

“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1472

# FELIX



05.11.10

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

Union Council supports lifting of tuition fees cap

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Prof Nutt makes waves with 'alcohol worse than heroin' claim

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President floats idea of diverting Union profits to bursary scheme

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Graduate unemployment reaches high of 8.9%

Graduates face toughest job market since 1993 as almost 1 in 10 graduates remain unemployed. **Page 6**

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Mark Field MP on representing Imperial

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## SPECIAL REPORT

By Ian Wei

# THE GROWING VISA CRISIS AT IMPERIAL

**T**he 20th of October. Thousands of protestors are rallying outside Westminster in an effort to convince the government that their proposed cuts to the scientific budget would have fatal implications on the world class reputation and research of UK universities. They succeeded. The result was George Osborne freezing the science budget in cash terms for four years, equating to a decrease in funding of less than 10%, over that period. Spared from major

cuts in this period of austerity, with Osborne stating "Britain is a world leader in scientific research and that is vital to our future economic success", the future of science seems bright. Those working in research and academia, however, have a much gloomier forecast.

Research is unlike other disciplines in that many positions are highly specialized. Whereas in many

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## Firefox add-on leaves private student data open to snoopers

### Unsecured Department of Computing network at hijacking app FireSheep's mercy

Alex Karapetian

Wireless network security has very often been the subject of criticism, and a proof of concept tool released two weeks ago called FireSheep outlined how a combination of security problems on websites

and wireless networks can result in the disclosure of personal information. Felix was able to use FireSheep in certain areas on campus to gain access to over twenty unsuspecting users' Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Tumblr and Gmail accounts.

Transmitting data over a wireless network results in virtual packets being sent between the base stations and the user's machine. These packets are prone to inspection and capture, and if no form of wireless encryption is...

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## SCIENCE



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## COMMENT



Were the French right to strike last October?: **Page 16**

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The Imperial College of North Korea?: **Page 13**

# HIGHLIGHTS

## On campus

### Teaching Awards

The awards for Teaching Excellence for NHS Teachers celebrate the efforts of over 800 NHS staff in West London who help deliver the curriculum for undergraduate medical education at Imperial. In addition, there will also be the inaugural lecture of Prof Karim Meeran on Gila monsters, neuropeptides and Margaret Thatcher.

**G16 Sir Alexander Fleming Building  
10 November 17:30-20:30**

### Lord Flowers Memorial

The physicist Lord Flowers, who led Imperial as Rector for 12 years from 1973, died earlier this year at the age of 85. A memorial is being held in celebration of one of Imperial's longest serving Rectors. Speakers include Sir Keith O'Nions. Registration in advance. Contact [amna.siddiq@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:amna.siddiq@imperial.ac.uk)



**Great Hall  
11 November 14:30-15:30**

### University Challenge trials

The selection for the University Challenge team will be organized through faculties this year, before an intense inter-faculty final on the 22nd November. The RCSU trial is on 8th November, 17:30 in SAF G.34. The ICSMU trial is on 9th November, 19:30 in Reynolds Bar. The RSMU trial is on 11th November, 18:00 in RSM G.41 and the CGCU trial is on 15th November, 12:00 in Chem Eng LT1.

**Inter-faculty Finals  
G34 Sir Alexander Fleming Building  
22 November**

## EDITOR'S PICK

# DEMOLITION

## 10.11.10

### 'Funding Our Future' Rally

On Wednesday 10th November, students from all over Britain will be marching through the streets of London to protest against the government policy to slash the higher education budget. The 'Funding our Future' rally is being organized by the National Union of Students and University and College Union and is intended to defend education from these 'devastating cuts'.

To offset the 40% cut in the university teaching budget announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review, education minister David Willetts announced on Tuesday that the cap on university fees will be raised to £9,000.

The NUS argues that this will place an unfair burden onto the shoulders of students, who will already face hardship in the wake of reduced government spending. NUS President Aaron Porter said: 'The Government's approach to funding our colleges and universities is short-sighted, illogical and unfair. Together we will let politicians know that we will not tolerate their failure to fund our future.'

Response to the rally from Imperial College Union has been lukewarm. President Alex Kendall said: "we do not yet have a stance on the cuts [to higher education], as more information needs to be given as to where these cuts will fall."

Imperial College Union will be making students aware of the protest as they "welcome the maintenance in research funding which is vital for research led teaching". However, they will not be encouraging students to march, leaving the decision of whether to attend or not up to individuals. **Anna Perman**

**10 November - Horse Guards Avenue - 11:30am**

## Union Competition

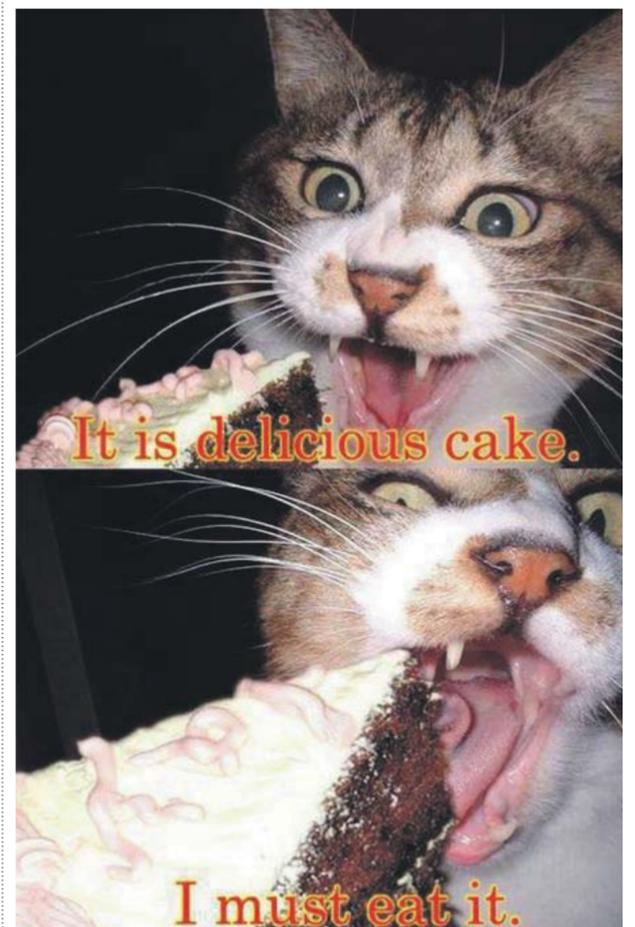
### Green Week

#### Photo Competition

To celebrate Green Week (22nd – 26th November) the Union is running a Green Photo Competition. Take photos of anything around College that is environmentally friendly under the following categories: Energy, Recycling, The Natural Environment, Water.

Include a 30 word caption with your photos and ensure that your photos are of the highest resolution possible. The top 10 photos in each category will be displayed in the College Entrance in an exhibition unveiled at the beginning of Green Week. Send your photos to [greenphoto@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:greenphoto@imperial.ac.uk)

## Lolcat of teh week



# FELIX

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# Council backs fees rise

## Union Council passes policy supporting Browne Review, including uncapped fees

**Maciej Matuszewski**

This week Imperial College Union Council accepted Union President Alex Kendall's Higher Education Funding Policy paper. The paper broadly supported the Browne Review, with Kendall warning against "reactionary" behaviour similar to that of the NUS, suggesting that students should be prepared to "work with universities, not against them".

The Council did, however, recognise some problems with Browne's report. Kendall specifically thought that "post-graduate students should be included in a government spending review".

Much was also said about the psychological impact of greatly increased fees on poorer students. Kendall argued that "what matters is what you'll actually pay, not the maximum possible fees", pointing out that under Browne's proposals the amount students pay will be tied to their income, which will be especially helpful to those who wish to go into "socially useful" but low paid jobs such as teaching. Indeed it is estimated that more than 30 percent of people will never have to pay back the full amount they owe. He did, however, agree that many potential students are not aware of this, and that there is "not enough information about bursaries" and other means of support. The Council agreed that "getting information to schools" should be one of Union's and Imperial's biggest priorities. It also agreed to



campaign for students' means to be calculated based on family size as well as total income, to help 'medium income' families from which many children go to university.

The discussion then turned to the possibility that better universities, such as Imperial, might charge more for degrees than less academically accomplished ones. Several council members argued that universities are not purely capitalistic systems, and that increasing fees would not lower student numbers, (which might be a disincentive), but simply increase the proportion of richer students. It was, however, pointed out that if Imperial was to gain a reputation for attracting mainly rich students, the loss of highly able but less well off students, would in itself act as a disincentive. Browne's suggested levy on universities charging excessive fees was also mentioned as a reason why Imperial's fees would not become unreasonable. The general consensus was that

while we must "accept different rates for different universities", these differences will not be as great as feared.

The impact on EU students, however, was recognised to be possibly greater than on UK students, because they have less access to support. Imperial's increasing fees might drive them to cheaper UK universities, or universities in their own countries (where higher education is often free), causing the College to lose its reputation as an "international university". Kendall, however, rebutted that "Imperial runs on reputation more than money" and that increased fees would be invested in improving this reputation, therefore maintaining student numbers.

The higher education funding situation was ambiguous at the time of the debate, so Council was very clear to state that by accepting Kendall's paper it was not setting a permanent Union funding strategy. Amendments to its policies are likely after the government finalises its plans (see below).

Photo by David Robertson



## Prof Nutt: alcohol worse than heroin

**Matt Colvin**

Imperial professor and former government adviser David Nutt has pitted himself against current drugs classification once again by claiming that alcohol is more harmful than various illegal substances in a newly released report.

The study, published in peer-reviewed medical journal *The Lancet*, was co-authored by Professor Nutt and provides a list of 20 drugs ranked with respect to their harm, both personal and to society in general. A wide range of topics were investigated, including the risk of addiction and crime. Findings revealed that heroin, crack and methamphetamine were the most harmful drugs to an individual while alcohol, heroin and crack were most harmful to others. However taking both factors into account revealed that alcohol was the most harmful drug overall. The report goes on to argue against current drug classifications, claiming that they "have little relation" to the evidence of their actual harm.

This is not the first time Professor Nutt has contradicted current government drugs legislation. He caused some controversy amongst government ministers in February 2009 when the Home Office body that he chaired suggested downgrading ecstasy from a class A to a class B drug. This followed a comparison between the risks of using the drug to those associated with horse riding. He was then sacked from his position as chief drugs adviser in October 2009, by then Home Secretary Alan Johnson, after suggesting, in a similar fashion to the latest report, that alcohol and tobacco were more harmful than many illegal drugs.

Following his dismissal, Professor Nutt sought to continue his research unhindered by governmental influence, forming the Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs which seeks to offer 'impartial objective information on drugs and drug harms to the public' but 'free from political pressures'.

At the time of his dismissal last year, Professor Nutt was highly critical of

politicians who he accused of misrepresenting research in order to manipulate drugs legislation. When asked whether he believed that the new coalition government would be more accepting of the latest findings, especially after the recent government budget freeze for science, Professor Nutt, speaking to Felix, said, "I think so. The Liberal Democrats have always wanted independent scientific advice on drugs" before adding that, "the Tories are more drug-experienced than old Labour".

Claims against the findings have been made to the BBC by a spokesman for the Wine and Spirit Trade Association, who argues that, "Professor Nutt and his colleagues risk switching people off from considering the real issues and the real action that is needed to tackle alcohol misuse". In response to this, Professor Nutt told Felix that the association is "running scared. They can't argue with the science so they are trying deflection."

When asked about the report itself and how the ready availability of alcohol was taken into account and what effect this had on social harm, Professor Nutt stated that, "most of the harms to others are affected by availability".

This debate arrives as Imperial College Union launches a new website, [yourlimits.co.uk](http://yourlimits.co.uk), that seeks to advise students on the potential risks associated with drug and alcohol use. Ravi Pall, Deputy President (Finance & Services) explained to Felix the reasoning behind the creation of the website: "We created the Limits website as an additional tool to raise the awareness of potential situations students may encounter."

"We see this being particularly useful for new students, who may not have been exposed to the culture created by others. It provides helpful advice for students, and will be heavily tied into the marketing for our new night-club, bars and ents program."

It remains to be seen whether such a willingness to educate students on the risks of alcohol will tempt Professor Nutt to have a pint in the newly opened FiveSixEight.

# Government keeps fees cap

**Zainab Ali**

The UK coalition government has rejected the Browne Review's proposal of unlimited tuition fees in favour of a £9,000 cap.

In an announcement on Wednesday, the proposal of a free market for tuition fees was rejected as it was seen to be unsustainable and expensive. The government was compelled to come to a final decision that would be quick to implement so that it would be in place for fees in 2012. Raising the tuition fee cap will not require a change in legislation, so can be put into place quickly.

Many universities feel that this amount is necessary to cover the costs of financing education, especially after the government cuts of 40% to teaching

funds and a complete cut to funding in humanities. The higher fees will enable universities to supply more bursaries, so should not dissuade prospective students from going to university. However, there are fears that students will be put off by the estimated £40,000 debt caused by a three year degree course. Although the repayment threshold will be raised from £15,000 to £21,000 per year with a 9% repayment rate, graduates may spend 30 years paying off their debt before it is cancelled.

The Liberal Democrats, who initially pledged to have no fees at all, proposed a cap of £7000, however as some universities saw this to be inadequate and threatened to privatise, a maximum fee of £9000 was agreed. Universities who wish to charge this fee will have to make

a 'public benefit' by taking more students from disadvantaged backgrounds, but its implication that university application will now be based on means as well as merit is controversial.

The announcement was officially made to the House of Commons by David Willetts, the Universities and Science Minister, who said that the proposal "will put universities' finance on a sustainable footing with extra freedoms and less bureaucracy". Aaron Porter, President of the National Union of Students, feels that the proposal will be "saddling a generation with huge debts before they have even got on their bikes to find work." The NUS are opposed to any rise in fees and will be holding a protest in Central London on Wednesday the 10th.

# NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**  
**Alex Karapetian**  
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## In brief

### Should Union profits pay for student bursaries?

Union President Alex Kendall's plans to consider using "a proportion of the Union's commercial services profits to fund bursaries" received a mixed reception at this week's Union Council meeting. The money would be given to the college to use as part of its bursary scheme in order to eliminate logistical difficulties in deciding which students should receive it, but many were ideologically opposed to giving away Union funds.

The opposition was led by Deputy President for Finance and Services, Ravi Pall. It is his belief that the money made by bars and shops should be reinvested in these same services, improving them for the benefit of students.

RCSU representatives were also worried that if the Union gave away some of its money the College would believe that it has a surplus, and therefore cut its £1.2 million subsidy, which is completely separate from the commercial profits. Kendall stated that he didn't believe that the College would take this "immoral" course of action. He also dismissed Pall's claims that the subsidy might be reduced in the future for other reasons, meaning that the profits would be needed for running the union, as unlikely.

Many were also concerned that giving Union money to just some violated the Union's mandate to help all. Supporters of the policy argued that a large proportion of students, (about 40 percent), would have access to the bursaries, and that helping the neediest was clearly the right thing to do. There was, however, a lot of anxiety about the possibility of failing international students, who would be unable to access many of the bursaries.

Pall's motion that this issue should not be discussed at further Council meetings as it would be a waste of time was defeated by a large majority. The final decision on whether to support the bursaries, however, will be left until the College and government finalise their higher education funding policies. Judging by this week's events, the debate over that decision is likely to be heated.

**Maciej Matuszewski**

### Metric launch date announced

After a summer of construction work and successive delays, the Union has finally set a date for the long-overdue launch of Metric.

The club will open on Saturday the 20th of November with a host of live bands and djs, including Robots in Disguise, Tape the Radio, Citadels and Missing Andy.

The new club, which replaces the old dBs, was originally set to open at the beginning of October, in time for Welcome Week. However problems with removing a pillar that would have blocked the stage meant that this was pushed back to the 29th of October.

Unfortunately the discovery of asbestos dashed Union hopes of launching with a Halloween party.

With the success of the new bar, FiveSixEight, expectations are high for Metric. Hopefully it will have been worth the wait.

**Metric launch: 20:00 - 03:00, Saturday 20th**

# Unsecured networks leave student data at risk

Photo by Kadhim Shubber



FireSheep allows rather more subtle Facebook snooping than this

...Continued from Front Page being used, such as WPA, the captured packets can be analysed effortlessly to derive the data which is being transmitted. This could equate to a Facebook status, a downloaded E-mail or even background information such as a cookie authenticating the user to the website.

The problem lies here, as Felix tested this tool around various parts of the campus. FireSheep is a Firefox extension which appears as a sidebar in the popular Internet browser. The sidebar hides the complexities of packet inspection from the user and performs various tasks in the background. It requires a packet capturing driver to be installed, called WinPCap, and using this, it monitors all traffic visible to the machine's network card (particularly packet data corresponding to other users on the same wireless network) and attempts to hijack session cookies for websites.

Should an unsuspecting user log in to one of the listed services over the same network the hijacker is on, their picture and username will be displayed in the sidebar and the hijacker can gain access to the service, fully authenticated as the person captured, by simply double clicking on the name in the sidebar.

Felix was not able to successfully use the tool over the Imperial-WPA wireless network on campus, since packets are encrypted with protection, although this type of network is still vulnerable to other types of attacks. The IC-DoC network, situated in the Department of Computing in the Huxley building, however, is unsecured. As a result, Felix was able to use the tool to its full extent. Armed with an old laptop with a network card that allowed capturing packets in 'promiscuous mode', where the user has access to all packets visible to the card (some laptops protect against this), screenshots of private messages within Facebook accounts, phone numbers from 'numbers please' groups and other private information, Felix approached Computing's security team (CSG) and Imperial's ICT security for a response.

Regarding the FireSheep tool, ICT commented that it is 'very interesting', and that 'unencrypted wireless networks have always been a security issue, but they've never been so high profile', adding that 'the release of FireSheep might generate enough publicity for home wireless users to think seriously about whether encryption is enabled on their home networks, and whether a wireless network is safe to connect to.'

'ICT has always had security in mind when designing the College wireless service', they added, 'we provide a number of different wireless networks to accommodate the huge range of devices which we support. It is planned that staff and students in Computing will be migrated to use the main College wireless network', Imperial-WPA.

Felix interviewed two students from the Department of Computing who were affected by this issue. Approached with information he expected was private, Josh Forman-Gornall said: 'I was surprised when I saw my account was ac-

cessible by anyone else. I expected the department would have measures to protect against this', adding 'I think it's a travesty how they have unprotected wireless. It should be WPA.'

Upon explaining the alternative of using the Imperial-WPA network, Josh added 'I would use it but the signal strength of IC-DoC is stronger so it's my first point of call. I have good speed, but it seems I lose my privacy as a result.' Commenting on the tool itself, he said 'it's quite a scary prospect that the author has made it so simple and put it out there. It means anyone can do it without knowing how it works. Pretty much everyone's bound to be using that tool soon. It would wreak havoc, but I hope it doesn't get that far.'

Felix also approached Danish Khan with less of an emphasis on network security but more to do with the websites' lack of SSL encryption, who said 'if FireSheep worked regardless of network security, I guess I'd have to stop using them or switch to a wired connection.' He added that 'Facebook and other sites could offer an HTTPS service which used SSL throughout, for networks you don't trust, but you'd expect to be able to trust DoC'.

David McBride, of the Computing Support Group, responded to these comments in an interview explaining that there will be a computational cost associated with services such as Facebook providing SSL throughout the session, but that the problem is the underlying assumption of privacy in an otherwise unen-

rypted session on a website without SSL.

He explained that the IC-DoC network is unsecured to allow test devices, research machines and robots that are not compatible with encryption to connect to networked resources or be controlled over the wireless network. Coverage issues with the DoC network can be investigated and fixed, but ultimately, for a reasonable expectation of security, the entire session from the moment the website is visited must be encrypted, not just the authentication and login.

'Don't panic', he added, explaining that the attack has existed for many years, and that users should associate with the Imperial-WPA network for increased protection against this type of attack. 'If in doubt, if the padlock isn't there when you started using the website, it isn't safe'.

Google's Gmail service switched to SSL in January this year, but services such as Facebook have yet to follow suit. Twitter currently provides an SSL only option as a feature, and Felix advises users with doubts to both associate with the Imperial-WPA network where possible. The attack, formally known as HTTP session hijacking, is an inherent problem with the way the websites are presented to the user and not the fault of the wireless networks and their security measures. Firefox extensions such as HTTPS-Everywhere and Force-TLS can be used to enable encryption where possible to thwart snoopers over a wireless network.

## INTERVIEW

# WE SHOULD BE WORKING TOWARDS THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

Charles Betts  
interviews  
Mark Field MP

Photo by Slobodan Radosavljevic



**I**n September, during a speech at Queen Mary University, Vince Cable said “there is no justification for taxpayers’ money to be used to support research that is neither theoretically outstanding nor commercially useful.”

What is your stance?

My concern is that with so much of scientific research it is difficult to gauge during the early stages whether the work will be useful. The very nature of scientific research often involves numerous cul-de-sacs before finally utilising some of the experience gleaned from going down those various routes. I don’t think having as hard and fast a rule in place is terribly sensible and I’m afraid it doesn’t reflect the reality of how scientific research is undertaken.

**The science budget has been frozen for the next 4 years, which represents a 10% reduction in real terms. Do you agree with this?**

There is a broader issue with funding at the moment. Because of the difficulties with the deficit funding, other budgets have taken absolute as well as real cuts. A freeze is rather more generous than it is for other departments going forward. The difficulty with scientific research is that given those financial constraints there is going to be an increasing demand for evidence of success over a much shorter time period. Scientific researchers may end up spending a disproportionate amount of their time on bureaucratic tasks such as filling in forms to get their next grant instead of on scientific work.

**The UK represents 1% of the world population, yet produces 8% of all scientific publications. Do you feel we might lose this edge over the coming years following the spending review?**

The issue is that when you simply look at the raw statistics – if you start looking for any measure of success, for example the number of column inches in scientific magazines – then you get perverse incentives to do things in a particular way. A lot of what is published is only read by

a handful of people and just gathers dust in the library. That’s not in any way to belittle scientific research and we should be proud of our track record, which we should be looking to maintain, but one of the difficulties with highlighting quite a narrow statistic is that some perverse incentives could come into play.

**Do you feel you can fully appreciate the nature of scientific research if you don’t have a scientific background?**

I’m sure there are many scientists at Imperial who know more about politics than I do about science. Obviously, you have a limitation. What I’d like to think I can provide is some perspective and to be able to broaden the judgement on a range of other issues, other than just the raw scientific research element. Clearly it helps to have a proper scientific background. Equally, we are working within quite strict financial constraints and will be for the rest of this decade and those

concerns also have to be addressed.

**You don’t feel it is a problem in terms of representing Imperial College as our local MP?**

The trouble is my constituency is a uniquely diverse seat in many ways. It has very wealthy areas and very poor areas, and it is home to the scientific, the artistic, the political and the economic centres of this country. I do my level best to try and have an understanding of it all. But yes, it’s a classic case of being a jack-of-all-trades and a master of none. I try and do a reasonable job in that regard.

**The Browne Review has suggested unlimited fees should be allowed. The Universities Minister David Willetts has said that “unlimited fees are neither sustainable nor sensible.” Vince Cable has said, “unlimited fees is an avenue that is unlikely to be pursued.”**

**“I would like to see the cap lifted totally; allow the market to determine fees”**

is being suggested at £6000-£9000 – I want to see a diversity of innovative universities. Let’s have 2-year degrees (not at places like Imperial, but other places like private colleges) that cost say £3500/year. Give another option to people rather than have the whole thing hamstrung in a very bureaucratic way. If a cap is too low, one or two universities may go private – you hear about Cambridge and Imperial contemplating that route depending on how negotiations pan out. I support the Browne review. I have had conversations with Richard Sykes in the past and he would note how much you can charge a home grown student and how much you can charge an international student. He rightly takes the view that we want our indigenous British people in our top institutions. Given the enormous gulf between the two fee levels, there is going to be a push to get lots of overseas students. I want to promote a genuine meritocracy.

**Do you envisage a system similar to the American one?**

Realistically I think we are heading in that sort of direction. The benefit the American system has is that the private universities have these huge endowment funds and are able to say if you are good enough – not necessarily academically, for instance if you are an elite sportsman – if you can bring something to this institution then, whether your parents earn a modest amount or not, we can make a way of making that work. That’s the sort of model we should aim towards. I appreciate that the American institutions have the benefit of huge alumni funding – to get to that stage will take some time.

**In the event of unlimited fees, the wealthiest could pay without problem, and the poorest would be offered scholarships. Is there a chance the middle classes could suffer?**

Yes, I think so. It’s a classic debate we’ve been having in the last week about housing benefits. It’s the middle that is being squeezed. I was the first person in my family to go to university. I’m from the middle class. I was very lucky and had a full grant and no debt. I am adverse to debt and can see that is the worry – though I’d probably take it on the chin.

**Do you think there should be a cap?**

I regret the stance that is being taken by Vince Cable and David Willetts. I can understand the politics of the situation, given that every one of the 57 Liberal Democrats MPs were committed to no rise in fees, as to why we have ended up in this state. I would like to see the cap entirely removed. I see our universities as being elite international players and the worry is that, even towards the best universities, there is a level of complacency in respect to their global role.

The funding of US universities means that they can attract the best academics to make their careers there. I would like to see the cap lifted totally, allow the market to determine where fees are, have some safeguards to ensure there are bursaries in place and in the meantime try and build up alumni funds as in the US model. The worst of all worlds is if we do have a cap and I am particularly worried about having a lower rate cap which

## NEWS

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## Job Markets

## Graduate unemployment at 8.9%

Graduate unemployment has risen to 8.9%, a rise of one percentage point from the previous year. This is the conclusion of a survey by the Higher Education Careers Services Unit (HECSU) of 225,000 graduates questioned in January this year, after leaving university in the summer of 2008.

Employment prospects have not looked so grim since 1993, when the UK was coming out of a recession and graduate unemployment peaked at 11.6%.

"These latest figures show that students are graduating from university into the bleakest employment market for decades", said Aaron Porter, president of the National Union of Students.

Whilst the number of Imperial graduates unemployed does not hit national averages, the university is not immune either. Imperial's graduate unemployment has risen sharply from 5% to 7.6% over the past year, closing the gap between Imperial and the national average. Imperial graduates entering employment within six months was down from 69.9% to 60.2%, although this can be partly accounted for by more students entering into further study.

The survey also revealed that the proportion of graduates working in non-graduate sectors such as retail and catering rose to about one in seven.

Striking differences between different degree subjects are also highlighted. IT graduates fared worst, with a staggering 16.3% still seeking work after six months. Also in the top five for the highest unemployment were media studies, design, accountancy and electrical and electronic engineering. Only 6.2% of law graduates were out of work after this period.

However, graduate unemployment is still some way off the levels seen in the last recession. Charlie Ball, Deputy Director of Research from HECSU, believes that "prospects for graduates in the short-term look bright and next year we expect to see a decline."

Ball also stresses that young people thinking about university should not be deterred by the latest figures. Average starting salaries are still substantially higher for graduates (£19,695) than for non-graduates (£15,912).

The study is compiled from a national survey carried out by all UK university careers services each year and then collected together and analysed by HECSU. However, the reliability of the results has been questioned by Imperial's own careers service.

"Each graduate is asked about their activity on one specific date in the January following the end of their course. If he or she is starting a job the following week, they would still be classed as unemployed for the purposes of the survey," said Elspeth Farrar, director of Imperial College Careers Advisory Service.

Alex Dahinten, Deputy President (Education) of Imperial College Union, emphasised the benefits of participating or taking an active role in the union's clubs and societies to improve their employment prospects: "You have the opportunity to learn a number of vital soft skills which are not taught in lecture theatres, while having fun and getting to meet like-minded people. Graduates should not underestimate the ability to give a presentation, work in a group or chair a meeting."

The deputy president believes that companies will continue to fight over employing Imperial graduates.

"We come from a world-class university and due to the subject choice and academic responsibilities that we carry during our time here, we will always be 'in-demand' graduates." **Sophia David**

# Deportation risk for postdoc researchers

...Continued from Front Page

jobs, thousands of people within the UK could potentially fill the role, in research, that number is down to tens of people across the globe. This means that the immigration cap on non UK/EU immigrants introduced by the Home Secretary, Theresa May, in June could potentially have serious negative consequences on the competitiveness of the research done within UK universities.

Researchers who are resident outside and wish to work in the UK have to obtain a visa, of which there are two main types which apply to research staff, tier one and tier two.

Tier one is a personal visa, where applicants have to apply through a system, giving information on their age, degree level, earnings, et cetera. This information is then assessed and given a score in several categories. Each category has a different 'pass mark' and applicants must pass each category in order to qualify for the visa. The length of this visa is usually a fixed term, typically around two years. There is, however, a hard cap of 600 of these visas which can be issued per month; which in October was already 'used up' by the 20th. On top of that, tier one visas are hard to obtain, with the ratio of tier one to tier two visas at 1:1 in the Physics department despite the department strongly advising researchers to obtain a tier one visa wherever possible.

The second type of visa is the tier two visa, which can only be applied for if the individual has a sponsorship certificate, which is issued by the university. These visas last only until the end of a contract with an individual, and individuals looking to extend or renew contracts, must also obtain a new tier two visa. There is a limit on tier two visas, with Imperial's quota across the whole university being 82 certificates which can be issued between June 2010 and March 2011. It is worth noting that researchers who need to renew their tier two visas also count toward the quota and contracts which have ended do not 'add' back to the number of certificates that can be issued.

Having already used up around half the tier two sponsorship certificates which they are allowed to issue for this year, there is a real concern that nearer January, research groups will be forced to turn away some excellent candidates simply because they cannot obtain a visa. In particular, postdoctoral researchers on tier two visas looking to extend their visa after the quota has been

Photo by Kadhim Shubber



Although all seems well at lunch in the Senior Common Room, postdoctoral researchers on tier two visas face the real risk of deportation

filled, face the real risk of deportation back to their home countries though it is hoped that the extra time in the UK will entitle them to successfully apply for the different visas.

Imperial has a particularly diverse workforce. In the physics department alone, around 25% of post doctoral researchers were hired from outside the EU from 2006-2010, highlighting the importance that high quality immigrants from outside of the EU has for research.

Adrian Sutton, head of the condensed matter theory group in the Physics department at Imperial, expressed his concern by stating that "Universities have always disregarded where people come from because they recognise that to be the best you have to recruit the best people. That is why there are so many postdoctoral researchers from outside the EEA at the top UK universities. They have been attracted by our open, inclusive culture in UK higher education. The UKBA restrictions are negating this culture, a culture which led to 3 of the 4 Nobel prize winners in the UK this year being awarded to immigrants."

Overseas applicants already have significant disadvantages when applying to jobs within the UK. Since the 'Resident labour market test' was introduced, employers are forced to give precedence to any applicants who are from within the EU, when applicants have the same

skills and experience listed in job adverts.

Professor Simon Gaskell, principal of Queen Mary University of London, recently stated in an interview with the BBC, that he believes "The most damaging thing that we could do to UK higher education, UK research, UK science, is to reduce the attractiveness of this country, for overseas scientists and other researchers."

The government is not oblivious to these concerns. Science minister David Willets and Business Secretary Vince Cable, acknowledged that there were problems with the current system when speaking at a "science question time" at the Royal Institute, on the 26th of October. However, ever since the immigration laws were introduced, it is hard not to notice that top athletes such as premier league footballers have been exempt from the restrictions, perhaps suggesting a lack of respect for the important role that research plays for the UK as a whole.

With increasing levels of bureaucracy and hoops to jump through, researchers from abroad will see the UK as a less appealing place to work. The real danger is not a cut to funding anymore, but a cut to the level of talent which helps give the UK its reputation for world class education and research. And that, for many people, is much, much worse.

Comment on this article online at [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)

## Students hit by visa changes

Navid Nabijou

“Unsustainable.” That’s how Damian Green, the immigration minister, described levels of student migration to the UK. The Conservatives have been planning to curb immigration since before the election, and now more than ever it seems that universities will not be spared.

None of the changes made to the immigration system so far have affected students directly (although some are bound to have an indirect impact; see opposite page). The real trouble begins next April, when the Government will permanently restrict immigration from outside the EU.

The precise scale and nature of these restrictions are still unknown but, judging from Mr Green’s recent comments, it looks as if student visas will be curtailed. This will have a marked effect on those universities that rely heavily on the tuition fees of internationals (no points for guessing which one we’re alluding to); it is the income generated from Mr Green’s “unsustainable” levels of international students that sustains universities such as Imperial.

Tuition fees for Brits and Europeans are set to rise, but it is dubious whether this can counteract a joint drop in government funding and international participation. The International Office at Imperial emphasised this, saying: “At a time when the government is proposing cuts to Higher Education funding, the income from international tuition fees represents a significant financial contribution to the College.”

At the same time, a different set of restrictions is being considered. The Tier 1 Post Study Work visa (PSWV) allows recent international graduates to remain in the UK to work for up to two years. These are likely to be curtailed, forcing graduates to leave the UK sooner. The International Office has pointed out that “the Post Study Work visa is an excellent incentive to encourage international students to choose the UK as a study destination.” The fear is that many exceptional international students will opt for countries with lighter restrictions, and that as a result UK universities and the UK economy as a whole will suffer. Amresh, a fourth year undergraduate and an international student, was not deterred. He told Felix that he’d “much rather work in the UK.” He did have some reservations though: “If I’m getting rejected from jobs just because I’m not British, I would be quite pissed off.”

Universities are facing an academic and financial shortfall. How deeply these changes will impact students – international and domestic – remains to be seen.

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minds  
inspire  
each  
other

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We are hosting an event for students from ethnic minority backgrounds who are interested in learning more about Deutsche Bank.

To find out about our 2011 programs, join us at:

#### Date, Time & Venue:

Wednesday, 1 December 2010

17:30 - 20:00

Deutsche Bank Office

#### To apply:

Please send your CV and covering letter to [graduate.events@db.com](mailto:graduate.events@db.com) by 19 November 2010. Successful applicants will be sent an invitation to the event.

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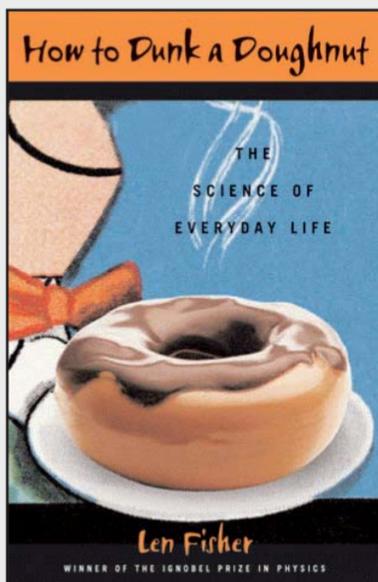


# SCIENCE

Science Editors: **James Goldsack**  
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And a few suggestions...



## How to dunk a doughnut

by Len Fisher

In this charming and quirky book, Fisher introduces us to some of the more day-to-day applications of science. Ranging from the physics of sex to making the perfect boiled egg, there is a huge variety of scientific silliness to choose from.

Fisher writes in an engaging and clear way, making the concepts accessible to everyone whilst still keeping the content interesting for scientists. I found myself maintaining a great sense of admiration for him, it takes a truly devoted scientist to carry out some of the experiments mentioned. Don't expect to learn anything that would contribute to your degree but rather take a break from the monotony of equations and bar charts to delve into some fun and useless science. Maybe you'll even recapture your youth, after all, this sort of science is what lured us to our disciplines in the first place!

## Upcoming Science Events

Nov 11th  
Royal Society  
**Our genes, our history**  
6:30pm - 7:30pm

Nov 06th  
Wellcome Collection  
**Exchanges at the frontier: Gwen Adshead**  
10:30am - 16:00pm

Wellcome Collection  
**Authors in conversation**  
15:00pm - 16:30pm

Nov 11th onwards  
Wellcome Collection  
**High society exhibition**

# Do babies dream in the womb?

“Being a foetus is fun”: daydreaming begins before birth

Katie Tomlinson

New Imperial research shows newly born babies have highly developed “daydreaming” brain networks.

Whether our brains are focused, resting or asleep, default networks of neurones in the brain are constantly activated. When we are not focused a network called the resting state network is switched on, but we are hardly aware of its activity. The resting state network allows us to day dream and branches across the brain between the visual areas, motor areas and areas involved in abstract thought.

The Imperial study scanned the brain activity of 70 healthy infants. A 4-dimensional brain atlas was drawn up by the Computing department and mapped activity to the known location of the resting state network in adults. It was shown that the resting state network develops in the last 10 weeks of pregnancy and at birth looks much like an adult's, prompting the question: are babies day dreaming in the womb?

When we daydream the resting state network allows introspection; triggering autobiographical memories and envisioning the future. Professor David Edwards, the lead author of the study, suggests that “being a foetus is a lot more fun than any of us can remember -- lying there happily introspecting and thinking about the future”.



fMRI scans showed that babies' brains have a fully developed network of neurons

The study shows that babies' brains are more fully formed than previously thought. In general, it seems that our brains are constantly engaged in complex activities, which begin early in development.

Professor David Edwards has previously fo-

cused on preventing brain damage in babies by preventing oxygen starvation. He has recently been awarded the highly prestigious Arvo Ylpö medal. Professor Edwards' future work will investigate how illnesses which disrupt the resting state network effect brain development.

## Strung along by Brian Greene

Katya-yani Vyas

String theory is not a subject that would enthrall most people, it is hard physics, mathematical, untested and impossible to visualise. On Thursday the 28th of October at the Wellcome Institute, I attended a discussion with Brian Greene on the subject of String theory and the controversy and debate surrounding it. Brian Greene is a professor at Columbia University, author of 'The Elegant Universe' as well as being one of the most well-respected and high profile string theorists. The talk was facilitated by Professor A.C Grayling, author and professor of philosophy at Birkbeck University.

The talk began with a brief and concise introduction to some of the background physics and the reasons for pursuing string theory. Greene's easy and relaxed manner is evident from the start, his lilting American accent puts the audience, and indeed Grayling, at ease. He begins with a simple assertion that string theory holds

a unique place within science in that it is currently the best model we have that can unify the four fundamental forces of nature. Without going into too much detail, this is the Holy Grail for physicists.

Perhaps I should give a brief overview of what String Theory is although most of it lies in a realm completely beyond my understanding. The idea is that all matter is made up of tiny vibrating strings; every particle has a particular frequency associated with it and, just as different vibrations on a guitar string match up to different notes, each string's frequency corresponds to a different particle. This gives us a single constituent of all matter which is a tantalising prospect.

Grayling was engaging in his role as interviewer and seemed to know quite a lot about the subject himself, which enabled him to talk about some of the criticisms of String Theory. Further on in the interview Grayling steered the discussion to the debate surrounding String

theory research and the amount of funding being funnelled into it. Greene seemed baffled by the concern, especially as he perceived it as a definite non-issue.

He pointed out that string theorists want nothing more than the truth, and if string theory was closest to revealing it then of course money should be spent on it. He added that if it was disproved then something else would take over and, whether correct or not, every effort should be made to find out.

Greene's explanations of some physics phenomenon were excellent, proving his credentials as a great communicator of science although his bestselling book is a far greater testament to that.

The talk was enlightening, Greene and Grayling kept the attention of the room admirably with witty and relaxed conversation. String Theory is far from being proven, but after this lecture I found myself anticipating a breakthrough with hope and optimism.

## SCIENCE

# 2009 swine flu carried deadly mutation

Lizzie Crouch

Researchers at Imperial have been part of a global team whose latest research is giving greater insight into what caused tens of thousands of fatalities during last year's H1N1 pandemic.

Viruses are weirdly beautiful. Their DNA material is held in a delicate and unique protein casing; an arrangement unlike any living structure. However, it is this casing which Imperial researcher, Professor Ten Feizi, and her team believes may hold the key to understanding what makes a particle invisible to the naked eye into a killer.

The protein casing allows the virus to stick to receptors on the surface of human cells. It's like puzzle pieces; where the protein casing and the receptor match in shape, the virus latches on and infects the cell.

Last December the World Health Organisation (WHO) published a report looking at a mutation where one of the building blocks of a protein in the casing shell had been altered. Professor Ten Feizi and collaborating teams have been conducting extensive research which



Filthy swines: the 2009 swine flu outbreak, originating in Mexico, has killed more than 18,000 people worldwide

has shown that this change results in marked differences in the way that the virus affects our bodies. The researchers reconstructed the receptors lining the airways on glass surfaces. By examining how viruses stuck to these receptors,

they were able to demonstrate that the mutated virus was able to attach itself with greater strength to more cells in the airways than seen with other flu viruses.

Usually, in seasonal flu, the virus only infects a limited number of cells in our

nose and throat resulting in familiar yet uncomfortable symptoms. The mutated swine flu virus is not only more infectious but also prevents the tiny in-built cleaners from clearing away any further grime which can accumulate, opening

up the possibility of more severe symptoms and even pneumonia.

The mutated H1N1 virus, known as D222G, was found randomly as the pandemic spread across the world. It wasn't the generation of a new subset of virus. It was sporadic and sometimes deadly mutation. However, despite this latest research going further to explain the reason behind the fatalities seen during the pandemic, it is important to note that only 7.1% of people who died from the swine flu during the pandemic suffered from the mutated form. In fact, in December 2009 the WHO released a statement that said "the D222G substitution does not appear to pose a major public health issue."

The fact still remains however that people infected with this mutant variant of the H1N1 virus are more likely to have severe and fatal illness. Professor Feizi warns that "If the mutant virus were to acquire the ability to spread more widely, the consequences could be very serious... The virus is constantly evolving, and it's possible that a new form as dangerous as the 1918 pandemic could emerge."

## Hawking's lesson for life

Anastasia Eleftheriou

On Wednesday 20th October, a very rare public lecture was given by one of the most famous and respected physicists alive today, Stephen Hawking, at the Royal Albert Hall in South Kensington.

By the start of the lecture, the hall was fully packed with people of all ages. Professor Hawking was introduced by the theoretical physicist, author and broadcaster, Professor Jim Al-Khalili. In addition, a woman was there to help Professor Hawking communicate, because of his difficulty to move as he suffers from the serious neuron disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

He spent the first half hour talking about his childhood and his family with a projector behind him showing pictures of the people and places he was referring to.

Stephen Hawking was born 68 years ago in Oxford and he studied Physics at University College of Oxford. "My father studied in University College Oxford so he told me to apply there because I had more chances to be accepted".

He graduated with a first class honours degree in Natural Sciences and went to Cambridge to do research in Cosmology. "In an interview I had with my professors in Oxford, they asked me about my future plans. I told them that

I wanted to do research and if they gave me a first I would go to Cambridge, if they gave me a second I would stay at Oxford. They gave me a first".

The audience enjoyed his sense of humour, not only in his words but also in the pictures shown behind him of physics theorems presented in a comic way.

The professor explained that he was always fascinated by science and how things work, but he concentrated on physics because he believed that it was the most fundamental of the sciences. He confessed: "my father told me to study medicine, but I didn't like biology."

He discussed the people that inspired him in his research such as Sciamia Dennis, Richard Feynman, Roger Penrose, and Werner Israel, and about some of the topics he is interested in like Black Holes, formation of Galaxies and Universe Expansion. He gave some basic information for each topic to give food for thought.

He gave a brief reference to his numerous publications including "A Brief History of Time", "Black Holes and Baby Universes and Other Essays" and "The Universe in a Nutshell". He emphasized his new book, "The Grand Design", which was written with Leonard Mlodinow.

At the end of the lecture, an exclu-

sive edition of "The Grand Design" was given free to all the attendants together with "Eureka", the monthly science magazine from The Times.

During his book presentation he said that "to understand the Universe better we have to understand why we exist. The Universe was created by nothing, not by supernatural creatures or Gods".

He explained the purpose of his new book; which is to answer some fundamental questions of life such as "Why are we here?" or "Where do we come from?"

At the end of the lecture, Stephen Hawking was asked the question "do you think it will come the time that people will learn everything about physics?". He gave a quick and interesting answer making space for new questions in our minds; "I hope not!"

While watching this wheelchair-bound man in the centre of the stage giving an incredible lecture, with thousands of people showing their respect for him, I realized that whatever difficulties may arise in our lives, we should never give up, and we must keep trying no matter how hard our goal seems.

So for me, and I believe for many of those at the lecture, the evening was a very important lesson. Not only in astronomy and cosmology, but also a lesson for life.

## 5tat1stics Corn3r

116,569	Species gone extinct this year so far.
15,372	Days of oil left at current useage.
38,679,799	Abortions this year so far.
5,629,776	Deaths caused by smoking this year so far.
1,512,754	Deaths caused by drinking this year so far.
789,099,355	Kilometres the Earth has traveled in space in our Solar System this year so far.
3,523,597	Billion litres of water consumed this year so far.

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# TECHNOLOGY

## Free App of the Week

### iOS - Layar for iPhone



Augmented reality, or AR, promises to be a huge thing going forward. Layar makes it a reality now, painting information over a camera feed, just like Terminator.

### Android - Layar for Android



Layar for Android came first, and like its iOS brother, allows both free and paid AR overlays for all sorts of things.

# Can you hear me now?

Samuel Gibbs goes hands on with the ultimate 'radio voice' USB microphone, the unusually named Blue Yeti

Not all microphones are born equal; some are infinitely more equal than others. That's certainly the case with the THX certified Yeti from renowned USB microphone manufacturer Blue.

The £100 Yeti is the top of the range, all singing, all dancing USB microphone that claims to be able to do it all. Featuring not one, not two, but three condenser capsules (they're the bits that actually pick up your dulcet tones) in a proprietary 'Tri-Capsule Array', the Yeti is certainly capable of dealing with almost everything you're likely to throw at it in the audible spectrum.

In reality what that means is that the Yeti can operate in one of four separate polar patterns: stereo, bi-directional, omni-directional and cardioid (which is what you're likely to end up using the most). Cardioid essentially focuses in on audio that's coming from directly in front of the microphone, blocking out any audio from behind it and allowing you to get in nice and close for the ultimate 'radio voice' effect.

The other microphone modes allow you to capture multi-point sources in more detail, with stereo perfect for recording a band, bi-directional for one-on-one interviews and omni-directional for recording a group around a table. In fact having used all of the separate modes in the course of creating many podcasts, we can attest to the versatility of the Yeti.

The Yeti also has on-board mic gain control, which allows you to fine tune the recording input directly from the microphone, something that can be really useful if you've got variable sources or you're having trouble getting the

levels right. Blue have also thought to include a zero latency direct monitoring headphone port on the mic complete with its own amplifier and volume control. That means that if you need to listen to the recording as you're making it you don't have to be tethered to your computer and experience the lag that going through the computer and back might induce. In fact you can output all your computer's sound through the Yeti's headphone port, allowing you to sit a decent way away from your computer with only the mic close to you, reducing any potential background noise a close by computer might make.

The microphone is suspended on a table-top stand that can be locked at any angle you need. The stand is quite hefty, supporting the relatively heavy microphone and also providing the Yeti some protection when stored by letting it fold back in on itself. If you want to use your own mic stand the Yeti has a standard threaded mic stand mount on the bottom next to the mini-USB port.

You might think that £100 for a USB mic is a lot to pay and you'd be right. You can pick up a cheap headset for around the £10 mark these days and for the majority of people, that will do them fine. However, if you're serious about taking vocal or musical recordings directly into your computer, if you're a podcaster or musician for instance, then you simply can't get a better USB mic at the moment.

Of course it's not perfect (what is?), we don't like the wobbly plastic master volume knob, and admittedly it's a pretty large tool to have sitting on your desk, but when it comes to sound quality, ease of use and that illusive baritone that is the 'radio voice' the Yeti comes second to none.



## Clear iPhone 4 Protection

Samuel Gibbs



The iPhone 4 is a svelte piece of product design, with immaculate lines and a glossy, beautiful finish. Like it or loathe it, no one can deny that it is a gorgeous piece of hardware and, with it costing up to £600, you probably want to keep it that way.

In steps Scosche with its take on the thin rubber iPhone 4 case. The glosSEE g4 comes in two colours, glossy black and colourless see-through plastic, but surprisingly you get both in one box.

The cases themselves are pretty plain, being made from one piece of a semi-flexible rubber that fits snugly around the outside of your iPhone. It offers your pocket-pal decent scratch protection for all but the screen, sadly there's no included screen protector in the box,

but its impact protection is fairly minimal. On the bright side the material the Scosche is made from isn't of the super-grippy variety which means that getting your iPhone into and out of a pocket in the case is actually possible, but at the same time it's not going to slip out of your hand.

The clear case allows you to see the industrial design of the iPhone 4 fairly well, with the only blemish being a relatively small Scosche logo on the back towards the bottom. Access to the camera, mute switch, dock connector and speakers are decent, whilst the volume buttons are covered but easily activated.

Overall the Scosche glosSEE g4 is an above average case that provides enough protection in the pocket and out on a table, but its thin and slippery enough to get in and out of pockets easily.

# Midterm elections: what do they mean for US businesses?

As the Republicans retake the House of Representatives, analysts debate whether they will ease the burden on businesses or let them down like it's 1994

**T**uesday saw the US midterm elections, ending months of speculation about the extent of predicted Democrat losses. These elections were seen as particularly important in determining the business environment in the world's largest economy for at least the next two years. The outcome will have a major effect on the Obama administration's ability to pursue a number of policies critical to the shape of any coming recovery or double dip. Analysts are especially interested in what the results are likely to mean to the healthcare, drilling and mining industries facing new regulations, high-income taxpayers whose 'tax holidays' will soon expire if not renewed, as well as the federal government's fiscal policies and the Federal Reserve's monetary response.

Republicans gained over sixty seats in the House of Representatives, winning a majority of around twenty seats. This was an even larger swing than the fifty-four seats won in the so-called 'Republican revolution' of 1994, which gave the party control over both houses of congress.

Analogies with that election have been prevalent for months on American political talk-shows due to several similarities. Both have been seen as reactions against ambitious increases the size of government pushed for by a first-term Democratic president. In both cases, Republicans have drawn up 'contracts' with their electorate, promising to roll back the size and scope of the state if elected.

Democrats will have reason to hope that the analogy does not end there. The 1994 elections are widely credited with returning Bill Clinton to popularity after over a year of low and falling poll numbers. That had far more to do with the Republicans, led by House speaker Newt Gingrich, being seen to completely abandon their promises of tax and spending cuts than any particular triumph on the part of the Democratic president. The Republicans' ability to stop Clinton from doing anything too unpopular, whilst also failing to enact much of their own 'contract,' led to Clinton's comfortable re-election in 1996.

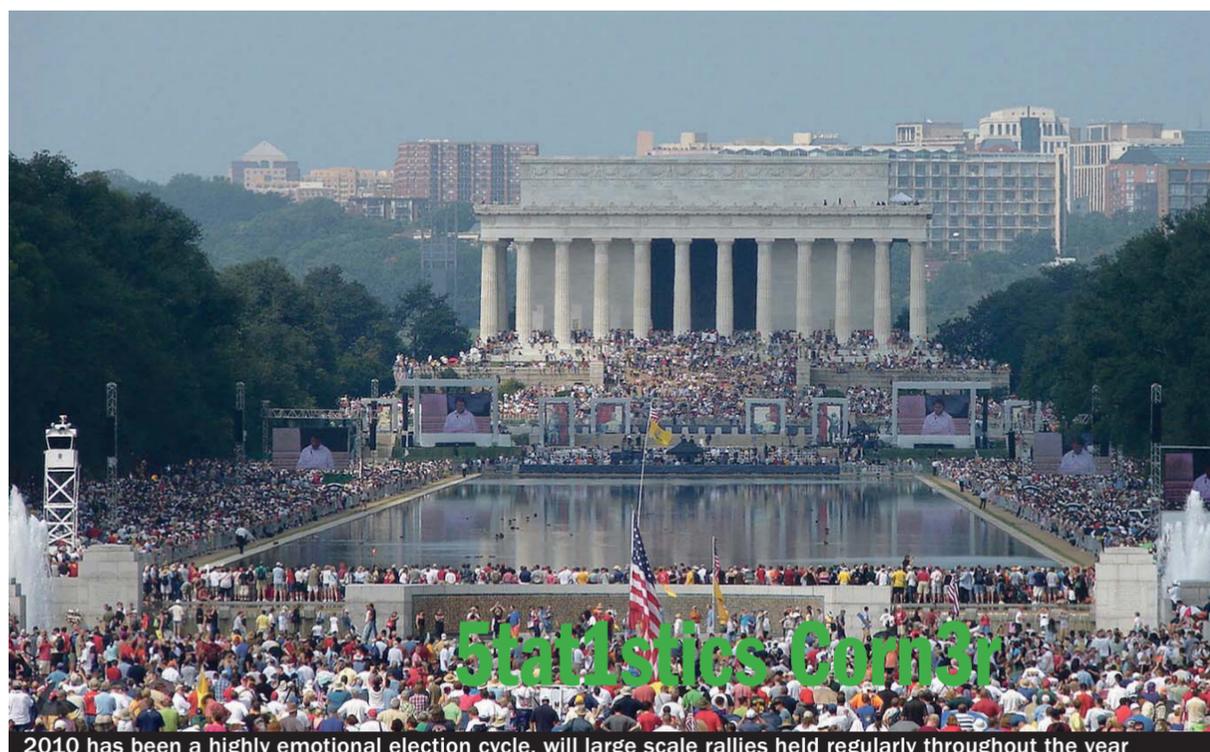
Democratic hopes are high that a

similar failure by the Republicans, together with their abysmal field of likely 2012 candidates, will stop Obama from becoming the first one-term black president. The new speaker, John Boehner, promised in an emotional speech on Wednesday morning that that will not happen. Having already received a congratulatory phone call from Obama, who told him of his hope to "find common ground" with him, Boehner told supporters that he would 'never' let them down and that voters had sent the president a message, that he should "change course". He also vowed to cut spending and reduce the size of government, although his number-two in the House, Eric Cantor, was unable to name a single government program that would be cut, whilst both men have repeatedly called and voted for rises in defence spending.

Despite gaining six seats, the Republicans were unable to regain control of the Senate. Whilst their 47 seats are easily enough for them to filibuster any piece of legislation, they were unable to secure a majority after several of the craziest Tea Party candidates lost their races. In perhaps the biggest surprise of the night, Majority Leader Harry Reid fended off a challenge from Sharron Angle, a favourite of the social-conservative wing of the Tea Party. A delighted John Kerry commented that "Harry Reid isn't just Dracula, he isn't just Lazarus, he's our leader and our whole caucus is thrilled that he's unbreakable and unbeatable."

Karl Rove, George Bush's former senior political advisor who raised \$100 million for Republican candidates in this election cycle through five lobbying organisations, said that the party's base should learn a lesson from the Delaware race, which turned from leaning-republican to a Democratic landslide, after the establishment candidate was rejected in the Republican primaries in favour of a candidate who spent the remainder of her campaigning trying to convince voters that she was 'not a witch.'

Overall spending on campaign advertising in this election cycle exceeded \$3.3bn (£2.1bn), an all-time record for congressional elections. Most ads focused on economic issues, but they



2010 has been a highly emotional election cycle, with large scale rallies held regularly throughout the year

were also noted as being the most negative in tone ever. Healthcare was another big theme, given strong voter resentment in most states toward the Obama administration's rapid expansion of government involvement in that sector. Other campaign themes ranged from 'red meats' issues like immigration to some of the most bizarre personal attacks in US electoral history, such as an ad that claimed Rand Paul, the Republican candidate in Kentucky, worshiped idols and mocked Christians. Unsurprisingly, the ad backfired and Dr Paul won his race by double-digits.

## What do the results mean for US business and the world economy?

Whilst Tuesday night was seen overall as a win for Republicans and fiscal conservatives in particular, questions are already being raised about the extent of any impact on the real economy. The Federal Reserve in particular is widely expected to counter any moves to bring Anglo-German style austerity to America. Not only is it already being taken as a given that interest rates will remain near zero for the foreseeable future, but

additional rounds of quantitative easing are now seen as almost inevitable. As Felix goes to press, Ben Bernanke is expected to announce \$500 billion in additional 'stimulus' whilst markets are thought to be pricing in around \$1 trillion over the next few months.

In terms of specific policies, it is unlikely that already-enacted bills such as healthcare will be repealed, but the Republican takeover of the House will probably stop new legislation. With the exception of immigration reform that many business leaders have been championing for the past year, this is likely to raise investor confidence in the US economy. A much feared expansion of 'cap-and-trade' will now almost certainly not happen whilst some of the most contentious parts of the financial regulation bill likely be retracted. Robert Doll, chief equity strategist at the world's largest fund manager BlackRock recons that "the near-term issue of [most] importance to investors is the Bush-era tax cuts." These are due to expire soon but will probably now be extended by the Republican-controlled House.

Despite record low figures on home prices and unemployment, the S&P

500 rose thirteen per cent in the last couple of months. This was likely to have been the pricing-in of Republican gains in the Midterms, which means that equity markets will probably not be significantly moved by election results. In fact, the S&P 500 opened on Wednesday morning almost unmoved from Tuesday.

It may be a different story in the coming weeks for the US Dollar however, as the Fed and the ECB are seen to be pursuing very divergent policies. Whilst the Federal Reserve may pursue inflationary policies to counter likely cuts in the rate of increase of government spending, the ECB has signalled that it is already looking to tighten its monetary policy. According to Bloomberg, analyst consensus is now saying that the Euro will appreciate beyond resistance levels between \$1.45 and \$1.50 before the New Year. Much will depend on the Republicans' ability to reign in the Fed, which judging from their failure to Audit the central bank despite having the support of over two-thirds of the House earlier this year, including over one hundred Democrats, appears to be non-existent.

# POLITICS

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## The world beyond College walls



### United States

US Republicans have seized the House of Representatives in mid-term elections, dealing a severe blow to President Barack Obama's ability to pass laws. President Obama has called John Boehner the House minority leader to congratulate him and to discuss their priorities. John Boehner is expected to take over the role of House leader from Democrat Nancy Pelosi once the new Congress has been sworn in. Meanwhile, the Republicans despite making huge gains in the November midterms, failed to take over the Senate with the Democrats securing at least half of the 100 seats in the Senate. The Republicans benefited from voter discontent over the stalling US economy and the persistently high jobless rate.



### Greece

Greece has suspended all international mail and parcel services for 48 hours to allow authorities to inspect all outgoing mail. This comes after a series of mail bombs were sent to foreign embassies in Athens and other destinations in Europe. Terrorism experts suspect that an extreme left wing group called the Conspiracy of the Cells of Fire is responsible for this campaign. They are accused of trying to spark a revolution in Greece amidst the economic downturn. Greece was hit especially hard by the global financial crisis and its economy is expected to shrink by up to 4% this year and another 3% next year.



### South Korea

South Korea's navy has fired warning shots to drive away a North Korean fishing vessel near the disputed maritime border. This is the second incident in six days and comes after South Korean and North Korean troops exchanged gunfire near the DMZ. South Korean security forces have been put on high alert, anti-aircraft missiles are at the ready, shipping and air routes are under heightened surveillance, ahead of next week's G20 meeting in Seoul. North Korea has in the past used high profile events in the South to bolster its standing and to embarrass the South.

Edited by **Kenneth Lee**

# Peace in Korea

This week's report from Lord Alton and Baroness Cox, following their latest visit to North Korea, argues that we should be building bridges, not walls with the hermit state

**Rajat Jain**  
**Rory Fenton**

It is clear that North Korea is in a dire state in humanitarian and political terms. On the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War and 10th anniversary of opening diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom, from the outside it seems things have only gotten worse and this trend can only continue.

This is a country which the fourth largest standing army in the world, but this is only possible with a minimum height requirement of only 4'3" due to years of malnourishment resulting in widespread stunted growth. It is also a country which has technically been at war with its southern neighbour, now fifteen times wealthier than the North, for 60 years. Despite the armistice, they continue to antagonise their former countrymen by developing nuclear weapons, destroying their battleships and firing across the border.

During last week's visit Lord Alton, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee on North Korea, questioned officials over internal human rights abuses. They confirmed that the idea of 'innocent until proven guilty' is not used and 'suspects' are not allowed any defence until the trial stage has begun, when they are already considered guilty. The death penalty, as of 2007, has been extended from 5 to 21 offences including distribution of foreign audio-visual materials and economic crimes.

Despite official denials, it is clear that these offences are given a broad definition. While public executions in the first half of this year are thought to stand at a relatively low (compared to the United States or China at least) 22, there is no figure of death in prison camps as a result of poor conditions, torture or execution. Earlier this year Shin Dong-Hyok, who was born in prison camp No. 14, testified before the European Parliament. He described being roasted on an open fire and seeing his family members executed. When questioned by David Alton about his testimony, officials denied these prison camps even existed.

Lord Alton, did, however, report on some positive changes being seen. The first independent university, The Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, has finally been built (see below). Churches are also being opened; The Korean Christian Federation has claimed there are now 500 churches in North Korea, though this is difficult to prove. Lord Alton and Baroness Cox visited a Russian Orthodox, a Catholic and a Protestant church as well as a seminary. While these indicate an increase in religious freedom, it should be noted that the Russian Orthodox Church, despite having Korean priests, had mainly Russian diplomats



Pyongyang has developed behind a veil

worshipping. The Catholic Church is not even allowed to have a priest.

These physical changes have been dwarfed by the Workers' Party of Korea's first conference since 1966, where Kim Jong-Un, the third son of Kim Jong-il, was promoted to the rank of four-star General and Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission. He is expected to succeed his father as the supreme leader, continuing the family's rule for a third generation. Senior officials said that the country is entering a period of "momentous change". Given how little is known about him, it is still difficult to gauge how important this really is.

North Korea has, since 1977, been advocating "Grand National Unity" under the principle of "Two Systems, One Country". South Korea and the International Community supported this and formed a plan of action at conferences in 2000 and 2007. This has now been abandoned by South Korea's new government. North Korea was further isolated when its proposed denuclearisation talks in January were thrown out by the United States.

The physical changes, the conferences and the possibility of reunification are not why we should be hopeful about North Korea; it is the changing attitude of the government. Previously, the country took the ideal of 'Songun', or the 'military first' revolutionary attitude. This prioritised the military above all other government departments, which has resulted in the current state of a huge army but little investment in any other area. Now, however, officials talk of a "great, prosperous and powerful nation" by 2012.

It is because of these signals of change that the new report calls for a new era of dialogue with the isolated country. A first step would be

a peace conference between the former combatant states; the US, UK, South and North Korea and China, facilitated by a neutral country such as Sweden or Switzerland. The 6 Party Talks, initiated to address the issue of a nuclear armed North, should be continued; especially in light of recent overtures to denuclearisation by the North Korean Foreign Minister. The issue of energy insecurity should also be discussed, with help given to the country to build dams and other non-nuclear alternatives. Cooperation on humanitarian issues is also sought, after Kim Jong Il banned all foreign aid organisations in a country in which the state spends an estimated \$2-4 per capita on development.

None of this will be possible for as long as North Korea's international outlook is that of fear and suspicion. The country needs to acknowledge that the Western world does not seek to destroy it. It can also learn a lot from China's economic boom since developing greater co-operation with the West and liberalising its policies.

Some small steps have been made in this vein by the British government, which introduced a scholarship for North Koreans to study in the UK. Canada has also provided English language software to the country's universities. The fact that North Korea invited Lord Alton and Baroness Cox to the country, despite their open criticism of the government's human rights record, is also a welcome move.

Inspired by the Helsinki Accords which dealt with the USSR, this approach may be the wisest option for securing peace in the region in light of a more open North Korea. Given the nuclear capabilities of all involved, the penalties for failing to act may make this the only option.

# The Imperial College of North Korea

In the first of three Felix articles, Lord David Alton of Liverpool reports on his visit to the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology

## David Alton

James Chin Kyung Kim is that rare man – a man who believes in the unbelievable, and makes it happen.

Remarkable also, because he once languished in a North Korean prison cell. Remarkable, because this self-made man has used his own resources to back his beliefs with hard cash.

During my recent third visit to North Korea I was privileged to visit the campus of Dr. Kim's brand new Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST) – just a day before it formally opened for business.

Like its founder, PUST is remarkable, because in a country notorious for the rigid control exercised by the State, this is the country's first privately funded international institution, with a cohort of academic staff drawn from Europe, China and North America, openly promoting a strategy for enabling North Korea's citizens to engage successfully in the world economy and global society.

PUST is a complex of brand new buildings situated on 248 acres of land in southern Pyongyang's Rakrang district. The well-appointed campus has a target enrolment of 600 graduate and 2000 undergraduate students by 2012

This academic year it began courses in three faculties: information technology; industry and management; and a faculty for agriculture, food and life sciences. Two more will follow: architecture and engineering; and public health.

PUST's development plan includes a research and design capability, the creation of a Pyongyang Techno-park to incubate inventions and ideas, and a straight-forward repudiation of what James Kim calls "mass production edu-

cation." PUST is helping to prepare tomorrow's Korean leaders for the world in which they will live: generation next.

What Kim and his university represent should not in any way be underestimated. They are symbolic of the incremental change which the country's leaders recently promulgated – change which places the characteristics of "a prosperous future" and "a dignified future" before military might. North Korea is gradually accepting that neither its neighbours nor western nations have territorial ambitions against it and that the maintenance of the world's fourth largest army – one million men under arms – and the development of weapons of mass destruction – have drained away precious resources which could have been better used on economic and social development.

Its military leaders know that if it ever used its arsenal there would be a deadly and cataclysmic repetition of the Korean War which claimed an estimated 3 million lives.

In this, the sixtieth year since those lethal hostilities commenced, there remains in place a threadbare armistice. In the intervening six decades there has been neither peace nor war, merely this stop-gap armistice which flares up from time to time into dangerous and deadly acts of provocation, the most recent of which were the sinking of the South Korean naval vessel, the Cheonan, resulting in the loss of 46 Korean lives; and some sabre-rattling shots fired across the border just a few hours after we left

During my three visits to North Korea with my colleague, Baroness (Caroline) Cox we have consistently urged its leaders to find a peaceful way forward whilst also documenting and raising examples of egregious violations of human rights

– and urging economic, social, humanitarian and political reforms.

In 2003, at Panmunjom, on the 38th parallel which divides north from south, and where the 1953 Armistice was signed, I wrote in the visitors book that it is "better for men to build bridges than to build walls."

Since then we have both quietly persisted with constructive, critical engagement, mindful of the old Korean proverb that "to begin is to half complete the task."

In 2009 we published our report "Carpe Diem", which urged the incoming Obama Administration seize both the moment and the initiative. The White House missed the chance to announce the formal ending of the war and the creation of diplomatic presence in Pyongyang.

Throughout the Cold War, the U.S. had a comparable presence in Soviet Union and its satellites, and also in China – allowing it to pursue the Helsinki process of human rights engagement and to see both economic liberalisation and political reform. But, like the Bourbons, we seem to have learnt nothing, failing to pursue "Helsinki with a Korean face." Britain, to its credit, has had an Ambassador and embassy in Pyongyang since 2000 – and this has enhanced our ability to engage the country's leadership and to influence its future. Ambassador Peter Hughes is widely admired for his thoughtful diplomacy and his refusal to give up on finding a peaceful way forward.

Ignoring North Korea is not an option. We need a variety of confidence building measures which painstakingly and patiently help North Korea to take its place as a welcome member of the world community – and Pyongyang's



The British delegation and teaching staff at the P.U.S.T.

University of Science and Technology is a welcome harbinger of what that world might look like.

James Kim's story should not obscure the magnitude of the challenge or the unique difficulties of operating in a country which because of its oddities and enormities can all too easily become a copy writer's dream. But his is a story which inspires and encourages.

At the outbreak of the Korean War Dr. Kim was just 15 years-old. Nevertheless, he enlisted and fought against the communist north. Of 800 men in his unit he told me that just 17 survived.

Without money, after the war, he travelled first to France, landing in Marseille, and then on to Switzerland and, in 1960, to Britain, where he studied at Bristol's Clifton Theological College. He later

returned to Seoul and, in 1976, began a series of business enterprises in Florida. But he never forgot his vow and, in the 1980s he sold up, created a university college in South Korea and in 1992 was ready to export his model of education to China. Yanbian University of Science of Technology, in Yanji, north eastern China, was the result. It, in turn, became the model for Pyongyang.

But, before that could happen, Dr. Kim would be arrested by Kim Jong Il's North Korean Government and languish in jail.

Next week David Alton describes how Dr. Kim unlocked both the door to his cell and a political system – opening the way to North Korea's first private international university.

# UN calls in Rector in India-Pakistan dispute

## James Lees

Hosepipe bans cause outrage in middle England, but some water disputes go much deeper than the need to ensure your lawn is greener than the Jones', and when there is an issue between India and Pakistan the world needs to pay attention. The Kishenganga tributary in the disputed Jammu and Kashmir region is currently the source of an argument between India and Pakistan over Indian plans to build a 300MW hydroelectric plant.

After the dispute could not be resolved at a governmental level, Pakistan has decided it needs to be settled by a specially formed International Court of Arbitration (ICA). This is how any problems over water in the region are to be settled as laid out in the Indus Waters treaty of 1960. The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, has appointed Judge Stephen M. Schwebel, former President of the International Court of Justice to head the ICA. India and Pakistan have each appointed 2 legal experts to represent

themselves. The final 2 members of the 7 member ICA will be appointed by Lord Judge, the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales who will choose a neutral legal expert, and Imperial's own Rector, Keith O'Nions who will choose an engineer.

It is the ICA's task to settle the dispute over whether India has the right to build the dam. The process of making the dam will result in diverting the Kishenganga, something which India believes it is allowed to do under the terms of the treaty.

Pakistan objects for a number of reasons, firstly doing this will result in disruption of the water flow at its own Neelum-Jhelum project further downstream. Pakistan claims this "breaches India's legal obligations under the treaty". A further objection relates to India's decision to lower the level of the reservoir at the plant which Pakistan believes breaks the rules on the drawdown of water.

The Indus Waters treaty gives India the right to create 3.6 million acre feet of water storage capacity and it is apparently

not in danger of exceeding this. Environmentalists have claimed that the construction of the dam will wreck the habitats of local endangered animals such as the snow leopard and the barking deer.

Disputes over anything between these two nuclear nations need to be resolved carefully and the ICA has a difficult task ahead of it if a fair solution is to be found which avoids either side losing face. It is likely many hours of sitting in rooms with arguing lawyers await whichever engineer the Rector eventually chooses.

## COMMENT

## FELIX

## The Government's immigration policy is a threat to scientific research in the UK

It is a truism that scientific research is an international affair. It relies on the free movement of ideas and technology across land, sea and international borders. Most importantly, it relies on the free movement of academics themselves.

Therefore the government's plan to impose a strict cap on immigration is disturbing for the scientific community. Driven by the political need to assuage the widespread fear of immigration, the coalition have come down hard on immigrants from non-EU countries. In doing so, however, they have shot themselves in the foot, and the UK's scientific community in the chest.

A credible argument could be made (though this newspaper wouldn't support it) about the need to reduce immigration into the UK. But conflating the large-scale immigration of unskilled workers from the world's dysfunctional states and movement of highly-skilled specialists in the global job market is short-sighted.

To add insult to injury, while the scientific community is denied exemption from the draconian immigration cap, Premiership football teams will be allowed to hire players from across the globe without restriction. When kicking a ball is deemed to be more important than the advancement of science, something is clearly amiss.

Already the government's distorted immigration policy is making the UK a less desirable place for scientific research. Overseas applicants are forced to jump through a whole series of bureaucratic hoops and at the end of the day, EU applicants are legally given precedence. The new cap will mean that research groups will be further hampered by an inability to hire the brightest minds and postdoctoral researchers who require a visa extension could find themselves deported before their research is completed.

Research in the UK already excels in spite of poor funding and a lack of investment. One wonders if the government is playing a cruel game, increasing the burden just to see how much the system can take. Their recklessness is short-sighted and stupid. Scientific research, and skilled employment in general, must be exempted from the immigration crackdown.

# Bans don't work

Our out-dated attitude to drugs is doing more harm than good. Legalising them is the most sensible solution



## Black Sheep

**"If somebody wants to dabble with mind-altering substances, what's it to you?"**

Since the not so level-headed Mephedrone debate you'd have hoped that people could see how prohibition can only lead to problems and that legalisation of narcotics isn't such a bad thing, but judging from the idiotic grumbles I keep hearing, it seems people still aren't quite getting it.

Unless you're a holier-than-thou preacher from one of our beloved mainstream religions I'm sure you'll agree that you don't have the right to tell someone what they can and can't do with their body. If somebody wants to dabble with mind-altering substances in their free time, what's it to you?

Sure, people may be a 'menace' to those around them when they're on such chemicals, but I fail how this differs to alcohol consumption, which seems to be disregarded on grounds of our 'culture' (whatever that means). How being sick, getting into fights, having one-night stands, and forgetting about an evening's events can be seen as perfectly normal behaviour is just beyond me. Besides, most people I know who've dabbled with drugs don't become the raging arseholes most drinkers seem to morph into on Wednesday sports nights, and instead just have a bit of a chat and a boogie.

So let's imagine for a second a nation where the sale of narcotics is controlled by the state (refrain from the Orwellian utterances, please) or by private companies à la Marlboro or Absolut. Quality would have to be outstanding, and prices competitive – the illicit market would



The desks in the Felix office are getting a bit messy. Time to get the hoover out...

soon cease to exist as it simply wouldn't be able to compete. So now you have the loss of a frankly scummy market, lower crime rates, and the people who were getting high anyway are doing so in a safer environment with controlled substances.

Nobody would be encouraged to start taking drugs due to their availability, and an adverse effect might even occur. Sure, it's 'cool' to bang chemicals up your nose when it's illegal, but who wants to conform to something perfectly legal? It'd quickly lose the image of glamour that it currently has, that's for sure. So the people that were going to get high anyway will do so, and those who want to give it a miss can do as they please. Of course there would have to be regulation on who can buy what when, but that's a separate argument altogether.

What does prohibition actually achieve? An increase in the street value of the product, drawing people with no aspirations to sell it for a quick buck. As more people sell it (and make a killing) the value drops. At this point, some of the bigger players will be caught and banged up – demand is still there, but supply is low, so price increases. And so the cycle continues – a fluctuation of prices, a lot of dealers getting rich, and some imprisoned.

It goes even further than that, though. Mephedrone as a case in point: most

**Most people I know who've dabbled with drugs don't become the raging arseholes drinkers morph into on Wednesday sports nights**

websites were selling 'good quality' stuff that was what they said it was, at affordable prices, delivered faster than a Dominos pizza. Following a bunch of hyped media coverage and an unnecessary ban, a bunch of people decide to set up websites of their own selling who-knows-what (if they actually deliver) – we now have a designer drugs market whereby people have no idea what they're getting but will still take the risk.

I'm not saying that the story of your mother's brother twice removed isn't upsetting – I'm sure it's devastating when you lose someone to drugs. The point is that with some alterations to our legislation and culture around drugs these kinds of horror stories probably wouldn't exist. Like sexual orientation, race and religion, attitudes towards drugs really need to be dragged from under the carpet and brought into the 21st century.

Have your say on this article at [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)

The opinions expressed on the Comment pages represent the views of the author only.

# COMMENT

## We're all f\*\*\*ed. So what?



### Angry Geek

**“Does John Terry’s personal life have any bearing on his skills as a footballer? No. He just happens to be shit at both”**

Last week’s Black Sheep certainly got the column started with a bang. At least I thought it had, for the first hundred words. Then I realised the noise was coming from me smashing my head through the paper onto the desk underneath it.

The column, headed with the whorish grandmother of all rhetorical questions, ‘Is infidelity such a crime?’, was initially on pretty sane territory. Does John Terry’s personal life have any bearing on his skills as a footballer? No. He just happens to be shit at both. Does Jennifer Aniston’s love life have any impact on my day to day living? Not since I stopped stalking her in the late nineties. But then the article hits engineering works at Sanity Junction and diverts itself straight on to Crazy Towne. The problem is this - infidelity is a weakness of character.

That some members of Imperial are direly in need of a Filofax to organise their romantic engagements doesn’t mean that it’s an understandable human condition. We’re such a fickle bunch of wangs in this day and age. If we can’t

repress knowledge of our own faults then the next best thing is to make it acceptable. Smoking. Drink. Donations to ‘Save The Dolphin’ charities. Why is it that when we do stupid things our instinct is to pretend it’s normal?

It wouldn’t be so bad if the Black Sheep had maintained the moral high ground for the duration, but by the end they’re pouring scorn on Wayne Rooney for ‘repeatedly’ lying to someone. What? Really? John Terry slept with his friend’s ex-girlfriend behind his wife’s back. We’re not in the business of drawing straight lines on a graph here, you only need one data point - the guy’s a tosser.

Humans are flawed. I’m currently eating pear drops in quantities that will give me glaucoma by the time I’m thirty. Is that acceptable? No it’s fucking not. Are they uniformly delicious and am I stuffing three into my mouth as I write this? You damn well bet I am. Will my girlfriend try to hide them when she reads this article? Yes indeed. Will it be too late by that point? Most likely.

Orgasm-inducing boiled sweets aside, let’s reiterate that ‘humans-are-flawed’

point. If you’re disloyal, cheat, pay women to do things to you that no sane person would do in a full biohazard suit, then you are less of a human being. If you resist the temptation to stuff any and all rhubarb and custards you see into your mouth, then you are more of a human being than I.

No-one should lose their job over it, that’s plain to see, but should they lose the respect of their friends, family and society as a whole? Yes they should. But even if this doesn’t happen, even if you can’t be bothered to summon up any contempt for them, what you absolutely must not do is try to justify it. “Well, we all do it, don’t we?” is the anthem of the slowly decaying chain-smoker, the casual racist, and the serial adulterer.

So just slap yourself in the face now, reader. Go on. Because you’re a horrible person and you probably deserve it.

**Have you been reading other columnists behind my back? Tell me they meant nothing to you at [anangrygeek@googlemail.com](mailto:anangrygeek@googlemail.com).**

**You two-timing shit.**

### Online reactions to last week’s Black Sheep [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)

“Well said. It’s ridiculous that people should lose their jobs over infidelity. Not being able to keep it in your pants is hardly a sign that you’re incapable of dribbling a ball, or trending the corridors of power or anything else for that matter. It just shows you’re unhappy with your relationship and it either needs ending or at least a bit of work.”

**Nia John**

“Infidelity. A hugely dramatised word. Some people say “when it happens to me I will...” And some would say “If you feel your relationship getting stale, either work on it, or end it.” But don’t forget life isn’t a simple equation. There is not a single rule to decide what’s right. Infidelity is so dramatised on TV and books nowadays, that people in it can’t think straight anymore. Onlookers may judge, they may give advice. But deep down only the two person who’s involved in it know what’s best for them. What matters is whether you have come out of the tunnel a better person.”

**Ka Wai Wong**

**Next week... performance enhancing drugs should be allowed in sport.**

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

During my time at Imperial I’ve noticed that every few weeks there is an event where conflict between science and religion is discussed.

I notice that the proportion of people who express doubt in God is much higher in countries where most people have been educated. The proportion rises further with the ‘top’ scientists. Since the scientific revolution, religious belief fallen every century.

It’s clear to me that faith groups have much to fear from the march of progress, science and education.

Regards  
Jakov Marelic

## Chairman of the bored



### Rhys Davies

**“I thought I’d help the mice loosen up by dosing them with marijuana... (that I just happened to stumble upon)”**

They say that when a man is bored of London, he is bored of life. If this is true, I should take a running leap off Hammersmith Bridge in my solid concrete Hushpuppies – however, no matter how boring life may get, I’m certain that the alternative is even more so. To clarify, of course I’m not bored of London, merely bored *in* London.

All the usual pleas to rouse fall on deaf ears. It’s a lovely day outside – no, it’s typical British autumn, grey and wet. London is filled with museums and galleries – yes, and my soul is obese from a glut of culture. It’s going on a crash-diet of The Jeremy Kyle Show starting tomorrow. You could always do some work – no, I’m looking for something to avoid boredom.

I’m sure this sounds familiar to many of you. For all the great wonders and sights of the capital, for all the complex galaxies of social interaction available, it can be painfully easy to sail into the doldrums of interminable boredom. It’s not like I haven’t tried; I’ve already exhausted several avenues of novelty but nothing quite scratched the itch of my ennui.

At first I tried cleaning, that perennial favourite. Everything went back in

its proper place and the newly-vacated surfaces were polished to a shine. I went round and round my house with the vacuum cleaner, on all the floors. Once, then twice and then I hoovered the walls, just to make sure. The bathroom was next, the toilet bleached, the bath de-limescaled and the tiles scrubbed of mildew. I even removed the U-bend from under the sink and began harrying it with a toothbrush. Although perhaps I should have let the bleach pass through first. All I know is, after seeing some phantasmagorical colours in a faraway land, I awoke to the exact same apathy.

I then grew more adventurous. With some stale cheese, I was able to tempt a few opportunistic mice into my company. Initially, they were too skittish to learn any tricks. I thought I’d help them loosen up by dosing them with marijuana (That I just happened to stumble upon: honestly, I thought it was pot-pourri!). Unfortunately, the only stunts that they could perform were giggling uncontrollably and asking if I had any Mars bars. While this was somewhat amusing for a little while, I stopped laughing long before the mice did.

Adventurousness gave way to criminal insanity. Climbing to the top of the tallest buildings I could find, I took it

upon myself to throw a series of cakes, tarts and desserts into the metropolis below. The result was like watching a firework display of flour, sugar and cream, with the same inherent joy. My soul leapt to see a zesty lemon cheesecake explode across the pavement and I felt a lightness in my spirit as pedestrians fled screaming from the sudden downpour of Black Forest gateaux. The catastrophic, instantaneous beauty seemed to resonate with my sense of the fleeting futility of human endeavour... also, it was damned good fun to watch the custards go splat!

As my spirits began to lift, I realised the macrocosm of my experience. Humanity gets bored very easily and seeks constantly to alleviate it through the pursuit of the novel. We are all trying to ease that eternal itch of the soul. Each may have his preferred avenue; it just takes some experimenting to find the perfect salve.

My own experiences on this dreary afternoon have led me to coin a stupendous new proverb, or tweak an old one (Apologies, Dr. Johnson): “When a man is bored with inhaling bleach, dealing illicit drugs to rodents and delighting in the combination of cake and gravity, he is well and truly bored with life.”

Comment Editor: Anna Perman

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# COMMENT

**Pumpkins? Evil?  
Topless torsos? Odd...  
Halloween sucks.**

Halloween bugs me, so this year I thought I'd ignore it altogether. I'm not the kind of person who will set out logical arguments for this, but not because I'm lazy. I just don't have that desperate a need for your approval. However I would really like to talk about my fear of Pumpkins. I realise that as a type of vegetable (or is it fruit? I'm not going to look it up because I don't care), Pumpkin should not have a capital but I have a problem. I don't like to backspace. So I don't care if I typo, I ain't going back.

So there's the Pumpkin sitting pretty (or ugly if the mother let her fat little son handle the knife) flickering in the window mocking me. I'm not paranoid, the damn things are actually evil and hate me and want to kill me and STUFF. We used to be friends, Pumpkins and I, we used to braid one another's hair etc. And then the love was gone, just like David Guetta says. On a side note before I continue about Pumpkins, I hear some men dressed for Halloween parties as werewolves from Twilight, i.e. topless teenage "tottie". I only write "tottie" for the aliteration, I actually hate the word, plus no topless guy at a party really attracts anyone because having your torso out when it's not cold is a rather effeminate look.

Back to Pumpkins (which, incidentally, would make a great girls' name). I would like to crush Pumpkins further by pointing out that they aren't even remotely spooky. In fact, things that attempt to be spooky rarely are. A cemetery at night, is that spooky? Well yes, in a way. But only in the same way many deserted places are spooky at night; it's not that there is a chance of someone rising from the dead, it's the presence of undesirables such as muggers. Something that does intrigue me is masks. In the Halloween films, the fact that you can't see Michael Myers' face definitely adds to the fear. I get genuinely scared watching those films. People in masks at Halloween aren't scary except when you actually have no idea who's under it and they don't speak and keep staring at you from a distance. But that tends not to happen at parties.

Damn, how am I going to sleep tonight now that I've reminded myself of those Halloween films! (Incidentally, "you're a sexy chick" tends to follow whenever I say "Damn", it's become a real social problem.) Still don't need your approval though. I'm just ashamed of being the complete baby that I am.

You know how people say it's fear of the "unknown"? It follows that if I know how it feels to stalk in a mask I might fear it less. So maybe I'll get a mask of my own, hang around some college gates menacingly, just get a feel for it... Anyway bring on Bonfire Night!

By Bloody Mary

During October 3.5 million French workers took to the streets to protest against changes to pension plans. But the question is...



## WERE THE FRENCH RIGHT TO STRIKE?



**Samuel Furse**

**Y**awn yawn, the French are on strike again, and I and others are left wondering what the point is. This time at least, it appears to be some sort of principle, though whether this raises them above the level of London Underground tube drivers striking is questionable. The majority of the people they inconvenience either earn half what they do, or work for twice as many hours in a day – generally both.

However, I cannot help but think the strikers in France have got it wrong too, and for several reasons. For one, several affluent Frenchmen (and women) known to me have described the French predilection for striking as the 'national sport'. This hardly imbues it with a moral worthiness the strikers might wish for. But even more than that, the principle, which it doubtless is, over which they are striking now is seemingly impossible to rationalise. They do not like the age of compulsory retirement being raised from 60 to 62 years. This seems rather spoilt when one considers that in both the UK and in Germany, the age of compulsory retirement is 65, and will rise in both countries, probably to 67 or 68.

There is little resistance to this in Britain, one imagines for a variety of reasons. No one has any money and so it is understood that we all need to work for longer. What many may not have considered is the fact that when the current system of state pensions was designed, the expectation was a retirement of only a few years after the age of 65. The fiscal comparison of this with today's retirements of twenty or even thirty years, has not been widely reported. Perhaps more importantly, a compulsory retirement of almost any age seems a form of ageism. Whole sitcoms have been written about the subject (Waiting for God; The Legacy of Reggie Perrin), in which experienced, well-trained personnel at the top of their games are 'retired'. They call it being 'thrown on the scrapheap'.

Second, striking does not seem to fit with the principles it means to in France. This rather French off-centre attitude goes back a long way—the first clear example being that beheading the aristocracy was as reconducive to egalitarianism as any of the current activity is. Mme. Guillotine did nothing to equalise people. If anything she served to mark the unsatisfactory delineation as clearly in death as it was in life.

The British have an innate distrust of their politicians, the French seem to have an innate belief that theirs are criminal. Many turn out to be so, but that does not seem to make the French electorate change that. So instead of complaining-by-inconveniencing, what about making a rational analysis of the effect on the lives of everyone?

**"The French predilection for striking is the 'national sport'"**



**Charles Betts**

**E**ver since the 14th July 1789, the French have consistently displayed a fair amount of *je ne sais quoi* when it comes to acts of rebellion. The Storming of the Bastille cemented France's reputation, in the words of François Mignet, as a nation "intoxicated with liberty and enthusiasm."

Closer to most French hearts, however, are the riots of May 1968. What started as a piddling group of grumbling students soon exceeded 20,000 people. Within less than a week, over a million people were marching through Paris in their support. You blinked your eyelids and the number had become ten million! President Charles de Gaulle fled the country, calling for new parliamentary elections to calm the rising violence and avoid civil war. A bunch of adolescents had very nearly caused the collapse of the government. And none of this had been driven by the unions.

Ever since 1968, France has become a more liberal place, with less respect for authority and a steadfast desire to place quality of life at the centre of all social reform. In 1983, President François Mitterrand brought in the right to retire at 60, and in 2000 Prime Minister Lionel Jospin helped instigate the 35-hour working week. But this social trend is under threat from a bill to make people work two more years for their pensions. A bill that is being rushed through the upper house using a highly contentious emergency constitutional measure.

The public are out in force once again, living up to their strong striking and demonstrating pedigree. Current President Nicolas Sarkozy is in essence a wannabe JFK, and likes to portray a Hollywood persona. He is the least popular leader in the history of the Fifth Republic, and is at odds with two-thirds of the French citizens that he represents who oppose the pension law. He has been accused of ignoring the public and comes across as a tetchy authoritarian, arrogant president. How their French howls of protest put to shame our British whimpers against the draconian cuts we are facing.

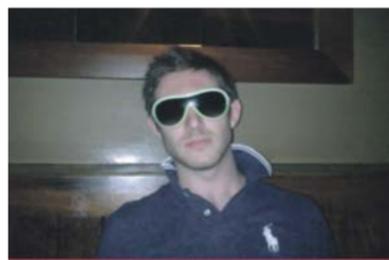
The French government seems to only listen to public opinion when under serious pressure to do so. It's almost as if the whole political system is centered on striking. The government appears to deliberately wait for a strike before considering any negotiations, whatever the issue. The people are correct to express their democratic right to strike, regardless of the financial impact of the reforms. They adamantly believe in a social way of life that has taken countless battles, fought by their parents and grand-parents, to achieve. They are being true to their principles and culture, putting us don't-you-mind-if-you-don't Brits to shame.

**"French howls of protest put to shame our British whimpers"**

# COMMENT

The opinions expressed on the Comment pages represent the views of the author only.

## The Dawkins delusion



**Elliott Hind**

**“Dawkins, rather than being a profiteer, is savvy in providing monetary support for his foundation”**

For those of you who did not read Alexander Khanin’s comment piece from the 22/10/10 issue of Felix, his thesis can be reduced to a number of playground-worthy statements. I have a big problem with his reasoning and the nature of his claims so let us work our way through them. It will not take long I promise, but for the sake of intelligent debate everywhere he needs to be cut down to size.

First, that Professor Dawkins is a callous profiteer. The author, maybe trying to be “down with the youth”, compared him to Christina Aguilera and implied that he is pocketing all the proceeds from merchandise sales on his website. If you dislike someone as much as Mr Khanin appears to, you should find evidence to support your claims. Merchandise sales from richarddawkins.net directly benefit his foundation for reason and science. To see for yourself (yes that is evidence) go to <http://store.richarddawkins.net/>. Dawkins, rather than being a profiteer, is savvy in providing monetary support (a drop in the ocean compared to organised religions’ riches)

for his foundation at a time when religious superstition goes largely unchallenged in spite of the misery it causes.

Moving swiftly on to the second claim, anybody who has ever heard of Dawkins is, I am sure, perfectly aware of his opinions. He would not be a very effective proponent of a secular society if he didn’t state his case as frequently and eloquently as he does. Does the Pope stop talking about his church’s stance on contraception and condom use in Africa? No. Do extremist Muslim preachers keep their views about the west and women’s rights private? No. Bizarrely, Khanin’s irrational dislike of Dawkins appears to compel him to write more than the despicable worldviews of some leaders of major faiths.

Richard Dawkins is a national treasure. He is passionate about encouraging children to question their elders and think for themselves. He actively encourages a full scale assault on solving nature’s mysteries and it is clear that he cares deeply about humanity and our future. We could all be a bit more like Dawkins. Yes, that includes you Mr Khanin.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Felix,

The article titled “PG mingle delights Union” read “GSA have done much better job of organizing events such as pub quizzes than in the previous years”. This statement is slightly incorrect. The Pub Quiz organized once per month remains similar in format to the one organized in previous years. However, I appreciate Felix for noticing that the GSA improved its provision of events since July 2010 after an Events Team dedicated towards this goal was formed in April of the same year.

To fill in a little history, before the GSA Events Team started planning events, it took the pulse of the PG population at Imperial, by conducting an online survey. The survey, taken by around 200 Postgrads was an eye-opener, in which 65% of respondents said that they wanted more events and were generally unhappy with the social scene at Imperial. Subsequent personal meeting with 15 PG’s further strengthened our belief that the GSA should provide Postgrads a time and place to mingle with those outside their

departments.

Since the team took-over, there were a string of three successful social events. The first event was the Movie Night, which turned out to be a smashing hit with around 90 attendees who paid £2 to watch “The Hurt Locker”. The second event, GSA Pub-Night, was another big success and saw the participation of around 45 students. The third event, a Knitting and Salsa mixer, was organized in association with Postgraduate Society Goldsmiths University of London and Imperial College’s Knit Society.

The 2009/10 Events Team strived hard to improve the social scene for the PGs and thus have set the groundwork for this year’s students to enjoy a vibrant community. If the Postgrad Mingle, with about 1000 attendees, was anything to go by, then all signs point to a fun year.

With regards,

Shivendra  
Events Director – 2009/10,  
GSA

### FRIDAY

1. **Barnes**  
Nearest Station: Barnes Bridge
2. **Bishops Park**  
Nearest Tube: Putney Bridge
3. **Clapham**  
Nearest Tube: Clapham Common
4. **Southwark**  
Nearest Tube: Canada Water
5. **Westway**  
Nearest Tube: Latimer Road
6. **Wimbledon**  
Nearest Tube: Wimbledon Park

### SATURDAY

7. **Barking Park**  
Nearest tube: Barking
8. **Battersea Park**  
Nearest Tube: Pimlico
9. **Blackheath**  
Nearest Station: Blackheath
10. **Ealing**  
Nearest Tube: Ealing Broadway
11. **Ravenscourt Park**  
Nearest Tube: Ravenscourt Park

# Bonfire Weekend Fireworks

Graphic by Veronika McQuadeova



Arts Editor: **Rox Middleton**

## ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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

**Eduardo Borgomeo's** choice of a modern Italian epic will open your eyes to one of the most important books of the last five years.

**Gomorrah** by Roberto Saviano

When a writer writes to tell the truth, it can have dangerous and disturbing effects. Roberto's book *Gomorrah* on the Neapolitan Camorra crime system, published in 2006, made him a bestselling author. However, it also gave him the perennial company of five armed guards. Why does a writer have an escort? The question could be easily answered by pointing out that Saviano's book exposes the activities and economic system of the Camorra, the criminal organization originally from Naples that now does business all over the world. This has certainly upset the camorristi who now threaten Saviano's life.



However, many writers and journalists have talked about the mafia systems before, so the fact that Saviano is writing about the mafia is not the only reason why he is a marked man. Saviano's work has been perceived as a threat to the criminal organization because it broke through the walls of silence and indifference. *Gomorrah* turned the attention of a whole nation, and not just of a few local newspapers, on the practices, connections and businesses of the criminal system. It is the number of readers, and thus the success of the book, that has made *Gomorrah* and its author dangerous. The fact that *Gomorrah* sold 10 million copies means that 10 million people know. They know the names of the mafia bosses. They know that the camorristi filled entire provinces with toxic waste. They know that the existences of the godfathers are miserable and wretched, and not incredible as the Hollywood mythology made us think.

Yet it is unclear why a writer should deal with the mafia. I mean, usually dealing with the crime system is the task of judges and policemen. What does literature have to do with the mafia? To answer this question we need to consider what the mafia really is. The mafia is not just an association of gangsters. It is a frame of mind, a way of thinking, a system of relationships that covers every aspect of life. Thus in order to fight it off and defeat it, what is needed is a cultural movement and not just police action. In this scenario works such as *Gomorrah* are of fundamental importance because they spread the word, they spread the knowledge so that a story that used to be the story of a single town or area is now the story of 10 million people. This is the power of literature, the power of making a distant story the story of everyone. A story that you can't ignore.

**Want the world to know about your favourite read? If you want to see it in Felix send 300-400 words to arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk**

**The art of shooting wildlife**

Another year at the Veolia photography competition, and the entries are wilder and more captivating than ever



A marvel of ants, Bence Máté. Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year - Overall Winner

**Helen Mackey**

From classical 'safari' style photos that bring drama on a big scale, to atmospheric artistic black and white studies and colourful conceptual pieces, this exhibition has rightly earned itself a popular following as an internationally renowned exhibition bringing together some of the best wildlife photography of the last year. I really only became aware of its existence last year and sadly, that attention was due to infamy. In 2009 there was scandal; shortly after José Luis Rodríguez's 'Storybook Wolf' was announced as the overall winner of the prestigious award, gossip began circulating that not all was as it seemed. Following thorough investigations it emerged that, contrary to what Rodríguez had portrayed in his submitted caption, his photo was not a chance encounter with a wild wolf, capturing distinct natural behaviour. Instead, he effectively cheated by using a tame wolf trained to perform for the camera. For the first time in 46 years, there was a blank space on the exhibition wall as the photograph was removed and Rodríguez' title revoked.

This year captive animals were banned from the competition altogether. As was Rodríguez, incidentally. Harsh. But strict enforcement of such rules is essential to this exhibition and its purpose. In an age when every image we see is manipulated to such a degree that we question what, if anything present, constitutes reality; it's refreshing to look upon photographs that capture the very concept of magnificence of the untouched. Wildlife is, after all, most incredible without our interference.



The Frozen Moment, Fergus Gill. Young Overall Winner.

When I visited, it was clear that that message of conservation is at the heart of the exhibition. But I was pleased that they managed to put their point across in a way that doesn't overwhelm what remains a celebration of the stunning work on display. There are specific categories whose photos plainly aim to illustrate the current destruction of wildlife worldwide (including the newly introduced 'Photojournalist' award, whose winner this year reported on animal cruelty in Asia), however in general the point is made in a more positive way; by showing us how much we have, it implies how much we have to lose.

However what impressed me most was the dedication the entrants possessed. Beneath every photograph is a list of the equipment used to take the shot, one or two sentences about

the creature or its habitat and a caption written by the entrant. It was whilst reading these captions (some authored by 10yr olds entering the children's category, which was, gallingly, no less impressive in standard) that I realised the photographs on display were not really the product of any expensive or elaborate equipment but, more truthfully, the product of endless patience in often inhospitable conditions, all for the chance of that one magical shot. You will undoubtedly agree, if you take time to visit the exhibition, the end result confirms that their perseverance to wait for that real, truly wild animal is absolutely worth it.

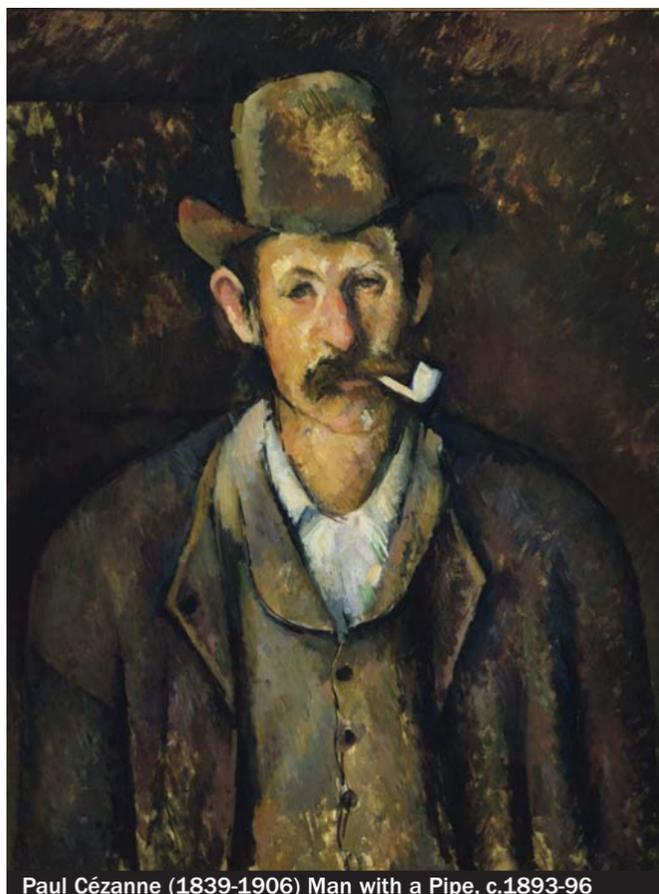
The Veolia Environment Wildlife Photographer of the Year at the Natural History Museum till March. Students £4.50.

## ARTS

## WHAT'S NEW ABOUT CEZANNE?

It's more than 100 years since Cézanne, one of the great French post-impressionist painters died, so how much more is there to say? Find out at The Courtauld Gallery

**Christina Flanagan**



Paul Cézanne (1839-1906) Man with a Pipe, c.1893-96

Best known for his instantly recognisable still lifes, the Courtauld's latest exhibition instead focuses on Cézanne's depictions of people at play. His models were peasant farmers from his own estate, about whom the exhibition provides some intriguing snippets of information. They are pictured smoking and playing card games together, but Cézanne endows them with a gravity and concentration of purpose totally unlike the depictions of the 'immoral' behaviours of peasants usual at this time (a second room houses many examples of such works from the 16th and 17th centuries). Cézanne himself said, "I love above all else the appearance of people who have grown old without breaking with old customs". His rough brush strokes and strong lines lend the peasants a rugged, stoic air and there is a stillness similar to that of his still lifes suggesting the timelessness of the scene. The mix of colours blended carefully to make each block of colour are beautiful, although the compositions sometimes appear a little off balance.

Although there are fewer than 20 works exhibited, they have been brought together from all over the world, including loans from the Musée d'Orsay in Paris and the

Met in New York (to where this exhibit moves in the New Year). Three of his five large final canvases are displayed (the others cannot be loaned), along with many intricate studies of the individual farmers in pencil, watercolour and oil - Cézanne produced far more preparatory work for this series than he usually did as he considered his subject very ambitious.

The idea is to enable the visitor to fully appreciate Cézanne's creative process over the five years during which he produced this series of paintings and I really enjoyed trying to imagine how he worked. (This exhibition has allowed art historians to revise their understanding of the order in which his various paintings were created). There is a relatively in-depth guide to each painting giving insight into its subject and the artistic techniques, which helps as it is necessary to appreciate each painting if you don't want to leave feeling a little dissatisfied by the small number of works.

This is definitely worth a visit for anyone interested in Cézanne and you will have plenty of time left to visit the rest of the gallery which includes several works by Cézanne's great influence, Pissarro.

**Until 16 January, free for full-time students.**

# Marclay's 24hr masterpiece

**Eva Rosenthal Mena**

Time will run away with you. It will skip, jump, come to a standstill, and even explode in front of your very eyes in Christian Marclay's 'The Clock'. Marclay has made a twenty-four hour film using snippets from movies that involve clocks and references to time. Every single minute of the day is mapped out using scenes from famous old and new movies. James Bond will surreptitiously tell you what time it is as he tracks some unknown person's movements; at four o'clock bands of excited children run out of classrooms screaming as their teacher tells them to slow down; and I am almost sure I saw Kevin Spacey walk across the screen with a watch on his hand in a scene from *The Usual Suspects*.

The logistics of the project are unimaginable. A moment in movie history was found for every minute of the day. Most minutes even have multiple clocks and ways of telling the time from various different films. Moreover, each scene is faultlessly edited so that it runs into the next with no interruptions. Somehow, Marclay has even managed to make music spill from its original scene into the next, flowing constantly in one direction.

There is no plot. How could there be? Realistically speaking it would be im-



Christian Marclay, *The Clock* (2010) single channel video, duration 24 hours.

possible for a plot to materialize. Nevertheless, you believe in a plot. Or in many interweaving plots that twist and turn as the minute passes. Everything seems to build up to the hour, where in a sudden blast of clocks and actors shouting out the time as they run to their next engagements, time appears to end. Then the clock starts ticking again.

'The Clock' functions as just that; a clock. If you were to play it on your kitchen television, you would only have to look or perhaps listen for a few seconds to tell the time. But 'The Clock' is much more than just a movie that tells the time. It is a visual representation of the infiniteness of time, a compilation of recognizable moments from the 20th and 21st centuries and a commentary on the randomness of instants in life.

That is what it meant to me. I left the viewing room in a slightly dazed fashion but wanting to capture every minute of the day as 'The Clock' does.

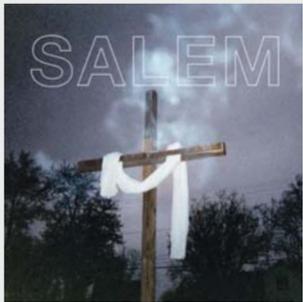
Go and see it for just fifteen minutes after a hard day of shopping or visiting the more serious museums near Piccadilly. One more thing: after the 13th of November the only way to see this amazing 'thing' will be to pay a quarter of a million pounds to obtain one of only four available copies.

**Free at the White Cube, Mason's Yard til 13th November**

# MUSIC

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

## Album of The Week



**Salem**  
*King Night*  
IAMSOUND Records  
2010

There's a bit of ruckus being raised on the blogosphere about a phenomenon called 'Witch-House'. Chicago-based band **Salem** are hailed as the originators of this so-called 'genre', and have just released their first full-length 'King Night', collecting six new songs alongside five old favourites from their past singles and EPs. Regardless of hipsters debates, **Salem** have made a genuinely brilliant, cohesive album, full of dense, atmospheric and interesting songs, they draw you into a world that is **Salem's** alone. Most appropriately described as a downtempo, drugged-out fusion of industrial and noise-rock, it is an album that rewards repeated listens. Producer Dave Sardy cleans up the sound somewhat, bringing out hidden beauty lying underneath the layers of murky noise. The amazing 'Sick' and 'Trapdoor' feature freaky, downtuned drawl-rapping reminiscent of **The Knife's** 'Hanging Out', but it is closer 'Killer' that floats my boat as one of the best tracks of the year. - **Greg Power**

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

1. Radiohead
2. The xx
3. Muse
4. Florence + the Machine
5. Kings of Leon
6. Daft Punk
7. The Killers
8. Bloc Party
9. Michael Jackson
10. Arcade Fire

Join in at: <http://www.last.fm/group/Felix+Music>

## Make sure not to miss

### The Dillinger Escape Plan

**Electric Ballroom, Camden**  
Tonight! (Friday 5th November)  
7:00pm

If you're like me, you like a bit of math-metal on the side of your lectures. Breaking out of New Jersey back in 1999 with their landmark release 'Calculating Infinity', these pioneers of insanely extreme metal have spawned a legion of imitators. Over the years they have kept evolving, incorporating catchy choruses and experimental noise jams, leaving everyone else trailing far behind. And ever since they collaborated with **Mr Bungle/Faith No More** mastermind chameleon Mike Patton, they've been getting funkier too. Prepare for a night of moshing, slam-dancing and maybe a little grooving as well. I can promise you it'll be a better workout than you'll ever get at Ethos. - **Greg Power**

## Ready for War? Ready for Love!

**Warpaint**  
*Scala*  
28th October  
★★★★★

**Diogo Miguel Gerales**

I knew these girls were good. I knew they were hyped. I knew they could put on a great live performance. But still, I wasn't expecting a sold out Scala only two days after they released their first album!

2:54 opened the night with their "pre-pubescent Garbage"-like songs led by a extremely foxy lead singer. **Friction** followed with a very tight Fool's Gold-meets-Mystery Jets happy set, highly dominated by the high pitched, well played and placed, crisply joyful, Maghreb inspired guitar notes. Before leaving the stage, **Friction** mentioned that everybody that came to see **Warpaint** was "in for a treat". And oh boy, were they right! After a (perhaps too long) sound check, the "angel-like choir" got up on stage and started delivering their "minimal-gap-filling harmony". The simultaneously contrasting, yet completing vocals and guitars of Emily Kokal and Theresa Wayman impressed on me a yin-yan'esque feeling of the performance. Led



Went to a gig, four beautiful babes... AND THEN I JIZZED. IN. MY PANTS.

by Stella Mozgawa and followed by the exquisite Jenny Lee Lindberg's bass lines, the unexpected melody breaks evidenced how great musicians they all are. Everyone in the King's Cross venue was hypnotised with the flawless but still human performance. Their unique style of inserting songs into songs and silence into music is what makes their album a definite contender to any Top Albums of 2010 list. As highlights, I would like to pick "Beetles" for its never-ending epicness, "Composure" and "Set Your Arms Down" because they capture Warpaint's essence and geniality and, obviously, the almost a-capella, involving, vocal dominated four-way that was "Billie Holiday",

the last song in their encore. As a very frequent concert-goer, I've seen many great established acts this year. LCD Soundsystem, Grizzly Bear, Arcade Fire, Beirut, The Antlers, Broken Social Scene or The National have all impressed me beyond belief for their live performances, technique and brilliance. However, I wasn't expecting a similar reaction to this new, slightly inexperienced LA band. I could go on and deliver an endless list of adjectives of the likes of 'magnificent' or 'perfect', but I won't. I was there, it's all that matters. They are going to be huuuuuge and stay for a while, so book yourself tickets for their next concerts. Oh, and I'm in love. With all of them.

## UK Grime and the DJ-Mag Awards

Ahmed El-Refee gives us the lowdown on two wicked London events

**This is UK Grime Volume 1**  
**Fenchurch store, Covent Garden**  
25th October

**T**he UK Grime scene has been gaining a lot of popularity in recent times. With tracks such as 'Too Many Man' and artists such as **Skepta** sweeping the charts. So on Monday 25th, the launch night of 'This is UK Grime Volume 1' took place at the Fenchurch store in Covent Garden. It was a bit of a strange venue if you ask me.

We were sceptical at first but when we got there, they had turned the whole store into an intimate music venue. The cream of the UK Grime Scene were all on show, with the likes of members of **Boy Better Know** and other top grime artists showed us what they had to offer and it was very impressive. The great mix of tunes and well thought lyrics made for some great music and the free bar went down a treat, which really got the music flowing. When we were all booted out, the cameras came out and people were MC'ing on the street with passers by bemused at what they saw.

This is how grime has grown in the underground music world, with artists recording their tracks on small cameras and sticking them on Youtube and creating mixtapes. Even though it is now becoming more mainstream, the essence of grime hasn't changed. I'm a big grime fan myself, and I really see it going places with such talented artists churning out some quality tracks.

**DJMag Top 100 DJs of 2010**  
**Ministry of Sound**  
27th October

**W**ednesday was the final of the DJMag Top 100 DJs 2010. Ministry of Sound played host to a star-studded lineup featuring eventual winner, **Armin van Buuren** and others such as **Deadmau5**, **Fedde Le Grande**, **Laidback Luke** and **Eddie Halliwell**.

One of the artists that really caught my eye was **Afrojack**. He played a great selection of his own music and it justified why he was in the top 20 DJs in the world. His great mix of house and dance/electro really worked well and the crowd really responded to what they were hearing. I definitely see him as an artist to look out for in future.

Later that evening, the top 3 were announced. Even though **Armin van Buuren** was voted number 1, **Deadmau5** played a fantastic set that made me question why he was only at number 4! Some may disagree, but I really think he deserved to be number 1. He really shone as a top class DJ with all of his own remixes and tracks. His unique style was a hit with the fans, especially the fact that he mixes all of his tracks on the fly!

If you get a chance to see him live, I definitely recommend you go and see him. Funnily enough, he will be at Earls Court on the 18th December together with **Magnetic Man** and **Zane Lowe**. Get your tickets quick!



Blacks (I swear that's his name) rock-in' the mic like there's no tomorrow

# MUSIC

# Feeder blast classics and bring the rock

Oli Wilkie appreciates a humble Feeder in Shepherds Bush

**Feeder**  
Shepherds Bush Empire  
28th October  
★★★★☆

After the quickest devouring of a Nandos chicken you have ever seen, my plus one and I hopped over to watch Feeder play at Shepherds Bush Empire, one of London's most iconic and surprisingly intimate venues.

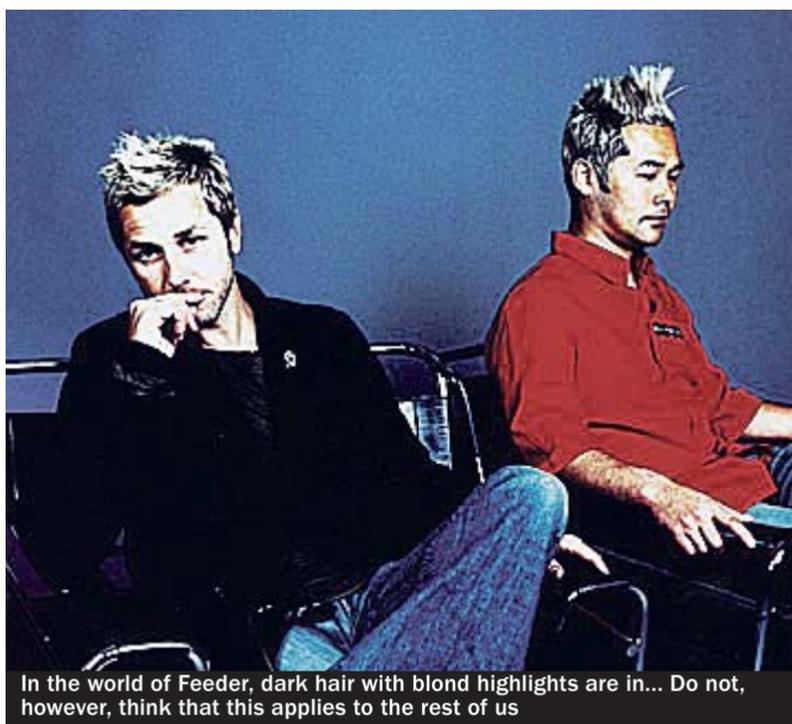
Feeder came on to a great reception and, after forgetting the support act's name mid-way through thanking them (awkward...), got to it straight away with a loud and energetic rendition of White Lines, taken from their latest album Renegades.

Feeder's music has changed so much through the past two decades that fans of their new music are very different from the older fans. A bit like bringing grandparents together with uni mates at

a wedding, they didn't really mix well. At any given time, one part of the crowd would be buzzing whilst the rest would be patiently waiting for the songs they knew and loved. Luckily for the latter, the songs in the set list were far from being in chronological order so you didn't have to wait long.

Unsurprisingly the bands most memorable songs, Buck Rogers (hes got a brand new carrr..you know the one), Seven Days In The Sun, Feeling a Moment, Just A Day, and Find The Colour all brought the house down, their respective live renditions felt so invigorating and life-affirming that even the most reluctant of gig-goers found themselves shifting rhythmically in their seats.

The best thing about the gig was the humility of the band. Here is a band that shares playlists with Kings Of Leon, Killers, and Oasis but that doesn't give off that holier-than-thou crap. They came, they played, and everyone had a really good time. Can you really ask for more?



In the world of Feeder, dark hair with blond highlights are in... Do not, however, think that this applies to the rest of us

## Mike Hadreas opens his heart

**Perfume Genius**  
Cecil Sharpe House  
19th October  
★★★★☆

**Christopher Walmsley**



Mike Hadreas quietly released his debut album 'Learning' earlier this year to much critical acclaim. He has been likened vocally to a particularly downbeat version of Sufjan Stevens, however in contrast to ornate and sprawling arrangements **Perfume Genius** mainly relies solely on simple piano melodies with the mere accompaniment of synth strings. His sound musically is rather of a similar tone to Emily Haines' solo effort 'Knives don't have your back,' written while mourning her father's passing.

'Learning' is an open heart pouring out an ethereal sorrow for an album's duration, and it is clear to see how much the songs wrench on Hadreas as he performs only meters away. Every line is stressed as if its contents cause great pain to reminisce, which make

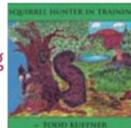
you feel captivated by his memories but also uncomfortable at their remarkable bluntness and intensity. 'Mr Peterson,' a song detailing the suicide of an older lover - with paedophilic undertones - could be considered an example of the latter.

One criticism that could be asserted here is that really there is only one emotion conveyed. Unlike the Emily Haines album, there are no songs where you really feel as if the artist is getting through the sorrow, or are particularly uplifting. It leaves you undecided, whether there is hope for healing these scars or whether there is still much more hurt to reconcile.

## Imperial PhD student releases a debut album

**Todd Kuffner**

**Squirrel Hunter in Training**  
Unsigned  
★★★★★



Don't care for synth? Tired of auto-tune? Then Todd Kuffner's debut album, 'Squirrel Hunter in Training' may well be the album you've been waiting for. Currently studying for a PhD at Imperial, Kuffner is a self-confessed musical 'dictator', which has led to this album being a solo project in its truest sense, with every aspect being done by the man himself.

This album is the antithesis of today's bland, anonymous pop music - the compositions are simple yet effective and the Lo-Fi production lends a sense of intimacy to the record. The honest, heartfelt lyrics combined with melodic guitar and mandolin lines give a summery, optimis-

**Liars**

**Proud Evolution**  
Mute  
★★★★★



Liars started out as a dance-punk four piece from the same New York scene that bred LCD Soundsystem before they fired their rhythm section and dramatically changed their sound. This abrupt stylistic shift resulted in a series of albums that contained darker and more experimental songs, coated in reverb and detuned guitar. Their most recent album, Sisterworld, finds them bridging the gap between their more abrasive and accessible moments to stunning effect, and their new single Proud Evolution, released of the 19th of October, is its powerful centrepiece, merging a propulsive bassline with Angus Andrew's chanting, spooked vocals. - **Jamie Fraser**

tic feeling to the record and will please fans of Jack Johnson and James Blunt.

Overall, this is an excellent first release, showing that whilst we search far and wide for new music, amazing musical talent may be right under our noses. - **Stephen Smith**

### A playlist for rocking out...

Angry? Sexually frustrated? Don't let it all out by starting a fight or raping someone, listen to these gems instead.

**Stevie Ray Vaughn**  
Couldn't Stand The Weather

**Robben Ford**  
Rugged Road

**Rolling Stones**  
Sympathy For The Devil

**Led Zeppelin**  
Ramble On

**AC/DC**  
You Shook Me All Night Long

**Aerosmith**  
F.I.N.E

**Black Sabbath**  
War Pigs

**The Clash**  
Straight To Hell

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

**Mitchell Museum**

**The Peter's Port Memorial Service**  
Electra French Records  
★★★☆☆



Glasgow has been the birth-place of many a cheeky, 'indie' group: from the excellent Frightened Rabbit to mind numbingly banal Fratellis. **Mitchell Museum**, named after a library like the intellectual clichés they are, have just released their debut album *The Peter's Port Memorial Service*. Their sound is not unique coming across as a jangly lo-fi sound of 2006. Unlike many a debut album this one flows from track to track tastefully. There are only a few delicious lyrical crumbs, producing a cheap cookie on the highly stacked indie music bakery shelf: briefly satisfying but lacking in chocolate chips. - **Sarah-Emily Mutch**

# MUSIC

Music Editors: **Greg Power**  
**Luke Turner**  
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## These New Puritans join with Britten Sinfonia at The Barbican to riotous success

**TNP & Britten Sinfonia**  
**The Barbican**  
23rd October  
★★★★☆

**James Gollings**

How could a gig featuring a children's choir, the **Britten Sinfonia** and a man smashing melons in the name of music be anything other than sublime?

**These New Puritans** (TNP) had felt that people were never quite sure what to do at their gigs. Should they mosh, dance, or just stand and admire wistfully? When composer André De Ridder approached TNP about performing their widely acclaimed second album *Hidden*,

the problem was solved. The result was this performance at the Barbican where the band would be joined not only by the brass and woodwind of the **Britten Sinfonia**, but by a children's choir and Foley artists armed with everything from swords to Tycho drums and the aforementioned melons.

Front man Jack Barnett was the only detractor from what was an otherwise perfect performance of *Hidden's* ambitious, beat driven, classically influenced Art Rock. He was apparently in the midst of a throat infection which explains the exceptionally quiet vocals. The higher notes on 'Orion' were terribly strained and I found myself feeling

a little anxious that he would choke up completely. As a front man, though, he was very much a cross between Thom Yorke and Gollum from *Lord of the Rings*: nervy stomping, gangly and deep in the music. As a fan of both **Radiohead** and Tolkien, this came some way to making up for a weaker vocal performance.

The ferocious single 'Attack Music' was a highlight with Jack's vocals backed hauntingly by the children's choir and the sharpening swords of the Foley artists. 'Hologram' was the tenderest song off the album and made for a beautiful live performance.

Support came from **Darkstar** who

had brought in a singer to create their latest album 'North' and take them away from the dubstep for which they are famed. The performance has elements of Dubstep but was very much a somber affair: not the kind of stuff that would be played at club. The mood was such that a dubstep-tinged cover of the gloriously sparse **Radiohead's** 'Videotape' sat well alongside their own material.

Although not the best gig I've ever been to, it was still an outstanding performance. The album is a delight and seeing performed live so faithfully reaffirmed that it should have been nominated for the Mercury Prize.



Jack Barnett: bastard offspring of Thom Yorke and Gollum

**Avenged Sevenfold + Stone Sour + Hellyeah**  
**Hammersmith Apollo**  
30th October 2010  
★★★★☆

**Eliot Barford**

It's a dark, windswept Saturday night in October – Mischief Night, as some call it – and outside the Hammersmith Apollo waits a rabble of youths in band shirts and bearded old men with bad tattoos. It's the first concert of **A7X & Stone Sour's** Halloween weekend double bill!

Kicking off the show was **Hellyeah**, a metal supergroup from Texas. They proved to be a lot of fun, with songs like 'Alcoholin' Ass' and 'Cowboy Way' channelling the spirit of **Pantera**. Vinnie Paul, drummer, invited us to throw the horns for his late brother Dimebag, which was nice.

Next up, **Stone Sour** delivered a thoroughly awesome performance that ri-

valled the headliners'. Corey Taylor was his usual fire-breathing yet slightly emotional self, and gave us a solo serenade with an acoustic guitar midway through. This led into 'Through Glass', the much-appreciated singalong of the evening; other highlights included 'Made of Scars' and '30/30-150', whose considerable heaviness gave drummer Roy Mayorga a chance to shine. Fewer verbose interludes from Corey might have been an improvement, though...

Finally, it was time for the main act, whom all the dirty-haired angstboppers had been waiting for. They didn't disappoint; from 'Nightmare' through 'Critical Acclaim' via oldie 'Unholy Confessions', the guitars sounded sweet and M Shadows strolled across the stage like it was his own – which, voice on form, it was. Halfway through, oversized-drum-kit pioneer (and genuinely excellent **Dream Theater** drummer, Mike Portnoy) left his stool and we were invited to remember the late Jimmy Sullivan, or

The Rev, who died last December, leaving the demos from which **A7X's** latest album was assembled. We all sang 'So Far Away' and 'Afterlife' in his memory. Then to top it all off, the crowd chose classic 'Bat Country' for the finale, which was frantic to say the least.

All in all, with an excited crowd and consistently good sound, it was a gig I'll remember. For fans of melodic, heavy rock music, both groups are highly recommended.

**The Cat Empire**  
**02 Brixton Academy**  
23rd October 2010  
★★★★☆

**Katherine Portilla**

If you haven't heard of these guys yet, it's about time. **The Cat Empire** flew all the way from Aussie land to grace us with their spirit-lifting mix of jazz, ska, rock and everything in between. I seri-

ously left the gig with cheeks sore from smiling and feet tired from dancing.

Despite a mellow and hence, oddly placed open act from **Tinpan Orange** – an acoustic trio of sorts similarly from Australia – as soon as **The Cat Empire** set foot on stage the crowd was theirs. Never have I seen an audience clap and move with such enthusiasm.

If in the past you have ever been left disappointed after watching a live act, I prescribe you these Melbourne boys. A beautifully orchestrated set, not only focusing on songs from their new album *Cinema*, but instead reaching a perfect compromise between hits from their previous albums and their great new material. Old favorites such as 'Hello' and 'Two Shoes' had the crowd going mental, generating a unanimous feeling of euphoria which defines **The Cat Empire's** music. In between songs, we were treated to an array of solos, from an insane 6 minute drum solo to some sick scratching from the band's very own turntables paired with beat box-style vocals. Not only do they mesh together raw talent somewhat miraculously, **The Cat Empire** have an undeniable skill to interact with, or perhaps better yet said, charm the crowd.

In short, I recommend this band to anyone in search of that special, yet indescribable sound we often lack on our iPods nowadays. You will find music that can truly put a smile on your face, all the while making you feel like getting up and grooving to the tune. If you do come across an opportunity to see **The Cat Empire** live I assure you it is an experience gained, not money spent.

**Wilder**  
**The Flowerpot**  
26th October 2010  
★★★★☆

**Alex Malcolm**

It's been a whirlwind 18 months for **Wilder**, Bristol's hippest Indie offering for years. Since they've been scooped by Rough Trade records and toured with **Julian Casablancas** and **The Maccabees**, intimate pub gigs such as tonight in Kentish Town's **The Flowerpot** will surely soon be a thing of the past.

I barely had time to buy a pint when a diminutive figure takes a seat behind her drum kit and starts beating out an infectious rhythm heralding the start of the gig. As she pounds the skins, vocalist Sam snakes his way to the stage, urging everyone to get on their feet. The message is clear, they want everyone dancing, and all it takes is 30 seconds of opener 'White Noise' before everyone is pushing to the front.

Older singles 'TBT' and 'Girls Vs Boys' provoked the loudest cheers but every new track packed full of soaring synths and cutting guitars wows the crowd. For such a new band (and despite the bass cab blowing up halfway through) the set is surprisingly tight but with only 30 minutes on stage and no support acts, the crowd are left wanting.

In a flash it's all over, leaving onlookers to creep sluggishly back to their seats, but an impression has certainly been made. **Wilder's** electronica fused indie may not be the most original sound of the moment but their talent to play live is undeniable; one of the best bands I've seen for a long time and highly recommended.



The Cat Empire: these pussy cats are pretty damn horny. AMIRIGHT? HUH? Anyone...?

## Green Week Photo Competition

Green Week is happening from the 22nd - 26th November this year and to celebrate, we're launching the Green Photo Competition. We want you to take photos of anything being done around College that's environmentally friendly - it can be research, a practical, a field trip, something College is doing to be greener or just someone being environmentally aware. The categories are:

- Energy
- Recycling
- The Natural Environment
- Water

Make sure your photos are as high a resolution as possible and include a caption of around 30 words describing the photo. The top 10 photos in each category will be displayed in the College Entrance in an exhibition unveiled at the beginning of Green Week. To send in your photos, email [greenphoto@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:greenphoto@imperial.ac.uk)



## Union Council vote to support Browne Review

On November 1, Union Council met to debate the new Higher Education Funding Policy, which supported the overall direction of the Browne Review whilst pointing out its flaws.

The policy also mandates the Union to lobby for a better bursary system and for College to increase its Widening Participation scheme. After a 2 hour debate, Council passed the policy.

You can read the full policy alongside all the other outcomes and decisions of Union Meetings online at [imperialcollegeunion.org/representation/committees](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/representation/committees).

## Take part in University Challenge

Represent your Faculty Union!

For the first time Imperial plans to play off the Faculty Unions (and one Constituent Union) against each other to provoke competition to create the best possible University Challenge team. The team selected will represent Imperial in the new series of University Challenge. After the team led by Gilead Amit showed us just how far a team from Imperial can go, the competition is on to see which Faculty has the smartest students.

Trials for each Faculty team will be held:

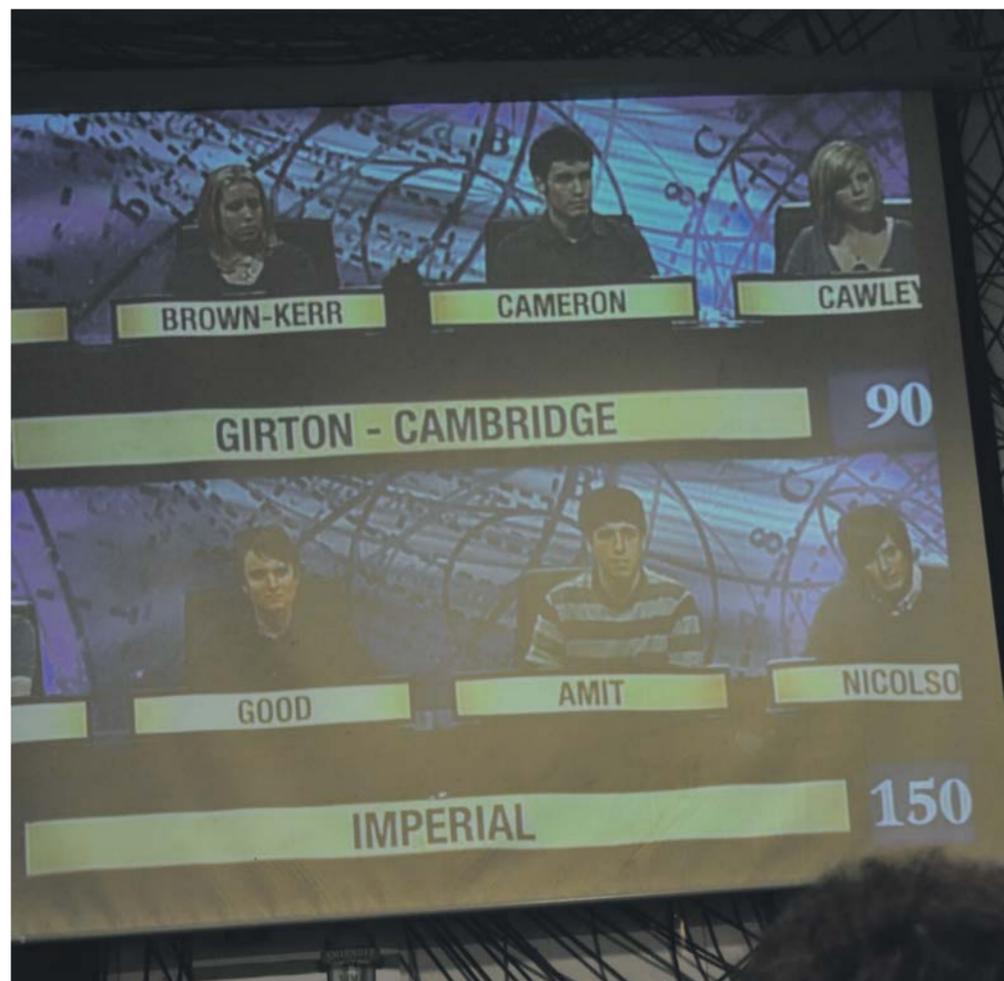
**RCSU**  
**8 November 17:30-19:00**  
**SAF LT G.34**

**ICSMSU**  
**9 November 19:30-23:00**  
**Reynolds Bar**

**RSMU**  
**11 November 18:00-23:00 in**  
**RSM G.41**

**CGCU**  
**15 November 12:00-14:00 in**  
**Chem Eng LT1**

The teams they select will battle it out in a nerve-wracking final on 22 November in SAF LT G34 where the four best contestants will be selected to compete for Imperial on the TV series. Gilead Amit will be asking the questions and it's sure to be a fantastic event. If you'd like to take part go along to your Faculty selection event and see if you're smarter than the rest!



# FILM

## Classic Cinema

### Akira



Compensating for something...?

*Akira* is one of the most important Japanese animated films ever made. It tells the story of best friends Kaneda and Tetsuo, members of a violent biker gang in post-World War III "Neo-Tokyo", 2019. Tetsuo discovers he has a huge power he cannot contain, and the consequences for everyone are cataclysmic.

At first glance, *Akira* is an answer to the futuristic, dystopian Western films of the preceding era – the gang's costumes and highway battles recall *Mad Max*, and Neo-Tokyo's looming, luminous vastness is directly inspired by *Blade Runner*. Fans of these kinds of action movies will like *Akira*, as they did when it was released; consequently, this animé was instrumental in introducing English-speakers to the wonders of Japanese fiction. From dangerous government experiments and an underground resistance to orbital lasers and psionic combat, it has everything an action sci-fi lover could want and more, all centred on a terrifying secret hidden deep beneath the city. Like the best anime and manga, it takes the tropes we've already seen to their stylistic and philosophical extremes – although unfortunately this includes a lengthy and confusing ending, a frequent problem in animé.

*Akira* also stands apart thanks to its uniquely Japanese take on the pervasive fears of the Cold War: *Akira*'s Tokyo faces annihilation for a second time and its inhabitants cry out for a saviour. Arguably, *Akira* is a reply to *Watchmen*, the most acclaimed "graphic novel" of all time; both address fears of global destruction – and both took their creative forms to a new level of quality, garnering legions of new fans in the process.

Eliot Barford

## EVENTS

iCU Cinema - *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World*  
£3/£4 for members/non-members  
Tue 9th Nov. 6:30pm. Union Concert Hall

FilmSoc - *Ten Canoes* - FREE  
Thu 11th Nov. 6:30pm. Mech Eng 220

# A warm and witty modern family film

## The Kids Are All Right

**Director** Lisa Cholodenko  
**Screenwriter** Lisa Cholodenko, Stuart Blumberg  
**Cast** Annette Bening, Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo

### John Park

The kids are all right. The title makes that clear. But what about the adults? How is a lesbian couple supposed to react when their children start looking for their sperm donor? And what about when they start bonding with him? When he works his way into their seemingly normal family life? The adult protagonists of *The Kids Are All Right* are lesbians, but this theme is never exploited. It's not necessarily about the lesbian marriage, it just centres on one. They're a normal suburban family and Nic (Annette Bening) and Jules (Julianne Moore) face the same challenges that all married couples face.

Joni, (Mia Wasikowska) their smart 18-year-old daughter, is the one who makes the call to the biological dad, with her 15-year-old brother Laser's (Josh Hutcherson) persuasion. Their father turns out to be Paul (Mark Ruffalo), an easy-going restaurant owner who says things like "yeah...sure...cool...right on...why not?" They meet (why not?), and of course, it's awkward. But when, Nic and Jules find out, Nic - the more controlling figure in the family - has a difficult time coming to terms with this sudden revelation. Jules, the slightly unfocused one, has a more relaxed attitude, and this automatically creates tension in their comfortable upper-middle class home.

Bening is superb here: whilst she stays away from portraying a total bitch, she is the protective mother bear trying to protect her family. She speaks from the mind, whereas Moore, who is just as excellent as her co-star, has a higher level of tolerance and speaks from the heart. The two are immediately convincing as the loving couple, now facing their marriage being put to the ultimate test.



Felix readers, we love you thiiiiiiis much!

Ruffalo has been perfectly cast in the role of the sperm donor and you can quite easily see him as the weed-smoking, womanizing college drop-out who donated sperm for money. He may not have graduated from college or have a fancy job to boast but he isn't dumb – and he does, in fact, give out some very logical advice to his children, which makes matters worse for Nic. She is on the verge of exploding when Paul tries to give parenting tips.

It's a shame that the children's subplots are hastily concluded. Wasikowska, (considerably better here than in *Alice in Wonderland*) is given a set of friends she can confide in, but as she prepares and goes off to college, they disappear. The same goes for Hutcherson. There is a big development when it comes to the conflict between his balanced, well-behaved character and his best friend's wilder attitude,

but, as the film comes to a close – perhaps due to the film's title – Cholodenko seems to be a lot more interested in showing the clash between Jules and Nic. After all, it's the adults we should be worried about, not the kids.

What makes *The Kids Are All Right* so warm and witty is its script that cleverly balances both comedy and drama. The intelligent dialogue gives us plenty of moments to laugh, but also to reflect on the complex situation these characters have to face. The humour is never too gross or outrageous and the drama is never too sentimental or manipulative. Director/writer Lisa Cholodenko knows not to take the film too seriously. With enough racy humour to thoroughly convince as an adult dramedy, but also mixed with undeniably stirring moments that the audience will be able to relate to, the film is a true exploration of what the term "modern family" really is.

## Screen Green! eco film festival

### Jade Hoffman

Opening yesterday and running until the 11th of November, the London European Documentary Festival, "Screen Green!" is featuring some of the best of European environmental documentaries in locations all over London. The festival is showcasing ten films across five venues, including South Kensington's Ciné Lumière, and kicked off with Gold Futures last night. This Hungarian/Romanian documentary follows the story of Europe's

largest gold ore deposit which, located in a rural mining town, soon becomes the centre of international interest and disrupts the quiet village life.

This documentary, followed by a Q&A with the director, sets the tone for the rest of the festival. Screen Green aims to explore the often strained relationship humans have with nature, and features an impressive range of thought-provoking documentaries to highlight this. Among others, the festival's programme includes *Planeat*, a British documentary consid-

ering the problems of farming and the Western diet; Lithuanian film *The River*, which looks at the lives of inhabitants of a village that shares ground with a chemical plant; and the animated short *Fridge* about the greenhouse effect. For Imperial students in particular, this festival is a must and provides a fresh perspective and sharp insight into topics so frequently discussed here.

Go to <http://www.europeandocfestival.org.uk/> for more details.



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

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



Food Editor: Dana Li

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# FOOD

## Your review

### Danes says:

Pret A Manger is the answer to hungry lunchtimes waiting for the afternoon lectures to start. Everybody mocks its previous affiliation with McDonalds but Pret leads the way with the selection of sandwiches available daily. Not mentioning the humongous range of hot soup that they rotate through every day, albeit, I've already sampled my way through that list of soups. Crazy Pret fan that I am. Their hot chocolate also satisfies my sugar cravings, and has a much nicer texture than the Starbucks equivalent, whipped cream or not.



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

## Coke Chicken



This student must have been on coke...

No barbeque sauce in the cupboard? Try this recipe that a Chinese college student invented as an alternative. God knows what enlightened her to use these ingredients:

- 4 chicken breasts, boneless, skinless
- 1 can Diet Coke
- 1 cup ketchup

Place chicken breasts into a skillet or Dutch oven. Pour cola and ketchup over the chicken and bring to a boil. Cook, covered over medium heat until chicken is done (approximately one hour). Raise heat and cook uncovered until sauce thickens. This might take a while, so keep a close eye on it.

Or the lazy student version: dump everything into a crockpot and cook until done (about 3 hours or so).

# Are food bloggers entitled to the right of whinging?

## Food blogger is sued for bad review after disastrous meal

Chin Hua Yap

Food is more than mere sustenance; it should be a celebration and a chance for get-together. Food should bring joy, delightful conversations with dining-mates and satiation. Sometimes, however, food brings out more important issues - poverty, governmental corruption, Jamie Oliver's rather unhygienic habits and, wait for this, freedom of speech.

You may think I have completely lost my mind, what has food got to do with freedom of speech, you ask? The truth is that food is an intimately subjective thing, descriptively flimsy and almost always perceived different by different people; think Marmite. Ask every Nigella wannabe and you'll find out that there are as many taste preferences as there are plastic cups outside Eastside Bar on Saturdays. Many, if you are unaware of the post-Friday carnage. Exactly because food perception is varied and personal, everyone should be given an opportunity to express his or her views objectively, on whatever platform one is comfortable with. Given how we are living in an age with constant bombardment from partially factual advertisements (apparently everything lowers risk of heart diseases now) and near-impossible claims, the voice of the common-man can be rather obscured. Peer reviews on printed media, blogs, online review aggregators and social networking sites are extremely valuable sources of information before making decisions, definitely more trustworthy than a billboard ad. What happens, though, when a factual review of a restaurant lands you a lawsuit?

What happened was, Shivya, the food-blogger behind 'The Shooting Star' had a rather unpleasant experience in a restaurant. Shivya was having lunch at an Indian restaurant when a waiting staff stumbled and spilled curry and curds all over her back. Naturally, thanks to Murphy's blessing, Shivya had to be wearing a black jacket. It is common knowledge that white fluids on black jacket is not exactly the prettiest thing on earth. Thus, Shivya spoke to the head staff who appeared to have asked her to foot her bill, and when confronted about the spillage, the head staff argued that "it happens sometimes with food". Great, first the jacket, and now, an unreasonable staff. The manager of the restaurant in question called Shivya a short while later and explained that the waiter was hurt. The manager also said that Shivya would be compensated. Fair enough? Nay; the compensation would come from the waiter's salary.

Clearly, this story has much dramatic potential and might make an excellent short film, but that aside, the restaurant had made a number of fundamentally annoying mistakes. First, Indian curry and curds should not be on anything but cooking pans, serving bowls and in the gut, customers' jackets are no exceptions. Next, the



Starting from the basics of cooking, literally (Credits to Natalie Dee Comics)

**"My advice? Get yourself a waterproof plastic poncho and bring it every time you dine at an Indian restaurant."**

restaurant should have shown at least a respectful amount of concern for the customer after the spilling. Also, docking the waiter's pay is just pure unkind. I'm aware that there are other restaurants with similar practices when the waiting staff make mistakes, but it is just darn right mean.

The story doesn't end here. Shivya, our food blogger here, was naturally unhappy with the response from the restaurant's management and, consistent with the anger-dealing mechanism of most bloggers, decided to post her experience online. Shivya posted a rather angsty review on a Singapore-based peer review aggregate site, Hungry Go Where, and about a month later, received an e-mail from the moderator asking for her details to verify her review as the restaurant had refuted her review. What followed was an e-mail from the restaurant to Shivya requesting for her contact details so as to send her a legal notice. Apparently, the restaurant believed Shivya had written the review as a means to defame them.

There are little details on what exactly hap-

Dear All,  
We are no longer interested in speaking to Shivya. She has been unable to provide evidence to back-up her alleged claims. Our investigations have shown that her alleged claims have been made with the intention of defaming us.

The email that Zaffran sent Shivya

pened after, but however it develops, it is a horrible sign of corporations bullying the everyday man. (Shivya did not want to make a statement to Felix on the matter in light of the legal proceedings she is currently involved in). Being sued for an article detailing factual events is most unacceptable. Online citizen food journalism is what keeps our wallets safe from the charming little lies that restaurants often use to lure in big bucks. Restaurants should deal with complains admirably and not attempt to silent the speaker. If restaurants eliminate food bloggers by scaring them with legal notices, where would we get our daily doses of food porn? However, it must also be said that all bloggers, no matter what they lead you to believe, are at least slightly narcissistic. Whether the blogger in question enjoyed her little curry-induced fame is beyond any conjecture.

My advice? Get yourself a waterproof plastic poncho and bring it every time you dine at an Indian restaurant. Tell everyone you enjoyed Halloween too much to retire the ghoul

## THE COOKING SOCIETY

**Mitchell Debrabant** gives us a flavour of their club (sandwich)

“One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.” – Virginia Woolf.

We at the Cooking Society came to the same conclusion. After all, these three things are what we’re here for, right? I’d like to add “party well” to the list, but us Imperial students know better...

It all started three years ago in Pembroke Halls, when the founding committee members were but young Freshers. Whether upon returning from a gruelling day at university, or stumbling home after a good night out, a hearty meal was always in order. Fortunately, most people in our halls were enthusiastic cooks. At least once a week, ten of us or so would each cook a dish that could easily feed four, then squeeze into one of the tiny kitchens and eat enough to feed a small village. Our love for food grew and grew, as did our waistlines, but let’s not err on that.

It soon came to our attention that there was a need, indeed a hunger, for a Cooking Society at Imperial College. Our mission? To end the student’s stereotypical diet of overcooked pasta and dodgy kebabs, to help cooking virgins learn the basics and to further the expertise of accomplished cooks, and last but not least to promote healthy eating in a world overrun by processed gunk.



The basics of cooking begins with an odd-looking stick woman and a black pan cooking on a distasteful hob

To this end, we hold fortnightly cooking events, each pertaining to a specific theme which changes every session. Events in the past have included a Christmas dinner, a cake sale for RAG week and an Empanadas-themed (South American pasties) fund raiser for the

**“Our love for food grew and grew, as did our waistlines, but let’s not err on that.”**

Chilean earthquake victims this year.

This year we will be holding many more such events, with a planned shared session with the Chocolate society making truffles and raw chocolates and another one of our popular Invention sessions where members must make do with a random selection of ingredients. We also offer delectable social events, including subsidized restaurant outings and visits to local Farmer’s markets and food fairs. We are also hoping to secure tickets to the MasterChef Live event on the 12-14th November, featuring acclaimed celebrity chefs such as Michel Roux Jr. and the iconic TV show presenters John Torode and Greg Wallace.

A fortnight ago, we held a very suc-

cessful Pastry session where the members made their own pastry which they filled with ingredients of their choice, chosen from a wide variety of fresh produce. Everyone walked away happily with either a delicious home-made tart for the flat mates or a full belly.

**Upcoming events in November**  
Saturday 6th November  
Guy Fawkes Fest - Bernard Sunley Hall

Wednesday 10th November  
Afternoon Baking Session at the JCR to raise funds for RAG

Thursday 11th November  
Cake Sale at the JCR

## The best of the 1920s: Prohibition is back

**Dana Li**

Those who paid attention in GCSE History will remember what a fantastic time 1920s America was: cue Rudolph Valentino, the first heartthrob of Hollywood’s silent films; thriving underground speakeasies under the Prohibition act and the infamous Valentine Day’s Massacre of Al Capone. Just don’t mention the Depression that followed...

So 80 years after the booze ban was lifted, why on earth am I talking about Prohibition? The illegal parties it spawned serving moonshine and the like has inspired an increasingly popular event, titled ‘Prohibition’, no less.

Rooting from the humble Bourne & Hollingsworth bar in Fitzrovia which catered to 80 people, the impressive Bloomsbury Ballroom is quite a step up

after four incredibly successful events.

Mark Holdstock, the mastermind behind the concept, makes you sip liquor out of teacups, hides bottles among the plants and even organizes a mock raid - so fear not if you think your squeaky clean criminal record is about to be tainted. Complete with gambling tables and flappers dancing the Charleston, Prohibition offers an edge to the standard RnB nights saturating the clubbing scene. The only requirement for punters is to turn up with attire reflective of the ‘Roaring Twenties’, whether that be flapper dresses or moustaches and pin-stripe waistcoats.

Saturday 6th November 2010, doors open from 8pm at the Bloomsbury Ballroom WC1B 4DA. Tickets cost £15 from [www.prohibition1920s.com](http://www.prohibition1920s.com) and are selling out fast!



Dancing flappers, illegal moonshine but no Wall Street Crash in sight

### Introducing... Food markets

If you’re a regular at the Farmers’ Market in Beit (Wednesdays 11:30-4pm,) these nearby food markets are also worth a visit:

#### Duke of York Square Food Market

Off King’s Road is this little gem of a market, selling everything from French cheeses to cupcakes, but also cuisines ranging from Malaysian to Moroccan. The market was originally the idea of the nearby Partridges, which you should drop by whilst you’re at it. A Saturday afternoon out for the food bloggers or the intrigued alike. Every Saturday. 80 Duke of York Square, Chelsea, SW3 4LU. Nearest tube : South Kensington

#### Union Market



Without needing to trek to South East London, you can savour the delights of Rothschild wine, Bread Factory and Neal’s Yard Dairy. Situated in a Grade II-listed building, this airy local market exhibits the best of British goods. Albeit not cheap, it will still be a far cry from Whole Foods’ extortionate prices. Everyday from 7am 472 Fulham Road, SW6 1BY. Nearest tube: Fulham Broadway

#### Borough Market

A little further out, London’s oldest food market hosts various fresh food stalls under its roof. A must visit for Londoners and tourists, with arguable the best brownies on sale here. Hint. Saturdays from 9am. Southwark St, Bankside, SE1 1TJ. Nearest tube: London Bridge.

Games Editor: **Simon Worthington**

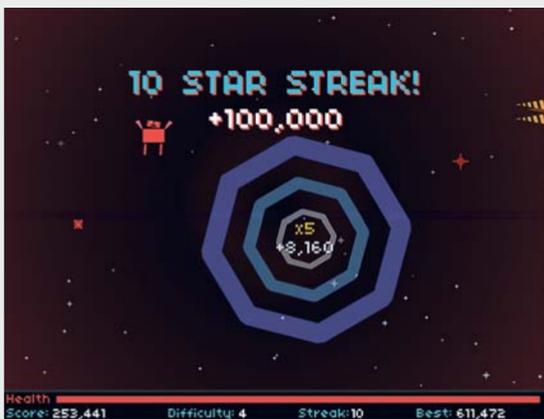
# GAMES

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/>.

### AVOIDAL avoidal.com



'Enemies as weapons' is the idea behind this mouse-controlled arcade game. Destroy the blue stars by setting off the traps that you must yourself avoid - red stars will chase you around the screen and yellow spikes fly in a straight line when activated. It sounds pretty easy, but when there's enemies bearing down on you and no way to escape a small panic does start to set in. Graphics aren't particularly amazing but at least they don't get in the way. A good way to spend an idle ten minutes.

### Treadmillasaurus Rex jmtb02.com/treadmillasaurus-rex



Dinosaurs. Lasers. Partying. Three things that are undeniably awesome, so if you were to mix these things together you might think that the product would be a game of epic proportions. And you'd be right. The titular treadmill will push T-Rex back and forth between the lasers and spiked balls force him to jump, causing the wheel to spin. Where it lands is (presumably) random, and with certain spaces activating laser light shows, confetti showers and top hats, things get very epic very quickly. Whether the wheel ever lands on 'Win The Game' is debatable, so if that happens to you then let us know!

# Same old story for *Fable 3*

Sean Harbison

Welcome back to the Kingdom of Albion! 50 years on from the setting of *Fable II*, *Fable III* tells the story of a prince having to overthrow the tyrant king that is his brother. The game takes you through the prince's role at the head of the revolution having to complete quests in order to convince faction leaders that you are worthy to start the uprising.

*Fable III* and its predecessors have many similarities. The graphics are essentially the same, though this is no bad thing. The attention to detail remains extremely high and the theme benefits from the cartoony-style. The voice acting is extraordinary, featuring a top cast of John Cleese, Stephen Fry and Simon Pegg. Having your character complimented by these great actors feels like an amazing achievement! The comedy associated with previous *Fable* games also returns. You often find yourself laughing at random comments from passers-by, which really makes the game enjoyable.

The combat is identical to the previous games, and it can get repetitive and boring. It offers no challenge and really detracts from the better points of the game. This has always been a flaw of the *Fable* series and you would have thought on their third attempt Lionhead Studios could have made some alterations to improve such an integral part of the gameplay. Combat has only improved in the smoothness of swapping weapons: it's easy to switch from bashing someone's face in with a sword to shooting the next man with a pistol. This time around the fluidity of combat is much better than in *Fable II* as delay between actions is minimal, giving a real feeling that you're controlling an experienced fighter.

The weapon choice has fallen dramatically. *Fable II* allowed you to collect a large combination of weapons and choose between them which gave a varied armoury. Disappointingly, *Fable III* gives a much smaller choice



but causes your weapons to change depending on your actions. This actually gives a smaller array of weapons as there are essentially two possibilities for each weapon: good or evil. Levelling up also takes a new route, as rather than gaining experience by using one type of weapon (ranged, etc.) you can spend your acquired guild seals to upgrade styles of fighting. A great addition is the ability to mix spells. Whereas being a mage in the previous games meant mastering one spell and using that to the death, you now upgrade all spells at the same time and then can mix and match, combining the likes of fire and electricity in one spell.

Once again the majority of the game is taken up earning people's respect by completing quests to collect guild seals. The number of seals you have determines whether a faction will help you start the revolution. *Fable III*'s quests are more engaging and lengthier which is relieving as previously *Fable* quests felt too similar and repetitive. Exploration is still important, and there are plenty of discoverable caves and buildings. However, sometimes the treasure inside is not proportional to the effort.

You can spend hours exploring a cave finding only a bandit's outfit, which is a complete let down and a real disappointment.

Morality is at the core of *Fable III*, as with the previous games, but the decisions you must make are much more difficult. The subtleties and ambiguities of morality are brought to light and show the darker side of being a ruler. Right from the start you must make a horrific choice, showing yourself as a selfish or selfless leader. The difficulty of this first decision surprised me but it's a great opening as the game instantly throws you into the deep end. The game leads towards you becoming ruler of Albion and eventually, on taking the throne, your every decision visibly shapes the world around you.

*Fable III* allows you to relive the enjoyable experiences of *Fable I & II*, however it fails to bring enough new features or repair flaws which both predecessors contained. If you're looking for a completely new experience prepare to be disappointed. Nonetheless, whether you are a fan of the series or a newcomer, *Fable III* is thoroughly enjoyable and I highly recommend you get it!

# *Polynomial* proves maths isn't fun

Laurence Pope

*The Polynomial - Space Of The Music*, far from being just a mathematical expression, is a 3D music action game in which you pilot a space ship through a brightly coloured universe that pulsates along to currently playing song.

The premise is simple: you select a certain music track, and the game will use it to generate an environment that corresponds to the tune. For example, in another popular music game called *Audiosurf*, where you pilot a ship along a racecourse, a fast, upbeat track will have a lot of slopes and steep gradients, whilst a slow, calming piece will have you leisurely making your way uphill. As a big fan of *Audiosurf*, I was expecting *Polynomial* to deliver as well.

My first words when I loaded up were 'bloody hell'. The menu options at first appear quite complex for such a simple game, but when you

fiddle about with them you realise that a lot of the controls simply modify the brightness and sound. I recommend adding your own music when you first load up the game; not because the stock tunes are bad, but I play music games to have fun and it's much easier to do that when you're listening to music you enjoy.

The instructions make *Polynomial* seem more complicated than it really is. The first level has a huge floating set of instructions that tell you what everything does: orange monsters damage you, blue... things heal you and green circles offer power-ups. That's all you really need to know. Point, shoot, fly about, simple as.

For a game that supposedly tailors itself to fit your music, I was hard-pressed to see how things changed when music tracks switched. I tried a switch from a hard, upbeat Pendulum track to a much calmer Rachmaninoff piece, and I didn't see any changes to the game. I sup-

pose this wouldn't matter so much if the game was fun, but unfortunately *Polynomial* doesn't have much else going for it.

After half an hour you feel like you're playing in an elaborate screensaver and repetitiveness starts to kick in. You fly about, shoot stuff, and listen to your music. The graphics are very pretty, and it does have a certain beauty to it, but it's just not fun. There is an editing mode which I toyed about with for a bit, but unless tweaking about with a load of figures and seeing what they do appeals to you, I doubt it'll keep you hooked.

If you're looking to try out a similar game, my advice would be to pick *Audiosurf*. It's nearly two and a half years old, but I still play it and have fun. *Polynomial* feels less like a game and more of an elaborate tech demo. A pretty one maybe, but a tech demo nonetheless. It could have been so much more.

# An unforgettable hitchhiking debut

**Karolina Mazan** recalls her treasured memories of aimlessly hopping from car to car across mainland Europe, armed with nothing but a tiny backpack and a loyal sidekick to keep her thoroughly entertained

I've always put travelling as my passion under the interests section of my CV. Name any European country and all I can think is 'been there, done that'. But what have I really seen in all of those places? Fancy hotels with pleasantly warm swimming pools, crowded promenades holding gazillions of restaurants you've already seen in London, every minute of your excursions 'kindly' organised by a travel agency. It all merges into one commercial vacation experience – everything looks and feels the same.

I've been a volunteer freak since before I can remember, and "helping out anyone, anywhere" is my motto (and is probably the reason I'm studying Medicine). With this attitude in mind I was lucky enough to stumble upon the charity Link Community Development. When they sold me the idea of hitchhiking across Europe in addition to some worthwhile fundraising I was instantly bought.

Hitchhiking? I immediately pictured the 70's: flower power, free love and crazy decisions usually made whilst 'under the influence'. I was sure that no one did this anymore – I couldn't have been more wrong. With LCD alone there have been almost seven thousand students who have thumbed their way across Europe in the past 20 years! That convinced me (and my parents) that if other people had done it, I could too. And with my frustration for package family holidays growing, hitchhiking seemed like the perfect alternative. Unpredictable and adrenaline-filled: exactly what you need when you've just hit your 20's!

The two proposed destinations were Morocco and Prague: naturally I chose Prague, which is closer to my Polish heart. Packing my bag proved to be the first major challenge: I'm used to the luxury of applying tons of lotions, conditioners and other miraculous goo to every inch of my body, not to mention compulsory outfit changes at least twice a day. How to fit all of these essentials into one tiny rucksack... After much blood, sweat and tears I managed to pack 'lightly' and was ready to go. I grabbed my hitch partner and there we were, setting off from Bristol on what was advertised as the most epic journey of our lives.

Our first lift, a shiny Porsche, stopped just few inches from our feet. Inside was a handsome young man in a tailored suit. I was in heaven – "life can't get



Calais has never been blessed with such a cheery face



I'm sure the drivers got the gist

**“There is hope that helpfulness and selflessness are not extinct virtues in today's world”**

better than this”, I thought! The only flaw in this dream of mine was that the happiness lasted less than 40 miles, and before we knew it we were on the hunt for another lift.

We quickly realised that hitching from petrol stations was the way forward. You don't feel as lonely as when you stand on the side of some dodgy road, and there are always snacks and drinks available in the event of a munching crisis. Petrol stations are also the best place to talk to and meet more new people than you could have managed during your freshers' week. We were approached by a lovely couple who spotted our Prague hoodies and a few minutes of chit chat later we were in their car, exchanging phone numbers and arranging our meet up in Prague, where they arrived a few days later. This rather unbelievable story ended up with an expensive dinner and countless litres of quality beer in Prague, which we didn't even have to pay for – how many friends do you have who would do this for you?

The generosity of strangers we met on the road was quite astonishing: people driving extra miles just to drop us off closer to our destination stopped surprising me rather quickly. But when a guy drove us all the way to Dover, over 16 miles away from his original destination, I have to say that I was truly moved. There is hope that helpfulness and selflessness are not extinct virtues in today's world.

Less than two hours on a ferry and we were in Calais – on the continent at last! The real adventure began here, what with different countries and customs, and many drivers who couldn't speak any English. If I had any affinity for foreign languages, this was the time for them to shine. Sadly I don't, so instead I just smiled, nodded, pointed, waved and performed all kinds of weird moves with my hands trying to explain where we were headed. In the end, maps and our finger pointing proved to be the most effective method of communication. Many hours later and finger points later

and we made it into Germany.

I'd hoped that those German classes at school would have paid off that I'd be able to lure drivers with ease, but unfortunately it wasn't my time to shine. As the first car pulled over I eagerly jumped to the driver's window, only to be confronted with Czech rather than German. Janek, who turned out to be our saviour, was a loving boyfriend going to visit his girlfriend in – yes, you guessed it – Prague. A few cute smiles and my seductive gaze, and we were in our final lift to the Promised Land. To the accompaniment of Czech Christian rock and plentiful snacks from Janek, we arrived in Prague later that evening.

Four crazy days, seventeen lifts, and countless new friends – an amazing hitch experience with truly unforgettable memories. I'm preaching to you all and I hope that you listen: ditch cheap flights, trains and hired cars – hitchhike! I can assure you that it'll bring your travelling experience to a much more exciting level.

# HANGMAN



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Twitter



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

So Gor, hows ur play 'Prime Winstler' coming on?



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

yeh good. Just writin the scene wher tony pisses on an Iraqi prisoner



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

Err pretty sure that didn't happen



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

It's metaphorical



**Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor**

I'm writin a play called 'Da white house goes Black house'



**SexyOsama69**

Racist



**Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor**

I'm black



**SexyOsama69**

dat's a lame excuse



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

FFS you can't do a play as well Obie. That's my idea



**SexyOsama69**

My play is called 'Taliban bathroom mishaps 2'. It's a thriller

## DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to  
felix@imperial.ac.uk (get permission)

# Diary of an Imperial Graduate

Dear Diary,

I've just graduated with a 2:2 in Biology. Or Chemistry. It's one of them I think. Job prospects in London are dire and I didn't think I'd be getting a pay cheque through my door any day soon. However, I met an extravagantly attired black gentleman today who called himself 'J. Dawg Drying' or 'J. Dawg Dryin'. He seemed like the sort of guy who would drop a 'g'. He told me he had a 'cash-in-hand opportunity' for me if I was prepared to 'suck a few dicks'. He was apparently in 'the pleasure industry'. I knew what he meant – he was a pimp. Whilst I was initially apprehensive about sucking a few dicks, Shakin' J. Stab-box gave me the numbers and I simply couldn't turn the offer down. Three dicks and I'd paid my rent for a month! Four dicks and I've paid my xbox live membership for a whole year! 475 million dicks and I've bought google! After saying 'dick' so much, I became desensitised to the disturbing image in my head of me sucking dicks. There was this really funny one where this huge gold Buddha statue wanted me to suck his huge gold dick. I've just read that on paper and it's sort of lost the original joke. He told me to meet a man outside Boots on High Street Kensington. I thought that this was quite a public location, but I guess it's some sort of double-bluff for the police. I shook Shakin J's hand, well the tiny bit of hand left visible underneath the profusion of gold rings, and said, 'You just tell me the time, the place and I'll go suck the dick'.

Regards  
Dan

**"I thought that this was quite a public location, but I guess it's some sort of double-bluff for the police"**



What did you expect to find here? A witty caption? A joke maybe? Fuck off and get back to the article!

Dear Diary,

I had just taken my suit to the dry cleaners early in the morning and thought I could get away with wearing my dressing gown. The dry cleaners is just across the road and I'm on good terms with the owner, Janet Hogg, so I knew she wouldn't mind. Halfway across the road I bumped into a young, scrawny looking fellow. I told him I was trying to get to 'J.D. Hogg Drying', but he thought that I was trying to introduce myself. Before I could correct him, he was crying his eyes out and wailing about having no job. I discovered that he was a fellow Imperial graduate, so I thought I might be able to help in out. I am the CEO of 'pleasure industries', a mass distributor of massage oils and I know that pharmaceutical companies are desperate for biology students. Or chemistry students. Doesn't really matter, just so long as they know how to put things in a test tube and describe the colour. I have a few contacts that I know are looking to recruit for a week's paid trial, cash-in-hand. I told him that he might want to suck up to the interviewers. Well I said 'suck a few dicks', but I assume he knew what I meant – I mean, he IS an Imperial student. I told him that he could be making £200 a day and then he sort of just stood there smiling weirdly. He started talking about a giant gold Buddha – fuck knows what was wrong with this guy. I gave him the details of a pharmacist I know at the Boots in South Kensington and then he said something about 'double-bluffing the police'. I don't think he knows what a double-bluff is, but the text I received from the pharmacist is rather worrying.

Dr. Jaye D. Ogg, MsCi, PhD

## HANGMAN DISCLAIMER



The content in this section may offend, bore or arouse you... you dirty boy \*wink



After receiving an angry letter from an angry Mexican student, I feel dutifully compelled to write a disclaimer. Kadhim Shubber cannot be held responsible for anything printed in this section. He has no control over what goes on here, but he likes to think he does. If Felix is the Republic of Serbia, then Hangman is Kosovo. If you read on past this disclaimer then you are accepting that you are most likely going to be repulsed by what you see. I cannot be held responsible for my own opinions because I was raised by a delightful, but racist Italian-American

couple. My parents were tragically killed on the Mexico-USA border, so Antoine and Camilla stepped in and adopted me. I assimilated the Italian-American lifestyle and learnt the names of every type of pasta (long pasta, short pasta and medium pasta), how to tell other pedestrians that you're walking and that every problem in the world can be blamed on the Welsh. However, I soon realised that my acting guardians had quite a warped opinion of the Welsh community and that I should blame my problems on other ethnic minority groups as well. That's called equality and I stand behind it! If you don't like what you read then feel free to send a complaint, but don't take it out on the rest of the newspaper and the respectable editors. (Oh and by the way angry Mexican, addressing a complaint letter with 'Dear Sirs' is a very sexist presumption about the gender distribution of the Felix office. But then who am I to complain?)

## THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



# “North Koreans get to see their first living South Korean”

### DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



Oh anonymous 2nd year Maths girl, that isn't where you put it! Didn't your mother ever teach you how to use it properly? Wait don't answer that, I'll ask her myself when she finishes cleaning herself up in the bathroom...

## Horoscopes

### Aries

You narrowly avoid falling down an open man hole on your way to a 9a.m. lecture. A little shaken you arrive on time but the lecturer has replaced himself with a cardboard cutout. Grimly determined to learn you stay for the full hour.

### Gemini

You catch your reflection in the side of a passing bus. That clown's still behind you. Still giving you the eye off his unicycle. You're impressed but mostly just afraid. As he follows you across the road you swear a solemn oath never to circus heckle again.

### Leo

A stranger offers you sweets to get in his car. of course you accept. He drives you to the beach and the two of you have a wonderful time playing frisbee and skimming stones. Over lunch you suddenly realise he's a grizzly bear, incensed you club him to death.

### Libra

You wake up, open the curtains and find you're at the bottom of the ocean. 'What a startling turn of events' you think. Owing to your new location the walk to college takes longer than usual and when you arrive you're 100 years in the future.

### Sagittarius

Passing through a turnstile you slip and become tangled in the mechanism. You find yourself rotating constantly head over heels. It's nauseating but you quickly become used to it. Soon you start meeting people and before you know it, you find a nice girl, settle down and start a family.

### Aquarius

You didn't read the contract for your house before you signed it. Now the police and your landlord are banging at the door. He's wearing a coat of made of ex-tenant's skin and kidneys and now he wants a matching hat. There's no way out.

### Taurus

You've finally found your tutor's office having been searching for it since term started. You knock, no answer. You try the handle, no luck, so you wait. It slowly dawns on you that the door is painted on the wall. Broken: you drop to your knees and weep.

### Cancer

You're sitting in Kensington Gardens eating lunch, enjoying one of the last sunny days of the year. A squirrel scampers up, how sweet. You throw him an almond. He eats it and explodes. You forgot squirrels are allergic to almonds. Minus 1,000,000 karma.

### Virgo

You receive a flower in the mail. You're puzzled, what could it mean? You find it a pot and a sunny corner. You return from lectures to find it's turned into a person, who's claiming it's his room and suggesting you should leave. You're sure he's wrong but who are you to argue?

### Scorpio

You wake up dazed. 'Where the fuck are my clothes?' you think - 'And my legs?' - 'and my elbows?' - Slowly the memories return. There were no elbows or legs to begin with. You're a paperweight, you've always been a paperweight. It's shit being a paperweight.

### Capricorn

That satellite's watching you again, tapping into your thoughts. Using your newly-acquired knowledge of Mechanics you build a giant catapult and fling yourself up at it. You pass it by and land with a bump on the moon where you build a castle and live like a king.

### Pisces

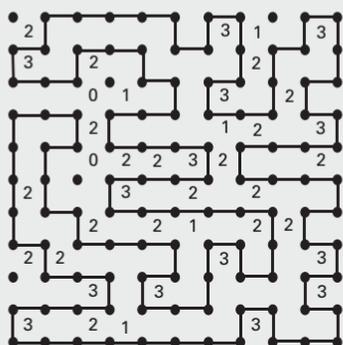
On your way back to halls you fall down an open man hole. You fall for hours as a menacing, fiery glow grows beneath you. The screams of the damned swell orchestrally and you land impaled on Satan's pitchfork. He torments you for all eternity - but at least you're not alone.

Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**  
**James Hook**  
**Aman Nahar**  
 puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

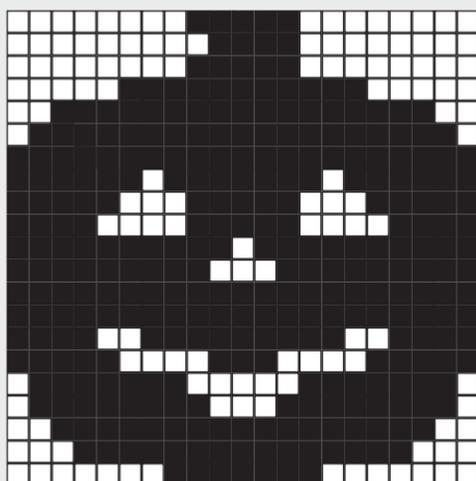
# PUZZLES

## Last Week's Solutions

### Slitherlink



### Nonogram



### Crosswords

#### Quick



#### Cryptic



### Going Underground

K	E	N	S	A	L	G	R	E	E	N
11	5	14	19	1	12	7	18	5	5	14

## Wordoku

		K		G	W			A
	A						E	
E		W				F		G
					K	G		E
F				A				S
U		G	S					
Y		S				E		U
	G						F	
K			U	S		W		

### Last Week's Wordokus

L	O	N	G	D	E	A	T	H
A	G	E	H	O	T	N	D	L
H	T	D	N	L	A	E	G	O
T	H	L	O	E	G	D	N	A
D	A	O	L	T	N	G	H	E
E	N	G	D	A	H	O	L	T
O	D	T	E	N	L	H	A	G
N	L	H	A	G	O	T	E	D
G	E	A	T	H	D	L	O	N

U	R	B	I	V	E	A	Y	L
E	Y	L	R	B	A	V	U	I
V	I	A	L	Y	U	B	E	R
L	E	V	A	I	R	U	B	Y
R	A	U	B	L	Y	I	E	V
I	B	Y	E	U	V	R	L	A
A	L	I	V	E	B	Y	R	U
Y	V	E	U	R	I	L	A	B
B	U	R	Y	A	L	I	V	E

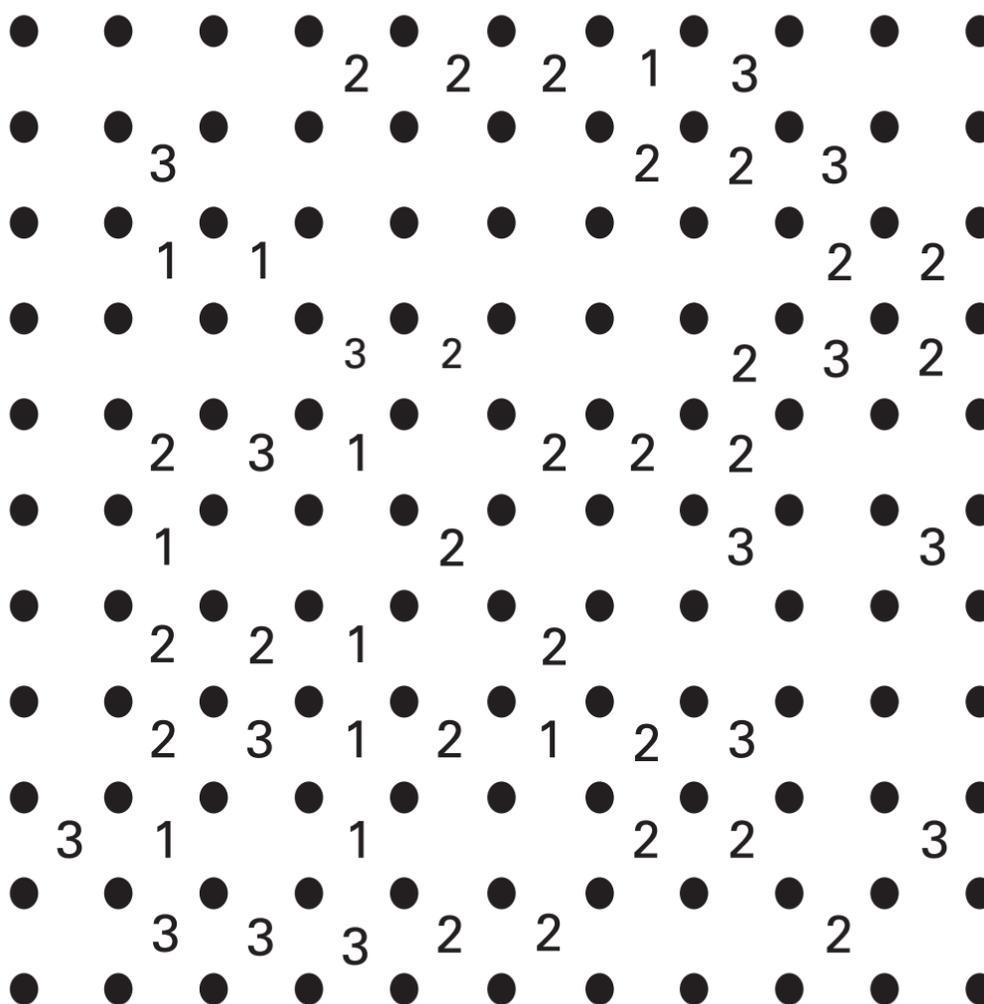
More solutions from last week:

Pictogram: Kelpie, Manes, Banshee, Werewolf, Eidolon, Halloween

Decipher: HAPPY HALLOWEEN in ASCII code

Chess Maze: Bd4, Kh1, Re1, Rxe1, Qxe1

## SLITHERLINK



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.

## PICTOGRAM

*Remember, remember,  
the fifth of November*



Allegedly a Gaelic tradition, carried out during the slaughter season in autumn



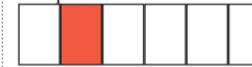
Best known for causing "time rain"



Used in the 1800's to perform "SATI"



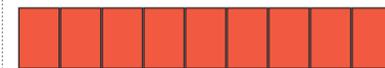
A heavy paper casing to enclose the explosive compound



A known consequence of pyromania



The letters spell....





# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## RAG Week

This year, RAG is seeking to make ICU RAG bigger and better than ever before and is launching RAG Week during the first term for the first time ever. Come and join us for any of the events below and tell us your fundraising ideas - we just might be able to realise them this year! Have a pint with us in the Union Bar on Monday, come to the Ball @ Carbon on Tuesday, buy a Union Officer at the Slave Auction on Wednesday, have lunch made by Cooking Soc or see a movie with FilmSoc on Thursday, join in on the biggest ACC Pubcrawl ever on Friday or join us in the Union on Saturday to find out which of our volunteers we've driven off to an unknown location made it back to the Union successfully!

Also, RAG and Foodcycle will be doing a week-long sale of raffle tickets and the winner will get an iPod Touch during the Foodcycle presentation next Friday (watch out for posters on the Walkway)! £2 for a ticket!

### Win £100 prize for craziest photo

Send your best and crazies RAG Week photos to rag-chair@imperial.ac.uk to be in with a chance to win a £100 clothing voucher. The deadline for entry is Sunday the 14th of November and the photos must be of RAG Week activities. The winner will be chosen by the College's Creative Director.

### Events

**Monday**, November 8th at 7pm:  
RAG meets other Unis at our Union Bar. 2 pints £3.50!

**Tuesday**, November 9th at 9pm:  
RCSU and CGCU RAG Ball at Carbon, Marble Arch Tickets are £5, VIP £10) more info on the club: <http://www.carbonbar.co.uk/>

**Wednesday** November 10th 8pm: CGCU Slave Auction at the Union Bar with Smoothies sold by Foodcycle

**Thursday**, November 11th, 12-2pm:  
Cooking Soc Cooking Sale + Movie night by FilmSoc (movie tba)

**Friday**, November 12th:  
ACC Pubcrawl

**Saturday**, November 13th:  
LOST



## EVENTS

**Charity Week London  
'Smoky not Smudgy'  
A Ladies Only Pampering and Beauty  
Event  
6th November. 11am-4pm  
SAF**



# Weresheep don't drink Hongthong

## Fellwanderers climb the great peaks of Wales, with only the warming power of Hongthong to sustain them

**Sam Gonshaw**

While the slopes of North Wales basked in the glowing rays of an unseasonably pleasant October, 24 intrepid Fellwanderers were already gathered at Beit, failing to load their masses of kit onto the roof of the minibus. Stories from the veterans, of tarpaulins freeing themselves from the bus somewhere on the M1 and bags almost being lost, didn't do much to hearten us freshers, adding to the already present thoughts of why on earth did we agree to follow these people just because they gave us free pizza?

But nonetheless we set out to the soothing chords of drum n' bass to conquer the great peaks of Snowdonia. Snowdon itself, at 1085 metres, loomed over us upon awakening at the hut the next morning. The thought of all the excitement to come drew me from my bed at 7.30 and I was presented with a bottle of gin as a grand prize for being the most eager fresher. That wonderful breakfast couldn't dampen my spirits for the day.

With the sun shining bright we packed our lunches and prepared - but there was a cloud in the sky. A plot to poison the trip was afoot! James Allen had bought poison for our lunch I tell you! We were forced to fill our bags with packets of Tesco Value crisps. We almost rebelled at the horror of the situation - but we put our differences aside and kitted out. And a right bunch we were all dressed for our hike. Trainers were in show, boots lacking, and Simon had even turned up in a suit; though boots and gaiters for him finished off the snappy look.

So we set out in two groups; the mighty ducks strong and true and the squashed bananas (named so by the mighty ducks) also ready for the ascent. And a nice easy ascent it was too. Snowdon stands tall, yet we walked it in a mere couple of hours, arriving at a suddenly very cloudy summit after hours of sunshine. The second group arrived in blinding sunshine and could see from the sea to inland plains. Bananas have all the luck!

After a first lunch on the slopes accompanied by a lovely cup of coffee, brewed at three and a half thousand feet by yours truly, we stopped for a quick snap on chancing on the other group, and continued a leisurely stroll back down the mountain; stopping frequently for more lunches. When the crisps are absolutely tasteless you need to eat more of them to feel accomplished.

The incredibly speedy and absolutely problem free trip left us with a concern level of merely 1, and hours to kill in the pub. Joe arrived back from Snowdon with a tablet of stone and soon the commandments rained down upon us. Our copious drinking was undertaken on pain of punishment from THE TABLET.

Returning to the hut for Jim and Peter's vegetarian curry (with added chicken) we found half our number had been massacred by vicious weresheep (baaa-arrrooo!). Even Fran's magical Bells potion and the warming power of Hong Thong - Willy Wonka's own speciality - couldn't save us. Only Natasha and Wan Ting were left standing. Maybe their love of micro-waves helped save them from the weresheep.

With fire blazing, shisha smoking and whisky drowned cake we were dropping like flies; Matt already having left us after his three pints at the pub. Creating our own Hong Thong from Bells, curry and other ingredients I don't want to know about finished us off for the night.

By the next morning we still hadn't decided on what to hike that day. Not until we were half way up a cliff face and found out we couldn't turn back did we decide that that was our walk for the day. So bags filled with Value crisps and leftover curry sandwiches we stopped being Fellwanderers and became mountaineers. The idea of a Sunday walk of course being a nice gentle walk to cool off the weekend became a crawl on all fours to the peak of Tryfan at 918 metres. Tensions rose. Rafal became steadily more annoyed, and he passed through all of his possible facial expressions within seconds. Finally reaching the peak we stopped off for a quick lunch and then the mighty ducks raced the descending ominous clouds to the base, loosing James Allen on the way who insisted on following his map. A 2 hour climb was followed by a very brief 15 minute descent.

And so, our weekend came to a close, just stopping off on the return for a carvery and an Ultimate Burger, in a lovely cosy candlelit pub. It was quite a break from the regular sciencing of Imperial College, and the hills of Wales do well to clear the head of the troubles of London. Yes, we conquered Wales, we conquered weresheep, mountains and bottles of ancient Grolsch. And who knows where our adventures shall take us next?

# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## Imperial Sinfonietta on the rampage in Porto

Corrie Berry

Rolling towards the beginning of November, with the weather turning cold and grey, and Bonfire Night approaching, our minds turn back to the last fireworks display that was witnessed by members of Imperial College Sinfonietta.

The annual tour took place in the last week and a half of September. Being the tenth in a long line of epic voyages to foreign climes, it turned into a bit of a reunion, with many of the older members of the orchestra who have long since graduated returning for another taster of Sinfonietta Rampaging. It started unremarkably; beer and a fry-up in the departure lounge at Gatwick was followed by a quick flight to Porto, a ride on the Metro and setting up camp in a hostel. But the fun soon began. The first tour dinner is a bit of a blur for this writer; with the local beer, Super Bock, at just one Euro a bottle, the week had begun in the manner in which it was to continue.

Each day in the city started with those who woke up early enough finding a quick breakfast in one of the many cafés, followed by a walk across town to the Conservatoire, a school of music for 6 to 18 year olds that opened last year. Here, we rehearsed for three hours, with a gap in the middle for a picnic lunch and 1.5 litres of water... The venue was brand new, and we the first orchestra they hosted. Problems aside (no house-lights and air conditioning blasting up from the floor and chilling everyone), it housed us well, and allowed for a productive session every day.

Afternoons were spent exploring little alleys winding over steep hills, climbing church towers and generally being touristy. Porto being the home of port, we went on a port factory tour after a trek over the mountains of the town (don't always trust someone with a guide-book just because they have the book...), which was followed by a quick recovery, helped along by tasters!

As the sun set, the bars on the waterfront found themselves host to groups of musicians, with merriment and consumption often accompanied by games, photographs, and once, a song about the man in charge in which we were joined by wandering gypsies with their accompaniment; a dog. A good deal of table-swapping followed as we found each other, much to the bemusement of the locals; "inside voices" and "pipe down" did nothing to encourage us to decrease the decibels as we found 'long-lost' friends from the bar before the last one...

Members of the orchestra were encouraged to engage in a game of assas-



Admittedly there's not much rampaging going on in this photo. Unless you include the conductor's trousers... What was he thinking?

sins, resulting in a 'tour word' of "bulbous!", a few epic kills (not to mention members of the committee abusing their power to get their targets) and more than one person complaining 'I thought you wanted to talk to me, but you just wanted to kill me!'. Clothes-pegs also made an appearance, leading to 'peg-checks'; and more than one unsuspecting member of the public walking off with fluorescent bits of plastic clipped to them.

Monday night found us performing to an audience that was certainly larger than the predicted two, a result of handing out 1000 flyers to the people walking about the town earlier in the afternoon. It went well; all the hard work paid off, and the comments received indicated that the audience loved it. These included phrases such as "a dream come true" and "splendid". Good job!

The tour ended with a visit to the beach, dinner at a restaurant which served giant dishes of fish-pie and roast pork, and a visit to a shisha bar in which tour prizes were given for various misdeeds committed throughout the

week. The van was sent off on Wednesday morning to the high praise of "My second best tour...after Croatia", from the Sinfonietta Matriarch, who organised Croatia and hence her opinion on that one is discredited. The rampaging didn't end on the plane (the Captain did get pegged as he left the plane in London) and we gradually parted ways with much regret, many memories and much stronger friendships.

And the fireworks? Porto celebrated the presence of Sinfonietta by giving an impromptu display while we were sitting at the waterfront one evening. It wasn't actually for us, but the sight of a whole orchestra jumping up from a bar, still clutching tankards full of beer, and running to the river to ooh and ahh, is one of the highlights of the trip; for the author of this article, anyway.

Congratulations to the team who organised it, many thanks to our wonderful conductor (DC al fine!), and well done members of the orchestra; we made it back in one piece and look forward to next year!

## Does God exist?

Philosophy Society tackle the world's toughest question

Isa Cassius Morrison

A question that has thwarted man since the beginning of human history was brought to a heated and intensely intellectual debate on Tuesday evening. The Philosophy Society's "Does God Exist?" debate challenged some of the most able polemicists in the university world. Prof. Peter Atkins, a renowned Oxford Professor and outspoken atheist and Alex Gabriel, the President of the Oxford Atheist Society, would be arguing that God didn't exist, while Hassan Choudhury (author of "God's ID") and Dr Muhammad Umar (freelance consultant and medic) would demonstrate proof for God's existence.

With Prof. Atkins beginning the debate, the atheists proceeded first. The room fell silent, as all present were either ready to support or rebut his arguments. From the beginning Prof. Atkins made it clear that it was not his job to disprove the existence of God, but instead the job of the theists was to prove that God exists; an interesting approach, but a weak stance to be taken by a world-renowned professor such as Atkins. Many present were expecting him to deliver an all-encompassing argument to disprove God's existence. Instead, he wandered along the lines of lack of available evidence, citing the desire of humans to create a deity and the belief that all people will get what they deserve in the afterlife. The atheists were off to a shaky start, but surely things could only get better for them?

Next, Choudhury was setting the stage for his colleague, Dr Umar, to deliver the proof for the existence of God. Using what the atheists typically call upon, science, to disprove God, he used it against them demonstrating its limitations; this included that science can only prove what it can test and observe, nothing more and nothing less. Science cannot prove what is immeasurable and beyond the limits of science. Furthermore, adding weight to their argument is that 'creation requires a creator', and how a painting (or a pizza) could not be tested for a creator if the creator was not

'noticed' from the creation. By using rational arguments and dismissing weaker arguments such as emotions, faith and belief (one of the few issues which were argued by both sides for the whole evening), proof was presented for a creator of the Universe.

One would have expected Gabriel to be more than ready to rip apart and undermine the opposition's arguments. Surprisingly he failed to do so. More often than not, he was stumbling for words, evading the arguments and sidetracking the concept of the proof. Had the theists succeeded in presenting an argument that had no flaws? Well, Gabriel never disproved it. Dr Umar's presentation was one of the most enjoyable of the evening; he engaged the audience and speakers alike, holding everyone's attention throughout. The issue of the beginning of the Universe began to dominate the discussion, along with the concept of infinity. He proved how there could not be an infinite number of causes to start the Universe, known as the infinite regression argument, nor how a spontaneous mechanical event could have occurred. He synthesised his argument, firmly based in the realms of rationale, that the cause had to be external to the Universe, space and time in order to create them, demonstrating the necessity for a creator. Now, it was up to the atheists to disprove this during the Q&A session.

No atheist in attendance addressed Dr Umar's argument; instead, they evaded the issue like ninjas, which, in all fairness to them, they did very well. The atmosphere was intense, the audience electric as questions, answers and rebuttal were thrown back and forth, evolving into a philosophical discussion where many aspects of human nature, science and the fundamentals of mathematics were discussed. The concept of infinity not working in reality really seemed to bewilder the atheists more than anything, requiring numerous explanations and examples to show why it cannot work in practice whilst its existence is plausible in mathematics. The atheists' arguments (well, more like statements) were dissolving rapidly as the speakers' points became weaker and less viable.

By the end of the evening, everyone was discussing the "Existence of God", and this continued long into the night (even after all the free food was gone). The big question that remains: what is the consequence of believing in God? Surely the next event will be of a similar magnitude where everyone, including you, could take part. So watch this space!

**"The atmosphere was intense, the audience electric as questions, answers and rebuttal were thrown back and forth"**

# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## Notices

### Law Society

A six-figure salary? Only with a career in finance, right? - WRONG! Did you know a starting salary for a lawyer is £60,000? Law has the same challenges as a career in finance with identical application processes. The attractive thing about law is the diversity in the career path you could take. The most popular being commercial law, which deals with a lot of the biggest banks and corporations in the world. Law firms actually value students from a non-law background as we have that extra knowledge, which we can integrate into law. The intake of non-law students into most prestigious firms can be as high as 50%!

Even though Imperial does not have a law faculty, there is a law society. Law society has been around for five years now and whilst in previous years membership has been low, this current year we have seen the biggest increase in membership. We aim to provide the best possible information for anyone considering a career in law after his or her science degree. We have invited many of the 'Magic Circle' law firms to come and guide us through the process by providing advice and tips.

Next Tuesday, 9th November, Hogan Lovells will be joining us for a panel event based on Intellectual Property (IP). A partner, associate and a trainee from the IP department will be there to explain the different stages in the career progression and to answer any questions you may have. To register for this event or for further information please contact [lawsoc@ic.ac.uk](mailto:lawsoc@ic.ac.uk)

### e.quinox

Electricity is the basis of development, and we strive to provide rural Rwanda with access to electricity through our Energy Kiosks. We aim to develop a financially sustainable system that can be replicated on any scale, even in the remotest of communities.

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## Scuba trip to Penzance

### Who doesn't love diving on a freezing cold morning?

#### Sam Gonshaw

Having loaded up the minibus with enough gear for the week, five of us set off nice and early from the union on Saturday 24th for the long journey down to Penzance. Deciding that motorways were boring we took the A303/A30, whereby we had to resist the urge of stopping to buy strawberries from the stalls cunningly positioned every 50m along the road. After a quick stop for lunch we knew we were getting close when Pirate FM appeared on the radio, and we were soon greeted at the campsite by what seemed like a completely sane campsite owner (a what?!) before speedily heading off to the shops to buy some food. By the time we got back Icy (our RIB) had arrived and our tent village for the week was taking shape. Sadly it turned out that the boats steering was broken and we would need to get some new bolts.

With no boat to use, Sunday saw us heading to Lamorna Cove to do a couple of shore dives. Those people who didn't listen to Olle's advice and headed around the harbour wall found some interesting things, while those of us who did found sand. And rocks. With the day's diving over we headed off to find some screws to fix Icy. With Icy now fixed Monday was going to be much more interesting. Launching from Hayle, Ben gently lowered the boat down the incredibly steep slip and armed with 4 different coordinates for the St Chamond we headed out eager to see what awaited us. Turns out it was 4m swell. Having gone through all that we had however, we were not going to let that put us off and so in went the shot and down went the divers. Sadly we picked the wrong coordinates and only Olle's group found the trains. Having made most people chuck their breakfast over the side of the boat, we decided not to pursue a second dive as it was already 3pm.

Tuesday saw our first trip out from Penzance, although we didn't see much due to a thick layer of fog. The original plan was to dive the Hellowes, but it was too deep for the inexperienced sporties onboard. For the rest of us it was onto the Lowlee Ledges / Primrose which had a nice nature trail rope to follow, and then onto what we later discovered was the very broken



It's definitely not at all sunny. I'd look less silly wearing sunglasses in the Felix Office

up wreck of the Ansgir. On Tuesday evening while venturing in to collect our filled tanks for the next day, the crazy man showed us his compressor room. He had about 5/6 compressors linked by a network of pipes that would look fitting on a submarine, and they were powered by a generator from an old telephone exchange that could rival Battersea power station!

On Thursday we decided that due to the nice weather we would attempt to go for the Runnelstone. After a long journey we decided to ignore the 3-4m swell and dropped down to be greeted by huge boulders completely covered in jewel-anemones.

We decided to go for the Hellowes again on Friday. With Simon's twinset broken, he and I decided to make the most of our dive and made our way down to 35m in 2 minutes by climbing down the shot line! This gave us plenty of time

to explore the wreck where we found the rudder and prop still intact and 2 massive boilers with lots of pipes running all over the place.

With the departure of Danielle, Tom and John on Friday there were only 7 of us in the boat on Saturday and so we loaded up 2 cylinders each, packed our lunch and headed off on the 15 mile journey to Wolfrock. This was a fantastic dive with a very steep wall covered in jewel-anemones and teeming with all sorts of life. After heading back to a nearby cove for some lunch we set out once again to go to Longships where Olle and Richard swam around trying to find some seals. All in all, a great week.

There are still be places on our training courses for this year, email [scuba@ic.ac.uk](mailto:scuba@ic.ac.uk) if you are interested. For more info visit [www.union.ic.ac.uk/icuc](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/icuc)

Imperial College  
London



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# Fencers return from Malta with most of their gold

Jack Patten

The Imperial College Fencing Club summer tour saw them invade Malta, escaping from their exams, and starting the week with a bit of night swimming at the villa they had rented in Mellieha for the competition.

The next morning saw the men's foil entrants, still a bit bleary eyed, find a cab and get to the morning's fencing. Jack Patten of Imperial, thrown by the very different styles of fencing shown by some of the continental fencers, was knocked out in the quarter finals, leaving only two remaining, who unfortunately met each other in the semi final. Guillaume Joubert managed to pull the victory from

Chris Gilliam, who ended coming in third. Guillaume faced Maltese fencer Pierre Bianchi, but was finally defeated, earning a silver medal and the respect of the opposition.

The men's sabre event saw the same group going into the fastest of the three weapons. Again Jack was knocked out in his first direct elimination fight, but this time Chris and Guillaume almost effortlessly moved on to the finals against each other. After a back and forth fight Guillaume managed to shut down the wrist hits that Chris had used to get to the finals, earning him the gold that had been denied him earlier in the day, with Chris' silver bringing the medal count to four after only two events.

The last event of the first day was a fun team sabre event where all of the fencers were mixed up to let fencers from different countries and at different skill levels to interact in a less competitive setting. Even fencers who rarely use a sabre picked one up for a bit of fun.

The next day began the women's events, though rather than being the official Malta open, the two women fencers from Imperial were competing in the St. Paul's Fencing Club Challenge, a new event run by the same fencing club which holds the open.

As the men were relegated to the sidelines, the women started on foil, which neither had a particular love of. Despite this, both moved through the initial stages of the competition with little trouble, adapting to the more unusual styles of fencing on display. Unfortunately, as with the men, they ended meeting in the semifinals, with Beth slowly out fencing Emily Bottle, to move on to the finals. In the final Beth met her match in German fencer Barbara Schormair, letting her bring home the silver medal, and Emily the bronze.

The epee event, being Beth's least favorite weapon, saw her knocked out in the quarter-finals. Emily destroyed any competition she was up against, however, as this is her primary weapon. The finals saw her comprehensively defeat German epeeist Vanessa Klaas.

The team event of the day was epee. Even Jack and Guillaume picked them up – despite neither of them finding them the most interesting weapon, and Jack having never used one before at all!

During the week the fencers took some time to explore the country, whilst more fencers arrived for the rest of the week, and to do the second weekend competition. On Monday they headed out to try diving, which Chris and Beth decided to spend some more time on. They also enjoyed a meal in the capital Val-

letta with the competition fencers and their spouses. Tuesday was spent at St. Paul's Fencing Club for some training with the Maltese and some of the other international fencers. They spent some time exploring Mdina, a fortified town in the hills, a relic and monument to the military history of Malta as a naval staging point for several wars. On Friday they took a couple of speedboats out to do some snorkelling and have a look at the nearby islands of Gozo and Comino.

The second weekend started with the men's individual epee event. After a round of poules Chris had opened into a good position, while Jack's inexperience in epee had left him in a mediocre position, and led to him being knocked out in the first round of direct elimination. Chris managed to make it through to the quarterfinals, defeated by British fencer Eddie Crofton, who was only defeated in the final by Pierre.

Then it was time to start the open for the women's events. The first weapon was epee, and once again Emily found herself quickly leading the pack. She even defeated her mother in the semi-finals, to face off against fellow Imperial competitor Joan Chang in the finals. Joan's style gave Emily pause in the first set, but was finally broken in the next set, winning Emily the gold, and Joan the silver.

The afternoon saw the team foil event. This had lots of entrants as most fencers start by learning foil and despite everyone trying hard to beat everyone else, the atmosphere was jovial. The competitors had become close over the week.

The last day of the competition opened with women's foil. Our fencers put on an impressive display, with four of the top five fencers being from Imperial, Hannah Bryars beating out Emily in the semi-finals and Alice Mitchell in the final, for a nice gold, silver, bronze run, with Beth being just outside the medal zone in fifth.

The last individual event was women's sabre, where Imperial did even better, the top five being entirely Imperial. Alice took fifth and Joan and Helen Pennington became bronze medalists. After some back and forth in the final Beth took silver and Hannah earned the gold. Another team sabre event was the last event of the day, and the competition, this time with mixed gender teams. A chance to say goodbye with some light hearted stabbing.



Our proud fencers posing with their impressive medal haul

**“Our fencers put in an impressive display, with four of the top five fencers being from Imperial, who came away with a gold, silver and a bronze”**

## ICBC hit GB trials and BUCS Small Boats Head

...Continued from back page see Alumni George Whittaker had won GB heavy-weight trials overall. Simon Steele brought home IC's quickest single time of the day (19:31.3 – 15th in BUCS). Further solid performances came from Dom Meyrick-Cole (19:45.0 – 51st GB trialist), Leo Carrington (19:50.0 – 21st in BUCS) and Ben Spencer-Jones (20:07.7 – 72nd GB trialist, 33rd in BUCS). Leonora Kennedy and Zoë Lee continued to go from strength to strength as they both were in the top ten overall with times for the women's single of 20:58.3 (8th overall) and 21:09.8 (10th overall) respectively.

Jamie Kirkwood continues to have a golden glow around him as he smashed his way to win the light-

weight trials. Further lightweight success continued for Sam Scrimgeour (18:44.2 – 12th Lwt GB trialist), Josh Butler (18:44.5 – 13th Lwt GB trialist), Alex Gillies (18:55.9 – 17th Lwt GB trialist) and Tom Pearson (19:37.1 – 35th Lwt GB trialist, 7th BUCS). Chloe Symmonds also put in a strong performance in the women's lightweight single (21:52.2 – 12th Lwt GB trialist, 9th BUCS).

IC also fielded a further five boats with the aim of gaining BUCS points and medals. In the doubles, Ben Spencer-Jones and Alistair Hudson came 6th in a time of 17:55.9, while the W2x of Christina Duffy and Selina Graham came 4th in a time of 20:30.0. Unfortunately due to the absence of many of the club's bowsiders; due to man flu/busted joints/doc-

tors orders etc, the lightweight men's double had to be withdrawn and it was down to four strokesiders to race the pairs.

On top of this, chaos nearly ensued when the pleasure cruiser, the “Boston Belle”, decided the start of the third and final division would be the perfect time to head down the centre of the river, heading directly towards the fifty boats coming in the opposite direction. Fortunately, disaster was averted and the Belle pulled into the side. In the Men's Championship Pairs, Imperial A (Steele/Carrington), having already successfully overtaken Durham B, were heard from the bank employing a Kirkwood Tiger [a now well known winning mechanism] with 100m to go and they raced their way

into fourth place (18:51.8). Imperial B (Matt Whalley/Pearson) put in another storming performance overtaking “three and a half crews” over the 5km course and beat Imperial A by five seconds to bring home the Bronze medal (18:46.9). The women's pair of Symmonds and Duffy also brought home the bacon coming in second (21:12.9) behind a very strong Durham crew.

All in all, the weekend was a success and, in time honoured tradition, McDonalds was eaten on the way home with delight, even by the conscientious lightweights. With Fours Head of the River less than two weeks away, ICBC has little time to reflect and needs to be ready for a few more miles on the home water of the Tideway.

## SPORT

Felix Sports League



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Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Netball W1	3	3	0	0	148	57	91	5
2 Hockey W1	3	3	0	0	11	7	2	5
3 Table Tennis M2	2	2	0	0	33	1	32	5
4 Netball W2	2	2	0	0	77	50	27	5
5 Table Tennis M1	2	2	0	0	30	4	26	5
6 Tennis W1	2	2	0	0	17	5	12	5
7 Basketball W1	2	2	0	0	85	74	11	5
8 Table Tennis W1	2	2	0	0	10	0	10	5
9 Badminton M1	2	2	0	0	12	4	8	5
10 Tennis M1	2	2	0	0	16	8	8	5
11 Fencing M2	1	1	0	0	135	41	94	5
12 Basketball M1	1	1	0	0	76	58	18	5
13 ICSM Football M2	1	1	0	0	5	1	4	5
14 Squash W1	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	5
15 ICSM Badminton W1	1	1	0	0	10	4	0	5
16 Rugby M1	4	3	0	1	98	53	45	2.75
17 ICSM Netball W1	3	2	0	1	134	80	54	2
18 ICSM Hockey W1	3	2	0	1	14	3	11	2
19 Hockey M3	3	2	0	1	5	2	3	2
20 Football M1	3	1	1	1	6	6	0	1
21 ICSM Hockey M2	3	1	1	1	5	8	-3	1
22 Fencing W2	2	1	0	1	241	221	20	0.5
23 Fencing M3	2	1	0	1	246	237	9	0.5
24 Football M3	2	1	0	1	11	3	8	0.5
25 Hockey M4	2	1	0	1	4	2	8	0.5
26 Lacrosse M1	2	1	0	1	31	23	8	0.5
27 ICSM Football M1	2	1	0	1	9	4	5	0.5
28 Netball W3	2	1	0	1	42	38	4	0.5
29 Hockey M1	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	0.5
30 ICSM Badminton M1	2	1	0	1	8	8	0	0.5
31 Squash M3	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	0.5
32 ICSM Netball W4	2	1	0	1	44	74	-30	0.5
33 Rugby M4	2	1	0	1	43	74	-31	0.5
34 Fencing M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 Fencing W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36 Ice Hockey M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
37 ICSM Football M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
38 Lacrosse W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
39 Lacrosse W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40 Squash M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41 Volleyball M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42 Volleyball W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
43 Water Polo M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44 Water Polo W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 Squash M2	3	1	0	2	6	9	-3	-1
46 ICSM Netball W2	3	1	0	2	96	100	-4	-1
47 Rugby M3	3	1	0	2	10	19	-9	-1
48 ICSM Hockey M3	3	1	0	2	4	17	-13	-1
49 Football W1	1	0	0	1	1	6	-5	-4
50 ICSM Rugby M3	1	0	0	1	0	84	-84	-4
51 Hockey M2	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	-4
52 Squash M4	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	-4
53 ICSM Hockey M1	2	0	0	2	1	4	-3	-4
54 Badminton M2	2	0	0	2	5	11	-6	-4
55 ICSM Badminton M2	2	0	0	2	5	11	-6	-4
56 Hockey W2	2	0	0	2	0	7	-7	-4
57 Badminton W1	2	0	0	2	4	12	-8	-4
58 Football M2	2	0	0	2	2	10	-8	-4
59 ICSM Hockey W2	2	0	0	2	0	16	-16	-4
60 Tennis M2	2	0	0	2	0	22	-22	-4
61 ICSM Netball W3	2	0	0	2	29	66	-37	-4
62 Rugby M2	3	0	0	3	29	80	-51	-4
63 ICSM Rugby M2	3	0	0	3	29	149	-120	-4
64 ICSM Rugby M1	4	0	0	4	53	173	-120	-4

# Rugby exec beat netball girls at their first annual Netball Fun Day

Fern Gibbons

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October the first ever Netball Fun Day was hosted by ICUNC. The day started with the sun shining, a clear sky and a lot of excitable Netball girls.

As 2 o'clock approached, numbers at the courts began to grow, with members from not just the netball club, but rugby and hockey, and even a few bioengineers as well. After a quick warm up game of touch rugby, everyone prepared for the Grudge Match between the Netball girls and Rugby boys.

Players were called on court but the only shooter for the girls, Nicole, was yet to arrive. So usual defenders, Bernice and Nakai, bravely stepped up to the plate and put on the GA and GS bibs. As the whistle blew for the first centre pass, the girls fully realised just how fast the boys could move. C and WA duo for the boys, Jamie and Joe showed off their dodging skills, and despite WD, Becky, and C, Emma, playing excellently for the girls, the boys managed to successfully get the ball down into their goal third. GD Lorna defended brilliantly, but GA Chris was very nippy, and could jump unexpectedly high for his height, and GS Max showed lovely movement in the goal third, meaning that the score was level at the end of the first quarter.

A quick switch around of positions took place in the quarter break. Nicole was put on as GA for the girls so that there was an actual shooter in the goal third. WA, Lucie, successfully received centre pass after centre pass, getting the ball down to the shooters. Brilliant defending from GK for the boys, Caolan, meant that shots were pretty much being tipped right out of the net! Even though Caolan could jump ridiculously high, this was not enough to hold the girls back and at the end of the first half they were ahead. (Apparently the boys' lack of ability to stop running after catching the ball was not advantageous to them!)

However, things began to go downhill for the girls after this as player of the match (and top goal scorer for the day), Rob Dowden, demonstrated that boys can actually play Netball whilst sticking to the rules. His great play (and a lot of luck for the boys in general) meant that the game ended in a 7-6 victory for the boys. Perhaps this victory will spur the boys on to win their second most important game of the year, the JPR Williams Varsity match!

Though the girls lost this match they didn't let it dampen the mood for the rest of the day, with a tournament taking place between all those present. There was foul play. There was amazing play. There were complaints against the umpires. There were a few injuries. There was a LOT of rain. But most of all, there was fun had by everybody. ICUNC would like to thank everyone that came and made the day such a success!



Just in case you're confused, the netball goal is the one without the backboard...

## Immortals join Cobras for pre-season camp

George Barnes

The Imperial Immortals American Football Club took another positive step towards starting the regular season off brightly by attending a pre-season training camp hosted by the long standing Cardiff Cobras University AFC.

The team touched down in Cardiff Friday night, and after a warm reception by the Cardiff lads, began training the following day at 11AM sharp. The morning session concentrated on fundamentals, which are the basis of any strong contesting football team. This was a great chance for the rookies to test their skills against different players in a friendly environment, and a good opportunity for the returners to be coached outside of their comfort zone. Fortunately the teams escaped the rain and after short team specific playbook sessions the teams resumed afternoon practice. Working on the often forgotten 'special teams' aspect of the game was the focus of the afternoon, and for many of the rookies this was their first experience of kickoffs and punt scenarios. With the session over, the long day ended after plenty of pizza and socialising with the Cobras, and another memorable night in Cardiff.

Sunday started light, as the main event of the

weekend was the full scrimmage planned for that afternoon. The coaches tried to touch up on the technique taught to the players on the Saturday during the morning session. By the afternoon both players and coaches were pumped for the scrimmage. The Immortals' defenders were rusty but held their own against a strong Cobras offence, a positive sign for the upcoming season. Rookies Ben and Dhayan were thrown into the deep end but played extremely well considering their relative inexperience. The offence started slowly making similar mistakes to last season, however by the second half there were clear signs of improvement from the entirely revamped O. First downs seemed less hard to come by, especially with great running from fullback Alistair.

With the weekend over, Cardiff provided a great experience for rookies and returners alike. Everyone satiated their football hunger, and both teams seemed to gain a great deal from intensive training and hard hitting. It is hoped the greater intensity, hard work and dedication shown by the Immortals in the preseason will translate to regular season success.

The Immortals play their first game on November 7th, at home to the Surrey Stingers and cheered on by the newly formed IC CheerSoc.

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# SPORT



One of the New Zealand coaches, not Graham Henry, during the press conference in Ethos Cafe

## All Blacks visit Ethos

**Jovan Nedic**

The New Zealand Rugby Union team, commonly known as the All Blacks across the world, came for a quick visit and training session in Ethos on Monday afternoon. According to Sport Imperial, the team did not want to publicise their visit; despite this, the sports centre was swamped with enthusiastic students and their camera phones, as well as journalists from Sky.

An 'exclusive' news conference was held in the Cafe after they had finished their training session in the sports hall, where the team were doing run throughs.

The side is returned to Ethos on Thursday afternoon, where the weights

section of the gym was reserved for them. According to one source, one of the New Zealand coaches was heard saying on Monday that he was going to 'beast' them in the gym.

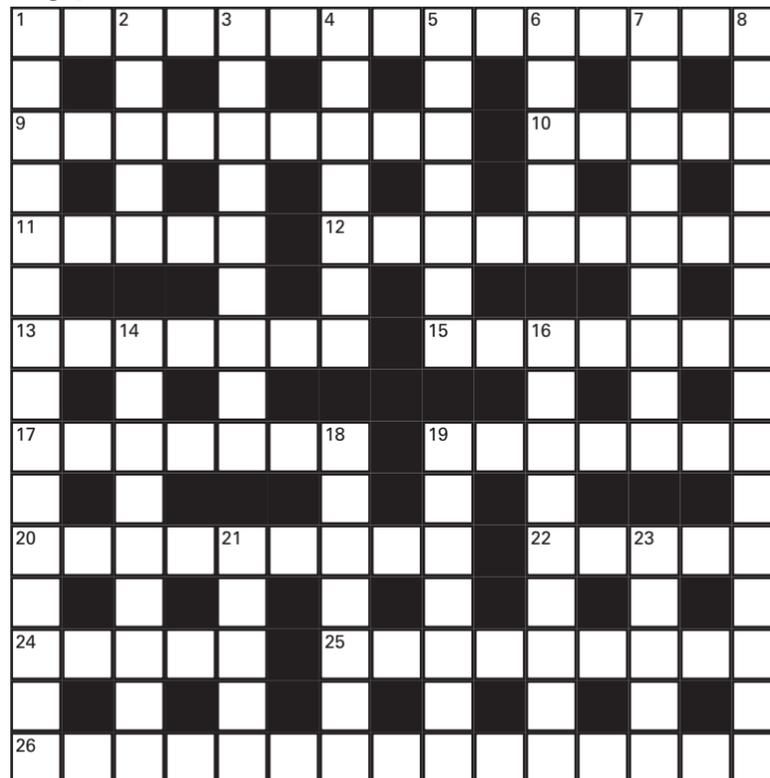
New Zealand are in the UK for the upcoming Autumn Internationals, with their first game against England at Twickenham on Saturday. The game will also be shown in 3D by Sky. The All Blacks will then play Scotland the following week at Murrayfield, followed by Ireland at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin, finishing off their tour with a game against Wales on the 27th November.

Last week, Australia broke the All Blacks 15-match winning streak when

they beat them 26-24 in Hong Kong to win the Bledisloe Cup. With the game in the 82nd minute, 20-year old James O'Conner scored a try on the touchline for Australia and converted the goal himself to give them the win. Several of the New Zealand players, including Isaia Toeava, have vowed to learn from their mistakes last Saturday and are hoping for an improved performance in their upcoming game against England on Saturday.

This is not the first time that the All Blacks have come to Imperial, with the side training in Ethos this time last year. However, they were clearly able to keep their last visit more private than the one this week.

### Cryptic Crossword 1,472



**Across**

- 1. Recklessly elope with girl (Alice) and head for Morocco – leaving this place? (8,7)
- 9. Eccentric Archer struggling with cat (9)
- 10. Fly Russian fighter plane over Germany and Spain (5)
- 11. Simple song – silly one for duck (5)
- 12. Hormone urging one to jump into bed (9)
- 13. New agreement is said to be in its early stages (7)
- 15. Using fingers but not hands? (7)
- 17. Law for iodine swirling in this, perhaps (7)
- 19. Not as thick as turps, for instance (7)
- 20. Might horny girl find a use for this U-tube? (9)
- 22. Dour boy-man, only half there?! (5)
- 24. Headlong novelist (5)
- 25. Working in theatre (9)
- 26. Free love? Everyone's in on it! (6,9)

(10,5)

- 2. Install heavy equipment (5)
- 3. Cooking early, made microwave dinner (5,4)
- 4. Met up with model in appropriate surroundings for fling (7)
- 5. Ran rings round drunken cleric at start of dinner (7)
- 6. Cap is included in 'Slim Items' (5)
- 7. Star physicist I'd get confused with new don (9)
- 8. Somehow entreat lean girl to make up threesome (7,8)
- 14. Silver-white metal camouflaged rust in MOT (9)
- 16. In speech, gloss over homicidal AI left in Corporation building (9)
- 18. Where ships can unload – sailor pissed here? (3,4)
- 19. Destroy electric ray (7)
- 21. Underground press? (5)
- 23. This way one can't see window-screen (5)

**Down**

- 1. Playing Manics' cult indie soundtrack

### Fixtures & Results

in association with Sports Partnership imperial college union sport Imperial

Monday 1st November		Wednesday 3rd November		Thursday 4th November		Friday 5th November		Saturday 6th November	
<b>BASKETBALL ULU</b>	Men's 1st 15	<b>WATER POLO ULU</b>	Men's 1st 5	<b>NETBALL</b>	Women's 1st 8	<b>SQUASH</b>	Men's 2nd 2	<b>NETBALL ULU</b>	Women's 1st 4
Men's 1s 61	UCL 2nd 5	<b>FOOTBALL</b>	Men's 1st 4	King's 4s 53	Arts London Women's 1st 2	Women's 2nd 43	Men's 4th 1	Women's 3rd vs RUMS 4th 2	<b>NETBALL ULU</b>
<b>NETBALL ULU</b>	Women's 2s 46	<b>BADMINTON</b>	Men's 2nd 1	Women's 2nd 2	Arts London Men's 3rd 7	Arts London 2nd 20	Surrey Men's 2nd 2	Women's 3rd vs RUMS 4th 2	<b>Friday 5th November</b>
St George's 3s 18	Women's 1st 1	<b>HOCKEY</b>	Men's 3rd 1	Women's 1st 6	Imperial Medicals Men's 1st 3	<b>RUGBY UNION</b>	Men's 1st 14	<b>SQUASH ULU</b>	Men's 2nd vs SOAS 1st 5
<b>SQUASH ULU</b>	Men's 1st 1	Men's 1st 3	Brunel University Men's 3rd 3	Women's 1st 6	1	Men's 2nd 42	Women's 1st 5	Men's 4th vs King's 1st 5	<b>Saturday 6th November</b>
UCL Men's 1s 4	<b>BASKETBALL</b>	Men's 2nd 0	King's Medics Men's 2nd 1	Women's 2nd 2	1	RUMS Men's 2nd 12	King's Women's 1st 0	Men's 1st vs Loughbrough 1st 8	<b>SQUASH</b>
Women's 1s 4	Women's 1st 33	Men's 3rd 0	Kent Men's 2nd 1	King's Women's 2nd 2	1	Women's 1st 0	LSE Men's 1st 25	Men's 1st vs Bristol 1st 4	
UCL Women's 1s 1	Surrey Women's 1st 32	Men's 4th 1	UCL Men's 3rd 1	Mixed 1s ULU 0	1	Royal Holloway 1st 25	Men's 2nd 25		
<b>FENCING</b>	Men's 6s ULU 1	Men's 5s ULU 15	UCL Men's 3rd 1	King's Mixed 1s ULU 1	1		Middlesex Men's 1st 1		
Fencing Men's 2nd 135	St George's Men's 3s ULU 41	Women's 1st 15		Women's 1st 15	1				
Hertfordshire Men's 1st 41		King's Women's 1st 1		King's Women's 1st 1	1				



**"I can take him!" - All Blacks come to Ethos for training session, page 39**

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## Varsity moves to The Stoop

Jovan Nedic

After several months of negotiations and rumours, Sport Imperial were able to confirm that the JPR Williams Cup match will move to The Stoop, home of rugby premiership side Harlequins.

The new three year deal will see Imperial's and the Medicals' best rugby teams fight it out for the JPR Williams Cup, named after the Imperial, Wales and British Lions full-back. The game, which is the final game as part of Varsity, has been played for the last seven years, with the Imperial Medicals winning every game since its inception. Last year's game, which was held at Old Deer Park, home of London Welsh, saw Imperial slump to a 29-13 defeat, however, despite this, Imperial went on to win Varsity 13-11.

This year's Varsity will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011, with games being played at Ethos, Wilson House and Harlington during the day, before the evening game in Twickenham.

Neil Mosely, Head of Sport Imperial, commented that the event is "the most anticipated event of the Imperial sporting calendar." When asked about the move to The Stoop for the next three years, Mosely went on to say: "We are bowled over by the opportunity to use the venue for the next three years and are convinced that this will result in even more interest in the event."

The Stoop, which can hold 12,700 spectators, is undoubtedly a move in the right direction. However, questions have been raised over the timing of the move, as the match has in recent years, only managed to get roughly 1,500 spectators. Expect a large promotional drive in the run up to the event!

## Infection stalks rowing club at trials

Rowing machines and strong winds for IC Boat Club as they win 18 BUCS points

Elizabeth Richards

Last weekend, after the long four hour drive through the wind and rain from London to Boston, Lincolnshire (a mere 22 miles from the awesome seaside resort of Skegness), several of the ICBC contingent wondered "What the hell are we doing here?"; the answer – the GB Rowing Team's first assessment of the year and BUCS Small Boats Head. This exhausting weekend consists of a 2km ergo test on the Saturday, followed by 5km races on the Sunday in singles (for all GB trialists and any students fancying their chances at taking a BUCS medal), double sculls and pairs (for the remaining available BUCS points). Despite having a depleted squad, just nine Imperial students came due to multiple injuries and illnesses, ICBC put in a sterling effort and walked away with some impressive feats

of fitness and 18 BUCS points.

With just the ergo to focus on, Saturday was a very tense day for all. The hall was very simple – one sports hall, 20 ergs laid out in two rows cornered off but still visible so all could witness the fate awaiting them. All athletes were measured for height, weight and arm span before the moment when they'd face some of the biggest names in British rowing. ICBC can hold their heads proudly as eight out of fifteen rowers beat their personal bests.

After a quick paddle, a big Italian meal and some interesting sleeping arrangements the night before, the squad awoke early on Sunday morning to bright sunshine... with winds of up to 16mph. Fortunately, it was to be a tail wind. Division by division, the results were released and all of ICBC were happy to

...Continued on Page 37

### COMMENT



It's time to legalise drugs, argues Black Sheep: **Page 14**

### BONFIRE WEEKEND



Your illustrative guide to the weekend's fireworks: **Page 17**

### ARTS



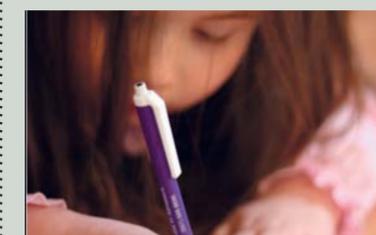
Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2010: **Page 18**

### FOOD



Food blogger sued by restaurant for bad review: **Page 26**

### HANGMAN



An unfortunate day for an Imperial Graduate: **Page 30**