to do. However, the first note you find soon puts you on track. It's revealed that Daniel induced his own amnesia by drinking some sort of potion, and his former self instructs him to find and murder an old guy



"Amnesia seriously messes with your mind"

called Alexander, who's hiding in the depths of the castle. Notes throughout the game add to the story, revealing more about Daniel's past, but towards the end these snippets of text grow more confusing rather than intriguing and it often requires a second playthrough for it to make some sort of sense (which I'd recommend, if only to listen to the developer's commentary).

The game is set in the 19th century, and as such there's no high-tech weaponry – in fact, there is no weaponry at all. You have yourself, a lantern, and the ability to run and hide like a scared child. Frictional Games realises that for a survival horror game to be tense, you actually have to feel like you're surviving, and barely, not just strolling about the levels like you're a T-1000. There's no direct health bar in *Amnesia*, but opening up the inventory gives you some idea of what state you're in: either 'Healthy', 'Cuts and Bruises', or 'On Death's Door'.

That is, if you can find any of the monsters to lose health from. Again, Frictional Games realises that everyone has different fears – a tarantula can either be a worst nightmare or an adorable pet. *Amnesia* seriously messes with your mind: footsteps can be heard above and behind you, you hear the cries of slaving beasts that never materialise, at some points your screen will distort, screams will be heard and suspicious red fluid will dribble from the walls, but each and every time an enemy will fail to appear. Yet you will always keep a watch behind you, always fearing something will pop out and require you to change your underwear. The phrase 'less is more' springs irresistibly to mind.

The crowning feature of *Amnesia* is how you deal with baddies when you do finally find

them, or as is more often, when they find you. What do you do? You run and hide. In my first encounter I tried to run past the baddie only to be swiped in the head and knocked to the floor. Second time around I ran into a room, closed the door and hid in a cupboard as the game suggested just before the monster burst into the room. I even peeked out once or twice to see him rooting about. By the time I climbed out the closet again my heart was thumping like a darn drum.

Light is also another focal point – after all, there's not much of it. Stay in the darkness for too long, or see too many monsters or disturbing visions and your sanity will drain, represented by a decaying brain in your inventory menu. The effect of low sanity will cause your screen to blur as if you dropped your glasses or lost your contacts which does begin to irritate towards the end (though you can become sane again by completing the game's puzzles). Luckily you have a portable lantern at your disposal as well as tinderboxes to light up static stuff such as candles and wall-mounted torches. Both are limited resources but both can be found with a little careful searching. Be warned, though: light acts like a homing beacon for monsters trailing you. Bringing up my lantern in a shadowy corner by mistake and promptly being slashed to death was a mistake I never made again.

I could go on about the physics engine, but really all I'll say is that it's wonderfully immersive with the ability to rotate and move objects around quite naturally. If you enjoy survival horror, you really owe it to yourself to try *Amnesia* out. If you've not played much survival horror before, watch out – most other games will feel lacklustre compared to it after completion. If you play with headphones, and play at night (as is highly recommended by myself and Frictional) you'll start forgetting it's a game and you'll truly be immersed in the disturbing world of *Amnesia*.

Another chronic Sonic failure

Matt Colvin and Simon Worthington attempt to enjoy *Sonic The Hedgehog 4*

Poor Sonic has been having a bit of a rough time recently. Despite Mario and Luigi continuing their Godfather-esque dominance over pretty much any market they lay their eyes upon, their spiky blue hedgehog nemesis has enjoyed some high-profile, big-budget releases. However with a menagerie of arbitrary supporting characters, a silly oversized sword and a transformation into a credulity-stretching 'werehog', to name but a few 'major innovations' to the franchise, it's no surprise that recent instalments have failed to make the dash to success.

With SEGA all but ready to give up the game, they initiated the enigmatic 'Project Needle-mouse': an attempt to recapture the winning formula of previous Sonic titles that the once-loyal fan base yearned for. With promises of a genuine continuation of the original storyline and a return to classic side-scrolling Sonic, the 'project' became what we now see before us as *Sonic The Hedgehog 4*.

On the surface it seems SEGA have at least been partially successful. Even if you've never encountered Sonic before it's hard not to be charmed by the introductory "SEGA AAA" yell and the cute and very retro menus. The first level will bring a smile to your face with the thrill of sending the spinning blue hedgehog hurtling down hills, up pipes and along helix-shaped bridges. The obligatory 'ancient pyramid', 'underwater' and 'steam power gone wrong' levels make the style feel a little dated but the graphics and music are pleasant enough and there is some genuinely decent platforming fun to be had. Breaks from the usual mechanics can also be found in mine cart and boulder balancing sections, but these are used too sparingly to be anything more than a gimmick.

Eventually though, casual players will become frustrated by *Sonic's* broken level design and steep difficulty curve. It doesn't take long for you to fall into one of the almost maliciously placed spike walls or to become stuck in a pit with no immediate or intuitive form of escape. Sonic himself is painfully and lethargically slow until he's reached his top speeds which makes the game bringing you to a complete full stop all the more flow-disrupting. Although tolerable for some of the early 'Splash Hill' or 'Casino Street' levels, anything later than this will cause even a well-adjusted player to throw their controller to the ground in frustration.

It's inherently obvious that this game was not designed for casual players. There's no tutorial so anyone not already familiar with Sonic has to look up the controls and despite promises of a new storyline there is simply no plot to be found. Nostalgic *Sonic* veterans will be wooed by the presence of the original two-tone check-board textures and side-scrolling gameplay, and it becomes excruciatingly clear that this game was designed, drawn and developed exclusively for the fans of the original series.

SEGA however, instead of making tentative



changes to the overall format, have blindly followed the cries of the masses and literally regressed back to the beginning. Levels are instantly recognisable as carbon-copies of stages from *Sonic 1, 2 and 3* and *Sonic and Knuckles*. Textures, enemies and even boss levels, although now presented in eyeball-popping high definition, have been simply copy-pasted into the game with just a light brushing of visual makeup. The only indication that there's been almost twenty years of 'progress' since *Sonic and Knuckles* is the homing attack, a kind of auto-pilot that homes the blue fuzzball in on springs and enemies. Even this is a pain to use as it's never quite clear why or when an enemy is or isn't a target. Everything is recycled and for fans there's no challenge in giant walking robots or fireball-shooting chameleons because they've all been seen before, and crucially, done so much better.

What changes there have been to the core run, jump and spin will not be appreciated. Instead of game design that rewards the player's skill with speed and rings, spike walls and enemies lie at random around every corner waiting for

"Fans want a fresh experience that still feels like good ol' Sonic, not arehash that they've all played before."

you to bumble innocently into them. Bottomless life-draining pits are also shamefully unmarked so it's impossible to know when you fall if you're falling to your doom or not. *Sonic The Hedgehog 4* is now a game of memory and chance, not of skill. The only way to become an expert is to simply play the levels enough times until you know exactly what lies ahead. This is intrinsically not what the original *Sonic* series was all about. It's undeniable that there was always some trial-and-error associated with the early games, but not nearly on the same magnitude as is present here.

This is brought sharply into focus during the final boss battle, taking place on Dr. Eggman's space station. After an epic battle which unnecessarily includes all of the earlier bosses, with mere seconds left on the timer and with the final, definitive blow landed on the robot mecha, the floor begins to crumble beneath the hedgehog and he falls, almost predictably, to his doom. No explanation. No indication that this was going to happen. Eventually we had to text 118118 to even work out what the hell was going on, and it was helpfully divulged that unless you are standing in a completely arbitrary point on the screen so you can see where the boss lands to bonk him on the head, you die. No skill, just memory and chance. All this could even have been avoided if the camera didn't suck so badly, as it never zooms out to show the boss, enemy or anything else that players desperately need to see.

Initially, *Sonic 4* certainly is fun for casual gamers, as zooming Sonic around all over the place is enjoyable and some of the later platforming is genuinely good. Despite this it's simply not long enough (weighing in at about five or six hours to get to the last level) and is far too infuriating to warrant the hefty price tag. More 'episodes' are also planned so to get the full experience SEGA will be expecting players to shell out more of their cash.

As for the fans, SEGA have given them the exact opposite of what they want. *Sonic The Hedgehog 4* has the platforming and graphics of the original series combined together with the faulty design principles of the 'new' *Sonic* games. What players actually want to see is original and new storylines, game modes and graphics that follow the classic *Sonic* design philosophy. Fans want a fresh experience that still feels like good ol' *Sonic*, not a rehash of games from the 'glory days' that they've all played before. It's a true disappointment that *Sonic 4* simply doesn't live up to either the hype or the expectation placed upon it, and one can only hope that there's enough time between now and *Sonic The Hedgehog 4: Episode 2* for SEGA to fully understand the mistakes in what they've produced.

Sonic The Hedgehog 4: Episode 1 is out now on PSN, Xbox Live Arcade, WiiWare and iOS. Prices vary according to platform.

Food Editor: Dana Li

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FOOD

Your review

Lawrie Armstrong says:

Never judge a book by its cover. Shilpa looks rather unassuming from outside but don't be deceived. This is the best Indian restaurant I've been to in London since moving up in 2006. Specialising in South Indian and Keralan cuisine, Shilpa has a vast selection from very tasty appetisers to complex and delicious curries. You MUST try it!



Share your favourite restaurant or cafe in 80-100 words with us, send it to food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Bailey's Choc. Cheesecake



Warning: Your cheesecake may not look this good

100g butter
250g crushed digestive biscuits
600g Philadelphia cream cheese
1 mini shot of Baileys
100ml icing sugar
300ml whipped double cream
100g grated chocolate

To garnish

200ml whipped double cream
cocoa powder, to dust

Melt the butter and add the crushed digestive biscuits. Mix well until the biscuits have absorbed all the butter.

Remove from the heat and press into the bottom of a lined 18cm/7in springform tin. Place in the refrigerator and allow to set for one hour.

Meanwhile, prepare the filling. Lightly whip the cream cheese then add the Bailey's and icing sugar. Fold in the whipped cream and grated chocolate. When smooth, spoon evenly onto the biscuits.

Refrigerate and allow to set for two hours. Decorate with whipped cream and cocoa powder dusted over the top. Serve.

Home-made Hummus!

Victoria Brzezinski

The humble chickpea makes up one of the most delicious things in the world – hummus. There's just something about it that's good for the soul, especially when it's my favourite home-made recipe (as featured below), not the pseudo-hummus stuff you find parading about the supermarket. This Middle Eastern delight has a certain *je ne sais quoi* about it that undeniably puts you in a 'FREE HUGS' sort of mood.

It just so happens that there's a bit of science behind this: hummus is pretty much the new Prozac. Chickpeas are high in tryptophan, an amino acid which is a vital building block of the neurotransmitter serotonin (aka 5-hydroxytryptamine). Modern biochemistry and psychiatry show a strong correlation between lack of serotonin and mood disorders such as anxiety and depression. Nowadays, the lack of serotonin is treated with SSRIs (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors), all the big names in the anti-depressant market like Prozac, Seroxat and Cipralex which work by increasing the amount of serotonin in the brain. A tryptophan-rich diet has a similar effect, and quelle surprise! – the chickpea species has the highest tryptophan content of its genus. Nutritionally, hummus is also a bit of a diamond. It's full of fatty acids like Omega-3, lots of important minerals and is high in protein and complex carbohydrates. Plus the Glycemic Index of hummus is really low so it keeps you fuller for longer.

If you've not tried home-made hummus before, I guarantee it will change your life. I found a delightful little statistic claiming the average Israeli eats 10kg of hummus a year – impressive, sure, but I hope to beat that. Now I know the whole hummus process below looks pretty arduous but you're actually looking at about max. 20 minutes work, mainly changing the wa-

Flickr/caitysparkles



ter a couple of times and playing with a blender.

You will need

- 1 cup of dried chickpeas (never, ever use tinned chickpeas – they are completely devastating in terms of the flavour and nutritional value of your hummus – and make sure you buy the smallest dried ones you can find, I recommend any of the many grocers' on North End Road, the type you want is called 'desi')
- 1/2 cup tahini (this is sesame seed paste)
- the juice of 1 squeezed lemon
- 1 or 2 garlic cloves (depending on your personal taste)
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1 tablespoon + 1/8 teaspoon baking soda (if you don't use this your chickpeas will never soften)
- salt

Now let's make some hummus!

- 1 – Wash the dried chickpeas until the water runs clear. Soak overnight in clean water with a

tablespoon of baking soda. The following day wash them and soak again in fresh water for a couple more hours. At this point the grains should have absorbed most of the water and doubled in volume.

- 2 – Wash the chickpeas thoroughly and place in a large saucepan. Cover with water, add an 1/8 of a teaspoon of baking soda and NO salt. Simmer for an hour or so, and switch the water half-way through cooking. Remove the peels and foam which float to the surface. Your chickpeas should now be very easily smushed between two fingers. Sieve the grains and reserve the cooking water.

- 3 – Put the chickpeas into a food processor and whiz them up. Leave them to chill in the fridge.

- 4 – Add the remaining ingredients and whiz again until you get the desired texture. If it's looking a bit too thick, add some of the cooking water. Voila! Perfect hummus. I serve mine with a drizzle of good olive oil and some chopped parsley. Viva la hummus revolution!

Jamie's US mission comes to a close

Charles Betts

Channel 4 aired the finale of Jamie Oliver's American Food Revolution on Monday night, a six episode TV series that documents the Naked Chef's attempts to reform the eating habits of Huntington, West Virginia. The city has recently been identified as the US's unhealthiest by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Jamie sets out to work with the school kitchens and the community to help people eat better. A highly noble pursuit. Yet from the off he is persistently confronted by incredulous cooks and administrators, who react venomously to the Essex boy telling them what they do is wrong. One cook gets all ruffled when he calls her a lunch lady. And yet all she does is to portray that stereotype perfectly by resisting any positive change to her hijacked work routine. She goes on to state that she does her job only for the money, and fails to see what's wrong with serving poor, bland food – a problem that

tragically afflicts all too many a canteen.

The local radio show host shows an equally narrow-minded attitude, hollering "we don't want to sit around and eat lettuce all day!" The chef dryly states that he "thought there were only miserable bastards like that in England."

Fortunately, the US social inclination to avoid embarrassment at all costs soon kicks in and the community gradually responds to Jamie's pleas. He obtains tens of thousands of dollars from the local hospital boss to keep the scheme going, the school food supplier pledges a year's free produce, and a thousand people partake in his cookathon – including the Governor – discovering in the process how easy good, healthy food can be to make and prepare.

The show does of course suffer from all the usual reality TV drivel, X-factor style (but with far fewer lights and dramatic music), though this does make it exceptionally watchable. Crucially, the sight of seeing Jamie blubbing five times an episode like some sort of leaking tap

does not detract from the key objective of highlighting how entrenched in society shoddy eating has become not only for children, but adults too. Whilst the X-factor places tears, Simon Cowell's teeth, and Wagner before music, Jamie's food revolution manages to consistently keep good, honest food as its central heroine.

Jamie has spent the last few years changing the way we perceive food. Back in 2005 he ran the kitchen meals for a UK school for a year, beginning a campaign to improve the standard of Britain's school meals. He's now sowed the seeds for a similar reform in the US, although one gets the impression that the chances of the revolution having any lasting impact on Huntington's eating habits are as faint as Nick Clegg's spine. But for anyone who genuinely cares about their health and the joys of eating, this show is a real eye-opener.

Amazingly, at the local high school the kids queue up for Jamie's spaghetti sauce, and ditch the chips.

FiveSixEight.

OPENS MONDAY 18 OCTOBER

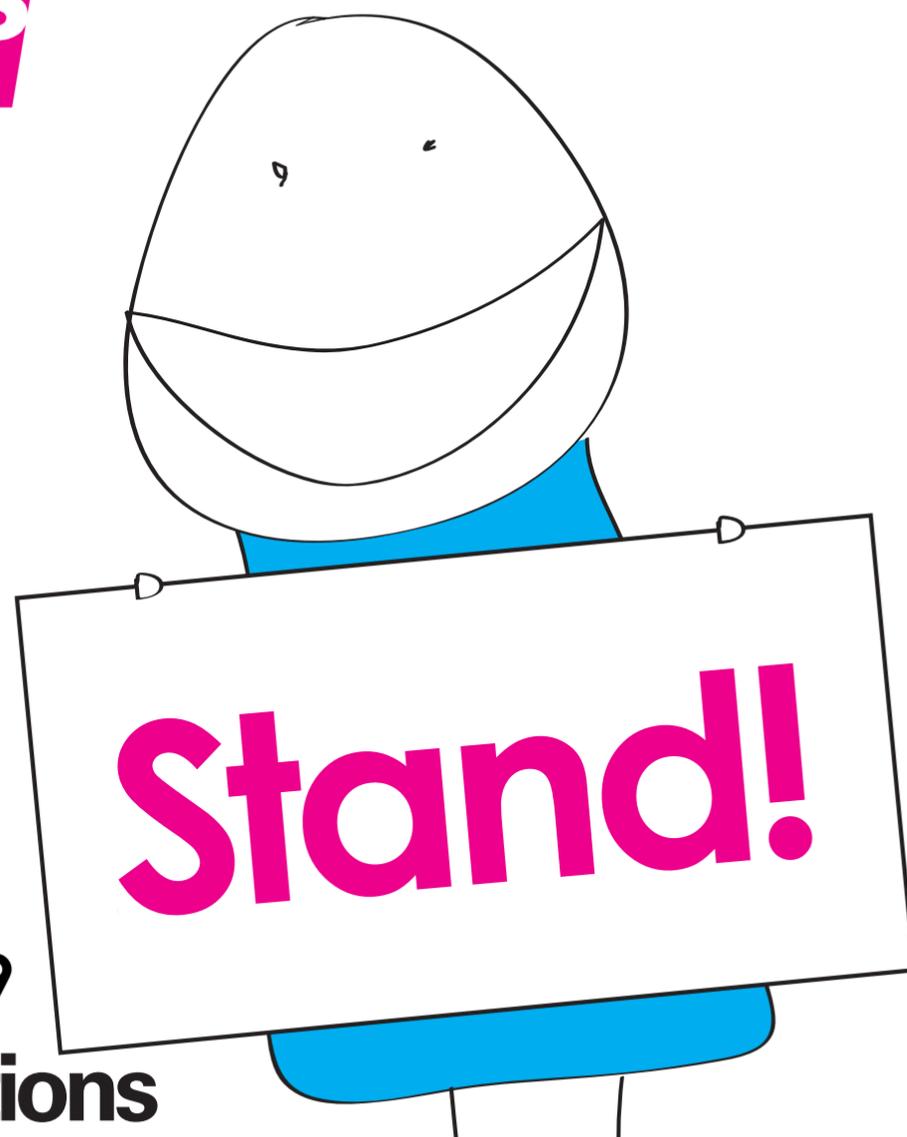
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TRAVEL

Travel Editor: **Dylan Lowe**
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Wishing You Were Here



Cape Reinga by Alexander Ford

Want to see your travel photograph featured here? Send it to travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Travel Blog of the Week



Who: Travel With A Mate was co-founded by Brits Matt and Deborah Preston.

About: The website is cemented by a strong sense of community – travel bloggers are encouraged to showcase their travels and writing through interviews and guest posts. Reviews, travel advice, tips and location guides are amongst the many things Travel With A Mate offer

Why: The concept of actively inviting guest writers is truly alluring and infinitely beneficial to any novice travel blogger who would like to gain exposure. The interviews don't only leave you inspired by the colourful anecdotes, they also broaden your acquaintance with individuals of the travel-blogging community. The sense of community is expanded in real life as Matt hosts monthly meet-ups for travel bloggers, providing workshops and Q&A sessions. Matt also penned an informative e-book on how to establish a successful blog on Wordpress.

Recommended: Working overseas vs backpacking; The location independent lifestyle; Travel with friends vs travel solo; Oil – a backpackers' best friend

Link: <http://www.travelwithamate.com>

Twitter: @travelwithamate

Needing inspiration for a weekend getaway? Or some travelling planned ahead of the next break? Join the discussion #FelixTravel on twitter for ideas.

One tasty-looking trek

Two Imperial graduates talk to Felix about plans to walk the entire length of New Zealand, on the Te Araroa trail

New Zealand. For a land-of-the-long-white-cloud the size of United Kingdom, which secludes itself in the south-eastern corner of the world map, and houses a population of sheep outnumbering that of humans by 15:1, it boasts an uncanny amount of eccentrics and their heroic – yet insane – antics.

Edmund Hilary, whose ascent would later earn him a knighthood, honed his mountaineering skills in the Southern Alps of New Zealand's South Island. A J Hackett, better known as the 'father of bungee jumping', performed his first jump from Greenhithe Bridge, Auckland, and commercialised his 'insanity' on Kawarau Bridge, Queenstown. Meanwhile, James Livingstone and his mates sailed a pub and gallons of Speights – brand of a New Zealand beer with proud heritage – from Dunedin to London to quench the thirst of their homesick compatriots.

Even having lived amongst the extraordinaires, with their ambitious yet seemingly ludicrous (depending on perspective, clearly) schemes still strikes me with much fascination. So when two Imperial graduates approached me with their grand plan I could only admire and utter an obligatory "sweet as".

Alexander 'Anders' Ford and Landey Patton,

"I'd rather not go straight into a high paying corporate job and never see outside your office window"

who have completed a degree in material science and geology respectively, will attempt to traverse the Te Araroa Trail, a 3030km track that will take them from the northernmost point of New Zealand, Cape Reinga, to Bluff, its southernmost tip. Along with Anders' brother Damienmarc, they intend to set off in mid-November, aiming to complete the trek by the following March.

I asked them where the inspiration to trek across New Zealand had sprung from. It turns out, according to Anders, to be a modern adventurer.

"Back in first year I stumbled upon a guy called Karl Bushby of the Goliath Exhibition – he's doing the longest unbroken walk in the world. I wanted to do it too. I thought it would be better to try out somewhere smaller at first. I thought about John o' Groats to Lands End – no too small. I thought about Australia – too dangerous.

"I visited New Zealand later that year, and there it is: beautiful and challenging landscapes, plenty of fresh water and nothing in the bush that could kill me. So it had to be New



Zealand. After I started looking at walking New Zealand I found that there was a track that went the whole way, the Te Araroa trail."

With just less than a month to go, preparations for the trek have been underway. Already Landey and Anders have set up a website, TastyTrek.com, which details the route, research resources and equipment lists. It also features a rather slick tracking system: an interactive map that will show their current location and display relevant blog posts.

But how prepared are they?

Anders has adopted a confident attitude and minimal planning. Landey, however, has mixed feelings.

"Excited, confident and a little nervous; not necessarily about getting lost or anything, as we are giving ourselves leeway to take it slow at the beginning and time to chill if we need to. I'm a little nervous that walking everyday will get dull or monotonous but provided one of us doesn't break a leg or get savagely sick or something well definitely do it."

The landscape in New Zealand may be majestic but the challenges the terrain poses simply cannot be underestimated. Having previously travelled in New Zealand, is there a particular section of the trek Anders is dreading of walking through?

"I'm slightly fearing Ninety Mile Beach – it is the first track, a three-day walk along the same stretch of beach. We will probably still be getting used to the packs, our bodies' capabilities and the routine of living on the trail. Also walking on sand is a bitch and there's relatively little water."

"Also I expect some difficult sections in the South Island with the added complication of tonnes of rain, but by that time we'll be ready for anything," Landey added.

Anywhere looked forward to?

"I really want to climb Mount Cook even

though it's not on the trail but it's worth the day walk each way. There will definitely be a load of places that we will want to go once we hear about them; we aren't planning which hotspots to visit as we are fairly impulsive and would rather take a locals' word over a travel guide."

With hundreds casting away their student status and exiting the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday to commence a new chapter of their lives, there will be no shortages of graduates rushing into the job scenes and beginning their ascent on the career ladder. Anders and Landey, however, have an approach unlike that of many rat-race competitive Imperial graduates.

"Don't think that as a graduate you need to get a job with any of the companies from any of the careers fairs, you don't," Anders advised. "You can do anything you want, go anywhere you want. What you have achieved by graduating from Imperial will stick with you for a long time."

"On a piece of paper – i.e. your CV – you are no different to the other 300 students who graduated with you. Employers want to see what you are like. Going out and exploring the world and doing something amazing makes you a whole lot more interesting."

"The way I see it, the point of money is to buy experiences," Landey added; "I'd rather work my ass off for a summer and pay for six months of trekking in New Zealand, than going straight into a high paying corporate job and never seeing outside your office window."

You can follow Anders' and Landey's epic journey by logging onto their website, Tastytrek.com, or following their tweets @TastyTrek. They also hope to raise money for two charities, Solar Light for Africa, Ltd. and Water Aid – for details on how to donate visit their website.

My Northern Borneo Jamboree

Wonderful wildlife, treacherous trekking and a monstrous mountain. **By Chris Richardson**

I am a huge fan of mainland Malaysia, what with its plethora of creole cuisines and party people, but its true face lies on Sabah in Malaysian Borneo. As soon as I landed in Kota Kinabalu and hit the streets, I realised I was onto something grand: the sun was smouldering, the prices cheap, and all of the locals greeted me with a friendly smile.

KK is the perfect central hub for any explorer of Borneo. I spent a few days spotting some of the awesome underwater colours on offer at the world class dive spots located in the national park just off the shores of the city, largely to get over the pains of the Thailand binges that left my skin and liver in tatters. The city itself is pretty hip, with one of the highlights being the night markets selling the usual arty crafts and mad variations of various Asian cuisines. If you have yet to be acquainted with the delight that is cendol, I'd highly recommend it: a bizarre icy mix of coconut milk, food-coloured jelly, beans, rice and creamed corn that somehow seems to get your taste buds dancing.

As with any city, you have the option of superior hotels, but I opted for the grungy backpackers' hostel so that I could be kept in the company of fellow travellers, in the hope that I'd persuade at least one to venture up Mount Kinabalu (Southeast Asia's highest) with me. A few beers and a curry later and it was happening, and at seven o'clock the following morning myself and my newly-found Dutch partner in crime were on our way to the said mountain. Needless to say I think we underestimated it: I spent the better part of £10 on my 'equipment' which consisted of

a second-hand pair of women's trainers, a pair of women's leggings (see a pattern here?), and a weather-beaten poncho. Armed to the teeth with a bottle of water and boiled egg in hand, we began the climb. I make it sound like 'mission impossible', but really, if you're capable of making it to the silent study section on the 5th floor of the library without using the lift, you can probably handle it.

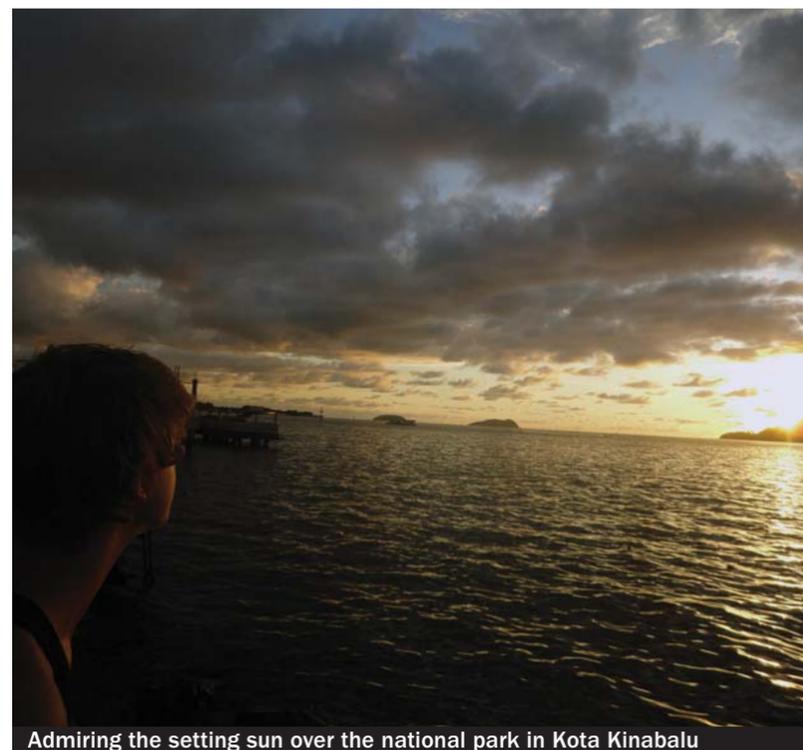
"Palm oil plantations could sadly be the region's greatest hope of ensuring the wealth of future generations."

It's embarrassing enough that within the first kilometre I was sweating like Lee Evans on a bad day, but the real cherry on the cake was being out-paced by several women in their 70's, sporting bags bigger than their bodies filled with the various things that climbers demand for din-dins. I couldn't help but think they should have been snuggled up under a blanket with a hot beverage by the telly, but hey, they seemed to love the work! After a dreadful first day up to the 3.5km mark we retired to our cold shack and attempted to get some shut-eye, which failed thanks to the high altitude. By day two I'd lost the sole from one of my cheap shoes but we ventured up to the 4.2km high summit in time for sun-

rise, and thanks to a seemingly-empty promise to a young lady back home I ended up in a pair of girl's underwear, while well wrapped-up climbers around me looked on in mild amusement. At least a few of them took photos – here's hoping I'm on a cereal box somewhere.

The logic behind doing the mountain first was to get the hard part out of the way, which in retrospect was a terrible decision. Instead I spent the subsequent four days with knobby knees and achy joints that made the abundance of rain-forest trekking a bit of a nightmare. We did a brief stopover to the hot springs at the base of the mountain, famous for its sulphuric minerals that allegedly cure aching muscles – all utter bollocks and an obvious ploy to coax climbers into spending more money post-climb. There was the token trip to the Sepilok Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre as an insurance policy to catch a glimpse of this beautiful animal that regrettably might not be with us for much longer. Of course it's easy to criticise the deforestation through bigoted Western eyes, but you have to wonder why this kind of thing goes on – palm oil plantations could be the region's best hope for a spot in global trade as well as a method of ensuring wealth for future generations.

The late Uncle Tan was once the region's leading explorer and thankfully his relatives are continuing his brilliant work by offering jungle treks as well as cruises along the ecologically diverse Kinabatangan River. Had I departed with a checklist of things to see I'd have filled in the lot: countless species of monkeys, vivid kingfishers, wild cats, giant bats, and the Holy Grail – a



Admiring the setting sun over the national park in Kota Kinabalu

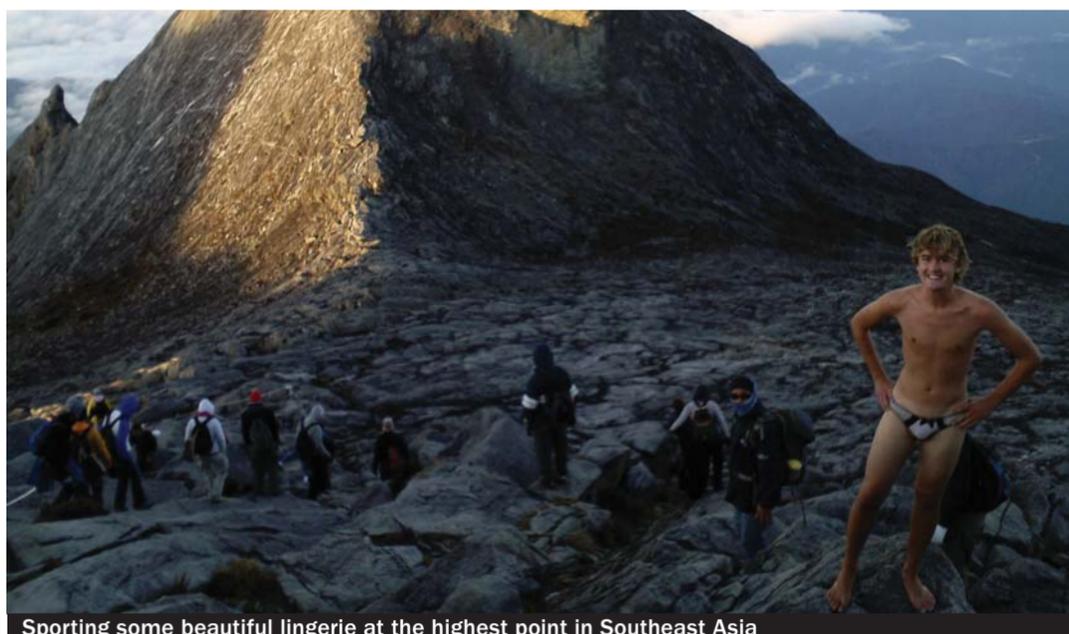
wild female orang-utan clutching her newborn child. It's just incredible when the odds are on your side and you get to witness such awesomeness; while oth-

cial moments should really be kept as mental images; the pixels on the camera and my lousy words on this page really do the sight no justice whatsoever.

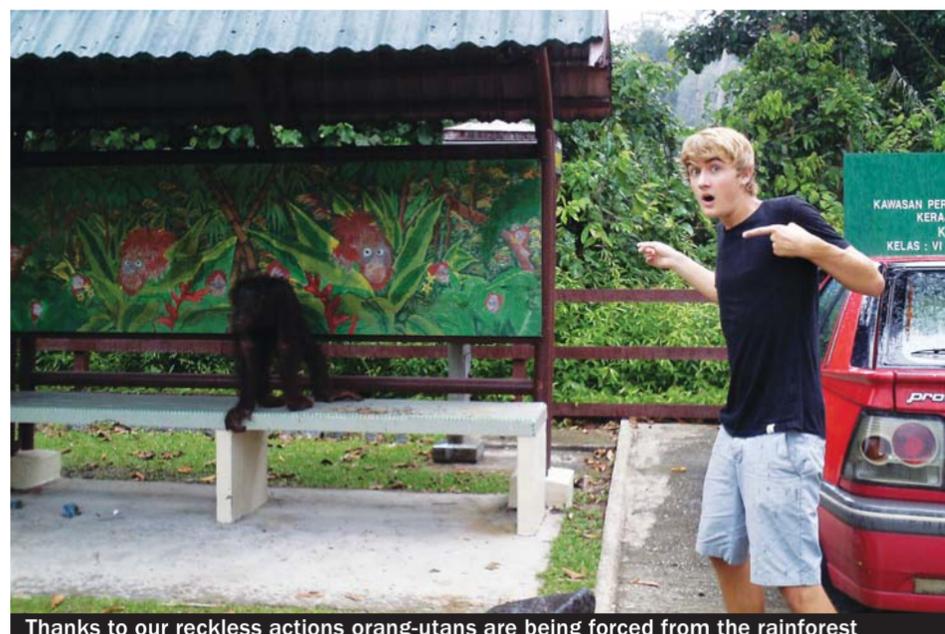
"Sabah is definitely a place that should be on more people's hit lists."

ers scrambled for their cameras (which failed, by the way), I just watched in amazement for those brief few seconds before the mother fled and bounded into the distance. Not everything should be caught on camera, anyway. Those spe-

And sadly that's where that little chapter had to draw to a close as Hong Kong beckoned; I'll definitely be delving even further into Borneo next time to check out the Indonesian areas which supposedly offer some great caving. All in all, a fantastic leg of my 2010 'Asian Invasion'. Sabah is definitely a place that should be on more people's hit lists – with such amazing scenery and a whole heap of activities at affordable prices, what's not to love? Hop out of the Benidorm and into the Borneo; go and soak up the rainforest and its wonderful biodiversity while you've still got the chance.



Sporting some beautiful lingerie at the highest point in Southeast Asia



Thanks to our reckless actions orang-utans are being forced from the rainforest

HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Twitter



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

FFS! Spending review was more boring than chilean miners



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

wtf Cammy? You were noddin along to everything



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

Yeh, noddin along to my ipod. Airplanes in the night sky are like shooting stars



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

I could really use a wish right noowww



Barack_attack_I33thaxor

Wish right noww



Barack_attack_I33thaxor

Wish right noowwww



The_OsBORNE_SUPREMACY

David, isn't it a bit risky saying something like that on here? You're the Prime Minister ffs



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

isn't it a bit risky fuckin ur mum? Coz she's got syphilis lol



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

Jesus Christ you guys are so immature



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

jesus christ you're so lame cleggman

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to
felix@imperial.ac.uk (go on...)

What the hell is the Shadow Cabinet?

And who do I have to screw to get one?

We all have those mortifying moments of realisation in life: finding out that Santa isn't real, that cats don't have nine lives or that holding a bin liner over your head as a makeshift parachute will not, in any way, soften your landing when you jump off your house. However, even as young adults we're still encountering that same gut-wrenching, soul-destroying, back-breaking-nearly-paralysing feeling of sheer disappointment when we find out that the world is actually painfully boring.

Nothing exemplifies one of these moments for me more than the day I found out what the 'shadow cabinet' actually is, or more importantly what it is not. If, like me, you always assumed that 'the shadow cabinet' was some sort of secret governmental squad of ninjas, who carry out backdoor operations, such as assassination and torture, which seriously breach Geneva Conventions and humanitarian legislations, but provide the government with plausible deniability – then I'm afraid you're going to be sorely disappointed.

The House of Commons is split into two sides: The side with real jobs and the side with imaginary jobs, and the latter is more formally known as 'the Shadow Cabinet'. Because they only have imaginary jobs, they can't really do anything except sit there and disagree with everything. And there's not even one ninja! Is it too much to ask to have one little ninja sitting behind David Cameron and occasionally nunchucking him in the back of the head? British politics has taken a serious downfall since the abolition of ninjas in parliament. This is now the point where I rest my chin on my fist and gaze contemplatively out the window, imagining what MY 'shadow cabinet' would be like.

Hangman's Shadow Cabinet

"Mwuhahahahahaha!" laughs Hangman in a somewhat clichéd fashion, as he twiddles his moustache and sips tea from his impractically small teacup. He sits in his dark evil leather arm chair facing away from the rest of his shadow cabinet in preparation for a dramatic turn (The evil leather arm-chair is on wheels). He hopes to unsettle some of the more timid shadow ministers in his cabinet.

"So Hangman, your evilness, what are we going to do about the Prime minister? He's taken all the gold and he's giving

This a photo of the inside of a cabinet... Dark, isn't it?

it to the poor people" (THIS IS MY IMAGINATION, AND WE'RE GOING TO PLAY IT OUT MY WAY!) queried the shadow chancellor, Herman Defunkd.

Hangman sat and thought about this question, whilst puffing on a vintage Cuban (an evil vintage Cuban).

"Hangman?" asked Herman again, as Hangman had not responded. This was deliberate. Hangman wanted his dramatic turn to be all the more dramatic, so he just continued to puff on his vintage Cuban (his evil vintage Cuban).

"Oh I know exactly what we're going to do" said Hangman, really slowly, and then swooped round suddenly to face his delegates. None of them flinched. Not even the more timid ones.

"What the fuck!?" exclaims Hangman, "Why did none of you jump? I turned around really quickly."

"It wasn't really that scary" said Greg Cranford, Shadow secretary of Education.

"What, really? But – but it was so sudden. One moment I was facing that way, then suddenly I'm facing this..."

"Yeah, we know what you were going for, it just, well, you were a bit clanky with the turn" said Herman Defunkd.

"Clanky?"

"Yeah, sort of clanky."

"What do you mean clanky?"

"You know, clanky – sort of like, not smooth – clanky."

"Linda, was I clanky?"

Linda shuffled her papers nervously and kept her eyes fixated on the desk, "You were a tiny bit clanky" she mumbles.

"Right well, I guess we had better get

on to the more important issue at hand – the poor people" Hangman regains his evil composure and frowns deviously. It sort of looks more angry/concerned than evil, but in all fairness he's still a bit pissed off at being told that his dramatic turn was clanky.

"The Prime minister is giving all the gold to the poor people" continues Herman, "We've got to do something! Soon we're going to run out of gold!" (I HAVE A VERY TENUOUS GRASP OF HOW THE ECONOMY WORKS).

"We must do something decidedly evil!" says Hangman, evilly.

"What do you have in mind?" asks Linda.

"We should tell the Prime minister that he shout NOT give gold to the poor people! Mwuhahahahaha."

"...right. I can sort of see where you're coming from" says Herman, "but perhaps, you know, we should offer an even more evil alternative?"

"No Herman, you know what? You should go fuck yourself!"

"What? Hangman I was just trying to..."

"You're always just like, being a dick to me and stuff" Hangman quickly turns to look back out the window, not in a vain attempt to look dramatic again, but to conceal the fact that he is welling up with tears.

"Hangman, I'm sorry, I'm not trying to be a dick..."

"I'm Not Clanky! You're clanky!" And Hangman runs out of the dining room, sobbing and upset. Well, sort of upset/concerned.

"Oh well done Linda!!" says Herman.

What on earth do you think you're doing? Get back to the article and stop being distracted by this san-serif text!!!

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



“Koreans question benefit of new anti-gravity gun”

Aunty McPickle is here to solve all of your problems



Dear Aunty McPickle,

At Imperial, I was the subject of many advances. Pretty damn certain I was a modern age Vestal virgin (minus the virgin). I looked down on the male species and thought I was fucking fabulous. Now working at L'Oreal, I've become a main bullying target and was called a short, fat, unevenly-shaped, boobed disgrace of a female. What happened?

Yours Sincerely,
A Freshly Graduated Fatty

Dear Fatty,

You might be tempted to join the Save the Whale Greenpeace campaign. Failing that, hit the gym, lose weight and just accept that in the real world, you're just a young Jo Brand and guys outside here aren't so pathetically desperate.

Because you're not worth it,
Aunty McPickle

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I'm in a bit of a pickle. I popped some pills after having too many floppy wil-lies with Freshly Graduated Fatty. My cock is still as hard as Chuck Norris and the rest of my body seems to be running out of its blood reserves. I almost can't breathe and have to walk around with my fly permanently undone (though this come in handy for multitasking in a lift). Help?

Yours stiffly,
Rugger Bugger

Dear Rugger Bugger,

Your best bet is to fill a room with 10 naked fat guys, and stare at them for an hour for each time you tried it on with said Fatty. Then just be glad not to be around her anymore..

Shocked,
Aunty McPickle

Horoscopes

Aries

This week you find yourself in bed with two of your best friends. You've been bitching about how it's inappropriate to 'cross the line' with mates but suddenly there's two pairs of titties in your face and you don't give a shit. SPLAFF SPLAFF SPLAFF!!! regret...

Gemini

This week you spend 36 hours staring into nothingness. You're trying to focus on that weird spot on your eye. You know, that one just over... over there, almost got it, almost... come on... Just when you've almost got a handle on it, your roommate kicks you in the groin.

Leo

This week you punch yourself in the face repeatedly. You're trying to tap out the kinks in your disgusting face. You ask your girlfriend for help so now she's punching you as well. When you begin to feel faint from the blood loss you call the police and she goes to jail for abuse.

Libra

This week your fucking email breaks about an hour before the print the deadline. I mean, WHAT THE FUCK?!?! How do email passwords just change by themselves? Why would that ever happen? I am seriously considering becoming Amish after this... If they'll have me...

Sagittarius

This week, you will contemplate where to go out and fuck yourself. Fucking yourself is one of your top 7 activities, and unsurprisingly, a favourite one of your friends also. You and your loserish friends end up fucking yourselves at home because you couldn't get in anywhere else.

Aquarius

This week, you wake up to your flatmate banging your ex-girlfriend in the room next door because you were too much of a vagina to give her some sweet love on a semi-regular basis, complaining mostly about 9am lectures. Your new life is now filled with limp wanking.

Taurus

This week you decide to piss off the roof of the library. Your golden juice lightly sprinkles the heads of studious Imperial-ites who, on receiving this glorious gift, are filled with sexual desire and start a raucous orgy. Security get whiff and demand that they stop blocking access...

Cancer

This week you're really struggling. Struggling with your breakfast. It's been doing weights in the gym and has you in the terrifying reverse-suplex-headlock-backwards-in-your-mum's-ass move. You tap out and realise that you'll never beat the boss level: DINNER.

Virgo

This week you discover that you've forgotten to write this very last horoscope... mmm what to say? what to say? hum hum... *taps fingers *pulls hair out *pulls eyes out *pulls scrotum apart and eats it... *Felix copy-editors look disturbed... *offer to share scrotum.

Scorpio

This week you lick your elbow. GOOD FUCKING GOD... IT'S POSSIBLE! This is amazing, you HAVE TO TELL SOMEBODY. So you do. You tell the first person you see. She breaks both your elbows and tells you to stop being such an arrogant twat.

Capricorn

This week, you decide to tell your parents; not that you like both boys and girls, or that you are failing your physics degree. You tell them you are into water-sports and for some reason, that is actually well-received. They welcome you to the club by offering you some water.

Pisces

This week you decide to change your birthday somehow, because of the bitter realisation that Pisces is easily the shittiest of all star signs. Fishes? Seriously, fucking fishes? Your only redeeming factor is the fact that you have a fish for a dick? Wait, is that redeeming?

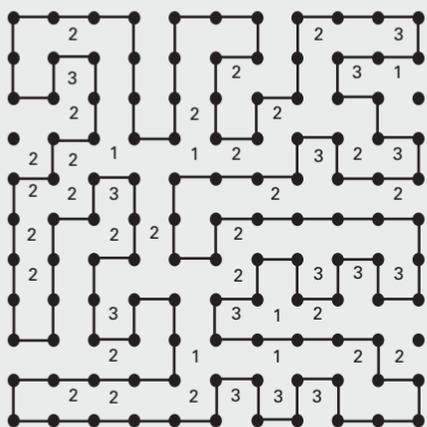
Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**
James Hook

puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

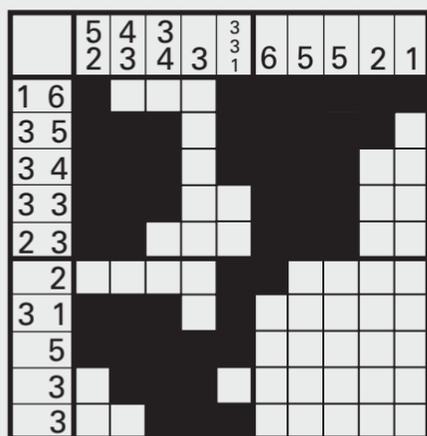
PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions

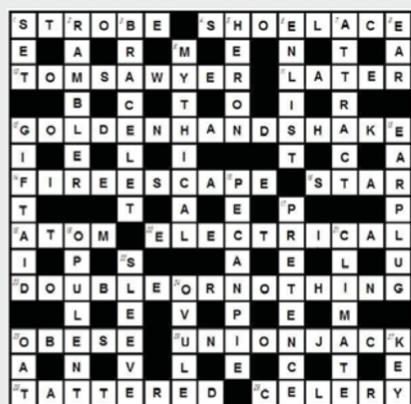
Slitherlink



Nonogram



Crossword



Going Underground

W	E	M	B	L	E	Y	P	A	R	K
23	5	13	2	12	5	25	16	1	18	11
S	O	U	T	H	E	A	L	I	N	G
19	15	21	20	8	5	1	12	9	14	7

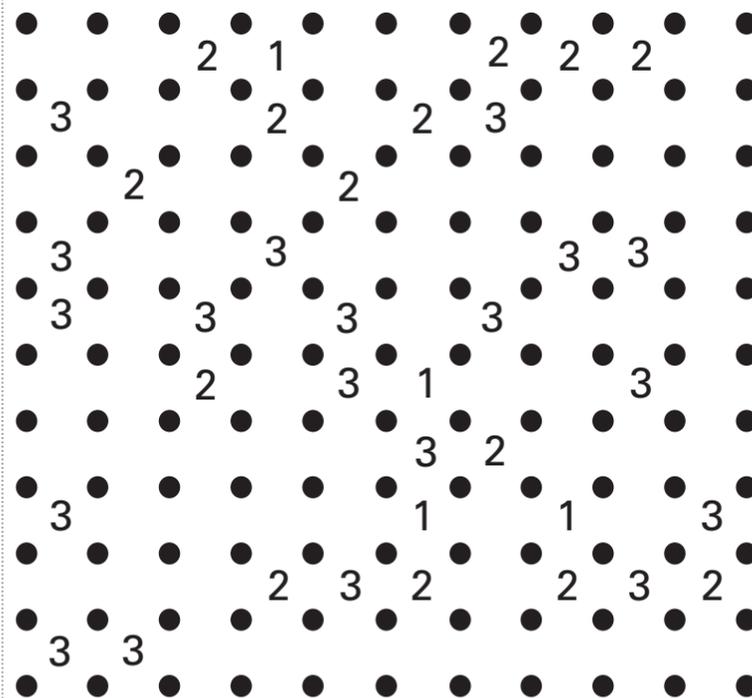
Word²

S	A	N
P	W	R
P	E	E

Make as many words of at least 4 letters as you can, always using the central one. **NO** plurals, conjugated verbs, comparatives or superlatives, because I said so.. There is always one 9 letter word.

TARGET: 17

SLITHERLINK



You love it, your mates love it, even your gran loves this mental, mind fuck of a puzzle. I've even seen the lecturers do them in their spare time. No jokes...

If you've ever played minesweeper, then you should be able to understand

this puzzle. The number in each box represents the number of lines that can exist around it. Lines can never cross! In the end, you will end up with a closed loop. Just have a look at the same in the next column.

FUCWIT League Table

Teams:

Killuminati	14 Points
Mike the Crossdresser	10 Points
I "Am" Squidhead	9 Points

Individuals:

James Ko	10 Points
Shadi Sharbain	8 Points
Gene-leigh Tang	4 Points

The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is new and improved, with prizes for both the winning team and the winning individual.

REVISED POINTS SCHEME!

We have revised our points scheme to try and make things clearer. Points from previous weeks will be converted into the new system.

Points will be awarded per individual puzzles solved. The first person/team to send in a correct answer for a puzzle will receive 2 points per puzzle. After that people who send in correct answers will be awarded 1 point per puzzle. Double points are awarded for cryptic crosswords, therefore 4 points for the first correct answer and 2 points for others. Individual and team leagues are separate. The number of puzzles may change from week to week, which may not be fair points wise but its only a bit of fun.

Now then FUCWITs, answers to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Go!

CALLING ALL PUZZLE + COMIC CREATORS!

Send your creations to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk to get published

PASSI PARABOLASHAPED PENGUIN



The artist would like to thank Marcello Colombino for inspiration

2010 Oct.

Sports Editor: Jovan Nedic & David Wilson

SPORT

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The sports that Imperial forgot

Ice Hockey



Over the next few weeks, FelixSport will go over some of the lesser know sports team at Imperial. This week, **Hugh McDowell** takes a look at Ice Hockey

What is Ice Hockey?

Ice hockey is an incredibly face-paced intense game. It is played with 6 players on the ice- 3 forwards (centre and two wingers) 2 defense and a goalie. A team is generally made up of three 'lines'- forward and defense sets and a goalie. The game has three 20 minute stop-clock periods, so there is no hanging around waiting for time-wasters and several goals can be scored in the space of a few seconds. Unlike many other sports, substitutions or 'changes' are unlimited and happen on- the-fly. Generally, a complete forward or defense line change to maintain unity but if a skater has knackered themselves out, they can come to the bench where a replacement seamlessly hops over the boards to join the action. It is expected that you skate as hard as possible for the length of your shift and so in the NHL the average shift is only around 45 seconds because of this.

Hockey is a full contact sport and players are permitted to take-out the puck carrier, known as 'checking', but only by certain means- use of the stick for tripping, hooking or checking from behind will result in a penalty. Standard penalties last for two minutes where the offending player is in the 'penalty box' and the team continue to play with one less player- on the 'penalty kill'. The opposing team are on the 'power play', which is the best opportunity to score, which ends the penalty if they do so. If the penalised team score a 'short-handed' goal then penalty still has to be served out- hence teams usually play very defensively when down a player. The team with the most goals at the end of the 60 minutes wins; and with the stop-clock and end-to-end action, last minute comebacks are a regular feature.

Tim Runcorn

Ice Hockey at Imperial? Where do I sign up?

Hugh McDowell

"If I can do it, anyone can," says a modest Tim Runcorn, president of the Imperial Devils Ice Hockey team. "In fact, aside from it being an awesome sport in general, the fact that you can see yourself progress so quickly is a major reason why I love the sport."

The Imperial Devils are one of a number of sports clubs on campus looking to recruit beginner players to bolster their playing staff. Their president is keen to dispel the myth that Ice Hockey is too difficult to take up.

"Another misconception that a lot of people have is they need previous experience to join the club," he says. "I was a complete beginner - literally could barely skate - two years ago and now I'll be playing for the A-Team this season."

Founded in 2000 by roller-hockey players, the club's early years were fraught with administrative difficulties. The departure of a succession of presidents from Imperial made any sort of continuity impossible. Now, however, the Devils have an accredited coach (former Devils player David Coolegem) and two teams, both of which train regularly at Streatham Ice Rink in South London.

"We have two teams, an A-Team for players with previous experience and those who move up from the B-Team which is for complete beginners," says the club president. "Both teams play in the BUIHA leagues in Div 2 and Div 3 respectively. The league games are against other universities in the south such as Oxford, London, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Warwick, and Southampton."

Given that Ice Hockey is a relatively expensive sport, the Devils are grateful for the support of the Union, the Harlington Trust and the IC Trust.

"The size of the grant enables us to have the cheapest ice hockey sessions in London and the club kits enable beginners to get into the sport without having to spend megabucks. This is why I urge people to give ice hockey a go at university- there is no way that people can get into the sport so easily or cheaply anywhere else."

Both the A and B teams contain a mix of males and females, and the B team play a less physical 'non-checking' league. The two teams play in BUIHA leagues in Division 2 and Division 3 respectively.

The Devils also boast an active social calendar, with pub golf, club nights and a Christmas dinner planned. The Ice Hockey season culminates with the Nationals, where, in the words of Tim Runcorn, "every team from the UK descends on Sheffield for a weekend of intense ice hockey competition and a massive piss-up."

The Imperial Devils play in Streatham Ice Rink on Sunday nights, and matches are free to attend.



The Imperial Devils. Want to get involved? Email Tim Runcorn at ice-hockey@imperial.ac.uk.

Hockey: Shanika's goal hanging gives ladies 1s the win against King's

Jess Poore & Jill Tombs

Ladies ULU Hockey

Imperial 1s 8 - 1 King's 1s

After a late start on a bright afternoon at Harlington, IC Ladies 1s took on the girls of Kings College. Enthusiastic for the first game of the new season, but with four shiny new freshers making up the bare-eleven, how the game would go was anybody's guess!

A surprisingly polished start saw Imperial up 1-0 within a few minutes, Shanika's sharp post finish defeating the Kings' goalkeeper. The ladies continued to press hard, with freshers making their claim for positions, and breaking down everything Kings had to offer. A further three goals in quick succession - all stolen by Shanika, in a similar vein to the first - sealed our early advantage, leaving the half-time score at Imperial College 4 - Kings College 0.

The second half continued in true Ladies 1s style, generously allowing Kings one break-away goal, but ensuring the victory by netting

another four ourselves!

Incredibly solid defending from a back line, half of whom were freshers, meant spending much of our time in the Kings half, and conceding not one penalty corner! Despite blinding sunshine towards the end, Teddy's terrifying swings left the opposition defence stunned for two of the goals, and freshers Harriet and Kirstin finished off two more - a great lifted shot off the rebound from Kirstin flying past the helpless Kings keeper.

Our own keeper, Gemma, also pulled off some cracking saves on the few occasions Kings were allowed through, and we'd like to thank her for stepping in to fill a goalie-shaped hole in our team.

If any ladies fancy goal keeping for either of the ICHC Ladies' teams - we're pretty desperate, can you tell? - please contact us at ic.hockey@imperial.ac.uk.

An 8-1 final score gave the ladies a pretty successful start to the season - one they hope to continue on Wednesday against the ladies at St Mary's.

SPORT

Baseball: Imperial defeat King's, twice

Arun Krishnan & Kevin Ling

The Imperial College Baseball Club saw the 2010 season begin on Saturday, the 16th of October. The Imperial Falcons played a doubleheader against the Kings Lions in the opening fixtures of the British University Baseball Association (BUBA) Southern Division. Imperial was looking to get off to a good start, after the championship season of 2009.

Fielding a 17 man squad, consisting of returning team members and first year players, the team bus left the Union on route to the Roundshaw baseball pitch at Croydon, arriving well ahead of the noon start time. The Falcons and the Lions were tied at one early in the first game but a six run explosion in the 3rd inning provided the run support for a 7-1 Imperial win. Vassil Botev and Hajime Urata combined to pitch a two hit, 12 strikeout gem.

The Falcons were feeling good about its chances for a sweep, with ace Hanson Cheung taking the mound for game two. Indeed, Imperial quickly took a 5-2 lead and looked to be in a dominant position. However, the Lions mounted a spirited fightback and tied the game at five going into the final inning, but a key double play by Arun Krishnan and Gary Lam and a well-fielded bunt by Hanson on the mound stopped Kings taking the lead. With the game on the line, the Falcons came through, scoring five runs all after two outs in the inning on a series of clutch at-bats. Imperial would hang on for a 10-6 win and the best possible start to the year.

The weekend saw some great baseball played by both sides. All in all, it was an impressive performance by the Falcons. Imperial once again found itself atop the Southern Division after Southampton and Oxford split their doubleheader later that same day. However, there remains a lot of baseball to be played this season



What's that, you want a home run, well OK then

as the Falcons continue their campaign to defend their title.

For those who are interested in joining us, we meet at 1:30pm outside Beit Quad every Wednesday and Saturday. Sessions involve a mixture of practices at Hyde Park, travelling to batting cages in Northwick Park, and trips to Harling-

ton where our very own baseball pitch is nearing completion and will be ready to host fixtures next term. We accept players of all interest levels and abilities, from casual fans to diehards. There will be more opportunities to play in tournaments and friendly matches throughout the year.

Tennis gain valuable practice in Valencia

Adam Gunasekara

After few hours relaxing in Ibis Valencia aeropuerto, the IC tennis squad picked up their Citroën and joined the traffic.

The elite male squad consisted of el presidente Rob bush, skipper Pio Monti, chauffeur Roman Lewis and fresher Adam Gunasekara. The lady's squad – somewhat depleted at just Rebecca Smith, was strengthened with the last minute arrival of star player and 'team lad' Alice.

After a quick power nap, we hit the San Juan beach party – a massive rave on the beach (see picture) where we enjoyed warm beers, Rob's bbq and a swim in the ocean.

The next few days we began our clay court training with temperatures soaring into the high 30s. After several hours of sequences and drills we made full use of the pool and tucked into our performance lunch of peaches and ice cream with the exception of Bush and Gunasekara who were still out on the red stuff, deeply unsatisfied with their backhand cross courts.

The diet of fruit and ice cream barely whet our appetites, and so as every good sports team should be we hit an all you can eat joint. After much chat, Pio Monti performed badly at the restaurant while 'team lad' Alice dug deep and pulled out a stunning performance.

Our first match was against a local club who to date had not lost a match; we did nothing to change this. Pio Monti was not on form losing narrowly to a very good player and Rob Bush lost in 3 sets in a very entertaining match. Adam Gunasekara however produced a sole victory despite losing the second set 6-0 which he claims to have been a superb tactical move allowing him to rest up for the 3rd. Despite the loss the team tucked into a delicious lunch of tortilla and beer with the friendly opposition.

At the weekend we were lucky enough



So is this the way Nadal does his serves?

to catch some of the grand prix live an added bonus to the tour. El presidente somehow managed to talk himself into the lotus pit lane during one of the practice laps. We're still trying to work out how he pulled that one off.

For the remainder of the tour we joined a Valencian U18 tennis squad and were fortunate enough to receive coaching from high quality coaches. We are very grateful to them and the club who were so hospitable. Overall the tour was a success and we hope that it has set us up to have a very successful season.

Tennis club is sponsored by KPMG.

Ultimate frisbee fall short in Italy

<< continued from back page

Goats of Destiny, the University of Bristol alumni team, and the discDoctors lost out to the side that played better on the day. The first loss of the tournament put Imperial into the third-place playoff against a team from the University of Warwick. With the Warwick Bears regularly finishing at the top of the BUCS Championships, the discDoctors rightly expected a tough game. Imperial put in a spirited performance against a clinical side, but their zone defence was too strong and proved Imperial's undoing, being beaten to the podium at the

very last hurdle.

Finishing fourth in the division of twenty-eight demonstrated the Imperial team's depth and versatility.

The tournament was the last competition for several graduating players, including Samuel Hurst, Chris Tutill and Magnus Wilson, but bodes very well for the upcoming university season.

Ultimate is still welcoming new members, from seasoned players to absolute beginners; if you are interested in joining, you can find us training on the playing fields of Hyde Park on Wednesday from 1pm and Saturday mornings from 11am.



discDoctors just miss out on the perfect colour pattern

SPORT

Felix Sports League



sponsored by

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 Quality In Everything We Do

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Rugby M1	2	2	0	0	57	16	41	5
2 ICSM Netball W1	1	1	0	0	42	24	18	5
3 Table Tennis M2	1	1	0	0	17	0	17	5
4 Basketball W1	1	1	0	0	52	42	10	5
5 Netball W1	1	1	0	0	28	21	7	5
6 ICSM Football M2	1	1	0	0	5	1	4	5
7 Netball W2	1	1	0	0	34	30	4	5
8 Squash M3	1	1	0	0	4	1	3	5
9 Hockey M3	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	5
10 ICSM Badminton M1	1	1	0	0	5	3	2	5
11 ICSM Hockey M2	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	5
12 ICSM Hockey M3	1	1	0	0	4	2	2	5
13 Hockey W1	1	1	0	0	0	4	1	5
14 Football M1	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	2
15 Rugby M3	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0.5
16 Rugby M4	2	1	0	1	43	74	-31	0.5
17 Badminton M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Badminton W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 Basketball M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 Fencing M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 Fencing M2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 Fencing W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23 Fencing W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24 Football M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 Hockey M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 Ice Hockey M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27 ICSM Badminton W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28 ICSM Football M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29 ICSM Hockey M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 ICSM Hockey W3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 ICSM Rugby M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 Lacrosse M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33 Lacrosse W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34 Lacrosse W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 Squash M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36 Squash M2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
37 Squash M4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
38 Squash W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
39 Table Tennis M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40 Table Tennis W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41 Tennis M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42 Tennis W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
43 Volleyball M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44 Volleyball W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 Water Polo M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
46 Water Polo W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
47 Rugby M2	2	0	0	2	22	31	-9	-4
48 ICSM Rugby M1	2	0	0	2	34	54	-20	-4
49 Hockey M4	1	0	0	1	0	2	4	-4
50 Hockey M2	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	-4
51 Badminton M2	1	0	0	1	3	5	-2	-4
52 ICSM Badminton M2	1	0	0	1	3	5	-2	-4
53 ICSM Football M1	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	-4
54 Football M2	1	0	0	1	1	4	-3	-4
55 ICSM Hockey W1	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	-4
56 Netball W3	1	0	0	1	18	22	-4	-4
57 Football W1	1	0	0	1	1	6	-5	-4
58 Hockey W2	1	0	0	1	0	6	-6	-4
59 Fencing M3	1	0	0	1	118	126	-8	-4
60 Tennis M2	1	0	0	1	0	10	-10	-4
61 ICSM Hockey W2	1	0	0	1	0	13	-13	-4
62 ICSM Netball W2	1	0	0	1	22	45	-23	-4
63 ICSM Netball W3	1	0	0	1	9	42	-33	-4
64 ICSM Rugby M2	1	0	0	1	10	86	-76	-4

Gaelic Sports: Imperial hurlers at Hurlapalooza

Finian McCann

It was an early start for the IC hurlers on Saturday morning as we made our way to Cambridge for the Hurlapalooza 2010 9-a-side tournament hosted by Lakenheath HC – a crowd of yanks so that explains the stupid name. Making up the competition with ourselves and the hosts were Cambridge Parnells, Oxford Brooks and Zurich, the latter laden with plenty of ringers from back home, so we had four 10 minute-a-half games.

Cambridge 2-1 Imperial 0-3*

Our first match was against our hurling rivals Cambridge. Straight from the throw-in, Captain Finzo gained possession and fired over a point, only for it to be waved wide. Cambridge then took advantage of this and managed to knock a cheap goal past Frankie “Donal Og Cusack” O Neill. However, some resolute defending from Neil Clancy, Chris Farrell and Paddy Comerford, and points from Ballyfinn man Evin Coogan and Finian McCann left the half-time score 1-0 to 0-2. Despite dominating most of the possession in the second half too, Imperial’s lack of accuracy was to be their downfall. Cambridge finished off the game in style with a well-taken goal, while Imperial could only manage another point (and some dubious “wides”).

Imperial 1-11 Oxford 0-1

Jarred by the ignominy of our previous defeat, we were determined that there would not be an Oxbridge double over us, hence the enactment of Darwinian justice upon a shell-shocked Oxford side. After only three minutes of play Imperial were already three points up, with a point kicked over by McCann and some very well-taken chances by Ev Coogan, now

playing up front after advice over the phone from Brian Cody. Ed O’Hare, now in midfield, put the Oxford players under unrelenting pressure, forcing a lot of mistakes as Sean Dunne and John McGuckin rang rings around their markers. Eventually the ball spilled to Coogan ten yards from the net whereupon he made no mistake in drilling it past the keeper. The second half was much the same: while Oxford eventually converted their solitary score of the game, Coogan, McCann and centre-back Clancy, displaying his versatility, recorded scores, leaving Imperial the clear victors at the final whistle.

Imperial 0-7 Lakenheath 0-0

Not much to be said about this game, other than the level of hurling was as if a crowd of blind retarded gorillas picked up sticks. Despite the instruction at half-time to euthanize the opposition, Imperial decided that energy was to be saved for their final match and so we cruised to victory rather than steam-roll.

Zurich 2-2 Imperial 0-1

Despite of the scoreline, this was by far the mostly keenly contested match of the day. Some Trojan defending by Neil Clancy et al made sure that at half-time Imperial were a point up against clearly the most talented team in the competition, with a free converted by Evin Coogan. The second half saw some tough hurling, with hard shoulders delivered and plenty of ash clashed. Unfortunately, in keeping with the Trojan analogy, Zurich managed to sneak over a brace of points and dispatch two balls past Sean Dunne (who had pulled off some super saves in the first half) as Imperial began to show the strain.

So all in all two lost, two won, and a very



encouraging display from all players involved (including Eddie Fitzpatrick who I now see I haven’t mentioned in the reports). A fine stew was put on in the Earl of Darby in Cambridge and much ale imbibed, bringing a very enjoyable tournament to a close. The hurlers’ next outings will be the Southern Region blitz on November 7th and the British Unis Championship on November 20th. Let me (finian.mccann07@imperial.ac.uk) know if you’re available.

Rugby: 1st XV record first away victory of season over Chichester

David Wilson

Rugby Union

Imperial 1s 20 - 16 Chichester 1s

Imperial overcame a bullish Chichester side intent on winning their first home match of the season.

The opening exchanges saw Chichester with the lions share of possession using their heavy pack to bully Imperial around the fringes and were rewarded with a multitude of penalties but showed very little attacking endeavour. Conversely, Imperial took the chances which they were presented with; following a secured ball

off a line out within the opposition 22, the forwards drove Chichester back allowing Simon Fenton to bundle over the try line adding to an earlier penalty by Max Joachim. Despite this, Imperial trailed their opponents 9-8 at the turn around knowing that their play during the first half left much to be desired.

Imperial picked up the tempo in the second half with Ben Adubi finishing off a scintillating team move with multiple offloads keeping the ball alive; breaks by Tom Stone and Chris McGeough were followed by a deft back handed pass from Ollie Cox which opened up the blind side. Joachim and Toby Spittle combined well before an inside ball allowed Adubi to charge

over. Chichester hit back using their ‘bosh’ game to good effect assuming a 16-13 lead. Imperial refused to lie down and accept a defeat against less skilled albeit bigger opposition and so, Adubi grabbed his second try of the match cutting a lovely line off David Bowe’s pass and evading a host of Chichester defenders with Nick Johnstone adding the extras.

Despite being reduced to 14 men on two occasions Imperial held out for the win. Although an away victory against difficult opposition was a good result for Imperial, they know that their performance on Wednesday was below what they can produce and will need to improve for next weeks trip to Kent.

SPORT

An ode to Queen's Park Rangers, because someone has to do it



Hugh McDowell

With Champions League football now gracing three London grounds on a regular basis, football fans of Imperial College could be forgiven for overlooking the events unfolding at Queen's Park Rangers. However, Sport Imperial are offering a discount to students on match tickets and a Saturday afternoon at Loftus Road is enjoyable, exciting and affordable.

Rangers currently sit proudly at the summit of the Championship, one of only unbeaten teams in England this season. Outspoken manager Neil Warnock, whose Wikipedia contains a 'Disputes' section with over forty entries, has his team playing an attractive and ambitious style of football, and he recently suggested that "[if] you don't enjoy coming to QPR at the moment, there's something wrong with you." (Try telling that to rival clubs in the Championship, or indeed the QPR fan who had a dart planted in his chest by a Millwall fan during crowd trouble at a recent match).

Warnock has revived the career of much-maligned former Irish international goalkeeper Paddy Kenny, whom he managed at Sheffield United. Kenny served a nine-month ban last season after failing a drugs test but has deservedly kept ex-Spurs player Radek Cerny out of the team, conceding just three league goals this season.

The majority of the credit for this fine

defensive record, however, has to go to the QPR backline, many of whom carry Premier League experience. Older players like Mikel Leigertwood and Fitz Hall have been complimented with fresher blood such as centre-back Matthew Connolly and on-loan Tottenham youngster Kyle Naughton.

Midfield anchor Shaun Derry has added the steely edge that Championship football requires, and is partnered in the middle by Hungarian Akos Buzsaky (who boasts among his fans the manager who brought him from Hungary to FC Porto, one Mr. José Mourinho).

What truly sets QPR apart from their rivals is their attacking threat. Young winger Hogan Ephraim has delighted the Loftus Road faithful with his mazy runs and trickery and, despite having played at youth level for England, is thought to

be considering overtures from Republic of Ireland manager Giovanni Trapattoni.

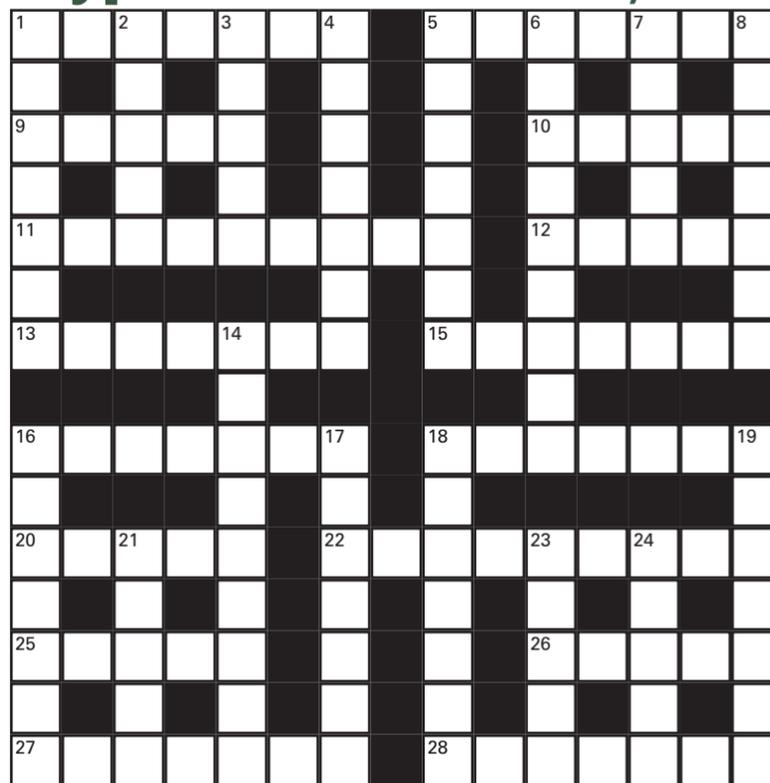
Up front, Heidar Helguson and Jamie Mackie have been keeping the likes of Rob Hulse, Patrick Agyemang and Tommy Smith out of the team. Helguson in particular has added a physical dimension to Rangers' attack, while Mackie's work ethic and goal-scoring ability have led to a call-up to the Scotland squad.

The undoubted star of the QPR team is Moroccan midfielder and vice-captain Adel Taarabt. Having impressed on loan from parent club Tottenham Hotspur last season, Taarabt was signed for an initial fee of £600,000 in the summer transfer window. Described as a 'genius' with 'frightening skill' by Harry Redknapp, the 21-year-old was nonetheless unable to break into the first team squad at Spurs and his relationship with his manager deteriorated as a result. He possesses speed, skills and vision in abundance, and under Warnock he has become the creative fulcrum of the QPR team.

Furthermore, QPR and Imperial have established a relationship which, in addition to cheaper tickets, allows the club to train at the college's facilities at Harlington, and the men's football team are given regular access to the club's coaching staff.

So while a trip to QPR may lack the glamour of a Premier League fixture, it is nonetheless an opportunity to watch pleasant football in a cheap, friendly and comfortable environment.

Cryptic Crossword 1,469



Across

- 1. In sermons, terrible beast (7)
- 5. Non-permanent worker queens frames of mind (7)
- 9. South Easterners drink fluid (5)
- 10. For locating objects in tundra darkness (5)
- 11. East African citizen hit English piano curiously (9)
- 12. Enlist two points and turn without fifty (5)
- 13. Beautiful German and one American in tirade (7)
- 15. Dear Sir mutilated the attackers (7)
- 16. Stir wet stormy tornado (7)
- 18. Grind, ie. grain, an African state (7)
- 20. One gram toilet house (5)
- 22. Butchered 17 without rivers precedes track back specialist (9)
- 25. Greek letter publication in reverse, endless publication (5)
- 26. Lift up and destroy completely, we're told (5)
- 27. Apparatus to produce energy about thespian (7)

28. Breathe about steeple (7)

Down

- 1. Church service in front of incomplete European muscle manipulator (7)
- 2. Prickly thorn gives direction (5)
- 3. Speed within totem pole (5)
- 4. Cloud of anger in cluttered mistake (3,4)
- 5. Rough terrain shoe (7)
- 6. Killing eccentrically erring mud (9)
- 7. Ancient tree (5)
- 8. Unused Knight, we hear, add! (7)
- 14. Spaceman is roast blasted before zero, we hear (9)
- 16. Pooh's bouncy friend gets royal catch (7)
- 17. Cock list holding ball (7)
- 18. Crazier hard fruit layer (7)
- 19. Cross the late sportsman (7)
- 21. Cook 1000 meal making a mathematical statement (5)
- 23. Man-eating giants king goes awkwardly (5)
- 24. Genial ibis contains crime cover story (5)

Fixtures & Results

in association with Sports Partnership imperial college union sport Imperial

Monday 18 October 2010

BADMINTON ULU Mixed 1s SOAS Mixed 1	SQUASH ULU Men's 1s LSE Men's 1s	Men's 2nd Queen Mary Men's 1st	Men's 2nd Portsmouth Men's 3rd
BASKETBALL ULU Men's 2nd St George's Men's 1sts	Men's 4s RUMS 1s	BASKETBALL Women's 1st Chichester Women's 1st	Men's 3rd Creative Arts 1st
NETBALL ULU Women's 1s LSE 1s	Men's 3s LSE Men's 2s	Men's 1st Essex Men's 2nd	Men's 4s ULU RUMS Men's 2s ULU
Women's 2s Royal Vet's 3s	VOLLEYBALL ULU Mixed 1s Goldsmiths Mixed 1s	FENCING Men's 2nd King's Men's 1st	Men's 5s ULU LSE Men's 5s ULU
		Men's 3rd Essex Men's 1st	Men's 6s ULU King's Men's 4s ULU

Wednesday 20 October 2010

BADMINTON Men's 1st London Met Men's 1st	FOOTBALL Men's 1st Royal Holloway Mens 1st	Men's 1st 2	Men's 7s ULU Royal Vet's Men's 2s ULU	Men's 5s ULU King's Medics 3s ULU
		Women's 1st 2	Women's 1st Portsmouth Women's 2nd	1

HOCKEY

Men's 2nd Portsmouth Men's 3rd	Men's 3rd Surrey Men's 2nd	Men's 4th Imperial Medics 3rd	Women's 1st St Mary's Women's 1st	Women's 2nd Royal Holloway 2nd

LACROSSE

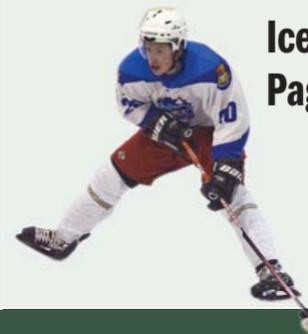
Men's 1s ULU King's College 1s ULU	Men's 3rd Roehampton Men's 1st	Men's 4th Portsmouth Men's 4th	Women's 2nd Sussex Men's 1st	Women's 3rd UCL Men's 2nd

NETBALL

Men's 2nd King's Medic's 1st	Men's 4th Portsmouth Men's 4th	Men's 3rd UCL Men's 2nd	Men's 4th City Men's 1st	Women's 1st Sussex Men's 1st

TABLE TENNIS

Men's 2nd 17	Men's 3rd Roehampton Men's 1st	Men's 2nd Reading Men's 1st	Women's 1st Royal Holloway 1st	Women's 1st Kent Women's 1st



Ice Hockey Feature
Page 44

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Falcons defeat Lions in doubleheader

>> Page 45

DiscDoctors travel to Italy for BURLA Beach Cup

Phil Sandwell

The discDoctors' summer tour saw twelve Imperial students travel to Italy for the BURLA Beach Cup. Teams from across Europe met at Viareggio, near Pisa, to compete across three divisions of high-quality Ultimate in a tournament which saw Imperial gain a top-four finish in their division.

While Ultimate is most commonly played on a grass pitch, this tournament is unique in the Imperial calendar in that it was played on the sand of the Viareggio beach. Fortunately Imperial were given time to acclimatise to these after their first opponents failed to reach the tournament, resulting in an Imperial walkover.

The first competitive game came that afternoon, against the Italian side Furie Romagnole. Building on a morning of practice, the discDoctors played well against a skilled side, grinding out long points to earn a victory. One hour later and Imperial returned to the pitch to play another Italian team, Delafia.

The discDoctors took victory by a comfortable margin and prepared for the final game of the day against Mythago, the Bristol University team. Knowing the Bristol team well, Imperial scored several quick points to take the lead and, thanks to an impressive defensive showing by the dD girls, maintained it to win the game.

Having won the group, Imperial progressed into

the second group stage of three highly-ranked teams. The Imperial team put in strong performances to dispatch another Italian team, Jacuzzi, comfortably, before a crucial match against Lemmings, from Leamington Spa. Knowing that this team were strong contenders in UK mixed tournaments, Imperial were glad to take the early lead. The Lemmings rallied and scored several points without reply, giving them a one-point lead as time ran out. Fortunately Imperial kept composure to level the scores, before winning the game by a single point.

The win put the discDoctors into the quarter finals, against one of Germany's best women's teams, the Woodchicas. Imperial faced this team at the same point in the tournament last year but a disappointing showing by the Woodchicas gave Imperial an easy victory. Once again Imperial took an early 3-1 lead but, after some good early flow, began to capitulate and conceded six points without reply. The discDoctors replied by playing hard and, with a wilful disregard for their bodies, fought back to draw level and once again took the game by a single point.

The Saturday night party took its toll on all the teams, but the discDoctors suffered not only from hangovers but also an incapacitating injury to the eventual most-valuable player. The Sunday morning match saw the weakened Imperial team face the

continued on page 45>>

SPORT

Hugh McDowell sings the praises of local football club Queens Park Rangers.
Page 47

MUSIC

We profile the Imperial Physics Graduate who is now DJing at Kiss FM.
Page 28

FILM

Between a rock and a hard place - the rights for the Chileans Miners story rights
Page 31

ARTS

Arts celebrate the work of Imperial's Photosoc and the fantastic images they have captured.
Pages 27

