

# DISCOVER YOUR OWN GALAXY TODAY

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A BONA FIDE ASTROPHYSICIST TO BE A PART OF GALAXY ZOO. LIZZIE CROUCH FINDS OUT HOW FROM **ROB SIMPSON**



Page 7

ISSUE 1473

“Keep the Cat Free”

# FELIX



12.11.10

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

## Imperial keeps cutting: volunteers face axe

Volunteer Centre slashed and Outreach dept. “under review” as cutting continues

Ian Wei  
Katherine Bettany

The Imperial Volunteering Centre (IVC) is to be almost entirely scrapped due to funding difficulties caused by a cut by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and also a large reduction in the Outreach department budget. Heather Jones, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and Minna Ruohonen, Head of the Volunteering Centre, expressed their concern about the effect on volunteering activities of the cut, which the College blames on HEFCE.

The Volunteer Centre was founded in 2002, as part of the Imperial Outreach unit, by Minna Ruohonen in order to provide opportunities for college members to volunteer in the wider community. Rather than directly organising volunteer projects, it acted as a ‘brokering agency’: advertising and matching up volunteers to appropriate projects. Up until now, the mission of the Volunteer Centre had been “to utilise Impe-  
...Continued on Page 5

### SPECIAL REPORT

Photo by Kadhim Shubber

By Afonso Campos



## WHY ISN'T IMPERIAL WELL-ENDOWED?

As Imperial sets up a special committee to increase its endowment, it's clear that we're far behind our competitors

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### PHOTOS



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### COMMENT



Too many men? Imran Khan thinks so: [Page 18](#)

### MUSIC



The music industry is slowly bleeding to death: [Page 27](#)

#### More PhD funding confusion

The Electrical & Electronic Engineering Department has been forced to make changes to PhD teaching stipends. [Page 3](#)

#### University Challenge trials

Quiz night at Reynolds Bar decides Medic lineup for inter-faculty University Challenge showdown. [Page 3](#)

#### Rector heads to Brighton on Bo'

Engineers take Sir Keith on a jaunt to the coast on ultra-rare hundred year old vintage vehicle, Bo'. [Page 4](#)

#### Students take to streets against cuts

50,000 students take to the streets in protest of government cuts and higher fees. [Page 4](#)

# HIGHLIGHTS

## On campus

### How the sun influences climate

Friends of Imperial present a lecture by Professor Joanna Haigh. Her research has raised the question of whether global warming could be managed using solar radiation management techniques. Contact [admin@friendsofimperial.org.uk](mailto:admin@friendsofimperial.org.uk)

**Lecture Theatre 1, Blackett  
16 November 19:00-20:00**

### Jorge Cham of PHD Comics

Jorge Cham, creator of the web comic 'Piled Higher and Deeper', comes to Imperial to give his "Academic Stimulus Package" talk. There will be a book signing and informal reception in the Queens Tower Rooms following the lecture. Email [graduate.schools@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.schools@imperial.ac.uk) to register. Graduate students only.



**G16 Sir Alexander Fleming Building  
17 November 17:30**

### Alumnus Book Launch

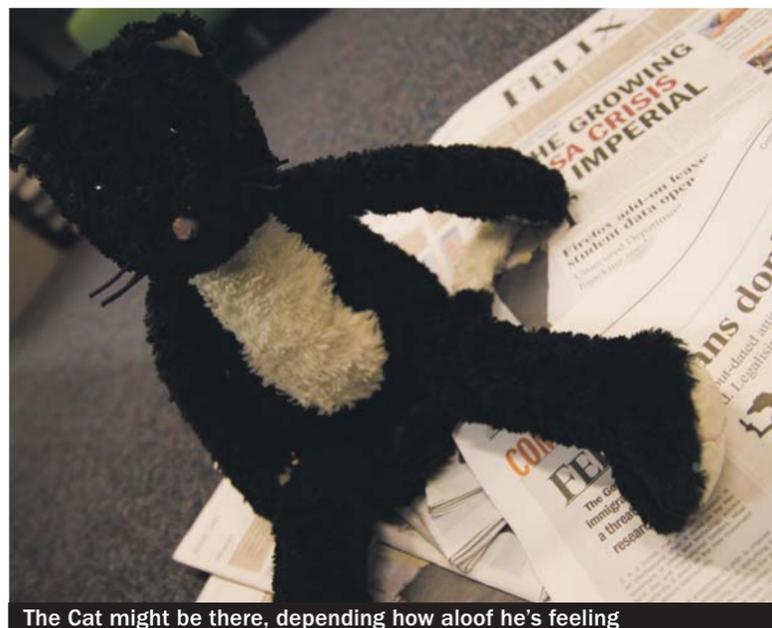
Imperial Physics graduate Gareth Davies returns to Imperial to launch his debut novel, *The Looking Glass Club*. Interestingly, the novel contains a series of cryptic puzzles and Gareth is offering up to a million pounds to the first person that solves all of them. He will offer a free Kindle on the night to the first person to solve the first puzzle. Copies of his book will also be on sale and Gareth will be signing copies.

**Wolfson Lounge, Southside  
18 November 19:00**

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Felix JCR Stall

Every Monday. 12:00-12:30



The Cat might be there, depending how aloof he's feeling

Have you ever read Felix and found an error, mistake or article that you hated (or even enjoyed, God forbid)? Each Monday lunch-time, Felix holds a stall in the Junior Common Room (JCR) to give you the opportunity to speak to the Editor face-to-face. Felix is your student paper and we're open to suggestions, criticism and especially new contributors.

Come say "Hi!" to us on Monday if you have something to get off your chest or if you want to get involved with the newspaper.

The Editor

## Union Meetings

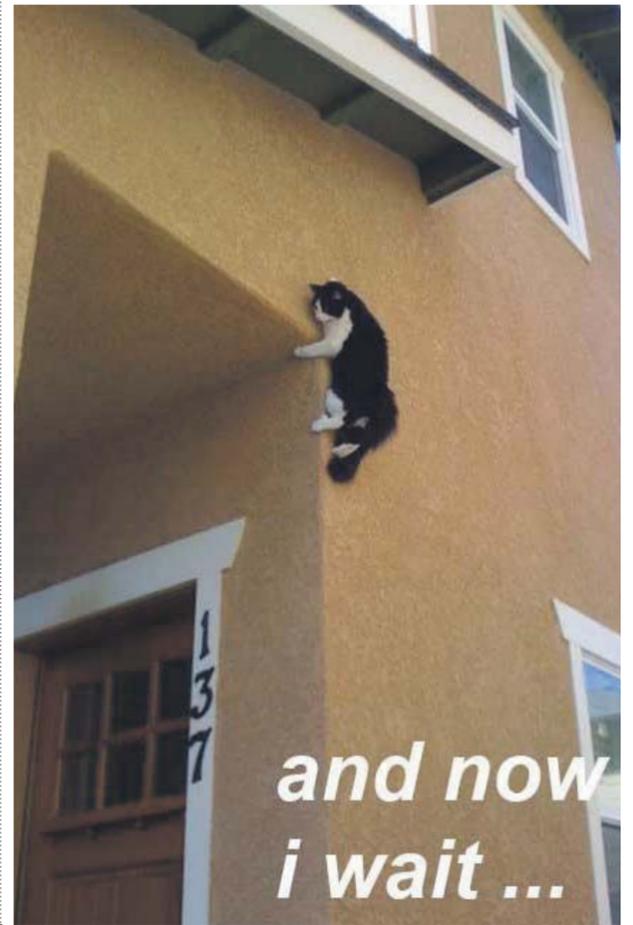
### Council

#### Initiation of Union 5-year strategy consultation process

Union Dining Hall  
15 November 18:30

Union Council, the decision-making body of the Union which is open to all students, meets this Monday in the aftermath of the N.U.S. protest last Wednesday. At the meeting the President will declare the beginning of the formulation process of the Union's 5-year strategy.

## Lolcat of teh week



# FELIX

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**Special thanks to:** Dan Wan, Alex Nowbar, Hannah Thomas, Lizzy Griffiths, Alex Karapetian, Gilead Amit and Polly Bennett for their invaluable help this week.

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# Uncertainty over PhD teaching income

## Union lobby EEE department to ensure that PhD students get fair deal

**Matt Colvin**

Senior figures in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering have begun concerted efforts to ensure that postgraduate students understand the circumstances under which they are paid for teaching duties, introducing a potential new measure to reduce the current bursary and have students explicitly earn their lost money.

As reported by Felix last month, postgraduate students in the department found themselves confused over whether their funding included payment for teaching work, a matter that was further complicated by the various types of bursary available, whether from Imperial College London itself or from outside sources such as the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

A statement was issued last week to all postgraduate students, regardless of funding type, by Director of Postgraduate Studies Dr Patrick Naylor, further clarifying the situation in order to overcome any discrepancies in prior information. The Head of Department, Professor Peter Cheung, had previously admitted to Felix that the postgraduate acceptance letter detailing their requirements for teaching work “wasn’t clear” in communicating the relevant information to students.

The main aim of the new information was the announcement that ‘payment for teaching must be separated from the student stipend explicitly’. The department goes on to explain the two reasons for this; the fact that earnings for teaching must, by law, be paid through the College and that EPSRC stipends should not be used to pay for teaching. It is also stated that these new changes have been retroactively introduced from the beginning of this term.

The funding provided by College will now be ‘split into two elements’. The first is a college bursary which ‘may be adjusted to remove any element implicitly or explicitly associated with teaching’. The second is teaching work, which ‘will be paid through the College’s payroll system at the published hourly rates’.

A meeting was organised last Friday for postgraduate students to voice their opinions on the matter. Imperial College Union President Alex Kendall was also in attendance. He spoke to Felix about the proceedings while also discussing possible plans that the department may implement.

He explained the adjustment to the College bursary; prior to the confusion, around £700 was added onto the normal college-funded stipend of approximately £15,000 to cover the cost of teaching duties. However, the issue was raised that

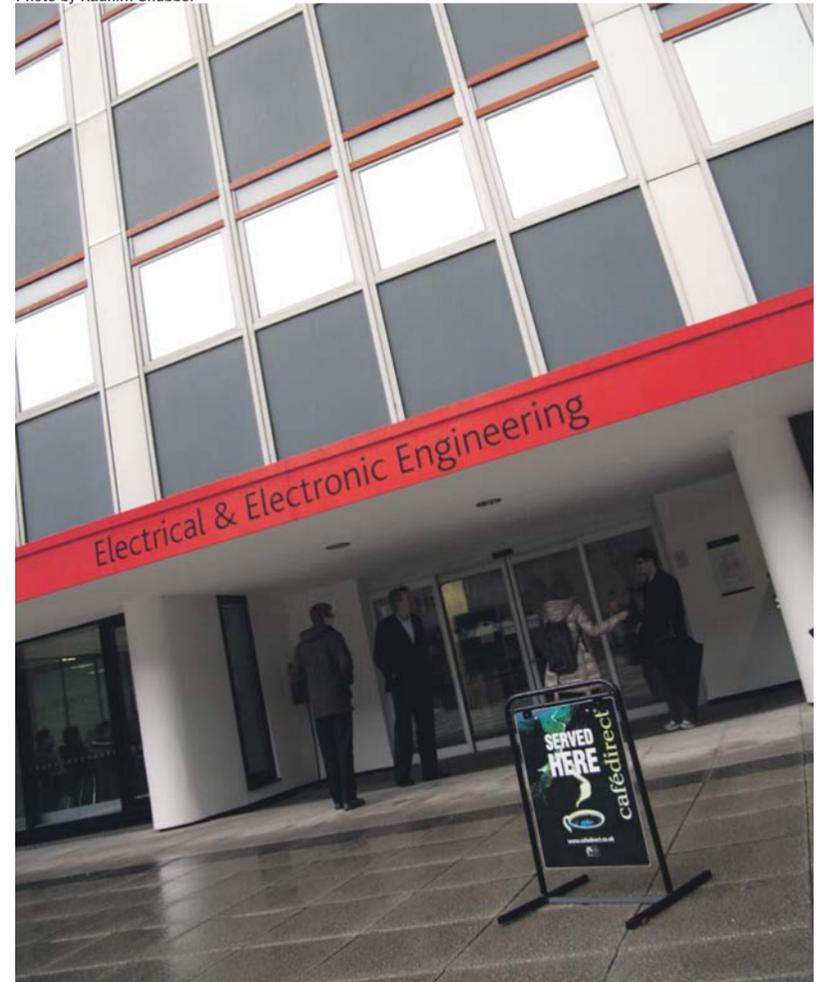
there weren’t enough teaching hours to cover the desired ‘4 hours a week’ for each student to undertake.

Kendall was impressed, however, by some ideas from students in attendance hoping to overcome the issues: “There was a good suggestion put forward by a PhD student that the department should provide an extra £700 to the college-provided bursary. As soon as a student earns more than this £700 through extra teaching, then they would get paid for the extra teaching that they provide. The department went away thinking about the idea. Potentially it’s great for students.”

Students agree, according to Kendall, stating that those present “appeared happy with this idea”. However, any potential introduction of an idea formulated at the meeting may only account for this academic year, with there being a high chance that the additional sum for teaching will then be removed. Students would be paid for any teaching duties they perform through the College’s payroll system.

Staff behind the funding changes have remained tight-lipped over potential future changes, with Dr Naylor stating that he would be “very happy” to discuss what funding will change but not “until we have finished our consultation process and finalised all the details.”

Photo by Kadhim Shubber



## Medic’s University Challenge trials

Imperial medics enjoyed a quiet night on Tuesday, having their University Challenge tryouts in the Reynolds bar. The competition was open to medics and non-medics alike, with about a hundred people competing to represent ICMSU.

The medics enjoy the relaxed atmosphere at the Reynolds, many seeing it as a ‘home away from

home’. As the Hammersmith campus is quite far from the main South Kensington campus, most medics find that they spend their free time socialising at the Reynolds. The recently refurbished bar is aptly decorated with stolen signs from other medical schools to give it a warm and welcoming effect (though whether King’s College share this view is debatable). Although there

was much intra team rivalry, with some even threatening to ‘bludgeon to death’ fellow team members for incorrect answers, all competitors enjoyed themselves while raising a fair amount for RAG Week charities. The winning team, comically named ‘The Vodka Fairies’, will elect four of their group to represent ICMS in the Imperial final. **Zainab Ali**

Photo by Zainab Ali



The winning Medic team will go up against the other faculties on the 22nd of November

## ACC Bar Night brings £1,000 profit

**Matt Colvin**

The first Athletics Club Committee (ACC) Bar Night of the year took place on Wednesday 3rd November, raising over £1000 for various sporting clubs, with the success being hailed as the beginning of “a new age for the Union”.

A turnout of 600 people helped put the newly opened FiveSixEight bar to the test with a record 27 kegs being served in under 2 hours; the fact that there was damage caused to the men’s toilets did not deter attendees from finishing off all of the beer and cider on offer.

The profit made will be recirculated to ACC clubs, which this year have all suffered budget cuts.

ACC Chair, Monya Zard gave her thanks to all the clubs attending and said “we are looking forward to the next event where we can test out the capabili-

**“Hopefully there will be more kegs at the next Bar Night”**

ties of Metric, hopefully there will be even more kegs.”

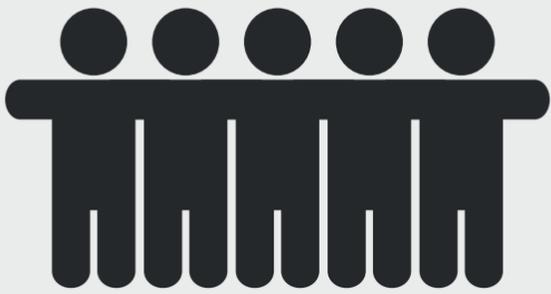
Deputy President (Finance & Services) Ravi Pall was particularly pleased with how the event passed, saying in a blogpost that he was “impressed with the way the ACC conducted themselves on the night, with only a few minor incidents; which is a drastic change to previous years.” He also responded to the overall praise of the lack of queues, claiming that this is “truly a testament to the serving capacity of FiveSixEight.”

The next ACC Bar Night will be held on the 8th December.

## NEWS

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

## University funding



**50,000 students marched peacefully against higher fees and university cuts**

**Government funding for arts and humanities courses is effectively being reduced to zero**



Old cap:  
£3,290

New cap:  
£6,000

Special higher cap for unis that actively encourage poor students: **£9,000**

**To compensate, the cap on tuition fees is being raised, but not abolished as Browne recommended**

**In the new system, the richest 60% will pay more than currently but the poorest 25% will pay less, according to the government**



Graphics by  
Veronika McQuadeova

# 50,000 students march against cuts and higher fees

Union President stays away from protest saying he doesn't believe in its motive

### Kadhim Shubber

50,000 students and lecturers from across the country marched on Parliament on Wednesday in protest of government plans to cut funding to universities and increase tuition fees to anywhere up to £9,000.

The peaceful protest, which was marred by violence at Conservative Headquarters, was acknowledged by government ministers as "just the beginning" of a cuts backlash.

NUS President Aaron Porter said, "this government is abdicating its responsibility to fund the education and skills provision we desperately need just as every other country is investing in its future. We cannot and will not accept that miserable vision for our future".

The government is planning to cut almost entirely the teaching grant for Arts and Humanities courses, while protecting Science, Technology, Engineering and Medical courses like those taught at Imperial.

Almost all London universities were represented at the march, with Imperial being a notable exception. Union President Alex Kendall told Felix, "I did not attend the NUS demonstration... because I do not agree with its motive." He added that "Students need to take

more responsibility for their choice in going to university and realise that if we are the benefit to society that we want to be, we should take an active approach to helping to bring the deficit down."

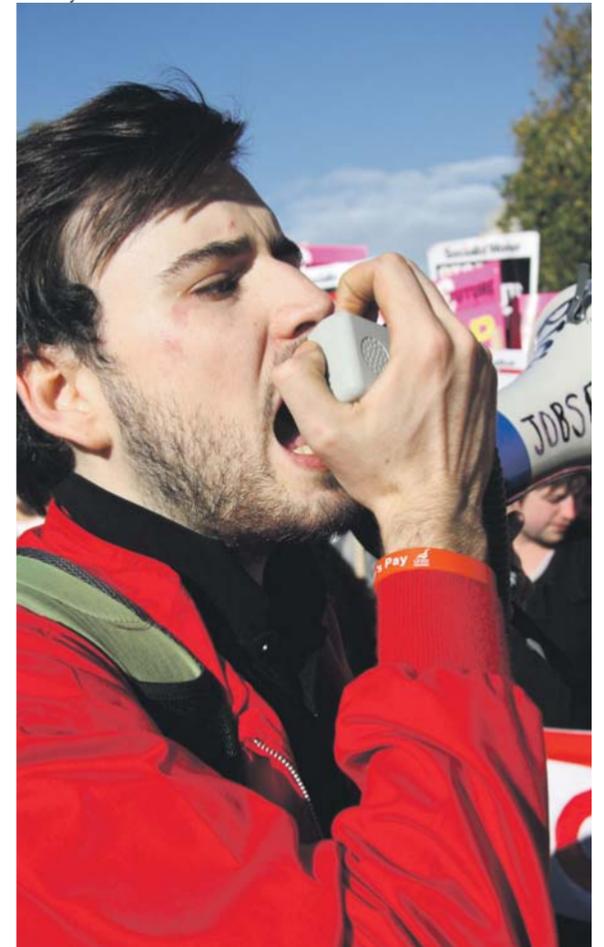
There was violence at the Millbank Building, home to Conservative HQ, caused by a minority of protestors. Around 200 protestors smashed windows and started fires outside the building. The violence has been condemned by student leaders including Aaron Porter and Alex Kendall, as well as the Prime Minister David Cameron who said that there would be no turning back on tuition fees.

Many of the students were marching against the Lib Dem betrayal of their election promise to vote against any increase in tuition fees. The N.U.S. has promised to turf out any Lib Dem MP who breaks their pre-election pledge and Nick Clegg has since expressed his regret in signing the pledge.

The protest has turned up the heat on the Lib Dems and the coalition in general but it remains to be seen whether it will achieve its aim of preventing a tuition fee rise.

Photos of the march: Page 8  
 Editorial: Page 18

Photo by Miles Robertson



## Rector joins London-Brighton Veteran Car Run

Sir Keith O'Nions joined the City and Guilds Constituent Union (CGCU) on the annual London to Brighton Veteran Car Run. They journeyed on 'Bo', the official transport of the CGCU President, a 1902 James & Browne car which is one of only two left in the world. The name 'Bo' is a biblical reference to Boanerges, the sons of thunder.

The London to Brighton Veteran Car Run is a celebration of the relaxation of motoring restrictions in 1896. Prior to that, the law required an escort with a red flag to walk 50m in front of any car.

Photo by Ian Gillett



Do you think these guys are ridin' dirty?

# Volunteer Centre gutted as Outreach takes budget cut

Belt-tightening continues with Outreach and Volunteer Centre the latest victims

Ian Wei  
Katherine Bettany

...Continued from Front Page  
rial College's expertise and resources to provide voluntary activities which offer valuable development opportunities both to the College and the wider community".

Deputy President Heather Jones expressed her sadness at the cut, saying it was a "sad reflection of what the college values." She believed that "they didn't need to fully pass [the government] cut onto the Volunteer Centre". The Outreach Centre, however, made it clear that while they thought the Volunteer Centre was 'very important', the combination of government cuts and reduced College funding to the Outreach department meant that they were unable to save it.

Throughout its history, the Volunteer Centre has received various sources of government funding. Most recently the centre was funded by the Teaching Enhancement and Student Success scheme, TESS, offered by the HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) which has seen its budget cut this year. Imperial Outreach was first made aware of problems with the funding nine months ago, but was only made aware of the scale of the impact of the withdrawal of TESS funding, two weeks ago.

Melanie Thody, Head of the Outreach department, told Felix that she had hoped that she would be able to save the the Volunteer Centre but the reduced funding to her department, compounded by the direct withdrawal of government funding to the Volunteer Centre made it too difficult. The Outreach department is currently 'under review' by the College senior management. Melanie Thody said "like all departments, we have to tighten our belts. It's going to be tough, but other departments are suffering too." This term already has seen the restructure of the Plant Sciences research group and the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMS), which was evicted from its premises at 53 Prince's Gardens. The future of the IMS is still uncertain as concrete plans for its continuation are yet to be released.

Professor Julia Buckingham, Pro Rector, Education and Academic Services, dispelled fears that Outreach services would be affected saying, "It is vital that students with ability feel there are no barriers to them coming to university... While these are difficult times, there is no question of this ethos losing its place as a College priority."

As a result of the cuts to the Volunteer Centre, one member of staff faces the risk of redundancy, though it is hoped that they will be

successfully reassigned to a different part of the college.

Volunteering has always been an integral part of life at Imperial College London. With so many diverse schemes being offered through the Outreach centre such as 'the Pimlico Connection', 'Excitec', and many others; it is fair to say that students and staff from Imperial play an important role in the wider community. Volunteering is also beneficial to the volunteers. Employers are finding it increasingly difficult to differentiate between candidates, so as well as gaining valuable experience and learning new skills, students can use volunteering to 'stand out from the crowd'.

It also has a positive impact on students well being; leading to a more enriched experience at university. In a study done on students at various London universities including Imperial by the Volunteer Centre during the academic year 2009/2010, it was found that 56% of students believed that volunteering had increased their "sense of being part of my university", 49% of students felt that volunteering had "benefited their learning in one way or another" and 89% of students felt volunteering "increased their opportunities to meet people from different backgrounds".

Minna Ruohonen, head of the Volunteer Centre, stressed that it was not shutting down completely, but did concede that the brokerage service which is being closed, was "a lot of the main part" of the IVC. She explained that "it's not a complete closure, but it's affecting our services quite dramatically, because we cannot give volunteers direct links to local community projects anymore". Members of the college will still be able to access schemes such as 'IntoUniversity' and 'CV2012', though the majority of the opportunities which the Volunteer Centre offered are now gone.



Minna Ruohonen, head of the Volunteer Centre, said "it has been quite a painful journey to close the brokerage service"

The closure of the service is something that Ruohonen personally finds very emotional. She expressed her sadness at the closure of the centre because "it has been a closure that has really hurt my heart, in that the centre has been something that I personally set up, developed, and was something that I was really passionate about, and I was seeing that it actually served a purpose." She added that "For me and the whole of Outreach, it has been quite painful journey to actually close the brokerage service and go through further redundancy, but I personally hope that people will use the remaining parts of the Volunteer Centre, and continue volunteering one way or another."

As part of the brokerage service the Volunteer Centre provided an online search engine that volunteers could use to search and apply for volunteering opportunities. With options to filter projects by preferences, time commitment, skills, and over 100 projects to search from since it was last updated; the brokerage service had been an invaluable part of volunteering at Imperial. This is especially true for international students who have just arrived in the UK and know little about the infrastructure and necessary steps needed to start volunteering in the UK. The service will continue to be available until the 22nd of November.

The College expressed its regret at the loss of the Volunteer Centre's brokerage service but said that it was forced to review its activities as a result of the "significant financial challenges which are having a direct impact on every university in England."

Ruohonen highlighted the effects that the closure will have on volunteers who are international student, explaining "I think it will now be much more difficult for international students to find those projects, especially in their first year. I believe this will directly influence their student experience and their whole studying experience, because if you have a lot of extra-curricular activities, and enjoy it as well, it then affects your studies, because you are happy." International student Nina Hartwich, explained that "the service provided by the Volunteer Centre was very useful and helped me to start volunteering in a country and city that was new for me."

Students and staff across Imperial will be deeply affected by the closure. Deputy President Heather Jones said "we won't be able to plug the gap [left by the Volunteer Centre]. Our students are highly skilled and it's very sad for students and volunteer organisations that they won't be able to volunteer those skills like before". With the Volunteer Centre prophesising that "it is going to be more difficult for volunteers to find volunteering

## The cuts so far

### Life Sciences

The Life Sciences department instigated a restructure that saw several units, including Plant Sciences, merged into one Integrative Cell Biology unit. The Union launched a campaign to stop what they termed the "end of Plant Sciences" at Imperial, which the department denied. It is not yet known what the full impact of the restructure will be.

### Institute of Mathematical Sciences

The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, like the Life Sciences department is being 'restructured'. It has been removed from its premises at 53 Prince's Gardens but no alternative model for its continuation has been released yet.

opportunities", it is clear that the number of volunteers will dwindle.

A College spokesperson said that they are "exploring alternative ways for partners to access those staff and students who wish to volunteer with community organisations," and recommended the Volunteer Centre Westminster <http://www.volunteer.co.uk/> and the Volunteer Centre Chelsea and Kensington. They went on to say, "the College remains committed to supporting volunteering as a matter of policy, with almost 250 staff and students currently registered as volunteers who are actively volunteering their time this academic year".

The Volunteer Centre is not the first victim of the fiscal contraction going on at Imperial. This year alone the Life Sciences department have had to make difficult decisions and the Institute of Mathematical Sciences faces an uncertain future after being booted from their building. In recent years we have also seen the closure of some of the Humanities Department's services. It is obvious that we will see similar closures and departments 'under review' in the coming academic year.

LIVE PERFORMANCES FROM

CITADELS  
STEVE APPLETON  
MISSING ANDY  
ROBOTS IN DISGUISE  
DJ ELLES  
MISS PINK

# metric

## GRAND OPENING

20 November 2010 20:00 - 03:00

£5 in advance £7 on the door

buy your tickets online now at

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

**LiMITS**  
yourlimits.co.uk

imperial  
college  
union

## INTERVIEW

A grainy picture pops up in front of me. It's an unimpressive sight. On the right of the picture a simple question pops up, "Is the galaxy simply smooth and rounded, with no sign of a disk?" I'm given 3 options; I click the one which best suits the blob in front of me. I answer a couple more questions and that's it, I've officially classified a galaxy.

It's simple and requires only a basic amount of decision making; I am in disbelief that people spend hours of their day doing it. However, half an hour later I am still classifying galaxies; moving quickly through the less impressive, blob-like ones in search of the elaborate ones, the beautiful ones, and the weird ones. My essay is going to suffer for the discovery of Galaxy Zoo!

Galaxy Zoo is phenomenally successful. To date it has published over a dozen papers in science journals! The Zooniverse team behind Galaxy Zoo, Moon Zoo, and many more have successfully broken down complex tasks in an engaging format that draws people in and allows them to generate data for scientific research.

I get a chance to talk to Rob Simpson, a member of the Zooniverse team. With a background in astronomy, he tells me how he enjoys being part of a different sort of science, a step away from the normal academic research path, and working in the exciting, growing area of citizen science.

One thing is puzzling me; why do people even give up their time for something they don't even get a credit for? Rob explains that a survey was done of Galaxy Zoo participants and produced results that even he is sceptical of. Out of the various options fellow galaxy classifiers could have picked, the most common one was that they felt like that they are contributing to something. "Hard to believe, but true," Rob tells me with real disbelief in his voice. He explains that, "There is a real gaming aspect [to the different zoos]". It plays on people's hobbies and adds a, perhaps unintentional, competitive twist.

The beauty is that there is real mutual learning; the public gets to explore the different types of galaxies out in the far reaches of space, while the scientists get vital data.

Galaxy Zoo is part of a growing num-

Photo by Tom Welch



## SURFING THE ZOONIVERSE

Lizzie Crouch chats to Rob Simpson and gets addicted to galaxy classification as she tries her hand at citizen science

ber of research projects using volunteers to generate data, known as citizen science. Some people believe that this is just crowd sourcing; an out sourcing of data collection to members of the public. Rob believes that Zooniverse is not as it "tries to engage with people." There are forums where people can discuss their findings. These discussions platforms have even led to new discoveries, such as the intriguingly named Hanny's Voorwerp! This was spotted by a zoo member, Hanny van Arkel, a number of years ago and is now thought to be a portion

of a gas-cloud, heated by the jet from a black hole!

Interesting discussion have arisen from other 'zoos'. Their latest project, Old Weather, asks people to transcribe meticulous weather records from ships log books into databases. Boring? Maybe. But as well as looking at the weather data, people are able to track the journey of the ship around the globe and get to know the daily lives of the sailors on board. In the Old Weather forum people post comments such as, "It all feels like it's happening there and then

when you're working through the logs. It's a nice way of keeping their memories alive." And more touchingly, when people have encountered a death aboard the ship, "Not the kind of thing I want to just ignore - it's like I need to mourn their deaths again for myself."

On the other hand, the forums do give people interested in conspiracy theories a platform to air their views. Although reluctant to give specific details, Rob tells me that people do use moon zoo to search the moon's surface for evidence of a moon base while others scour the skies for evidence of UFOs. None have been found to date.

There is real value in citizen science projects such as these. Firstly the sheer scale of information that can be gathered from the public. Because they have no preconceived ideas about what the galaxies should be, they serve as more objective observers. "People can do things computers can't," Rob explains. In the case of Galaxy Zoo, a computer cannot carry out the same detailed visual identification that a person can. The amount of people carrying out this identification allows an average closer to the true result to be obtained and irons our

"Galaxy Zoo is part of a growing number of research projects using volunteers to generate data, known as citizen science"



## What is Zooniverse?

Big science projects can generate thousands of gigabytes of data per day. For most of these projects computers can process the data and give meaningful results quickly and efficiently.

However for certain data, such as images, humans are just better at spotting certain trends than computers. Zooniverse is a citizen science portal which allows the general public to do these tasks and be part of a real research project, much like 'SETI@home' in the late 1990's.

Current projects which can be accessed from the Zooniverse include the aforementioned 'Galaxy

zoo', 'Old Weather'-a project to recover and analyse weather observations from around the world recorded in log books of Royal Navy members around the time of World War 1,

'Moonzoo'-a project to record craters of the moon in depth from data recorded by a NASA lunar orbiter, and much more.

Zooniverse can be found at [www.zooniverse.org](http://www.zooniverse.org).

any deliberate errors or differences in opinion.

An interesting discussion is about the role of citizen science has recently appeared recently on the blog of Imperial lecturer, Professor Alice Bell. During the course of the discussion Chris Linott wrote that "the broader role of citizen science projects... is to provide examples, places where people can sample being an active participant in science." Does this suggest that citizen science can bridge the gap between scientists and the public, and engage them on a new level? Something to think about!

So what's the future for Galaxy Zoo? Rob's currently working on a project which is a bit of pet of his. When he joined Galaxy Zoo earlier this year he suggested that he might develop a new zoo which plays on his background. Using infrared data from space telescopes participants will be invited to draw where they see bubbles of space dust; work which will be hopefully generate data on how stars form. Sounds intriguing, but in the meantime I am still sat in front of my computer classifying galaxy after galaxy!

## NEWS

STUDENTS  
TAKE TO THE  
STREETS

by John Wheatley

**N**o ifs, no buts, no education cuts." This was the chant carried through London last Wednesday by fifty thousand students and lecturers, in protest against the government's plans to raise the cap on tuition fees to £9,000.

The rally, organised by the National Union of Students and the University and College Union, highlights a major issue facing universities in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Spending cuts to higher education have been introduced to reduce the country's budget deficit. While many students at the protest agreed that spending cuts must be brought in, there was strong opposition to this measure. "Britain's economy is supported by its intellectual reputation," said one student from Cambridge at the demonstration. "The use of tuition fees to cover unnecessary cuts to education is ideologically motivated, not driven by economic need."

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg maintains that the proposed system will be fair to poor and disadvantaged students. "The proposals we have put forward will mean that those who earn the least will pay much less than they do at the moment," he insisted in Parliament on Wednesday.

Bright sunshine provided a fitting backdrop to the mood of excitement which dominated the early part of the day. The protesters' anger was largely muted by a comforting feeling of unity, inspired by the sheer size of the demonstration. Slogans were chanted and placards were brandished, but there was no sign of aggression between police officers and protesters. A few kind protesters even shared their food with policemen. At the Tate Britain, a National Union of Students bus with radio and television equipment blared messages over the crowds with loudspeakers. The messages they played, like the students they were played to, varied greatly in fervency, ideology, and hostility. Yet they were greeted with thunderous chanting from the demonstrators, sharing a united opposition to the government's proposal.

What was almost entirely a peaceful demonstration was marred by violence at the Conservative Party Headquarters at Millbank House. Who the perpetrators were is uncertain, but about 200 people stormed the building, overrunning the small police presence and smashing windows on their way in. At 13:30, ideologues with megaphones campaigned outside the building, shouting, "This is the Tory Headquarters! We must barricade them in their offices, we must blockade them in the streets!" Masked anarchists were seen at the forefront of the attack, and activists handing out anarchist literature were scattered around the area. Police regained control of the building at 17:00, arresting 35. The hostility has provoked firm condemnation from student leaders and students alike, being branded 'despicable', and 'barbaric'.

It was a day of unity for the demonstrators. The future for the next generation of graduates lies shrouded in detail, ideology, economics, and political manoeuvring, but at least one thing is a clear fact: the voices of fifty thousand students came to London in protest. Whether or not they were heard by the government is a question indeed.

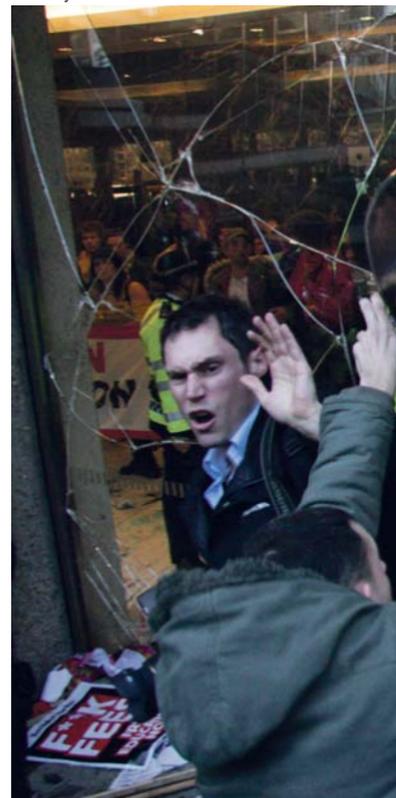
Photo by Miles Robertson



Photo by Miles Robertson



Photo by Miles Robertson



# NEWS

Photo by Miles Robertson



Photo by Marie Chkaiban

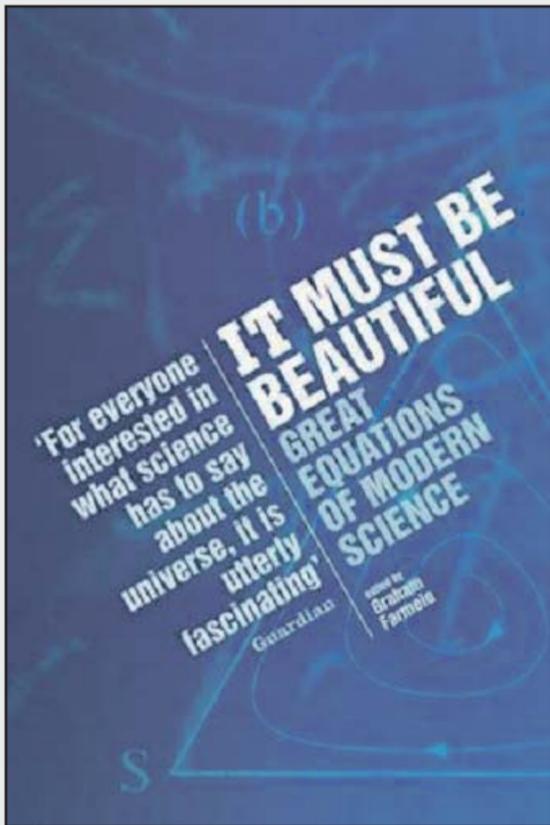


# SCIENCE

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

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

And a few suggestions...



## It Must Be Beautiful

by Various (edited by Graham Farmelo)

This collection of essays is a tribute to mathematics and its equations, with contributions from science writers, historians and scientists. They range from the prolific mathematician, Roger Penrose to Imperial College's very own Professor of Neural Systems Engineering, Igor Aleksander. It reads almost like a biography of mathematics, with historical references and charming anecdotes. The book was put together by Graham Farmelo (author of 'The Strangest Man') and his own essay on the Plank-Einstein equation is a brilliantly concise insight into two of the last century's greatest minds.

There is a personal feel to every essay, with each writer choosing their equations carefully; the writing is passionate and exciting, qualities one would not usually associate with mathematics. This, for me, is the greatest triumph of the book; through its authors, it makes mathematics witty, accessible and altogether more human, providing an excellent read.

Katya-Yani Vyas

## NOTICE

Felix Radio Show!

Every Monday from 7pm, check out the Felix Radio show at icradio.com. You'll get a sneak preview of the week's news and the best tunes from Felix's Music section

# Diabetes: is it too late?

As World Diabetes Day approaches, what can be done?

Jamie Williams

Diabetes mellitus is a devastating metabolic disease that has seen cases in the UK rising 74% from 1997 to 2003 alone. With 4.7% of the UK population suffering with the condition and almost 300 million worldwide, scientists are trying to understand the mechanisms of glucose control and ultimately, what it is that goes wrong. Today brings new challenges as scientists battle with time due to the ever-increasing rate of diagnoses, fuelled by a spiralling obesity epidemic. With World Diabetes Day fast approaching, what better time is there to make a difference?

Diabetes mellitus is a disorder where glucose is not regulated effectively and can be categorised as either type 1 (insulin dependent or early-onset) or type 2 (non-insulin dependent or adult-onset). Type 1 diabetes is caused by insufficient insulin production, whereas type 2 diabetes is caused by insulin resistance, where normal insulin production remains, yet the target organs do not respond to it adequately. Both types lead to dramatic changes in blood glucose levels and other metabolic disturbances, which can eventually lead to blindness, strokes and peripheral vascular disease.

Neither type 1 nor type 2 diabetes has a definitive cause. However, it is thought that type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition; the immune system begins to attack the body's own tissues. Type 2 diabetes is thought to have a genetic cause, with a major breakthrough in the year 2000 leading to the discovery of one of the genes that contributes to the development of the disease.

Obesity and sedentary lifestyles are becoming increasingly common and with harrowing statistics that by 2050 it is predicted that 6 out of 10 of us will be obese (with 3 to 4 out of 10 already there), this is the most likely explanation for the exponential rise of new diagnoses in such a short period of time in recent years.

When the glucose in the blood has been used for respiration, hypoglycaemia may occur. Tiredness and confusion, confounded by irrational behaviour, are key symptoms and ultimately it leads to a coma if left untreated. This is always a medical emergency and can be fatal.

To complicate the lives of diabetics even more, slow-healing sores and repeated skin infections are something they have to become familiar with if their glucose is not well controlled. Excess water excreted in the urine can often leave one dehydrated. This, plus the damage caused to the nervous system by excess glucose in their blood, resulting in reduced perspiration, can lead to extremely dry skin, reducing the defences to outside pathogens. Often, patients may suffer from diseased blood vessels due to impaired circulation, making skin infections harder to treat.

However, there is some hope for those who adjust to this harrowing future. Professor Sir George Alberti, Chair of Diabetes UK and Senior Research Fellow at Imperial College London, told Felix how "new insulins have been developed which are better able to mimic normal insulin secretion... Imperial is at the forefront of efforts to produce... [an] 'artificial pancreas'."

Professor Sir Alberti further adds that ev-

eryone can do their bit to prevent developing diabetes: "Increased physical activity is crucial - it does not need to be marathon running - 30 minutes brisk walking a day will make a difference. Similarly, eating a sensible diet and not becoming overweight is everybody's responsibility".

With all of this taken into account, diabetes can be an extremely scary diagnosis to have to cope with; the worrying, the need to become your own nurse, the pressures of being 'different'. Many individuals will develop diabetes and reach into denial, refusing to accept that they're ill, partly due to doctors not being able to pinpoint an exact cause to every patient, but also due to its intangibility. Some will not realise the severity of their condition until it comes to the removal of their gangrenous limb, whereas others will adapt relatively easily. What is important however, is that we realise the potential consequences and costs to society.

Professor Sir Alberti believes that "if numbers increase on the present trajectory then either treatment and care will become severely substandard or the NHS will be bankrupted. This will have a major impact on society as well as on the individuals affected. This is a bleak prospect and a major effort is needed by individuals, by society and by government to change the nation from an obesogenic environment into one where healthy living is the norm".

Unless action is taken with a big focus on both lifestyle and self-management, incidence will continue to increase over time, predictably faster than the NHS budget. The question is: will we beat the ticking time bomb?

# Deadly bacteria found to kill cancer

Amberley Stephens

With MRSA recently becoming a bigger killer than HIV/AIDS in America, it's no wonder bacteria are often viewed in a bad light. However, an interest is growing in using some bacteria as anticancer agents due to the remarkable tendency of some species to preferentially infect tumour cells over normal tissue, and the multiple ways they can be manipulated to deliver drugs or cause targeted immune responses.

It is still unclear exactly how certain bacteria such as *Salmonella*, *Clostridium* and *E.coli* infect tumour cells. Professor David Holden's research group in the Centre for Molecular Microbiology and Infection at Imperial are researching *Salmonella* pathogenesis. They believe that mammalian cells could be particularly vulnerable to infection at specific stages of their cell cycle - stages that cancer cells have to pass through in order to replicate.

In contrast, *Clostridium* targets tumour cells due to their depleted oxygen levels. Their

spores can circle in the blood stream before proliferating in solid tumours. They don't survive as well in the surrounding healthy tissue, which is oxygen rich.

There are several ways bacteria can be used to target and kill tumour cells, all of which begin with the attenuation of the selected bacteria and removal of toxicity genes. Bacteria can be modified to carry vectors such as genes for the over expression of interleukin - 2. When the bacteria reach the target they are induced to express certain genes due to a change in environmental factors. Interleukin - 2 causes an increase in immune response towards the tumours cells resulting in increased clearance.

Alternatively, engineered bacteria can carry genes encoding enzymes to catalyze prodrugs into active toxic drugs at tumour sites; expression of HSV-thymidine kinase converts ganciclovir into its active toxic drug.

Some of the most potent toxins are produced by bacteria themselves, such as diphtheria toxin and *Pseudomonas* exotoxin. However they are so toxic they can't be let loose around the

body but need to be conjugated to monoclonal antibodies or growth factors targeted to the tumour cells. *Pseudomonas* exotoxin and IL-4 have been fused together as a chimeric fusion protein to target IL-4 receptors, found on brain cancer cells but not normal brain cells. Experiments have shown direct necrosis of these cells and clinical trials are now in place.

There are obviously problems in this emerging area of anticancer therapy. Toxicity of bacteria is always an issue, particularly in the high doses needed to combat cancers. The use of bacteria has much better side effects compared to usual anticancer drugs which elicit strong emetic effects and the most obvious, loss of hair. However bacteria are most likely to be used in conjugation with anticancer drugs due to the current therapies being unable to destroy the whole of the cancerous cell.

Although there are many issues with this area of anticancer therapy hopefully it will yield a new weapon to fight against cancer with fewer side effects that patients experience with current anticancer drugs.

## SCIENCE

# Brain power needed for tools

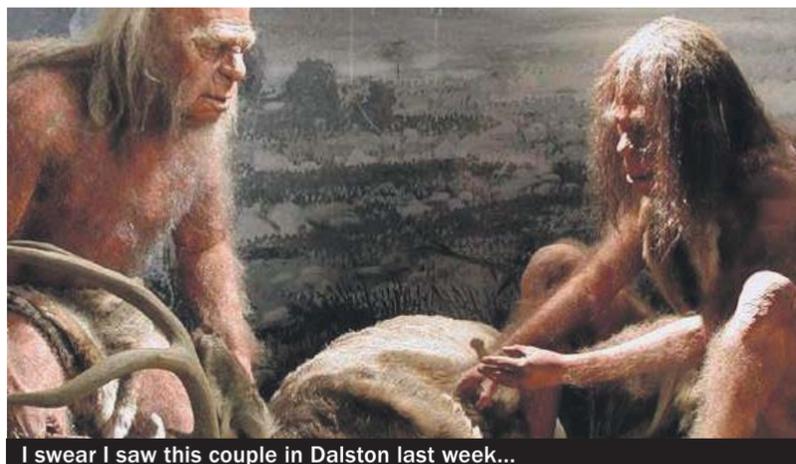
**Polly Bennett**

In a collaborative effort, Imperial researchers have answered the question of how Stone Age man evolved to craft increasingly superior stone tools. Why did it take Lower Paleolithic humans almost two million years to develop the sophisticated hand-held axe from crude razor-sharp stones? Computer modelling and sensor-embedded gloves compared complex hand crafting skills of one early and one late Paleolithic tool-making method to assess any differences in brain activity between the two methods.

The research team, led by Imperial neuroscientist Dr. Aldo Faisal, deduced that manufacturing intentionally shaped axe-tools required higher levels of brain processing and more complex thoughts than shaping sharp stones. This dispels previous theories suggesting that underdeveloped motor skills were responsible for the slow evolution of tool complexity.

The project required the collaborative effort of neuroscientists, archaeologists, anthropologists and craftspeople in order to synthesise theories relating archaeological evidence with potential changes in behaviour and cognition.

The Lower Paleolithic period of the Stone Age accounts for 90% of human prehistory. Around 2.6 million years ago (mya) the earliest stone tools, sharp stone flakes, were bashed from river



I swear I saw this couple in Dalston last week...

cobbles with small rocks. Although this method required reasonably high levels of perception and motor skills, intentionally shaped, superior tools began to appear 1.7mya. This development is thought to be a crucial step in human cognitive evolution as it required more advanced mental and procedural capacities and is considered direct evidence of the evolution of more complex human behaviour.

The research team replicated the art of flintknapping, whereby Conchoidal stones such as flint, chert and obsidian are shaped into tools using hammerstones to detach the lithic flakes from a stone core. They compared the neural bases of crafting early Lower Paleolithic

razor-sharp stones, or Oldowan flakes, and late Lower Paleolithic handaxes with the sensor-embedded data glove, which recorded digit joint angles to compare grip and manipulative complexity of the crafting hand and stone core-holding hand.

Previous research has shown there are differences in brain activity between the two methods, and this project suggests that the differences are due to higher-level behavioural organisation in the brain, rather than poor dexterity. Dr. Faisal puts the findings into context: "The advance from crude stone tools to elegant hand-held axes was a massive technological leap four our early human ancestors. Hand-held axes were a more

**"They deduced that manufacturing shaped axe-tools required higher levels of brain processing"**

useful tool for defence, hunting and routine work."

In addition to primary findings the research suggests a link between language and tool-making activities due to observed neural overlap of these activities in the brain's inferior frontal cortex. This region controls manual grip coordination and the processing of sounds. Earlier research has also identified that later Lower Paleolithic tool-making differed from that in earlier periods by producing additional activity in the right hemisphere of the brain, including a region of the Broca's area. This area is involved in higher-order cognition and processing linguistic context. Taken together these findings suggest a link in evolution between increasingly complex cognitive capabilities and the development of language. Dr. Faisal adds that this "makes the end of the Lower Paleolithic a pivotal time in our history. After this period, early humans left Africa and began to colonise other parts of the world."

# Arthritis drugs help memory loss

**Charlie Harvey**

Drugs used to treat arthritis may help prevent cognitive problems that can occur after surgery, according to new research from Imperial College London and the University of California.

For years, doctors have struggled to explain why some patients experience confusion, learning disorders and memory loss, a condition known as post-operative cognitive decline.

Research from Imperial College has found evidence that the disorder is caused by cytokines, molecules secreted by the immune system that transmit information between cells. Surgery causes

**"...one day we also might be able to use these... [drugs]... as a pre-surgical dose"**

a cascade of immune responses, resulting in the increased production of cytokines.

Drugs that target the activity of cytokines are widely used to treat inflammatory diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, and are known to be very effective in humans.

"This study suggests that one day we also might be able to use these therapies as a single, pre-surgical dose to prevent cognitive decline in susceptible patients," said Mervyn Mave, the senior author of the study and Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Care at the University of California.

Professor Mave and his team gave a single copy of an anti-cytokine antibody to mice before surgically operating on them. The treatment significantly decreased blood levels of a cytokine called interleukin-1 beta (IL-1 $\beta$ ), limiting inflammation in the brain and prevented the mice from showing signs of cognitive decline.

"This is an important observation, as it demonstrates that cytokines are potential therapeutic targets in a wider range of diseases, not just autoimmune disease and cancer for which they are known targets," said Professor Feldmann, Head of the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology at Imperial College London.

It is hoped that these findings, published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, could lead to human clinical trials within a year.

# Cosmic zoom lenses magnify galaxies

**Melissa Lever**

The detection of gravitational lenses, which are essentially magnifying glasses of a cosmic scale, is harder than you would think. The identification process has hitherto been time-intensive, but a new technique developed in part by researchers at Imperial has proved hugely successful. Experiments at the Hershel Space Observatory detected the bright infra-red light signals irradiated by dusty star-forming galaxies that had been gravitationally lensed. The location of the nearby galaxy acting as the lens could then be narrowed down. This targeted search is far more effective than performing a blind search across the cosmos, as previously done.

But what exactly are gravitational lenses and how do they work? The theory behind them (like a lot of phenomena in modern physics) harks back to Einstein, who showed almost a century ago

with his theory of General Relativity that mass causes a curvature in space-time. The warped space-time will cause everything – even light – to bend around the mass, and this effect is intensified when light passes something as massive as a galaxy. This is where the idea of a 'lens' comes in to play; light from distant objects can be distorted by the gravity from a nearby mass in a way that can increase the angular size and brightness of the object and even cause multiple images of the object to form. Gravitational lensing can be exploited in the study of high-redshift galaxy structures, since scales can be probed beyond those accessible by the largest telescopes in existence.

Gravitational lenses allow far away galaxies to be seen as if they were nearby; some of the lensed galaxies detected by the Hershel Observatory are so distant that they are seen as they were when the Universe was a tender age of



Gravitational lensing can allow scientists to magnify distant galaxies

2-4 billion years - less than a third of its current age. By peering back in time into the early Universe, we can analyse how the building blocks of the Universe have changed since its infancy. Professor Rob Ivison of the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, who was part of the team comments: "This relatively simple technique promises to unlock the secrets of how galaxies like our Milky Way formed and evolved. Not only does the lensing al-

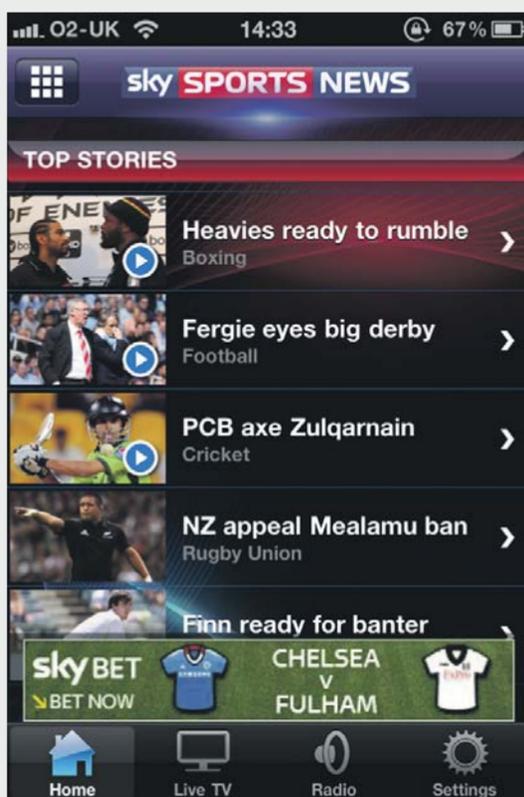
low us to find them very efficiently, but it helps us peer within them to figure out how the individual pieces of the jigsaw came together, back in the mists of time."

Dr Loretta Dunne of Nottingham University adds that once all the experimental data has been obtained, "we can probe the early Universe on the same physical scales as we can in galaxies next door."

# TECHNOLOGY

## Free App of the Week

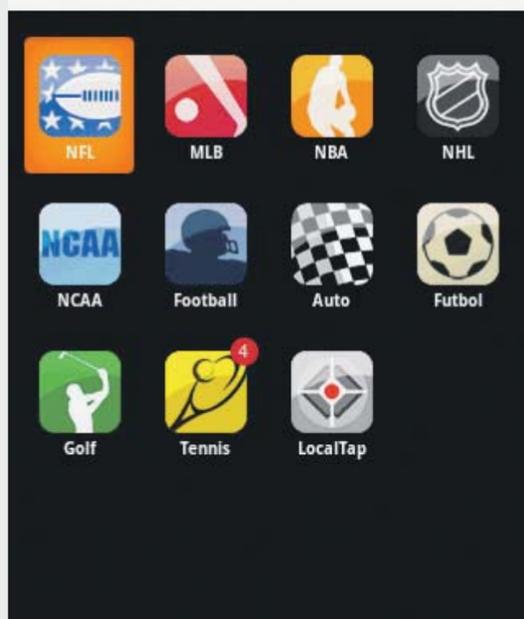
### iOS - Sky Sports News for iPhone



Whatever sport you follow, Sky Sports News has you covered. Quickly look up the latest news and scores from around the world, right from your iPhone.

### Android - SportsTap for Android

**sportstap**  
the ultimate mobile sports portal



It may have a dodgy name for football, but it's better than soccer I guess. Simple, fast and all the scores at the tap of a finger.

# SkyFire = iPhone + Flash

## Want to watch Flash video on your iPhone even though Jobs doesn't want you to? Get yourself SkyFire browser

**Chris Fonseca**

It's no secret that Apple isn't the biggest fan of Adobe's Flash. One of the big criticisms of the iPhone is its inability to display Flash content, which upon the device's release, made up a huge portion of the internet's streaming videos and games.

This inspired Steve Jobs to write an open letter back in April, criticising the technology on multiple fronts, including: openness, size, reliability, power consumption and development. One can only assume that lost somewhere in the first draft of this letter was a reference to Flash's mother, possibly linked to some remark about obesity, perhaps having her own postcode.

As well as irritating Adobe, whose CEO Shantanu Narayen later announced the company had "moved on" from iOS development, it extinguished any hope left in iPhone owners that they will ever get to watch Megavideo or play Miniclip games on their pocket pal of choice.

Then along came Skyfire, an alternative mobile browser choice with a twist, previously only available on the Android platform. Skyfire's brand new iOS app finally brought Flash video to the iPhone (without having to go the jailbreak route). This feat of Apple defiance is achieved by transcoding the video into Apple-friendly HTML5 wrapped H.264 on their own servers, before streaming it to users. On top of this killer feature is a fully functioning mobile browser built on top of the Webkit

underpinnings that powers Mobile Safari, maintaining most of the capabilities seen in the built-in iOS browser, but adding things like: private browsing (porn mode, if you will), a related pages explorer and fast access to Facebook.

As one can imagine, it has been a huge success. Just hours after its US release the app shot to number one in the iTunes app charts and had to be pulled by Skyfire as their servers were crippled by the sudden onset of iPhone users. Early downloaders who have given it a try seem to be happy with the product. Flash is a bit slow to load as the servers do their converting, but the content is delivered with a decent quality. One drawback is that the HTML5 video returned to the user does not allow scrolling to a specific point in time in the video, nor can it implement the "skip ad" features that some sites offer.

It's also important to note that this technology does not work with Flash games, so procrastinating in lectures will still be best done with apps or laptops.

At the time of writing, the app remains pulled from the app store, but will slowly be re-released in the US to be sold in 'batches' and expanded globally as Skyfire reinforces their servers to deal with us demanding iPhone users. While it's not in Apple's nature to change their principles when it comes to user-interface and how that interacts with features, this app makes one thing tremendously clear: iOS users want Flash!



# Behold: The PlayStation Phone is real!

## Engadget stake reputation on Sony scoop

**Craig Buchanan**

The first mention of a mythical PlayStation phone was over four years ago in September 2006 on several gadget rumour websites. Recently Engadget, arguably the largest gadget blog in the world, has staked their reputation on the fact that the fabled device exists -- sharing specifications and a series of photographs of an Android based smartphone with a custom Sony Marketplace for games. When Engadget says something exists, it definitely exists.

Sony's attempt at bridging the gap between a games console and a phone appears to be a direct response to the handheld gaming threat posed by the iPhone, and to an extent the iPod touch, with the touch screen interface, accelerometer gaming controls and wide range of cheap downloadable games in the

App Store.

Now the Playstation phone appears to be real, with Sony Computer Entertainment Europe quickly retracting a statement by an employee that the phone is a 'fake' and instead stating that they 'do not comment on speculation'.

The rumours predict a 1GHz processor, 512MB of RAM, 1GB of ROM, a 3.7"-4.1" screen size and perhaps most surprisingly, a MicroSD card slot in lieu of its proprietary and more expensive M2 or MemoryStick Duo slot. Prices are not known, although it can be expected to undercut the iPhone and compete with existing Android smartphones.

The phone will likely be available in the first half of 2011. This is of course all rumour at the moment, until it is officially announced and in the hands of reviewers everywhere!



## TECHNOLOGY

# LTE to the Party. UK lags behind on 4G

It's almost 2011 already. Where's my super fast 4G?! Jake Lea-Wilson investigates

**W**e've been stuck with 3G (Third Generation) networks in the UK since March 2003. Technology has moved on significantly in the last seven years, but unfortunately we have not. The USA, Japan and most of Europe have already signed deals and are set to have the next generation of mobile networks operational in under 12 months. In fact in Germany and India, we've already seen the government auction off the frequencies that are required to broadcast these networks to cellular providers. In short, we're well behind the game.

Our current top speed on British networks is around 3Mb/s, and this has only really been taken advantage of in the past few years, since the introduction of the iPhone and similar high-end smartphones. We've become a dependent nation and the demand for high-speed data is growing by the day. 4G LTE (Long Term Evolution) is a dynamic new network that promises to give us download speeds of up to 300 Mb/s. Make no mistake, this is going to have a huge impact on our daily lives; we'll no longer need to find a computer

terminal to watch video news, films and catch-up TV. We'll be truly mobile, with some saying that all our data will be stored remotely in the cloud and accessed with ease from anywhere. We'll have a door to every song, book, and film ever recorded within seconds and in high definition. Not to mention the impact it's likely to have on mobile gaming. It's also expected to make broadband and traditional broadcast TV defunct, as we'll have quicker-than-broadband speeds everywhere we go. The face of the television industry could change dramatically moving to a model more closely resembling the BBC iPlayer and the Sky equivalent.

Why are we behind in these high tech-

**“Why are we so far behind these fast-moving times? It's down to the launch of the last networks back in 2003.”**

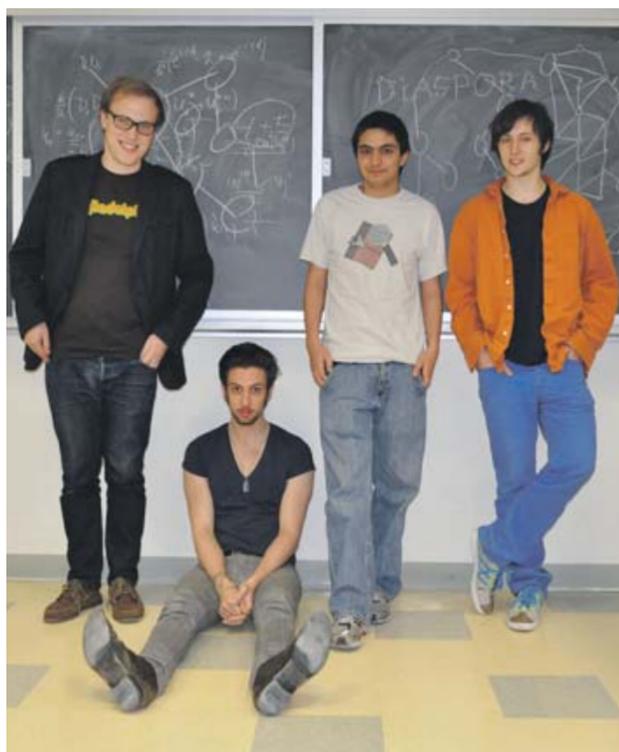
nology, fast-moving times? It's down to the launch of the last networks back in 2003. There was such a hype surrounding the new networks that the mobile providers overpaid for the frequencies, losing a large amount of money in the gamble. Remember those annoying Three adverts for video calling? It never really caught on because the technology didn't deliver. We all marvelled at our friends' phones showing pixelated, blurred faces moving on small screens, sounding like a cross between a tin helicopter and a gale-force wind. It didn't work over 3G, this is why the latest iPhone only offers video calling through WiFi. The government auctioned five different frequencies back then, for a total amount of over £22bn. It was a staggering price and it doesn't compare at all to the new 4G LTE networks that are going for around £4bn in India.

Let's hope that the government and mobile operators can start to work together and not against each other. We need to avoid a similar situation to 10 years ago, where markets were grossly misjudged. We've got the technology, there's a proven demand, so why not get the supply and we can start watching HD TV ubiquitously.



# Diaspora: social without the invasion

The privacy aware, personally controlled, do-it-all, open source social network



## Anastasia Eleftheriou

Diaspora is an open source social network built by four students at NYU's Courant Institute; Daniel Grippi, Maxwell Salzberg, Raphael Sofer, and Ilya Zhitomirskiy.

They had been inspired by a talk about freedom and ownership online, by Eben Moglen, and focussed by the fact that the large social networks require us to sacrifice lots of our privacy for features that aren't anything special. The project was published using Kickstarter, a funding platform for creative projects, in April 2010, with the team attempting to raise \$10,000 by the 1st of June in order to begin work on it.

The four students persuaded more than 6000 people to contribute money to the project, making it the largest Kickstarter project ever, and managed to collect well over \$200,000. This outpouring of funding instilled them with a strong motivation to get their idea off the ground and available to all.

The four Diaspora creators believe that privacy and social connectivity do not have to be mutually exclusive. The system they created

allows users to create their own, personally hosted versions of Diaspora, called seeds, providing greater control of your information.

As Maxwell explains it: "Diaspora will give to every single person in the entire world the opportunity to install their own node within the network. This node is fully controlled by you. You can share and pass all the information you want. It's completely yours and you can extend it in whatever you want to."

A developer edition has already been released on GitHub, implementing many features. For Diaspora users, all traffic is signed and encrypted (except photos, for now), unlike Facebook and its HTTP issues. A seed connects to other services such as Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and pulls information back to the local host.

At the moment Diaspora has all the features of a basic social network, although it lacks the level of interactivity of Facebook. Users can share status messages and photos publicly and privately, upload photo albums, add and manage friends across the Internet, no matter where their Diaspora seed is located. The really interesting thing is that it's possible to customize

your seed's appearance and add new services and features, as the platform is open-source. For the developers amongst us, it is programmed using Ruby on Rails, MongoDB/MongoMapper, and GPG with full keychain support.

But the development team promises more to its users. In the near future, their plan is to implement data portability, which it will give users the ability to move their accounts to new seeds and notify all of their friends about the change. Furthermore, they want to use the browser's language header to internationalise Diaspora, so it can be easily used in many languages. Plus an undo button (something akin to gmail's undo send), private messaging, events and photo tagging are also in the todo list. Diaspora certainly shows promise, but like most open-source things, could stray into the geek-only, mainstream shunning side of technical know-how. If Diaspora is to succeed as Facebook has, it has to cater to the lowest common denominator, including the Internet-challenged.

Anyone who wants to learn more about Diaspora can follow it on twitter, Facebook, or head on over [www.joindiaspora.com](http://www.joindiaspora.com).

# BUSINESS

## News Summary

### House prices reach 18 month low

House prices have declined at the fastest rate for eighteen months. The House Price Index compiled by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is down to -49 in the three months leading to October. This is significantly worse than any analyst's expectations.

The reason for the drop is a significant decrease in activity in the mortgage sector and a lack of consumer confidence derived from the uncertain economic outlook. Mortgage approval has also taken a significant tumble, as fears of the austerity measures are starting to come into play.

### UK financials doing well in China

Prime Minister David Cameron has managed to secure preferential treatment for UK financial firms in China, in lieu of American firms. This was achieved during Cameron's visit to China in an attempt to sign trade deals and agreements. David Cameron has taken with him the largest business delegation to date.

George Osborne, says that China finds it easier to do business with the UK than the US. Cameron stated that this deal will expand the economic relationship with China. Britain has also agreed to make plans to allow some Chinese companies to be listed on the UK stock market. This comes as news that some UK firms will help China develop its bond markets.

### Ron Paul elected to oversee Fed

Ron Paul has been elected to chair the Financial Services Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy.

This body is a supervisory one that has jurisdiction to oversee any activities related to US monetary policy and the agencies that affect it, directly or indirectly. It is also a subcommittee that will allow Paul to oversee the activities of the US central bank, the Federal Reserve. This has been described by pundits as the "perfect role" for Ron Paul.

## Write for Business

Are you interested in business, finance or the economy? Want to write for Felix's Business section? We'd love to hear from you. Email us at [business.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:business.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# Imperial needs to start

## Changes to university funding require Imperial to act fast

Afonso Campos

Imperial College has long wished and pledged to be among the world's elite of academia, continuously making the assertion that it can stack up proudly against the financial mammoths that are the top American universities, Oxford and Cambridge. Its literature certainly highlights the College's prominent and ubiquitous presence in national and international rankings of universities. Already on-going is a race to the top, and with the myriad of proposed changes to universities' funding models, it is bound to become more ferocious.

The contentious Browne Review has once more brought into the spotlight the longstanding and polarising issue of higher education funding. The fact that it was even commissioned in the first place highlights the very grave status of university funding, especially in these difficult financial times, in which austerity is the mot-du-jour. Despite loud protests by many, there is a growing sentiment that students need to start taking more financial responsibility for their education and the value they attach to it. There seems to be an increased understanding that those who benefit most from their degrees should be sharing the financial burden of undertaking them with the rest of the taxpaying population.

While the news of a potential tripling of fees have galvanised many to take to the streets in protest, the Imperial College Union Council has recently passed a policy that supports the broad

## We need to feel like we belong

Afonso Campos

It is hard to argue that Imperial is not one of the world's best universities; after all, several independent and disconnected rankings tend to place it consistently in the top 10. With impending changes to higher education funding, it is imperative that Imperial significantly engorges its endowment if it is to maintain this standing and keep pace in an increasingly competitive market for talent



Yale University has one of the largest endowments in the world. It is around \$16bn

## "Imperial has raised £4m in alumni donations since 2003; equivalent to just 1.6% of what Cambridge managed to collect"

recommendations of the Browne review, although it did highlight some of its drawbacks. The Union is not alone in recognising the difficulties that lay ahead. The College has officially acknowledged that "storm clouds are gathering" and that there has been a "grow-

ing concern" regarding the "inevitability of reductions in public spending".

When the College's latest financial statement (2008/2009) went to press, close to half of Imperial's total income appears to be originated from pure-play government sources with the income derived from endowment investment coming to a mere 2% of the total. This is very different to the way Cambridge operates, where over 80% of its total income is made up of its endowment.

Endowments have not traditionally been relied upon by most UK universities as public institutions, since much of

and high calibre students. In order to do so, Imperial faces enormous obstacles, some of which will be nigh on impossible to overcome.

A system heavily reliant on alumni donations is not one that can be institutionalised overnight. The reasons American universities are able to raise such exorbitant amounts is because there is a culture of giving back to your alma mater. The student experience in the UK is, with perhaps the exception of a few universities, wildly different from the campus-based experience American universities are able to provide. In order to breed a culture where alumni donate regularly to Imperial, it must invest heavily and continuously in student life, fostering a sense of belonging to something great, in the true sense of the word. This exer-

cise is likely to take decades, if it can be achieved at all.

What may work in the College's favour is how surprisingly well it held up during the financial crisis, securing an increase in total funding when most universities suffered a dramatic loss. This is proving to be a real testament to the soundness of its investment policies and of Martin Knight's judgement in his role as Chief Operating Officer. Alumni are likely to be encouraged by such stellar performance.

While it is without a doubt a colossal task, Imperial has the clout, talent and ability to make at least some headway in significantly increasing its endowment, thus securing a future that is free from government intervention.

A new drive for donations needs to be of unprecedented proportions.

# BUSINESS

## ...t raising serious money



their income comes from public bodies. In the United States, most of the top institutions are completely private and independent institutions that have zero need for the federal government, and are therefore exclusively reliant on their endowments and by default, their alumni. The Adam Smith Institute has advocated that universities should move towards an endowment-based model, presumably in order to downplay the financial sensitivity of institutions' income to government changes.

Regardless of the funding model each university chooses to adopt, what

genuinely matters is their total income. A higher total income is a catalyst that stimulates better research, affords better facilities, captures more talented staff, and chiefly, it ensures an institution is able to offer need-blind financial assistance in the form of merit scholarships and income-assessed bursaries, guaranteeing that anyone who is academically capable of attending the institution is able to do so without the fear of insurmountable debt.

Imperial College's total funding, is about £780 million which includes its small endowment of £56 million. Bar-

ring University College London, this is by far the smallest sum of any university in the World Top 10 as ranked by the Times Higher Education Supplement. Were there an award for the world's most prosperous university, Harvard would be the reigning champion with an endowment worth an estimated £17bn, while in the UK, Cambridge would take this prize with total funding totalling circa £5bn. Imperial's US equivalent, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology rakes in close to £7bn. This begs the question of competitiveness in the academic market-place to be raised. With vastly inferior sums of money, how can Imperial compete in attracting the foremost academics, and ensuring it is the choice of the brightest students worldwide?

It is no doubt that universities have found the urgent need to become more and more self-sufficient. The University of Cambridge was the first institution outside the USA to raise over £1bn from donations. The drive that was started in 2005 was completed two years ahead of schedule, partly thanks to donations from over 45,000 alumni. Not to be outdone by its archrival, Oxford University is trading similar waters and recently launched a bid to raise £1.25bn. In stark contrast, Imperial has raised £4m in alumni donations since 2003; equivalent to just 1.6% of what Cambridge managed to collect. Clearly, Imperial needs to do something. While a drive on the scale of Oxbridge could prove to be somewhat megalomaniac and potentially unachievable, Imperial needs to do something significant. The University of Bristol has recently commenced a drive to raise £100million from its alumni, something the College could emulate.

While mostly desirable, this self-sufficiency does have its drawbacks. Harvard and Yale were deeply invested in the fi-

ancial markets and were keen investors in hedge funds and private equity funds alike. During the turbulence of financial markets during the crisis, Harvard and Yale's endowments suffered a tremendous blow, losing roughly 30% each for the 2008/2009 financial year, bringing them to a still impressive \$26bn and \$16bn, respectively. While American universities with smaller endowments saw a decrease in their total value, this was curbed by the fact that, proportionally, they held more cash than their Harvard and Yale counterparts. Imperial fared relatively well during this period, in both comparative and absolute terms seeing a growth of 11% in total income.

Imperial seems to be keenly aware of its financial shortcomings. The College has admitted in its financial report that it "has insufficient endowments on which it can rely to provide the necessary independence from external funding support". It has also stated that there is a risk that it "will not be able to compete in the world's premier league", and that to do so would require an endowment "equivalent to other world-class universities". It has also alluded to the possibility of a change in the makeup of the student body as it recently vowed to "keep under review the profile of the student body in the light of the need for financial sustainability".

Imperial must challenge the way in which it has operated in the past and shift away from relying on fees to fund a significant portion of its operating costs.

Self-awareness seems to be Imperial's virtue here. If the College steps up and puts on a stellar funding drive, its chances of getting to the end of the race unscathed and maintaining a place amongst the academic elite will be greatly increased.

### How does Yale do it?

The Yale University Investments office is responsible for managing its multi-billion dollar endowment. It is recognised world over as the bastion by which all other universities with large endowments should be guided. Up until the financial crisis, Yale was achieving yearly double digit returns on its investments for decades.

David Swensen, the University's Chief Investment Officer is considered by many as something of an investment guru and one of the world's pioneers in applications of the Nobel Prize winning Modern Portfolio Theory. He has also penned an extremely well received book on institutional investment management and is an advisor to Obama's administration and its Economic Recovery Advisory board.

Several prominent endowment managers have passed through the Yale Investment Office. Alumni of the office include Jane Mendillo of Harvard, Seth Alexander of MIT and Andrew Golden of Princeton, among many others. Swensen and his office have also acted as advisors for many other endowment managers, including the University of Cambridge.

Yale does not achieve its extraordinary returns by simply following conventional market wisdom. Instead, Swensen is a master when it comes to shying away from financial products and asset classes that are characterised by high levels of liquidity and traditional lower returns like commodities and bonds of both the corporate and government variety.

In his search for alpha, that is, supernormal market returns, Swensen is instead heavily focused on alternative investments like Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds as well as less traditional equities.

Due to its wild success, the Yale Model has come to be known as the Stanford "Endowment Model". Unfortunately, however, this kind of strategy is not at every investment manager's disposal given the high assets under management necessary for its implementation.

Graphics by Veronica McQuadeova



# POLITICS

## The world beyond College walls



### Burma (Myanmar)

Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has said that she will not accept any condition on her release.

Her latest house arrest term is set to expire this Saturday 13th. It comes after the military-backed political party claimed victory in Myanmar's first election in 20 years which most Western observers said was neither free nor fair. However, China has called the election peaceful and successful. Releasing Suu Kyi carries risks for the military junta, but not freeing her would disappoint Myanmar's ASEAN partners, some of whom are frustrated with the Western criticism it draws to their region as the bloc strives to build economic ties.



### Iraq

A series of bombings and mortar attacks targeting Christian areas has killed at least three people in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, according to the Iraqi officials.

The attacks come days after militants seized a Catholic cathedral killing 70. Interior Ministry sources have said that the two attacks were linked.

A group with links to al-Qaeda has claimed responsibility for the attack on the cathedral. Al Qaeda has announced that all Middle Eastern Christians are legitimate targets after their demands for the release of prisoners went unheeded by the Iraqi and Egyptian Governments.



### Haiti

The Haitian Government has confirmed an outbreak of cholera in the capital Port-au-Prince.

73 people have been treated so far amidst fears that an outbreak could spread throughout the capital after Hurricane Tomas battered the Caribbean nation causing flooding and sanitation problems. Up to 2.5 million people could be affected in the area around the Haitian capital if more outbreaks are confirmed. Most residents of Port-au-Prince live in the slums and tents which surround the city and most have no access to clean water.

Edited by Kenneth Lee

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# Forza Berlusconi! At least he's living *La Dolce Vita*

Italy may be a ship full of holes but it refuses to sink and there's no better captain than Silvio, argues Charles Betts

Silvio Berlusconi is, in his own words, "the best political leader in Europe and the world." To most foreign commentators, however, he is at best a carefree, flamboyant playboy who likes to throw sexy parties at his Sardinian Villa. He makes Hugh Hefner seem an amateur, and Bill Clinton a choir boy. At worst, he is accused of being a supremely corrupt businessman, with excessive control over the nation's media, alleged links to the mafia, and a predisposition for bribery and fraud. Defending this ex-cruise ship crooner might therefore seem as difficult as supporting the intentions of a charming spotty-faced, white tracksuit-laden youth who likes to loiter around bus stops at three in the morning. But there are arguments in favour of the Italian Prime Minister, and they merit attention, starting with his gaffes and highly charged libido.

Berlusconi is often ridiculed in the media for his outlandish remarks and apparent inability to control his more basic instincts. Last week, he managed to combine both by intervening in the release of a 17 year old belly dancer who attended parties at his house and stating in the process that it is "better to like beautiful girls than to be gay." But a wavering eye towards the opposite sex does not necessarily have any direct bearing on a person's ability to be competent in the work place. Bill Clinton's adventures with Monika Lewinsky did not stop him from leaving office with the highest approval rating of any US president since the 2nd World War, and did not detract from his role in supervising the longest period of peace-time economic growth in US history.

That Berlusconi likes to provoke the media with regular witticisms should, in principle, also be irrelevant to his ability to address the nation's concerns. Boris Johnson is renowned for his penchant to crack the occasional gag (who can forget his call for the Tories to be the "meat" in the coalition government's sausage), yet since being Mayor of London he has defied the critics who had haughtily predicted that City Hall would collapse into a complete shambles. Berlusconi's policies and legal accusations aside, therefore, his fondness for jokes and fruity girls is irrelevant to his capability to govern Italy. To his critics it is, if anything, a dangerous distraction from the far more serious legal crimes he is charged with. It serves to portray him as a bumbling fool instead of a hardened and ruthless businessman.

Then there is the weakness of the opposition. Berlusconi is the second longest-serving Prime Minister of Italy. He has held the job on three separate occasions: from 1994 to 1995, from 2001 to 2006 and since 2008. Only one Italian government has lasted a full five-year term in the past fifty years, and that is Berlusconi's



"I am the Jesus Christ of politics" - Berlusconi, 2006

from 2001 to 2006. In 2006, he lost the election to Romano Prodi by a whisker – only to see the new government collapse in 2008. The left are not strong enough to fight back. In essence, whatever the pitfalls of Berlusconi, the sad fact is that there is currently no one better to run the country. It is plausible that if he were ousted today, the work he has done to help Italy avoid the credit concerns that have swamped Greece would become undone by the renewed politically unstable climate.

But whether Berlusconi is, in his own immortal words, "the right man in the right job" might just not be the most important thing. Italy is a place where masochistic lamentation is pervasive and Italians fail all too often to recognise the good things Italy has to offer. People may laugh at Italy and its politics, but nothing can

detract from the historical and artistic might of cities such as Florence, Rome, and Venice or the talents of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Galileo Galilei. Nothing can hide the flavour of an Alba truffle, a chunk of *bistecca alla Fiorentina*, or the delectable sip of Napolitan limoncello. Italians like to live well. They are more likely to argue about their gnocchi than their politics. Perhaps Berlusconi has done so well simply because his party is called "*Forza Italia!*" (literally "Come on Italy!"), akin to the chants heard across the country on a Sunday's Serie A match day when the passionate *tifosi* cry out "*Forza Juve!*", "*Forza Inter!*", "*Forza Milan!*" And perhaps they have got the balance right - to quote the illustrious composer Giuseppe Verdi "You may have the universe if I may have Italy."

# The incredible Dr Kim

From death row to founder of North Korea's first independent university, Dr James Kim's story is told by Lord David Alton, in the second part of this exclusive series

It's hard not to be captivated by Korean culture, dignity, and manners. They are a deeply civilized and hospitable people who have suffered grievously: tortured by half a century of degrading and cruel Japanese occupation followed by an ideological war which massacred millions, severed their homeland, and divided their people.

History on the Korean peninsula remains unhealed and a generation of embittered and embattled military and political leaders have presided over sporadic and half-hearted attempts to allow their people to move on.

The human and emotional consequences for families estranged for over half a century are incalculable.

During my recent visit the Government of North Korea confirmed that a new round of brief family reunions would take place but Vice Foreign Minister, Kung Sok Ung, told me that "as many as 20 million inter-related families, first, second and third generation Koreans, remain separated – which is why reunion of the peninsula remains our first priority."

The economic cost of reunification to the South would be phenomenal, dwarfing the oft cited comparison made with the divided Germans. North Korea, after all, is a country where, only a decade ago, during a pestilential famine, an estimated two million people died of starvation.

The British Ambassador, Peter Hughes, recently voiced his concern at the continuing manifestation of chronic malnutrition; and, throughout talks with officials, it was never long before the failure of this year's cabbage crop – which provides the *kim-chi* staple to Korean families during the impending and always harsh Korean winter, was mentioned.

The cabbage crisis has led to South Korea relaxing its high import tariffs on cabbage and white turnips (previously 27% and 30%) and cornering the market in China's vegetable growing areas. Scarcity had now led to the price of vegetables in Seoul reaching a historic high of nearly £6 per item. In the North, no family would have access to such resources.

At Sariwon, 40 kilometres from Pyongyang, I visited a co-operative farm and saw agricultural workers bringing in the last of a meagre harvest. Around the fields were blandishments and loudspeakers urging the workers to redouble their efforts – but without improved technology, different methods



Dr James Kim meets the British delegation

of agriculture, enhanced yields of crops, and pooling resources with the South, it is hard to see what more the workers can reasonably be expected to do.

Which is why a political settlement, ushering in a new era of peaceful progress and development, is so urgent.

This was the same situation which the Korean-American business man, James Chin Kyung Kim, found in China 17 years ago when he opened the country's first foreign joint-venture university.

This thriving institution, with 1700 students, places more than 90% of its students in jobs – cutting-edge roles in transforming China's huge agricultural sector and in its booming liberalised economy. Dr Kim's dream is to provide the same opportunities for the North Korean students now entering the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST).

The university had its genesis in 1987 in a series of intermittent visits to Pyongyang.

Initially, he was treated as a curiosity by the regime. After the death of Kim Il Sung the climate changed and, during a visit in 1998, Dr Kim was arrested and thrown in jail, accused of being an American spy.

The situation appeared so bleak that he was told to write a will – and, in keeping with his vow to give everything back to his country – he even told his captors that once they had executed him they could have his body parts for medical

**“The economic cost of reunification to the South would be phenomenal, dwarfing the oft cited comparison made with the divided Germans.”**

research.

James Kim told me that “The North Korean Government was moved and allowed me to return to my home in China.” It was the first time someone was released after the death penalty was imposed. He made no public complaints about what had occurred and “two years later they invited me back to North Ko-

rea and asked whether I would forget our differences and build a university for them like the one I had established in China.”

Dr Kim believes his experience is evidence that the regime “can be touched and messages can be communicated at some level. On a much grander scale we need to deepen the experience of reconciliation.” Through education – which “has the power to transcend nationalistic boundaries and promote cross-cultural understanding and respect” – James Kim believes the situation can ultimately be transformed. The results will be durable and long lasting but will not happen overnight and “peace comes with a price.”

Dr Kim asserts that an approach based on patient love “is the only thing that can touch the heart of souls in North Korea. There is nothing that won't change or be inspired by it.”

PUST's small corps of teachers, who are committed to ushering in North Korea's “information age”, providing English language studies which will link its coming generation to global society, and who are now living in Pyongyang, are giving their services for little or no recompense. This is a real service min-

istry – and they are looking for others to join them for a semester or for a full academic year.

Eventually, Dr Kim wants to see an industrial park created around the PUST campus, providing a springboard for international companies. Ben Rosen, the American venture capitalist and founder of Compaq Computer corporation has visited the campus and believes that PUST will give its students “a window to the outside world and will create a new generation of technocrats with the potential to lead a post-Kim Jong Il government.”

James Kim is under no illusions about what he has taken on: “Our work will be costly and sacrificial in many respects; and it will be time consuming and difficult. However, once that price has been paid it will, in turn, give us peace. We must pay the ‘price of peace’ regardless of our discomfort.”

It's a sentiment uttered by a man who, during the carnage of the Korean War, saw all of his friends perish, who has festered in a North Korean jail, and whose jailers sentenced him to death. It's a sentiment which sums up the remarkable story of a truly remarkable man.

Comment Editor: Anna Perman

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## COMMENT

## FELIX

**The act of protest is admirable, but higher fees make sense**

It's informative that students, of all the victims of the coalition's cuts, are the first to stand up for themselves, instead of blithely accepting the extreme austerity of the current parliament. The growing sense that older generations have used up all the hot water, so to speak, has created a great sense of injustice amongst young people. Add to this the coming Lib Dem betrayal, of their election pledge to vote against tuition fee increases, and it's easy to understand why 50,000 students marched on Wednesday.

Boots on the ground alone are not enough to win arguments. Move away from emotive accusations of abandoning a generation and it quickly becomes clear that the government's proposals are the fairest solution to a difficult problem.

Someone has to pay for higher education. Either society in general, when the government taxes the population, or the individual who directly benefits. There is no need to resort to demagoguery; this ideological point is the essential difference between, say, the N.U.S. and the government.

So in this time of severe financial austerity, when each and every area of government spending is being reviewed, why should the general population bear the costs of giving a select few an advantage in life? The crucial point is while the state cannot bear the cost of the higher education system, the individual, through the tuition fee system, can and should.

Because ultimately student debt is only as scary as the N.U.S. makes it out to be. If you remember that you'll pay a relatively low amount of interest, that the debt will be wiped off after 30 years and that nobody is going to repossess your home then actually it is a pain free way of paying for the best years of your life. If however you believe the scaremongering slogan of "crippling debts" then of course you will be deterred from university.

As more and more people attend university, the state is grows less and less able to foot the bill. It is obvious that individuals should shoulder the costs of that which directly benefits them. The real problem with the current tuition fee debate is that young people are being choked by the smoke produced by the N.U.S. when there's no fire to actually burn them.

# Pale, stale and male

University funding reforms fail in one crucial respect. The evidence for this is right here at Imperial College



**Imran Khan**

**Director of the Campaign for Science and Engineering and Imperial College alumnus**

**S**cience and engineering have serious institutional problems when it comes to diversity. I say this as head of an organisation whose purpose it is to champion this sector.

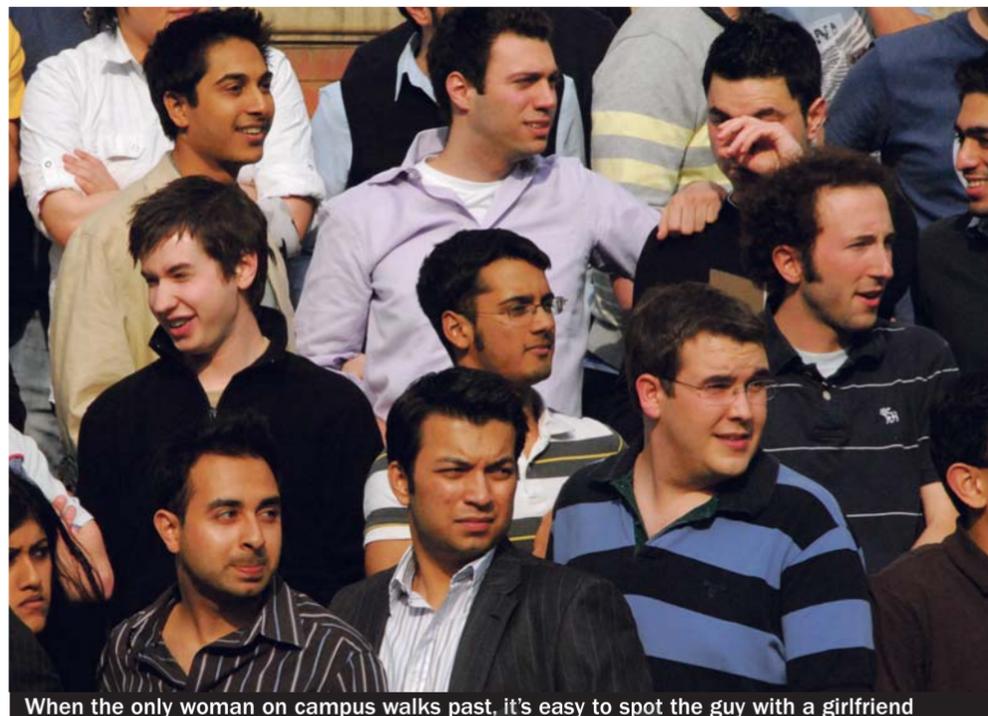
Only one in ten graduate engineers are women. Disabled people make up 5.9% of the total workforce, but only 3.8% in science, engineering, and technology. Only one in twenty chemistry lecturers isn't white. Amongst our international competitors, the UK ranks disappointingly badly when it comes to how student performance in science and maths correlates with socio-economic background.

There are lots of reasons why this should be, and some of them are complicated and obscure – but it's obvious why it's unacceptable.

Thousands of people are being deterred from careers they would excel in, which is a loss to those individuals. But it also means a loss to society, and the economy. We're talking about thousands of people who could be making advances, and might be excelling in their field, if it wasn't due to the discrimination which seems to be built-in to our science and engineering establishment.

And when I say 'establishment', I don't refer to remote upper echelons. Look around you. More than six in seven of all professors at Imperial College are male. Less than one in ten black African applicants end up getting in.

Progress is being made. For instance, Imperial is one of only two universities that ranked in the top 100 LGBT workplaces last year, and the gender gap for



When the only woman on campus walks past, it's easy to spot the guy with a girlfriend

academics here is (very slowly) narrowing. But the statistics highlight the scale of the problem. It's going to take decades of consistent effort before we can safely say that regardless of the circumstances of your birth or your lifestyle, you've got an equal chance of making it as a scientist or engineer.

So it's really quite important that if something looks set to start to unravel good work which has already been done, it must be countered. In the Higher Education funding reforms we could face such a challenge.

Broadly, the reforms go far in securing lower graduate contributions from the lowest earners. But they may fail in one crucial respect that's very relevant to us.

It's no secret that science and engineering degrees cost more than arts and humanities to teach. Think of the cost of a physics laboratory versus a philosophy library. Luckily, current funding models mean that (as long as you're not a foreign student) you have free choice over what to study, because all degrees have the same annual cost. That may be about to change.

The government has left the door open to universities now charging differential fees for different subjects. Although there may still be some central government funding for STEM degrees, it won't necessarily be enough to make sure those degrees don't cost more than arts and humanities.

We already know that the cost of go-

**Science has always benefited from diversity - we shouldn't lose sight of that. It's in difficult times that we need innovation the most**

ing to university affects student choice. For instance, some students (particularly those from certain ethnic minorities) choose to live at home rather than moving out, based on financial considerations. This obviously limits which universities they can attend.

The danger is that students may soon be forced into taking their second-choice degrees, or going to their second-choice universities, because of a decision about debt - rather than a decision about what they could achieve.

If that happens it would counteract enormous amounts of effort that have gone into widening participation in science and engineering, and exacerbate existing inequalities. It's important we make sure that the overriding concern for applicants is their own academic merit and drive, not a subject-specific financial trade-off.

Science has always benefited from diversity - we shouldn't lose sight of that. It's in difficult times that we need innovation the most.

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

## COMMENT

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

# Steroids would improve sport



## Black Sheep

“Steroids are a great leveler. They let you train harder and help make you a better player”

When I was 10 years old I started playing Rugby. I was an imposing 4ft 8” (though even that might be generous). With a career as the next England captain in front of me, I returned to pre season training with the under 11 squad for an introduction to full contact. So began 6 years of big kids kicking the shit out of me.

I doubt I am alone in this. You may even be one of these ‘big kids’ yourself. Even then, I’m willing to bet there’s always been someone bigger. You see, ‘big kids’ are the real problem that is rampant in our sport today, simple genetics are what we should be taking urine samples for. Steven Gerrard was told in the Liverpool youth academy it was fine him being able to crack it at 50 mph as a teenager, if he didn’t hit 6ft he was out.

So where does that leave us? A sporting world dominated by the best bred, is this something we should be standing for? Bringing in the change is easy, especially when we have the answer already on the table.

Steroids and performance enhancing drugs are already endemic in some of the worlds biggest sports. The elephants in the room (almost literally) are the body builders, but flying in at 70mph on 2 wheels just behind them are the cyclists. Erythropoietin (EPO) is a designer drug of today which is untraceable in the system after 6 hours and makes you go like Usain Bolt. To be a professional cyclist and abstaining from taking this isn’t noble, or ‘in the spirit of competition’, it’s mental. Everybody’s doing it.

Still, with every key stroke I hear the nay sayers and the yet to be converted. “What about practising every day to get good” “Shouldn’t take shortcuts” “It’s cheating”. Allow me to now explain why I chose these complaints in particular as I succinctly answer them. I’ll start at the end, it’s only cheating whilst the rules make it cheating, if you change the rules it isn’t cheating, the entire game of Rugby I spent 6 years learning to detest was only invented because some public school boy was crap at football and cheated, cheating can be good (that’s a bad example of that though...).

As for saying you shouldn’t take short

cuts, that you should just work hard, you still can. Truly, I have never grasped that argument as being anything less than a fundamental lack of understanding about how Steroids work. You don’t spend 2 days just taking them, get class in an afternoon and sleep till Sunday. Even if you were 6’ 6” and built like a brick shit house you think you could play the between-the-legs shot Roger Federer busts out? I didn’t think so.

I think that’s the point I’ve spent a long winded 400 or so words trying to make so far, steroids are a great leveler. They let you train harder and help make you a better player. Better players make for better sport. I accept they are a problem whilst they remain illegal in sport. The honest and rule abiding (who I am actually for) are punished by those who break the rules, but what better way to deal with a problem that has no realistic end insight than to stop making it a problem?

Anyway, that’s my dream and my piece on it. I’m off to go put 200lbs on and yell at some people from speaker’s corner in Hyde Park about it. A very muscular hand shake goodbye.

A selection of the reactions to last week’s Black Sheep [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)

The subject was...  
Drugs should be legalised.

“The ‘just say no’ mentality is a bit dated - an ecstasy tablet won’t kill you, and I swear the media hype about mephedrone turned out to be a hoax (i.e. mephedrone wasn’t the cause of death).”

If the government was really concerned about safety they’d legalise drugs and make them state run. Similar to abortions, for example: before you had women being severely injured and killed by back-alley jobs, but it didn’t put anyone off, whereas now they can go to a hospital and have it done safely (forget the cries of religious quacks).”

Anonymous

“Simon Jenkins recently said: “I sometimes realise that, if Britain still had the death penalty, no current political leader would have the guts to abolish it.””

James Fletcher

“The reason soft drug related deaths (mdma, ketamine, cannabis) are so low is because they’re illicit hence a ‘drugs community’ forms which looks after each other and passes on advice on dosage etc. If mdma were legal we would witness a surge of deaths due to newbies overdosing because there was no one experienced to look after them. Decriminalisation of possession is preferable but the current system works anyway: those who want to get high can obtain drugs easily and after all, only the idiots get caught.”

Black Goat

Something on your mind? Send your ideas for next week’s black sheep to

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

# How the Geek stole Christmas



## Angry Geek

“I’m rationing Christmas cheer so that there’s enough to last me through the next two months”

I collapsed this week, caved in and put Fairytale Of New York by The Pogues on my iPod. It’s like funding an insurgency campaign in my mp3 player; it’s not offensively Christmassy, but it’s beginning to make the other albums on there consider rising up in protest and installing a festive dictatorship.

I think it’s properly Christmas now, so I’m tentatively preparing myself for six solid weeks of red and green being the only colours in existence, an entire month of balls-out, wang-flailing cheeriness that won’t abate for a second until the crushing reality of January 1st descends on us.

I hunch myself in the corner of Starbucks at the moment, fighting some sort of cultural Battle of the Bulge. Up goes the laptop. I arrange the leftover (Christmas red) paper cups in a makeshift barricade. Hunker down for the Hun’s next push, an artillery barrage of eggnog-flavoured syrup or something. I’m safe in the Ardennes. Can’t get me in the Ardennes.

The line that gets trotted out every year, that we put the decorations up too early and it’s too commercial, is beginning to feel slightly older than the tradition itself. As is the fact-shitting about pagan festivals and Roman cultural

domination. Don’t get me wrong when I construct an elaborate 70% post-consumer recycled foxhole in the nearest coffee shop, I’m not one of the people who drones on about Christmas like it’s a sexually transmitted disease. I am all up on Christmas. I love this shit. I listen to Frank Sinatra belt out the same three songs over and over again until my internal organs start to think seriously about impeaching my own brain.

It’s just I like to ease myself into it. Like a hot bath. I like to dip a toe in here or there, gasp a little, giggle to myself and then slowly inch myself in. That’s the analogy here. What’s actually happening is that one day in early November I wake up and someone chucks a full kettle of boiling water over my face. Not the same thing. Not the same thing at all.

As a result, I’m rationing Christmas cheer so that there’s enough to last me through the next two months, with maybe a little left at the end to prop me up when the inevitable crushing disappointment of 2011 begins to dawn on me. The rules are as follows: Saturday and Sunday, Christmas all day. Mondays, Christmas from midnight to lunchtime. Then, strictly no aural references to Christmas until Wednesday noon. Full-on Christmas then restarts on Friday at 4pm, at which point I blend together a mince

pie, a candy cane, four carrots and some whisky and down the lot.

This is the way you do it. The staff in Argos look ready to slit their own throats by the start of December, because they don’t follow the strict A Geek Regime. What they need is a little Thunderbirds-like red button that, when pressed, flips over hidden panels in the wall to reveal flashing lights and tinsel-decorated trees with little reindeers perched on top, preferably live ones. Then it gives it a bit of purpose, a bit of pizzazz, to stop it from just becoming background noise. Then one day, just to mix things up, you replace the Christmas decorations with beach furniture. Boom. Minds blown. Stay on your toes, consumers, because who knows what month it’s going to be tomorrow. HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR. MERRY SUMMER SOLSTICE.

I await Imperial to implement a similar joy-rationing scheme. Until they do, I will be following in the footsteps of Belle and Sebastian, and staging a guerrilla resistance against The Pogues and any other form of Christmas joy. So if you pass Sherfield and find yourself in the middle of a hastily-organised Easter celebration, don’t worry. I’m doing it for your own good. Merry Christmas. God bless us, every one.

Comment Editor: **Anna Perman**[comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# COMMENT

## Ways to liven up an Autumn evening #19 Transexual Scrabble.



Scrabble isn't particularly exciting. I'd go as far as to say that it's borderline hell, equitable to being locked away with Patrick Kielty. It's a novelty for the first fifteen minutes, but then becomes a scraping pain on the inside of your skull, as you either get bored of thinking of words, or Kielty tries, and fails, to be in any way entertaining.

But what about the current UK scrabble champion? A pink wig wearing transsexual in a PVC dress called Mikki Nicholson. Scrabble has suddenly got a bit interesting; going from the world of the geek, vigorously masturbating over a thesaurus, to the wacky world of sexual ambiguity.

But Scrabble isn't the only autumn activity in need of an injection of some joie de vivre. I'm quite partial to a game of Risk every now and then. It's actually quite challenging. But imagine if Risk involved a bit of actual risk, paintball guns perhaps. No longer relying on rolling three fives to take Irkutsk, you would simply whip your gun from under the table and relentlessly plaster your opponent in paint. Games about world domination shouldn't involve dice. Genghis Khan never rolled a dice. He killed, raped and pillaged. Those things aren't acceptable in society any more; luckily paintball is.

Shopping too could be spiced up, Supermarket Sweep style. You would queue at line up against other would-be contenders at the entrance and then fly around Sainsburys, throwing all you needed into your trolley. Tins of tomatoes flying across the room. Screams of delight as you discover a 2-for-1 deal on Doritos and then, shopping complete in a PB of fifteen minutes, forty three seconds, you proceed to checkout. Here my vision differs from that of the fake tanned nightmare of Dale Winton. The self-service checkout machine, the bane of our lives with their insistence on everything being in the bagging area, now we fling things willy nilly across the scanner until the supermarket looks more like Get Your Own Back.

Ms Nicholson is a prime example of all that's good with the world. She followed her dream and achieved it, smashing the stereotype of scrabble players forever. So, I urge each and every one of you, no taking the Mikki, please.

By **Rob Cleaver**

Stephen Fry's claim, that women don't cruise because they are uninterested in sex, outraged feminist groups. He claims he was misquoted. The question is...



## IS FRY RIGHT ABOUT WOMEN'S SEXUALITY?



**Anna Perman**

**T**hou shalt not question Stephen Fry? Oh dear, I may as well go watch Hollyoaks and eat a Kit Kat. While we're at it, the Beatles aren't just a band – they are a way of life.

Stephen Fry, *National Treasure*<sup>™</sup>, has been quoted as saying women are uninterested in sex, except as the price for a relationship. Apparently, we're all lying back and thinking of introducing him to our parents at Christmas. It doesn't help that I imagine him saying it as General Melchett in *Blackadder*.

Apparently, he never meant it (not that he never said it, and I have scrutinised his blog on the subject, before you ask). Maybe so, but I think it reveals some underlying opinions about women and sexuality.

So apparently straight men wish they, like gay men, could frequent the shadier areas of Hampstead Heath in hopes of getting their rocks off. Eh? Most of the gay men I know just go to a club or bar, the same as straight men and women. Cruising public lavs isn't a sign of sexuality, it's a product of a by-gone era where homosexual activity was forced into the shadows. Straight men don't usually go cottaging, because there have always been plenty of brothels for that sort of nonsense. Women don't, because it isn't the 1800s and we can just go pick someone up in a club. It's nothing to do with whether women are horny or not, it's because 'Let's go outside' is a brilliant song, but a poor sex tip.

Another strand of his purported argument was that women pretend to like sex to get men to give them what they want, be that money or a relationship. It is a patronising opinion to have of women, but also of men. In my experience, they aren't all sexual junkies, but do on occasion want the relationships ascribed as being a purely feminine desire. They also sometimes use sex for monetary gain.

I think guys have it reinforced to them all the time by our culture, that, while women may look like they are autonomous beings, secretly, they only ever think about what men are upto. For example, most action films will just include a love interest, if any female character at all, who just talks about how worried she is about the hero. Romcoms, conversely, will feature all sorts of conversations between women, which will almost always be about hating/loving a guy.

Bullshit. Mostly, my conversations with my female friends are about books, science, music, our friends, our careers. Sometimes, we talk about men. My every move is not dictated by what men want, but what I want. If that is sex, it is regardless of what I can gain afterwards.

And frankly, the idea of sex in a park reeks of cider-infused teenage fumbings. Come on Darling, let's go inside.

**“Let's go outside' is a great song, but a poor sex tip”**



**Alexandra Nowbar**

**I** suppose this has got blokes questioning what girls have said to them on the subject. Are you really the best she's ever had? When she says “nobody does it better”, is that a compliment, or a consolation?

If I were you, I wouldn't worry my little head about these things; it's her business if she wants to pay the price of a relationship with your highness. Furthermore, if she is pretending, couldn't she be quieter about it? You have no particular problem with the noise but your mother has been nagging you about it.

So why are feminists getting so worked up about Stephen Fry's claims? One, they are reasonably indignant because they do lurrve sex. Two, they ridiculously demand equality in all fields in spite of obvious physiological differences. Three, they want men to believe they love sex so as not to arouse suspicions of their manipulative ways.

I, for one, am disappointed that Fry didn't stand by his comments. Sincere as he sounds in claiming to have been misconstrued, I suspect he expressed his honest views. However, he realises them near impossible for him to justify, his position being significantly weakened by his gender (Ironic, no?). In that department I am far better equipped to crusade for what Fry may or may not really believe in. It is not so absurd to believe that women enjoy sex less than men. In fact it is a perfectly logical conclusion to draw from typical female behaviour devoid of actively seeking sex.

However I would be the last to deny that we can enjoy it. Much as it pains me to say, there is a pink, throbbing elephant in this room in the form of a vibrator. One which proves we are capable of enjoying sex. The problem is the widespread inability amongst men to reproduce the kind of results that he can.

Hence it is reasonable to generalise that women do not like sex, at least not as much as men do. Essentially man is inferior to the elephant.

And I haven't even got started on libido, of which men have a far greater supply, this being a universally acknowledged truth. You can hardly argue with evolution. Apparently there are girls gagging for it but I can't even begin to explain their psychology except to assume it is some complex product of society's expectations. Ok, maybe I'll have to concede that some girls do feel strong natural urges for sex as I can't know what others experience but I will not accept those feelings as the norm.

Women have various motivations to lie about liking sex, and assuming women don't like sex is reasonable. But we're all in a pickle if the women actually enjoying the sex aren't being believed.

Hey, who said I had the answers? Ask Jeeves.

**“I, for one, am disappointed that Fry didn't stand by his comments”**

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

# COMMENT

## First year isn't stale just yet



**Sam Furse**

**“Although agencies like a 1st class degree, a 2(i) with something else will get you further”**

**O**h goody! Another subject to rant on about in a pedantic and pompous tone of voice. Well, more like splitting hairs in a self-important manner really. Either way, the headline “Is the first year of a degree a waste of time?” is the sort of trashy headline calculated to get Radio Four listeners heading for the hills.

Needless to say, it has nothing whatsoever to do with missing out the first year, but re-structuring three year degree courses so that they take 24 months rather than 33. This sadly misses the point, that technical degrees worth having now last four years, but I digress.

We live in a fast age. People want to get on, to make something of themselves in the best years of their lives -- maybe so they can do something before they're told to retire and before strikes affect the industry in which they work. Easy when you think about it isn't it? Every eighteen-year-old school leaver obviously thinks of it in just that way.

It's more likely that they have money on their minds, but are only dimly aware

of the full financial consequences of a shorter course. Someone on a two-year-long degree is still going to have to meet significant costs, and is not going to have time to do paid work as there will be four terms in a year, and no 'summer'. They won't be able to shop around, or exist healthily on the cheap stuff (who can?), they won't have time to earn money or do extra-mural or ultra-curricular activities.

Arguably, one might be willing to make this sacrifice. The short-term cost implications may be worth it as there is potential for an additional year of work rather than study. Trouble is, although HR managers and agencies like a good First class degree, in reality a 2(i) with something else to say -- be it knitting or flower arranging -- will get you further. Employers want something else to look at on paper, something else to talk about at interviews. Sitting at a desk and doing work is fine, but is not good enough on its own.

Conversely, things in education do change and getting left behind is at least as bad as being right too early. Under the current system, academics who teach,

which is most of them, have space to research and publish. It is easy to dismiss this as an academic selfishness, and in a perverse way it is. It allows them to spend time learning from their students. That is undoubtedly a good thing, and it is the same logic as to why generally those in healthcare prefer teaching hospitals to district ones.

The time for extra activities lost by those doing two year degrees might reasonably be balanced by a year of travelling, volunteering or gambling afterwards. Or would that be missing the point? Probably...

My advice to anyone thinking of a one, two or even three year degree? Do what you think will suit you and just dive in. You will never know what it would have been like any other way, and it does not matter because you will probably have the right degree for you anyway.

Enjoy it, whatever the cost or however long it lasts. Of course there will be ups and downs, but imbibing human achievement, or even contributing to it, is one of the most rewarding things one can do.

### Warning: X Factor is a serious danger to your mental health

Another weekend is upon us, and with it, certain inevitabilities: problem sheets will remain partially complete; Monday will come too soon and with it, X-Factor news.

This manufactured and over-dramatized programme will 'grace' our screens this Saturday and will probably follow its usual lacklustre format.

After the initial stages in which the bewildered and mentally unstable are paraded on stage, the leftovers (or the "lucky few" as they prefer to be called), schooled in the lower-wobbling lip, blubber their way through, singing -- occasionally well -- with camera-cuts to an emotionally-overwhelmed family member. Then to Machiavelli himself, his cosmetic smile casting judgment on the deluded fools before him. From the music to the comments, everything -- even spontaneity -- is planned. Regardless, the audience whoop fervently, reinforcing the judges' and contestants' ever-growing sense of self-importance. The worship of the talentless by the vacuous.

The morning after, revelations of a contestant's sordid past push more interesting news off the front covers. Who cares for a durable two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict when the latest tuneless and talentless evictee "reveals all"?

These are not talent contests. They lack both talent and any form of fair competition. They project their snivelling contestants into the mainstream media and purport them to have far more skill and interest than they actually do: ordinary men and women, of no discernible talent are given status of "national treasure" or "inspiration".

As with other manufactured products, X Factor should come with a health warning: watching this will harm your mental faculties.

**By Leonardo Williams**

## Letters and Corrections

Dear Sirs,

Felix's interview with Claire Fox about the Institute of Ideas' "Battle of Ideas" debate weekend made interesting reading [October 15, 2010, p. 9]. The accompanying photo's caption had me looking forward to "a show of wits", but the questions were none too probing; instead Fox simply plugged the institute's event and bemoaned science and society for a thousand-odd words.

Fox says that "[o]ur [presumably the Institute's] concern is that scientists rarely admit that reality is more complicated than the statistics". This is the kind of complaint that sounds compelling and deep right up until the moment one actually thinks about it, at which point it immediately falls apart.

I doubt Fox has any good evidence that the vast majority of scientists won't discuss what their statistics don't capture; certainly the idea doesn't jibe with my experience. There are many scientists who come to conclusions that are too strong, true. Some omit important caveats about their work, true. But what proportion of scientists do this consistently? Is it so high that only a handful of scientists acknowledge the limits of available data? That's hardly credible, especially considering how many scientists strive to expose others' blind spots.

Next she suggests that scientists "don't trust that the public will be able to handle an issue which has a less black-or-white answer. Scientists contribute to that view, and we suggest we have a more intelligent debate over the role of science in society."

But what if it sometimes happens to be an accurate view? Then Fox has summarily dismissed it just for the sake of promoting her institute's position as "more intelligent". Surely she can think of times when members of the public have poorly handled uncertainty about scientific issues? If not, I suggest she looks at current views of global warming, or of the MMR vaccine ten years before that.

Fox complains about "the climate of mistrust [that] has gone too far", but poorly-founded attacks on scientists contribute to that same climate of mistrust.

Moreover, it's hard to avoid the suspicion that the "controversial" Institute of Ideas' focus on "live debate" (a poor substitute for serious truth-seeking) and "challeng[ing] orthodoxies" is likely to cultivate still more cynicism and mistrust in its audiences. I expect its approach is an effective way to manufacture publicity, but "an intelligent public arena"? That's, well, debatable.

Thomas Drew

Dear Sirs,

I believe that one of the cornerstones of a democratic society is the public's access to information. That is why I am very pleased that a coroner has last week ruled that evidence at the July 6th Bombings inquest must be heard in public.

The most quoted argument for secrecy is probably that of national security: making sensitive information public might offer an advantage to the country's enemies.

It is, however, my strongly held opinion that very often not releasing this information can have far more dire consequences. If we do not fight for our right to know what the government and its agencies are doing, we are effectively giving them carte blanche. This can easily lead to corruption and other abhorrent behaviour by politicians acting for their own good, or a misguided idea of the public good.

One of the best examples is that of parliamentary expenses. If not for the efforts of the media, MPs would have succeeded in their attempts to conceal the immoral behaviour of some of their number, and the practice of over-claiming for expenses might still be widespread today. More recently MI6 head Sir John Sawers has criticised plans to allow judges to order the secret services

to publish classified information. We cannot trust them and the government to be the only ones to decide what reaches the light of day, especially as much of it incriminates or embarrasses them. Recent and persistent allegations of British complicity and even participation in torture seem to support this. It is too easy to hide behind excuses.

Releasing evidence about the Bombings is unlikely to lead to any similar scandals but it will help to give the victims' families closure and might pressure the authorities to improve their methods of combating terrorism. The government's opposition to this is illogical and I agree with Lady Justice Hallett that the documents to be seen will do Britain no harm if certain sensitive names and details are blanked out. If we want to live in a fair and efficiently run society it must be based on truth.

Maciej Matuszewski

### Corrections

In last week's Felix the review entitled "Imperial PhD student releases a debut album" was attributed to Stephen Smith. It was by Miles Robertson. In addition the article entitled "Scuba trip to Penzance" was wrongly attributed to Sam Gonslow instead of the Scuba Society.

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## ARTS

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

**Maciej Matuszewski** speaks up for some first class science-fiction

## Childhood's End

by  
Arthur C. Clarke

Science fiction still gets a lot of bad press and, while there have been a fair number of stories about bug eyed monsters, I believe that at its best it can equal the greats of any literary genre. *Childhood's End* is probably the finest proof of this.

A hard science fiction classic, it is a fairly early example of the alien invasion story. Indeed, it has inspired TV shows such as *V* and films such as *Independence Day*, but is much better than either of them. The aliens here are quite unusual: despite being known as the Overlords, they have 'invaded' not to destroy or dominate humanity, but help it. Using their amazing technology they provide people



with free and unlimited energy and resources. Spectacular displays of this technology, such as blocking out the sun over South Africa, are also used to force people to come together and solve their problems peacefully. Violence, however, is never used, with, at first, the aliens not even landing or showing their faces.

One of the best elements of the story is the mystery: why exactly have the Overlords come, what are their plans and what do they look like? Clarke gives us tantalising clues throughout the story and the final solution is both surprising and satisfying in that it fits these clues perfectly. This is such an important and interesting part of the plot that the book does somewhat suffer after a few of the mysteries are revealed early in the second half, set several decades after first contact.

This being hard SF the science is fairly realistic but it is not the novel's main focus. This is probably the author's exploration of how humanity might respond to such unusual circumstances. The first half of the story shows people's early reactions, including opposition, and how this is dealt with. In the second Clarke explores what different societies could possibly evolve in the peaceful, technologically and culturally advanced world guaranteed by the Overlords' interference. This section of the book focuses on a single family, which gives a much needed personal and human perspective, especially in the very emotional conclusion.

*Childhood's End* doesn't have any big space battles or major conflicts. It is, however, imaginative, engaging and perfect for all those wanting an introduction to science fiction or simply an intelligent read.

**What should we be reading next then? If you want to see a review of your favourite book in Felix, send 300-400 words to [arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk)**

# THIS AIN'T NO ORDINARY NIGHTCLUB

Going out isn't just about cheap shots and dance tracks.

Drink in the atmosphere while you sip your avant-garde beverage at one of London's best literary or artistic club nights

## Homework to look forward to at Bethnal Green Working Men's Club once a month

### Will Prince

Before anyone builds up a mental image of cockney miners drinking pints of bitter, let me set out a few facts. Whilst Bethnal Green Working Men's Club at one point probably lived up to its name, those in charge now clearly don't care for preserving history. Men in overalls and bingo nights have been replaced by perverse shows and barmen transvestites.

Self-described as a 'literary cabaret', Homework is one of the less racy nights held at BGWMC, making for an ideal, gentle mid-week night out. Run by Aisle16, a collective of young poets, writers and comedians, the monthly night brings together a diverse selection of distractions. Inspired by the story-tell-

**"He hilariously retold the story of his disastrous interview with the Dalai Lama"**

ing events held by The Moth in New York, this month saw the group sharing their tales of their 'worst gig.' Two hours of tragicomic anecdotes ensued, that would have given even the most angelic of souls a few pangs of schadenfreude.

Surely Salisbury's funniest export since David Mitchell, Chris Hicks and his tale of

the weekend he discovered his girlfriend was cheating on him, caught appendicitis and unintentionally revealed his 'massive tattoo' to his mother in hospital mixed hilarious misfortune with a macabre outlook, all to great effect. Tim Clare too deserves special mention. Anyone who can carve out an entire set based around the attempted assassination of Park Chung-Hee in 1974 is clearly a master of their art.

The surprise of the evening came from the headlining guest, Johann Hari, more famed for his tenacious journalism and television appearances than for his stand-up. Nevertheless, it became apparent that his talents stretch beyond just hard-talk as he hilariously retold the story of his disastrous interview with the Dalai Lama. But the show was somewhat stolen by John Osborne who told the story of how he kindled a correspondence with kids' TV and radio legend Pat Sharp. More entertaining though was the subsequent breakdown of said relationship, as John became a cult celebrity for his poem entitled "I Think Pat Sharp is Lonely." Despite Pat's parting plea for John to never read it publicly again, an ingenious ruse was still found to give the poem an airing (I strongly recommend having a google for this one, but the five minutes I spent on it yielded nothing. Ms. Sharp clearly employs an efficient team of lawyers.

Whilst not side-splittingly funny, the feel-good atmosphere of the night certainly made for a good chuckle, which combined with

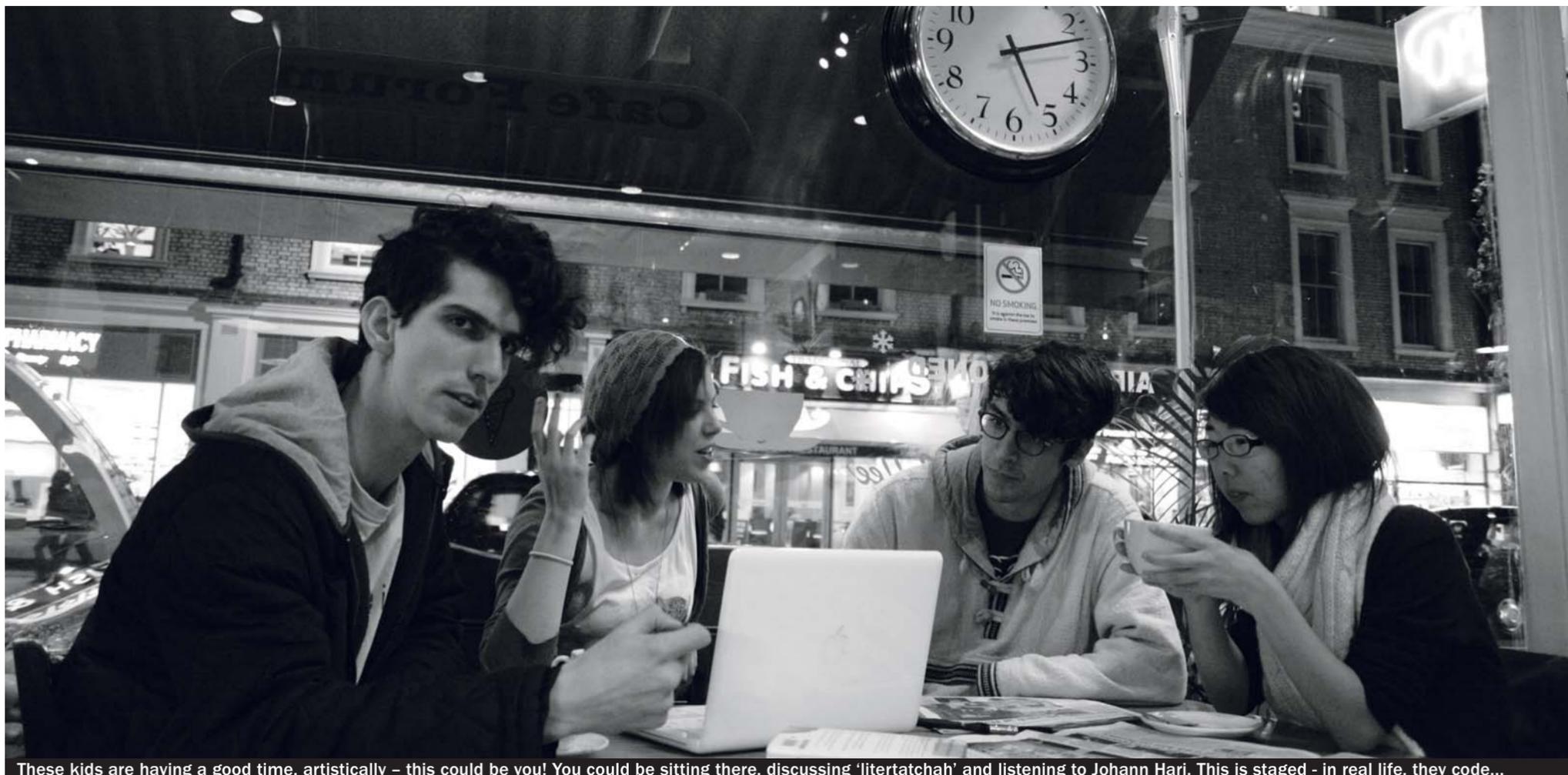


Hari, hard-hitting journalist – usually

the unconventional décor of BGWMC, gives Homework something unique. With the relaxed manner of the performances and the set-up suited towards cabaret nights, the whole affair is a very comfortable and pleasantly informal one, with an entry fee that wouldn't blow a hole in your pocket. Any thorough visit to London would not be complete without an evening at BGWMC, be it to Homework or another of the club's plethora of events. And we work hard enough at Imperial, don't we?

Monthly at BGWMC, [www.aisle16.co.uk/homework-ldn/](http://www.aisle16.co.uk/homework-ldn/) for details

## ARTS



These kids are having a good time, artistically – this could be you! You could be sitting there, discussing ‘litertatchah’ and listening to Johann Hari. This is staged - in real life, they code...

## Thinking, drinking and nude models – the finest of fine art

**Chris Clarke**

Now I know that for most people a night out consists of drinking and dancing followed by some form of fast food and a hangover that could slay a rhino. I must confess that I am all in favor of that plan in that precise order; however it's taken another night out with the Leonardo Fine Art Society to show me that this isn't necessarily the only way to do it.

Out in the dark depths of Shoreditch

**“Nude but with the addition of all variety of strange garments including feathers, spandex and all things alternative.”**

lies a bar. Within the bar there are all sorts of people chilling out and unwinding on various comfy sofas with the odd stack of books here and there. Under the bar is a cellar full of nude life models and a large number of people drawing, chatting and drinking to some form of ethereal background noise.

The bar is called ‘The Book Club’ and it is one of London's various arty bars

that can always guarantee an interesting night. The life drawing session is not on every day but occurs a few nights a year and is definitely something to be experienced. In the instance of my visit, the bar was celebrating its eighth birthday by running one of these sessions for a mere pound! Sadly this fee did not include the drinks; however you can't have everything, so sometimes a person must suck it up and buy their own.

The bar itself is not especially remarkable as bars go, but that's not to say it isn't pleasant and relaxing. The real excitement though lies downstairs through an archway covered by black curtains next to a pool table and an ancient arcade machine. Through the arch is a warm red brick walled room with various arches and doorways jutting out here and there. Stacks of dusty old volumes lay scattered about with one wall in a darkened area apparently made of them, while if you care to look up, the ceiling appears to be completely covered in small white globes which, on closer inspection, turn out to be several hundred old light bulbs. To top it off is a small modern looking bar, the preferred beverage of which seems to be wine. Definitely not the place for a pint of cheap lager!

This would be the bar as it stands on the average evening, however on the evening of the life drawing it was topped off by the addition of about eight mod-

els (male and female), nude but with the addition of all variety of strange garments including feathers, spandex and all things alternative.

The atmosphere is not a solemn one. People are there to unwind and enjoy themselves, so you may choose to sit and draw quietly or have a quiet chat whilst the poses are on, followed by a much louder chat in the breaks. I guess the sight of a number of models sipping pints at the bar, safe in the knowledge that everyone in the room has already seen everything and thus not bothering to cover up, is an image that sticks in the mind.

You don't have to be a brilliant artist to go, just a little open minded and up for a bit of fun. Isn't that what a night out should be?

**“The atmosphere is not a solemn one”**

The Book Club is currently running as normal, but advertises a series of regular events including dance and music as well as the life drawing. So if you're struggling to think of something to make a memorable night out, have a look and see what they're up to at.

[www.wearerbc.com](http://www.wearerbc.com). Who knows what you'll find!

## Poetry unplugged. And unwanted

**Eva Rosenthal Mena**

The Poetry Café is a sweet little place with a rather unattractive poetry night, Poetry Unplugged, on Tuesday evenings. Poetry Unplugged gives anyone the opportunity to read poetry in public. Amateur poets can read their poetry in public to an accepting audience. Unfortunately, the mix of amateur poets and nice audience members make for some truly terrible poetry. Any mildly good verse was quickly outshone by a host of overly emotional, unoriginal or simply crazy sonnets.

A poetry venue should at least be shabby in the chicest sense of the word, if only to get everyone present into an inspiring state of mind. The basement of The Poetry Café is as uninspiring as venues go. Poets stand in front of a white sheet with bright white light shining on their faces. The audience sits on red plastic chairs with drinks carried down from the bar. This makes it impossible to put your drink down lest someone should accidentally spill it all over your feet.

The whole atmosphere reminds one of bad stand-up comedy and the host tells an array of farmyard animal jokes that simply do not improve the mood. To all the above, add an eccentric old lady with bright red hair who sings in loud Polish and reads poems about Nelson that sound more like gibberish than poetry.

While unconventionality and madness can be quite entertaining for five minutes, poetry is supposed to be the theme

**“Go to the Poetry Cafe... Because everyone should know what bad poetry sounds like.”**

of the evening.

Having said all this, Poetry Unplugged is probably not a bad place to go if you have never shown your poetry to anyone before. I urge students to present their work at nights such as Poetry Unplugged because they are anxiety free. The audience is not going to laugh at anyone's writing as long as it is not utterly ridiculous and it is likely that someone in the room will have the ability to give useful feedback.

If you happen to go and also enjoy photography, there are fantastic characters in the room. Most of them will enjoy being photographed.

If you happen to be in Covent Garden on a Tuesday evening and know nothing about poetry, go into the Poetry Café for five minutes. Because everyone should know what bad poetry sounds like.

Photo by Tom Welch

# ChemEng Society

“Careful your  
hands don’t slip  
chaps...”



**VICTOR DILLARD**

**EDUARDO MARTINS**

**OLIVER CALDERBANK**

**LUKE TAN**

**JACKY KWAN**

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

# MUSIC

Music Editors: **Greg Power**  
**Luke Turner**  
**Christopher Walmsley**  
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## Album of The Week



**Brian Eno**  
*Small Craft on a Milk Sea*  
Warp  
2010

Highly regarded experimental musician/record producer Brian Eno releases his first LP on Warp. Resulting in one of the best records Eno has made this decade that will surely stand beside his masterpieces from the 70's and 80's. Inspired by the sound of movie soundtracks, Eno and his equally nutjob multi-instrumentalist friends Jon Hopkins and Leo Abrahams have crafted the beautiful score to an imaginary Sci-Fi epic, reminiscent of Eno's contribution to the 'Dune' soundtrack. What we have here are soundscapes, rather than songs, that generate visual images of a distant barren land, a deserted alien planet. There's the odd burst of frantic guitar noise, invigorating the mix. It rivals only Trent Reznor's "Social Network" OST as soundtrack of the year in my mind. Also, the only promotional interview Eno has done for this album so far is with Dick Flash of Pork Magasine, who is actually just Eno in a wig. That YouTube video alone is worth the trip. **Greg Power**

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

1. Radiohead
2. Coldplay
3. Daft Punk
4. Arcade Fire
5. Katy Perry (WTF)
6. Crystal Castles
7. Bloc Party
8. Muse
9. Kings of Leon
10. Caribou

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

## Make sure not to miss

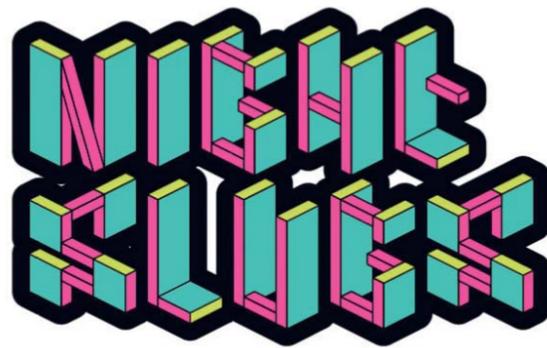
### The Cinematic Orchestra

**Royal Albert Hall**  
Sunday 14th November  
7:30pm

**The Cinematic Orchestra**, founded by Jason Swinscoe and signed to Ninja Tune, are as suited to the Royal Albert Hall as any band you could name. Their music, while innovative and forward-thinking, has the grace and skill of the finest opera or concerto. It's not their first time at the Royal Albert Hall, having played there in 2007 and later releasing an album, *Live at the Royal Albert Hall*, in 2008.

Unfortunately you'll have to dig deep into your pockets to go to what is certain to be a monumental performance. Tickets are going for around the £100 mark and rising on ebay. But as with all things, quality costs. **Kadhim Shubber**

## TECHNO NONSENSE



Pt. 2: **Simon Hunter** continues his tour of the electronic realm with London's Night Slugs



Bok Bok & L-Vis 1990: sluggish? I think not

In this, my second instalment of *Techno Nonsense*, a feature dedicated to highlighting the big players in electronic dance music right now, I'm going to hit you with **Night Slugs**.

Traversing the entire length of the musical spectrum from last week's Disco feature, **Night Slugs** is one of the hottest labels in the UK right now and I'm definitely not the first, nor will I be the last, person this year to sing their praises. It's hard to tie **Night Slugs** down into a genre, as all of their releases so far have been fresh and hugely varied. In fact when asked about their 'sound', **Night Slugs** co-founder James Connolly, AKA **L-Vis 1990**, stated in no uncertain terms that "formulas are shit and we don't want them, so that's why we don't do them."

Connolly runs the label with South London based DJ, producer, graphic designer and all around media boss, Alex Sushon AKA **Bok Bok**. Like most exciting new movements in music, the **Night Slugs** idea developed from disenchantment with both the UK grime scene and the club scene in general. Initially contacting each other via MySpace, the two got together and started putting on parties in Camberwell in 2008.

The party later moved to Old Street but it wasn't until this year that the label itself was christened with the release of **Mosca's**, fittingly titled, "Square One" EP in January. Since then **Night Slugs** has released 8 EPs, all of unfaltering quality – an impressive feat and the reason Connolly and Sushon are finding huge praise flung at them from all directions.

As I have already alluded to, describing a typical **Night Slugs** release is pretty difficult, as there simply isn't one. Staccato percussion, sparse 8-bit synthesizers and deconstructed R&B vocal samples all make appearances, creating beats as diverse as **Girl Unit's** haunting masterpiece "Shade On" to **Lil Silva's** ruthlessly funky "Night Skanker". One feature common to all of the releases, however, is the use of sub-bass which transforms songs that sound pretty bare on normal speakers into a full-blown onslaught on the dance floor.

In addition to songs recommended in the previous paragraph, check out **Kingdom's** "This Mystic" and **Girl Unit's** "Wut"; both eerie and hard-hitting in equal measures. And to hear the best of what **Night Slugs** has to offer, how it should be heard – under a bridge in the early hours of Saturday morning – head down to **Counter Culture** this Friday night.

**Slug Night** are curating **Counter Culture** this Friday, taking place in a railway arch beneath London Bridge Station, featuring sets from **Bok Bok & L-Vis 1990**, **Jam City**, **Kingdom**, **Girl Unit**, **Lil Silva** and **Deep Teknologi**.

£10, open til 6am  
7-9 Crucifix Lane  
SE1 3JW  
Nearest Tube: London Bridge

## IC Radio are taking student radio to the next level

Just over two years ago we took a look around the recording studio at icradio and thought to ourselves "why don't we do live sessions here?" Two years later we are completely in a league of our own in Student Radio, churning out two sessions a week at the highest quality and entertaining some of the best up-and-coming acts that are touring the UK.

It's quite satisfying to see some of the bands that we have recorded in previous years become more and more well-known - **Ou Est Le Swimming Pool**, **Master Shortie**, **Das Pop** and **South Central** have all graced the icradio corridors, and this year I'd say that the quality of sessions has been even higher!

Take last Thursday for example; we had a band that recently supported **Bloc Party** at Scala in for a session, **Redtrack**. Really nice guys, both incredibly talented and also very down to earth. After nailing down an exquisite series of acoustic versions of their punky, indie, catchy tunes, they then had a couple of pints with us in the Union afterwards.

I think that is the main reason we do these sessions, because it is a great chance to get to know

the rock stars of tomorrow while they're still "normal"! We don't get many pre-Madonnas, just people that want to come and show off the thing that they love and work hard for.

The most recent session that we have done was with an Icelandic singer called **Hafdis Huld**, who has been played very frequently on 6Music and BBC Radio 2. She's a beautiful singer with an amazing personality and someone that is destined to become big news. What is it about Iceland and music?!

**Redtrack** played four tracks for us (Cigarette, Catch Me Out, The Trier and Been There), **Hafdis Huld** played three (Kónguló, I Almost Know A Criminal and Synchronized Swimmers). All are available to listen to on our icradio recordings Bandcamp: <http://icradiorecordings.bandcamp.com/>

We still have many more sessions to do this year and are always looking for more people to come down and watch, or even help out. We usually meet at 1PM on Wednesday afternoons, however for more information email me at [manager@icradio.com](mailto:manager@icradio.com).

**Dan Fowler**



Hafdis Huld: not coming to IC for a PhD... Yet

## MUSIC

# Brave New World

As the music industry bleeds itself to death a new breed of artists emerges online. **Greg Power** reports

Something crazy is going on with this internet thing. Oh sure, there's always some kind of weird video of people shooting a bear and doing ungodly things over it afterwards, but I'm not talking about that. I mean a social media revolution, involving music in particular. Social media is YouTube, Twitter, Bandcamp, and all those other websites you might check out once in a while for new music.

Online publicity stunts have been used for advertising everything from Lost to Viagra, but what's particularly interesting with music is that in theory there shouldn't be that much money to be made in music anymore, unless you're a corporate caricature copycat. However the traditional "business model" for successful bands in the past (demo, followed by local tour, then indie label, national tour, and maybe - just *maybe* - major label and world tour) is outdated and the vast majority of musicians never get past the first stages. Blame it on trends, faster rates of musical consumption and turnover in the iPod age, or simply on the fact "it's all been done before", but at the end of the day the core dilemma remains obvious. If you can just download everything for free - and look past

the "moral ambiguity" of loving a band and yet repeatedly stealing from them - then why would you ever need to pay for an album?

This is where forward-thinking artists such as **Trent Reznor** and **Radiohead** realized true, hardcore fans would donate money in exchange for a "free" record so long as the quality they'd come to expect from their favourite band was consistent with their new outtings; regardless of record deals. So there are still viable money-making opportunities available for established musicians on the internet. But what about the extremely talented dude who just makes beats at home and is too "edgy" or un-PC for labels in the first place? How about projects that look insane on paper and will never get funding?

A new generation of artists has decided that the solution is a DIY-attitude, reminiscent of early punk, just more geeky, with more time spent on the internet and post-production software. Nowadays anyone with a bit of talent, a bit of imagination and a lot of time on their hands can create cutting-edge, interesting and challenging art.

The best example of this audiovisual wizardry has to be **iamamiwhoami**, a female artist possibly from Iceland (and

probably a pseudonym for pop singer Jonna Lee) who has relied on anonymity and fantastic production to create a collection of viral videos since December 2009. There are 16 videos to date, sporting cryptic names and accompanied by haunting, atmospheric and groundbreaking experimental songs. On a mysterious website ([towhomitmayconcern.cc](http://towhomitmayconcern.cc)) a live concert was recently announced. However, before contact could finally be established between the musicians and the growing online community of fans that thrive on the mystery behind the concept and speculation about the overarching plot to the videos, the YouTube followers were asked to designate an intermediary. User ShootUpTheStation was finally chosen for his loyalty and dedication, and in a beautiful piece of meta-fiction the latest video "20101109" shows the surreal phone call from artist to fan announcing that he has been chosen, will be picked up from his house in Germany and flown to Sweden in preparation for the gig. The lines between art and reality become blurred, and the project has truly taken on a life of its own. No one knows where it's going or how it will end, but whilst it lasts it is an exciting new concept to be a part of.

Another world being revolutionised by

social media is the hip-hop community. The success and unstoppable ascension of cultured comedic rappers **Das Racist** would have seemed impossible a few years back, but over the past year they've exploded on the internet thanks to the release of two flawless mixtapes for free and a unique take on the genre that pleases freaks and geeks alike.

After struggling to get recognized as the genius he is, South African visionary **Waddy Tudor Jones** is finally getting the recognition he deserves with his rap-rave crew **Die Antwoord** thanks to a single hilarious viral video, "Zef Side".

The list goes on, but surreal rap crew **Odd Future Wold Gang Kill Them All** are particularly noteworthy. Led by fearless leader **Tyler The Creator**, this gang of 16 to 18 year olds from LA are making waves with their minimalistic, unhinged beats, agile rapping skills and profane, drug-induced homicidal lyrics. Their Tumblr website features every release from the crew (all for free) and links to their fresh and imaginative low budget videos.

The future of music is in building a loyal fanbase on the internet and letting word of mouth create the demand for your music, not in chasing imaginary pots of gold or deals with the devil.

## Brave New World Playlist

Links to some of the best music floating around the web.

**iamamiwhoami** -  
t  
[youtube.com/user/iamamiwhoami](http://youtube.com/user/iamamiwhoami)

**Das Racist** -  
Who's That? Brooown!  
[dasracist.net](http://dasracist.net)

**Die Antwoord** -  
Beat Boy  
[dieantwoord.com](http://dieantwoord.com)

## OFWVGKTA

**Tyler the Creator** -  
French!

**Earl** -  
epaR

**Domo Genesis** -  
Super Market  
[oddfuture.tumblr.com](http://oddfuture.tumblr.com)

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

# SVIIB Lives on, Despite Suffering a Loss

**School of Seven Bells**  
Heaven  
8th November 2010  
★★★★☆  
**Chris Dean**

It's been a tough few weeks for **School of Seven Bells**. The announcement of Claudia Deheza's departure, one of the twin sisters whose vocal harmonies make their sound so distinctive, arrived suddenly and without warning on their Facebook account. Fans were shocked, and despite their decision to continue with their tour, they've received mediocre reviews in her absence.

So it's with trepidation that I step into Heaven tonight to see for myself how the band have coped with this recent loss. First up however is the special appearance of **Jon Hopkins** as support. The man who co-wrote **Brian Eno's** new album arrives on stage surrounded by an impressive array of electronic equipment, and over his half hour set,

morphs from **Animal Collective**-like psychedelia to full on dubstep. Leaving the stage to the most raucous applause I have ever heard for a support act, he's immediately placed on my 'to listen to' list.

A few more minutes of waiting, and **SVIIB** themselves appear onstage cloaked in darkness to the faint hum of synths before launching into 'Half Asleep', and the chills down my spine reassure me that they mean business.

Wisely, the now-duo use a setlist of songs predominantly from their new album *Disconnect From Desire*, relying less on their characteristic harmony and more on guitar based ambience, resulting in a more cohesive sound. Musically, **SVIIB** have never sounded tighter. By employing a live drummer as well as drum machine, songs like the My Bloody Valentine-esque Babelonia and ILU sound blistering live. With the incredible sound system at Heaven, the wailing guitar lines and pounding

rhythms push the songs into another league, and the crowd reacts accordingly.

However, not everything works. In certain songs you get the feeling that some crucial ingredient is missing: *Dust Devil*, one of my favourite tracks from the new album, sounds distinctly flat and empty without the vocal harmonies, and *My Cabal* almost sounds clumsy without a synth lead.

After 10 songs, the band finish with *Sempiternal/Aramanth*, the longest, and in my opinion worst, song off their debut album *Alpinisms*. However, live it suddenly makes sense. The track is allowed to build to a massive peak, with Ben Curtis producing an incredible guitar feedback solo.

After it's all over, I feel reassured. Despite my moments of doubt, this band are currently at their peak, and if tonight's performance is anything to go by, they really are on their way to bigger things.

Photo by Christopher Dean



SVIIB teaching the masses: the dream-pop crew strut their stuff with a newfound confidence despite twin sister Claudia jumping ship

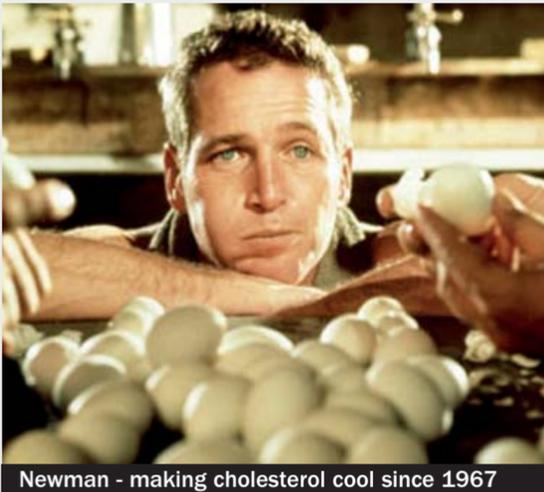
Film Editors: **Jade Hoffman**  
**Matt Allinson**  
**Ed Knock**

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# FILM

## Classic Cinema

### Cool Hand Luke



Newman - making cholesterol cool since 1967

*Cool Hand Luke* appeals to anyone growing up with even the slightest hint of rebellious spirit, as we follow Luke from his arrest, for lopping the tops off parking meters, through his time in prison working on the chain gang. Paul Newman is fantastic at portraying Luke, the arch non-conformist and 'natural-born world-shaker' with an indescribable smirk which perfectly sticks two fingers up at all authority figures – including his fellow inmates.

This film is filled with memorable scenes (there's even an homage in *Toy Story 3*) and some unforgettable characters – I don't think the head guard, 'the man with no eyes', will ever be bettered as the unbending front of overzealous, strict regime. Experiencing these characters for yourself will underline how I couldn't possibly do them justice.

Regarded as a hero by the prisoners, particularly for eating 50 hard-boiled eggs in an hour, Luke's every sly comment and escape attempt has everyone in the audience smirking with him. Although never outright rude, his smile is utterly offensive to the guards, though, however much you try, you cannot replicate it yourself.

Luke's escalating masochistic refusal to be broken by the prison guards makes for very uncomfortable viewing. Yes, we don't want him to be beaten by the system, but it is increasingly apparent that with every quip he is only digging himself deeper – literally, as he is forced to spend whole days and nights digging and refilling trenches.

There are plenty of films with rebellious lead characters, so what makes *Cool Hand Luke* so special? I'll limit it to three things: it's Paul Newman (need I say more?); it features a series of beautifully shot scenes of the men of the chain gang working; and a final fifteen minutes of unbearable excitement.

Mark Bruggemann

## EVENTS

iCU Cinema - *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World*  
 £3/£4 for members/non-members  
 Tue 16th Nov. 6:30pm.  
 Union Concert Hall

# Casting a new light on the Western diet

## PLANEAT

Director Shelley Lee Davis, Or Shlomi  
 Narrator Yvonne O'Grady

Noah Baker  
 Jade Hoffman

Directors Shelly Lee Davies and Or Shlomi are new to filmmaking. In an after-screening Q&A they revealed that this endeavour was one which they carried out largely alone and with what appeared to be little past experience; suffice it to say that it did show. Although the content of this film speaks volumes, the editing and camerawork left something to be desired, especially when compared to *The Cove*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Fahrenheit 911*, or in fact many of the eye-opening "docufilms" which have so thrillingly educated us in the past.

This film is not a blockbuster; it is not an artistically shot, hard hitting, exposé of scandalous issues, unfairly hidden from the deserving public; *PLANEAT* is a genuine educative experience. In the Q&A the directors suggest that it was not their intention to make a blockbuster, they make their impact in a different, more subtle way. *PLANEAT* doesn't thrill and excite by exposing the seedy realities of the workings of the meat industry. They shock by simply reassessing what we all "sort of" knew anyway. I'll bet a lot of people know that a meat based diet is more environmentally damaging than plant based alternatives, but how many know that eating a diet based on chicken is more eco-savvy than vegetarianism? This film informs you of the science behind the everyday, common titbit of dietary knowledge that so many live by.

**"They don't thrill by 'uncovering' the meat industry. They shock by simply reassessing what we all 'sort of' knew"**

The message of vegetarianism is a frequently repeated one that gets pushed at you from NHS pamphlets and school health classes, and always feels repetitive and dry. One of the things that *PLANEAT* manages to achieve is a more positive outlook on the topic of vegetarianism that avoids the guilt-tripping red-paint-throwing tactics of some organisations, and goes further than the old "vegetables are good for you" routine. The regular sunny cutaways to different vegetarian and vegan chefs and bakers whipping up impressive-looking plant-based meals in their restaurant kitchens could probably tempt even the most devout carni-



Our survey says: 8 out of 10 cows prefer not to be eaten

vores, and it casts a different light to counter the commonly-held view of vegetables as rabbit food.

It is, however, just one small section of a very broad problem of colliding interests, cultures and industries. Davis and Shlomi stress this point in the Q&A, making it clear that the argument of health and environment is by no means the final word in the problems of Western diet and disease. An issue that isn't covered in this documentary, and is probably one of interest, is the fact that a lot of the foods promoted in it are pretty expensive. In one interview, they film a restaurant owner demonstrating how to make a meat-free roast and soup, chopping a squash on his marble kitchen counter or browsing for fresh ingredients in Whole Foods. The issue of processed foods is only really ever seen as a bad choice made by nameless heart disease sufferers, not as a product of convenience and culture. When they film Professor Gidon Eshel strolling through a sustainable organic farm, they don't really take into account that not everyone can go down to the wholesome village market and buy seasonal lettuces grown down the road.

Throughout the film, the personal lives of the three key figures are gently dipped into; enough to make you associate with them and yet not so much that the spotlight is taken from the science. Small sections filmed within Dr Esselstyn's home, showing the idiosyncratic little relationship he shares with his frankly wonderfully eccentric wife, provide some of my favorite moments, giving a lightness and humor to an already very good natured documentary. It is this affable approach that sets

*PLANEAT* apart from the blockbuster documentaries, and presents the science in such a way that is intended to shape your lifestyle, rather than force one big change.

In keeping with the documentary's more personal, choice-based message, it ties in with a quite extensive website that links you to the different organisations supporting the film (WWF, Meat-Free Mondays etc.) and gives some of the recipes featured. In a move that really reflects the film's demographic, the closing titles encourage the audience to now go and log on with their phones to sign up for email updates and recipes - cue mobile phone inferiority complexes, though still a nice touch. The website also includes links to the scientists interviewed throughout the film, allowing you to look further at their work – another nice touch for a documentary that looks at fostering personal changes rather than a blanket approach to Western consumption.

The annual *Screen Green!* festival has presented some very thought-provoking documentaries that may not get all that much widespread attention, but do certainly hold some relevance to what goes on here at Imperial. This festival provides a platform for films that may otherwise have difficulty getting seen or publicised, and has put on another varied and insightful programme of quality documentaries from all over Europe.

*PLANEAT* is out now on limited release, with selected screenings at the Marble Arch Ritz and Odeon Wembley. See <http://www.planeat.co/> for more information.

# Outstanding British cinema

## Another Year

**Director & writer** Mike Leigh  
**Cast** Jim Broadbent, Ruth Sheen and Lesley Manville

### John Park

What can be so interesting about an old but loving married couple who could not be happier with their lives? According to Mike Leigh, the director of one of this year's best films, quite a lot. In a film that is separated over one year, it's the people around them that present all the complex emotional problems with the four seasons bringing about four unique episodes of supporting characters with their own struggles. For Tom (Jim Broadbent) and Gerri (Ruth Sheen), the blissfully married couple, the coming year is just "Another Year," but a year can bring out so much pain in others, pain that they have to acknowledge and deal with.

Fulfilling jobs, soothing hobbies, stable home, healthy conversations, great meals are what make up Tom and Gerri's successful marriage. But just because they're living the picture-perfect life, it doesn't mean their friends are. Take Gerri's colleague Mary (Lesley Manville) for example; after a string of unsuccessful relationships including failed marriages, she is lonely, and knocking back glasses of wine - a common occurrence for her sad existence. She has not given up hope, and is convinced that men are still interested in her. She eventually sets her eyes on Tom and Gerri's only son Joe (Oliver Maltman), and is quite naturally bitter and devastated when he brings around a young, attractive, perky fiancée (Karina Fernandez) home one day.

Many of the events seen in *Another Year* seem uninteresting; a male/female friend visiting for dinner, a son

visiting for a few days, a funeral etc... but Leigh makes sure that every single event means something significant and with the film's central theme of company, loneliness, depression and happiness each seasonal episode is there to bring about new revelations and new characters that make a significant impact on the general flow of the film's narrative.

No matter how annoying or inappropriate their friends may be, Tom and Gerri tolerate them with all their heart. Mary goes on and on (always with a large glass of wine in one of her hands, of course) about the most insignificant details of her life. She gets chattier and makes less sense when drunk, and it's obvious she gets sloshed every night on wine. Her rambling is hysterical at first, but as she continues, the audience is given enough time and invasive close-up shots to realise just how hopeless she is. Manville gives the best performance in a film full of outstanding ones. She brings out enough humour from her character but every facial expression on her face reminds us of something more depressing and desperate. She may not be a likable character, but is someone you can feel sympathy for. Manville magically transforms this otherwise hateful spinster into a victim of chronic loneliness. The film's final moment is focused solely on Manville and no one else. With no music or dialogue, Manville alone is perfectly able to portray the fear and worry for the tragedy that awaits her.

Rich with low-key, subtle, hugely effective comedy as well as some heart-wrenching drama, *Another Year* is one of Leigh's finest works of his career. The title and general tone of the film may be off-putting for some for being "too British;" and yes, this is as British as they come, but it's simply outstanding because of it.

## Blade Runner

**Director** Ridley Scott  
**Screenwriter** Hampton Fancher  
**Cast** Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer and Sean Young

### James Goldsack

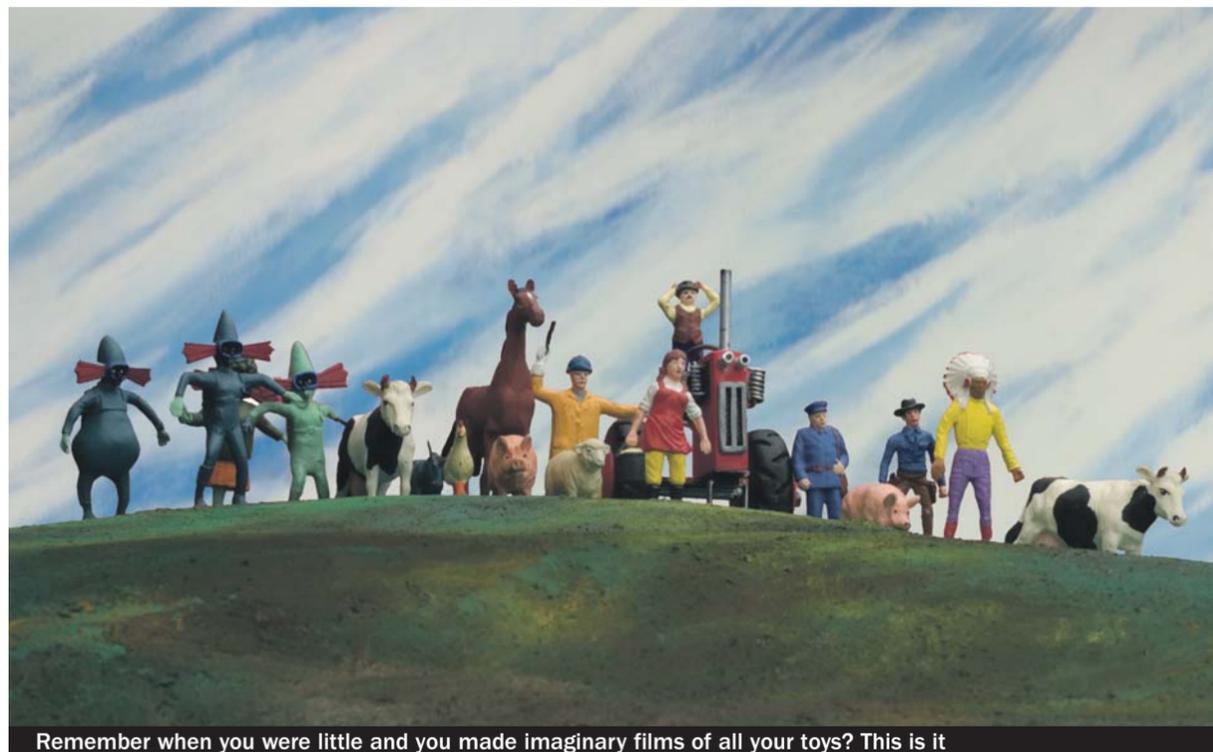
On BBC iPlayer until midnight tomorrow (Saturday 13th), is the best film you can see for free this weekend. Starring Harrison Ford as Deckard, the policeman tasked with hunting down a group of escaped androids, banned from earth due to their threat to humanity. The visual palette of this film is an amazing



Los Angeles: 2019.

selections of eerie dark shades, with a plot to match. Based loosely on Philip K. Dick's fantastic *Do androids dream of electric sheep*, it gives more questions than answers while remaining captivating and enjoyable. A must watch for anyone with a modem. Check it out on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/>

# Comedy from the team who made milk funny



Remember when you were little and you made imaginary films of all your toys? This is it

## A Town Called Panic

**Director & Screenwriter** Stéphane Aubier, Vincent Patar  
**Cast** Stéphane Aubier, Jeanne Balibar and Nicolas Buisse

### Matt Allinson

Having just watched *A Town Called Panic*, I am employing every ounce of self-control and the limited reserve of dignity in my body and mind to prevent myself from writing this review in full caps-lock. Words alone cannot describe how much I enjoyed this film. Guttural noises would hardly do it justice either. If you only take one thing from this review, if not even this whole newspaper this year, it is that you should see this film.

The easiest way to describe it would be quirky, however "quirky" is a term bandied about a lot, and never in a good way. Quirky is like Cute's ugly cousin. If someone has a quirky fashion sense, for example, it means they know that individualism is the key, but take it too far. I mean we all go to Topshop and see that one item of clothing and think "ah man that's an awesome shoulder padded leopard print blazer with an appliqué pattern of Pol-pot's face on the lapel" try it on and think, "ah man this is hilarious but no, I'm not in a La Roux video" and then put it back. The next day however we, the quirk-deficient masses, will be walking into college

and see said quirky person walking it, not only in the blazer but with a pair of knee high maroon Doc martens and some skinnies they found in a skip in Dalston. Quirky, in other words is: Shit, but endearingly earnest.

*A Town Called Panic* on the other hand is not like that. It is certainly not shit - it is incredible - and although endearing to beyond levels never seen before in a film, it does so with the cool understated lack of earnestness that exemplifies its breathtaking sense of simple, unadulterated fun. That said, its quirkiness stems from taking concepts, in this case ostensibly for family entertainment, and elevating them to new heights. Basic characters, easy to understand scenarios, comedy violence and bright colourful visuals are all here in joyously overblown proportions.

Originating from a Belgian kids TV series launched in 2000 with the same

name, *A Town Called Panic* invented the creative themes that are instantly recognisable to British television viewers as the Cravendale Milk adverts, produced by the same guys. Although this is so much more than just "Cravendale-Le Movie," all the most arresting themes are here: the plastic toys; painstaking and impressive stop motion animation; dialogue at nothing less than a full throated shout (though being in French adds a softer and certainly more comedic effect) and, although the successive scenarios are so non-sequitur as to make Monty Python look like Jane Austen, the narrative has a fluidity that never lets the pace falter. It would be customary now to attempt to give a brief introduction to the plot, but when the plot involves a Horse as a sort of father figure to a cowboy and indian, in love with a piano teacher and living in a village with an alcoholic farmer called Steven with a story line revolving around what happens when cowboy and indian try to organise a surprise for horse, it quickly becomes pointless trying. Anyway I was laughing too hard throughout most of it to remember.

Coming in at under 90 minutes, this pint sized puppet film had me roaring with laughter and cheering it on. Remarkably for an animated children's film it had a slot in the Official Selection at Cannes Film festival. It is out on DVD on Monday the 15th of November and comes with my whole hearted recommendation. A joy.

Basic characters, comedy violence and bright colourful visuals are all here in joyously overblown proportions

Photo by Afonso Campos



**Slow down. There's no need to  
rush to uni on **Friday morning****

Read **Felix** from home at [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)  
from 7am every Friday



Fashion Editor: **Saskia Verhagen**[fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk)**FASHION**

# Fashion's final frontier: Techno-Couture

Gabriella Yongue explores the latest obsession in the world of fashion: technology

**M**any of us think that Imperial could not be further removed from the world of fashion, however I'd like to persuade you otherwise. Both fashion and technology are constantly evolving industries; fickle and always in search of the new 'it' product to entice buyers into yet another superfluous purchase. Therefore one can only imagine the force generated when these two polarised worlds collide...

## Fashion Reconstructed

So firstly to all of you studying materials and engineering, take a look at the mad scientist of the fashion world, Mr Hussein Chalayan; a genius when it comes to designing clothes from the most unlikely recycled materials. One of his works includes an airplane dress (SS '00) made from aircraft-construction materials. And, for those boys who fantasize about undressing a girl at the push of a button, this dress changes shape by remote control! But what really put his name on the fashion world map was his following collection in which he transformed chairs and tables into skirts and other garments in front of the eyes of the front row. And Lady GaGa, the queen of avant-garde, is also a fan - remember the bubble dress from her fame ball tour? - she 're-created' it from his SS'07 show.

So what are you waiting for? Get the pencils out from behind your ears and your measuring tapes from your back pocket and get creative!

## Geometric Proportions

Now, attention maths geeks: why not follow Issey Miyake's lead and put the Golden Ratio to good use to produce unique geometric garments. Her collection '132.5. Issey Miyake', was inspired by none other than the computer scientist Jun Mitani who has produced a programme that can create 3-D structures from a single sheet of paper just like origami! Issey Miyake explains the title of her collection, "1" signifies a single piece of fabric; "3" and "2" refer to the three-dimensional shape which can be flattened into a two-dimensional form; and "5" is a reference to the fifth dimension. "The fifth dimension, according to Miyake, is the precise moment when the garment is worn on the body and comes to life. If only geometry back at school was more like this...."

## Fashion Surgery

A quick one for you medics... Instead of twiddling your thumbs during the next MCD practical, why not steal some of the equipment to create your own version of Dutch haute-tech designer Anouk Wiprecht's dresses: Pseudomorphs. She

uses repurposed medical equipment and custom designed electronics attached to a neck brace to trickle ink down a white dress to produce a unique pattern. Then again, I wouldn't advise trying this out with red dye on scrubs, you probably won't get a great response for your 'art' from your patients!

## Let there be light

Last but not least, EEE. The current catwalk's latest craze is illuminating their clothes and accessories. Anastasia Radevich has created a stunning collection of shoes for 2011. The designs themselves are head-turners but made even more magical with the added feature of a mesh of LED lights. However, the most inspirational collection must once again be Mr Chalayan's Swarovski Tokyo Show '08. By aiming red lasers at crystal-encrusted dresses, he created a mesmerising burning embers effect. This is where I feel fashion truly becomes art. A YouTube watch is a must.

For those interested in the future of fashion, I highly recommend a trip to the Barbican where they have an exhibition on the leaders of techno-couture, the Japanese. The Future Beauty: 30 years of Japanese fashion is open until February 2011. I hope I have managed to inspire some of you to direct your scientific minds in a more artistic direction, proving that us geeks can do fashion.



Radevich's stunning LED ankle boots, lighting up catwalks everywhere

# The Search of the Perfect Winter Boot

In-keeping with the shearling trend for winter, Felix checks out Ugg's competition, which comes in the unusual form of CAT's uber-functional and furry footwear



CAT presents its brand new, fashion-forward collection, enticing those bored by the ubiquitous Ugg boot

## Jennifer Smith

As seen on the Autumn/Winter 2010 catwalks of Milan, CAT's shearling-lined work boots are quickly becoming the hot fashion trend of this winter. With an eclectic mix of designs for men and women, CAT presents an ideal footwear solution for those seeking a boot encapsulating functionality and vintage style.

CAT have based their A/W 2010 collection on three key concepts. The Rugged collection aims to retain a classical CAT image, whilst maintaining versatility and making the boots easy to wear. The women's boot Nena (£89.99) is a great example of this. Incorporating the traditional CAT hiker styling with a padded tweed ankle detail for ultimate com-

fort, this boot should be worn loose over jeans for the ultimate casual look.

The Casual collection aims to maintain CAT's rugged signature style whilst incorporating a modern twist. The men's Evolve boot (£99.99) maintains CAT's signature oil resistant rubber grip sole and thick fleece lining yet integrates this season's lumberjack trend for a quirky take on an established classic.

Finally, the Active collection offers functional and comfortable boots for the consumer who is energetic at heart. The men's Apa boot inspired trainer (£74.99) features a leather upper with a sturdy rubber sole, making it ideal for ambling through the countryside, while the women's Molten boot (£84.99) incorporates

a fur lining into its sturdy design, making it the perfect winter warmer.

CAT footwear effectively manages to withstand both changing weather and changing trends. The company is committed to developing durable yet fashionable boots which incorporate pioneering technological features with original designs. While the idea of wearing footwear made by the world's largest manufacturer of construction and mining equipment may not be for everyone, for those wanting to be fashion forward and break the stranglehold that is Ugg, CAT boots might be right up your street.

CAT boots are available in Schuh stores nationwide.

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/>.

### Bejeweled Blitz

[apps.facebook.com/bejeweledblitz](http://apps.facebook.com/bejeweledblitz)



Even if you've never played this particular version, chances are you've stumbled upon this gem-swapping family of games before. *Blitz* is a timed variant of the classic formula: you have just 60 seconds to score as many points as you can by making rows of three, four or five gems.

The one minute limit really helps to pick up the pace and makes the game much more exciting than its placid predecessor. Try and get into a rhythm for a significant speed bonus!

### CellCraft

[cellcraftgame.com](http://cellcraftgame.com)



Despite stinking ever-so-slightly of a, \*shudder\*, educational game, this biology-based adventure RPG is actually quite entertaining. Taking control of the cell, moving it along and building ribosomes and other things is fun as you can zoom in and see everything happening, and there's an incredible amount of detail in the way the game works. Quite why, then, the developers felt the need to include a plot featuring talking duck-billed platypuses is a true mystery.

# The next revolution in

## Dexter Tarr gets his hands on the Sony Playstation Move...

The Playstation 3 has long been regarded as the antithesis to Nintendo Wii's modern video game philosophy. Where Nintendo offered family-orientated offline multiplayer with cutesy graphics all in a compact console, Sony opted for a monolith designed to have a greater capacity than could be utilised by game designers at launch and aesthetically targetted at the somewhat small audience of Stanley Kubrick and Darth Vader.

From the day the PS3 entered the market until the moment Sony first announced its Move technology it had seemed like this gap was increasingly widening. Nintendo was witnessing a sharp decline in third party interest in developing games for its "gimmicky system" whilst the PS3 was bouncing back from initial criticism to produce games of such graphical quality that real life began to seem somewhat low res. However, to a mixed reaction and possibly in response to the undeniable volume of sales that the Wii continued to generate and Xbox's Kinect announcement, Sony weighed in with its own interpretation of motion gaming. What's stranger, they told us they could bring the 'hardcore' games with them.

The launch titles, we were told, would include fully compatible FPS and fighting games that would pull no punches just because you would be waving a motion controller at them. Though these titles are yet to hit the market, what's here now is all we need to examine the current full variety of control Move offers.

The first thing you notice when you pick up the main Move controller is how well it fits into your hand. Technically I suppose this might be the second thing for most people after the large glowing ball on top used by the PS Eye to identify it, but that aside this really was a big part for me. One thing that came out from criticism of the Wii Remote was that the shape was simply not as ergonomic as it could be. *Super Mario Galaxy* is one of the best games of the generation but who can enjoy it if they don't like the feel or layout of the controller?

However, as I was testing it without the optional 'navigation' stick, the second thing I noticed was how annoyingly awkward holding the standard PS3 controller in one hand was to navigate through the menus on *Tiger Woods 2010*. I could use all kinds of terms and names ('money grabbing capitalists!' for one) to describe Sony and the choice to sell these two peripherals separately. In a way I do appreciate that not everybody wants the navigation stick – these same people probably don't yell at loading screens or get into flame wars with 14 year old kids – but I just happen to not be one of those people. Though it is by no means particularly expensive, to not offer a combined pack was for me the first mark against the commitment to keeping PlayStation 'hardcore'. No-one will be playing *FarCry* or *Call of Duty 31: CoD In Space* with a DualShock 3 in their left hand.

The optional demos from PSN offered a good

variety of party style games, a Wii-esque introduction not lost on anyone I'm sure. The first game I picked to try was the on-rails shoot'em-up *The Shoot*. From the first movie-set-card-board-cut-out you cruelly gun down you realise exactly how comfortably this game, the Eye and Move are working together. Shooting and aiming comes naturally until that tricky shot arrives and you find yourself nailing a precision shot with what feels about the right level of difficulty. You won't (nerd rage aside) be blaming a faulty controller for the bad guy who managed to get one off against you.

In fact this demo not only demonstrated the on-screen recognition of the system but also intuitive touches that Nintendo rarely found time for. Some power-ups are activated by shooting above the screen, different ones for beneath and in keeping with the arcade tradition reloading can be done to the side. As you may have also heard, another great thing about the Move controller is that it comes with the Z-Distance of Wii+ as standard. Though this didn't seem to be of huge use in most situations (excluding the insane table tennis smashes you can lay down) much like PS3 Six-Axis I have a deep faith that games will step forward able to really utilise it and make another step forward in the technology.

Is all this too good to be true? Well, perhaps a little. In keeping an open mind I considered the possibility that the demos Sony were pushing may not be a complete insight into how well the technology really works. This meant stepping into the 3rd party software: the stumbling ground of the Nintendo Wii and perhaps that of Sony too. *Tiger Woods 10* promised a full size launch title with a somewhat shoehorned Move compatibility, which is something I do not commend them on. After spending twenty or thirty minutes enabling the Move controller, I spent the next hour getting my first shot to go where I wanted it. Frustrated and annoyed by the game's attempt to turn my arms inside out in order to line up a shot I turned it off and had a five minute hissy.

Perhaps, I thought, this all really *wasn't* worth it? A hard days pay and a mediocre trade in deal of *Battlefield Bad Company 2* for some more party games? As I contemplated this my sister walked in, oblivious to me and her surroundings altogether. She picked up my discarded controller and starts playing with her 'EyePet' - a virtual pet that can be petted and tickled. Perhaps it was the weaponised levels of cuteness, perhaps I'd just reflected that I always hated any sort of motion technology (I play *Super Smash Brothers Brawl* with Gamecube controllers) but I realised that the Move isn't just for me. If my technophobic sister can be won over then Sony have done something right. Maybe they'll win me around too because I certainly won't be trading it in – it's definitely worth more than that. That is, if she ever gets off that fucking EyePet and lets me play more *Fallout*.



# ...gaming has arrived

...while Laurence Pope looks into the brand new Xbox Kinect



**K**inect, Microsoft's most recent peripheral for the Xbox 360, is set to arrive in UK stores by the time your eyes are roving over this article. There's been a fair bit of hype and excitement pertaining to Microsoft's latest gadget, but is it really justified? Is Kinect the greatest thing since sliced bread or are customers going to be left in the dust?

If you've been living under a rock for the last year or so let me take a minute to fill you in. Step one: think of the Wii. Step two: apply it to the Xbox. There, you now have a good idea of what the Kinect is. It's a movement sensitive device that allows you to play games on the Xbox without having to hold anything, so now think of the Wii but without the remote. It's also able to pick up voice commands, so go ahead and glue a microphone onto the mental image you have of the Wii.

With units already selling in Japan and N. America, how has the Kinect been received up until now? Well, so far the reaction has been fairly positive. Internet gaming magazine Kotaku gave it decent marks in its review, praising in particular its ability to pick up voice commands, something I've never trusted technology to do well so I've got to give Microsoft some marks for that. Overall, the opinion from Kotaku seems to be that it's not a must own, at least not yet. There are still some slow response times to be worked out when it comes to physical directions, but if you've ever played on a Wii you'll understand that these sort of devices are less than precise. Also, there are no great games designed especially for the Kinect yet, so the Kinect's £130 price tag will no doubt make you wince. Unless of course you're a student with marvellously rich parents who un-

derstand how vital it is to your studies that they invest in a Kinect.

Game wise Kinect is lacking, but then again most new consoles are a bit shabby in the game department upon initial release. It's just a question as to whether or not the Kinect'll go down the PS3 route and have nothing decent to offer us four years or so down the line. There have been a dozen or so games released so far, mostly sport and dancing stuff that make full use of the Kinect's motion sensor. They've received mixed reviews, ranging from fun and entertaining to hair pullingly frustrating (I'm looking at you again Sonic). They'll keep you entertained for a good few hours but don't expect them to last you for weeks. Maybe the game industry will prove me wrong but expect there to be a lot of rehashed iterations of the same themes.

Of course, some guy has already managed to destroy his LCD TV by swinging a ceiling fan's chain right into the screen whilst flinging his arms about like an idiot. Still, that's more a fault of him being a nitwit than anything the Kinect did. I'm sure most people have heard those stories of Wii remotes flying into tellies, though in many of those cases airborne remotes were a result of faulty straps. Let it serve as a warning, mind – if you do end up buying a Kinect or any other motion sensitive controller, watch where you fling your limbs.

There's also been a bit of controversy and a \$2000 prize generated by the Kinect's release. Adafruit Industries is currently offering this respectable chunk of cash to anyone able to create open source Kinect drivers which would allow the Kinect hardware to be utilized by other operating systems. Microsoft is (as most people could have guessed) narked off and

claim the Kinect will be kept tamper-resistant. They're fools to expect it to remain so – the online modding and scripting community is massive and Microsoft simply won't be able to stop the creation of open source drivers. Yes, Kinect-enabled software sales might suffer, but on the flip side it'll only improve hardware sales.

So should you go out and spend your student loan on a Kinect? The short answer is no (the long answer would take up several pages of writing). Why? Well, right now it's just far too expensive for what it is, a glorified TV remote that lets you play a few party games. At this stage of gaming development, motion and sound-sensitive controllers cannot possibly hope to match the precision of the traditional controller or the mouse and keyboard so forget about playing any sort of games that require a modicum of aim.

Perhaps one day motion and sound-sensitive devices will surpass the good ol' fashioned controller, but right now Kinect is just a stepping stone to that goal. I suppose I can't complain about that – accurate motion capture technology just doesn't spring up overnight. It needs to be tried and tested, perfected and honed. What I can complain about is the price. Unless you have Xbox parties all the time and enjoy throwing yourself about like you have a bad case of the hives, avoid it until it's much cheaper, has had a few of its issues ironed out by Microsoft and supports a wider selection of games. Your wallet will thank you.

The Microsoft Kinect is available now for your Xbox 360, retailing at £129.99.

**“Motion and sound-sensitive controllers cannot possibly hope to match the precision of the traditional controller or the mouse and keyboard”**

## Yet another gripping game from the WWE

Simon Worthington

The last time I played a wrestling game was in 1998 on the original PlayStation 1. *WWF Warzone* was the first 3D wrestling game ever, and although I had no particular interest in wrestling it was a title I came back to every so often. So, twelve years on, how much have things changed?

On the surface, gameplay remains basically the same. Matches consist of two or more wrestlers clotheslining, chokeslamming and DDT-ing each other into submission. There is a new control scheme, and of course there is a myriad of new characters, moves, and features, but the core of the wrestling is (not surprisingly) very familiar.

Combo moves are still a put off. You can still perform grabs, locks and various other pain-inducing movements, but figuring out which buttons you need to press is the real challenge. This is really frustrating as I know what moves I want to do but I just can't remember the button combinations for them. I'm sure this is part of the challenge for hardcore players but punching someone in the face repeatedly gets tiresome when you know there's more interesting stuff you could be doing.

The content creation options have been massively expanded with new ways to customise the game to the player's liking. Almost everything is customisable: audience signs, entrance displays and even story arcs. The character creator is actually incredibly advanced and rivals that of *The Sims* series in the amount of options it has. It does, however, seem a little unhinged: we managed to create a shiny pink monstrosity with two metre long arms and a protrusion from his belly that was very reminiscent of something from *Alien*.

The best part about wrestling games is playing with friends, as you essentially get to beat each other up without anyone getting hurt. Local multiplayer is available and is actually pretty amusing, but playing multiplayer online is incredibly slow. There's no control over players who haven't picked a character yet so everyone has to sit around waiting for idlers. When I tried a game in 'Royal Rumble' mode, I got 30 seconds of wrestling for approximately half an hour wait. I literally sat there watching other people wrestle for about ten minutes.

Overall, *WWE Smackdown Vs. Raw 2011* is not a bad game. There really is a lot of content on offer here if you're interested, so if you like wrestling then you definitely should buy this game. For everyone else though, the old problem is still present: this is a game about wrestling, designed by wrestlers for people who like wrestling. Sure, fighting your friends can be amusing for a while, but if you're someone who has no particular interest in wrestling it's hard to really see what *Smackdown Vs. Raw 2011* can offer you.

Food Editor: Dana Li

## FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Your review

## Jess says:

Wahaca is a Mexican street food chain: tacos, tostadas and quesadillas are just a few of the street foods that it offers. Cheap prices and small portions make this restaurant not a place for a heavy lunch, but a meal of snacking and gossip with the girls. Don't go for authentic food, that's what La Taqueria in Westbourne Grove is for... go for cheap fresh food when you're not in the mood for Nandos or Pizza Express.

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)

## Autumn Fruit Sorbet



I tried to find a photo more appealing...

12 purple plums halved and pitted  
6 pears peeled, cored and cut into eighths  
6 apples peeled, cored and cut into eighths  
500g blackberries  
The zest and juice of 2 oranges  
The zest of 1 lemon  
1 star anise  
2 cloves  
8 black peppercorns  
1 cinnamon stick  
170g golden caster sugar  
1 large egg white, whisked

## To make the compoté

Place everything apart from the egg white into a casserole pan or big saucepan and bring to the boil. Once bubbling, turn down the heat and poach for 3-5 minutes or until all the fruit is cooked through.

Once the fruit is cooked through, strain the poached fruits through a sieve, making sure to pick out the hard spices and then pop to one side.

Pour the juicy liquid back into a saucepan on a high heat, and allow to bubble until the liquid is reduced by a third. Then whizz up the juice and fruit in a food mixer and leave to cool and thicken.

## To turn it into a sorbet

Once it's cooled, fold the whisked egg white into the fruit compote, pour into an ice cream maker and leave to churn until your sorbet is creamy and stiff. It should take about 40 minutes. Then pop it in the freezer for 5 hours and serve 1 scoop of your sorbet with 80g of fresh berries to tick off your 2 portions.

# Fulham's newest venture: Broadway Bar and Grill

## Steak, football and beer - a student's every need fulfilled

Lucie Jichova

"How formal is this place you are taking me to?" my friend Apu called to ask before meeting me at the newly opened Broadway Bar & Grill on Fulham Road. "I don't think it's too formal. Relax," I told him. "Okay, let me ask it this way: Is it a shirt place, or a t-shirt place?" he replied.

Gentlemen, don't worry. The Broadway turned out to be male-friendly territory. Owner Brenhan Magee explained his inspiration for the bar came from The Living Room chain: a sports bar that isn't just about sports. Sure enough, flat-screen TVs on the walls were all glaring green when we visited, which could only mean one thing: football. However, the venue's décor is sophisticated, with dark wood, exposed brick, mirrors and period windows. Our fellow patrons were a well-behaved bunch of 20- and 30-somethings dressed in smart casuals. So even though sports is a big theme here, WAGs can safely tag along: not much chance of having beer spilled on your skirt by rowdy lads here. The staff are a friendly bunch too.

Food at the downstairs bar is similar to other London gastro-pubs: salads, burgers, pasta, steak, chips, club sandwiches and the like. My linguine with meatballs was served with a bunch of grilled Vittoria tomatoes on the vine, which provided a nice bit of tartness to contrast with the sweetness of the sauce. My dining companion chose the real ale battered haddock with chips and pea puree. Surprise surprise, the french fries were nicely thin. Both our dishes came well presented, and the portions were definitely man-sized. Being a girl with a well-developed sweet tooth, I always have space for dessert, but this time I was really struggling. The dessert menu on the night was rather modest: a choice of cheese board, rice pudding and apple crumble. To the bar's credit, the apple crumble seemed home made from fresh apples, rather than the kind of microwaved pre-fab nonsense one often finds in pubs. Mains at the Broadway bar start at £7.95 and food is served every day from 10 am until 11 pm, with the restaurant staying open until 12.30am for the night owls.

Should you desire more sophisticated dining, venture upstairs to Brasa, the luxury Asador Grill restaurant, where you will find white tablecloths, candles and all the associated romantic paraphernalia emulating a chic New York loft-style feel for impressing your girlfriend. The owners have tried to create a fun sharing experience in South American or Mediterranean styles, centred around quality meat. The staff seem knowledgeable about the origins of their meat, making an effort to seek out rare breeds from around the country to specifically suit the different type of steak, e.g. the large Galloway breed of cow for the large porterhouse steak. Steaks are priced from £18



Broadway's canapé and cocktail party for local residents held last month

### Even though sports is a big theme here, WAGs can safely tag along



The stash of the homemade liqueurs

upwards, and you will also be able to choose from fresh fish, seafood, pheasant or venison on the menu.

Last but not least we must mention the drinks, as this is a bar after all. The connection between sports and beer doesn't require a big mental leap, so it goes without saying that lagers, ales and cider are available on tap. However, there is also an extensive wine list, with all the major wine-producing nations represented, including France, Italy, Chile, South Africa, Argentina, Australia, California... you get the idea. Furthermore, you can choose from a wide array of cocktails, including longs, shorts, martinis and sparkles using Broadway's exciting homemade infused spirits including chilli vodka, pink grapefruit tequila and lemongrass & ginger rum, with prices ranging from £7.50 and £8.50. One of the featured house cocktails include the Burnt-down Tennessee, which encompasses orange-infused Jack Daniels, marmalade and Victorian-style lemonade.

Located literally on the doorstep of Fulham Broadway tube station, the recent opening of Broadway Bar and Grill will be a convenient option for students renting accommodation in the area, and is also in close proximity to one of Imperial's residence halls, Orient House.

Broadway also offers private dining for up to 25 people and are now taking bookings for Christmas parties.

**Broadway Bar and Grill** 474-476 Fulham Road, London SW6 1BY. Tel: 020 7610

## TROUBADOUR HAS HEART

Jamie Williams and Hannah Tullett visit Earl's Court coffee house and music venue

Step into the Troubadour and you don't know where to look first. On one wall is a stained glass window and rows of antique coffee pots; on the other, a vintage electric guitar. This perfect blend of the rustic and retro arrests the senses, and something tells you you're in for a treat.

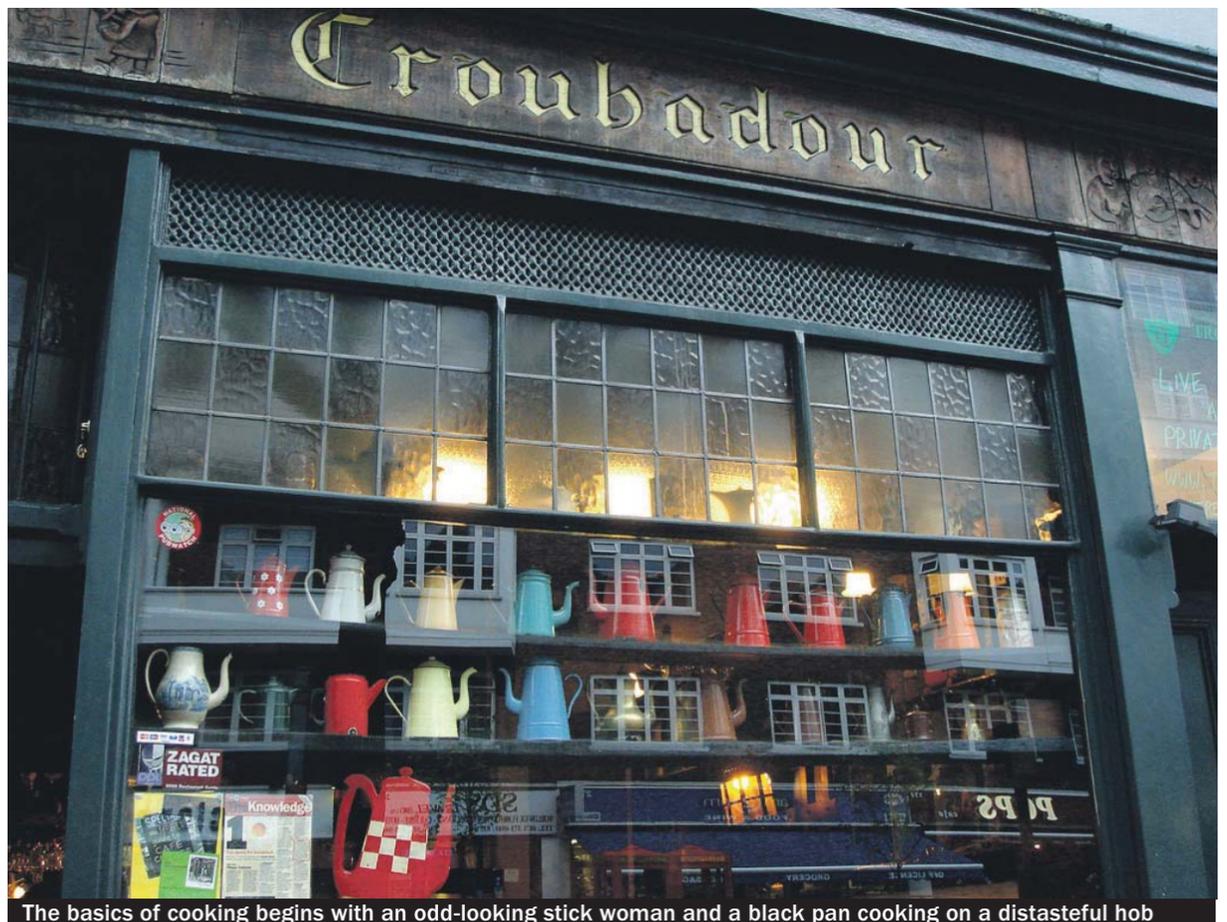
With its buzzing atmosphere and quirky personality, warm and friendly staff, the Troubadour is a perfect place for a first date or an alternative night out with friends. Traditional English food is served in great volume to small, intimate tables, and quality is certainly not compromised for a reasonable price tag; meals start from £8, with steaks nearing £20, but why not treat yourself? Between us we sampled the fish and chips

and the popular Troubadour burger, noting the refreshing lack of grease, attention to detail and general perfection. The fish and chips may have been £13, but wow, that is what you call fish and chips! It is worth noting that all ingredients are sourced locally and with great care, the secret to the dishes' perfection. If these are not for you though, you could always try one of their omelettes or salads. And most importantly, such hearty portions still allowed room for dessert! The apple crumble was flawless and the brownie literally melts in your mouth.

Adding to the eclectic feel of the Troubadour is the basement nightclub. Rich in history it has hosted the likes of Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix, and, more recently, Paulo Nutini. Every week a selection of exciting performers who write and perform their own material, treat audiences to a novel experience. Particularly pertinent to student tastes, the nightclub serves 2-4-1 cocktails, available from 8-9pm.

The garden is yet another asset to the Troubadour's charm. Under a grape vine canopy, this hideaway provides a tranquil environment right in the busy centre of Earl's Court, a short tube journey

**“Rich in history it has hosted the likes of Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix and, more recently, Paulo Nutini”**



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

from South Kensington. The adjacent Troubadour wine shop is also worth a stop. The shelves are stocked with unusual wines from around the world with prices to challenge supermarket prices.

From 9am onwards the Troubadour

starts its day as one of the Top 50 places to eat breakfast in London, so why not check out the full English? Failing that, stop in for a coffee during the day and watch the world go by. Our advice? Don't miss out on the buzz that is syn-

onymous with this wonderfully time-warped, bohemian gem.

**Troubadour** 263-7 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9JA  
www.troubadour.co.uk

## Anyone up for a Snog? It's juicy, saucy... it's yoghurt.

**Omar Hafeez-Bore**

Frozen Yoghurt is a tasty cold treat, and London has caught the cold. It's going round. If it was a warmer foodstuff they'd say it was spreading like wildfire. Instead, it's spreading more like the Starbucks and Subways that now punctuate every high street. This is an ice-age moment after years of hot coffees and warm pastries. Cold is the hottest new thing in edible delights, and what a delight it is!

If it wasn't already apparent, I absolutely love the stuff. I love its refreshing tart taste. I even prefer it to ice-cream, and its low calorific content means it carries little of the guilt despite lots of the pleasure.

But it wouldn't be nearly so joyous a thing if served by some sweaty man-hair hybrid into a polystyrene tray-box in a Turkish chippy behind Ladbroke Grove. The ambience is the thing. Though Frozen Yoghurt itself is being sold in more and more food places, it is the dedicated frozen yoghurt bars and their common sense of funk that are the

most fun. With their sleek interiors and candy colours they are like a portal into a future wonderland of cool and verve. It is as if someone syphoned off people's fantasies of Tokyo and urban-chic, then poured it into the shop-mould to set. Here, life is Pop.

I can see the doubt in your eyes. You have yet to experience this Narnia of modernity. Luckily there are several local places that you can try, including Snog in South Kensington, Frog in Bayswater and GoYog! in Hammersmith. Even their names rhyme! Clearly they are destined to enter folklore, made into songs sung by men of the future about this time of culinary change.

Perhaps. As for reviewing these dairy emporiums I will say this: Snog is delicious but the priciest. Frog, opposite Bayswater station tastes the same and has a two-for-one deal for students, which makes it A Bargain™. It also has a strawberry flavour not found anywhere else that is super tasty, faintly recalling strawberry fromage frais but with added F.Y.D. (frozen-yoghurt-deliciousness) factor. GoYog! in Hammersmith has the

worst topping selection and only one yoghurt flavour (despite what that crafty blackboard tells you), but like Frog has a two-for-one deal for students and a yoghurt that tastes distinctly different to both Snog and Frog. It is creamier and less tart.

This may sound like the obsessive detail of an addict, but you'd be wrong. Knowing the workers at Frog on first-name terms is what makes me an addict. If I could snort the stuff I would. In fact, if you could snort the stuff I'd make my own new outlet called Snort. I'd put it opposite boujis and make a killing. Heck, I'd probably get government backing for weaning people off brain-frying drugs to brain-freezing Yog-Stuffs.

Maybe I'm on to something. But until then do try Frozen Yoghurt in any of its incarnations. It's delicious.

P. S. Look out for Snort.

**Snog** 32 Thurloe Place, London SW7 2HQ. **GoYog!** 12 C/D Hammersmith London W6 7AL. **Frog** 58a Queensway, Bayswater, London W2 3RL.



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

# 178 students have contributed to Felix this year. Why not be #179?



It's never too late to write for Felix. Email [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk) to find out how.

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Aditya Narayanan Afonso Campos  
Ahmed El-Refaei Al Norman Alex  
Karapetian Alex Kendall Alex Malcolm  
Alex Nowbar Alexander Karvelas  
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Shivani Faldo Anastasia Eleftheriou  
Andrew Purcell Angry Geek Anna  
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Islam Benjamin Good Brigitte Atkins  
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Jamie Williams Jennifer Smith John  
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Navid Nabijou Nigel Fullerton Niharika  
Midha Niraj Patel Noah Baker Oli  
Wilkie Oliver Calderbank Omar  
Hafeez-Bore Outi Supponen Phil

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Rox Middleton Sam Gonshaw Sam  
Whitcomb Samiha Hayek Samir Patel  
Samuel Furse Samuel Gibbs Sarah  
Martin Sarah-Emily Mutch Saskia  
Verhagen Sean Farres Sean Harbison  
Shruti Mishra Sid Kilroy Simon Hunter  
Simon Worthington Sina Ataherian  
Slobodan Radosavljevic Sophia David  
Sophia Goldberg Stephen Smith  
Thomas Welch Tytus Murphy Veronika  
McQuadeova Victoria Brzezinski Will  
Prince Zainab Ali Zoe Groom

## TRAVEL

# Lest we forget to find a balance

Whilst recognising the importance of reminiscence, **Chris Richardson** examines the brighter side of some of the world's top remembrance destinations

**“Embracing such darker elements of a culture is often what separates travelling from tourism”**

With Remembrance Day just behind us it seems appropriate to draw in some of the more sombre elements of travel destinations. As a traveller you often confront the tensions of the place you're visiting, though this will of course vary by destination. I think embracing such darker elements of a culture is often what separates travelling from tourism: you're interested in the lifestyle and not just sporting your token 'peace fingers' pose for your prized photo with the big Buddha statue.

My latest Southeast Asian jaunt as a case in point: although I'd read about some of the problems from the Lonely Planet and heard the tales I couldn't really get a grasp of it until I actually visited. The countless number of landmine victims in Cambodia is frankly shocking, as are the slightly more subtle cases of Agent Orange deformities throughout Vietnam. While poverty is certainly an eye-opener, such atrocities get you to think that little bit more.

That's not to say that it's morbidly depressing to witness such circumstances, and in fact once you rack up your own little anecdotes and experiences it adds a great flavour to your travels. One time in South Vietnam I decided that it'd be a great idea to do some manic off-road biking with an empty fuel tank, and needless to say I found myself stranded pretty quickly. Thankfully a war veteran and his son were out fishing and stopped to fill me up and even handed me a bottle of water on account of my probably sweaty face. Absolute heroes.

As I've now nagged several times (and will continue to do so for years to come) in true self-righteous travel writer fashion: some of the people you meet have encountered hell, yet are still infinitely hospitable and upbeat.

While Remembrance Day was founded to remember the lives lost in the Great War, the remembrance has been greatly expanded to allow us a pause for thought for conflicts everywhere, of which there sadly are and have been far too many. I'm going to share a few places I've recently visited that often present taboo in conversation because of the darker events they're often associated with.

The aim is to show you the important must-see remembrance-based activities in these places while also drawing in some of the lighter things, too: If you're ever in the vicinity of these locations I hope that you don't become hesitant at the mere utterance of the place, and instead embrace them with open arms as destinations that really do have something valuable to offer.

Photo by Richard Sandwell



Kraków's Old Town, Saigon's skyline (right, above) and downtown Phnom Penh (right, below)

Photo by Chris Richardson



Photo by Mahar Usman



## Kraków, Poland

One of Poland's oldest cities, this glistening metropolis is home to some beautiful architecture, a booming nightlife and some fantastic eateries. It's only a short drive from Auschwitz, and most hotels will organise transits and tours for you for a negligible cost. I still speak to people who have visited the city and haven't done the Auschwitz tour, the reasons for which are just beyond me.

The tours are tasteful and the area has been very well preserved from tourist rot: the tours keep to-the-point and the lack of a resident gift shop is somewhat pleasing. Certain parts of Auschwitz I and II-Birkenau are included on tours that are ran by knowledgeable guides who were doing an excellent job from what I could tell. Auschwitz is definitely one of those cases where reading a book or watching a documentary will pale in insignificance to standing there. It's certainly an eerie feeling walking through a place that is a symbol for such atrocities.

Back in Krakow many options await you. One of my highlights was sampling honey vodka and plum brandy at the Wieliczka salt mine, which includes an entire chapel carved out of rock salt. While seemingly standard it's a very impressive display. Drift through the Old City at night and see the impressive evening lights bounce off the town hall tower, gaze at the town's many churches and squares, and see Wawel Castle, one of Europe's most beautiful castles.

If you're a morning person be sure to check out one of the flea markets, or for the night owls among you check out the reasonably-priced cocktail bars and clubs like Cien which pump out endless house. The point is that it's a great city with lots happening, and a great stop-off for anyone who is inter-railing or in the area for whatever reason.

## Saigon, Vietnam

Vietnam is by far my favourite destination and Saigon was the first place on my hit list as I made my way up the coast to the China border. This urban sprawl is littered with telephone cables and posters depicting the revered Ho Chi Minh, and if the sea of motorbikes doesn't knock you off your feet the stench of durian fruit certainly will.

South Vietnam in particular suffered heavily during the war with the US, the damages of which can still be seen by the births of children with physical deformities and mental retardation due to prenatal chemical exposure.

The War Remnants Museum has several exhibits ranging from plain interesting to shocking, outlining the events and consequences of a devastating war.

The Cu Chi tunnels are a network of 250km of underground tunnels that were occupied by South Vietnamese during the war: many people were permanent residents – some even got married and gave birth there. You can still enter the tunnels to get a glimpse of what life would have been like, and trust me, five minutes of claustrophobia is more than enough.

Hop on a bike and hit up some of the parks and markets on offer, in particular the Russian market where you can filter through the replica garbage and find some genuine war memorabilia, Zippos and the like. Have a couple of shots of snake wine (great for impotence, apparently) and hit up the city at night – the street food is not to be missed, nor are the manic night markets and pumping bars.

And did I mention that Vietnamese bin collection trucks sound like our ice cream vans? Saigon is such a great place to begin or wrap up your Vietnamese journey – there's a reason it's a focal point on the Asian backpacker circuit.

## Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Oh, you're hopping between Cambodia and Vietnam and stuck in this hole for 2 hours while you wait for your bus transfer? Shit, isn't life a bitch at times? I'm really not sure why this place has such a dire reputation on the good ol' tourist trail, or perhaps I just continually chatted with the wrong sort of people. Hell, I loved it and stayed there way beyond the call of duty even after my 'nam visa started ticking!

Pol Pol's brutal regime was responsible for the death of 21% of Cambodia's entire population, but despite this grim statistic he's often missed out of conversation. Phnom Penh is home to both the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Choeung Ek Killing Fields, the former of which is a school turned detention centre turned museum, and the latter of which has recently been privatised, much to the outrage of the Cambodians whose relatives the fields commemorate. Both offer a thoughtful insight into the problems Cambodia has faced in the past and now faces as a result of such horrific events.

The cliché of the 'contradictions of Cambodia' certainly didn't spawn from nowhere – Phnom Penh's streets are a bizarre mix of the extremes: poor children missing limbs playing alongside wealthy businessmen in suits. Such contrasts can be seen in just about everything in the city, which certainly has a great deal of life to it. The Royal Palace has all of Thailand's wondrous infrastructure but without the incessant hailing to the oh-so wise king, which was certainly welcomed.

Grab a cheap hostel overlooking the lake and kick back with a massage, go for a cruise up the mighty Mekong, and chow down with a classic fish amok curry – include this awesome place on your route more than just a stopover, you won't regret it.

# HANGMAN



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Twitter



**SexyOsama69**

Oh shit Cammy. Students are breaking your windows. Better drop the tuition fees



**The\_Cleggomatortrontown <3**

I'm a part of this government too you know, Osie! I also have a say!



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

lol



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

lol



**Barack\_attack\_133thaxor**

lol



**SexyOsama69**

Good one Cleggman



**The\_Cleggomatortrontown <3**

No! I'm serious. I actually have a vital role in the running of our country



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

hahahaha



**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

lol 'vital role'. That line is goin in my play



**SexyOsama69**

hahahahaha! Cleggman stop! you're killing me! this is too much

## DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

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

# Hangman pisses on his own bonfire

Or is it 'her' own bonfire? Eh, eh? ...

It's been a week of pain for me: Physical pain, mental pain and the unbearable cringe-worthy pain of listening to 'Felix radio'. It's like having an audio supplement to my electricity bill. I know you're, by now, well-accustomed to my bitter nature, but this week has been a particularly infuriating one, and has left me even more venomous than usual.

It all began with the fireworks... ( Cue flashback with dreamy flashback music. Du lu lu lu luuu)

Saturday 6th November

Bonfire night. An annual celebration of failure. Guy Fawkes sets out to assassinate the king and ends up dead, leaving the king very much unassassinated. We're celebrating something that didn't happen. It's like having a birthday party for an aborted foetus. (Oh get over it! At least I haven't actually aborted a foetus). Dickens didn't write 'A Bonfire Carol', but if he did, I'd definitely be the detestable protagonist. I'm the scrooge of Bonfire night, and no stupid ghost is going to persuade me to change my ways. Unless they were willing to perhaps occasionally write my Hangman article. They could be my (Teehee) Ghost writers. (Oh get over it! At least it wasn't an abortion joke)

I hate everything about Bonfire night: the bonfire, the fireworks and the people. Why does everyone suddenly think they're my friend now that we're all at the Bonfire night together? It's that nauseous sense of 'family atmosphere'. Families ruin everything. A family event becomes a family warzone with every family trying to out-family the other family. You really think that the Dad has put his daughter on his shoulders to give her a better view of the bonfire? No! He simply has the height advantage now for a one-on-one. It's a show of power. When a mum gives her child a sparkler and puts him in the fenced-off 'safety zone', do you think she wants him to have fun? Of course not! She just wants him to look cute and adorable. Do you ever see an ugly kid with a sparkler? No! Of course not! Ugly kids are left in the car because they're a fucking disgrace to the family.

Christ, I haven't even started on the fireworks. My friend dragged me along this year, insisting that I'd enjoy the display (just like those fucking ghosts). He was wrong. Call me a sophisticated hu-



Oh yah, so like fire is so representative of like... emotion yah. \*choke... oh gawd, hold on, yah I think my own intestine is coming up to strangle me

man being, but pretty colours and noises just don't excite me – couldn't believe I'd missed X factor for this. And why does everyone have to go 'oooooh' and 'aaaaaaahhh' like amateur porn stars faking an orgasm? And for every single fucking firework!? I felt like I was attending some pagan ritual. For a horrible second I thought they might sacrifice the children to the gods and throw them on the bonfire. I guess if they did the ugly ones, it wouldn't have been such a bad thing.

Until I see a firework embody the shape of a dragon and descend upon a startled crowd then fireworks will always just be stupid flashy bang colours. God Bless you Gandalf.

Bonfire night was just a minor nuisance this week, however. A simple mistake I will never make again! When I was talking about physical pain earlier, I wasn't lying. I've been an invalid for the last four days, on a cocktail of painkillers and antibiotics just for a fucking toothache!

Let me tell you that time flies when you're either screaming with agony into a pillow (neighbours called the police on the first night, presumably because they thought I was being raped, so thought I should muffle my cries the next time), or unconscious-verging-comatose from taking so many opiate-based painkillers.

I have an abscess on the root of my tooth and it feels like someone is repeatedly hacking away at my jaw with a blunt axe, rubbing it with salt and then pissing on it with acid. I don't even know if it's possible to piss acid, but I definitely know what it's like to be pissed on with acid. Of course, with a full-time schedule of screaming, sleeping and mildly hallucinating, I didn't find much time to tell Kadhim that I may not be able to write anything for Hangman this week. And so that's why, at 5.30 in the morning of the day that this issue of Felix is sent to the printers, I'm just ranting about fireworks and toothaches. Well, whilst I'm here and pissed off I might as well mention the Asylum seekers that have been left untouched for the last few weeks. Yeah, that's right I'm talking about you Drunken Mate of the week and Horoscopes! What happened to Coffee Break huh? Come crawling over to my section and think I won't even notice!? Think you can take advantage of a guy with toothache? You're sick! God damn, if McPickle hadn't rescued my dick from that beehive whilst I was licking AIDS from a cat, then I'd send you back to that lesser-shithole you came from! THIS ISN'T OVER! THIS ISN'T OVVVEEEERRRRRR!!!

It's totally over, there's nothing I can do about it.

Read Hangman online at [www.asifwewoulduploadthis.com](http://www.asifwewoulduploadthis.com). Psyche! Now get back to the article you curious fuck

## THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



### “Pakistan bans Orwell’s ‘Animal Farm’ after rebel attacks”

#### DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



“TITTIES! SUCK MY MAN TITTIES!!!” Well that’s what I imagine he’s screaming...

## Horoscopes

### Aries

This week you sit at your desk, watching your contributors working conscientiously on the paper. Given that one in seven people are reptilian shape-shifters you quickly become suspicious. It’s him over there isn’t it? You attack with a rubber banana. SMACK SPLAFF DIE!

### Gemini

This week you move to a new house underneath the sea. It predictably springs a leak and you drown. Drowning is horrific. It’s like watching your best friend fuck your sister, his surprisingly large cock stretching her apart. The feeling of inadequacy is painful...

### Leo

“If you’re looking for me, you’d better check under the sea, coz that is where you’ll find me. Underneath the sealaab, underneath the waterrr. Seaalabbb at the bottom of the seaaa.” I love ‘Sealab 2021’. I love it so much I’m going to pay to watch it... Nahhh only joking LOL!

### Libra

This week you have about twelve conversations with people who you consider to be twats. You devise a plan to make certain that these people know that you hate them. Every time they start speaking you fart and drawl sarcastically, “finally some decent conversation”

### Sagittarius

This week you get naked and rub your bare asshole against a girl’s leg (See left). Later you screw her. You realise that being classy is never going to get you laid and write a pick-up book called “Using your ass to get laid”. You make millions. There are no downsides.

### Aquarius

This week you have discreetly revealed the true identities of Hangman and Angry Geek on Pages 12, 24 and 39. Go on have a look. It’s there. Hiding in plain sight. Only a UCL student couldn’t find it. (LOL, WHAHEY BANTER!!! fuck-off...)

### Taurus

This week you totally go sailing. You feel part of some glorious upper-class. You go home and rub supreme upper-class spunk in your girlfriend’s face. She’s unresponsive. She’s been that way since the car-accident 6 months ago. You weep... and then get horny.

### Cancer

This week you fuck all of the people you shouldn’t fuck. Your best mate’s ex, your other mate’s ex, your other mate’s sister, your other mate’s mom, your other mate’s tub of “I Can’t Believe it’s Not Inedible Butter Now, I Mean I Totally Stuck My Penis in it...”

### Virgo

This week you really need to pee. You decide to hold it in... for agesss. Soon you start getting ‘300’ flashbacks. “HOLD MEN. HOOOOOLD. HOOOOOLD!!!” and then your bladder explodes. Literally a piss-bomb just went off inside your own body. That’s how pathetic you are.

### Scorpio

This week you go to the library cafe but there aren’t any baked potatoes available. They won’t be ready for 15 minutes. GOOD GOD. You perform seppuku right there in front of the counter. You die a respectful death. The potatoes are ready in 2 minutes...

### Capricorn

This week you go kick-boxing. You realise that the teacher is a sadistic bastard. He calls you to the front of the class. Waves his foot around in the air, an impressive show of agility, strength and balance. And then lunges forward, and nipple-cripples you! DAMNNN!

### Pisces

This week you grow a moustache for Movember. You sit for hours, straining your face, pushing out the hairs, willing it to grow with every fibre of your being. You look in the mirror. Success! A fully-formed handlebar has appeared! You’re a girl... FAIL



# PUZZLES

## Going Underground

Each letter in the alphabet is assigned a number value between 1 and 26 (see table) and when added up together for a specific word (or in this case specific Underground station) the sum equals the total shown. All you have to do is send the Underground station that is hidden each week to [puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

B	A	N	K
2	1	14	11

= **28**    2+1+14+11=28. Job done.

So which London tube station sums to ?

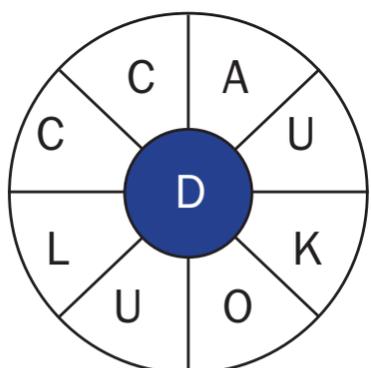
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
=	<b>136</b>						

## SLITHERLINK

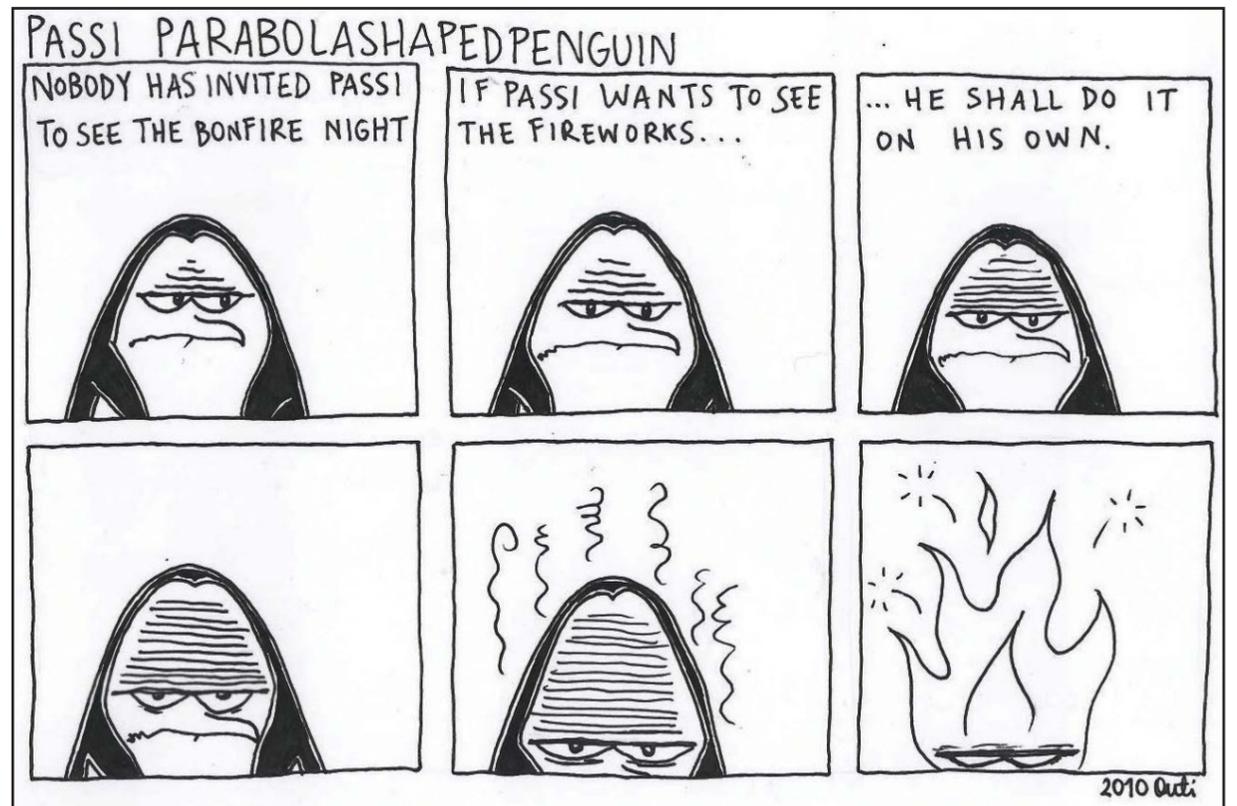
If you've ever played minesweeper, then you should be able to understand this puzzle. The number in each box represents the number of lines that can exist around it. Lines can never cross! In the end, you will end up with a closed loop. Just have a look at the solution in the opposite page.

## Word Wheel

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



TARGET: 24



## Wordoku

	W			E			
		L				I	
I					T	A	W
	A			L	W		R
				I			
T	W	A				L	
U	E	V					T
	R				A		
		V				W	

## Last Week's Cryptic Crossword Solution

I	M	P	E	R	I	A	L	C	O	L	L	E	G	E
N	L	E	T	I	I	D	T							
C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R		M	I	D	G	E
I	N	D	E	C	I	I	R							
D	I	T	T	Y		M	E	L	A	T	O	N	I	N
E						M	P	E		G	A			
N	A	S	C	E	N	T		D	I	G	I	T	A	L
T	T	A						U	O	T				
A	I	R	F	L	O	W		T	H	I	N	N	E	R
L	O					E	O	L			I			
M	A	N	O	M	E	T	E	R		D	U	B	Y	A
U	T	E				D	P	H	L	N				
S	W	I	F	T		O	P	E	R	A	T	I	N	G
I	U	R				C	D	L	N	L				
C	O	M	M	O	N	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E



# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## RAG Week

### CGCU Slave Auction



The annual CGCU Slave Auction took place this Wednesday night, resulting in Union President Alex Kendall shelling out £200 to buy himself out of being a naked mascot for this year's varsity.

A bitter Kendall sought to embarrass his fellow sabbaticals. Teaming up with last year's President, Dr. Ashley Brown, they bought Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Heather Jones for £135 and now must wear a corset or banana costume to the next five meetings with senior College staff.

RCSU President, Scott Heath, must now prepare to run around Beit Quad naked after multiple people teamed up to enslave him for £120.

£50 will go to charity as soon as Current Deputy President (Welfare), Charlotte Ivison, fulfils her task of cooking dinner for master and the Slave Auction's organiser, Sahil Chugani. However, the agreement stipulates the cost of the dinners must be split 50/50.

To round off the night, Felix Editor, Kadhim Shubber, was bought for a disappointing £15 in return for a naked centre-fold.

By Dan Wan



## NOTICE

### Amateur Radio

Please contact Phil (pjh@talk21.com) if you have any interest in amateur radio (ham radio). Staff and students wanted!

Two weeks after a very well attended Freshers trip, two minibuses of Outdoor Club members left for a weekend of adventure in the renowned Peak District National Park. Despite taking wildly different routes, both groups arrived at Fulwood Scout Hut, Sheffield within seconds of each other, after sampling some of the Midlands cheapest, and perhaps greasiest, takeaway food (in Loughborough and Birmingham). The occupants of both vehicles were of course disappointed in two ways: 1. They hadn't got there first 2. Worst of all, no one had yet brewed up. After quickly unloading the buses the latter of these grievances was rapidly remedied before all settled in for a very comfortable sleep.

Early on Saturday a motivated group of walkers and climbers, spurred by the excellent weather, were up and packing the kit needed for the day ahead. The first bus made its way to Stanage High Neb, at the Western end of the extensive gritstone escarpment of Stanage Edge, whilst the second bus beelined for Stanage Popular, the opposite end of this 3-mile long rock feature. Stanage is a magical place for climbers, walkers, fell runners and mountain bikers alike. The rough, dark grey rock sits above auburn bracken, punctuated by bright green, grassy paths and large, round millstones shaped from what some describe as 'God's own rock'. The top of the edge stretches out into vast moorland and standing above the climbs you are rewarded with views of nearby Hathersage, the picturesque Edale and Hope valleys and of course the other gritstone edges. Invigorated by the splendour of the natural environment and the cool morning air all were eager to have a go at climbing the famous cracks, aretes, nebs and rugosities and before long we'd Limbo'ed, Tango'ed, accessed the Inaccessible Crack (Direct) and some had even taken to flight on Flying Buttress Direct. However, like Stanage, the Outdoor Club is about much more than just climbing, and many of the trip members opted to brave the windy conditions of the moor to walk, or in one case run, along the length of the edge, exploring the different scenery and features, including the famous Robin Hood's Cave - a popular summer bivouac.

Of course, the most important part of any trip is the Saturday evening, when everyone can come together and share stories of the day. A few members had dressed for Halloween so our number included a superhero, Rod Stewart's love-child and a reptile charming wizard. Now, with the chilli simmering, a few cans drunk and the pumpkin carved it was time to begin the games, starting with the traditional family favourite: Apple, Carrot and other assorted vegetable bobbing. The rules are simple: 3 tries then you're out. You eat what you 'win' or losers drink a cup of the bobbing 'juice' - a bright red foaming concoction not dissimilar to snakebite. The competency level was high this year, with



## Outdoor Club's Peak District romp

By Phil Leadbeater

many people succeeding on apples or bananas, and only a few unlucky souls retrieving onions, or nothing at all. Now with a good hunger we sat down to tuck into copious volumes of pasta and chilli, followed by chocolate cake and custard. The perfect meal after a long day. As we all relaxed with some after dinner drinks, no one (including the performer) realised that an impromptu Karaoke and dance-a-thon session was about to begin. Needless to say, they were slightly embarrassed the next morning and the author of this report has it on good grounds that they are desperately seeking to destroy the video evidence.

So, enjoying the extra hour of sleep, and the obligatory Sunday morning lie in it was a slower start to our second day in the Peak. The bright sunshine and crisp breeze of Saturday had been replaced with an atmospheric mist across the higher moors and slightly warmer temperatures. Three parties set out. One to undertake a good 20km walk via Win Hill, a small grassy Peak which quietly mocks the neighbouring Lose Hill, and Ladybower reservoir - training ground of the 'Dambusters'. Two sites of in-

teresting and unrelated military history. Meanwhile, others climbed at Bamford and Froggatt edges - giving club members the chance to practise their lead climbing skills on some fairly challenging routes. An unexpected rendezvous of two of these teams in the Yorkshire Bridge Inn gave an opportunity for more tale telling before heading back to the buses to make the long drive home. Even more remarkably than the outward journey, the two buses left different parts of Derbyshire, at different times, returned to London by different routes and arrived back at Beit about one minute apart. Some things are just meant to be!

In a weekend in which, Burg dressed as a non-mammalian Batman character, Jonny reintroduced the mullet to the climbing scene, Phil wore a snake as a scarf and many people wore a purple pointy wizards hat all but the longest serving members of the club will be surprised to hear that nobody wore a flat cap!

The Outdoor Club has been active since 1945. Typically, weekend trips see members walking, climbing, running, rafting and biking their way through the hills. The club also climbs indoors at Ethos from 7pm-9pm every Thursday evening during term-time. For more information contact outdoor@imperial.ac.uk.

**"Our number included a superhero, Rod Stewart's love-child and a reptile charming wizard."**



## Why I did not attend the NUS Demo on tuition fees

I did not attend the NUS demonstration on Wednesday because I do not agree with its motive or with the scaremongering the NUS has done in the build up to the protest. There is a huge problem in this country, which is not only the deficit, but the warped situation whereby taxpayers who do not go to University pay for those that do. Students need to take more responsibility for their choice in going to University and realise that if we are the benefit to society that we want to be, we should take an active approach to helping to bring the deficit down.

The NUS has been saying that the current measures will price people out of University; this is untrue and does considerable damage. Yes we have to do more to widen participation in Higher Education amongst the poorest, but in the

proposed system, regardless of the debt you incur, you do not have to pay for it up front and only do pay for it when you are earning £21,000. It is also written off after 30 years. Under this proposed system, the rich graduates will pay more back because they can afford it; what part of that is unfair? I believe that demonstration is important and that marching in the streets, regardless of how it will affect the Government's decision, is a worthwhile way to show what you believe in. But some people have gone too far.

King's video against the Government's plan would make you think that all Universities are being shut down and all students are going to be attacked by zombies; whilst Goldsmiths' stunt of hanging effigies of David Cameron and Nick Clegg is just hideous – whoever had that idea and went through with it has

just lessened the value of a degree as something that is meant to go alongside intellectual thought. From some of the language used you'd think we were fighting the rise of a fascist police state or a new apartheid, not a simple readjustment so that we bear some of the responsibility of our choice to go to University.

If our Students' Unions put the same effort as they did in bussing students to London for this demo into going into local schools and teaching pupils that University is accessible, we would have

a much better country, and a much better National Union of Students. Finally a word on the violence seen after the demonstration; I realise this was not the NUS' plan, and I join them in condemning it, but in the end, if you call an event 'Demolition' you have to expect something like that to happen.



Alex Kendall  
President

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**metric**

## STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY?

Experiencing an unexpected cash shortfall and struggling to make ends meet?

Yes?

If so, we may be able to help. Visit the Registry website.

**HOME Students**  
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[www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/studentfinancialsupport/alf](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/studentfinancialsupport/alf)

**EU & Overseas Students**  
College Hardship Fund

[www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/studentfinancialsupport/hardshipfund](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/studentfinancialsupport/hardshipfund)



Student Financial Support Registry  
Level 3 Sheffield Building

## SPORT

Sports Editors: **Jovan Nedic**  
**David Wilson**  
 sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Forgotten Sports

### Ultimate Frisbee



**Archery and ice hockey, at least you knew these things were sports, but did you know that Ultimate Frisbee is one also? Carina Carter didn't...**

### What is Ultimate Frisbee?

Ultimate is a seven-a-side team sport played with a flying disc. Played on a rectangular pitch of 100m by 37m, with two 18m deep end-zones, the object of the game is to score points by having a player catch the disc in the end-zone which they are attacking. Once in possession of the disc the attacking player cannot move, but can pass the disc in any direction to a teammate. The defending team takes possession if the disc touches the ground, lands outside the playing pitch or is caught by a defender. Games run until a predetermined time or points cap is reached.

Uniquely among competitive sports, Ultimate is entirely self-refereed. Any infringements are called by the players themselves, for example a body contact foul, after which the other player involved can agree with or contest the infringement. This relies on the trust that players will compete fair-mindedly and will not intentionally breach the rules. This underlying mutual respect for the opponent is known as the Spirit of the Game, inherent to the sport.

Ultimate is played across three divisions: Open (for which all players are eligible), Women's and Mixed (where teams must comprise of both male and female players). The sport is most commonly played outdoors on a grass pitch, but has indoor and beach variations which are played on smaller pitches with only five players.

Widely played at university level, the UK also boasts some of the best club teams in Europe. Most club tournaments are held from November until August, with European Championships held annually and World Championships every four years. Some of the largest tournaments in the UK see over five hundred players compete and, with its growing reputation as a fast-paced, intense sport, Ultimate looks set to continue to attract new players to the game.

Phil Sandwell

# Ultimate frisbee: because just throwing it about in the park is crap

Carina Carter

I'm sure many of you (me included) thought that frisbee was just a game you played in the park on a hot summer day to pass time, apparently we were wrong. Who knew before coming to university that it is in fact a sport, let alone an ULTIMATE one?! Appearing in the UK in the early 70s, Ultimate Frisbee grew in popularity and the next few decades saw clubs appearing at various universities across the country. Ultimate Frisbee started at Imperial back in 1998. The club currently has around 40 members and compete in both indoor and outdoor competitions.

The club have already been out in action in several competitions this term. They competed in BUCS open indoor regionals for the South-East two weekends ago finishing fourth. This puts them top of the second division for the nationals in a few weeks time, where they will compete to retain their title as defending champions-pretty impressive! They also play in a winter league, which provides good practice for the nationals.

In terms of freshers, the club signed up over 200 at freshers fair (including 50 girls I was enthusiastically told!) and saw 60 people turn up to the first session. The club usually also get a high post-graduate turn out from those that have played for their previous university. No previous experience is required to start playing and new players got the chance to give it a go at a fresher tournament in Brighton. Four out of the five players on the team have to be beginners: "this allows the freshers to learn the game in a relaxed atmosphere. It's competitive but there's no pressure", says the club's president Michael Foster, "it's experience you couldn't get in a practice".

So does the club also have a social side? "Yes, we have various events like curry nights and Christmas dinner, as well as going to the union after practice" says Phil Sandwell, the club's secretary. They also seem to have their own drinking tradition called the 3 pint challenge. Unfortunately I didn't get to see this in action, but it involves racing in pairs to drink 3 pints through (apparently it has to be McDonald's) straws. The drinking vessel is of course a Frisbee and the current record is 16 seconds. Well, I guess it makes a change from the standard 'get it down...' anyway.

Ultimate Frisbee train in Hyde Park on Wednesdays (1pm) and Saturdays (11am). If you think that a Frisbee could make your life complete, or you just fancy giving it a go, email ultimate@imperial.ac.uk for more details.



Frisbee can indeed be played indoors and you can even wear a headband to play

## Snowsports at Dry Slopes Championships

Beth Burks

Once again, it was time for the Snow sports' annual dry slope championships, or BUDS for short. The event took place in Edinburgh last weekend, November 4th-6th. With around 70 universities in attendance, it was a great chance to meet other snowsports clubs from around the country.

A group of 11 Snowsports members travelled the long minibus ride up on the Thursday evening, arriving in the early hours of the morning. This did not leave much time for rest for team captains Gerry Hawkins, Luke Bridgestock and Simon Federer who, along with chairman Joe Templeman had to make the 8am captains' meeting.

The competitors were joined by a host of IC freshers who offered support through general debauchery from Thursday through Sunday. This was probably spurred on by a certain person's - let's call them JT - disagreement with

a club's policy on crowd surfing on the Friday night.

Saturday morning the guys woke up to hangovers and a parking ticket! Not the best result of the weekend. However with a whole new day of ski and snowboard events ahead of them, spirits soon lifted. Unfortunately, the last minute drop-out of the ski team's only girl resulted in the team not being allowed to compete in the team slalom. However, there were plenty of individual entries in ski and snowboard. The hammering rain was no deterrent for Snowboard captain, Bridgestock, who made it through to Big Air final - pulling a successful 360°! Saturday night was the BUDS ball - traditionally a carnage-producing event that lived up to expectations.

After an exhausting weekend, drivers Joe and Gerry had the task of bringing the minibus safely home; they succeeded! Anyway, despite the torrential rain, it was a awesome weekend with some great results. So, well done boys!

# SPORT

## Hockey: Ladies 1s' progress in ULU Cup

Jess Poore

Women's Hockey ULU CUP

IC 1st 3 - 1 Royal Holloway 1st

A high-stakes game for the Ladies 1s on Sunday saw them face Royal Holloway in the first round of the ULU Cup. As last year's Cup winners, and facing a team they'd lost to the week before, the ladies had a lot to play for. Arriving somewhat early, there was plenty of time for the ladies to psych themselves up against a team who, it appeared, had not only a full-time coach, but also a separate warm-up coach!

On a pitch more reminiscent of a soggy beach than an Astroturf, a winning toss forced the opposition to play into the sun, and Imperial tried to take full advantage. Having learned from the previous game that the Holloway players could only follow their coach's instructions, Imperial put up a much better fight, forcing much of the play into the opposition half. Unfortunately, thanks to some solid last-gasp defence, and a

lucky penalty corner strike, Royal Holloway were first to score. With some help from (flexi-)Harry's acrobatics in the D, and helped by the opposition defence's inability to keep up with Teddy, IC brought it back to 1-1 for half time.

Ready for the second half, and aware that full-time at 1-1 would only mean golden-goals and penalty flicks (an experience far too stressful to contemplate), Imperial Ladies finally took advantage of one of their many penalty-corners; a great shot from Gigi "I can't score" Fateh-Iravani taking it them 2-1 ahead. The Holloway girls unfortunately failed to be boosted by their coach's words of wisdom (such inspirational words as "that's not how we play hockey, is it girls?") were to be heard from the sideline), and Imperial dominated the rest of the second half, with Kirsten finishing off a cross to take the final score to 3-1. With only two more matches against Royal Holloway before the end of the season, IC Ladies move on to the second round of the ULU Cup - preparing for the next tie against GKT Ladies' 1s.

## American Football: Immortals lose to field goal in overtime

... Continued from back page  
touchdown run two plays later and with a two-point conversion the Immortals took the lead. Unfortunately the Immortals defence were unable to halt the Stingers passing game and Surrey recaptured the lead before the half adding a two-point conversion.

After the break the Stingers extended their lead as they took advantage of an offensive fumble and scored another passing touchdown to make the score 8-20. Down by 12 points the Immortals offence dug deep and engineered a 35 yard drive to score. Good blocking by the offensive line led by rookie centre Zhiyao "Jackson" Xing and a first career reception for wide receiver Charles Edwards of 15 yards, set up first-year running back Alistair Boyce for his maiden rushing touchdown. Back in the game at 14-20, the Immortals defence set about countering the continued aerial assault as the Stingers completely abandoned the running game and attempted to pick apart the defensive secondary. A decent pass-rush from the Immortals defensive line and linebacking corp gave the Surrey Quarterback little time to make his throws and Cornerback Irfan Raza and Safety Arjav Trivedi were able to break up plays and almost picked the ball for multiple interceptions.



You've got to ask yourself, when the players are this 'big', is the protective gear really needed?

With time running down the offence once more handed the ball off to Millar and solid blocking sprung the running back for a 34 yard touchdown run, levelling the score. A failed two-point conversion meant the game would be heading for overtime.

Getting the ball first, the Immortals drove from the 25 yard line and despite solid play by the Stingers' now tiring defence, Quarterback Rob Wolstenholme threw a beautiful spiral pass to Arjav Trivedi for a 25 yard, career-first,

touchdown. Failing on the two point conversion the Immortals led 26-20. Surrey commenced their drive and the defence almost won the game, only for the Stingers to score on 4th down, but failing to convert the two-point conversion. Receiving another drive each, the Immortals failed to score as Millar was stopped inches short of the goalline on 4th down. The ensuing Surrey drive saw the Stingers clinch this hard-fought game by kicking a field goal leaving the score at 26-29.

## Baseball Club win the Falcon Cup for the first time



The Falcons with the Fall Cup. Look out for the baseball feature in next weeks issue!

... Continued from back page  
top with Southampton, with Nottingham just a point behind as the race for the cup was reduced to a three team battle.

Dressed up as a 13 man Asian baseball team, we returned to the Herts field on Halloween for our final round robin game against reigning Fall Cup champions University of East Anglia. With Nottingham having already defeated Southampton for a place in the final earlier that day, the Falcons needed a point to ensure qualification. Another late comeback by the Falcons saw us take a 3-2 lead, and Imperial hung on for a 3-3 tie and the necessary point to play for the Fall Cup.

Tied with the Thieves, Imperial was top of the table by virtue of our head to head record over Nottingham. Thus, Imperial had the advantage of batting in the bottom half of the inning in the final. While the opponent was the same as our first match, the game was not the pitching duel of Saturday and instead it became a battle of lineups. A great fly-ball catch with men on 1st and 2nd base by Kevin Ling slowing the bats of the Thieves. However, good base running by Nottingham allowed them to take the lead with the score 2-0 at the top of the first inning. Multiple lead changes saw the Falcons trailing 6-4 with two innings

remaining. Hanson came out of the bullpen to shut the Thieves down, giving Imperial a chance to pull the game back. The Falcons so nearly tied it, scoring once but aggressive base running left Jun Weng, the tying run, thrown out at the plate for the 3rd out. With that, the Falcons were down one with just one inning to play at 6-5. A quick three-up, three-down defensive top half of the inning set up the Falcons last shot at glory, as the team needed to manufacture one run to stay alive, and two runs to walk off winners. Rory Thomas followed up a big hit with great slide to break up a double play. Syed Taha chased this up with a walk to load the bases. Finally, all tension was relieved as a single by Vassil drove in Kevin as the winning run and a mad celebratory scramble ensued.

The weekend saw some great baseball played by all sides. The Falcons, a team clearly more than the sum of its parts, showed great spirit, repeatedly scoring vital runs and making great defensive plays to end games and ultimately earned its first national title. After overcoming the daze of too much champagne sipped from the trophy, we now shift our focus to retaining our Southern league championship with matches against Oxford, Southampton and ULJS coming up in November.

## SPORT

## Felix Sports League



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Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Rugby M1	4	4	0	0	100	34	66	5
2 Netball W1	3	3	0	0	115	80	34	5
3 Table Tennis M1	2	2	0	0	27	7	20	5
4 Table Tennis W1	2	2	0	0	10	0	10	5
5 Tennis M1	2	2	0	0	16	8	8	5
6 Squash W1	2	2	0	0	7	0	7	5
7 Hockey M3	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	5
8 ICSM Hockey M3	2	2	0	0	6	3	3	5
9 Basketball M1	1	1	0	0	76	58	18	5
10 Table Tennis M2	1	1	0	0	17	0	17	5
11 Tennis W1	1	1	0	0	9	1	8	5
12 ICSM Football M2	1	1	0	0	5	1	4	5
13 ICSM Badminton M1	1	1	0	0	5	3	2	5
14 Squash M2	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	5
15 Basketball W1	3	2	0	1	91	82	13	2
16 Squash M3	3	2	0	1	8	7	1	2
17 Hockey W1	3	2	0	1	6	8	0	2
18 Fencing M3	2	1	0	1	246	237	9	0.5
19 Hockey M4	2	1	0	1	4	2	8	0.5
20 ICSM Netball W2	2	1	0	1	79	74	5	0.5
21 ICSM Netball W1	2	1	0	1	77	73	4	0.5
22 Football M3	2	1	0	1	10	7	3	0.5
23 ICSM Hockey M2	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	0.5
24 Hockey M2	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	0.5
25 Squash M4	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	0.5
26 Hockey M1	2	1	0	1	6	7	-1	0.5
27 Netball W2	2	1	0	1	71	75	-4	0.5
28 Rugby M4	2	1	0	1	43	74	-31	0.5
29 Squash M1	6	0	0	6	2	28	0	0
30 Fencing M2	1	1	0	0	127	119	8	0
31 Lacrosse W1	1	1	0	0	13	5	8	0
32 ICSM Badminton W1	1	0	0	1	2	6	-4	0
33 Badminton W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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 ICSM Hockey M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
39 ICSM Hockey W3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40 ICSM Rugby M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41 Lacrosse W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42 Volleyball M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
43 Volleyball W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44 Water Polo M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 Water Polo W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
46 Football M1	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	-1
47 Badminton M1	2	0	1	1	6	10	-4	-1
48 Rugby M3	4	1	0	3	15	56	23	-1.75
49 ICSM Badminton M2	1	0	0	1	3	5	-2	-4
50 ICSM Football M1	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	-4
51 ICSM Hockey W1	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	-4
52 Netball W3	1	0	0	1	18	22	-4	-4
53 Football W1	1	0	0	1	1	6	-5	-4
54 Lacrosse M1	1	0	0	1	14	21	-7	-4
55 ICSM Hockey W2	1	0	0	1	0	13	-13	-4
56 Fencing W2	1	0	0	1	107	135	-28	-4
57 ICSM Rugby M1	2	0	0	2	34	54	-20	-4
58 Tennis M2	2	0	0	2	0	22	-22	-4
59 ICSM Netball W3	2	0	0	2	32	88	-56	-4
60 ICSM Rugby M2	2	0	0	2	15	126	-111	-4
61 Rugby M2	3	0	0	3	29	60	13	-4
62 Badminton M2	3	0	0	3	8	16	-8	-4
63 Football M2	3	0	0	3	3	13	-10	-4
64 Hockey W2	3	0	0	3	0	14	-14	-4

# Cricketers rock indoor tournament like a hurricane



If you want to look as smart as these chaps you'll have to join the cricket club

## Ahsaan Ismail

Imperial overcame stiff competition this Saturday from Essex, Kingston and East London Universities to reach the second leg of the indoor tournament. The six IC players were amongst the most experienced in the Cricket club and put up a spirited performance that ensured victories in all three of their matches.

The IC team turned up so fashionably late we almost missed the first game played against Essex University and vice-captain Viran Parmar had to skip his mandatory Burger King stop. After winning the toss the Jack Black

(or Shneebly as called by the tournament organiser) look-a-like Essex Captain put IC in to bat. This immediately turned out to be a big mistake as James Musgrave scored a quick fire 27 before retiring. Former skipper Ankit Patel scored a further 26 before retiring and Ahsaan Ismail chipped in with a further 18. James and Ankit returned to wreak further havoc, stretching the score to a whopping 133 after 12 overs. The high quality pace attack provided by Viran Parmar, Navin Surtani, Ankit Patel and Ahsaan Ismail restricted Essex 101 all out. Viran and Navin provided extremely tight opening spells with Ahsaan and Ankit ensuring that Essex

were shut completely out of the game.

After a quick Subway lunch – with Musgrave loving his first ever footlong and Ankit spilling half of his – and a long discussion about England's Ashes chances captain Matt Tarr won the toss and elected to bat once again in the second match against Kingston. All 6 of the batsmen contributed to IC's total with Viran and Ankit going past 25. Defending 125, IC's bowlers got even better during the second match with Viran Parmar actually bowling a maiden- an extreme rarity indoors. Kingston finished on 102-5 and the IC team marched on to the play-offs.

Due to the mismanagement of the tournament, IC were forced to play their third and most crucial game against East London, who incidentally knocked IC out last year, immediately after their second game. The fatigue began to show as Matt's decision to bat first again began slowly. The East London bowlers bowled very tightly and made good use of the swinging ball. Fatigue showed and IC got to a modest 103 all out thanks in large to Viran with 34. IC bowlers knew they had to bowl and field out of their skins; and how they did. Viran and Navin provided another fantastic start to the innings knocking over 3 of the East London batsman in two overs. James then used his variations to account for another. However, the runs were not entirely stopped and at just under the half way stage the score stood at 48/3. Shortly after, Matt introduced Ahsaan and Ankit into the attack which helped to reduce the East London run rate. Ultimately it all boiled down to the last 3 overs of which East London needed 33 runs. Ankit bowled a fantastic over knocking over the fifth East London batsman; and when this was followed by a further tight over by Ahsaan to put IC on the brink. IC had achieved victory by 21 runs and the team celebrated by going to a nearby pub where they were treated to some unique karaoke by the Essex locals with Ahsaan chatting up a very drunk Essex blonde named Denise – the only failure in an otherwise successful day for the players.

# Cyclists gain 20 BUCS points

## Toby Sherwood

Last weekend, the cycling club somehow packed three riders and their bikes into a Ford Fiesta and sent them off to Manchester for the BUCS track cycling championships. Held at Manchester Velodrome, the home of the all-conquering British track cycling team, it was going to be a great experience, if nothing else. The team consisted of experienced track cyclist Toby Sherwood and two newcomers Iain Palmer and Iain Gillam. With Sherwood a double medallist at last year's champs, gaining enough points for Imperial to rank 2nd team despite competing alone, he was the main medal hope. Having a team this time however meant opportunities to compete in team events such as the team sprint.

A surprise entry from Staffordshire's Dave Readle, a track cyclist turned mature student, who has piloted tandems in international races for Great Britain as well as being a regular on

the domestic circuit meant Sherwood was pretty much resigned to Silver medals at best.

The qualifying 200m time trial for the knockout match sprint competition went as expected. Readle posting a BUCS record of 11.171 seconds with Sherwood only able to produce an 11.547 second ride to qualify in second spot. So it looked like Readle and Sherwood were on course for a showdown in the final and that was how it progressed through the rounds with both easily dispatching all opponents. The best of three rides final was then Sherwood vs Readle with the odds heavily stacked against Sherwood. Despite strong tactical rides from Sherwood, managing to open up a gap between himself and Readle both rides, he was ultimately overhauled by Readle's top end speed to see the final settled in two rides.

A similar result was born out in the kilometre time trial. Sherwood set a personal best time of 1.09.041 despite having to overtake the competitor riding simultaneously at the other side

of the track. But again Readle showed his class, smashing the BUCS record held by quadruple Olympic champion Sir Chris Hoy with a time of 1.06.327.

In the team sprint Sherwood teamed up with Palmer and Gillam for the 750m dash. They came home in 4th with a respectable time of 56.069. Not bad considering two of the team had not ridden on a Velodrome let alone in this technical team event before.

The final medal opportunity for Sherwood was planned to be the eight lap kieren race, featuring eight sprinters and a motorbike. Unfortunately the notoriously lax student time keeping took its toll and a slipping schedule meant the event was cancelled.

A relatively successful weekend for the team, gaining 20 BUCS points from the races. Unfortunately, despite gaining two more points than last year, strong showings from other teams meant Imperial only placed 4th in the team competition, missing out on team points.

Sports Editors: **Jovan Nedic**  
**David Wilson**

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# SPORT



Imperial's Marcello Columbino on piste at the London Team Trophy tournament, held at St Paul's School

## Imperial fencers return with medals of two metals

**Charlotte Levin**

It was a crisp Saturday morning as a group of Imperial fencers headed out to St Paul's School Sports Hall for the London Team Trophy.

The number of entries for the competition was its highest ever, with 16 epee teams, 16 foil teams and 12 sabre teams, making the competition the second biggest team event in the country after the National Championships. Representing Imperial were three full teams. In foil: Imperial 1st with Ed Collier, Chris Gilliam, Outi Supponen and Robert Shaw. In epee: Imperial 1st consisting of Ed Gilhead, Marcello Columbino and Miles Gandolfi and Imperial 2nd with Thorsten Hamann, Charlotte Levin and Peter Cronbach. In both weapons, we had previous year's results to defend, gold for the foil team and silver for epee.

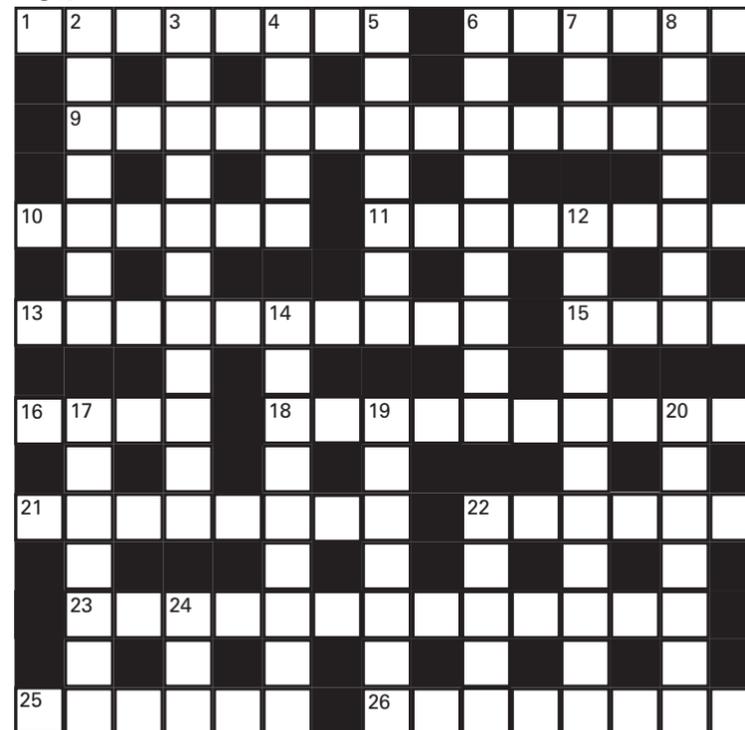
In the epee, Imperial 1st won all their matches in the first round without much trouble, while in the foil Imperial 1st also kept their level high with the same result. Imperial 2nd epee lost one out of three matches and won the rest with a comforting margin. All teams easily qualified for the quarterfinal knock-out rounds.

In the quarterfinal draw for the epee, Imperial 1st were faced once again with a young ULU team they had met in the first round and Imperial 2nd was up against a team called "+39", a hint that the entire team originated from Italy. Imperial 2nd unfortunately had to admit themselves defeated by the skilled Italians. Happily the sad faces did not last for long as Imperial 1 methodically made their way to the final, convincingly beating +39 in the semis. In the final they faced Brixton, a strong team

of young fencers. The match was even, swaying back and forth all the way to the last period where Imperial showed the value of experience and keeping their nerves under control to win the match and clinch gold.

Meanwhile, in another hall, the foil team was presenting results similar to the first team epeeists. They cruised their way to victory in both quarterfinal and semi-final, but were defeated in the final by Salle Paul EU, a very strong team from one of the country's top clubs. This was a small let down compared to last year, when they had won gold, but they at least had the honour to have the President of British Fencing, Keith Smith, as a referee in the last match. When we left the hall at the end of the day, after prize ceremony and high-fives, we were all tired but happy enough to enjoy the delights of Halloween.

## Cryptic Crossword 1,473



**Across**

- 1. Fairy tale that's a real let-down! (8)
- 6. Exploding, a star left visionary (6)
- 9. Expensive journey of discovery about costs? (8,5)
- 10. A heavyweight, a half-pound? Noted completely incorrectly (6)
- 11. Potential wealth of grandpa getting on a bit belongs to me (8)
- 13. Ride car recklessly, having got time to put in CD from authorised purchaser (6,4)
- 15. Premiere Kronenbourg beer with food (4)
- 16. Pack to turn right (4)
- 18. Most basic ambitions being stuck in the mud? (5,5)
- 21. Artificial voice of latest adjustment (8)
- 22. A blast playing with drums (6)
- 23. Putting up with punishment may cause decay (4,4,5)
- 25. I traded Eastender for musical lover (6)
- 26. Bar the changing of leader's pants (8)

**Down**

- 2. Judge - noble one a vicious animal (7)
- 3. Jumps include draw in racecourse meeting changes (3,3,5)
- 4. Regional network of Australia shown up (5)
- 5. City sinkhole refusing food (7)
- 6. Praises desire reduced by half after accounting for drink (9)
- 7. Announced the 20th cuppa (3)
- 8. They wilfully fire at the target! (7)
- 12. Construction an alternative relaxing interim when the chips are down (4,2,5)
- 14. Rip ghetto to pieces, a precarious excursion with this (9)
- 17. Destroy with gravity as offensive weapon (4,3)
- 19. Monkeys have raised ego at high points (7)
- 20. Drink for expensive French professor (7)
- 22. Everyone to scold it, being the wrong way round (5)
- 24. I shall be wrong (3)

## Fixtures & Results

in association with

<p><b>Monday 8th November</b></p> <p><b>NETBALL ULU</b></p> <p>Women's 3s 23 Royal Vets 2s 27</p> <p><b>WATER POLO ULU</b></p> <p>Imperial 1st 18 St Barts 1st 6</p> <p><b>Wednesday 10th November</b></p> <p><b>BADMINTON</b></p> <p>Men's 1st King's Men's 1st</p> <p>Men's 2nd Sussex Men's 1st</p> <p><b>BASKETBALL</b></p> <p>Women's 1st 36 Portsmouth Women's 1st 31</p>	<p><b>FENCING</b></p> <p>Men's 2nd 127 UCL Men's 1st 119</p> <p><b>FOOTBALL</b></p> <p>Men's 2nd 1 St Mary's UC Men's 4th 3</p> <p>Men's 3rd 0 St Mary's UC Men's 6th 7</p> <p><b>GOLF</b></p> <p>Golf 1st 4.5 King's 1st 1.5</p> <p><b>HOCKEY</b></p> <p>Men's 1st 4 St George's Men's 1st 3</p> <p><b>NETBALL</b></p> <p>Women's 1st 42 Kent 2nd 29</p>	<p>Men's 2nd Imperial Medicals Men's 2nd</p> <p><b>RUGBY UNION</b></p> <p>Men's 1st 2 St Mary's UC Men's 2nd 0</p> <p>Men's 2nd Essex Men's 1st</p> <p>Men's 3rd Kingston Men's 2nd</p> <p><b>SQUASH</b></p> <p>Men's 2nd 13 UCL Men's 1st 5</p> <p>Men's 3rd Kent Men's 1st</p>	<p>Men's 4th SOAS Men's 1st</p> <p>Women's 1st LSE Women's 1st</p> <p><b>TABLE TENNIS</b></p> <p>Men's 1st 7 London MET Men's 1st 29</p> <p>Women's 1st Essex Women's 1st</p> <p><b>TENNIS</b></p> <p>Men's 1st 4 Brighton Men's 1st 3</p> <p>Men's 2nd Portsmouth Men's 1st 2</p>	<p><b>Saturday 13th November</b></p> <p><b>FOOTBALL ULU</b></p> <p>Men's 1st vs St George's Hospital Medical School 1st Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 3rd Men's 3rd vs Royal Holloway 2nd Men's 4th vs King's 3rd Men's 5th vs Queen Mary University of London 3rd Men's 6th vs Imperial Medicals 3rd Men's 7th vs Goldsmith's 3rd</p> <p><b>LACROSSE ULU</b></p> <p>Mixed 1st vs King's 1st</p>	<p><b>Sunday 14th November</b></p> <p><b>BADMINTON ULU</b></p> <p>Mixed 1st vs Imperial Medicals 1st</p> <p><b>FOOTBALL ULU</b></p> <p>Women's 1st vs Royal Holloway 2nd Women's 1st vs SOAS 1st</p> <p><b>HOCKEY ULU</b></p> <p>Men's 2nd vs Queen Mary University of London 1st Men's 3rd vs Royal Holloway 2nd Women's 1st vs Royal Holloway 1st</p> <p><b>LACROSSE ULU</b></p> <p>Mixed 1st vs LSE 1sr</p>	<p><b>VOLLEYBALL</b></p> <p>Men's 1st vs Royal Holloway 1st</p> <p><b>Monday 15th November</b></p> <p><b>NETBALL ULU</b></p> <p>Women's 1st vs King's College 3rd Women's 2nd vs UCL 4th Women's 3rd vs Queen Mary University of London 2nd Women's 4th vs St Mary's 1st</p> <p><b>SQUASH ULU</b></p> <p>Men's 1st vs UCL 1st Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 1st Men's 3rd vs UCL 2nd Men's 4th vs Royal Veterinary College 1st</p>
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# Falcons win the Fall Cup

Imperial Baseball Club win British University Cup

**Arun Krishnan & Kevin Ling**

Last weekend, the Imperial College Baseball Club played in its biggest tournament of the year, the British University Baseball Association (BUBA) Fall Cup, featuring the top six university baseball teams battling for the right to be called the best in the country. This was Imperial's first Fall Cup, having earned an automatic spot by winning the Southern League last year. The Falcons travelled to Herts Hertfordshire team grounds in Hemel Hempstead on Saturday the 30th of October. We were prepared for a long day of baseball, with the bulk of the round robin stage taking place on Saturday. The top two teams would face off in the Sunday afternoon Fall Cup final, while the 3rd and 4th place teams would battle for the Fall Shield.

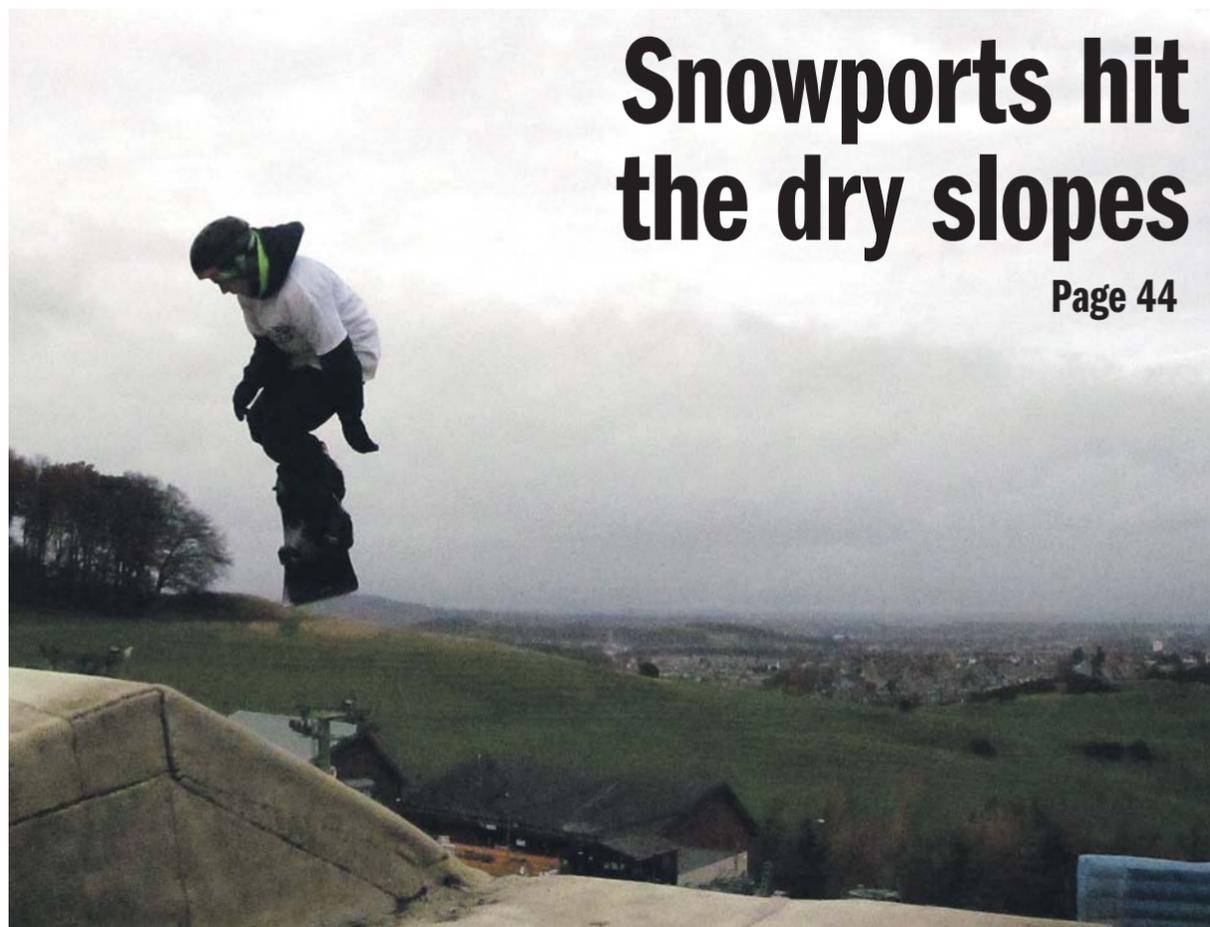
Fielding an 18 man roster, our first game was a matchup against the Nottingham Thieves, one of three teams to defeat Imperial last season. A brilliant pitching duel with Vassil Botev at

the mound for the Falcons saw us take a two run lead heading into the last inning. The Thieves mounted a late comeback though, scoring one run and nearly stealing the game away before catcher Gary Lam got the last out of the game on a brilliant play at home plate for a 2-1 win.

Next, we faced the Southampton Mustangs, and this immediately took on a different flavour to the low scoring first game. Despite Hajime Urata's fine pitching, errors on both sides coupled with some big hits saw Imperial trailing 5-3 heading into the last inning. Usually dependable baserunners were caught stealing on back to back plays, putting Imperial in a two out hole, but the team went on to score two runs to force a 5-5 tie.

Our third game was the local derby against the Kings Lions, whom we have beaten twice already early on in the 2010 season. Behind ace pitcher Hanson Cheung, Imperial took a 8-1 lead. With that, the Falcons were tied for the

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# Snowports hit the dry slopes

Page 44

# Immortals lose to Stingers in overtime

**Neil Chordia**

**American Football**

**Imperial 26 - 29 Surrey**

The BUAFL season got off to a flying start this Sunday as the Imperial Immortals narrowly lost a nail-biting thriller on an overtime field goal to their Thames Valley Conference rivals, the Surrey Stingers. The two teams last

met in March when Surrey managed an 18-8 win and the Immortals were out to avenge last season's loss.

On a cold day at their home ground in Harlington and supported by their vociferous new cheerleading squad, the Immortals went behind early as the Stingers scored on a passing play. This early setback seemed to galvanise the team and both offence and defence buckled down to make plays which paid divi-

dends when the defence created a take-away when Geoffrey Chow recovered a forced fumble by Dexter Valencia.

On their next drive the offence marched 58 yards down the field to score. Tino Millar rushed 30 yards to the end zone only for the play to be called back for a holding penalty. However a key 1st down reception by Tight-End Michael Peacock set Millar up for a

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## TECHNOLOGY



Why the hell aren't we using 4G yet?: Page 13

## COMMENT



Black Sheep says steroids are good for sport: Page 19

## FILM



A Town Called Panic will make you laugh till you die: Page 29

## FOOD



New Fulham bar ticks all the boxes for pub food: Page 34

## HANGMAN



Hangman seriously didn't enjoy bonfire night: Page 38